ASSOCHAM
Celebrating 101 Years

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Bharat @100

Envisioning a Globally Competitive Future

2nd-14th March, 2022

Envisioning a Globally Competitive Future

2021 was a milestone year for India, as we celebrated our 75th year of Independence. Having weathered an unprecedented heath and economic crisis, India is emerging stronger. The renewed vigour of the citizens, industry and the Government has set forth a bright future for the country to position itself as a critical global stakeholder.

Over the last 75 years, India has been among the world's leading democracies focused on ensuring balanced, sustainable, and inclusive growth. Various development programs have helped the country achieve significant socio-economic growth and create a unique position in the global arena. The country has been making significant strides in building modern infrastructure, strengthening domestic industry, fostering innovation, and adopting next-gen technologies. At the same time, India has balanced the needs of its citizens and industry to ensure no one is left behind and the benefits of growth are percolated downstream. Over the years, the country has implemented various reforms across sectors to facilitate development and establish India as a competitive global market.

Amidst the global pandemic, India has found its innate strength to brave the storm and focus on developing its domestic ecosystem, to support both the Indian and the global markets. India has undertaken the world's largest vaccination drive and is distributing vaccines to many parts of the world. To address the global climate change challenge, the country has a 5-point agenda that balances mitigation and adaptation.

India's next phase of growth will require a differentiated focus on economic and social development. The blueprint for the 100 years of independence will be based on prosperity, good governance, and discipline to build an ideal India with significant global impact. To achieve this vision, the country will have to focus on high-quality, sustainable infrastructure, skilling programs for future jobs, access to low-cost funding, the reduced regulatory burden on investors, and affordable healthcare systems.

The vision of Bharat@100 will place the country as a leading hub across various global value chains, with the Indian industry geared towards technology adoption and sustainability, to ensure global competitiveness. The country would also provide equity for women and vulnerable sections of society and bring balanced regional and inclusive development for all. At the same time, boosting the rural economy will help achieve inclusive growth, supporting farmers income and reducing the employment burden on the sector.

Aligned with the vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, ASSOCHAM has been pursuing the four growth pillars – Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, Digitalisation and Empowerment as the key segments that will drive growth, especially on our journey towards Bharat@100. We are aligned with the Government and industry to push a framework that drives inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.

Realizing India's socio-economic vision through infrastructure investments

India has recognized the importance of infrastructure in the form of multi-modal transport systems, warehousing ecosystem, power grids and gas pipelines for an effective and efficient domestic ecosystem that embeds itself as a critical hub in the global value chains.

As we plan for the next phase, the focus must be to achieve exponential growth, with India leading a sustainable and inclusive development plan by its 100th year of Independence. Furthermore, the recent launch of the PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan would significantly boost multi-modal connectivity, making various Indian sectors much more globally competitive and reducing logistics costs. Given these consistent efforts to enhance ease of doing business, India is well-positioned to leverage a differential position in the global arena, embedding itself as a crucial hub in global value chains. Aligned with climate action efforts, the country is focusing on green infrastructure that will also contribute to three SDGs - SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 13 (climate action).

To spur infrastructure development, the Government introduced the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), which envisages investments of INR111 lakh crore till FY25, from the Central and State Governments and the private sector. In March 2021, the Government also announced plans to establish the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) for infrastructure financing. The effective execution of the infrastructure programs will go a long way in building investor confidence, increasing revenue, generating employment, and improving living standards, resulting in a growing, sustainable, and inclusive economy.

Special Guest: Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways

Strengthening the Indian economy's immunity

The global economy is expected to undergo a radical change in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. To support the economy and citizens amidst the crisis, the Indian Government announced the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package in May 2020, which included a mix of stimulus measures, liquidity support to MSMEs, and structural reforms. The stimulus package was followed up with other measures to help keep the economic momentum going and contain the spiralling of sectors. The aim was to build a more resilient, diversified, self-reliant economy that can cater to domestic demand and embed itself as a hub for global value chains.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian economy has shown resilience and is expected to bounce back strongly. As per estimates from the World Bank, the Indian economy is expected to grow by 8.3 per cent in FY 2021-22, while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted a growth rate of 9.5 per cent in FY 2021-22. The IMF has further forecasted growth for FY 2022-23 to come in at 8.5 per cent, indicating a robust, sustained recovery for the economy.

Over the years, the Government has taken several steps to strengthen the economic immunity and build resilience through measures such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Goods and Services Tax, the establishment of a Bad Bank, a privatization policy for PSUs in non-strategic sectors. Additionally, the focus on manufacturing and integrating India into global supply chains is supported by measures such as the Production Linked Incentive scheme for a wide variety of sectors to bring in incremental investments of around US$30 billion by the financial year 2024-25 (FY25).

Special Guests:
Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Finance Minister
Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, MoS, Ministry of Finance

The great reset: Reinforcing India’s global positioning

Exports have played an essential role in the growth of the Indian economy. Since 1991, average tariffs across most items declined significantly, leading to a boom in Indian exports and the Indian economy, which saw growth rates of 8-10 per cent.

