

*'On the occasion of World Creativity &
Innovation and World IP Day'*

15th Global Innovation & Intellectual Property Summit

&

Release of the report on Evaluation of Innovation Excellence Indicators of Public Funded R&D Organizations

29 April 2025 | New Delhi

SPEAKER PROFILES

Programme Grid

29 April 2025; Tuesday	
Timings	Session name
0845 – 0945 Hrs	Registration/ Tea & Coffee
0945– 1015 Hrs	Opening Session
1015 – 1100 hrs	Panel Discussion 1: Building a Future-Ready Innovation and IP Ecosystem
1100 – 1145 Hrs	Panel Discussion 2: Emerging technologies driving the next wave of Innovation and IP
1145–1230 Hrs	Panel Discussion 3: Navigating the Future: Tackling counterfeiting and piracy for the tech driven new era
1230 – 1245 Hrs	IP Talk on Demystifying IP Insurance: Protecting Innovation, Managing Risk
1245 – 1330 Hrs	Lunch
1330 –1415 Hrs	Panel Discussion 4: Challenge and Opportunities for Standard Essential Patent (SEP) Licensing
1415 – 1500 Hrs	Panel Discussion 5: From Lab to Market: IP and Innovation Strategies for Commercializing Future Tech
1500 – 1615 Hrs	Exclusive Session: Unveiling the Innovation Excellence Evaluation Report for Public Funded R&D Organizations
1615 – 1700 Hrs	Panel Discussion 6: Accelerating Innovation Through Public R&D: Shaping the Future of Research
1700 –1730 Hrs	Exclusive Plenary: Celebrating Innovation, IP, and Creativity for Global Progress
1730 Hrs	Close of Day 1

Detailed program

29 April 2025 0945 – 1015 hrs IST	Opening Session	
Join us for the opening session of the Global Innovation & Intellectual Property Summit that sets the stage for an inspiring dialogue on how innovation and intellectual property can drive inclusive, sustainable, and future-ready growth. Bringing together visionary leaders from government, industry, academia, the session will explore strategies to strengthen the innovation ecosystem, promote IP-led value creation, and foster global partnerships for impact.		
0945 – 0950 hrs IST	Welcome Address	Dr Shaheen Majeed Global CEO and Managing Director Sami Sabinsa Group Limited & Vice Chairman, CII National Committee on IP
0950 – 0955 hrs IST	Theme Address	Mr R Saha Senior Adviser Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
0955- 1005 hrs IST	Special Address	Dr Brajesh Pandey Executive Director Indian National Science Academy (INSA)
1005- 1015 hrs IST	Special Address	Prof Unnat Pandit Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks, Indian Patent Office Govt of India
1015 hrs IST	Vote of Thanks and Closing Address	

29 April 2025 1015 - 1100 hrs IST	Panel Discussion 1: Building a Future-Ready Innovation and IP Ecosystem for Technological Advancements
<p>In an era defined by rapid technological disruption and global competition, innovation and intellectual property (IP) have emerged as strategic assets for nations, industries, and enterprises alike.</p> <p>This session will explore how organisations can build resilient, agile, and future-ready innovation ecosystems that harness the power of creativity, technology, collaboration, and IP for sustainable growth.</p> <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding Innovation & IP into Future-Ready Technology advancements • Best practices for creating a sustainable, future-ready innovation, IP ecosystem • Enabling policies, and platforms for future ready innovation & IP leadership 	
Moderator	Dr Anju Khanna Director, Patents, Lall & Sethi
Panelists	Mr Jetendra Gavankar CEO & Country Head, Safran Group Mr Ignacio de Medrano Caballero Head of Promotion of the IP System, European Union Patent Office (EUIPO) Dr Shankar Venugopal Vice President, Mahindra & Mahindra Mr Adheesh Nargolkar Partner, Khaitan & Co

29 April 2025 1100- 1145 Hrs IST	Panel Discussion 2: Emerging technologies driving the next wave of Innovation and IP
<p>Emerging technologies like AI, Blockchain, Quantum Computing, Advanced Materials, and Biotechnology are reshaping industries and driving a new wave of innovation. As technology blurs the lines between products, services, and data, it is also transforming how intellectual property (IP) is created, protected, and monetized.</p> <p>This session will explore how businesses, startups, and research institutions can leverage emerging technologies for IP and innovation led growth, navigate new forms of intangible assets, and build future-ready strategies in a rapidly evolving global landscape.</p> <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tech trends driving the future of innovation & IP • IP challenges & opportunities in the age of AI, data & deep tech • Emerging models for collaborative innovation & IP sharing 	
Moderator	Mr M Faisal General Manager and Global Head, IPR, Tata Motors Ltd.
Panelists	<p>Dr Rajkumar Singh Senior Director, Bharat Forge</p> <p>Ms Anusha Rammohan Co-Founder and Chief Technology and Product Officer, Myelin Foundry</p> <p>Mr Nakano Hiroyuki Senior Director-IP, Japan External Trade Organization</p> <p>Dr Abhinav Mathur Advisor to the Board, Attero Recycling</p> <p>Dr Vinodh Mewani Senior Principal Engineer, Head - IPR & KM, Mahindra and Mahindra Limited</p>

29 April 2025 1145- 1230 hrs IST	Panel Discussion 3: Navigating the Future: Tackling counterfeiting and piracy for the tech driven new era
<p>As technology accelerates innovation and global connectivity, it has also amplified the scale and sophistication of counterfeiting and piracy across industries — from consumer goods and electronics to digital content, software, and luxury brands.</p> <p>This session will explore how businesses and regulators are leveraging technology — including AI, blockchain, digital tagging, and advanced enforcement tools — to combat counterfeiting and piracy. It will also examine evolving consumer behaviors, legal frameworks, and collaborative strategies to safeguard innovation, IP, and trust in the digital economy.</p> <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging threats and trends in counterfeiting and piracy in the tech era • Role of technology and digital solutions in brand protection • Strengthening legal, regulatory, and cross-border collaboration 	
Moderator	Mr Sidharth Chopra Litigation Head, Saikrishna & Associates
Panelists	Mr Arindom Hazarika Senior Counsel, Brand Protection-South Asia, Middle East and Africa, Sandisk Ms Atika Prasad Intellectual Property Attorney, Wahl Clipper Corporation Mr Sumit Kapoor Global Brand Relation Manager, APAC region, Amazon Ms Anju Agrawal Partner, Lexorbis

29 April 2025 1230-1245 hrs IST	IP Talk on Demystifying IP Insurance: Protecting Innovation, Managing Risk
<p>As intellectual property (IP) becomes a key business asset and competitive differentiator, the risks associated with IP infringement, litigation, and enforcement are rising. IP insurance is emerging as a critical tool to help innovators, startups, and businesses protect their IP portfolios, mitigate financial risks, and navigate complex legal battles.</p> <p>This session will unpack the evolving landscape of IP insurance — what it covers, how it works, and why it is becoming essential in today’s innovation-driven economy.</p> <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the role and relevance of IP insurance in today’s business environment • Global trends, best practices, and evolving IP insurance models • Role of IP insurance in fostering innovation, investment, and market confidence 	
Talk by:	Ms Uttara Vaid Consultant, Beacon
1245- 1330 hrs IST	Lunch

