

CHAMBER IN -TUCH

JUNE & JULY 2026

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

1

5th June 2026

Webinar on World Environment Day: “Cooling Chennai Naturally: Nature-Based Solutions for Rising Urban Heat”

10th June 2026

Webinar on “India’s Trade Policy: FTAs, WTO and Future Priorities”

2

12th June 2026

3

Webinar on “Healthy Liver, Healthy Life”

29th June 2026

Webinar on “The Future Generation of MSMEs: Thriving in an AI-Driven Economy”

4

5

7th July 2026

Webinar on “Let’s Talk Books”

14th July 2026

Webinar on “Understanding Arthritis: Myths, Facts and Modern Treatment Options”

6

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

7

23rd July 2026

Webinar on “From Sky to Supply Chain: The Business Potential of Drone Technology”

28th July 2026

190th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

8

PROGRAMS - JUNE 2026

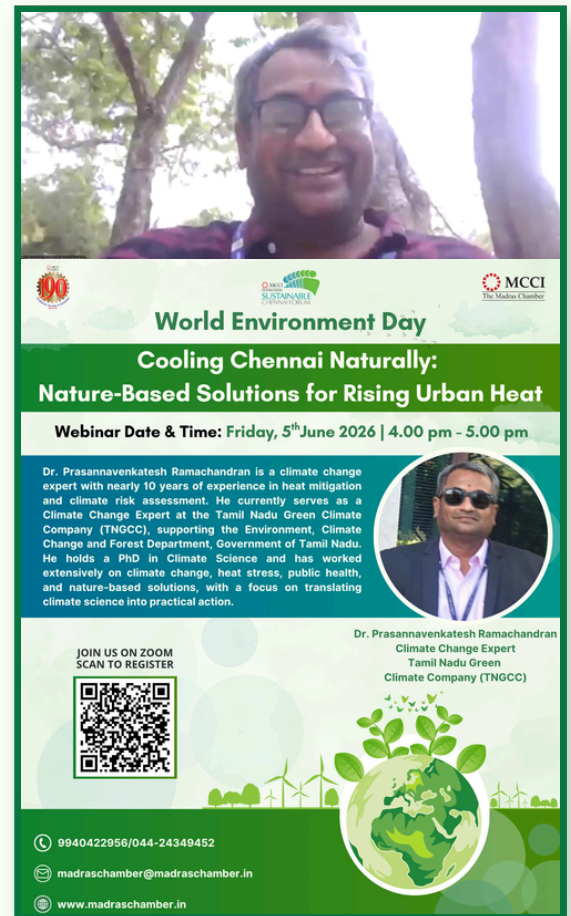
1

5th June 2026

Webinar on World Environment Day: “Cooling Chennai Naturally: Nature-Based Solutions for Rising Urban Heat”

In observance of World Environment Day, the Chamber, through the Sustainable Chennai Forum, organized a webinar on “Cooling Chennai Naturally: Nature-Based Solutions for Rising Urban Heat” on 5th June 2026. The session focused on addressing the growing challenge of urban heat and highlighted the role of nature-based interventions in improving climate resilience, public health, and sustainable urban development.

The webinar was delivered by Dr. Prasanna Venkatesh Ramachandran, Climate Change Expert at Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC), who shared insights on climate risk assessment, heat mitigation strategies, and practical approaches to integrating climate science into urban planning and policy. The session generated active engagement from participants and reinforced the importance of collaborative action towards creating climate-resilient cities.



10th June 2026

Webinar on “India’s Trade Policy: FTAs, WTO and Future Priorities”

2

Dr. Pritam Banerjee, Head and Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT, spoke on "India's Trade Policy: FTAs, WTO and Future Priorities."



He explained the role of the WTO in global trade and the growing importance of FTAs. He highlighted India's shift towards deeper trade agreements with major economies.

The presentation covered the economic, strategic and geopolitical benefits of FTAs, including improved market access, investment opportunities and supply chain resilience.

He also discussed challenges such as low FTA utilization, technical barriers and limited awareness among businesses.

He responded to the various queries raised by the participants.

The webinar witnessed the participation of around 120 participants, and the feedback received was highly positive.



12th June 2026

Webinar on “Healthy Liver, Healthy Life”

As part of its continued focus on health awareness and preventive healthcare, the Chamber organised a webinar on “Healthy Liver, Healthy Life”.

