

BRICS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

BUILDING BUSINESS- BRICS AND BEYOND



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NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER



Ms. Amrita Chowdhury **CEO and Co-Founder** **Gaia Smart Cities**

Ms. Amrita Chowdhury, a distinguished business strategist, engineer, and innovator, boasts an impressive academic background with a B.Tech. from IIT Kanpur, an MS from UC Berkeley, and an MBA from Carnegie Mellon. Her expertise is underscored by seven US patents in semiconductor manufacturing. Currently, she stands as the CEO and Co-Founder of Gaia, a global SaaS venture specializing in deep learning solutions.

Beyond her technical achievements, Amrita actively contributes to both public and private sectors. She serves on the boards of Simmonds Marshall, Nesco, and Mahindra Lifespace, showcasing her commitment to steering diverse organizations towards success. Particularly passionate about leveraging technology for societal benefit, Amrita has led Gaia in the development of national-scale e-governance platforms, earning accolades and awards for her impactful contributions.

Amrita's global professional journey includes significant roles at esteemed organizations such as DY Works, Harlequin, Harvard Business School, and AT Kearney. Her commitment to community and industry development is evident in her co-founding of TiE Melbourne and her active involvement in various committees.

In addition to her business acumen, Amrita is a prolific content creator. She has authored two fiction books, co-authored white papers, and earned recognition as a commentator on business, technology, and marketing. Amrita Chowdhury stands as a dynamic leader whose diverse skill set, global experience, and commitment to positive change make her a notable figure in the realms of business and technology.

NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER



Ms. Anitha Jayamurugan **Vice-President,** **SNJ Group of Companies**

Anitha Jayamurugan residing in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, holds a master's degree in business studies from Melbourne University and an undergraduate degree in Law (LLB) from Lancaster University. In 2019, she joined the SNJ Group of Companies as Vice-President with the objective of developing cost efficiencies and creating sustainable business practices.

She is the second daughter of Mr. S. N. Jayamurugan, Chairman, and Managing Director of SNJ Group, who has made waves in the market with his innovative business approaches and diversified portfolio. He set up world-class distillery and brewery units across India at the young age of 55. Playing a pivotal role, he has taken the company to international standards by acquiring the best talents, leading to phenomenal growth. Anitha Jayamurugan, with her experience and under the guidance of her father, aims to take the company to new heights.

This family-owned enterprise is renowned for its passion for business, with each succeeding generation building on the legacy of the previous. Today, SNJ markets its products, including liquor, beer, and sugar, across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Pondicherry, Karaikal, and Mahe in India. Additionally, SNJ exports its products to Malaysia, UAE, Bahrain, and Singapore.

The Group employs some of the most motivated professionals in the industry and is driven by a leadership team that has demonstrated assertiveness and conviction to win. SNJ's refined focus on crafting high-quality products, adopting the best management practices, ensuring customer satisfaction, and providing the best employment opportunities makes it one of the top brands in India today, contributing to the growth of the industry and the nation's economy.

Today, the SNJ Group encompasses all businesses related to Liquor, Sugar, Power, Packaging, Transport, Hotels, and Exports.

NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER



Mr. Rakesh Jain
Managing Director
Curio Group

CURIO GROUP stands as a testament to visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence in Manufacturing and Exports. Founded in 1993 by Mr. Rakesh and Ms. Poonam Jain, the company's humble beginnings in a basement with a small team have blossomed into an industry force. Under the stewardship of Mr. Rakesh Jain, CURIO GROUP has evolved into a trusted brand specializing in Metal and Glass Home Décor, as well as Housework Kitchen products, exporting directly to the USA and the Middle East. The company's success is attributed to its core values of Trust, Uniqueness, Inclusiveness, and Inspiration, reflected in its high-quality, modern home decor creations. With an unwavering focus on detail, impeccable craftsmanship, and building enduring customer relationships, CURIO GROUP has become a household name at home and globally. Mr. Rakesh Jain's leadership has been instrumental in steering the company toward becoming a beacon of trust and innovation in the competitive world of home decor manufacturing.

Mr. Rakesh Jain's visionary leadership has propelled CURIO GROUP to new heights, transforming it into one of the most trusted brands globally. The company's commitment to producing high-quality and modern home decor, coupled with a strong customer focus, has solidified its position in the market. With values rooted in trust, uniqueness, inclusiveness, and inspiration, CURIO GROUP continues to inspire homes and hearts, making it a symbol of enduring craftsmanship and innovation.

NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER



Mr. Vimal Sarada

**Proprietor
Shree Associates**

ShreeAssociates, based in the vibrant heart of Delhi , celebrates a proud legacy of 12 successful years in the business, emerging as a distinguished player in the realm of office equipment rentals. Established in 2012, our company has been steadfast in its commitment to providing top-notch solutions in the form of photocopier rental, laptop rental, and printer rental services. At Shree Associates, we understand the dynamic needs of the modern workplace, and our comprehensive range of offerings is designed to seamlessly integrate with the evolving requirements of businesses across industries.

Our Photocopier Rental services have been a cornerstone of our success, allowing businesses to access cutting-edge photocopying technology without the burden of some costs of ownership. We pride ourselves on offering a diverse fleet of high-performance photocopiers from renowned brands, ensuring that our clients experience optimal efficiency and productivity in their daily operations. Whether it's a compact unit for a small office or robust, multifunctional device for a large corporate space, Shree Associates caters to the unique photocopying needs of each client.

NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER



Mr. Rahul Gupta
Founder
Pinnacle Enterprises

Pinnacle Enterprises, established in 2012, is the authorized distributor for esteemed brands such as United Colors of Benetton, Wildcraft, Tommy Hilfiger, Trident, and Pebble, exclusively serving North India. Specializing in end-to-end corporate gifting, the company boasts a clientele of over 400 corporate entities.

Beyond distribution, Pinnacle Enterprises has diversified into manufacturing customized promotional merchandise, including T-Shirts, Caps, Bags, Gift Sets, and other promotional materials. This bespoke approach reflects the company's commitment to delivering personalized solutions that align with each client's brand identity and promotional goals.

In the last fiscal year, Pinnacle Enterprises achieved a commendable turnover of 20 Crores, attesting to its market presence and effective strategies. With a forward-looking perspective, the company projects a turnover of 35 Crores for the current fiscal year, indicative of its confidence in capturing new opportunities and sustaining growth.

Pinnacle Enterprises is recognized for its commitment to quality, innovation, and client-centric solutions, making it a dynamic and forward-thinking entity in the corporate gifting and distribution sector.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS**She-Tech Asia Forum 2023 Kuching,
Sarawak, Malaysia**

Mr. Sameep Shastri's (Vice Chairman, BRICS CCI) presence at the She-Tech Asia Forum 2023 in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia was a catalyst for discussions on the evolving landscape of technology and its impact on sustainable development. As the Vice Chairman of BRICS CCI, he brought a global perspective to the forefront, emphasizing the transformative potential of innovation in driving economic growth and social inclusivity. The dual themes of the event, "Fulfilling the Promise of the Digital Age" and "Advancing Digital Economy for Sustainable Development," aligned seamlessly with his insights on digital assets.

His articulate commentary sparked conversations not only on the challenges posed by rapid technological advancements but also on the collaborative strategies needed to harness these changes for the greater good. By weaving together notions of economic prosperity, social inclusivity, and environmental sustainability, Mr. Sameep Shastri underscored the interconnectedness of these elements in shaping a holistic and forward-looking digital future.

In essence, his valuable contributions at the She-Tech Asia Forum positioned him as a thought leader in the dynamic intersection of technology and sustainability, advocating for concerted efforts to navigate this transformative era with a focus on positive and sustainable outcomes.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

26th Annual Business Convention, "Erudition" NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi



Mr. Ruhail Ranjan, the Director of Finance at BRICS CCI, graced the the 26th Annual Business Convention, "Erudition", held at the NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi, as a Chief Guest on 5th October, 2023. The convention, organized by the prestigious Delhi School of Economics, held under the theme, "India's Inspirational Leadership at the Global Stage - Empowering and Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders," exemplified the importance of visionary leadership and the role of experienced professionals in shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

His participation in the event served as an embodiment of the collaboration between the academic world and industry, emphasizing the importance of bridging the gap between theory and practice.

Mr. Ranjan's insights and experiences in the field of finance and commerce were invaluable in conveying the importance of mentorship, education, and the practical application of knowledge in shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

His presence at the event undoubtedly left a lasting impact on the students, inspiring them to aspire for leadership roles and providing a unique opportunity to learn from a distinguished figure in the world of finance and international cooperation.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

Russian Delegation Unveils the “World Youth Festival 2024” in Delhi: An Extravaganza of Cross-Cultural Engagement



A delegation from Russia visited Delhi in the month of October to disseminate exciting news about the eagerly anticipated "World Youth Festival" slated to take place in Russia in early 2024. This vibrant delegation, in collaboration with BRICS CCI (BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry), took the initiative to extend invitations to numerous youth organizations in Delhi in order to foster global youth engagement and cultural exchange.

During its visit, the Russian delegation presented comprehensive presentations, offering insights into the festival's key features and outlining the registration process. They brought to light the festival's focus on fostering cross-cultural connections, celebrating diversity, and promoting the spirit of youth empowerment and unity. The event aims to provide a platform for young people from diverse backgrounds to share their experiences, ideas, and talents to open up possibilities for future collaborations.

The "World Youth Festival" promises to be an exceptional celebration of youth and culture, featuring various activities, ranging from art exhibitions, musical performances, cultural showcases, to discussions on pressing global issues. By encouraging international participation and cooperation, the festival seeks to harness the collective potential of the world's youth to address mutual challenges and inspire positive change.

The delegation's visit served as a catalyst for strengthening international ties and collaboration between the Russian and Indian youth. It also marked the beginning of an exciting journey towards the upcoming festival, where young people from Delhi and around the world can look forward to an enriching cultural experience.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

The 8th BRICS International Competition Conference (ICC)

