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91

Annual Report  
2024-25 »





91<sup>st</sup>

**Annual Report  
2024-25»**





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## » FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) for the financial year 2024–25.

When I assumed the role of President at the 90th Annual General Meeting, the Chamber had already established its presence across eighteen districts of Maharashtra. Over the following months, the MCCIA team worked with great intensity, and I am happy to report that, as of 31st March 2025, MCCIA had extended its reach to all thirty-six districts of Maharashtra through one initiative or another.

The Chamber has consistently taken the lead in:

- Advocacy – Creating a policy and regulatory framework that enables business growth.
- Capacity building – Supporting entrepreneurs and their teams in navigating the complexities of today's business environment.
- Economic development – Driving initiatives that contribute to widespread and inclusive growth.

MCCIA actively engages with Central, State, and Local Governments to interpret policies and initiatives for the benefit of members. Our efforts have focused on advancing Ease of Doing Business, improving access to finance, encouraging technology adoption, and opening up broader marketing avenues for MSMEs.

We remain deeply grateful to the Council of Past Presidents for their valuable guidance in shaping MCCIA's initiatives and encouraging us to serve the business community in new areas.

I would also like to record my sincere thanks to the Members of the Board, Members of the Executive Committee, and the Chairpersons of all Committees for their constructive contributions in designing and implementing a wide range of programmes for our members.

My appreciation also goes to the Director General and the entire MCCIA team for their relentless energy in bringing forth innovative ideas and executing them with dedication. These efforts not only serve our members in multiple ways but also enhance the positioning of Pune and Maharashtra as:

- a preferred destination for investments,
- a hub for quality products and services on the global stage, and
- a premier centre for the integration of cutting-edge technology in business operations.

Looking ahead, MCCIA is committed to carrying forward its legacy—one that champions innovation, embeds sustainability as a core driver of growth, and embraces inclusivity as a strategic imperative.

Our future agenda will focus on the adoption of transformative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, fostering closer industry-academia collaborations to accelerate research and knowledge creation, and strengthening the integration of Maharashtra's global enterprises into international value chains.

The year ahead holds immense promise, but it will also call for courage, agility, and vision. On behalf of MCCIA, I assure you that we will continue to stand at the forefront of this journey—building an ecosystem that is economically vibrant, socially inclusive, and environmentally responsible.

I encourage all our members to increase their active participation in the Chamber's initiatives and activities.

Wishing you all the very best.

**Sanjay Kirloskar**  
President  
Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture



**Our future agenda will focus on the adoption of transformative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, fostering closer industry-academia collaborations to accelerate research and knowledge creation, and strengthening the integration of Maharashtra's global enterprises into international value chains.**

## ➤ DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE



**A**t Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, the financial year 2024–25 has been quite eventful. We began the year with a clear mandate—to spread the activities across the State. Our Programmes and initiatives have been designed to address the challenges faced by industry and the opportunities that our members harness.

The scale of our work reflects our commitment.. MCCIA directly benefited 14,383 companies across diverse sectors, with 21,420 participants engaging in our initiatives. We conducted 592 events, from high-level policy dialogues to technical workshops, including 100 capability-building programmes that enhanced competencies in technology adoption, process optimisation, compliance, sustainability, and export readiness.

MCCIA team visited 128 factories to gain, practical insights and benchmarking opportunities. Advocacy remained central to our work. We engaged with three Ministers and fifty-five officials from Central, State and Local Governments. We sent twenty formal representations on critical issues such as Infrastructure, Industrial Policies, Green Energy, Electricity Tariff, GST, Direct Taxes, Foreign Trade, and Civil Aviation.

During the year, we hosted 15 diplomats and organised four delegations abroad, laying the foundation for potential international business connections. In addition MCCIA team curated 14 Flagship events on themes of immediate and future relevance, bringing together policymakers, business leaders, diplomats, business delegates from India and abroad and domain experts.

A highlight was our implementation of Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance, a Scheme rolled out by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises-Government of India at the national level, with Maharashtra State Small Industries Development Corporation being the nodal agency at Maharashtra State Level. MCCIA conducted 377 events impacting 11,932 MSMEs, helping them build resilience, embrace digital transformation, and access new markets. Importantly, our reach under RAMP expanded across all 36 districts of Maharashtra.

Some of our new initiatives rolled out this year include MCCIA MSME Helpline, AI Boot Camps, Sustainability Assessments and Management Development Programme for MSMEs. The MSME Helpline, a free online mentoring platform designed to support existing and potential MSMEs, connecting them with at least one from among a pool of over 40 experts across different domains. They provided timely, personalised guidance on issues ranging from starting a business, Government Schemes and raising finance to GST, GeM, marketing and branding and export processes.

The MSME AI Boot Camps, led by a team under the MCCIA Youth Fellowship, travelled across 12 districts and reached over 1,000 MSMEs, building practical awareness of Artificial Intelligence in business. Sustainability remained a cross-cutting priority, with 19 MSMEs benefitting from Walk In Energy Audits, Sustainability and Digitisation assessments.

Our role as a connector of people and ideas was also strengthened through the Members' Lounge, which hosted 35 beneficiaries in a space designed for meaningful collaboration. The Management Development Programme was specially designed to provide comprehensive knowledge in most of the important areas of business operations attracted 69 participants.

We also focused on the unique needs of family owned enterprises through 16 meetings of the Family Business Forum that explored succession, governance, and innovation.

As we look to the future, MCCIA will continue to strengthen its role as a trusted bridge between the Policymakers and Industry enabling Maharashtra's industry to harness opportunities and overcome challenges.

**Prashant Girbane**  
Director General  
Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture



**The MSME AI Boot Camps, led by a team under the MCCIA Youth Fellowship, travelled across 12 districts and reached over 1,000 MSMEs, building practical awareness of Artificial Intelligence in business. Sustainability remained a cross-cutting priority, with 19 MSMEs benefitting from Walk In Energy Audits, Sustainability and Digitisation assessments.**



## VISION ➤

We at MCCIA aim to transform lives and establish an eco-friendly, bio-diverse environment that will nurture and propel towards the creation of infrastructure and education while emerging as the nucleus of technical and industrial research, as well as the development and growth model of the country. We strive to encourage the preservation of heritage, energise lives, inspire progress, optimise resources and implement ethical practices towards sustainable growth, paving the way towards a future of astounding business possibilities.



## MISSION ➤

To facilitate industrial growth while balancing the socio-economic environment.

To develop futuristic, eco-friendly and culture-centric **experiences for people**.

To energise lives through natural and human resources **optimisation and utilisation**.

To promote research, development and production in **science and technology**.

To ensure the finest infrastructural development and facilities with a **futuristic edge**.

To work towards a harmonised milieu for all cultures, **ethos and social tolerance**.

## » THE MCCIA IMPACT 2024-25

**14383**

Companies  
Benefited

**100**

Capacity Building  
Programmes

**10**

Diplomats  
Hosted

**35**

Members lounge  
Beneficiaries

**69**

Participants for  
Management  
Development Program

**11932**

RAMP  
Companies

**21420**

Participants

**62**

Meetings with  
Government Officials  
and Ministers

**14**

Conferences

**19**

Sustainability  
Assignments

**128**

Industry  
Visits

**36**

Districts  
Impacted

**592**

Events  
Conducted

**12**

Representation  
and Advocacy

**4**

Overseas  
Delegations

**16**

Family Business  
forum Meetings

**377**

RAMP  
Events

# ➤ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## PRESIDENT



### SANJAY KIRLOSKAR

Sanjay Kirloskar is the Chairman and Managing Director of Kirloskar Brothers Ltd, India's leading pump manufacturer. A visionary industrialist, he has driven innovation, sustainability, and global expansion, steering the Kirloskar Group's growth while contributing significantly to India's manufacturing excellence, water management solutions, and broader community development.

## VICE PRESIDENT



### ARVIND GOEL

Arvind Goel is the Chairman of Tata AutoComp Systems Ltd, a global auto-component leader. With four decades of experience, he has driven strategic growth through acquisitions, forged key joint ventures, and positioned Tata AutoComp at the forefront of both traditional and electric vehicle component innovation.

## VICE PRESIDENT



### DR. VIDYA YERAVDEKAR

Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar is the Pro-Chancellor of Symbiosis International University and heads the Symbiosis Society. She has been instrumental in shaping Symbiosis as a global hub for academic excellence, fostering international collaborations, and advancing inclusivity and innovation in education and healthcare.

## DIRECTOR



### DR. AJIT RANADE

Dr. Ajit Ranade is the director of Akshar digital Services Pvt.Ltd. and former Vice Chancellor of Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune. With expertise in public policy, finance, and governance, he has contributed extensively to India's economic discourse through research, corporate leadership, and active engagement in policy advocacy and civil society.

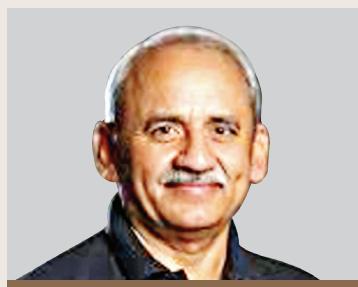
## DIRECTOR



### ANAND CHORDIA

Anand Chordia is the Director of Technology and Innovation at Suhana (Pravin Masalewale), where he transformed the family business into a global FMCG brand. A visionary entrepreneur, he champions sustainability through waste-to-wealth programmes, rural entrepreneurship, and innovation via his nonprofit, EcoFactory Foundation.

## DIRECTOR



### RAKESH SHARMA

Rakesh Sharma, Executive Director of Bajaj Auto Ltd, is a seasoned leader driving the company's growth, global expansion, and innovation in mobility. With expertise in markets, brand, and operations, he strengthens Bajaj's vision of world-class products and India's automotive leadership.

## » BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DIRECTOR



#### VIVEK SADHALE

Mr. Vivek Sadhale, Co-Founder and Director of LegaLogic Consulting, is a seasoned legal strategist specializing in corporate law, compliance, and governance. He advises diverse businesses on navigating complex regulations, aligning legal frameworks with strategy to drive sustainable, confident, and growth-oriented enterprises.

### DIRECTOR



#### ZELAM CHAUBAL

Zelam Chaubal, Director of Kesari Tours and Travels, is a distinguished leader in India's travel industry. With a focus on innovation, customer experience, and sustainable tourism, she has shaped memorable journeys worldwide while strengthening Kesari's reputation as a trusted global brand.

### ADITIONAL DIRECTOR



#### DR. ANAND DESHPANDE

Dr. Anand Deshpande is the Founder, Chairman, and Managing Director of Persistent Systems, a global leader in digital transformation. A technologist and entrepreneur, he has pioneered innovation in software products and services, nurtured India's IT talent, and actively contributes to education, research, and fostering entrepreneurship in the country.

### ADITIONAL DIRECTOR



#### AMBASSADOR GAUTAM BAMBAWALE

Ambassador Gautam Bambawale is a distinguished former diplomat who served as India's Ambassador to China, High Commissioner to Pakistan, and Ambassador to Bhutan. With deep expertise in foreign policy and international relations, he has shaped India's strategic engagements in South Asia and other major global powers.

### ADITIONAL DIRECTOR



#### MILIND KAMBLE

Milind Kamble, Chairman of MPK Enterprises and Founder Chairman of DICCI, is a pioneering entrepreneur dedicated to inclusive business ecosystems. Nationally recognised for empowering Dalit and marginalized entrepreneurs, he combines enterprise leadership with social commitment, driving opportunities, diversity, and sustainable growth across India's industrial and entrepreneurial landscape.

### DIRECTOR GENERAL



#### PRASHANT GIRBANE

Prashant Girbane is the Director General of the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) and Honorary Director of the Pune International Centre. With experience at TCS, UNDP, and the Commonwealth Secretariat, he champions inclusive innovation, sustainability, and youth empowerment across Pune's industrial and policy ecosystem.

## » PAST PRESIDENTS

1934 - 1936 <b>Late Mr. B. C. Kamat</b>	1969 - 1972 <b>Late Mr. M. S. Parkhe</b>	1996 - 1998 <b>Late Dr. R. J. Rathi</b>
1936 - 1941 <b>Late Prof. V. G. Kale</b>	1972 - 1973 <b>Late Mr. V. N. Somvanshi</b>	1998 - 2000 <b>Mr. Pratap Pawar</b>
1941 - 1943 <b>Late Mr. G. S. Marathe</b>	1973 - 1975 <b>Late Mr. C. V. Jog</b>	2000 - 2002 <b>Mr. Arun Firodia</b>
1943 - 1944 <b>Late Mr. N. G. Pawar</b>	1975 - 1977 <b>Late Mr. R. D. Pusalkar</b>	2002 - 2004 <b>Mr. Atul Kirloskar</b>
1944 - 1946 <b>Late Mr. S. P. Ogale</b>	1977 - 1978 <b>Late Mr. S. P. Khosla</b>	2004 - 2006 <b>Mr. Ravi Pandit</b>
1946 - 1950 <b>Late Mr. S. V. Kirloskar</b>	1978 - 1980 <b>Late Mr. C. S. Kirloskar</b>	2006 - 2008 <b>Mr. Madhur Bajaj</b>
1950 - 1951 <b>Late Mr. G. G. Dandekar</b>	1980 - 1982 <b>Late Mr. Nandlal Pittie</b>	2008 - 2010 <b>Mr. Mukesh Malhotra</b>
1951 - 1954 <b>Late Sheth G. L. Natu</b>	1982 - 1984 <b>Late Mr. Rahul Kumar Bajaj</b>	2010 - 2012 <b>Dr. Abhay Firodia</b>
1954 - 1955 <b>Late Mr. R. G. Vijaykar</b>	1984 - 1986 <b>Late Mr. B. R. Malhotra</b>	2012 - 2014 <b>Late Mr. S. K. Jain</b>
1955 - 1956 <b>Late Vaidya M. V. Puranik</b>	1986 - 1988 <b>Late Mr. L. J. Rathi</b>	2014 - 2016 <b>Mr. Satish Magar</b>
1956 - 1957 <b>Late Sheth P. K. Divekar</b>	1988 - 1990 <b>Late Mr. H. K. Firodia</b>	2016 - 2018 <b>Mr. Pramod Chaudhari</b>
1957 - 1958 <b>Late Mr. S. R. Thakur Savadekar</b>	1990 - 1992 <b>Late Dr. N. A. Kalyani</b>	2018 - 2020 <b>Mr. Pradeep Bhargava</b>
1958 - 1969 <b>Late Mr. S. L. Kirloskar</b>	1992 - 1994 <b>Late Mr. Darius Forbes</b>	2020 - 2022 <b>Dr. Sudhir Mehta</b>
	1994 - 1996 <b>Late Mr. P. P. Chhabria</b>	2022 - 2024 <b>Mr. Deepak Karandikar</b>

## » 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)



**A**t MCCIA's 90th Annual General Meeting on 28th September 2024, Mr. S. N. Subrahmanyam, Chairman and Managing Director of Larsen and Toubro (LandT), delivered the keynote address titled 'Growth Opportunities in Indian Infrastructure'. He reflected on Pune's evolution as a leading industrial, technological, and educational hub, as well as MCCIA's enduring contribution to Maharashtra's economic growth.

Mr. Subrahmanyam highlighted Pune's status as Maharashtra's second-largest city and one of India's top ten urban economies, noting its leadership in engineering exports, IT, automotive, defence, and software services. He credited the city's strong educational ecosystem—featuring institutions like Savitribai Phule Pune University and the National Chemical Laboratory—for sustaining a steady pipeline of talent and innovation.

He praised MCCIA's nine-decade legacy of institution-building and MSME support, citing milestones such as the creation of the Bank of Maharashtra and industrial estates designed for small enterprises.

In FY 2023-24 alone, MCCIA organised over 200 events, engaging more than 9,300 participants from over 2,600 companies. Initiatives like Common Facility Centres for the auto and electronics sectors and the Centre of Excellence for Women Entrepreneurs have further expanded its impact.

Detailing LandT's association with MCCIA, which began over four decades ago with its Switchgear Unit in Ahmednagar, he emphasised collaborations in defence manufacturing, vendor development, and the indigenisation of technology. He commended MCCIA's role in implementing the Ministry of MSME's RAMP Scheme in Maharashtra, supporting capacity building across 18 districts, with a strong focus on women entrepreneurs and global competitiveness.

Sustainability and climate responsibility were key themes, with Mr. Subrahmanyam outlining LandT's commitment to energy-efficient construction, smart infrastructure, and circular economy practices—aligning closely with MCCIA's sustainable manufacturing initiatives. He also highlighted LandT's work in modernising Pune's water distribution systems, aimed at improving availability, efficiency, and reuse to support both residential and industrial growth.

Concluding, Mr. Subrahmanyam reaffirmed LandT's commitment to working alongside MCCIA to drive digital innovation, infrastructure growth, MSME competitiveness, and green development. He expressed confidence in Pune's ability to remain at the forefront of industrial transformation, positioning it as a model for sustainable, inclusive, and technology-driven growth in Maharashtra and India.



## » COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS 2024-25



**UMESH CHANDRA  
SARANGI, IAS (Retd.)**  
AGRICULTURE



**A. P. PARGAONKAR**  
AHILYANAGAR



**ARVIND GOEL**  
AUTOCOMPONENTS



**AIR MARSHAL  
BHUSHAN GOKHALE (RETD.)**  
PVSM, AVSM, VSM  
CIVIL AVIATION



**ADITYA PARANJPE**  
ELECTRONICS



**RAM JOGDAND**  
ENERGY



**ANAND CHORDIA**  
FOOD PROCESSING



**CMA RAJESH SHUKLA**  
INDIRECT TAX



**NITIN JOSHI**  
INDUSTRIAL SAFETY



**DINANATH KHOLKAR**  
IT AND ITES

## » COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS 2024-25



**VIVEK SADHALE**  
CORPORATE LEGISLATION



**MAHESH PHADKE**  
DEFENCE



**CA. DILIP SATBHAI**  
DIRECT TAX



**BHARAT AGARWAL**  
HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
SKILL DEVELOPMENT



**P. C. NAMBIAR**  
FOREIGN TRADE



**NIDHI DHANJU**  
HR AND IR



**VISHWAS MAHAJAN**  
INCUBATION AND STARTUPS



**VIKRAM SATHAYE**  
SPORTS, MEDIA AND  
ENTERTAINMENT



**ZELAM CHAUBAL**  
TRAVEL AND TOURISM



**MANASI BIDKAR**  
WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

## » TEAM - MCCIA



We at MCCIA aim to transform lives and establish an eco-friendly, bio-diverse environment that will nurture and propel towards the creation of infrastructure and education while emerging as the nucleus of technical and industrial research, as well as the development and growth model of the country. We strive to encourage the preservation of heritage, energise lives, inspire progress, optimise resources and implement ethical practices towards sustainable growth, paving the way towards a future of astounding business possibilities.

