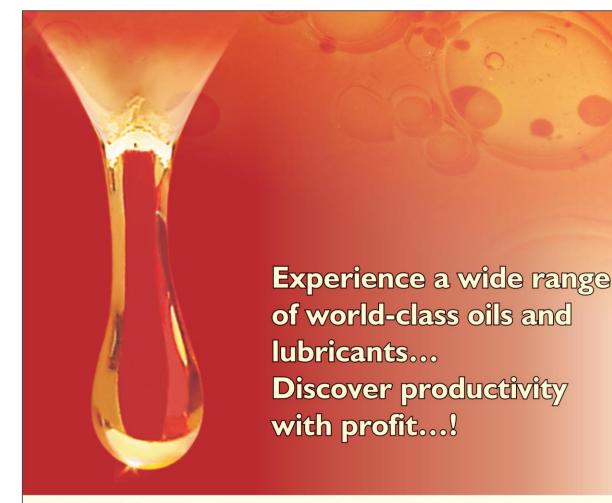


FEDERATION BULLETIN January - March 2024 GREAT S



Initiated in 1973, Tashkent Oil Company Pvt. Ltd. (Tashoil) was formed with a vision to produce quality industrial oils that matched high quality standards at an affordable price. We are today one of the primary producers of specialty lubricants in the country, under the brand TASHOIL, currently producing around 10 million litres per year. We offer a comprehensive range of lubricants designed to meet the performance requirements of modern automotive engines and other diverse industrial applications.

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BRANCH OFFICE





Issue : 4 Vol. : 52

100 YEARS

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- Mr. Sameer Khera
- CA Sanjeev Shah
- Mr. Aman Rungta
- Ms. Priyanka Verma

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January - March 2024

FEDERATION OF GUJARAT INDUSTRIES

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Write to us at: info@fgi.co.in





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A word from the President



Tarak Patel President, FGI

Dear Members,

At the outset, I extend my best wishes to all the members for a prosperous and fruitful Financial Year 2024-25. FGI experienced a flurry of events and activities throughout the previous fiscal quarter of 2023-24.

Throughout this quarter, we have successfully organized a variety of seminars, training programs, and business meetings. One notable event was 'The National Conference on Sustainable Futures' held in November 2023, which led to the organization of a comprehensive full-day workshop on 'ESG Capacity Building – for Large Companies and MSMEs' by FGI. Additionally, FGI hosted seminars on various topics such as Influencing Skills, Unleashing the Potential of Women in Leadership, Multi-Asset Allocation Strategy for Families, Arbitration, Performance Dialogue, and Energy Efficiency.

In terms of representation, we have actively advocated for the interests of our member industries and industries in Gujarat. We submitted Tariff Proposal responses for 2024-25 to MGVCL, GETCO, and GSECL in the form of petitions. As part of our annual tradition, we also held a live Viewing of (Interim) Union Budget 2024-25 and Media Interaction at FGI Auditorium. The Interim Union Budget, presented by Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, included various announcements and strategies aimed at achieving a developed India by 2047.

Furthermore, we fostered international collaboration by partnering with the Department for Business and Trade - British Deputy High Commission, Mumbai. Together, we organized Interaction and B2B meetings with a high-level UK Chemical Trade Mission (Delegation). This delegation comprised decision makers from UK companies, heads of UK-based Chemical Business Association and Chemical Industries Association, as well as senior representatives from the Department of Business and Trade-UK. Notably, Mr. Stephen Hickling, Hon'ble British Deputy High Commissioner to Gujarat and Rajasthan, graced the event as a special guest. The UK delegates engaged in fruitful one-to-one interactions and discussions with our member industries and other invited business guests.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting line-up of programs and seminars planned for our members in the upcoming financial year. We eagerly anticipate your active participation in these events and fruitful deliberations.

Additionally, as our country prepares for the Lok Sabha Elections, we sincerely hope that all our member industries will encourage their employees to exercise their voting rights.

Thank you all,

Tarak Patel
President





MANAGING COMMITTEE OF FGI FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024

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Tarak Patel

Tarak Chemicals Ltd

SR. VICE PRESIDENT

Arti Basu

Parth Projects & Construction Pvt. Ltd. (Up to 29.02.2024)

SR. VICE PRESIDENT

Sameer Khera

SEE Linkages Pvt. Ltd. (From 01.03.2024)

VICE PRESIDENT

Pranav Doshi Urja Power Pte Ltd. (From 01.03.2024)

HON. TREASURER

Rustom Patel

Baroda Polyform Pvt. Ltd.

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Chirayu Amin

Alembic Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

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Simalin Chemical Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Amit Goradia

Kunkel Wagner (India) Pvt. Ltd.

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Reinhardt Teknik

Manohar Chawla

Ashwin Vanaspati Industries Pvt. Ltd.

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Visubhai Patel

Simalin Chemical Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Rakesh Agrawal

Shiva Pharmachem Ltd.

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Bharat Shah

Gautam Infin Limited

Hemal Mehta

Aman Rungta

Zenith Fibres Ltd.

Dilip Shah

Prakash Chemicals International Pvt. Ltd.

Ketan Parikh

Bharat Desai

Yogendra Gangwal Sky Acetylene Co. Pvt. Ltd.

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Dr. Firoz Holia

National Research & Management Centre (NRMC)

Mohan Nair

Sabari Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.

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Wearresist Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

S. D. Intermediates

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SECRETARIAT

Priyanka Verma

Deputy Secretary General





FEDERATION ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 2024

Managing Committee Election Report 2024-2026

The following 10 candidates stand elected uncontested to the Managing Committee 2024-26:

Sr. No.	CANDIDATES	
1	Mr. Ankur Chokshi Director, Admark Polycoats Pvt. Ltd.	
2	Mrs. Arti Basu Managing Director, Parth Projects & Construction Pvt. Ltd.	
3	Mr. Dilip Shah Whole Time Director, Prakash Chemicals International Pvt. Ltd.	
4	Mrs. Himali Vyas Chairperson & Managing Director, Hi-Mak Pvt. Ltd.	
5	Mr. Narendra Varma Managing Director, Gulbrandsen Pvt. Ltd.	
6	Mr. Pranav Doshi Director, Urja Power Pte Ltd.	
7	Mr. Sameer Khera Managing Director, SEE Linkages Pvt. Ltd.	
8	Mr. Subhash Jajoo Managing Director, Jajoo Architectural Glass Pvt. Ltd.	
9	Mr. Tarak Patel Executive Director, Tarak Chemicals Ltd.	
10	Mr. Vipul Ray Managing Director, Elmex Electric Pvt. Ltd.	

9th January 2024

Workshop on ESG Capacity Building – for Large Companies and MSMEs

FGI organized a comprehensive full-day workshop on 'ESG Capacity Building – for Large Companies and MSMEs' on 9th January 2024. The Workshop was an outcome of The National Conference on Sustainable Futures organized by FGI in November 2023.

20 delegates from 13 companies participated in the workshop and gained insights on the essentials of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.







During the workshop, the expert faculties Mr. Shankar Venkateswaran and Ms. Rita Roy Choudhury from ECube Investment Advisors explained the "what" and "why" of ESG, exploring its evolution and relevance for businesses of all sizes. From understanding sustainability drivers to examining independent standards, the faculties guided the participants and explained the nuances of ESG for all types of companies. The event received appreciation from every attendee present at this knowledgeable seminar.