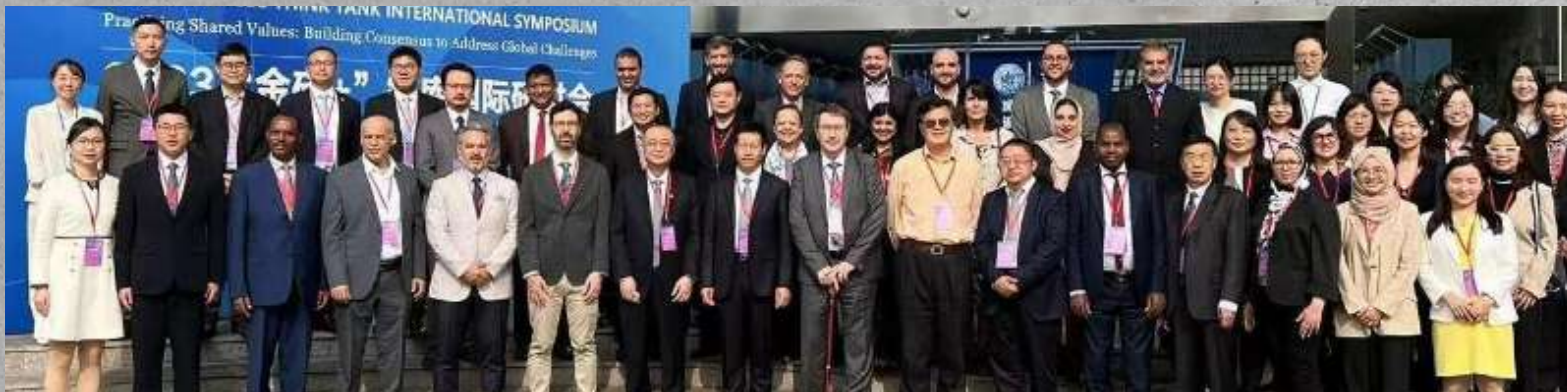


The 8th BRICS International Competition Conference (ICC), organized by the Competition Commission of India was attended by the BRICS CCI team. It is an important event under the framework of the BRICS Leaders Meeting that began with the meeting of the Heads of State of BRICS (then BRIC) countries in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on 16th June 2009. This is the biennial conference, hosted by BRICS competition authorities on rotation basis. The first conference was organized by Russia in September 2009, followed by China, India, South Africa, and Brazil. After 2013, it is after 10 years that the hosting rights of the 8th BRICS ICC 2023 have been handed over to India.

This year's theme was "New Issues in Competition Law and Policy - Dimensions • Perspectives • Challenges". The conference provided a forum for participants to engage in meaningful discussions on various dimensions of competition law and policy. These dimensions encompassed a wide range of issues, such as the impact of digitalization and technology on competition, the evolving role of antitrust enforcement in the global economy, and the challenges presented by mergers and acquisitions in the contemporary business environment. Participants also explored the perspective of consumer welfare and how competition law and policy can best serve the interests of the general public.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

Global BRICS Plus symposium in Shanghai, China



We are thrilled to announce that **Ms. Amrita Chowdhury**, one of our esteemed **members**, recently represented the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the BRICS+ Symposium in Shanghai. This prestigious event brought together delegates from 22 different countries, creating a truly global platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange. Amrita's participation in this symposium served as a testament to her dedication and expertise in our field, showcasing our organization's commitment to contributing to global dialogues.

The symposium provided Amrita with a unique opportunity to engage with peers and experts from various countries, fostering international cooperation and facilitating the exchange of invaluable insights. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Amrita for her representation, which undoubtedly contributed to our organization's growth and global recognition.

As we reflect on the success of Amrita's participation, we eagerly anticipate hearing about the enriching experiences and knowledge gained during this remarkable event. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to celebrate our members' achievements and their significant contributions to our organization's success on the global stage.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS**BRICS+ Fashion Summit, Moscow, Russia**

We're excited to share that our distinguished **Vice Chairman, Mr. Sameep Shastri**, is **currently representing BRICS CCI** at the BRICS+ Fashion Summit in Moscow, Russia, from November 29th to December 2nd, 2023. Mr. Shastri will not only be attending but will also be a speaker in two insightful discussions.

The first discussion, titled "Strategic Entry: Expanding a Fashion Brand into New Markets," explores the challenges and opportunities involved in taking a fashion brand into new markets. Mr. Shastri will provide valuable insights into this strategic endeavor, drawing from his extensive experience and expertise.

Additionally, Mr. Shastri will be part of a unique session called "Reverse Pitch: Country Expert Session - India." This session is designed to help companies looking to expand into new markets by connecting with experts and marketers from different regions. Mr. Shastri has been invited to present his expertise on the Indian market in a 15-minute pitch, offering valuable insights to participants who can engage by asking questions.

His participation in these discussions not only highlights his influential role but also emphasizes our commitment to fostering collaboration and innovation within the global fashion industry. Stay tuned for updates as Mr. Sameep Shastri contributes to shaping the future of fashion on an international scale during this dynamic summit.

BUSINESS MEETS AND EVENTS

"NAYA DAUR, NAI SAJHEDARI" SESSION AT LAKSHMIBAI COLLEGE



The "Naya Daur, Nai Sajhedari" session held on November 29, 2023, as a part of the Bharat-UK G-20 Heritage Meet hosted by Lakshmibai College, marked a pivotal moment in fostering entrepreneurial zeal among students. Organized in collaboration with the Culture Council, University of Delhi, this session focused on the crucial nexus between an entrepreneurial spirit and burgeoning trade relations.

A highlight of the event was the insightful discourse delivered by **Ms Sharmishtha Ghosh, Governing Body member, BRICS CCI and Founder- MD of In Tandem Global Consulting**. Her expertise illuminated the essence of startups and women entrepreneurship. Ms Ghosh's address provided students with an insightful array of startup-related facts, exemplars, and basic terminologies.

Ms Ghosh passionately advocated for the cultivation of entrepreneurial acumen among students, emphasizing the government's role in nurturing startups and budding entrepreneurs. She articulated the significance of fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem within the college, encouraging students to explore this innovative avenue. She also talked briefly about India-UK trade relations.

MsGhosh's elucidation on thriving sectors and industries poised for growth provided valuable guidance to students contemplating their future professional endeavors.

The "Naya Daur, Nai Sajhedari" session encapsulated a blend of knowledge dissemination and impassioned encouragement, fostering a renewed enthusiasm among students to embrace entrepreneurship as a means to shape a promising future. It was a remarkable testament to Lakshmibai College's commitment to nurturing visionary leaders and fostering a culture of innovation.

This event served as a cornerstone in our collective pursuit of empowering the next generation of entrepreneurial trailblazers and underscored the pivotal role education plays in shaping a vibrant and enterprising society.

