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BCIC

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**BANGALORE CHAMBER OF
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE**

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BCIC at the forefront of business



BANGALORE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (BCIC) HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROMOTING AND PROVIDING A GOOD BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN KARNATAKA. BCIC PRESIDENT **K R SEKAR** SPEAKS ABOUT THE TRADE BODY'S GROWTH JOURNEY OVER TIME AND SHARES ITS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Please share a brief history of BCIC. Why was it formed? And how has the body helped businesses in the state?

The Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) is the apex Chamber of Industry and Commerce representing large and medium industry in the state of Karnataka. BCIC plays an active and important role in promoting trade and investment in the state and has an excellent domestic and international network with MoUs with leading chambers of commerce across the globe. BCIC presently has a membership of over 870+ companies representing various sectors including manufacturing, aerospace aviation, IT, biotech, pharma, engineering to name a few.

What are the key achievements/milestones of BCIC?

BCIC has been at the forefront in supporting Government of Karnataka in all its initiatives on industry commerce and also during the pandemic.

▶ BCIC has organised interactions with Union ministers, chief ministers, and other distinguished invitees

▶ The trade body is preparing to open an international office in Tokyo. This augurs well during the 70th year of commemoration of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.

▶ It is also opening nodal offices in Dharwad and Mysuru with the objective of

supporting and developing industries on human resources in the areas of skilling, training and sharing of good practices in the companies in these districts.

▶ BCIC formulates research reports to help industries keep pace with the ever-changing world. Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Opportunity in the times of Covid -19, Positioning Karnataka as a preferred investment destination and BCIC Annual Report 2020 - 2021 were released last year. This year BCIC has embarked on a research report on Economic Analysis titled 'BCIC recommendation on RBI Economic Policy Implementation Post Pandemic' and report on 'Measures of prevention of disputes, suggestions for improving faceless assessment and other matters and Capital Gains'.

▶ BCIC has conducted over 200 webinars on various topics to help raise quality, add value to our members and support in disseminating knowledge across members.

How does BCIC help new entrepreneurs? And how does it support existing ones?

▶ Protects the interests of business community to develop a sense of co-operation among our members

▶ Consults the central and state governments on matters relating to trade, commerce and industry.

▶ Makes members aware of changes in the field of technology, marketing,

financing, human resources, etc.

▶ BCIC has constituted Expert Committees on various sectors to discuss topical issues that need to be addressed by the industry, in addition to organising seminars and workshops on relevant topics to enhance the overall levels of awareness and engagement with its members.

▶ BCIC has excellent working relationships with all the High Commission/Trade Offices. It is needless to mention that our recommendation has its own credibility that expedites the process of Visa issuance.

▶ BCIC has launched a Start-up Clinic to mentor and offer guidance to start-ups as they look for support and guidance from successful leaders.

What are BCIC's initiatives for women entrepreneurs? What needs to be done further?

▶ Women leaders have been change-makers and pathbreakers, bringing in innovation, insights and fresh perspectives to a wide range of fields. BCIC will continue to discuss issues related to women entrepreneurs that need to be addressed and to enhance the overall levels of awareness and engagement with our members.

▶ BCIC proposes nomination of two women leaders in every expert committee to bring diversity and inclusivity to the initiatives undertaken by it.

▶ BCIC Women Empowerment and Leadership Award 2021 has been designed to recognise and celebrate women entrepreneurs efforts and achievements. To felicitate the achievement of Women in Leadership roles and also encourage Corporates / Academic organisation helping to promote women in leadership roles in their respective organisation.

Grooming Startups

ONE OF THE KEY FOCUS AREAS OF BCIC IS BOOSTING THE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM AND IT HAS BEEN PROACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ESCALATING THE STARTUP SPIRIT, SAYS **Dr RAVINDRAN**, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, BCIC

How is BCIC supporting young investors in the state?

What are the key achievements/milestones of BCIC?

BCIC acts as a bridge between government and industry and shape governmental policies to support "Ease of doing business." It is a "single point of contact" for government to grasp issues and recommendations from industries and other stakeholders. A cat-

alyst for growth and competitiveness through sharing best practices and knowhow within the member community. BCIC also provides strategic support for small and medium business to scale their operations and remain competitive.

In order to develop the ecosystem of promoting the startups pan India, the chamber has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Amrita Vish-



wa Vidyapeetham (Amrita Technology Enabling Center (TEC) and Amrita Technology Business Incubator (TBI)) one of the leading incubators towards various initiatives (not limited to).

▶ Acceleration and incubation to startups

▶ Jointly work towards enhancing the market access of startups

▶ Assist with exposure to Angel Networks and VCs

▶ Industry – Startup – Academia Exchange Programmes

▶ Showcasing ideas, prototypes and solutions of thematic interest to industry partners

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

► Work with local government in aiding available funding mechanisms

What is the role of BCIC in enhancing the relations with several international businesses?

With its long standing working relationship with several international businesses and trade organisations, the chamber has hosted interactions and promoted bilateral business with the US, UK, Austria, the Netherlands, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Israel, Kenya, Thailand and Vietnam to name a few.

What is the role of BCIC on various committees constituted by the government?

As over the past years, the BCIC has been represented in various Advisory Boards / Task Force and committees constituted by the state and the central governments and has shared its valuable inputs on issues relating to Agriculture, Direct and Indirect Taxes, Manufacturing, Labour / HR, Corporate Affairs, Energy, Tourism, Budget recommendations and other allied sectors.

To bring awareness on issues addressed and streamline and eliminate bottlenecks in doing business in the state, BCIC jointly with BBMP, Bescom, Department of Commercial Taxes, Department of Employment and Training, Department of Industries & Commerce including KIADB, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and Labour Department and factories organised a series of sessions on Ease of Doing Business in the state.

Creating a better society



“RESPONSIBILITY TO SOCIETY IS PARAMOUNT FOR BCIC,” SAYS **B R INDUSHEKAR**, VICE-PRESIDENT, BCIC

As BCIC is very keen to promote CSR, what are the steps taken to enhance social responsibility among your member organizations?

■ First comes first, BCIC as an organization will not be collecting any funds from companies to conduct CSR engagements

■ BCIC's approach on CSR is to be a link between large sector companies & Government agencies and make sure addressing issues in Health Care, Environment & Education areas.

■ **Health:** Covid Vaccination, Eye health check in Rural Karnataka

■ **Environment:** Lake Rejuvenation, tree sapling

■ **Education:** Books, Computers and tablets for government schools. Also exploring scholarships for bright students from poor financial background.

What are the future plans of BCIC in taking BCIC and the state to the next level?

BCIC based in Bangalore will be the obvious partner with State Government of Karnataka in helping them on economic policy, industrial policy, investment policy, digitalization policy and several others. With over 20 expert committees with BCIC, it can provide all the ideas / suggestions towards policy etc in achieving significant breakthrough results.



