



Confederation of Indian Industry

# IPR Issues with Respect to Manufacturing Sector



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# Acknowledgement

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We are grateful to Dr Naushad Forbes, Past President CII, Chairman, CII National Committee on Intellectual Property and Co - Chairman, Forbes Marshall for his guidance and encouragement during the writing of this book.

The idea of the report was conceived by Mr Satish Reddy, Chairman, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, during the CII Mission to S Korea in April 2023, on the subjects of Innovation and IP. It draws inspiration from Mr Satish Reddy's thoughts that India needs to identify key imperatives, challenges, drivers and opportunities in the IP strategies for the Manufacturing sector. We would like to thank Mr Reddy for his thought leadership.

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This is the 1st edition of book, and it comes to its final published form after a series of internal reviews and discussions. CII would like to specifically acknowledge the contributions of its members - Dr Vishal Anand, Head of Intellectual Property, Reliance Industries Limited; Ms Sanjit Kaur Batra, Group Vice President, Legal & Legal Head India, Cummins India Limited; Mr Harshit Singla, Legal & Secretarial- Intellectual Property Division, Honda Motors Limited; Mr Ronak Madhani, Sr Manager, Intellectual Property, Ceat Tyres , who worked with Mr R Saha (Senior Advisor, CII) and Ms Nabanita Mukherjee, Director & Head - CII IP, for coming up of this book. We would like to thank Mr Saha and Ms Nabanita Mukherjee for advising and leading the work from CII side during the content development and publication of the book. Wide span of ideas, recommendations and suggestions covered by the book, reflect the quality of extensive deliberations held by the above stakeholders and the CII Team.

It is sincerely envisaged that the book will provide useful information to the Indian Manufacturing sector and contribute to the setting up of a robust IP regime in India.



# Foreword



**Dr Naushad Forbes**

Past President CII,  
Chairman, CII National Committee on Intellectual Property  
and Co - Chairman, Forbes Marshall

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has constantly worked towards a robust, impactful, and conducive IP eco system in the country, especially for Indian industry. Through the collective experience of its members, CII addresses multiple dimensions of intellectual property rights necessary for policy advocacy, developing laws, developing human resources, awarding industries for their IPR systems, and preparing reports on topics of interest.

The manufacturing sector is critical to economic growth and employment creation. India's manufacturing sector accounts for about 15% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs around 12% of the country's workforce. The sector is diverse and includes a range of industries such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, and consumer durables. The manufacturing sector in the country can grow rapidly as it moves into more advanced areas, such as semiconductors, space and advanced materials. These new areas will trigger new issues in the Intellectual Property management.

The CII National Committee on Intellectual Property has produced a detailed report on "IPR issues with respect to Manufacturing sector", with short and long-term recommendations.

Our objective is to address the key needs of the IP ecosystem in the Indian Manufacturing sector.

We hope you find this report useful.



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## Background

Manufacturing is emerging as an integral pillar in the country's economic growth. India's manufacturing sector is a key contributor to the country's economic growth and is projected to be one of the fastest growing sectors. It accounts for about 15% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs around 12% of the country's workforce. The sector is diverse and includes a range of industries such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, and consumer durables.

India has the capacity to export goods worth US\$ 1 trillion by 2030 and is on the road to becoming a major global manufacturing hub. India now has the physical and digital infrastructure to raise the share of the manufacturing sector in the economy and make a realistic bid to be an important player in global supply chains.

A globally competitive manufacturing sector is India's greatest potential to drive economic growth and job creation this decade. Due to factors like power growth, long-term employment prospects, and skill routes for millions of people, India has a significant potential to engage in international markets. Manufacturing sector in India is gradually shifting to a more automated and process driven manufacturing which is expected to increase the efficiency and boost production of the manufacturing industry.

India is gradually progressing on the road to Industry 4.0 through the Government of India's initiatives like the National Manufacturing Policy which aims to increase the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 percent by 2025. This fastest growing sector has some broad challenges related to the Intellectual Property Rights are highlighted by the stakeholders is given below:

1. Re-scoping of Bio-diversity Act for promoting easier bio-resource access to manufacturing companies producing products to support circular economy and sustainability goals.
2. Prosecution Matters
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11. Proposal against counterfeit products

# Identified issues by stakeholders

## Long Term Goals

### 1. Re-scoping Bio-diversity Act to promote easier bio-resource access to manufacturing companies producing products to support circular economy and sustainability goals.

