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UBS FORUMS



29th January 2026, Thursday



ITC, Mumbai

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Aditi Sharma
President &
Chief Manufacturing
Excellence Officer
Uno Minda



Dr. Aashish Arun Adhikari
Global Head of Operations
Strategy & Excellence
(Digital Lean)
Cipla



Rajkumar Ayyella
Chief Information Officer
**RPG Group(KEC
International Limited)**



Ankit Todi
Group Chief
Sustainability Officer
Mahindra Group



Kunal Kapoor
Head - Digital Transformation
Sun Pharma



Vikrant Deoras
Chief Digital and
Information Officer
Tata Chemicals



Satyen Shah
Vice President
IT & Digital Solutions
JSW Steel



Ranjit Kanbarkar
Head
Advanced Manufacturing
CEAT Limited



Vinay Morje
Sr. Vice President &
Head of Digital Transformation
Grasim Industries Limited
Pulp & Fibre



Ram Bhadouria
General Manager
Engineering & Projects
South Asia
Hindustan Unilever Ltd.



Udit Pahwa
Chief Information Officer
Blue Star Limited



Madhavan Srinivasan
VC & MD
Kripya Solutions



Sreenivas Rao N
Global Head
of Supply Chain
Sun Pharma



Shivedas Madham
Operations Manager
RWS



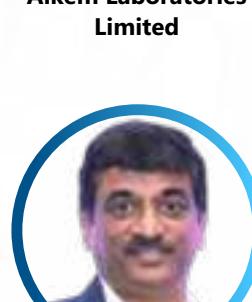
Santosh Panday
General Manager
Industry 4.0
Aditya Birla Group



Jakob Hall
Global Digital
Transformation Director
GE Vernova



Punit Modi
Global Supply Chain Analytics
Mondelēz International



Ramanarayana Parhi
VP & CIO
**Alkem Laboratories
Limited**



Ruchir Shrivastava
Director - Supply Chain
**Vedanta Resources
Limited**



Swapnil Jugade
Chief Information Officer
IT and Digital
Welspun Corp Limited



Dr. Tej Pochiraju
Chief Revenue Officer - India
**Magic Software
Enterprises India Pvt. Ltd.**



Rupesh Nirgude
Group CIO and CDO
Sr. Vice President - IT
Prism Johnson Limited



Prashant Kapadia
Chief Growth Officer
MachineAstro



Rajeev Gupta
Vice President - Engineering
& Technology, ESG
Manufacturing Excellence
Birla Opus



Yalamanchili Venkata Sathish
Head - Manufacturing &
Supply chain excellence
Godrej Agrovet Limited



Amit Arora
Plant Head
ACC Limited



Amit Chaudhary
Director - Business
Process Excellence
Novartis



Mitesh Gangar
VP & Head
Specialties Business
& Supply Chain
Aarti Industries



Mohit Agarwal
Global Digital
Transformation Head

**Wockhardt
Pharmaceuticals**

CONFERENCE AGENDA

08:30 Registration and Morning Refreshments

09:10 Chairperson Opening Remarks

09:20 Opening Keynote: Manufacturing Vision 2030 – Industry 5.0 and Beyond

The manufacturing industry is entering a transformative era where advanced technologies, human ingenuity, and sustainability converge. Amid rising global competition and shifting supply chains, Industry 5.0 offers India a strong opportunity to emerge as a global manufacturing hub. This opening keynote sets the strategic tone for the summit, exploring future-ready manufacturing models and how initiatives like PLI and Make in India are accelerating innovation, modernization, and competitiveness.

- Industry 5.0 trends: human-machine collaboration and intelligent automation
- Impact of AI, IoT, robotics, and advanced analytics on manufacturing excellence
- Emerging opportunities for Indian manufacturing in global supply chains
- Overview of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes and Make in India benefits
- Strategies for leveraging incentives for modernization, capacity expansion, and tech adoption
- Building future-ready factories: agility, resilience, and sustainability
- Inspiring case studies of forward-thinking manufacturing enterprises

Aditi Sharma, President and Chief Manufacturing Excellence Officer, **Uno Minda**

09:40 Redesigning Smart Manufacturing Facilities: Strategic Leap with Industrial AI and Data-Centric Intelligence

Modern manufacturing facilities are evolving beyond traditional production lines into digitally integrated ecosystems. Companies face pressure to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and leverage emerging technologies. This session explains why developing a clear blueprint for facility modernization, including AI, IoT, and automation, is vital to achieve operational agility, scalability, and future-proof operations.

- Planning smart manufacturing layouts aligned with Industry 5.0
- Integrating AI, IoT, and automation for optimized operations
- Technology assessment: Digital Twin, simulation, and virtual commissioning
- Balancing manual and automated processes effectively
- Real-world examples of facility transformation

Santosh Panday, General Manager- Industry 4.0, **Aditya Birla Group**

09:55 Partner Session

10:15 Smart Factory 2.0: From Digital Twin to Smart Ecosystem

Manufacturing is moving toward connected ecosystems where real-time data, simulation, and predictive insights drive decisions. Smart factories are no longer optional; they are critical to staying competitive, improving productivity, and responding quickly to market shifts. This session demonstrates why adopting integrated, data-driven operations is essential for modern manufacturers.

