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**SGCCI**

ધી સધર્ન ગુજરાત ચોમ્બર  
ઓફ કોમર્સ એન્ડ ઇન્ડસ્ટ્રી  
Business Beyond  
Excellence

## YARN EXPO 2026

### Fibers of Fortune



## TIME TO CHURN LANKA, NOT BURN!



**THE SOUTHERN GUJARAT CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**  
(BUSINESS VOICE OF SOUTH GUJARAT SINCE 1940)

**ANNUAL EVENT PARTNERS 2026-27**



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**Ashok Jirawala**  
President



**Ravi Raj Desai**  
Vice President



**Nikhil Madrasi**  
Imm. Past President



**Paresh Lathiya**  
Hon. Secretary



**Atul Patel**  
Hon. Treasurer

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## INDEX

|    |                                                                                |    |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 01 | President's Message .....                                                      | 05 |
| 02 | Vice President's Message .....                                                 | 06 |
| 03 | From the Editor's Desk .....                                                   | 06 |
| 04 | Message from Chief Minister Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel.....                      | 07 |
| 05 | 'Yarn Expo-2026' Unlocks Rs. 3,000 Crore Trade Pipeline! .....                 | 08 |
| 06 | TIME TO CHURN LANKA, NOT BURN!.....                                            | 12 |
| 07 | AI REVOLUTION IN TEXTILES .....                                                | 18 |
| 08 | Surat-Saurashtra Industrial Synergy .....                                      | 20 |
| 09 | Moving Beyond Manufacturing to Global Branding.....                            | 22 |
| 10 | MELODIES OF FREEDOM: CELEBRATING 'NAVBHARAT'<br>ON INDEPENDENCE EVE! .....     | 24 |
| 11 | VOICES OF TOMORROW: ELOCUTION COMPETITION<br>CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE!.....     | 26 |
| 12 | FLAG FLIES HIGH, NATION MARCHES AHEAD .....                                    | 28 |
| 13 | Fostering Critical Thinking Over Rote Learning.....                            | 30 |
| 14 | Guinea Unlocks Global Expansion Corridors .....                                | 32 |
| 15 | Crude Spike Triggers Yarn Crisis .....                                         | 34 |
| 16 | SGCCI's Gandhinagar Push Yields Results .....                                  | 36 |
| 17 | HANDCRAFTED MAGIC: BEDAZZLE WORKSHOP<br>CELEBRATES NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY!..... | 38 |
| 18 | BEYOND SERVICES: IT FIRMS MUST PIVOT TO<br>PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS!.....          | 39 |
| 19 | Former SGCCI President Mahendrabhai Katargamwala<br>Passes Away .....          | 41 |
| 20 | India Ranks Second Globally with<br>13.8 Crore Chronic Kidney Patients! .....  | 43 |
| 21 | Resolve Procedural Roadblocks in MOOWR Scheme .....                            | 45 |
| 22 | PAYMENT WOES NO MORE: MSME BILL ACTS AS A<br>FINANCIAL SHIELD!.....            | 47 |
| 23 | SGCCI Petitions Western Railway DRM.....                                       | 49 |
| 24 | Upgrade Utran as a Satellite Hub to Decongest Surat.....                       | 51 |
| 25 | Surat-Odisha Textile Alliance .....                                            | 52 |
| 26 | EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS:<br>SHRAVAN BUSINESS MELA 2026 OPENS!.....      | 54 |
| 27 | SGCCI Seals Festive Hat-Trick with 'Shravan Business Mela' ...                 | 56 |
| 28 | GLOWING SKIN, RESILIENT CONFIDENCE<br>DEBUNKING DERMA MYTHS!.....              | 58 |
| 28 | Synergizing Surat's Enterprise with UP's Youth Force.....                      | 59 |
| 29 | Surat Women Entrepreneurs Shine in New Delhi.....                              | 61 |
| 30 | SGCCI in Headlines .....                                                       | 63 |

# President's Message

## From Grassroots Resilience to Global Horizons: Surat's Industrial Forward March!

Dear Fellow Entrepreneurs,

The month of August has emerged as a landmark epoch for The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), distinguished by decisive policy advocacy, signature industrial expositions, transformative international outreach, and grassroots economic empowerment. While we reinforced market access for women micro-entrepreneurs at home, we simultaneously unrolled expansive overseas corridors for South Gujarat's industries.

Anchoring Surat's foundational textile value chain, SGCCI successfully hosted the flagship YARN EXPO, positioning Surat as the national epicentre for high-performance, specialty, and sustainable yarns. The expo brought leading spinners, texturisers, and innovators onto a single platform, unlocking advanced raw material alternatives for regional weavers. Crucially, to insulate powerloom weaving units against speculative market volatility, SGCCI advanced rigorous representations advocating delta-based yarn pricing mechanisms before the Ministry of Textiles.

Championing the broader interests of textiles, chemicals, solar, and precision engineering sectors, we submitted a comprehensive 11-point memorandum to Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, urging clarity under Section 65A of the MOOWR scheme, recognition of SEZ supplies as deemed exports, and extension of RoDTEP-Drawback benefits. Simultaneously, we petitioned the Western Railway General Manager to develop Utran (Station Code: URN) as a dedicated satellite suburban terminal and operationalize the Neol freight terminal to eliminate exorbitant private warehousing overheads.

Expanding our global horizon, SGCCI's high-level business delegation to Sri Lanka forged strategic bilateral trade and textile linkages. Furthermore, our 'Business Interactive Session with Guinea' unlocked avenues under Guinea's USD 200 billion 'Simandou 2040' master plan, while our engagement at 'Odisha Dreamz' linked Surat's synthetic textile capabilities with Odisha's Rs. 8,800 Crore industrial pipeline.

To pivot Surat from volume manufacturing toward global brand ownership, our 'Ask Me Anything' masterclass with Nitin Agarwal, Ex-CEO and Co-founder of GlobalBees, provided founders with tactical blueprints on Product-Market Fit (PMF) and scaling. Complementing this, following phenomenal turnouts in Mota Varachha and Parvat Patiya, our 'Shravan Business Mela 2026' in Adajan struck an inspiring hat-trick in grassroots women empowerment.

Amidst these dynamic strides, our institutional fraternity suffered an irreplaceable loss in the sad demise of former SGCCI President (2014-15) Shri Mahendrabhai Katargamwala. An architect of enduring institutional bridges, his historic interventions for weavers and builders, paired with his stewardship of Bharat Cancer Hospital, will forever guide our path. Upholding his ideals, we remain resolute in propelling Surat's commerce to global heights.



**Ashok Jirawala**  
President

**Ashok Jirawala**  
President, SGCCI

### AUGUST 2026: KEY MILESTONES AT A GLANCE

**Flagship YARN EXPO** : Grand showcase of specialty, technical & sustainable yarns empowering weavers.  
**Yarn Delta Pricing Charter**: Advocated structured delta-based pricing to insulate units against raw yarn jumps.  
**Sri Lanka Trade Delegation**: Bilateral mission unlocking regional trade, investment, and textile ties.  
**MOOWR Scheme Advocacy** : Submitted 11-point charter to Finance Ministry on Sec 65A clarity & SEZ parity.  
**Utran Satellite Terminal** : Urged Western Railway GM to upgrade Utran (URN) to decongest Surat Central.  
**Neol Freight Terminal** : Lobbied for DFC-linked goods terminal to slash private warehousing overheads.  
**Odisha Textile Synergy** : Linked Surat MMF sector to Odisha's Rs. 8,800 Crore pipeline at Puri Conclave.  
**Guinea Investment Gateway**: Unlocked mining, solar & pharma avenues under USD 200B 'Simandou 2040' program.  
**D2C Brand Masterclass** : Nitin Agarwal (GlobalBees) unrolled PMF and playbooks to scale Rs. 10Cr to Rs. 100Cr.  
**Shravan Mela Hat-Trick**: Landmark three-phase artisanal expo in Adajan empowering women entrepreneurs.

## Vice President's Message

### Execution Rigour, Ground Realities, and Forward Commercial Momentum



**Ravi Raj Desai**

**Vice-President**

Dear Members and Esteemed Colleagues,

The institutional vitality of a progressive chamber is defined not merely by overarching declarations, but by the relentless operational follow-through that translates policy advocacy into tangible commercial relief for our members.

While our broad strategic milestones reflect South Gujarat's expanding ambitions, our core focus remains on building responsive execution frameworks. To ensure our transit and cargo demands are addressed swiftly, we are instituting a structured, recurring dialogue mechanism with the Divisional Railway Managers of Vadodara and Mumbai at the SGCCI Campus. This operational bridge ensures that infrastructure priorities are tracked with administrative accountability.

Looking ahead, the upcoming festive calendar represents an exceptional window for retail resurgence and consumer spending. Building on the operational momentum achieved by our micro-enterprise initiatives, SGCCI is actively mobilizing preparations for the forthcoming Navratri Expo, the grand Diwali Lifestyle Fair, and a marquee Food Festival. Concurrently, our specialized trade committees are driving systematic post-delegation follow-ups to convert cross-border interactions into firm order books for our exporters.

With synchronized teamwork, disciplined governance, and proactive member engagement, we remain fully dedicated to securing competitive operational ease for every segment of our trade fraternity.

**Ravi Raj Desai**  
Vice President, SGCCI

## From the Editor's Desk

### Strategic Foresight, Policy Advocacy, and Institutional Empathy

The definitive measure of a premier chamber lies not merely in convening symposiums, but in translating ground-level industrial challenges into actionable state policy while delivering the fruits of progress to the most decentralized enterprise. SGCCI's trajectory throughout August reflects this guiding ethos in every dimension.

When manufacturing sectors confronted ambiguity around Section 65A of the MOOWR scheme alongside sharp volatility in synthetic yarn pricing, SGCCI intervened decisively with an 11-point fiscal charter and delta-pricing recommendations. Concurrently, anchoring the backbone of Surat's economy, the landmark YARN EXPO showcased the frontiers of specialty, technical, and sustainable fibers, connecting regional weavers with cutting-edge global innovation.

On urban infrastructure, championing Utran (URN) as an integrated suburban satellite terminal embodies the forward-looking vision necessary to resolve Surat's commuter congestion over the next quarter-century. Furthermore, expanding trade corridors through the Sri Lanka business delegation, unlocking Guinea's global investments, decoding D2C playbooks with Nitin Agarwal, and sealing a festive retail hat-trick across Mota Varachha, Parvat Patiya, and Adajan illustrate an institution operating at peak vitality.

Yet, this issue also pauses in solemn tribute to our late past president, Shri Mahendrabhai Katargamwala. His legacy reminds us that lasting institutions are founded on personal integrity, empathetic bridges, and selfless service. We take immense pride in placing this comprehensive August edition into your hands.

**The Editorial Board**  
The Southern Gujarat Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry (SGCCI)

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## Message from Chief Minister Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel



**Bhupendra Patel**

Chief Minister, Gujarat State

Dt. 11/09/2026

### MESSAGE

With the rise of human civilization and social culture, textiles and garments have become an indispensable part of everyday life. Garment manufacturing is an ever-evolving industry, as people of all age groups continuously seek new clothing that reflects changing fashions, lifestyles and trends. Today, Gujarat has emerged as a major global hub for textile and garment production, attracting buyers and importers from across the world. **Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji** has envisioned India's textile sector as a global powerhouse through his **5F vision – Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion and Fashion to Foreign**. His emphasis on innovation, sustainability, value addition, technical textiles and the spirit of **"Vocal for Local"** and **"Local to Global"** is opening new avenues for growth. Guided by this vision, Gujarat is strengthening its position as a leading centre for textile excellence, entrepreneurship, employment generation and export-oriented manufacturing.

I am pleased to learn that **The South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI)** is organizing **14<sup>th</sup> edition of SITEX 2026** during **26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2026** at **Surat**. I am delighted to learn that an exclusive Textile Machinery and Ancillary Exhibition has also been organized during the event. I hope, this to be a medium of new business relationship along with new trade for national and international players. I, hereby extend my best wishes to the organizing team, participants and buddy entrepreneurs for the success of the event.



**(Bhupendra Patel)**

*Shree Ashokbhai Jirawala, President,  
The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI),*

Rs/yt/2026/09/11/apro



## **‘Yarn Expo-2026’ Unlocks ₹3,000 Crore Trade Pipeline!**



**SIECC Sarsana hosts the landmark 8th edition of Yarn Expo'26 inaugurated by the Ambassador of Guinea and former Union Minister Darshana Jardosh; 25,800 prospective trade buyers explore next-gen mechanical stretch, BSY, grass-based, and Gen-Z sustainable yarns.**



Catalyzing the structural transition of South Gujarat's textile hub toward advanced, value-added, and circular manufacturing, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) and the Global Fabric Resource and Research Centre (GFRRC) jointly hosted the prestigious 8th edition of 'Yarn Expo-2026' at the Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre (SIECC), Sarsana. The three-day exposition was formally inaugurated by the Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea, H.E. Mr. Conte Alassane, and former Union Minister of State for Textiles, Smt. Darshana Jardosh.



## YARN EXPO-2026

### KEY MILESTONES & DATA AT A GLANCE



#### Organizers

SGCCI & Global Fabric Resource & Research Centre



#### Date & Venue

August 21 to 23, 2026  
SIECC, Sarsana, Surat



#### Global Scale

**88 Exhibitors**  
across India & Shanghai (China)



#### Buyer Footfall

**25,800 Visitors**  
(Day 1: 5,500 | Day 2: 9,500 | Day 3: 10,800)



#### Economic Impact

Projected trade volume exceeding  
**Rs. 3,000 Crore**



#### Highlight Lines

**Mechanical Stretch, BSY,  
Cotton-Feel & Grass Yarns**

— Yarn Today | Fabric Tomorrow —



The inaugural ceremony at Ushakant Marfatia Hall featured distinguished guests including Uttar Pradesh National Integration Department Secretary Shri Hira Lal Patel (IAS), Alliance Group Director Shri Kuldeep Patel (Sanghani), and Rigan Fashion Pvt. Ltd. Chairman Shri Dinesh Dhankani.

Welcoming the national and international delegates, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala underscored, "Featuring 88 premier exhibitors from textile clusters including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Ludhiana, Coimbatore, Erode, Noida, and Shanghai (China), Yarn Expo-2026 establishes an integrated procurement forum. From silk-mimicking viscose to technical textiles, cutting-edge yarn innovations are now consolidated under one single roof in Surat." Ambassador Conte Alassane highlighted complete value-chain opportunities in Guinea, inviting Indian industrialists to invest in Africa's burgeoning textile ecosystem. Smt. Darshana Jardosh urged manufacturers to align with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's '5F' (Farm to Fibre, Factory, Fashion, Foreign) vision and cater to international demand for recycled textiles.

#### **Next-Gen Specialty Filaments and Record Footfall Deliver Phenomenal B2B Outcomes**

Highlighting Surat's core industrial scale, Yarn Expo Chairman Girdhargopal Mundada noted that Surat single-handedly produces 65% of India's MMF fabric, consuming 1.50 lakh MT of polyester, 20,000 MT of viscose, and 10,000 MT of nylon filaments every month. To protect margins against global headwinds, he emphasized a non-negotiable transition toward "Zero Defect" manufacturing.



**Key product highlights driving heavy inquiries included:**

- **Mechanical Stretch Yarn:** An innovative polyester yarn offering stretch and recovery purely through specialized texturing, crimping, and geometric structure—eliminating the need for elastane/spandex in activewear and denim.
- **Bi-Shrinkage Yarn (BSY):** A specialized intermingling of differential-shrinkage POY and FDY filaments providing rich volume and a peach-skin tactile finish for abayas, burqas, and circular knits.
- **Cotton-Like Filaments:** Engineering polyester's physical strength with natural cotton's matte aesthetic and moisture-wicking comfort.
- **Sustainable & Fast Fashion Lines:** Debut showcases of grass-based pulp filaments, Tencel, post-consumer recycled yarns, and tailored Gen-Z fashion filaments.