- I. **Issue:** In the current scenario, there is a significant interplay between the Bio-diversity Act and the Indian Patent Act. This interplay is justified with the overarching objective of “conservation of biological diversity”, however, the Act poses few challenges which deter the speed of innovation and availability of raw material to Manufacturing companies who are making sincere effort in transition from fossil feed to biomass feed-based economy. This transition of manufacturing industry is critical for realizing our net-zero carbon emission by 2070.
- II. **Context:** The intent of the Act is unquestionably noble; however, global warming is another negative force which has been posing risk to the lives and livelihood of the population living on the edge. The Act has defined “Biological resources” in a relatively broader sense with an intent to protect the national Biodiversity and the rights of the people living on fringe. Unintentionally, this broader definition is severely restricting the access to the biological resources which in turn affects the overall speed of innovation and commercialization of sustainable products. For example, if a company aims to utilize crop waste in a new polymer composition, it still goes through lengthy approval process in spite the “Bio-resource” being a crop/plant waste. On the other hand, the Section 6 of the Bio-diversity Act mandates prior approval of National Bio-diversity Authority(NBA) before submitting a patent application at the Indian Patent office. These interplay between these two Acts pose a lot of hurdles for the innovator company and delays the projects.
- III. **Proposed solution:** It is proposed to revisit both the Acts and create necessary changes/ tweaking for allowing faster patent protection in sustainable technology domain. For instance, below captures the proposal:
  - Bringing clarity on the scope of “Bio-resources”, i.e. plant/crop waste should be excluded so that bio-feed based innovations can be done without unnecessary delays.
  - Crop/plant waste as a feed for Hydrogen/Natural Gas production should be exempted from such approvals.
  - Bringing seamless co-ordination between IPO and NBA
  - The approval requirement should be not same for all purpose of bio-access i.e. research, commercial utilization, bio-survey and bio-utilization and for transferring research results.

## 2. Prosecution Matters

### A. Search Strategy for FER

- I. **Challenges:** The search strategy used by the IPO examiner in preparing the First Examination Report is not available for inventors/applicants.
- II. **Proposal:** The search strategy needs to be documented and should be available to the public for their review. This kind of facility is provided by the US patent office.
- III. **Outcome:** This will help inventors/applicants/third parties to understand how the search has been carried out and it will also help in looking after relevant prior arts in future cases.

### B. Patent Prosecution Highway

- I. **Challenges:** Currently, Indian Patent Office is having PPH with the Japanese Patent Office.
- II. **Proposal:** PPH program should be commenced with European Patent Office as EPO and IPO govern similar kinds of patent law systems.
- III. **Outcome:** This will help to accelerate patent examination process in India.

## 3. Patent Classification

- I. **Challenge:** The patent classification provided by officials at Indian Patent Office is misrepresenting its classes (Areas of patent application like Mechanical, Electrical, Computer, Material Science, Electronics, etc.) of that patent applications in certain cases. i.e. Applications belonging to metal forming technology (Mechanical) have been classified in Food or Chemical technology domain.
- II. **Proposal and its outcome:** Providing accurate classification is considered as one of the important steps as it results in the application being given to the appropriate field's examiner. Also, during the use of patent classes in any patent search activity, the patent analyst/patent examiner may end up with wrong results if accurate classifications were not provided.

## 4. Manufacturing Process Inventions

### Process Patent dilemma in Mechanical Industry:

- I. **Challenge:** In Mechanical domain, less patent weightage is given to manufacturing process inventions from an inventive step point of view as compared to Inventions from Chemical domain. The challenges in establishing the inventive step are listed below.
  - A. The process patent improvements (i.e. yield improvements, decrease in material wastage, economical process, mechanical property improvements) in the mechanical domain are considered as mere workshop modifications/arrangements at the examination stage.
  - B. The process invention belonging to a particular manufacturing technology i.e. forging, 3D printing, casting, etc. for a particular product often compared with a different product made using common general knowledge available about the same technology. The change in the field of the invention with respect to the



product is not considered in the case of process invention. Also, the challenges overcome by the process invention, in the case of products from other fields of invention than the products of prior arts, are not considered in establishing the inventive step.