Championing Progress

“BANGALORE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (BCIC) IS TAKING COMMENDABLE STEPS TO ENHANCE THE BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM IN THE STATE,” SAYS **T R PARASURAMAN**, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, BCIC

How has BCIC helped in creating a conducive environment for investments in Karnataka?

As an industry chamber, BCIC has been working very closely with the Government of Karnataka our member industries to iron out their pain points. We have partnered with the government for over four decades now. Our views about industry, trade, labour etc, are taken in policy formulations and framing. Our Expert Committee on EODB, headed by M N Vidyashankar, IAS, Retd. Additional Chief Secretary has been making several representations in recent times. BCIC has provided several thought papers and removed bottlenecks in doing business. BCIC has championed the cause of MSMEs, mid industries, and large industries at various forums. We have particularly focussed on MSMEs in sharing best practices, supported them during the pandemic, deliberated with government agencies on tax concessions, electricity, rental concessions, and so on.

BCIC has opened nodal offices in Dharwad and Mysore. BCIC has also gone over-

seas to operate in Tokyo to align with our theme Namma Karnataka – The Gateway to Future India. This will usher in new opportunities in investments.

How does BCIC lead business growth and prosperity in the state partnering with all stakeholders?

Despite Covid-19, we had over 200+ events last year. These events were done free. These initiatives bring awareness, and in turn, promote employment and investments. Several prominent leaders including Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman, Union Industry and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, and Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari, former Isro chief Dr K Kasturirangan, and Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India Vijaya Raghavan, have addressed our members and shared their knowledge.

BCIC has given reports on inviting investments into Karnataka, having a second new airport in Bengaluru, Atma Nirbhar Bharat Report to Ministry of finance, Government of India. These reports are also uploaded on our website for all of us.

BCIC: PAST PRESIDENTS

PANKAJAM SRIDEVI, PAST PRESIDENT, BCIC



BCIC as an industry body has initiated several programmes in recognizing women leaders and supporting them at every step of their growth. One such initiative is the Women Empowerment and Leadership Award which aims at celebrating the achievements of women in their respective fields and encourages other women to dream big and have ambitious goals in life and career.

INDRA PREM MENON, PAST PRESIDENT, BCIC



BCIC has been at the forefront of championing the cause of women in all its activities. The very fact that it has nominated 2 women leaders for each expert committee goes a long way in strengthening this just cause of advancement, creativity and objectivity.

State a leader in business: CM



CHIEF MINISTER **BASAVARAJ BOMMAI** HAS PUT IN PLACE SEVERAL MEASURES TO MAKE KARNATAKA THE NUMBER 1 INVESTMENT DESTINATION IN INDIA AND THE WORLD

Karnataka is among the top states in the country when it comes to investments. How does the state plan to ensure that it has a great business climate?

Karnataka has been a leading destination for investments in India. Karnataka became the top recipient of FDIs in India recently. We attracted close to 48% of India's total FDI in the first quarter of FY22 (Apr-Jun 2021) amounting to investments worth Rs 62,085 Crores, as per the data released by the DPIIT.

Karnataka's State Investment Promotion Agency, Karnataka Udyoga Mitra (KUM), has been ranked as India's top Investment Promotion Agency by Invest India.

We are home to 400 of the Fortune 500 companies. We are also the fastest growing large technology cluster in the world. Karnataka is India's leader in innovation, with multiple accolades to itself:

- ▶ 1st in R&D centers
- ▶ 1st in India Innovation Index
- ▶ 1st in attracting investments since 2016
- ▶ And 1st in Renewable Energy – 63% of our installed power capacity lies in renewable energy

During the first wave of COVID, Karnataka was one of the first states to lift the lockdown. This helped key industries such as electronics, aerospace and defence. In the second wave, essential industries were allowed to operate during the lockdown.

Karnataka has taken multiple bold measures to ensure a thriving business climate:

1. New Industrial Policy 2020-25 released in Aug-2020, providing further thrust to key areas such as - Industry 4.0, advanced manufacturing, R&D - aimed at becoming an integral part of the global value chain. The policy also offers attractive financial incentives, such as Investment promotion subsidy of up to 2.25% of annual turnover for 6-10 years. Companies can avail this subsidy up to 40-60% of the Value of

their Fixed Assets.

2. Section wise policies eg ESDM Special Incentive package, Updated EV policy, ER&D (Engineering Research and Development) policy which provide best in class incentives.

3. Enhanced Ease of Doing Business – Approvals relaxed through an Affidavit Based Clearance system which allows the investor to not obtain approvals or clearances from different government agencies, for a period of 3 years or until commercial operations begin.

4. Relaxed labour laws – creating friendly working environment for both companies and employees.

With these comprehensive policy reforms, we continue to emphasise that we are a policy driven state, and hence deliver continuity in our promises to investors.

What steps is the state taking to draw more investments?

Government of Karnataka is taking multiple initiatives across investment facilitation and structural interventions to ensure more investments are attracted in the state. We plan to conduct the Invest Karnataka 2022 event, State's global investment meet, during November 2022 and hope to attract large amount of investments from across the globe. To attract foreign investors, we are proactively carrying out a dedicated outreach to 17 priority sectors through Invest Karnataka Forum which covers all 13 Government of India Production Linked Incentive scheme sectors.

Invest Karnataka Forum is reaching out to investors in all major industrialised countries to facilitate their investment plans in Karnataka as global companies think about diversifying their supply chain out of China.

In addition to policies already announced, we are in the process of launching dedicated policies for sunrise sectors like Data centre and Aerospace & Defence to attract global investments in the growing sectors. For the EV sector, apart from best in class incentives in the EV policy and upcoming dedicated EV

cluster, we have also setup a state-of-the-art common EV testing lab facility to help budding EV companies in the state.

We are also working actively on land reforms to help investors. Government of Karnataka has amended Section 109 of Karnataka Land reforms Act by which any industrial project approved by Single window clearance committees will be allowed to procure land directly from landowners. We have also undertaken a first of its kind initiative under 'product specific industrial cluster program'. Eleven industrial clusters have been identified, which are expected to create 9 lakh jobs in the next 9 years. This includes FMCG cluster in Dharwad, Toys cluster in Koppal, Bulk Drugs Park in Yadgir, EV cluster in Ramanagara.

MSME is the backbone of an economy and unemployment is looming large. How is the government strengthening MSME to address unemployment?

