

With sustainability at its core, South India eyes a \$10 t economy

Our Bureau
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South India is emerging as a frontrunner in sustainability and future mobility, with Tamil Nadu and Karnataka leading the way in renewable energy and electric vehicle manufacturing, said R Mukundan, Vice-President, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) & MD & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd.

GROWTH SAGA

“With Tamil Nadu and Karnataka generating over 22 GW of wind and solar power and Tamil Nadu spearheading electric two-wheeler and auto component manufacturing, South India is well-positioned for sustainable growth,” he said while speaking at the CII Mystic South Global Linkages Summit 2025.

Sustainable industrialisation is non-negotiable. Investments in solar energy,



ROADMAP TO GROWTH (from left) N Lakshmi Narayanan, Chancellor, Krea University; T T Ashok, Chairman, CII Mystic South 2025; R Mukundan, V-P, CII; and R Nandini, Chairperson, CII Southern Region, in Chennai on Monday. BJOY GHOSH

green hydrogen, and other renewable sources will be vital for South India’s progress. Strengthening EV infrastructure and fostering industry-policy collaborations will be key to enhancing the region’s global competitiveness in sustainable technologies, he added.

Highlighting South India’s financial and economic transformation, Mukundan underscored the significance

of seamless credit access and strong fiscal policies in achieving the region’s ambitious \$10 trillion economy target.

“Strategic investments and industrial expansion will be crucial in driving India’s economic momentum, while fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Public-private partnerships are also reshaping development by ensuring efficiency in infra-

structure, manufacturing, and renewable energy sectors,” he said. The global trade corridor passes right through South India—leveraging this strategically can propel economic growth.

“With its longest coastline among global regions, South India holds a geographic edge in trade and economic growth,” said R Dinesh, Immediate Past President, CII & Executive Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd.

“South India’s unique strengths in manufacturing, technology, and human capital give it a strategic edge.”

R Nandini, Chairperson, Southern Region, CII & MD, Chandra Textiles, highlighted the region’s economic contributions. “South India accounts for 31 per cent of India’s GDP and attracts 40 per cent of FDI inflows,” she said.

A report, ‘2047 Southern Odyssey: Powering Ahead to a \$10 Trillion Economy,’ was unveiled at the summit.