“If it is man’s privilege to be independent, it is equally his duty to be interdependent.”

- Mahatma Gandhi
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The government’s thumping entry into its second term has been matched by an equally marvelled target of USD 5 trillion for our economy. The prospects looked bright, and the roadmap was on track, but the outlook has been marred by a recent slowdown in growth. The question on everyone’s mind is what ails the Indian economy, and where is it headed? While the causes may seem obvious, the solutions call for bigger steps to be taken. On one hand, with India being well-integrated into the global economy, understandably it cannot be left uninfluenced by it. The ongoing US-China trade war and the uncertainty over Brexit are hinting at possible sparking of global recession. Closer home, the economy is witnessing weaker consumer demand, our exports have declined last quarter, and investment flows have been discouraged by the high cost of capital. Global headwinds in the form of hardening crude prices haven’t helped either. The government’s proclivity to reining inflation and containing fiscal deficit has led it to adopt a cautious approach.

One school of thought suggests that to revive business sentiment, monetary policy rate cuts alone may not suffice. From the point of view of businesses in India, factors such as high cost of land, multiplicity of labour laws, high electricity tariffs, infrastructural inefficiencies, and skilling gaps leave much to be desired and need to be addressed.

To propose sector-wise solutions for catalysing economic growth, ASSOCHAM had met with Hon’ble Finance Minister along with eminent industry leaders. Among the primary suggestions were the request for a stimulus package, accelerated depreciation on investments particularly in greenfield projects. Similarly, we had reiterated that the setting up of development finance institutions would play an important role in providing start-up capital and fuelling entrepreneurship. For exports, continuity and steadiness of tax policies and refund schemes is imperative, to maintain sanctity of long-term contracts and orders. Industry had also proposed the monetisation of idle government land. All these recommendations were intently received by the Finance Minister, and it is hoped that favourable and expeditious decisions are taken soon.

The country’s leadership has taken a progressive decision through the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A) in Jammu & Kashmir. The hoisting of the tricolour in the state is a proud moment for all Indians, marking a new beginning towards peace and progress. The state would see the flow investments into various sectors, and industry understands it has a clearly defined role to play. ASSOCHAM is keen to work closely with the government to explore opportunities to contribute towards the progress of the state. As a measure of its commitment, to begin with, ASSOCHAM has decided to open a regional office in Jammu & Kashmir. This would be followed by more extensive and wide-ranging initiatives in the near future.

Clearly, the sentiment in government is also one of urgency and commitment towards unleashing entrepreneurial spirits. This is reflected at the highest levels, with the Hon’ble Prime Minister himself reiterating making India a leading investment destination to drive growth, with the overall objective of comprehensive socio-economic development. Industry is enthused by this encouragement and looks forward to continuity and stability in the government’s progressive policies.

As a flagship event, ASSOCHAM had organised the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial Lecture, which was addressed by Hon’ble Mr Justice Ranjan Gogoi, The Chief Justice of India. His thoughts on ‘Social Justice and Corporate Social Responsibility’ were enthralling and inspiring.

ASSOCHAM is soon entering its Centenary Year. This is a very important milestone for us, and a series of events and activities are being lined up to reflect the stature and contribution of ASSOCHAM towards India’s growth. We invite our members to share their valuable suggestions for the proposed activities.

With the optimism of a developed Indian economy achieving its growth targets, we reiterate ASSOCHAM’s commitment towards this journey with the continued support of our members.

Thank you.
(Balkrishan Goenka)
The auto industry which has been facing a decline in the recent past, must get serious and work together with the government in country’s best interest to make it pollution free, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Mr Arvind Ganpat Sawant said at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi.

“We are such an industry which contributes seven per cent to the GDP, in the recent past we are seeing a decline, be serious about it, not that government should be, we both, let us join together and see what best we can do for the country,” said Mr Sawant in his inaugural address at ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi.

“Stating that while the government is giving subsidy for electric vehicles due to high battery costs, R&D initiatives must be carried out in terms of metals, chemicals used to manufacture batteries to reduce their costs.

“We are here to give support to all, first for mass transportation,” he added.

Talking about infrastructure, he impressed upon the need to set up solar powered charging stations for electric vehicles.

Further, the minister also said that like with IT boom came the problem of e-waste, similarly India must also think in terms of battery waste disposal. “Let us come up with a proposal to clear battery waste disposal because when we want to create a pollution free country, pollution created by battery waste should not be there.”

Recalling his recent meeting with combustion engine manufacturers, the minister said, he was told that there are employees and ancillary units dependent on this, whereas in case of EVs, both components and employees required will be less.

“So the issue is what will happen to present employees, how are you going to go in this direction.”

He urged the industry to come up with suggestions in this regard. “I feel you are the people who can guide me, as to how to go ahead with this, because we also need to generate employment in India.”

Talking about the government’s initiatives on e-mobility, he said...
while the Department of Heavy Industry had invited Expression of Interest (EoI) seeking proposals for availing incentives under the Fame Scheme Phase II for deploying 5,000 electric buses on operational-cost-model basis across select cities, it received 15,000 applications to the magnitude of three times.

He further said that with a view to promote electric mobility and incentivise the manufacturers, the government brought down the GST rate from 12 per cent to five per cent and removed cess. In his address, ASSOCHAM president, Mr B.K. Goenka said, “The government has taken cognizance of e-mobility as the way forward and proposed to become an e-vehicle country by 2030. This decision is timely and would enhance the potential of the sector. Towards this target, the Ministry of Heavy Industries has already put in place the required policy framework in the form of FAME scheme, which would encourage the faster adoption of e-vehicles.”

“The central and state governments need to work together and play a more facilitating role to make the shift to e-vehicles viable and attractive, we hope these challenges are addressed and resolved at the earliest. ASSOCHAM is committed to playing the role of a platform to interface between government and industry to pave the way,” added Mr Goenka.

Amid others who addressed the conference included: Mr Anil Srivastava, principal consultant (Electric Mobility), NITI Aayog; Mr Kavan Mukhtyar, Partner and Leader, Automotive, PwC India; Ms Sulajja Firodia Motwani, vice-chairperson, Kinetic Engineering Limited; Mr Nishant Arya, chairman, ASSOCHAM Council for Sustainable Road Transportation & Electric Mobility; Mr Arun Jain, co-chair and Ms Preeti Malhotra, co-chair.
Stimulus Package to Kick Start Investment Cycle in Economy

In a meeting of top industry leaders, called by Finance Minister Mrs Nirmala Sitharaman to revive economic growth, ASSOCHAM President Mr B K Goenka sought a “quick-fix” stimulus package to initiate investment cycle and an immediate game plan to make the best out of the ongoing US-China trade war.

In his presentation before the Hon’ble Finance Minister, the ASSOCHAM President said, “With current slowdown in global and domestic market, we need to have quick-fix solutions and observe the economy for few years for the effectiveness of the Stimulus package.”