MSMEs form an important and growing segment of Karnataka's industrial sector. Karnataka has the 5th largest MSME base in the country with over 7.16 million registered units employing nearly 4.94 million people. In view of its massive potential for employment, growth and exports and to ensure MSMEs remain globally competitive, we have proposed interventions across the following topics for MSMEs in our new industrial policy:

- Investment promotion subsidy up to 35% of value of fixed assets
- Centre of Excellence for MSMEs
- Infrastructure support in terms of dedicated infrastructure in the state
- Technology Up-gradation & Technical Support
- Enhanced credit for MSMEs
- Exemption from stamp duty
- Reimbursement of land conversion fee
- Interest subsidy on technology up-gradation loan
- Marketing Support in Public Procurement
- Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP)

We have also been at the forefront of introducing labour reforms.

▶ We have increased the overtime limit of workers from 75 hours/quarter to 125 hours/quarter.

▶ We have also introduced a provision to avail 'Fixed term employment' to optimize labour capacity for seasonality

▶ Women are now allowed to work in night shifts, between 7 PM to 6 AM, with adequate safety measures being taken by the employer.

'Karnataka will be among the best globally'



DUE TO PRO-BUSINESS POLICIES AND A GREAT INVESTMENT CLIMATE, KARNATAKA HAS BECOME ONE OF THE TOP INVESTMENT DESTINATIONS IN THE COUNTRY. **MURUGESH R NIRANI**, LARGE AND MEDIUM SCALE INDUSTRIES MINISTER SPEAKS IN DETAIL ABOUT THE STATE'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

What are the factors that make Karnataka a great draw for investments?

Business and investment promotion are the key focus areas for the state. Karnataka has emerged as one of the country's most attractive investment destinations due to the many industry-friendly policies and progressive reforms of the government. In fact, Karnataka attracted the third highest FDI in India in 2020-21 at \$7.6 billion with a 14% national share.

We have been successful in creating an entrepreneurial environment in the state, by enhancing investment proposals through measures such as the Industrial Infrastructure Amendment, Land Reform Act Amendment, Faster Approval of Business Proposals, Emphasis on Flexible Business, Affidavit Based Approval, and Deregulation of Regulations.

Karnataka is the leading investment destinations in India, being #1 across multiple sectors. Since 2016, we are one of the leading states in attracting investments and stand first in Niti Aayog's India Innovation Index. Bengaluru is the world's fourth largest technology and innovation cluster. We are the first in Coffee Production, Biotech production & exports, Electronics Design in India. In terms of Electric Vehicles innovation - Karnataka is home to 7+ auto OEMs & 50+ auto component manufacturers and 45+ Electric Vehicle start-ups.

We are also one of the first states to have an exclusive EV policy to attract additional investments and to support our existing dynamic ecosystem.

We garnered Rs 1 lakh crore worth of investments since the beginning of the challenging pandemic situation in March '20. To enhance the offering to companies we have recently taken multiple bold measures like the new Industrial Policy 2020-25, Enhanced Ease of Doing Business, Relaxed labor Laws, Industry 4.0, advanced manufacturing, R&D - aimed at becoming an integral part of the global value chain. The policy also offers attractive financial incentives. Section-wise policies like the ESDM Special Incentive package, Updated EV policy, ER&D (Engineering

Research and Development) policy provide best in class incentives.

Recently, the state also showcased the strength and opportunities in Karnataka to over 200 influential industrialists and business leaders in the Gulf region in its event Karnataka- Now & Beyond' in Dubai. We are planning to organise Global Investors Meet 2022 in November 2022 to attract more global investment to the state.

What are the hurdles in the path of making the state the number 1 for business in the country?

The latest restrictions to check the spread of Covid 19 infections may put brakes on the investment proposals, opportunities, and targets. At present, the country is in the throes of a third wave of the ongoing pandemic, and it is likely to disrupt plans for any physical meetings with potential investors. Also, the first two waves of the pandemic had an adverse impact on the industrial processes and had led to disruptions and missed targets. For domestic industries and exporters, markets have been affected due to movement and logistics problems. Given 2021 was the beginning of the new normal, changing the way of work and the future of work, we hope 2022 will be a defining year for the economy.

What are the steps being taken by the government to remove these hurdles and to bring about a good business climate?

Karnataka is consistently working towards building key infrastructural projects to aid our growing industries. We are the only state in the country to have three industrial corridors - Bengaluru-Chennai Economic corridor (CBEC), Bengaluru -Mumbai Economic Corridor (BMEC) and Bengaluru -Hyderabad Economic corridor (BHEC). The creation of these economic corridors is expected to generate five lakh jobs.

We are building multiple sector-specific parks and SEZs such as Tumkur Machine Tool Park, Aerospace SEZ in Belagavi as well as special industrial townships for global investors

such as Japanese Industrial Park to make sure we facilitate investments across the board.

What specific policy decisions are being promulgated by the government to support businesses reeling under stress to come out of the situation?

We have taken several measures to promote investment and support businesses through the implementation of transparent and sustainable policies. The policies are anchored on Karnataka's industrial prowess and the various state offerings will help us identify and target the right kind of investors. The incentives and provisions provide ample reasons for investors to set up their units in the state. We are also actively engaging with various foreign investors and associations to educate them regarding the facilitation our policy currently provides. The identified focus sectors and the thrust areas will highlight the investment opportunities for global investors as well.

The new Industrial policy offers attractive financial incentives, such as an investment promotion subsidy of up to 2.25% of annual turnover for 6-10 years. Companies can avail of this subsidy up to 40-60% of the Value of their Fixed Assets. Section-wise policies like the ESDM Special Incentive package, Updated EV policy, ER&D (Engineering Research and Development) policy provide best in class incentives.

Through Affidavit Based Clearance (ABC) System, we have ensured that any approved the project can start the next day without waiting for any downstream approvals. Meanwhile, we are planning to include ITES and Logistics as part of Affidavit Based Clearance.

Addressing the concerns of the industries and reluctance of many investors to make investments in the state due to the existing policy, KIADB in future will allot all the lands to private industries/institutions on 10-year lease cum sale basis.

Karnataka is planning to release the updated Aerospace and Defence Policy 2021-26 to attract Rs 45,000 cr investment and generate additional employment of 60,000 persons. The Biofuel policy is under drafting stage in line with National policy and the Ethanol blending programme.

Chamber has been the voice of business



FOR BUSINESSES TO FLOURISH IT IS IMPORTANT TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A GOOD BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT. KARNATAKA AND BCIC HAVE TAKEN THE RIGHT STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION, SAYS **SOUMITRA BHATTACHARYA**, PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, BOSCH GROUP IN INDIA

What are the steps you believe that the state government should take to make Karnataka a leading destination for investment in manufacturing and service sector?

