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THE FEDERATION OF TELANGANA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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Chief Guest : Shri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana

FTCCI

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109th Annual General Meeting

15th July, 2026 at Federation House, FTCCI, Hyderabad

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Congratulations

Outgoing President Sri R. Ravi Kumar welcoming the Incoming President Sri K K Maheshwari by pinning the lapel pin

Incoming President Sri K K Maheshwari welcoming the Incoming Sr Vice President Sri Srinivas Garimella by pinning the lapel pin

President and Sr.Vice President along with Past Presidents and Managing Committee Members of FTCCI

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry

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Perfect
DESTINATION FOR

Conferences, AGMs, Meetings, Corporate Events, Product Launch, Training Programmes, Press Meets, Annual Meetings, Business Meetings, Get-together, Spiritual Meetings

FTCCI Surana Auditorium (A/C) I 130 No.

K.L.N.Prasad Auditorium (A/C) I 350 No.


OPT Board Room(A/C) I 14 No.


Banarsilal Gupta Exhibition Hall I 2300 sft


Dhanjibhai Sawla Hall (A/C) I 2500 sft


White House Board Room(A/C) I 10 No.


FTCCI Pokarna Skill Center Hall (A/C) I 35 No.


J.S.Krishna Murthy Hall (A.C) I 40 No.

For FTCCI Members
20% Discount
on Hall Charges

w.e.f : 15th July, 2026

Name of the Hall	Seating Capacity & Area	Refundable Caution Deposit	Tariff	
			for 4 hrs	for 8 hrs
K.L.N.Prasad Auditorium	350 No. (III floor)	3,000/-	15,500/-	27,500/-
FTCCI Surana Auditorium	130 No. (G.floor)	2,000/-	10,000/-	18,000/-
J.S.Krishna Murthy Hall	40 No. (I floor)	1,000/-	6,600/-	12,700/-
Banarsilal Gupta Exhibition Hall	2300 sft (G.floor)	2,000/-	5,500/-	10,000/-
Dhanjibhai Sawla Hall	2500 sft (III floor)	1,000/-	5,000/-	8,300/-
OPT Board Room (NM/M)	14 No.(I floor)	1,000/-	2,800/-	4,500/-
White House Board Room (NM/M)	10 No.(I floor)	1,000/-	2,500/-	4,000/-
Skill Center	35 No. (II floor)	1,000/-	6,600/-	12,700/-
Note : Extra Charges on Friday, Saturday, Sundays and Holidays : Rs. 1500/-				+GST 18%

Cost for LCD Projector/LED TV's and other equipments

KLN Prasad Auditorium	Rs.2200/-
FTCCI Surana Auditorium	Rs.1600/-
J.S.Krishna Murthy Hall	Rs.1600/-
OPT Board Room	Rs. 900/-
55" TV for (White House)	Rs. 900/-
75" TV for Skill Center	Rs. 800/-
Screen only	Rs. 300/-
Cordless / Collar microphone (1)	Rs. 500/-
Lighting Lamp	Rs. 600/-
OT before 9am & after 6pm	Rs. 350/- Per hour
LED Wall Power Charges	Rs. 3000/-

Contact for details & Hall Requisition : **Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Sr. Manager Ph : 91001 99977 email : operations@ftcci.in**

Federation House, 11-6-841, Red Hills, Hyderabad - 500 004, Telangana, India Tel:91-40-23395515, 16, 17 Website : www.ftcci.in

Dear Member,

It is my privilege to address you through the President's Desk and share my thoughts, as well as the initiatives of our Federation.

At the outset, I extend my sincere gratitude to all members of FTCCI for placing their trust and confidence in me by electing me as the President of this esteemed institution, which has been serving the interests of industry and trade for over a century. I regard this not only as a great honour but also as a profound responsibility, and I assure you that I shall endeavour to uphold the values and legacy of our Federation with dedication and commitment.

We are all witnessing an increasingly challenging global environment marked by geopolitical uncertainties, economic volatility, and rapid technological change. These developments have both immediate and long-term implications for businesses. During my tenure, our focus will be on engaging in constructive dialogue with policymakers, presenting practical recommendations to the Government, addressing the challenges faced by industry, particularly MSMEs, and organising meaningful programmes that add value to our members.

As the largest representative organisation of MSMEs in Telangana, FTCCI has a pivotal role to play in strengthening the MSME ecosystem. We remain committed to enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises by improving workforce skills, facilitating knowledge sharing, and providing guidance to help overcome emerging business challenges.

One of our key priorities will be to advocate for reducing the Cost of Doing Business while simultaneously improving the Ease of Doing Business in the State. These measures are essential to enabling industries to remain competitive in the prevailing economic environment.

We welcome the Government's proposed amendments to the MSME Development Act, which aim to remove operational bottlenecks, improve access to finance, strengthen cash flows, and provide faster resolution of payment-related disputes. These reforms have the potential to significantly benefit the MSME sector and enhance its resilience.

I also take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Telangana for its continued support to FTCCI and for giving due consideration to our policy recommendations. I am particularly grateful to Shri Duddilla Sridhar Babu Garu, Hon'ble Minister for Industries & Commerce, for gracing our flagship programmes, GrowthX and the FTCCI Excellence Awards, and for his unwavering encouragement to industry.

My sincere thanks are also due to Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Shri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka Garu for inaugurating our flagship three-day Industrial Innovation & Technology Expo (IITEX) 2026. His visionary guidance and suggestion to prepare a roadmap for strengthening the MSME sector in Telangana will serve as an important direction for our future initiatives.

FTCCI has always aspired to be the true "Voice of Industry." In line with this vision, we plan to strengthen our engagement with District Chambers across Telangana, promote entrepreneurship among rural youth, and work closely with financial institutions and government agencies to create greater opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs. I am confident that, with the active support of our District Chambers, we can make these initiatives both impactful and sustainable.

To realise our shared vision of making FTCCI the foremost institution championing the cause of MSMEs, we must collectively focus on three key pillars:

* Launching high-impact initiatives that promote professional growth and business excellence.
* Inviting eminent industry experts to share knowledge, insights, and best practices.
* Creating vibrant networking platforms that foster collaboration, innovation, and stronger business relationships.

The success of these initiatives depends on the active participation, valuable suggestions, and unwavering support of our members. Your involvement is the foundation of FTCCI's strength and continued relevance.

Together, let us build a stronger, more competitive, and future-ready industrial ecosystem for Telangana.

"Together We will Grow, & together We will Shine."

K.K. Maheshwari
President

India Adds Over 26 GW Solar Capacity In H1 2026 As Industry Eyes ALMM Impact In Second Half

India's solar sector delivered an impressive performance during the first half of 2026, reinforcing its position as the driving force behind the country's renewable energy transition. According to the latest Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) data, India's installed solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity crossed 162 GW by the end of June 2026. Solar now contributes more than 68.5% of the country's total renewable energy capacity, excluding large hydro, highlighting its growing importance in meeting India's clean energy and electricity demand.

The biggest highlight of the year has been the pace of capacity addition. India installed more than 26 GW of new solar capacity during the first six months of 2026, making it one of the strongest first-half performances ever recorded by the sector. Around 5.105 GW was commissioned in June alone, reflecting improved project execution, faster construction timelines, and continued investor confidence. With nearly 26.34 GW already installed in just six months, the industry is on track for one of its best years if the current momentum continues.

https://solarquarter.com

Delhi EV Policy 2026 Cleared: No Hybrid Benefits, EV-Only Push Gets Bigger

The Delhi Cabinet on 29th June 2026 approved the Delhi EV Policy 2026, choosing to keep the capital's clean mobility roadmap focused exclusively on battery electric vehicles (EVs) by rejecting a proposal to extend incentives to strong hybrid cars.

The policy, which comes into effect on July 1 and will remain in force till March 31, 2030, lays out a roadmap to accelerate electric mobility through purchase subsidies, scrapping incentives, tax exemptions, charging infrastructure and phased registration deadlines for key vehicle segments.

Hybrid Incentives Dropped

The Cabinet's decision marks a significant departure from the draft policy, which had proposed a 50 per cent exemption on road tax and registration fees for strong hybrid cars priced up to Rs 30 lakh. That provision has been dropped from the final policy, signalling the government's decision to back only zero-tailpipe emission vehicles.

The government has instead chosen to concentrate its financial support on battery-powered EVs as part of its strategy to curb vehicular pollution.

EV-Only Registration Timeline

The policy retains the draft proposal on registration timelines, setting clear deadlines for the transition to electric mobility.

From January 1, 2027, only electric passenger and goods three-wheelers will be registered in Delhi.

From April 1, 2028, only electric two-wheelers will be eligible for registration in the national capital.

The move targets vehicle segments that account for a significant share of Delhi's traffic and vehicular emissions.

The policy offers graded purchase incentives over three years:

- Electric two-wheelers: Up to Rs 30,000 in the first year, Rs 20,000 in the second year and Rs 10,000 in the third year.
- Electric three-wheelers: Up to Rs 50,000 in the first year, Rs 40,000 in the second year and Rs 30,000 in the third year.
- N1 category electric goods carriers (up to 3.5 tonnes): Up to Rs 1 lakh.

Separate scrapping incentives include:

- Rs 10,000 for electric two-wheelers
- Rs 25,000 for electric three-wheelers
- Rs 1 lakh for electric four-wheelers
- Rs 50,000 for N1 trucks
- Rs 15,000 for Gramin Sewa vehicles

https://www.ndtv.com

Govt Eases LPG Supply Curbs For Industrial And Commercial Users

The government has removed all sectoral restrictions on the supply of non-domestic packed LPG and restored supplies to pre-crisis levels for industrial and commercial consumers.

