

A ROADMAP FOR FUTURE LEADERSHIP

The country's top leaders converged at the All India Management Association's (AIMA) Platinum Jubilee National Management Convention to explore how India can build resilience and usher in its next growth cycle



(L-R) Vineet Agarwal, Vice President, AIMA and Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India Ltd; Vishal Kampani, Senior Vice President, AIMA and Vice Chairman & Managing Director, JM Financial Ltd; Amitabh Kant, Former G20 Sherpa (India); Former CEO, NITI Aayog and Senior Adviser - Fairfax, SMBC & Warburg Pincus; T V Narendran, President, AIMA and CEO & Managing Director, Tata Steel Ltd and Rekha Sethi, Director General, AIMA releasing the AIMA 53rd National Management Convention Souvenir



(L-R) P Balaji, Group Head-Governance, Risk, Compliance, Air India Limited; V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India and T V Narendran, President, AIMA and CEO & Managing Director, Tata Steel Ltd



(L-R) Shiv Siddhant Kaul, Managing Director, Nicco Engineering Service Ltd; Saurabh Garg, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India and Vineet Agarwal, Vice President, AIMA and Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India Ltd

India's push to build a more resilient and globally competitive economy anchored the Platinum Jubilee National Management Convention of All India Management Association (AIMA). The landmark gathering brought together policymakers, corporate leaders, and academics to discuss the country's exemplary economic resilience in a rapidly changing world order and leveraging advantages that create opportunities for the next growth cycle, under the theme 'Transforming for Tomorrow: Growth with Resilience'.

The opening session established a clear narrative for the convention. Speakers addressed how India can convert disruption abroad into an advantage at home, build necessary internal capabilities, and remain open to global capital while reducing its exposure to external shocks.

The chief guest, Amitabh Kant, former G20 Sherpa (India), former CEO, NITI Aayog, and senior adviser, Fairfax, SMBC and Warburg Pincus, delivered the keynote address. Addressing the gathering, Kant said, "We have seen how the world order is changing. One

thing is very clear: the world peace that prevailed in the post-Second World War era is over. For a country like ours, it's important how quickly we have realigned our supply chains to mitigate the impact. We need to focus on manufacturing competitiveness, where we design, engineer and innovate, this will attract companies and FDI to shift their base here as they look for trusted geographies."

Kant was welcomed by T V Narendran, president, AIMA and CEO and managing director, Tata Steel Ltd, and the session included Vineet Agarwal, vice president, AIMA and managing



(L-R) Sanjay Kirloskar, Past President, AIMA and Chairman & Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd; Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, Head of the South Asia Practice, Eurasia Group; Stephen D Mull, Vice Provost for Global Affairs, University of Virginia and Former Acting Under Secretary for Political Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Sunil Kant Munjal, Past President, AIMA & Chairman, The Hero Enterprise; Ajay Bisaria, Former High Commissioner of India to Canada and Pakistan; Lt. Gen. Deependra Singh Hooda (Retd.), PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM & Bar, Co-Founder, The Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR) and Distinguished Fellow for Military Strategy, Delhi Policy Group



(L-R) N Satish Reddy, Pro-Chancellor, Aditya University; Rajiv Vastupal, Past President, AIMA & Group Chairman & Managing Director, Rajiv Petrochemicals Pvt. Ltd.; Vishal Kampani, Senior Vice President, AIMA and Vice Chairman & Managing Director, JM Financial Ltd; Vinita Bajoria, Chairperson, Nicco Cables Pvt Ltd; Raj Chengappa, Group Editorial Director (Publishing), India Today Group & Editor, India Today Magazine and Shrinivas V Dempo, Past President, AIMA & Chairman, Dempo Group of Companies



(L-R) Kewal Nohria, Vineet Agarwal, Amitabh Kant, Vishal Kampani, T V Narendran, Rekha Sethi and Sanjay Kirloskar at the lamp-lighting ceremony

vital keynote addressing the structural challenges. He said, "India is nearing a tipping point, in a positive way. Many things are falling into place. A country can stand at the edge of transformation for a long time without crossing it. What determines whether it crosses that point is whether we make deliberate choices about fairness or simply allow matters to drift."

T V Narendran made the opening remarks and P Balaji, group head-governance, risk, compliance, Air India Limited, offered concluding remarks.

The next session turned to the country's data and measurement systems. Saurabh Garg, secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), delivered the keynote address on building indicators that capture more than GDP, touching on productivity, inclusion, quality of life, sustainability, and the role of AI and digital infrastructure in decision-making. Vineet Agarwal welcomed the session.