We appreciate the great effort from the state government to make Karnataka a leading region for inwards investment. That is why Bosch is investing in Karnataka. We are a local successful business investing heavily in innovation and skills for the future. Of course, there are always further steps that can be considered:

1. Proactive support from the department of labour and framing industry-friendly labour policies would ensure ease of executing business.
2. Flexible labour model to deal with market fluctuations
3. Digital and core skill development through state run universities

4. Use of fixed term contracts on direct production on minimum wages level

5. Government hostel facilities at Industrial estates to support apprentices, our workforce for the future

6. Assigning a nodal officer is a good way to handle the union discussions and fair long term settlements

7. Fast and transparent single window approval system for all government approvals will help new industries.

Assign a single point of contact or relationship manager for business to help bring efficiency to the system. Use transparent online, digital systems with fixed lead times for licenses and renewal of licenses will be recommended

Also, looking for different state aid tools such as Tax relieve up to

five years or longer will help accelerate business growth.

We will welcome an industry wide discussion with the state government to address jointly a framework enabling scalability of business and attracting more investment moving forward.

How has Covid affected manufacturing industry and how is the sector rebounding to pre-covid levels?

Bosch managed to handle the situation swiftly due to our global experience and efficient processes. However, we did face challenges especially with massive supply chain disruptions and exodus of migrant workers.

What in your view is the role of the Chamber to support Industries in Karnataka?

The chamber has a huge role to play being the voice for business and bringing industry interest in a clear manner to the government attention. We as Bosch believe that the collaboration with the chamber and its members is a key in creating an agile successful industrial framework.

‘Need greater business push’



FOCUSED AND RESULT-ORIENTED DISCUSSIONS ARE REQUIRED, SAYS **M R JAISHANKAR**, CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRIGADE ENTERPRISES LTD

Karnataka being a leading investment destination for investors, what are your views about business opportunities that will open up soon? How should Karnataka position itself as compared to other states?

Karnataka is blessed due to the high quality of tech manpower, good weather, cosmopolitan nature, and

welcoming attitude of the local populace. Otherwise, I would say, the government has to take note of competition from neighbouring states and provide world class infrastructure and create the best in class living facilities and become more modernised through technological advancement.

What are the challenges you see in the Covid-19 era and how is the situation evolving for the businesses?

Uncertainty during Covid times has increased manifold. For example, instead of Annual Operating Plans/budgets, we have now resorted to Quarterly plans till the situation returns to normalcy. Financial support to businesses, particularly MSMEs is very meagre.

Can you elaborate on the role of BCIC and how they have made a positive impact on industries?

BCIC is trying its best with the government to focus on various businesses requirements and should continue inviting senior ministers and bureaucrats more frequently for focused and result-oriented discussions.

‘Proud to be associated with BCIC’

IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE PART OF A GOOD TRADE BODY, SAYS **KAMAL BALI**, PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, VOLVO GROUP INDIA



How do you find BCIC doing as an industry chamber?

I am very impressed with BCIC as an institution. Over the last

two years, I am engaged very closely with BCIC, thanks to my friend Parasuraman and Sekar and my colleague Indushekar, who baptised me into BCIC in many ways. I think the kind of leadership you have defines the institution. The finance minister coming not only virtually but also for a physical event for BCIC, shows the caliber and credibility of the institution. It's not a question of brand or labelling but the finance minister will not come for an event of any institution, she will check its value first. The proof of the pudding lies in eating. The kind of paper on MSMEs presented to Mr. Gadkari, I think that was also credible. For me, the simple answer is if an institution does all of these, obviously it has to be a great institution, and we are very proud to be associated with BCIC. We are very choosy about the institutions we interact with, and the fact that Volvo has chosen to be an active part of BCIC and taken a Vice President position this year tells you about our approach and respect for the Chamber.

You have supported the Chamber with key senior management professionals from Volvo to represent BCIC. Do you think

they bring in some meaningful impact to your organisation by participating in these industry bodies, especially in BCIC initiatives?

Absolutely. As a company, we always believe that our people will grow when they move out and rub shoulders with other institutions and people from outside our industry. I mean if you continue to interact only with automotive industry, our learning will be very limited. We will learn much more when we meet variety of players in the industry in the complete social economic landscape. So, therefore it is very important from our company perspective, there are representations to the trade bodies. We believe in active participation through learning (best practices) while caring and nurturing each other. As a large company VOLVO believes in contributing to its fullest by giving back to the society, including participation with Trade bodies.

Recently there have been notable representations by the Chamber in terms of reduction of CEO fees and withdrawal of orders on DG sets. Do you have any comments on this achievement in terms of breaking through and getting it kind of rolled out for the interest of the industry?

I think these are common causes for which industry bodies really try to help and definitely these are one of the requirements for Volvo as well. We are very thankful to BCIC for taking these common in-

dustry issues and we need to continue to do more and more. There are many things we can take up like easy of doing business, cost of doing business Etc. It is important for industry bodies to take matters between policy making and effective implementation. When represented as a team, the problem gains attention by the government and helps in speedy resolution.

You mentioned that BCIC is creating value for member organisations or for the industry at large, so what is your appeal and suggestion to organizations that aren't BCIC members?

As I said in the beginning that industry bodies have a clear mandate and a very clear purpose and a mission, all of which are very crucial to the success of our country because a collective wisdom and a collective voice of industry can be brought to the fore. Therefore, it is very important; you can't stay out and say that nothing is happening then you are not being fair to the country. My request to everyone is to be part of good industry bodies, and I think BCIC is definitely outstanding and stands out in many respects. It is one of the very important industry bodies; even though it is Bangalore-centric, it has shown that its appeal goes right up to the central government. So, I think that is something which is you have best of both the worlds – an industry body focused on Karnataka, but yet having its reach right up to the central government, so it is good to be there.

The rich echelon of enterprise

Industrialise, or perish', the celebrated words of the visionary Mokshagundam Visweswaraya galvanized the entire nation's industrialization temper and set the wheels of manufacturing and enterprise in motion.

At the core of a flourishing economy of a country, and hence, a thriving society, is the cohort of skilled manufacturers leveraging their knowledge and expertise to touch every aspect of our life.

They keep the industry machinery well-oiled and turning with their acumen in relentless research, experimenting, and development of advanced technology to make life comfortable and healthy for humankind.

On the other side of the spectrum is the youthful world of startups and entrepreneurs bursting with ideas, raring to experiment with technology, and exploring newer dimensions in the way business is shaped, and well, scaled up.

The Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce, a refreshing and erudite collective of industrialists and visionaries, rises to the expectations of this millennial brigade as the crucible of change. Providing the ideal ecosystem infused with the right degree of adaptability and trust, to mentor, foster funding and give wing to their purpose, this distinguished organization is deeply anchored in the credo that collective enterprise can drive positive change for the economic greater good.

Indeed, the Chamber is poised to welcome the next youthful industrial revolution with elan.

BCIC – THE BEHEMOTH OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Growing in stature and magnitude since its inception in 1976, The Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) is today a formidable apex organization of over 850 large and medium industries in the State of Karnataka.