Mr Goenka said, given the fiscal constraints, the government can raise resources by monetising idle government land. In turn, such land can be used for affordable housing and new projects. He said while India’s exports are declining, exports in June itself showing a drop of over 9 per cent year-on-year, the unabated US-China trade war throws many opportunities for India, which needs to be tapped.

Currently the diverted US investments and trade is being tapped by Vietnam and Bangladesh. ASSOCHAM President strongly advocated setting up a Development Bank which will support start up risk capital. He also sought the Hon’ble Finance Minister’s consideration on Accelerated Depreciation on investments as another measure to encourage investment.

Emphasising the immediate need for revival of exports, Mr Goenka said there are sectors like textile and garments, are suffering due to constant review and frequent changes being brought in tax refunds/incentives schemes. He said an investment of Rs 1 crore in the garments/made up sector can create 72 new jobs. The investment-employment ratio in the textile sector is among the highest.

“Our export potential in the textile industry is further encouraged by rising costs in China and the advantage is being taken by Vietnam, Bangladesh and Mexico. We must emerge as a strong competitor,” the ASSOCHAM President said.

He said to boost exports and ensure stability, tax policies and schemes on refunds and incentives should be made steady and continuous, without intermittent changes.

Higher rate of corporate taxes in India also make Indian businesses uncompetitive. Mr Goenka said reviving private sector capex is also key to the economic growth. One of the growth drivers would be investment allowance and accelerated depreciation in green field project. There should be incorporation of accelerated depreciation system in first year or over 3 years. Tax rebates can be given for profits ploughed back as investment in new projects.

Though there has been rationalization in the category of goods falling under 28 per cent GST, there are still 33 items which remain in the highest slab. “It is recommended that the rate of other goods falling under such category such as cement, consumer durables, automobiles including parts thereof etc should be reduced to 18 per cent.”
Civil Aviation ministry has formed an alternate mechanism for disinvestment of Air India to give timeline for disinvestment and first meeting will take place soon, Mr Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon’ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Civil Aviation & Urban and Housing, said at the sidelines of an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi.

We are currently working on a 100 Day Program, and a five year vision of document of both Housing and Urban affairs and Civil Aviation ministry, said Mr Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Civil Aviation at 12th International Conference-cum-Awards on Civil Aviation & Cargo.

Mr. Puri further said there is already 100% FDI in several parts of Civil Aviation sector, the budget has pointed out two specific sectors for FDI, one is maintenance & repair and other is leasing.

The growth of air cargo is critical for industries such as e-commerce, pharmaceuticals, electronics, agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, animal husbandry and marine exports, and high-value goods, including gems and jewellery and fashion garments, where shipments are highly time-sensitive, stated Mr Puri.

In conformance with the objectives of the holistic National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, a number of initiatives and measures were taken up to sustain the growth impetus in...
Air cargo, efficiency improvement and promotion of ease of doing business across the air cargo value chain.

The first National Air Cargo Policy’s (NACP) outline was released at the Global Aviation Summit in January 2019. It aims to achieve fundamental re-engineering of the whole-of-the-value-chains for domestic and export-import air freight for reaching the target of handling 10 million tonnes by 2026-27.

The objectives of the NACP outline are to leverage the Indian air cargo network to provide cargo transportation by air at an affordable cost and connect every village to the national and global supply chains. It also aims to make air cargo and logistics in India among the most efficient, seamless, and cost and time effective in the world over a period of 10 years, said Mr. Puri.

Impressive double-digit domestic air cargo growth of 12.1 per cent has been achieved in 2018-19 over 2017-18.

Air cargo handled reached to 3.6 MMT comprising domestic air cargo of 1.36 million and international air cargo was 2.2 million MT (y-o-y 2.6 % growth), added Mr. Puri.

General cargo tonnage handled increased by over 10 per cent per year in last four years as against negative growth in the preceding four years.

Indian air express and courier industry is one of the fastest growing markets globally. Growth estimated at 17% CAGR during the last five years, entry of e-commerce giants into the air cargo business expected to give further impetus to its growth.

The government has taken several initiatives to sustain the growth impetus in air cargo and to bring the country’s logistics on a par with global standards. Service Level Standards set for entire air cargo eco-system. Reduction of free period for air cargo clearance from 72 hours to within 48 hours across all major airports, noted Mr. Puri.

Progressively, air cargo dwell time on imports has been reduced from 72 hours to about 52 hours by December 2017. By the end of December 2018, the dwell time further reduced to about 39 hrs for imports (IATA). Dwell time reduced at major airports by 36-72% on export cargo, and averages below 24 hours.

A digital National Air Cargo Community System is expected to be developed and operationalized within one year as a common platform for all stakeholders to communicate with each other digitally and improve ease of doing business in air cargo sector.

Minister of State (I/C) of Civil Aviation Mr Hardeep Singh Puri who was the Chief Guest for the occasion gave away the awards to the winners nominated under various categories. Some of the other winners were Airbus, AAI Cargo, Bird Academy, Air India Express, SpiceJet, Frankfinn during the summit.

In his address at the ASSOCHAM conference, Mr Ajay Singh,
chairman and managing director, SpiceJet Limited said that there have been enough of talks about various problems being faced by the civil aviation sector and its time finally something was done about it.

“The inclusion of aviation turbine fuel in GST is a long standing demand, every year we spend countless hours with various ministries of the government talking about this, if the ambition indeed is to be globally competitive, to create international hubs and carriers that are competitive in this world and if indeed the ambition is to be world leader in aviation, we need to resolve this problem quickly, there has been enough talks on this issue,” said the SpiceJet chief.

Mr Singh added, “There is no country in the world which taxes aviation fuel like we do, we pay 35 per cent tax on average on aviation fuel, this definitely needs to be addressed urgently.”

He also said that a country with 1.3 billion people needs to have its own international hubs. “We indeed must be a true international global hub of the scale of Dubai or Singapore and we need to have a strategy to compete with them and we must work as a country to finalise, formalise a winning strategy which ensures that India is a global hub and a leading aviation country in this world.”

Lauding government’s handling of Jet Airways’ episode, Mr Singh said, “We need to celebrate the fact that despite the failure of Jet Airways, the speed at which India recovered and got capacity back and got fares back to a normal level, is a great testament to the way India and government work together to make that happen.”

He however added, “At the same time, I think, this is a time for sombre reflection, the failure of Jet Airways and the condition of Air India, I think must give us pause.”

Mr Singh added, “We also pay tax on tax in very many ways, in transport of fuel to our planes we pay tax twice over. As if it was not bad enough to pay the highest tax, we are also paying tax twice over.”

Addressing the ASSOCHAM conference, H.E. Dr Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India impressed upon the need to see how can both countries collaborate, cooperate and expand the industry and become partners in growth of the aviation sector.

“The vision of our leadership with our plans, end goals, I think it will make us reach to the maximum relationship in all sectors, including airline as we are trying to grow people to people connections,” he stated.