12th January 2024

Workshop on 'Influencing Skills – Be a Strategic Influencer at Work'

A workshop on 'Influencing Skills - Be a strategic influencer at work' was organized at FGI.







About 47 delegates from various industries and organizations participated in the workshop. The guest trainer Ms. Hiral Matalia, Founder & Chief Facilitator, MPower Training Solutions, along with her team provided an engaging and insightful session explaining several ways to become a better influencer at the workplace. The workshop comprised of psychometric self-assessment, self-assessment interpretation, techniques and principles of influencing, activities, examples, and storytelling.

The participants learned actionable tools to influence better, understood their style and the recommended style, how to adapt to the recommended influencing style depending on situations, and several nitty-gritties of influencing better. The workshop was well appreciated by all participants.

18th January 2024

Seminar on 'Multi-Asset Allocation Strategy for Families'

FGI jointly with Multi-Act had organized a seminar on 'Multi-Asset Allocation Strategy for Families' at FGI Business Centre. The guest speaker for the session Mr. Vikas Biyani, Associate Director – Client Advisory, Multi-Act gave an insightful presentation that focused on safeguard and increasing family wealth across generations through wise asset allocation and careful portfolio construction within each asset class.

The discussion encompassed crucial aspects of investment strategy and how an all-seasons approach ensures the longevity of portfolios. The analysis delved into the reasoning behind opting for Long-Term Equities, aligning shareholder returns with underlying business returns, and the inclusion of Gold as a form of portfolio insurance. The conversation also addressed the importance of Inflation Hedges for safeguarding real purchasing power and highlighted the advantages of Global Diversification in providing a broader opportunity set. The seminar was attended by 48 participants and was appreciated by one and all present.





30th January 2024

Seminar on 'Arbitration as a Catalyst for Economic Development'

The Seminar on 'Arbitration as a Catalyst for Economic Development' was organized at FGI. The Keynote Speaker for the Seminar was Adv. S. Ravi Shankar, Expert Arbitration Lawyer (International & Domestic) & Practicing Advocate - Supreme Court of India and Guest Speakers were - CA Manish Baxi, Designated Partner, Talati and Talati LLP & Promoter of International and Domestic Arbitration Centre (IDAC) India along with Adv. Sunil Agarkar, Designated Partner, LexStreet Advisors LLP.

The speakers discussed and provided an understanding of how arbitration can be a way forward for dispute resolution for business development and ease of doing business. A total of 60 participants attended the seminar.



• Service to Members / Representations / Circulars:

- Date: 01/01/2024 Important & Urgent: FGI Managing Committee Election 2024-2026, sent to all members, FGI.
- 2 Date: 03/01/2024 D. A. Circular January 2024, sent to all members.
- 3 Date: Seminar on 'Multi-Asset Allocation Strategy for Families' 18.01.2024 at FGI Vadodara.
- 4 Date: 05/01/2024 Seminar on Multi-Asset Allocation Strategy for Families' 18.01.2024, sent to all members, FGI.
- 5 Date: 08/01/2024 FGI will observe holiday on 14th & 15th January 2024, sent to all members and exporters, FGI
- Date: 08/01/2024 Conference Report FGI National Conference on Sustainable Futures held on 29.11.2023 at FGI Vadodara, sent to all members, FGI
- 7 Date: 09/01/2024 Request for submission of Member Details Updation Form, sent to all members, FGI
- 8 Date: 09/01/2024 New Appointment: Deputy Secretary General, FGI, sent to all members, FGI
- 9 Date: 16/01/2024 Election Result: Managing Committee 2024-26, sent to all members, FGI
- 10 Date: 18/01/2024 Gratitude and Farewell from Premal Dave, Secretary General of FGI, sent to all members, FGI
- 11 Date: 19/01/2024 Live viewing of Union Budget (Interim) 2024-25, sent to all members, FGI
- 12 Date: 22/01/2024 One Day Training Session on Uncertainty in Measurement 09.02-2024, sent to all members, FGI





FEBRUARY 2024

1st February 2024

Live Viewing of (Interim) Union Budget 2024-25 at FGI Auditorium.

FGI arranged a live viewing of the Interim Union Budget 2024-25. It was attended by FGI Managing Committee members, as well as representatives from the press and media. After the presentation of the Interim Budget by Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, the media captured the reactions of FGI committee members.



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The Budget included various announcements and strategies that indicate the direction and development approach for achieving a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047. While there were no major announcements specifically for the MSME and industry sector, the Government emphasized its commitment to providing timely and adequate finances, relevant technologies, and appropriate training for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to foster growth and global competitiveness.

A total of 30 participants, including Managing Committee members and FGI members, attended the live viewing, along with 40 members from the press and media. Prominent newspapers and news channels covered the perspectives shared by FGI Office Bearers and Managing Committee members.

22nd February 2024

Response to the Petition for Tariff Proposals for 2024-25

The Federation of Gujarat Industries on behalf of its member industries submitted the Responses of MGVCL, GETCO, and GSECL Petitions for Tariff Proposals for FY 2024-25.

The FGI Electrical and Energy committee unanimously agreed to submit responses to MGVCL, GETCO, and GSECL in the form of petitions to safeguard the interests of industries in Gujarat. As a result of our petitions, FGI was provided with the following public hearing schedule for the tariff petitions hearing:

Name of the Utilities	Date of Public Hearing
GSECL, GETCO, SLDC, MUL, GIFT PCL and AIVPL	4 th March, 2024
DGVCL, MGVCL, PGVCL and UGVCL	14 th March, 2024

23rd February 2024

Session on 'Beyond Boundaries: 'Unleashing the Potential of Women in Leadership'.

In the backdrop of the International Women's Day, FGI organized a dynamic session on 'Beyond Boundaries: Unleashing the Potential of Women in Leadership', focused on women leaders and industry professionals. The expert guest speaker for the session was Ms. Shabnam Jussa Gaitonde, Founder, SJG Associates.









36 women leaders and industry professionals with varying backgrounds and work experience ranging from decision makers to industry freshers participated in the session. The guest speaker focused on various aspects of professional and personal development in a women's career, providing a unique platform to empower women in overcoming challenges and accelerating their progress.

The session explored the art of building resilience, identify techniques to cultivate a growth mindset, and delved into the crucial realms of leadership and mentorship. The engaging discussions and conversations addressed the nuances of understanding barriers—both internal and external—while reflecting on diverse challenges. The participants' appreciated the session content and provided encouraging feedback.

27th February 2024

Interactive Session and B2B Meetings with UK Chemicals Trade Mission at FGI Business Centre, Vadodara.

FGI and the Department for Business and Trade - British Deputy High Commission, Mumbai collaborated to organize an Interaction and B2B meetings with the UK Chemical Trade Mission (Delegation) at FGI Business Centre, Vadodara.

The delegation consisted of various decision makers from UK companies such as 2M Group, Alfa Chemicals, AM Technology, Hexigone Inhibitors, Interface Polymers ViridiCo2 as well as heads of UK based Chemical Business Association and Chemical Industries Association along with senior representatives from the Department of Business and Trade-UK.