### DIRECTOR GENERAL



**PRASHANT GIRBANE**

### DIRECTORS



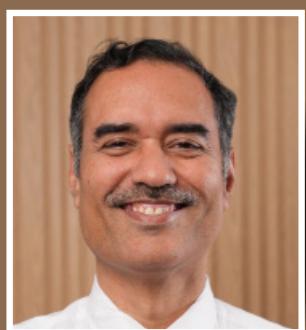
**CHINTAMANI SHROTRI**

Finance, HR and Administration



**SUDHANWA KOPARDEKAR**

Autocomponents, Civil Aviation, Energy



**PRASHANT JOGALEKAR**

Defence, Electronics, Higher Education and Skill Development



**NIKHIL JAIN**

Foreign Trade, IT and ITES, Ahilyanagar

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS



**SHANTANU JAGTAP**  
Agriculture and Food Processing



**SATISH JOSHI**  
Membership,  
MCCIA Annual Awards

## DEPUTY DIRECTORS



**ANIRUDDHA BRAHMA**  
Corporate Legislation, Sports, Media  
and Entertainment, Capability  
Building Programmes



**PARIKSHIT DAS**  
Hadapsar Office and  
Skill Initiatives



**ANUJA DESHPANDE**  
HR and IR, Library



**SATAVISHA NATU**  
HR and IR, Women  
Entrepreneurs



**CA CHANDRASHEKHAR  
SHAH**  
Direct Tax and Indirect Tax

# ➤ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024-25

## ELECTED MEMBERS

### ● ABHIJIT PAWAR

Managing Director,  
Sakal Media Group

### ● ADHIRAJ GADGIL

Sr. Director - Admin,  
Facilities and CSR,  
Harbinger Systems Pvt. Ltd.

### ● AJAY MEHTA

Director,  
Deepak Nitrite Ltd

### ● ANAND KIRAD

Chairman and Managing Director,  
Vaccum Plant and Instruments  
Mfg. Co. Ltd.

### ● ANANT SARDESHMUKH

Director,  
Badawe Engineers Pvt. Ltd.

### ● ASHOK KUMAR JAIN

Director,  
First Policy Insurance Brokers  
Pvt Ltd

### ● DR. BHAGYASHREE PATIL

Chair Person And Managing  
Director,  
Rise n Shine Biotech Pvt. Ltd.

### ● DR. DEEPAK SHIKARPUR

Director,  
Kinetic Engineering Ltd.

### ● MS. DHANASHRI JOSHI

Director,  
Eisen Pharmaceutical Co. P. Ltd.

### ● MR. GIRISH DHARMADHIKARI

Director, Pune Pumps Sales And  
Services Pvt Ltd.

### ● JAGDISH KASHYAP

Chief Executive Officer,  
Janta Sahakari bank Ltd.

### ● KASTURI KARANDIKAR

Designated Partner,  
Fine Fittings LLP

### ● CA MILIND KALE

Chairman,  
The Cosmos Co-operative  
Bank Ltd

### ● PRASANNA PATWARDHAN

Chairman and Managing  
Director,  
Prasanna Purple Mobility  
Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

### ● RAJENDRA TAPADIA

Chairman and Managing  
Director,  
SafePack Industries Ltd.

### ● RANJEETSINH DESHMUKH

Chairman,  
Sangamner Taluka Sahakari  
Dudh Utpadak and Prakriya  
Sangh

### ● RITIKA MEHTA

Director,  
Pinnacle Industries Ltd.

### ● RUJUTA JAGTAP

Executive Director,

Saj Test Plant Pvt. Ltd.

### ● DR. SHIKHA JAIN

Director, DES's Institute of  
Management Development and  
Research (IMDR)

### ● SHIRISH PANDE

Chairman and CFO,  
Ameya Precision Engineers Ltd.

### ● SONALI DESHPANDE

Chairperson,  
Persistent Systems Ltd.

### ● SUHAS MANTRI

Chairman and Managing  
Director,  
Mantri Constructions Pvt. Ltd.

### ● SUJEET JAGDHANE

Proprietor,  
Hamex Fuel Cell Pvt. Ltd.

### ● SWATI GHASIAS

Director,  
Shalaka Electronics Pvt. Ltd.

### ● VIKRAM PURI

Chief Executive Officer,  
Natasha Consultants Pvt Ltd

### ● VILAS POTDAR

Partner,  
V.S. Potdar and Co

### ● VINODKUMAR BANSAL

Managing Director,  
Jayashree Polymers P. Ltd.

# ➤ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024-25

## NOMINATED MEMBERS

### ● AMIT PARANJAPE

Director,  
Punetech Software P. Ltd.

### ● BHARAT AGARWAL

President,  
Vishwakarma University

### ● DHRUV AGARWAL

Director,  
Autopress (India) Pvt. Ltd.

### ● MANASI BIDKAR

Director,  
Melux Control Gears P. Ltd.

### ● P.C. NAMBIAR

Director - Group Exim,  
Serum Institute of India Pvt Ltd

### ● RAM JOGDAND

Chairman and Managing Director,  
Ramelex Pvt Ltd

### ● RAMAN NANDA

Director,  
STEP Transformations

### ● SANDESH SALIAN

Director,  
Dali and Samir Engg. (P) Ltd

### ● SATISH GOKHALE

Director,  
Design Directions Pvt Ltd

### ● VISHWAS MAHAJAN

Founder Director,  
Lifeline Systech Pvt.Ltd.

## INVITEE MEMBERS

### ● ANIL GHUBE

Managing Director,  
Multitech Products P. Ltd.

### ● DEEPAK MHAISEKAR, IAS (RETD.)

Former Divisional Commissioner,  
Pune and Advisor to the Chief Minister,  
Government of Maharashtra

### ● DILIP BAND, IAS (RETD.)

Former Divisional Commissioner, Pune

### ● LALIT KUMAR PAHWA

Managing Director,  
Pahwa Metaltech P. Ltd.

### ● OMPRAKASH PETHE

Chairman,  
Exponential Engineering P. Ltd.

### ● PARESH PAREKH

Managing Director,  
Autofina Robotics Automation Pvt. Ltd.

### ● PRASHANT KANKHOJE

Founder and Managing Director,  
A2Z Energies

### ● RAJESH KULKARNI

Chief Executive Officer,  
Earth Care Equipments P. Ltd.

## ➤ INTERACTIONS WITH MINISTERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS



- **Hon'ble C. P. Radhakrishnan**, Governor of Maharashtra: Discussed the proposed Future Mobility Center and the industrial development landscape of Maharashtra.
- **Hon'ble Nitin Gadkari**, Minister of Road Transport and Highways: Explored the possibility of establishing a Future Mobility Center in Pune.
- **Hon'ble Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Minister of Electronics and IT, Railways, and LandB: Discussed developing capabilities in the "Software on Chip" segment within Pune.
- **Hon'ble Devendra Fadnavis**, Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra: Extended an invitation for the formal inauguration of the MCCIA MSME Helpline and requested land allocation for a dedicated Industrial Estate for Women Entrepreneurs.
- **Hon'ble Ajit Pawar**, Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra: Made a representation regarding the Chairmanship of Auto Cluster.
- **Dr. Medha Kulkarni**, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha: Discussed promoting entrepreneurship among women and requested support for MCCIA's initiative for a dedicated Industrial Estate for Women Entrepreneurs.

- **Mr. B.V.R. Subrahmanyam**, CEO, NITI Aayog: Discussed strategies to accelerate Pune's growth and was encouraged to contribute actively to the region's planning process.



- **Mr. Sunil Barthwal (IAS)**, Commerce Secretary: Sought support and collaboration for strengthening trade-related infrastructure and exporters.
- **Mr. S. C. L. Das, Secretary**, Ministry of MSME: Presented the MCCIA MSME Helpline initiative, addressed the critical issue of delayed payments to MSMEs, and explored measures to ensure timely settlements.
- **Mr. Dammu Ravi (IFS)**, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs: Conferred on enhancing India's export potential by deepening engagement with countries offering greater trade opportunities.
- **Dr. Rajneesh (IAS)**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of MSME: Received encouragement to explore futuristic MSME clusters to drive innovation and growth.

- **Mr. S. Krishnan**, Secretary, MeitY: Highlighted the success of MCCIA's Electronic Cluster Foundation and discussed the need to encourage a complete semiconductor ecosystem in Maharashtra.



- **Mr. Santosh Kumar Sarangi (IAS)**, Director General of Foreign Trade: Engaged on topics of trade policy, exporter issues, EOU/SEZs, and new Commerce Ministry initiatives.

- **Mr. Ateesh Kumar Singh**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME: Discussed scaling up the MSME Helpline and contributing to the RAMP programme for wider MSME outreach.

- **Ms. Anuja Bapat (ISS)**, Deputy Director General, Office of Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME: Interacted on a range of MSME issues, including green energy open access and cluster development.

- **Ms. Mercy Epaio**, Joint Secretary (SME), Ministry of MSME: Consulted on advancing women's entrepreneurship and utilizing international cooperation schemes for MSMEs.



- **Mr. Ajit Chavan (ISS)**, Additional CEO, GeM: Signed an MoU to promote the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) among MSMEs.

- **Mr. Pravin Pardeshi (IAS Retd)**, CEO, MITRA: Encouraged to collaborate with MITRA in the interest of the state of Maharashtra.



- **Mr. Sanjiv Shankar**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting: Discussed the allocation of spectrum for FM Radio Channels.



- **Dr. P. Anbalagan (IAS)**, Secretary (Industries), Government of Maharashtra: Presented revised suggestions to help shape the State's New Industrial Policy for greater industry growth.

- **Mr. Deependra Singh Kushwah**, Development Commissioner (Industries), Government of Maharashtra: Engaged in a dialogue on Maharashtra's industrial policy and emerging sectors like defence, aerospace, and startups.

- **Mr. P. Velrasu**, CEO, MIDC: Championed inclusive industrial growth, seeking support for women-led industrial estates, common effluent treatment plants, and solar park allocations in remote areas of Maharashtra..



- **Mr. Dilip Goyal (IRS)**, Commissioner, Pune II: Made representations on GST procedural issues and held discussions related to the 53rd GST Council meeting.



# REPRESENTATIONS TO GOVERNMENT 2024-25

## 26 APRIL 2024

MCCIA sent a representation to **Shri Nitin Gupta**, Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Ministry of Finance – Government of India, regarding issues faced by Trusts and Charitable Organisations in registration and re-registration processes.

## 4 MAY 2024

The Chamber sent a representation to **Hon'ble Shri Devendra Fadnavis** – the then Deputy Chief Minister, and Minister for Energy- Maharashtra State to advise MSEDC and SLDC to facilitate Green Energy Open Access for MSMEs through a new online portal. This resulted in the issuance of necessary circulars by MERC and MSEDC.

## 17 JUNE 2024

We presented a set of issues relating to infrastructure requirements and Policy and operational problems faced by exporters and Importers to **Shri Sunil Barthwal**-the then Commerce Secretary-Government of India. These were well-received during the interactive session at Pune.

## 20 JUNE 2024

The Chamber sent a representation to **Shri S.C.L. Das**, Secretary- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises-Government of India advocating for the continuation of Section 43B(h) of the Income Tax Act. The request was accepted and retained in Union Budget 2025-26.

## 24 JUNE 2024

MCCIA submitted a Pre-Budget Memorandum on Direct Taxes for FY 2024-25 to **Hon'ble Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**, Union Minister for Finance.

## 26 JUNE 2024

MCCIA sent a representation to **Hon'ble Shri Ajitdada Pawar**, Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra State to allow private industrial estates without requiring MIDC's involvement.

## 27 JUNE 2024

The chamber provided suggestions for the Proposed new Industrial Policy to **Shri Deependra Singh Kushwah**, Development Commissioner(Industries)- Department of Industries, Government of Maharashtra.

## 28 JUNE 2024

MCCIA submitted important issues related to procedures and operational difficulties in GST framework at a meeting with senior officials from Pune GST Commissionerates and Maharashtra State GST.

## 22 JULY 2024

The chamber sent a representation to **Shri Sanjay Agarwal**, Chairman Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, requesting to extend the validity of test reports for imported products and components.

## 29 JULY 2024

The chamber sent a request for granting an extension of the deadline for filing Income Tax Returns for AY 2024-25 (FY 2023-24) to **Hon'ble Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**-Union Finance Minister.

## 29 NOVEMBER 2024

MCCIA presented issues regarding **the Amnesty Scheme** and Invoice Management System to the Chief Commissioner of GST, Pune.

#### 18 DECEMBER 2024

MCCIA requested Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation to issue a **No Objection Certificate for transferring a plot** to MCCIA which was originally allotted for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plant

#### 23 DECEMBER 2024

MCCIA requested **Hon'ble Shri Ajitdada Pawar**, Deputy Chief Minister-Maharashtra State to effect a change in the Chairmanship of Autocluster from Municipal Commissioner Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation to MCCIA

#### 28 DECEMBER 2024

The Chamber submitted a request to **Hon'ble Shri Devendra Fadnavis**-Chief Minister, Maharashtra State to allocate 5 acres of land for the Hirkan Industrial Estate for Women Entrepreneurs.

#### 17 FEBRUARY 2025

MCCIA submitted suggestions/objections to MERC regarding MSEDC's **proposed electricity tariff** revision for 2025-26.

#### 19 FEBRUARY 2025

We submitted revised set of suggestions for the New Industrial Policy of Maharashtra State to **Dr. P. Anbalagan**-Secretary(Industries), Government of Maharashtra

#### 24 FEBRUARY 2025

We submitted a representation to **Mr. P. Velrasu**, Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation seeking support for land for an Industrial Estate for Women Entrepreneurs in Pune District, setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plant in PCMC limits, allocating land for Solar Parks in MIDCs based in remote areas of Maharashtra State, rehabilitation of units in Kudalwadi affected by drive of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, in a nearby MIDC

#### 27 FEBRUARY 2025

The Chamber participated in the online hearing conducted by Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission and presented additional suggestions/objections to the Petition by Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. for increase in power tariff and changes in methodology for Solar Energy Consumption.

#### 27 MARCH 2025

19. MCCIA hosted a meeting with Senior Government officials led by **Dr. Chandrakant Pulkundwar**(IAS), Divisional Commissioner-Pune Division and **Mr. Jitendra Dudi**-Collector, Pune District. The Chamber and representatives of Industry Associations as well as Industry raised infrastructure related issues in the industrial areas of Pune District. These were Releted to Power Supply, Condition of Roads, need to construct additional roads, Effluent Treatment, Garbage management etc.

## ➤ AGRICULTURE AND AGROBUSINESS COMMITTEE



➤ Chairperson: **Mr. Umesh Chandra Sarangi IAS (Retd.)**  
Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Shantanu Jagtap**

**E**stablished in 1992, MCCIA's Agriculture and Agribusiness Committee works to professionalise, strengthen, and commercialise agriculture in Maharashtra. It champions policy advocacy, market linkages, and knowledge sharing for farmers and agri-enterprises. Key initiatives include India's first internet-based Gramin Information Centre, the Pune Food Cluster with UNIDO, and NAFARI food testing lab. The Committee has organised international expos, formed commodity-based associations, and contributed to the state's Agro-Industrial Policy. Collaborating with bodies like NABARD and MSAMB, it promotes commercial agriculture, emerging technologies, and stakeholder engagement through forums, training, and industry-government-academia partnerships, fostering sustainable growth in the agri and food processing sectors.

### AGRICULTURE EXPORT FACILITATION CENTRE (AEFC)

Further strengthening its ecosystem-focused approach, MCCIA launched the Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre (AEFC)—a dedicated, one-stop resource hub designed to accelerate agri-food exports from the state. The Centre provides exporters, processors, and exporting farmers with free, need-based guidance and expert advisory services. It covers topics such as export documentation, traceability, branding, Incoterms, agro-processing, orchard management, compliance with international quality standards like MRL and ISPM 15, and government export promotion schemes. AEFC also offers detailed insights into the roles of key institutions including APEDA, ECGC, NPPO, and CHAs, as well as the importance of inland container depots, packhouses, and country-wise export protocols. Regular training programmes and advisory sessions help build export readiness, enhance capacity, and support the emergence of a globally competitive agri-export ecosystem in Maharashtra.

Together, these initiatives reflect MCCIA's sustained commitment to nurturing a future-ready agricultural sector—one that is innovative, market-oriented, and globally integrated.



## KEY INITIATIVES

### DELEGATION VISIT TO JNPT AND FULCRUM CFS

On 18th October 2024, MCCIA organised a delegation visit to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Navi Mumbai, and Fulcrum Container Freight Station (CFS) to enhance the understanding of export logistics and agro-export facilitation. Forty-two participants—including farmers, FPOs, MSMEs, exporters, and startups—gained first-hand insights into port operations, customs clearance, and container handling, guided by JNPT official Mr. Sanjay Patil. A visit to the Shiv-Samrakshan Museum offered cultural context on India's maritime heritage. At Fulcrum CFS, participants learned practical aspects of container stuffing, sealing, and export documentation, strengthening operational readiness for scaling exports, particularly in the agriculture and food processing sectors.

The JNPT-Fulcrum CFS visit blended technical and cultural insights, reinforcing MCCIA's commitment to empowering members and boosting Maharashtra's agri-exports.

#### OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- *Enhanced Export Readiness: Participants gained technical clarity on export logistics, improving their ability to navigate port and freight station operations.*
- *Capacity Building: The visit equipped members with practical knowledge essential for handling agri-exports efficiently.*
- *Strategic Networking: Direct engagement with JNPT and CFS officials facilitated knowledge exchange and potential collaborations.*
- *Cultural Connection: Exposure to India's maritime history enriched the overall experience and reinforced a sense of national pride.*
- *Policy Insight: Learnings from the visit will strengthen MCCIA's ongoing efforts in policy advocacy for improved export infrastructure and facilitation.*



## INTERNATIONAL TRADE DELEGATION TO OMAN

- Dates: **10th – 13th December 2024**
- Locations: **Muscat and Sohar, Sultanate of Oman**
- Delegation Size: **17 Companies from Maharashtra**

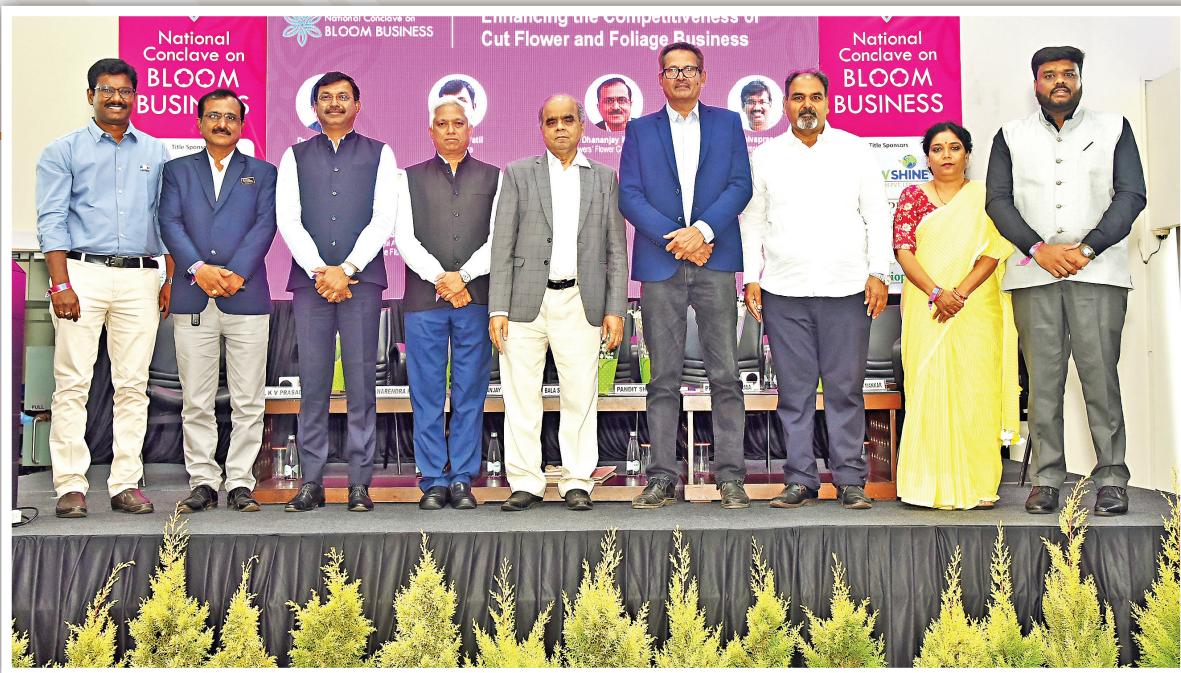
From 10th to 13th December 2024, MCCIA led a trade delegation to the Sultanate of Oman to promote agri and food processing trade linkages. The visit began in Muscat with a strategic briefing by Mr. Amit Narang, Ambassador for India to Oman, covering India–Oman economic ties, agri-export opportunities, compliance, and long-term collaborations. In Sohar, delegates toured the SOHAR Port and Freezone, hosted by Mr. Pratik Lunavia, gaining insights into investment incentives, cold storage, and re-export potential to GCC and African markets. B2B meetings with Omani businesses, organised in partnership with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Sohar Branch, fostered sector-specific networking and potential joint ventures.