Over the three-day run, the expo logged 25,800 high-intent trade buyers from Bangladesh, Guinea, and over 100 Indian industrial hubs, culminating in an estimated Rs. 3,000 Crore in projected commercial contracts over the next six months. A special institutional felicitation was also accorded to the 11 women entrepreneurs who represented Surat at the 'Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav' in New Delhi.

SGCCI Vice President Ravi Raj Desai shared that overwhelmed by buyer enthusiasm, exhibitors requested advance space reservations for 'Yarn Expo-2027'. All Exhibition Chairman Manish Kapadia concluded that extensive sampling during the expo will kick-start immediate commercial weaving of high-value fashion and export apparel, injecting vital momentum into the regional economy.



# TIME TO CHURN LANKA, NOT BURN!



Propelling South Gujarat's industrial prowess onto international horizons and operationalizing the visionary ethos of 'Business Beyond Excellence', The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) successfully accomplished a high-impact diplomatic business mission to Sri Lanka. Under the leadership of SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala and Honorary Treasurer Atul Patel, a distinguished 13-member delegation comprising leading industrialists visited the prestigious 'Intex South Asia' and 'Inmac World Expo' held at the BMICH Convention Centre in Colombo from August 05 to 07, 2026.

The grand inaugural ceremony on Wednesday was graced by Sunil Handunnetti (Minister of

Industry and Entrepreneurship Development, Sri Lanka) and Santosh Jha (High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka) as Chief Guests. The delegation conducted an exhaustive review of state-of-the-art yarn developments, premium apparel fabrics, denim innovations, trims, product accessories, and next-generation garment machinery automation on display.

Emphasizing the strategic outcome of the exhibition, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala remarked, "The overwhelming presence of Indian exhibitors underscores the deepening economic interdependence between our two nations. By leveraging our geographical proximity, historical cultural linkages, and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), South Gujarat's textile grid is primed to

# Colombo Expo: Accelerating Textile Exports

Led by SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala and Honorary Treasurer Atul Patel, a 13-member delegation completes a historic trade mission in Sri Lanka



High-level BOI summit, diplomatic dialogue with High Commissioner Santosh Jha, and landmark MoU renewal with The Ceylon Chamber open multi-billion global corridors for Grey Fabric, Solar, and Ceylon Sapphires

forge direct, long-term backward integration with Sri Lanka's global apparel manufacturing ecosystem." The three-day expo provided vital technical insights into green regulations, circular

economy mandates, Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven supply chain automation, and smart manufacturing roadmaps essential for global competitiveness.



## SGCCI SRI LANKA BUSINESS MISSION 2026

AT A GLANCE

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <b>Dates &amp; Venue</b> </div> <div style="background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p><b>August 05 to 07, 2026</b></p> <p>BMICH &amp; Ceylon Chamber, Colombo</p> </div>    | <div style="background-color: #d4b87d; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <b>Mission Leadership</b> </div> <div style="background-color: #fff9e6; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>SGCCI President<br/><b>Ashok Jirawala</b><br/>&amp;<br/>Treasurer<br/><b>Atul Patel</b></p> </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <div style="background-color: #008080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <b>Delegation Composition</b> </div> <div style="background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p><b>13</b> prominent industrialists representing diverse sectors</p> </div> |
| <div style="background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <b>Key Diplomatic Summits</b> </div> <div style="background-color: #fff9e6; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>BOI Director General</p> <p>Indian High Commissioner</p> <p>CCC Chair</p> </div> | <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <b>Strategic Sectors</b> </div> <div style="background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <br/>Grey Fabric Exports                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <br/>Solar Parks                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <br/>Ceylon Sapphires                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <br/>IT                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <br/>Food                 </div> </div> </div> | <div style="background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <b>Landmark Agreement</b> </div> <div style="background-color: #fff9e6; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Bilateral MoU renewal between SGCCI &amp; Ceylon Chamber</p> </div>            |

# BOI Summit: Direct Trade Without Middlemen



A pivotal highlight of the Colombo trade mission unfolded during the high-level summit between the SGCCI delegation and the Board of Investment (BOI) of Sri Lanka. Chaired by BOI Director General Dr. Sulakshan Jayawardena alongside senior ministerial bureaucrats and economic planners, the summit explored expansive cross-border investment corridors for South Gujarat industrialists.

Presenting South Gujarat's manufacturing capabilities, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala asserted, "Surat is fast emerging as the preeminent growth locomotive not just for India, but for South Asia. SGCCI stands as India's most dynamic chamber, representing over 14,500 direct corporate members and 155 trade associations. Beyond textiles and diamonds, Surat has evolved into a global production powerhouse across chemicals, pharmaceuticals, heavy engineering, renewable energy, and IT. We are redefining Indo-Sri Lankan economic ties through joint ventures, equity partnerships, and technology transfers."

**Direct Export Access for Surat's Grey Fabric Weavers:** President Ashok Jirawala presented a

crucial regulatory provision under the Indo-Sri Lanka Trade Agreement: Sri Lanka is mandated to import approximately 6 million metric tonnes of fabric from India against its apparel export quotas. As India's largest grey fabric manufacturing hub, Surat's weaving units can now directly export grey fabrics to Sri Lanka's advanced garment factories without intermediaries, unlocking multimillion-meter export contracts.

**'Sri Lanka National Pavilion' at the upcoming Food & Beverages Expo in Surat:** BOI Director General Dr. Sulakshan Jayawardena highlighted that dedicated industrial zones—including textile parks, IT corridors, gem-jewelry clusters, and advanced manufacturing enclaves—are offering special economic packages, extensive tax holidays, and state subsidies for Indian investors. Dr. Jayawardena assured fast-track single-window clearances and on-ground administrative facilitation. Furthermore, BOI, the Sri Lanka Spice Board, and the Sri Lanka Tea Board officially announced the establishment of a joint 'Sri Lanka National Pavilion' at the upcoming Food & Beverages Expo in Surat.

# High Commission Meet: 3 Powerful Trade Routes



At the High Commission of India in Colombo, the SGCCI delegation held an in-depth review meeting with High Commissioner Santosh Jha and First Secretary (Economic & Commercial) Saurabh Sabhlok. The high-level dialogue reached a unanimous consensus to drive bilateral trade across three transformative sectors:

**1. Expansive Clean Energy Potential:** Sri Lanka is aggressively accelerating its green transition. Industrial, commercial, and residential rooftop and grid-tied solar installations offer massive opportunities where South Gujarat's solar EPC firms and manufacturers can execute turn-key projects.

**2. Direct Sourcing for Garmenting:** Leveraging FTA mandates, Surat's weaving and processing powerhouses will establish direct export linkages with Colombo's apparel manufacturing hubs.

**3. Spice & Beverage Distribution:** High Commissioner Santosh Jha underscored the high demand for premium Ceylon tea and authentic Sri Lankan spices in Western India, offering institutional embassy support to bridge supply chains.



## Ceylon Chamber MoU: Sapphires to Elevate Jewelry



In a major institutional milestone, SGCCI and Sri Lanka's apex commercial body, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC), formally renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to elevate bilateral investment, cross-border commerce, and technical cooperation. The agreement was signed in Colombo by SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala and CCC Chairperson Krishan Balendra.

**Sapphire Gemstone Imports & Jewelry Collaboration:** Following the signing ceremony, a targeted B2B networking session brought together business leaders from both regions. President Ashok Jirawala highlighted, "Just as

Surat reigns as the diamond capital of the world, Sri Lanka is globally revered for its exquisite natural Ceylon Sapphires. This renewed MoU enables Surat's jewelry manufacturers to directly source authentic gemstones. Furthermore, we are establishing direct joint ventures between women entrepreneurs and designer networks of both chambers to co-create luxury jewelry lines."

The bilateral framework also encompasses joint investment roadmaps across Waste-to-Energy projects, digital transformation architectures, IT infrastructure, apparel trims, and processed food packaging.

# Mega 'Sri Lanka Expo 2027' After 15 Years: Roadshow in South Gujarat



On the concluding leg of the mission, the SGCCI delegation held a strategic meeting with Mangala Wijesinghe, Chairman of the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB). The Government of Sri Lanka is organizing the mega international 'Sri Lanka Expo 2027' after a 15-year hiatus, scheduled from January 14 to 17, 2027, at BMICH, Colombo.

President Ashok Jirawala extended a formal invitation to EDB Chairman Mangala Wijesinghe to conduct a targeted 1-2 day B2B roadshow in South Gujarat to connect with regional investors. The roadshow will highlight joint ventures across textile weaving, smart manufacturing, green energy, engineering-construction, and gems-jewelry. Reciprocating the gesture, EDB extended an official invitation to the SGCCI delegation to attend Expo 2027 and offered full institutional facilitation for industrial visits across Sri Lanka.

## Mission Success: South Gujarat's Global Leap

The historic success of this international business mission was driven by active participation from the 13-member high-level delegation led by SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala and Honorary Treasurer Atul Patel:

## DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE SRI LANKA DELEGATION

### Leadership

Ashok Jirawala (President) &  
Atul Patel (Honorary Treasurer)

### Delegates

Jitendra Soni | Mukesh Kapadia | Deepak Choksi  
Smt. Sheetal Choksi | Divyesh Kher | Mahendra Zadafiya  
Chirag Rawat | Sanket Rajyaguru  
Rajesh Dhameliya | Shailesh Padmani

The three-day trade mission has delivered concrete, measurable commercial outcomes: direct market access for Surat's grey fabric into Sri Lanka's export garment industry, solar expansion avenues for regional EPC companies, streamlined gemstone channels for jewelers, and a confirmed international pavilion at Surat's upcoming food expo.

Under the visionary leadership of President Ashok Jirawala, SGCCI has demonstrated that strategic determination can seamlessly expand South Gujarat's business footprint across international borders.

# AI REVOLUTION IN TEXTILES

## SURAT LEADS THE NATIONAL SURVEY!



Catalyzing technological modernization across India's textile manufacturing landscape—which contributes a significant 2.3% to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has rolled out a comprehensive national AI readiness initiative. Dedicated to assessing adoption benchmarks among manufacturing MSMEs, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a specialized workshop and analytical presentation at Sarsana conducted by 'Athena Infonomics'.

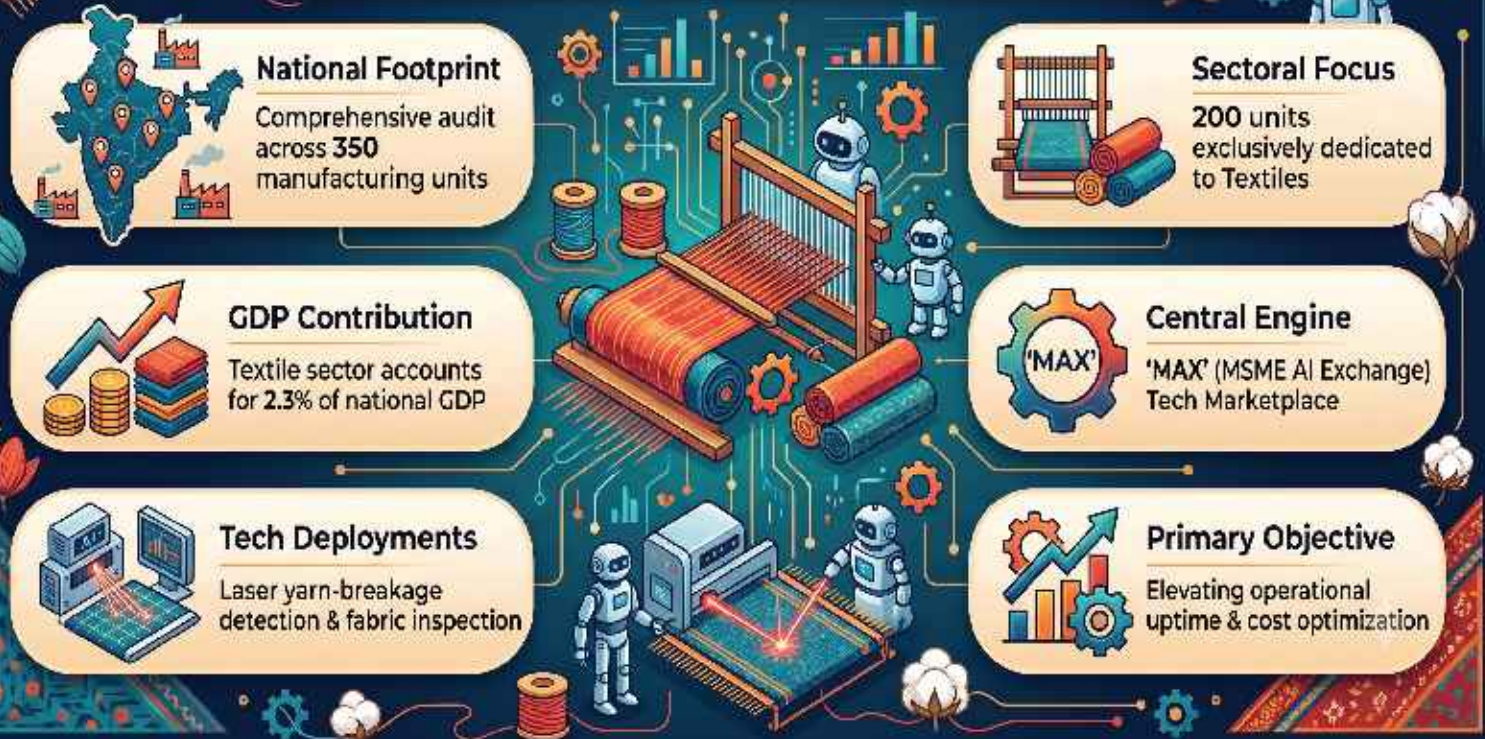
In his official message, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala remarked, "Artificial Intelligence is no longer a speculative technology of tomorrow; it is a vital operational imperative of today. By adopting the 'AI Lighthouse' framework, South Gujarat's textile weaving, processing, and manufacturing MSMEs can drastically slash input costs while scaling production precision. With the IT Ministry selecting 200 textile factories out of 350 nationwide manufacturing units for this study, Surat's industrialists must leverage this strategic opportunity."



**Ministry of IT  
spearheads AI readiness  
study across 200 textile  
factories nationwide;  
High-level SGCCI  
workshop unveils  
roadmap for the 'MAX'  
platform and cost  
reduction architectures**



# NATIONAL AI ADOPTION SURVEY IN TEXTILES AT A GLANCE



## ‘MAX’ EXCHANGE MARKETPLACE & QUALITY AUTOMATION

Athena Infonomics' Director of AI Advisory Mahesh and Director of Public Policy Ankit Chhatri detailed the methodology, highlighting that the study focuses on addressing ground-level operational bottlenecks. Proposed AI applications include automated laser detection for yarn breakages, high-speed optical fabric inspection, workforce tracking, and automated defect categorization. To democratize access, the Union Government is developing 'MAX' (MSME AI Exchange)—a centralized platform connecting small enterprises with vetted, cost-effective technology providers.

Earlier, SGCCI Vice President Ravi Raj Desai delivered the welcome address, noting that AI integration into conventional textile workflows will fortify global supply chain competitiveness. Past President and Textile Taskforce Committee Chairman Ashish Gujarati outlined the strategic framework and delivered the formal vote of thanks.



# Surat-Saurashtra Industrial Synergy

## SGCCI Delegation Explores Expansion Horizons in Bhavnagar and Alang

Fostering regional economic integration and exploring manufacturing diversification, a 24-member high-level delegation from The

Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), led by Honorary Secretary Shri Paresh Lathiya, successfully concluded a two-day

### SGCCI BHAVNAGAR-ALANG STUDY MISSION AT A GLANCE



## Led by Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya, a 24-member delegation concludes a high-impact two-day study tour; examines green ship recycling at Alang, tours Madhu Silica, and deepens commercial ties with Saurashtra Chamber



industrial study tour to Bhavnagar and Alang.

Commenting on the mission's outcomes, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala remarked, "South Gujarat and Saurashtra share centuries of organic commercial and cultural ties. In this evolving industrial landscape, both dynamic regions must leverage their competitive strengths and function as mutual economic growth engines."

