

FEBRUARY 2023

ENTERPRISE

A MONTHLY BULLETIN PUBLISHED BY VIDARBHA INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

SAPTARISHI 7 PRIORITIES OF BUDGET 2023-24

SECTOR IN FOCUS
**CHEMICAL &
PHARMA**



VIA
VIDARBHA INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

VISION

To promote Vidarbha as a preferred investment destination and create conducive environment for socio-economic growth through industry and services

MISSION

To act as a catalyst between various stakeholders and authorities.

To create harmonious environment for accelerated industrial growth.

To provide a unified platform for policy advocacy at all levels.

To create, nurture and develop entrepreneurship and business leadership.

To enhance managerial and technical competency for excellence

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

The Hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman recently presented the Union Budget for 2023. This budget outlined seven priorities or "Saptarishi" to guide India during the "Amrit Kaal". This budget is in sync with the government's aim to accelerate India to a \$5 Trillion economy.

On behalf of Vidarbha's industrial fraternity, I wholeheartedly welcome the new budget. The significant relief in income tax slabs has come as a boon to industries and industrialists alike, who will now be able to accelerate their growth and development. The substantial investment in infrastructure that has been made clear with this budget is appreciable. Good infrastructure is a necessity for fostering growth. It will also create new opportunities for all industries looking to upscale. This budget has also provided much-needed support to the MSME industries and has paved a path for their resurgence.

With this budget finalized, we will take one step toward a technology-driven country. This will give manufacturing industries more incentive to adopt new technologies and keep up with the trends. This, in turn, will boost production and will greatly contribute to national economic growth.

We must make the best use of the benefits that this new Union Budget grants industries. This is a great opportunity for industries in Vidarbha and beyond to catalyse their growth. We must strive to gain an in-depth understanding of the budget and of its impact, both short term and long term.

The VIA Solar Udyog Gaurav Awards are scheduled for 25th February 2023. These awards are a celebration of Vidarbha's most impactful industries. I appeal to all the members to kindly save the date. You will receive invitations to the same soon.

We appeal to Members to contribute in the form of articles, content, comments on inclusion and exclusions, and suggest ideas to improve.

- Vishal Agrawal

President



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

In January, VIA Agro and Rural development forum held a one-day workshop titled Navankur 1.0 - Nursery as a Profitable Agri-Business. They also organized a seminar called Samruddhi Mahamarg se Samruddh Kisan. Vishwas Pathak, Independent Director of MSEB Holding Company, Mumbai interacted with VIA Energy Forum and discussed energy-related issues of various sectors. VIA HRD Forum, IMT Nagpur, Global Talent Company, and NIPM Nagpur Chapter jointly organized a panel discussion on the Challenges of HR in MSMEs - Bharat Atma Nirbhar. A delegation of the Hon'ble CM of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath interacted with Vidarbha's industrial fraternity to explore business opportunities in Uttar Pradesh. VIA and LIT Alumni Association jointly organised

a seminar on the Possibilities and Prospects of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in Vidarbha. The Lady Entrepreneurs' Wing of Vidarbha Industries Association (VIALEW) organized a Fashion Show to promote Handloom Material.

We also reached out to key government officials and departments with representations on matters such as revision in the VM Energy Incentive Scheme, request offer for required grade of coal quantity linkage coal auction for sub-sectors tranche-VI, suggestions/objections on the applications filed by Torrent Power Limited for grant of distribution license under section 14 and section 15 of Electricity Act 2003 for Nagpur and adjoining area, non-applicability of WPI to linked NRS coal consumers, the National Fertilizer Policy and contribution of MSME, removal of unauthorized settlements and scattered garbage in MIDC, Hingna, and taking corrective measures to offer capital gain exemption for FY 21-22.

Looking forward to your continued support.

- Ashish Doshi
Secretary



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

The cover story of this month's edition of the "Enterprise" is made up of two insightful articles on the Chemical and Pharma Sector in India. First, Amandeep Kaur Sehmi, Founder-Director of Bioexcel Lifesciences and Research LLP, gives a detailed overview of the pharma sector in Vidarbha and India. She talks about the current scenario, strengths of the sector, challenges, available growth opportunities, and the road ahead. Next, Pradeep Maheshwari, Strategist, Natural Resources, outlines the suitability of the chemical and pharma sector to capitalize on Vidarbha's immense strengths. He shares Vidarbha's scenario in the chemical, petrochemical, and pharmaceutical sectors,

and the possibilities for development in these sectors.

In their guest articles, Dr. T S Rawal highlights the plight of India's youth and unemployment in India. He urges the government to take initiative and act on this issue. Dr. Suresh Pandilwar points out the important role that an HR professional plays in caring for an organization, and how they look out for more than just individual growth. Additionally, CA Naresh Jakhota talks about the taxation of YouTubers, social media influencers, content creators, and all such professionals.

We endeavour to bring you the latest and most important news related to the industries of Vidarbha. We encourage all our readers to share write-ups to be published in subsequent editions of the 'Enterprise'. Please write to us at viangpindia@gmail.com with your inputs and feedback.

- Aditya Saraf
Editor

VIA POST BUDGET REACTION BY RENOWNED INDUSTRIALISTS

While presenting the budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman talked about the seven areas that will become the key focus of the central government in 2023-24. The seven priorities, called as Sapatrishi - Inclusive development, infrastructure and investment, reaching the last mile, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power, financial sector - will complement each other in India's growth during the Amrit Kaal. Following are the highlights from the post-budget reaction from renowned industrialists and experts from Vidarbha:



VISHAL AGRAWAL
President - VIA

- I welcome the new budget and significant relief in income tax slabs.
- Investment in infrastructure is appreciable.



ASHISH DOSHI
Hon. Secretary - VIA

- Keeping the goals of Amrit Kaal in mind, the Finance Minister has focused on inclusive development, productivity enhancement, financing investment and PM Gatishakti.
- On the positive side, adequate emphasis has been made on the agriculture sector, startups, etc.
- Despite a 27% increase in tax collection, no major announcements were made for new industries or investments.
- Startups have been given some encouragement, but the overall budget doesn't show significant changes in company taxation or fund allocation.



