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CII EXCON Celebrates 'Women Building India - Equal Opportunity Awards' to Foster Gender Inclusivity in the Construction Industry



The CII EXCON event witnessed a significant milestone with the 'Women Building India - Equal Opportunity Awards,' a platform dedicated to recognizing and promoting gender inclusivity in the construction industry. The awards ceremony, brought together industry leaders, experts, and distinguished guests to address the imperative of empowering women in the sector.

The Chief Guest, Mr R Dinesh, President, CII & Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd. said, "Gender parity needs to be driven at leadership level. Companies not only need to become inclusive in hiring & recruitment but also impacting the ecosystem including taking steps in gender responsive procurement and creating inclusive supply and value chains".

Let's redefine success beyond numbers and ensure that our collective growth is not just numerical but personal, with a keen focus on gender diversity, breaking barriers, and fostering an economy where women flourish as leaders, added Mr Dinesh.

Mr. Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII Southern Region said, "The awards celebrate the strides made by women in real estate and construction, acknowledging their potential to address the skills gap and contribute to the industry's advancement. CII remains committed to fostering inclusivity, as demonstrated by initiatives like the 'Indian Women Network' and the newly launched 'CII Centre for Women Leadership,' reflecting the industry's collective dedication to creating a more diverse and equitable workforce."

Mr. V G Sakthi Kumar, Managing Director of Schwing Stetter India Pvt Ltd, was recognized as the Committed Leader, embodying unwavering

dedication to fostering gender diversity. Cummins India, earned acclaim for fostering an Inclusive Workplace, a testament to their commitment to diversity and equal opportunities. Additionally, JCB's innovative special initiative for the shopfloor garnered acknowledgment, showcasing their pioneering efforts in creating a more inclusive and dynamic work environment. These awards not only commend exemplary achievements but also serve as beacons inspiring further progress toward a more diverse and equitable construction industry.

Mr. Arvind K Garg, Chairman of the Taskforce on Women in Infrastructure, CII EXCON, and Vice-President & Head, Construction & Mining Machinery, Larsen & Toubro Limited, and Ms. Rumjhum Chatterjee, Jury Member, CII EXCON 2023: Women Building India – Equal Opportunity Awards also shared their perspectives on the importance of gender inclusivity in the sector. The Women Building India - Equal Opportunity Awards marks a significant step towards fostering an inclusive and equitable environment within the construction industry.



Women in Construction "Barriers, Solutions & Way Forward"



Military Engineering Services, BRO & CE Industry Leaders Collaborate at CII EXCON 2023 to Shape India's Infrastructure Future



On the third day of CII EXCON 2023, during the Session on 'Exploring Opportunities in Defence & Border Roads Projects', Border Roads Organization (BRO) shed light on its extensive contributions to infrastructure development and outlined future initiatives.

"The organization, operating since 1960, has successfully executed over 61,500 roads, nearly 1000 permanent bridges, and 21 airports in challenging terrains and adverse climatic conditions across the nation and three other countries," said Lt. Gen Arvind Walia, Engineer -In-Chief, Military Engineering Services, Ministry of Defence, Government of India. "Leveraging state-of-the-art technological solutions, the organization has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to innovation and efficiency.

The successful execution of infrastructure projects in diverse and challenging environments stands as a testament to the seamless integration of advanced technologies into the BRO's operational strategies," he added.

Lt General Raghu Srinivasan, Director General of the Border Roads Organisation, remarked, "Through engaging with our industry partners, the BRO effectively conveyed its precise requirements for a model bridge, emphasizing the necessity for increased width, two lanes, and enhanced support for larger spans with a higher load classification. In response to these clearly defined needs, the industry has successfully delivered a model of the bridge that aligns with these specifications.

Mr. Sandeep Singh, Managing Director, Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery Company Pvt Ltd and Mr Anand Sundaresan, Managing Director, Ammann India also spoke at the Session.

At a separate CEO Roundtable 2023 on the theme, 'Stimulating Sustained Demand Creation for the Indian CE Industry', convened prominent industry leaders for an in-depth conversation addressing the challenges and opportunities within India's construction equipment sector. The discussions centered around the crucial role played by the Indian Construction Equipment (CE) industry in the nation's infrastructure development.