In recent months, India’s exports have been on the upswing and seen a resurgence and increased economic activity. India’s merchandise exports in October rose 42.33 per cent over the previous year to US$35.47 billion. FY21-22 has begun on a good year with exports continuing to pick up the pace, with even the advent of the second wave not leading to a significant decline in exports with India now well on its way to achieving the ambitious target of $400 billion for the year 2021-22.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a unique opportunity to India to lure global manufacturing giants as companies look to diversify their supply chains. For India to emerge as the new manufacturing hub of the world, it cannot focus only on sectors where other countries have a strong manufacturing prowess. Instead, India should complement that approach with a focus on manufacturing goods of the future.

The Government has been working on strengthening India’s export basket through a variety of steps taken over the past several years, such as the building of infrastructure at a rapid pace. At the same time, the National Logistics Policy is aimed at drastically reducing logistics costs, while new labor laws would improve the ease of doing business.

Special Guest: Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon’ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution and Textiles

Accelerating growth in the Indian A&D ecosystem: design and manufacturing excellence

India is one of the highest defence spenders globally and the second-largest importer of arms transferred during the 2016-20 period, with a share of 9.5 per cent in global arms imports.

While India has traditionally been import-dependent in the defence and aerospace sector, consistent efforts are being put by the Government to develop a robust domestic manufacturing ecosystem. The Government has announced plans to scale up the domestic military hardware manufacturing base from the current US$11 billion to US$25 billion by 2025.

In recent years, the Government has taken up several reforms such as the draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020, the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 (DAP) to focus on indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured weapon systems. Further, it came out with two positive indigenization lists comprising 209 items, for which there would be an embargo on the import beyond the timeline indicated against them.

The Government has also been working on two Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu that have seen an enthusiastic response from many players. To give a boost to R&D, the Government launched the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) in 2018 and the Technology Development Fund (TDF) under DRDO to promote self-reliance in Defence Technology.

Special Guests:
Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Defence
Shri Ajay Bhatt, MoS, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Tourism

Reinforcing the focus on Indian education

An educated and skilled workforce will play a crucial role in achieving the goal of becoming Aatmanirbhar Bharat. With India's working-age population growing faster than its population of young and old dependents, the country has an excellent opportunity to improve its social and economic outcomes if more workers are productively employed. Education can mitigate India's risk of forfeiting its demographic dividend and the Indian Government's focus on implementing the National Education Policy will help enhance equitable growth in the country.

With among the largest networks of higher education institutions globally, India is a significant participant in the global education market. Additionally, the NEP aims to strengthen the Indian education system by implementing student-centred learning. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought forth several opportunities for advancements and innovations as technology plays a larger role in education,

As we plan for the next phase of sustainable and inclusive development, the focus must be to achieve exponential growth, backed by a large pool of educated and skilled workers equipped to manage the development and transformation across sectors.

Special Guests:
Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Dr Subhas Sarkar, Hon'ble Minister of State of Education

Strengthening the steel sector to support India's growth story

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the economy, wherein construction activities were limited for more than a year. However, the steel industry bounced back and registered growth in crude steel production. The revival of the Indian economy, coupled with the improved liquidity in infrastructure projects being undertaken is expected to drive the steel demand in 2022.

Going forward, the Indian steel industry will focus on the next phase of modernisation and capacity expansion. In the coming year, domestic players are putting higher thrust on operational efficiency, digitalisation, and strengthening mining operations. The increased focus on infrastructure, especially with the Gati Shakti, and the ongoing reform measures, will provide momentum to India's growth story.

The National Steel Policy 2017 set a target to ramp up the country's crude steel production output to 300 million tonnes (MT) by 2030 and increase the domestic per capita steel consumption to 160 kg by 2030. Reducing India's dependence on imports for steel raw materials will strengthen the domestic ecosystem and unlock significant opportunities for the sector. Increasing the per capita steel consumption and production of special steel and enhancing raw material security will remain the government's key focus areas in 2022.

Special Guests:
Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Steel
Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Hon'ble Minister of State of Steel and Ministry of Rural Development

Creating a sustainability roadmap - urban design, transportation, and alternative fuels

As India develops economically and its population grows more aspirational and ambitious, it must focus on creating a sustainable growth trajectory from an environmental and climate change perspective.

The Government has taken several measures towards creating a sustainable roadmap for the country, with plans to increase its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW and meet 50 per cent of its energy requirements through renewable energy by 2030.

Transport has special significance as one of India's most energy-intensive sectors, accounting for 10.22 per cent of the country's total energy consumption. To bring sustainability to the transport side, the Government has promoted and provided all the necessary support to electric vehicles. It introduced the Faster Adoption of and Manufacturing of Hybrid and EV (FAME) I and II schemes to accelerate the adoption of EV's. This has led to an increased usage of electric vehicles and a rising number of charging stations.