CA ASHOK CHANDAK

- FM has done a great job of balancing growth with fiscal prudence.
- Continued and larger focus on productive capex
- The biggest positive is the 33% increase in capital expenditure, accounting for nearly 4.5% of GDP over revised budget estimates of last year and still bringing the fiscal deficit down to 5.9% from 6.4%.
- The budget has ticked all the right boxes in its last budget targeting villages (rural), poor and middle-class, women and MSMEs where employment is significant.
- The spending on agri (digital, infra, warehouses, startup funds, skill development, 20 lakh crore credit, scrapping old vehicles, etc.) will go a long way in improving the quality of life and aid the rural economy.
- Nominal GDP growth at 10.5% and Tax revenue growth at 10% seems pretty conservative given the formalization and tax compliance improvements seen over the past 2-3 years. It might provide a buffer for the government to spend on social infrastructure closer to the elections.
- The focus on connectivity (roads CapEx up 36% and railways up 19%) and tourism will improve the quality of life and income levels at ground level serving their objective of inclusiveness and wealth creation across the board.
- Huge push in ease of doing business by removing more than 39,000 compliances and decriminalizing more than 3,400 legal provisions.
- Tax SOPs for all but with rationalization of deductions is a step in the right direction (reiterates PM Modi's belief that compliance/revenues go up with lower rates).
- Good market borrowing by the government would assist private CapEx.

- Retaining the current capital gains tax structure was a relief to the market.
- Similarly, on Market-linked-Debentures were being misused. Seeing some political will on divestments at a low 61k crores would have been good.
- A great budget with one of the critical policy overhangs out of the way. It will now be back to bottom-up stock picking, more so given the mayhem of the past few days and India's relative valuation to its history and the world.



Dr. TS RAWAL

- Minimal emphasis was given to MSMEs.
- Expected a lot in terms of the revival of the informal sector.
- Allocation of 2 lakh crore for food to the

masses translates to a symptom that India does not have employment.

- More focus was needed on healthcare.
- The budget looked like a document that praises Amrit Kaal.
- Increased allocation to infrastructure development is the only positive in the budget.
- Setting up National Digital Libraries is a good initiative, but there was no fund allocation, which was dissatisfactory.



Dr. SUHAS BUDDHE

Vice President -VIA

- The budget for the agricultural sector looks promising.
- Agri accelerator for startups is apt to support entrepreneurs in the agricultural field.
- The agriculture target increased to 20 lakh

crore from 15 lakh crore is a marginal change, which could have been more.

- A budget of 10 thousand lakhs has been allocated for constructing bio-input resource centres for organic agriculture and natural farming.
- Allocating a budget of 6 thousand crores for the fishery is a good initiative by the government. However, agriculture is a state matter, and the implementation of the policies remains in the state government's hands.



Dr. ANITA RAO

Joint Secretary - VIA

- A populist budget with an eye on the elections.
- Largely, the budget is beneficial for every class of society.
- It has also given importance to women entrepreneurs, startups and MSMEs.



CA YASH VERMA

- The good thing coming out of the budget is no levies.
- The reduction of TDS and 276A amendment is appreciated.
- However, industries are given less importance.
- There were expectations in personal taxation which were not met.



CA RAHUL AGRAWAL

Partner of Agriculture Jajodia and Associates

- The budget is not election oriented, demotivational for 80C investment.
- A welcome move for encouraging the new tax regime.
- Disappointment for common people, but the government took bold steps to maintain the country's budget.

**PREMCHAND BHONGE**

MD Business Head - Can
Group Of Industries

- The 2023 budget will help the country to become competitive against China.
- The government should focus on the engineering sector's capacity building,

particularly in the MSMEs Sector.

- This budget will put India on the path to becoming the world champion - all set to score goals on infra development, consumption and inclusion.
- A big boost for domestic manufacturing, job creation and ease of business.
- Govt's Program of 20% ethanol blending with petrol vehicles will boost the economy.

**CA SACHIN JAJODIA**

Convener of VIA Taxation
and Corporate Law Forum

- **FOCUS ON IMPROVEMENT:** This Budget focused on improving structural aspects like improvement in storage buildings, extending the working of ICMR labs, unified filing systems, moving from input-based incentives to performance-based incentives etc.
- **VITAL IN DIRECT TAX:** The Government wants to move towards a new tax regime from the old tax regime hence proposed tax benefits by improving personal tax rates

for the new tax regime and making the new tax regime default for all. This shows the intention of the government to dilute the old tax regime in the coming time.

- **MSME:** Revamped Credit Guarantee Scheme with the infusion of Rs.9000 crore, the cost to be reduced by 1%. For a timely receipt to MSME, deduction of expenditure incurred on an actual payment basis.
- **STARTUP:** Carry forward losses from 7 to 10 years, even on a change of shareholding.
- **ONE-STOP UPDATION OF KYC:** This will bring uniformity among all KYC and help share data among government agencies.

**PRASHANT MOHOTA**

MD - Gimatex Industries Pvt
Ltd and Chairman of VIA
Energy Forum

- The reduction in income tax will be a major relief to middle-class families as more disposable income will be available to them.

- On the positive side, the FM is sticking to the commitment made in fiscal consolidation by bringing the fiscal deficit to a reasonable 5.9% of GDP.
- It was surprising to see new announcements to promote new investments or industrialization.
- A cut in customs duty on cotton was expected because of the massive increase in Cotton prices due to production shortfall in the country.

**CA NARESH JAKHOTIA**

- Since the tax collection this year was 27% more than the previous year, there were a lot of expectations from this budget.
- An increase in the basic expansion limit and housing loan benefits was expected, which did not happen.

- There were a lot of expectations in taxation that the middle class would benefit from.
- This budget was diplomatic.
- A big announcement was expected to bring an amnesty scheme for the resolution of cases pending in income tax departments.
- Appointing 100 tax commissioners is a good move; the cases are expected to be resolved within two years.
- HNIs will be worst affected by the budget because the tax slab have been marginally reduced.

OVERVIEW OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR IN INDIA



AMANDEEP KAUR SEHMI
Founder Director, Bioexcel
Lifesciences and Research LLP.