The session dwelled into a range of subjects, highlighting sustainable development, a dedication to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, and the obstacles encountered by companies such as Reach International in supplying aerial work platforms for construction sites. Panel participants recognized the importance of private-sector funding to supplement government initiatives in infrastructure advancement. Noteworthy points encompassed the sector's emphasis on digitalization, minimal Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), and the vital collaboration between industry and academia to tackle skill shortages in the operation of construction equipment.

Mr. Vivekanand Vanmeeganathan, President, ICEMA said, "In the context of sustainability, the industry acknowledges the crucial importance of ESG. Commitment to sustainable practices is not only for current operations but also for ensuring a sustainable future for the industry."

Mr. Jaswinder Singh Bakshi, Chairman – Taskforce on User Industry EXCON 2023 said, "The government's focus on infrastructure is evident in increasing budget outlays, with flagship initiatives like NIP, NLP, and GMP driving steady growth. Optimism is high due to a significant pipeline of projects, indicating sustained and growing demand for the next five years."

Other speakers at the session included; Mr. Sandeep Singh, Managing Director, Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery Company Pvt Ltd; Mr. V G Sakhikumar, Managing Director, Schwing Stetter India Pvt Ltd; Mr. Munish Sharda, Group Executive & Head (Bharat Banking), Axis Banking; Mr. Ramu Ravuri, Managing Director, M/s Sree Raja Rajeswari Constructions(India) Pvt Ltd and Mr. Dhruv Sharma, Founder, Reach International.

CII EXCON 2023 highlighted a collective industry commitment to embrace sustainability, recognizing its significance not only for current operations but also for ensuring a resilient and eco-friendly future. As the dialogue unfolds, it becomes evident that the trajectory of India's infrastructure sector holds promise, backed by determined efforts to address challenges and leverage opportunities for long-term growth.



"We are looking at a much bigger EXCON; I am sure it's going to rival any other big show in the world"

- Dimitrov Krishnan
Co-Chairman, CII EXCON 2023



The 12 Edition of EXCON 2023 has started very well. The very first day we had Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurating our event and motivating us to dream and achieve big. Another point to highlight is our visitor numbers have been very good from day one. Our customer footfalls have been excellent with a lot of quality visitors attending and generating inquiries.

Lastly, I would like to say our industry is showing the way to the future on how sustainable development can happen. For instance, EV and Hydrogen products are the future and many manufacturers have showcased the same including Volvo. The feedback we are receiving is a lot of customers would like to adopt it.

Moving forward to EXCON 2025, I think 2025 will be a great one because the metro should be operational by then. An operational metro would improve and largely ease the mode of transportation for our visitors. Also, I would like to state are how companies like Volvo have for the first time gone indoors. I must say

that we are very happy with the response and also the setup. I would perhaps see more brands thinking of going indoors with big shows in future.

When it comes to the technology itself, there is no looking back on sustainable technology. This will only accelerate in two years with a lot of customers having already experienced these technologies. I am confident our customers will ask for more and we will see a lot more companies showcasing newer technologies.

For EXCON 2025, I'm expecting anywhere between 1300 to 1500 exhibitors to sign up. The challenge we may experience is the space or rather the lack of it. As of today, all our halls and outdoors are full. We need to think of how we will accommodate more exhibitors in a good way. Though we are confident of finding solutions for this, I am looking forward to that.

We are looking at a much bigger EXCON. I am sure it's going to rival any other big show in the world.

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar emphasized on the essence of yoga, encouraging individuals to establish themselves in the infinite nature of their being at the special session, 'A Spiritual Reflection with Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji.'

"Spirituality comes into play in 20 minutes of meditation. You can energize your body, mind and spirit," he added.



CEO Interview

"Make In India today is an integral part of every manufacturing unit today"

In a telephone interview, Mr Anand Sundaresan, MD, Ammann India spoke about the growth and trends in the CE Industry, availability of skilled manpower and China too. Excerpts of the interview:

Commenting on the growth of the industry, Mr Anand said, "The CE industry has grown by 26 percent from 88,000 units to 1,07,000 units this year while in the coming year, we are expecting to touch 1,27,000 units. This percentage growth is close to 18 percent which is good but we can do better,"

On the Make in India program, he said, "Make In India is today an integral part of every business. Today, a good number of parts are manufactured in-house except for some components that have to be imported. We have no choice but to resort to imports for now as some parts of the road construction machines, we cater to are not made in India. We are confident this will change in the coming years.