- Moving beyond isolated automation to integrated ecosystems
- Simulation, predictive analytics, and virtual commissioning
- Real-world case studies of smart factory deployments
- Linking operational data to business outcomes
- Enhancing decision-making with connected insights

Kunal Kapoor, Head - Digital Transformation, **Sun Pharma**

10:30 Beyond the Factory Floor: The Role of Content in Global Manufacturing Success

As Indian manufacturers expand globally, growth depends on more than operational scale. This session explores how leading organizations use structured content, intelligent localization and technology-led workflows to accelerate launches, manage regulatory risk and build trust across markets – turning content into a strategic driver of global manufacturing success.

Shivdas Madham, Operations Manager, **RWS**

11:00 Partner Session

Jakob Hall, Global Digital Transformation Director, **GE Vernova**

11:20 AI in Manufacturing: From Predictive Insights to Prescriptive Action

AI adoption in manufacturing is accelerating as companies seek to reduce downtime, optimize operations, and improve decision-making. Beyond predictive maintenance, prescriptive AI helps in planning, quality control, and production efficiency. This session explains why organizations must leverage AI to move from reactive operations to proactive, outcome-driven strategies.

- From predictive maintenance to prescriptive insights
- Process optimization using AI algorithms
- Reducing downtime and improving throughput with data-driven strategies
- Use cases across production, quality control, and supply chain
- Measuring ROI of AI adoption

Rajkumar Ayyella, Chief Information Officer, **RPG Group(KEC International Limited)**

11:35 Networking Break

11:55 Elevating Operational Excellence: Streamlined Operations for Growth

Global competition and rising customer expectations demand manufacturing processes that are lean, efficient, and responsive. Companies must optimize workflows, integrate technology, and reduce operational waste. This session explains why operational excellence is critical to boost productivity, improve margins, and sustain growth.

- Lean, agile, and data-driven process improvements
- Resource utilization, capacity planning, and bottleneck management
- Integrating technology with operational workflows
- Continuous improvement culture
- Metrics to track efficiency and impact

Dr. Aashish Arun Adhikari, Global Head of Operations strategy & Excellence (Digital lean), **Cipla**

12:10 AI & Automation

Madhavan Srinivasan, VC & MD, **Kripya Solutions**

12:30 Partner Session

12:50 Cybersecurity & Data Governance: Safeguarding the Digital Factory

As factories become digitally interconnected, cyber threats are increasingly targeting industrial systems. Data breaches or operational disruptions can cause significant financial and reputational losses. This session underscores why robust cybersecurity and governance strategies are vital to protect sensitive manufacturing data and ensure uninterrupted operations.

- Cyber risk assessment and mitigation strategies
- Data governance frameworks for manufacturing
- Securing IoT-enabled machines and industrial control systems
- Real-time monitoring and threat detection
- Compliance with global and local cybersecurity standards

Ramanarayana Parhi, VP & CIO, **Alkem Laboratories Ltd.**

13:05 AI & Automation

Himansu Patel, Chief Revenue Officer - India, **Magic Software Enterprises India Pvt. Ltd.**

13:25 Panel 1: Technology Transformation – From Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0

The shift from Industry 4.0 to 5.0 is driving fundamental changes in manufacturing, requiring new technology adoption strategies. Organizations must evaluate AI, IoT, robotics, and analytics to stay competitive. This panel provides insights into how companies can effectively embrace transformation and balance technology with workforce capabilities.

- Role of AI, IoT, cloud, robotics, and analytics in next-gen factories
- Human-centric automation and workforce augmentation
- Case studies of successful digital transformation
- Overcoming adoption challenges and scaling innovations
- Vendor management and partnership strategies

Panel Members:

Rajeev Gupta, Vice President Engineering & Technology, ESG, Manufacturing Excellence, **Birla Opus**

Vinay Morje, Sr Vice President & Head of Digital Transformation, **Grasim Industries Limited**

Ram Bhadouria, General Manager, Engineering & Projects - South Asia, **Hindustan Unilever Ltd.**

Amit Chaudhary, Director, Business Process Excellence, **Novartis**

Ranjit Kanbarkar, Head - Advanced Manufacturing, **CEAT Limited**

Prashant Kapadia, Chief Growth Officer, **MachineAstro**

Venkat Kotha, SVP, Data Practice, **Ascentt**

14:00 Lunch Break

CONFERENCE AGENDA

14:30

Circular Manufacturing & Net-Zero Strategies: Turning Compliance into Advantage

Sustainability is no longer just a regulatory requirement; it is a competitive differentiator. Manufacturers face pressure to reduce waste, lower emissions, and meet ESG commitments while maintaining profitability. This session highlights why circular practices and net-zero strategies are essential for long-term resilience, brand value, and regulatory compliance.