Saurabh Garg, said, "As India advances

towards its vision of becoming a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047, strong and interoperable data systems will be crucial to sustaining the growth needed to achieve this goal."

This was followed by an interaction with the audience. Shiv Siddhant Kaul, managing director, Nicco Engineering Service, offered the concluding remarks.

Speaking at the National Management Convention (NMC), T V Narendran said, "We have an ambitious growth trajectory ahead of us. We need to focus on how we continue to grow in periods of disruption and create productive employment for our fairly young population."

The focus then shifted to international friction with a high-powered panel on global conflict. Stephen D Mull, vice provost, Global Affairs at the University of Virginia and a former acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, U.S. Department of State, opened with a keynote. The panel was moderated by Sunil Kant Munjal, chairman, The Hero Enterprise and featured an analytical discussion with Ambassador Ajay Bisaria, former high commissioner of India to Canada and Pakistan; Lt. Gen Deependra Singh Hooda

domestic stability, asking whether India's current growth run can turn into permanent structural transformation, yielding better jobs, wider prosperity, and manufacturing gains that outlast the current cycle. Then the dialogue shifted toward the human element of resilience. Naveen Jindal, chairman, Jindal Steel and a Member of Parliament; and Shalalu Jindal, chairperson, Jindal Foundation and chancellor, O.P. Jindal University, Raigarh, had an intimate fireside conversation with Navika Kumar, editor-in-chief, Times Group. The two discussed how building for the long term matters and what they consider a corporate legacy truly worth leaving behind.

The critical issue of corporate continuity took centre stage during the next panel on succession. The session brought together next-generation leaders Lakshmi Venu, vice chairman, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE); Rama Kirloskar, joint managing director, Kirloskar Brothers Limited and Laxit Awla, executive director and CEO, SAEL Industries Ltd. The session was moderated by Nayantra Rai, worker, Eternal Limited. Each panellist addressed the balance between preserving

what earlier generations built and changing what no longer serves the business, along with the question of when a leader stops being defined by inheritance and starts being judged on their own record.

The day's final session gathered an elite roundtable featuring Vishal Kampani, Shrinivas V Dempo, chairman, Dempo Group of Companies; Rajiv Vastupal, group chairman and managing director, Rajiv Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd; Vinita Bajoria, chairperson, Nicco Cables Pvt Ltd; and N Satish Reddy, pro-chancellor, Aditya University. During the session moderated by Raj Chengappa, group editorial director (Publishing), India Today Group and editor, India Today



(L-R) Shalalu Jindal, Chairperson, Jindal Foundation and Chancellor, O.P. Jindal University, Raigarh; Naveen Jindal, Chairman, Jindal Steel and Member of Parliament and Navika Kumar, Editor-In-Chief, Times Group

director, Transport Corporation of India Ltd; Vishal Kampani, senior vice president, AIMA, vice chairman and managing director, JM Financial Ltd; and Rekha Sethi, director general, AIMA.

V Anantha Nageswaran, chief economic advisor to the Government of India, delivered a

(Retd.), PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM & Bar co-founder, The Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR) and distinguished fellow for Military Strategy, Delhi Policy Group; and Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, head of the South Asia Practice, Eurasia Group. The panel deeply examined whether the current pattern of

prolonged, overlapping conflicts marks a lasting shift in how the world operates, and what that shift means directly for Indian trade and security planning. The fourth plenary turned to long-term

Magazine, the discussion centred on what separates companies that simply weather disruption from those that use it to grow stronger, weighing the relative pressure from AI, geopolitics, and shifting talent expectations.

During the NMC, AIMA also honoured trailblazers driving this progress, presenting the AIMA-Kewal Nohria Award for Academic Leadership in Management Education to Biswajeet Pattanayak, founder and president, ASBM University, and the AIMA-R K Swamy High-Performance Brand Award to Trent Limited.

The proceedings also featured the release of the AIMA Platinum Jubilee Convention Souvenir and the presentation of the AIMA Best LMA Awards for 2025-26.



(L-R) Nayantra Rai, Worker, Eternal Limited; Rama Kirloskar, Joint Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers Limited; Laxit Awla, Executive Director and CEO, SAEL Industries Ltd and Lakshmi Venu, Vice Chairman, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE)



Srinivasan K Swamy, Past President, AIMA and Executive Group Chairman, R K Swamy Hansa with Manish Kumar, HR Director, Trent Limited and Krupa Anandpara Company Secretary, Trent Limited recipient of the AIMA - R K Swamy High Performance Brand Award



Kewal Nohria, Past President, AIMA with Biswajeet Pattanayak, Founder & President, ASBM University, recipient of the AIMA-Kewal Nohria Award for Academic Leadership in Management Education 2026