29 April 2025 1330- 1415 hrs IST	Panel Discussion 4: Challenges and Opportunities for Standard Essential Patent (SEP) Licensing
<p>Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) play a critical role in enabling interoperability and driving global technology standards across sectors like telecom, electronics, automotive, and IoT. However, SEP licensing continues to face complex challenges.</p> <p>This session will explore the evolving SEP ecosystem, emerging global practices, and strategies for navigating SEP licensing in a multi-stakeholder environment. It will also discuss the growing importance of SEPs for Indian companies in the context of 5G, connected devices, and next-gen technologies.</p> <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global trends and emerging regulations shaping SEP licensing • Balancing innovation incentives with access to standards — FRAND challenges • SEP considerations for Indian industry and startups entering global value chains 	
Moderator	Mr R Saha Senior Advisor, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
Panelists	Ms Sukla Chandra Senior Director, Dolby Laboratories Dr Ajai Garg Advisor, Consultant on Global Trade, Policy and Compliance for Digital Technologies, Anand & Anand Ms Saya Choudhary Partner- Singh and Singh Mr Arindam Das Director- Government Affairs, Qualcomm

29 April 2025 1415- 1500 hrs IST	Panel Discussion 5: From Lab to Market: IP and Innovation Strategies for Commercializing Future Tech
<p>Turning breakthrough ideas into market-ready technologies requires more than innovation — it demands smart IP strategies, effective industry-academia collaboration, and robust commercialization pathways. As emerging technologies reshape industries, innovators must navigate the complexities of IP protection, licensing, technology transfer, and scaling up for global markets.</p> <p>This session will explore how businesses, startups, research institutions, and policymakers can unlock the value of R&D through strategic IP management and innovation partnerships.</p> <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building IP and innovation strategies for commercializing future technologies • Bridging the gap between research, innovation, and market readiness • Industry-academia collaboration for co-innovation and scaling deep tech 	
Moderator	Mr Tito Kishan Founder, ProInn Consultancy®
Panelists	<p>Mr C S Adishesha Director Technology & Innovation, Collins Aerospace</p> <p>Dr Suchita Markan Scientist-E, Mission In-charge, Medical Device and Diagnostics Mission Secretariat (MDMS), Indian Council of Medical Research, Government of India</p> <p>Ms Kirti Balasubramanian Partner, Technology, Media and Telecom, Trilegal</p> <p>Prof Dhiraj Kumar Director Academics, Unitedworld Institute of Design (UID)</p>

29 April 2025 1500- 1600 hrs IST	Exclusive Launch Session: Unveiling the Innovation Excellence Evaluation Report for Public Funded R&D Organizations	
Join us for an Exclusive Launch Session as we unveil the Innovation Excellence Evaluation Report for Public Funded R&D Organizations—a landmark initiative that benchmarks innovation capacity, impact, and outcomes across India's publicly funded research ecosystem. This pioneering study highlights best practices, and strategic actions to strengthen innovation, translational research, and technology commercialization.		
1500 – 1505 hrs IST	Welcome Address	Dr Udayant Malhoutra Chairman, CII National Committee on Design Innovation and CEO & Managing Director, Dynamatic Technologies Limited
1505- 1510 hrs IST	Address	Mr Masood Mallick Chairman, CII National Committee on Waste to Worth Technologies and Managing Director & Group CEO of Re Sustainability Limited
1510-1520 hrs IST	Special Address	Dr Parvinder Maini Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India
1520- 1535 hrs IST	Keynote Address	Professor Ajay Sood Principal Scientific Adviser Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India
1535- 1540 hrs IST	<i>Launch of the Report by PSA</i>	
1540 – 1555 hrs IST	Presentat ion on the Report	Mr BN Satpathy PSA Fellow, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India Dr Ashish Mohan Executive Director, CII Mr Janak Nabar CEO, CTIER
1555- 1600 hrs IST	Vote of Thanks	Mr Shaheen Majeed Vice-Chairman, CII National Committee on Intellectual Property and Global CEO & Managing Director, Sami-Sabinsa Group

29 April 2025 1600- 1655 hrs IST	Panel Discussion 6: R&D Partnerships: Building Co-Innovation Ecosystems
<p>This session will explore the importance of fostering R&D partnerships to build robust co-innovation ecosystems that drive groundbreaking advancements in technology, products, and services. As industries and research organizations increasingly collaborate to solve complex global challenges, this session will focus on the strategies, models, and frameworks that enable successful co-innovation.</p> <p>Discussions will cover the roles of research organizations, academic institutions, government, and corporates in shaping these ecosystems.</p> <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Success Factors for multistakeholder R&D Partnerships • Building Sustainable Collaboration Models • Leveraging Industry-Academia / Research Collaborations 	
Moderator	Dr Hafsa Ahmad Scientist D, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt of India
Panelists	Prof Kamal Kishore Pant Director, IIT Roorkee Dr Vibha Malhotra Sawhney Scientist 'H', CSIR Headquarters Dr Nagahanumaiah Director, Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI) Mr PS Jayan Corporate Technology Officer, Carborundum Universal Limited & Former Board of Director - CUMI Middle East, Europe Dr Umish Srivastva Executive Director - Technology Promotion & Forecasting Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)

29 April 2025 1700- 1730 hrs IST	Exclusive Plenary: Celebrating Innovation, IP, and Creativity and their Global Impact	
Join us for an exclusive plenary session featuring Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Prof Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, and Prof Unnat Pandit, Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trademarks (CGPDTM), in celebration of World Intellectual Property and Innovation and Creativity Day. The leaders shall share rich insights on the global role of innovation and intellectual property in fostering creativity and inclusive economic growth.		
1700 – 1705 hrs IST	Welcome Address	Dr Udayant Malhoutra Chairman, CII National Committee on Design Innovation and CEO & Managing Director, Dynamatic Technologies Limited
1705- 1710 hrs IST	Address	Mr Masood Mallick Chairman, CII National Committee on Waste to Worth Technologies and Managing Director & Group CEO, Re Sustainability Limited
1710– 1715 hrs IST	Address	Prof Unnat Pandit Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks, Indian Patent Office, Govt of India
1715- 1730 hrs IST	World IP Day Address	Mr Daren Tang Director General, World Intellectual Property Organization
1730 hrs IST	Vote of Thanks and Closing remarks	Dr Ashish Mohan Executive Director, CII

SPEAKER'S **PROFILES**

Prof Ajay Sood



Principal Scientific Advisor
Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt of India

Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood is the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India since April 2022 and serves as the Chairperson of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC). A distinguished physicist, he is also a National Science Chair Professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. With a Ph.D. in Physics from IISc, his pioneering research spans quantum materials, soft matter, and active matter, with over 450 publications and numerous patents to his credit. Prof. Sood is a Fellow of the Royal Society (UK) and has held esteemed positions including President of the Indian National Science Academy and Secretary-General of TWAS. His contributions to science have been recognized with the Padma Shri, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, TWAS Prize in Physics, and several other prestigious national and international awards. He also serves as Associate Editor of ACS Nano, a leading international journal.