- Designing processes for resource efficiency and waste minimization
- Carbon footprint reduction strategies and net-zero roadmaps
- ESG compliance and reporting frameworks
- Circular economy models: reuse, recycle, remanufacturing
- Linking sustainability to competitive advantage

Ankit Todi, Group Chief Sustainability Officer, **Mahindra Group**

14:45 Partner Session

15:05 Bridge the Operations - ERP Gap

Dr. Tej Pochiraju, Co-founder and CEO, **IoTReady**

15:25 Future-Ready Maintenance: From Predictive to Autonomous Operations

- Predictive, prescriptive, and autonomous maintenance models
- Real-time equipment monitoring and alerts
- Maintenance KPIs and performance tracking
- Technology adoption: sensors, AI, and digital twins
- Case studies of maintenance transformation

15:40 Panel Discussion -- Optimizing Manufacturing Supply Chains: Resilience, Demand & Inventory Strategies

- Enhancing visibility and real-time monitoring
- Dual sourcing, inventory optimization, and demand forecasting
- Risk management and disruption mitigation strategies
- Leveraging AI/IoT for supply chain intelligence
- Lessons from resilient manufacturers

Panel Members:

Sreenivas Rao N, Global Head of Supply Chain, **Sun Pharma**

Tejas Godbole, Vice President Supply Chain, **Bharat Serums and Vaccines Limited**

Punit Modi, Global Supply Chain Analytics, **Mondelēz International**

Ruchir Shrivastava, Director - Supply Chain, **Vedanta Resources Limited**

Mitesh Gangar, VP & Head - Specialties Business & Supply Chain, **Aarti Industries**

Balaji Reddipalli, Head - Supply Chain, **Borosil Limited**

16:10 Operational Excellence in Action: Lean, Agile & Data-Driven Manufacturing

Continuous improvement and data-driven decision-making are essential for modern factories to meet evolving customer demands. Organizations must adopt lean and agile practices to enhance efficiency and reduce waste. This session highlights why operational excellence is a critical driver of productivity and business performance.

- Lean methodologies and agile manufacturing principles
- Production planning, resource allocation, and workflow optimization
- Integrating KPIs and real-time dashboards
- Continuous improvement culture and employee engagement
- Case studies showing measurable performance gains

16:25

Metrics & KPIs for Manufacturing Transformation: Measuring Manufacturing Success

Many digital and operational initiatives fail without proper measurement. Companies must track relevant KPIs to understand progress, ROI, and impact. This session explains why defining and monitoring metrics is essential for successful transformation and achieving strategic objectives.

- Key operational, quality, and sustainability metrics
- Digital dashboards for real-time performance tracking
- Linking KPIs to strategic goals and ROI
- Benchmarking and continuous improvement frameworks
- Use cases of data-driven decision-making

Udit Pahwa, Chief Information Officer, **Blue Star Limited**

16:40 Beyond the Factory Floor: Using AI to Transform Customer Engagement in Manufacturing

As manufacturing becomes more customer-centric, AI is transforming how manufacturers engage with customers across the value chain – from demand forecasting and order management to service and lifecycle engagement. This session highlights how AI-driven insights help manufacturers move beyond transactional interactions to build predictive, responsive, and value-driven customer partnerships.

- Leveraging AI to capture real-time customer demand signals and improve forecasting accuracy
- Enhancing order visibility, fulfillment reliability, and responsiveness through data-driven insights
- Enabling predictive customer service and proactive issue resolution
- Integrating customer intelligence with production planning and supply chain execution
- Building long-term customer trust through transparency, data integrity, and digital collaboration

Satyen Shah, Vice President- IT & Digital Solutions, **JSW Steel**

16:55 Panel 3: Resilient & Adaptive Manufacturing – Building for the Next Decade

Global risks, geopolitical shifts, and market volatility require manufacturers to build adaptive, resilient operations. This panel highlights why organizations must strategically plan for uncertainty, future-proof their operations, and embrace innovative technologies to stay competitive.

- Global supply chain risks and disruption management
- Market volatility, trade policies, and regulatory impacts
- Scenario planning and risk mitigation frameworks
- Digital and operational strategies for resilience
- Leadership insights for adaptive manufacturing

Panel Members:

Yalamanchili Venkata Sathish, Head - Manufacturing and Supply chain excellence, **Godrej Agrovet Limited**

Amit Arora, Plant Head, **ACC Limited**

Mohit Agarwal, Global Digital Transformation Head, **Wockhardt Pharmaceuticals**

Vikrant Deoras, Chief Digital and Information Officer, **Tata Chemicals**

Mohit Agarwal, Global Digital Transformation Head, **Wockhardt Pharma**

Nilesh Suryawanshi, Head of Quality & Plant Operations, **Jindal Saw Limited**

17:30 Manufacturing Excellence Awards 2026

17:45 Closing Remarks