The delegation visited New Khazaen Fruit and Vegetable Central Market (SILAL) to engage with wholesale buyers, followed by a tour of Mutrah Souq for insights into retail dynamics. The final day included visits to LULU Market and City Centre Oman, providing perspectives on GCC retail distribution and packaging standards.

Cultural experiences complemented the business agenda, deepening understanding of Oman's heritage and strengthening people-to-people ties. The mission enhanced market access knowledge, built strategic partnerships, and reinforced MCCIA's commitment to expanding Maharashtra's footprint in the Gulf's agri-food trade ecosystem. The Oman delegation advanced MCCIA's mission to boost export readiness, open new markets, and foster lasting India–Oman trade partnerships.

### KEY OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- *Strengthened understanding of Oman's agri-food trade landscape*
- *Exposure to world-class logistics infrastructure at SOHAR Freezone*
- *Initiated trade dialogues with Omani importers, distributors, and retailers*
- *Facilitated regulatory clarity and business development support through Embassy briefings and Omani trade institutions*
- *Promoted Maharashtra's capabilities in agri-processing and value-added exports*



## FLAGSHIP EVENT: NATIONAL CONCLAVE ON BLOOM BUSINESS

- Date: **March 5, 2025**
- Venue: **MCCIA Trade Tower, Pune**

MCCIA's Agriculture and Agribusiness Committee hosted Western India's first National Conclave on Bloom Business, uniting 150+ stakeholders to advance floriculture. Expert sessions, policy dialogues, and technology showcases explored strategies for market access, infrastructure, and sustainability, positioning floriculture as a profitable, eco-friendly agri-enterprise offering farmers income diversification and long-term growth potential. This flagship event reinforced MCCIA's commitment to promoting floriculture as a high-potential sector for Maharashtra and India's agricultural transformation.



### KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE CONCLAVE:

- *Policy and Infrastructure:* Recommendations included the introduction of freight subsidies, GST rollback on floriculture exports, liberalised import norms, and simplified compliance procedures.
- *Technology and R&D:* Calls were made for AI-led breeding innovations, climate-resilient nurseries, and sustainable cultivation practices. Floriculture was recognized as a round-the-year income generator, meriting research focus.
- *Sector Development:* Emphasis was placed on formalising grower networks through FPOs, adopting standardised pot plant practices, biodegradable packaging, and expanding cold-chain logistics.
- *Export Promotion:* Key suggestions included development of India-GAP standards, creation of regional flower clusters, and alignment with international certification systems to boost global competitiveness.





➤ Chairperson: **Mr. A. P. Pargaonkar**  
Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Nikhil Jain**

The Ahilyanagar Office of the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) has continued to serve as a key catalyst for industrial support, policy facilitation, and capacity building in the region. Throughout the financial year 2024–25, the office remained deeply engaged with the local industrial ecosystem, addressing pressing challenges, enabling compliance, and nurturing an environment conducive to inclusive growth.

With a focused approach across four broad domains—training and capacity building, compliance and employee welfare, human resource development, and workplace safety—the Ahilyanagar office contributed significantly toward strengthening the region's industrial backbone. This report presents a summary of its major initiatives and achievements during the year.

## KEY INITIATIVES

### A. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

#### MSME GEM TRAINING PROGRAM

- Date: **26th April 2024**
- Objective: To empower local micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to effectively participate in Government e-Marketplace (GeM) procurement processes and increase their access to institutional buyers. Recognising the challenges faced by small enterprises in navigating the digital procurement ecosystem, the Ahilyanagar office organised a dedicated GeM training program. The session saw the enthusiastic participation of 50 MSMEs from across the district.
- Through hands-on demonstrations and interactive discussions, the training enabled participating units to:
- Register and onboard successfully on the GeM portal,
- Understand procurement procedures and documentation,
- Gain insights into public procurement policies.

#### IMPACT:

- *The programme significantly enhanced the digital procurement readiness of MSMEs in the region, opening new market access avenues and increasing their potential to supply goods and services to government buyers.*



## B. COMPLIANCE AND EMPLOYEE WELFARE

### EMPLOYEE PROVIDENT FUND (EPF) GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

- Date: 29th July 2024
- Issues Addressed: Numerous industrial workers had been facing prolonged delays and discrepancies in receiving their Provident Fund dues. This not only affected financial security but also led to dissatisfaction among employees.

MCCIA took proactive steps to address these issues by coordinating directly with senior officials at the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). A series of grievance redressal camps were held, during which:

- Workers could verify and submit documents directly to EPF authorities,
- Technical queries and administrative hurdles were resolved on the spot,
- A mechanism for periodic follow-up was institutionalized.

Outcome: Several long-pending claims were successfully cleared. The initiative restored employee trust in the Provident Fund mechanism and improved compliance across units.

## C. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### HR CONCLAVE – BRIDGING TALENT AND TRANSFORMATION

- Date: 15th November 2024
- Theme: "People at the Core – Skilling, Retention, and Digital HR"

The HR Conclave attracted over 120 professionals, including CHROs, industry HR heads, and faculty from academic institutions. The event served as a robust knowledge-sharing platform focusing on emerging challenges and solutions in human capital management.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- *Panel discussions on navigating talent gaps, employee engagement, skilling for the future, and digital HR systems,*
- *Interactive sessions on building stronger academia-industry collaboration for workforce readiness,*
- *Networking opportunities that laid the foundation for future joint initiatives.*

#### IMPACT:

- *The conclave helped align HR practices in Ahilyanagar's industrial landscape with global trends. Participants gained actionable insights, while academic institutions received clarity on industry expectations.*



## D. EVENTS AND OBSERVANCES

### NATIONAL SAFETY WEEK

- Dates: 4th – 11th March 2025
- Theme: **Focus on Safety Leadership**
- Objective: To reinforce the importance of safety across industrial units and promote a culture of proactive prevention and accountability.

MCCIA Ahilyanagar led the observance of National Safety Week with outreach initiatives aimed at both workers and management. Activities included:

- Distribution of safety manuals and posters,
- Hands-on safety drills and emergency preparedness simulations,
- Interactive awareness sessions on shop-floor risks and mitigation strategies.

#### RESULTS:

- *Marked improvement in safety compliance was observed. The event catalyzed broader leadership commitment to safety and long-term investments in worker protection.*

## E. SUMMARY OF KEY INTERVENTIONS AND OUTCOMES

Activity	Date	Objective	Outcome
MSME GeM Training	26th April 2024	Enable MSMEs to participate in digital government procurement	50 MSMEs onboarded, improved readiness
EPF Grievance Redressal	29th July 2024	Resolve PF dues for employees	Backlog cleared, trust restored
HR Conclave	15th November 2024	Foster HR collaboration and best practices	120 professionals participated
National Safety Week	4th–11th March 2025	Build workplace safety awareness	Improved adherence to safety norms



➤ Chairperson: **Mr. Arvind Goel**  
➤ Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Sudhanwa Kopardekar**

**T**he Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) has constituted a dedicated Autocomponents Committee with the objective of strengthening the support ecosystem for the auto components industry in Pune and the surrounding industrial regions. The Committee is chaired by Mr. Arvind Goel, Chairman of Tata AutoComp Systems Pvt. Ltd. and a Member of the Board, MCCIA. The first official activity of the Committee was held on 24th May 2024 at TACO House, Pune.

Date of Activity: **24th May 2024**

The primary objective of the meetings of the Committee would be to deliberate on the evolving landscape of the automotive sector, particularly the transition towards electric and alternate mobility solutions. The discussions will also try to identify strategic interventions required to support MSMEs in the auto components sector, with a focus on transition to EV, sustainability, digitisation, and skill development.

#### **KEY FOCUS AREAS AND STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS**

- *Enhancing Utilisation of Existing Infrastructure: The Committee stressed the need to promote awareness about the facilities available at Autocluster and the MCCIA Electronic Cluster Foundation (MECF). Regular outreach programmes and technical sessions were suggested to engage MSMEs and encourage optimal usage of these facilities.*
- *Strengthening Testing and Pre-Certification Capabilities: The potential for Autocluster to support pre-certification of auto components and sub-assemblies was highlighted. A proposal was made to assess high-cost testing requirements faced by MSMEs and consider the acquisition of relevant testing equipment to create a localized Pre-Certification Centre for EV segment.*
- *Adapting to the EV Transition: The Committee observed that the automotive sector is undergoing a significant transformation driven by the shift from ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) vehicles to Electric*



*Vehicles (EVs). It was noted that while EV adoption would be most prominent in the two-wheeler and three-wheeler segments (25–30% market share for EVs in two-wheelers by 2030), ICE vehicles would continue to be relevant in heavy-duty applications such as trucks, tractors, and buses.*

- *Future Mobility and Technology Trends: The Committee emphasised that MSMEs must adapt to emerging technologies, evolving quality standards, and rising customer expectations—particularly from younger demographics. The need to invest in power electronics, automation, and robotics was also highlighted.*
- *Skill Development and Human Resource Challenges: A pressing need was identified for the establishment of a Welding Excellence Centre in Pune, given the acute shortage of skilled welders and the demand for high-quality welding practices. Collaborations with institutions such as PCMC ITI were recommended, and the possibility of setting up this centre within Autocluster's premises was discussed.*
- *Leveraging CSR and Expert Resources: The Committee noted that companies like Bajaj Auto have active CSR programmes focused on workforce training. MCCIA was encouraged to explore these resources to support upskilling efforts for MSMEs. Retired professionals from large automotive companies were also identified as a valuable pool of mentors for MSME entrepreneurs.*
- *Process Improvement and Automation: Support for MSMEs in implementing automation solutions—including robotics, fixtures, and safety systems—was recommended as a means to enhance manufacturing efficiency and meet future quality benchmarks.*

#### **OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS**

The discussions led to the identification of concrete action areas for the Committee. Key among them were the promotion of Autocluster and MECF services, evaluation of high-cost testing needs for potential investment in equipment, conceptualisation of a Welding Excellence Centre, and exploration of partnerships for skilling through CSR initiatives. These strategic directions will serve as the foundation for future initiatives and events led by the Autocomponents Committee.

In a follow up Meeting held on 2nd August 2025, we made a theme presentation about a Concept for RAMP UP factory for Electric Vehicle segment (child parts and Tier-1 components scalable up to a complete electric two wheeler. Inputs for the same have been shared with Autocluster for consideration.



Chairperson: **Mr. Mahesh Phadke**  
 Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Prashant Jogalekar**

**M**CCIA's Defence and Committee strengthens India's defence ecosystem by fostering collaboration between armed forces, government organisations, and private industry. Aligned with the vision of Aatmanirbharta, it helps industries navigate procurement, vendor registration, compliance, and supply chain opportunities. Acting as a bridge with DRDO, DPSUs, Ordnance Factories, and MSMEs, the Committee enables policy interpretation, strategic dialogue, and partnership development. It is also establishing a defence think tank of experts, industrialists, and innovators to shape long-term strategies for enhancing indigenous manufacturing, technological capabilities, and national security readiness, positioning Maharashtra's industry as a vital contributor to India's evolving defence manufacturing landscape.

## KEY ACTIVITIES

### 1. CPSE VENDOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND PUNE DEF SPACETECH 2024

- Date: 29–30 August 2024
- Venue: MCCIA Trade Tower, Pune

In partnership with MSME-DFO Mumbai, the MCCIA Defence Committee hosted a landmark two-day programme focusing on vendor development and defence-space collaboration. Attended by over 400 delegates and 35+ exhibitors, this event marked a significant step toward integrating MSMEs into the national defence and aerospace value chains.

#### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- A "Meet-the-Buyer" session enabling direct interactions with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), private manufacturers, and defence procurement agencies.
- Live on-boarding sessions for GeM (Government e-Marketplace) registration.
- Technical sessions featuring experts from DRDO, SkyServe, Godrej Aerospace, LlandT Defence, and space-tech startups like Manastu Space and KosmosOne.
- The launch of the Drishti Platform—a collaborative initiative aimed at accelerating innovation in surveillance and aerospace tech.

The event not only fostered deeper understanding of procedural requirements but also created tangible opportunities for collaboration and capability demonstration.



## 2. INDUSTRY LINKAGES WITH SOUTHERN COMMAND AND DRDO

- The Committee actively engaged with India's premier defence research and military institutions to build meaningful partnerships.
- May 2, 2024: MCCIA invited Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from its members for collaboration with the Regional Technology Node (RTN). A total of 56 proposals were submitted, showcasing local industry enthusiasm for R&D partnerships.
- Sept 12 and 23, 2024: Follow-up meetings with RTN officials and the Defence Secretary-Designate were held to align industrial capacities with ongoing technology development initiatives.
- Nov 23, 2024: MCCIA organised an exclusive interaction with DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat, which laid the groundwork for the proposed Pune DefTech Hub. The session included participation from strategic players like Kalyani Strategic Systems, Southern Command HQ, and senior DRDO officials.

## 3. PUNE DEFTECH CONFERENCE – ADVANCING INDIGENISATION IN DEFENCE

- Date: 14 December 2024
- Venue: Auto Cluster, Chinchwad (as part of Pune Expo 2024)
- The Pune DefTech Conference, conducted under the overarching theme of "Indigenisation and Deep Tech in Defence," brought together leaders in research, manufacturing, and technology.



#### **SPEAKERS AND ORGANISATIONS INCLUDED:**

- DRDO scientists
- Kalyani Strategic Systems
- Divgi TorqTransfer Systems
- Sirinor Technologies

The conference examined critical technologies, localisation opportunities, and pathways for MSME participation. A 'Meet-the-Buyer' session with BEML and 9BRD (IAF) enabled local industries to understand product requirements and procurement expectations from defence buyers.

A key output was the panel discussion chaired by Mr. Harsh Gune (member of MCCIA Defence Committee) that generated practical recommendations to accelerate indigenous product development and deployment across armed forces.

#### **4. INDO-US DEEP TECH COOPERATION**

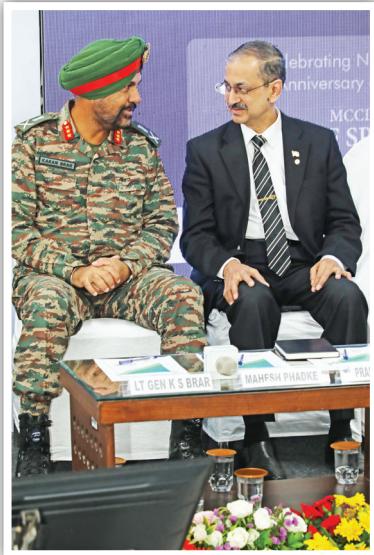
With a view to building international bridges in defence and critical technologies, MCCIA facilitated two closed-door discussions:

Jan 20 and Feb 26, 2025 Hosted Mr. Mike Hankey (US Consul General) and Mr. Tom Lograsso (Ames Lab) for panels on:

- Critical technology partnerships
- Supply chain diversification
- Collaborative research and skilling

These dialogues were held in coordination with academic institutions such as IISER Pune, COEP, and Symbiosis Skill University. Key themes included talent development, AI applications in defence logistics, and co-development pathways for dual-use technologies.

This initiative also laid the foundation for joint Indo-US industrial working groups to identify areas of convergence in defence startups and manufacturing ecosystems.



## 5. DIRECTORATE GENERAL RESETTLEMENT (DGR) JOB FAIR

- Date: 28 February 2025
- Venue: Air Force Station (AFS), Viman Nagar, Pune

Recognising the need to support India's veterans in transitioning to civilian careers, the MCCIA Defence Committee actively participated in the DGR Job Fair. Held in association with the Directorate General Resettlement, this fair saw participation from over 30 private companies and significant support from:

- Ex-Servicemen Welfare (ESW) Department
- South Western Air Command (SWAC)
- Senior IAF Officers

The event provided a platform for employment, entrepreneurship, and skilling opportunities for veterans, promoting civil-military integration in workforce development.



➤ Chairperson: **CA. Dilip Satbhai**  
➤ Officer-in-Charge: **CA Chandrashekhar Shah**

The Direct Tax Committee of the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) played a pivotal role in the financial year 2024–2025 by engaging actively in taxation matters and supporting the business ecosystem with timely knowledge-sharing and representation. The Committee was chaired by CA Chandrashekhar Chitale from April 1, 2023, to September 28, 2024, and subsequently by Dr. CA Dilip Satbhai from September 29, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

## 1. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIONS

Recognising the need to improve compliance mechanisms and simplify regulatory processes for taxpayers, the Direct Tax Committee made the following significant representations to the government during the year:

### **CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AND TAX REGISTRATIONS:**

A detailed representation highlighting the challenges faced by charitable institutions in obtaining or renewing registration under Sections 12A, 10(23C), 35, and 80G of the Income Tax Act was submitted to Shri Nitin Gupta, Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on April 26, 2024.

### **REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF ITR FILING DUE DATE (AY 2024–25):**

The Committee submitted a request on July 29, 2024, to extend the due date for filing income tax returns for Assessment Year 2024–2025. This appeal was addressed to Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Finance Minister; Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Revenue Secretary; and Shri Ravi Agarwal, Chairman, CBDT.

## 2. CAPABILITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

The Committee organised a series of eight knowledge-centric seminars and two budget screening events aimed at capacity building for finance professionals, business owners, and cross-functional teams.

a. Live Screening of Budgets

- Interim Union Budget 2024–25:

A live screening was held on July 23, 2024, with participation from members of the MCCIA Executive Board, Executive Committee, and Committee Chairpersons.

- Union Budget 2025–26:

Another live screening session was conducted on February 1, 2025, with enthusiastic participation from the Chamber's leadership and stakeholders.

