

CHAMBER IN - TOUCH

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2025

TWO-DAY POWER WORKSHOP ON ADVANCED EXCEL SKILLS
DATE: 26th & 27th August 2025
TIME: 9.30 am - 5.30 pm
MCCI Conference Room

WORKSHOP CONTENTS

- Introduction to Excel
- Advanced Excel Functions
- Excel Formulas and Functions
- Excel Charts and Graphs
- Excel Data Analysis Tools
- Excel Security and Protection

Trainer: Mr. Mohamed Rafiq M. Microsoft Certified Trainer

Workshop Fee: For Members: Rs. 1500/- (including GST) per participant. For Non-Members: Rs. 2500/- (including GST) per participant.

WORKSHOP ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & LEGAL FRAMEWORKS
DATE: 4th & 5th August 2025
TIME: 9.30 am - 5.30 pm
MCCI Conference Room

TOPICS

- Session 1: Introduction to Intellectual Property & Legal Frameworks
- Session 2: Copyright & Patents
- Session 3: Trademarks
- Session 4: Design Rights
- Session 5: Geographical Indications
- Session 6: Trade Secrets
- Session 7: Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights
- Session 8: International Intellectual Property
- Session 9: Dispute Resolution
- Session 10: Conclusion

Faculty: Mr. A. Aravind, Mr. A. Aravind, Mr. A. Aravind, Mr. A. Aravind, Mr. A. Aravind, Mr. A. Aravind, Mr. A. Aravind, Mr. A. Aravind, Mr. A. Aravind, Mr. A. Aravind

Workshop Fee: (per participant) For Members: Rs. 1500/- (including GST). For Non-Members: Rs. 2500/- (including GST).

TALK ON US TARIFFS AND ITS IMPACT
DATE: Saturday, 23rd August 2025
TIME: 11.00 am - 12.30 pm
MCCI Conference Room

Trainer: Mr. Arjun G. Nagarajan, Chief Economist, Sundaram Asset Management Company Ltd.

THE FUTURE FACTORY FORUM 2025
DATE: 25 SEPTEMBER 2025
TIME: 9.00 AM - 5.00 PM
TAJ WELLINGTON CHENNAI

CHIEF GUEST: Mr. Arjun G. Nagarajan, Chief Economist, Sundaram Asset Management Company Ltd.

SESSION ON DREAM, DESIGN, DISRUPT: WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF AI
DATE: 19th AUGUST 2025 | 9.30 AM - 1.00 PM
MCCI CONFERENCE ROOM

Speaker: Mr. V. Sriram, Historian

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- 1. To explore women entrepreneurs in the transformational potential of Generative AI.
- 2. To demonstrate practical AI tools for business growth and automation.
- 3. Real-world case studies of AI adoption in women-led ventures.
- 4. Personalized action plans for AI integration in participants' businesses.

SESSION FEE: (per participant) For Members: Rs. 1750/- (including GST). For Non-Members: Rs. 2350/- (including GST).

Two Day ALL INDIA WORKSHOP ON INDIRECT TAXES
DATE: 26th & 27th September 2025
Knowledge Partner: K. Vaitheeswaran & Co.

THE SUPERWOMAN WORKSHOP
LeadHERship in Action
DATE: 18th & 19th September 2025
TIME: 9.30 AM - 5.00 PM
GRAND CHENNAI BY GRT

Workshop Outcomes:

- Personal Branding
- Emotional Agility
- Strategic Decision-Making
- Social Media Leverage
- AI Applications
- Influential Communication

Participation Fee:

- MCCI Members: Rs. 1000/- (including GST)
- Non-Members: Rs. 1500/- (including GST)
- Commensal Fee: Rs. 500/- (including GST)

ORGAN DONATION: GIFT OF LIFE
DATE: WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 2025
TIME: 4.00 PM - 5.30 PM
MCCI Conference Room

Chamber Day
DATE: 29 SEPTEMBER 2025
TIME: 10.30 AM - 1.30 PM
MCCI Conference Room