Dr Parvinder Maini

Scientific Secretary
Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt of India

Dr Parvinder Maini is currently serving as the Scientific Secretary at the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, where she is responsible for enlarging the R & D ecosystem in the country, formulating policies for science, technology and innovation and creating regulatory mechanisms, forging collaboration among the industry, academia and government for delivery of citizen centric solutions.

During her tenure, the office of PSA has initiated several national programs like the One Health mission for pandemic preparedness, One Nation One Subscription, National Research Foundation, National Deep Tech Policy, Zero emission trucking, RUTAG (Rural Technology Action Group) 2.0, Regional Science & Technology clusters, Livelihood Mission etc. Her role also requires her to engage with various International agencies to continuously discuss and develop common frameworks for addressing contemporary global S&T policy issues.

Dr. Maini has a doctorate in Meteorology and Oceanography and has vast experience spanning over 33 years in diverse fields. With a Master's in Mathematics, she spent the initial 20 years of her career working at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and was instrumental in development and implementation of Statistical Dynamical Models for providing location specific forecast. In 2009, Dr Maini moved to MoES Headquarters to spearhead the Atmospheric Science and International Cooperation programs of MoES. She has several publications across national and international journals. Her research interests include monsoons, downscaling techniques, forecast evaluation studies, socio economic benefits of weather and climate-based services. She is currently the Vice President of the Federation of Indian Geosciences Associations and an Executive Committee member of the Indian Geophysical Union. She is also a life member of the Indian Meteorological Society and Association of Agrometeorologists.



Prof Unnat Pandit

Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks
Intellectual Property Office, Government of India

Prof Unnat Pandit, a seasoned academician and policymaker, currently holds the position of Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM) at the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India. Prior to this, he served as a Professor of Intellectual Property, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship at Jawaharlal Nehru University, where he also held the position of Dean of the Academy of Biotechnology and Sustainable Medical Engineering. He has also contributed significantly to national innovation initiatives, having served as a Program Director at the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at NITI Aayog and as a member of the committee that drafted India's National Intellectual Property Policy. His extensive experience spans academia, industry, and government, making him a key figure in India's intellectual property landscape.



Mr Daren Tang

Director General
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Mr Daren Tang is the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), having assumed office on October 1, 2020. He is the first Singaporean and the first person from Southeast Asia to lead WIPO. Prior to this, he served as Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), where he played a key role in transforming IPOS into a dynamic innovation agency.

As Director General, Tang leads WIPO's global efforts to promote intellectual property (IP) as a powerful tool for innovation, creativity, and economic growth. Under his leadership, WIPO has focused on making the global IP system more inclusive, balanced, and development-oriented, with strong emphasis on supporting startups, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and youth innovators.

A lawyer by training, Daren Tang holds degrees from the National University of Singapore, Georgetown University Law Center, and Harvard Kennedy School. His leadership is widely recognized for blending legal expertise with a strategic vision for inclusive innovation on a global scale.



Dr Brajesh Pandey

Executive Director
Indian National Science Academy (INSA)

Dr Brajesh Pandey is currently serving as the Executive Director of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi. In addition, he is the Coordinator of the INSA-Centre for Science and Technology Policy and the Principal Investigator of the DST-Centre for Policy Research. Under his visionary leadership, he spearheads various DST-funded projects, contributing significantly to policy research and science governance.

Prior to his tenure at INSA, Dr. Pandey was a Professor in the Department of Applied Sciences at Symbiosis Institute of Technology, Pune, where he made substantial contributions to physics education and research.

Dr. Pandey earned his PhD in Physics from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur in 2008. A dedicated educator, he has been actively involved in teaching since 2007, developing over 500 small demonstration experiments to enhance classroom learning. His passion for education extends beyond traditional teaching methods, as he has conducted numerous workshops to train teachers in innovative pedagogy using demonstration-based teaching-learning techniques.

Beyond academia, Dr. Pandey has played a pivotal role in several national-level committees. He has served as a member of the Maharashtra State Board Physics Book Revision Committee and is serving as the Controller of Examinations for the Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan, an initiative by Vigyan Prasar and Vigyan Bharati. Additionally, he is the key coordinator for the question bank preparation committee constituted by CBSE, New Delhi.

With an extensive research portfolio, Dr. Pandey has published 51 papers in reputed national and international journals. His research interests encompass nanophase materials, exchange bias in thin films, and the magnetic properties of alloys and thin films, contributing to significant advancements in material science.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to science education and outreach, Dr. Pandey has been honored with the prestigious Dr. Vikram Sarabhai National Award for Popularization of Science. Through his dedication to research, education, and science communication, he continues to inspire students, educators, and policymakers across the country.



Dr Udayant Malhoutra

Chairman, CII National Committee on Design Innovation and CEO
& Managing Director
Dynamatic Technologies Limited

Dr Udayant is the CEO & Managing Director of Dynamatic Technologies Limited, a world-class design, engineering and manufacturing company which designs and builds highly engineered products for Hydraulic, Automotive, Aeronautic and Security applications. Dynamatic Technologies Limited is a leading private R&D organisation with numerous patents and inventions to its credit, and partners marquee customers like Airbus, Boeing, Bell Helicopter, BMW, Audi, Daimler, Mercedes, John Deere and Cummins on a single source basis.

Udayant has been associated with Dynamatic Technologies for over three decades, and, drives the leadership team of the Company in transforming it into a knowledge-based organisation. In addition to being the CEO & Managing Director of Dynamatic Technologies, he is also the Chairman of Eisenwerk Erla GmbH, Germany, and Dynamatic Limited, UK.

He is a member of CII National Council and Chairs the CII National Committee on Design. He has also served on the Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur, besides being the past Chairman of the National Sector Skills Council for Strategic Manufacturing, and the new National Institute of Design, Amravathi.

He has been conferred the degree of Doctor of Engineering & Technology (Honoris Causa) from University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata, in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of Technology & Innovation and his dedicated service to the nation.



Mr Masood Mallick

Chairman, CII National Committee on Waste to Worth Technologies
and Managing Director & Group CEO of Re Sustainability Limited

Mr Masood is the Managing Director & Group CEO of Re Sustainability Limited. He has worked with leading global corporations and investors on circular economy, climate change and sustainability issues, across four continents over the last three decades. Before joining Re Sustainability, he served as Managing Director at ERM and was a pivotal member of ERM's Global Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Masood has also advised the Government of India on environmental policy and legislation, including regulatory standards and the country's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He has led several national and international industry forums in the sustainability and circular economy space and is a recognised thought leader in these areas. He currently chairs the CII National Committee on Circular Economy (Waste to Worth Transformation).