H.E. Mr J. Goburdhun, GOSK, High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius to India in his address said that civil aviation sector must collaborate in facilitating exchange of people among the Indian diaspora and make special flights or low-cost carriers available to visit the ancestral land and to develop tangible and intangible heritage.

“Last January, the Government of Mauritius chartered a special flight for the Indian Diaspora to participate in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas at concessional rate, all taxes were removed and we gave the status of pilgrimage to our roots and motherland as tirth yatra. Similar, initiative should be encouraged to facilitate the movement of Indian diaspora,” he said.

Mr Goburdhun added, “For tirth yatra out of 30 million, three million of Indian overseas pilgrims could visit India every year, I therefore count on the collaboration of airline industry to give special attention to harness the potential of Indian diaspora and help them realise their dream of participating in building of new India.”

Amid others who addressed the conference included – Other Speakers will include: Mr Vineet Agarwal, Vice President, Mr Ajay Singh, CMD, SpiceJet Limited; Mr. Ashish Saraf, Head-Airbus Helicopters, India & South Asia; Mr Narayana Rao, Chairman and Mr Ankur Bhatia, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Civil Aviation.
While the corporate sector has taken significant initiatives to promote gender equality at the workplace, more needs to be done to promote representation of LGBT community and people with disabilities (PWDs), Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Mr Rattan Lal Kataria said at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi.

"I have no hesitation in stating that corporate sector is doing an excellent work on the front of promoting gender equality at the workplace which is giving a boost to women’s participation in the workforce," said Mr Kataria while inaugurating ASSOCHAM Conference-cum-Awards on Diversity and Inclusion.

He however added that apart from people with disabilities, the companies also need to promote representation of LGBT community, weaker sections of society and create a conducive work environment.
“I urge the corporate sector to strengthen participation of weaker sections of our society, which is also a part of government’s agenda,” stated Mr Kataria.

Lauding the government’s efforts he said, “Our government is working pro-actively to promote diversity and inclusion, and recent reforms in India’s labour laws like maternity leave benefits together with prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace and day-care facilities are landmark steps that were received very well and were welcomed across organizations.”

He further said that the push for diversity and inclusion at the workplace has become increasingly vital for organisations in recent years, to the benefit of local talents and communities.

“It is heartening to note that organisations are participating and taking initiatives by working at the ground level to help achieve the government’s goals and objectives in this behalf,” the Minister said.

Amid others who addressed the ASSOCHAM conference included: Mr Sunit Sinha, managing director, Accenture Strategy Talent & Organization; Ms Gayathri Ramamurthy, senior director, Lead-D&I, Capgemini India; Ms Rajyasree Sen, director, Global Communications, Hyatt India Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.; Mr Anil Rajput, chairperson, ASSOCHAM CSR Council and senior VP-Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd.; Mr Ravi Bhatnagar, co-chair and director-External Affairs & Partnerships (AMESA), Reckitt Benckiser and Col Saurabh Sanyal, deputy secretary general.
Annual Education Leaders meet was organized at Kolkata on 12th of July at Hyatt, with presence of more than 20 national leaders from various parts of the country. Mr Dinesh Trivedi, Former MP graced the occasion as chief guest of the program, Mr Anil Swarup former Secretary School Education and Ms Solso Shaiza Member National Commission for Women, Government of India joined as guest of honour. On the occasion National council member Mr. Kunwar Shekhar Vijendra, Chancellor Shobhit University was present along with Chairman Eastern Region, Mr Surojit Samanta, Mr Taranjit Co Chair Eastern Region welcomed the guest along with Director East and North East Mrs Perminder Jeet Kaur. The day long program had three key discussion sessions and awards were given to the exceptional leaders. Kunwar Shekhar Vijendra appreciated the new Education policy but added its important that implementation is proper and that the trust on private players is built by policy holders. During the discussion he shared that innovation will come when flexibility is there and there is encouragement to creativity. He also shared his views on how rural areas can be developed. To bring change we have to develop educational ecosystems in rural areas, self sustainability models need to develop in villages. He appreciated the program and said that the best part of Edumeet is that we are talking from preschool to higher education which means everybody is involved in it.

Ms. Soso Shaiza, member National Commission for women said, that the best education system prepares people to be successful, productive and engage members of society. Each school needs to be focused on child centered which means giving privacy to children’s experience voiced in dressed & their active participation. It is the responsibility of the schools to provide proper opportunity for each child’s talent and creativity to blossom & polish. India has declared 2010 to 2020 as the decade of innovation at this turners the need of an hour of our schools are to create schools as the centre’s of excellence in quality. Today learners have the information at the click of the button and advancement of technology has touched everyone right from village classrooms to smart board seasons. The 21st century has brought in skills sets & key development areas for students to face the challenges of tomorrow.

Mr. Anil Swarup former IAS said providing quality education to every child in the country is important. He said that at his time when he was the School Secretary he started developing specific action plans clearly attempting to first understand what of a problem and how to resolve it and they have prepared two plans one for Jammu & Kashmir and the one for Uttar Pradesh. In J&K they have planned massive exchange of students from
the valley to the other parts of the country with phenomenal results and the objective was to get 10000 children’s from the valley to visit the rest part of the country and 10,000 children from the rest of the part of the country to the valley. He also mentioned the initiative taken by ASSOCHAM on pehle preschool education. The new draft policy education recognizes the fact that there is a need of preschool because the development of the child starts from his childhood. He has suggested that those who are giving their suggestions on the draft education policy they need to also see what is doable.

Plenary I was moderated by Director Fore School of management and had thoughts from Prof. Dr Sanjay Gupta, Vice Chancellor, World University of Design, Haryana who shared that the education must enable a student to reach a level where he or she is sort by any potential benefactor for his knowledge and that may then be termed as true employment. Joining him was Dr Rakesh Vanzara, Dean & Faculty, Engineering & Technology, Ganpat University, Gujarat. He said, “to explore the education system the institutes or the universities need to transform the villages and to do so higher education institutes has to be socially responsible. The education system must be linked with the needs of the industry. We need to have multi disciplinary ecosystem which allows the student to pursue the results in the domain of his or her interest. The institutes need to take the initiative & involve the industry in such a way so that after the completion of their courses when they are employed they should be well trained to tackle the industrial problems”. Prof.Dilip Shah, Dean of Student Affairs, The Bhawanipur Education Society College suggested that social responsibility projects shall be implemented in the institutes as this would help young minds grow to be responsible citizen and shall make better India. Co Panelist, Dr. Marisha McAuliff, Chief, Academics & Quality Systems – NSHM Knowledge Campus stated that the institutes need to think about the learning journey of the student and not about the employability because after the completion of the study it’s the choice of the student to select a job or start his own business and become a successful entrepreneur. Special guest, Ms Alexandra Gnuskina, Educationist from Russia presented opportunities of foreign collaboration with the Indian institutes. She said, “Russia has a world class education at affordable price, user friendly conditions, employment opportunity and safety”.