On the first leg of the tour, the delegation secured special authorization from the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) to visit the world-renowned Alang Ship Recycling Yard. During technical discussions with leading ship breakers and yard operators, the delegation evaluated the deployment of eco-compliant green recycling technologies, compliance with stringent global environmental norms (Hong Kong Convention standards), and workforce availability. Crucial deliberations also focused on expanding regional downstream synergies, particularly feeding ship-demolition scrap into regional steel rolling mills and secondary engineering units.

### Touring Madhu Silica's Automated Facilities and Bilateral Meeting with Saurashtra Chamber

On the second day, the delegates toured the

advanced manufacturing facilities of Madhu Silica Pvt. Ltd. in Bhavnagar, one of India's foremost producers of precipitated silicas and silicates. The business delegates examined state-of-the-art automated synthesis units, rigorous quality assurance protocols, and supply chains catering to pharmaceuticals, oral care, cosmetics, rubber, and high-performance tires.

The tour culminated in an executive round-table with the Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its President Shri Tejas Sheth. Deliberations centered on advocating enhanced direct freight and transit connectivity between Surat and Bhavnagar, organizing collaborative industrial expos, and building unified trade networks.

The Saurashtra Chamber highlighted that burgeoning GIDC clusters across the Bhavnagar district—offering competitively priced industrial land plots, robust logistics access, and a substantial, cost-effective talent pool—present an attractive expansion corridor for Surat's expanding textiles, diamonds, and precision engineering enterprises. Both chambers resolved to institutionalize regular dialogues to facilitate bilateral manufacturing linkages between South Gujarat and Saurashtra.



# Moving Beyond Manufacturing to Global Branding

**Ex-GlobalBees CEO Nitin Agarwal Inspires Surat**



**“ At SGCCI’s ‘Ask Me Anything’ session, unicorn co-founder unrolls scaling playbooks from 70+ D2C brands; highlights product-market fit, sustainable unit economics, and the leap from Rs. 10 Crore to Rs. 100 Crore. ”**

Channelling Surat’s manufacturing depth toward consumer brand equity, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) hosted an exclusive interactive masterclass titled ‘Ask Me Anything’ at ‘Sanhati’, SIECC Campus, Sarsana. The session featured Shri Nitin Agarwal, Ex-CEO and Co-founder of GlobalBees—one of India’s fastest-growing unicorn roll-up enterprises—who shared operational blueprints forged across the scaling of more than 70 direct-to-consumer (D2C) brands.

Connecting the session to SGCCI’s broader innovation roadmap, Chamber President Ashok Jirawala noted, “SGCCI remains committed to reinforcing the startup and entrepreneurship landscape of South Gujarat. Previously, our ecosystem gained strategic

technology perspectives through direct interactions with Dr. Anand Deshpande, Chairman and MD of Persistent Systems. Continuing that high-caliber tradition, this engagement with unicorn founder Nitin Agarwal offers actionable methodologies to transition regional businesses from local manufacturing units into globally recognized brands.”

The assembly was welcomed by SGCCI Vice President Ravi Raj Desai, with Introductory Remarks presented by Sonal Biyani, Co-Chairperson of the Startup & Innovation Committee. Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya and Group Chairman Mrunal Shukla marked their presence alongside a broad cross-section of startup founders and brand leaders.



## SGCCI D2C BRAND LEADERSHIP MASTERCLASS AT A GLANCE

### Key Speaker

**Nitin Agarwal**  
(Ex-CEO & Co-founder,  
GlobalBees)

### Core Portfolio

Insights drawn from acquiring  
and scaling 70+ brands.

### Strategic Core

Shift focus from product  
pushing to brand equity

### Scaling Pillar

Synchronize Product  
Innovation with  
Communication

### Critical Phase

Establish unambiguous  
Product-Market Fit  
(PMF) first

### Rs. 10Cr to Rs. 100Cr

Driven by product depth,  
repeat cycles & demand pull

### Core Metrics

Forensic focus on CAC,  
Retention, Margins & EBITDA

## Product Innovation Paired with Customer Communication: The Scaling Engine

Addressing founders, Nitin Agarwal emphasized that sustainable business expansion begins with absolute clarity on fundamentals—primarily achieving indisputable Product-Market Fit (PMF). Understanding precisely why a consumer completes a purchase, returns for repeat transactions, and develops brand loyalty determines commercial longevity. He cautioned that merely selling products through performance marketing or expanded distribution does not constitute brand building; true enterprise value demands an integrated alignment of continuous product innovation with transparent customer communication.

Outlining the growth trajectory required to transition from Rs. 10 Crore to Rs. 100 Crore in annual revenue, Agarwal stated that while a unique product opportunity can catalyze early traction, subsequent scale mandates category depth, continuous organic demand creation, and disciplined customer retention. Founders must rigorously track operational unit economics, including Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC), repeat purchase rates, channel margins, inventory turns, and true EBITDA performance.

On omnichannel expansion, he cautioned founders against premature physical retail rollouts, noting that offline distribution succeeds only after digital traction establishes verifiable brand pull, predictable unit velocity, and channel economics that justify retailer capital allocation. The session also examined global cross-border avenues for traditional Indian categories—including Ayurveda, wellness, yoga, and organic formulations—alongside discussions on AI-driven supply chain disruption.

The masterclass was moderated by Sharad Bansal, Founder and Managing Partner of Warmup Ventures, driving tactical discussions alongside Surat Coordinator Akshay Mangal. The session concluded with seamless execution coordinated by Group Chairman Punit Gajera.



# MELODIES OF FREEDOM: CELEBRATING 'NAVBHARAT' ON INDEPENDENCE EVE!



## SGCCI hosts a patriotic musical evening titled 'Journey of Development - Navbharat: Kal, Aaj Aur Kal'; Ashish (Awesome AV) and band enthrall audiences at Sanjeev Kumar Auditorium

Commemorating India's journey of economic development, rich cultural heritage, and self-reliance ahead of the 80th Independence Day, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a grand musical evening titled 'Journey of Development - Navbharat: Kal, Aaj Aur Kal' on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at the Sanjeev Kumar Auditorium, Pal, Surat. Renowned performer Ashish (Awesome AV) along with his live orchestra delivered an electrifying repertoire of patriotic melodies.

Delivering the welcome address, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala remarked, "Surat is celebrated not only as a pulsating locomotive of industry and commerce, but also as an inspiring hub of art, culture, and deep patriotism. As our nation marches forward from its ancient legacy toward technological sovereignty and Atmanirbharta, celebrating this transformative voyage through the medium of music is a moment of immense national pride for every citizen."



# TIMELESS PATRIOTIC ANTHEMS & ANNUAL PARTNERS FACILITATED

The auditorium resonated with iconic nationalistic renditions, including 'Hai Preet Jahan Ki Reet', 'Dil Diya Hai Jaan Bhi Denge', 'Sandese Aate Hain', 'Chak De India', 'Ae Watan Watan Mere', 'Jai Ho', 'Bharat Humko Jaan Se Pyara Hai', and 'Yeh Desh Hai Veer Jawano Ka'.

On this landmark evening, SGCCI felicitated its Annual Event Partners 2026-27 for their institutional support, including Singhi Financial Advisors, Mehta Wealth, Luthra Group, Solex Energy, Jainam Group, Liberty's, KP Group, Signature, JBGO, Kumbhat Investment Banking, Sarjan Group, Shah Publicity, D. Khushalbhai Jewellers, Steam House, Ajmera Fashion, Torin Wealth Management, 3 Star Branding, Bhathwari Technologies, Sohangia Tours & Travels, Anthems Corporation, Alliance Group, Shade & Light, Roongta Developers, Globela Pharma, Exim Connect, Sunbow, and Jyoti Hydrotech.

SGCCI Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya shared the event overview. The cultural evening was attended by Immediate Past President Nikhil Madrasi, Honorary Treasurer Atul Patel, All Exhibition Chairman Manish Kapadia, along with Past Presidents Vijay Mewawala, Himanshu Bodawala, Chetan Shah, Dilip Chashmawala, and leading corporate dignitaries.



**‘NAV BHARAT: KAL, AAJ AUR KAL’  
AT A GLANCE**

|  |                        |                                                           |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>OCCASION</b>        | : Pre-Independence Day<br>Patriotic Musical Gala          |
|  | <b>DATE &amp; TIME</b> | : Thursday, August 13, 2026  <br>07:30 PM Onwards         |
|  | <b>VENUE</b>           | : Sanjeev Kumar Auditorium,<br>Pal, Surat                 |
|  | <b>PERFORMER</b>       | : Ashish (Awesome AV) &<br>Live Symphonic Band            |
|  | <b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>      | : Iconic Anthems<br>(‘Sandese Aate Hain’, ‘Dil Diya Hai’) |
|  | <b>FELICITATION</b>    | : Honoring SGCCI's Annual<br>Event Partners 2026-27       |



## VOICES OF TOMORROW: ELOCUTION COMPETITION CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE!

**SGCCI Ladies Wing organizes an inter-school elocution contest on the theme 'Freedom'; Students from Classes 5 to 12 showcase articulate thinking, public speaking prowess, and patriotic fervor at Sarsana**

Instilling patriotic ideals, self-confidence, and refined public speaking skills among the younger generation on the occasion of the Independence Day, the Ladies Wing of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized an inter-school elocution competition centered on the theme 'Freedom' on Friday, August 14, 2026, at the 'Sanhati' Building, Sarsana. The competition drew enthusiastic participation from school students across two distinct categories: Junior Division (Classes 5 to 8) and Senior Division (Classes 9 to 12).

Addressing the young participants and educators, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala remarked, "This elocution competition is a dedicated initiative by our Ladies Wing to cultivate national pride, critical thinking, and structured articulation among

students. In the journey of personal growth, mastering the confidence to stand on a public platform and express one's core convictions with clarity is far more valuable than winning or losing."



## 'FREEDOM' ELOCUTION COMPETITION AT A GLANCE



### OCCASION

Independence Day  
Celebration



### ORGANIZER

SGCCI Ladies Wing



### DIVISIONS

Category 1 (Classes 5 to 8) |  
Category 2 (Classes 9-12)



### JURY PANEL

Dr. Cheta Desai, Pinkal Desai & Jyoti Dora



### CORE FOCUS

Public Speaking, Conceptual Depth & Patriotic Fervor

## EVALUATION BENCHMARKS

The young orators captivated the audience with articulate perspectives on national sovereignty, historical sacrifices, and the civic responsibilities of modern India. The distinguished jury panel—comprising Dr. Cheta Desai, Pinkal Desai, and Jyoti Dora—evaluated the speakers across multi-dimensional criteria including depth of subject knowledge, voice modulation, body language, linguistic precision, and overall stage presence.

Earlier, Ladies Wing Chairperson Alpaben Madras outlined the competition guidelines and thematic objectives. Past Chairperson Mayuriben Mewawala along with committee members Yuti Desai and Neha Jariwala introduced the jury members. The stage proceedings were anchored by Seema Makhaniya, while Ladies Wing Honorary Secretary Damyanti Vanawala delivered the formal vote of thanks.



# FLAG FLIES HIGH, NATION MARCHES AHEAD

SGCCI hosts grand flag hoisting ceremony at 'Sanhati' and launches 'Thank You Surat 2.0' Traffic Awareness Rally; President Ashok Jirawala calls for active civic duty and educating underprivileged children to realize the 'Vishwabandhu' vision

Commemorating the nation's 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervor and civic responsibility, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) held a grand flag hoisting ceremony on Saturday, August 15, 2026, at the 'Sanhati' Building in Sarsana. Translating patriotic spirit into tangible social action, SGCCI, in partnership with the Surat Bikers Community, also flagged off the 'Traffic Awareness Rally - Thank You Surat 2.0' from Luthra Circle, VIP Road, at 07:30 AM to promote road safety and traffic discipline across the city.

At the 'Sanhati' campus, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala hoisted the national tricolor with ceremonial honors. Addressing the gathering, he extended warm Independence Day greetings and paid homage to the freedom fighters and armed forces whose sacrifices secured the nation's sovereignty.





## CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR A DEVELOPED INDIA & SOCIAL WELFARE PLEDGES

Delivering the keynote address, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala emphasized, "As India marches toward the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision to become a global leader ('Vishwabandhu/Vishwaguru'), the responsibility does not rest solely with the government. Every citizen must actively uphold their civic duties." He administered civic pledges advocating strict adherence to traffic regulations, water conservation through rainwater harvesting, and environmental sustainability under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' plantation initiative. Urging a constructive shift in social celebrations, he added, "Transform birthday milestones from mere parties into meaningful acts by providing books, stationery, and educational kits to underprivileged children

across tribal belts. Grassroots civic habits drive monumental national transformations."

SGCCI Vice President Ravi Raj Desai noted that with the world's largest youth demographic, Indian citizens must embody Mahatma Gandhi's enduring ethos of being the change they wish to see in society.

Students from Nanduba School delivered an inspiring patriotic cultural performance during the event. The ceremonial proceedings were anchored by SGCCI Honorary Secretary Paresb Lathiya. The celebrations were attended by Honorary Treasurer Atul Patel, All Exhibition Chairman Manish Kapadia, along with Past Presidents, Group Chairmen, Managing Committee members, Ladies Wing representatives, and chamber staff.



### RS. 80TH INDEPENDENCE DAY & AWARENESS DRIVE AT A GLANCE

|               |                                                       |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Occasion :    | 80th Independence Day Flag Hoisting & Civic Campaign  |
| Date :        | Saturday, August 15, 2026                             |
| Time :        | 07:30 AM Onwards                                      |
| Venues :      | 'Sanhati' (Sarsana) & Luthra Circle (VIP Road), Surat |
| Special Run:  | 'Traffic Awareness Rally - Thank You Surat 2.0'       |
| Core Pledges: | Road Safety, Water Harvesting, Afforestation & Aid    |



# Fostering Critical Thinking Over Rote Learning

Surat DEO Dr. Bhagirathsinh Parmar unveils mega initiatives including 'Shikshan Mahakumbh', Mathematics in Commerce stream, and an Air Show at Dumas

Elevating educational pedagogy from conventional classroom boundaries toward transformative human development and industry-ready capability, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a specialized academic seminar titled 'Quality Education and Effective Curriculum

Implementation' at the Ushakant Marfatia Hall, SIECC Campus, Sarsana.

Inaugurating the deliberations, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala articulated the imperative for holistic learning: "True knowledge cannot be attained solely through textbook pages. It requires an integrated synergy of practical application,

## SURAT ACADEMIC ROADMAP: KEY DEO INITIATIVES AT A GLANCE

|                            |                                                     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Shikshan Mahakumbh:</b> | Mega education expo in December with universities   |
| <b>Practical Models :</b>  | 700-800 math working models & 500 pre-school aids   |
| <b>Stream Flexibility:</b> | Proposal cleared to offer Mathematics in Commerce   |
| <b>Student Air Show :</b>  | Grand aerial display for 2 lakh students at Dumas   |
| <b>Global Medium :</b>     | English-medium Math & Science in Gujarati schools   |
| <b>Faculty Upskilling:</b> | Specialized vocational & pre-school teacher clinics |



## President Ashok Jirawala champions the convergence of practical skills and academic knowledge

physical discipline, and academic insight to shape meaningful human lives. Surat is not merely an industrial powerhouse; it is the sacred soil of the trailblazing poet Narmad. As our city commands global leadership in textiles, diamonds, and solar energy, it must equally champion academic excellence on national and international stages.”

Addressing the assembly as Chief Guest, Surat District Education Officer (DEO) Dr. Bhagirathsinh

Parmar observed that true educational quality is mirrored not within classroom walls, but in a student's critical thinking, ethical conduct, and social adaptability post-schooling. Emphasizing inquiry-driven pedagogies over rote memorization, he highlighted that Surat district's pool of over 9,000 high achievers securing 90th-percentile metrics demonstrates the city's vast academic caliber.

## Shikshan Mahakumbh, Working Math Displays, and Proposed Dumas Air Show

Detailing district-level interventions, DEO Dr. Bhagirathsinh Parmar announced that a comprehensive 'Shikshan Mahakumbh' will be convened in December 2026, bringing together national and international universities alongside modern educational institutions. To facilitate experiential learning, an extensive exhibition showcasing 700 to 800 working mathematics models and 400 to 500 pre-school tools will be hosted.