### B. TOPICAL FINANCIAL SEMINARS

1. "Balance Sheet and Financial Planning" - July 26, 2024 (58 participants)

2. "Gearing up for Tax Audit" - August 6, 2024 (26 participants)

3. "Finance for Sales and Marketing" - September 13, 2024 (55 participants)

4. "Finance for HR" - September 24, 2024 (19 participants)

5. "Finance for Non-Finance Personnel" - October 15, 2024 (46 participants)

6. "Financial Analysis and Modeling for Decision Making" - November 12, 2024 (36 participants)

7. "Overview of TDS Compliance under the Income Tax Act" - March 21, 2025 (44 participants)

## 3. COMMITTEE FOCUS AND OUTREACH

Throughout the year, the Committee maintained its emphasis on:

- Proactive Compliance Support

- Bridging Policy and Practice

- Inclusivity in Financial Literacy

- Adaptability to Emerging Needs

# ➤ HIGHER EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



➤ Chairperson: **Mr. Bharat Agarwal**  
Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Prashant Jogalekar**

**T**he Higher Education and Skill Development Committee of MCCIA is committed to bridging the gap between academia and industry to ensure a future-ready workforce. It comprises MSME owners, educationists, and skill development professionals who meet regularly to explore how academic institutions can evolve to meet real-world industry demands.

The Committee aims to create industry-academia synergies that enable institutions to become agile, practical, and employment-oriented. Over the years, it has hosted national symposiums, policy dialogues, and strategic events to align education with market needs and technological shifts.

## EDU-FEST 2024: A FLAGSHIP EVENT

On April 5, 2024, MCCIA hosted the second edition of Edu-Fest under the theme "Industry Meets Academia: Magic Happens." The event united academic leaders, industrialists, government officials, and students to explore collaborative pathways for building a skilled, job-ready workforce.

### INAUGURAL SESSION AND KEY INSIGHTS

MCCIA President Mr. Deepak Karandikar underscored the NEP's transformative potential, advocating flexible, industry-responsive curricula. Committee Chairperson Mr. Bharat Agarwal stressed faculty immersion in industry to align teaching with real job demands and urged MSME - University partnerships.

### GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE: POLICY AS ENABLER

Principal Secretary, Higher and Technical Education - Government of Maharashtra, Mr. Vikas Chandra Rastogi (IAS) called for integrating apprenticeships into degrees, mandatory faculty internships, and dedicated placement cells to boost employability.



### PANEL DISCUSSIONS: BUILDING THE BRIDGE

Sessions addressed:

- Crossing the Generational Gap – Adapting to Gen Z workplace expectations.
- HR Insights in the Digital Age – Balancing AI-driven hiring with empathy.
- Impact of NEP on Industry Collaboration – Leveraging credit transfers and vocational flexibility.
- Empowering Students: Practical Learning in Focus Highlights included mock interviews, career readiness workshops, and a skills and innovation exhibition.

Strategic Reflections: MCCIA Director General Mr. Prashant Girbane urged purpose-driven education, leveraging Pune's strengths to create scalable national models. The event successfully reinforced the importance of ongoing, institutionalized collaboration between industry and academia as a long-term national imperative.

### IMPACT AND TAKEAWAYS

- *Edu-Fest 2024 created measurable value for all stakeholder groups:*
- *Colleges and universities committed to integrating practical learning through apprenticeships and projects.*
- *MSMEs explored joint programmes for R&D, consultancy, and training with local institutions.*
- *Faculty members gained insights into current industry practices and began developing curricula to reflect real-world demands.*
- *Students benefited from hands-on learning, career guidance, and access to potential recruiters.*





**Chairperson: Mr. Aditya Paranjpe**

**Officer-in-Charge: Mr. Sudhanwa Kopardekar**

The MCCIA Electronics Committee is dedicated to advancing Maharashtra's electronics ecosystem through strategic engagement and collaboration among stakeholders from government, academia, industry, and startups. With a focus on promoting innovation, identifying emerging opportunities, and facilitating impactful dialogue, the Committee has played a key role in shaping the regional narrative for electronics and semiconductor growth.

**KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE INCLUDE:**

- Supporting ideation and opportunity identification in electronics and allied sectors.
- Organising events for sharing information, trends, and best practices.
- Nurturing a think tank for policy inputs and innovation roadmaps.
- Encouraging participation in the MCCIA Electronics Cluster Foundation (MECF).
- Driving semiconductor ecosystem development through the Semiconductor Ecosystem Development Group (SEDG).

## **KEY ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES**

### **1. SEMICONDUCTOR ECOSYSTEM CONFERENCE (SEC-2024)**

- Date: July 15, 2024
- Venue: MCCIA, Pune

SEC-2024 served as a cornerstone event for India's emerging semiconductor sector. Organised by MCCIA, the conference attracted over 100 delegates including government officials, chip designers, manufacturers, investors, and academics.



#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Shri Pradip Chandran (IAS), Additional Development Commissioner (Export and ODOP), Directorate of Industries, Government of Maharashtra and Mr. S. Krishnan (IAS), Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India outlined Maharashtra and India's semiconductor strategies.
- Panels covered three key themes:
- Fabless Ecosystem: NXP, LandT, and Alphawave emphasised design-led growth.
- Manufacturing: Tata Projects and KaynesSemicon shared manufacturing readiness insights.
- Talent Development: Experts from IIT Bombay, Marvell India, and Deshpande Startups stressed the importance of workforce skilling.
- The event concluded with a roadmap from MCCIA's SEDG for strengthening India's global presence in chip design and manufacturing.

## 2. INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WITH ASPIRE (IIT BOMBAY)

- Date: September 21, 2024

MCCIA partnered with ASPIRE, IIT Bombay's Research Park, for a special session on "Emerging Trends in Future Mobility, Semiconductors, and Applied AI." It encouraged industry stakeholders to engage with IIT through collaborative research, joint development projects, and student internships. Discussions focused on innovation in mobility, data science, and semiconductors.



### 3. FM RADIO CHANNEL AUCTION INSIGHTS

- Date: **October 7, 2024**

In a unique initiative, MCCIA collaborated with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to host a session on upcoming FM Radio license auctions across 11 cities in Maharashtra.

Shri Sanjiv Shankar, Joint Secretary, MeITY, Government of India, addressed the participants, providing clarity on the process, timelines, and investment potential. This rare opportunity (occurring once in 15 years) drew interest from media entrepreneurs and local business houses exploring diversification.

### 4. SMBIOSIS – GENERATIVE AI FOR SMBS (WITH GOOGLE CLOUD)

- Date: **October 23, 2024**

MCCIA partnered with Google Cloud to organise SMBiosis: Transform Your Business with Generative AI for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Topics included:

- Practical AI tools for business efficiency.
- Cloud integration for automation.
- Ethical AI adoption and innovation in SMBs.

Attendees included manufacturers, exporters, software developers, and entrepreneurs seeking to adopt emerging technologies.

### 5. MCCIA BUSINESS DELEGATION TO TAITRONICS, TAIWAN

- Date: **October 23–25, 2024**

MCCIA led a focused delegation to Taitronics 2024, Asia's leading electronics trade fair, to explore B2B opportunities and international technology partnerships.

**KEY OUTCOMES INCLUDED:**

Visits to Advantech's AIoT campus and Explus PCB factory.

Networking with Taiwanese OEMs and system integrators.

Exposure to advancements in automation, embedded systems, and electronics manufacturing.

This initiative strengthened MCCIA's global outreach and opened new doors for collaboration and joint ventures.

### 6. STRATEGIC DIALOGUE WITH OPTIMITECH TECHNOLOGIES

- Date: **November 12, 2024**

MCCIA hosted a strategic roundtable with executives from Optimitech Technologies, a global firm interested in entering India's ESDM space.

**KEY DISCUSSION AREAS INCLUDED:**

- Collaborative manufacturing models.
- India-centric R&D adaptation.
- Leveraging Indian engineering talent for global projects.

This dialogue reinforced the potential of global-local partnerships in high-tech sectors.

## 7. LAUNCH OF THE SEDG LECTURE SERIES – “SILICON INSIGHTS”

The Semiconductor Ecosystem Development Group (SEDG) launched the Silicon Insights lecture series to strengthen awareness, knowledge-sharing, and skill development.

### SESSION 1: FROM DESIGN TO DEPLOYMENT

- Date: **February 13, 2025**

Speakers included leaders from STPI, Marvell, and NITAI Consulting, sharing insights into chip design, fabless models, and the policy environment.

### SESSION 2: WAFER FABRICATION

- Date: **March 29, 2025**

Featuring Mr. Sunit Rikhi, former VP of Intel, who shared global perspectives on wafer fab technologies, operational excellence, and India's challenges and opportunities in semiconductor manufacturing.

These sessions attracted professionals, educators, and students from across Maharashtra and laid the foundation for continuous semiconductor education in the region.

### STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

- Throughout 2024–25, the Electronics Committee strategically focused on:
- Semiconductor Ecosystem Development: Advocacy, talent pipelines, and private-public collaboration.
- Technology Enablement for MSMEs: Promoting AI, IoT, and automation adoption for business growth.
- Global Partnerships: Fostering international engagement through delegations, collaborations, and investor dialogues.
- Skilling and Capacity Building: Bridging gaps through lecture series, academic collaboration, and student engagement.





➤ Chairperson: **Mr. Ram Jogdand**  
➤ Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Sudhanwa Kopardekar**

The Energy Committee of the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) plays a pivotal role in fostering energy sustainability, policy advocacy, and addressing power supply issues in industrial areas across Maharashtra. It is committed to raising awareness, promoting energy efficiency, supporting renewable energy adoption, and engaging stakeholders to create a resilient and competitive energy ecosystem.

#### DURING FY 2024–25, THE COMMITTEE PURSUED ITS OBJECTIVES TO:

- Promote energy conservation and renewable energy use
- Advocate stable, competitive energy policies
- Empower stakeholders with actionable insights on energy optimization
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing forums and stakeholder dialogues

#### REPRESENTATION TO MERC ON MSEDCL'S MULTI YEAR TARIFF PETITION

A major initiative was MCCIA's detailed submission to the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) on Case No. 217 of 2024, covering tripling up for FY 2022–23 and 2023–24, provisional tripling up for FY 2024–25, and proposed tariffs for FY 2025–26 to FY 2029–30. Presented by Mr. Deepak Karandikar, Immediate Past President, at the MERC hearing on 27th February 2025, the representation stressed the need for competitive tariffs, green energy adoption, and policy consistency to ensure Maharashtra's economic growth and sustainability.



## KEY ISSUES RAISED BY MCCIA

### 1. HIGH INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL TARIFFS

Maharashtra's electricity rates for industrial and commercial consumers remain among the country's highest, affecting competitiveness. While MSEDL proposed marginal reductions, these were offset by increases in Maximum Demand Charges and changes in banking methodology for Green Energy Open Access (GEOA), adversely impacting MSMEs. MCCIA urged MERC to benchmark tariffs against other industrial states and achieve reductions through efficiency gains and rationalization.

### 2. AVERAGE COST OF SUPPLY AND CROSS-SUBSIDIES

MCCIA recommended aligning tariffs with the average cost of supply, gradually phasing out cross-subsidies, and ensuring the State Government disburses subsidies on time to avoid transferring the financial burden to other consumers.

### 3. HIKE IN FIXED CHARGES

The proposed 27% increase in Maximum Demand Charges was opposed, with MCCIA recommending a phased approach linked to actual usage patterns and Contract Demand to ease financial strain on industrial consumers.

### 4. EFFICIENCY GAINS SHOULD BENEFIT CONSUMERS

Operational efficiency improvements by MSEDL should directly benefit consumers, incentivizing efficiency and building trust.

#### GREEN ENERGY OPEN ACCESS (GEOA) CONCERNs

1. Unstable Policy Regime: Despite enabling legislation, GEOA implementation suffers from opaque and inconsistent procedures, particularly for MSMEs. MCCIA advocated for simplified registration, permissions, and compliance for small electricity consumers (contract demand of 100 kW and above), transparent captive project guidelines, and time-bound approvals.
2. Infrastructure Support : The Committee recommended single-window clearance for GEOA projects and allocation of land for renewable energy in future industrial parks through PPPs or government schemes.

#### OBJECTION TO TIME-OF-DAY (TOD) TARIFF REVISIONS AND BANKING RESTRICTIONS

MSEDL's proposal to classify all non-solar hours (5 PM–9 AM) as peak hours effectively eliminated banking, crucial for managing solar intermittency. MCCIA argued this would extend payback periods, deter investments, and harm Maharashtra's green energy transition. Invoking the Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation, MCCIA stressed that such abrupt policy reversals undermine investor confidence, hurt ongoing projects, and affect job creation.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

MCCIA's representation to MERC underscores its dedication to energy sector reform, industrial competitiveness, and environmental responsibility. The Committee will continue to advocate for:

- Affordable, transparent tariffs
- Stable renewable energy policies
- Simplified GEOA frameworks
- Efficient energy use and awareness across sectors



➤ Chairperson: **Mr. Anand Chordia**  
Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Shantanu Jagtap**

The MCCIA Food Processing Committee serves as a strategic platform connecting farmers, processors, exporters, and global stakeholders to strengthen India's agri-food value chain. Working closely with the Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre, it promotes policy advocacy, market access, and capacity building while driving innovation, safety, and quality standards. Key initiatives include food industry advisory services, government liaison, vendor upskilling, incubation support, and international collaborations. By identifying sectoral gaps and presenting actionable recommendations to the Government of Maharashtra, the Committee empowers MSMEs, fosters backward and forward integration, and positions Indian food products to compete more effectively in domestic and global markets.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### POLICY ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

Successfully represented MCCIA Food Processing members before the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the FDA-FSSA Minister, and other key decision-makers, voicing concerns and solutions from the ground up. Shared policy updates, government circulars, and grant schemes like the Kisan Sampada Yojana (MoFPI) with stakeholders.

### INDUSTRY EXPOSURE AND INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

Hosted interaction meetings with delegations from Italy, Belgium, Germany, and Japan, exploring global technologies and forging cross-border collaborations. Initiated trade delegation plans and industry visits to further connect stakeholders with international best practices.

### KNOWLEDGE AND QUALITY INITIATIVES

Organised Food Industry Exposure Visits and workshops to build awareness on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), food safety, and compliance.

Conducted unique programmes for the Pune Food Processing Cluster, including:

The Food Industry-CFTRI Conclave, bridging science and business.

The International Conclave on Smart Food Factory, highlighting AI and innovation.

## EMPOWERING STREET VENDORS AND MICRO-ENTERPRISES

Led a series of "Safe Food and GMP events for street food vendors, in partnership with the FDA and FSSAI, raising awareness on hygiene and compliance.

Conducted the Workshop on Safe Prasad, underlining safety in spiritual offerings, often overlooked in food regulations.

## QUALITY AND FOOD SAFETY

### LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2024

A milestone event under the committee's banner was the Quality and Food Safety Leadership Summit 2024, held on 5th December 2024, in association with the MoFPI and APEDA.

The summit convened over 200 industry leaders, government organisations, entrepreneurs, and academics to deliberate on food safety culture, AI applications, global compliance, and resilient supply chains.



### KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- *Technology and AI: Experts discussed how AI can revolutionize food testing, traceability, personalized nutrition, and precision manufacturing.*
- *Food Safety Culture: Emphasis was laid on cultivating a mindset of safety—from management to floor staff—with periodic training and leadership accountability.*
- *Global Compliance: Sessions focused on BIS standards, harmonized testing protocols, and the role of accredited labs for export readiness.*
- *Supply Chain Resilience: Stakeholders explored blockchain, cooperative sourcing, and risk management strategies to reduce rejection and boost exports.*
- *MSME Empowerment: Special attention was given to integrating small businesses and farmers into quality supply chains with market linkages.*

## SEMINAR: SUSTAINABLE FOOD MANUFACTURING AND GLOBAL DEMAND

In collaboration with the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), MCCIA hosted a seminar on 9th August 2024 on "Sustainable Food Manufacturing and Global Demand for Indian Food Products." The event attracted over 100 manufacturers, with rich insights from speakers across domains.

### Speakers :

- Anand Chordia, MCCIA Food Processing Committee
- Sanjana Desai, Desai Foods (Mother's Recipe)
- Dipak Sanghavi, Nilons Enterprises
- Indraneel Chitale, Chitale Bandhu
- Nikunj Vora, Mazaana Chocolates
- Dattatraya Navalgundkar, Industry 4.0 Expert
- They shared success stories, sustainability practices, and export strategies, reinforcing India's evolving positioning as a global food manufacturing powerhouse.
- Panel Discussion: Retail Insights – A Conversation with Industry Leaders



- On 21st March 2025, MCCIA hosted a panel titled "Retail Insights", in collaboration with Inter Food Tech, Snack and Bake Tech, and Pac Mech Ex.

**THE EVENT FOCUSED ON:**

- Unlocking brand visibility
- Market expansion strategies
- Navigating modern retail and tech trends

**SPEAKERS INCLUDED:**

- Rajiv Mitra, CEO, Prabhat Dairy
- Dr. Richie Agarwal, Business Coach
- Vivek Nirmal, Kisankonnect
- Ashwani Pande, VA Exhibitions Pvt Ltd
- The session drew over 100 participants, providing a robust platform for cross-sector networking and the exchange of market intelligence.

**DELEGATION TO DUBAI: GULFOOD 2025**

In a landmark global initiative, MCCIA's Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre led a business delegation to Dubai from 16–22 February 2025. The goal was to equip Indian agri-entrepreneurs with international exposure and strengthen bilateral agri-export ties.

**KEY OBJECTIVES:**

Explore global food trade at Gulfood 2025, the world's largest food expo.  
Understand logistics, compliance, and buyer requirements.  
Foster connections with overseas buyers, chambers, and Indian diplomats.

**DELEGATION COMPOSITION:**

Participants included farmers, FPOs, processors, exporters, and startups representing Maharashtra's agri-innovation.



### VISIT HIGHLIGHTS

- Gulfood Expo: Over 5000 global exhibitors presented cutting-edge processing, packaging, and value-added product trends.
- Delegates met with Mr. Marwan AlMarri and Ms. Taria Alhashmi from Dubai Chamber of Commerce to discuss... to discuss regulatory and investment facilitation.
- Al Aweer and Al Ras Markets: Ground-level exposure to fresh produce and spice trade in Dubai helped delegates understand quality benchmarks and pricing mechanisms.
- Indian Embassy Interaction: Engaged with Mr. Satish Sivan, Consul General, for strategic discussions on trade support and diplomatic facilitation for India in Dubai.
- Jafza Port and DP World Visit: Delegates witnessed cargo logistics, customs clearances, and learned about the upcoming Bharatmart Project—a hub to amplify Indian exports.
- Direct Buyer Interaction: One-on-one meetings enabled product showcases, buyer feedback, and business leads.
- Visit to Import Distribution Warehouse: Hosted by Indian-origin importers, this visit shed light on the backend of UAE's agri-import systems.

### OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

**Knowledge Transfer:** Delegates acquired insights into global standards, compliance, and consumer preferences.

**Business Leads:** Potential trade linkages and investment interest emerged from Dubai stakeholders.

**Export Readiness:** Participants returned with actionable strategies to upgrade quality and packaging, aligned with international demand.





➤ Chairperson: **Mr. P. C. Nambiar**  
 Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Nikhil Jain**

**M**CCIA's Foreign Trade Committee is a key driver of international business growth, enabling our enterprises—especially MSMEs—to access global opportunities through trade delegations, B2B matchmaking, market access support, and capacity-building initiatives. In 2024–25, the Committee strengthened its role in trade facilitation, policy advocacy, and MSME empowerment, reinforcing Pune's status as a global business hub. Guided by its vision to be the leading enabler of global business growth, it focuses on boosting export competitiveness, forging international linkages, strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations, and promoting sustainable trade practices, ensuring Maharashtra's exporters remain competitive, innovative, and well-integrated into the global economic landscape.