Plenary II, was moderated by Director ASSOCHAM and had Ms. Priti N Mathur, Chairperson, Gurukul Group of Pre Schools sharing her thoughts where she emphasized that today the schooling and pre schooling is no more book reading; it is well accepted and understood that first five years are the most
formative years of the child. Her co-panelist Dr. Anuradha Das, Principal, Garden High School said, we have to develop the curriculum that suits the kids. It’s often schools & colleges complain that they can’t prepare child well because they have to complete syllabus. She said, “one must understand the difference between syllabus and curriculum. Both are very different things. If you have four schools in neighbourhood following same syllabus, same set of books, teachers are equally qualified then why the four schools are different. It is because although board sets syllabus but they have not fixed everything. It is actually depends on school what they want. Till class VIII you design your own curriculum which can make a student comfortable to join any board. The roles of schools have changed. Nowadays you have to council parents, otherwise you achieve nothing. Holistic education is much more than a preparing yourself for a job. It is a development of mind to understand what I want. Then we may have not have children committing suicide. Children don’t know what they want. So they look at the thing in a very myopic way. If they don’t get something, they are desperate to get it unless we developed the mind of the child to accept the reality.” Mr. Sudipta Ghosh, Head - IP Management, Wipro Ltd while talking of technology, said students have different abilities , different interest and so that they need different inputs to learn something. So we need personalized learning system. Majority of human brains are graphic centric which requires visual inputs for understanding the subject matter. His opinion was that teachers can use technology to cover the syllabus to share the source of the information. It will be easier for students. Mr. Kalyan Kar, Co-Founder & Director, InQube Innoventions Private Limited: Next 5 -10 years 42% job in India will be vanished because of advancement of technology. New job will emerge and problems will start on that time. In rural area we have no sufficient schools and teachers to apply digitalization. So we need to use technology to make it happen. Traditional way of education needs to change because one person doesn’t learn everything. We have to look in life skill. It can be vocation act also. We do not pay respect vocational education but that can be the solution of this problem.

The final session of the day had three great leaders debate on the future road map , Dr. Anup Kumar Sinha, Director, Heritage Business School said Excellence in education cannot come in a standalone sector. We have economic inequality, regional differences, linguistic differences, cultural differences. These are the problems & main obstacle to achieve excellence in education. It is very difficult to create our own Harvard in but if we work together we can achieve excellence in education. Mr. Surojit Samanta, Chairman, ASSOCHAM East said, our children going out of the country for last 40-45 years because of infrastructure. Brain Drainage has to be stopped. Joining him, Mr. Arpit Chddha, Vice Chairman, Institute of Technology & Science, Ghaziabad said, Indian Higher education System is facing unprecedented transformation. There are still challenges in higher education. He shared that as per statistics of an organization, 40% of human resources would get unemployment. So we need to be re-skilled. We need to have good resources by latest technology that is deep learning, AI, robotics, automation. Curriculum of the institute needs to be upgraded regularly.

Mr. Kunwar Shekhar Vijendra, Chancellor, Shobhit University, Uttar Pradesh summed up the discussion and winners were awarded mementos of appreciation at the end of the program. A knowledge report was released and message of Hon’ble MoS Education Mr. Sanjay Dhotre was read out by Director ASSOCHAM, Mrs Perminder Jeet Kaur.
Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) together with The Associated Chambers of Commerce of India (ASSOCHAM) celebrated young Indian talent at Intellectual Property Talent Search Examination (IPTSE) Awards 2019, identifying and rewarding students who took part in the country’s first ever examination on intellectual property rights. Mr. Suresh Prabhu, India’s Sherpa to G20, Ms. Monica Magnusson, VP, IPR Policy, Ericsson and Mr. Balkrishan Goenka, President, ASSOCHAM, handed out the awards to the winners of the first edition of the examination.

The IPTSE 2019, held with the objective of creating awareness on Intellectual Property amongst Indian youth, drew participation from over 5000 students. School students from classes IX to XII as well as under graduate students from colleges participated in the first edition of IPTSE.

Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Member of Parliament and India’s Sherpa to G20 said, “The preservation of a strong patent regime will protect ideas and support more innovation, by helping bring more ideas to fruition. Through a robust IPR regime, great ideas can be successfully commercialized to help our society and the world. In this context, it is heartening to see the passion exhibited by young students of our country as custodians of IP rights.”

Commenting on the initiative, Ms. Monica Magnusson, VP, IPR Policy, Ericsson, said, “India has an immense talent pool, which will play a pivotal role in putting the country
Mr. Ajay Sharma, Assistant Secretary General, ASSOCHAM welcoming Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Member of Parliament & Sherpa G20 along with Ms Monica Magnusson, Vice President – IPR Policy, Ericsson at ASSOCHAM IP Conclave and IPTSE Awards.

Mr. Balkrishan Goenka, President, ASSOCHAM said, "Knowledge & skill are the backbones of a growing economy. In the larger national interest, the fledgling young minds need to be exposed to knowledge of IPR. It is essential for building New India."

With the help of IP Talent Search Examination, we aim to recognize the innovators of tomorrow early and educate them about the importance of IPR across various businesses. IPTSE is just another way by which Ericsson contributes towards the objectives of Indian National IPR Policy."

The IPTSE is an annual examination designed for school and college students across streams targeting class IX to XII school students and undergraduate students. More than 250 volunteers worked on-ground to educate various schools/institutions to encourage student participation in IPTSE 2019.

While some studies show that a balanced IPR regime can encourage economic growth and an innovation ecosystem, there is a growing need to drive awareness and mass sensitization of IP among the youth. The IPTSE is a first for India, and is a small but significant step towards encouraging young minds to appreciate the importance of IPR and consider it as a career.
The government is examining the issue of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) coming under the purview of increased surcharge on high-income earners, CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) chairman, Mr P.C. Mody said at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi.

“The matter is under examination and very soon we are going to come out with a clarification on that,” said Mr Mody at a Post-Budget Conference organised by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

Stating that the matter was brought to his notice just today morning, the CBDT chief added, “It is too early, too premature to say anything on the subject at the given moment, let the matter be examined.”

He also informed that this year both number and quantum of refunds has been 20 per cent more than the last year up to this point of time. “Just as the way we believe in revenue mobilisation but at the same time, we are equally conscious of refunding back the amount which is due to the taxpayer, in all this we are using technology in a big way.”
He further said that even in terms of assessment, the department is using and proposes to use newer methods and technological interfaces so as to make the process much simpler and to reduce the pain points.

“We are working on a detailed scheme and I am sure it will see the light of the day very soon,” said Mr. Mody.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s statement on ease of living, he said that ease of tax compliance would be an integral part of ease of living concept which relates to both policy and processes.

Talking about Union Budget 2019-20, he said that lot of attempt has been made to use technology in matters of compliance and that of the department to provide better services to taxpayers.

Mr. Akhilesh Ranjan, Member-Legislation, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said, CBDT will submit the report of Task Force on simplification Direct taxes before 31 July. We will come out with our view in tax structure.