Special guest during the event was Mr. Stephen Hickling, Hon'ble British Deputy High Commissioner to Gujarat and Rajasthan. In his address, Mr. Hickling highlighted the longstanding and robust business relations between the UK and Gujarat's Chemical Industries. He emphasized that both countries process well-established chemical sectors with remarkable expertise, innovation and technological capabilities.











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During the meeting, the UK delegates delivered an informative presentation about their business products and innovation to the Indian counterparts. Following the presentations, the UK delegates engaged in one-to-one interaction and discussions with member industries and other invited business guests during the networking lunch and the Business-to-Business meetings. The B2B meetings witnessed active participation from both sides, fostering valuable connections and potential business opportunities. Indian delegates who interacted one to one with the UK delegates. More than 90 senior industry representatives from FGI chemical and allied sector members participated in the Interaction and B2B meetings.

The purpose of the event was to enhance the bilateral relations between the industries of the UK and Gujarat, with the meetings serving as a valuable opportunity for productive discussions, and the exploration of new avenues for collaboration and paving the way for a brighter future for both the UK and Gujarat industries.

• Service to Members / Representations / Circulars:

- 1. Date: 02/02/2024 "Being Certain in Times of Uncertainty" Program- 04-02-2024, was sent to all members, FGI.
- 2. Date: 03/02/2024 Bulletin for the quarter of October- December was sent to all members, FGI.
- 3. Date: 05/02/2024 D. A. Circular for the month of February, 2024, sent to all members, FGI.
- 4. Date: 07/02/2024 Program on Women Special Session on 'Beyond Boundaries Unleashing the Potential of Women in Leadership' was sent to all members, FGI.
- 5. Date: 12/02/2024 Invitation Interaction and B2B Meetings with UK Chemicals Trade Mission visiting FGI was sent to all members 27.02.2024
- 6. Date: 13/02/2024 DGFT Trade Notice No.3/2024 Dt. 12.02.2024 was sent to all members, FGI.
- 7. Date: 27/02/2024 Workshop on 'PERFORMANCE DIALOGUE Preparing Leaders for a Constructive & Critical Feedback 14.03.2024, sent to all members, FGI.

FEDERATION BULLETIN





MARCH 2024

14th March 2024

Workshop on Performance Dialogue – Preparing Leaders For a Constructive & Critical Feedback

A full-day workshop on 'Performance Dialogue - Preparing Leaders for a Constructive & Critical Feedback' was successfully organized at FGI. 24 delegates attended the full-day workshop. The esteemed guest faculties Ms. Hiral Matalia and Ms. Pooja Dhruv from MPower Training Solutions highlighted the technique of giving constructive feedback during the workshop.

The entire session had definite learnings that largely revolved around the idea of caring personally and challenging directly. The feedback from participants was very encouraging and positive. The participants learned how applying the power of questioning and using the same method while giving feedback helps the team members empower them to bring out strong action plans.



22nd March 2024

Seminar on 'Energy Efficiency And Process Optimization Strategies in Chemical & Petrochemical Industries'

A seminar on 'Energy Efficiency And Process Optimization Strategies in Chemical & Petrochemical Industries' was organized.

Amidst global imperatives for energy conservation and emissions reduction, the seminar provided a platform to delve into cutting-edge strategies for enhancing energy efficiency and sustainability in the chemical and petrochemical sector.







Key discussions revolved around real-world case studies, floor-level monitoring techniques, implementation strategies, and the impact of weather conditions on utility performance. Renowned speakers including Dr. Naran Pindoriya, Dr. Chinmay Ghoroi and Mr. Rahul Patel from IIT Gandhinagar shared invaluable insights, empowering industry professionals to embrace energy-efficient practices and drive competitiveness while fulfilling ESG responsibilities. The seminar was attended by about 85 participants from several chemical and petrochemical companies.

30th March 2024

A screening of the Book and Other Stories – "A Visual Memoir celebrating the fortieth anniversary of Seagull Books"

FGI in collaboration with Gallery White and Collective Studio, Baroda, organized a special screening of a visual memoir titled "Of the Book and Other Stories," directed by Pushan Kriplani, at the FGI Auditorium, to commemorate the Fortieth Anniversary of Seagull Books.

The film featured interviews with the Seagull team, particularly Naveen Kishore, who shared fragments of his extraordinary journey from a theatre-lighting designer to a publisher. The event was attended by more than 100 participants.

- Service to Members / Representations / Circulars:
- 1. Date: 04/03/2024 D. A. Circular March 2024, sent to all members, FGI
- 2. Date: 05/03/2024 Seminar on Energy Efficiency And Process Optimization Strategies in Chemical & Petrochemical Industries 22.03.2024, sent to all members, FGI.





- 3. Date: 15/03/2024 Workshop on Overview of World Class Manufacturing 10th April 2024, sent to all members, FGI.
- Date: 16/03/2024 Inviting Members to join ESG Cluster for Engineering Sector FGI, sent to all members, FGI
- Date: 19/03/2024 GUVNL circular for Change/Reduction in FPPPA Rate, sent to all members, **FGI**
- Date: 26/03/2024 Representation made to Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Govt. of India on Taxability of Income from Other Sources under Section 56(2)(x) of the Income Tax Act, 1961



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Articles

EXPERIENCES AND LEARNINGS OF THE WORKER FACILITATION CENTRE IN SAVLI

The Savli Workers' Facilitation Centre (WFC) is an innovative initiative jointly established by the Centre for Social Justice, Ahmedabad (CSJ) and Thermax Ltd. under the aegis of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)-Social Compact, supported by the Federation of Gujarat Industries (FGI) and the Savli GIDC Industries Association.

The Savli WFC embodies a collaborative effort aimed at forging a symbiotic relationship between industry and civil society to promote greater equity and dignity for industry-employed informal workers. Its primary objective is to enhance access to entitlements and social security for marginalised workers in Vadodara and its surrounding areas. Over the past year, the Savli WFC has achieved remarkable progress in improving living standards and working conditions through efficient entitlement facilitation, community engagement, and stakeholder collaboration.

This article will be structured into three key sections which will discuss firstly, the work and impact of the Savli WFC over the past year; secondly, the systemic issues within the entitlement facilitation landscape as identified by the WFC through its operations; and thirdly, the pivotal role that the industry plays in promoting worker welfare and the significant potential for businesses to catalyse positive change in the lives of workers.

1. The Work and Impact of the Savli WFC

As home to many big industries and a Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) centre, Savli relies heavily on the labour of inter and intra-state migrant workers, who form the backbone of its economy. Being part of the unorganised sector, these workers often face unique vulnerabilities and challenges, and it is essential to prioritise ensuring that these workers have proper access to basic facilities and social security benefits. Addressing their needs not only supports their well-being but also contributes to the overall sustainability and inclusivity of the industrial ecosystem in Savli. By advocating for entitlements and social security linkages, initiatives like the Savli WFC play a crucial role in safeguarding the rights and dignity of these hardworking individuals and their families.