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

### TRADE DELEGATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Foreign Trade Committee continued to facilitate critical engagements through outward trade missions, inbound delegations, and partnerships with foreign missions. Key highlights include:

- Singapore (October 2024): 20-member business delegation focused on innovation, manufacturing, technology, logistics, and food processing.
- Oman (December 2024): 17 companies explored agri-exports and food processing opportunities, forging partnerships with the Indian Embassy and Oman Chamber of Commerce.

### CERTIFICATE COURSE IN FOREIGN TRADE 2024

Ran from May 11 to July 27, 2024. Covered customs laws, export-import documentation, international logistics, FTAs, and finance. 185 participants from 108 organisations successfully completed the program.

## MCCIA'S ROLE IN TRADE FACILITATION

MCCIA acts as a key enabler through:

- Hosting international summits and B2B meetings
- Infrastructure advocacy (airports, logistics, energy)
- Export support for MSMEs via finance and risk mitigation





## FLAGSHIP EVENT

### PUNE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SUMMIT

PIBS 2025, held on 24–25 February 2025 at JW Marriott, Pune, and organised by the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), established itself as a premier platform for global business collaboration, trade, and investment. The Summit brought together 400+ participants, including over 100 Indian MSMEs and 60+ international delegates from 10+ countries, with a focus on AI, Future Mobility, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), Trade Facilitation, and International Partnerships.

The inaugural session featured industry leaders such as Mr. Sanjay Kirloskar, President, MCCIA who emphasised infrastructure upgrades to strengthen Pune's global positioning; Dr. Janmejaya Sinha, who projected India's GDP at \$7.2 trillion by 2030; and Mr. B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, outlining the Viksit Bharat @2047 roadmap. Thematic sessions highlighted Pune's 300+ Global Capacity Centres and their R&D focus, AI innovations from companies like Bajaj Auto and Force Motors, and insights from diplomats representing Israel, Australia, Singapore, and Finland. Trade facilitation discussions showcased EXIM Bank's Ubharte Sitaare and ECGC's export risk solutions.

The event concluded with bilateral MoUs with organisations from Israel and Germany, reinforcing Pune's stature as a strategic global business hub.





➤ Chairperson: **Ms. Nidhi Dhanju**  
➤ Officer-in-Charge: **Ms. Anuja Deshpande and Ms. Satavisha Natu**

The Human Resource and Industrial Relations (HR and IR) Committee of the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) plays a vital role in bridging the industry and policy spheres. With a strong commitment to fostering inclusive, knowledge-driven, and technologically empowered workplaces, the Committee has had a dynamic year of policy advocacy, capacity development, technology integration, and dialogue facilitation.

#### **STRATEGIC PILLARS OF THE COMMITTEE**

- Policy Interface: Engaging with Ministers and Government Officials to raise awareness, resolve issues, and strengthen policy implementation at the ground level.
- Industry Representations: Advocating on behalf of members by making recommendations to the government, especially around new labour codes, IR reforms, and skill development.
- Capacity Building: Designing bespoke knowledge sessions and upskilling programmes for HR professionals, line managers, and industrial relations practitioners.
- Technology and Innovation: Introducing best practices through global and domestic tech trends impacting HR operations.
- Thought Leadership and Knowledge Sharing: Monthly "People Mantra" HR Forum sessions and flagship conclaves to share ideas and co-create solutions.

#### **KEY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

##### **1. HR-TECH CONCLAVE 2024**

HR-Tech Conclave held on 19th April 2024, was a landmark event attended by HR leaders, technology experts, and business heads. With the theme "Drive Success through Technology," the conclave spotlighted the convergence of digital transformation and human capital management.

### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS:-**

- *CEO's Expectations from HR in the Era of technology* The Chief Guest Mr. M. S. Unnikrishnan, CEO, IITB Monash Research Academy emphasised that the advent of AI propelled the transformation of HR practices, particularly Generative AI.
- *HR's pivotal role in cultivating shared values, fostering purpose driven environments and Nurturing human centric approaches within organisation was emphasised in the session - Navigating in the Times of AI : Life of HR Today! Explained*
- *Insights were shared by Industry experts to Enhance the HR Tech strategy roadmap.*
- *Employer's obligation concerning employee data which includes controls for data security, breach reporting and legitimate use of personal data was explained in the session on Data Security Law and Implications on HR*
- *Being Human in the Era of Technology session delved into symbiotic relationship between technology and human intelligence offering a distinctive perspective on their collaborative potential*
- *The Conclave was a great success having renowned Speakers from HR and technology field.*



## **2. IR CONCLAVE 2024**

Organised on 21st August 2024, with the theme "Uniting Perspectives, Creating Synergies," the IR Conclave brought together over 150 professionals from unions, HR, legal, and consulting.

### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- *Dialogue on Inclusive growth, a collaborative approach included Union leaders Perspectives.*
- *Panel on "Women on the Shopfloor" highlighted gender diversity in manufacturing.*
- *Session on "People-Centric Best Practices in IR" featured wellness, inclusion, and workplace equity.*
- *Expert guidance on adapting to India's new labour codes and enhancing productivity through empathetic leadership.*
- *The conclave underscored MCCIA's commitment to fostering transparent, compliant, and humane workplace ecosystems.*

## **3. CSR CONCLAVE 2024**

Held on 12th December 2024, this conclave integrated HR, IR, and CSR perspectives, aligning business values with societal responsibility.

- *Special Addresses: Ms. Sonali Deshpande (Persistent Foundation), Mr. Mukesh Kumar (IICA), and Ms. Priyanka Behera (RSB Foundation).*



### **KEY FOCUS AREAS:**

- *Current trends, challenges, and the future of CSR*
- *Practical Strategies for Effective CSR Implementation*
- *Impact assessment, Compliances and Audit of CSR funds*
- *Employee-led volunteering*
- *Social stock exchanges for NGOs*
- *Women empowerment, primary health, and education through CSR*



#### 4. CHRO CONNECT – BREAKFAST MEETS

HR professionals hold a distinct vantage point within their organisations, by gaining deep insights into business priorities and challenges. With their pivotal role in shaping the workforce, they wield significant influence over the company's future. This is a dedicated platform where HR leaders from across domains can exchange ideas over a cup of coffee while driving innovation and meaningful change.

Unique breakfast dialogues were hosted where top CHROs from Pune's leading companies shared cross-industry insights on:

- Talent retention
- Workforce skilling
- Employee engagement in a hybrid setup

#### 5. MONTHLY HR FORUM: PEOPLE MANTRA

The Committee has conducted monthly HR Forum sessions under the banner "People Mantra" focused on practical learning, peer exchange, and capability building.

##### KEY SESSIONS INCLUDED:

- Breaking the Legacy in Long Term Settlement
- Future of HR Business Partnering
- Employee wellness
- Understanding Factories Act

These sessions have enhanced knowledge sharing and enabled member companies to stay ahead of regulatory and cultural shifts.

##### ENGAGEMENTS WITH POLICYMAKERS

- Facilitated interactive sessions with senior government officials including Labour Commissioners, PF commissioner, ESIC heads, DISH Directors officials from Ministry of Labour Welfare, and Skill India Mission officials.

These interactions fostered a better understanding of industry challenges and created pathways for regulatory improvement.



➤ Chairperson: **CMA Rajesh Shukla**  
 Officer-in-Charge: **CA Chandrashekhar Shah**

**T**he Indirect Tax Committee of MCCIA continues to serve as a vital conduit between the government and the industry, particularly MSMEs in Maharashtra, for resolving issues related to Goods and Services Tax (GST). The committee's mission is to establish MCCIA as a one-stop resource for GST-related queries and to promote better understanding, compliance, and policy engagement across sectors. Throughout 2024–25, the committee actively engaged in policy advocacy, knowledge dissemination, stakeholder interaction, and capacity building.

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

### 1. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIONS

*On 4th October 2024, senior officials from GST Commissionerates submitted a comprehensive representation to key GST authorities about:*

- *GST refund calculation*
- *Extending timelines for refund applications*
- *ITC transfer provisions for ISD*
- *Reduction for Showcase Timelines*
- *Payment of tax under protest*
- *Clarifications regarding e-invoices and credit notes*

*The representation was submitted to senior officials including Shri Sanjay Malhotra (Revenue Secretary) and Shri Ravi Agarwal Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.*



## 2. CAPABILITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

*The committee conducted the following impactful programmes to empower stakeholders:*

- *Master Class on GST (16 July 2024): 40 participants learned about ITC evolution, supply definitions, GST notices, and key Supreme Court rulings.*
- *Handling Audit or Litigation in GST (13 August 2024): Attended by 24 participants, focusing on SCNs, departmental audits, and attending summons.*
- *Invoice Management System (IMS) (16 and 23 October 2024): 84 attendees explored the IMS portal, amendments in ITC, and risk mitigation.*
- *Notices, Appeals and Audit under GST (25 October 2024): 26 participants received training on effective SCN replies and navigating GSTAT and pre-deposit issues.*
- *GST Amnesty Scheme (19 February 2025): With 90 attendees, this seminar clarified eligibility criteria, planning approaches, and dispute resolution through the scheme.*
- *ISD and Cross Charge – Practical Approach (12 March 2025): 27 participants discussed compliance strategies, amendments, and risk reduction using real-world examples.*

## 3. INTERACTION WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

- *GST Open House Meeting (28 June 2024): Officials from CGST, State Tax, and GSTN, including Shri Dilip Goyal (Commissioner, Pune II), interacted with 78 company representatives. Twenty-seven policy and procedural issues were submitted to the officials for government consideration.*
- *Presentation on GST Amnesty and Invoice Management System (29 November 2024): Chief Commissioner Shri Mayank Kumar and other officials engaged with 70 industry participants. Twenty-two issues were discussed in detail with senior officials and forwarded for resolution.*

## FLAGSHIP ENGAGEMENTS

*These representations became defining highlights of the committee's year long efforts in bridging communication gaps, ensuring clarity about compliances and offering constructive feedback to policy makers.*



➤ Chairperson: **Mr. Nitin Joshi**  
➤ Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Shriram Joshi**

**M**CCIA's Industrial Safety Committee, established in 2023–24, entered its first full operational year in 2024–25 as a proactive platform for advancing workplace safety. Bringing together safety professionals, corporate leaders, technical experts, and regulators, it facilitates dialogue on safety challenges, regulatory compliance, and best practices. The Committee's mission focuses on raising awareness, fostering technical knowledge sharing, engaging with authorities on statutory updates, promoting peer learning through case studies, and encouraging the adoption of advanced safety technologies and behavioural frameworks. Through monthly Safety Forum Meetings and targeted interactions, it has built a strong foundation for cultivating a culture of safety across manufacturing companies.

## KEY ACTIVITIES: SAFETY FORUM SERIES

A hallmark initiative of the Committee in 2024–25 has been the Monthly Safety Forum Meetings, each featuring a distinguished speaker, an in-depth presentation, and an interactive Q&A session. The aim was to build capacity, awareness, and shared responsibility around critical aspects of industrial safety.



## APRIL 5, 2024 ➤

**Topic:** Understanding the Safety Psychology and Its Role in Building Safety Culture

**Speaker:** Dr. Amit Patil, HSE and BCM Leader – Philips India Ltd.

**Participants:** 40

This session explored how safety culture is driven not just by compliance but also by mindset, behaviour, and collective responsibility within organisations.

## MAY 3, 2024 ➤

**Topic:** Crafting a Valuable Future for Workforce

**Speaker:** Mr. Sunil Katare, DGM – Safety, SJ Contracts Pvt. Ltd.

**Participants:** 15

The session focused on viewing safety as a tool for employee engagement and well-being, aligning it with human capital development.

## JUNE 7, 2024 ➤

**Topic:** Concepts of Industrial Hygiene and HSE

**Speaker:** Dr. Vidya Kiran Bhat, Occupational Safety and Health Professional

**Participants:** 25

Covered the fundamentals of industrial hygiene, workplace air quality, chemical exposure controls, and the broader spectrum of Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) practices.

## JULY 5, 2024 ➤

**Topic:** Behavioural Safety

**Speaker:** Dr. Amit Patil, Philips India Ltd.

**Participants:** 70

Revisiting Behaviour-Based Safety (BBS) principles, the session offered practical frameworks to develop proactive safety attitudes and reduce unsafe acts.

## AUGUST 2, 2024 ➤

**Topic:** Industrial Accidents – Reporting, Investigation and Prevention

**Speaker:** Mr. Rajan Vingale, Industrial Safety Trainer

**Participants:** 60

This session focused on statutory requirements and root cause analysis for accident prevention, reinforced by real-life case examples.

## SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 ➤

**Topic:** Gas and Fire Detection Systems in Industrial Premises

**Speaker:** Mr. Akshay Joshi, BU Head – Vighnaharta Technologies

**Participants:** 20

The technical presentation highlighted modern sensor technologies and smart fire detection systems that enhance early warning capabilities in hazardous environments.

OCTOBER 18, 2024



**Topic:** Disaster Management

**Speaker:** Mr. Raju Nageskar, Ex-Director – HR, Thyssenkrupp Industries

**Participants:** 25

Focused on business continuity planning, emergency response protocols, and crisis communication frameworks in industrial settings.

NOVEMBER 22, 2024



**Topic:** Machinery and Equipment Hazard Safety

**Speakers:** Mr. Devendra Joshi, GM – Bureau Veritas (CPS Division)

Mr. Siddhesh Dalal, GM – Macsafe India Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

**Participants:** 15

The session explored global best practices and Indian regulatory norms in machine safety, guarding systems, and operator protection mechanisms.

DECEMBER 13, 2024



**Special Meeting during Pune Expo 2024**

As part of Industrial Safety Pavilion at Pune Expo 2024, a special session of the Safety Forum was held at Auto Cluster, Chinchwad.

**Theme:** Recent Amendments in Electrical, Fire, and Industrial Safety Legislation

**Panelists**

Mr. Sanjay Giri, Joint Director – DISH

Mr. Milind Ogale, Joint Chief Fire Officer – MIDC

Mr. Nitin Suryavanshi, Electrical Inspector – Pune

**Participants:** 75

This high-value session allowed direct interaction between safety professionals and senior government officials, enabling dialogue on compliance readiness and inspection trends.

Special Collaborative Visit with Pune Metro

NOVEMBER 26, 2024



In a unique joint initiative of MCCIA's Safety and Tourism Committee, a visit to the Swargate Metro Station was organised in collaboration with Pune Metro.

**Objective:** To understand urban mass transit safety measures and emergency preparedness in public infrastructure.

**Highlights:** Safety systems and SOPs presented by Mr. Manoj Kumar Daniel, DGM, Maha Metro.

\* Hands-on exposure through a guided ride from Swargate to Civil Court and back.

\* Participation of 20 safety professionals and committee members.

This visit bridged the gap between industrial and public infrastructure safety, promoting cross-sectoral learning

## OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

The Committee's consistent engagements have led to:

- \* Increased awareness about critical safety domains among industry stakeholders.
- \* Enhanced collaboration with DISH, MIDC Fire Services, and Electrical Inspectors.
- \* Exposure to emerging technologies in gas detection, machinery safety, and fire prevention.
- \* Deeper understanding of legal amendments impacting workplace safety.
- \* Stronger industry voice on the ground realities of safety implementation.

The sessions provided more than 350 professionals across sectors the opportunity to learn, network, and share.



Chairperson: **Mr. Dinanath Kholkar**  
Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Nikhil Jain**

**M**CCIA's IT/ITES Committee strengthens Pune's digital ecosystem by fostering collaboration between industry, government, academia, and innovation-led enterprises. It addresses policy issues, operational bottlenecks, and promotes a conducive business environment through dialogue and advocacy. The Committee curates expert sessions, panel discussions, and thematic events to share knowledge, showcase successful entrepreneurs, and inspire future tech leaders. It actively drives digital adoption in traditional industries, especially MSMEs, enhancing productivity and competitiveness. With a focus on emerging domains like Industry 4.0, AI, Cybersecurity, and Automation, the Committee positions Pune at the forefront of innovation-led growth, supporting MCCIA's vision of inclusive, technology-powered industrial advancement. Initiatives

## KEY ACTIVITIES

### 1. MCCIA AGGREGATE BUYING INITIATIVE

#### LAUNCHED: JULY 2024

Objective: The MCCIA Aggregate Buying Initiative was launched to empower member businesses by leveraging collective demand for bulk procurement.

#### FOCUS AREAS:

- Essential Business Software
- Hardware and IT Services
- Other high-demand operational solutions



#### **KEY BENEFITS TO MEMBERS:**

- Substantial cost reductions on essential business solutions
- Streamlined and reliable procurement processes
- Enhanced operational efficiency

#### **SELECTION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS:**

Service providers are chosen based on their ability to offer competitive bulk discounts, ensuring optimal value for participating members.

Impact and Outcomes (as of March 2025):

- Total Responses/Enquiries: 350+
- Members Benefitted: 35
- Total Savings Facilitated: ₹9,30,000/-

#### **IMPACT STATEMENT:**

This initiative has not only delivered measurable cost savings but has also enhanced the value proposition of MCCIA membership.

## 2. CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVE: EXPANDING HORIZONS THROUGH ACADEMIA-INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

### OBJECTIVE:

MCCIA's Cybersecurity Initiative aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry while cultivating a strong pipeline of cybersecurity talent.



### KEY ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

- *Guest Lecture and Club Inauguration – Marathwada College*
- *Awareness Session – AISSMS College of Engineering*
- *Cybersecurity Contest – Modern College, Ganeshkhind*
- *All-Women CTF Contest – Cummins College (with IITB TrustLab)*
- *Cybersecurity Club Engagement Program*

### STRATEGIC IMPACT:

These activities are strengthening the cybersecurity ecosystem in academia while fostering industry-readiness among students...

## 3. STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP NETWORKS: LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL CAPABILITY CENTRES (GCC) FORUM

### ABOUT THE GCC FORUM:

- Provides a structured yet informal space for GCC leaders to collaborate
- Fosters strategic dialogue, cross-industry learning, and policy advocacy
- Promotes Pune as a premier GCC destination

### VISION AND OBJECTIVES:

- Strengthen Pune's position as a hub for GCCs
- Drive job creation and talent development
- Encourage sustained industry collaboration and innovation

### INAUGURAL SESSION THEME:

"Pune as a Destination for GCCs: Challenges and Opportunities"

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- *Participation from 19 senior GCC leaders*
- *Dialogues on scaling infrastructure, talent availability, and policy support*
- *Consensus on the need for sustained collective engagement*

### LOOKING AHEAD:

- Quarterly Forum meetings planned
- Upcoming themes to include digital transformation, leadership models, and talent strategy

# ➤ SPORTS, MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE



➤ Chairperson: **Mr. Vikram Sathaye**  
Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Neeraj Thakur**

The Maharashtra Influencers Summit: 'होऊदे Viral' was envisioned as a first-of-its-kind platform in Maharashtra to bring together influencers, digital content creators, marketing experts, entrepreneurs, and brand strategists. With businesses, especially MSMEs and startups, increasingly relying on digital media to build visibility and trust, this summit aimed to decode the new rules of engagement in an algorithm-driven world. It also provided an open space to discuss emerging trends, ethical considerations, monetization models, and the role of local language content in creating viral impact.