Dr. U. V. U. Vamsidhar Reddy, Clinical Lead – Hepatology & Liver Transplant, Kauvery Hospital highlighted the vital functions of the liver, the growing burden of liver diseases, and the importance of early diagnosis and preventive healthcare.



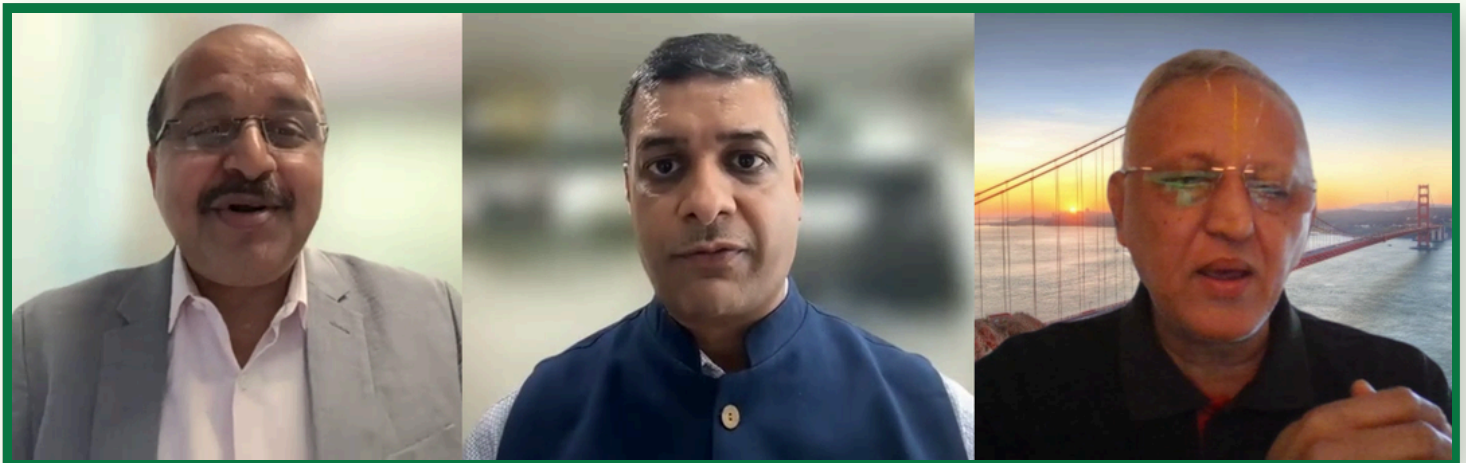
The discussed common liver ailments, including fatty liver disease, viral hepatitis, cirrhosis and liver cancer, and explained their risk factors, symptoms and treatment options. The speaker also emphasized the role of healthy eating habits, regular exercise, vaccination, periodic health screening and avoiding alcohol abuse in maintaining liver health.

The session was interactive, with the speaker responding to queries raised by participants. Around 60 participants attended the webinar.

— — ✦ ✦ — —
29th June 2026

**Webinar on “The Future Generation of MSMEs:
Thriving in an AI-Driven Economy”**

4



Mr. R. Rajesh, Chairperson, SME Committee introduced the topic and the speaker.

The session highlighted how digital transformation and artificial intelligence are reshaping the MSME ecosystem and discussed the importance of innovation, technology adoption, and access to capital for sustainable business growth. The speaker also explained the opportunities available through the BSE SME platform, including SME listing, fundraising, enhanced corporate governance, and business scalability. The interactive session provided participants with practical insights on preparing MSMEs for long-term growth in an increasingly AI-driven economy.

Mr. Rangarajan Sriraman, Co-Chair, SME Committee proposed the vote of thanks.

The program was attended by 40 participants and the feedback was positive.

Governing Council Meeting

The Governing Council Meeting was held on 20th June 2026



Expert Committee Meetings

Company Law / Corporate Matters - 9th June 2026



Other Meetings

National Convening on Sustainable and Future-Ready MSMEs

12th June 2026

The Chamber was invited to participate in the “National Convening on Sustainable and Future-Ready MSMEs”, organised under WRI India’s Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises (RISE) initiative, scheduled to be held on 12th June 2026 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The aim was to bring together MSMEs, industry associations, policymakers, financial institutions, skilling agencies, and technology partners to discuss strategies for building resilient and sustainable enterprises in the context of climate change and the transition towards a low-carbon economy.