Other Government initiatives such as the Smart cities mission to transform India's urban landscape have promoted open and green spaces. The National Mission for a Clean Ganga (NMCG) and other river cleaning measures are initiatives to create a sustainable environment for all.

Further, energy forms a considerable part of the INR 12 lakh crore annual energy import expenditure. The research and development of alternative fuels such as green hydrogen would help create sustainable transport and system and help reduce the country's high energy import bill.

Special Guests:
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Housing and Urban Affairs
Shri Rameswar Teli, MoS, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Ministry of Labour and Employment

Harnessing the potential of heavy manufacturing: competitiveness and green technology

Developing a globally competitive manufacturing ecosystem represents one of the most significant opportunities for India to spur economic growth and job creation. The country's Aatmanirbhar vision relies on a robust manufacturing ecosystem that can cater to domestic and global demand.

Heavy manufacturing industries in India have contributed significantly to the country's socio-economic development and urbanization, employing millions across the country. India has various advantages in terms of access to raw materials, a young workforce, and entrepreneurship drive, which, supported by the Government's focus on export growth, import localization and domestic demand, can go a long way in strengthening the country's global positioning. Focusing on value addition across industry segments will help India's manufacturing value chains become competitive.

India is among the fastest-growing economies globally, with a growing and aspiring middle class. It has also set ambitious targets regarding renewable energy and is currently on track to meet most of them. Further, the Government is also working to achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and reduce local air pollution.

The Indian Government is making consistent efforts to synergize heavy industries, digital innovation and other end-use industries to position India as a cost-competitive manufacturing hub across value chains. Additionally, the Government is working towards providing easy access to finance, raw materials and technology while promoting environment-friendly practices to Indian globally competitive.

Special Guests:
Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey, Hon'ble Minister of Heavy Industries
Shri Krishan Pal, Hon'ble Minister of State of Power and Heavy Industries

Diversifying the rural economy to double farmers' income

India's rural segment has been the foundation of the Indian economy, even amidst the unprecedented pandemic. India's agricultural segment produces food to feed the 1.3 billion people and support various industries with critical inputs.

Aligned with its focus on doubling farmers' income, the Government has also launched developmental and technological initiatives to raise output and reduce cost. Recent progress on this front includes schemes such as Soil Health Card, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, E-Nam etc.

The Government launched the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to diversify the rural economy and boost new Agri-based industries, a financing facility worth Rs 1 lakh crore for Agri-entrepreneurs, Agri start-ups, and various farmer groups. The fund aims to accelerate the process of the creation of farm-gate infrastructure and nurturing of farm assets and create more jobs in the logistics sector.

The increasing effect of climate change also poses a considerable challenge to farmers that can only be tackled by taking proactive steps to diversify the rural economy and make it more resilient. Reinvesting in more diverse agriculture can regenerate the earth and set up farmer communities for sustainable and long-term economic prosperity.

Diversification towards high-value crops would help improve farmers' income. Diversification of crops from wheat, sugarcane, and paddy to a larger variety of diverse food crops well-suited to the soil (including pulses and oilseeds) that can provide communities with diverse and healthy diets and protect biodiverse ecosystems, therefore, entails perpetual capital investment in agri-infrastructure creation.

Special Guests:
Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Hon'ble Minister of State of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Creating an equal future for all in a post COVID-19 world

Creating an equal world for all was a leading challenge even before the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated the challenge of equality. The pandemic has unfairly impacted some people more harshly than others across the world. This issue must be tackled by individuals, enterprises, and Governments alike.

In India, the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to undo years of progress in poverty alleviation, increasing enrolment rates for girls in schools and bringing more women into the workforce. The pandemic has forced Governments to confront the challenge of inequality and think of new and innovative ways of creating a system of equality for all.

Moving forward, the government must work on a war footing to reverse many of the increasing inequality trends and use the opportunity provided by the pandemic to build back better for an equal world. The country's social development would be based on adhering to existing commitments and making new and bold commitments to facilitate equal access to healthcare, education, reduce wage gap inequality, etc. It is critical to continue supporting the most vulnerable sections of society to reach a healthy standard of living.

The country's commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment through cooperation and coordination will have to be strengthened across all forums, focusing on their skilling in STEM, financial and digital literacy, and the environment and sustainability.

Special Guest: Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development

Strengthening India's tribal ecosystem

India has a among the largest tribal population in the world, which continue to safegaurd their heriatge and traditions and conserve the ancient wisdom. While the increasing urbanisation, habitat loss and dwindling livelihoods, many tribal communities are facing extreme stress.

The Government of India has been focused on educating and skilling the tribal youth to support the socio-economic development of tribal people in the country. Through dedicated support in marketing development of the tribal products and empowering tribal people with knowledge, tools and pool of information, they are being equipped to participate in the national and global economy. Capacity building of the tribal people through sensitization, formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and training them, allows marketing of tribal products on a sustainable basis and creating a brand.