What was the erstwhile Greater Mysore Chamber of Industry, the present BCIC is a colossus that straddles the gamut of industry to represent a stupendous 95 per cent of the capital investment and 90 per cent of labour

employed in Karnataka.

As the foremost link between the government and industry, the BCIC has shaped many a policy decision in giving impetus to the Ease of Doing Business and kindling strategic partnerships.

Presently, the stellar members are drawn from diverse sectors encompassing Aerospace and Aviation, Automobiles, Agro and Food Processing, Banking and Finance, Travel and Tourism, Manufacturing, IT/ITES, Biotechnology, Engineering, Consultancy and Law, Construction and Real Estate, Pharma and Healthcare, including Energy and Power.

At the heart of BCIC is the innate endeavour to power a whole new and young world of innovation and industry based on best practices.



TAPATI GHOSE

The Direct Taxes Expert Committee of BCIC is focused on identifying, discussing, and finding solutions to the direct tax issues and concerns raised by the members. I am honoured to be the co-chair of this Direct Taxes Expert Committee of BCIC as its deliberations bring great perspectives and learning to us. I would also like to acknowledge the work BCIC has been doing concerning diversity and inclusion and in particular encouraging women professionals and providing them opportunities.

ACING THE TENETS OF PROFESSIONALISM

BCIC's innate professionalism is driven by exceptionally-enabled Apex Advisory and Expert Committees comprising of senior industry representatives from core sectors.

Each of the Expert Committees is chaired by senior representatives who are maestros in their respective industry segments.

TOGETHER WE SHOULD

BCIC MISSION

Namma Karnataka – The Gateway to Future India

One of the foremost objectives of BCIC is to build Brand Bangalore and the capital of Karnataka as a prominent Gateway to Future India. To achieve this, the BCIC endeavours to:

- ▶ Address the needs of the stakeholders through Government interactions, policy advocacy and thought leadership
- ▶ Catalyse networking opportunities among Government, Industry (public and private), Trade Commissions, academia and other Chambers
- ▶ Foster Knowledge partnerships and skilling
- ▶ Provide thrust on key sectors

BCIC VISION

Look Beyond

Helmed by a team of visionaries the BCIC's vision is to be the preferred Chamber in Karnataka to facilitate business growth and add value to its stakeholders.

The apex body of stalwarts has quite a bouquet of incentives for their prestigious members who have a sea of opportunities to look forward to in this partnership of growth.

(Continued on page 8)

EXPERT COMMITTEES

- Aviation and Aerospace
- Agro and Food Processing
- Banking, Finance and Corp Affairs
- Direct Taxes
- Ease of Doing Business Council
- Human Resources & Women Empowerment and Leadership
- Healthcare & Wellness
- ICT & Electronics
- Indirect Taxes
- Industry 4.0
- Industry-Institute Interface (3I)
- Infrastructure, Energy, Environment and Water
- International Business
- Manufacturing
- Real Estate
- Tourism, Hospitality and Facility
- Young BCIC including StartUp

THEMES FOR EXPERT COMMITTEES



Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce

(Continued from page 7)

Thought leadership

BCIC ensures continuous support for the development of businesses by creating and disseminating cross-industry best practices and critical knowledge, to help members understand and keep abreast of changing economic conditions, the regulatory and taxation environment, and rapid technological change.

With each of the distinct 15 Expert Committees representing all industry and infrastructure sectors, the Chamber consistently organizes workshops, seminars, and site visits for its distinguished members where they are privy to special concessions on delegate fees where applicable.

INDUSTRY VOICE – BUSINESS SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

The Chamber imparts strong interface with the Union and State Governments in the formulation of industrial policy, sector specific schemes and policies, the development of critical infrastructure in the city and the State including land and energy, and do their best to ensure an industry-friendly regulatory and taxation framework.

BCIC also delivers necessary policy and institutional support to the Government in developing these policies,

with industry expertise, cutting edge research and incisive analysis.

The Chamber regularly sends out representations on both, urgent and long standing issues. With a powerful voice in the Government, and a credibility built over several decades, BCIC ensures Industry's representations are heard by the Government.

FOREIGN COLLABORATION

BCIC has developed excellent and extensive contacts with Foreign Embassies and Trade Offices in Bangalore and association counterparts in other countries. By facilitating regular interaction with these offices, BCIC enables members to explore opportunities in other countries and ensure smooth and trouble free operations overseas. Besides this, the Chamber also assists in Import/Export Documentation, Visa Letters, Certificates of Origin and the like. In fact, BCIC regularly hosts visiting trade delegations from abroad and facilitates similar trips abroad too.

NETWORKING, OUTREACH AND VISIBILITY

With focus on each prestigious member, the Chamber delivers the best networking in Bangalore. Featuring leaders and professionals from Large, Medium and Small Industries, besides Institutions, Utilities, and Gov-

ernment departments and political leaders, Chamber events are an occasion where top professionals and leaders meet, engage in business discussions, celebrate and innovate. The membership team helps build 'One-on-one' connections and assists specific companies or individuals to meet others, working across a broad spectrum of Industries.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Chamber provides information, analysis and resources for partners to stay informed and engaged on the key issues and activities impacting Bangalore businesses.

Apart from regular circulars on important industry related developments and government policy pronouncements, the BCIC has a range of publications that include the BCIC Information Digest (monthly), Synergy – Activity Report (bi-monthly) and the Overseas Business Opportunities (E-newsletter, bi-monthly).

BUSINESS SERVICES

Some of the BCIC's exclusive business services to its members in order to ensure a smooth business trip also encompass:

- ▶ Issue of Certificate of Origin
- ▶ Issue of Visa Recommendation Letters
- ▶ Attestation of Documents

BCIC to go big bang in '22

BCIC'S VISION 2021-22

1. Eminence

- ▶ Five Signature Conferences
- ▶ Working with Expert Committees for 100 to 120 qualitative Webinars
- ▶ Interactions with Government – Supporting both Central/State Governments on policy formulation and be the voice of Industry in implementing all initiatives

2. Outreach

- ▶ Monthly meetings with members/ Potential members- Industry Groups
- ▶ Opening of BCIC to select International Chambers on a reciprocal basis

3. Special Projects

- ▶ Developing women leaders
- ▶ BCIC Academy of Excellence
- ▶ BCIC Start-up Mentoring Council

4. Member services

- ▶ Publishing Regular updates
- ▶ Newsletters BCIC and Yuva Chakra Members Survey and follow up action
- ▶ Outreach through our newsletter on a Monthly basis

EMINENCE PLAN / FIVE AWARDS

CFO

The first maiden CFO Awards is to recognise CFOs of listed companies, large corporations, state-owned entities and government institutions, and award them for outstanding performance and leadership.

