MCCI
The Madras Chamber

CHAMBER IN-TOUCH

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

www.madraschamber.in

The Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

1. 11th August 2026
   Meeting with Officials from EHIME Prefectural Government, Japan

2. 19th August 2026
   Interaction with Officials from Israel Trade Commission, Bengaluru

3. 19th August 2026
   Madras Day Celebrations -
   America 250 – Madras 387: A Long Business Connect

4. 29th August 2026
   Workshop on New Labour Code - Implications for the Banking Sector

5. 16th-18th September 2026
   MCCI & IIM Trichy - Joint Certification Programme on "Women on Boards: Executive Leadership & Board Readiness Programme

6. 24th September 2026
   PHYGITAL 2026: India's Next Growth Frontier - Physical AI & Smart Infrastructure

7. 29th September 2026
   Chamber Day

PROGRAMS - AUGUST 2026

1 11th August 2026

Meeting with Officials from EHIME Prefectural Government, Japan



After the successful business interaction and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MCCI, the Ehime Prefectural Government, and the Ehime Prefectural Federation of Chambers of Commerce on 4th February 2025, the Chamber has continued its engagement with Ehime to promote trade and business cooperation.

Eleven representatives of the Ehime Prefecture, Japan, visited the Chamber for an interaction and discussion regarding the proposed visit of their delegation in February 2027.

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2 19th August 2026

Interaction with Officials from Israel Trade Commission, Bengaluru

The Chamber had an interaction with the following officials from Israel Trade Commission Bengaluru at the MCCI Conference Hall.

Mr. Yair Osheroff, Head of Trade and Economic Mission, Bengaluru,
Mr. Vineeth, Manager Trade and Invest &
Ms.Kavitha S, Director, Trade and Invest

They had invited the Chamber to be a part of the Round table with the Israel Water Tech Delegation on 20th August 2026 and the invitation was shared with the members of the Chamber.



Mr. A Viswanathan, President, MCCI, Ms. Saraswathi, Secretary General, MCCI and Mr. Alex Koshy Co Chair, International Cooperation Committee Co chair interacted with the members of Israel Trade Commission.

The meeting provided an opportunity to explore potential collaborations, technology partnerships and business opportunities in the water and wastewater sector.

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19th August 2026

Madras Day Celebrations - America 250 – Madras 387: A Long Business Connect



As part of the Madras Day celebrations, the Chamber organized “America 250 – Madras 387: A Long Business Connect”.

Mr. V.Sriram made an insightful presentation on the long-standing historical and business connections between Madras and America.

The programme provided an opportunity to celebrate the heritage of Madras while highlighting its enduring international business and diplomatic connections.

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Workshop on New Labour Code - Implications for the Banking Sector

29th August 2026



Mr. A. Viswanathan, President, MCCI, Ms. Saraswathi, Secretary General, MCCI and Mr. Alex Koshy Co Chair, International Cooperation Committee Co chair interacted with the members of Israel Trade Commission.

The meeting provided an opportunity to explore potential collaborations, technology partnerships and business opportunities in the water and wastewater sector.

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Governing Council Meeting

The Governing Council Meeting was held on 8th August 2026



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Expert Committee Meetings

The Expert Committee Chair & Co-Chair Meeting was held on 8th August 2026



Company Law / Corporate Matters - 18th August 2026



Legal Affairs - 27th August 2026



Direct Taxes - 28th August 2026



Other Meetings

Vettri Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave

13th August 2026

The Chamber participated in the Vettri Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave held in Chennai, which brought together the Government and the business and investment community to showcase Tamil Nadu as a preferred investment destination.

The Conclave highlighted the State's continuing focus on attracting investments, strengthening its manufacturing and industrial ecosystem and creating employment opportunities. The event also provided an opportunity for interaction with key stakeholders and to understand the emerging investment opportunities and priorities of the State.

Mr. A. Viswanathan, President, MCCI; Ms. K. Saraswathi , Secretary General, MCCI; Mr. V.G. Sakthikumar; and Mr. S. Kalyanaraman, Members of the GC represented the Chamber at the Conclave.

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Tirupur Decarbonization & Clean Energy Zone at Knit Show 2026

21st to 23rd August 2026

The Chamber participated as a supporting partner to Auroville Consulting for the Decarbonization Technology Fair at Tirupur Knit Show 2026, held from 21–23 August 2026.



As part of its support to the initiative, the Chamber identified and facilitated suitable companies to occupy 10 stalls at the venue. This enabled relevant industry and technology providers to showcase their solutions and engage directly with textile manufacturers and exporters attending the Knit Show.

The Chamber extended its support to the Decarbonisation Advisory Clinic organised by Auroville Consulting. The clinic provided one-to-one advisory support across areas such as EU CBAM and Digital Product Passport readiness, clean energy, process-heat electrification and heat pumps, energy-efficient utilities, and EV-based logistics.