The programmes and schemes of the Central and State Governments comprise economic, educational and social development. Through the Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program (TEDP) the Government aims to improve the lives of the tribal community of India, providing a platform to tribal artists that can help them reach the international market. As India focuses on the next phase of growth, it is critical to encompass the tribal community and create an equal future for all.

Special Guests:
Shri Arjun Munda, Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs
Smt Renuka Singh Saruta, Hon'ble Minister of State of Tribal Affairs

Emerging technologies nurturing transformative growth

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted life on a never seen before scale. People were required to work from home almost overnight, and businesses and industries were forced to adopt entirely new models to survive. The pandemic also accelerated the emergence and adoption of new emerging technologies, leading to transformative growth over the next decade.

The pandemic led to digitalization becoming a part of everyday lives. Technologies such as digitalization, artificial intelligence, and machine learning that had just begun gaining traction were now suddenly catapulted into the mainstream. The Government of India has been pursuing a digital transformation path, from building apps on the public cloud to using analytics for better service delivery. The country has also been undertaking several reforms to strengthen its policymaking ecosystem in emerging technologies.

India has a chance at becoming a major player in emerging technologies such as Quantum Computing, which has been regularly touted as the next vital technological milestone. Further, India has several prominent start-us engaged in Deep tech research, is embracing digitalization in various sectors, accessible to the rich and poor alike, and has growing EV infrastructure in place for rapid adoption of Electric vehicles.

The country can accrue notable economic, social and strategic benefits by investing in emerging technologies. This would also facilitate India's aspiration of being a leading player in the global arena. Therefore, India needs to proactively invest in enhancing its education quality and strengthening its R&D infrastructure to unlock the potential of emerging technologies.

Special Guest: Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics and Information Technology

Harnessing the potential of pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing in India

The Indian pharmaceutical sector presents a significant growth opportunity, owing to its strategic importance in terms of economic contribution and foreign trade. The country boasts of being the largest provider of generic medicines globally, with more than 20% share in the global market volume. Furthermore, India supplies almost 60% of the global demand for vaccines. Exporting more than 66 million of COVID-19 doses to 95 countries, India played a key role in the global fight against COVID-19.

Going forwards, it is critical for India to move up the value chain and promote innovation in advanced products. The Indian pharmaceutical sector is re-positioning itself as a global leader in drug development, which mandates significant investments in R&D, especially in biosimilars and new molecular entities. The sector is expected to grow to ~USD 120 billion by 2030, driven by the Government's focus on becoming Aatmanirbhar. This is also driving growth in the medical device manufacturing in India as the Government is easing challenges and making the domesctic ecosystem globally competitive.

As the medical device industry is still young, creating an efficient ecosystem is critical in terms of the long-term growth of the field. Regulatory and policy reforms, research, and innovation, as well as funding, especially licencing, will lead to the achievement of these goals. To create a thriving medical device industry, India would have to undertake regulatory and policy reforms, and nurture innovation.

Special Guests:
Shri Mansukh Mandviya, Hon'ble Mimister of Health and Family Welfare
Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Enabling MSMEs to go global

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has been the key focus of policy makers from the central government and state governments as it is very important for overall economy growth and development in terms of employment, value chain creation, foreign exchange earnings, support to large industries, promotion of regional balance and inclusive development, etc.

In India, the MSME sector has been dominated by micro-enterprises with over 6.33 crore MSMEs, 99.4 per cent or 6.30 crore of which are micro-enterprises. The Government should formalize and digitalize MSMEs, making it easier for them to access formal credit and government schemes. This can go a long way in helping such enterprises expand their scale and improve efficiency in the long run.

Keeping in mind of the contribution and significance of the MSME industries to overall economic growth and development, ASSOCHAM initiated many activities in the past to support the MSMEs and one of the key initiatives were ASSOCHAM MSMEs Excellence Awards which was initiated in 2013.

The ASSOCHAM MSMEs Excellence Awards acknowledge and reward the outstanding MSMEs as per their performance in different parameters and also, recognize the enabling service providers to the MSMEs.

Special Guests:
Shri Narayan Tatu Rane, Hon’ble Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Hon'ble Minister of State of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

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Charting India's transition to a low-carbon economy

At the recently held COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, India committed to becoming net-zero or carbon neutral by 2070. The country also announced that it would enhance its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW, fulfilling 50 per cent of its energy requirement through renewable energy by 2030.

In the coming decades, India intends to make significant leaps in its socio-economic development, which would require considerably more energy than the country currently consumes. However, the country recognises the impact of climate change on the world's future and is making efforts to become a more prosperous country while containing its carbon emissions.

Given India's acute vulnerabilities from a changing climate, the Government has been making consistent efforts to boost the transition to a low carbon economy. These include the push towards Electric vehicles in public and private transportation through the FAME I and II schemes, the ambitious goal of Indian Railways of attaining net-zero emissions by 2030, the Hydrogen Energy Mission intending to turn India into a green hydrogen hub, among others. Further, to develop a domestic green economy, the Government introduced a INR 4,500 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar panel manufacturing which saw participation from a host of companies. All these initiatives are projected to aid India in its clean energy transition.