## KEY THEMES DISCUSSED

The summit's agenda included panel discussions and individual sessions that covered:

- How to build successful content companies in an oversaturated digital space.
- Understanding social media metrics – reach vs. engagement, impressions vs. conversions.
- Brand and influencer collaborations – how partnerships are formed, evaluated, and sustained.
- The power of vernacular content and the rise of regional influencers in Tier II and III markets.
- Storytelling strategies for brands to resonate emotionally while maintaining authenticity.

## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS

The summit featured a diverse and influential group of speakers and panelists from across domains:

- Mr. Vikram Sathaye – Stand-up comic and cricket commentator
- Mr. Sunandan Lele – Senior sports journalist and content strategist
- Mr. Sarang Sathaye – Co-Founder, Bharatiya Digital Party
- Mr. Arun Prabhudesai – Founder, Trak.in and digital thought leader
- Ms. Swanandi Sardesai – Actor and digital content creator
- Ms. Ashwini Deshpande – Renowned graphic designer and brand strategist
- Mr. Anand Chordia – Innovation and sustainability evangelist
- Mr. Indraneel Chitale – Partner, Chitale Bandhu
- Mr. Amit Paranjape – Technology entrepreneur and columnist
- Mr. Pavan Waghulkar, Mr. Danny Pandit, Mr. Atharva Sudame, and Mr. Sooraj Khatavkar - Social Media Influencers.



#### IMPACT AND TAKEAWAYS

The Maharashtra Influencers Summit helped surface valuable insights and fostered meaningful connections between creators and industry leaders. Participants discussed:

- The need for greater digital literacy among businesses to leverage influencer marketing.
- Opportunities for co-creation between influencers and legacy brands.
- The importance of data-backed storytelling and performance analytics.
- The potential of hyper-local content and Marathi digital creators in building engaged communities.

#### FOSTERING B2B COLLABORATIONS: BRIDGING BRANDS AND CREATORS

Building on the momentum of the 'होके Viral' Influencers Summit, MCCIA furthered its commitment to practical collaboration by hosting dedicated B2B meetings. These follow-up sessions were designed to facilitate direct connections between businesses and the influencer community, bridging the gap between brands and creators or their managers. This strategic initiative was a direct response to the summit's discussions on the challenges and opportunities in influencer marketing. For the Chamber, this provided a tangible avenue for exploring new marketing strategies and forging meaningful partnerships, thereby actively driving impactful collaborations and accelerating the digital transformation of Maharashtra's business landscape. The aim was to ensure that the insights gained at the summit translated into actionable growth opportunities for its members and the broader business community.

# ➤ TRAVEL AND TOURISM COMMITTEE



➤ Chairperson: **Ms. Zelam Chaubal**  
Officer-in-Charge: **Mr. Mahesh Kabadi**

**E**stablished in 2024, MCCIA's Travel and Tourism Committee replace bridges - acts as a bridge between the travel industry and MSME community, aiming to unlock Pune and Maharashtra's tourism potential as a driver of regional growth. It raises awareness of tourism's role in economic development, from heritage promotion to infrastructure exploration. Key initiatives include experiential learning tours to ports, metro stations, and heritage sites, providing hands-on exposure to transport, urban planning, and logistics systems. By engaging with entrepreneurs, professionals, and students, the Committee positions tourism as a strategic sector linked to MSME growth, infrastructure education, and business engagement, fostering collaboration and promoting a holistic, inclusive economic ecosystem for the region.

## KEY ACTIVITIES

### 1. VISIT TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT TRUST (JNPT)

Two successful industrial visits to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) were organised on 13th December 2024 and 14th February 2025, each drawing over 40 enthusiastic participants. The tours primarily attracted professionals from logistics, operations, import-export, and purchase departments, providing them with a rare opportunity to witness the working of one of India's busiest and most critical maritime trade hubs. Participants gained valuable insights into port logistics, cargo handling, and the operational sequence of international trade facilitation. The visits significantly enhanced industry understanding of supply chain efficiency and the infrastructure that supports global commerce.



## 2. HERITAGE WALK – PUNE'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

A heritage walk was held on 17th August 2024, starting from the Pune Municipal Corporation. The Travel and Tourism Committee organised a heritage walk that began at the iconic Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) building and culminated at the renowned Kelkar Museum. This thoughtfully curated walk saw the participation of 18 distinguished individuals from Pune's civic and business communities, reflecting a strong interest in the city's cultural legacy. The objective of the walk was to promote greater tourism awareness among Punekars by spotlighting the city's architectural richness, historical landmarks, and cultural narratives that often go unnoticed in the hustle of urban life.

By walking through heritage sites and engaging with stories of Pune's past, participants experienced the city through a new lens—one rooted in pride and potential. The initiative successfully helped reposition Pune not merely as an industrial or IT hub, but as a city with vibrant cultural capital. It laid the groundwork for future efforts to promote cultural tourism and civic engagement.





### 3. STUDY VISIT TO SWARGATE METRO STATION

On 26th November 2024, the Travel and Tourism Committee organised a guided infrastructure tour of the Swargate Metro Station, one of the key nodes in Pune's expanding metro network. The tour was personally curated by Mr. T. Manoj Kumar Daniel, Deputy General Manager at Maha Metro, who provided in-depth insights into the technological innovations and urban planning strategies behind the metro system. Participants were taken through various operational facets, including station design, commuter flow, integration with other modes of transport, and sustainability features embedded in metro infrastructure. The tour was attended by entrepreneurs, professionals, and students keen to understand how such infrastructure shapes the future of urban mobility. The session not only highlighted the efficiency and potential of smart transport systems but also emphasised the role of public infrastructure in fostering inclusive and sustainable city planning. It served as a vital learning experience for stakeholders across sectors.





➤ Chairperson: **Ms. Manasi Bidkar**  
➤ Officer-in-Charge: **Ms. Sarika Damle**

**M**CCIA's Women Entrepreneurs Committee champions the growth of women-led enterprises through its Centre of Excellence for Women Entrepreneurs at the Tilak Road office. This dedicated hub offers tailored support, networking, and resources, alongside a purpose-built co-working space featuring cabins, cubicles, workstations, conference rooms, and a private POD for virtual meetings. So far, 22 women from diverse sectors—ranging from travel and law to manufacturing and digital marketing—have benefited from the facility. Beyond infrastructure, the Centre promotes sustainable growth, technology adoption, skills enhancement, and market access. In 2024–25, over 700 women entrepreneurs benefitted through its programmes, strengthening their competitiveness and fostering inclusive business ecosystems.

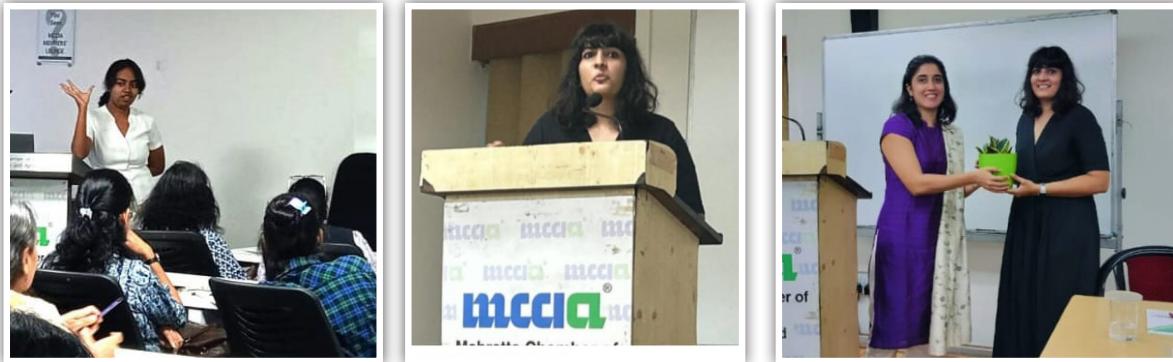
## KEY ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

### 1. ADVISORY AND MENTORSHIP SERVICES

The MCCIA Women Entrepreneur Committee organised expert-led mentorship to address key entrepreneurial needs. Ms. Nandita Khaire mentored 16 women on branding strategies tailored to diverse industries. Mr. Abhijit Mutha offered practical insights on social media and digital marketing, guiding 10 entrepreneurs on platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and Google Ads. Mr. Ayush Jain assisted 15 entrepreneurs in setting up their presence on various e-commerce platforms, while CA Nikita Oswal advised 5 entrepreneurs on relevant MSME schemes and financial incentives.

### 2. BUSINESS FACILITATION SERVICES

To ease operational challenges for women-led businesses, the Centre provided hands-on support for Udyam Registration, GeM (Government e-Marketplace) onboarding, and obtaining Importer Exporter Codes (IEC). Entrepreneurs also received guidance on navigating public tenders and safeguarding their innovations through Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). These facilitation services have empowered many women to access larger markets, participate in government procurement, and protect their business ideas more confidently.



### 3. CAPACITY BUILDING AND UPSKILLING

Recognising the importance of continuous learning, a range of training programmes were conducted. These covered essential business skills such as time management, Go-to-Market strategies, sales and marketing, PowerPoint presentations, and financial literacy. Special attention was given to food-based entrepreneurs through sessions on packaging, labeling, and regulatory compliance. A key highlight was a session on Food Fortification Regulations held on November 21, 2024, which addressed vital updates for food industry stakeholders.

### 4. NETWORKING AND EXPOSURE

Monthly networking events proved to be a vital platform for collaboration, attracting over 60 participants regularly. These gatherings featured interactive product showcases, allowing entrepreneurs to present their offerings and gain peer feedback. Dialogues with accomplished entrepreneurs inspired attendees through shared experiences and success stories. Additionally, curated industry visits to organisations like Sarvaay, Yashprabha Group, and Maha Metro Corporation offered first hand exposure to best practices and business models across sectors.

### 5. GOVERNMENT CONNECT AND ENGAGEMENT

On 17th February 2024, Ms. Anuja Bapat, Deputy CEO, Office of the Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, visited MCCIA and interacted with women entrepreneurs at the Centre of Excellence, discussing government schemes and engaging with participants' queries and insights.

Member of Parliament- Dr. Medha Kulkarni, interacted with MCCIA women entrepreneurs about the Government initiatives, challenges faced by women entrepreneurs. She appreciated the efforts of MCCIA CEWE to encourage entrepreneurship amongst Women, suggestions about infrastructure and policy level issues.

### 6. INDUSTRY VISITS

The MCCIA Centre of Excellence for Women Entrepreneurs (CEWE) organised impactful industry visits that showcased inspiring journeys of women leaders within its network. At Sarvaay, Dr. Madhavi Sardeshpande, a proud CEWE entrepreneur, shared how the Centre's support played a vital role in shaping her entrepreneurial path. Another significant visit was to Ms. Swati Ghaisas, Executive Director of Yashprabha Group and a dedicated committee member of MCCIA. MCCIA takes pride in celebrating such resilient and visionary entrepreneurs.



## **WOW SUMMIT 2025 – CELEBRATING WOMEN OF WORTH**

The Centre of Excellence for Women Entrepreneurs (CEWE), an initiative by MCCIA, successfully hosted its flagship Women of Worth (WOW) Summit on 6th March 2025 celebrating International Women's Day. The summit brought together over 100 women entrepreneurs, business leaders, and changemakers for a day of keynote sessions, panel discussions, networking, and exhibition. The event emphasised inclusive growth and strategic empowerment for women.

Ms. Manasi Bidkar delivered a keynote on AI and digital branding, followed by Ms. Nandita Khaire's session on resilience and hyper-local models. A thought-provoking panel, moderated by Ms. Leena Khandekar, featured Ms. Manjiri Oak and Ms. Chinmayee Sumeet, who shared personal journeys and insights. Ms. Deepa Katdare's industry session focused on quality and brand building. The product exhibition showcased innovations from women-led businesses, highlighting their creativity and impact. The WOW Summit celebrated leadership, collaboration, and entrepreneurship.

### **IMPACT AND OUTREACH**

- 700+ women entrepreneurs engaged through events and services
- Strong focus on mentorship, digital enablement, and ecosystem building
- Expanding reach through CEWE and new initiatives





## 1. HARNESSING THE FUTURE: MCCIA'S AI CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE FOR MSMES

In FY 2024–25, the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) launched a forward-looking Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiative to demystify AI for MSMEs and support its effective adoption. Recognising AI as an essential business tool rather than a distant innovation, MCCIA designed a multi-format learning platform to build awareness, enhance capabilities, and enable practical implementation for enterprises across Maharashtra.

At the core of the initiative were AI Boot Camps—hands-on training sessions conducted in multiple districts, tailored for MSMEs with little prior exposure to AI. Over 1,000 participants explored practical applications, including AI-driven customer engagement, generative AI for marketing, predictive analytics for supply chains, business process automation, and chatbot integration. Real-world case studies and live demonstrations showcased how AI could be adopted without major capital investment.

To sustain learning, MCCIA introduced Tech Talk, a virtual peer-learning forum where participants shared implementation experiences, sought guidance, and discussed challenges. This community approach encouraged collaboration and helped build a network of early AI adopters within the MSME sector.

The initiative also featured Tech Pe Charcha—interactive, dialogue-based sessions that brought together entrepreneurs, experts, and technologists to discuss AI's strategic, ethical, and practical dimensions. Topics ranged from AI's ROI to cybersecurity concerns, helping participants make informed decisions without technical jargon.

Through this initiative, MCCIA has positioned AI not just as a technology trend but as a strategic enabler for future-proofing businesses. By creating accessible, MSME-friendly pathways to AI adoption, the Chamber is helping enterprises move from awareness to action—driving smarter, faster, and more sustainable growth in the years ahead.



## 2. CAPABILITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (CBP)

**M**CCIA launched the Capability Building Programme (CBP) in 2022 to address competency gaps that hindered businesses from adapting to evolving industry demands and technological change. Conceived as a comprehensive upskilling initiative, CBP focuses on strengthening both individual employability and organisational readiness through targeted, industry-specific training.

Grounded in MCCIA's annual needs assessments and member feedback, the programme delivers skills directly aligned with operational and strategic challenges. It offers expert-led workshops, seminars, and hands-on sessions, with trainers selected for their domain expertise. The curriculum evolves annually to address current and anticipated industry requirements, ensuring continued relevance.

CBP serves companies of all sizes. For MSMEs, it provides affordable, practical training in areas like finance, operations, and marketing, enabling capacity-building without heavy HR infrastructure. For larger enterprises, it supports continuous improvement, leadership development, and innovation aligned with global benchmarks. This flexibility has made CBP a valuable platform for diverse industries at different stages of growth.

Now a flagship MCCIA initiative, CBP conducts around 90 programmes annually. Since inception, it has delivered 270+ curated sessions, trained over 9,000 individuals, and supported 1,400+ companies. Its sustained engagement across sectors underscores its role as a transformative force in workforce development.

By equipping businesses with future-ready skills, CBP has evolved from a targeted skilling intervention into a cornerstone of MCCIA's efforts to foster inclusive growth, competitiveness, and sustainable industrial development in the Pune region.

### CBP PERFORMANCE: FY 2024–25

- Unique Participants: **2,954**
- Total Footfall: **3,765**
- Unique Organisations Engaged: **462**
- Programmes Conducted: **90**

Among these, 378 MCCIA member organisations participated, showcasing strong engagement from the Chamber's existing network. Importantly, 87 non-member organisations also engaged with CBP this year, reflecting growing recognition of the programme's value and encouraging new organisations to consider formal MCCIA membership. This trend affirms CBP's strategic importance as a membership driver and business growth enabler.

Based on a multi-year participation analysis, MCCIA introduced the HR and IR domain in FY 2024–25 in response to member feedback and growing demand for structured human resource and industrial relations training.

The success, alongside the strong response to Saksham initiatives, confirms CBP's position as a central pillar of MCCIA's business enablement ecosystem.

The expansion into new domains reflects MCCIA's commitment to evolving with industry needs, supported by interactive, case-based learning formats to enhance engagement and practical problem-solving skills.

CBP is more than a training platform—it empowers organisations to adapt, grow, and thrive in a competitive economy. Entering FY 2025–26, MCCIA's vision is to position CBP as India's most impactful chamber-led capability development initiative, delivering measurable improvements in workforce quality, operational efficiency, and business innovation across Maharashtra and beyond.

Through CBP, MCCIA continues to evolve from being a conventional industry association to becoming a true partner in enterprise transformation.

#### **DOMAIN-WISE PARTICIPATION BREAKDOWN (FY 2024–25):**

Domain	Participants
● Personal Development	● 1,044
● Financial Literacy and Taxation	● 810
● Business Development	● 805
● Operational Skills	● 621
● HR and IR	● 231
● Strategy	● 283
● Technology	● 80

### **3. FAMILY BUSINESS FORUM**

The Family Business Forum at MCCIA continued its mission to empower and support family-run enterprises through curated events, sessions, and conclaves from April 2024 to March 2025. Under the convenership of Mr. Raman Nanda and coordination of Ms. Geeta Hosmane, the forum brought together thought leaders, experts, and professionals to share insights tailored to the unique dynamics of family businesses.

- The year began on 8th May 2024 with "Thinking of an IPO? Plan it Well" by Mr. Vivek Sadhale, covering strategic, legal, financial, and operational readiness for MSMEs considering public listing.
- On 27th May 2024, Dr. Parimal Merchant delivered a four-hour session on succession planning as a long-term strategic process, focusing on generational alignment, next-gen leadership, and legacy preservation.
- On 20th June 2024, "The Secrets of Thriving Family Businesses" by Mr. Arun Wakhlu emphasised integrating empathy, integrity, and purpose into leadership for harmony and growth.
- Mr. Aditya Jhunjhunwala on 8th July 2024 shared entrepreneurial mindset frameworks in "How to Achieve Your Dreams and Goals", blending personal aspirations with family values.
- On 29th July 2024, a fireside chat on "Talent Management in MSMEs" with Ms. Annada Ranade and Mr. Vikram



Puri, moderated by Mr. Nanda, discussed attracting and retaining skilled talent through effective PMS.

- On 21st August 2024, Mr. Nanda led "Scaling Up in a VUCA World", offering strategies for agility, innovation, and resilience in uncertain markets.
- Ms. Pallavi Salunke on 12th September 2024 addressed corporate governance in family businesses, highlighting transparency, compliance, and board accountability.
- On 23rd October 2024, "Leading with Love" by Dr. Ganesh Natarajan explored compassionate leadership's role in fostering trust, innovation, and performance.
- On 21st November 2024, Mr. Rajesh Kamath linked Chanakya's Eternal Wisdom to modern family business governance, stressing foresight, diplomacy, and long-term thinking.
- Mr. Prakash Iyer on 3rd December 2024 inspired a "Winning Mindset" through stories that promoted confidence, accountability, and perseverance.
- The highlight was the Family Business Conclave 2025 on 7th March 2025 at The Poona Club. Dr. Abhay Firodia, Chairman of Force Motors, inaugurated the event reflecting on the legacy and future of Indian family businesses.

The first panel, "Building Futuristic Family Businesses with Dual Intelligence – Outstanding Technology and High-Calibre People", chaired by Dr. Ganesh Natarajan, featured Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Padmaraje Patwardhan, Anand Chordia, and Vikram Puri, discussing technology-human capital synergy.

The second panel, "Ensuring Family Business Longevity through Effective Governance", chaired by Mr. Milon Nag, included Mr. Mukesh Malhotra, Mr. Jitendra Divgi, and Mr. Bharat Agrawal, sharing governance models for continuity and transparency.