Reimagining Academia: A Strategic Collaboration
DATE: 12th August 2025 (Tuesday)
TIME: 10.30 AM - 5.30 PM
MCCI Conference Room

The Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

1

Workshop on Intellectual Property and Legal Frameworks

4th & 5th August 2025

2

**Interactive Session with Mr. Amlan Bora
Chief Representative, Port of Rotterdam for South Asia**

5th August 2025

3

Training Program on Import and Export Documentation (3rd Batch)

8th August 2025

4

Session on Dream Design Disrupt - Women at the Forefront of AI

19th August 2025

5

Madras Day Celebrations – Many Nations, One Madras

22nd August 2025

6

Talk on US Tariffs and its Impact (Virtual)

23rd August 2025

7

Two Day Power Workshop on Advanced Excel Skills

28th & 29th August 2025

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LeadHERship in Action: The Superwoman Workshop

18th & 19th September 2025

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Future Factory Forum 2025

25th September 2025

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Two Day All India Workshop on Indirect Taxes

26th & 27th September 2025

11

Chamber Day

29th September 2025

PROGRAMS - AUGUST 2025

1

Workshop on Intellectual Property and Legal Frameworks

4th & 5th August 2025

The two-day intensive workshop sessions were designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), both from a foundational and advanced perspective.



Session Coverage:

Fundamentals of IPR: Overview of copyrights, patents, trademarks, licensing frameworks, and methods of IP valuation.

Advanced Strategies: In-depth exploration of digital content protection, the role of IP in emerging technologies, and strategic approaches for safeguarding innovation in a rapidly evolving business environment.

Practical Learning: Case studies drawn from real-world scenarios, coupled with a certification assessment that enabled participants to apply concepts and test their knowledge.

Key Highlights:

The sessions were marked by highly interactive discussions, ensuring active participation and exchange of ideas.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the relevance and clarity of the topics discussed.

The certification exercise was particularly well received, as it provided practical insights and hands-on experience in applying IP concepts to business contexts

Resource Persons:

Ms. Savitha Kesav Jagadeesan (Kochhar & Co.)

Dr. Mahalakshmi Muthuswamy (TVS Motor Company Motor Co. Ltd.)

Ms. Subathra Mysamy (A K Mysamy & Associates LLP)

Mr. Anand Barnabas (De Penning & De Penning)

Mr. Arindam Paul (De Penning & De Penning)

Ms. Indumathi Gunasekaran (Kochhar & Co.)



2

Interactive Session with Mr. Amlan Bora Chief Representative, Port of Rotterdam for South Asia

5th August 2025

This insightful interaction focused on strengthening collaboration between the Port of Rotterdam and Indian businesses, with discussions on global trade connectivity, sustainability, and future-ready logistics solutions.

Key Discussion Points:

Strategic Significance: The Port of Rotterdam, Europe's largest port, serves as a critical gateway to over 300 million consumers across the continent.

Infrastructure & Connectivity: Advanced intermodal infrastructure and logistics capabilities that enhance supply chain efficiency.



Sustainability & Energy Transition: Ongoing initiatives in the hydrogen economy, renewable fuels, and green chemicals, positioning Rotterdam as a leader in sustainable port operations.

India–Netherlands Trade Synergies: Opportunities to strengthen bilateral trade by leveraging logistics innovation, digitalization, and efficiency models from Rotterdam.

Participation:

The meeting witnessed active involvement from MCCI's leadership, including the Logistics Committee Chair & Co-Chair and the International Cooperation Committee Chair & Co-Chair, alongside senior members. Their contributions made the session highly engaging and productive.


3

Training Program on Import and Export Documentation (3rd Batch)

8th August 2025


The full-day training session held on 8th August 2025 at the MCCI Conference Room brought together professionals from diverse industries who actively participated and enriched the discussions with their experiences.

The program was led by Shri J. Krishnan, a highly respected logistics veteran with over three decades of expertise in international trade, shipping, and supply chain management.