CSR

We believe that organizations, regardless of size, have a great opportunity to make a compassionate response to and significant impact in our communities and in the world. We know that today's consumers, clients and employees have an increased awareness of companies that give back. BCIC is committed to supporting these efforts.

We will create a CSR program that will engage your attendees, expand your company profile and serve the communities in which you work and meet. More than a decade ago corporations embraced the bold idea of social responsibility, to bring their people together with a service opportunity. It is our absolute honor to learn about your CSR initiatives, educate you on different CSR profiles and connect you with a CSR program that aligns with your company culture.

INNOVATION

BCIC promotes workplace creativity. Two main dimensions of innovation that BCIC looks are the degree of novelty

(i.e. whether an innovation is new to the firm, new to the market, new to the industry, or new to the world) and kind of innovation (i.e. whether it is processor product-service system innovation).

START UP

Dr. CN Ashwathnarayan, Hon'ble Minister, Higher Education and IT, BT and Science & Technology, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, GoK inaugurated BCIC's Start-up Clinic for 2021-2022 on September 28, 2021.

Mr. K Jairaj, Retd. IAS, Chairman of the Start-up Advisory Council of BCIC gave a keynote address and said that this Start-up clinic is unique and one of its kind in our country. He recalled the good response to the Start-up Awards of BCIC during last year, in which more than 200 start-ups participated in the event to have a vibrant start-up culture.

Mr. K R Sekar, President, BCIC welcomed the gathering by thanking Dr. CN Ashwathnarayan, Hon'ble Minister, Higher Education and IT, BT and Science & Technology, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, GoK, the Chief Guest for the event. He said India is ranked in the top 3 countries in the world for start-ups, and Bangalore is the Start-up capital for India. Many unicorns have originated from Bangalore. This augurs well to the Honourable Prime Minister's vision on Atmanirbhar Bharat. The Start-up community can avail the professional guidance of mentors of BCIC and seek their support in any areas on which they need guidance. This is a unique and first of the kind initiative by any Chamber of Commerce.

Minister Ashwathnarayan congratulated the Office Bearers on taking charge on their new assignments. BCIC has been working closely in framing Govt. policies, supporting during Covid-19 pandemic times and coming forward to design a new curriculum to Polytechnic students. This start-up clinic is essential for the youth in concretizing and shaping their ideas. Govt. also has come out with many schemes in many educational institutions by promoting incubations, IoT etc., Government will provide all support to BCIC and facilitate these initiatives of BCIC.

Mr. TR Parasuraman, Immediate Past President complimented the Minister's efforts in promoting start-ups, and expressed his best wishes and thanked Team BCIC. The BCIC Start-Up booklet

on Start-ups was also launched at the event.

To support start-ups BCIC has set up an incubation space with plug and play facility on a time-sharing basis in the heart of CBD. This facility is available for all start-ups who are looking for space along with mentoring support as part of BCIC start-up clinic initiative.

Many of the Past Presidents and eminent professionals are Mentors to these Start-ups giving guidance at the proposed monthly mentoring programmes free of charge. BCIC start-up clinic comprises of discussion with Mentor council for all the start-up to share their challenges and the Mentor council will provide them advise and support and mentoring the young start-ups. The Mentor Council of BCIC comprises of experienced and seasoned professionals in the areas of HR, Business Strategy, Scaling up, Finance, Tax and Regulatory etc.

WOMEN LEADERSHIP

Women across all levels are eager for more opportunities to develop, learn and navigate their next career moves or simply to further develop their skillsets. Even though women are at the helm of startups, they are still chronically underfunded in comparison to male founders. As we look to understand why women aren't making bigger leadership strides, both in corporations and in the small business sector. We need to find a way to scale that to include broader populations of women.

Much of the mentoring or coaching that occurs today happens in an insular manner e.g. within a specific sector, at external conferences, one-on-one meetings with senior leaders and within women's employee resource groups (ERGs). There is a major gap for women entering the workforce, in junior to mid-level positions, and women re-entering the workplace, as well as senior executives that have limited visibility or exposure.



LAVANYA PACHISIA

Being the COO at Zivame and Co-chair of Human Resources, Women Empowerment and Leadership Expert Committee provide me the right platform to leverage on increasing opportunities for women through various initiatives and creating a balanced work environment where equal opportunities exist for everyone. BCIC has also launched Women Empowerment & Leadership Awards which recognises and felicitates accomplished Women Leaders & Entrepreneurs.

Partnering with govts, helping industry

BCIC, as a responsible industry body, has been holding multiple discussions with Government of India and Government of Karnataka to bring to the fore the issues and concerns of the industry arising out of Covid-19 pandemic and has made several representations with GoI and GoK to ease the pain points of the industry in recent times.

Especially, during the challenging pandemic year, BCIC had a long list of events held to benefit industry, with many distinguished personalities addressing its members. Few of the notable ones are:

■ **Interactive session with Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India on the pre-budget recommendations and post budget analysis of the Union Budget.** BCIC hailed the budget and the industry members welcomed it.

■ **A session with Shri. Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for MSME, Road Transport and Highways, Government of India to provide BCIC's views and sug-**

gestions on the infrastructure projects being undertaken by GoI.

■ **A meeting with Shri. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India and Leader of House in Rajya Sabha, explaining the contents of BCIC's 3 research reports released at the 43rd Annual General Meeting.**

In addition, close communication and co-ordination was being done with various ministries in the Govt. of Karnataka to facilitate and ease business operations during the Covid-19 pandemic times. Meetings with Shri. Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri. B S Yediyurappa, Former Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Murugesha Nirani, Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries, Shri. Jagadish Shettar, Former Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries, Shri. Dr. C N Ashwathnarayan, Minister for Skill Development, IT & BT, Science & Technology, Shri. R Ashoka, Minister for Revenue and Shri K Sudhakar, Minister for Health were fruitful and meaningful.

Few of the topics of representations made, to name a few, were to reconsider the hike in Water & Air Consent fees revised by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), not to reimpose any lockdown as it would have an impact on the Industries in Karnataka, opening of manufacturing units/ export units in Karnataka to ensure continuance of supplies as part of national and global supply chain with strict COVID-19 protocols, accelerating the vaccination programme for working class in the factories for achieving industrial stability and other matters related to businesses impacted due to Covid-19 pandemic were important to benefit industries in general.

Through the support of the Govt. of Karnataka, plans are in the anvil to set up a skill development centre to support youth in their career. An MoU is executed with BeST (Bengaluru Science and Technology) cluster to develop, academic and industry cooperation between BCIC and BeST for a range of industrial and research activities of mutual interest.