Furthermore, Gujarat Board commerce students will gain the option to elect Mathematics starting the upcoming academic term. To spark aerospace curiosity, an aerial demonstration at Dumas catering to nearly 2 lakh students with an outlay of Rs. 70 lakh has been proposed. Surat also leads the state in pioneering the 'Global Medium'

methodology—imparting STEM subjects in English within Gujarati-medium schools—supported by specialized vocational integration.

Keynote speaker Dr. Deepak Rajyaguru, General Secretary of the Private School & Children Welfare Association, underscored that institutional commitment and teacher integrity outweigh physical infrastructure: “True quality lies in cultivating noble character.” He called for aligning academic programs with a 10-year visionary skill framework to serve dynamic industrial needs.

The seminar commenced with welcome remarks by Education & Academic Committee Chairperson Dr. Monika Sharma and Co-Chairperson Dr. Ankita Rajyaguru, while Co-Chairperson Snehabhen Jariwala steered the proceedings and extended the formal vote of thanks.



## Guinea Unlocks Global Expansion Corridors 325 Mega Projects Under USD 200 Billion 'Simandou 2040'!

Providing structured pathways for South Gujarat's manufacturing and trading sectors to access emerging African growth corridors, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a high-level 'Business Interactive Session with Guinea' at 'Sanhati', SIECC Campus, Sarsana. The Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to India, H.E. Mr. Conte Alassane, served as the keynote speaker, delivering an exhaustive presentation on strategic industrial and commercial investment avenues.

SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala emphasized, "Guinea is remarkably endowed with rich natural reserves and mineral wealth. Under the Guinea government's ambitious USD 200 billion 'Simandou 2040' national development framework, regional entrepreneurs can unlock immense opportunities across renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, IT, textiles, and commercial agro-processing. A frictionless 72-hour corporate incorporation mechanism paves an ideal gateway for Surat's global footprint."

Welcoming the diplomatic delegation, SGCCI Vice President Ravi Raj Desai stated that bilateral trade between India and Guinea has crossed USD 1.5 billion. India's export baskets—comprising non-basmati rice, pharmaceuticals, machinery, two-wheelers, and railway stock—consistently exceed USD 800 to 900 million annually, underscoring Guinea's stature as an expansive commercial partner for South Gujarat's textile and precision engineering firms.



**At SGCCI's interactive business session, Republic of Guinea Ambassador Conte Alassane invites South Gujarat industrialists; highlights 72-hour company incorporation, 8.7% GDP growth, and vast potentials in renewable energy, pharma, and textiles**



## GUINEA-INDIA BILATERAL INVESTMENT MATRIX AT A GLANCE

|                          |                                                      |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Master Blueprint</b>  | : 'Simandou 2040' National Development Program       |
| <b>Project Pipeline</b>  | : 325 Mega Projects Valued at USD 200 Billion        |
| <b>Macro Projection</b>  | : 8.7% GDP Growth Rate Forecast by the World Bank    |
| <b>Bilateral Volume</b>  | : Trade Turnover Surpassing USD 1.5 Billion          |
| <b>Mineral Reserves</b>  | : Houses 2/3 of Global Bauxite   World's #1 Exporter |
| <b>Logistics Spine</b>   | : USD 20B Capex for 650 km Rail Corridor & Port      |
| <b>Ease of Business</b>  | : 72-Hour Digital Registration   500+ Indian Firms   |
| <b>Strategic Sectors</b> | : Solar/Wind Power, Generics, IT, Marine & Farming   |

## Frictionless Incorporation and High-Growth Synergies for Indian Enterprises

Addressing South Gujarat industrialists, Ambassador Conte Alassane detailed the macroeconomic scale of the 'Simandou 2040' program, a fifteen-year strategic development master plan encompassing 325 marquee industrial and civic assets. Anchoring this program is a massive USD 20 billion infrastructure project currently underway, comprising a 650-kilometer dedicated heavy-haul railway corridor and a deep-water commercial port engineered to evacuate 65% high-grade iron ore deposits.

The Ambassador highlighted that Guinea holds two-thirds of the planet's confirmed bauxite reserves, commanding the position of the world's leading exporter. In addition, the capital city of Conakry recently inaugurated West Africa's largest state-of-the-art gold refinery. Highlighting administrative efficiency, he noted that company registration takes just 72 hours, with over 500 Indian commercial establishments already thriving in the country amidst an 8.7%

GDP growth rate projected by the World Bank.

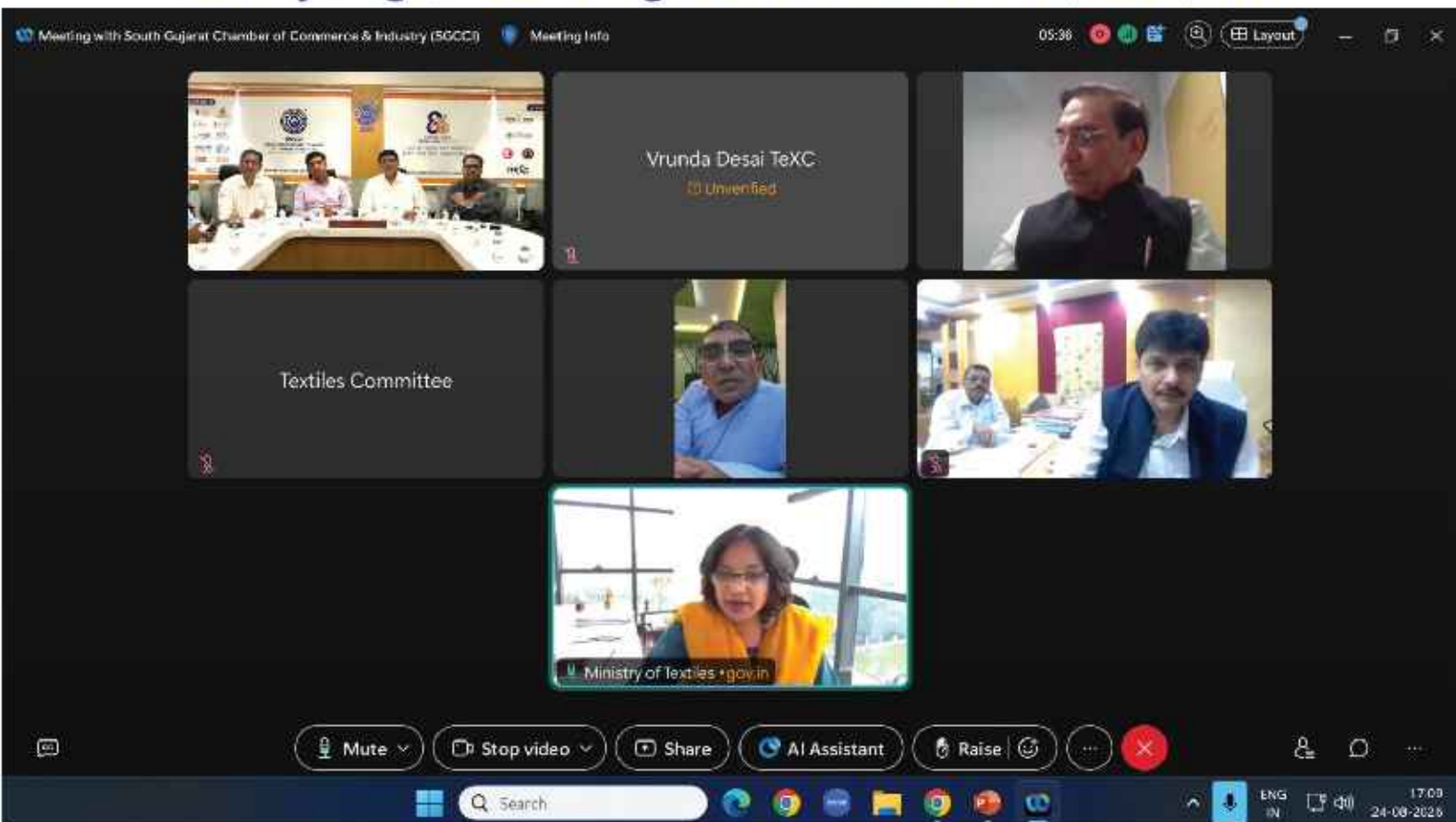
Ambassador Alassane invited South Gujarat's industry leaders to forge joint ventures in grid-scale solar and wind projects, pharmaceutical manufacturing units, telecommunications and IT (to bridge the current 70% digital penetration deficit), commercial marine fisheries, and mechanized agriculture. Interested enterprises can submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) directly via the Embassy of Guinea in New Delhi or through the institutional channel of SGCCI.

The conclave was attended by SGCCI Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya and leading business figures. The program framework was presented by Manish Mali, Chairman of the Diplomatic Relations & Foreign Affairs Committee, while Devkishan Manghani, Chairman of the Global Connect Committee, steered the proceedings. The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Group Chairman Dr. Vijay Radadiya.

# Crude Spike Triggers Yarn Crisis

## SGCCI Unmasks ₹20 Artificial Delta Burden!

As crude oil scales \$95 per barrel amid West Asian turmoil, Surat's polyester value chain faces severe disruption; President Ashok Jirawala submits comprehensive data dossier to Union Minister Giriraj Singh, demanding BCD waivers on PTA, MEG, POY



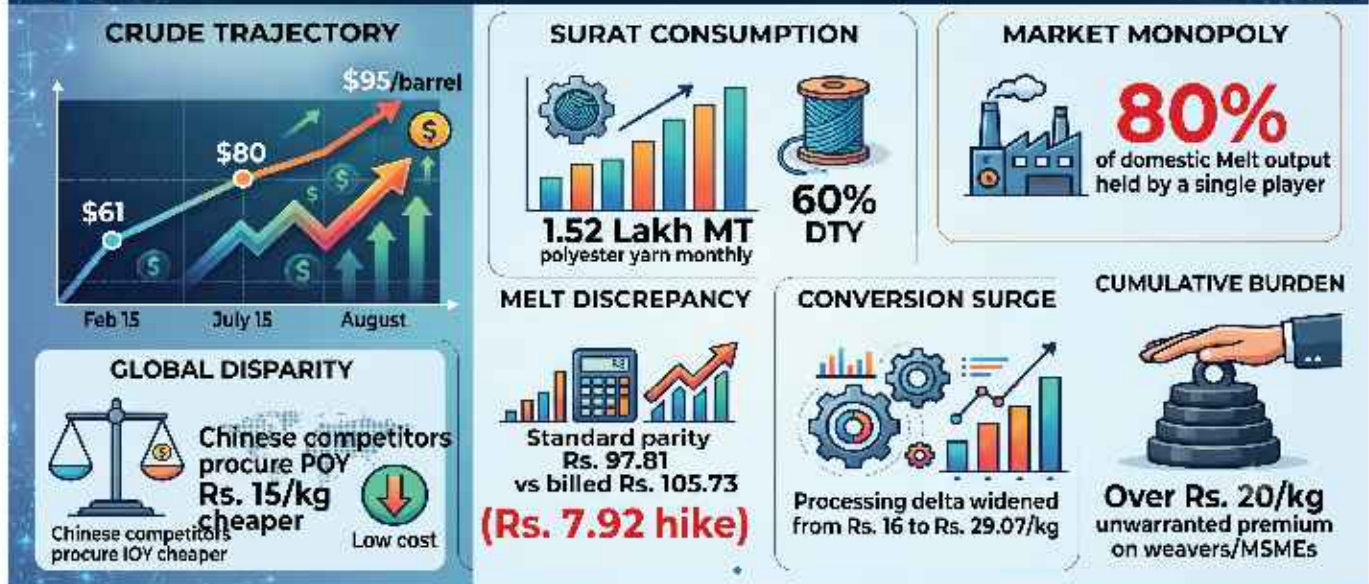
The intensifying geopolitical conflict in West Asia and the resultant volatility in global petroleum markets have unleashed unprecedented headwinds for India's Man-Made Fibre (MMF) textile sector. Surging from \$61 per barrel on February 15, 2026, Brent crude breached \$95 in August, triggering an alarming spike in domestic polyester raw material prices.

Intervening decisively to protect the textile heartland, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala submitted an urgent representation to Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh. In swift response, the Ministry convened a high-level virtual meeting with senior officials, including the Textile Joint Secretary, and SGCCI office-bearers. When ministry officials requested

empirical evidence during the deliberations, SGCCI acted immediately by submitting a comprehensive analytical dossier and technical data report to substantiate the crisis.

During the interactive conference, President Ashok Jirawala highlighted the acute supply-demand distortion, remarking, "Domestic downstream producers are being severely penalised by inflated derivative pricing that ignores global parity. Until international crude stabilizes below \$65 per barrel, the government must reinstate Basic Customs Duty (BCD) exemptions across the chain". Ministry officials assured the delegation that a dedicated mechanism would monitor price movements and curb opportunistic profit margins.

## CRUDE VS POLYESTER VALUE CHAIN DISRUPTION AT A GLANCE



## Deciphering the 'Delta Ratio': How an Unjustified ₹20/kg Premium Disables Surat's MSMEs

SGCCI's technical memorandum to the Ministry provided a forensic, two-year statistical breakdown of the 'Delta Ratio'—the correlation between crude benchmarks and synthetic downstream derivatives. Under standard international thumb rules, a \$5 movement in crude oil should correspond to a Rs. 2 per kg adjustment in polyester melt (approx. Rs. 0.40 to Rs. 0.42 per \$1). However, on August 22, 2026, with crude at \$92.74, the derived fair-market value of melt stood at Rs. 97.81 per kg against an inflated domestic billing price of Rs. 105.73—imposing an arbitrary markup of Rs. 7.92 per kg.

Compounding the distress, the melt-to-POY

conversion delta—historically pegged between Rs. 15 and Rs. 16 per kg—skyrocketed to Rs. 29.07 per kg following the withdrawal of BCD exemptions on July 15. The combination of an unjustified melt premium (Rs. 7.92) and an inflated conversion margin (approx. Rs. 12) has saddled Surat's weavers and texturizers with a crippling surcharge exceeding Rs. 20 per kg. With domestic melt production concentrated (80%) within a single conglomerate, downstream units in Surat—which consume 1.52 lakh MT of polyester yarn monthly—are being rendered unviable against international players who enjoy significantly cheaper raw materials.

### Charter of Immediate Policy Interventions Demanded by SGCCI:

- **Duty Waivers on Feedstock:** Re-implement Basic Customs Duty (BCD) exemptions on Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) and Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG) for an uninterrupted span of 6 to 12 months.
- **Bi-Weekly Benchmark Monitoring:** Institute a transparent, fortnightly pricing formula linked to global crude movements and exchange-rate fundamentals.
- **Joint Price Stabilization Committee:** Form a permanent task force featuring representatives from the Ministry of Textiles, primary feedstock producers, MSME weavers, and SGCCI.
- **Liquidity & Yarn Infrastructure:** Extend working capital interest subvention for stressed weavers and operationalize 20 decentralized yarn banks in Surat under the PowerTex scheme.



# SGCCI's Gandhinagar Push Yields Results

## Gujarat Industrial Policy-2026 GR Officially Notified!

Following the conceptual announcement of the Gujarat Industrial Policy-2026 on June 15, 2026, execution blueprints, capital subsidy limits, and operational directives remained awaited, stalling investment commitments across major industrial clusters. Intervening decisively to resolve this policy vacuum, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) led a high-powered delegation to Swarnim Sankul, Gandhinagar, on August 12, 2026.

Led by SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala and Honorary Treasurer Atul Patel, the delegation engaged in high-level deliberations with Hon'ble Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, and Additional Chief Secretary (Industries & Mines) Mamta Verma (IAS), urging the immediate issuance of the official Government Resolution (GR). Responding directly to SGCCI's timely intervention, the State Government officially notified the comprehensive GR on September 9, 2026, unlocking institutional momentum across

South Gujarat.

Welcoming the historic GR, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala conveyed gratitude to the state leadership, highlighting three pivotal milestones for South Gujarat:

**Decisive representation to CM and DyCM on August 12 paves the way for comprehensive Government Resolution on September 9**

### 1. Taluka Reclassification:

The upward category revisions for Valod, Vyara, and Mangrol will catalyze industrialisation and capital inflows into underdeveloped pockets.