BRICS AND BEYOND NEWS

COMMERCE SECRETARY ATTENDS 6TH INDIA-BRAZIL TRADE MONITORING MECHANISM MEETING IN BRAZIL

Secretary of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Sunil Barthwal, embarked on an official visit to Brazil from October 1st to October 4th, 2023, to partake in the 6th meeting of the India-Brazil Trade Monitoring Mechanism (TMM). Accompanied by a delegation representing

the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Shri Barthwal commended Brazil for their support during India's G20 Presidency and affirmed India's commitment to reciprocate the favor during Brazil's G20 Presidency. The visit, set against the backdrop of remarkable growth in bilateral trade, aimed to bolster this burgeoning commercial relationship. Key highlights included discussions with Brazilian officials and meetings with prominent Brazilian organizations. The visit signaled a promising future for India-Brazil trade relations with a strong emphasis on exploring new trade opportunities and enhancing bilateral integration through Global Value Chains.



Source: PIB Delhi



INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA FORGE MOU IN ENERGY AND SUPPLY CHAINS AT MENA CLIMATE WEEK

India and Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the MENA Climate Week in Riyadh on 8th October, 2023. The MoU, signed by India's Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh, and Saudi Arabia's

Minister of Energy, Mr. Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud, focuses on cooperation in electrical interconnections, green/clean hydrogen, and supply chains. Both nations plan to enhance their energy sector collaboration and establish complete supply and value chains through regular B2B interactions. During the MENA Climate Week, India showcased its commitment to sustainability and energy transition, emphasizing its role as a leader in the energy landscape.

Source: PIB Delhi

BRICS AND BEYOND NEWS

BRICS NATIONS LEAD GLOBAL NUCLEAR ENERGY EXPANSION

As the world looks to embrace nuclear energy as a significant contributor to sustainable power generation, several nations are taking bold steps towards expanding their nuclear capabilities. As of October 2023, China is at the forefront of the global nuclear energy push, with a staggering 24 new nuclear reactors in the pipeline, one set to be operational this year. Meanwhile, India is on track to connect eight new nuclear power plants by 2027, marking its commitment to sustainable energy. Significantly, three future BRICS members - the UAE, Egypt, and Argentina - are actively constructing new nuclear reactors. This collective drive demonstrates BRICS nations' dedication to advancing their nuclear energy capacity in line with global climate objectives. As nuclear energy emerges as a mid-term solution for cleaner power, there also ongoing discussions revolving around addressing long-term storage and safety concerns.



Source: ET, ZeroHedge



8TH BRICS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION CONFERENCE UNFOLDS IN NEW DELHI, INDIA

The 8th BRICS International Competition Conference, organized by the Competition Commission of India (CCI), concluded in New Delhi on October 13, 2023. With the theme of "New Issues in Competition Law and Policy Dimensions, Perspectives and Challenges," the two-day event brought together over 600 delegates from around the world. In his closing remarks, Dr. Manoj Govil, Ministry of Corporate Affairs Secretary, emphasized the global significance of BRICS countries and their role in fostering collaboration in competition law. The conference delved into emerging dimensions in competition law, with a joint statement for the exchange of best practices. The 9th BRICS International Competition Conference will be hosted by South Africa in 2025, led by commissioner of the Competition Commission of South Africa, Doris Tshepe. This biennial event serves as a platform for cooperation, experience sharing, and mutual learning among BRICS competition authorities.

Source: CCI_India, All India Radio News

BRICS AND BEYOND NEWS

FESCO TRANSPORT GROUP TO BOOST VESSELS ON RUSSIAN-INDIAN-CHINESE ROUTE IN 2024

Russia's Fesco Transport Group, a major player in port operations, is gearing up for significant growth. In January 2024, they will increase their vessel count on the direct sea route connecting St.



Petersburg with Indian and Chinese ports from 4 to 6. This expansion aims to enhance their service, with regular runs scheduled every 12 days. Currently, 4 vessels with a capacity of around 2,500 TEU each traverse the Fesco Baltorient Line between St. Petersburg and key destinations in India and China. Additionally, Fesco plans to introduce a second vessel to the Fesco India Line, effectively doubling the service frequency to once every 2 weeks on the Mundra-Nava Sheva-Novorossiysk route. With escalating trade between Russia and China expected to exceed \$200 billion and trade with India set to reach \$50 billion. Fesco has also expanded shipping routes to connect Alexandria in Egypt with Novorossiysk on the Black Sea. This growth signifies an exciting development in the maritime trade landscape and opens up new opportunities for businesses across the region

Source: Russia Briefing

EGYPT TO LAUNCH CURRENCY EXCHANGE WITH CHINA AND UAE IN 2024

In early 2024, Egypt's Central Bank is set to activate a significant currency exchange agreement involving three major financial institutions: the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), the Chinese Central Bank, and the UAE Central Bank. This landmark agreement aims to bolster foreign exchange



liquidity in Egypt, while also facilitating access to the US dollar through the UAE dirham, renowned for its global convertibility. The agreement, valued at LE42 billion for five billion dirhams, will play a vital role in closing Egypt's foreign exchange resource gap, enhancing financial stability, and curbing the trade deficit. Additionally, the Egyptian Businessmen Association member, Ahmed al-Zayat, sees this development as a positive first step in the broader context of currency exchange mechanisms with currencies from the BRICS bloc, an essential driver of global trade and economic stability.