Mr. Ranjan, further said that we are concentrating on minimum government and maximum governance, the intent to create a situations where the inherent energy and creativity of industrial businesses can come out.

Creating an environment where enterprise can grow and funds can move because all those required the basic infrastructure and ‘Intent is come out extremely well’, said Mr. Ranjan.

The major three broadly areas are to give some incentives to certain high priority areas where tremendous of potential waiting to be released.

The incentives on housing and reductions are increased from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 3.5 lakhs is a major incentives for purchase of houses. Such incentives will create ripple effects, it will create demand and investments return, said Mr. Ranjan.

The start-ups has been a priority areas for number of issues, we have resolved number of areas like angel tax, verification of shed investments in shares. We are now on the path of using technology in a major way to assist in verification and to make the process painless as possible.

The idea is to make things absolutely easy for the tax payers to comply and remove the pain points which are mainly associated at present scrutiny process and develop social contract.

We are not now living at the age of tax payers’ verses tax department. It is combined effort and has to be corporate effort something that both of us have to work to bring goal of higher tax revenues which can enable better development. Develop trust and cooperation between the taxpayers and tax department. The threshold rate of return is good enough for massive investment.
Winners of the 3rd ASSOCHAM-Ericsson ICT Startups Awards were announced in New Delhi. Out of a group of more than 200 startups, COEO Labs, INCEPTOR technology and PICTURE Time Digiplex were adjudged as the winners for their innovative solutions. The winners were selected by an eminent jury on the basis of innovation, feasibility, impact and time to market, bringing to a successful close what turned out to be one of the most intense competitions for emerging ICT Startups of India.

Mr. Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao, Hon’ble Minister of State, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India; Mr. Nitin Bansal, MD, India & Head-Networks, South East Asia, Oceania and India, Ericsson; Mr. Balkrishan Goenka, President, ASSOCHAM and Ms. Monica Magnusson, Vice President – IPR Policy, Ericsson handed out the awards to the winners. Winners received a prize money of Rs 1 lakh each and the top 20 start-ups were awarded a certificate of participation. An eminent jury of panelists comprising Dr. AK Garg, Scientist “F”/Director, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India; Dr. Anil Wali, Managing Director, Foundation for Innovation & Technology Transfer (FITT), Indian Institute of Technology, Dr. Sheetal Chopra, General Manager - IPR Advocacy, BTEB IPRL Policy, Ericsson and Mr. Gerard (Ged) Owens, Country coord./ICT, Patents and Standards, International Co-operation | Dir. 5.1.2, European Patent Office picked the winners.

Mr. Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao, Hon’ble Minister of State, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India said, “Innovation is the currency of the future and we need to start working in a focused manner on creating a strong innovation culture in our country. I am delighted to witness the diverse range of innovative ideas and projects that have been recognized today. I believe that in this endeavor, higher education and industry need to be closely networked for maximum benefit of society.”

Mr. Nitin Bansal, MD, Ericsson India & Head-Networks, South East Asia, Oceania and India, Ericsson said the Startups Awards marked Ericsson’s commitment to fostering innovation in India. “Innovation is the bedrock of success for any economy, and it is encouraging to see the culture of entrepreneurship flourish in the country. India boasts of a rich tradition of innovation and a scientific temperament that puts us at the forefront of technology. At Ericsson we truly believe in the power of technology to enrich lives and the ICT Startups Awards represents a great platform to harness the technology innovations of Indian startups.”

Mr. Balkrishan Goenka, President, ASSOCHAM said, “Disruptive technologies are borne out of seeds of innovative ideas, fertilized by supporting eco systems which transform Innovations into entrepreneurship. It is the need of the hour for building a New India.”

The ICT Startups Awards is a collaboration between ASSOCHAM, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India and Ericsson, and is aimed at promoting innovation through recognition of outstanding ICT innovations. Every year, the awards bring to the fore innovative and disruptive entrepreneurs committed to changing the world one innovation at a time.
Mr. Prakash Kumar, CEO, GSTN and Mr. S.K. Rahman, ADG, DGGST (CBIC) are discussing on GST with senior Industry members.

Interactive Session with the Dr. Arvind Gupta, Director, Vivekananda International Foundation and Fmr. Deputy National Security Advisor, Government of India

Mr. Prakash Kumar, CEO, GSTN and Mr. S.K. Rahman, ADG, DGGST (CBIC) are discussing on GST with senior Industry members.

Validatory remarks is given by Mr. Surojit Samanta, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Eastern Region Council. (R – L) - Mr. Arpit Chadha, Vice Chairman, Institute of Technology & Science, Ghaziabad, Mr. Kurnoor Singh Dhillon, Member, ASSOCHAM National Education Council & Chancellor, Shobhit University, Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Anup Kumar Sinha, Chairman Bandhan Bank and Director, Heritage Business School and Mrs. Pramodita Mittal, Director, ASSOCHAM – West.

“Futuristic School Education” being discuss in a panel with the eminent guests (L – R) Mr. Kalyan Kar, Co-Founder & Director, iThink Knowledge Ventures, Dr. Amraddhos Das, Director, Garden High International School, Mrs. Priti N Mathur, Chairperson, Gurukul Group of Pre Schools & Mr. Sudipta Ghosh, Head – IP Management, WIPRO Ltd. Moderated by Mrs. Pramodita Mittal, Director, ASSOCHAM – East & North East.
INTERACTIONS

H. E. Mr. Mridul Kumar, High Commissioner of India to Malaysia inaugurating the India Pavilion in ‘30th Malaysia International Packaging & Food Processing Exhibition’ (M’SIA- Pack & Foodpro 2019), held at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during 18th to 21st July, 2019

H. E. Mr. Mridul Kumar, High Commissioner of India to Malaysia interacting with Indian Exhibitors at M’SIA-Pack & Foodpro 2019

Indian Exhibitor presenting product catalogue of his company to H. E. Mr. Mridul Kumar, High Commissioner of India to Malaysia interacting with Indian Exhibitors at M’SIA-Pack & Foodpro 2019

Mr. Deepak Chhabra and Mr. Harish Pushpakar, ASSOCHAM presenting Memento to H. E. Mr. Mridul Kumar, High Commissioner of India to Malaysia and Dr. Varun Jeph, First Secretary (Commerce and Political) for gracing the India Pavilion at M’SIA-Pack & Foodpro 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Mr. S.P. Singh, Co-Chairman, National Council on Direct Taxes, Mr. Kamlesh C. Varshney, Joint Secretary, TPL — e- CBDT, Smt Pallavi Jindal Bakhru, Group Head Taxation, Vedanta Limited and Mohd Haroon Qureshi, VP-Taxation Asia Pacific, Genpact

Mr. J K Mittal, Co-Chairman, National Council on Indirect Taxes, Mr. G D Lohani, Joint Secretary, TRU-I, CBIC, Mr. Paras Jain, Co-Chairman, National Council on Indirect Taxes and Mr. Sanjay Gudati, Vice President, GMR Group
Mr. Anil Rajput, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM CSR Council and Senior Vice President Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd. delivering welcome address during the Conference.