Bulk LPG supply, which had been fully suspended at the onset of the West Asia crisis, has been partially relaxed to 50 per cent of pre-crisis consumption levels, according to a Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) release.

The restrictions had been imposed earlier to prioritise uninterrupted LPG availability for domestic household consumers amid global supply disruptions.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) had been directed to restrict commercial packed LPG during the crisis, and C3-C4 petrochemical streams were diverted exclusively to LPG production under orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act.

https://knnindia.co.in

Modi in Melbourne: India, Australia commit to stronger energy trade and LNG, uranium cooperation

India and Australia on Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening energy security and resilient supply chains, while pledging to deepen cooperation in energy trade, clean energy and low-carbon fuels. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a three-day visit to the island continent.

In view of the ongoing turmoil in West Asia, India and Australia committed to supporting the continued flow of energy products, noting the island continent's role as a supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India and India's exports of liquid fuels and downstream petroleum products to Australia. In the joint statement issued during the high-level meeting between the two nations, the leaders also encouraged greater investment across the energy value chain.

The two countries announced that they had finalised the administrative arrangements required to enable exports of Australian uranium to India for peaceful purposes under

International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in line with the Australia-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement.

Read more at:

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com

Power transmission sector may see ₹5-6 lakh crore capex by FY32: ICRA

India's power transmission sector is expected to witness a capital expenditure of Rs. 5-6 lakh crore between financial year 2026-27 (FY27) and FY32, driven by the government's plan to evacuate power from more than 900 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2035-36, according to ICRA.

The rating agency said that the investment will support the strengthening of existing transmission infrastructure, the addition of evacuation capacity and the development of new transmission routes to integrate upcoming renewable energy capacity into the grid.

"The projected transmission capex of Rs. 5-6 trillion entails strengthening of the existing infrastructure, adding evacuation capacities as well as new transmission routes to support the generation centres. Further, the upcoming capex will be driven by the Government's plan to evacuate power from over 900 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2035-36, out of which around 548 GW is towards solar and wind capacity," said Ankit Jain, Vice-President and Co-Group Head, ICRA.

https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/indias-power-transmission-sector-poised-for-5-6-lakh-crore-capex-by-fy32/132259794?utm_source=top_story&utm_medium=latestNews

Telangana is Key Pillar of India's Pharma Production

Pharmaceutical and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) exports together were valued at nearly $35.8 billion in 2025.

Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra have emerged as the key pillars of India's pharmaceutical industry, driving a significant share of the country's production, exports and integration into global value chains, according to the latest report released by the government think tank Niti Aayog.

The eighth edition of the 'Trade Watch' for the January-March 2026 quarter highlighted India's trade performance during FY2025–26 and identified major growth opportunities in the pharmaceutical sector, with Telangana being recognised as a leading life sciences and vaccine hub.

The report said Telangana's success in the pharmaceutical sector stems from its strong manufacturing ecosystem, cluster-based development model, globally competitive companies and supportive policy framework. Along with Gujarat and Maharashtra, Telangana has played a crucial role in strengthening India's position in global pharmaceutical supply chains.

While Telangana has emerged as a major centre for life sciences, vaccines and biotechnology, Gujarat has built on its strong chemical-pharmaceutical base and export orientation, while Maharashtra combines large-scale manufacturing with strong research and development capabilities.

Telangana accounts for nearly 40 per cent of India's pharma production with over 2,000 life sciences companies and over 269 US Federal Drugs Agency (USFDA) -approved facilities. Gujarat contributes around 33–40 per cent of production with over 3,000 units, while Maharashtra accounts for 14 per cent of production with over 3,800 units.

The report stated that all three states are strongly export-oriented. Telangana is a major global vaccine hub, Gujarat contributes 17–28 per cent of India's pharma exports with strong port access, and Maharashtra accounts for 20–25 per cent of exports with a high number of globally compliant manufacturing facilities.

The report says 'cluster development' has been central to growth. Telangana's Genome Valley has created a leading life sciences and biotech hub, bringing together firms, research institutions, and startups.

Maharashtra's pharma clusters across the Mumbai–Pune corridor and other cities have strengthened manufacturing and R&D linkages. Gujarat's chemical and pharma clusters in Ankleshwar, Vapi, Dahej, and others provide strong backward linkages, reducing costs and improving efficiency.

www.deccanchronicle.com

India's industrial output grows 5.1% in May as manufacturing drives momentum

India's industrial output accelerated to 5.1 percent in May, up from 4.9 percent in April, driven by stronger electricity generation and broad-based manufacturing growth, according to quick estimates of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The pickup marks an improvement in factory activity suggesting domestic demand remained resilient despite global uncertainty.

Manufacturing, which carries the highest weight of 76 percent in the IIP basket, grew 5.5 percent in May slightly lower than the growth in April, indicating steady momentum in industrial activity. Growth was led by electrical equipment, fabricated metals, automobiles and electronics.

Electrical equipment recorded the strongest expansion among major manufacturing segments, rising 20.8 percent year-on-year in May. Fabricated metal products grew 15.5 percent, while motor vehicles expanded 14.5 percent and other transport equipment rose 14.3 percent. Computer and electronic products also posted robust growth of 11.4 percent.

The data suggests capital-intensive sectors continued to outperform, reflecting sustained investment demand and infrastructure-led spending.

https://www.moneycontrol.com

IMF says India remains a key driver of global economic growth

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that India continues to be a major driver of global economic growth despite the economic impact of the Iran conflict and higher energy prices. Addressing a regular IMF press briefing, Director of the IMF's Communications Department, Julie Kozack, said India's economy has remained resilient despite external headwinds, supported by robust domestic demand.

The IMF has retained its growth projection for India at 6.5 per cent for the financial year 2026-27, maintaining the upward revision made in April. Ms Kozack said the forecast reflects strong momentum carried over from last year and the reduction in US tariff rates, which helped cushion the impact of the global energy shock.

She said India's economy continued to outperform expectations during the first quarter of the calendar year. Ms Kozack also said the IMF views the recent ceasefire in the Middle East and progress towards reopening the Strait of Hormuz as positive developments for the global economy. She noted that oil prices have retreated from their peak but remain around 10 per cent above pre-conflict levels, while some other commodity prices have also begun to ease.

The IMF is expected to release its updated global economic projections on July 8.

https://newsonair.gov.in

Evident distress: On a war, Index of Eight Core Industries data, indicators

As the resolution process of the West Asia crisis drags on, an increasing number of economic metrics are exposing key weaknesses in the Indian economy. Many of these existed before the crisis broke out in late February and are now becoming apparent as the economy faces stress. The latest data on the Index of Eight Core Industries show that these sectors cumulatively grew just 0.5% in May 2026, the second-lowest in 21 months. It would have been easy to pass this off as a war-related impact, but the data also show that the index grew by an almost equally anaemic 1.1% over the course of the entire financial year 2025-26. What remains a concern is that the domestic crude oil and natural gas sectors continued their multi-year streaks of contractions in May as well.

By this time, the third month of the conflict, oil prices had settled somewhat lower than their April peaks. As a result, oil imports by oil marketing companies began rising once again to meet domestic demand. A strategic goal continues to be missed here. While imported oil can be used to meet demand, domestic production should nevertheless be ramped up to fill strategic reserves. This reserve oil, even of inferior quality, can be released in times of shortage. The same holds true for natural gas. With natural gas imports and domestic production contracting, it followed that the fertilizer sector would also contract. The good news, however, is that the contraction — of 0.9% in May 2026 — was much lower than it was even two months earlier. In any case, what impact the 'super El Niño' will have on fertilizer demand is still uncertain.

Coal production, too, contracted by the most in nearly a year. As the summer continues to heat up, electricity generation will

increasingly have to rely on variable renewable sources or costly imported coal. Notably, the core sectors are not the only ones revealing economic distress. The latest Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue data too show that domestic economic activity seems to be slowing. Revenues from domestic transactions contracted 2.6% in May 2026. The government argues that this is because of a one-time windfall transfer it received in May last year. Even so, the average growth of domestic GST revenue over the last six months was just 3.1%, lower than in 2025-26 and the year before that. This is not a supply issue, since merchandise exports hit a record high in May 2026. It is a demand problem, as low real wage growth meets rising inflation to squeeze wallets. These are all distressing signals even as India enters a deficient monsoon. Trade deals are no substitute for hard-hitting reforms.

https://www.thehindu.com

Case Law Alert

CMA Bhogavalli Mallikarjuna Gupta
bhogavalli.gupta@rsmindia.in

Mr. Siddharth Surana
siddharth@rsmindia.in

As the GST law continues to evolve, we are witnessing increased enforcement efforts by the Department to identify and address non-compliance within the ecosystem. This has inevitably led to a rise in litigation.

To support stakeholders in navigating these developments, RSM Astute Consulting Pvt Ltd is sharing timely and relevant updates on GST for the benefit of stakeholders.

RSM

01

PETITIONER / RESPONDENT

Petitioner : Aranmula Chit Funds Pvt. Ltd.

Respondent : Deputy Commissioner of State Tax (Intelligence), & Anr

02

COURT/ FORUM

In the Court of: Kerala High Court

Writ Petition Number: W.P. (C) No. 20523 of 2025.

