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Railways spent Rs 98.10 to earn Rs 100 Ashwini Vaishnaw

PTI Last Updated: Feb 02, 2024, 08:53:00 PM IST

Synopsis

Railways achieved highest ever total revenue of 2,40,177 cr in 2022-23 with operating ratio of 98.10%. CAG report examined railways finances to end of March 2022 and made recommendations. Railways' total receipts in 2020-21 were 1,91,367 cr, showing incremental revenues of 50,584 cr. Data from the minister reveals that Railways spent Rs 97.30 in 2018-19, Rs 98.36 in 2019-2020, and Rs 97.45 in 2020-2021 to earn Rs 100. Covid-19 had a significant impact on railway operations in 2021-22 as well.



Post Covid-19, **Railways** achieved the highest ever total revenue of 2,40,177 cr in 2022-23 with operating ratio of 98.10 per cent, **Rajya Sabha** was told.

Railways Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** informed the house on Thursday that the railways spent Rs 98.10 to earn Rs 100 in 2022-23.

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Vaishnaw's answer came in response to a question raised by Jawhar Sircar, [Rajya Sabha MP](#) from the All India Trinamool Congress party, who asked, "Whether the Comptroller and Auditor General ([CAG](#)) of India has declared that finances of the [Indian Railways](#) have slipped into 'concern zone' in 2021-22."

Sircar asked the minister to provide a year-wise operating ratio of Railways over the last five years and whether Railways spent Rs 107 to earn Rs 100 in 2021-22.



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"Whether it is a fact that if accounting adjustments like considering advances for next financial year as receipts are ignored, the ratio has stayed above 100 per cent since 2018-19," the Rajya Sabha MP also asked.

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In response, Vaishnaw stated that CAG in its report 13 of 2023 examined railways finances to the end of March 2022 and submitted its recommendations.

"Railway operations continued to be adversely impacted by the disruption induced by Covid-19 in 2021-22 also. Despite this Railways' achieved total receipts of 1,91,367 cr. against 1,40,783 cr. in 2020-21 i.e. incremental revenues of 50,584 cr," he said.

"Post Covid-19 period, Railways achieved the highest ever total revenue of 2,40,177 cr. in 2022-23 with operating ratio (OR) of 98.10%. The receipts including advances etc. are accounted for as per laid down policy," the minister added.

The five-year data, provided by the minister, shows that the Railways spent Rs 97.30 in 2018-19, Rs 98.36 in 2019-2020, and Rs 97.45 in 2020-2021 to earn Rs 100.

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SIDBI ET MSME Conclave: Ludhiana meet focuses on financial resi

By Shariq Khan, ET Online Last Updated: Jan 30, 2024, 11:31:00 AM IST

Synopsis

The third edition of the SIDBI ET MSME Conclave, held in Ludhiana on January 19, brought together a large gathering of MSMEs and industry stakeholders who focused on improving ways to spur financial resilience.



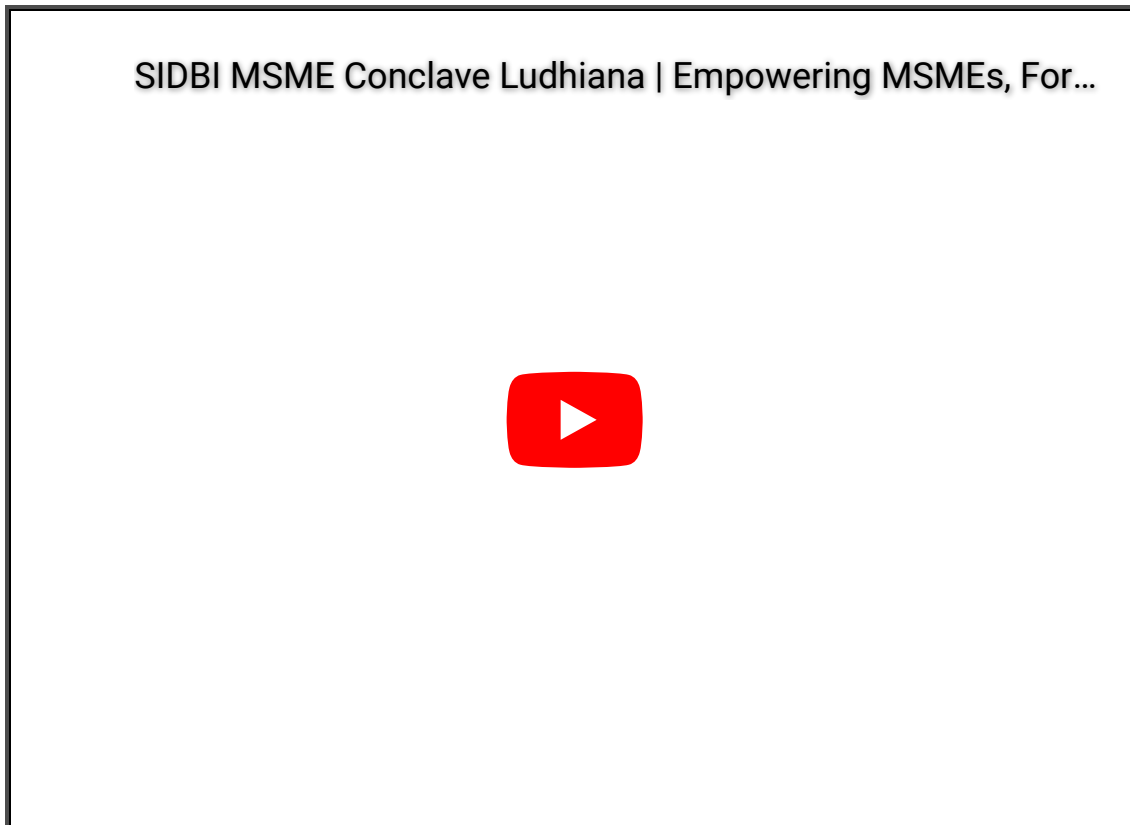
The high-powered event in Ludhiana saw a large gathering of MSMEs and industry stakeholders.

