



Confederation of Indian Industry

Annual Summit & Exposition on Technology and IP

From Dependence to Dominance: Research, Deep Tech, and IP for AtmaNirbhar Bharat

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Dr Jitendra Singh

Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology; Earth Sciences; Prime Minister's office; Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions; Atomic Energy; Space Government of India

Dr. Jitendra Singh is a senior Indian Minister known for his leadership across key science, governance, and administrative portfolios. He serves as Minister of State (Independent Charge) for both the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of Science & Technology, where he plays a central role in steering India's scientific advancement, research ecosystem, and technology-led national missions.

He also serves as Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, contributing to strategic governance initiatives and policy coordination at the highest levels. In addition, he holds responsibilities as Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, where he oversees administrative reforms, human resource management, and public service delivery frameworks.

Dr. Singh is widely recognized for his focus on science-driven development, institutional efficiency, and citizen-centric governance. His leadership spans diverse areas, including innovation, scientific outreach, administrative modernization, and transparent governance mechanisms.



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Mr Chandrajit Banerjee
Director General
Confederation of Indian Industry

Chandrajit Banerjee (CB) is the Director General of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), India's apex industry body, where he has served for over 35 years and led the organisation since 2008. He is responsible for CII's overall operations and plays a central role in national policy dialogues that strengthen the competitiveness of Indian industry.

CB serves on several key Government advisory bodies and holds/has held board positions in institutions such as the Institute of Economic Growth, Global Innovation & Technology Alliance, BYST, SIDM, CII Foundation, India@75 Foundation, and Invest India. He also acts as Secretary to multiple bilateral CEOs Forums constituted by the Government of India.

Prior to becoming DG, he led major CII verticals across manufacturing, services, agriculture, SMEs, macroeconomic policy, and corporate governance. He was the first Executive Director of the National Foundation for Corporate Governance. CB has received numerous international honours, including the China-India Friendship Award, the Spanish Royal decoration of Knight Commander, and Italy's Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia.

He holds an MS in Economics from the University of Calcutta and honorary doctorates from Amity University and Xavier University.



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Dr Naushad Forbes
Chairman, CII National Committee on Technology, Innovation & Research &
Co-Chairperson, Forbes Marshall

Dr. Naushad Forbes is the Co-Chairperson of Forbes Marshall, a leading Indian company in process automation and energy efficiency. He chairs the Ananta Aspen Centre and the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Economic Research (CTIER), advancing dialogue on public policy, innovation, and economic reform.

A long-time educator, Naushad served as an occasional Lecturer and Consulting Professor at Stanford University between 1987 and 2004. He holds a Bachelor's, Master's and PhD in Industrial Engineering from Stanford.

Naushad has been an active member of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for decades and served as its President in 2016–17. He also sits on the boards of several public companies and prominent educational institutions.

He is the author of *The Struggle and the Promise: Restoring India's Potential* (HarperCollins, 2022) and co-author of *From Followers to Leaders* (Routledge, 2002). He writes a widely read monthly column for *Business Standard*, covering industry, policy, and economic issues.



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Mr B Thiagarajan
Co-Chair, CII National Committee on Technology, Innovation & Research
Managing Director, Blue Star Limited

B Thiagarajan holds a bachelor's degree in electrical and Electronics Engineering from Madurai University. He has also completed the Senior Executive Program of London Business School. He has more than four decades of experience, having worked for reputed companies such as Larsen & Toubro Ltd, BPL Systems Ltd and Voltas Ltd, prior to joining Blue Star in 1998. He is the Past Chairman of CII Western Region and CII Maharashtra State. He is currently a member of the CII National Council and chairs the CII National Committee on Consumer Electronics and Durables and CII task Force on Rural Development and Migrant Work Force. He is a Senior Fellow and the National Vice Chairman of the Indian Green Building Council.



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Ms Vaishali Nigam Sinha
Co-Chair, CII Women in STEM Initiatives &
Co-Founder, ReNew & Chairperson, Sustainability

Vaishali Nigam Sinha is the Co-Founder of ReNew, a NASDAQ-listed decarbonisation solutions company, and Chairperson – Sustainability, driving the company’s net-zero agenda and global ESG leadership. She is the Founding Chair of the ReNew Foundation and leads the ReNew India Initiative, positively impacting over 1.5 million lives through CSR aligned with the UN SDGs.

In 2025, she became President of the UN Global Compact Network India, the first private sector leader in this role, and serves on key sustainability and climate platforms including WEF’s Alliance for Clean Air, TERI, and CII’s Centre for Women Leadership.

A recognized thought leader, Vaishali has been featured in Fortune India’s 50 Most Powerful Women, Reuters’ Women Trailblazers, and Business Insider’s 100 People Transforming Business. She holds a Master’s in Public Policy from Columbia University’s SIPA and is an alumna of Harvard Business School’s OPM Program.



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Ms Debjani Ghosh
Distinguished Fellow
NITI Aayog, Government of India

Ms Debjani Ghosh is a Distinguished Fellow at NITI Aayog and the Chief Architect of the NITI Frontier Tech Hub, India's first think tank dedicated to accelerating national readiness in frontier technologies. With over 28 years of leadership experience—including groundbreaking roles at Intel and as the first female President of Nasscom—she has been a central force in positioning India as a global innovation leader.

At Nasscom (2018–2024), Debjani reshaped India's tech narrative by championing deep-tech, human-centric innovation, and international collaboration. Her vision—captured in ideas like the Techade and Inevitable India—has inspired a national shift from being an outsourcing hub to becoming a trusted global partner in digital transformation.

A lifelong learner and passionate advocate for inclusive innovation, she has been recognized among India's "First Ladies," Vogue's "Tech Leader of the Year," and FemaleOneZero's "40 over 40 – World's Most Inspiring Women." She also serves on the boards of Karmayogi Bharat and the RBI Innovation Hub.



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Mr Lekhan Thakkar
Joint Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)
Government of India

Mr Lekhan Thakkar is a senior Indian civil servant and diplomat, currently serving as Joint Secretary in the National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India. A distinguished officer of the 1995 batch of the Central Secretariat Service, he has held key leadership roles across strategic, financial, and economic governance.

He previously served as Counsellor (Economic & Commerce) and Commercial Representative of India at the Embassy of India in Beijing, where he played a significant role in advancing India's economic engagements and commercial interests in the region. Prior to this, he served as Director in the Ministry of Finance and as Executive Director at the National Financial Reporting Authority, contributing to important reforms in India's financial regulatory landscape.