03

GROUNDS OF WRIT

The Petitioner challenged a GST assessment order covering multiple assessment years, contending that the proceedings were initiated through a single composite notice for several financial years. It was argued that such a consolidated notice is legally unsustainable and contrary to the settled legal position, which mandates the issuance of separate notices for each assessment year.

04

ORDER

The Court ruled in favour of the Petitioner and upheld the Petitioner's contention that a composite notice covering multiple assessment years is legally unsustainable and, relying on earlier Division Bench decisions, quashed the impugned assessment order. The Court granted liberty to the department to initiate fresh proceedings by issuing separate notices for each assessment year and directed that the time spent in the earlier proceedings be excluded while computing the limitation period for such fresh action. All other contentions were left open for consideration, and the writ petition was accordingly disposed of in favour of the assessee.

RSM

01

PETITIONER / RESPONDENT

Petitioner : Cognizant Technology Solutions India Private Limited

Respondent : Assistant Commissioner of State Taxes, Hyderabad & Ors.

02

COURT/ FORUM

In the Court of: Telangana High Court

Writ Petition Number: 16589 of 2026.

03

GROUNDS OF WRIT

The Petitioner, an SEZ unit, challenged the rejection of its IGST refund claim on Group Health Insurance Services, contending that the refund authority had erroneously treated the claim as one relating to zero-rated supplies and incorrectly classified the services as being for personal consumption, despite their inclusion in the approved SEZ operations. The Petitioner further argued that the refund rejection order was based on grounds not set out in the show cause notice, thereby depriving it of a fair opportunity to respond and violating the principles of natural justice.

04

ORDER

The Court declined to examine the merits of the refund dispute, holding that the issues raised involved mixed questions of fact and law that could be appropriately adjudicated by the statutory Appellate Authority. Observing that the Petitioner had an efficacious alternative remedy, the Court refrained from exercising its writ jurisdiction and disposed of the petition with liberty to file a statutory appeal. The Court further directed that, if the appeal is filed within two weeks, the Appellate Authority shall consider the issue of delay, if any, in light of the fact that the Petitioner had been diligently pursuing the matter before the High Court.

RSM

01

PETITIONER / RESPONDENT

Petitioner : KPR Enterprises

Respondent : State Tax Officer, Hosur.

02

COURT/ FORUM

In the Court of: Madras High Court

Writ Petition Number: W.P. Nos. 35453, 35458 and 35463 of 2024.

03

GROUNDS OF WRIT

The Petitioner challenged the GST assessment orders issued for multiple tax periods, contending that there was no fraud, wilful misstatement, or suppression of facts so as to justify invocation of the extended limitation period under Section 74 of the GST Acts. It was further asserted that the underlying GST liability had already been discharged through the contractor and that the impugned assessment orders were passed without affording the Petitioner a proper and effective opportunity of being heard.

04

ORDER

The Court dismissed the writ petition, holding that the materials on record justified the invocation of Section 74 of the GST enactments and the extended limitation period due to suppression of turnover and under-declaration of supplies. However, it granted the Petitioner liberty to file a statutory appeal within 30 days and directed the Appellate Authority to decide the appeal on merits, without rejecting it on limitation grounds, after providing an opportunity of hearing.

RSM

01

PETITIONER / RESPONDENT

Petitioner : SKG Infratech Pvt. Ltd.

Respondent : State of Haryana & Ors.

02

COURT/ FORUM

In the Court of: Punjab and Haryana High Court

Writ Petition Number: CWP-5903-2026.

03

GROUNDS OF WRIT

The Petitioner sought reimbursement of the differential GST amount arising from an increase in the GST rate applicable to works contract services provided to a government authority. It was contended that the enhanced rate became effective from the date of the relevant statutory amendment, whereas the respondents had extended the benefit only from a subsequent date, thereby denying the Petitioner reimbursement of the additional GST liability incurred during the intervening period.

04

ORDER

The Court ruled in favour of the Petitioner and recorded the respondents' statement that the competent authority would reconsider the Petitioner's claim regarding reimbursement of the differential GST liability and take corrective action, if warranted. The Court directed the respondents to examine the claim and pass an appropriate decision within two months.

RSM

01

PETITIONER / RESPONDENT

Petitioner : Sunil Batra

Respondent : The State of West Bengal & Ors

02

COURT/ FORUM

In the Court of: Calcutta High Court

Writ Petition Number: WPA 28042 of 2025

03

GROUNDS OF WRIT

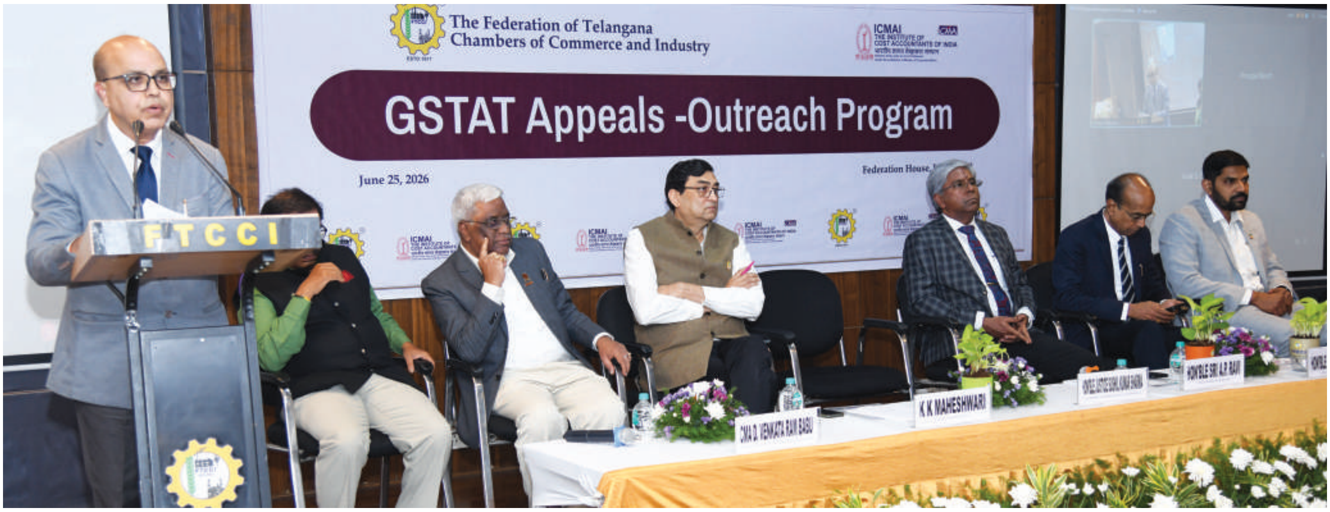
The Petitioner challenged the GST Appellate Order and the underlying adjudication proceedings, asserting that the Show Cause Notice (SCN) had been uploaded under the "Additional Notices and Orders" tab on the GST portal, due to which it remained unaware of the notice and was unable to respond. Consequently, the proceedings were concluded without providing the Petitioner a meaningful opportunity of being heard, resulting in a violation of the principles of natural justice

04

ORDER

The Court ruled in favour of the Petioner and held that the Petitioner was denied an effective opportunity to respond to the Show Cause Notice (SCN), as it had been uploaded in a manner that prevented timely awareness of the notice. Observing a violation of the principles of natural justice, the Court directed the Petitioner to file a reply within four weeks and instructed the GST authorities to consider the same, grant a personal hearing, and pass a fresh reasoned order in accordance with law within eight weeks thereafter. The Court further directed that the decision be communicated to the Petitioner within one week of its issuance and accordingly disposed of the writ petition in favour of the assessee by ordering fresh adjudication.

GSTAT Appeals – Outreach Program



25th June, 2026
Federation House, FTCCI, Hyderabad

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), in association with The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI), organized the GSTAT Appeals – Outreach Program to familiarize taxpayers, professionals, and industry with the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), its appellate procedures, and the newly introduced e-filing system ahead of the 30th June 2026 appeal filing deadline.

Hon'ble Justice Dr. Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, President, GSTAT, New Delhi, inaugurated the programme and described the operationalization of GSTAT as a significant milestone in India's indirect tax regime. He stated that even an attempt to file an appeal would be considered for extension of the filing deadline and emphasized that timely and accurate filing would strengthen a transparent and efficient GST dispute resolution system.

Sri K. K. Maheshwari, Senior Vice President, FTCCI, welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted FTCCI's continued efforts in creating awareness on important legislative developments. He noted that the programme was designed to provide practical guidance on appeal procedures, statutory timelines, documentation, and the GSTAT e-filing process.

CA Mohd. Irshad Ahmed, Chair, GST & Customs Committee, FTCCI, stated that the programme was organized to help taxpayers and professionals understand the appellate mechanism, statutory requirements, and the new e-filing system while providing an opportunity to interact directly with the Hon'ble Members of GSTAT. He also appreciated ICMAI for partnering with FTCCI.

CMA Dr. Kandala Ch. A.V.S.N. Murthy, ICMAI, and CMA D. Venkata Ram Babu, ICMAI Hyderabad Chapter, appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of the programme in equipping tax professionals with practical knowledge of GSTAT procedures and compliance requirements.

Hon'ble Sri Sushil Kumar Sharma, Vice President & Judicial Member, GSTAT Hyderabad, explained the role of GSTAT in ensuring consistency and fairness in GST dispute resolution and stressed the importance of well-drafted appeals supported by sound legal and factual grounds.