Aimed at boosting [entrepreneurship](#) in Ludhiana (Punjab), the third edition of the [SIDBI ET MSME Conclave](#) was held on January 19 in the city. The high-powered event saw a large gathering of MSMEs and industry stakeholders.

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The Ludhiana edition of the SIDBI [MSME](#) Conclave focussed on promoting a culture of financially resilient and competitive MSMEs, in line with the country's push towards Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). The summit is part of a series of events aimed at bringing together micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs), policymakers and ecosystem enablers.



The conclave started with a keynote speech on empowering the Punjab MSME ecosystem; it was given by Rahul Priyadarshi, CGM at SIDBI. The SIDBI official asserted that MSMEs need timely credit at a reasonable cost, and SIDBI is actively addressing this with a host of offerings. He said earlier the spotlight used to be only on larger firms, but today MSMEs are gaining prominence because of their role in developing the economy. “MSMEs require awareness to tackle their problems and stay compliant with new regulatory paradigms, such as ESG norms,” he said.

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He further outlined the role of SIDBI in creating a conducive ecosystem for MSMEs by providing funding, mentorship and expansion opportunities. “If you have an idea, SIDBI is there to help you — from green finance to term loans to funds for startups, we have a host of products. SIDBI is one of the biggest contributors in venture funds, having contributed to over 150 venture funds, and these venture funds further help numerous startups,” he added.

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Join the summit as it focuses on how MSMEs and Startups prepare for this golden period (Amrit Kal) of the Indian Enterprise ecosystem

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Rajinder Pal Kaur Chhina, MLA, Ludhiana South, talked about the importance of a robust MSME ecosystem in Punjab’s industrial landscape and the larger role the sector plays in the country. “We are determined to get the MSMEs on

track in Punjab under CM Bhagwant Mann,” she said in her special address.

The event also saw Ishita Thaman, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO, taking part in a fireside chat on “Atmanirbhar Punjab: Decoding the Blueprint for Holistic MSME Expansion”. According to her, MSMEs’ growth will be driven by sustainability, networking and a consumer-centric focus. She added that MSMEs will become more visible and gain access to better opportunities if they increase their connectivity.

This is also a focus of the MSMEs conclaves — to bring stakeholders, entrepreneurs, and policymakers together to connect and build the MSME ecosystem.

Balbir Singh, GM, SIDBI, in his special address, underlined that in banking, having a clean portfolio is one of the most important aspects of the institution.

ET Online



Rahul Priyadarshi, CGM, SIDBI (L) and Rajinder Pal Kaur Chhina, MLA, Ludhiana South (R)

As part of the programme, industry leaders and entrepreneurs took part in an engaging panel discussion on “Revitalising Ludhiana’s Manufacturing Landscape”.

Mridula Jain, Managing Director, Shingora — a manufacturer of shawls, stoles, scarves and fabrics — and one of the panel members, said, “It’s a full-time job in the fashion industry. It’s not that you make a dye, cast it and get a product. Every day is a challenge.”

Gurmeet Singh Kular, Chairman, Kular Enterprise, Darshan Group of Companies, said: “Tech can never replace entrepreneurs. It’s entrepreneurs who replace tech.” He added that MSMEs in Ludhiana need technology to improve their penetration in foreign markets. “We need raw materials and tech to manufacture products that meet EU standards.”

Upkar Singh, CMD of Newswan and President of the Chamber of Industrial and Commercial Undertaking, pointed out a common issue hindering MSME growth in the country: the inability to scale up. Singh emphasised the need for technology to enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs.

Badish Jindal, President of the Federation of Punjab Small Industries, said the high interest rates imposed by banks have been a major hindrance for MSMEs in Ludhiana and Punjab. The fierce competition from Chinese manufacturers, who benefit from lower interest rates, has further exacerbated the challenges faced by MSMEs in the region, he added. “High interest rates, lack of the latest technology and competition from China is hurting MSMEs. During Covid-19, 14-15 industries closed in Ludhiana and Punjab. No bank came up with a concession for MSMEs... we need cheaper finance as we can’t compete with China on interest rates,” Jindal said.

The SIDBI ET MSME Conclave is a series of events being held across the nation to bring together MSMEs, policymakers and ecosystem enablers. These summits aim to catalyse the next wave of growth opportunities, foster knowledge exchange, enable networking and help tackle challenges for sustainable growth for Indian MSMEs.

The first event took place in Indore on January 9, the second in Bhubaneswar on January 12, and the third in Ludhiana on January 19. More such events are being planned in Ludhiana, Belagavi, Rajkot and Aurangabad.

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