**2. Thrust Status for Textiles & Apparels:** Concurrently linked with the developing PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park in Navsari, this status will

channel monumental investments into specialty yarns, technical textiles, and circular synthetics.

### 3. Incentive Framework for Large & Mega Units:

Clear qualifying thresholds have been instituted—investments exceeding Rs. 125 Crore in plant & machinery for Large units, Gross Fixed Capital Investment (GFCI) of Rs. 1,000 Crore with 250 jobs for Mega units, and GFCI of Rs. 10,000 Crore with 3,000 direct jobs for Ultra Mega projects.



# Upgraded classification for Valod, Vyara, Mangrol and aggressive thrust incentives unlock massive investments for South Gujarat



## 16 Thrust Sectors and Scaled Incentive Outlays

Elaborating on sectoral opportunities, SGCCI Vice President Ravi Raj Desai noted that South Gujarat is strategically pre-positioned to capitalize on the 16 identified thrust categories. The dense chemical belts of Dahej PCPIR, Ankleshwar, Panoli, Vapi, and Hazira will experience aggressive modernization. Furthermore, the Hazira-Dahej port infrastructure will drive green hydrogen, heavy engineering, and circular polyester textile waste recycling.

Immediate Past President Nikhil Madras detailed the incentive architecture, noting that eligible Large industries in thrust sectors will secure capital incentives up to 35% (Category-A) and 25% (Category-B) of Eligible Fixed Capital

Investment (EFCI). Mega projects qualify for 35% and 30%, whereas Ultra Mega projects can draw up to 40% and 35%, scaling up to 50% in selected thrust sectors. The government has capped maximum annual payouts at Rs. 300 Crore for Large, Rs. 750 Crore for Mega, and Rs. 1,250 Crore for Ultra Mega ventures.

Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya and Honorary Treasurer Atul Patel underlined that the capital deployment by anchor units will generate extensive supply-chain integration for thousands of regional MSMEs. The proactive representation on August 12 and the subsequent GR on September 9 solidify Gujarat's leadership in high-value manufacturing, employment creation, and international export competitiveness.



## **HANDCRAFTED MAGIC: BEDAZZLE WORKSHOP CELEBRATES NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY!**

**SGCCI Art, Culture & Handicraft Committee hosts an engaging gifting workshop; Art expert Jigisha Cholera trains participants in decorative crafting ahead of Rakshabandhan.**

Celebrating indigenous creativity and promoting artisanal traditions on the occasion of National Handloom Day, the Art, Culture & Handicraft Committee of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a vibrant 'Bedazzle Gift Workshop' on August 07, 2026, at Mr. Cafe The Sky Lounge in Vesu, Surat.

Renowned art expert Jigisha Cholera conducted an interactive, hands-on session demonstrating how simple everyday articles can be artistically transformed into exquisite, personalized gift hampers using modern embellishment

techniques.

With the festive occasion of Rakshabandhan around the corner, enthusiastic participants crafted bespoke gift boxes and decorative packaging using rich color palettes, fine beads, trims, and handloom-inspired materials.

Earlier, SGCCI Group Chairman Shailesh Desai delivered the welcome address. Committee Advisor Swatiben Shethwala introduced the expert speaker, while Committee Chairperson Krutika Shah outlined the objectives of the creative initiative. The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Atul Pathak.



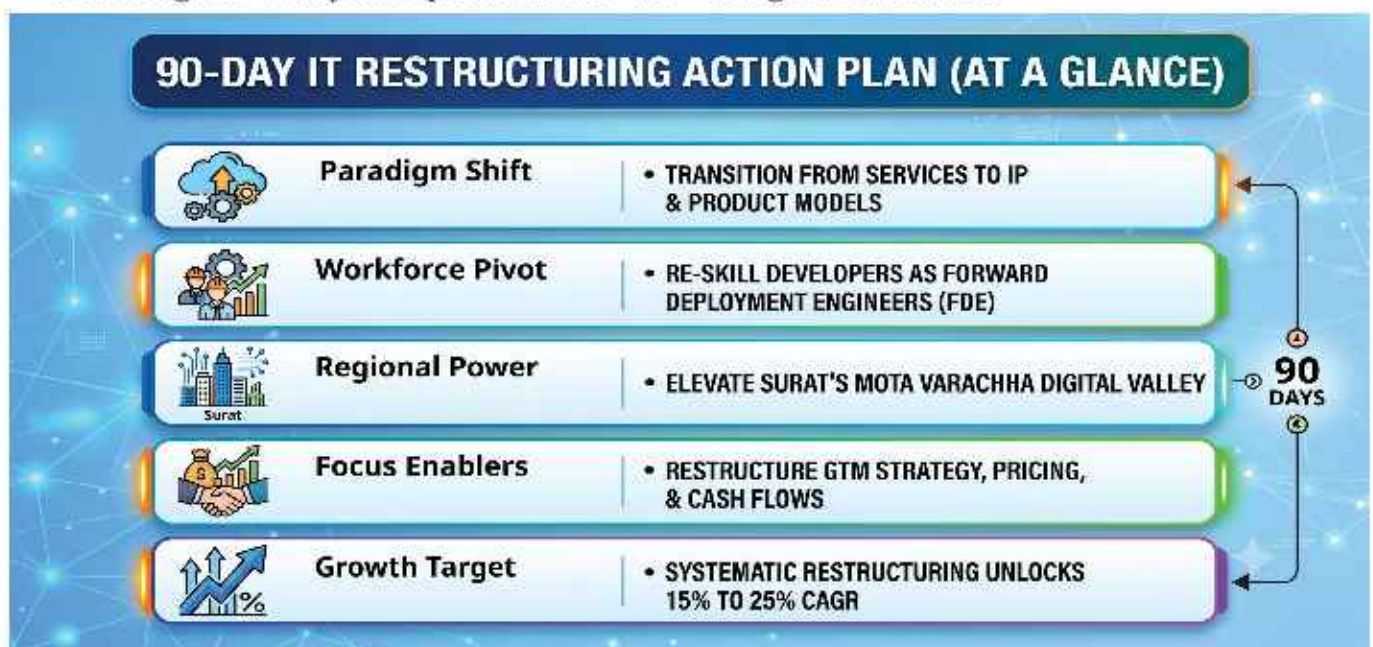
# BEYOND SERVICES: IT FIRMS MUST PIVOT TO PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS!



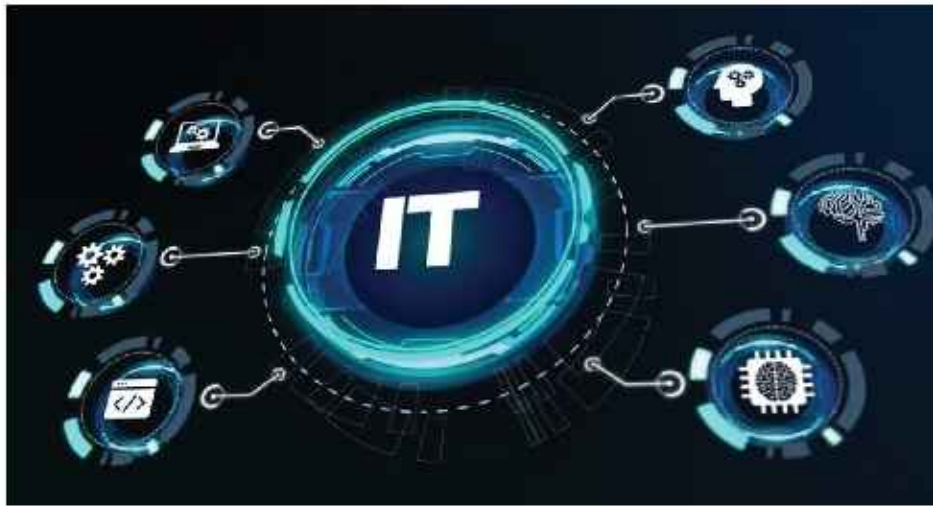
Addressing the seismic shifts driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and guiding regional technology enterprises through global disruptions, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a specialized knowledge session titled 'Restructuring IT Companies' at the Ushakant Marfatia Hall, Sarsana. Conducted under the guidance of SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala, the session featured leading business catalyst, CEO coach, and Board Director of the Magento Association, Vatsal Shah, as the keynote speaker.

Delivering an analytical presentation on

industry survival and expansion, Vatsal Shah stated, "The global IT sector is currently experiencing its most profound structural disruption. Relying merely on low-margin manpower billing and conventional service delivery will no longer sustain growth. Tech enterprises must urgently pivot toward high-value 'Solutions' and proprietary 'Product' architectures. AI has revolutionized traditional coding paradigms; companies must reskill developers into 'Forward Deployment Engineers' who deeply understand client business workflows and deploy rapid AI-integrated solutions."



# HARNESSING THE 'DIGITAL VALLEY' & DRIVING 15-25% ANNUAL GROWTH



Highlighting Surat's rapid emergence on India's tech landscape, Shah emphasized that beyond its traditional textile and diamond prowess, Surat is gaining national prominence through its bustling tech hub in Mota Varachha, often hailed as the region's 'Digital Valley'. To guard against global economic tightening and algorithmic automation, IT founders must enforce a 90-day restructuring roadmap targeting revenue quality, margin discipline, pricing power, account expansion, and leadership ownership.

Earlier, SGCCI Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya

delivered the welcome address, noting that tech firms embracing structural agility and AI enablement can comfortably achieve an annual growth rate of 15% to 25%. Group Chairman Ganpat Dhamelia outlined the objectives of the session. The proceedings were moderated by IT & Communication Committee Chairman Romit Gabani, with Maulik Vora introducing the keynote speaker. Following an interactive Q&A session with industry founders, Committee Co-Chairman Purvin Jayani delivered the formal vote of thanks.

**SGCCI hosts a high-impact seminar on 'Restructuring IT Companies'; Renowned CEO Coach Vatsal Shah unveils a 90-day blueprint for Mota Varachha's 'Digital Valley' to conquer AI disruptions**



# A Monumental Loss to South Gujarat's Industry

## Former SGCCI President Mahendrabhai Katargamwala Passes Away



**Condolence assembly convened at Platinum Hall, SIECC Sarsana; President Ashok Jirawala, Trade stalwarts and past presidents honor his transformative legacy across textiles, real estate, and healthcare**

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) and the wider socio-industrial fraternity of Western India mourn the sad demise of prominent builder, philanthropist, and former SGCCI President (2014-15), Shri Mahendrabhai Katargamwala on 28th August. Known as a consummate consensus-builder and an exceptional administrator, his departure leaves a profound void across trade and civic spheres. Leading the chamber in mourning, President Ashok Jirawala, Vice President Ravi Raj Desai, Immediate Past President Nikhil Madrasi, Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya, and Honorary Treasurer Atul Patel paid heartfelt tributes to the departed leader.

Remembering his decisive tenure, President Ashok Jirawala noted that Mahendrabhai was an architect of strategic bridges, deploying his goodwill with senior administrative

and ministerial corridors solely for institutional and industrial welfare: "During his presidency in 2014-15, he successfully lobbied for the complete rollback of a crippling local levy imposed on powerloom weavers. For the real estate sector, he secured a crucial three-month administrative grace period from the state government regarding real estate project registrations, shielding developers from severe disruptions. Furthermore, he established landmark linkages with the Thailand Diamond Association, orchestrating high-profile jewellery and fashion expositions in Surat that unlocked

global markets for local artisans." Beyond industry, his humanitarian footprint was vast; as Trustee and President of the Bhartimaiya Memorial Foundation, he steered the operations of the Bharat Cancer Hospital and the Nirali Memorial Radiation Centre.





### IN MEMORIAM: SHRI MAHENDRABHAI KATARGAMWALA (AT A GLANCE)

- Tenure & Office : President, SGCCI (2014-15)
- Core Persona : Master Bridge-BUILDER, Industrialist & Buldozer
- Weaver Advocacy : Secured complete withdrawal of unfair textile tax
- Real Estate Pact : Won critical 3-month registration grace period
- Global Footprint : Bilateral ties with Thailand Diamond Association
- Healthcare Pillar : President, Bharat Cancer Hospital (Bhartimaiya)
- Memorial Venue : Platinum Hall, SIECC Campus, Sarsana, Surat



#### Textile Tax Repeal

Secured complete withdrawal of unfair textile tax



#### Real Estate Pact

critical 3-month registration grace period



#### Global Footprint

Bilateral ties with Thailand Diamond Diamond Association



#### Healthcare Pillar

President, Bharat Cancer Hospital (Bhartimaiya)



## Solemn Condolence Gathering at SIECC; Industry Pays Respects

To honor his memory, SGCCI organized a memorial prayer assembly at Platinum Hall, SIECC Campus, Sarsana. The solemn meeting drew extensive representation from Surat's prominent corporate houses, civic leaders, managing committee members, and past presidents.

Expressing deep grief, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala addressed the assembly:

"Before our institutional family could fully heal from the demise of our former president, the late Bharat Gandhi, we have been struck by another monumental loss. The departure of Mahendrabhai Katargamwala is an irreparable blow not only to SGCCI, but to the entire economic fabric and social conscience of South Gujarat. His visionary stewardship, administrative precision, and dedication to public welfare will forever guide our path."

The gathering observed two minutes of silence to pray for eternal peace for the departed soul. Responding on behalf of the bereaved family, the late leader's son, Shri Manish Katargamwala, expressed sincere gratitude to the chamber fraternity, reflecting movingly on his father's uncompromising integrity, discipline, and community service.

The prayer meeting was attended by Vice President Ravi Raj Desai, Immediate Past President Nikhil Madrasi, Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya, Honorary Treasurer Atul Patel, All Exhibition Chairman Manish Kapadia, alongside esteemed past presidents and dignitaries including Kamlesh Yagnik, Rupin Patchigar, B. S. Agarwal, Amit Marfatia, Dr. Mahendra Chauhan, Pradyumansinh Jadeja, Hemant Desai, Sharad Barot, Yogesh Parikh, Kanubhai Shah, and Jaynaben Bhakta.





## India Ranks Second Globally with 13.8 Crore Chronic Kidney Patients!

Democratizing preventive healthcare awareness across all civic zones of Surat, the Public Health Committee of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a high-impact seminar titled 'Healthy Kidney, Healthy Life' on Sunday, August 16, 2026, at the Lok Samarpan Blood Donation Centre in Varachha. Renowned consultant nephrologists Dr. Jaydeep Hirpara and Dr. Harshit Patel (Khunt) delivered expert scientific insights on renal wellness, early detection, and long-term organ preservation.

Delivering the welcome address, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala emphasized, "To make specialized medical awareness accessible to every citizen, SGCCI shifted this session from our central Nanpura headquarters to Varachha in active collaboration with Lok Samarpan. As the timeless Gujarati adage goes, 'Pahelu Sukh Te Jaate Narya'—true wealth is meaningless without vibrant health. Kidneys serve as the body's natural filtration architecture, and safeguarding them requires proactive medical discipline."



SGCCI Public Health Committee organizes 'Healthy Kidney, Healthy Life' seminar at Lok Samarpan Varachha; Nephrologists warn that diabetes, hypertension, and contaminated water drive severe renal failures

# DECIPHERING THE SILENT KILLER: DIABETES, HYPERTENSION & ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS

Addressing the session, Dr. Jaydeep Hirparacatergorized renal dysfunction into Acute Kidney Injury (triggered by sudden dehydration or severe infections) and Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), which progresses silently over decades. Warning against early asymptomatic phases, he advised immediate diagnostic screenings if individuals experience facial or pedal edema, chronic lethargy, foamy or bloody urine, breathlessness, or intractable pruritus, stressing strict blood pressure and glycemic management.

Dr. Harshit Patel (Khunt) revealed alarming epidemiological projections, stating that over 2,20,000 Indians progress to end-stage renal disease (ESRD) annually, requiring lifelong maintenance hemodialysis or organ transplants. With



diabetes and hypertension accounting for 40% to 60% of failures, he underscored environmental variables, citing coastal Uddanam in Andhra Pradesh where CKD prevalence hits 18% to 21% primarily due to heat stress, heavy metals, water contamination, and unshielded pesticide exposure.