The technical session was conducted by Sri Lakshmi Narayana, Senior Registrar, GSTAT; Sri Satyanarayana Rao, Deputy Registrar, GSTAT; and Sri Ashok, GSTAT. The session covered appellate strategy, drafting of appeals, common legal and procedural issues, judicial precedents, limitation, condonation of delay, rectification under Section 161, admissibility of additional evidence, and the use of technology and AI-assisted legal research in appellate practice.

An interactive Open House and Q&A session followed, during which the Hon'ble Members of GSTAT Hyderabad demonstrated the GSTAT e-filing portal, explaining user registration, digital authentication, appeal filing, document upload, statutory pre-deposit, defect management, and case tracking. Sri Vivek S. Chandel, Project Consultant, GSTAT-NIC, joined virtually to clarify technical queries relating to the e-filing portal. The session enabled participants to gain practical insights into both the legal and technical aspects of filing appeals before GSTAT.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Sri Nagendra Prasad, Member, GST & Customs Committee.

Industrial Innovation & Technology Expo 2026

Where Industry Shapes the Future

26, 27, 28 June, 2026
Hitex, Hyderabad

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) hosted the third edition of the Industrial Innovation & Technology Expo (IITEX 2026) at HITEX, Hall No. 2, Hyderabad, from 26th to 28th June 2026. Supported by the Ministry of MSME under its Procurement & Marketing Support (PMS) Scheme for the third consecutive year, the expo enabled 31 MSMEs to exhibit at reduced cost, taking the scheme's cumulative reach across three editions past 100 MSMEs.

Inaugurating the event before an audience of over 250 industrialists and policymakers, Deputy Chief Minister Sri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka observed that the factories of the future would be defined not by the number of machines on the floor, but by how intelligently, efficiently and sustainably they operate. Calling FTCCI "a strong bridge between government and industry," he outlined five pillars of Telangana's industrial roadmap - Innovation, Sustainability, Skills, MSME Strengthening and Partnerships - and invited industry to partner the State in its pursuit of a USD 3 trillion economy by 2047. He also highlighted Telangana's 100% road-tax exemption on EVs and its solar capacity, on course to reach 34 GW by 2035.

R. Ravi Kumar, President, FTCCI, said this year's expo spotlighted eight high-growth sectors, including electric mobility, solar energy, food processing, packaging, industrial automation and Industrial IoT. Convenor Vimlesh Gupta noted that over 100 exhibitors and more than 15,000 business visitors took part over the three days.

The exhibition floor showcased a wide sweep of innovation from Bondada Group's eco-friendly AAC blocks and Supasac's backpacks made from recycled PET bottles, to Keystone Robotix's automated Mome Cooking Machine and Active Green Products' fresh-air window systems alongside strong participation from PMS-supported MSMEs such as Indigrators Solutions, Deltacubes, Pranava Fusion, Ampleton Power Solutions and Solar Bull Energy, among many others.

The three days were rounded off with a packed knowledge track: Day 1 featured a panel on "Solar Horizons: Performance, Potential & the Path Ahead" and a fireside chat on "The Charging Point: Electrifying the Future"; Day 2 brought panel discussions on "Empowering Industry: Financial Ecosystem for MSME Growth" and "Automate to Elevate: Building Future-Ready MSMEs." Day 3 closed on a warm note, with FTCCI office bearers felicitating exhibitors at their stalls, followed by a valedictory ceremony honouring partners and patrons of the expo.

With participating MSMEs reporting direct exposure to over 10,000 business visitors and a flurry of B2B meetings, IITEX 2026 reaffirmed its place as one of South India's premier industrial platforms. FTCCI is now looking ahead to an even bigger IITEX 2027, continuing its mission of building globally competitive MSMEs in step with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Encouraging Visit by TGSPDCL CMD to IITEX : The TGSPDCL CMD spent nearly two hours at the venue and visited more than 10 stalls with genuine interest. He interacted with entrepreneurs and startups from the solar, battery energy storage, AI services, and building material sectors.

National Round Table on

Digital Trust & Citizen Protection

Theme : Protecting Citizen from Fear - Driven and Greed-Driven Digital Frauds

10th July, 2026
Federation House, FTCCI, Hyderabad

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), in association with Hyderabad City Police and Protiviti India as the Knowledge Partner, organised a National Round Table on "Digital Trust & Citizen Protection" under the theme on "Protecting Citizens from Fear-Driven and Greed-Driven Digital Frauds" on 10th July 2026 at the FTCCI Surana Auditorium, Hyderabad.

The Round Table brought together over 200 participants, including senior police officials, banking experts, cybersecurity specialists, telecom professionals, legal experts, policymakers, industry leaders, and citizens to deliberate on the growing threat of digital fraud and recommend practical measures to strengthen digital trust and citizen protection.

The event was inaugurated by Sri V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City, in the presence of Sri R. Ravi Kumar, President, FTCCI; Sri K.K. Maheshwari, Senior Vice President, FTCCI; Sri Srinivas Garimella, Vice President, FTCCI; Sri Sayantan Bose, Managing Director, Clients & Markets, Protiviti India and Sri V. Aravind Babu, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Crimes), Hyderabad City Police.

In the keynote address, Sri V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, highlighted that mule accounts and ghost SIMs are the lifeline of cybercrime networks and must be eliminated through coordinated action by banks, telecom operators, regulators and law enforcement agencies. He remarked that the country should aspire to see a day when a bank can proudly display a board stating, "This Bank Has No Mule Accounts." Emphasising the importance of swift reporting, he urged citizens to remember 1930, the National Cyber Crime Helpline Number, describing it as the "golden hour" lifeline for

cybercrime victims. "The faster a victim reports a fraud, the greater the chances of freezing and recovering the money," he said.

Mr. Sajjanar observed that cybercrimes are among the most organised forms of crime anywhere in the world, operating across jurisdictions and leveraging technology, social engineering and sophisticated fraud mechanisms to target unsuspecting citizens. Highlighting the scale of the challenge, he noted that Hyderabad City alone is losing nearly Rs.1 crore every day to cyber frauds, underlining the urgent need for collective action. "We need to address these issues holistically. Law enforcement agencies, banks, telecom companies, technology providers, educational institutions, industry bodies and citizens must work together to build a secure digital ecosystem," he said. Calling awareness the most powerful weapon against cyber fraud, Sajjanar stated: "The most important aspect in combating cybercrime is creating awareness. Every citizen should take an oath that 'I will not fall prey to cyber fraudsters.' Prevention through awareness is far more effective than recovery after a fraud has occurred." He was addressing over 200 participants, including industry leaders, bankers, cybersecurity professionals, legal experts, government officials and citizens.

On the occasion, a Citizens' Handbook on Digital Fraud Awareness and Prevention, prepared by Protiviti India, was released to help individuals identify, prevent and respond to various forms of online fraud.

Welcoming the gathering, Sri R. Ravi Kumar, President, FTCCI, highlighted the need for collective efforts to build a secure and trustworthy digital ecosystem. Sri Pankaj Diwan, Co-Chair, FTCCI ICT Committee, noted that fear- and greed-driven frauds require greater awareness, collaboration, and coordinated action among all stakeholders.

The programme featured expert sessions on the state of digital fraud, citizen perspectives, and industry responses, with participation from senior representatives of Hyderabad City Police, State Bank of India, Protiviti India, Airtel, HDFC Bank, legal experts, and cybersecurity professionals. The sessions were moderated by Co- Chair Mr. Pankaj Diwan and Members of ICT Committee Mr. Vinod Kiran Paidimarry, Mr. Vidyasagar.

A key highlight was the National Round Table deliberations, where participants discussed Human Behaviour & Digital Trust, Banking Transformation, Telecom & Digital Identity, Regulatory & Legislative Reforms, and AI, Deepfakes & Future Fraud, and presented recommendations to strengthen digital resilience and citizen protection.