As a recognition of the Chamber’s continued engagement and collaboration under the RISE-TN initiative, MCCI was recognised as a valued partner during the event.

Mr.G Loganathan , Lead – Training & Programs represented the Chamber at the convening.



Building Effective Industry Projects FDP Program in association with Stella Maris College

12th June 2026

The Chamber, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce (Shift I), Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai, organised a Faculty Development Programme on “Introduction to FinTech and Emerging Technologies in FinTech” on 12th June 2026.



Mr. Mohit Surana, Senior Vice President, Shriram Capital, addressed the participants on the fundamentals of FinTech, the FinTech ecosystem, digital payments and UPI, and the regulatory, security and risk aspects of financial technology. Mr. Chandrashekar Balasubramanian, Chief Business Officer, Future net Technologies, spoke on emerging technologies in FinTech, career and entrepreneurship opportunities, financial inclusion and social impact, and the future of the FinTech industry.

The programme provided faculty members with a comprehensive understanding of the rapidly evolving FinTech landscape and its implications for academia, industry and society. The sessions were interactive and were followed by discussions and a question-and-answer session with the participants.



Panel Discussion on Chennai's Second Airport at Parandur – A Global City needs Global Connectivity – Why Chennai needs a second airport now?

12th June 2026

A panel discussion titled “A Global City Needs Global Connectivity – Why Chennai Needs a Second Airport Now” was organized by Super Chennai on 12 June 2026 at Taj Connemara, Chennai. The discussion brought together industry leaders, aviation experts, infrastructure professionals, and policymakers to deliberate on the need for a second airport for Chennai and its implications for the city's future growth.

The panel featured Mr. J. Krishnan, Governing Council Member, Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. K. Phanindra Reddy, IAS (Retd.); Mr. V.K. Girish Pandian, President, Industrial Estate Manufacturers Association, Guindy; Mr. S. Sridharan, Executive Committee Member, CREDAI National; and Dr. GSK Velu, Founder & Chairman, Neuberg Diagnostics and Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council.



The discussion highlighted that Chennai's existing airport infrastructure is approaching capacity limits and that enhanced air connectivity is critical for sustaining economic growth, attracting investments, strengthening exports, and maintaining the city's competitiveness as a global business hub. Speakers emphasized that a second airport is essential to meet the growing passenger and cargo demands of the region.



While several panellists acknowledged the strategic advantages of the proposed Parandur Greenfield Airport project, some speakers observed that alternative locations could also be considered. At the same time, there was broad consensus that Chennai urgently requires additional aviation capacity to support its long-term development aspirations. The panel also stressed the importance of addressing environmental and social concerns through careful planning and stakeholder engagement.

Overall, the discussion concluded that strengthening Chennai's aviation infrastructure is vital for enhancing connectivity, facilitating industrial and logistics growth, and reinforcing the city's position as a leading economic and investment destination.



Interaction meeting with a delegation from the Republic of Kazakhstan

18th June 2026



A delegation from the Republic of Kazakhstan visited the Chamber along with the representatives from Guidance TN, on 18 June 2026 to discuss the proposed Kazakhstan–India Business, Trade & Investment Forum scheduled to be held in September 2026

The delegation met with Mr. J. Krishnan, Mr. Udaya Bhaskar Reddy, Mr. Ashwin Vijayakumar and Mr. L Ashok to explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Tamil Nadu.

During the discussions, the delegation highlighted Kazakhstan's strategic location as a gateway to Central Asia and outlined opportunities for collaboration in sectors such as automotive manufacturing, auto components, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, engineering products, renewable energy, electronics manufacturing, information technology, logistics and ports, education, and healthcare.

The participants exchanged views on enhancing business linkages between enterprises in Kazakhstan and Tamil Nadu, facilitating trade and investment flows, and encouraging industry participation in the proposed Forum. The possibility of organizing B2B meetings and sector-specific interactions during the Forum was also discussed.

The delegation expressed interest in working closely with the Chamber and the industry in Tamil Nadu to promote mutually beneficial partnerships and strengthen economic ties between the two regions.



Interaction with the British Deputy High Commission on Automotive Sector Opportunities

19th June 2026

Mr. A. Viswanathan participated in a luncheon meeting hosted by Dr. Sutapa Choudhury, British Deputy High Commissioner, Chennai, and Mr. Avnish Malhotra, India Sector Lead – Automotive/Future Mobility, at the British Deputy High Commission, Chennai, on 19 June 2026.