Special Guests:
Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Monister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Labour and Employment
Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Creating a healthy and happy India

India is the world's largest democracy with a rich culture and heritage created over centuries. Since independence, it has made rapid strides in lifting millions out of poverty and led social development through healthcare and education, with continuous improvement in all spheres.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the focus on physical and mental wellbeing to the fore. India not only fulfilled the domestic requirements but also supported other countries. Having administered more than 100 crore vaccine doses to its citizens in record time, the Government and citizens now possess the confidence to tackle communicable and non-communicable diseases on a war footing. Further, programmes raising awareness on the importance of mental wellbeing will go a long way in creating a healthy and happy India for all.

India's economic growth journey will have to be supported by a robust healthcare infrastructure that can provide affordable and high-quality healthcare services to all. India has a significant investment potential in the health domain, with numerous hospital chains looking to expand in Tier II and III cities, aligned with Government efforts to minimise the accessibility gap mainly in sub-urban and rural parts of the country. Furthermore, the National Digital health Mission expansion would address the country's requirements.

The growing middle class of India is increasingly favouring preventative healthcare, leading to a rise in investment opportunities across segments such as hospitals, medical devices and equipment, telemedicine, medical tourism, etc.

Special Guests:
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister of AYUSH
Dr Munjapara Mahendrabhai, Hon'ble Minister of State of Women and Child Development and AYUSH

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Enabling India as a destination for the world

India has witnessed a steady rise in exports, fueled by the supportive policy reforms and focus on strengthening the domestic manufacturing ecosystem. Even amidst the pandemic, the country's exports witnessed encouraging signs, recording a 47.9% year-on-year growth in July 2021, to be worth USD35.17 billion. The country's share of global merchandise exports is now at an all-time high, as India crossed USD300 billion worth exports in April-December 2021 and is well on course to achieving target of USD 400billion exports in FY22.

Aligned to the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, India has created a roadmap to double manufacturing exports over the next five years, reduce imports in select sectors and boost annual domestic consumption growth. Such focus will go a long way in attracting global companies to embed India as part of their value chain. It is an oportune time for India to leverage the steady good sentiment towards Indian goods internationally. The country has started gaining share in manufacturing exports, which will also help increase job opportunities.

Along with addressing sectoral challenges to enhance global competitiveness, the Government is also pursuing various new Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and re-nogiating existing FTAs to expand opportunities for Indian exporters.

Special Guest: Shri Som Parkash, Hon'ble Minister of State of Commerce and Industry

Civil Aviation & Cargo: Driving post-COVID growth

India has been one of the fastest-growing aviation industries globally during the last decade and was expected to surpass the UK by 2025 to become the third-largest aviation market globally. The rising proportion of middle-income households in India, coupled with high competition amongst low-cost carriers, has pushed demand for air travel in the country. Recognising the sector's significant potential, the Government has been focused on strengthening infrastructure and creating a supportive policy framework.

Through its UDAAN scheme, the Government of India gave a significant push to regional connectivity of Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities by short-haul flights. Under this scheme, the Government aims to develop 100 airports by 2024. The increase in air travel will also boost the demand for Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) services, which is anticipated to grow to US$4.33 bn by 2025.

However, the industry growth has been hampered due to the ongoing pandemic, with most players facing the stress of the increasing gap in costs and revenues. As the number of cases declines, many countries, including India, are opening their borders and relaxing entry norms for travelers. This would help boost demand and provide support to the ailing sector.

Special Guests:
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister of AYUSH
Dr Munjapara Mahendrabhai, Hon'ble Minister of State of Women and Child Development and AYUSH

Global privacy and data protection

A combination of consumer forces, business drivers, and government initiatives have driven India's personal data revolution. Data powers the information economy, and its risks continue to increase rapidly. Data breaches, identity theft, and loss of customer trust are threats to organisations of all sizes in all sectors. With organisations adopting emerging technologies for digital transformation, there is unprecedented attention to privacy in the digital era due to increasing privacy risk exposure.

A robust data security regime must accompany increased digitalisation. Data is an asset that can bring about tremendous opportunities for individuals and societies. It has the potential to improve lives and strengthen communities. As the world makes a rapid leap into the digital age, it will be necessary for the regulators to facilitate the creation of an ecosystem where the privacy of citizens and the ability of enterprises to innovate are both safeguarded.

India's Data Protection Bill aims to dissuade profiling users without informed and explicit consent. On becoming the law, this bill would lead to most companies, especially startups revamping their data handling and operational practices to adopt a 'privacy by design' approach.

Special Guests:
Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice
Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Hon'ble Minister of State of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology

The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) is the country's oldest and most agile apex chamber, always evolving with the times ever since it was set up in 1920. The ASSOCHAM reaches out to and serves over 4.5 lakh members from trade, industry and professional services through over 400 associations, federations and regional chambers spread across the length and breadth of the country. It has built a strong presence in states, as also spread its wings in the key cities of the world.