The China vs India story of whether India will beat China at its own game is to be seen but, what is more important and need of the hour is to reduce the dependence on China. For the dependence on China to reduce, CEOs must impress upon the board and their management to divert production to India.

It is the right opportunity for every manufacturer to set a base in India. In the past, the main issue of quality not upto the mark was valid but not anymore. Products and machines Made in India today are at par or even above when compared to other countries. Our exports have jumped up too which is a testimony to this fact,"

Pointing out why China has an advantage over India, he said, "I



feel China is a step above India when it comes to the scale of manufacturing. It is huge. Their capacities are tremendous to even think of which India cannot match. The reason for India to not scale up to those levels is the availability of land and the cost of land acquisition. Even a decade back, land costs were 10% of the total project cost. Today it is nearly 50 percent. Even if one plans to establish a plant far away, other challenges such as reliable and trained manpower and facilities are not available. This is a challenge for us,"

"What the government can do is give a real boost to the component industry by incentivizing taxes and offering land subsidies. Many companies want to have a manufacturing presence in India but the costs are making them hesitant," he added.

On the availability of skilled manpower, he said, "Another factor that needs to be considered for the growth of the industry is the availability of skilled manpower. Though we offer training for our people through the skill development council we created a few years back, we are trying to impress upon the government to make it mandatory for certified operators to only drive heavy machinery and equipment. Every year we train an average of 20,000 people whereas we have 8 lakh machines being operated in India. The demand and supply gap is felt very hard. Another setback for us is our profession is not aspirational. We need to project and build upon this to attract more talent".

Propel Industries launch indigenous EV Dump Trucks at EXCON 2023



The 'Make-in-India' Dump Trucks will be available in two variations - 470MEV and 470 HEV.

Propel Industries manufacturers in the Crushing and Screening Equipment sector, launched two variations of their EV Dump Trucks at EXCON 2023. The Electric Vehicle Dump Trucks – 470 MEV and 470 HEV come with gross vehicle weights of 45 and 60 respectively and have been designed and manufactured in India.

Mr V Senthilkumar, Managing Director, Propel Industries Private Limited, said, "This is a significant milestone for us and will be a game changer for the Indian mining sector as well. Propel Industries is the first indigenous EV Dump Truck manufacturer in India,".

Propel Industries aims to expand its range of electric trucks to on-road applications by the second quarter of fiscal year 2024. The trucks are currently undergoing homologation to prove their roadworthiness.

Cummins India launch DATUM range of products at EXCON

Cummins India, a prominent power solutions technology provider, launched DATUM (Data Automated Teller Ultimate Machine), an innovative Fuel Management System, in collaboration with Repos Energy at CII EXCON 2023 in Bengaluru.

Under this collaboration, Cummins will distribute the DATUM range of products through its extensive distribution network in India.

DATUM is designed to address challenges faced by customers in managing fuel operations, including complex procurement processes, fuel pilferage, dead-mileage operations, and unbalanced diesel inventory. The system employs sensors and digital technologies to offer real-time updates on fuel inventory and consumption across multiple installations. It provides remote monitoring of fuel levels, sends alerts when the fuel level is low, and enables 24x7 doorstep delivery of diesel, enhancing operational efficiency while reducing the carbon footprint. The entire process, from fuel ordering to payment and invoicing, is digital.

Vivek Malapati, Vice President of Distribution Business at Cummins India Limited,

emphasised the company's commitment to environmental sustainability and stated that DATUM is a significant step in addressing existing challenges in fuel operations. The collaboration with Repos Energy aims to provide convenience, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness to customers, contributing to environmental sustainability and emission reduction.



Gulf Oil showcases range of eco-friendly products & solutions

Gulf Oil's showcased a range of eco-friendly products and solutions that align with the theme, "Partner for a Sustainable Future" at EXCON.