The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on emerging trends and business opportunities in the automotive and future mobility sectors. Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration between businesses in Tamil Nadu and the United Kingdom, particularly in areas such as electric vehicles, advanced manufacturing, sustainable mobility solutions, automotive innovation, supply chain development, and technology partnerships.



The meeting was useful in understanding current priorities and potential areas of cooperation between the UK and Tamil Nadu automotive ecosystems.



Industry Leaders' Connect 2026

23rd June 2026

The Chamber participated in the Industry Leaders Connect 2026, organised by Guidance Tamil Nadu, which brought together industry leaders and senior officials of the Government of Tamil Nadu to discuss the State's next phase of industrial growth.



The session highlighted the Government's commitment to building on Tamil Nadu's strong industrial base and further improving the ease of doing business through timely approvals, streamlined processes, and proactive governance. The Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Selvi S. Keerthana Sampath, along with Dr. S. Vijayakumar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department, and Mr. Deepak Jacob, MD & CEO, Guidance Tamil Nadu, reiterated the Government's vision to create an industry-friendly ecosystem to achieve Tamil Nadu's vision of becoming a USD 1.5 trillion economy.

Mr. Ramkumar Shankar, President, addressed the gathering on behalf of the Chamber.

Mr. A. Viswanathan, Vice President, Mr. M. Murali Vaidyanathan, Governing Council Member, and other Governing Council Members took part in the event. The Chamber looks forward to continuing its engagement with the Government and other stakeholders to support Tamil Nadu's industrial growth and competitiveness.



PROGRAMS - JULY 2026

5

7th July 2026

Webinar on “Let’s Talk Books”

This was the 4th edition of the series.

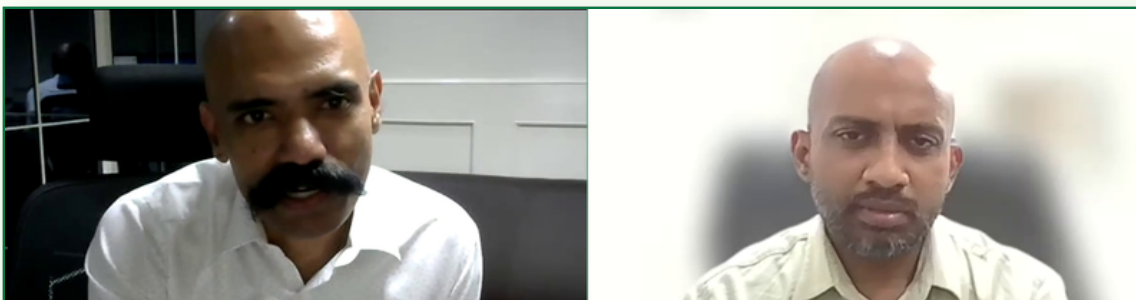
During the session, Mr. Mahesh Kumar reviewed the book “You Have More Influence Than You Think: How We Underestimate Our Power of Persuasion, and Why It Matters” by Vanessa Bohns. He shared the book's key insights on the often-underestimated power of influence in everyday interactions and discussed how effective persuasion, communication, and relationship-building can enhance leadership, collaboration, negotiation, and decision-making in both professional and personal settings.



14th July 2026

Webinar on “Understanding Arthritis: Myths, Facts and Modern Treatment Options”

6



The Chamber organised this webinar as part of its ongoing healthcare awareness initiatives.

The webinar aimed to create awareness about arthritis by dispelling common myths and misconceptions, helping participants recognise early warning signs, and providing insights into the latest advancements in diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Madeshwaran shared practical guidance on the prevention and management of arthritis, enabling participants to make informed healthcare decisions for themselves and their families.

The programme was well received by members and contributed to greater awareness of musculoskeletal health, preventive care, and modern treatment options.



23rd July 2026

Webinar on “From Sky to Supply Chain: The Business Potential of Drone Technology”

The Chamber organised a webinar on "From Sky to Supply Chain: The Business Potential of Drone Technology" as part of its efforts to familiarise members with emerging technologies and their business applications. The session featured Mr.Keku Bomi Gazder, Managing Director & CEO, Aviapro Logistics Services Pvt. Ltd., and Ms Shivangi Prakash, Associate Director – Public Policy & New Initiatives, Drone Federation India (DFI), who shared insights into the rapidly evolving drone ecosystem, the regulatory framework, and the expanding commercial opportunities across sectors such as logistics, infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, mining and disaster management.