Lok Samarpan Blood Donation Centre President Haribhai Kathiriya shared his views on community healthcare. The seminar was attended by SGCCI Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya, Honorary Treasurer Atul Patel, and medical professionals. Public Health Committee Chairman Dr. Jagdish Vagharia introduced the institutional framework, while Co-Chairman Laljibhai Hirani moderated the interactive deliberations and delivered the vote of thanks.



## RENAL HEALTH CRISIS:

### NATIONAL DATA AT A GLANCE



#### PATIENT VOLUME



**13.8 Crore**  
Indians currently suffer from CKD

#### GLOBAL RANKING



India ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> worldwide, immediately behind China

#### ADULT IMPACT



Prevalent across **13% to 17%** of the adult population

#### END-STAGE SURGE



**2,20,000**  
new patients hit renal failure/yr

#### PRIMARY DRIVERS



**Diabetes & Hypertension**  
cause 40% to 60% of failures

#### REGIONAL ALERT



Uddanam (AP) records **18%-21%** rate via toxins/heat

# Resolve Procedural Roadblocks in MOOWR Scheme

## SGCCI Submits Representation to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

Addressing operational bottlenecks and procedural complexities encountered by manufacturing units operating under Section 65 of the Customs Act, 1962, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) submitted a comprehensive memorandum to Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, urging targeted administrative reforms to the MOOWR Regulations, 2019.

SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala underscored that South Gujarat's industrial corridors have seen substantial capital investments under the MOOWR framework across textiles, solar modules, chemicals, and precision engineering. However, the absence of procedural clarity at the operational level continues to hinder seamless manufacturing and compliance.

Emphasizing the rationale, President Ashok Jirawala stated, "These eleven recommendations are entirely procedural and clarity-driven, carrying zero revenue loss for the national exchequer. Rationalizing these guidelines will substantially boost the Ease of Doing Business, unlocking new domestic capital expenditure and driving export competitiveness." Copies of the memorandum have been marked to the Union Revenue Secretary, Chairman of CBIC, and the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad.

### SGCCI 11-POINT

### MOOWR REFORM CHARTER

— AT A GLANCE —

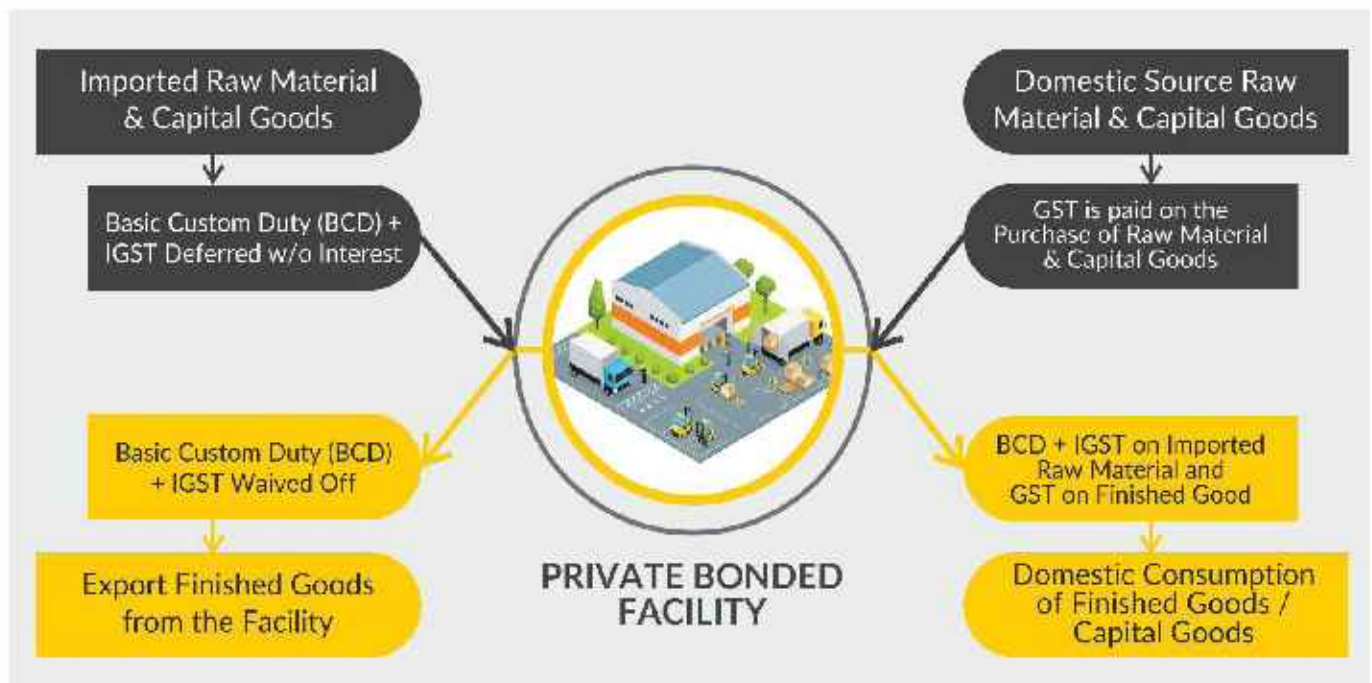


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| <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">1</div> <h4 style="margin: 5px 0;">Restructuring</h4> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Seamless license PAN/IEC amendment on mergers</p> </div> </div>       | <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2</div> <h4 style="margin: 5px 0;">SEZ Supplies</h4> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Deem supplies to SEZ/FTWZ as 'Exports' (Sec 69)</p> </div> </div>        |
| <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">3</div> <h4 style="margin: 5px 0;">Export Parity</h4> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Extend RoDTEP &amp; Duty Drawback on par with EOU's</p> </div> </div> | <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">4</div> <h4 style="margin: 5px 0;">Amendments</h4> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Self-certification approval for HSN adds in 7 days</p> </div> </div>       |
| <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">5</div> <h4 style="margin: 5px 0;">Turnaround Time</h4> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Mandate fixed timelines for MOOWR license grants</p> </div> </div>  | <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">6</div> <h4 style="margin: 5px 0;">ICEGATE Update</h4> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Implement Sec 67 bond-to-bond digital transfers</p> </div> </div>      |
| <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">7</div> <h4 style="margin: 5px 0;">Compliance</h4> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>End manual filings; deploy auto-acknowledged M-returns</p> </div> </div> | <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">8</div> <h4 style="margin: 5px 0;">Decentralization</h4> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Vest licensing authority with Jurisdictional Comm.</p> </div> </div> |
| <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">9</div> <h4 style="margin: 5px 0;">Force Majeure</h4> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Clear Sec 23 remission norms for fire/disaster loss</p> </div> </div> | <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">10</div> <h4 style="margin: 5px 0;">Tax Certainty</h4> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Clarify or repeal upfront IGST under Sec 65A</p> </div> </div>         |
| <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">11</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <h4 style="margin: 5px 0;">Single Window</h4> <p>Deploy an end-to-end integrated ICEGATE module</p> </div> </div>     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Chamber President Ashok Jirawala tables an 11-point reform charter demanding deemed export status for SEZ supplies, RoDTEP-drawback eligibility, and a streamlined single-window module on ICEGATE.

## Core Structural Reforms Urged by SGCCI for the MOOWR Scheme

- **Corporate Restructuring & License Transfers:** In instances of mergers, demergers, or structural conversions resulting in a new PAN/IEC, customs formations frequently insist on license surrender and payment of duties. SGCCI urged that the existing license be seamlessly transferred with amended PAN/IEC credentials.
- **Deemed Export Status for SEZ Supplies:** Material movements from MOOWR units to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) or Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) should explicitly be treated as 'Exports' under Section 69 of the Customs Act.
- **Export Neutralization via RoDTEP and Duty Drawback:** In parity with Advance Authorization, EOU, and SEZ schemes, MOOWR operators must be granted eligibility for RoDTEP and Duty Drawback to neutralize embedded domestic duties.
- **Waiver of Physical Verification for Minor Alterations:** Endorsement of additional HSN codes or enhancements in bond value should be executed within 7 days via self-certification, dispensing with on-site physical inspections.
- **Time-Bound Approvals:** Definite statutory timelines must be notified for processing and issuing new MOOWR licenses.
- **ICEGATE Integration for Bond-to-Bond Transfers:** Although the Finance Act 2026 amended Section 67 removing prior approval mandates for warehouse-to-warehouse transfers, the ICEGATE portal lacks this digital capability. Technical updates must be prioritized.
- **Automated Monthly Returns:** The current practice of physical or email submissions must be replaced with automated, auto-acknowledged monthly e-filings directly on ICEGATE.
- **Decentralization of Approval Authority:** Since routine administration is handled by Assistant or Deputy Commissioners, Sections 58 and 65 should be rationalized to empower the Jurisdictional Commissioner to issue licenses, escalating to Principal/Chief Commissioners only if pending past 30 days.
- **Duty Remission Under Force Majeure:** Precise guidelines should be framed to permit duty remission under Section 23 whenever bonded inventory is destroyed due to accidental fires or natural disasters.
- **Resolution of Section 65A Uncertainty:** The proposed levy of upfront IGST at the entry stage under Section 65A must either be scrapped or clarified as non-applicable to restore investor certainty.
- **Unified Single-Window Module:** An end-to-end digital dashboard covering everything from licensing and bond execution to eventual debonding must be integrated on ICEGATE.



# PAYMENT WOES NO MORE: MSME BILL ACTS AS A FINANCIAL SHIELD!



**Parliament unanimously  
passes the MSMED  
(Amendment) Bill 2026;  
SGCCI hails landmark reforms  
featuring mandatory  
TReDS compliance, 90-day  
mediation timelines, and  
stringent recovery powers to  
bolster South Gujarat's cash  
flow cycles**

Providing robust statutory protection to the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector and resolving chronic payment delays, both Houses of Parliament have passed the landmark 'Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026'. The bill received unanimous passage in the Rajya Sabha on August 03, 2026, followed by the Lok Sabha on August 07, 2026. The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) has extended a warm welcome to these reforms, expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union MSME Minister, and members of Parliament.

Analyzing the impact of the legislation, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala stated, "The passage of the MSMED (Amendment) Bill 2026 is a monumental milestone. South Gujarat accounts for nearly 48% of Gujarat's total MSME manufacturing units. With the region's economy deeply anchored in the MSME framework, these stringent legal mechanisms will curb the persistent menace of delayed payments, bringing transparency and operational predictability across markets."



## CASH FLOW LIQUIDITY & SGCCI MEDIATION CENTER

SGCCI Vice President Ravi Raj Desai emphasized that statutory timelines for dispute resolution and institutionalizing the TReDS platform will revitalize working capital liquidity across Surat's textile, diamond, and engineering segments. Uninterrupted cash flows across grey fabrics, dyes, chemicals, and processing inputs will prevent supply chain bottlenecks.

Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya and Honorary Treasurer Atul Patel announced

that SGCCI is preparing to operationalize a dedicated 'Mediation Center' on its campus to facilitate institutional dispute resolution within the mandated 90-day window. MSME Committee Chairman CA Manish Bajrang noted that recognizing awards as enforceable claims under the IBC and land revenue recovery rules empowers suppliers. SGCCI will soon organize extensive educational seminars across South Gujarat to familiarize entrepreneurs with the amended statutory provisions.



### MSMED (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026: KEY STATUTORY HIGHLIGHTS

#### Mandatory TReDS



- All Central PSUs mandated to route invoices via TReDS

#### Timebound Mediation



- Mandatory completion of mediation within 90 days

#### Fast-Track Arbitration



- Arbitral Award within 90 days of pleadings

#### Pre-Deposit for Appeal



- Buyers must deposit 75% of award to appeal

#### Enforcement Strength



- Dues recoverable as Arrears of Land Revenue

#### Statutory Adjudication



- Fast-track appellate mechanism within 60 days

# Develop Niyol into a Full-Fledged Freight Terminal

## SGCCI Petitions Western Railway DRM

Facilitating expedited, cost-efficient, and multi-modal cargo logistics for the sprawling industrial corridors of Surat and South Gujarat, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) submitted a comprehensive memorandum to the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM - Mumbai Central), Western Railway, petitioning for the immediate development of Niyol Railway Station into a full-fledged freight terminal and goods handling hub.

In the formal representation, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala underscored that while Surat serves as one of India's premier commercial locomotives dispatching thousands of metric tonnes of inward and outward cargo

daily, the acute lack of terminal handling infrastructure at Niyol—compounded by severe chronic yard congestion at Udhna Junction—continues to paralyze local trade operations.

**Chamber urges rapid development of Niyol station on the Udhna-Jalgaon line with direct DFC integration; President Ashok Jirawala pushes to curb private warehousing costs of Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per sq ft and decongest Udhna yard**

Located strategically on the Udhna-Jalgaon chord line, Niyol sits in direct proximity to Western Railway's vital trunk corridor (Mumbai-Vadodara-Delhi) and intersects seamlessly with the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFCC) alignment. Upgrading Niyol into a full-scale freight complex will allow heavy

freight rakes to bypass congested urban tracks around Udhna, accelerating turnaround times for railway wagons and streamlining broad-gauge train operations.

### Alleviating Private Warehousing Costs and Catalyzing Regional Industrial Belts

Detailing the financial strain on regional manufacturing units, President Ashok Jirawala highlighted, "Due to the absence of dedicated railway freight sheds, high-capacity covered platforms, and mechanized stacking facilities at Niyol, commercial units are forced to lease private godowns at exorbitant rates of Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per square foot. Repeated transit between factories, private storage, and remote railheads escalates labour expenses and heightens the risk of product damage, ultimately forcing industries onto expensive road transit." He added that SGCCI will also aggressively pursue the sanction of a comprehensive Logistics Park in the vicinity.



## NIYOL RAIL FREIGHT TERMINAL ADVOCACY AT A GLANCE



### 1. Strategic Line :

Udhna-Jalgaon Section  
(DFCCL & Trunk Connectivity)



### 3. Policy History :

In-principle clearance  
sanctioned in FY 2023-24



### 5. Demanded Specs :

Dedicated Loop Lines,  
High Covered Sheds & Cranes



### 2. Current Burden :

Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per sq ft  
incurred on private godowns



### 4. Major Sectors :

Textiles, Hazira Steel,  
Chemicals & Agro-Sugar



### 6. Future Vision :

Integration with an upcoming  
Multi-Modal Logistics



**Niyol Freight Terminal** becoming operational  
will give direct momentum to key cluster momentums



The commissioning of a dedicated terminal at Niyol will unlock massive operational advantages across key economic sectors:

- **Textiles and Filaments:** Seamless nationwide rake movement for fabrics and yarns dispatched daily from clusters in Saroli, Puna, Kadodara, and Sachin to North, East, and South India.

- **Chemicals and Polymers:** Bulk industrial chemical transport originating from Pandesara, Ichhapore, and the Ankleshwar-Hazira industrial belt.

- **Heavy Engineering and Steel:** Direct, cost-effective rail evacuation for prime steel coils, massive structures, and heavy machinery manufactured in the Hazira industrial cluster.

- **Sugar and Agri-Commodities:** Direct bulk siding facilities for cooperative sugar mills and agricultural mandis across South Gujarat.

Pointing out that Western Railway had accorded in-principle sanction for a world-class freight terminal at Niyol during FY 2023-24, SGCCI urged authorities to immediately revive the project file, commission a joint feasibility inspection with commercial trade bodies, and lay dedicated goods loop lines, covered weather-proof sheds, paved platforms, and mechanized material handling cranes. Copies of the representation were also submitted to the General Manager (GM), Chief Freight Transportation Manager (CFTM), Senior DOM, and Senior DCM of Western Railway.

# Upgrade Utran as a Satellite Hub to Decongest Surat

## SGCCI Petitions Western Railway GM

Chamber pitches Utran as a prime suburban terminal for Varachha and Katargam commuters

Championing the foundational mobility requirements of South Gujarat's textile, diamond, and trading sectors alongside millions of daily commuters, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) submitted a comprehensive, high-level memorandum to the General Manager (GM) of Western Railway. The institutional representation urges targeted operational overhauls, passenger amenity upgrades, and strategic terminal decentralization across Surat's rail ecosystem.