Source: Egypt Independent

BRICS AND BEYOND NEWS

NDB-FUNDED PROJECT TO ENSURE SAFE WATER IN DHAKA GETS GREEN LIGHT

In a groundbreaking move, Bangladesh is set to embark on its inaugural project funded by the New Development Bank (NDB) to secure a safe water supply for Dhaka residents. The Tk 4,440 crore

initiative, titled "Extended Dhaka Water Supply Resilience," will see 78 percent of its funding provided by the NDB. The project involves establishing a 40-kilometre transmission network, a 1,575 km distribution network, and 170 deep tube wells across the capital. Simultaneously, Bangladesh is on the verge of borrowing \$800 million from the NDB for two projects, including the Dhaka-Narayanganj gas pipeline. Another project, "Improvement of Urban Public Health Preventive Services," worth Tk 1,181 crore, focusing on enhancing mosquito control and dengue prevention, is also up for approval at the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council meeting.

Source: DailyStar, The Business Standard



BRICS CCI CSR PRESENTS

CSR | ESG NEWS & VIEWS



DR SUSHI SINGH
 President,
 Centre of Excellence in
 Corporate Social
 Responsibility &
 Sustainable Development,
 BRICS CCI

As President of Centre for CSR | BRICS CCI, it is a delight to collate data for our readers from various reliable resources regarding upcoming trends and impact of CSR| ESG initiatives worldwide. As environmental, social, governance (ESG) continues to become more and more politicized, companies are facing the heat when it comes to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. With revolutionized technology & how brands share their corporate sustainability and social impact progress, we can gain critical insights in ESG |CSR initiatives of all kind of stakeholders accessing their positive reputations that last.

1. Nearly 90% of European market capitalization disclosing environmental impact ahead of mandatory reporting

Oct 18, 2023

As mandatory environmental reporting comes into force from next year for companies in Europe, and expands globally, businesses are disclosing their environmental data in record numbers. This year more than 23,000 companies worth US\$67 trillion disclosed through CDP – including those responding to requests on behalf of over 740 financial institutions worldwide. More than 5,600 European businesses are among those disclosing, including listed companies covering about 89% of the continent's market capitalization. It represents a 26% annual rise in the number of European companies disclosing – above the 24% increase worldwide – with Swatch Group, Interparfums, Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC) and Buzzi among those reporting through CDP for the first time this year.

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BRICS CCI CSR PRESENTS

CSR | ESG NEWS & VIEWS

2. Public sector finance and audit professionals urged to take the lead on the sustainability reporting and assurance agenda

Oct 17, 2023

Across the globe momentum is building for sustainability reporting and assurance in the public sector. The IPSASB decided to move forward with the development of public sector specific sustainability reporting standards beginning with a Climate-Related Disclosures standard. Finance and audit
read more

3. Constellation Brands Details Enhanced Water Withdrawal Restoration Target Benefiting Local Communities in 2023 ESG Impact Report {SOURCE CSRWIRE}

Constellation Brands exceeds water withdrawal restoration target, shares environmental stewardship & social impact commitment updates in 2023 ESG Impact Report
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4. Pizza Hut China Partners With Beijing Aita Animal Protection Foundation To Promote Stray Animal Caring and Adoption

For the second consecutive year, Pizza Hut China has teamed up with the Beijing Aita Animal Protection Foundation, known in Chinese as "Tajijin." This collaboration is a testament to Pizza Hut's innovative approach to diversify its operations and its dedication to fulfilling its social welfare responsibilities.

Building on last year's success, Pizza Hut is expanding its pet-friendly restaurant network to 20 locations in 17 cities across China, providing unique dining experiences for customers and their pets. These restaurants are thoughtfully designed with pet-friendly amenities, including leash hooks and dedicated seating areas, ensuring a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere for all guests.

{Source CSR WIRE}

5. Report: External Pressures Driving CSR Efforts | Corporate Compliance Insights

Corporate Compliance Insights

Just over one in 10 of working professionals say their organizations' corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs are driven by "doing the right .

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BRICS CCI CSR PRESENTS

CSR | ESG NEWS & VIEWS

6. Entegris Advances Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy and Sets New Aspirations {(BUSINESS WIRE)}

ILLERICA, Mass.-- Entegris Inc. (Nasdaq: ENTG), a leading supplier of advanced materials and process solutions for the semiconductor and other high-technology industries, today issued its third annual Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) report. The report, *Unleashing a World of Possibilities*, is available online and provides a comprehensive overview of Entegris' continued efforts to advance the company's CSR strategy across its four key pillars: Innovation, Safety, Personal Development and Inclusion, and Sustainability. This year's report provides an update on Entegris' progress toward its CSR goals set in 2020 and introduces new and updated 2030 goals including reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and landfill waste, and the implementation of an end-of-use circular economy strategy.

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Next we talk of 100 best corporate Citizens & more.....till then

HAPPY READING !





INTERVIEW SECTION

**MR. ASHUTOSH LANDGE, MANAGING DIRECTOR,
 TERASOFT TECHNOLOGIES PVT.LTD.
 GOVERNING BODY MEMBER, BRICS CCI**

Q1. What are some of the key cybersecurity challenges that organizations face today, and how does Terasoft address these challenges?

1. Cyber Threats and Attacks: Organizations are constantly at risk of various cyber threats, including malware, phishing attacks, ransomware, and more sophisticated cyber-attacks.

2. Data Breaches: Protecting sensitive data from unauthorized access, disclosure, or theft is a significant concern. This includes customer data, financial information, intellectual property, and more.

3. Compliance and Regulations: Organizations need to comply with various industry-specific regulations and data protection laws, such as GDPR, HIPAA, or PCI-DSS, which can be complex and demanding.

4. Insider Threats: These include both unintentional mistakes made by employees and malicious actions taken by insiders with access to sensitive information.

