**CII Organises Manufacturing Excellence Exhibition and Vendor Development Programme with Major OEMs**

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in partnership with the Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion, Government of Punjab, organised the 9th Edition of the CII Manufacturing Excellence Exhibition in Chandigarh. The two-day event aimed to strengthen manufacturing competitiveness and connect Punjab's MSMEs with major industries, defence establishments and public sector undertakings (PSUs).

Inaugurating the exhibition, Shri Aman Arora, Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Commerce, Government of Punjab, highlighted the state's investor-friendly policies and the role of Invest Punjab as a one-stop facilitation agency. He noted that Punjab had attracted investment proposals worth approximately ₹1.9 lakh crore over the past four and a half years, with the potential to generate nearly 6.5 lakh employment opportunities. "Platforms such as the CII Manufacturing Excellence Exposition and its Vendor Development Programme can help connect local industry with defence organisations and major manufacturers, enabling Punjab's enterprises to integrate into defence supply chains and contribute to India's evolving defence manufacturing landscape", he added.

The event featured a B2B exhibition with 22 companies showcasing their products and around 15 OEMs participating. Exhibitors included Emmforce Autotech, Gilard Electronics, GNA Axles, Happy Forgings, JREW Engineering, Pritika Group and Raja Gears, among others.

The Vendor Development Programme brought together procurement and sourcing teams from leading organisations, including the Indian Army, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Mahindra & Mahindra's Swaraj Division, Bharat Forge, Tata Motors, JCB, TAFE, Escorts Kubota and other major OEMs and PSUs.

Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa (Retd), former Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force, highlighted the growing opportunities for Indian industries, particularly MSMEs, in defence manufacturing. He emphasised on the potential in electronic warfare, counter-drone technologies, aircraft manufacturing and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), noting that Punjab's strong engineering and manufacturing base positions it well to contribute to India's defence self-reliance. He also underscored the role of CII's platforms in connecting local enterprises with defence organisations and major manufacturers.

Mr Harpreet Singh Nibber, Vice Chairman, CII Punjab State, emphasized the importance of the event, expressed that "As industries evolve and the demand for innovation and efficiency grows, it is crucial for local businesses to align with the procurement strategies of major corporations and public enterprises. This programme

offers a golden opportunity for Punjab's industrial landscape to showcase its capabilities, explore strategic partnerships, and stay ahead of the latest trends in vendor management. We encourage all stakeholders to actively participate and leverage this platform to drive business growth and development."

Sharing his perspective, Mr Ashish Garg, Vice Chairman, CII Punjab State and Managing Director, Happy Forgings Limited, expressed that "The Vendor Development Programme and B2B Exhibition is a pivotal initiative aimed at strengthening the supply chain ecosystem in Punjab. By bringing together key OEMs, PSUs, and SMEs, CII has created a unique platform for meaningful collaboration and growth."

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**Chandigarh**