Throughout 2023-2024, the Savli WFC has achieved substantial progress in elevating the living standards and work conditions of informal migrant workers through the facilitation of entitlements and building of social security linkages, active engagement with the community, and consistent stakeholder involvement. Prior to the establishment of the WFC, workers faced financial burdens and lost wages while accessing necessary documents and entitlements. With streamlined processes and efficient doorstep services, the WFC has successfully alleviated these challenges, earning the trust of the community. In the past year, the WFC facilitated entitlements for 1235 beneficiaries, resulting in a direct monetary benefit of Rupees 27,59,460 with an expected indirect monetary benefit of up to Rupees 2,70,00,000.

1.1. Facilitating Access to Entitlements and Social Security

Through proactive outreach efforts and effective collaboration with stakeholders, the WFC has successfully secured access to entitlements and government schemes from both the Central and State governments for hundreds of workers in the Savli industrial ecosystem. Below are key highlights of the Savli WFC's impactful initiatives and achievements.

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1.1.1. Facilitating Access to E-Nirman Cards and Schemes of the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board

E-Nirman cards serve as vital identity documents for construction workers, granting them access to a plethora of welfare benefits and services provided by the BOCW Welfare Board. Through outreach endeavours, in the past year, the WFC has successfully facilitated the enrolment of 597 workers in the Savli taluka for E-Nirman cards of which cards have been issued for 241 workers so far by the BOCW Welfare Board. To identify eligible workers for E-Nirman registration, the WFC conductsfield visits and shibirs(awareness sessions) in villages, construction sites in the Savli GIDC and neighbouring villages, and brick kiln sites, some of which are organised in collaboration with the BOCW Welfare Board, Vadodara.

Once the E-Nirman card applications are accepted by the BOCW Welfare Board, workers become eligible to avail themselves of various benefits, including the Shramik Annapurna Yojana, Accidental Death Assistance Scheme, Dhanvantari Arogya Rath Yojana, Maternity Assistance Scheme. The WFC Team ensures that workers are sensitised and made aware of the entitlements associated with their E-Nirman cards through continuous dialogue and follow-up during our field visits.

1.1.2. Extending Provision of Ration for Migrant Workers under the One Nation One Ration Card Scheme

Through targeted outreach and advocacy, the WFC has raised awareness among migrant laborers in Savli taluka about their eligibility for ration under the One Nation, One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme, an initiative by the Government of India which enables portability of food security benefits across states and union territories, allowing eligible ration cardholders to collect entitled food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) nationwide. This flexibility is particularly beneficial for migrant workers, but low awareness about the scheme remains a significant challenge, hindering their access to subsidized food and utilities and exacerbating food insecurity.

During our visits to brick kiln sites near Mahapara and Mokshi villages in Savli taluka, we found that migrant workers carrying their ration cards were being denied ration at their nearest Fair Price Shop. To tackle this, the WFC provided counselling to workers on their ration eligibility and sent letters to the Food and Civil Supplies Department (PurvathaVibhag) of the Savli taluka on behalf of 62 migrant families, urging them to facilitate ration access for workers at these sites. Subsequent follow-up visits revealed that while some workers had begun receiving ration from the Fair Price Shop in Mokshi, others continued to face challenges. The WFC remains committed to addressing these ongoing concerns and advocating for the uninterrupted provision of essential food provisions to all eligible migrant workers within the Savli taluka.

1.1.3. Advocating for Establishment of Anganwadi at Brick Kiln Sites in Savli

Recognising the importance of early childhood education and development, the WFC has advocated for the establishment of Anganwadi centres for the children of workers living at brick kiln sites in the villages of Mahapara and Mokshi in the Savli taluka under the One Nation One Anganwadi scheme. Information regarding the children residing at these locations was gathered, and subsequent correspondence was initiated with the Zilla and Taluka-level Integrated Child Development Services Office (ICDS), advocating for the establishment of anganwadi centres at these sites.







Images 1 and 2: The Savli WFC team speaking to brick workers and their families at brick kiln sites in Mahapara and Mokshi

1.1.4. Operationalising Shramik Annapurna Stall and Dhanvantari Rath at Savli GIDC

In mid-2023, during our visits to Savli GIDC, we found that many construction workers struggling to afford meals for their families. Recognising the significant construction worker population within the Savli GIDC who could benefit from the BOCW Welfare Board's Shramik Annapurna scheme by registering under E-Nirman, we reached out to the Board to establish an Annapurna stall at the Savli GIDC. After persistent advocacy, the stall was set up in November 2023, and presently, on average 100-130 workers receive subsidised meals daily from this Shramik Annapurna stall at a rate of just Rs. 5, with the government providing a significant subsidy of Rs. 45 for each meal.



Image 3: The Annapurna Stall outside the main entrance of the Savli GIDC which provides nutritious meals at subsidised prices to workers, and was started by the BOCW Welfare Board after the Savli WFC's advocacy efforts





In the past year, the WFC's efforts in the Savli industrial area have significantly improved the quality of life for unorganised workers. Through proactive engagement and advocacy, we facilitated 1235 entitlements in 2023-2024, providing workers with direct monetary benefits totalling Rupees 27,59,460 and expected indirect benefits of up to Rupees 2,70,00,000. These benefits include savings on travel, wages, access to subsidized ration and meals, health check-ups, and access to government schemes, highlighting the substantial financial impact of our interventions on workers' lives in Savli.

1.2. Ensuring Sustainability of the Entitlement Facilitation Process through Awareness, Community Participation and Capacity Building

The WFC has employed various methods in the past year to engage with the community, disseminate awareness, identify issues, and advocate for change, as described below.

1.2.1. Village Visits



Images 4 to 7: The Savli WFC team visiting various villages in the Savli taluka as part of our community outreach and engagement efforts.

The WFC team conducts regular visits to villages within the Savli taluka, particularly those with significant worker populations such as Lasundra, Karachiya, Mokshi, Mahapara, Samantpura, Samlaya, Tundav, Pasva, and Gothada. We conduct comprehensive outreach efforts during our village visits by going door-to-door and engaging with villagers in communal spaces like chowks and chaupals,





and connecting with workers and their families to identify their eligibility for various entitlements and schemes to gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges confronting them in accessing entitlements. Through these interactions, we raise awareness, educate, and sensitise the community about their entitlements, empowering them with knowledge of their rights and available benefits.

1.2.2. Site Visits

In addition to village visits, the WFC team conducts site visits to industries and construction sites. By interacting directly with labourers at their workplace, as well as engaging with supervisors and contractors, we were able to identify beneficiaries, and address challenges and issues. These visits served as crucial opportunities to spread awareness, build relationships, and establish trust within the workforce.



Images 8 and 9: The Savli WFC team visiting various brick kiln and construction sites to interact with workers, identify entitlement beneficiaries, and understand grievances

1.2.3. Service Camps

Service camps serve as vital platforms for actively facilitating access to entitlements for workers in various villages and construction sites across the Savli industrial area. Over the past year, the WFC has diligently organised service camps in villages such as Samantpura, Lasundra, and Mokshi, as well as at construction site in the Savli GIDC and industrial sites in Vadodara. During these camps, our team assists workers in signing up for E-Nirman cards and identifies eligible beneficiaries for schemes like the Bhagyalakshmi Bond, VahliDikri Yojana, Kunwar Bai Nu Mameru Yojana, and various pension schemes. Moreover, we provide counselling to villagers, ensuring they are aware of the schemes and benefits to which they are entitled. Some of these service camps have been organised in collaboration with the BOCW Welfare Board, enhancing the reach and impact of our interventions.