Dr Shaheen Majeed

Vice- Chairman, CII National Committee on Intellectual Property
and Global CEO & Managing Director, Sami-Sabinsa Group

Dr Shaheen Majeed is the Global CEO & Managing Director of the Sami-Sabinsa Group. Shaheen has held diverse roles and over 25 years, he shaped the company into a global nutraceutical ingredient leader. Some achievements include ensuring the company's adherence to cGMP and regulatory standards, guiding numerous clinical studies to publication, and launching products that are category leaders.

He holds 62 US & International patents and has authored 31 peer-reviewed publications, showcasing his dedication to advancing scientific research and product innovation. Before his current position, Shaheen served as CEO of HB Natural Ingredients, BGG Americas, and Algae Health Sciences, subsidiaries of BGG World. His status as an industry thought leader is demonstrated by his dozens of speaking engagements and hundreds of trade publication interviews through the years. Before his current position, Shaheen served as CEO of HB Natural Ingredients, BGG Americas, and Algae Health Sciences, subsidiaries of BGG World. His broad experience and strategic vision continue to drive Sabinsa's growth and innovation on the world stage.



Mr B N Satpathy

Distinguished PSA Fellow
Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Govt of India

Mr B.N. Satpathy is a distinguished PSA Fellow at the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. A seasoned expert in science policy and innovation systems, he has significantly contributed to shaping India's research and innovation landscape. He currently leads key initiatives, including the Evaluation of Innovation Excellence Indicators of Public Funded R&D Organizations—an ambitious effort to develop a data-driven framework for assessing innovation performance across public research institutions.

With decades of cross-sectoral experience spanning government, academia, and industry, Mr. Satpathy is known for his strategic insights and expertise in building evidence-based innovation policy tools. He is a sought-after speaker at national and international platforms on science policy, R&D governance, and innovation impact assessment.



Dr Ashish Mohan

Executive Director
Confederation of Indian Industry

Dr Ashish Mohan, Executive Director at the Confederation of Indian Industry, leads CII's national initiatives in technology, innovation, IP management, advanced design, and emerging sciences—including robotics, UAVs, genomics, and waste-to-worth transformation.

With over 28 years of industry experience, he has led innovation ecosystems, proto-labs, and technology developments in AI, mechatronics, and IP creation—at Tata Motors, JCB India, and at IIT Delhi for a collaborative project with ISRO and the Department of Science & Technology.

Honoured with innovation leadership awards at both national and international levels, he is the author of an internationally published book on robotics and automation, as well as several research papers. An alumnus of NIT Bhopal and IIT Delhi, he has served as visiting/honorary faculty at IIT Delhi and IIT Jodhpur.



Mr Janak Nabar

Chief Executive Officer
CTIER

Mr Janak Nabar heads the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Economic Research (CTIER), and has been leading CTIER's research efforts. He has previously worked as an economist and investment strategist in the private sector in Singapore. Janak's work experience includes two years with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Serbia. He was a member of the Thematic Group on Innovation, National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2020 and is presently a member of the CII National Committee on Technology, Innovation and Research. Besides an M.Sc. degree from LSE, he has an MA in Mathematics from the University of Oxford (as a Radhakrishnan Scholar).

Panel Discussion 1: Building a Future-Ready Innovation and IP Ecosystem for Technological Advancements



Dr Anju Khanna

Director-Patents
Lall & Sethi

Dr. Khanna heads the Patent Department and is in-charge of both patent prosecution and litigation at the firm. She has more than 21 years of work experience with 17 years in the field of patents. Dr. Khanna oversees and handles work in different technology domains including chemistry, pharmaceutical, medical devices, electrical and mechanical inventions, telecommunication to name a few. She engages with her clients in strategizing protection and enforcement of patent rights in India. She is actively involved with the Patent Office and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and organizations like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Invest India etc. in policy decision making and regularly engages with them in this regard. A few examples of such engagements are participation in commenting and contributing towards CRI guidelines, pharmaceutical inventions' guidelines, working statement requirements, SEP (Standard Essential Patents) paper (issued by the DPIIT) etc. Dr. Khanna is a member of the IP Committee of the CII. She is a regular speaker at conferences and avidly supports reform in patent laws to encourage innovation in the country. Dr. Khanna is a member of APAA, INTA, AIPPI and IPO association.



Mr Jetendra Gavankar

CEO & Country Head
Safran India

JS Gavankar has a wide range of experience in A&D which spreads over from Strategy & Business Development to core R&D, and from Product Development to System Integration spanning over 3 Decades. For over 24 years he served in the Indian Air Force and later as founding member of the team, helped the Adani Group establish the A&D business. He was also the Deputy Project Director for Astra Air to Air Missile program at DRDO and his other important positions were Director-Engineering at Honeywell India and Managing Director at SAFRAN Helicopter Engines India, where he was instrumental in establishing the helicopter engine co-development program with HAL. Having served the Armed Forces & DRDO, closely working with Indian Industry, DPSUs and Foreign OEMs, he understands the opportunities and challenges on all fronts well. Jetendra Gavankar is a graduate of the Air Force Technical College, BITS-Pilani and IIM-Ahmedabad.



Mr Ignacio de Medrano Caballero

Head of Promotion of the IP System
European Union Patent Office (EUIPO)

Mr Ignacio de Medrano Caballero is a senior official (AD14) of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) of Spanish nationality. He holds a degree in Law (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain), specialist degrees in Comparative Law (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), European and International Law (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium) and Public Administration (Instituto de Empresa, Madrid, Spain). He has extensive experience as a lecturer on Intellectual Property (IP) in several academic institutions and has written in French, English and Spanish numerous articles on different subjects related to IP.



Dr Shankar Venugopal

Vice President
Mahindra & Mahindra

Dr Shankar leads technology innovation for the Automotive & Farm services business (AFS). He heads the intellectual property (Patents) and knowledge management functions. Prior to joining Mahindra & Mahindra, Shankar has held technology innovation leadership roles at GE, Dow, Honeywell and Cummins. He was awarded the GE's Edison Inventor Medal early in his career. Shankar obtained a Ph.D. in Materials Science and a gold medal for the best doctoral thesis from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He is also a TEDx speaker. Dr Shankar leads the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)'s Technology, Innovation, Intellectual Property and Thought Leadership initiatives. He is a management committee member of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and he chairs the committee for Branding and Communication (B&C).



Mr Adheesh Nargolkar

Partner
Khaitan & Co

Adheesh is a Partner leading the Intellectual Property (IP) Practice Group of the Firm. With over two decades of experience in IP laws across various sectors, Adheesh's expertise extends to the entire gamut of IP laws with a focus on strategic advice on IP prosecution, patent drafting, enforcements, management, contentious matters, advisory and transactions. While he has advised both domestic and Fortune 500 companies, he also handled start-ups in advising them to build their patent portfolio.