Through these events, the Forum blended traditional wisdom with contemporary insights, addressed real-world challenges, and reinforced MCCIA's commitment to helping business families adapt, grow, and lead in a changing economy.





#### **4. EMPOWERING MSME LEADERS: MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (MDP)**

In 2024-25, MCCIA launched its first Management Development Programme (MDP) to empower MSME entrepreneurs and senior professionals with strategic, operational, and leadership skills. Designed as a capacity-building intervention, the programme addressed the unique challenges of small and medium enterprises in a rapidly changing business landscape. Conducted over 16 weekends (Nov 9, 2024–Mar 1, 2025), it enabled participants to learn without disrupting weekday operations. A distinguished faculty of industry veterans, domain experts, and consultants—many with IIM, XLRI, and SIMC backgrounds—brought decades of experience in mentoring and advising MSMEs, delivering an industry-focused curriculum to strengthen adaptability, innovation, and sustainable growth.

The curriculum was built around eight core themes that reflect the most pressing needs of MSMEs in the current economic climate. These were:

- **Marketing and Sales Strategies**

Exploring digital and offline customer acquisition techniques, branding, and market expansion.

- **Business Growth Strategies**

Addressing scaling challenges, competitive positioning, and business model innovation.

- **Human Resource Management**

Covering hiring, retention, employee engagement, and performance management.

- **Operations and Supply Chain Management**

Focusing on operational efficiency, cost optimisation, and vendor management.

- **Technology and Innovation**

Introducing tools for digitisation, automation, and technology adoption suited to MSME scale.

- **Financial Planning and Management**

Including cash flow analysis, budgeting, fundraising, and compliance with tax and regulatory frameworks.

- **Regulatory Compliance and Legal Aspects of Business**

Providing clarity on contract law, company law, statutory obligations, and risk mitigation.

- **Personality Development and Leadership Skills**

Developing communication skills, strategic thinking, and team leadership abilities.

Each session was designed to be interactive and application-oriented, encouraging participants to share real-life business challenges and receive actionable insights and feedback. Through case studies, peer learning, and group exercises, participants were encouraged to apply new concepts directly to their businesses.

### **PROGRAMME IMPACT: A SNAPSHOT**

The pilot batch, MDP Batch 1.0, saw strong participation with 8 modules over 16 Saturdays, representing 45 companies and 70 total participants (27 completing the full program). Attendees came from diverse sectors—manufacturing, food processing, technology, packaging, and healthcare—including first-generation entrepreneurs, family business members, and MSME leaders. The programme fostered strategic thinking, operational clarity, and actionable improvements, with many implementing changes to HR, marketing, and operations.

### **CELEBRATING COMMITMENT: CONVOCATION 2025**

Held on March 20, 2025, the Convocation recognised participant achievements. Mr. Deepak Karandikar, Immediate Past President of MCCIA, awarded completion certificates, celebrating the program's role in shaping visionary MSME leaders.

### **LOOKING AHEAD: SCALING IMPACT**

Building on this success, MCCIA will expand MDP with sector-specific programmes, advanced alumni modules, hybrid formats for wider reach, and custom corporate editions.

The MDP embodies MCCIA's commitment to inclusive growth, developing capable, confident leaders who can build agile, competitive, and sustainable enterprises. By prioritising learning and capability-building, it reinforces that transformation begins in collaborative spaces where knowledge is shared and leaders are nurtured.

## **5. RAMP INITIATIVE: MCCIA'S STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTION TO MSME EMPOWERMENT IN MAHARASHTRA**



Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of Maharashtra's economy, driving employment, innovation, and regional industrial growth. Despite their potential, MSMEs face challenges such as limited access to finance, delayed technology adoption, weak market linkages, and complex regulations. To address these issues, the Government of India launched the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, supported by the World Bank, which focuses on strengthening MSME capacity and resilience through outcome-based funding.

Approved by the Maharashtra Small Scale Industries Development Corporation (MSSIDC), MCCIA launched the RAMP initiative with a focused approach in Pune and adjoining districts.

During 2024-25, MCCIA impacted 11,932 MSMEs through diverse, practical programmes addressing finance, sustainability, marketing, food packaging, welding technology, industrial health and safety, GST compliance,

digital loans, licensing, GeM portal training, and communication skills. These domain-specific trainings were hands-on and business-centric, enabling MSMEs to apply knowledge immediately and improve operations. The inclusive approach ensured benefits for businesses of all sizes, sectors, and maturity levels.

A key highlight was the Anchor Vendor Development Program, which aligned MSMEs with large enterprises' procurement needs, enhancing their supplier capabilities. Training on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) improved digital onboarding and e-procurement skills, boosting MSME participation in public tenders. Workshops on Input Tax Credit (ITC) and GST demystified tax compliance, improving financial efficiency and cost control.

MCCIA's commitment to inclusivity was evident in participant demographics: 70% General Category, 20% OBC, 8% SC, and 2% ST. Women and SC/ST entrepreneurs received tailored mentoring, capital access assistance, and industry exposure through networking and site visits. Financial literacy programmes equipped MSMEs with skills to maintain healthy credit scores, understand balance sheets, and manage cash flows, crucial for sustainable growth.

Digital loan capacity-building helped MSMEs adopt online financing processes, improving loan approval chances. Technical audits and self-assessment trainings encouraged internal operational improvements and adoption of socially responsible, sustainable practices aligned with ESG norms.

Recognising evolving market demands, MCCIA partnered with vocational institutions for workforce upskilling and reskilling, covering digital literacy, leadership, soft skills, operational safety, financial analytics, and marketing strategy—enhancing MSME agility and competitiveness.

MCCIA's tailored, community-focused approach, leveraging strong industry and government linkages, ensured seamless RAMP implementation with measurable outcomes. Reaching nearly 12,000 MSMEs in under a year, MCCIA's work under RAMP has built a foundation for long-term MSME growth, equipping them to innovate, scale, and compete globally. Through initiatives like RAMP, MCCIA reaffirms its commitment to Maharashtra's MSMEs as leaders of inclusive, sustainable industrial development.

## 6. SAKSHAM: ENABLING INCLUSIVE AND AFFORDABLE CAPABILITY BUILDING

**A** key enabler of MCCIA's inclusive capacity-building strategy is the Saksham initiative, designed to make professional development affordable for businesses with limited financial resources. Meaning "capable" in Hindi and Marathi, Saksham aims to empower micro and small enterprises, especially those with turnovers under ₹5 crores, by providing access to structured upskilling programmes that many otherwise cannot afford.

Saksham operates as a coupon-based subsidy model under the Capability Building Programme (CBP). Eligible companies receive training coupons worth ₹20,000, redeemable against a curated list of workshops, seminars, and training sessions throughout the year. Each coupon covers participation in at least 10 professional programmes, either free or heavily subsidised, lowering barriers and fostering a culture of continuous learning in organisations with limited HR infrastructure.

In FY 2024–25, 25 Saksham coupons were utilised, with 204 coupons specifically supporting CBP participation, benefiting 70 unique micro and small enterprises, many new to MCCIA programmes. The initiative also contributed to 182 new memberships, highlighting its role in community building within the Chamber.

To further support long-term skilling, MCCIA introduced a subscription-based Saksham model offering flexible coupon packages of 10, 40, and 80 coupons tailored to workforce size and training goals. This tiered system helps MSMEs and larger enterprises plan annual training strategically, integrating skill development into core operations.

More than a subsidy, Saksham embodies MCCIA's mission of inclusive industrial growth by removing financial and logistical barriers, empowering businesses to pursue structured development and fostering a resilient, equitable regional economy.



## 7. EMPOWERING THE CREATOR ECONOMY: LAUNCH OF MCCIA'S AUDIO/VISUAL STUDIO ROOM

In a landmark move embracing the digital era, MCCIA launched its Audio/Visual Studio Room—an initiative born from its 2024 summit on digital transformation and innovation. Recognising the rising creator economy, driven by content creators, influencers, and micro-entrepreneurs across platforms like YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn, MCCIA sought to provide affordable, professional production facilities to support this growing sector in Pune.

The creator economy is no longer limited to entertainment; creators are educators, marketers, entrepreneurs, and brand-builders. Yet, many independent creators, MSMEs, and startups struggled to access quality recording and production spaces due to high costs. MCCIA's Studio Room addresses this gap by offering state-of-the-art audio and video recording equipment, soundproof interiors, a flexible green screen setup, basic editing tools, and dedicated support from MCCIA's media services team.

The Studio Room is available not only to MCCIA member companies but also to solo entrepreneurs, trainers, artists, and professionals leveraging digital media for outreach. This initiative symbolises MCCIA's commitment to supporting new-age businesses and hybrid professionals who drive economic growth through digital content creation.

Since its launch, the Studio has attracted creators from education, food processing, coaching, consulting, and D2C sectors, enabling them to produce high-quality content that enhances brand perception and broadens audience reach.

More than a facility, the MCCIA Audio/Visual Studio Room represents institutional agility and future-readiness, reflecting the Chamber's dedication to evolving alongside the diverse needs of its membership and the shifting digital economy. It is a strategic step in building a creative infrastructure ecosystem that fosters innovation, visibility, and storytelling within Maharashtra's MSME and startup community.

## 8. MCCIA SUSTAINABILITY DESK: ENABLING LONG-TERM VALUE CREATION FOR ENTERPRISES

The Chamber continued its commitment to sustainability in 2024–25 through its dedicated Sustainability Desk, supporting small and large enterprises in implementing actions that enhance people, planet, and profit. The Desk provided strategic guidance on global sustainability alignment, market access, business continuity, operational risk management, and growth opportunities. Cross-functional capacity building helped enterprises adapt to shifting market dynamics, evolving regulations, and resource pressures, embedding sustainability into core business strategies.

Under the Government of India's Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, MCCIA conducted a series of specialised workshops—"Growing Your Business Through Sustainability and

Digitisation"—for MSMEs across 18 districts of Maharashtra. Covering sustainability and digital transformation, the workshops trained 1,450 participants in energy efficiency, waste reduction, water conservation, recycling, regulatory compliance, IoT-based production monitoring, predictive maintenance, energy tracking tools, and productivity enhancement. Sessions also covered ZED certification, lean processes, green energy adoption, and audit optimisation, enabling participants to define growth plans and improve internal audit readiness.



#### **MAPPING SUSTAINABILITY QUOTIENT: A PRACTICAL APPROACH FOR MSMES**

Building on RAMP's success, MCCIA launched a diagnostic initiative to help MSMEs measure and improve their sustainability quotient, better preparing them for customer audits and new business opportunities. Three core services were offered:

1. Walk-in Energy Audit – Tracked energy use and recommended efficiency improvements.
2. Walk-in Sustainability Audit – Assessed waste reduction, water recycling, supply chain efficiency, workplace safety, and readiness for sustainable technology.
3. Digitisation Readiness Study – Evaluated digital maturity and proposed solutions for energy monitoring, IoT production tracking, predictive maintenance, and productivity tools.

These services were designed for MSMEs in Maharashtra, with partial MCCIA funding ensuring affordability.

#### **BENEFITS DELIVERED**

In the initial phase, 19 companies underwent assessments, with many implementing expert recommendations immediately, resulting into potential cost savings and operational improvements.

MCCIA's sustainability initiatives have moved decisively from advocacy to action. By combining awareness-building, practical diagnostics, and subsidised implementation support, the Chamber enabled MSMEs to integrate sustainability and digital transformation into their operations. In doing so, it is helping them contribute meaningfully to India's net-zero emissions target for 2070—building enterprises that are resilient, competitive, and future-ready.



## 1. MCCIA ANNUAL AWARDS 2024

The Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture (MCCIA) held its 77th Annual Awards Ceremony on February 25, 2025, celebrating excellence in industry, entrepreneurship and social development. The event honoured achievements across ten categories, including Innovation, Women Entrepreneurship, Defence MSMEs, Corporate Social Responsibility, Green Initiatives, agri business, Family Business, Sustainability, and Export Excellence, reflecting evolving industry priorities.

A highlight was the prestigious G.S. Parkhe Industrial Merit Awards, Recognising innovation in product design and manufacturing since MCCIA's inception. MCCIA President Sanjay Kirloskar emphasised the importance of sustainable, inclusive growth and nurturing future leadership. Director General Prashant Girbane shared insights into the rigorous selection process involving over 200 applications and thanked the expert jury. He noted the awards foster an ecosystem valuing merit, innovation, and resilience beyond mere recognition.

The MCCIA Annual Awards 2024 not only celebrated individual brilliance but also painted a broader picture of India's vibrant and evolving industrial landscape. With each recipient, the ceremony highlighted stories of perseverance, ingenuity, and impact. From pioneering tech-driven solutions to sustainable agri-business practices and socially conscious initiatives, the winners represented the very best of what Indian enterprise has to offer.

The Chamber reaffirmed its commitment to identifying, Recognising, and supporting organisations and individuals that strive for excellence, innovate fearlessly, and contribute meaningfully to society. The awards serve as both a benchmark and an inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs and established businesses alike.

As MCCIA looks ahead to its centenary decade, such platforms for recognition and encouragement will continue to play a vital role in nurturing innovation, sustainable development, and inclusive growth.

Include Table of winners



#### AWARD FOR NEW PRODUCTS AND DESIGN:

(INSTITUTED IN THE MEMORY OF LATE MR. HARI JOSHI AND LATE MRS. MALINI JOSHI)

Organisation Details	Organisation Representative	Product and Services	Award Details
<b>Climber Systems</b>	Ms. Ujwala Anil Gosavi	Climber Millet Mill (DeHusking of All Minor Millets)	Joint Winner Trophy, Medal, Certificate
<b>Rut3 Engineering Private Limited</b>	Mitesh Rasal	Damsus Suspension Wheels	Joint Winner Trophy, Medal, Certificate





# LIST OF WINNERS FOR THE YEAR 2024 IS APPENDED BELOW

## AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP (INSTITUTED IN THE MEMORY OF LATE MR. G. S. PARKHE)

### Panelists:

- **Mr. Ravindra R. Bam**, Director, Saj Trimmings Pvt. Ltd
- **Mr. Anand Bam**, MD, Package Systems India Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. V.K. Mahajan**, MD, Uni-Automation Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Sanjay Joshi**, Former MD, Jinku Radiators Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Yatin Tambe**, MD, Friction Welding Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Ram Jogdand**, MD, Ramelex Pvt. Ltd.
- **Ms. Manasi Bidkar**, Director, Melux Control Gears Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Sunil Bhave**, MICO Consulting
- **Mr. Rajesh Kulkarni**, CEO, Eartcare Equipments P. Ltd.
- **Mr. Satish Joshi**, Associate Director, MCCIA

Organisation Details	Organisation Representative	Product and Services	Award Details
<b>Pratham Technologies Private Limited</b>	Mr. Datta Deshpande	Paper folding machine for package insert	Winner - Trophy, Medal, Certificate
<b>Futura Apsol Private Limited</b>	Mr. Girish Ranade	Harness Assembly Aid with Pull HAAP	Certificate of Appreciation - Medal, Certificate
<b>Gurudatta CNC</b>	Mr. Pravin Jagtap	Customized Budgetary CNC Machine Manufacturing	Certificate of Appreciation - Medal, Certificate

## AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP (INSTITUTED IN THE MEMORY OF LATE MR. G. S. PARKHE) CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Organisation Details	Organisation Representative	Product and Services	Award Details
<b>TransTrak Tractors LLP</b>	Anil Dhone	Ultra Narrow Farm Transforming Tractor	Winner Medal, Certificate
<b>AIUNIKA</b>	Mr. Rahul A	RASTA AI	Certificate of Appreciation - Medal, Certificate

### AWARD FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS:

(INSTITUTED IN THE MEMORY OF LATE MRS. RAMABAI JOSHI)

Organisation Details	Organisation Representative	Product and Services	Award Details
<b>Teanscento Decor</b>	Ms. Vinda Bal	Home and office decor products made from recycled industrial pallet wood	Joint Winner Trophy, Medal, Certificate
<b>Nirav Bio Solutions</b>	Ms. Vaishali Sharma	Research Lab in Life Science	Joint Winner Trophy, Medal, Certificate

### AWARD FOR MSMES IN DEFENCE PRODUCTION

(INSTITUTED BY BRIG S B GHORPADE)

#### Panelists:

- **Mr. Mahesh Phadke**, Chairman, MCCIA-Defence Committee
- **Dr Vishwas Udpikar**, Director, Wavelet Technologies Pvt Ltd
- **Mr. Harshavardhan Gune**, COE, IEC Airtools Pvt Ltd
- **Mr. Varun Khandare**, Director, SRGF Strategic Research Growth Foundation
- **Mr. Prashant V. Jogalekar**, Director, MCCIA

Organisation Details	Organisation Representative	Product and Services	Award
<b>Sthenos Composites</b>	Sanjog Jain	CFRP Composites using prepeg molding vaccum infusion process	Winner - Trophy, Medal, Certificate
<b>Pacific Mechatronics Private Limited</b>	Mr Prashant Deshpande	Stray Voltage tester for SU 30 Aircraft	Certificate of Appreciation - Medal, Certificate
<b>Manastu Space Technologies</b>	Tushar Jadhav	Green Propulsion system	Certificate of Appreciation For Start-UP - Medal, Certificate



**Panelists:**

- Mr. Lalit Kumar Pahwa, MD, Pahwa Metaltech Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Vishwas Mahajan, 3. Mr. Vishwas Mahajan, Chairman Incubation and Startup Committee
- Mr. Omprakash Pethe, MD, Exponential Engineering Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Sandeep Pawar, MD and CEO, KENT Intelligent Transportation Systems India Pvt. Ltd
- Mr. Sudhanwa Kopardekar, Director MCCIA

Organisation Details	Organisation Representative	Product and Services	Award Details
<b>APPL Industries Ltd.</b>	Mr. Inder Jain	Polymer Compound	Winner - Trophy, Medal, Certificate

**AWARD UNDER CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

(INSTITUTED IN THE MEMORY OF LATE MR. B. G. DESHMUKH (IAS))

**Panelists:**

- Mr. Sanjay Kirloskar, President, MCCIA
- Mr. Deepak Karandikar, Past President MCCIA
- Mr. Pradeep Bhargava, Past President MCCIA
- Mrs. Sonali Deshpande, Chief Trustee and Chairperson Persistent Foundation
- Ms. Seemantinee Khot – Senior Evaluation Expert FAO / UN
- Ms. Arnabi Marjit, HR Head Lupin Ltd.
- Ms. Anuja Deshpande, Deputy Director MCCIA

Organisation Details	Organisation Representative	Product and Services	Award Details
<b>Allcargo Logistics Limited</b>	Mr. Chandrakant Patil	NVOCC   Air Freight & ILS   Contract Logistics   Logistics Park   CFS & ICD   Express Logistics	Winner - Trophy, Medal, Certificate



**MCCIA AWARD FOR -BEST AGRI-BASED OR DAIRY/FOOD PROCESSING BUSINESS PRACTICES  
(INSTITUTED IN THE MEMORY OF LATE. SHRI B. G. CHITALE AWARD)**

**Panelists:**

- Mr. Girish Chitale
- Mr. D. V. Shukla, Agri and Food Consultant
- Ms. Smita Murthi, Agri and Food Consultant
- Mr. Santosh Devkate, NAFARI
- Mr. Shantanu Jagtap, Associate Director and Mr. Tejas Narute, MCCIA Agriculture Div.
- Mr. Prashant Jogalekar, Director MCCIA
- Mr. Tejas Narute, Deputy Director, MCCIA

Organisation Details	Organisation Representative	Product and Services	Award Details
<b>Purandar Highland</b>	Mr. Rohan Ursal, Director	Farmer Producing Company	Winner Trophy, Medal, Certificate
<b>Festifood Treats P. Ltd.</b>	Ms. Pushpa Patil	Frozen Modak	Certificate of Appreciation

**MCCIA AWARD FOR GREEN INITIATIVES IN MAHARASHTRA  
(INSTITUTED IN THE MEMORY OF LATE. DR. R J RATHI)**

**Panelists:**

- Dr. Sanjeevani Gogawale, Sustainability Expert and Founder at Zen International Systems
- Mr. Prashant Pednekar, Industrial Sustainability Expert and Consultant
- Mr Sudhanwa Kopardekar, Director MCCIA

Organisation Details	Organisation Representative	Product and Services	Award Details
<b>Maurya Industries</b>	Shri Maruti Patil	Machined Casting Segment	Winner Trophy, Medal, Certificate



### MCCIA S L KIRLOSKAR EXPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD

#### Panelists:

- Mr. P. C. Nambiar, Chairman Foreign Trade Committee, MCCIA and Director - Group(EXIM)
- Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Sudhanwa Kopardekar, Director MCCIA

Organisation Details	Organisation Representative	Product and Services	Award Details
<b>Autocomp Corporation Pvt. Ltd.</b>	Ranjit Panse, Director	Seating System with full design capability, complex chassis and body-in-white parts & assemblies. Export to 4 regions globally	Winner Trophy, Medal, Certificate

### MCCIA AWARD FOR SUSTAINABILITY

(INSTITUTED BY KPIT TECHNOLOGIES LTD.)