The webinar highlighted the growing role of drone technology in improving operational efficiency, safety and data-driven decision-making, while also outlining emerging business opportunities in drone manufacturing, services, software, training and exports. The programme provided members with a practical understanding of the evolving policy landscape and the significant potential of drone technology to transform supply chains and industrial operations. It was well received by 50+ persons.



28th July 2026

190th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

8



This was the 190th AGM. The Governing council and the Expert committees for the year 2026-2027 were announced in the Business Session.



The Chief Guest for the event was Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla. In his keynote address, he reflected on the importance of institution building and the need for organisations to remain relevant through continuous reinvention while staying true to their core values. Drawing on the Aditya Birla Group's journey, he highlighted four enduring principles that underpin successful institutions—purpose, long-term thinking, scale and leadership. He emphasised that institutions must look beyond short-term gains, build resilience through scale, nurture future leaders, and create lasting value for society alongside business growth.

The Event was attended by 350 participants

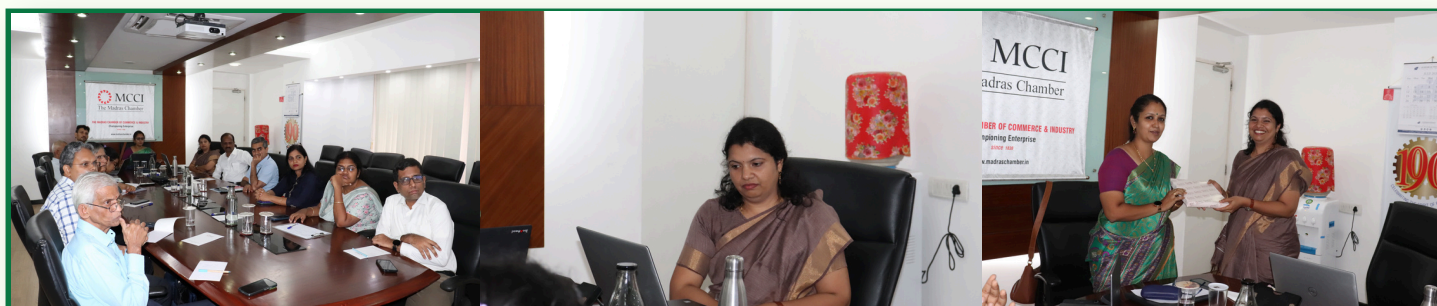
Governing Council Meeting

The Governing Council Meeting was held on 11th July 2026



Expert Committee Meetings

Company Law / Corporate Matters - 14th July 2026



Other Meetings

One Day Workshop on “Greenhouse Gas (GHG) & Accounting ISO : 14001 Implementation” (jointly with WRI India)

4th July 2026



The Chamber collaborated with WRI India, TN AutoSkills, ACMA Mobility Foundation, and FASII, with NetZeroHub as the Knowledge & Training Partner, and organised a One-day Workshop on "Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Accounting & ISO 14001 Implementation" in Chennai.

The workshop brought together automotive MSMEs, sustainability professionals, quality and compliance teams, ESG practitioners, and industry leaders to strengthen their understanding of GHG accounting, environmental management systems, and sustainability reporting.

The programme focused on practical approaches to measuring Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 emissions, implementing ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems, and preparing organisations to meet evolving customer, regulatory, and sustainability expectations.

The workshop was attended by 15 participants, and the feedback received was positive.



Interactive Session with the Indian Foreign Officers (IFS) by Guidance

Tamil Nadu

8th July 2026

Guidance Tamil Nadu extended an invitation to the Chamber to participate in an interactive session with distinguished Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officers as part of their Mid-Career Training Programme. The interaction provided an opportunity to engage with senior diplomatic professionals on trade facilitation, export promotion, and bilateral economic cooperation. Mr. V. T. Chandrasekaran, Co-Chair, Manufacturing Committee, and Mr. Alex Koshy, Co-Chair, International Cooperation Committee, represented the Chamber at the interaction.



French National Day Celebrations

16th July 2026

Mr. A. Viswanathan, President, and Ms. K. Saraswathi, Secretary General, represented the Chamber at the French National Day Celebrations hosted by the Consulate General of France in Pondicherry and Chennai at Taj Coromandel, Chennai. The reception provided an opportunity to interact with members of the diplomatic corps, government officials, and business leaders, and to strengthen the Chamber's engagement with the French business community.