With extensive experience in public policy, international economic relations, and strategic affairs, Lekhan Thakkar is recognised for his commitment to public service and his steady leadership across critical assignments in the Government of India.



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Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharya
Consulting Editor, Business Standard

Mr Subhomoy is a public policy analyst and writer with a focus on finance, energy, urban development, and regulatory governance. His work often explores the intersection of policy, politics, and economic strategy, with a particular interest in the geopolitical dimensions of the maritime sector. His upcoming book on maritime affairs reflects this deep engagement.

He is the author of India's Coal Story, which examines how India's vast coal reserves became the centre of a major political scandal. The book delves into the long-standing challenges of defining rights over energy security in post-Independence India and traces the resulting politics that shaped the coal sector. It also outlines pathways for India's future energy strategy.

He studied Economics at the Delhi School of Economics and Shri Ram College of Commerce. After clearing the Civil Services Examination, he joined the Indian Information Service, and later transitioned to journalism, contributing to leading publications such as The Economic Times, The Indian Express, and The Financial Express.

He currently serves as Professor of Practice and Director of the Centre for Regulatory Governance at Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University. His career spans government, corporate affairs, media, and academia—perspectives that also inform his work as a Life Coach.



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Mr Vikas Bakshi
Head- Technology
Blue Star India

Vikas is a seasoned and strategic technology leader with over two decades of expertise in driving innovation, digital transformation, and product excellence in the HVAC, consumer appliances, and kitchen & bath industries. He specializes in leading global cross-functional teams to design and deliver smart, connected, energy-efficient technologies and products that meet evolving consumer expectations, enhance user experience and market demands. He is an expert at developing scalable technology strategies aligned with business growth, sustainability goals, and regulatory compliance. He has a strong record of building innovation pipelines, optimizing R&D investments, driving collaboration across global teams and developing various technologies and products for global markets. His corporate journey encompasses heading the Technology of Blue Star Limited. In Kohler Co., he worked as a Global Associate Director Engineering, prior to which he spearheaded the Global R&D Center of LG Electronics as Head R&D Air Solutions and Appliances for over 16 years.



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Dr Vipin Chandra Shukla
Scientist-G, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
Government of India

Dr. Vipin Chandra Shukla is a Scientist-G at the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India, where he plays a key leadership role in shaping science policy, strengthening innovation ecosystems, and advancing India's scientific and technological capabilities.

With deep expertise spanning science policy, science diplomacy, advanced manufacturing, scientific and technology management, technology forecasting, startup and innovation promotion, entrepreneurship development, and patent analysis, Dr. Shukla has contributed significantly to national initiatives aimed at accelerating India's technological competitiveness.

Over the years, he has been actively involved in designing policy frameworks, facilitating international S&T collaborations, evaluating emerging technological trends, and supporting innovation-led enterprises. His work reflects a strong commitment to integrating research, industry, and policy to drive sustainable socio-economic impact.

Dr. Shukla continues to be a key voice in India's science and innovation landscape, offering strategic insights that guide decision-making at the intersection of technology, policy, and national development.



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Dr Nagarjuna Guruguntla
Deputy General Manager (R&D)
TVS Motor Company

Dr. Guruguntla Nagarjuna is working as Deputy General Manager (R&D) for TVS Motor Company Limited. has 18+ years of experience in the Intellectual Property domain across various industries. Prior to joining TVS Motor Company Nagarjuna worked with leading technology conglomerate Crompton Greaves Limited and reputed IP firm such as SciTech Patent Art services.

His areas of expertise include the systematic generation and mitigation of high-quality IP portfolios through structured ideation, fostering intrapreneurship and innovation culture by empowering Innovators, patent portfolio management, patent research and competitive technology intelligence. Nagarjuna did his Ph.D. from Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Andhra Pradesh and is a registered Indian Patent Agent.



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Mr Vivek Raj
Chairman & CEO
Panama Corporation

Vivek Raj is the Founder & CEO of Panama Corporation, a global agri-tech and controlled-environment farming company building next-generation cultivation systems for high-value crops such as saffron and medicinal plants. His work sits at the intersection of automation, applied AI, spectral engineering, and IP-led system development, with a strong focus on precision, scalability, and sustainability.

Under his leadership, Panama Corporation has established operations and technology deployments across India, Europe, and the United States. The company works closely with scientific teams, industry partners, and public institutions to advance climate-resilient agriculture and reduce India's dependence on imported agri-pharma inputs.

His work is closely aligned with India's AtmaNirbhar Bharat vision, driving self-reliance through indigenous technology, advanced manufacturing, and high-integrity IP creation.



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Dr Subi Chaturvedi
Global SVP, Chief Corporate Affairs & Public Policy Officer
InMobi Group

Dr. Subi Chaturvedi is the Global SVP & Chief Corporate Affairs and Public Policy Officer at InMobi Group, where she leads the organisation's global public policy, corporate affairs, advocacy, and strategic communications initiatives across markets. A highly respected public policy professional, media practitioner, scholar, and thought leader, she brings extensive leadership experience across Internet governance, government affairs, corporate communications, and multistakeholder engagement.

Dr. Chaturvedi has a distinguished track record in shaping policy discourse, building coalitions, and driving consensus in complex global and Indian regulatory environments. Her cross-functional expertise spans crisis and advocacy communication, strategic public relations, digital and social media activation, policy advocacy, and stakeholder relationship management. She has led and implemented several integrated communication strategies that have influenced major policy outcomes, both in India and internationally.

A former academician with numerous publications and media productions to her credit, she has taught and trained in areas such as public policy, journalism, new media technologies, corporate communication, advertising and PR, IT and online communication, media law, and communication for development. Her work reflects excellence in research, writing, and new media production.

Dr. Chaturvedi is an active member of several global policy working groups, boards, and government advisory committees, and is widely recognised for her contributions to Internet governance and digital inclusion. As a keynote speaker, panelist, and global influencer, she brings deep insights into emerging technologies, regulation, media, and the future of the digital economy.



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Dr N C Ray
Functional Head, Fiber & Yarn Innovation
Trident Group

Dr. Ray is a seasoned textile engineer with over 30 years of experience in manufacturing excellence, process optimisation, and quality assurance. He has trained operations and QA professionals across the industry, enabling them to establish first-time-right manufacturing processes and build strong, sustainable quality systems.

He has been associated with leading textile companies such as Vardhman Textiles Ltd., Ludhiana, and Sutlej Textiles & Industries Ltd., Mumbai, where he played a key role in upgrading production processes, enhancing product performance, and expanding market share—particularly in the mélange yarn segment. His work focuses on instilling a strong quality mindset across organisations to drive consistent product excellence and operational efficiency.