Key Learning Areas:

Comprehensive understanding of export and import documentation and its practical applications.

Detailed coverage of customs laws, duty structures, and compliance requirements.

Insights into Incoterms, payment mechanisms, Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) schemes, and warehousing provisions.

Practical exposure to real-world logistics and shipping procedures, with emphasis on handling day-to-day challenges in the global trade environment.

Highlights of the Session:

The training was highly interactive, with participants actively engaging in discussions and clarifying real-time issues faced in their professional roles.

Practical case studies and scenario-based learning helped bridge the gap between theoretical understanding and on-ground practices.

The session created a platform for cross-industry knowledge sharing, making it beneficial for both new entrants and experienced professionals in the EXIM field.

Attendees appreciated the hands-on approach, which allowed them to grasp complex procedures with clarity and confidence.

4

Session on Dream Design Disrupt - Women at the Forefront of AI

19th August 2025



The workshop on Generative AI in Business, was led by the dynamic Mr. Murali Sundaram, Technology Consultant. The session took participants on an engaging journey into the power and potential of Generative AI, showcasing how this transformative technology can be practically leveraged in entrepreneurial ventures.

Through a blend of live demonstrations, interactive discussions, and personalized action plans, the workshop empowered women entrepreneurs to explore AI-driven opportunities with clarity and confidence.

Key Highlights of the Session:

Real-world AI applications in branding, operations, customer engagement, and decision-making, demonstrating immediate business value.

Exploration of customizable AI tools designed to help entrepreneurs scale their businesses efficiently without requiring deep technical expertise.

Inspiring case studies and success stories of AI integration, offering relatable examples of how small and medium enterprises have successfully embraced AI.

Practical tips and simplified frameworks to demystify Generative AI for non-technical entrepreneurs, ensuring accessibility and ease of adoption.

Takeaways:

Participants left with a deeper understanding of how to strategically integrate Generative AI into their businesses, along with a personalized action roadmap to kickstart AI adoption. The workshop proved to be both practical and visionary, inspiring women entrepreneurs to position themselves at the forefront of the digital revolution.



5

Madras Day Celebrations – Many Nations, One Madras

22nd August 2025





It was a thought-provoking Madras Day celebration bringing together a vibrant audience from the diplomatic, trade, and business communities. The keynote talk, “Many Nations, One Madras”, was delivered by renowned historian Mr. V. Sriram, who masterfully traced the multicultural roots and global connections that have shaped the history of Madras over centuries – from the Chola trade routes to colonial chapters and modern trade and diplomatic linkages.

The event opened with a welcome address by Mr. Ramkumar Shankar, Managing Director, Chemplast Sanmar Limited & President, MCCI, and concluded with vote of thanks by Mr. A. Viswanathan, President, Delphi-TVS & Vice President, MCCI.

Mr. Sriram’s narrative, enriched by historic maps and stories of cultural landmarks such as Luz Church, Fort St. George, the Soviet Cultural Centre, and the Armenian Church, reminded us that Madras has always been a city of many nations, bound by one spirit.

A special note of thanks to our sponsors – Thangamayil Jewellery Limited and Kauvery Hospital – for their presence and support.



6

Talk on US Tariffs and its Impact (Virtual)

23rd August 2025

Mr. Arjun G. Nagarajan, Chief Economist, Sundaram Asset Management Company Limited was the speaker.

He provided a comprehensive overview of the current US tariff framework and its evolution.

He explained the short- and long-term implications for Indian businesses, with particular focus on manufacturing, exports, and supply chains and shared strategic responses and adaptive measures that businesses could adopt to remain competitive amidst shifting global trade dynamics.

The webinar was attended by 50+ members and the feedback was positive.

It has been agreed to have talks on economic affairs on a regular basis.



7**Two Day Power Workshop on Advanced Excel Skills****28th & 29th August 2025**

The workshop was led by Mr. Mohamed Rafiq M, Microsoft Certified Trainer.