1.2.4. Campaigns

Our full-fledged outreach and entitlement facilitation campaigns span over 2-3 days, aiming to identify beneficiaries, facilitate access to entitlements, provide counselling and advice, and raise awareness. In February 2024, we organised a comprehensive campaign which included a service camp and





awareness session (shibir) for company workers in Lasundra, a village in the Savli taluka, and health check-up camps at brick kilns and construction sites in the Savli taluka.



Images 10 and 11: Service camp in Lasundra village organised by the Savli WFC team

The February 2024 campaign also included health check-up camps organised in collaboration with the BOCW Welfare Board for labourers living at brick kiln sites and construction sites in the Savli taluka under the Board's Total Health Check-Up Scheme. These camps included comprehensive physical examinations for the labourers, encompassing blood tests, imaging tests such as X-ray and ECG, Pulmonary Function Tests, and urine tests. For the health check-up of each beneficiary under this scheme, the BOCW pays Rs. 1,950. In total, 71 health check-ups were conducted, ensuring the well-being of the workers themselves, and funds worth approximately Rs. 1,40,000 were unlocked from the BOCW.



Images 14 to 17: Health check-up camp in collaboration with the BOCW Welfare Board at brick kiln and construction sites as part of the February 2024 campaign organised by the Savli WFC team





1.2.5. Involvement of Village Volunteers



Images 18 and 19: Our volunteer, Saidaben, interacting with the community

Our community engagement thrives on a network of village volunteers who build rapport, share sociocultural insights, and identify key issues for effective entitlement facilitation. They receive ongoing training and support to remain well-equipped and connected within their communities. This approach, bolstered by the expertise of the Centre for Social Justice, Ahmedabad (CSJ), emphasises a sustainable community ownership model that empowers local leaders and ensures long-term advocacy and support even after the project ends.

1.3. Engaging with stakeholders in the Savli ecosystem to achieve better labour standards, welfare and protection

In pursuit of our overarching goal to enhance labour standards, welfare, and protection in the Savli ecosystem, we have made concerted efforts to foster meaningful collaborations with diverse stakeholders, including industry entities and government agencies. Through these engagements, we aim to create a conducive environment where the rights and well-being of workers are upheld, driving sustainable development and societal progress. Our engagement with various stakeholders is detailed below:

1.3.1. Industry

On July 13th & 14th, 2023, we hosted a comprehensive Training on Strengthening the Missing 'S' of ESG Goals exclusively for FICCI member companies, empowering HR and business management professionals to lead sustainable practices. This immersive program featured speakers from esteemed organizations like FICCI, IIM Ahmedabad, and Zydus Group, covering ESG frameworks, legal compliance, and practical strategies for effecting change. Companies like Rudrani Infrastructure, SCON-HILTI, and Larsen and Toubro have actively supported our service camps and social security enrolment drives, benefiting workers.







Images 20 and 21: FICCI-Social Compact Two-Day Training Program on Strengthening the Missing 'S' of ESG Goals held on 13th and 14th July 2023 by the Centre for Social Justice,

Ahmedabad/Savli WFC team

1.3.2. Government

Our ongoing engagement with the BOCW Welfare Board has led to tangible outcomes, including the establishment of an Annapurna stall and regular health check-ups at the Savli GIDC. Advocacy efforts have also resulted in health camps for workers at brick kilns and construction sites. We have also advocated for anganwadi centreswith the Integrated Child Development Services Office, Vadodara, and improved ration access for migrant laborers with the Food and Civil Supplies Department, Savli, highlighting our commitment to socio-economic inclusion.

In conclusion, the Savli WFC's work in 2023-2024 has profoundly impacted informal workers and their families, elevating living standards, ensuring access to critical services, and promoting socio-economic inclusion. We are deeply grateful for the invaluable support and collaboration from partners such as Thermax Limited, FICCI, the Savli GIDC Industries Association, FGI, and the greater Social Compact community. Together, we will continue to champion sustainable development, uphold labour standards, and foster a more equitable and prosperous environment for all stakeholders.

2. Systemic Issues in the Entitlement Facilitation Landscape

Over the past two years, the Savli WFC team has delved into the operational landscape governing the delivery of social security to unorganised workers, revealing significant deficiencies within state mechanisms designed for this purpose. Our monitoring efforts have been particularly focused on three major government policies and schemes responsible for institutionalising social security delivery to unorganised workers, specifically the NALSA (Legal Services to Workers in the Unorganised Sector) Scheme of 2015, the Common Services Centres-Village Level Entrepreneurs (CSC-VLE) Scheme, and the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme. This section elaborates on our findings pertaining to these schemes, highlighting critical areas where policy implementation falls short and workers' entitlements remain elusive.

2.1. Implementational Gaps in the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganised Sector) Scheme, 2015

Through our work, we have examined the implementation of the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganised Sector) Scheme, 2015 whose primary objectives are





to identify and extend benefits of government schemes to unorganised workers, raise awareness among employers and workers, provide counselling and assistance for registration under social security schemes, and facilitate access to corresponding benefits.

The action research conducted by the Savli WFC reveals significant gaps in the envisioned instrumentalities of the NALSA 2015 Schemeat the grassroots level with the main challenge being the lack of dedicated village and taluka-level infrastructure for effective social security delivery. The NALSA 2015 Scheme mandated State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) to establish specialized cells for unorganised workers, managed by experts including a labour law specialist, counsellor, paralegal volunteers (PLVs), and an NGO representative. Despite this clear role, LSAs are notably absent at critical village and taluka levels where their involvement is essential for facilitating entitlements effectively. Additionally, the 2015 Scheme aimed to identify unorganised worker categories, assess work conditions and minimum wages, establish Social Security and BOCW Welfare Boards, ensure cess fund utilization, notify relevant schemes, conduct legal awareness, and provide specialised PLV training. Our experience reveals minimal efforts in Savli at the village, taluka, and district levels to enact the scheme due to ineffective planning, monitoring, and execution.

Moving forward, the Savli WFC team recommends several actions to address these gaps. This includes appointing and paying paralegal volunteers (PLVs) promptly, improving communication between District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluka Legal Services Authorities (TLSAs), and expanding awareness programs with regular village visits and tailored campaigns for vulnerable communities, especially in industrial areas. Additionally, district-level mapping should be conducted to identify unorganised worker populations and strengthen linkages with district labour departments to ensure effective entitlement facilitation and legal aid delivery, thereby realizing the vision of the NALSA 2015 Scheme for unorganised workers in areas like Savli.

2.2. Challenges of the Common Service Centre-Village-level Entrepreneur Scheme

The Common Services Centres (CSCs) are vital for implementing the National e-Governance Plan, acting as technology-driven hubs operated by Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) to provide government, social, and private sector services in rural areas. In Savli district, around 150 CSC-VLEs operate, typically one per village.

Challenges identified in our research include delays in obtaining certifications needed for VLEs to expand their services, which limits their ability to serve communities effectively. Additionally, the Telecentre Engineering Certification course, required for VLEs, is often not available in local languages, hindering training effectiveness. Delayed payments to VLEs also pose operational challenges, impacting financial stability and discouraging further participation in the scheme. These obstacles collectively hinder service delivery at the village level.