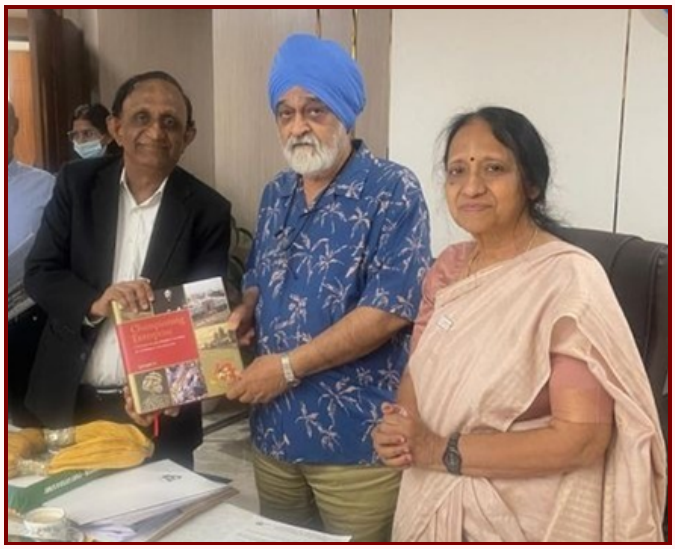
The programme also included panel discussions and expert sessions on key issues relating to decarbonization and export competitiveness. Ms. K. Saraswathi, Secretary-General, MCCI, moderated the panel discussion on "Navigating Compliance", which focused on emerging international requirements, including EU CBAM and Digital Product Passport (DPP), and their implications for the textile industry.

The Chamber's participation provided an opportunity to engage with the Tirupur textile industry, technology providers and other stakeholders, while contributing to discussions on decarbonization, regulatory compliance and strengthening the competitiveness of the textile and export sector.

Revenue Augmentation Committee Meeting

27th August 2026

The Chamber participated in the stakeholder consultation convened by the Revenue Augmentation Committee, Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia. The Chamber was represented by Mr. A. Viswanathan, President, MCCI, and Ms. K. Saraswathi, Secretary General, MCCI.



The Chamber presented actionable recommendations for strengthening Tamil Nadu's tax and non-tax revenue framework, while ensuring that the State continues to maintain a competitive and business-friendly environment.

PROGRAMS - SEPTEMBER 2026

5 MCCI & IIM Trichy - Joint Certification Programme on "Women on Boards: Executive Leadership & Board Readiness Programme

16th-18th September 2026

The Chamber in association with IIM Tiruchirappalli, successfully conducted the three-day “Women on Boards”- An Executive Leadership & Board Readiness Programme”, marking MCCI’s first collaboration with IIM Tiruchirappalli. The programme brought together 17 women professionals from different MCCI member organisations, providing them with a focused learning experience on executive leadership, corporate governance and boardroom readiness.



The programme received very encouraging feedback from the participants, who appreciated the quality of the faculty, practical insights and relevance of the sessions to their professional and leadership roles.

The programme also provided an opportunity for participants to interact and build a peer network.

The programme was supported by the MCCI Women Business Council, with Ms. Shobhana P. Ravi, Chair, and Dr. CMA Subhashini Krishnan, Co-Chair, and the IIM Tiruchirappalli faculty and team.

6 PHYGITAL 2026: India’s Next Growth Frontier - Physical AI & Smart Infrastructure

24th September 2026

The Chamber successfully organised PHYGITAL 2026, with the theme “India’s Next Growth Frontier – Physical AI & Smart Infrastructure”, bringing together industry leaders, technology experts, manufacturing professionals, IT/ITES leaders, BFSI representatives, startups, SMEs and other stakeholders.

The programme commenced with the Welcome Remarks by Mr. Murali Vaidyanathan, Vice President, MCCI & President, Wheels India Ltd., followed by the context-setting address by Mr. L. Ashok, Chair, MCCI IT/ITES Committee. The programme featured insightful special addresses by Mr. Prabhakar Venugopal, Senior Director, Hitachi Vantara, and Mr. Vinodh Kumar, Vice President, Guidance Tamil Nadu, and a Keynote Address by Mr. Ganesh Mani S, CEO, Switch Mobility & COO, Ashok Leyland.



The sessions and discussions focused on the emerging role of Physical AI, intelligent technologies and smart infrastructure in transforming manufacturing and business, and their potential to drive the next phase of industrial growth.

The event was attended by over 150 industry professionals and leaders from diverse sectors, providing a platform for knowledge sharing, industry dialogue, collaboration and networking.

The event was supported by Hitachi Vantara, Elastic and Citrix ASEAN & South Asia as sponsors. The programme received positive participation from industry and provided an opportunity to continue the dialogue on technology, innovation and the development of a smarter industrial ecosystem.

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7 Chamber Day

29th September 2026

The Chamber celebrated its 190th Chamber Day on 29th September 2026. The celebration brought together MCCI members, business leaders, industry stakeholders and distinguished guests for an evening of reflection, dialogue and networking.

The programme commenced with the Welcome Remarks by Mr. Murali Vaidyanathan, President, Wheels India Ltd. & Vice President, MCCI, followed by a presentation highlighting the Chamber's activities and its continued role in supporting the business community.