CURRENT INDUSTRIAL SCENARIO

India is a major exporter of the pharma industry. It currently has a value of nearly \$50 Billion, which is 20 % of the global share. The primary growth drivers are the government's support, intensive PLI medical tourism, qualified services, developed infrastructure, strong drug manufacturers, low-cost generic medicines as well as strong domestic demand.

Nagpur is a major business and healthcare hub; and MIHAN is one of the largest industrial manufacturing hubs for pharmaceuticals. The Maharashtra state chemist and druggist association has requested the state to proactively work for developing Nagpur as a potential manufacturing and distribution hub.

STRENGTHS OF THE SECTOR

Compared to other nations, the cost of manufacturing pharmaceutical goods in India is much lower, and the process is much more effective. This is a direct result of a highly skilled workforce, technological advancements, a diversified ecosystem, and greater export possibilities. All this has contributed to India becoming a major contributor to the export of COVID-19 vaccines globally.

CHALLENGES

The Government of India puts excessive pressure on product pricing, affecting the profitability of companies. New diseases, ever-rising costs, infrastructure, foreign regulations, collection and analysis of data, data security, and resistance to change are also major challenges.

Strategies to overcome these challenges:

1. Creativity and a global mindset.
2. Claiming the opportunities created by drugs going off-patent in Europe and the US.

3. Building plants with low cost procedure and FDA approval.
4. System-based clinical trials and ethical research.

OPPORTUNITIES

The youth can set-up businesses to manufacture ethanol from agricultural waste and non-edible grass. It is worth noting that raw materials are easily available, and there is a well-paying service sector. These factors when paired with a central location show Vidarbha's great potential for creating an export hub. There have been many technological advancements in medical devices and pharmaceuticals. New tech has greatly improved AI, data analysis, and precision medicine.

Vidarbha has many factors acting as boosters to the pharma industry. The industrialists of Vidarbha should make a push to have more healthcare brands in Nagpur. Project planning skills, awareness of industry trends, specialization, and an understanding of regulations and legal matters is a must to achieve this.

THE ROAD AHEAD

The region is rich in natural resources, land lakes, dams, and mining lands. However, there are some manpower constraints, so proper training is needed, and people need to be more proactive towards learning. Technological and infrastructure development and encouraging new start-ups are necessary for the growth of the sector.

In my opinion, we should develop an ethical working environment across the sector, with quality work outputs. There needs to be more support for women's entrepreneurship.

Creating awareness towards green energy and regular tree plantation campaigns will help build a cleaner and sustainable ecosystem. Campaigns on clinical research and its contribution to the nation will draw more talent to the pharma sector.

SUITABILITY OF THE CHEMICAL AND PHARMA SECTOR TO CAPITALISE ON VIDARBHA'S IMMENSE STRENGTHS



PRADEEP MAHESHWARI

Strategist, Natural Resources

Vidarbha is one of Central India's most gifted regions. It has the best resources, great infrastructure, and is well-connected. It has a lot of potential to attract substantial investments in the Chemical, Petrochemical, and Pharma sectors. Nagpur is home to the prestigious Laxminarayan Institute of Technology (LIT). It is arguably the best among academic institutions creating talent in Chemicals and Petrochemicals. LITians worldwide are making Nagpur proud with their work.

CHEMICALS

Minerals are abundant in Nagpur, and chemicals made here based on Manganese, Chromium, and Limestone are used globally. Large Textile Plants are coming up at Amravati and nearby areas, which give Nagpur great opportunities to attract investments in the manufacture of Dyes, Chemicals, Dyestuffs, Reactants, Colour Pigments, and many more allied products.

With its great location and high-quality exports and infrastructure, Nagpur is now on the radar of many leading Investors. There are 2-3 large plants nearby manufacturing soap and Detergents using different chemicals in their processes. Similarly, many paints and emulsions industries also extensively use large quantities of chemicals. All these areas are on a growth trajectory, opening up opportunities for new-generation entrepreneurs.

PETROCHEMICALS

For a long time, Vidarbha has been struggling to get large refineries and petrochemical complexes nearby to keep up with the consumption in industries, transport, mining, and other areas. In a positive development for the region, Deputy CM of Maharashtra

Devendra Fadnavis has appointed MIDC as the nodal agency for conducting feasibility studies for a petrochemical complex near Nagpur. This petrochemical complex will attract a lot of ancillary units based on its configuration and capacity. Nagpur and its surrounding areas are the most suitable locations for attracting large petrochemical complexes and ensuring that Vidarbha is no longer seen as a backward area. These complexes will produce key inputs for the Cement, Textile, Automobile, Organic Compounds, Cosmetics, Paints and Emulsions, and Packaging industries. The Prime Minister plans to double the refining capacity in the country, which has increased the expectations of Vidarbha's people.

Today, quite a few chemicals and petrochemicals are used in products like footwear, sunglasses, and hair colours. Here, the value addition is so huge that it generates employment and also increases state revenue significantly.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Nagpur has a few pharma companies doing extremely well in the global markets. Zim Laboratories and Nitika Pharma are industry leaders exporting their products to many countries. Budding entrepreneurs are also racing to Nagpur to enter global markets. With the growing number of pharma companies, the government must create a great ecosystem to attract big players here. India still imports its large requirements of Active Pharma Ingredients from different countries, mainly from China. Investment-friendly policies can attract the best research and technology-based investments in the Pharma Sector to India. Large corporations like Lupin are working near Nagpur, and the city is a famous Healthcare Hub in Central India with many prominent Medical Colleges.

All these strengths can be capitalised on by inviting large investments in the pharma sector.

THE TAX TALK: TAXATION OF YOUTUBERS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS



CA NARESH JAKHOTIA

Social media has become an important part of people's lives. It is a way to stay connected with friends, families, and the market, and updated about current affairs, changing trends, and new products. Statistics show that more than 50% of the global population depends on social media for shopping, entertainment, food, or health-related matters. Even businesses have found social media as one of the most powerful ways of reaching out to their target audience. The future of marketing revolves around social media.