Ms. Rajyasree Sen, Director, Global Communications, Hyatt India Consultancy Pvt. Ltd. opined her views in the conference.

Mr. Sunit Sinha, Managing Director, Accenture Strategy Talent & Organization, passionately delivering an address during the inaugural session of the Conference.

Ms. Ritu Bhati, Managing Director, Human Resources, Accenture Operations Delivery India & Sri Lanka delivering an address during the conference.

Mr. Ravi Bhatnagar, Co-Chairperson, ASSOCHAM CSR Council and Director External Affairs & Partnerships (AMESA), Reckitt Benckiser sharing his visionary thoughts in ASSOCHAM Conference.

Ms. Gayathri Ramamurthy, Senior Director, Lead - Diversity & Inclusion, Capgemini India enlightening the audience with her kind views.
Ms. Nandini Sarkar, Global Diversity & Inclusion Leader – India, The Boeing Company sharing her enthusiastic views in the Conference

Ms. Chavi Jafa, Head of Business Solutions – India & South Asia, Visa sharing her views in the Conference

Mr. Arun K. Jain, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM Membership Development Council and Co-Chairperson, ASSOCHAM NBFC, Sustainable Road Transport and E-Mobility Councils delivering an addressing during the Conference

Ms. Simi Choudhury, Head, Diversity & Inclusion, Sutherland Global sharing her enthusiastic views in the Conference

Mr. Sidhartha Balakrishna, Innovation & Strategy Head, Zee Essel Group, Mr. Deepak Maheshwari, Head Govt Affairs, Symantec, Ms. Lakshika Joshi, Co-Chair, ASSOCHAM National Council on IPR and Lead IP Counsel, Global, Aricent, Dr. A.K.Garg, Scientist E Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India, Mr. Sai Prasad, Global Head of IoT Unit R&D, Tata Consultancy Services, Mr. Kiran Chikkappa, Principal Engineer, Qualcomm India Pvt. Ltd

Ms. Supriya Paul, Co – Founder, JoshTalks, Ms. Monica Magnusson, Vice President – IPR Policy, Ericsson, Ms. Ketki Singh, Co – Founder, Hiwicket, Ms. Lathika Regunathan, CEO & Founder, MIMO-Technologies Pvt Ltd, Ms. Deeps Beri, Chief Commercial Officer, SHEROES

Left to Right: Ms. Lakshika Joshi, Co-Chair, ASSOCHAM National Council on IPR and Lead IP Counsel, Global, Aricent, Dr. A.K.Garg, Scientist E Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India, Mr. Sai Prasad, Global Head of IoT Unit R&D, Tata Consultancy Services, Mr. Kiran Chikkappa, Principal Engineer, Qualcomm India Pvt. Ltd
Mr. Pradeep Aggarwal, Chairman, National Council on Real Estate and Urban Development, ASSOCHAM & Chairman, Signature Global India Pvt Ltd. welcoming Mr. Pinaki Misra, Hon’ble Member of Parliament and Former Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on National Summit on “REAL ESTATE INDIA: Issues and Growth Strategies.”

ASSOCHAM in collaboration with IBBI (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India) organized one day National Conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code at Hyderabad on 26th July 2019. The Program was inaugurated by IBBI CGM Shri Sreekara Rao, Shri Anil Goel, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and Founder Chairman, AAA Insolvency Professionals LLP, Shri Sarat Chandra Mahanta, AGM Legal, Reserve Bank of India.

Mr. Pradeep Aggarwal, Chairman, National Council on Real Estate and Urban Development, ASSOCHAM & Chairman, Signature Global India Pvt Ltd. addressing the National Summit on “REAL ESTATE INDIA: Issues and Growth Strategies.”

Shri Anil Goel, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and Founder Chairman, AAA Insolvency Professionals LLP, Panelist where Shri Sreekara Rao, CGM, Insolvency and Bankruptcy of India, Shri Shreyas Reddy, Managing Partner, Tatra Legal, Shri Nitin Satija, Assistant Director (Education & Training), ICSI IIP, Shri Gomuganta Madhavulu Rao, Indian Institute of Insolvency Professional of ICAI, Shri Varada Aihwad, Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas.

Shri Sarat Chandra Mahanta, AGM Legal, RBI with panelist from Dr S. K. Gupta, MD & CEO, Insolvency Professional Agency of The Institute of Cost Accountants of India, Shri Lakshmi Prakash, Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, IBBI CGM Shri Sreekara Rao Shri Varada Aihwad, Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas.
ASSOCHAM President Mr B K Goenka, Chairman Anil Khaitan, Co-Chairs Mr Akshish Agrawal, Ms Tripti Shinghal, Deputy Secretary General Mr Saurabh Satyal along with new Secretary DIPPGOI, Mr Gunuprasad Madhavaputra at New Delhi.

ASSOCHAM Gujarat Council, BFSI Committee meeting at GIFT City chaired by Mr. Dipesh Shah, Chairman BFSI, ASSOCHAM GJ & Chief (GIFT IFSC) along with other Sr. Representative from Axis Bank, INDIA INX and Khaiten Legal.

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ASSOCHAM-EgrowFoundation Shadow Monetary Policy Committee joint discussion on RBI Monetary Policy at New Delhi. Also seen: Dr Arvind Virmani, chairman, EGROW Foundation and former CEA, Govt. of India; Dr Swijet S. Bholia, contributing editor, Indian Express; Mr Abhijit Banerjee, chief economist and executive vice-president, HDFC; Ms Uppama Bhattacharyya, senior economist, vice president, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Mr Choram Singh, CEO & Director, EGROW Foundation and chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Banking.

MeitY & ASSOCHAM sign an MoU to strengthen the tech startup ecosystem of India. Seen: Mr Gopalkrishnan S, Joint Secretary, MeitY and Mr Saurabh Sanyal, Deputy Secretary General, ASSOCHAM.

Left to Right: Ms. Lakshika Joshi, Co-Chair, ASSOCHAM National Council on IPR and Lead IP Counsel, Global, Aricent, Mr. Urban Fjellestad, Head of Marketing and Communication, Ericsson, Dr Sanjay Misra, Head, Department of Science and Technology, Mr. Vaibhav Khandara, Head IP, Sterlite Technologies, Mr. Sanmeet Gambhir, Jr. Vice President (Compliance & Admin) and Company Secretary, DCM Shriram Limited.

