

Sunil Shinde

CEO, CEC, and MD, CICI

Sunil Shinde has been quite an audacious risk-taker. "I have never hesitated in accepting challenges that might have been perceived by many as high risk. Maybe that has helped me rise up the corporate ladder," he says. The same propensity has made him, of late, adventurous too. "I recently went scuba-diving in Cairns. Thanks to both my daughters, I have been trying out new things which I would have never done otherwise."

Shinde is the first Indian to be appointed CEO of Continental Engineering Corporation's (CEC) India operations and managing director (MD), CEC International Corporation India Private Limited (CICI), a wholly owned subsidiary of CEC. He has over three decades of experience in the construction industry. His interest was sparked when, as a young boy, he used to visit or walk past construction sites.

A civil engineer from Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI), Mumbai, he landed his first job at L&T – ECC construction group in 1979, where he worked for over 19 years. He was also employed with Hindustan Construction Limited, Tata Realty and Infrastructure Limited, and Welspun Projects Limited before affiliating with CEC in May 2012.

Shinde's experience includes many prestigious assignments and his current ones are also very high profile. Talking about CEC's current undertaking, the Bangalore Metro Project Phase I, he says, "The project is worth Rs 9.952 billion and is of great import to CEC. We are encountering geological challenges though. The rocks are abrasive and are causing wear and tear of the machinery, thereby affecting progress".

On the challenges faced in India, he remarks: "From a business standpoint, there has been a significant growth in the top line of most players, and improvement in the regulatory framework, over the last decade. But growth may not be as smooth in the near future due to the overall market environment and the shortage of skilled manpower."

None of this dampens his determination to ensure that CEC thrives. It aspires to touch a 30 per cent compound annual growth rate in the next five years. "A modest yet achievable target," he says.



Shinde is accustomed to long hours but he makes time for annual family vacations. He is a keen traveller and enjoys reading, especially technical literature. Throughout his career, he says the people above mentored him and it is their work ethic and approach, which he tries to emulate. He is an inveterate team player because he believes that synergy yields enhanced outputs. ▀