5. Emerging Technologies: As new technologies like IoT, AI, and cloud computing become more prevalent, ensuring their security becomes a challenge.

6. Resource Constraints: Many organizations face budget and resource limitations that can impact their ability to implement and maintain robust cybersecurity measures.

7. Third-Party Risks: Organizations often rely on third-party vendors and partners, which can introduce additional security risks if those vendors do not have adequate security measures in place.

8. Security Awareness and Training: Ensuring that employees are educated about cyber security best practices and aware of potential threats is crucial.

Cyber security is an ongoing effort and requires a combination of technology, policies, and employee vigilance. Regularly updating and reviewing your security measures is crucial in staying ahead of evolving threats. We implement multi-faceted approach and a combination of technology, policies, and employee training to overcome the said challenges. Here are some strategies Terasoft Technologies apply for addressing each challenge:

1. Cyber Threats and Attacks:

- Implement robust antivirus and anti-malware solutions.
- Utilize firewalls and intrusion detection/prevention systems.
- Employ email filtering and spam protection to guard against phishing attacks.
- Keep systems and software up-to-date with the latest security patches.
- Conduct regular security audits and penetration testing.

2. Data Breaches:

- Encrypt sensitive data both in transit and at rest.
- Implement access controls and least privilege principles to limit who can access sensitive information.
- Monitor and log access to critical data, and set up alerts for suspicious activities.
- Regularly perform security assessments and penetration testing to identify vulnerabilities.

3. Compliance and Regulations:

- Establish a compliance team or officer responsible for keeping up-to-date with relevant regulations and ensuring the organization's adherence.
- Conduct regular compliance assessments and audits to identify and address any gaps.
- Document policies and procedures to demonstrate compliance.

4. Insider Threats:

- Implement role-based access controls to restrict employees' access to only what is necessary for their job.
- Conduct background checks during the hiring process.
- Monitor employee activities for any unusual or suspicious behavior.
- Provide cybersecurity training to educate employees about potential risks and how to recognize them.

5. Emerging Technologies:

- Prioritize security in the design and implementation of new technologies.
- Stay informed about the latest security best practices for emerging tech.
- Conduct thorough risk assessments before adopting new technologies.

6. Resource Constraints:

- Prioritize security initiatives based on risk assessments and potential impact.
- Leverage open-source and cost-effective security solutions.
- Consider managed security services or cloud-based security solutions.

7. Third-Party Risks:

- Conduct thorough due diligence when selecting third-party vendors or partners.
- Include security requirements in contracts and agreements.
- Regularly assess third-party vendors' security practices and compliance.

8. Security Awareness and Training:

- Provide regular training sessions and workshops on cybersecurity best practices.
- Conduct simulated phishing exercises to test and educate employees.
- Promote a culture of security awareness and encourage reporting of suspicious activities.

Q2. What are the key trends and developments in the tech and cyber security industry that you believe will have a significant impact on India's economy?

I believe following key trends and developments in the tech and cyber security industry that are likely to have a significant impact on India's economy:

1. Digital Transformation: The ongoing digital transformation across various industries is reshaping the way businesses operate. This includes the adoption of cloud computing, IoT, AI, and automation technologies.

2. 5G Technology: The rollout of 5G networks is expected to revolutionize connectivity and enable the widespread adoption of emerging technologies like IoT, AR/VR, and autonomous systems.

3. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML): AI and ML are being integrated into various applications and industries, from healthcare to finance, enabling smarter decision-making and automation of processes.

4. Cybersecurity and Data Privacy: With the increasing reliance on digital technologies, there is a growing need for robust cybersecurity measures to protect against cyber threats and comply with data protection regulations.

5. Remote Work and Collaboration Tools: The shift to remote work, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has led to a surge in demand for collaboration tools, cloud services, and cybersecurity solutions to support a distributed workforce.

6. E-commerce and Digital Payments: The e-commerce sector is experiencing rapid growth, and digital payment systems are becoming more sophisticated and widely adopted, driving a cashless economy.

7. HealthTech and Telemedicine: The healthcare industry is seeing a surge in digital health solutions, including telemedicine platforms and wearable health tech, which have become essential, especially in times of crisis.

8. Clean Energy and Sustainability Tech: India is making strides in renewable energy and sustainability technologies, with a focus on solar, wind, and other clean energy sources.

9. Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies: While there are regulatory challenges, blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies are gaining traction in India, with applications in finance, supply chain, and more.

10. Government Initiatives and Policies: Government programs like "Digital India" and initiatives to promote startups and innovation are shaping the tech landscape in India.

11. EdTech and Online Learning: The education sector is experiencing a digital revolution with the rise of online learning platforms and EdTech startups.

12. Smart Cities and Urban Tech: The development of smart cities and the integration of technology in urban planning and infrastructure will play a crucial role in India's economic growth.

Q3. What emerging technologies, such as AI and blockchain, do you see as having the most potential to transform the cybersecurity landscape in the coming years?

Two emerging technologies with significant potential to transform the cyber security landscape in the coming years are:

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML):

- Threat Detection and Prevention: AI and ML can analyze vast amounts of data to identify patterns indicative of cyber threats. They can help in detecting and preventing attacks in real-time.
- Anomaly Detection: AI can learn the normal behavior of systems and users, allowing it to detect anomalies or suspicious activities that may indicate a security incident.
- Automated Response: AI-powered systems can respond to threats quickly and effectively, minimizing the time it takes to mitigate an attack.
- Predictive Analysis: AI can anticipate potential future threats based on historical data, helping organizations proactively prepare for emerging risks.
- Natural Language Processing (NLP): AI-driven NLP can help in analyzing and understanding written or spoken content to detect potential security threats or vulnerabilities.