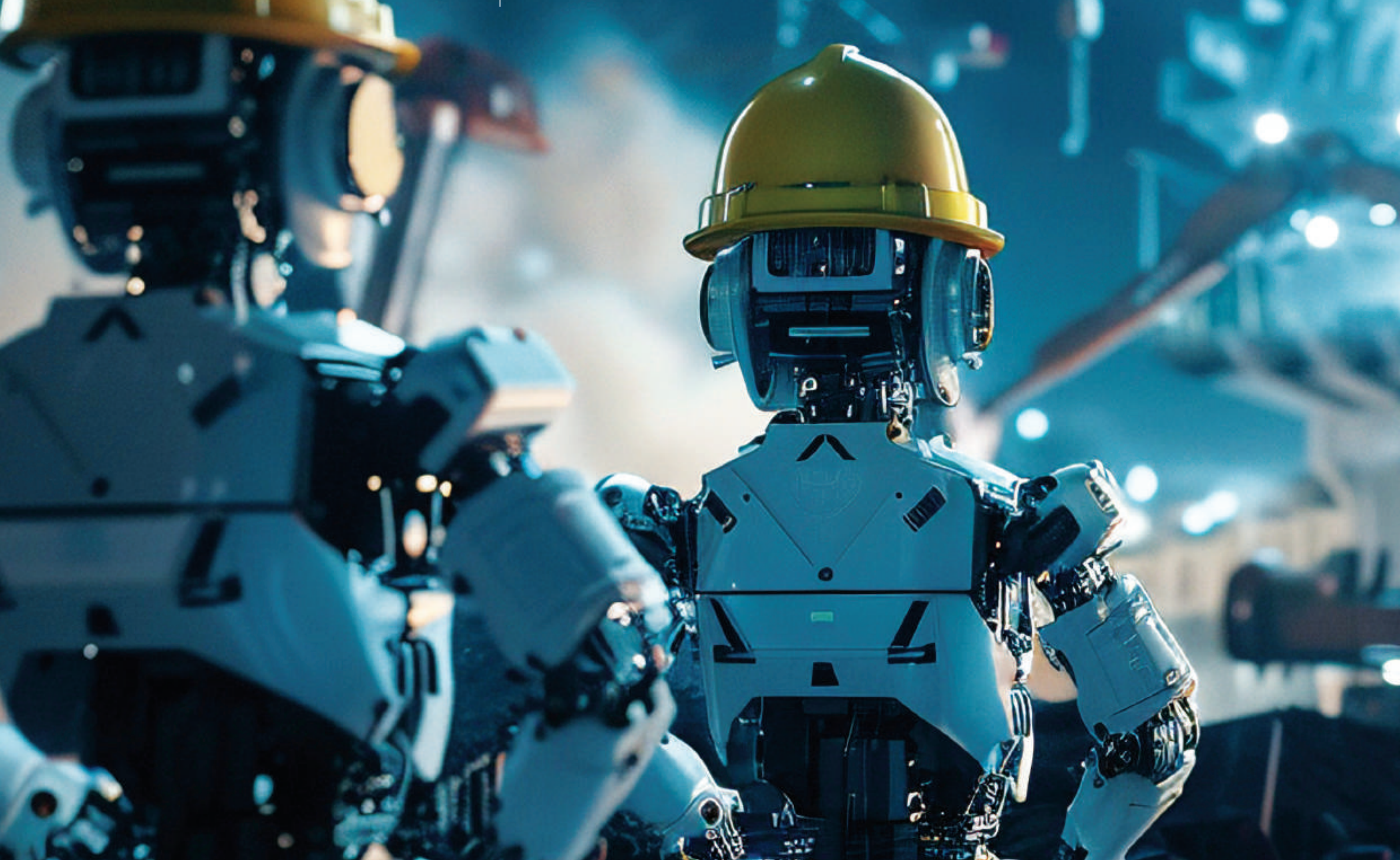
Summarising the discussions, Dr. Shreeram Iyer, Member, FTCCI ICT Committee, said that building digital trust requires a balanced approach combining technology, awareness, accountability, regulation, and innovation.

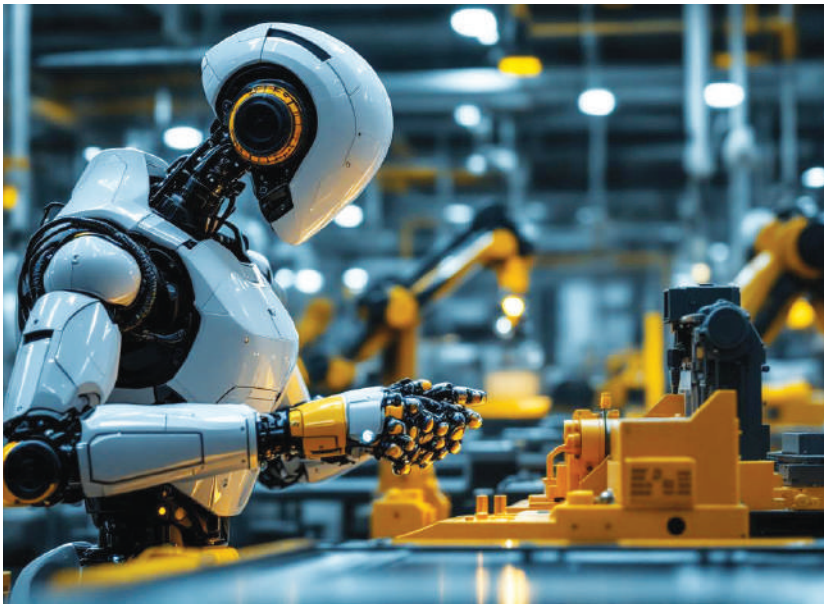
The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Sri K.K. Maheshwari, Senior Vice President, FTCCI. FTCCI announced that it would continue organising awareness programmes and stakeholder consultations to promote cyber safety and strengthen digital trust across the country.

CHIRANJIB SEN

Artificial Intelligence and India's Industrial Strategy

Artificial intelligence (AI) is at the heart of a new technological revolution that is reshaping our world. The Government of India is keen to expand and deepen the role of AI, which is a set of loosely related technologies.





The biggest threat is from the "superintelligent AI" models that are now being created without adequate regard for safety. These would be more capable than the smartest human minds on every mental activity. They could work autonomously without human interventions

AI has enormous potential for boosting productivity, but its misuse can be very harmful. India needs a comprehensive industrial strategy to guide AI adoption. A strategy is needed because AI can be used in multiple domains, such as health, education, media, defence, finance, business services, in large and small enterprises, with differential implications for well-being and harm. Industrial policy can shape its utilisation by setting priorities and coordinating government action.

The biggest threat is from the "superintelligent AI" models that are now being created without adequate regard for safety.

AI is revolutionary in its ability to undertake cognitive and creative tasks that were regarded as exclusively human. The technology is improving with astounding rapidity. Leading experts are unsure about the limits of its capabilities and possible impacts. According to co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Anthropic Daron Amodei, "Humanity is about to be handed almost unimaginable power—and it is deeply unclear whether our social, political and technological systems possess the maturity to wield it." Other luminaries, like Geoffrey Hinton (2024 Nobel laureate in Physics and "godfather of AI") believe that AI may soon become unmanageable. They view it as an existential threat.

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The biggest threat is from the "superintelligent AI" models that are now being created without adequate regard for safety. These would be more capable than the smartest human minds on every mental activity. They could work autonomously without human interventions, collaborate with other AI entities, and design and control robots. In the face of such manifold dangers, it would be unwise for India to sleepwalk into AI adoption.

AI also has its cheerleaders. These include the global giant IT firms and several growth-hungry national governments. Proponents often present the adoption of AI as inevitable. They blatantly use fear as a tool of persuasion. The message is "adopt AI immediately to be productive or else be declared incompetent".

However, there is understandable reluctance among potential users who are uncertain of its value. The economic trajectory of a powerful technology like AI should not be determined by markets, in which oligopolistic technology companies dominate. It must be guided by wise policies and governed by appropriate participatory and transparent processes. Informed public discussions on AI in multiple forums are necessary for gaining trust and for shaping policies in the national interest.

Need for industrial policy

Many countries have adopted industrial policies for AI. They include China and the USA. The European Union (EU) has legislated a strong regulatory framework. The advent of AI offers India an opportunity to frame its post-liberalisation policy paradigm. This policy must address both macroeconomic and microeconomic challenges. The strategy must ensure that AI adoption results in equitable and inclusive economic growth. The strategy must negotiate the international dimension of the AI industry.

The US is the home base of the giant IT firms, with which India's AI initiative is intimately tied. These firms have unprecedented market power and the backing of the Donald Trump administration. It is therefore important, while cooperating with them, to protect national policymaking autonomy from economic and political pressure tactics. The strategy must also maintain a strong and credible regulatory framework that protects Indian citizens and firms from AI-induced harm.

While adapting to AI, higher education institutions must ensure that students develop solid foundational intellectual capabilities and ethical awareness of AI threats.

The most immediate threat is from technological unemployment. AI can drastically disrupt jobs across many occupations. As new technology triggers economic growth, new jobs will eventually be created. However, such structural transformations can take decades. In the medium term, we should brace for unemployment.

AI has a dual impact on employment—as a substitute for mental labour in some roles, and as a complement in others. Jobs in the first category will be displaced. AI would displace less-skilled professionals engaged in text and image generation, entry-level jobs will shrink, and many young workers will be driven towards gig work.

On the other hand, AI can complement human work in the second category of jobs—those requiring decision-making responsibilities, domain expertise, face-to-face communication, and unstructured tasks. More experienced, higher-skilled workers will thus be able to deploy AI effectively and earn higher incomes. The result will be a "polarised" labour force, creating a large underclass of insecure workers.

Such a trend will surely fray the social fabric. However, a coherent strategy can counter this by moderating the speed and extent of technology adoption. Similarly, industrial policy can address competitive threats like monopoly in the value chain, algorithmic collusion, AI-driven price discrimination, and skewed industrial structure. Similarly, cooperation between the central and state governments can plan the best

Google is developing AI tools for monsoon forecasting and disease screening. Thus, the major firms see India's role in the AI value-chain as data provision, support for infrastructure creation, including data centres, and also the supply of skilled workers for creating apps for deployment in various sectors.

location for data centres and ensure the sustainable use of water and energy.

Beyond economics, there is need for regulation to curb misuse of AI for socio-political harms. This includes mass surveillance that puts privacy and democracy at risk. AI propaganda can manipulate public opinion through deep fake videos. The psychological risks to cognitive abilities, attention spans and "AI psychosis" must be addressed through regulation, as well as through public awareness building and education. Here, higher education institutions have an important role. While adapting to AI, they must ensure that students develop solid foundational intellectual capabilities and ethical awareness of AI threats.

Importance of Indian Market

The AI ecosystem has the following key components. At the apex are a handful of giant American AI firms, which create the foundation models in the generative AI segment. Well-known examples are Claude (Anthropic), GPT-4 (OpenAI), and Gemini (Google). Downstream firms must then adapt these foundation models to develop applications for different types of users.

