

**The International Conference on Salt and Marine Chemicals Technology and Business  
(SMARTECHBIZ 2026) 22-23 January 2026**

**SALT INDIA EXPO 2026 (22-24 January 2026)**

**Details of Technical Program: SMARTECHBIZ 2026**

DAY 1	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	
Venue: Hall 12, Helipad Exhibition Centre (HEC), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India		
08:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Registration	
INAUGURAL CEREMONY (10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)		
10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductory remarks by Dr. Parul Sahu</li><li>• Lamp lighting by delegates</li></ul>	
10:10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Welcome address by Convener: Dr. Arvind Kumar	
10:15 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	Address by Guest of Honour	
10:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Presidential address by Director CSIR-CSMCRI and Patron: Dr. Kannan Srinivasan	
10:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	Address by Chief Guest	
10:55 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Release of SALT INDIA EXPO directory</li><li>• Vote of thanks</li></ul>	
TEA/COFFEE BREAK (11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.)		
SESSION-1 (11:20 a.m. to 01:00 p.m.) <u>Session Chair: Dr. S C Upadhyay, CSIR-CSMCRI</u> <u>Session Co-chair: Dr. Alok R Paital, CSIR-CSMCRI</u>		
11:20 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Solar salt production in the Mediterranean region	Dr. Franz Goetzfried Salt Research + Consultancy, Germany
11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Indian Salt Industry: Current Scenario and Outlook	Mr. Bharat C. Raval President, Indian Salt Manufacturers' Association (ISMA), India
12:20 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.	Solar salt and marine chemicals technologies @CSIR-CSMCRI	Dr. Arvind Kumar Chief Scientist, CSIR-CSMCRI, Bhavnagar, India
12:50 p.m. – 01:00 p.m.	Presentation: Yug Enterprise	
1:00 p.m. – 01:10 p.m.	Presentation: Shree Bhagwati Buildinfra Pvt. Ltd.	
LUNCH BREAK (01:10 p.m. – 02:30 p.m.)		
SESSION-2 (02:30 p.m. to 05:00 p.m.) <u>Session Chair: Dr. J R Chunawala, CSIR-CSMCRI</u> <u>Session Co-chair: Dr. Pratap S Bapat, CSIR-CSMCRI</u>		
02:30 p.m. – 03:00 p.m.	Salt quality control and brine quality	Mr. S N Sastry President & Unit Head of Grasim Industries Limited, A P, India
03:00 p.m. – 03:30 p.m.	Salt Procurement and Logistics: Trade and Quality Factors	Mr. P N Rao Vice President of Commercial, Soda-Ash, GHCL, India
03:30 p.m. – 04:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion: <b>Salt and Marine Chemicals Industry: Navigating Technology Transitions, Business Growth and Climate Risks</b> (Session Chair: Mr. Ravi Raghavan, Editor, Chemical Weekly)	Panel Members: Mr. Chetan Kamdar (Director, The Bhavnagar Salt and Industrial Works Private Limited, Bhavnagar, India) Mr. P N Rao (Vice President of Commercial, Soda-Ash, GHCL, India) Mr. S N Sastry (Head of Grasim Industries Limited, A P, India) Mr. Bharat Raval (President, ISMA, India)
04:30 p.m. – 04:40 p.m.	Presentation: GEIST	
04:40 p.m. – 04:50 p.m.	Presentation: ShriRaam Engineering	
TEA/COFFEE BREAK (04:50 p.m. onwards)		

DAY 2	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026 Venue: Hall 12, Helipad Exhibition Centre (HEC), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India	
09:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Registration	
09:55 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Introductory Remarks by Dr. Parul Sahu	
SESSION-1 (10:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m.) <u>Session Chair: Dr. Bhoomi R Andharia, CSIR-CSMCRI</u> <u>Session Co-chair: Dr. Sumit B Kamble, CSIR-CSMCRI</u>		
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Salt Processing & Purification Technologies: Latest developments and future prospects	Mr. Balasubramanian R Founder & CEO Shriram Engineering, Tuticorin, India
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Resource Recovery from Waste - A tool for competitive advantage	Mr. Vikram Dhumal Business Head, GEIST Research, India
TEA/COFFEE BREAK (11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)		
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon	How Industry Cooperation Can Advance the Salt Industry – A European Example (Virtual)	Ms. Adriana Nosewicz MD, EUSalt, Belgium
12:00 noon – 12:30 p.m.	Global salt market and its current and expected future dynamics- (Virtual)	Dr. Stefan Schlag Leon Beraud Salt Market Expert, Switzerland
12:30 p.m. – 01:00 p.m.	Valedictory Program	