C. The process inventions are considered to fall in the category of generic rather than specific as the selection of material, product, and process parameters are not taken into consideration while evaluating inventive step.

D. It is tough to always provide comparative data for process inventions belonging to mechanical domains as compared to the chemical invention.

II. **Proposal and Outcome:** Providing weightage to process patents in the view of inventive step will encourage all the sectors (Large/Medium/Small) of mechanical industries to protect their process inventions.

## 5. Government's Support

I. **Challenge:** The section 35 (Secrecy direction) has been imposed on the inventions/ designs related to Defense domain by the Controller. This is an interest of national security. The case will be moved to the concerned govt. department. In a few cases, there has been a delay in taking decisions on whether it is in the interest of national security or not. Till the decision from the concerned govt. department is not received by the Patent Office, the secrecy direction will be continued. So, the design applications or patent applications will not be processed towards the grant.

II. **Proposal and Outcome:** The IPO may coordinate with the concerned government department for quick disposal of the matter.

## 6. Procedural Matters

### a. Requirement of Form 3:

I. **Challenge:** Some compliance requirements like submitting Form 3 after every 6 months which provides information relating to the prosecution of foreign patent applications can be avoided.

II. **Proposal and Outcome:** Nowadays, this can be easily retrieved by the Indian Patent Office. As a result, Patent filing process become simplified.

### b. Format of Patent Application:

I. **Challenge:** The patent application data (drawings, bibliographic data, description, claims, and abstract) are present in a scattered manner in the IPO database for any patent application. It is not available in one single document to the public and may create confusion while refereeing.

II. **Proposal and Outcome:** The format of the Indian Patent document should be revised. The bibliographic data, drawings, description, claims and abstract should be combined in one single document and which may lead to avoid confusion while refereeing.

## 7. Abolition of IPAB

- I. **Challenge:** Recently, the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 abolished various Tribunals including India's Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) and assigned their functions to country's commercial courts and High Courts. Consequently, IP Rights Division has been established by Delhi HC. All provisions relating to appeals to the IPAB under the Patents Act 1970 have been omitted completely and now the appeals from the decision/order/direction from the Controller of Patents will be directly passed to the respective High Courts. A rectification/revocation action under the relevant provisions of the Patents Act would now have to be filed before the appropriate High Court. The move is good in the light of the fact that there were extreme delays in disposal of patent matters pending before IPAB due lack of quorum (no hearings in a row for 4 years from 2016 due to lack of quorum), infrastructure etc. Also, almost all the decisions of IPAB were further appealed at the High Court leading to further delays in administration of Justice due to addition of extra layer of litigation. However, High Courts across the country are already quite burdened. There has been consistent lack of sitting judges in most of the High Courts including Delhi High Court. The move will only add to the further burden on already burdened High Courts of the country. The major burden being posed on Delhi High Court as that is the court of first choice for most of Patent matters. Also matters of intellectual property are highly complex and expertise oriented and take much more time than normal other civil or criminal matters.
- II. **Proposal and Outcome:** Considering this re-establishment of specialized tribunal or establishment of arbitration cells for Patent / IP matters can help. This tribunal can be composed of specialists in field of IP appointed under the guidance of Supreme Court of India with well-established appointment procedures; have proper infrastructure with offices in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Delhi and also having clear guidelines as to the time for disposal of each matter so that it doesn't meet the same fate as of IPAB. This can also make the process cost effective for the petitioners who will be forced to approach only the High Courts otherwise.