The dependence on social media has resulted in the emergence of a new set of professionals that help brands to promote their products and services. These social media professionals are labeled as YouTubers, vloggers, content creators, etc. This new-age breed of professionals is not limited to just adults - even minors have independent channels and portals. Various social media platforms give the option to monetize content with advertisement spots. Earnings from social media platforms largely depend on the number of views, number of subscribers, traffic source, content, etc. Influencers also have earnings from sponsorship, Google AdSense, and Marketing Agencies. Most professionals act as freelancers or work from home. Let's know about the taxation of these individuals:

INCOME TAX IMPLICATION:

1. Social influencers are a class of entrepreneurs or freelancers. Their income can be taxed as "Business Income" depending on the time and efforts invested daily. If the time spent is low or the activity is not undertaken from a business perspective, then the income qualifies as "Income from Other Sources".

In either case, it is taxable according to the applicable slab rates in force for individuals.

3. By deducting any expenses on earning this income, we get the net taxable income. Deduction can be claimed on expenses for cameras, microphones, internet, software, rent, conveyance, travel or transportation, etc. Such expenses will be deductible only if they are incurred wholly and exclusively for the purpose of earning income.

4. Such Individual influencers can opt for presumptive taxation schemes as provided under section 44AD or 44ADA of the Income Tax Act-1961.

PRESUMPTIVE SCHEME OF TAXATION FOR BUSINESS INCOME [SECTION 44AD]

Under the presumptive scheme of taxation, a taxpayer whose receipt is in the nature of business, can offer @ 8% (6% for the turnover in digital mode) of the Gross receipts as income if the total turnover/receipts are below Rs. 2 Cr. By opting for a presumptive scheme of taxation, the influencer will be relieved from the requirements of maintaining account books. Influencers whose gross receipts exceed Rs. 2 crores in a financial year are required to maintain account books and have them audited. An audit will not be required for receipts up to Rs. 10 Cr if not more than 5% of all payments and receipts in a financial year are made in cash.

If the turnover exceeds Rs. 10 Cr or is less than Rs. 2 Cr but the income offered for taxation is less than 8% or 6%, then the tax audit of the influencer would be mandatory.

PRESUMPTIVE SCHEME OF TAXATION FOR PROFESSIONAL INCOME [SECTION 44ADA]

Under presumptive taxation schemes, taxpayers generating professional receipts are required to offer 50% of the Gross receipts as income if the total turnover/receipts are not exceeding Rs. 50 Lakh. If the gross receipt exceeds Rs. 50 Lakh, or if the income offered for taxation is less than 50%, then the tax audit

of the influencer would be mandatory.

TAXATION OF A MINOR'S INCOME

The income of minors is ordinarily taxed in the hands of parents. However, the clubbing provision is not applicable for income earned out of own manual work or out of talents or specialized knowledge and experience. In the case of minor influencers, it can be viewed as income accruing due to their own skills and hence will not be subject to the clubbing provision. As a result, minors would get separate benefits from the slab rates in this regard.

APPLICABILITY OF GST ON INFLUENCERS

1. Under the GST law, the services of influencers can be categorized as Online Information and Database Access or Retrieval Services (OIDAR). These may be considered services that use information technology to distribute data through the internet or using an electronic network.
2. If any influencer's turnover exceeds Rs. 20 lakhs in a financial year (Rs.10 lakh if they

reside in a special category state), then they are required to get themselves registered under the GST law.

3. GST is chargeable @ 18% on services provided by GST-registered social media influencers and bloggers. Depending on whether the supply is intrastate or interstate, 9% each of CGST and SGST or 18% of IGST is levied.
4. As far as the export of services is concerned, the GST rate is 0%. Social media influencers who want to export their services have two options: They can either export services by providing a Letter of Undertaking (LUT) or pay IGST and later claim it as a refund. The supplies are zero-rated in advertisements placed on platforms like Google Inc. and Google AdSense, which are widely used by influencers since the recipient of these services is located outside India.

[Readers may forward their feedback and queries at taxtalknew@gmail.com. Other articles and response to queries are available at www.theTAXtalk.com]

YOUNG, EDUCATED BUT JOBLESS



Dr. TEJINDER SINGH RAWAL
Chartered Accountant

Employment statistics are key indicators of the state of an economy. Unfortunately, employment statistics are worsening in recent times. Unemployment in India was 8.3% in Dec 22, according to data released by the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy. This is a marked increase from Jan 22 (6.56%), and Nov 22 (8%). An analysis of this data showed that the overall unemployment rate is the highest in 16 months. Urban areas have some of the worst levels of unemployment. The young and educated are not finding jobs, and the frustration is widespread.

In reality, Indian unemployment statistics are worse than they appear. A large chunk

of the population finds employment in the unorganised sector. Post-covid, the unorganised sector has shrunk enormously, and unemployment in this sector is also at an all-time high. It is an open secret that the MSME sector could not recover from the impact of Covid. Many businesses have gone belly up, while many are struggling to make ends meet. Combining these two, we get a fair idea of the economic scenario.

The First Advance Estimate for 2022-23 projected 7% growth. The mainstream media celebrated this with fireworks, opining that the economy was heading north.

When the private expenditure does not rise, growth can be sped up by increasing Government spending. According to government estimates, private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) is pegged at 57.2% of GDP in 2022-23. In 2021-22, it was 56.9%. This may look like an

improvement, but it is merely the 'low base effect'. To put things into perspective PFCE was 57.3% of GDP in 2020-21.

Private consumption continues to be below the pre-covid level. The purchasing power in the hands of people does not create demand and turn the wheels of industry. Higher purchasing power means demand-driven recovery, which results in higher capacity utilisation and investment in expansion, which sets the cycle of growth in motion. Lower private consumption means a sluggish economy and in the worst case, degrowth and recession. If the economy still grows at 7%, that growth will be on the back of corporate growth, excluding the employment-generating MSME and unorganised sectors.

When the consumption lead recovery fails, the Government should increase infrastructure expenditure and initiate welfare measures. This puts more money in the hands of the citizens, boosting consumption. Unfortunately, this is not happening either. Government spending as a share of GDP has declined steadily over 3 years, starting with 2020-21. This year it is estimated to be 10.3% of GDP, 1% less than the first pandemic year. Despite the Government announcing many big-ticket infrastructure projects, the fact remains - as a proportion of GDP, the expenditure on infrastructure is going down. Comparing absolute numbers to decade-old numbers and claiming that the outlay is higher than ever before is like comparing apples

to oranges. In short, private consumption is down, and so is Government spending.