He is also actively involved in INTA's and AIPPI's policy/advocacy initiatives in India and was the Chair of INTA's Trademark Office Practices India Subcommittee. In his areas of expertise, Adheesh has advised clients in various industries including automobile, mechanical, electrical, electronics, software, consumer goods, chemical, and medical devices on matters relating to patentability, drafting, filing and prosecution of patents. He has also contested opposition proceedings and prepared freedom to operate (FTO) opinions on the above sectors. Further, he has also advised several clients in design registration.

Panel Discussion 2: Emerging technologies driving the next wave of Innovation and IP



Mr M Faisal

General Manager and Global Head (IPR Department)
Tata Motors Ltd

Mohammed Faisal is working as General Manager & Global IPR head for Tata Motors Group. He is a registered Indian Patent Agent, has rich experience in the Intellectual Property domain across various industries and listed among top IP professionals including IAM Strategy 300 list of global IPR professionals. Before joining Tata Motors, Faisal has worked with leading technology conglomerate L&T Technology Services Limited and reputed law firms such as Lex Orbis and Singhanian & Co. LLP. Faisal possesses more than two decades of experience in Innovation lifecycle management, IP procurement, IP management, valuation, enforcement and Technology Transfer.



Dr Rajkumar Singh

Senior Director
Bharat Forge

Dr. R.K.P. Singh is Senior Director, Kalyani Centre for Technology & Innovation (KCTI) - Bharat Forge Ltd; PUNE. He is B.E. from BIT, Sindri (1970), M.Tech from IIT Bombay (1975) & Ph D from IIT, Madras in Metallurgical Engineering (1994). He has Green Belt Certification for SIX-SIGMA.

Before joining Bharat Forge Dr. R.K.P. Singh was Director General, Institute of Steel Development & Growth, Kolkata Dr Singh was Professor at Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur for 3 years and earlier to that he served as General Manager (QC, R&D), Lloyds Steel Industries Limited, Wardha for six years. Before joining Lloyds Steel, Dr. Singh worked in SAIL at Bokaro Steel Plant and at R&D Centre for Iron & Steel in various capacities for a total period of 22 years. Dr. Singh has over 150 national / international publications and 26 Patents to his credit. He has widely travelled to USSR, Sweden, Norway, UK, USA, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, S-Korea, Spain, France, Germany, Australia and other countries. He has played Key role in development and transfer of several technologies in India. His prime areas of expertise are application engineering, product development, failure analysis, steel making and processing and TQM.



Ms Anusha Rammohan

Co-Founder, Chief Technology & Product Officer
Myelin Foundry

Anusha Rammohan brings with her a wealth of experience in technology innovation, product strategy, and leadership, having previously held pivotal roles in globally recognized technology firms. Her expertise in driving scalable AI solutions and her visionary approach to addressing industry challenges align seamlessly with Myelin Foundry's mission to deliver intelligent and personalized experiences to its customers.

Anusha's professional journey is adorned with several accolades. She holds multiple patents and publications in AI and machine learning and was recognized as one of the 10 Top Innovators Under 35 in India by Mint-MIT Technology Review in 2017. She was also a part of GE's prestigious Accelerated Leadership Program (XLP), which gave her diverse experiences across industries and roles.

Anusha holds a bachelor's degree in Electronics and Instrumentation from BITS Pilani and a master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Arizona State University. Beyond her technical achievements, she is a trained classical singer, a voracious reader, a cryptic crossword enthusiast, and a fitness aficionado with a love for hiking and badminton. Anusha's induction as Co-Founder is a testament to her exceptional contributions to Myelin Foundry and her unwavering commitment to fostering innovation," said Gopichand Katragadda, Founder and CEO of Myelin Foundry. "Her strategic insights and technology leadership will continue to play a crucial role as we expand our impact and achieve our ambitious goals.

Anusha expressed her excitement about this expanded role, stating, "I am deeply honored to take on the mantle of Co-Founder while continuing as Chief Technology and Product Officer at Myelin Foundry. Being part of an organization at the forefront of technology innovation is both a privilege and a responsibility. I look forward to continuing with the talented team at Myelin Foundry to drive innovation and deliver value to our partners and customers.

Since its inception, Myelin Foundry has been a trailblazer in harnessing AI and machine learning to redefine content delivery and user engagement. With Anusha Rammohan's expanded leadership role, the company is poised to accelerate its growth trajectory and extend its footprint across global markets.



Mr Nakano Hiroyuki

Senior Director (Intellectual Property Rights)
Japan External Trade Organization, New Delhi

Mr. Nakano Hiroyuki is a Japanese government official and diplomat currently serving as the Chief Representative of JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization), New Delhi Office. Mr. Nakano has played a key role in enhancing Japan's commercial engagement with India, especially in areas like manufacturing, innovation, and infrastructure. He facilitates bilateral trade and investment between Japan and India, supports Japanese companies in exploring opportunities in the Indian market, and works to strengthen economic cooperation and business ties through JETRO's initiatives.



Dr Abhinav Mathur

Advisor to the Board
Attero Recycling

Dr. Abhinav Mathur is a distinguished alumnus of Netaji Subhash University of Technology with a PhD in Computer Technology from IIT Delhi and an MBA from IIM Lucknow. With over three decades of experience in global leadership roles across government, corporates, entrepreneurial ventures, and non-profits, he has consistently championed societal impact and sustainable development.

As an advisor to the board at Attero, India's leading deeptech electrical, electronics and Lithium-ion battery waste recycling company, Dr. Mathur leverages his deep expertise in technology and strategic leadership to drive the organization's circular economy initiatives. His focus is helping ensuring the development of a scalable, sustainable model that align industry practices with environmental and national goals. Dr. Mathur has a proven track record of leading large teams and delivering state-of-the-art technology solutions. His role in policy formulation at Niti Aayog, where he served as Senior Advisor, and his contributions to initiatives by the Prime Minister's office underscore his commitment to national development.

In addition to his corporate and advisory roles, Dr. Mathur is the founder of Million Sparks Foundation, a non-profit focused on enhancing education through lifelong learning and capacity building for teachers. Under his leadership, the foundation has impacted over 40 million children across India, supported by partnerships with global organizations like Google.org and Microsoft. Dr. Mathur's contributions during the COVID-19 crisis, where he played a key role in raising and deploying significant funds for critical relief efforts, further highlight his leadership and dedication to societal well-being.



Dr Vinodh Mewani

Senior Principal Engineer, Head – IPR & KM
Mahindra & Mahindra Limited

Dr Vinodh is a certified TRIZ Level 3 Practitioner with 13 publications in various International TRIZ conferences and also a certified 6-Sigma Green Belt.

His post-doctoral work focused on developing moisture and oxygen barrier coatings for display applications. The program was part of the European Union's FP6 initiative (FlexiDis). His other responsibilities in the role included teaching masters' students and guiding their projects on barrier coatings for food & beverage industry in collaboration with TetraPak.

