

INTRODUCTION

India's rank in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2019 survey climbed 23 places to 77 among 190 countries surveyed, making it the only country to rank among the top 10 improvers for the second consecutive year. This comes on top of a record jump of 30 places to reach 100th rank in 2018. At 77, we are within striking distance of top 50.

India may have the advantage of a large domestic market, and efforts to improve India's ease of doing business rankings may be finally yielding results, but there is still a lot of work ahead. This improved in ranking is not an end in and of itself.

Rationalization of tax rates, simplification of procedures, encourages compliance & early dispute resolution, promoting online processes to reduce physical interface & optimization of risk management system are the aspects which needs to be taken into consideration.

The prime objective is to provide a platform where stakeholders could meet to discuss: what can be done to reach in Top 50 ranking of the World Bank and also realize the practical issues faced by the industry.

BACKGROUND

'Ease of Doing Business' is one of the major reforms initiatives that the Government of India.

We are today fortunate to have a government which is willing to change & has shown its intent to break out of the sloth and open to suggestions for change. It is now the onus on industry to present its agenda for change and to share with the government the practical problems that industries face on ground. The government today is looking for first hand precise information regarding the laws or the sections therein which are coming in the way as impediments to ease of doing business in India.

The country has shown an improvement in six of the 10 parameters. However, we have slipped a bit in the latest ranking on 'paying taxes' and 'resolving insolvency' which are of a transitory nature. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ambitions for India to make it to the top 50. Against this backdrop, ASSOCHAM National Council of Ease of Doing Business proposes four roundtables in different cities and one mega conference in Delhi under the theme of "Ease of Doing Business in India – Looking forward"

(1) First Roundtable (14th March 2019, Hotel The Park, Delhi)

Representatives from Adani Ports, Tata power, Tata Realty, Sterlite Power, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, L&T Metro, Boston Scientific India, International Law Affiliates, Bharti-Infratel, APL logistics, Trident Group - Logistics, BAG Electronics, Quest Global Technologies, International Law Affiliates & PSC.

India in term of ranking have improved exceptionally well in consecutive year and also a part of top 10 improver. However, there is still a long way to go ahead to improve or to remove the hindrances occurring at ground level.

Mining through the convoluted governance framework, intertwined between the Central and the State Government is the major issue.

(2) Second Roundtable on 29th May 2019 at Hyderabad

(3) Third Roundtable at Mumbai

(4) Fourth Roundtable at Chennai

Mega Conference (September / October)

Topics to be covered

❖ Availability and accessibility of Infrastructure:

Transaction costs, logistics and freight expenses, customs clearance delays/fees, port charges and associated rent-seeking practices have remained an irritant to traders.

- Port infrastructure connectivity
- Logistic Facility
- Special Economic Zones (SEZ)
- Warehouse Facility

❖ Regulatory Matters (Insolvency board, SEBI, RBI and CCI)

- Issues related to resolving insolvency
- Cross border insolvency
- Mergers & acquisitions

❖ **Efficient financial Ecosystem**

- Importance and Availability of Finance
- NBFCs – Ease of getting banking license, Dependency on banks for resource mobilisation, tightening rules for NBFCs, debt obligations & capital obligations.
- Cost of Capital

❖ **Construction Eco system**

- Role of Insurance
- Dealing with construction permits.

❖ **Trading across border**

- Trade finance & credit
- Marine insurance – Issues & Challenges
- Use of technology for seamless movement

❖ **Usage of Technology**

- Ease and Speed-up Procedure for property registration
- For seamless movement for goods
- Digitalization of Records: Use of Block chain Technology

Profile of Participating Entities:

- » Policy makers and Administrators
- » Banking & financial Institutions
- » Technology Providers
- » Legal Experts
- » Shipping & Logistics service providers
- » Representatives from the various Industry
- » Consultants
- » PSUs

❖ KEY DELIVERABLES OF ROUNDTABLES AND CONFERENCE

- Outcome report will be prepared on the basis of each deliberation
- Sectoral short term and long term policy recommendations focusing on following:
 - Central Government
 - State Governments
 - Independent Agencies
- Alongwith to the roundtables and conference, ASSOCHAM will conduct an industry survey which will be part of recommendations.
- Interaction with Leading Industry representatives, Government Officials, Policy Makers, Multilateral Agencies on a single platform
- Exchange ideas & discuss challenges and opportunities during discussions
- Capitalize on the opportunity to make lasting connections, share best practices and network with potential customers
- Branding Building Opportunities

ASSOCHAM will discuss policy, regulatory and procedural issues with and industry experts for recommending appropriate reforms to the government for the development of the sector. For a conducive business environment, the round table will highlight encumbrances being faced by the industry players in the process of development of the sector for making feasible measures to overcome those encumbrances.