BCIC'S ACHIEVEMENTS DURING COVID-19

The Chamber supported in providing face masks, sanitizers, medicines, food grains, 10 numbers of oxygen concentrators, 3 numbers of LPG crematorium units, 5 numbers of freezer compartments for storing bodies at the cremation centres with the never-before-seen fatality arising out of Covid-19 – all amounting to Rs. 145 lakhs.

A Helpdesk titled HOPE was set up to provide ambulance services, hospital bed services etc. A tie-up with a super speciality hospital was initiated too. In fact, this timely support from the Chamber was placed on record by the State Government.

BCIC & SOCIETY – AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

■ **Women Empowerment & Leadership Award 2021**

With the objective to felicitate the achievement of Women in Leadership roles and encourage Corporates / Academic organisations helping to promote women in leadership roles, the Chamber launched its maiden awards for women leaders who excelled in corporate houses, entrepreneurship and academy. This initiative by BCIC recognises and acknowledges the unbeatable potential of women as Change Makers while appreciating all the

stakeholders who build an environment conducive to embrace this change.

■ **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Award**

The year also witnessed the institution of the CSR Award by the Chamber to recognise members' contribution towards building a long-term sustainable society, caring for environment, education and other social needs.

■ **2nd Edition of Emerging Stars Start-Up Award**

Following the stellar success of the 1st edition of the Emerging Stars Start-up Award, the Chamber initiated the 2nd edition named Start-up Business Awards 2021 to provide a perfect platform for entrepreneurs. This initiative encourages start-ups that have the potential to make a material impact on society through innovation, development, deployment, and commercialisation of new products, processes, or services in a way creating an ecosystem of support in terms of mentorship, entrepreneurial development program and channelization of funding for start-ups positioning BCIC as one of the key players in promoting trade, industry and innovation not only in Karnataka but across India.

BCIC report: Steps to boost economic growth

BANGALORE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (BCIC) HAS ALWAYS FULFILLED ITS RESPONSIBILITY OF NOT ONLY HELPING BUSINESSES BUT ALSO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT COLLABORATING, SUPPORTING AND ADVISING, WHEN NECESSARY

BCIC REPORT TITLED 'BCIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON RBI ECONOMIC POLICY IMPLEMENTATION POST PANDEMIC'

The ramifications of Covid-19 pandemic on the world have been on an unprecedented scale and its effects will be felt for sometime. The pandemic has had an enormous negative impact on Individual (proprietary concerns/firms), Small Businesses like MSME and SMEs, Large organizations both Private and public limited companies and Government alike. Further, a few business segments/sectors have faced untold hardships.

Given the issues and its long-term impact on the economy due to the pandemic, the Government of India through its nodal agency Reserve Bank of India (RBI) brought out a slew of measures to alleviate the problems faced by small businesses. Notwithstanding the measures promulgated by RBI, the effects of such measures are still percolating and are yet to make a significant impact on the ground.

FROM A BCIC PERSPECTIVE

- Bank-led credit growth has to come back, and lending must be encouraged to ensure the availability of funds and liquidity to all sectors at affordable cost. That would require locked-in bank assets to be released so that they can be used more productively.
- The lending space has not yet been digitised (as the payment space has been) and digitisation could be a game-changer
- The regulators can help in developing the digital infrastructure that provides structured data that can aid in real-time decision-making related to lending
- The government has to continue providing financial support to eligible sectors and businesses borrowers in meeting their operational liabilities and restarting their businesses. The frequent extension of the ECLG scheme

both in time and scope has been necessary till the economy revives and MSMEs see revenue growth

Abstract from the above report

BCIC'S REPORT ON DIRECT TAX ADMINISTRATION REFORMS

India's tax system has become very cumbersome, more litigation prone, badly designed and needs to improve tax service. The biggest change needed is in ensuring that tax payers are respected for paying taxes. The great majority of Indians are honest tax payers and of course as in every society, India too has its share of tax evaders. In order to bring tax evaders to book, honest tax payers should not be vilified. The basic principle should be Trust all but verify! Today with the greater use of information technology and data bases it is easy to verify data and reduce the pain caused to tax payers. Indeed, India has moved much in this direction but the mind set of our Legislators and the tax officials needs to change too.

This report covers some of the key aspects related to direct tax reforms like are prevention of disputes, improving faceless assessment and appeal process, search and seizure process, repeal of redundant provisions from income-tax law and improvement of capital gains tax regime.

This report on Direct Tax administration reforms consists of 2 parts -

1. Measures of prevention of disputes, suggestions for improving faceless assessment and other matters
2. Suggestions for improvement of capital gains tax regime in India

Abstract from the above report

RESEARCH REPORT ON HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE OF KARNATAKA

As part of the Skill Development ini-

tiative, BCIC is constituting a research report on Human Capital Development in the state of Karnataka. This research report is being done in association with Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Institute for Management Development.

The objective is to assess, explore: skill gap in Karnataka across Industries; regional disparity and social inequity in the domains of education and skill development; estimate future talent requirements of the industries/state economy; future digital world & preparedness; state of skill development in Karnataka with reference to the nation by studying best practices of other states to see the feasibility of their adoption); overview policy interventions and suggest framework for better future of Karnataka

RESEARCH REPORT ON CO-EXISTENCE STAKEHOLDER MODEL FOR EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY IN THE BACKDROP OF PANDEMIC

The Covid experience has brought together the key stakeholders (i.e. Government, Healthcare, Industry and NGO) to deliver what is needed to the society to overcome the pandemic crisis.

This research report is being done in association with Ramaiah Institute of Management.

Objective is to study, assess and analyse pandemic experiences of stakeholders for identifying the drivers, policies and regulations, co-existence model, role of supporting industry sectors (insurance, pharma, medical tourism) and challenges in delivering healthcare services across hospitals (public and private), healthcare manpower training & development, perception of beneficiaries in urban and rural areas of the society that is Industry, NGO and the Government.

State of good hope

BCIC anchored the thematic session on 'Ease of Doing Business' on Agro & Food Processing and Aerospace and Aviation Sectors coinciding with the Invest Karnataka Summit organised by the state government in Bangalore. BCIC jointly with the department of Industries & Commerce, GoK organised an Interactive Meet with the Industry Associations and Trade Bodies to interact and update the industry on several initiatives that have been taken by Government of Karnataka to enhance 'Ease of Doing Business' in the state. The session provided a platform for various departments in the state government to formally interact with industry representatives and share with them several steps that have been taken by individual departments to enhance 'Ease of Doing Business' in the state. The event brought together leading Industrialists, CEO's from domestic and international corporations, thought leaders, policy makers, members of international business, trade and industry associations, etc., on one platform for knowledge sharing, business networking and investment promotion.