Session on "From Risks to Resilience: What does it take to Build Climate Resilient MSMEs?"

30th July 2026

The Chamber in collaboration with WRI India, organized a knowledge session on "From Risks to Resilience: What does it take to Build Climate Resilient MSMEs?" at IIT Madras. The event featured the release of WRI India's study report on MSME resilience to climate risks, followed by an insightful panel discussion. The discussions focused on the impact of extreme weather events on businesses, the need for climate risk assessment and adaptation planning, the role of technology and data in improving preparedness, and the availability of financial mechanisms to support resilient business practices. The programme underscored the importance of collaborative efforts



among industry, research institutions, financial institutions and policymakers in strengthening the climate resilience of MSMEs and promoting sustainable industrial growth.



Deregulation and Compliance Reduction – Discussion meeting by Guidance TN

31st July 2026

The Chamber participated in the consultation meeting convened by the Government of Tamil Nadu as part of the Deregulation and Compliance Reduction Exercise.

The Chamber was represented by Mr. A. Viswanathan, President, and Ms. K. Saraswathi, Secretary General, who participated in the discussions with Ms. Pallavi Verma, IAS, Executive Director, Guidance Tamil Nadu, and the Deregulation Task Force led by Mr. Sunil Paliwal.

The meeting reviewed the progress made under Phase II of the initiative and discussed the roadmap for Phase III, with emphasis on simplifying regulations, reducing compliance burden, and further improving the Ease of Doing Business in Tamil Nadu.

The Chamber shared key industry suggestions and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Government's efforts to create a more transparent, efficient, and industry-friendly regulatory environment.



Chamber in Media

Legacy gives licence to exist; dynamism is trait to lead, says Kumar Mangalam Birla

CHENNAI: Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla on Tuesday mixed nostalgia, humour and hard-earned boardroom lessons as he traced his family's ties with Tamil Nadu and the evolution of the diversified group to argue that enduring institutions are built not by legacy alone, but by purpose, long-term thinking, scale and the ability to reinvent themselves.



Delivering the keynote address at the 190th annual general meeting of the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Birla struck a personal note by recalling that his name was chosen by his great-grandfather while he was in south India and that his mother, who grew up in Madurai, speaks fluent Tamil. Though he never learnt the language, he joked that he understood the emotion behind "Whistle Pooti" before gulping that "Be Sala Cup Nande" had finally become "a statement of fact."

Travelling parallels between MCCI's 190-year journey and the Aditya Birla Group's own evolution,

he said institutions that successfully renew themselves across generations deserve as much admiration as start-ups. While the group's legacy stretches back more than 160 years, it is only 30 years since it became a unified brand in 1996 by integrating businesses with distinct histories under one identity. "The greatest strength of a legacy institution is its ability to remain forever young. Legacy may give you the licence to exist. But foresight and dynamism give you the right to lead," he said here.

He also said Grasim today has 10 business lines, a \$20-billion top line and a combined market capitalisation exceeding \$65 billion.

Birla distilled his experience into four principles. Purpose, he said, is "a gravitational force" that helps institutions outlive individuals, citing GD Birla's 1973 belief that companies should be judged by "how much the company cares", decades before CSR and ESG became corporate lingo.

Long-term thinking, he said, was exemplified by Hindalco's \$8-billion acquisition of Novelis, initially criticised as his "Waterloo moment" but now an \$18-billion business. On scale, he pointed to UltraTech Cement's rise to over 200 million tonnes of capacity (helped by the acquisition of the Chennai-based India Cements) making it the world's largest cement producer, outside China. UltraTech added more than 50 million tonnes of capacity in FY25 and FY26 and increased operating cash flow by 50 per cent in FY26 despite global disruptions.

Responding to questions after

his address, Birla said geopolitical conflicts and supply chain disruptions had reinforced the importance of resilient supply chains, deep customer relationships and onshoring.

He also expressed confidence that India could emerge as a global manufacturing hub, saying the country has the market, talent and resources, and that "the stars seem to be aligned" despite existing challenges. Manufacturing remains critical for employment generation, he noted.