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Dr Jyoti Sharma
Head, RDI Cell
Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

Dr. Jyoti Sharma serves as the Head of the Research, Development & Innovation (RDI) Cell at the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. She plays a key role in shaping national R&D priorities, strengthening the innovation ecosystem, and advancing India's science and technology agenda through strategic programmes and cross-sectoral collaborations.

With deep expertise in science policy, research management, and technology-led development, Dr. Sharma has been instrumental in driving initiatives that promote scientific excellence, foster emerging technologies, and support high-impact innovation across institutions. Her work contributes significantly to India's vision of building a globally competitive and innovation-driven economy.



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Mr Piyush Jain
CTO
LTTS

Presently, I am Global Head for Digital Products and Software Services and Consumer Technologies and ISV vertical at L&T Technology Services. My 30+ years in Technology and Engineering space have enriched me with experiences that I can leverage and build upon my current role.

My career has been focused on providing engineering capability support to our clients through their entire product lifecycle. I have experience in Telecom and networking, Hitech, Automotive, Energy, Transportation, medical devices & and healthcare industry verticals.

At L&T Technology Services we're in the business of engineering and technology, but what we're truly doing is Engineer The Change. It's not just what we do, but why we do it, that makes us different. We believe engineering coupled with technology and innovation help us build a sustainable tomorrow.

My strong suit is being an empathetic, collaborative, and results-driven leader. In my book, the effort is needed, but it is the results that matter, and perseverance is key to achieving the desired outcomes. I tend not to get too disappointed by failures or too excited by successes. For me, the idea is to keep moving like a river as stagnant waters get stale.



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Mr Harsh Vardhan
Head – Digital Innovation, Apollo Tyres

I am a business-first, AI-first digital transformation leader with a strong focus on building next-gen enterprise technologies and scaling innovation. My work spans AI-led manufacturing, Industry 4.0/5.0, deep tech, multi-cloud platforms, open innovation, and digital portfolio strategy. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to drive global transformation programs, set up and scale GCC innovation hubs, and work closely with C-suites to build future-ready organizations. I also contribute to national committees, global forums, and industry councils, and have been recognised among the top CIOs and AI leaders. What drives me is building meaningful impact—through technology, culture transformation, customer-centricity, and by mentoring the next generation of leaders.



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Dr Louise Boisen
Counsellor, Intellectual Property Rights
Royal Danish Embassy, New Delhi

Dr. Louise Boisen is the Counsellor for Intellectual Property Rights at the Royal Danish Embassy in New Delhi, where she leads strategic initiatives to strengthen India–Denmark cooperation in innovation, technology, and intellectual property protection. In her role, she works closely with government ministries, research organisations, industry bodies, and global institutions to build strong, transparent, and future-ready IP ecosystems.

With a deep background in international IP policy, technology transfer, and innovation management, Dr. Boisen focuses on enabling creators, researchers, start-ups, and high-growth companies to navigate evolving IP landscapes. Her work includes facilitating bilateral dialogues, supporting capacity-building programmes, promoting responsible use of emerging technologies, and encouraging sustainable, innovation-led development.

Passionate about bridging policy and practice, she champions collaborative approaches that empower both nations to unlock shared opportunities in areas such as green technologies, life sciences, deep tech, design innovation, and creative industries.



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Mr Sasikumar Muthusamy
Senior Director, Engineering
Collins Aerospace – Global Engineering & Technology Center, India.

Sasi has over 24 years of experience in the Aerospace domain including Aero Engines from GE & Rolls-Royce, and Aircraft Systems from Collins Aerospace (an RTX Business), with extensive technical and business leadership experience in product and technology development, and organization transformation.

As an Engineering Executive at RTX, he currently leads Global Engineering sites in India and Poland for Aircraft Interiors Business, responsible for product development, innovation, talent and capability development, and site leadership at Bangalore. He joined Collins Aerospace in 2021, part of Global Engineering organization, and performed wider leadership roles.

He is part of the Executive committee of ASME India Industry Advisory Board and an active member of ASME India Gas Turbine chapter.

Sasi holds a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Madras and Executive General Management certification from IIM Bangalore.



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Dr Amit Rastogi
Executive Vice President & CTO
Coromandel

Mr. Amit Rastogi is the Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Coromandel International Limited. He holds a B.Tech. degree in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo, USA. He was also a Fulbright Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University in 2010.

Mr. Rastogi began his career with Hindustan Lever Limited in 1985 and has held various technical and leadership roles over the years. Between 1991 and 2005, he worked with organizations like Shell Development Company, Hindustan Unilever, and Hindalco Industries, contributing to R&D, manufacturing, and project management.

Since joining Coromandel in 2005, Mr. Rastogi has been pivotal in leading R&D activities, strategic projects, mining operations in Senegal, and technical policy development. He holds 11 Indian patents, reflecting his dedication to innovation and technological advancement.

Mr. Rastogi's contributions have been instrumental in driving Coromandel's technical excellence and innovation agenda.



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Mr Vishal Sodha
Global Head of Intellectual Property, Product Registration
and OpenAg R&D, UPL

Mr. Vishal Sodha serves as the Global Head of Intellectual Property, Product Registration, and OpenAg R&D at UPL, where he plays a pivotal role in shaping the company's innovation, regulatory, and sustainability agenda. With over two decades of experience across the pharmaceutical and agriculture industries, he brings deep expertise in intellectual property management, product registration, innovation strategy, and business leadership.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sodha has focused on building strong IP-driven innovation ecosystems, leading global product registration and launch strategies, and fostering cross-functional collaboration to accelerate market-ready solutions. His work supports UPL's mission to enable sustainable, technology-led agricultural practices worldwide.

A strong advocate of the OpenAg philosophy, he is dedicated to driving breakthrough R&D initiatives, strengthening digital transformation across teams, and aligning IP, regulatory, and innovation pathways with the vision of sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready growth.



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Mr Manish Deshmukh
Marketing Head - India and Global
Meril Group of Companies

Mr. Manish Deshmukh is the Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) at Meril Group (Meril Life Sciences), one of India's leading medical device companies. He leads the organisation's global marketing strategy, brand positioning, and communication initiatives, including high-impact campaigns such as Meril's awareness.

With a strong focus on innovation and patient-centric outreach, Mr. Deshmukh plays a pivotal role in shaping Meril's storytelling, driving key product launches, and strengthening the brand's presence across international markets. His work is centred on advancing Meril's mission of making high-quality healthcare solutions accessible to patients around the world.