This will widen the gap between the rich and poor, and the situation is explosive. The latest Oxfam International study shows that the richest 1% in India now own over 40% of the country's total wealth, while the bottom half of the population together share just 3% of the wealth. The situation is worse in gender inequality - female workers earn only 63% of what male workers earn. For Scheduled Castes, the difference is even more marked - they earn only 55% of what their socially advantaged counterparts earn. A worker in rural India earns less than half of what a worker in urban India does.

Inequality can signal a lack of income mobility and opportunities, a reflection of persistent disadvantage for select segments of society. Widening inequality also has significant implications for growth and macroeconomic stability. It concentrates political and decision-making power in the hands of a few, lead to suboptimal use of human resources, cause investment-reducing instability, and raise crisis risk.

It would be unwise to celebrate economic recovery under such desperate circumstances. The government will have to stop looking complacent.

*The author is a Chartered Accountant, economist and thinker. He can be reached at tsrawal@tsrawal.com.

VIA NEW MEMBER PROFILE

VIA welcomes Its Newest Members to the Association

MR YASH SURENDRA LODHA

Partner - YJSL Logistics Llp
125, 2nd Floor, Shri Ramkrishna Tower,
Kingsway, Nagpur- 440001

MR MOHAMMAD ZAFAR IQBAL

Director - Frutiger India Pvt. Ltd.
1st Floor, Flat No. 103, Utkarsha
Nirman, Mangalwari Road,
Nagpur- 440001

MR PRATIK RATHI

Partner - Rathi Food International
486, Chikali Layout, Kalamna Market Road,
Nagpur -440035

MR PREMCHAND BHONGE

Managing Director - Can Group Of Industries
Plot No. 73, A 201, Gajraj Complex Near
Pravin Hardware, Koradi Naka, Arya Nagar,
Nagpur -440030



View of BAJAJ HEAD OFFICE complex



BAJAJ Pre Engineered Steel Buildings & K-houses



BAJAJ Duct System



Mr. Parag Wanjari : +91 7758875833

Mr. Sanjay Ladole : +91 8956005391

BAJAJ Steel Doors (Fire, Hospital,
Commercial & Domestic Application)



Mr. Prabhat Sahu : +91 94224 71552

APPLICATIONS

- Industrial Buildings
- Warehouses
- Power Plant
- Structures
- Storage Buildings
- Highrise Buildings
- Parking Lots
- K Houses

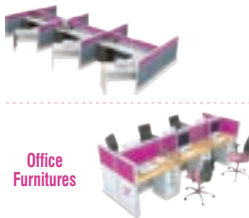
Mr. Rajesh Modi : +91 93702 24505

BAJAJ Electrical Panels



Mr. Deepesh Srivastava
: +91 9960082540

BAJAJ Office Furnitures



Mr. Prabhat Sahu : +91 94224 71552

BAJAJ Heavy Equipment Division



Mr. Ajay Choudhari : +91 9850303967

BAJAJ Ginning and Pressing



Saw Gin

Rotobar Gin



176
Delinter



Down Packing
Press 9500



Up Packing
Press 9300



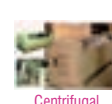
Mote Press



Impact Cleaner



Inclined Cleaner



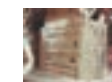
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Vertical Flow Drier



24-D lint Cleaner



Super III Stick Machine

Mr. Sourabh A. Bafna

M: +91 9503032899



Single
Roller Gin

Double
Roller Gin



Cotton Dispensing
System



Pre Cleaner



Screw Conveyor



Bucket
Elevator



Cotton
Seed Dryer

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Lint Cleaner



Humidification
System



Battery
Condenser



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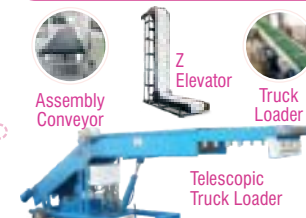
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WHO TAKES CARE OF AN ORGANISATION, IF NOT AN HR?



Dr. SURESH PANDILWAR

Co-chairman
VIA HRD Forum

There is an ancient Chinese saying, which goes something like this: "Without understanding, we cannot see even if we look, we cannot hear even if we listen, and we cannot taste even if we eat."

In this context, we must realize the significance of developing an effective style of HR management in a region like Vidarbha, where we have yet to understand and evolve a comprehensive HR management culture. What we have developed over the years in Vidarbha is an administrative culture. It is necessary to develop an effective management style and evolve a comprehensive HR management culture to meet the ever-changing requirements and build an excellent HR culture that can make a difference. Promoters need to understand this fact.

The promoters have a misconception that this is only the responsibility of an HR Manager. It is a shared job. Everyone is responsible for caring, pinpointing, tapping, and developing individual needs. Each immediate supervisor also must take initiative for his subordinates' development. Organizational requirements and individuals' growth are interconnected and go parallel like train tracks going to a destination. An HR manager must create an atmosphere that encourages every Manager to be invested in the development of his people along with his own.

A line manager is like a father. He nurtures his subordinates' (job) skills and knowledge. The manager's self-interest and growth are tied to his subordinates. He sees his men as inanimate products. The line manager wants results; the target of his department is always kept in mind, according to which he develops

his subordinates. He has already drawn a circle or line, and within this, he views his subordinates.

An HRD professional is higher than the line managers as far as individual development is concerned. He should not wear any spectacles to view the employees, but should instead analyse the problem with the naked eye. An HRD professional should keep the organization's goal in mind, but not draw any circles or lines. He sees an individual as more than just the organization's requirements. He has to play the role of a referee; a surgeon or a nurse. He has to play roles on the stage to ensure a good performance. His concern should be the development of the individuals.

HRD means har roj dard, har roj dava. The HRD manager takes minute-to-minute care of the employees, as it is his duty. Then and only then is he called a real professional.