They need access to public data, including from Indian regional language sources. Anthropic, Open AI, and Nvidia have recently signed partnership deals with leading Indian IT companies.

These "development layer" firms use foundation models, algorithms, and programming tools to create "versatile AI models" that can be scaled and optimised for specific tasks. These models must be "fine-tuned" using domain-specific knowledge before they can be deployed for specific tasks in various industries.

For this, data are crucial. Data are collected in the "data layer" and processed by AI model trainers. AI also requires a physical "infrastructure layer" of computing resources—servers, specialised chips, and cloud and edge computing capacity. In India, foreign firms currently dominate the data layer, the cloud market, and the high-end AI chip market.

For the international tech giants driving the AI revolution, India is strategically important because of our human resources, IT competence, and huge market size. The IT giants, in a race for profits, have invested $400 billion globally in 2025-26 alone. India is a major recipient. Under the shadow of an AI-stock-market bubble, these companies are eager to expand business in India as quickly as possible.

However, to scale up their operations, they require active collaborations with central and state governments, as well as Indian companies. They need access to public data, including from Indian regional language sources. Anthropic, Open AI, and Nvidia have recently signed partnership deals with leading Indian IT companies. Google and Microsoft CEOs have stated their interest to form broad-based partnerships with the government, and to work on socially relevant models.

Google is developing AI tools for monsoon forecasting and disease screening. Thus, the major firms see India's role in the AI value-chain as data provision, support for infrastructure creation, including data centres, and also the supply of skilled workers for creating apps for deployment in various sectors. This places the Indian government in a good position for negotiating with companies on a developmental agenda.

The Government of India's approach to AI can be gleaned from policy papers published by Niti Aayog and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The Economic Survey 2026 devotes a chapter to AI. The policy recommendations in these documents are not closely aligned.

A second focus is to strengthen and deepen the Indian AI-skilling system. For this, a network of organisations (universities, industries, and corporate boards) would be mobilised.

The recent AI Impact Summit proclaims broad developmental goals for AI utilisation—self-reliance, inclusive human development, environmental sustainability, and equitable progress. By contrast, the document "AI for Viksit Bharat" (prepared in partnership with McKinsey) enunciates an aggressive AI promotion agenda. Its socio-economic developmental agenda is muted. This suggests the need for a more cohesive strategy.

The basic infrastructural and "strategic enablers" of AI must be strengthened. These refer to cloud platforms, compute capacity, and foundational data sets. The AI Mission acknowledges the need for robust AI governance frameworks, ethical guidelines, and risk controls.

In this vision, India's comparative advantage in the global AI ecosystem is to be a "data capital" of the world. For this, the government must establish a "safe" institutional framework for public data collection. In addition, "specialised" data platforms need to be created for targeted industries (financial services, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and automotives). The Government of India-owned "AI Kosh" must compile and grant access to thousands of "curated, non-personal data sets" such as census data, Indian language resources, and satellite imagery. The data are essential for training AI models to make them commercially usable.

A second focus is to strengthen and deepen the Indian AI-skilling system. For this, a network of organisations (universities, industries, and corporate boards) would be mobilised. It hopes that jobs would be created via re-skilling and broadening AI access. However, creating jobs in low-income contexts would require creating a digital network and boosting demand.

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Elements of an Indian Strategy

What should be the key elements of India's industrial strategy for AI? Maintaining national policy autonomy in this business environment dominated by the world's largest companies is a major challenge.

First, policy must ensure that the speed of AI introduction is optimal. We must not rush into it at a speed beyond our ability to control labour displacement. This requires state guidance of the market. We should promote the creation of apps to address our development needs. Stimulating employment and inclusive growth must have high priority.

Second, the government should help create ground-level innovation ecosystems that serve development objectives. Profit-seeking firms will gravitate towards prosperous buyers, like big farmers in agriculture. Therefore, the state and local governments must partner at the ground level with IT-skilled non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

An international institution with the participation of China, the US, and India is needed to set rules for the AI companies. The BRICS presidency provides an opportunity for India to promote such an initiative.

Because they are more connected with ordinary people, NGOs would be able to adapt the AI better to suit varying local conditions. We therefore strongly recommend the creation of a more enabling working environment and funding mechanisms for Indian NGOs. Many of them have, over the years, demonstrated their commitment and competence in the development space. NGOs can partner with local agencies to create inclusive AI ecosystems. For example, IT for Change has several successful pilot projects on how digital technology can serve development—for example, in rural cooperative food marketing and in improving teachers' productivity.

Third, there is a need for close partnership between the government and large private and public sector firms for coordinated action on specific issues. Companies must moderate their adoption of AI to replace labour for immediate cost reduction. For example, the AI innovation ecosystem should be incentivised to develop applications that augment human labour and not substitute it. They must enable in-house skill adaptation.

In addition to reskilling employees, the gains from productivity increase can be shared more equitably. Bold labour reforms are possible in principle. These include shorter work-weeks and giving

loans to workers to buy the companies' stock. However, government and business must work together because these reforms require vision and commitment to the long-term national interest.

The labour market's efficiency should be improved. Because AI is dynamic, job market trends must be monitored continuously and information disseminated to job-seekers.

Data are central to the AI Mission road-map for training AI models for commercial use. Indian data centres would be owned by private firms. These large data centres would enable companies to run "frontier AI" models at scale. Foreign private companies have the greatest expertise on how to use these models. In principle, they can use their products to brainwash millions of users.

These companies lack the legitimacy of the state. Hence, the governance of AI companies and data centres needs careful attention.

The safe development and deployment of frontier AI models is a global concern. An international institution with the participation of China, the US, and India is needed to set rules for the AI companies. The BRICS presidency provides an opportunity for India to promote such an initiative.

Regulation is needed to manage harms. Some AI threats are more dangerous than others. For less serious harms "soft regulation" would suffice with AI firms adopting voluntary ethical codes of behaviour. Companies should continuously monitor AI models and conduct audits before release. They should immediately publicly disclose observed model behaviours that cause concern.

Regulation should be designed to target specific harms, such as disinformation, IP violation, and deep fakes.

For more serious threats, there should be "hard regulations" with legally binding obligations. These regulations should govern "high-impact" AI products—those having "the potential to significantly impact human life, safety or fundamental rights". Companies must disclose if their system qualifies as "high-impact" and ensure that adequate safety and impact assessment and user protection measures are in place.

MeitY should certify the safety of these AI systems. For transparency, users must be informed whenever AI-generated content (sound, images, videos) is utilised. Regulation should be designed to target specific harms, such as disinformation, intellectual property (IP) violation, and deep fakes.

Conclusions

The advent of AI in India has not only opens tremendous economic opportunities but also brings major dangers. The diffusion of the technology cannot be left to markets. India needs a coordinated industrial strategy, which includes policies for promotion, regulation, and accountability. A new institutional policymaking framework is needed to guide the adoption of AI. This should enable shared vision, partnerships, consultation, and accountability.

Source: https://www.theindiaforum.in/society/artificial-intelligence-and-indias-industrial-strategy

SRIVATSA KRISHNA, IAS

Reforms 3.0 – towards the Bharat rate of growth

Reforms 3.0 should focus on building an AI nation, and India cannot afford to miss this opportunity

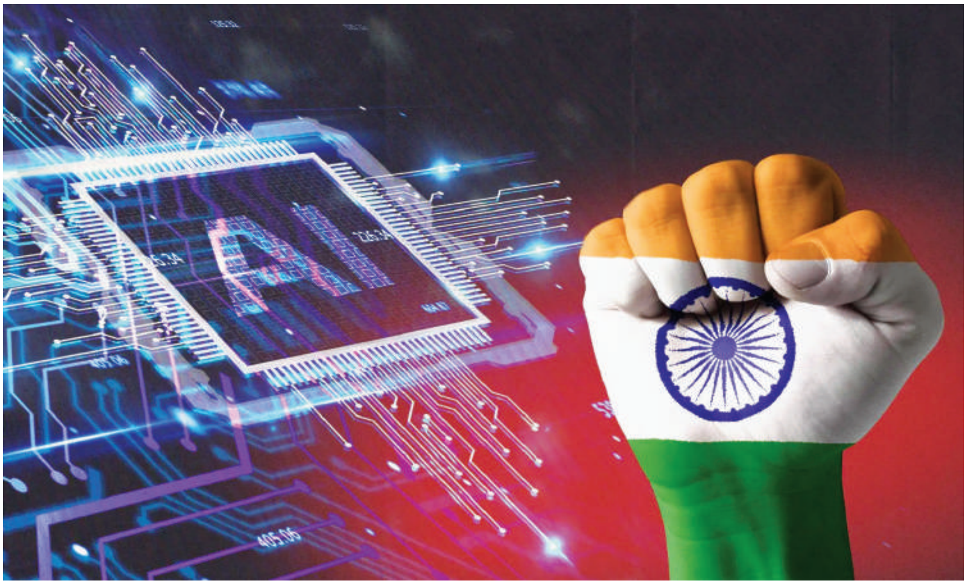
For 45 years after Independence, India grew at an anaemic 3% - the infamous "Hindu rate of growth". Triggered by a balance-of-payments crisis, India found the gumption to liberalise. Within a decade, GDP growth surged. The lesson: crisis breeds reform, and reform breeds exponential outcomes. Artificial Intelligence (AI) provides the same transformational leverage that liberalisation provided in 1991. The question is not whether India can afford to invest - it is whether India can afford not to. After 12 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has reached another WhatsApp moment in reform - dare I say, to take it from a Hindu rate of growth to the Bharat rate of growth - 8% and beyond for the next decade.