## 8. Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR)

- I. **Challenge:** As per the gazette notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change published on 21st July, 2022; Central Government has made amendment to Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 wherein new schedule IX has been inserted in the aforesaid rules. As a result, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Waste Tyre has been introduced under the said Schedule IX. Extended Producer Responsibility means responsibility of producer of tyre to ensure environmentally sound management of waste tyre. As a result, all the entities dealing with the tyres (e.g. manufacturers, sellers, importers, automobile manufacturers importing new tyres for fitting in vehicles etc-collectively referred here as 'Producer') are mandated to recycle the waste tyre by converting the waste tyre into end products (like reclaimed rubber, crumb rubber, CRMB, recovered carbon black, char) in an environmentally sound manner. The quantum of this responsibility will increase upon the Producer in a gradual manner and by 2024-25, the Extended Producer Responsibility obligation shall be recycling of 100% of the quantity of new tyres manufactured or imported in the year. In case



of non-compliance by the Producer, there are provisions as to Prosecution as well as Environmental Compensation. Similar provisions are already in place for all entities dealing with Plastic through a separate gazette notification. As a result, most of the companies have started to channelize their R&D efforts towards green technologies (green products), technologies (processes/machineries etc) as to recycling of rubber and plastics etc. There will lot of inventions in this area in the coming decade due to regulatory obligations as aforesaid and obligations world-wide, as well as increased concern on environmental safety.

- II. **Proposal and Outcome:** The provision can be made in the Patent Act for categorizing the Inventions as to Green Technology or Recycling of Waste rubber or plastic (the way inventions as to atomic energy have been categorized separately under patent act). Once categorized, such patent applications can undergo the expedited examination and faster disposal (grant or refuse) within a period of 1-2 years from date of filing. Some provision as to reduction in fees for such inventions can also follow. This is in line with similar provisions made available to MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, Start-ups under existing provisions of the Patent Act. This move will greatly boost the research and patent filing in area of Green Technologies and technologies as to Recycling of waste rubber, plastic etc which is a need of the hour.

## 9. Lack of Statutory Trade Secret Protection

- I. **Challenge:** India does not provide for a statutory trade secret protection. The legal remedies are available are either the contract law or criminal laws but enforcing them through these remedies is very onerous and time consuming. The present provisions for trade secret protection discourage the transfer of technologies to India as the stakeholders feel that they do not have an effective enforcement mechanism to protect their trade secrets.
- II. **Proposal and Outcome:** The government may consider framing suitable laws and rules for protecting trade secrets.

# Issues identified by subcommittee members for short term Goals

## Short Term Goals

### 1. Fast tracking of patent grant for manufacturing technologies reducing carbon/GHG emission

- I. **Challenge:** In the current manufacturing industry, it is a critical requirement to quickly adopt the technologies which help in energy saving and reducing the carbon footprints. Such innovations/inventions fail to provide immediate incentive to the innovator unless it gets patent protected status in speedy manner. Although, the current patent grant procedure does offer a fee-based option for accelerated examination and grant, but still fails to create sufficient motivation & incentive for a patent applicant due to involvement of additional fee.
- II. **Context:** Like other industries, the need of the hour is to pave the way for faster Patent protection for innovators who are making manufacturing technologies greener and energy efficient. Most of the manufacturing innovations are process centric, which are helping in improving the efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint (directly or indirectly). The IP offices have already introduced the option of the accelerated examination however, this involves additional cost. This has led to selective use of the option only for 'high value' inventions which holds promise for higher economic gain. Most of the manufacturing inventions may not qualify as a stand-alone "high value" invention as they mostly address the issues of optimization and efficiency. However, transitioning of manufacturing sector into a greener or low carbon emission industry requires faster and concerted efforts, so time is a critical factor. Any delay in patent grant of greener & cleaner manufacturing technology shall not only lead to putting the innovator in a position where he/she will be devoid of making early commercial gains but also compromise the speed of realizing the climate change mitigations goals of India as a nation.
- III. **Proposal and Outcome:** It is proposed to create a special arrangement to expedite grant for manufacturing technology which offers improvement on the front of energy efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub>/GHG emission. Below are few suggestions:
  - Creating option for accelerated grant of such manufacturing technology patents without any additional fee requirement
  - Creating a framework to consider the manufacturing inventions as green invention which helps improving the overall efficiency of operations (e.g. heat optimization, non-fossil fuel-based feed) which can in turn indirectly help in low carbon emission,

## 2. Prosecution Matters

### a. Patent Examination

#### I. Challenge:

- It is observed that in a few cases, the cited prior arts in the patent examinations (First Examination Reports) conducted by Indian Patent Office (IPO) are not relevant to the field of invention.
- In the Patentability Objection section of FER, most of the time, IPO cites the entire document as relevant text rather than explicitly stating the relevant text.