On leadership, Birla said the Aditya Birla Group is "a people-run organisation" with high levels of delegation and empowerment, supported by rigorous leadership development and a strong corporate centre. "The institution lowers the personal cost of bold decision-making," he said, adding businesses should aspire to be No 1 or No 2 in their sectors while keeping a sharp focus on cash flows. Meanwhile, A. Viswanathan, president, Delphi TVS, assumed office as the new chief of MCCI after Champalal Samra's advisor Ramkumar Shankar's term at the chamber came to an end.

Scale and onshoring shielded us from geopolitical shocks: Birla

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of Aditya Birla Group, said that massive scale provides the resilience needed to absorb macro-economic shocks, pointing out that UltraTech Cement increased its operating cash flow by 50% amid geopolitical tensions that disrupted supply chains and fuel costs across sectors.

Speaking at the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry event on Tuesday, he said the group remained unscathed from the recent geopolitical disruptions and emphasised that building sticky relationships with customers and onshoring helped them absorb shocks, similar to what helped them navigate the disruptions during the Covid-19 pandemic. "We have been pretty unscathed even though we have a presence across so many countries... We have been able to pass on the extra cost to the customers and have to reemphasise



“Execution discipline across dozens of plants and thousands of dealers gives the confidence that no large disruption can impact the destiny of the company

KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA
Chairman | Aditya Birla Group

the benefit of onshoring and having deep relationships with customers, suppliers and the entire value chain. The importance of that came to the fore during Covid," he said. He said the benefits of scale extend far beyond lower production costs and can reshape industry economics.

In capital-intensive sectors like cement, scale creates certainty, encouraging suppliers to innovate, technology partners to invest, logistics providers to optimise and customers to build long-term relationships. Over time, this strengthens the industrial ecosystem, improves capacity utilisation and makes capital more productive, he said.

Execution discipline across dozens of plants and thousands of dealers gives the confidence that no large disruption can impact the destiny of the company, he said, adding that making transformational bets may be unpopular in the short term but create sustained value over time.

"Our entry into cement, financial services and, later, renewables reflected our conviction in India's long-term growth story. More recently, our entry into paints and B2B e-commerce reflects the same philosophy. That of identifying large opportunities where our institutional strengths create a genuine right to win," he added.

'Purpose, long-term bets build enduring businesses'

Our Bureau
Chennai

Long-term bets, and not quarterly performance reviews, build enduring businesses, industry titan Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group, said here on Tuesday.

"The best businesses are built by looking beyond the next quarter to the next decade. That often means making transformational bets that may be unpopular in the short term, but create sustained value over a period of time," Birla said in his address at the 190th annual general meeting of the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) in Chennai.

Birla recounted the 2007 acquisition of Novelis by Hindalco, describing it as an unpopular decision that ultimately

transformed the company into a global value-added aluminium leader. "Long-term thinking demands conviction," he said.

On questions on how the behemoth group tackles macroeconomic "fluctuations", Birla noted that they have remained fairly protected despite their global presence.

EXTRA COSTS

"In most cases, we have been able to pass on the extra costs, largely the fuel price increase, to customers," he said, adding that long-term relationships with suppliers have also been leveraged and have helped them.

With regard to India's manufacturing prowess falling to frep to its full potential,



LASTING LEGACY: Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group, with MCCI President Ramkumar Shankar (left) and A. Viswanathan in Chennai on Tuesday.

ing powerhouse, and he was as unclear as others on why the manufacturing has fallen short. "It is important that we as an industry invest in manufacturing, and I believe the stars are now aligned," the industrialist said.

Birla also noted a need to engage with "GenZ" workforce cohort, differently. "Earlier, we used to think of culture as one single binding

young forever, to draw confidence from its roots but never be constrained by them," he said, congratulating MCCI for a legacy as long as two centuries.

He argued that scale is not just about achieving better cost structures, but changing industry economics by attracting suppliers, technology partners and capital. He cited UltraTech Cement's journey as evidence of the power of scale. "Today, we have over 200 million tonnes of capacity, and UltraTech is the largest cement company in the world, other than in China," he said.

MCCI's appointed A. Viswanathan, President, Delphi TVS Technologies Ltd., and Marali Vaidyanathan, President, Wheel India Ltd., as the new President and Vice-President of the Chamber, respectively, in Tuesday's AGM.

On building enduring institutions of scale, Birla said that constant reinvention is important. "The greatest strength of a legacy institution such as ours is its ability to remain