The program drew enthusiastic participation from professionals across diverse corporates, reflecting the growing importance of data-driven decision-making and analytical skills in today's business world.

**Learning Highlights:**

- Mastery of advanced Excel functions for improved productivity.
- Practical application of pivot tables, dynamic charts, and dashboards.
- Exposure to automation techniques using Excel tools for efficiency.
- Hands-on training in data analysis, visualization, and reporting.
- The sessions were designed to be interactive and practice-oriented, ensuring that participants could immediately apply their learning in their respective work environments.

The feedback was positive and trainer's engaging style, practical demonstrations, and real-world examples were widely appreciated by participants



Governing Council Meeting

The Governing Council Meeting was held on 2nd August 2025


Expert Committee Chair & Co-Chair Meeting

The Expert Committee Chair & Co-Chair Meeting was held on 2nd August 2025


Expert Committee Meetings

Meeting Date	Committee
8 th August 2025	Legal Affairs
11 th August 2025	Company Law & Corporate Matters
13 th August 2025	HR & IR
20 th August 2025	GST
21 st August 2025	Banking Finance & Insurance
21 st August 2025	WBC (Virtual)
22 nd August 2025	IT / ITES
25 th August 2025	Education
26 th August 2025	Direct Taxes
29 th August 2025	Logistics

EXPERT COMMITTEE *Meetings*



Legal



GST



Education



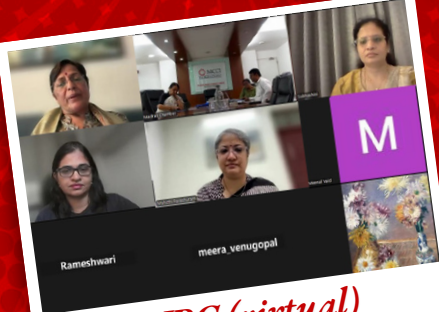
Company Law



Banking & Finance



Direct Taxes



WBC (virtual)



HR & IR



IT / ITES



Logistics

Other Meetings

GCC Next Summit '25 – Empowering Global Growth (MCCI Associate Partner) 7th August 2025

Presented by: Kreateworks

Co-presented by: Guidance Tamil Nadu

Associate Partner: MCCI

MCCI was proud to be associated with the GCC Next Summit 2025, which highlighted Chennai's inherent strengths and its readiness for the next phase of Global Capability Centre (GCC) growth. The Summit

showcased Chennai's inherent strength in the GCC landscape and focused on engineering, R and D and techno functional talent and made it clear that Tamil Nadu is well positioned to drive the next phase of the GCC growth.



Jeppiaar University's Silver Jubilee & National Industry – Academia Roundtable 12th August 2025



Mr. A. Viswanathan, Vice President, Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) and President, Delphi-TVS delivered the Special Address during the inaugural session of JEPPIAAR UNIVERSITY's 25th Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

The celebration witnessed a vibrant gathering of over 3000 students, faculty members, and leading voices from academia and industry. In his inspiring address, Mr. Viswanathan emphasized the

critical importance of Industry–Academia collaboration and shared MCCI's vision to drive skill-building, innovation, and partnerships for a future-ready workforce.

The event was graced by prominent dignitaries from Higher Education Institutions, Government and Administrative Services, Corporate and Industry Sectors, Technology and Innovation Leaders.

In the second half of the day, the spotlight turned to a focused Industry–Academia Roundtable, co-hosted by CIPU, & MCCI, as part of the National Roundtable Series.

This exclusive, boardroom-format discussion brought together senior leaders from academia and industry to exchange ideas and co-create solutions for:

Curriculum relevance and future-ready skills, Internship and placement ecosystems, Collaborative research and innovation framework.



Observation Visit by MSSW Students to the Chamber

14th August 2025

A group of 23 First-Year MSW (Disability and Empowerment) students, accompanied by their faculty, visited the organization for an Observation Visit.