Addressing these issues—streamlining certification processes, offering training in local languages, and ensuring timely payments—is crucial to enhance the impact and reach of the CSC-VLE Scheme in empowering rural communities with essential services and opportunities.

2.3. Issues with the One Nation, One Ration Card Scheme

The One Nation, One Ration Card (ONORC) Scheme, launched as a pilot in 2019, aims to modernize the ration card system by allowing beneficiaries to access subsidized grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) nationwide. However, our research in Savli revealed significant implementation challenges. None



of the surveyed FPSs in 12 villages had operational Electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices required for ONORC services. Additionally, key stakeholders like ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff, and PDS shop owners showed limited awareness of ONORC, despite Savli being an industrial hub with many migrant workers.

Moving forward, effective collaboration between the Food and Civil Supplies Department and the District Labour Commissioner's office is essential to identify migrant settlements and ensure successful ONORC implementation. The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) must also play a role in training and raising awareness among migrant workers and PDS shop owners to optimize ONORC benefits.

The challenges identified in ONORC implementation, along with those in other schemes like the NALSA Scheme and CSC-VLE Scheme, are critical barriers preventing unorganised workers from accessing their entitled benefits. The Savli WFC's research highlights the urgent need for collective action from the community, industry, and government to address these challenges effectively and empower unorganised workers in Savli and beyond.

3. Social Compact – The Role of Industry in Promoting Worker Welfare

The Savli WFC is deeply appreciative of the support extended by Thermax Limited, FICCI, FGI, and the greater Social Compact family. Within this supportive network, the Social Compact—a multi-stakeholder initiative—has emerged as a catalyst for ethical transformation within Indian businesses, aimed at fostering greater dignity and equity for vulnerable workers and their families. This collaborative effort encourages dialogue, learning, and actionable steps toward promoting worker welfare.

Social Compact fosters collaboration between civil society organizations (CSOs) and industry to enhance socially sustainable practices across production chains. It engages stakeholders like CSOs (Centre for Social Justice, Ahmedabad; Aajeevika Bureau) and employers (Forbes Marshall, Thermax Limited, Godrej Properties Limited) to drive systemic change towards living wages, health and social security coverage, gender equality, safety, upskilling, and access to entitlements. Central to the Social Compact's approach is the notion of co-solutioning, which involves detailed assessments of corporate labour governance systems and practices related to informal workers across various sectors, and the initiative is designed to complement existing state regulatory frameworks, enhancing and implementing entitlements backed by government regulations.

Improving worker practices and prioritising worker welfare is not just a moral imperative but also makes strong business sense. Studies have shown that healthier and happier workers are more productive and engaged. Research by Bloom et al. found that workers' well-being significantly impacts productivity levels. By promoting worker health and safety, businesses can experience higher output and improved performance. Furthermore, high turnover rates and frequent recruitment can be costly for businesses while investing in worker satisfaction and well-being can reduce turnover rates and associated recruitment costs. The Harvard Business Review highlights that job satisfaction and retention are closely linked, emphasising the importance of a positive work environment. Businesses that prioritise worker welfare and ethical practices tend to enjoy a stronger reputation and enhanced brand value. Consumers and stakeholders increasingly value companies that demonstrate a commitment to social responsibility and worker rights with maintaining a positive brand image leading to increased customer loyalty and market share.





The Social Compact offers Indian businesses a pathway to differentiate themselves by creating value for stakeholders, including informal workers, beyond profit margins. Using pragmatic legitimacy arguments, the initiative mitigates reputational risks, addresses information gaps, and promotes best practices among suppliers for safer, healthier, and more inclusive business practices. Collective action and collaboration are central to the Social Compact's efforts in fostering an equitable business environment for informal workers in India.

Through initiatives like the Savli WFC, we remain committed to advancing the cause of worker welfare and fostering collaboration between industry stakeholders. We invite active participation from companies within the FGI network to join us in creating a more equitable and responsive business environment that benefits both workers and businesses. Join us in shaping a brighter future for all stakeholders.

For further inquiries or to get involved, please reach out to the Savli WFC/Shramik Bandhu team at winona.csj@gmail.com/winona@centreforsocialjustice.net.

- Contributed by FICCI





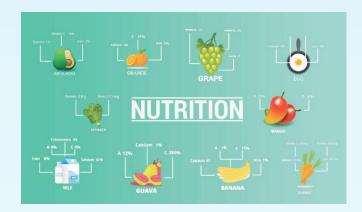
Health & Wellness



The food we consume is regarded as an environmental element that impacts our health, both positively and negatively. A well-balanced and nutritious diet enables individuals to carry out their daily physical activities and mental functions effectively. However, an imbalance of certain nutrients within one's diet can have adverse effects on health.

The term "diet" encompasses the range of foods and beverages consumed in various settings, including workplaces, schools, restaurants, and homes. Additionally, "diet" often refers to a specific nutritional plan or eating pattern.

Nutrition is fundamentally centered around consuming a well-rounded diet on a regular basis. By providing essential nutrients, good nutrition supports the functioning of various parts of the body including the brain, muscles, bones, nerves, skin, blood circulation, and immune system. Additionally, proper nutrition plays a crucial role in safeguarding against various illnesses and diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and osteoporosis. Macronutrients and micronutrients are the two main categories of nutrients found in food, with macronutrients like carbohydrates, protein, and fat serving as sources of energy and building blocks for muscles and tissues.



Nutrition is vital for promoting health and preventing diseases. Various disciplines contribute to nutritional studies, including anthropology, biology, biochemistry, economics, epidemiology, food science, genetics, physiology, psychology, and sociology. Researchers study individuals' dietary habits, supplement intake, and nutritional requirements at different life stages to develop evidence-based public policies, healthcare systems, and environmental strategies.



Nutrition involves the process of consuming, absorbing, and utilizing essential nutrients from food for growth, development, and overall wellbeing.

- Compiled by Priyanka Verma, Deputy Secretary General, FGI





MEDIA BUZZ

गुक्स्यात रामागान्य (वडोहरा आवृत्ति)

શુક્રવાર, તા.૦૨ ફેબ્રુઆરી, ૨૦૨૪

वडोहरानुं ઉद्योग् अगत निराश ઉદ્યોગ જગત માટે કેન્દ્રના વચગાળાના બજેટમાં કોઈ મહત્ત્વની જાહેરાત ના થઈ

લોક્સમાની ચૂંટલી પહેલાનું છેલું વચાયાનું કેનો પ્રવાસ પ્રવાસ પ્રવાસ કર્યું છે. કારલાંકે નોકરિયાનોને ટેક્સમાં રાહત નથી બાર્ટર આવે નાણા કોની મિલાલ કિલ્તામાર્ય હેલાડા પેટ્ર હ્યું ક્યારી તો દેશોએ માટે પણ કોઈ ખાસ ભઢેરાત કરવામાં આવી તકુ લોકે આ પ્યરેશ નોકરિયાનોની સાથે લાલે દેશોના જાતન નથી.