With a rich heritage of being led by stalwarts of independent India, like JRD Tata, Nani Palkhivala, H P Nanda, L M Thapar, A N Haksar and Raunaq Singh, among others, the ASSOCHAM has shown the ability to transform itself to the contemporary Corporate India and of late has emerged as the 'Knowledge Chamber', leveraging the country's strength in the knowledge - led global economy.

Be it education, health, manufacturing, banking-finance, international trade, energy, human resource, science and technology , entertainment or the rural landscape comprising agriculture and rural infrastructure, the ASSOCHAM has well-established National Councils in each of the segments, chaired by well-known industry leaders, academicians, economists and independent professionals. These councils deliberate extensively and share their inputs with the government.

ASSOCHAM is working hand in hand with the government, institutions of importance and national and international think tanks to contribute to the policy making process even as it shares vital feedback on implementation of decisions of far-reaching consequences. ASSOCHAM is truly an institution of eminence, ever contributing to the task of nation building.

ASSOCHAM has been working closely with the Government, both Central and States, to support various initiatives that can mitigate the economic impact of the contagion, and with the Indian industry, to handhold them through these troubled times.

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Enabling long-term inclusive growth through states

Jammu & Kashmir

Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), often called Paradise on Earth, is known for its scenic beauty and handloom and handicrafts products. Over the past few years, the J&K administration has taken multiple steps to unleash the state's true economic potential. The state has increased focus on developing infrastructure to promote tourism, a new IT policy to bring investments in the IT/ITes sector, new film policy to facilitate the overall growth of the film industry in the region. Additionally, the state has launched a new web portal to register industrial units under the 'New Central Sector Scheme', which can bring investments of more than INR 50,000 crore.

Leveraging the region's natural advantage in sectors such as tourism and handicrafts and support and coordination from the Central Government can go a long way in developing a roadmap for inclusive growth in the region. The Government introduced the J&K Industrial Policy 2021–2030 to establish the UT as the leading investment destination by creating a business-friendly environment.

For the socio-economic transformation of J&K, the Government also aims to offer employment opportunities to 80 per cent of the youth population by 2025–2026 so that they can act as growth engines for the UT. Schemes such as Mission Youth and Mumkin have been launched in UT to create a young and talented population. Jan Bhagidari is being promoted for efficient governance and smooth delivery of public services. All these policies/initiatives are expected to have a trickle-up effect and boost the nation's economic growth.

Special Guest: Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K

Gujarat

Gujarat is one of India's foremost states in terms of urbanization and industrialization, known for its pro-business environment, thriving industrial sector, and vast coastline. Gujarat has also launched several policies across sectors in the past few years to attract investments, strengthen its manufacturing and export capabilities, and empower local businesses. In line with the country's vision of creating a robust domestic ecosystem, the state's Industrial Policy 2020 seeks to support MSMEs. It focuses on inclusive and balanced regional development, employment generation, and next-generation industry 4.0 led manufacturing.

While the country is still dealing with the after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state is making concerted efforts to post a holistic and balanced growth after the pandemic. Both the government and private sectors have strengthened investments to enhance infrastructure facilities in the state. The state is focusing on establishing greenfield ports, a dedicated freight corridor, and a logistics park.

It is among the critical industrialized states in the country and considered a leader across sectors such as chemicals, petrochemicals, dairy, drugs and pharmaceuticals, cement and ceramics, gems and jewellery, textiles, and engineering. Its modern infrastructure, conducive policy, and business-friendly ecosystem have played in its favour and have enabled the state in attracting 37 per cent of the total FDI equity inflows to the country in FY2021. It constitutes eight chemical clusters, 14 industrial estates, and 3 SEZs, which are chiefly dedicated to the chemicals and petrochemicals industry.

Special Guest: Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat

ASSOCHAM
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Odisha

With large mineral deposits, Odisha is considered as a hub for mineral-based industries and is the largest producer of aluminum, steel and stainless steel in the country.

Odisha is a pioneer in using technology in agriculture and farming, having automated the procurement process in the state to ensure MSP benefits. The state leverages satellite imaging and cadastral mapping of the paddy fields and GPS, to clear discrepancies on the ground. The integration of the farmers' registry with the state's land records database has also facilitated all government policies to reach beneficiary farmers.

The state is working towards becoming 'New Odisha - Empowered Odisha' by focusing on economic and social development. The Government is especially focused on empowering women with technical support and subsidies through the Mission Shakti women empowerment programme in Odisha. The Odisha government is also creating employable opportunities for women in sectors such as power, finance and banking, public distribution system dealership and procurement of paddy.

Endowed with significant natural resources, the state government has been focused on the development of infrastructure projects, such as roads, railways, airports and ports. The state stands to significantly benefit from the increased capital expenditure announced by the Central Government.

Furthermore, the state Government has collaborated with the United Nations World Food Programme to improve the food security of small and marginal farmers by strengthening their resilience to climate change.