**b. Proposal and its Outcome:** Explicitly stating the similarities between the present invention and cited prior arts and citing the most relevant text/drawings from the prior arts rather than the entire document will be going help inventors/applicants to identify the inventive feature which is different from the cited prior art and inventors/applicants can accordingly modify their claims if required.

### c. Requirement of Hearing

- I. **Challenge:** Almost in all cases requiring patent examination, the hearing is called.
- II. **Proposal:** It is not mandatory to have a hearing for granting the patent application. If all the objections have been adequately addressed by the applicant/inventor in the reply to the FER, the hearing can be avoided.
- III. **Outcome:** This time and effort required for a hearing may be avoided leading to a quick decision on the application.

### d. Stringent timelines for scheduling of hearing and providing a decision on the review petition.

I. **Challenge:** The speed of delivering First Examination Reports has significantly increased but as mentioned above, hearings delay the process. In some cases hearings are called to discuss issues which were clarified in replies to FER.

#### II. Proposal:

- The time-limit for responding to the objections raised by the examiner in the FER is now 6 months, this can be reduced to 2 to 3 months and the remaining time can be used for issuing the second examination report which covers the points which are not adequately addressed by the applicant. This will avoid the cases going for a hearing.
- The specific time limits need to be provided for issuing the hearing or issuing the second examination report after receipt of a reply from the inventor/applicant to FER, if all the points are not adequately addressed by the applicant in the reply to FER.
- There should be stringent time limits for responding to the review petition.

III. **Outcome:** The patent application will lead to a quicker decision.





### 3. Proposal against counterfeit products

#### I. Challenge:

Currently, EC platform's responsibility regarding dealing in counterfeit products on EC site is unclear. It is very hard and time consuming to monitor and takedown action by brand owner. Customers also get confused to distinguish between genuine and non-genuine product. takedown of counterfeit products will contribute to healthy development of E-Com. Countermeasure by Brand owner is difficult to eliminate counterfeits, we need administrative instruction against E-Com platforms.

Elimination of counterfeit products and prevention of freeride will realize to provide protection of customer and fair competition, and will contribute to develop Indian E-Com market.

#### II. Proposal and Outcome

- Clarity of responsibility (Elimination of counterfeiter, sharing information of counterfeiter and conduct countermeasure to prevent counterfeit products sales) regarding IP infringement products sales by E-Com platforms.
- Implement system for prevention of sales which is dead copy of specific product as unfair competition.

# Long Term and Short-Term Recommendations to be consider

## A. Long term

**The recommendations can be considered by Ministry of forest and Environment.**

1. Revisit both the Acts and create necessary changes/tweaking for allowing faster patent protection in sustainable technology domain. For instance, below captures the proposal:
  - Bringing clarity on the scope of “Bio-resources”, i.e., plant/crop waste should be excluded so that bio-feed based innovations can be done without unnecessary delays.
  - Crop/plant waste as a feed for Hydrogen/Natural Gas production should be exempted from such approvals.
  - Bringing seamless co-ordination between IPO and NBA
  - The approval requirement should be not same for all purpose of bio-access i.e., research, commercial utilization, bio-survey and bio-utilization and for transferring research results.

**The recommendations can be considered by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Intellectual Property Office, India.**

2. The search strategy needs to be documented and should be available to the public for their review. This kind of facility is provided by the US patent office.
3. PPH program should be commenced with European Patent Office as EPO and IPO govern similar kinds of patent law systems.
4. Providing accurate classification is considered as one of the important steps as it results in the application being given to the appropriate field's examiner. Also, during the use of patent classes in any patent search activity, the patent analyst/patent examiner may end up with wrong results if accurate classifications were not provided.
5. Providing weightage to process patents in the view of inventive step will encourage all the sectors (Large/Medium/Small) of mechanical industries to protect their process inventions.
6. The format of the Indian Patent document should be revised. The bibliographic data, drawings, description, claims and abstract should be combined in one single document and which may lead to avoid confusion while refereeing. In light of this re-establishment of specialized tribunal or establishment of arbitration cells for Patent / IP matters can

help. This tribunal can be composed of well-established appointment procedures, have proper infrastructure offices in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and Delhi and having clear guidelines as to the time for disposal of each matter so that it doesn't meet the same fate as of IPAB. This can also make the process cost effective for the petitioners who will be forced to approach only the High Courts otherwise.

