

## 12 Aug 2024: Conference on German Innovations India



**Photo 1: L to R:** Ms. Anandi Iyer, Director, Fraunhofer Office India along with Ms. Sunita Mohanty, Senior Vice President, and Chief Investment Officer Invest India

**Photo 2: L to R:** Mr. Prashanth Doreswamy, President & CEO, Continental Automotive India, Dr. Anshuman Awasthi, Senior Vice President & Head of Innovation, Mercedes-Benz R&D India (MBRDI), Ms. Padmaja AR, Executive Vice President and Member of the Executive Leadership, Bosch Global Software Technologies (BGSW) and CTO of Bosch Mobility Business Sector India, Ms. Sindhu Gangadharan, Managing Director, SAP Labs India and Vice Chairperson, NASSCOM, Ms. Kalavathi GV, Executive Director – Development Centre, Siemens Healthineers, Ms. Anandi Iyer, Director, Fraunhofer Office India

**Photo 3: L to R:** Ms. Gita Ghosh General Manager Innovation, Mr. Anshuman Awasthi, Senior Vice President, Head of Powertrain Development & Head of Innovation, Dr. Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India and Bhutan, Anandi Iyer Fraunhofer Office, Mr. Neeraj Sinha Scientist G, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt of India, Mr. Balwant Rawat, Head of Intellectual Property and Tech Intelligence, Innovation Management, Ms. Soumya Gopinathan, Senior Tech Lead

The German Innovation Forum (GIF), conceptualized and driven by Fraunhofer Office India aims to address the technology challenges in India and find solutions by leveraging joint innovation capabilities of German companies in India and thereby participate in strengthening the Indian Innovation Ecosystem. The Forum, actively supported by the German Embassy in India, involves participation of leading German Companies in India like Bosch Global Software Technologies Ltd., Continental Automotive India Ltd., Festo India Pvt. Ltd., Siemens India Ltd., Siemens Healthineers, Infineon Technologies India Pvt. Ltd., Mercedes-Benz Research & Development India Ltd. and SAP Labs India.

A high-level conference was held on 12<sup>th</sup> August in New Delhi to inform the Indian Government and the innovation ecosystem about the potential to engage with the Forum members and amplify the position of

German companies in India with their stakeholders. The conference thematically focussed on **"Sustainability: The Technology Imperative for our Future"**. The Inaugural Session of the Conference saw the release of the Knowledge Paper on "How to transform India as the Global Innovation and Product Technology Hub", by German Ambassador Dr Philipp Ackermann and Dr Neeraj Sinha, Scientist G, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt of India, Authored by Anandi Iyer, Dr Fabian Hecklau (both Fraunhofer) and Balwant Rawat and Soumya Gopinathan (both Mercedes Benz Research and Development India), the document outlines the challenges and recommendations, as well as brings out best practices from China, Korea, Germany, Brazil and Canada.

In the next session, the Leadership of the German companies Continental, Bosch Global Software Technologies India, Siemens Healthineers, Mercedes Benz Research and Development Centre India and SAP Labs presented their vision of engagement in India, and the key area of focus. Following this Technology Pitches curated by a consortium of German companies were presented in the fields of Sustainability and Circular Economy, Road Safety and Accident Research, Responsible AI, Drug Discovery and Real-World Evidence, Innovation with impact in Health care, and Academy for Advanced Research and Skill Building. The technology pitches were extremely well received by the audience, with a very vibrant and interactive question and answer session.

The final session was addressed by Ms Sunita Mohanty, Senior Vice President and Chief Investment Officer Invest India. She elaborated on the programmes of Invest India, including R&D interventions and Start Up support programmes. The Session also gave opportunity to discuss the China +1 Policy and the Flying Geese syndrome of China circumventing the trade barriers with US and other countries through ASEAN, and India not gaining enough from this geostrategic shift. Innovative solutions to address these concerns were deliberated upon.

The conference witnessed an excellent quality of participation of nearly 100 delegates from Industry, Mission Directors national programmes from line ministries, research institutions, industry associations, several IITs and other academia.