Special Guests:
Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Minister of Odisha
Shri Prafulla Kumar Mallik, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Odisha

Himachal Pradesh

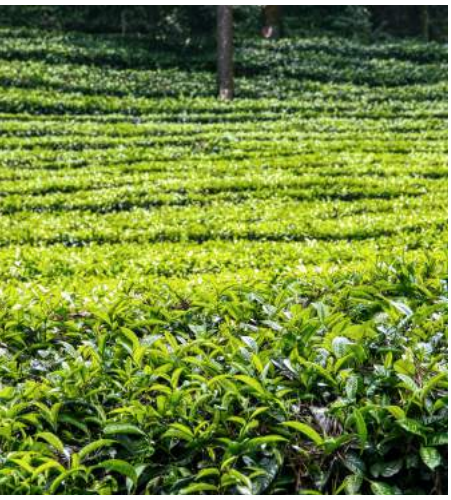
Himachal Pradesh, the state with five perennial rivers flowing through it, has significant economic potential to contribute to India's GDP and exports. The state has the potential to contribute 26% to India's hydropower potential. The state had installed capacity of 4.15 gigawatt (GW) for power generation till April 2021 and hydropower accounted for 70 per cent of the installed capacity. The Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh industrial region is a leading manufacturing hub for various sectors, catering to bulk drug manufacturing. Additionally, the state has a thriving agriculture, horticulture and food processing sectors. Mega food parks are enhancing the opportunity for investment in setting up food processing plants, thereby reducing the logistics cost and crop damage.

Tourism is one of the thrust sectors in the state, with the sector's contribution to the GDP being nearly 7 per cent. As a part of 'Nai Rahen, Nai Manzilen' scheme, the state is developing infrastructure and facilities at emerging destinations such as Janjehli valley and Shiv Dham in Mandi district, skiing in Chanshal valley, water sports activities at Pong Dam, Larji Dam, and other reservoirs – to further augment tourism.

The state government has also undertaken a social impact assessment for the construction of Bilaspur-Bhanupalli railway line to promote industrialization, trade and tourism. The focus on improving connectivity will also go a long way in regional development, while addressing issues such as transport congestion and rising pollution.

Special Guest: Shri Jai Ram Thakur, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh

Northeast Region



The Northeast Region (NER) comprises eight states located amid the East Himalayan region in the north-eastern part of India.

The region plays a significant role in the Government's 'Act East Policy' and 'Neighbourhood First Policy', which seek to build economic, strategic, and cultural relations with the Asia-Pacific region at varying levels. The Indian Government is making significant efforts to enhance the infrastructure in NER and connect the region with other economic corridors within India and Southeast Asia. By creating resilient value-chains, promoting trade, and improving connectivity infrastructure, India can sustainably develop the NER and strengthen collaboration with countries in the eastern neighbourhood.

Traditionally, the region's complicated terrain made it difficult for economic activities to pick up and the population to remain dependent mainly on agricultural activities. However, the Government has initiated several positive measures to develop the north-eastern states, promote industry and agriculture and unlock their true economic potential.

The Government is also making concerted efforts to harness the water resources of rivers such as Brahmaputra, Barak, and Teesta and expand the share of clean energy in its energy basket. The region has an enormous hydropower potential of approximately 58,971 megawatts (MW), of which only 2.92 per cent (as of July 1, 2020) has been harnessed, and 2,300 MW is under construction.

The focus of the Government is to enhance connectivity, improve the ease of doing business in the region, and help unlock new economic opportunities for the people in the state.

Special Guest: Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Minister of Development of North Eastern Region, Culture and Tourism

Bihar

The state of Bihar has a unique location-specific advantage connecting it to the rest of India and international markets through over 200,000 km of road network, and 6,700 km of rail network. The Golden Quadrilateral Highway and the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor bring ample growth opportunities for the state, providing it access to ports, raw materials, and mineral reserves in the neighbouring states.

With 52 industrial areas and mega industrial parks, Bihar is now making efforts to attract more investments though concerted efforts to enhance ease of doing business. To create a facilitative policy environment, the government is making efforts towards the Bihar Textile and Leather Policy 2021, Bihar Logistics Policy 2021, and attract more investment in the state, the government is preparing Bihar Textile and Leather Policy 2021, Bihar Logistics Policy 2021, and Bihar Pharma Policy 2021.

The state has identified agriculture, food processing, electronics, textiles, IT, and leather as high priority sectors. Additionally, thermal power and renewable energy, hospitality, are fast-growing sectors in the state.

The Bihar government and the central government are planning a network of expressways to improve the connectivity of the state and reduce travel time, while boosting economic activity. The pandemic has led to a renewed focus on the development of health infrastructure in the state, including capacity building of healthcare workers, opening of new health institutes and procurement of equipment.

Special Guest: Shri Nitish Kumar, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Bihar

West Bengal

West Bengal is forms a gateway to Southeast Asia and North East India, with a vast road network of 3,15,404 km and the second largest metro rail network in the country. Endowed with natural maritime advantages and navigable waterways, the state has the oldest maritime infrastructure with two major ports at Kolkata and Haldia.