7. The provision has been made in the Patent Act for categorizing the Inventions as to Green Technology or Recycling of Waste rubber or plastic (the way inventions as to atomic energy have been categorized separately under patent act). Once categorized, such patent applications can undergo the expedited examination and faster disposal (grant or refuse) within a period of 1-2 years from date of filing. Some provision as to reduction in fees for such inventions can also be followed. This is in line with similar provisions made available to MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, Start-ups under existing provisions of the Patent Act. This move will greatly boost the research and patent filing in area of Green Technologies and technologies as to Recycling of waste rubber, plastic etc which is a need of the hour.

## B. Short term

**The recommendations can be considered by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Intellectual Property Office, India.**

1. It is proposed to create a special arrangement to expedite grant for manufacturing technology patents offering improvement on the front of energy efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub>/GHG emission. Below are few suggestions:
  - Creating option for accelerated grant of such manufacturing technology patents without any additional fee requirement
  - Creating a framework to consider the manufacturing inventions as green invention which helps improving the overall efficiency of operations (e.g. heat optimization, non-fossil fuel-based feed) which can in turn indirectly help in low carbon emission,
  - Optionally, such patent applications can be routed to the ministry or a dedicated department which can give recommendation for default accelerated grant of the patent.
2. Explicitly stating the similarities between the present invention and cited prior arts and citing the most relevant text/drawings from the prior arts rather than the entire document will be going help inventors/applicants to identify the inventive feature which is different than cited prior art and inventors/applicants are accordingly modify their claims and lead them to grant.
3. It is not mandatory to have a hearing for granting the patent application. If all the objections have been adequately addressed by the applicant/inventor in the reply to the FER, the hearing can be avoided.
4. The time-limit for responding to the objections raised by the examiner in the FER is now 6 months, and this can be reduced to 2 to 3 months and the remaining time can be used for issuing the second examination report which covers the points which are not adequately addressed by the applicant. This will avoid the cases going for a hearing.



5. The specific time limits need to be provided for issuing the hearing or issuing the second examination report after receipt of a reply from the inventor/applicant to FER, if all the points are not adequately addressed by the applicant in the reply to FER.
6. There should be stringent time limits for responding to the review petition.
7. The up-gradation of the online video conferencing platform used for hearing is required as sometime applicant have faced issue while joining the hearing and sharing the documents.
8. FER Examiner should describe not only technical features of cited document, but also reason of decision of examiner in detail into FER.
9. Clarity of responsibility (Elimination of counterfeiter, sharing information of counterfeiter and conduct countermeasure to prevent counterfeit products sales) regarding IP infringement products sales on E-Com platforms.
10. Implement system for prevention of sales which is dead copy of specific product as unfair competition.
11. If the specific paragraphs of the prior art are identified by the patent examiner, the process can become smoother and faster both for the applicants and the examiner which can lead to faster disposal of the patent applications.





## Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with around 9,000 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from 286 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

For more than 125 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes. Partnerships with civil society organizations carry forward corporate initiatives for integrated and inclusive development across diverse domains including affirmative action, livelihoods, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and sustainable development, to name a few.

As India strategizes for the next 25 years to India@100, Indian industry must scale the competitiveness ladder to drive growth. It must also internalize the tenets of sustainability and climate action and accelerate its globalisation journey for leadership in a changing world. The role played by Indian industry will be central to the country's progress and success as a nation. CII, with the Theme for 2023-24 as '**Towards a Competitive and Sustainable India@100: Growth, Inclusiveness, Globalisation, Building Trust**' has prioritized 6 action themes that will catalyze the journey of the country towards the vision of India@100.

With 65 offices, including 10 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 8 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with 350 counterpart organizations in 133 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

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