

 **Ascentt**  
SILVER PARTNER

at



CONCEPTUALIZED & CURATED BY  
**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**



**Shivdas 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**



**Himansu Patel**  
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**



**Dr. Tej Pochiraju**  
Co-founder & CEO  
**IoTReady**



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



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



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



**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, <b>GE Vernova</b>	
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 Todt**, 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