Left to Right: Dr. Ashish Bhuradwaj, Professor & Dean, Jindal Law School and Jindal School of Banking and Finance, Mr. Balaaswami Ravat, Leader of IP, Mercedes-Benz R&D India, Mr. Sheetal Chopra, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM National Council on IPR & GM – IPR Advocacy, Ericsson, Dr Shrutal Vohra, Managing Partner, Vohra & Vohra, Mr. Vijaykumar Shrivastava, Director, Pelve Business Solutions and Mentor of Change, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), Niti Aayog, Govt of India.
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In an effort to improve our message, member engagement & visibility, the ASSOCHAM is proud to announce our presence on social media!
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The Centre has invited comments from all the stakeholders and states on The Model Tenancy Act, 2019 and will take it to the Union Cabinet as soon as possible, said Mr Durga Shanker Mishra, secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi.

“As of now we have uploaded draft on our website for 21 days to invite comments, we have sent it to states and we are expecting their comments within 15 days, thereafter we will re-examine everything and will take it to the Cabinet,” said Mr Mishra in his inaugural address at an ASSOCHAM Real Estate Summit.

He added, “The Model Tenancy Act, 2019 once finalised and after Union Cabinet’s approval, will be shared with all the states, we have signed an MoU with all states under the Housing for All programme, as per which states would either amend their Acts or make a new Act. All the states are ready and they are awaiting this Model Act as it will be beneficial for them.”

The proposed law, said Mr Mishra, promotes a balanced, transparent and accountable relationship between the renter and the rentee based on the rent agreement. “This will give a boost to the rental market.”

The secretary also said that the facility for online building approval and completion certificate provided by urban local bodies (ULBs) would be made available in all cities across India within this year itself.

“We are trying our level best to ensure that within this year this seamless facility is extended across...
India through ULBs so that when you apply for building permission, you get the approval within 30 days and if you apply for completion certificate, you get the approval within 15 days,” he said.

Mr Mishra added, “Online building permission system is as of now in 1,705 cities and in 11 states it is 100 per cent and we will spread it across all cities in India by end of this year.”

He stated that it will be a single-window system which would provide seamless facility and allay problems of people in terms of going to different places to seek permissions.

He also said that new houses are being constructed under various governments’ schemes using different kinds of modern technologies and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is making efforts to further promote low-cost construction technologies.

“I have directed my team to very soon organise an exhibition to showcase how people across India have come up with various low-cost technologies to construct single or double storey houses to reduce the cost of construction leading to judicious use of resources,” said Mr Mishra.

Lauding the efforts of real estate industry, the secretary said that the real estate sector is the key player in the progress and transformation of country into a ‘New India,’ which is clean, free of corruption, without any type of discrimination and is full of hope and aspirations.

Besides, considering the importance of the sector in terms of contribution to the GDP, employment generation and other aspects, the government in the past five years took various decisions on policy front, programme and scheme levels and will further take steps in next five years, as efforts are still to revive this sector.

On the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), he said that it has ushered in accountability, transparency and honesty in real estate sector. “We came up with a new law RERA in 2016 which is equally beneficial for all stakeholders be it homebuyers, builders, real estate agents and even the government. We are thinking about making amendments to this law as many people approach us in this regard.”

In his address at the ASSOCHAM summit, MP and India’s Sherpa to the G20, Mr Suresh Prabhu said, “Real estate is the only sector which can link manufacturing and services, and has the potential to provide huge job opportunities.”

Amid others who addressed included: Mr Pinaki Misra, MP; Mr Tarun Kapoor, vice-chairman, DDA; Dr Samantak Das, chief economist and head-Research & REIS India, JLL; Dr Niranjan Hiranandani, senior vice-president, ASSOCHAM; Mr Pradeep Aggarwal, chairman, National Council on Real Estate and Urban Development; Mr Arpit Goel, co-chairman; Dr Neha Berlia, co-chairman and Col Saurabh Sanyal, deputy secretary general.
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India has bold aspirations to become an empowered country and to improve quality of life for its citizens. Education plays a pivotal role in the process of training and developing knowledge, skill and character of people. The country has been a center of exemplary institutions aiming at quality education such as the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). However, for last four decades our record has been less than exemplary even as other developing nations have raced ahead of us in nurturing academic talent, and in promoting research. The performance of neighboring countries like China in this regard has been the most extraordinary. Even till the early years of the 21st century, the gap between India
and China in terms of the number of top-ranked universities and in terms of the gross enrolment ratio in higher education was marginal. Since then, China has moved far ahead of India with 48% GER as compared to 26% in India.

ASSOCHAM strongly believes that it is the actual players in the Industry that have the responsibility of playing an active role in helping the Government in policy making. It is through its Expert Committees and National Councils on different business interests that ASSOCHAM is able to orchestrate directed deliberations, which often result in important ideas that, if made a policy decision, can impact the operation of our nation in that aspect. ASSOCHAM’s National Council of Education is just one of these bodies which endeavor to observe, analyze and recommend the trajectory on which we all wish to see India moving on.

ASSOCHAM National Council for Education (NCE) aimed to submit strategic recommendations to the Government through a “Vision 2030 for Education, Skill Formation and Rural Transformation” focusing on the following areas. Vision 2030 includes recommendations that can be taken up by the Government and those that can be taken up by ASSOCHAM. In this reference, ASSOCHAM organized a National Conference on 28th June, 2019 at Hotel Taj Mahal, Man Singh Road, New Delhi.

Revamping Higher Education: Partnering the Progress and Growth- Chaired by Padma Shri Dr. Pritam Singh, Ex-Director-NDIM Gurgaon & IIM Lucknow and Co-Chaired by Dr. (Prof.) Anand Prakash, Professor of Psychology–Delhi University.

Skilling Architecture: Setting the Eco-System for Employability and Entrepreneurship-Chaired by Prof. Vinayshil Gautam, Senior Adviser–TRIFED, Founder Director-IIM (K), Kozikhoode, Founder Coordinator, Entrepreneurship Programme and First Head,
Rural Transformation through Education: The Road Ahead- Dr. G. D. Sharma, Secretary (Retd.)- UGC, Director- CEC, New Delhi, Director- IIE, Pune, Consultant- UNESCO, UNDP and IIEP, Paris, Chairman- Higher Education Committee, Punjab Government and Co-Chaired by Ms. Lata Vaidyanathan, Chairperson- Made Easy School.

This report is an attempt by the committees to identify issues that have contributed to stalling of growth of Higher Education, Skilling and Rural Development in the country and provide possible solutions to tackle them.

Skilling industry in India has grown dramatically over the last decade on the back of a very strong Government support and initiatives taken by some Industry stalwarts to give back to the nation by setting up Skill Training Institutes. It’s a huge endorsement of the entire ecosystem for “Skill India” program to aspire to train 50 crore young people on vocational skills by the year 2022 under various Government schemes. Skilled youth moving towards entrepreneurship is another very positive development for enhancing the overall growth momentum of the country. However, one big gap in the skilling ecosystem of India has been Industry engagement in building trained manpower. There is a mismatch between the skilled manpower required and skilled manpower available. Every year, various colleges churn out millions of graduates who do not have the specific skill sets required by the market. This has resulted in a situation where on the one hand there are scores of unemployed graduates and on the other hand there is a huge shortage of skilled workers.