2. Blockchain Technology:

- Decentralized Security: Blockchain's decentralized nature can provide a more secure infrastructure for storing sensitive information, reducing the risk of a single point of failure or data breach.
- Immutable Record Keeping: Once data is recorded on a blockchain, it cannot be altered or deleted, providing a tamper-proof record of transactions and activities.
- Identity Management: Blockchain can enhance identity verification and management, making it more secure and reliable.
- Smart Contracts: These self-executing contracts with the terms of the agreement directly written into code can automate and enforce security protocols.
- Secure Transactions: Blockchain can facilitate secure, transparent, and traceable transactions, particularly relevant for financial and supply chain industries.

Both AI/ML and blockchain have the potential to revolutionize how cybersecurity is approached. Combining these technologies can further strengthen security measures, for example, using AI to analyze patterns of behavior on a blockchain to detect and respond to anomalies.

However, it's important to note that while these technologies hold great promise, they also come with their own challenges and considerations, such as scalability, integration with existing systems, regulatory compliance, and potential ethical implications. As with any emerging technology, careful planning and consideration of potential risks are crucial for successful implementation in the cybersecurity landscape.

Q4. In a rapidly evolving tech landscape, how does Terasoft Technologies stay ahead of emerging trends and technologies to ensure its solutions remain relevant and effective?

Staying ahead of emerging trends and technologies is crucial for tech companies to remain relevant and effective in a rapidly evolving tech landscape. We at Terasoft Technologies implement following strategies to make sure we are always on top :

1. Continuous Learning and Research:

- Encourage a culture of continuous learning among employees.
- Allocate time and resources for research and development efforts.
- Stay updated with industry publications, conferences, and forums.

2. Engage with the Tech Community:

- Participate in industry conferences, seminars, and meetups.
- Engage with tech communities online through forums, social media, and professional networks.
- Collaborate with academic institutions and research organizations.

3. Innovation and Experimentation:

- Foster an environment that encourages experimentation and innovation.
- Allocate resources for pilots and proof-of-concept projects to test new technologies.

4. Establish Strategic Partnerships:

- Collaborate with technology partners, startups, and innovators.
- Form partnerships with research institutions or academia for access to cutting-edge research.

5. Dedicated R&D Teams:

- Establish dedicated teams focused on research and development.
- Provide them with the resources and autonomy needed to explore emerging technologies.

6. Customer Feedback and Market Research:

- Gather feedback from customers about their evolving needs and challenges.
- Conduct market research to understand emerging trends and demands.

7. Agile Development and Adaptation:

- Adopt agile development methodologies to quickly respond to changes.
- Be flexible in adapting to new technologies and approaches as they emerge.

8. Stay Informed about Regulatory Changes:

- Keep abreast of evolving regulations and compliance requirements in relevant industries.

9. Invest in Training and Skill Development:

- Provide training programs for employees to upskill or reskill in new technologies.
- Offer certifications or courses in emerging areas of interest.

10. Monitor Competitors and Industry Leaders:

- Keep an eye on what competitors are doing and any new technologies they are adopting.
- Learn from industry leaders and best practices in the field.

11. Pilot Emerging Technologies:

- Pilot new technologies in controlled environments to understand their potential benefits and challenges before full-scale implementation.

12. Create a Future-Oriented Roadmap:

- Develop a technology roadmap that includes plans for adopting emerging technologies over time.

It is not just about adopting the latest tech for the sake of it, but about strategically aligning with technologies that can bring real value to your company and your customers. Continuously evaluating and adapting your approach is key in a rapidly evolving tech landscape.

Q5. As a leader in the tech and cyber security space, what ethical considerations do you think are important in your field, particularly regarding issues like user privacy and data ethics?

In the tech and cyber security space, there are several important ethical considerations, especially concerning user privacy and data ethics. Here are some key points to consider:

1. User Privacy:

- **Informed Consent:** Users should be provided with clear and transparent information about how their data will be collected, used, and shared, and they should have the option to opt out if they choose.
- **Data Minimization:** Only collect and retain data that is necessary for the intended purpose, and avoid gathering excessive or irrelevant information.
- **Data Access Controls:** Implement strong access controls to ensure that only authorized personnel have access to sensitive user information.

2. Transparency and Accountability:

- **Transparent Practices:** Be open and honest about data practices, policies, and security measures.
- **Accountability for Data Handling:** Take responsibility for the security and proper handling of user data, and have clear procedures in place for data breaches or incidents.

3. Security and Data Protection:

- **Security by Design:** Integrate security measures into the development process from the outset rather than adding them as an afterthought.
- **Encryption and Access Controls:** Use encryption and access controls to protect sensitive data both in transit and at rest.

4. Data Accuracy and Quality:

- Ensure that the data collected is accurate, up-to-date, and relevant to the purpose for which it was collected.

5. Respect for User Rights:

- **Right to Access and Correction:** Provide users with the ability to access their own data and correct any inaccuracies.
- **Right to Erasure (Right to Be Forgotten):** Allow users to request the deletion of their personal data under certain circumstances.

6. Avoiding Discrimination and Bias:

- Ensure that algorithms and AI systems do not perpetuate biases or discriminate against individuals based on characteristics such as race, gender, or ethnicity.

7. Compliance with Regulations:

- Stay up-to-date with relevant data protection laws and regulations, such as GDPR, HIPAA, or CCPA, and ensure compliance in all data handling practices.

8. Ethical Use of AI and Automation:

- Ensure that AI and automation technologies are used in ways that benefit users and society, and do not harm or exploit individuals.