લાંબા ગાળે ઈકોનોમીને ફાયદો થાય તેવી યોજનાઓનો ઉલ્લેખ, નવી સરકાર જૂનમાં બજેટ રજૂ કરે ત્યારે ફાયદો થાય તેવી અપેક્ષા

સેક્ટરોને ધ્યાનમાં રખાયા. બાય કેક્ટરો માટે બજેટમાં કોઈન કોઈ જાહેરાત થઈ છે પણ ઉદ્યોગો માટે નવી કોઈ જાહેરાત થઈ છે પણ ઉદ્યોગો માટે કેરકાર કરાયો નથી. એક્જબાઈના પૂર્વ ઉપપ્રમુખ મોહન નાયર

અમદાવાદ એરપોર્ટથી રાજ કોટ સુધી એસટી વોલ્વો બસ શરૂ કરાશે

પાંદે. ઈ. કોનોમીનું સર્જન સરો સ્ત્રું હતું કે નથી ભટકા જન્મ માર્ગ કર્યું કે નથી ભટકા જન્મ માર્ગ કર્યું કે નથી ભટકા જન્મ માર્ગ કર્યું કર્યા કર્યા કર્યો કર્યા કર્યું કે ભરેટમાં કે માર્ગ સાંદ્ર સાંદ્ર સાંદ્ર સાંદ્ર કે ભરેટમાં કર્યા કર્યા કર્યો કર્યું કર્યા પાંદ્ર કર્યું કર્યા કર્યા કર્યું કર્યું કર્યા કર્યા

સજવ શ વચગાળાનું બજેટ હોવાથી કો નવી યોજના લાગુ નથી કરાદ વચગાળાનું બજેટ હોવાથી કે નવી જાહેરાત થઈ નથી પહેલેથી ચાલી આવતી યોજનાઓને જ ભાંડ પુરુ પાડવામાં આવ્યુ છે.વિકાસ મ

02

SANDESH

FRIDAY, 02.02.2024

બજેટમાં ઉદ્યોગો માટે પણ ખાસ કોઇ જોગવાઇ નહિ કેન્દ્રીય બજેટમાં ઇન્કમટેક્સમાં રાહત ન મળતાં ઉદ્યોગકારો નિરાશ

ગામીણ ભારતના વિકાસ ઉપર સરકારનું ધ્યાન વધારે હોવાનું નોંધાયું

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હતું કે, સરકારનું સંપૂર્ણ પ્યાન ગામીલ ભારતના વિકાસ તરક છે.લાંભા ગાળા ગામીજન સાથેનું સ્પષ્ટ દિશા સૂચક કોસ્સિટમના વિકાસ માટે શરકારે ભાર ભરેક છે.લિટોજન કર્શનો સ્પષ્ટ ઉદેશ પુત્ર સ્પૂર્ણ કરાયો છે. પક્ષ સ્પૂર્ણ કરાયો છે. સરકારની દિર્ચ ક્રષ્ટિ

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SANDESH

WEDNESDAY, 28.02.2024

બિટિશ ડેપ્યુટી હાઈ કમિશને FGI બિઝનેસ સેન્ટરની મુલાકાત લીધી K અને ગુજરાતના ઉદ્યોગો વચ્ચે દ્વિપક્ષીય સંબંધો વધારવાનો પ્રયાસ

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 મુંબઇના બ્રિટિશ ડેપ્યુટી હાઈ કમિશન અને પુક ક્રેમિકલ ટ્રેડ લિંગેશનને આજે એક આઇજી સેન્ટરની મુલાકાત લીધી હતી. જેમા પુકેની જાણીતી કંપની રાભ પુય, આલ્લ કેમિકલ્સ, એ એમ. ટેકનોલોજી, હેક્સિગોન ઇન્ડિબિટર્સ, ઇન્ટરફેસ પોલિમસં વિરીડીકોર ટક્યાલાછ, હાક્સગામ ઇાય્હાબટસ, ઇન્ટરક્સ પોલિમસં વિરીકોર તેમજ યુકે સ્થિત કેમિકલ બિઝનેસ એસોસિએશન અને કેમિકલ ઇન્ડસ્ટ્રીઝ એસોસિએશનના વડાઓ સાથે વરિષ્ઠ પ્રતિનિધિઓનો સમાવેશ



થતો હતો. બિટિશ ડેપ્યુટી હાઈ કમિશનર સ્ટીકન હિકલિંગે યુકે અને ગુજરાતના કમિકલ ઈન્ડસ્ટ્રીઝ વચ્ચેના મજબૂત વ્યાપારી સંબંધ પડ પકાશ પાડતા જણાવ્યું હતું કે, બિટન અને ગુજરાતના ઉદ્યોગો વચ્ચે સબ્ધીય સંબંધ પડ તમકાશ પડ તો વખાવવા અને મજબૂત કરવાનો અમારો પ્રયાસ છે. વખોંથી યુકે રસાયણો, ક્રમાંસ્યુટિકલ

ઇન્ટરમીડિયેટ અને એગ્રો કેમિકલ્સમાં મુખ્ય સપ્લાયર છે. સ્થાનિક અને આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય બજારો માટે ઉચ્ચ મૂલ્યના રસાયણો વિકસાવવા અને મૂલ્લના રસાવણા ાવકસાવવા અન તેનું ઉત્પાદન કરવામાં આવે તેની પર પણ ભાર મુકવામાં આવ્યો હતો. ઉદલેખનિય છે કે, બંને દેશમાં કેમિકલ ભિઝનેસ માટે ઘરક મીટિંગ યોજાઈ હતી.







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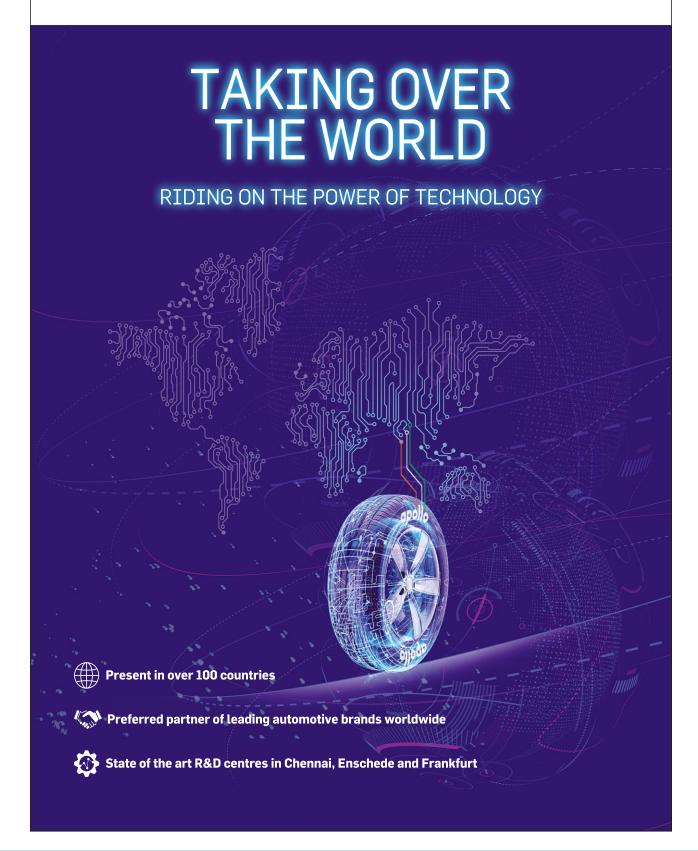