His PhD research involved investigating the interfacial reaction between magnesium-aluminum alloys and oxygen layers of typically 1-4 nanometers. Angle-resolved (AR-XPS) and Variable Angle Spectroscopic Ellipsometry (VASE) was employed to study the growth kinetics of ultra-thin oxide layers and the interfacial chemistry. The work has wide-ranging implications in automotive and various other industries that are looking for lightweight magnesium-based materials for weight reduction. My Masters work at the IISc, Bangalore, India was towards developing highly transparent and conducting ITO based coatings for optical solar reflectors for application in satellites. This work was supported by and carried out partly at ISRO Satellite Center, Bangalore.

Panel Discussion 3: Navigating the Future: Tackling counterfeiting and piracy for the tech driven new era



Mr Sidharth Chopra

Litigation Head
Saikrishna & Associates

Sidharth graduated from Amity Law School in 2005. He started his career in the Firm as an intern for two years before joining the Firm after his graduation. At the start of his career itself, Sidharth was involved in a landmark case that sought to have local commissioners appointed for civil raids in software piracy matters; the case is now the backbone of any litigation in India that involves conduct of a civil raid (*Autodesk v. AVT Shankardass*). His passion for law and curiosity to master the mysteries of technology has made him the go-to person for all things tech law in the Firm.

Sidharth has been associated with some of the leading IP cases in the country. He was instrumental in devising the strategy to establish the tort of commercial misappropriation of “hot news” in India (*Star v. Piyush*) and to protect private broadcasters against nationalisation of their sports broadcasting rights (*UOI v. BCCI*). In the latter case, Sidharth was pivotal in protecting the rights of private broadcasters.



Mr Arindom Hazarika

Senior Counsel
Sandisk

Mr Arindom Hazarika is responsible for implementing comprehensive brand protection programs across the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, with a focus on both online and offline channels. This includes managing pre-litigation and litigation enforcement activities such as cease and desist actions, takedown requests, settlement negotiations, and courtroom participation. Oversees investigations into counterfeit activities, conducts factual research, authenticates products, and collaborates with internal teams and external partners—including law enforcement, customs, and outside counsel. Also accountable for trademark recordation, maintaining ethical standards in investigations, and leveraging digital tools to track enforcement outcomes and measure the effectiveness of brand protection strategies.



Ms Atika Prasad

Intellectual Property Attorney
Wahl Clipper Corporation

Atika Prasad, based in India, is currently a Intellectual Property Attorney at Wahl Clipper Corporation. Atika Prasad brings experience from previous roles at HersHKovitz and Associates PLLC. Atika Prasad holds a 2012 - 2013 Master of Laws (LLM) in Intellectual Property Law @ The George Washington University Law School. With a robust skill set that includes Legal Research, Intellectual Property, Legal Writing, Copyright Law, Trademarks and more.



Mr Sumit Kapoor

Customer Trust External Relations Manager
Amazon

Sumit is currently serving as Customer Trust External Relations Manager at Amazon, where he lead strategic engagements with industry stakeholders on critical issues including product safety, fraud prevention, cyber security, brand protection, and anti-counterfeiting initiatives across the APAC region. He collaborates closely with brands, industry associations, and enforcement agencies to strengthen Amazon's customer trust framework and safety measures. Previously, he spearheaded the enforcement division at CIPAM (Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India), where he successfully developed and implemented intellectual property rights enforcement policies. His expertise is backed by an LL.M in Intellectual Property Law, jointly awarded by the University of Turin, Italy, and WIPO Academy.



Ms Anju Agrawal

Partner
LexOrbis

Ms. Anju Agrawal, Partner at LexOrbis, is a distinguished intellectual property litigator with over 28 years of legal experience. She has built a strong reputation for her strategic handling of complex IP disputes, including trademark, copyright, design, and patent infringement cases. Her practice covers a wide range of contentious matters such as commercial IP litigation, domain name complaints, oppositions, cancellations, and proceedings before the IPAB and IPD.

Ms. Agrawal has successfully led numerous enforcement actions on behalf of national and international clients across diverse sectors including pharmaceuticals, automotive, FMCG, and electrical power industries. Her deep understanding of IP law and litigation strategy has resulted in the grant of ex-parte injunctions, John Doe orders, and appointment of Local Commissioners, culminating in the execution of impactful civil raids against infringers. Prior to focusing on intellectual property, Ms. Agrawal had an extensive practice in civil and criminal litigation, where she handled a broad spectrum of disputes before various courts and tribunals.

IP Talk on Demystifying IP Insurance: Protecting Innovation, Managing Risk



Ms Uttara Vaid

Consultant
Beacon

Uttara Vaid is a senior insurance industry professional widely acknowledged for developing Liability Insurance business in emerging markets. She started the first ever Liability Insurance department for TATA AIG and her pioneering efforts helped Liability Insurance find a firm foothold in the Indian General Insurance Industry.

She has held senior positions across insurance companies (TATA AIG & AIG) and insurance broking organisations (AON Global and AON Asia) and has been credited with establishing leadership positions for her companies in competitive markets. Her profile is a good blend of technical expertise (having twice served in regional roles both in insurance and broking organisations) and top management skills and has often been invited as faculty in prestigious conferences and also has many technical publications to her credit.

Panel Discussion 4: Challenge and Opportunities for Standard Essential Patent (SEP) Licensing



Mr R Saha

Senior Advisor
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

Mr R Saha is a B Tech from IIT Kanpur in Aeronautical Engineering and has done master from Cranfield University in England. He served the Government of India for 35 years in different capacities and handling different responsibilities including research and development and retired as Scientist G and Adviser from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. He has been a pioneer in leading the national efforts in policy making and capacity building in IPR. He was appointed a consultant by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to prepare a National Study on IPR and MSME in India as a part of WIPO's Development Agenda. The study was completed in 2012. He has been the Senior Adviser to CII since 2011, advising them on IPR policies and other substantial issues being faced by the Indian industry like preparing policy papers, conducting round table meetings with industries, international organizations etc. He was the MHRD Chair Professor in IPR at Tezpur University, a Central university. Presently, he advises many institutions like IIT Delhi, IIT Kharagpur, C-DAC, NRDC, Indian Council of Medical Research and many government departments on IPR matter.



Ms Shukla Chandra

Senior Director
Dolby

She has held senior positions across insurance companies (TATA AIG & AIG) and insurance broking organisations (AON Global and AON Asia) and has been credited with establishing leadership positions for her companies in competitive markets. Her profile is a good blend of technical expertise (having twice served in regional roles both in insurance and broking organisations) and top management skills and has often been invited as faculty in prestigious conferences and also has many technical publications to her credit.