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Dr Ekta Kapoor
Mission Director
National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems
Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

Dr. Ekta Kapoor serves as the Mission Director of the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) at the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. She plays a pivotal role in steering one of India's most strategic national missions focused on accelerating innovation, research, and ecosystem development in Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS).

Under her leadership, NM-ICPS has been driving technological advancement across critical sectors—including healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, smart cities, and defense—by fostering deep collaboration between academia, industry, start-ups, and government agencies. Dr. Kapoor's work has been instrumental in building world-class Technology Innovation Hubs, strengthening indigenous capabilities, and advancing India's vision of technological self-reliance and global competitiveness.

With a strong background in science, technology management, and policy implementation, she continues to champion the development of next-generation CPS technologies, ensuring that India remains at the forefront of innovation in an increasingly interconnected and intelligent world.



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Dr Ashish Mohan
Executive Director
Confederation of Indian Industry

Dr. Ashish is a distinguished robotics and artificial intelligence expert, holding a Doctorate in Robotics, AI, and Mechatronics from IIT Delhi. A celebrated innovation leader, he has spearheaded JCB India's innovation management initiatives, guiding the organisation to five national and one international innovation leadership awards over the past five years, including the CII Grand Innovation Leadership Award, Golden Peacock Innovation Management Award, and the Frost & Sullivan Innovation Engineering Leadership Award in San Diego.

A recognised global voice in robotics and AI, he has twice represented India as an invited speaker at the International Thematic Conference on AI & Robotics in Madrid (2005) and Milan (2007). He also established the Robotics & Mechatronics Innovation Lab at IIT Delhi, contributing significantly to India's advanced engineering research ecosystem.

Dr. Ashish has authored 11 research publications in leading journals and has two forthcoming books—one on innovation management and another on robotics, co-authored with the former Dean of IIT Delhi. A University Gold Medallist from NIT Bhopal, he also holds an MBA in Technology Management from IIT Delhi, graduating as the Rank #2 Silver Medallist. He has served as guest faculty at IIT Guwahati and IIT Jodhpur.



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Mr Sameer Gandhi
Chair, CII National Committee on Robotics, Drones & Automation &
Managing Director, OMRON Automation Pvt Ltd.

Mr. Sameer Gandhi brings with him an experience of over 32 years spanning across multiple disciplines and industries in the manufacturing and automation realms. As Managing Director, OMRON Industrial Automation, India, he oversees expanding the organisation's footprints in the country by steering the conceptualization and execution of all key strategies related to sales and business development.

Leading the team for over eight years now, Mr. Gandhi has led the organisation in strengthening its share in creating intelligence for varied manufacturing sectors such as Automotive, Food n Beverage, Pharmaceuticals, FMCG, Packaging, Infrastructure to name just a few. Under his leadership, the company has also been able to diversify its prowess in its sensing & control technology portfolio by adding futuristic concepts like - Robotics, Total Automation Solution, IIoT, etc.

Endowed with an agile personality and multi-faceted skill- set, he is working towards establishing OMRON as a comprehensive automation partner in India providing end-to-end solutions for the discrete manufacturing industry. Prior to joining OMRON, he served ABB in various positions, the last one being Vice-President Strategic Account Management, focusing on strengthening relationships with key customers in India across various ABB business verticals- Minerals, Power Generation & Transmission, Aluminium, Cement, etc.



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Mr Ashutosh Sharma
CEO, I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC)
Technology Innovation Hub of IIT Delhi

Ashutosh is the Chief Executive Officer of IHFC (I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics), the Technology Innovation Hub of IIT Delhi set up by Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India. He has been entrusted with defining and creation of an eco-system for development of Collaborative Robotics in India.

He comes with an experience of more than two decades in managing large business in Electronics/Telecom/Internet/IT industry. During his prolific career, he has worked with industry market leaders including Samsung Electronics, Bharti Airtel Limited and IndiaMart to name a few.

He is an MBA from DMS - IIT Delhi and a B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from HBTI (now HBTU) Kanpur.



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Ms Smitha Rao
Founder, OjasQuest

Born in business family, Smitha is Founder of OjasQuest - product engineering service company and has 20+ years of entrepreneurship experience in IT and Industrial Automation domain. She has authored book, IEEE publications, and white papers. She is patent holder and OPC Foundation accredited Expert and contributed to various technical specification related to Industrial Communication technologies like FDT, FDI, EtherNet/IP, OPC etc. She is biker, sky diver and Scooba diver.

She has received multiple awards like "Women entrepreneur of the Year - IT " by STPI, Govt of India and Karnataka, "Women achiever" award from IEC Team and "women in Tech 2025" award from Industrial Automation, AutoExpo2025.

She is currently leading CII - IT/IoT application in Robotics Team.



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Dr Nagahanumaiah
Director
CMTI

Dr. Nagahanumaiah is a distinguished research scientist and accomplished technology leader with over 28 years of expertise in advanced manufacturing, R&D management, and innovation-driven transformation. He is widely recognized for his visionary leadership in steering complex research programmes, fostering high-impact collaborations, and driving the development of cutting-edge indigenous technologies for India's manufacturing sector.

He holds a Ph.D. from IIT Bombay, a Master's in Tool Engineering from Indo-Danish Tool Room, and a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from Bangalore University. His research contributions span micro-nano manufacturing, modular and reconfigurable machines, and smart manufacturing systems, establishing him as a respected expert in the field.

During his tenure at CSIR-CMERI, he pioneered the Micro-Nano Systems Engineering initiative, leading teams that developed 12 breakthrough technologies, facilitated 5 successful technology transfers, and earned accolades for early-career scientists. He has 9 patents, 108 publications, and has guided numerous doctoral and postgraduate scholars, contributing significantly to India's manufacturing research ecosystem.

As Director of CMTI, he has transformed the institute into a leading technology developer. Under his leadership, CMTI elevated the TRL of over 65 technologies, developed 30 new machines, filed 18 patents, and secured multiple copyrights and trademarks. His focus on open innovation and industry-aligned R&D has substantially strengthened CMTI's role in India's manufacturing landscape, enabling successful technology licensing and expanding national impact.



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Mr R Saha
Senior Adviser
Confederation of Indian Industry

Mr. Saha served the Government of India for 35 years in different capacities and handling different responsibilities including research and development and retired as Scientist G and Adviser from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. He was appointed a consultant by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to prepare a National Study on IPR and MSME in India as a part of WIPO's Development Agenda.