The HRD professional is a harbinger and can guide and give inputs to other line managers on the development of employees. The HRD professional's guidance and study will be taken along when the individual resigns and joins another organization. Each employee's behavioural change depends on how the HR professional formulates and develops this. The plan for the development of an employee is an ongoing process, and the HR professional contributes to an individual as well as society. The work environment for HR professionals is not so conducive in the Vidarbha region. The increase in competition also leads to heavier workloads and higher production. This is resulting in more importance being given to production and R and D professionals as compared to HR professionals, which is something I have witnessed in many companies in Vidarbha. These points represent some of the steps toward achieving HRD goals. However, pursuing excellence in HRD also demands an ongoing review from time to time, keeping organizational needs in focus.



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INTERACTION WITH MSEB HOLDING COMPANY DIRECTOR VISHWAS PATHAK



Vishwas Pathak, Independent Director of MSEB Holding Company, Mumbai recently interacted with the members of VIA Energy Forum and the industrial fraternity and discussed energy-related issues of various sectors.

VIA Vice President R B Goenka gave some suggestions for the restructuring of the incentive scheme for Vidarbha, Marathwada, North Maharashtra, D and D+ areas. He further said that after the implementation of the incentive scheme, the investment, power consumption, and revenue of the government have increased in Vidarbha and Marathwada areas. The issues discussed were responded to positively.

Deputy CM of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis

supported Vidarbha and Marathwada by providing an incentive scheme in electricity tariff that was applicable upto March 2024 but was withdrawn and replaced by another GR by the past government.

Vishwas Pathak assured that a meeting would be held with a VIA representative in presence of the CMD of MSEDCL at Mumbai to discuss VIA's suggestions to restructure the Incentive Scheme for Vidarbha, Marathwada, North Maharashtra, D and D+ Areas in mid of January 2023.

The Deputy CM made a commitment to restore the original scheme of incentives and withdraw the existing GR. It should be noted that the present scheme shall consume only about 600 crores till March 2023 and the balance amount may lapse. Hence it is necessary to restore the old incentive scheme and implement it from April 2022.

Vishwas Pathak also pointed out that a separate distribution company for agricultural consumers was being formed to address the issues in the power sector. This will rationalize the tariff in a positive way.

SEMINAR ON “POSSIBILITIES AND PROSPECTS OF COAL BED METHANE (CBM) IN VIDARBHA”



VIA and LIT Alumni Association (LITAA) jointly organised a seminar on the Possibilities and Prospects of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in Vidarbha.

Dr. Anand Gupta, Addl Director General, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), said that the DGH recently launched the Special

Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Bid Round-2022, in which 16 CBM Blocks admeasuring about 5800 sq km were on offer. Out of these, 2 CBM Blocks are in Vidarbha with an area of approximately 1040 sq km. Investors from Vidarbha should take advantage of this opportunity and contribute to regional development.

He also said that growth in the Indian economy and a young population will cause India's energy consumption to grow faster than anywhere else globally. He said that India's share in global energy consumption will rise from 7% in 2019 to 13-14% in 2050. Domestic gas production has already witnessed a 20% increase in the last 2 years and is envisaged

to grow further. In India, the demand is driven by the petrochemicals, power generation, and refinery sectors. Moreover, industrial gas consumption in India is at a nascent stage and the demand is expected to grow soon.

Sanjay Lale, HoD, CBM from DGH, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas explained how CBM is generated. CBM is methane found in coal beds, which is generated during coalification and gets adsorbed into the coal matrix. CBM is produced by removing the water pressure which holds it in place and CBM extraction improves the safety of coal mines by removing water and other hazardous gases. This is further put to use in industries like auto fuels, fertilizers, steel, cement, etc. Major CBM-producing areas such as those in West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh are being connected with the National

Gas Grid to meet the gas consumption trends in countries with CBM potential. He further said that Vidarbha, especially Chandrapur, Yavatmal, Wardha, and Nagpur districts are rich in coal deposits. Areas identified by the Ministry of Petroleum and Hydrocarbons in Vidarbha also have the advantage of being connected to the pipeline grid of the country.

The session was followed by a Q and A Session. Rajeev Chowdhary from IIT (ISM) Dhanbad joined in virtually and shared details of CBM, from prospect to development, and the bidding process through DGH e-bidding portal M-Junction.

VIA President Vishal Agrawal said that there are good chances for the presence of CBM in Vidarbha and the industry is excited about this new avenue and the opportunities it brings.

DISCUSSION ON HR CHALLENGES IN MSMEs



VIA HRD Forum, IMT Nagpur, Global Talent Company, and NIPM Nagpur Chapter jointly Organized a panel discussion on "Challenges of HR in MSMEs - Bharat Atma Nirbhar".

Renowned speaker and CEO of Global Talent Company Dr. D. K. Bakshi deliberated on the crucial role of MSMEs in emerging India and the need for government intervention to reframe conducive policy to strengthen the MSMEs that will enable India to compete in the global economy and emerge as a superpower by the year 2040. Today, India has all the potential to become a world leader, and with a focus on Policies, Quality, Innovation, and proper timelines, this all is possible.

According to Dr. Suresh Pandilwar, HR professionals can be the agents of change for the growth and success of MSMEs, and

play a vital role in shifting the paradigm by driving cultural growth, bridging the employer-employee gap, and promoting openness. He also urged proper understanding of HR function in MSMEs, which is presumed to be restricted to catering to statutory compliance. However, an HR is a key driver in an organization, who can work as a Business Partner giving the requisite momentum to the growth of MSMEs.

Dr. Smita Singh, Associate Professor at IMT Nagpur, emphasized the need for Academy-Industry partnerships to create future leaders who have a real-time understanding of the working of an organization. Shalu Pillai, Leader HR OD specialist of Global Talent Company, elaborated on employee engagement tools that bring holistic changes in the company and enhance the ownership and sense of belongingness in the organization..

SEMINAR ON "SAMRUDDHI MAHAMARG SE SAMRUDDH KISAN"



VIA Agro and Rural Development Forum organized a seminar "Samruddhi Mahamarg se Samruddh Kisan". At this seminar, Dr. Mahendra Darokar, Chief Scientist and Coordinator of both Mission Aroma and Mission Floriculture, CSIR - Govt. of India, joined virtually and shared his thoughts. According to him, true to the vision of the planning authorities, Vidarbha's farmers will get immense benefits from the Samruddhi Mahamarg.