Dr Ajai Garg

Advisor, Consultant on Global Trade, Policy and Compliance for
Digital Technologies
Anand & Anand

Dr. AK Garg is a seasoned technocrat with 25 plus years of experience and a proven track record for professional excellence. Dr. Garg devised and led from the front myriad mission-critical digital transformation initiatives at MeitY apart from being a key contributor to various technology oriented and Trade & Policy related strategic forums of Govt. Currently Dr. Garg is heading the Digital Tech and Law Group at Anand and Anand where the firm is the process of evolving expertise on Legal and Advisory aspects on Emerging Tech including AI. Till recently as a Senior Director in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, he was tasked with the responsibilities of key divisions including Startup, Innovation and IPR, International Cooperation and IT/ITeS Industry Promotion among others. He had strategically negotiated and managed various agreements, trade issues and MoUs with 50+ countries amid lean resources and outcome complexities. Dr. Garg was consistently engaged as Country Ambassador and a key representative in large international multilateral forums such as G20, WTO, BRICS RCEP and UNCITRAL and Shanghai Cooperation-strengthening India's position vis-a-vis key ICT challenges. A keen planner, strategist and implementer, Dr. Garg is passionate about promoting startup-entrepreneurial ecosystem especially in the realm of emerging technologies in the country.



Ms Saya Choudhary

Senior Partner
Singh & Singh

Saya Choudhary Kapur is a Senior Partner at Singh and Singh Law Firm with professional experience of more than 15 years. She heads the patent litigation team, which primarily deals with the litigation pertaining to multiple fields including telecommunications, electronics, diagnostics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals etc. She has handled various landmark patent cases in India representing both Indian and foreign multinationals. She has extensive experience in relation to disputes pertaining to the field of Standard Essential Patent and has also handled various mediation and arbitration proceedings pertaining to FRAND licensing issues. She is actively involved in policy issues and is member of AIPPI, APAA, IGAL etc.

Saya has been consistently recognized as one of the leading patent professionals in India by IAM, Managing IP, Benchmark, Legal Era etc.



Mr Arindam Das

Director – Government Affairs
Qualcomm

An astute and driven Public Policy and Government Affairs with 16 years of demonstrated competence in Public Policy, Regulatory Affairs, Regulatory Litigation and Government Relations across diverse sectors including Fintech and Payments, Telecommunication, ICT/Internet and Online Skill Gaming. A harmonic team player with proven track record of delivering measurable results under demanding scenarios. A quick learner and a keen observer of the inter-play between policy, technology and legislation.

Panel Discussion 5: From Lab to Market: IP, Design, and Innovation Strategies for Commercializing Future Tech



Mr Tito Kishan

Founder
Proinn Consultancy®

Mr Tito Kishan Vemuri has been grooming Professional Innovation (PROINN®) Specialists in India using TRIZ methodologies since 2006. With the structured innovation methods of TRIZ and DFP he enables differentiated solutions and strong patent portfolio development by working with teams responsible. With 2 decades of corporate leadership at GE Aviation, GE Energy and Tata's, he started on his own as a Founder, Proinn Consultancy®, a proprietorship firm in 2015. In 2020, he formed Proinn Consultancy LLP which is promoted as Proinn®. Proinn® partners with corporations in 2-3 years' time frame and contribute to facilitating huge innovation transformation growth with differentiated solutions, strong patent portfolios & groom world class internal innovation practitioners. Mr. Kishan is the 1st TRIZ level 4 Specialist certified by MATRIZ from India and also one of the eight elected board members of MATRIZ (The international TRIZ Association) in Sept. '24. He has been a big proponent of growing India amongst top 10 on Global Innovation Index (GII) with invention driven innovations using the structured innovation methods of TRIZ. Sri. Kishan through TRIZTI® (a non-profit educational trust and India's regional MATRIZ Association) is on a mission to groom a million inventors.



Mr C S Adishesha

Director Technology & Innovation
Collins Aerospace

In his current role, Mr Adishesha is responsible for driving technical Innovation and research initiatives across Global Engineering Centers India, Poland, and Puerto Rico.

Over 32 years in the industry, Adishesha has contributed to the country's most prestigious programs like INSAT-II missions of ISRO, Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense programs (Prithvi, Dhanush and Area Defense Interceptors) of DRDO in the capacity of Systems Manager, Deputy Project Director, and Deputy Mission Director before he took leadership roles in Honeywell and Philips.

Adishesha earned a Master's from BITS, Pilani (On campus program) and a Bachelor's from Bangalore University. He is an Associate Fellow of AIAA, Sr. Member of IEEE, and Fellow of Institute of Engineers (India), Member of RTCA & SAE standards committees, and reviewer for AIAA, IEEE, PED, INCOSE & SAE international Journals. He has 25 patents, 2 Trade Secrets, 24 peer reviewed publications and Co-authored a Book titled "Integrated Aircraft Health Management for Beginners". Driving Innovation & intrapreneurial culture at Collins Aerospace, Adi has mentored & led inventors to file over 1100 patents (India & USA) and 150 Trade Secrets and led over 80 technology maturations across India, Poland & Puerto Rico.

He is recognized with several awards for technical leadership, Product development and Innovation, including – DRDO award for Path breaking Research & Technology development in 2006. Adi is the first Technical Fellow to be recognized by Collins Aerospace outside the US & Europe. Adi's current interests include introducing new age technologies like Smart sensors, AI/ML, Data Analytics, Prognostic Health Management to list a few, for defense, space and aerospace applications.



Dr Suchita Markan

Scientist E
Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

Dr Suchita Markan is a Scientist & Mission In-charge of Medical Device and Diagnostics Mission Secretariat (MDMS) at Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Dr Markan is an expert in Public Policy, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer in the area of Medical devices and diagnostic sector with over 15 years of experience.

She has led development and implementation of strategies and policies for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship with wider public health impact. She is a thought leader and has represented country's health agenda particularly from medical devices, diagnostics, innovation and entrepreneurship perspective at national and international forums. She also serves as an expert on various institutional committees in this sector. Recognizing her contributions, Suchita was selected as an Emerging Leader for Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship under International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of the United States Department of State. Dr Markan holds a doctorate from PGIMER, Chandigarh and completed her Executive General Management from IIM Lucknow. She is a Registered Technology Transfer Professional (RTTP) certified by AUTM, USA and STEM, India. She has numerous national & international publications to her credit.



Ms Kirti Balasubramanian

Partner - Technology, Media and Telecom
Trilegal

Kirti Balasubramanian is a mechanical engineer and seasoned intellectual property lawyer and registered patent agent with almost 13 years of work experience in IP strategy, transactions, and litigation. She is currently a Partner in the TMT practice at Trilegal. Kirti's practice focuses on IP structuring, strategy, and management, and she routinely advises PE/VC investors on risks associated with the IP assets of investee companies. A large percentage of her clients are also tech-focused companies in sectors such as energy, defence, financial services, automobiles, and entertainment. She has represented companies such as Tejas Networks, Gegadyne Energy, Agratas, Webull Holdings, Tata AIG, Accenture, ANSR, Rossell Techsys, Safran SA, SAAB, Nissan Motors, Samsung Electronics, Tata Consumer Products, SaffronArt, Sony Music, Ziro Festival of Music etc. Kirti is sought out for her expertise relating to IP risk management, framing intellectual property policies, IP adoption/product launch strategy, and licensing arrangements (cross-border patent/technology/know-how licensing, franchising, IP assignments). Kirti also has extensive experience litigating before various courts, including the High Courts of Delhi, Bombay, and Calcutta, as well as various tribunals, including the Trade Marks Registry, NIXI, and the erstwhile Intellectual Property Appellate Board. Kirti has lectured at the Government Law College, Mumbai; NMIMS Mumbai, and the National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi.