The study was completed in 2012. He has been the Senior Adviser to CII since 2011, advising them on IPR policies and other substantial issues being faced by the Indian industry like preparing policy papers, conducting round table meetings with industries, international organizations etc. Presently, he advises many institutions like IIT Delhi, IIT Kharagpur, C-DAC, NRDC, Indian Council of Medical Research and many government departments on IPR matter.



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Dr Matthias Hofmann
Patentanwalt
European Patent and Trademark Attorney
Partner, BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT

Matthias studied physics and computer science at the University of Tübingen and the University of Cambridge, UK. He obtained his doctoral degree from the Department of Information Engineering at the University of Oxford, UK, with a topic on applying machine learning to medical imaging. He also conducted research at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems and at the Laboratory for Preclinical Imaging at the University of Tübingen. His publications have won international awards and received more than 1000 citations. Patents for Matthias' inventions are being licensed by a major medical device manufacturer.

In 2017 he was appointed as Guest Professor of the IP School at the University of Nanjing University of Science and Technology. Matthias has been working in the field of intellectual property rights since 2010. He was admitted as German patent attorney in 2013, and as European patent attorney in 2014. He joined BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT at the beginning of 2015.

Matthias is a member of the German Chamber of Patent Attorneys, the Institute of Professional Representatives before the European Patent Office (epi), and the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys (FICPI).

His practice as a patent attorney focuses on examination, opposition, and appeal proceedings before the European Patent Office and the German Patent and Trade Mark Office. Most of his work is related to computer-implemented inventions, in particular relating to artificial intelligence. He has in-depth technical expertise in the fields of machine learning, medical imaging, video and image processing, computer architecture, telecommunications, and bio-informatics (computational genomics). He is co-founder of PatentMaker Software, which is one of the major providers of AI software for patent attorneys in Europe. He is also a frequent speaker on the use of AI for patent prosecution and enforcement.



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Dr Shankar Venugopal
Vice President
Mahindra & Mahindra

Dr Shankar leads technology innovation for the Automotive & Farm services business (AFS). He heads the intellectual property (Patents) and knowledge management functions. He is also the Dean of the Mahindra Technical Academy. Shankar is passionate about developing sustainable urban mobility solutions and his current interests span across electric vehicles, connected vehicles, autonomous vehicles and precision farming.

Prior to joining Mahindra & Mahindra, Shankar has held technology innovation leadership roles at GE, Dow, Honeywell and Cummins. He holds ten international patents and numerous new product innovation awards. He was awarded GE's Edison Inventor Medal early in his career. He has developed a proprietary innovation methodology – Innovation FLOW – and trained 1000 + inventors and innovators.

Shankar obtained a Ph.D in Materials Science and a gold medal for the best doctoral thesis from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He completed his executive management program from the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

Shankar is active in the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and leads the CTO Forum – bringing together technology leaders across the industry to share best-practices on adapting new technologies and driving innovation. He plays an active role in the Management Committee of Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) India Southern Section – he is focused on reskilling automotive engineers on electric mobility. He also serves in the Branding & Communication Committee of SAE India.



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Ms Sukla Chandra
Senior Director
Dolby Laboratories

Ms. Sukla Chandra is a seasoned senior executive with over 30 years of leadership experience in the commercialization of technology, product development, research, innovation, and intellectual property management. At Dolby Laboratories, she plays a pivotal role in driving strategic initiatives that bridge advanced technology with impactful market applications.

Her expertise spans the entire innovation lifecycle—from idea generation and product development to commercialization and global deployment. She is widely recognized for building and leading high-performing, cross-functional teams, fostering collaboration among diverse technical and commercial talent, and steering complex programmes with precision and vision.

Ms. Chandra has a distinguished track record in forging strategic external partnerships, joint development programmes, and industry collaborations that accelerate innovation and deliver measurable business value. Her leadership has consistently contributed to the creation, protection, and expansion of strong intellectual property portfolios.



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Dr Anju Khanna
Director-Patents
Lall & Sethi

Dr. Khanna heads the Patent Department and is in-charge of both patent prosecution and litigation at the firm. She has more than 21 years of work experience with 17 years in the field of patents. Dr. Khanna oversees and handles work in different technology domains including chemistry, pharmaceutical, medical devices, electrical and mechanical inventions, telecommunication to name a few.

She engages with her clients in strategizing protection and enforcement of patent rights in India. She is actively involved with the Patent Office and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and organizations like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Invest India etc. in policy decision making and regularly engages with them in this regard. A few examples of such engagements are participation in commenting and contributing towards CRI guidelines, pharmaceutical inventions' guidelines, working statement requirements, SEP (Standard Essential Patents) paper (issued by the DPIIT) etc.

Dr. Khanna is a member of the IP Committee of the CII. She is a regular speaker at conferences and avidly supports reform in patent laws to encourage innovation in the country. Dr. Khanna is a member of APAA, INTA, AIPPI and IPO association.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Mr Jeevan Telgaokar
Vice President
Jio

Mr Jeevan is a dynamic change agent in the telecom industry, bringing 21 years of cross-national and cross-cultural experience with a proven track record of delivering both serial and breakthrough achievements. Known for shaping emerging markets and driving digital transformation, he has extensive expertise across the telecom and enterprise technology landscape.

His core strengths span market creation, sales, and business development for Private 5G and IoT, backed by a strong portfolio of relationships with communication service providers (CSPs), global system integrators (GSIs), and enterprises across India and the APAC region. He has successfully forged impactful strategic alliances and partnerships with device manufacturers and systems integration leaders, supported by deep engagement with CXO-level stakeholders.

A specialist in digitalization, smart cities, and Industry 4.0 adoption, he excels at spotting high-value opportunities and converting them into sustainable revenue across sectors such as manufacturing, ports, and oil & gas. His background includes significant experience in 4G/5G-centric managed services, business operations, and strategy execution.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Mr Vipin Sondhi

Chairman, CII Industrial Innovation Awards and Former Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Ashok Leyland and JCB India

Mr. Vipin Sondhi is a distinguished Indian business leader with decades of experience at the helm of some of the country's most respected manufacturing and engineering organizations. He has served as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Ashok Leyland and JCB India, where he was instrumental in driving operational excellence, technology adoption, global standards of quality, and strategic expansion. Renowned for his visionary leadership, Mr. Sondhi has consistently championed innovation, competitiveness, and design-led manufacturing. His tenure across industries reflects a deep commitment to building resilient organizations, empowering teams, and shaping India's industrial capabilities for the future.

He currently serves as the Chairman of the CII Industrial Innovation Awards, where he plays a key role in advancing India's innovation ecosystem and strengthening industry-academia partnerships. He is also actively involved with several national industrial bodies, contributing to policy dialogues and initiatives that support India's economic and technological growth.