Ashween D Nannaware, a Principal Scientist at CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow, who is also in charge of Mission Aroma in Maharashtra, said there is a huge scope for cultivation and value-added processing of early maturing industrially important crops. These crops are scientifically developed, region-specific, and of superior varieties, and require lower input costs.

The principal scientist suggested mapping a crop-wise plan for processing Vetiver, Geranium, Lemon Grass, Citronella, Palmarosa

(for dust pollution control), and higher quality herbals like Ashwagandha, Bramhi, Shatavari, Kalmegh, Tulsi, Anantmul, Adulsa, Aloe Vera, etc. Through this, the demands of the perfumery, cosmetics, and agarbatti industries (including exports) would be easily met.

Industrialist Rohit Agarwal appealed to the processors and industries to make their presence felt on feeder roads of the Samruddhi Mahamarg like Wardha, Yavatmal, Amaravati, Washim, Hingoli, Akola, Khamgaon, Lonar, etc. He urged them to manufacture value-added products like active pharma ingredients, cosmeceuticals, and nutraceuticals from aroma grass and commercial horticulture and to also further transfer the module to other satellite units. Sungod Agfarms has ready multinational buyers for 5000 acres of plantations with guaranteed buyback for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and they appealed to farmers and industries to come forward for the same.

Kapil Charan Sahoo, Project Director of the Herbaroma series said that Vidarbha has active support from various state and central institutes. Farmers, Scientists, and Corporates/Industrial houses need to cooperate and coordinate in the domain of finished and value-added aroma products of consistent quality and efficacy. By developing and disseminating aroma technologies, it will soon become the Aroma capital of India.

UP'S GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT



A delegation of the Hon'ble CM of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath interacted with

Vidarbha's industrial fraternity to explore business opportunities in Uttar Pradesh.

The delegation was led by Awanish Awasthi, Advisor to the CM of UP, and the Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Dept. of UP. He gave a presentation on present-day UP and outlined its vertical growth. He further said that India's growth can be achieved through industrialization. If considered a country, population-wise, UP is the fourth largest in the world. It has advantages like the largest labour

availability, a variety of agricultural produce, and an 11% growth in the economy. UP wants to create a trillion-dollar economy, for which different industrial clusters have been made in different regions of UP. Now, the biggest green airport with all modern facilities will be coming up by March 2024 at Zaver. He further appealed to the industrialists of Vidarbha to expand their businesses to UP, which has a population of nearly 21 Crores, and a huge consumer base. He invited all industrialists to visit the “UP Global Investors Summit” which will be held in

Lucknow from 10th to 12th February 2023.

Arun Vir Singh, IAS, CEO of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority also informed about the connectivity of UP Industrial Estates with all modern facilities.

Dr. G N Singh, Ex-Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) and Advisor to the CM of UP appealed to set up pharma equipment manufacturing at the Yamuna Express Industrial Park having a very big Pharma Devise Cluster near Zaver Industrial Estate.

VIA REPRESENTATIONS - JANUARY 2023

28TH DECEMBER

**Shri. Vishwas Pathak, Director
MSEB Holding Co. Ltd.**

Revision in the VM Energy Incentive Scheme

30TH DECEMBER

Shri. Pralhad Joshi

**Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal Mines and
Parliamentary Affairs, GOI**

Shri. Raosaheb Danve

**Hon'ble Minister of State of Railways, Coal,
and Mines, GOI**

Request Offere for required grade of coal quantity linkage coal auction for sub secotrs tranche -VI 1) Coal Linkage Auction Policy- Letter No. 23011/51/2015/CPD (Pt-I) Dated 15/2/2016 2) CIL Letter No. CIL/M&S/ Linkage Auction / 339 dated 05.08.2021 3) CIL Letter dated 16/12/2022

10TH JANUARY

The Director (Marketing)

Coal India Ltd., Kolkata

Submission for Non-Applicability of WPI to Linked NRS Coal Consumers + Request offer for Required Grade of Coal Quantity Auction for Sub Sector Tranche- VI

11TH JANUARY

**The Secretary, Maharashtra Electricity
Regulatory Commission, World trade Centre,
Centre No.1, Mumbai**

Suggestions/ objections on the applications filed by Torrent Power Limited for grant of Distribution license under Section 14 and Section 15 of Electricity Act 2003 for Nagpur

and adjoining area (Case no. 3 of 2023)

14TH JANUARY

Shri. Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Ministe, GOI

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

Hon'ble Minister of Finance, GOI

Shri. Nitin Jairam Gadkari

**Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and
Highways GOI**

Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar

**Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmer
Welfare, GOI**

Shri. Narayan Tatu Rane

**Hon'ble Minister of Micro, Small and Medium
Enterprises, GOI**

Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya

**Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers,
GOI**

National Fertilizer Policy and Contribution of MSME

16TH JANUARY

Dr. Vipin Sharmaji

CEO, MIDC, Mumbai

Removal of Unauthorized Settlements and Scattered Garbage in MIDC Hingna

18TH JANUARY

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

Hon'ble Minister of Finance GOI

Representation for taking corrective measure to offer capital gain exemption for fy 2121-22

Ref: CBDT Circular no.1 /2023 Dated 06.01.2023



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NAVANKUR 1.0 - NURSERY AS A PROFITABLE AGRI-BUSINESS



Agro and Rural development forum of VIA held a one-day workshop titled "Navankur 1.0 - Nursery as a Profitable Agri-Business" at Mahalaxmi Gaushala, Koradi. At this workshop, Milind Shende, Superintending Agriculture Officer, Nagpur District, shared that even though many successful nurseries are operating in Vidarbha for commercial and ornamental trees, shrubs, annuals, lawn grass, and other plants, innovative and successful nursery of Tur and Cotton will improve overall productivity, result in higher per acre yield and per acre profitability for Vidarbha farmers.

OmJajodia, having successfully implemented the project with due acknowledgement of CICR - Central Institute for Cotton Research and other Central Institutes, said that there is a potential to save up to Rs. 2000 per acre during sowing, and to enhance yield by around 40 %. All this can be achieved by the new technology of planting Tur and Cotton, initially developed in nurseries by farmers in their backyard and then transplanting it to the field.