The case for making tokens free

India has since proven that it can leapfrog entire generations of infrastructure. Aadhaar enrolled 1.38 billion people in a biometric identity system, the largest on earth. UPI now processes 250 billion annual transactions worth $3.4 trillion, handling 50% of the world's real-time digital payments. Reliance Jio, launched in 2016, added 100 million subscribers in just five months and made mobile data essentially free. How India can replicate its Aadhaar, data availability deluge and UPI miracles in the age of AI — by embracing open models, diversifying compute hardware, and making tokens as free as data.

India spends just about 0.65% of its GDP on research and development (R&D), well below China (2.4%), the United States (3.5%), South Korea (4.9%), and Israel (5.4%). The excuse of the socialist Congress governments of 1947-1991 was: "we can't afford anything more", which does not and should not apply now. The central question is this: Has the time come to make AI tokens free? If so, how do we do it? Can we begin by making tokens free for the country's top 100 national R&D institutions and 5,000 schools, so that AI becomes a teammate for scientists and students alike?

India spends approximately $49 billion each year subsidising calories, chemicals, and carbon. The question is whether it is now ready to subsidise cognition. The answer is that it already can — at a fraction of what it spends today. The entire AI token subsidy for the country's top 100 universities and national R&D institutions, along with 5,000 high schools, would cost about $2 billion annually — roughly 0.06% of GDP. The AI investment is around one-fourteenth of India's food subsidy, one-tenth of its fertilizer subsidy, and less than the amount paid to compensate oil marketing companies for LPG under-recoveries in a single quarter. This is not a moonshot budget. It is a rounding error in India's existing welfare expenditure — but one with the potential to generate transformative, compounding returns.



India should announce a National AI Token Policy and implement it over the next 24 months. It should begin by signing public-private partnership agreements with AWS, Google, and Microsoft to establish a multi-vendor sovereign compute framework.

India does not need more money; it needs new priorities, new frameworks, and some reallocation. First, AI tokens can be funded without cutting a single rupee from existing beneficiaries by merely freezing subsidy growth for a year. (The fertilizer subsidy alone has been compounding at 11% CAGR over the past decade.) Second, India should forge a public-private partnership with hyperscalers such as AWS, Google, and Microsoft, exchanging data centre land, power subsidies, and data sovereignty assurances for free inference capacity. India's 1.4-billion-user market gives it negotiating leverage that few countries can match, though such techno-commercial negotiations, shaped by geopolitics and uncertainty, will require considerable skill. Third, if necessary, paid enterprise tiers can cross-subsidise free access for schools and research institutions.

Free data worked and free tokens will too. The government did not directly subsidise Jio. Instead, it created the right regulatory environment through spectrum auctions, net neutrality, infrastructure sharing, and a controversial long pilot.

The result: data prices fell from about \$3 per GB to \$0.10 in under three years. The same playbook can apply to AI tokens. Create the right conditions, and the market will deliver abundance. India's role is not to write the cheque, but to make it unnecessary.

Hosting models

India must build the competence to host and operate large language models, not merely consume them through APIs from San Francisco or Beijing. With Sarvam, it has already shown that frontier models can be trained on Indian soil. The next step is to host models such as Qwen, DeepSeek, Kimi, Llama, and Sarvam on sovereign infrastructure, even if some open-source models originate from China. The models may be free, but the intelligence to host them at scale is not. AI infrastructure should be treated as a strategic national capability, much like what the government has already done for space and nuclear programmes. India should pursue a hybrid strategy that combines sovereign and open-source models to avoid dependence on any single ecosystem. Open-source models offer four key advantages: sovereignty by reducing reliance on foreign APIs that can be restricted overnight; lower costs by eliminating per-token licensing fees, thereby enabling free education and research uses; customisation for Indic languages and cultural contexts; and transparency through auditable model weights for government and defence applications.

Hosting LLMs at national scale is not "just deploy a container". India must develop deep expertise in availability (multi-region redundancy, 99.99% uptime SLAs for critical government services); latency (<200ms token latency across Tier-2/3 cities); efficiency (like batch scheduling to maximise tokens-per-watt); security (data residency compliance, prompt injection defence, audit trails).

India cannot afford to be locked into a single-vendor monopoly for its AI compute future. NVIDIA's dominance comes at extraordinary cost — both financial and strategic. NVIDIA controls 80%+ of AI training hardware but creates deep vendor lock-in that extends far beyond hardware. For India to build sovereign AI infrastructure for 1.4 billion people, the math simply does not work at NVIDIA pricing.

India spent relatively little to build UPI; it cannot afford to spend \$50 billion on NVIDIA GPUs. The alternative hardware ecosystem is not just more economical — it is strategically essential. India should adopt a 40:30:30 hardware mix rather than rely on a single vendor. Around 40% should be built on AWS Trainium and AMD for cost-effective inference workloads available in India. Another 30% should use Google TPUs for research, model training, and academic partnerships. The remaining 30% should rely on NVIDIA for specialised training, legacy compatibility, and a domestic silicon hedge.

AI token policy, implementation timeline

India should announce a National AI Token Policy and implement it over the next 24 months. It should begin by signing public-private partnership agreements with AWS, Google, and Microsoft to establish a multi-vendor sovereign compute framework. The first pilot should provide unlimited research tokens to the top 20 IITs and the IISc. As hyperscaler inference capacity comes online, India should open an API sandbox for 500 startups, expand access to 100 universities, and launch an AI literacy pilot across 500 high schools in 10 States. The programme should culminate in the publication of the country's first sovereign Indic AI model benchmarks.

Thereafter India needs to scale the ecosystem through cross subsidies as mentioned above and deploy fine-tuned models into health care, agriculture, judiciary and education. It must follow this up with full deployment at 5,000 high schools and all 22 languages. With this India's token consumption will enter the global top five. In two years, India-trained models will become competitive on international benchmarks and 10,000+ AI-native startups will bloom, rocketing GDP growth.

In sum, India's AI leapfrog is a sine qua non for national transformation. India needs to replicate its DPI (digital public infrastructure) miracles in the age of AI by embracing open models, diversifying compute hardware, and making tokens as free as data. India has all the necessary conditions — favourable policies, stable macroeconomy, prodigious talent and technological institutions — to become a global leader in AI applications. The sufficient condition is India's decisive, visionary leadership. It will take three moves. One decade. And a transformed (AI) nation.

(Note: The views expressed are personal.)

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/reforms-30-towards-the-bharat-rate-of-growth/article71162499.ece

FTCCI NEW MEMBERS : JUNE, 2026

SNo.	Panel	Name of the Company	Business
		COMPANY CATEGORY – PANEL- C	
1	C-2377	Raadhya Infrastructures Pvt. Ltd. Mail: raadhyainfrastructures@gmail.com	Electrical, MEP, Architectural, Fire and Solar Services
2	C-2378	Mazik Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Mail: accounts.ind@mazikglobal.com; razi.ahmed@mazikglobal.com Web: www.maziktech.com	Implementation and services of Microsoft Products
3	C-2379	Best Deal Forex Pvt. Ltd. Mail: arun@bestdealfx.com Web: www.bestdealfx.com	Currency exchange service, travel related foreign exchange services
4	C-2380	SLS Techtrade Innovations Llp Mail: techtrade.sls@gmail.com; contact@slstechtrade.com; sahil.agarwal1923@gmail.com; vrsinghal415@gmail.com; ashleysamuel4445@gmail.com	Trading and Logistics
5	C-2381	Ramky Sustainability Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Mail: naveen.kumar@resustainability.com; mallesh.guntali@resustainability.com; ynranjan@ramky.com Web: www.ramkygroup.com	Environmental Wastage and Water Management Treatment Solutions
6	C-2382	Cargobird Logistics Pvt. Ltd. Mail: cargobirdteam@gmail.com Web:www.cargobird.in	Industrial, Agricultural Subsidies, Taxation, Exim & Shipping Services
7	C-2383	Gouranga Technologies Llp Mail: bhavaniprasadindia@gmail.com; bhavaniprasad@gourangatechnologies.com Web: www.credunique.com	Printing, Loan Advisory, Information Technology
8	C-2384	Curemetric Health Tech Pvt. Ltd. Mail: padma.akella@gmail.com; padma@cure-metric.com; vijaya.akella1953@gmail.com Web: www.curemetric.com	Software Development and Healthtech
9	C-2385	Tejas Open Haul Freight Logistics Pvt. Ltd. Mail: md@tohfl.in Web: www.tohfl.in	Logistics and Transportation
10	C-2386	Finmantra Consulting Pvt. Ltd. Mail: info@fin-mantra.com Web: www.fin-mantra.com	Business Loans, Personal Loans, Working Capital & SME Loans
11	C-2387	Be Biosol Pvt. Ltd. Mail: siva.nekkanti@biologicale.com; raghava.peddamallu@bebiosol.com; info@biosol.co.in; eswarareddy.n@biologicale.com; Web: www.biologicale.com	Biotechnology and Life Sciences: Providing innovative research and development solutions with a focus on advancing healthcare, scientific innovation, and sustainable technologies.
12	C-2388	Saniksha Services Pvt. Ltd. Mail: info@saniksha.com; sandeep@saniksha.com; pmonisha@gmail.com; Shankar@saniksha.com; accounts-services@saniksha.com; Pooja.sharma@saniksha.com Web: www.saniksha.com	Real Estate Construction, Infrastructure
		FIRM / INDIVIDUAL / PROPRIETARY CONCERN – PANEL- D	
13	D-2917	SMS Diagnostic Centre Mail: smsdiagnosticcentre@gmail.com	Diagnostic Centre
14	D-2918	Aayat Diagnostic Center Mail: zoiikhan863@gmail.com; aayatdiagnosticcenter@gmail.com	Diagnostic Centre
15	D-2919	RITI Solutions Mail:hrritisol@gmail.coml; vasu@ritisolutions.in Web:www.ritisolutions.in	HR Services