Widely respected for his strategic insight and people-centric leadership, Mr. Sondhi continues to inspire India's manufacturing sector with his dedication to excellence, innovation, and sustainable industrial development.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Dr Debashish Bhattacharjee
Professor of Practice
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras & Former CTO, Tata Steel

Mr. Debashish Bhattacharjee is a seasoned technology and innovation leader with over 30 years of experience driving strategic transformation across energy transition, sustainability, and advanced materials. A visionary with deep expertise in R&D, corporate strategy, and technology commercialization, he has played a pivotal role in shaping long-term innovation agendas for global organizations.

As a former senior executive, Mr. Bhattacharjee has led large-scale research initiatives, championed sustainable manufacturing practices, and built high-impact collaborations across industry, academia, and government. His work spans the development of breakthrough materials, decarbonization pathways, and next-generation technologies that contribute to cleaner and more resilient industrial systems.

In addition to his industry leadership, he is an active investor and board member, supporting emerging ventures and technology-driven enterprises focused on sustainability, deep tech, and energy innovation. His strategic guidance continues to influence the growth of organizations committed to responsible innovation and future-ready solutions.

Known for his thought leadership, Mr. Bhattacharjee remains deeply engaged in global dialogues on climate action, circular economy, and advanced materials—helping shape policies and partnerships that accelerate India's energy transition and technological leadership.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Ms Inge Buffolo
Director, European Union Intellectual Property Office

Ms. Inge Buffolo is a senior intellectual property professional currently serving as the Director of Business Development at the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). With extensive experience in IP systems, strategic cooperation, and stakeholder engagement, she plays a key role in strengthening global partnerships and enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of IP services across the EU and beyond.

In her leadership role at EUIPO, she focuses on expanding collaborative frameworks with businesses, public institutions, and international organizations, while supporting innovation-driven ecosystems through efficient IP protection and enforcement mechanisms. Her work contributes directly to enabling SMEs, creators, and industries to leverage intellectual property as a driver of competitiveness and sustainable growth.

Ms. Buffolo holds an academic background from Fachhochschule Trier, and her professional journey reflects a strong commitment to advancing modern, transparent, and user-centric IP systems. Based in the Greater Murcia Metropolitan Area, she continues to be a prominent advocate for innovation, digital transformation, and global IP cooperation.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Dr (Smt) Chandrika Kaushik
Production Coordination & Services Interaction, Distinguished Scientist & Director General, DRDO

Dr (Smt) Chandrika Kaushik is a Distinguished Scientist and Director General, Production Coordination & Services Interaction (PC&SI), DRDO, Government of India. A senior defence technologist with an illustrious career, she plays a pivotal role in strengthening India's defence ecosystem by driving seamless coordination between DRDO laboratories, defence production agencies, and the Armed Forces.

With deep expertise in defence R&D management, strategic program execution, and technology induction, Dr. Kaushik leads initiatives aimed at accelerating development-to-deployment cycles, enhancing self-reliance, and enabling effective collaboration across services and industry partners. Her leadership is instrumental in aligning DRDO's scientific capabilities with national security priorities and ensuring the timely production, delivery, and lifecycle support of mission-critical systems.

Recognised for her scientific contributions and exemplary service, she continues to be a prominent voice in India's defence science community, championing innovation, operational readiness, and indigenous capability development.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Shri Sudeep Shrivastava
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Government of India

Shri Sudeep Shrivastava is a Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, appointed on deputation from the Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers (2001 batch). He plays a pivotal role in shaping India's digital governance ecosystem, driving initiatives in API development (including API Setu), AI adoption, and digital public infrastructure to enhance efficiency, transparency, and citizen-centric services.

With extensive experience in policy formulation, technology implementation, and inter-ministerial coordination, Shri Shrivastava has been instrumental in advancing projects that enable data-driven decision-making, scalable digital solutions, and inclusive access to government services. His work spans digital transformation across sectors, focusing on leveraging emerging technologies to accelerate India's position as a global leader in digital innovation.

Shri Shrivastava's leadership reflects a strong commitment to public service, technological innovation, and fostering collaborations between government, industry, and academia to build a resilient and future-ready digital ecosystem for India.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Mr Munish Sudan
Head of IP Cell, Tata Steel Ltd.

Munish Sudan heads the IP department of Tata Steel Ltd and is also responsible for managing IP ownership, licensing, confidentiality, funding and other contractual aspects of research and technology collaborations. Mr. Sudan is a member of the Innovation Council and works with researchers to assess and convert potential ideas into new products and technologies. He is a visiting faculty at XLRI Jamshedpur where he teaches courses on Managing Innovation and IP Management.

Before joining Tata Steel, Mr. Sudan worked with Evalueserve as a group manager, heading a multilingual team of more than 60 team members. He provided IP asset management and technology research and strategy solutions to Fortune 100 companies in the energy and chemical sectors. He has managed several open innovation programmes to identify potential partners and subsequently develop strategic alliances in the personal care, photovoltaics, and lithium-ion battery sectors.

In his professional career that spans over a decade and half, Mr. Sudan has counselled on issues surrounding M&A, technology valuation, joint venture structuring, licensing, and assessing technological breakthroughs. He speaks frequently at various national and international conferences (such as the CII, IAM, WIPO, Managing Intellectual Property and FICCI). Mr. Sudan's specializations include technology scouting, IP strategy, technology intelligence, open innovation, patent drafting, IP licensing and developing strategic alliances.

Mr. Sudan is licensed to practice as a patent attorney before Indian Patent Office and holds a postgraduate diploma in IP law from the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research. He is also a certified licensing professional and a graduate in business management from XLRI Jamshedpur, specializing in strategy and marketing. Before beginning his professional career, Mr. Sudan completed a master's in chemistry at IIT Roorkee. In 2019, he was named IP Counsel of the Year by Legal Era IP awards. He has been identified as a leading strategist in the world by IPBC (an UK based media house) several times.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Mr Ramesh Rao
Senior Director- Engineering
Qualcomm, San Diego office

Mr. Ramesh Rao is an experienced Mobile SoC and Wireless Communications Engineering professional with deep expertise across both hardware and software. He specializes in ASIC product support, project management, and technical marketing, with a proven track record of leading global engineering teams and collaborating with customers worldwide.