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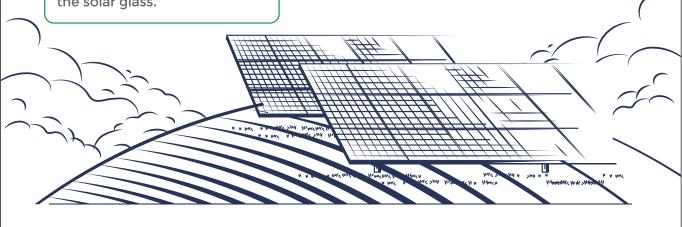
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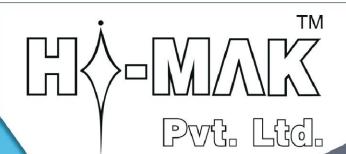
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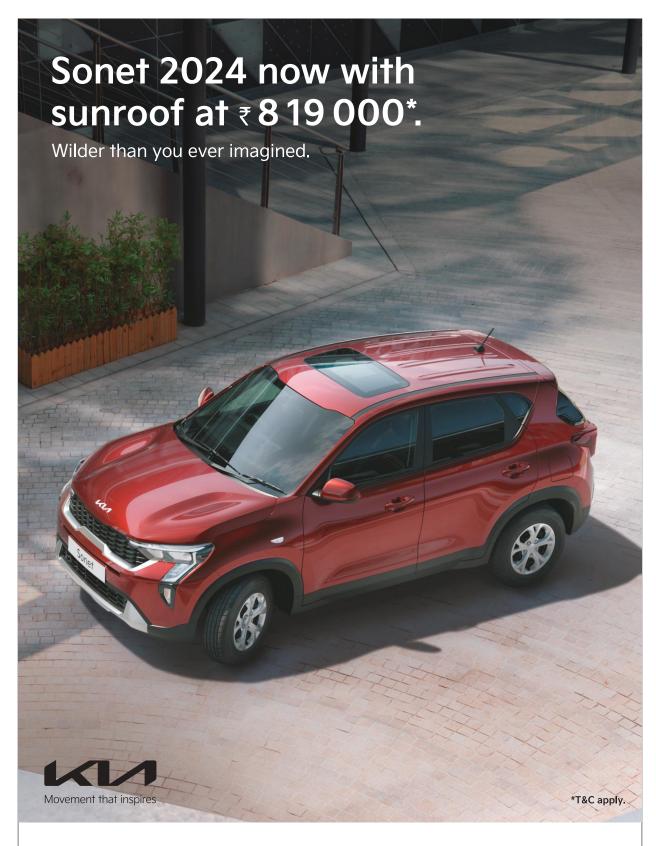
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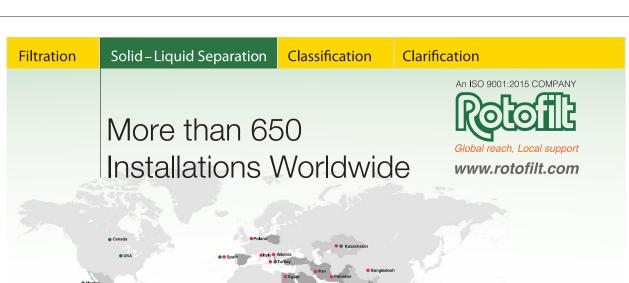
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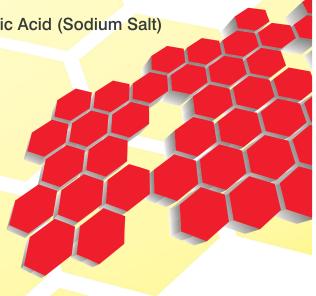
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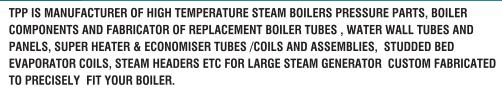
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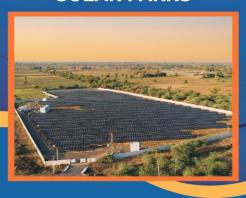






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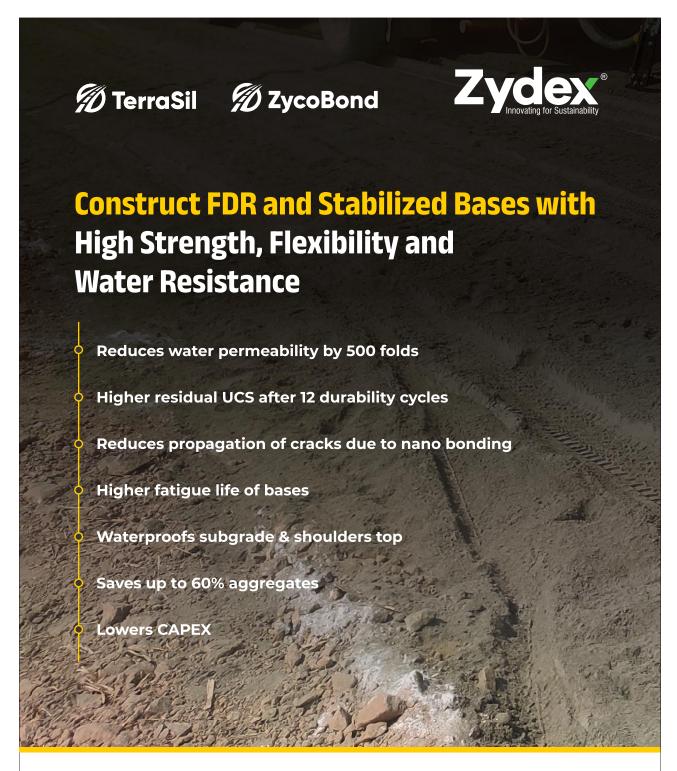


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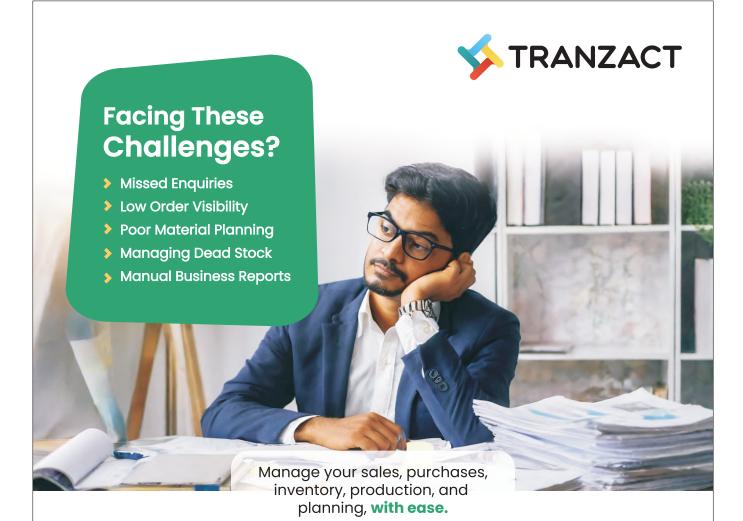
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