Positioning Utran Station as a vital catalyst to relieve congestion, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala underscored, "Surat is an economic powerhouse contributing monumental passenger and freight revenues to the Indian Railways. Robust rail connectivity and world-class

**President Ashok Jirawala urges commercial halts for Durgam Express, daily runs for Bandra-Jaisalmer, and immediate restoration of senior citizen fare concessions**

passenger infrastructure are essential to sustain this momentum. To eliminate severe passenger chokepoints at Surat Central, Utran must be urgently upgraded into an advanced suburban satellite terminal on the lines of Udhna and Sachin. Furthermore, Western Railway must act expeditiously to provide commercial halts for key superfast long-distance trains."

Addressing broader passenger welfare, SGCCI made a strong appeal for the immediate reinstatement of ticket fare concessions for senior citizens, which were withdrawn during the pandemic. In addition, the chamber recommended concessional monthly and seasonal pass tariffs for daily female commuters and students, alongside simplifying seasonal pass renewal protocols for the general workforce.

## Durgam Halts, Vande Bharat Re-Scheduling, and Regional Line Extensions

To optimize commercial passenger transit, SGCCI outlined critical route and schedule modifications:

- **Mumbai-Hisar Durgam Express (12239/12240):** Allocation of a commercial stoppage at Surat to serve the vast business network connecting Surat's diamond and textile markets with Rajasthan and Haryana.

- **Bandra Terminus-Jaisalmer Express (22931/22932):** Converting this heavily patronized service into a daily run to accommodate Ramdevra pilgrims alongside solar, cement, and marble trade executives.

- **Vande Bharat & Intra-State Corridors:** Realigning Vande Bharat schedules to allow Surat entrepreneurs to complete same-day return business trips to Mumbai, augmenting train frequencies on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad sector, and increasing weekly trips to Haridwar and Udaipur.

- **North Gujarat Connectivity:** Restoring the suspended Udhna-Palanpur passenger train for senior travellers and providing a stoppage for the Lokshakti Express at Visnagar.

Utran as a Suburban Satellite Hub and Institutional

Coordination

Located in immediate proximity to Varachha, Mota Varachha, Kim, and Saroli—the epicenter of Surat's diamond cutting and textile weaving workforce—Utran Station offers the ideal geography to operate as an integrated suburban dispersal hub, significantly relieving traffic pressure on the main Surat station.

On local passenger amenities, SGCCI urged proactive, round-the-clock maintenance of lifts and escalators on Platforms 1 and 2, which frequently suffer breakdowns during peak travel hours. The chamber also called for augmenting unreserved and current booking ticket counters, as well as guaranteeing 24-hour regulated e-rickshaw availability for families arriving late at night.

To institutionalize swift grievance redressal, SGCCI proposed establishing monthly joint review meetings with the DRMs of Vadodara and Mumbai Divisions at the Chamber Campus, alongside organizing a high-profile 'Railway Conclave' in Surat featuring top railway policymakers.



# Surat-Odisha Textile Alliance

## Odisha Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy inaugurates the state's largest textile showcase 'Odisha Dreamz' in Puri

Catalyzing strategic inter-state trade corridors between India's Western manufacturing engines and the rising Eastern industrial frontier, the Pravasi Odia Parivar (Surat) and 'Odisha Dreamz' jointly organized Odisha's largest B2B textile exposition, 'Odisha Dreamz', on August 23 and 24, 2026, at Hotel Empires, Puri. Ashok Jirawala, President of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), graced the prestigious commercial conclave as the Chief

Guest.

The exposition was officially inaugurated by the Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, Smt. Surama Padhy. The inaugural assembly was attended by Sorda MLA Shri Nilamani Bisoi, President of Pravasi Odia Parivar (Surat) and SGCCI National Co-ordinator Shri Mahendra Rout, prominent Surat industrialist and philanthropist Shri Keshubhai Goti, and former Puri MLA Shri Jayant Sarangi as Guests of Honour.

### 'ODISHA DREAMZ' TEXTILE EXPOSITION 2026 AT A GLANCE



**Event :** Odisha's Premier B2B Textile & Handloom Exposition



**Dates & Venue :** August 23 & 24, 2026 | Hotel Empires, Puri, Odisha



#### Organizer & Guests :



**Joint Bodies :** Pravasi Odia Parivar (Surat) & 'Odisha Dreamz'



**Inaugurated By :** Smt. Surama Padhy, Speaker, Odisha Assembly



**Chief Guest :** Shri Ashok Jirawala, President, SGCCI



#### Key Industrial Facts :



**Industrial Run :** Over Rs. 8,800 Crore in textile ventures in pipeline



**Expansion Goal :** 200-stall national exhibition proposed in Capital



## SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala proposes a 200-stall mega expo in Bhubaneswar to tap into ₹8,800 Crore industrial projects



## Capitalizing on ₹8,800 Crore Project Pipelines: Surat's MMF Strength Meets Odisha's Growth

Delivering the keynote address, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala detailed the transformative transition underway in Odisha's manufacturing base:

"Odisha is rapidly progressing beyond basic garment cutting and sewing to erect a fully integrated, modern 'Fiber-to-Fashion' ecosystem spanning man-made fibers (MMF), weaving, chemical processing, technical textiles, and circular recycling. With textile investment projects exceeding Rs. 8,800 Crore currently in the state pipeline, this presents an unprecedented expansion horizon. As Surat reigns as India's synthetic textile capital, our weavers, texturizers, and process house operators possess immense scope to partner with Odisha through

technology sharing, joint ventures, and market diversification."

To accelerate tangible commercial transactions, President Jirawala proposed organizing an expansive, nationwide textile exhibition featuring 200 dedicated booths in the state capital of Bhubaneswar in the coming months.

'Odisha Dreamz' attracted commercial fabricators, handloom cooperatives, garment houses, and institutional buyers from multiple textile hubs. The two-day interactive platform laid a robust foundation for long-term supply chain partnerships, opening fluid transit routes for Surat's value-added fabrics into Eastern and North-Eastern consumer markets.

# EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: SHRAVAN BUSINESS MELA 2026 OPENS!



Catalyzing festive retail demand and providing a direct commercial launchpad for women artisans and micro-entrepreneurs, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), in joint collaboration with Maheshwari Luxuria, organized the two-day 'Shraavan Business Mela 2026' on August 12 and 13, 2026. Held at Maheshwari Luxuria on Aai Mata Road, Parvat Patiya, Surat, between 10:00 AM and 07:00 PM, the business exhibition was formally inaugurated by Pravinbhai Ghoghari, Member of Legislative Assembly (Karanj constituency).

In his official message, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala remarked, "South Gujarat's

economic fabric is strongly reinforced by the dedicated enterprise of small traders and women entrepreneurs. This festive mela embodies our commitment to 'Vocal for Local' and women's financial self-reliance. We urge the citizens of Surat to patronize these creative enterprises during the festive season to build a robust local economy."

Delivering the welcome address, SGCCI Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya noted that Surat remains a vanguard for women empowerment, emphasizing that exhibitions bridge the gap between creative startups and mainstream consumer markets.

## SHRAVAN BUSINESS MELA 2026 AT A GLANCE

|                       |                                                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dates</b>          | : August 12 & 13, 2026                                |
| <b>Timing</b>         | : 10:00 AM to 07:00 PM                                |
| <b>Venue</b>          | : Maheshwari Luxuria, Aai Mata Road, Parvat Patiya    |
| <b>Organizers</b>     | : SGCCI & Maheshwari Luxuria                          |
| <b>Inaugurated By</b> | : Pravinbhai Ghoghari (MLA, Karanj Constituency)      |
| <b>Product Canvas</b> | : Designer Rakhis, Handlooms, Imitation Jewelry, Food |
| <b>Strategic Core</b> | : Women Entrepreneurship & Vocal for Local Promotion  |

## SGCCI and Maheshwari Luxuria host a 2-day festive marketplace; Inaugurated by MLA Pravin Ghoghari, the expo provides direct market access to homepreneurs and artisans ahead of Shravan festivities



### CURATED FESTIVE COLLECTION

Addressing the gathering, MLA Pravin Ghoghari highlighted that direct consumer expos empower home-based women entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses without intermediary overheads. Maheshwari Samaj President Shyamji Rathi pointed out that exhibitions serve as prime launchpads for brand discovery, while National Youth Speaker Dr. Ankita Mulani shared the inspiring entrepreneurial journey of Padma Shri Kalpana Saroj. Past President Dinesh Navadiya reaffirmed SGCCI's vision for grassroots job creation.

The inaugural proceedings were conducted

by Shravan Mela Chairperson Rupal Shah, who highlighted the diverse product range, including handcrafted designer Rakhis, greeting cards, ethnic apparel, fashion jewelry, festive decor, and processed food items. The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Ladies Wing Chairperson Alpaben Madrasi. The opening was attended by local municipal councilors Satish Maisuriya, Anil Sojitra, Sarojben Patel, Manishaben Ahir, Hinaben Vachhani, Vidhiben Rathod, Dipak Rabari, and Dineshbhai Rajpurohit along with prominent community leaders.



# SGCCI Seals Festive Hat-Trick with 'Shravan Business Mela'

## Empowering Women Artisans in Adajan!



Championing grassroots enterprise, retail empowerment, and sustainable self-reliance for women artisans and home-grown micro-enterprises, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) successfully conducted the two-day 'Shravan Business Mela 2026' at Amidhara Wadi, Rander Road, Adajan. Following landmark editions at Mota Varachha and Parvat Patiya, the Adajan showcase marked a triumphant 'hat-trick' for the Chamber's decentralized festive trade initiatives.

The exhibition was formally inaugurated by Smt. Mousamiben Patel, Deputy Collector of Surat, by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Collector Mousami Patel noted, "The bedrock of state welfare schemes is to make women economically independent. When women

enter enterprise and active market systems, the transformation uplifts not just an individual household but the collective socio-economic fabric of the community. SGCCI's dedicated commercial platform for women craftspersons is genuinely commendable."

**Following massive footprints in Mota Varachha and Parvat Patiya, two-day exposition concluded at Amidhara Wadi**

SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala articulated the decentralization rationale: "Our core objective was to ensure that women entrepreneurs gain direct access to consumer segments across every quarter of Surat, providing residents with doorstep festive shopping. Following massive turnouts at Mota Varachha and Parvat Patiya, Adajan embraced this fair with identical zeal. By purchasing home-crafted goods, Surat's citizens gave practical momentum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's 'Vocal for Local' mission."



## Scaling Grassroots Enterprises; Navratri, Diwali Expos Announced

Delivering the welcome address, SGCCI Vice President Ravi Raj Desai affirmed that the Chamber is not merely a forum for large conglomerates, but a nurturing ecosystem committed to making micro-enterprises and women entrepreneurs scalable. Former Deputy Mayor Nirav Shah urged the Chamber to expand such exhibitions into larger convention arenas without worrying about initial operational deficits, noting that today's micro-entrepreneurs are destined to become tomorrow's industrial champions.

Shri Pravinbhai Patel, President of Kadva Patidar Samaj, lauded the fair's community reach. All Exhibition Chairman Manish Kapadia announced that SGCCI will continue this momentum with upcoming editions of the Navratri Mela, Diwali Mela, and a comprehensive Food Festival. Shravan Mela Chairperson Rupal Shah observed that robust footfalls from previous editions

inspired several recurring stallholders alongside a wave of first-time exhibitors.

Targeted toward Janmashtami festivities, consumer interest peaked around ceremonial handcrafted attire (poshaks) for Lord Krishna, ornamental wooden and brass swings (jhulas), and worship accessories. The pavilions featured designer ethnic wear, boutique kurtis, imitation jewellery, home decor, and an active artisanal culinary pavilion featuring home-made snacks, sweets, mukhwas, and festive hampers.

The inaugural assembly was attended by Corporator Urvashi Patel, Dharmesh Vaniyawala, and leading trade figures. The proceedings were conducted by Jenish Patel, and a formal vote of thanks was proposed by Alpa Madrasi, Chairperson of the SGCCI Ladies Wing.

### SGCCI 'SHRAVAN BUSINESS MELA 2026' HAT-TRICK (AT A GLANCE)

**Festive Trail : 1. Mota Varachha - 2. Parvat Patiya - 3. Adajan (Hat-Trick)**

**Organized By : The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

**Dates & Venue : August 30 & 31, 2026 | Amidhara Wadi, Rander Road**

|                                                                                |                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chief Guest :</b> <b>Smt. Mousamiben Patel</b><br>(Deputy Collector, Surat) | <b>Guests of Honour :</b> <b>Nirav Shah &amp; Pravin Patel</b><br>(Ex-Dy Mayor) (President) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>Festive Core :</b> Lord Krishna<br>Handcrafted Poshaks, Swings & Shringar |  <b>Retail Baskets :</b> Designer Kurtis,<br>Ethnic Ensembles, Jewellery & Decor |  <b>Food Pavillion :</b> Home Farshan,<br>Traditional Sweets, Snacks & Hampers |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Future Expos : Navratri Mela, Diwali Mela & Mega Food Festival**



# GLOWING SKIN, RESILIENT CONFIDENCE DEBUNKING DERMA MYTHS!

Promoting evidence-based wellness and dismantling persistent societal myths surrounding skin and hair care, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a specialized health awareness session titled 'Healthy Skin, Healthy Confidence: Separating Facts from Myths' on Sunday, August 09, 2026, at the Samruddhi Building, Nanpura. Leading dermatologist and Chief of Sakhiya Skin Clinic, Dr. Jagdish Sakhiya, delivered the keynote address, equipping citizens with clinical insights

into dermatological health.

Advocating the core philosophy of 'Prevention is Better than Cure', Dr. Sakhiya stated, "The skin is not merely an aesthetic asset; it is an active mirror of internal bodily health and personal confidence. In modern demographics, 1 in every 10 individuals aged 60 and above faces potential cancer risks. Undergoing an annual comprehensive full-body checkup is vital. Early clinical diagnosis of skin changes prevents serious health escalations."