9. Incident Response and Communication:

- Have a clear and transparent process for handling data breaches, including timely notification to affected parties and regulatory authorities.

10. Continual Ethical Review and Education:

- Regularly review and update ethical guidelines and practices in light of evolving technologies and changing ethical standards.
- Provide ongoing training and education to employees about ethical considerations in data handling and cyber security.

These considerations are essential for building trust with users and stakeholders and for ensuring that technology is developed and deployed in a way that respects and protects individual rights and interests.

Q6. With the growing threat of nation-state cyber attacks, what strategies do you recommend for organizations to defend against these advanced threats?

Defending against nation-state cyber attacks requires a comprehensive and multi-layered approach. These attacks are often highly sophisticated and well-funded, making them particularly challenging to counter. Here are some strategies that can employ to enhance their defenses:

1. Threat Intelligence and Monitoring:

- Invest in threat intelligence services to stay informed about the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) used by nation-state actors.
- Continuously monitor network traffic, endpoints, and systems for unusual or suspicious activities.

2. Advanced Threat Detection and Response:

- Implement advanced security tools like intrusion detection/prevention systems (IDPS), next-generation firewalls, and advanced endpoint protection solutions.
- Utilize security information and event management (SIEM) systems for centralized log analysis and correlation to identify potential threats.

3. Zero Trust Security Model:

- Assume that no one, whether inside or outside the organization, can be trusted implicitly. Implement strict access controls and authentication measures.
- Adopt a least privilege principle, granting users only the minimum level of access needed to perform their job functions.

4. Segmentation and Isolation:

- Segment networks and isolate sensitive or critical assets to contain the impact of a potential breach.
- Implement micro-segmentation to create additional layers of security within the network.

5. Employee Training and Awareness:

- Provide regular cybersecurity training to employees, educating them about phishing, social engineering, and other tactics used in advanced attacks.
- Encourage a culture of security awareness and empower employees to report suspicious activities.

6. Incident Response Planning:

- Develop and regularly update an incident response plan that outlines steps to take in the event of a cyber attack.
- Conduct regular tabletop exercises to test the effectiveness of the plan and the team's response capabilities.

7. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):

- Implement MFA for accessing critical systems and applications, adding an extra layer of security to authentication processes.

8. Continuous Vulnerability Management:

- Regularly scan and assess systems and applications for vulnerabilities.
- Patch and update software promptly to address known security flaws.

9. Threat Hunting:

- Proactively search for indicators of compromise (IoCs) and signs of malicious activity within the network, rather than relying solely on automated alerts.

10. Red and Blue Teaming Exercises:

- Conduct red team exercises to simulate real-world attack scenarios and test the effectiveness of defensive measures.
- Follow up with blue team analysis to identify areas for improvement and refine security strategies.

11. Engagement with Government and Industry Partners:

- Collaborate with government agencies, industry groups, and security organizations to share threat intelligence and best practices.

12. Regulatory Compliance and Reporting:

- Ensure compliance with relevant industry-specific regulations and report incidents as required by law.

Q7. What is your perspective on the future of technology and innovation within the BRICS alliance, and how do you see these countries collectively shaping the global tech landscape in the years to come?

The BRICS countries collectively represent a substantial portion of the world's population, landmass, and economic output. Each member brings its own strengths and areas of expertise to the alliance. Here's how they might collectively shape the global tech landscape in the future:

1. Innovation and Research:

· The BRICS countries have made significant investments in research and development (R&D) across various industries, including technology, healthcare, and renewable energy. Collaborative research initiatives within the alliance can lead to breakthrough innovations.

2. Emerging Technologies Adoption:

· BRICS countries have shown a keen interest in adopting and developing emerging technologies like AI, blockchain, 5G, and quantum computing. Their combined efforts can accelerate the development and deployment of these technologies on a global scale.

3. Digital Transformation:

· BRICS nations are witnessing rapid digital transformation across sectors, including e-commerce, fintech, healthcare, and smart cities. This transformation is likely to continue, leading to increased connectivity and technology-driven solutions.

4. Cybersecurity and Data Protection:

· Given the importance of cybersecurity in an interconnected world, the BRICS nations are likely to collaborate on enhancing cybersecurity measures, sharing threat intelligence, and developing joint frameworks for data protection.

5. Economic Growth and Trade:

· As the BRICS nations continue to grow economically, there will be increased opportunities for tech-related trade and investment. This could lead to the development of joint ventures and partnerships in technology industries.

6. AI and Data Analytics:

· BRICS countries have large, diverse datasets that can be leveraged for AI and data analytics applications. Collaborative efforts in this domain can lead to advancements in areas like predictive analytics, healthcare, and natural language processing.

7. Infrastructure Development:

· Investments in digital infrastructure, such as 5G networks and data centers, will be crucial for supporting the adoption of advanced technologies. The BRICS alliance can work together to build robust infrastructure.

8. Sustainable Technology Solutions:

· The BRICS nations are increasingly focused on sustainable development. Collaboration in areas like clean energy, green technology, and sustainable agriculture can lead to innovative solutions with global impact.

9. Regulatory Harmonization:

· Harmonizing regulations related to technology and innovation can facilitate smoother cross-border collaborations and reduce barriers to entry for tech companies operating in BRICS countries.

10. Skills Development and Education:

· Investing in education and skills development in technology-related fields will be crucial for maintaining a competitive edge in the global tech landscape.

Overall, the BRICS alliance has the potential to be a significant force in shaping the future of technology and innovation. By leveraging their combined resources, expertise, and diverse economies, these nations can drive positive change and contribute to global technological advancements.

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