The session covered:

An orientation on the nature, structure, values, and services of the organization.

Insights into the organization's best CSR practices and other relevant initiatives for Social Work students.

The role of Social Workers within the organization.

Ms. K. Saraswathi delivered an engaging presentation, which was very well received by the students.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, making the visit both insightful and impactful.



Interactive meeting with the Delegation from Ehime

19th August 2025

A High-level delegation from Ehime Prefecture, Japan, led by Mr. Ikeda Yamato, Managing Director, Economy & Labor Dept., Ehime Prefectural Govt had a meeting with select members of the Chamber. The Session was chaired by Mr. Ramkumar Shankar, President, MCCI & MD, Chemplast Sanmar Limited. The Meeting was a follow up on the MoU signed in Feb 2025 between MCCI and Ehime Prefecture.

Key Highlights:

EV Technology Collaboration: Exploring joint projects in electric auto-rickshaws and skill development for automotive mechanics.



Sustainability Partnerships: Proposals for city-to-city cooperation in waste management, food loss reduction, renewable energy adoption, and electric mobility.

Skill Development: Discussions on the Automotive Training Center and establishing a Mechanic Training School in India with support from Ehime.

Future Engagements: Plans to host a business matching event in early 2026 to connect Indian and Japanese companies.

Follow-up Actions: Sharing of presentations, exchange of networks, and coordinated visits to strengthen long-term cooperation.



PROGRAMS - SEPTEMBER 2025

8
LeadHERship in Action: The Superwoman Workshop
18th & 19th September 2025


The exclusive LeadHERship in Action – Superwoman Workshop on 18–19 September 2025, focused on leadership enablement and future readiness for women leaders. Day 1 covered Industry 4.0 leadership, emotional agility, strategic decision-making, and adaptable leadership, while Day 2 focused on AI, social media, and digital identity building. Eminent speakers guided participants on personal branding, influential communication, and leveraging technology for professional growth.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from 29 members, with feedback highlighting it as “wonderful and insightful,” “an awakening experience,” and “highly interactive and transformative.” Participants actively engaged with concepts of emotional agility, strategic decision-making, personal branding, and technology-driven leadership.

MCCI’s Women Business Council, led by Chair Ms. Shobhana P Ravi and Co-Chair Dr. CMA Subhashini Krishnan, provided steadfast support throughout.



9

Future Factory Forum 2025

25th September 2025

The Chamber in partnership with Small Enterprise India and in association with K-Tech CoE Data Science & AI – NASSCOM, co-hosted the Future Factory Forum on 25th September 2025, bringing together 120+ SME leaders, 20 speakers, and 45+ curated B2B meetings with technology innovators.

The event featured a keynote by Mr. A. Viswanathan, VP of MCCI & President of Delphi TVS, emphasizing digital resilience and future-ready manufacturing. High-impact sessions and panel discussions covered Industry 4.0, Robotics, AI, Sustainability, Cybersecurity, and practical digital adoption strategies for SMEs.

The resource persons from the Chamber included committee Chairs and Governing Council members. They actively contributed to panels and discussions, sharing insights on sustainability, legal compliance, technology adaptation, and digital transformation.



The forum reinforced that Indian SMEs, with the right skills, technology, and leadership, can leapfrog into the future of manufacturing.

10

Two Day All India Workshop on Indirect Taxes

26th & 27th September 2025



The Chamber's flagship two-day GST Workshop, organized with Knowledge Partner K. Vaitheeswaran & Co., was successfully conducted. The program commenced with a keynote by Mr. S. Nasser Khan, IRS, Commissioner – Customs & GST, Govt. of India, followed by contextual insights from Mr. K. Vaitheeswaran Krishnamurthi, Chairman – GST Committee, MCCI.

Eminent speakers from PwC, EY, Royal Sundaram, GSTN, L&T, and leading legal and CA firms shared expertise on key GST topics, including scope of supply, ITC challenges, judicial pronouncements, and sector-specific compliance issues.