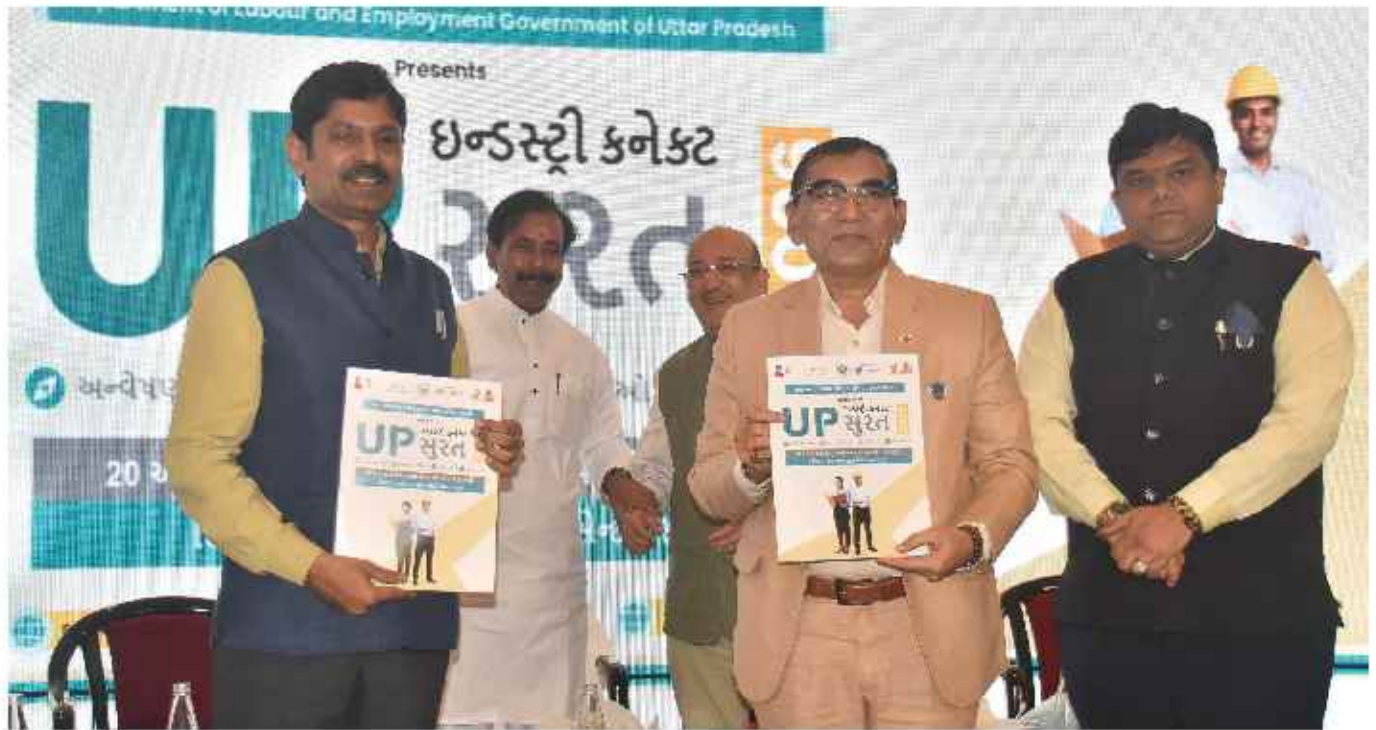
## DEMISTIFYING VITILIGO, UV HAZARDS & PREVENTIVE PROTOCOLS

Addressing common misconceptions regarding vitiligo, Dr. Sakhiya clarified that it is neither contagious through touch nor triggered by consuming white food items; rather, it is an autoimmune condition, with hereditary links primarily observed when onset occurs before the age of 18. Discussing premature alopecia and hair thinning, he attributed the surge to unbalanced diets, chronic stress, sleep deficits, smoking, and aggressive salon-based chemical procedures. He strongly advised wearing broad-spectrum sunscreen against UV-A and UV-B radiation across all seasons, even while staying indoors.

Earlier, SGCCI Honorary Secretary Paresh Lathiya delivered the welcome address. Public Health Committee Chairman Dr. Jagdish Vaghasiya shared the session objectives, while Co-Chairperson Dr. Sonia Chandani formally introduced the expert speaker. The interactive session was moderated by Public Health Committee Co-Chairman Dr. Rajan Desai, who concluded the event with a formal vote of thanks.



# Synergizing Surat's Enterprise with UP's Youth Force



## Landmark MoU to Empower 10,000 Youths!

Bridging human resource potential with industrial demand across Western and Northern India, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), in joint collaboration with the Department of Labour and Employment

(Government of Uttar Pradesh) and FICCI, hosted the 'Uttar Pradesh Industry Connect 2026' at Hilton Garden Inn, Surat City Centre. The premier institutional summit culminated in a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at

### 'UP INDUSTRY CONNECT 2026' & STRATEGIC ACCORD AT A GLANCE



**Tripartite Bodies:** SGCCI, Dept of Labour & Employment (UP), FICCI



**Date & Location :** Thursday, August 20, 2026 | Hilton Garden Inn



**Target Mandate :** Skill certification and placement for 10,000 youths



**Signatories :** IAS M. K. Shanmuga Sundaram & SGCCI Pres. Jirawala



**Chief Guest :** Hon'ble Labour & Employment Minister Anil Rajbhar



**Sector Horizons :** Textiles, Gems & Jewellery, Renewable Solar & Chemicals





## Surat hosts 'Uttar Pradesh Industry Connect 2026'; Historic skill-building accord inked before Labour & Employment Minister Anil Rajbhar as SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala champions the 'UP Means UP' vision

upskilling, certifying, and seamlessly employing 10,000 youths from Uttar Pradesh across South Gujarat's manufacturing clusters.

The bilateral agreement was executed in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri Anil Rajbhar. The pact was formally signed by Shri M. K. Shanmuga Sundaram (IAS), Principal Secretary, Department of Labour and Employment (UP), and Shri Ashok Jirawala, President of SGCCI. SGCCI Honorary Treasurer Shri Atul Patel also marked his presence at the dais.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Anil Rajbhar articulated that the institutional bridge will channel vocational training into verified career placements while providing Surat's burgeoning textiles, diamonds, engineering, and solar units with market-ready skilled human resources. He underscored that to ensure social security and ease of living for migrant trainees, the state machinery in synergy with industrial stakeholders will facilitate comprehensive residential and hostel accommodations in Surat.

## Surat Gives Hard Work an Opportunity and Opportunity a Market: Ashok Jirawala

Delivering a spirited presidential address, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala celebrated the deep-rooted socio-economic affinity between Surat and Uttar Pradesh:

"This partnership is not merely an administrative connect; it is a historic convergence of Uttar Pradesh's youth vigor and Surat's industrial prowess. For decades, millions from Uttar Pradesh have embraced Surat as their karmabhoomi, powering our looms, diamond wheels, and manufacturing shopfloors. Surat is a city where honest labor is rewarded with opportunity, and opportunity is backed by an expansive market. Here, a single thread sustains millions of households, and a single diamond illuminates countless lives. To us, 'UP means UP'—Skill UP, Scale UP, Start UP, and Growth UP! Equipping our youth with relevant skills at the right juncture will transform them into tomorrow's job creators, propelling India to global leadership."

Under the accord, SGCCI will spearhead demand-driven vocational curricula, practical apprenticeships, and policy research.

The plenary transitioned into a high-level panel discussion moderated by Shri Girish Luthra, Chairman of Luthra Group and President of FICCI-CMSME. Panelists included Shri Kunal Silku (IAS), Special Secretary, Employment Department (UP); Shri Prosenjit Mukherjee, Global CHRO, Kalamandir Jewellers Group; Ms. Asmani Surve, Vice President, Goldi Solar; Prof. Amrish Mishra, Registrar, AURO University; and Shri Shreyans Goyal, Chairman, Shakti Distilleries.

Following the roadmap presentation by Shri P. K. Pundir, Additional Director, Employment Department (UP), and an open-house interactive session, Minister Anil Rajbhar and the UP delegation toured the world-class diamond processing facility of Hari Krishna Exports in Surat.



# Surat Women Entrepreneurs Shine in New Delhi

**SGCCI Women Entrepreneurs Cell leads a 14-member delegation to the national capital; 11 women enterprises debut at 'Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav', alongside strategic meets with Union Minister C. R. Paatil and the Embassy of Greece.**

Providing strategic market exposure, broadening commercial horizons, and unlocking cross-border trade linkages for women-led enterprises, the Women Entrepreneurs Cell (WEC) of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) orchestrated an official delegation visit to New Delhi. Guided by SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala, Group Chairperson Dr. Bandana Bhattacharya, and WEC Chairperson Adv. Beena Bhagat, the four-day mission took place from August 11 to 14, 2026.

A major highlight of the tour was the delegation's active participation at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, where 11 women entrepreneurs from Surat showcased their products and services at the prestigious 'Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav' for the first time. The national trade exhibition offered these entrepreneurs a vibrant stage to connect with nationwide distributors, institutional buyers, and industry pioneers, significantly expanding their commercial reach.



## SGCCI WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS DELHI MISSION AT A GLANCE

Organized By: SGCCI Women Entrepreneurs Cell (WEC)

- **August 11 to August 14, 2026** | New Delhi
- **14 Members** (Featuring 11 Showcase Exhibitors)
- **'Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav'** at Bharat Mandapam
- **Ministerial Meet** with Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Paatil
- **Global Bilateral Meet:** Ms. Chryssa Prokopiaki (Head of Eco Affairs, Greece)
- **Institutional Visit:** Official visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan



## Strategic Meets with Union Minister C. R. Paatil and Greece Embassy Diplomats

During the four-day mission, the delegation paid an official visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan. The delegates also met with Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Paatil, submitting recommendations to foster women-led micro and small enterprises, skill enhancement pipelines, and supportive infrastructure for Surat's industrial clusters.

Focusing on global export corridors, the delegation held an interactive session with Ms. Chryssa Prokopiaki, Head of Business and Economic Affairs at the Embassy of Greece. The discussions centered on bilateral trade potentials,

regulatory standards for European market access, and avenues to promote textiles, handicrafts, and value-added consumer goods produced by Indian women entrepreneurs.

Commending the initiative, SGCCI President Ashok Jirawala stated, "Empowering women entrepreneurs with direct access to central ministries, diplomatic bodies, and national expo platforms is vital for modern industrial growth. This multi-dimensional exposure will enable our women founders to align with emerging consumer trends, leverage state policies, and scale their ventures into high-growth enterprises."

### ટેક્સટાઈલ સંસ્થાઓ સાથે સંપર્કની ઓનલાઈન બેઠક યાર્નમાં ભાવવધારાથી સુરતનો વીવિંગ ઉદ્યોગ સંકટમાં : ચેમ્બર

સુરત : યાર્નના ભાવમાં વધારાને કારણે સુરતના વીવિંગ ઉદ્યોગમાં સંકટનો માહોલ છે. ચેમ્બર ઓફ કમર્સ અને ઇન્ડસ્ટ્રીઝ (સીઆઈઆઈઆઈ)ના આયોજિત ઓનલાઈન બેઠકમાં ઉદ્યોગના સંકટને લઈને ચર્ચા કરવામાં આવી હતી. સીઆઈઆઈઆઈના પ્રમુખે ઉદ્યોગના સંકટને લઈને ચર્ચા કરવામાં આવી હતી. સીઆઈઆઈઆઈના પ્રમુખે ઉદ્યોગના સંકટને લઈને ચર્ચા કરવામાં આવી હતી.

## SGCCI in Headlines

Voice of Trade 25 AUG

### ઓડિશા કે સર્વેસ્ટ ટેક્સટાઈલ પ્રદર્શની 'ઓડિશા ટ્રીમ્સ' મેં SGCCI અધ્યક્ષ અશોક જોશવાલા મુખ્ય અતિથિ



ઓડિશા ટ્રીમ્સ પ્રદર્શનમાં સીઆઈઆઈઆઈના પ્રમુખે ઉદ્યોગના સંકટને લઈને ચર્ચા કરવામાં આવી હતી.

## Yarn Expo-2026 to showcase global textile innovations

Free Press Journal 20 AUG

સુરતના યાર્ન એક્સપો-2026માં ગ્લોબલ ટેક્સટાઈલ ઇનોવેશન્સનું પ્રદર્શન થશે. આ એક્સપોમાં વિશ્વભરમાંથી આવેલા ટેક્સટાઈલ કંપનો દ્વારા નવા ટેક્સટાઈલ ટેકનોલોજીઓનું પ્રદર્શન કરવામાં આવશે. આ એક્સપોમાં વિશ્વભરમાંથી આવેલા ટેક્સટાઈલ કંપનો દ્વારા નવા ટેક્સટાઈલ ટેકનોલોજીઓનું પ્રદર્શન કરવામાં આવશે.

### આફ્રિકાના ગિનીમાં રેલ્વે, કિશરીજ, એગ્રિકલ્ચર સહિત અન્ય ક્ષેત્રે રોકાણ કરવા સરકારે કો-ટે અલાસેનું આમંત્રણ

સુરત : ગુજરાત ચેમ્બર ઓફ કમર્સ અને ઇન્ડસ્ટ્રીઝ (સીઆઈઆઈઆઈ)ના આયોજિત કો-ટે અલાસેનું આમંત્રણ છે. આ કો-ટે અલાસેનું આમંત્રણ છે. આ કો-ટે અલાસેનું આમંત્રણ છે.

### યાર્ન એક્સપો સંપન્ન : છ મહિનામાં ૩૫૭ કરોડના બિઝનેસની આશા

સુરત : યાર્ન એક્સપો-2026માં ૩૫૭ કરોડના બિઝનેસની આશા છે. આ એક્સપોમાં ૩૫૭ કરોડના બિઝનેસની આશા છે. આ એક્સપોમાં ૩૫૭ કરોડના બિઝનેસની આશા છે.

## સુરત સહિત દેશની 200 ટેક્સટાઈલ ફેક્ટરીમાં A1ની સજ્જતા ચકાસશે

Free Press Journal 20 AUG

સુરત સહિત દેશની 200 ટેક્સટાઈલ ફેક્ટરીમાં A1ની સજ્જતા ચકાસવામાં આવશે. આ ચકાસવામાં આવશે. આ ચકાસવામાં આવશે.

### શ્રીલંકા એક્સપો 2027 કે સેડ શો કે લિપ્ SGCCI ને શ્રીલંકા EDB ચેયરમેન કો સાથે ગુજરાત બુલાવા 15 સપ્ટેમ્બરે હોને વાલે મેગા ઇન્વેસ્ટમેન્ટ ફોર્ટ મેં ટેક્સટાઈલ, ગ્રીન એનર્જી, ડિજીટાઈઝેશન, ફૂડ, ઝોનરી ઓર સ્માર્ટ

સુરત : ગુજરાત ચેમ્બર ઓફ કમર્સ અને ઇન્ડસ્ટ્રીઝ (સીઆઈઆઈઆઈ)ના આયોજિત કો-ટે અલાસેનું આમંત્રણ છે. આ કો-ટે અલાસેનું આમંત્રણ છે. આ કો-ટે અલાસેનું આમંત્રણ છે.

### નિયોલ સ્ટેશને ફુલ-ફ્લેજડ ફેર્ટ ટર્મિનલ બનાવવા તો ઉપના યાર્ડનું ટ્રુફિક ભારણ ધરશે

સુરત : નિયોલ સ્ટેશને ફુલ-ફ્લેજડ ફેર્ટ ટર્મિનલ બનાવવા તો ઉપના યાર્ડનું ટ્રુફિક ભારણ ધરશે. આ ટર્મિનલ બનાવવા તો ઉપના યાર્ડનું ટ્રુફિક ભારણ ધરશે.

### વૈબલ કા 'યાર્ન એક્સપો-2026' સંપન્ન, અગત્યે છ મહિનાં મેં ૩,૦૦૦ કરોડ સે અધિક કારોબાર કી અમીદ

સુરત : વૈબલ કા 'યાર્ન એક્સપો-2026' સંપન્ન, અગત્યે છ મહિનાં મેં ૩,૦૦૦ કરોડ સે અધિક કારોબાર કી અમીદ છે. આ એક્સપોમાં ૩,૦૦૦ કરોડ સે અધિક કારોબાર કી અમીદ છે.

### મોવર યોજનાને ઉદ્યોગશક્તિ અને વધુ સરળ બનાવવા ૧૧ સુધારાની માગ

સુરત : મોવર યોજનાને ઉદ્યોગશક્તિ અને વધુ સરળ બનાવવા ૧૧ સુધારાની માગ છે. આ યોજનાને ઉદ્યોગશક્તિ અને વધુ સરળ બનાવવા ૧૧ સુધારાની માગ છે.

### શ્રીલંકા ટેક્સટાઈલ એક્સપોમાં SGCCIની મુલાકાત આધુનિક યાર્ન, એપેરલ ફેબ્રિક્સ, ગાર્મેન્ટ ટેક્નોલોજીનું કયું નિરીક્ષણ

સુરત : શ્રીલંકા ટેક્સટાઈલ એક્સપોમાં SGCCIની મુલાકાત આધુનિક યાર્ન, એપેરલ ફેબ્રિક્સ, ગાર્મેન્ટ ટેક્નોલોજીનું કયું નિરીક્ષણ કરવામાં આવશે. આ એક્સપોમાં SGCCIની મુલાકાત આધુનિક યાર્ન, એપેરલ ફેબ્રિક્સ, ગાર્મેન્ટ ટેક્નોલોજીનું કયું નિરીક્ષણ કરવામાં આવશે.



યાર્ન એક્સપો-2026માં ગ્લોબલ ટેક્સટાઈલ ઇનોવેશન્સનું પ્રદર્શન થશે.

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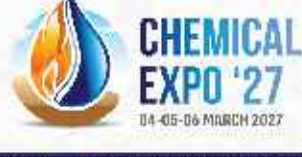
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## PROPOSED EXHIBITIONS FOR THE YEAR 2026-27