Prof Dhiraj Kumar

Director Academics
Unitedworld Institute of Design (UID)

Prof. Dhiraj Kumar is a highly motivated and dynamic design professional, ex-founder Director of the National Institute of Design, Madhya Pradesh (NIDMP) in India. With a deep passion for his field, he has established himself as an expert in design education and possesses extensive experience in Design Policy framework, product design, design research, and design management. Professor Kumar has played a pivotal role in advancing design education and fostering design thinking in India. He has actively contributed to numerous national committees and boards, shaping the direction of design education at a broader level. Additionally, he has served as a design consultant for prominent national and international organizations, lending his expertise to their projects. His valuable insights and thought leadership have made him a sought-after speaker at various design conferences and workshops.

Over the span of 25 years, he has successfully set up and led five design institutions / departments, taking them from their inception to becoming nationally recognized entities. His visionary and progressive mindset, coupled with strong leadership qualities, enables him to set clear objectives for his teams while maintaining a human-centric approach.

Panel Discussion 6: Accelerating Innovation Through Public R&D: Shaping the Future of Research



Dr Hafsa Ahmad

Scientist D
Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt of India

Dr Hafsa Ahmad is a Scientist 'D' at the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. With a strong background in science and technology policy, she contributes to strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening India's research and innovation ecosystem.

Her work involves cross-disciplinary collaboration, policy analysis, and the implementation of programs that drive scientific advancement and innovation-led development. Ms. Ahmad brings analytical rigor and a forward-looking approach to projects at the intersection of science, technology, and governance.

She is actively engaged in initiatives that promote innovation excellence and capacity-building in public-funded research organizations and often represents the PSA office in expert discussions and national policy forums.



Prof Kamal Kishore Pant

Director
IIT Roorkee

Prof Kamal Kishore Pant received his PhD (Chemical Engineering) degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur in 1997. He took over as the Director of the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee on October 12, 2022. Prof. Pant previously held the positions of Petrotech Chair and Federation of Indian Petroleum Industries (FIPI) Chair Professor, Chairman GATE & JAM, Chairman, Library, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, and Dean Faculty at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. He is Adjunct Faculty at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada.

He is also a Fellow of several national and international academies, which include the National Academy of Science India (NASI) and the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE). His area of interest is futuristic technologies of national and international importance, e.g., hydrocarbon conversion processes, biomass conversion and biofuel production, CO₂ conversion technologies, e-waste, and plastic management.



Dr Vibha Malhotra Sawhney

Scientist 'H'
CSIR Headquarters

Dr Vibha Malhotra Sawhney is a seasoned professional with expertise in science and technology policy, innovation systems, and research program management. With a multidisciplinary background and a commitment to fostering innovation-driven development, she plays a vital role in advancing strategic initiatives in the public science and research ecosystem.

Dr Sawhney is known for her contributions to evidence-based policy formulation, inter-institutional collaboration, and program evaluation frameworks aimed at enhancing the impact and effectiveness of public-funded R&D efforts. Her work supports national objectives in science, technology, and innovation, and she regularly engages with stakeholders across academia, government, and industry.

She is frequently invited to contribute to expert discussions and strategic consultations at both national and international levels, reflecting her standing in the science-policy interface community.



Dr Nagahanumaiah

Director
Central Manufacturing Technology Institute

With over 28 years of dedicated service, Dr. Nagahanumaiah has emerged as a prominent figure in the realm of manufacturing research and leadership. His journey has encompassed two prestigious research institutions, namely CSIR-CMERI in Durgapur and CMTI in Bangalore. Dr. Nagahanumaiah holds a Ph.D. from the renowned Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Masters in Tool Engineering from Indo-Danish Tool Room, Bangalore, and a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from Bangalore University. His research spans over areas including micro-nano scale manufacturing technologies, modular-reconfigurable machine tools, additive manufacturing, and tool design, rapid tooling for injection molding, cost modelling, manufacturing process selection, and manufacturability evaluation. He has left an indelible mark on the field of micro-nano systems engineering and manufacturing technology through his dedication and remarkable achievements.



Mr P S Jayan

Corporate Technology Officer
Carborundum Universal Limited

A chemical engineer with 39 years of Industrial experience in Manufacturing, R&D and Business Administration. Joined Carborundum Universal Limited as a Graduate Engineer Trainee and superannuated as Executive Vice President and Business Head in May 2021.

Served as a Director on the Board of three Overseas Operations - CUMI Middle East, CUMI Europe and VAW Russia. Hands on experience in various technologies such as ceramic melting, smelting, fine powder processing, plasma process, sol gel synthesis and nano material processing. 20 patents. Created lab to commercial scale operations which helped redefining the business scope and enabled addressing global markets. Travelled widely for business relationships, technology tie ups, product promotions and expanding operations. Steered the business to achieve various National awards in the areas of Innovation, Industry Excellence, HR Excellence, Manufacturing Green Initiatives etc. Continuing with Carborundum Universal Limited as their Corporate Technology Officer supporting CUMI and Its Subsidiaries on Technology and New Businesses. Also, Executive Review Committee member for India Innovation Centre for Graphene.



Dr Umish Srivastva

Executive Director - Technology Promotion & Forecasting
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)

Dr. Umish Srivastva serves as the Executive Director of Technology Promotion & Forecasting at Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., where he leads strategic initiatives to drive innovation, technology foresight, and future-readiness within India's energy sector. A respected leader in the energy innovation landscape, Dr. Srivastva is known for his visionary approach and contributions to national-level programs in technology forecasting and strategic planning.

With extensive experience in research management, technology strategy, and industrial innovation, Dr. Srivastva plays a key role in identifying emerging technologies and aligning them with Indian Oil's long-term growth and sustainability goals. His work bridges the gap between cutting-edge research and industrial application, fostering collaborations across academia, startups, and global partners.



Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with around 9,000 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 365,000 enterprises from 294 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

For more than 125 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness, and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Through its dedicated Centres of Excellence and Industry competitiveness initiatives, promotion of innovation and technology adoption, and partnerships for sustainability, CII plays a transformative part in shaping the future of the nation. Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes across diverse domains including affirmative action, livelihoods, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and sustainable development, to name a few.

For 2024-25, CII has identified "Globally Competitive India: Partnerships for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth" as its Theme, prioritizing 5 key pillars. During the year, it would align its initiatives and activities to facilitate strategic actions for driving India's global competitiveness and growth through a robust and resilient Indian industry.

With 70 offices, including 12 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 8 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with about 300 counterpart organizations in almost 100 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

Confederation of Indian Industry

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