The program was attended by 130 persons and the feedback was positive.

11

Chamber Day

29th September 2025

The Chamber celebrated its 189th Chamber Day, bringing together industry leaders, members, and diplomatic representatives to highlight the Chamber's legacy and future vision.

Mr. Ramkumar Shankar, President – MCCI, welcomed participants and reflected on the Chamber's journey and initiatives. Ms. Halima Holland, British Deputy High Commissioner, delivered the Guest of Honour address on India-UK trade and investment opportunities.





As Chief Guest, Mr. T.K. Balaji, Chairman & MD, Lucas TVS Ltd., spoke on economic trends, resilient supply chains, and the importance of adaptability, innovation, and industry–institution partnerships. The event also marked the launch of MCCI's 190th-year logo.



The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. A. Viswanathan, Vice President – MCCI, who assured follow-up on the Chief Guest's recommendations. The Chamber Day was attended by 230 members.



Governing Council Meeting

The Governing Council Meeting was held on 13th September 2025



Expert Committee Meetings

Meeting Date	Committee
2 nd September 2025	CSR
4 th September 2025	Manufacturing (Hybrid)
5 th September 2025	Healthcare
9 th September 2025	Company Law / Corporate Matters
9 th September 2025	SME
10 th September 2025	Energy & Infrastructure (Virtual)



CSR



Manufacturing



Healthcare



Company Law



SME



Energy & Infrastructure

Other Meetings

Meeting with Officials from METI, JETRO & Nomura Research Institute
1st September 2025

Mr. Toyokazu NAGAMUNE- Regional Representative of METI for South Asia, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) JAPAN

Mr. Kaoru SHIRAISHI Director General of JETRO Chennai

Ms. Palak Agarwal, Senior Consultant,
Nomura Research Institute, Ltd.,

Mr. Rachit Merani, Senior Associate Consultant, Nomura Research Institute, Ltd.,
&

From MCCI

Mr. Ramkumar Shankar, President MCCI

Mr. J. Krishnan and Mr. Alex Koshy, Chair and Co Chair,
International Cooperation Working Group

Ms. K.Saraswathi, Secretary General



The interaction meeting was held on 1st September 2025 at the MCCI Conference Room.

The objective of the meeting was to exchange insights on trade facilitation and explore potential areas of collaboration between Japan (through METI and JETRO), Indian industry, and regional partners. The discussions also aimed to enable the Chamber's representatives to contribute towards formulating practical recommendations for strengthening bilateral and regional trade relations

From Campus to clicks online Marketing Essentials
25th to 27th September 2025

The Chamber in collaboration with Hand in Hand Academy for Social Entrepreneurship, successfully organized a hands-on training program titled "From Campus to Clicks: Online Marketing Essentials" at GRT College of Engineering & Technology., Tiruttani.

This three-day immersive workshop was designed to equip students with practical skills to build and scale their own online ventures. Participants gained valuable insights into identifying winning products, connecting with trusted suppliers, mastering pricing strategies, and understanding branding and platform setup.



Chamber in the Media


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Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry celebrates 189th Chamber Day

Published - September 30, 2025 05:45 am IST - Chennai

THE HINDU BUREAU

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29th September 2025

Guest of Honour: Ms. Halima Holland, British Deputy High Commissioner

Guest: T.K. Balaji, Chairman and Managing Director, Lucas TVS Limited

T.K. Balaji, Chairman and Managing Director, Lucas TVS Limited, receives a memento from Ramkumar Shankar, President, MCCI, The Madras Chamber of Commerce, at the Chamber Day celebrations in Chennai on Monday. Halima Holland, British Deputy High Commissioner, was also present. | Photo Credit: VELANKANNI RAJ B

"We are the fourth largest economy at \$4 trillion. In per capita terms, we are quite below. The size of the economy has little relevance to the standard of living of the people," said T. K. Balaji, chairman and managing director, TK Balaji, Lucas TVS Ltd. and TVS Indeon Ltd. in Chennai on Monday.