Ramesh has been instrumental in commercializing cutting-edge mobile devices, including smartphones, computing devices, IoT solutions, and wearables, across global carriers and open markets. He has played a key role in the launch of new modem technologies, including CDMA, UMTS, and LTE, leveraging Qualcomm's ASIC products to deliver state-of-the-art mobile solutions.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Mr Ignacio de Medrano Caballero
Head of Promotion of the IP System
European Union Patent Office (EUIPO)

Mr Ignacio de Medrano Caballero is a senior official (AD14) of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) of Spanish nationality. He holds a degree in Law (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain), specialist degrees in Comparative Law (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), European and International Law (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium) and Public Administration (Instituto de Empresa, Madrid, Spain). He has extensive experience as a lecturer on Intellectual Property (IP) in several academic institutions and has written in French, English and Spanish numerous articles on different subjects related to IP.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Ms Roberta Romano-Goetsch
Chief Sustainability Officer, European Patent Office (EPO)

Dr. Roberta is a senior executive with extensive experience in ESG, intellectual property strategy, innovation, and corporate sustainability. She currently serves as Chief Sustainability Officer at the European Patent Office (EPO), the second-largest European intergovernmental organization, leading its sustainability agenda and driving the development and execution of ESG strategies across 39 member states and 6,000 staff.

Since 2017, Roberta has been a member of the EPO Management Advisory Committee, advising the EPO President on strategic and operational decisions. Previously, she served as Chief Operating Officer, overseeing patent search, examination, and opposition in high-tech mobility, mechatronics, healthcare, biotechnology, and chemical sectors. She also serves as Coordinator for Diversity & Inclusion, spearheading initiatives to promote accessibility, representation, and inclusive leadership across the organization.

Roberta holds a PhD in Organic Chemistry from TU Munich and a Diploma in Corporate Governance (CGI), combining scientific, operational, and governance expertise. She is fluent in German, English, French, and Italian, with basic proficiency in Mandarin and Spanish. Roberta is a proud mother of three and resides in Munich, Germany.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Dr Sujata Seshadranathan
Co-Founder and Director - Digital Transformation
Basiz Fund Service Pvt. Ltd.

Dr Sujata Seshadranathan is Director – IT, Product & Process, and Majority Shareholder at Basiz Fund Services, a global leader in fund administration. Under her leadership, Basiz has emerged as India’s only international fund administrator, globally ranked No. 1 in financial reporting services and No. 22 in overall fund administration. The company administers USD 12.6 billion in assets, servicing Private Equity, Venture Capital, Foundations, Family Offices, Hedge Funds, and PMS asset classes, and is a preferred reporting partner for global hedge funds.

Dr Sujata holds a Doctorate in Business Administration from SP Jain School of Global Management, specialising in blockchain adoption. With over two decades of experience spanning software design, product development, finance, and accounting, she brings a unique blend of technical and financial expertise. She has led multiple companies in fund services, fund tech, and legal tech, and has developed award-winning automated technology solutions—holding patents for two of them.

Her career includes significant work in process engineering, Six Sigma-based process design, and overseeing SSAE certifications across organisational functions. Her research interests span technology adoption, blockchains, and accounting information systems.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Mr Vijay K. Vijayaraghavan
President, Society for Technology Management (STEM)

K. Vijayaraghavan (Vijay), the chairman of Sathguru Management Consultants established the firm to integrate proficiencies in science and management to help create and nurture innovative enterprises, by adopting next generation technologies for product development and providing strategic ideas in reaching markets and delivery systems for different segments.

He takes special interest in exploring the potential of applying technological innovations in life sciences, to address the problems of resource-constrained communities. His able guidance has helped constitute, some path breaking global consortiums in public health, agriculture, food and environment.

He is a Chartered Accountant and a certified Management Consultant. His multiple majors in graduate programs and fellowship in finance, strategic and technology management, helps nurture enterprises that can effectively complement in-house research with external research capacity to sustain competitiveness. For over 30 years, he has advised several national governments of both advanced and emerging economies to shape their science and technology commercialization policies; technology development and dissemination strategies; enterprise nurturing policies and intellectual assets protection policies. He has helped structure governance and leadership models for global consortiums, corporate enterprises and non-profit organizations. For over two decades, he has led several collaborative partnerships in research, technology transfer and regional capacity building with Cornell University for the Asian region. He is a visiting faculty at world renowned institutions and believes in sharing his experiences with practicing managers and academicians.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Mr Dinesh Narayanan Kutty
Global Head, Patent Search & Analytics
Clarivate

Dinesh Narayanan Kutty is the Global Head of Patent Search & Analytics, recognised for his leadership in intellectual property strategy, technology intelligence, and innovation management. With extensive experience across global IP functions, he specialises in driving high-impact patent search, analytics, and competitive intelligence initiatives for technology-driven organisations.

Dinesh has led multidisciplinary teams across geographies, building advanced IP research capabilities and delivering strategic insights that support R&D, product development, and business decision-making. His expertise spans patentability assessments, freedom-to-operate studies, landscape analyses, portfolio optimisation, and IP-driven innovation strategy.

Known for his strong analytical approach and deep understanding of emerging technologies, Dinesh plays a pivotal role in shaping global patent intelligence frameworks and enabling organisations to stay ahead in fast-evolving markets.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Dr Anuradda Ganesh
Director
ARANTREE Consulting Services Pvt Ltd.

Dr Anuradda Ganesh, Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), is a distinguished expert in energy systems, biomass technologies, hydrogen, decarbonisation, and sustainability. With a career dedicated to advancing clean energy transitions, she has contributed significantly to research, technology development, and policy dialogues in the domains of renewable energy and low-carbon pathways.

She is widely recognised for fostering industry-academia partnerships, enabling collaborative innovation and accelerating the adoption of sustainable technologies across sectors. Her work spans biomass valorisation, hydrogen applications, carbon-mitigation strategies, and integrated energy solutions, positioning her as a leading voice in India's sustainability and clean-energy ecosystem.

A respected researcher, mentor, and thought leader, Anuradda continues to play a pivotal role in shaping India's sustainable energy future.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Mr Vasant Jain
Chief Engineer, Myelin Foundry

Vasant Jain is the Chief Engineer at Myelin, bringing deep expertise in software engineering, advanced mathematics, and high-performance computing. He previously served at GE Global Research as a Senior Software Engineer, where he played a pivotal role in establishing the HPC environment for the GE India Technology Centre, significantly strengthening design validation and computational engineering capabilities across the organisation.

A Ph.D. in Mathematics from IIT Kanpur (1987), Vasant began his career as a Senior Scientist at IIT Bombay, working on non-linear PDE-based trajectory solutions for missile systems. His career later expanded into networking, cybersecurity, and large-scale IT systems, where he led Networking Operations for GE starting in 2001. Over his 17-year tenure, he received multiple management awards for contributions spanning HPC, networking, security, and mathematical modelling using parallelisation and Bayesian neural networks.