#### Panelists:

- Mr. Gurudas Nulkar, Professor and Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune.
- Ms. Manasi Karandikar, Founder and Managing Partner
- oikos for ecological services
- Mr. Sudhanwa Kopardekar, Director MCCIA

Organisation Details	Organisation Representative	Trophy, Medal, Certificate
<b>Birlasoft Ltd.</b>	Santosh Komawar	Winner Trophy, Medal, Certificate



## 2. PUNE DISTRICT INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

### PUNE DISTRICT INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

Date: **12 March 2025**

Venue: **Bajaj Gallery, MCCIA, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune**

Organised by: **Directorate of Industries, Government of Maharashtra**

The Pune District Investment Summit 2025, organised by the Directorate of Industries, Government of Maharashtra brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and entrepreneurs to accelerate industrial growth and investment.

Opening the summit, Mr. Shailesh Rajput, Joint Director of Industries (Pune Region), announced 172 MoUs across manufacturing and service sectors, securing over ₹7,000 crore in investments and generating 45,000+ jobs in IT, electronics, textiles, and micro enterprises. He highlighted Ease of Doing Business reforms, Pune's export growth to ₹1 lakh crore (10% rise over last year), and the potential of the electric vehicle sector.

Mr. Vikrant Bagade, Executive Director, Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, emphasised collaborative entrepreneurship and MCED's role in mentoring and upskilling. Mr. Prashant Girbane, Director General, MCCIA, noted the signing of 40 MoUs at the event (₹50 lakh–₹140 crore each), reaffirming Pune's role as an economic driver. Mr. Jitendra Dudi (IAS), District Collector Pune, suggested a unified Mumbai–Pune industrial corridor and outlined MAITRI 2.0's real-time services. Dr. Chandrakant Pulkundwar (IAS), Divisional Commissioner, stressed infrastructure expansion, social security for businesses, and developmental control regulations, referencing the Pune International Airport airstrip.

### PANEL DISCUSSIONS

#### PANEL 1 – REGULATORY ECOSYSTEM

The session featured:

- Mr. Umesh Patil (MAITRI): grievance resolution, incentive calculators.
- Ms. Archana Pathare and Mr. Sachin Baravkar (MIDC): enterprise support services.
- Mr. Abhay Gite (Labour Dept): Shop Act updates, welfare schemes for labourers' children.
- Mr. Nagesh Dukare (India Post): Dak Niryat Kendra, parcel movement, customs/GST integration.
- Mr. Ravindra Choudhari (Ranjangaon Industries Association): Ease of Living alongside Ease of Doing Business.

Moderated by Mr. Sudhanwa Kopardekar (MCCIA)



#### **PANEL 2 – GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR MSMES**

Speakers highlighted MSMEs' 30% GDP share, 40% workforce contribution, and 20% women leadership. Ms. Chandra Vadana (SIDBI) and Mr. Vivek Nirvaneshwar (IDBI Capital) detailed capital-linked subsidies, GIFT Scheme, defence funding, MITDF, and SC/ST entrepreneur support. Ms. Uma Iyer (New India Assurance) presented the Udyam Vima and Mahila Udyam Vima policies. Mr. Patil urged full utilisation of schemes.

Moderated by Mr. Prashant Jogalekar (MCCIA)

#### **PANEL 3 – SOLAR ENERGY IN MAHARASHTRA**

Led by Mr. Deepak Karandikar, with experts Dr. Santosh Patni (MSEDCL) and Mr. Shashikant Wake (MSMA), the panel examined rooftop solar, Green Energy Open Access, net metering, and adoption in residential, Industrial and agricultural sectors. Simplification measures by MSEDCL and MSME adoption strategies were discussed.

#### **PANEL 4 – ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND HYDROGEN MOBILITY**

Moderated by Mr. Raman Nanda (MCCIA), Mr. Sushil Kavathekar (Tata Motors) and Dr. Dadasaheb Shendge (H2E Power Systems) projected 20%+ EV sector growth, explored hydrogen's role in mobility, and discussed battery tech, infrastructure, and policy frameworks.

#### **PANEL 5 – WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**

Moderated by Ms. Nandita Khaire (MCCIA), Ms. Mrunal Patil, Ms. Swati Ghaisas, and Ms. Maitreyee Kamble shared experiences on Government Schemes, supply chain, digitisation, skilled workforce, and manufacturing expansion. Challenges for women entrepreneurs—finance access, asset ownership barriers—were addressed.

Ms. Archana Kothari (District Industries Centre) summarised the summit's key takeaways and thanked stakeholders. The event concluded with strong commitments to investment, innovation, and inclusive growth, reinforcing Pune's status as a premier industrial and economic hub in Maharashtra.

### **3. PUNE EXPO 2024**

**Dates: 13–15 December 2024**

**Venue: Auto Cluster, Chinchwad, Pune**

Pune Expo 2024, organised by MCCIA, was a landmark three-day platform uniting industry, government, and innovators. With 170 stalls from 125 exhibitors across Engineering, Defence, IT, IoT, Artificial Intelligence, and Industrial Safety, the event showcased cutting-edge technologies, startup solutions, and MSME capabilities. The Expo facilitated high-impact networking, collaborations, and policy dialogue, with concurrent sessions addressing digital transformation, sustainability, industrial safety, and defence innovation.



## INAUGURAL SESSION

MCCIA Director General Mr. Prashant Girbane delivered the opening remarks, emphasising Pune's leadership in engineering exports and the event's role in capacity building for MSMEs. Distinguished speakers included Mr. Deepak Karandikar, Mr. Shekhar Singh (IAS), Mr. Sanjay Giri, Mr. Rajendra Nimbalkar (IAS), and Mr. George Verghese.

Mr. Singh detailed infrastructure initiatives like the Ring Road, Metro expansion, and "Lighthouse Initiative – Kaushalyam" to skill 1.5 lakh youth, urging MSMEs to adopt green energy.

Mr. Giri discussed AI-driven workplace safety and preventive maintenance.

Mr. Nimbalkar outlined MSME-focused programmes under the RAMP Scheme.

Mr. Verghese highlighted sustainability and innovation in industry transformation.

## KEY THEMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

**AI and IoT in Manufacturing:** Speakers Mr. Nitin Gokhale, Mr. Shirish Kulkarni, Mr. Abhijit Deogirikar, and Ms. Sujata Tilak showcased AI-enabled product inspection, predictive maintenance, and phased IoT adoption for MSMEs, stressing human-centric digitalisation and industry-academia collaboration.

**Industrial Safety:** Experts Mr. Milind Ogale, Mr. Nitin Suryavanshi, and Mr. Sanjay Giri outlined regulatory changes—IoT-enabled fire safety, updates to Central Electrical Regulations 2023, and proactive compliance under the Factories Act—urging regular training and technology adoption.

**Sustainability Dialogue:** Chaired by Mr. Pradeep Bhargava, with contributions from Mr. Kedar Rele, Mr. Sandesh Salian, Ms. Mayura Bhusari, and Mr. Vijay Sonawane, the session addressed clean mobility, circular economy, hydrogen-blend generators, and low-carbon sourcing. A fireside chat between Mr. Shekhar Singh and Mr. Siddharth Desai explored water security, recycling, and industrial efficiency.

**Defence and Technology Innovation:** Anchored by MCCIA's Defence Committee, the session called for Technology Development Centres, higher DRDO project funding, and early-stage industry-defence collaboration. Cmde Jilet Koshy outlined the Regional Technology Node's role, while Mr. Jitendra Divgi, Mr. Abhijeet Inamdar, and Mr. Varun Khandare discussed deep-tech innovation, UAV propulsion, and global best practices.

**Government e-Marketplace (GeM):** Mr. Vishal Kapil and Mr. Harish Pal highlighted GeM's ₹11 lakh crore GMV, MSME inclusion in procurement, AI-enabled vendor support, and MCCIA's role in sensitising MSMEs across Maharashtra about GeM framework.

**Solar Energy for MSMEs:** Chaired by Mr. Deepak Karandikar, the panel with Mr. Nilesh Rohankar, Mr. Avinash Gawade, Mr. Jay Marve, Mr. Anant Shilarkar, and Mr. Anup Das covered Open Access policies, PM Kusum scheme, SIDBI's green finance, and regulatory reforms, recognising MCCIA's advocacy in accelerating clean energy adoption.

## 1. AUTO CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ACDRI)

The Auto Cluster Development and Research Institute (ACDRI), established in 2006–07, is a flagship initiative under the Government of India's Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS). Spearheaded by the MCCIA, and supported by the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) and the Government of Maharashtra, the institute has played a pivotal role in supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the automotive and engineering sectors.

### PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS (FY 2024–25)

#### A) COMMERCIAL GROWTH

Overall, the institution recorded a 13% increase in surplus, contributing to long-term sustainability and reinvestment into infrastructure and capability building.

#### B) CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

The institute recorded a 20% YoY growth in its MSME clientele, with 91% of the clients drawn from the automotive and engineering sectors. This underlines ACDRI's niche positioning and continued relevance to its core target groups.

#### C) EXHIBITION BUSINESS

In FY 2024–25, ACDRI organised over 25 exhibitions across domains such as electric vehicles (EVs), core engineering, automotive components, and Defence manufacturing. These events offered a vital platform for MSMEs to explore emerging technologies, network with buyers and investors, and enhance visibility in competitive markets.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

#### A) INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Responding to the evolving needs of the mobility sector, ACDRI inaugurated a new EV Test Lab during the year. This facility is aimed at supporting the validation and certification of electric vehicle components, aligning with India's decarbonisation goals. Additionally, the institute launched a state-of-the-art Welding Training Center to address skill gaps in critical manufacturing processes.

#### B) SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Over 100 welders were trained in 2024–25 through hands-on, industry-oriented programmes. The institute now plans to scale up this initiative to reach over 1,000 trainees annually. Furthermore, ACDRI signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 25+ universities, ITIs, and engineering colleges to foster deeper academia-industry collaboration.

#### C) STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

The incubator supports early-stage entrepreneurs with mentoring, prototyping infrastructure, and access to test labs. To date, ACDRI has incubated over 70 startups, with 13 currently active. These startups, engaged in fields such as drone technology, renewable energy, app-based logistics, environmental protection, EV technologies, and auto components, have collectively generated more than ₹25 crore in revenue and created 287 jobs. Under the leadership of Mr. Kiran Vaidya, Managing Director – ACDRI, the institute continues to evolve as a critical partner for the region's industrial growth. Its integrated approach—combining infrastructure, innovation, and incubation—makes ACDRI a model for MSME-driven industrial development.

## 2. MCCIA ELECTRONIC CLUSTER FOUNDATION (MECF)

The MCCIA Electronic Cluster Foundation (MECF) is a key initiative of the chamber aimed at developing a robust ecosystem for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) in Pune and the surrounding region. The Foundation has been established with substantial support from the Government of India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) through a Grant-in-Aid scheme, and financial assistance from the Government of Maharashtra via MIDC.

MECF is home to a state-of-the-art Brownfield ESDM Common Facility Centre (CFC) located in Bhosari. The Common Facility Centre offers shared infrastructure and services to electronics, providing access to advanced tools, reduced turnaround times, and significant cost efficiencies—especially beneficial to startups, MSMEs, and innovation-driven enterprises in the ESDM domain. As of March 2025, MECF has received committed grants totaling ₹56.70 crores, comprising ₹50 crores from MeitY and ₹6.70 crores from the Government of Maharashtra. These funds have enabled the successful establishment and full operationalization of all four planned verticals:

- Design Centre
- Test and Certification Lab
- EMI/EMC Testing Centre
- Prototyping and Manufacturing Support

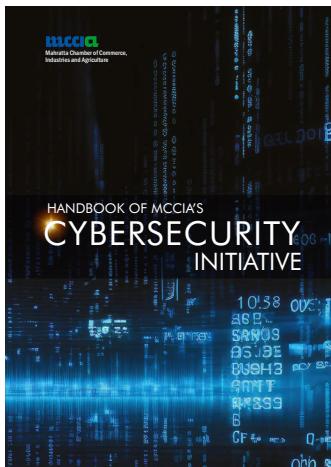
The most recent addition, the Design Centre, was launched this year, completing the envisioned infrastructure portfolio. Two of the most critical verticals—Test and Certification and EMI/EMC Testing—have now received National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation, significantly enhancing the quality, trust, and market acceptance of services offered by MECF.

During FY 2024–25, MECF delivered over 1,150 technical services to more than 130 unique clients, including MSMEs, large enterprises, and product innovators. This volume of service delivery is a testament to MECF's growing role as a strategic enabler for electronics businesses in the region. The Centre has been instrumental in reducing development and certification cycles for numerous electronic products, supporting time-to-market goals, and facilitating compliance with Indian and global standards.

MECF's contribution extends beyond infrastructure and services. By embedding itself into the region's industrial growth story, MECF is directly aligned with MCCIA's mission to promote technology-led manufacturing excellence. It plays a vital role in strengthening Pune's competitiveness in the high-value ESDM space, attracting new investments, and encouraging indigenous innovation. Furthermore, MECF is forging linkages with academia, startups, and research organisations to foster collaborative development and skill advancement in the electronics sector. This ensures a long-term, sustainable impact on employment generation, industrial capability, and export potential from the Pune region.

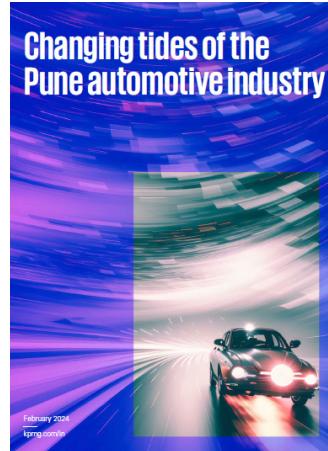
In sum, the MCCIA Electronic Cluster Foundation represents a significant leap forward in creating world-class infrastructure for the electronics sector in Maharashtra. It is not only boosting the productivity and reliability of local industries but also contributing meaningfully to MCCIA's larger vision of building a future-ready, innovation-driven industrial ecosystem.

# ➤ PUBLICATIONS



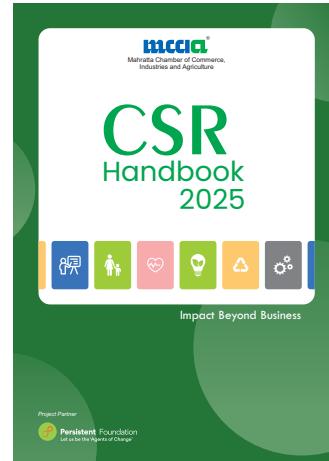
## MCCIA HANDBOOK OF CYBER SECURITY

The MCCIA Handbook of Cyber security outlines Pune's roadmap to becoming a cyber security hub through education, business facilitation, and global partnerships. It emphasises skill development, MSME readiness, startup incubation, and public awareness, aiming to unite academia, industry, and government in building resilience, innovation, and collaborative Defence against evolving digital threats.



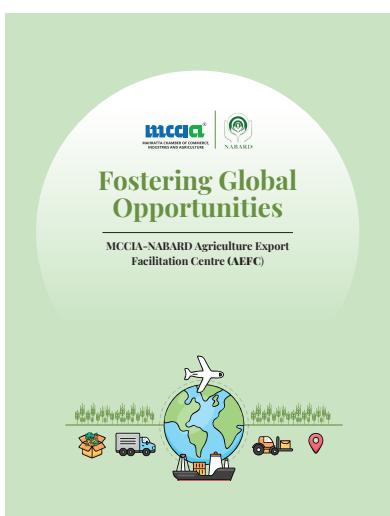
## CHANGING TIDES OF THE PUNE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

The MCCIA-KPMG "Changing Tides of the Pune Automotive Industry" report maps Pune's transformation amid EV adoption, alternative fuels, localisation, and emerging technologies. It highlights MSME challenges and proposes "Auto Cluster 2.0" to boost R&D, prototyping, and market access, ensuring the city's continued leadership in India's evolving mobility landscape.



## CSR HANDBOOK 2025

This handbook presents global best practices, frameworks, and case studies in CSR, highlighting both the "how" and the "why" of responsible business. Its directory connects businesses, nonprofits, and stakeholders, offering curated resources and partners to drive meaningful social and environmental impact towards a sustainable future.



## THE AGRICULTURAL EXPORT FACILITATION CENTRE (AEFC)

Since its inception, the Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre (AEFC) has championed capacity building, market intelligence, and export promotion. By offering training programmes, research insights, and infrastructure support, AEFC has enabled farmers and agri-enterprises to access global markets and secure better returns. This publication highlights our collective achievements, impact stories, and progress in strengthening agricultural exports, reflecting our commitment to empowering farmers, fostering sustainability, and contributing meaningfully to India's economic growth.

# ➤ PUBLICATIONS



## SAMPADA

Sampada, MCCIA's monthly magazine, served as a dynamic platform for thought leadership and sectoral insights in 2024–25. With themes ranging from Industry-Academia collaboration, Cyber security, and Sustainability to Electronics Manufacturing, Defence Self-Reliance, and Agri-Trade, each issue featured contributions from industry leaders, policymakers, and experts. Later editions explored Government Schemes for growth of MSMEs, CSR evolution, AI's transformative potential, and women's leadership, concluding with globalisation stories of Indian enterprises. These curated themes reflected pressing business, policy, and innovation trends, offering multidimensional perspectives. Throughout the year, Sampada strengthened MCCIA's role as a catalyst for knowledge exchange, strategic foresight, and stakeholder engagement, reinforcing Pune's position in India's industrial and economic landscape while inspiring collaboration, innovation, and forward-looking dialogue across diverse sectors.







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