Gulf Oil showcased sustainability-based products like the biodegradable Gulf Harmony Bio-Synth Super 46 and advanced EV fluids, which emphasize the company's role in supporting environmentally conscious practices in the industry.

The stall, designed with digital displays and interactive elements, aims to engage attendees in a comprehensive understanding of Gulf Oil's product range and their environmental benefits.

The Sustainability Zone specifically emphasizes the company's eco-friendly initiatives, aligning with global trends towards greener solutions.

New product launches, including advanced lubricants and EV chargers, demonstrate Gulf Oil's continuous innovation in providing high-performance, sustainable products.



Tata Motors launches future ready high performance trucks and tippers

Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, launched its innovative and advanced range of future ready mobility solutions at EXCON 2023.

Embracing the theme 'Moving India Forward', the company reinforced its commitment to innovation, sustainability and excellence, serving the nation proudly.

Tata Motors showcased its trucks and tippers engineered to perfectly suit the construction and infrastructure sectors, along with vehicles powered by green fuels, including Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) and battery electric. It also unveiled its wide range of aggregates, including engines designed for industrial equipment, axles and gensets.

Additionally, Tata Motors also unveiled a line-up of high-

performance trucks, including the Tata Prima 2830.TK VX and Tata Signa 3530.TK VX, tailored for diverse construction applications.

These vehicles are equipped with advanced features like cruise control, automatic traction control and pneumatically suspended driver seat, all aimed at elevating performance, comfort and safety standards for operators. This sets new benchmark in the industry, ushering in a new era of innovation and safety standards.

Unveiling Tata Motors' EXCON 2023 pavilion, Mr. Rajesh Kaul, Vice President & Business Head – Trucks, Tata Motors, said, "EXCON 2023 serves as a monumental stage to showcase our superior technology and unwavering dedication to providing construction industry with solutions that transcend excellence".



Mahindra launches BLAZO X m-DURA and the new CEV5 range of Construction Equipment at EXCON



Mahindra's Truck and Bus Division (MTBD) and Construction Equipment Division (MCE), a part of the Mahindra Group, launched the Mahindra BLAZO X m-DURA and the new CEV5 range of Construction Equipment at EXCON.

Also on display was Mahindra's entire range of BSV construction equipment like RoadMaster and EarthMaster, as well as the extensive truck range like BLAZO X m-DURA 35 Tipper, BLAZO X 28 Transit Mixer, FURIO 10 Fuel Bowser with 6KL and Loading OPTIMO Tipper.

Mahindra also demonstrated the new concept - LiftMaster compact crane, with loading and hauling capacity, which aims to provide a versatile solution for construction needs.

Mr Jalaj Gupta, Business Head – Commercial Vehicles, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. said, "The introduction of the Blazo X m-Dura Tipper and New CEV5 range of construction equipments at EXCON, reaffirms Mahindra's commitment towards the commercial vehicle and construction equipment segment, and the company is poised to continue leading the way with its innovative and customer-centric approach."

Ashok Leyland launches AL H6 Diesel – CEV Stage V engine at EXCON

Ashok Leyland launched the AL H6 Diesel – CEV Stage V engine at EXCON 2023. The H6 engines are known for their lowest total cost of ownership (TCO).

Ashok Leyland H6 Engines maintains their dominance as a preferred choice for original equipment manufacturers in both track and wheel harvester applications.

Apart from the new diesel engine, the company also showcased half a dozen products. The products showcased by the company included H4 Engine - Diesel engine, H6 Engine - Hydrogen (H2 ICE), 40 kVA Genset - CPCB4+, A6 Engine – Diesel, EATS - compact and efficient exhaust after Treatment system, and DEF Tank –compact and proven diesel exhaust fluid tank.

Additionally, the company is looking to expand product lines and enhance its presence in the fast-increasing engine market.

"As the need for enhanced fuel efficiency rises and the integration of alternative fuels with diesel engines continues to grow, we present a comprehensive array of state-of-the-art engine solutions. Our engines can be customized for various applications, catering to the evolving demands of the industry," said Mr Shenu Agarwal, MD and CEO of Ashok Leyland.



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