Speaking at the 189th Chamber Day celebrations organised by the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), he said that every Indian has to enjoy a certain standard of living and only then can we call ourselves a developed nation.

Advising young people taking up opportunities in new fields to invest in their research and development department he said, "Go for the next generation for technology and put your department on top of that. Don't waste time developing what's already available in the world."

Noting the recent fair trade agreement signed between India and the United Kingdom British Deputy High Commissioner, British Deputy High Commission, Halima Holland said, "This agreement is not only a major economic milestone, which is projected to boost natural trade by 25.5 billion annually in the long term, it's also a gateway to transformative opportunities in sectors that matter to both nations."

The MCCI president and managing director, Chemplast Sanmar Ltd. Ramkumar Shankar said that when the founders established MCCI in 1836, they envisioned an institution that would shape commerce and society for generations to come. "As we approach our bicentenary, our responsibility is to renew that vision," he added.

The logo for 190th year celebrations was also unveiled on the occasion. The MCCI vice-president and president, Delphi TVS Technologies Ltd., A. Viswanathan also spoke.

Published - September 30, 2025 05:45 am IST



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COMPANIES

TVS Indeon working with global R&D companies to manufacture latest technology lithium ion battery cells in India

The company will soon provide a demo on the latest technology to the government, said TK Balaji. CMD, Lucas TVS

By TE Raja Simhan
Updated - September 29, 2025 at 09:30 PM



29th September 2025

Guest of Honour: Ms. Halima Holland, British Deputy High Commissioner

Guest: T.K. Balaji, Chairman and Managing Director, Lucas TVS Ltd.

TK Balaji, Chairman and Managing Director, Lucas TVS Ltd, launches the 190th year of The Madras Chamber of Commerce at Chamber Day celebrations in Chennai on Monday | Photo Credit: VELANKANNI RAJ B

TVS Indeon Ltd, the 100 per cent subsidiary of the Chennai-based Lucas TVS, is working with global R&D companies to manufacture the latest technology lithium ion battery cells in India. "We have picked the next-generation technology. This has been proved in the lab scale in small pilot, and supplied in smaller quantities to some of the Japanese companies," said TK Balaji, CMD, Lucas TVS.

Addressing the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Chamber Day on Monday, Balaji said electric vehicles have come to stay. In 10-15 years, EV penetration will certainly be much much larger. However, today the entire supply chain is dominated by China not only in the cells but the entire ecosystem, including raw materials, he said.

"So, the question came to us as to what do we do? It's easy to go to a Chinese company, have a collaboration and set up a plant. But we came to the conclusion not to follow because that will not solve the problem, and we will still have to compete with the same Chinese," he said.

"We chose a different route. The cost of setting up the cell plant is prohibitively expensive, and costs \$70-\$80 million per gigawatt hour. We need to set up at least 10 gigawatt hours to be viable. This means about \$800 million and this is not a small amount," he said.

The technology that the company is working on brings in a lot of advantages. The capex cost is much lower. The raw materials can be recycled and the safety levels of the batteries are significantly higher, he said.

"But this route that we have chosen is full of challenges and we need to develop an entire ecosystem. We are working with some raw material suppliers in India who are also developing some solutions. Our progress is going to be slow, but I think if we succeed it will give us a basis for us to not only grow faster later but also make an impact globally," he said.

"We are planning to demonstrate it to the government. We are working with our customer, who also wants to support us," he said.

When asked when the demo is likely to happen, Balaji later told businessline it will happen without giving a timeframe.

TN makes progress

Praising Tamil Nadu's progress, Balaji said last year the State achieved the unique distinction for achieving a growth rate of 11 per cent. This was never achieved by any state at any time as far as I know. The whole country is moving at 6 to 7 per cent and last year Tamil Nadu moved at 11 per cent. "Only the chief minister talked about it. I didn't see anybody else, including chambers, talking about it," he said. Tamil Nadu's growth should be celebrated," he added.