The state has a robust agriculture sector, especially rice, jute and tea. Additionally, the state has been focusing on the development of renewable energy, IT, electronics, and ESDM. West Bengal has maintained its growth momentum despite the pandemic, owing to initiation of mega projects with a focus on industrialisation for sustainable economic expansion.

The Government of West Bengal has been making consistent efforts to help poor and vulnerable groups access social protection services, as the state runs more than 400 programs for social assistance, care services, and jobs. The focus on social development has led to improved performance on most social indicators, including education, health, nutrition, availability of safe drinking water, and toilets. Additionally, the state has registered a literacy rate of 76.3, higher than the national average.

To improve the business environment, the state Government has undertaken initiatives such as the implementation of e-governance measures, such as simplified tax returns, single-window system for the issuance of building plan approval, issuance of trade licence and municipal mutation and assessment.

Special Guests:
Smt Mamta Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal
Shri Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Ministry for Commerce & Industries, Government of West Bengal

Madhya Pradesh

The 'heart of India', Madhya Pradesh, is focused on becoming INR 10 trillion economy by 2022 as a part of building the state 'Aatmanirbhar MP'. The state has undertaken significant infrastructure development owing to the presence of both North-South and East-West corridors. Madhya Pradesh offers excellent support infrastructure for industrial growth, with a robust rail network, vast National Highway network, commercial airports and inland container depots.

Madhya Pradesh has an installed power capacity is over 23,400 MW and a strong focus on enhancing the share of renewables, which currently constitute a 35% share. Endowed with natural resources, the state has ample fuel, minerals, agriculture, leading to thriving cement and food processing sectors. In 2021, Madhya Pradesh also had the largest forest cover in India and boasted of high biodiversity. The production of drug formulations and biologicals has increased in Madhya Pradesh, leading, to increasing exports from the state. Additionally, sectors such as automobiles, textile manufacturing, engineering and agriculture equipment manufacturing are focus sectors in the state.

Aligned with the vision of making India a US$5 trillion economy, the state Government has enhanced efforts on value addition across value chains.

Special Guest: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh

Telangana

The Telangana state has displayed significant resilience and economic recovery, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Telangana has a large agriculture sector, which has led to growth in recent years. Additionally, the state has a large IT sector, with Hyderabad being a leading IT hub of the country and an emerging hotspot for the data centre segment. Telangana also has a large pharmaceuticals and life sciences sector, contributing nearly one-third to India's production in the pharmaceutical sector. Hyderabad accounts for almost 20% of India's total pharmaceutical exports. The state Government has been making concerted efforts to set up a pharma city and nurture public private partnership to enhance growth in the sector.

The state is a leading producer and exporter of horticulture crops, sericulture and fisheries. Furthermore, Telangana is focused on plastics, food processing, non-metallic minerals, and electrical equipment sectors.

The Telangana Government is also focused on strengthening medical education and tertiary healthcare facilities, by establishing eight medical colleges, a super-specialty hospital and four multispecialty hospitals. To improve the education facilities, the Telangana Government has announced plans to implement the Mana Vooru, Mana Badi (Our village, our school) programme across 26,065 schools being run by the state Government and panchayat raj bodies, with a focus on improving infrastructure and teaching facilities.

Special Guest: Shri K T Rama Rao, Hon'ble Minister for IT, Industries, MA & UD, Government of Telengana

The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) is the country's oldest and most agile apex chamber, always evolving with the times ever since it was set up in 1920. The ASSOCHAM reaches out to and serves over 4.5 lakh members from trade, industry and professional services through over 400 associations, federations and regional chambers spread across the length and breadth of the country. It has built a strong presence in states, as also spread its wings in the key cities of the world.

With a rich heritage of being led by stalwarts of independent India, like JRD Tata, Nani Palkhivala, H P Nanda, L M Thapar, A N Haksar and Raunaq Singh, among others, the ASSOCHAM has shown the ability to transform itself to the contemporary Corporate India and of late has emerged as the 'Knowledge Chamber', leveraging the country's strength in the knowledge - led global economy.

Be it education, health, manufacturing, banking-finance, international trade, energy, human resource, science and technology , entertainment or the rural landscape comprising agriculture and rural infrastructure, the ASSOCHAM has well-established National Councils in each of the segments, chaired by well-known industry leaders, academicians, economists and independent professionals. These councils deliberate extensively and share their inputs with the government.

ASSOCHAM is working hand in hand with the government, institutions of importance and national and international think tanks to contribute to the policy making process even as it shares vital feedback on implementation of decisions of far-reaching consequences. ASSOCHAM is truly an institution of eminence, ever contributing to the task of nation building.

ASSOCHAM has been working closely with the Government, both Central and States, to support various initiatives that can mitigate the economic impact of the contagion, and with the Indian industry, to handhold them through these troubled times.

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