Mr. Cameron Noble, Deputy Consul General, Australian Consulate-General, Chennai, was the Guest of Honour. In his address, he highlighted the growing Australia–India economic and trade partnership, the importance of Tamil Nadu as an investment destination and opportunities for collaboration in areas including manufacturing, clean energy, technology, education, skills and resilient supply chains.



MCCI 191 logo was launched on this special occasion.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Jairam Varadaraj, Managing Director, ELGI Equipments Ltd., shared valuable insights on employee ownership, trust, productivity, continuous improvement, global competitiveness and the impact of Artificial Intelligence on businesses.

Long Service Awards were also presented to Mr. A. Elumalai and Mr. R. Suresh in recognition of their dedicated service and valuable contributions to MCCI over more than two decades.

The event was supported by sponsors and member companies and concluded with the Vote of Thanks by Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Past President.

Governing Council Meeting

The Governing Council Meeting was held on 12th September 2026



Expert Committee Meetings

GST - 1st September 2026



Company Law / Corporate Matters - 8th September 2026



Other Meetings

Interaction with Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



Mr. A Viswanathan, President, MCCI & Mr. Murali Vaidyanathan, VP, MCCI met Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry at his office in Delhi.

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Interaction with Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance, Government of India



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India-Kazakhstan Business, Trade & Investment Forum 2026

8th September 2026

India–Kazakhstan Business, Trade & Investment Forum 2026 was held on 8th September 2026. A 150-member Kazakh business delegation participated to explore trade, investment, manufacturing and business partnerships.



The Forum included sectoral discussions and B2B/G2B meetings, with focus on sectors including pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, mining, food processing, renewables and logistics. A few of the Chamber members participated and engaged with the visiting Kazakh government and business delegation.

Ms.K.Saraswathi and Mr. G.Loganathan represented the Chamber.

Roundtable with Chennai Resilience Centre WAL Project

8th September 2026

Under the Sustainable Chennai Forum, the Chamber, in partnership with Water as Leverage (WaL) and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), convened a focused roundtable with companies having campuses or operations in the Neithal–Muttukadu Basin.



The discussion focused on Nature-Based Solutions for corporate campuses, drawing on the Little Flower Convent (LFC) Water Balance Project and the proposed Neithal–Muttukadu Water Resilience Initiative.

Representatives from TCS, Grundfos Pumps, Intellect Design Arena, HCL Tech, Ford India and Kaleesuwari participated.

The discussion highlighted opportunities for decentralised water management, wastewater reuse, groundwater recharge and other nature-based solutions, and explored how corporates could contribute as key partners in advancing water and climate resilience including through ESG, CSR and other financing models.

Australia–India Industry & Research Dialogue with a delegation from Adelaide University

17th September 2026



The Chamber participated in the South Australia–Tamil Nadu Dialogue on "Aligning Academia, Industry and Government for National Development and Growth" supported by the Australian Consulate-General, Austrade and the Government of South Australia. Mr. Raghuttama Rao, MCCI Governing Council Member and Chair, MCCI Startup Committee, participated as a panellist alongside distinguished representatives from academia and industry, including Prof. David Lewis, Dr. Rajeev Kamineni, Dr. Arumugam Murukiah and Prof. Rajnish Kumar, with the session moderated by Prof. Preeti Aghalayam, Dean – Global Engagement, IIT Madras. The discussion focused on strengthening academia–industry–government collaboration, innovation, research translation, skills development and opportunities for cross-border partnerships between South Australia and Tamil Nadu.

Chamber in Media

We do not believe in just creating employment, but in making it high value, says Elgi Equipments MD

Our Bureau
Chennai

Global companies must compete on the strength of their technology, value and pricing rather than relying on low labour costs or being positioned as low-cost manufacturers, Jairam Varadaraj, MD, Elgi Equipments, said here on Tuesday.

"At Elgi, we want to make our labour expensive and still be competitive. We do not believe in just creating employment, but in making it high value," he said.

He urged businesses to not use people to "just bridge broken processes".



Jairam Varadaraj, MD, Elgi Equipments Ltd, and Cameron Noble, Australian Deputy Consul-General in Chennai BIJOY GHOSH

Varadaraj was speaking at the 190th Chamber Day Celebrations of the Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI).

Interestingly, Varadaraj noted that Elgi had a goal in the next 5-6 years to make all employees as owners. "We have already started this for three levels of employees and more will be added," he said.

TRUST IN TIES

"We don't have any union or wage agreement with our workers. We operate on a principled understanding that standard of living will be protected," he said, noting that high levels of trust drive their relationship.

Cameron Noble, Deputy Consul-General Australian Consulate-General, Chennai, the guest of honour at the event, said that the Australia-India relationship is entering a new phase of greater scale, momentum and opportunity.

He referred to the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), which came into force in 2022, as a significant milestone in bilateral trade relations.

Australia's roadmap for strengthening economic relations with India is focused on four key areas of clean energy, education and skills, agribusiness and tourism, he said.