SNo.	Panel	Name of the Company	Business
16	D-2920	Libra Creations Mail: creations.libra@gmail.com	Corporate Gifting
17	D-2921	SRIM & Associates Mail: srimassociates.cs@gmail.com Web: www.srimassociates.com	Company Secretaries
18	D-2922	Chinda & Associates Mail:caramamohan@chinda.in; chandramohan@gmail.com, chandrasekarp.ca@gmail.com; chaitanya@chindaaccura.com Web: www.chinda.in	Chartered Accountant – All services of DPIIT, MSME Virtual CFO, GST, Registrations, Audit, Tax, CS Works
19	D-2923	M H Scientifics Mail: nagendra@mhscientifics.com Web: www.mhscientifics.com	Wound care dressings and sprays trusted by healthcare professionals to ensure faster healing and better outcomes
20	D-2924	Bansal Designers Mail: bansaldesigners90@gmail.com; bansal.mohit@gmail.com	Consultation & Valuation, Construction, Vaastu Shastra visits Consultation & Valuation, Construction, Vaastu Shastra visits Consultation & Valuation, Construction, Vaastu Shastra visits
21	D-2925	Aims Travel Overseas Educational Services Mail: atoverseaseduservices@gmail.com; mohdimran4966@gmail.com; mohdimran4966@gmail.com	Tours & Travels
22	D-2926	Nagaraju Kacham Mail: rajkacham.wealth@gmail.com	AMFI Registered MF, SIF Distributer, APMI Registered & PMS Distributer
23	D-2927	Models N Models Mail: models_n_models@yahoo.com Web:www.modelsnmodels.com	Architectural Models and furniture's
24	D-2928	Bright Steel India Mail: brightsteelindia@gmail.co	Trading of Steel
25	D-2929	Herbivia Mail: drirajyalakshmi2014@gmail.com	Manufacturing of Homeopathy Pharmaceuticals
		MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME) – PANEL- E	
26	E-1939	New Match Motors Mail:newmatchmotors@gmail.com	Manufacturing of Electric Motors (all Types), EV Motors and Blower Solutions
27	E-1940	Milstar Rf And Microwave Systems Pvt. Ltd. Mail: milstar.hyd@gmail.com; marepalliprabha09@gmail.com	Manufacturing of RF & Defence Equipment (Jammers)
28	E-1941	Skanda Solutions Mail: skandasolutions.sales@gmail.com	Manufacturing of FRP Products
29	E-1942	Sigmanix Tech Solutions Pvt.Ltd. Mail: sivajuluri@gmail.com; hr@sigmanixtech.com; techsigmanix@gmail.com Web: www.sigmanixtech.com	AI, IT Training, IT Projects and Co-Working
30	E-1943	Cconorb Build Products Pvt. Ltd. Mail: cconorb@gmail.com; susmithagutta1998@gmail.com; srilakshmitatineni1960@gmail.com Web:www.cconorb.com	Manufacturing of Metallic Mineral Products
31	E-1944	Vinayak Automation Products Mail:info@vinayakautomation.com; corr.vinayakautomation@gmail.com	Manufacturing & Trading of Electrical Goods
32	E-1945	Green Aqua Enviro Projects Pvt. Ltd. Mail:satishk@greenaqua.in Web: www.greenaqua.in	Manufacturing, Trading and Supplying the premium quality of Sewage & Effluent Treatment Plants, Industrial RO Plants, Wilo Pumps etc.

FTCCI Office Bearers With

Smt. T. Sujatha, Sr. Director, FTCCI delivering Key Note address on Closing the Gender Funding Gap is Crucial to India's Economic Growth:27th June, 2026

Sri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Government of India : 27th June, 2026

Meeting with officials of Dept of L E T & F on State Rules of Labour Codes. FTCCI representatives submitted the recommendations to Ms. Harichandana Dasari, IAS, Secretary, L E T & : 7th July, 2026

Meeting with Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Orhan Yalman Okan : 8th July, 2026

Press Coverage

ఎఫ్‌టీసీసీఐ కార్యవర్గం ఎన్నిక

కేకే మహేశ్వరి, శ్రీనివాస్

ఎస్‌ఎంఇలకు మద్దతునిస్తాం...

- ఐఐటెక్స్-2026 ప్రారంభోత్సవంలో డిప్యూటీ సీఎం భట్టి విక్రమార్క

రోజుకు రూ.కోటి కోల్పోతున్నారు

KK Maheshwari elected President and Srinivas Garimella Senior Vice President of FTCCI

Hyderabad, July 15: The members of the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), one of India's oldest and most respected industry bodies with a legacy spanning 109 years, elected Krishna Kumar Maheshwari (KK Maheshwari) as President and Srinivas Garimella as Senior Vice President at the General Body Meeting held on Wednesday at FTCCI, Red Hills, Hyderabad.

Sajjanar targets mule accounts, ghost SIMs

Says Hyderabad loses nearly ₹1 crore daily to cyber frauds

Public safety measures planned to reduce ORR accidents further

साइबर धोखाधड़ी के खिलाफ शक्तिशाली हथियार जन-जागरूकता : सज्जनार

एफटीसीसीआई में डिजिटल ट्रस्ट एंड सिटीजन प्रोटेक्शन पर सम्मेलन आयोजित

Mule accounts, ghost SIMs fuel cybercrime: CP Sajjanar

HYDERABAD
Certificate Course

The Indirect Taxes Committee of FTC augura… Certific… GST at … House, … progra… mally in… Jaya Ka… tional C… Telanga… The cou… over eig… will be c… Fridays a… until July 31 and has attracted more than 60 participants. Ravi Kumar, FTCCI president, said the GST has become an integral part of India's taxation framework

ఎఫ్‌టీసీసీఐ అధ్యక్షుడిగా కేకే మహేశ్వరి ఎన్నిక

సీనియర్ ఉపాధ్యక్షుడిగా గరిమెళ్ల శ్రీనివాస్

మ్యూల్ ఖాతాలు, ఘోస్ట్ సిమ్‌లు మోసాలకు జీవనాడులు

Mule Accounts, Ghost SIMs Fuel Cybercrime: Sajjanar

Highlighting the scale of the challenge, he noted that Hyderabad alone is losing nearly Rs 1 crore every day to cyber frauds, underlining the urgent need for collective action.

By : DC Correspondent

Update: 2026-07-10 16:38 GMT

Hyderabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar speaks at a round-table on digital trust and citizens protection organised by the FTCCI on Friday. —DC

Hyderabad: Mule accounts and ghost SIMs are the lifeline of cybercrime networks and must be eliminated through coordinated efforts, city police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said here on Friday. He asked banks, telecom …

आठ दिवसीय जीएसटी प्रमाणन पाठ्यक्रम शुरू

జీఎస్టీ అధికారులు పన్ను వసూలుకు పరిమితం కాకూడదు

ఫెడరేషన్ ఆఫ్ తెలంగాణ ఛాంబర్స్ ఆఫ్ కామర్స్ అండ్ ఇండస్ట్రీస్ అధ్యక్షుడిగా కేకే మహేశ్వరి ఎన్నిక

नवाचार एवं प्रौद्योगिकी प्रदर्शनी आईआईटेक्स आरंभ

ఎస్‌ఎంఇలకు మద్దతునిస్తాం...

…Hyderabad faces growing threat …rom organised cyber fraud

…Y BUREAU

…derabad loses nearly Rs 1 …re every day to cyber …ds, City Police Commis…ner V.C. Sajjanar said on …day, underscoring the …rming scale of digital …nes and calling for a …ted response from law …orcement, banks, tele…n operators and citizens. …peaking at the National …und Table on Digital …st and Citizen Protec…, organised by the Fed…tion of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Sajjanar said cybercriminals thrive on mule bank accounts and ghost SIM cards, urging stakeholders to work together to eliminate them.

Describing cybercrime as one of the world's most organised forms of crime, he stressed that immediate reporting is critical for recovering lost money. He urged victims to contact the 1930 National Cyber Crime Helpline as soon as they detect fraud, calling it the "golden hour" for freezing stolen funds. Sajjanar also emphasised that public awareness is the most effective tool against cyber fraud, encouraging citizens to stay vigilant and avoid falling prey to online scams.

The round table, themed "Protecting Citizens from Fear-Driven and Greed-Driven Digital Frauds," brought together senior police officials, banking and telecom experts, cyber-security professionals, policymakers and industry leaders to discuss measures for strengthening digital trust.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

MULE BANK ACCOUNTS AND GHOST SIM CARDS ARE THE BACKBONE OF CYBERCRIME NETWORKS

రోజుకు కోటికిపైనే కొట్టేస్తున్నారు

రోజుకు రూ.కోటి కోల్పోతున్నారు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Advocate Ravi Kumar (High Court – GST) 20 Yrs Exp
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