Vasant is a Master Black Belt in Six Sigma and a TRIZ Level 3 certified innovator, reflecting his commitment to structured innovation and process excellence. Beyond his professional accomplishments, he is an avid reader of technical literature, practices yoga regularly, and contributes to academia as a Board of Studies member at PESIT, MSRIT, BMS, and RVCE.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Mr Tito Kishan
Founder
ProInn Consultancy®

Mr Tito Kishan Vemuri has been grooming Professional Innovation (PROINN®) Specialists in India using TRIZ methodologies since 2006. With the structured innovation methods of TRIZ and DFP he enables differentiated solutions and strong patent portfolio development by working with teams responsible. With 2 decades of corporate leadership at GE Aviation, GE Energy and Tata's, he started on his own as a Founder, Proinn Consultancy®, a proprietorship firm in 2015. In 2020, he formed Proinn Consultancy LLP which is promoted as Proinn®. Proinn® partners with corporations in 2-3 years' time frame and contribute to facilitating huge innovation transformation growth with differentiated solutions, strong patent portfolios & groom world class internal innovation practitioners.

Mr. Kishan is the 1st TRIZ level 4 Specialist certified by MATRIZ from India and also one of the eight elected board members of MATRIZ (The international TRIZ Association) in Sept. '24. He has been a big proponent of growing India amongst top 10 on Global Innovation Index (GII) with invention driven innovations using the structured innovation methods of TRIZ. Sri. Kishan through TRIZTI® (a non-profit educational trust and India's regional MATRIZ Association) is on a mission to groom a million inventors.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Mr M Faisal
General Manager and Global Head (IPR Department)
Tata Motors Ltd

Mohammed Faisal is working as General Manager & Global IPR head for Tata Motors Group. He is a registered Indian Patent Agent, has rich experience in the Intellectual Property domain across various industries and listed among top IP professionals including IAM Strategy 300 list of global IPR professionals. Before joining Tata Motors, Faisal has worked with leading technology conglomerate L&T Technology Services Limited and reputed law firms such as Lex Orbis and Singhania & Co. LLP. Faisal possesses more than two decades of experience in Innovation lifecycle management, IP procurement, IP management, valuation, enforcement and Technology Transfer.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Ms Archana Surana
Founder & Director
ARCH College of Design & Business

Archana Surana is the Founder & Director of ARCH College of Design & Business, Jaipur. She has pioneered specialized undergraduate and postgraduate design programs with international and national certifications. She is also the Founder & Chairperson of Women Mentors Forum, impacting more than 1500 women entrepreneurs and professionals.

A Vital Voices Lead Fellow and U.S. State Department alumna, she has served as Vice President of the CUMULUS Executive Board (2022-25) and has been re-elected as a Board Member for the 2025-28 term. She plays an active role in shaping the future of design through her contributions to the CII National Committee on Design, the CBSE Committee on Skill Development, and global networks such as IFFTI and WDO. Her mission through the Design Culture initiative is to foster Design Ability amongst young people to become design Leaders.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Prof Akshay Dwivedi
Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
IIT Roorkee

Professor Akshay Dwivedi is a distinguished faculty member and former Head of the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department at IIT Roorkee, recognised for his leadership in engineering research and education. He actively drives academic and research initiatives, mentors scholars, and promotes advanced opportunities including research positions and postdoctoral fellowships. Through his engagement on professional platforms, he plays a key role in fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange within the engineering community.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Mr Arvind Thakur

Former Chairman, CII National Committee on IP, and Member, Board of Management at NIIT University, Former CEO, Vice Chairman & Managing Director at NIIT Technologies Ltd.

Mr Arvind Thakur serves on the Board of Management of NIIT University, the Board of JK Technosoft Ltd, and as a Trustee of the NASSCOM Foundation, where he supports initiatives leveraging technology for social impact.

He is the former CEO, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of NIIT Technologies (now Coforge Ltd), which he led from its inception in 2004 until 2019, scaling it into a global IT services leader. In 2012, he received the Gold Stevie Award as Executive of the Year in Computer Services.

Mr Thakur has significantly shaped India's IT and skills ecosystem through his roles on the NASSCOM Executive Council for three consecutive terms and as Nominee Director on the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). He has also served on the CII National Council, chaired the CII National Committee on IPR, and was a member of the Indo-Spanish CEO Forum under FICCI.

An alumnus of IIT Kharagpur, he received the Institute Silver Medal and the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2025. He holds a postgraduate degree in Industrial Engineering from NITIE Mumbai (now IIM Mumbai), which also honoured him with its Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2020. He previously served as Vice President of the IIT Kharagpur Technology Alumni Association (Delhi Chapter) and remains active in alumni initiatives.



Confederation of Indian Industry



Professor Ashutosh Sharma
Chairman, CII Industrial IP Awards
President, Indian National Science Academy & Professor
IIT Kanpur

Professor Ashutosh Sharma is a distinguished scientist, Professor of Chemical Engineering at IIT Kanpur, and a leading figure in India's science and technology landscape. Renowned for his pioneering research in nanoscience, soft matter, and interfacial engineering, Prof. Sharma has significantly advanced both fundamental science and its industrial applications.

He currently serves as President of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and Chairman of the CII Industrial IP Awards (CII IP Awards), guiding initiatives that recognize and promote innovation and intellectual property excellence in India. Previously, he served as Secretary of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, where he played a critical role in shaping national science and technology policy, fostering research and innovation ecosystems, and promoting interdisciplinary collaborations across academia, industry, and government.

Prof. Sharma has been widely recognized for his contributions to science and innovation, receiving prestigious awards including the Padma Shri, the nation's fourth-highest civilian honor. His work has not only advanced the frontiers of research but also contributed to sustainable industrial solutions, technology development, and national capacity-building in science and engineering.



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.

For 130 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 the Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialised services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

In the journey of India's economic resurgence, CII facilitates the multifaceted contributions of the Indian Industry, charting a path towards a prosperous and sustainable future. With this backdrop, CII has identified "Accelerating Competitiveness: Globalisation, Inclusivity, Sustainability, Trust" as its theme for 2025-26, prioritising five key pillars. During the year, CII will align its initiatives to drive strategic action aimed at enhancing India's competitiveness by promoting global engagement, inclusive growth, sustainable practices, and a foundation of trust.

With 70 offices, including 12 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 9 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with about 250 counterpart organisations in almost 100 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

Confederation of Indian Industry
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