AEROSPACE AVIATION ON SECTOR SKILL COUNCIL (AASSC)

BCIC is the first Regional Chamber in the country, as one of the promoter of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), GoI in the field of Aerospace Aviation headquartered in Bangalore with HAL and SIATI as the other Promoters for the Aerospace Aviation Sector Skill Council which is already in operation.

MOU WITH OTHER SECTOR SKILL COUNCIL

BCIC has signed MoU with other Sector Skill Council such as Capital Goods Sector Skill Council and Tourism & Hospitality Sector Skill Council of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), GoI to promote skill development initiative for the benefit of our member industry in the state of Karnataka

BRAND BANGALORE

BCIC being vocal in addressing issues related to optimal and efficient use and conservation of natural resources is also involved in contributing to the over-

all development for the City of Bangalore under the theme "Clean Bengaluru - Green Bengaluru". The focus is not merely on industry but on all round development of the state as BCIC strongly believes that it is in the interest of the industry to support the state in achieving all round economic growth.

NAMMA KARNATAKA – THE GATEWAY TO FUTURE INDIA

The chamber, supported by the thought leaders of the Expert Committees, has managed to project itself as the principal voice of the industry in the state. The chamber is proactive and in the forefront in submitting several representations and suggestions to the central and the state governments in the domains of Manufacturing, Industry 4.0, Labour, Energy and Taxation. The government has on many occasions sought specific policy recommendations from the chamber which indeed is a great honour as it underlines the chamber's credibility as a strong force to reckon with and being the knowledge repository in the state for policy measures, consultations and initiatives.

BCIC MSME HELP DESK

The chamber constituted a Help Desk to support MSME members. Awareness on government schemes and avenues to seek fiscal benefits, discourses to enhance quality and operational efficiency were regularly done with the object of improving MSME competitiveness.

MEDIATION CENTRE

Collaborating with Bangalore International Mediation and Arbitration Centre, the Chamber has set up a Mediation Centre, with the hope of easing the burden caused out of litigations, enforcing contracts and making the process time bound and affordable. The clarion calls given by many legal luminaries to pitch for mediation as an alternate dispute resolution mechanism in India is gaining traction and the chamber is ready to support our members in this regard.

BCIC BEYOND BANGALORE AND BEYOND INDIA!

Embarking on an exclusive endeavour

of serving the business community beyond Bangalore, in its pursuit of the objectives and sharing of good practices among the companies in other districts, the chamber has opened two Nodal Centres at Mysore and Dharwad by joining hands with Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara educational institutions. These nodal centres will house the Centre for Excellence in Management at Mysore and at Dharwad.



During the MoU signing ceremony with Dharmadhikari Dr D Veerendra Heggade

On the anvil, is the opening of BCIC office at Tokyo with JETRO Bengaluru, Toyota Tsusho India Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru, Inter Trade K K, Tokyo and India Research Institute Pvt. Ltd., Tokyo to promote and encourage trade and commerce, people to people connect, and cultural exchanges between India and Japan to further improve relations and facilitate investments between the two countries as part of 'Namma Karnataka – The gateway to future India'.

MoUs

For establishing and promoting strategic partnership furthering its stated objectives, the chamber inked many vital MoUs depicting intent of common actions with Bangalore International Mediation, Arbitration and Conciliation Centre (BIMACC); JSS Science and Technology University, Mysore; Indo Polish Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Amrita Technology Business Incubator; Tourism and Hospitality Sector Skill Council; IBA Entrepreneurship Certificate Programmes; BCIC – SDMIMD Centre for Excellence in Management, BCIC and Department of Technical Education (DTE) and BCIC. – BeST (Bengaluru Science and Technology) cluster with support from Indian Institute of Science Bangalore for the benefit of scientific community.

Advantage Members

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As a responsible industry body, the BCIC has made several representations with the Central and State governments to ease the pain points of the industry in recent times especially during the pandemic. The Chamber organized a series of programmes to benefit the industry by inviting distinguished personalities to address its members. A few notable ones are:

- ▶ Interactive session with Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India on the pre-budget recommendations and post budget analysis of the Union Budget.
- ▶ A session with Shri. Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for MSME, Road Transport and Highways, Government of India to provide BCIC's views and suggestions on the infrastructure projects being undertaken by GoI.
- ▶ A meeting with Shri. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and

Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India and Leader of House in Rajya Sabha, explaining the contents of BCIC's three research reports released at the 43rd Annual General Meeting. In addition, the BCIC was instrumental in fostering close communication and co-ordination with various ministries in the Govt. of Karnataka to facilitate and ease business operations during the Covid-19 pandemic times.

- ▶ Meetings with Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister of Karnataka, B S Yediyurappa, Former Chief Minister of Karnataka, Murugesh Nirani, Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries, Jagadish Shettar, Former Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries, Dr C N Ashwathnarayan, Minister for Skill Development, IT & BT, Science & Technology, R Ashoka, Minister for Revenue and K Sudhakar, Minister for Health were fruitful and meaningful.

- ▶ Few of the topics of representations made, to name a few, were to reconsider the hike in Water & Air Consent fees revised by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), not to reimpose any lockdown as it would have an impact on the Industries in Karnataka, opening of manufacturing units/ export units in Karnataka to ensure continuance of supplies as part of national and global supply chain with strict COVID-19 protocols, accelerating the vaccination programme for working class in the factories for achieving industrial stability and other matters related to businesses impacted due to the pandemic were important to benefit industries in general.

- ▶ Through the support of the Govt. of Karnataka, plans are on the anvil to set up a Skill Development Centre to support youth in their career.

- ▶ BCIC has formalised an engagement to collaborate the Bengaluru Science and Technology (BeST) Cluster with teams drawn from esteemed institutions to undertake pioneering work leading to innovation and development of new methods by pooling resources which will be beneficial to the southern region and the nation at large with support from IISc.



Representation on not imposing lockdown made to Dr. Murugesh R. Nirani, Honourable Minister for Large and Medium Industries, Government of Karnataka by BCIC on behalf of Industry Associations.



BCIC office bearers making a representation to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri. Basavaraj Bommai also seen with Dr. Ashwath Narayan C.N, Minister for Higher Education; IT & BT, Science & Technology; Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood.



Dr. Ashwath Narayan C N, Honourable Minister for Higher Education, IT, BT, ST & Skill, Government of Karnataka along with foreign dignitaries, BCIC Office Bearers and BCIC Member representatives at the Inauguration of BCIC Startup Incubation center.

Award ceremony of BCIC maiden Women Leadership Award 2020-2021



The Chamber acknowledges their efforts in structuring quality and signature events that has immensely enhanced the image of the Chamber manifold.



Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce

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BCIC - Start up Award 2022
<https://awards.bcic.in/>

BCIC - Women Empowerment & Leadership Award 2022
<https://awards.bcic.in/wela-home>

BCIC - CFO Award 2022
<https://awards.bcic.in/cfo-home>