



IPF Industrial Sectoral e-Conferences 2021

Covid-19 pandemic has caused a colossal damage to the economy and businesses disrupting production supply chains massively across the world, including India. Disruption lead companies to relook at their business processes, supply chain networks and manufacturing methods. With businesses struggling to survive, the Government of India announced initiatives like Aatmanirbhar Bharat (the new version of Make in India) and schemes like Production Linked Incentives (PLI) to increase indigenisation of manufacturing and attract global firms to establish their manufacturing base in the country.

Against this background, Industrial Products Finder (IPF) will host a 2-day **IPF Industrial Sectoral e-Conferences** - as part of IPF Industrial Excellence Forum 2021 (IIEF 2021) - on January 15 & 16, 2021. The four Panel Discussions will deliberate on strategies for business ("Business Summit" on Day 1) and technology adoption ("Technology Summit" on Day 2) to thrive in the post-COVID marketplace.

Panel Discussion 1 (Business Summit): While the economy is showing signs of revival in the quarter 3 & 4 of 2020, the circumstances are not the same like before. Issues like uncertainty in demand, supply side tantrums, labour availability, financial constraints, etc are here to stay for some more time, with top management needing to take right decision on the right time. The first Panel Discussion on **"Boardroom Strategies to Face New Normal"** will offer tips on managing change during challenging time, exploring new opportunities, leveraging technologies to optimally utilise assets and manage supply & demand.

Panel Discussion 2 (Business Summit): Every crisis also brings with it opportunities. Covid 19 has exposed supply chain vulnerabilities of global firms due to their over-dependence on one country (read: China) for manufacturing requirements. As a result, MNCs are forced to look for an alternate manufacturing destination to diversify their procurement. India - with its large domestic market and strategic location - has a potential to attract big firms looking to relocate manufacturing or diversify sourcing. At the same time, the Government of India with its schemes like PLI and Ease-of-Business proposition is looking to attract these foreign companies. If this happens, then how small & medium enterprises (SMEs) - who are the backbone of the Indian manufacturing sector - will benefit? The second Panel Discussion of on Day 1 - with the theme of **"Are Indian SMEs ready for the future?"** - will try to answer this with experts deliberating on issues like challenges & opportunities before SMEs in the changed world, tips to be a part of global supply chain, benefits of government policies, etc.

Panel Discussion 3 (Technology Summit): Perhaps it is the first time in the history of contemporary manufacturing industry that demand, supply, and workforce availability have impacted globally at the same time due to a pandemic. While Indian manufacturing was making a steady move towards modern manufacturing technologies based on automated processes and products, the Covid 19 pandemic is likely to significantly accelerate their implementation in the near future. Indian companies have been quick to adopt digital tools for business processes. But how prepared they are for digital transformation in the shopfloor? Panel Discussion on **"Automation Strategies for Delivering Growth"** will explore answer to this as experts will deliberate on areas like pros & cons of adopting automations, the roadmap for Industry 4.0 in India, and skillsets needed to work in new manufacturing set-up.

Panel Discussion 4 (Technology Summit): The Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) has led to increase in usage of Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, analytic tools (AI and ML), advanced engineering (3D printing and nanomaterials). These tools are helping companies to increase efficiency and product customisation, improve speed to market, and, in some cases, to create totally new business models. If India aims to advantage of the changed geopolitical world and become a global manufacturing hub, then the domestic industries must be ready to equip themselves for using modern-age manufacturing technologies. Panel Discussion - titled **"Is India ready for New-age Technologies?"** - will focus on advantages of new-age technologies like 3D printing (additive manufacturing), Cobots, AR/VR, etc; and India's preparedness to use these technologies, among others.