It is necessary to give the young seedlings

due attention in the first few weeks after germination. According to Dr. V Santhy, Principal Scientist at CICR, the young and tender seedlings growing in nurseries at farmer backyards are easier and more economical to handle in small areas than in the main planting field. Dr. Sunil S Mahajan, a Principal Scientist at CICR, demonstrated the innovative technology using paper cones and rolls as carrier material. The CICR team also emphasized the preparation of nursery beds, soil management, planting procedures, control of seedling density, use of fertilizers, irrigation, pest control, etc.

Dr. Vinod Raut from the Department of Horticulture at PDKV Nagpur shared that the innovative technology will save considerable time for the raising of the next crop and will fetch higher prices on early arrival in the market. Both land and labor are saved as the main field will be occupied by the crop for a lesser duration. Hence, intensive crop rotation can be followed. CA Sachin Jajodia also shared the financial aspects and tax exemption in agriculture with the farmers.

Many farmers, including Sanjay Satyakar from Parshivni, who is the recipient of the Government of Maharashtra's award for Tur Production shared their success stories due to the new technology. This was followed by the success story of Dr. Raghav Paralkar, CEO of Guna Seeds. The program was attended by representatives from industries including Rohit Agarwal, CEO of Sungod Agfarms; Chandan Mutha, CEO of Aashapura Agro Industries, Chandrapur.



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CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO OFFER CAPITAL GAIN EXEMPTION

VIA submitted a representation to the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister, Govt of India, for taking corrective measures to offer capital gain exemption for FY 2021-22.

Recently, CBDT released the first circular of 2023 to extend the benefit of capital gain exemption for various categories of taxpayers. However, benefits may not impact the taxpayers for the following reasons:

1. The due date for filing income tax returns for the FY 2021-22 (AY 2022-23) was 31st July for generalized categories or 30th Oct for select categories of taxpayers in business/covered by audit provision.
2. Taxpayers who failed to utilize the opportunity of investment/exemption till 30th Sept '21, paid taxes within the due date or by filing a belated return.
3. The deadline to file the belated or revised return for FY 2021-22 was 31st Dec '22, whereas the present circular was issued on 6th Jan'23.

4. Though there is a new concept of filing an "Updated ITR" for the FY 2021-22 till 31st Mar 25, it's useless to the taxpayers currently.

5. An updated return can be filed only if it benefits the income tax department. Updated returns can't be used by taxpayers to claim benefits or concessions.

6. An updated return can't be filed if it decreases the total tax liability determined based on the return furnished earlier; if it results in a refund; or if it increases the refund due based on the return furnished earlier.

7. Though the government intends to ease taxpayer's hardship, the timing of the circular doesn't permit it. The circular is useless to taxpayers who have already filed returns and paid the tax.

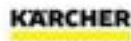
The CBDT may issue another circular to extend the period of filing belated return U/s 139(4) or revised Return U/s 139(5) for taxpayers to claim the benefit of exemption as a result of present circular No. 1/2023.

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FASHION SHOW TO PROMOTE HANDLOOM MATERIAL



The Lady Entrepreneurs' Wing of Vidarbha Industries Association organized a Fashion Show to promote Handloom Material at the Open Air Theater, SCZCC, Nagpur.

Vinita Bhatia, Winner of Mrs. India International Glam 2022, Beauty of the World 2022, and Mrs. India International Path Breaker was the Chief Guest for this event. She shared that confidence is the key to rising to new heights, achieving goals, and claiming a new platform. She also opined that there is no substitute for hard work, for which a person should sharpen their skills, always be cheerful from the heart and take on challenges. To inspire the participants, she narrated her journey across beauty pageants. She outlined how hard work, skill enhancement, daily reading, and learning from failures motivate people to remove negative thoughts and keep the mind peaceful and positive.

The VIA LEW Fashion Show has been organized for the last 5 years on various themes, and it has seen a tremendous response. This year's show promoted Handloom Indian Traditional Fashion, Handloom Material, and Handmade Traditional Jewellery. She also welcomed the Chief Guest and the Judges: Abhishek Jaiswal - Creative Runway Director and Choreographer, and Krupa Sawalani - Principal of MKSSS Soft, Nagpur. The event was supported by Vicco Laboratories, Parekh Jewelers, and Resham Rui of Dhanashree Deodhar.

Fashion Design Institutes and Colleges, Interested Individuals, and Handmade Jewellery Designers participated in the Fashion Show. Ten fashion institutes from

Vidarbha - Gandhigram College, Wardha (A); Aakar College of Management for Women; Datta Meghe Institute of Management Studies; Gandhigram College, Wardha (B); Institute of Innovative Designs and Technology; LAD and Smt. RP College for Women; S S Girls College, Gondia; Santaji Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur; Solahkala Vocational Education Institute and Tulsi Prernadayi Bahuuddeshiya Seva Sanstha - also participated in the Fashion Show. The first round was Traditional Fashion for Institutes, Designers, and Jewelry, and the second round was Contemporary Fashion for Institutes and Designers. This was followed by a Q and A session.

The category-wise winners were:

Jewellery Designer - Kalyani Hingnikar of Raghav Creations
Designer Category - Namrata Fulbandhe of Namos Fashion
Best Costume - 5B of IIDT
Best Ramp Walk - 3L of Datta Meghe Institute
Runner-up College/Institute - SS Girls College, Gondia
Winner College/Institute - Gandhigram College, Wardha (B)

Prominently present were VIA President Vishal Agrawal, Jt. Secretary Rakesh Surana, VIA Agro and Rural Development Forum Chairman Om Jajodia, VIA LEW Founder Chairperson Sarla Kamdar, Immd Past Chairperson Manisha Bawankar, Past Chairpersons Chitra Parate, Neelam Bowade, Anjali Gupta, Dr. Anita Rao, Vandana Sharma, Shachi Mallick, Reeta Lanjewar, Vice Chairperson Yogita Deshmukh, and PRO Poonam Gupta. Members of LEW attended the event in large numbers.



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