Without a skill premium reflected in a wage and employment premium all the best-intentioned skilling and entrepreneurial programs are bound to stumble or have limited impact. Vocational courses are typically more practical and skills based than academic degrees. Vocational education has to be viewed from different multi-layered practices – Training, employment generation and sustainability. If someone knows what exactly he/she wants to do in his/her career, it requires practical skills, then vocational learning is important. There are thousands of skills-based training options, even an engineering graduate is supposed to have some technical skills apart from the degree possessed by him or her.

The proliferation of institutions of higher education and the socio-cultural preoccupation with obtaining a degree; a preoccupation that has now metastasized to degree and certification market places as diverse as the institutions granted to provide them. This marketplace had drawn few to no linkages to the development or provision of sustainable livelihoods; and that the term “employability” may thus be misleading. It is necessary to recognize that employability and sustainable livelihood are inextricably linked and should not be treated as separate paradigms. Without a skill premium reflected in a wage and employment premium all the best-intentioned skilling and entrepreneurial programs are bound to stumble or have limited impact. Vocational courses are typically more practical and skills based than academic degrees. Vocational education has to be viewed from different multi-layered practices – Training, employment generation and sustainability. If someone knows what exactly he/she wants to do in his/her career, it requires practical skills, then vocational learning is important. There are thousands of skills-based training options, even an engineering graduate is supposed to have some technical skills apart from the degree possessed by him or her.
Certificate of Origin

ASSOCHAM is officially authorized by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India to issue Certificate of Origin (Non Preferential) in respect of goods exported from India. The Chamber also attests Export Documents like Invoices, Packing List, Declaration etc.

We request you to avail above services from ASSOCHAM at a nominal cost. For further details, please contact the following ASSOCHAM officials:

ASSOCHAM Corporate Office, New Delhi

Mr. Balakrishnan
Tel: 011-46550539(D) M: 8285550490
E: international@assocham.com
ASSOCHAM has launched GEM Sustainability Certification Rating Program to complement in India’s Sustainability Movement and take it to the next level. GEM program has been designed for SEZ, Large Campus Developments, Housing, Commercial Offices, Hotels, Colleges, Universities, Schools and Factory buildings and related developments. The program is based upon the latest version of BEE ECBC 2017 and NBC 2016 and includes all aspects of Sustainability, Energy and Water Efficiency, Fire safety, Indoor Air Quality, Daylight, Fresh Air and Human Comfort.
ASSOCHAM has formed a National Council for Green and Eco-friendly Movement (CGEM) which coordinates the GEM Sustainability Certification Rating Program.

Since launch of GEM Sustainability Certification Program in year 2018, GEM Rating System has made rapid strides in the Green Building Sector which covers 20+ projects across India and 100+ GEM Certified Professionals. ASSOCHAM has also installed Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat GEM Chapters during year 2018-19. We have also signed MoUs with FSAI, ISHRAE, ASHRAE India and Western India Chapters and IAQA India Chapter.

In this reference, ASSOCHAM has organized a Roundtable of Architects on Sustainable Building Design Methodologies on 2nd July 2019 at Hotel Royal Plaza, New Delhi.

Council of Architecture (COA) was the knowledge partner of the event. The event was attended by the President, COA and other eminent Architects and MEP consultants of Delhi/NCR. Around 40+ Architects and MEP Consultants participated in the program and shared their views on Sustainability in Buildings. GEM National Council Chairman Mr. Pankaj Dharkar, GEM Rajasthan Chapter Chairman Ar. Tushar Sogani and GEM Punjab Chapter Chairmen Ar. Surinder Bahga attended the event.
The India-Japan Business Promotion Council ASSOCHAM organized a conference on “Japan Invest-North East India” jointly with Japan Chamber of Commerce in India (JCCII) & NEC Technologies India Pvt Ltd on 8th August, 2019 in New Delhi, India.

H. E Mr. Kenko SONE was the Chief Guest and Shri Vincent H Pala was the Guest of Honour at the conference. The inaugural session was addressed by Mr. Rahul Sharma (Chairman-India Japan Business Promotion Council), MC Member ASSOCHAM, Mr. Piyush Sinha (Deputy Managing Director, NEC Technologies India Pvt Ltd.), Mr Alemtemshi Jamir (CEO-Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland), Mr. Saurabh Sanyal (Deputy Secretary General – ASSOCHAM) and Mr. Santosh Mathew (Senior Director & Head International Affairs – ASSOCHAM).

At this conference ASSOCHAM jointly with its knowledge partner NEC Technologies India released a report in the inaugural session titled “Shaping the emerging North East Region with Japan & India”. Japan’s relation with India needs no introduction. Both the countries

Ms. Reiko Furuya, Director, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), New Delhi, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) India Office, Mr. Kazuzuru Kono, Secretary-General, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India (JCCI), Mr. M K Sabaria, Member Managing Committee, ASSOCHAM and Chairman, Sabaria Group of Industries & Plantations.

Mr. Rahul Sharma, Chairman, India-Japan Business Promotion Council, ASSOCHAM felicitating H. E. Mr. Kenko SONE, Minister of Economics, Embassy of Japan in India in the ASSOCHAM Conference on “Japanese Investment in North East Region of India”. 

Promoting Japanese Investment in North-East Region of India
not only have stood for one another in difficult times but have also proved to be one of the closest allies by contributing significantly in economic development and overall prosperity. Continuing the legacy the Japanese government has expressed keen interest to invest in North East Region of India.

The ASSOCHAM conference brought together the Subject Matter Experts from India, Japan and North East Region for exchange of ideas on this.

Nagaland was State Partner in this conference and had a display of their handicrafts and specialities in the hall.

The key dignitaries who shared their ideas in the conference were, Mr Kazuhiro Kono (Secretary General – Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry in India ), Mr Katsuo Matsumoto (Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency in India), Ms. Reiko Furuya (Director- Japan External Trade Organization).

The conference attracted some of the most eminent speakers from the North East Region; Mr Alemtemshi Jamir (CEO, Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland), Mr Armstrong Pame (IAS-Director, Youth Affair & sports – Govt of Manipur), Mr. N Jaswant (IFS, Joint Secretary, Commerce & Industry Dept- Govt of Sikkim), Dr Tomio Isogai (Consultant – National Skill Development Corporation and Mr. Nixon Joseph, President & COO SBI Foundation).

The interaction was centred on discussing the ways and means to develop North East Region with the help of Japanese Investments. Some of the identified key thrust areas were Human Resource development by skilling, leading to job creation for youth in Japan and in Japanese companies across the globe, development of healthcare facilities by having more of micro clinics, modernisation of existing hospitals and opening more leading to attracting medical tourism from neighbouring countries. Some other important points of discussion were on development of infrastructure, agriculture and food processing facilities amongst others.

ASSOCHAM India Japan Business Promotion Council will continue to work in this endeavour and will be out there completely to utilize every opportunity in bridging the gap to chalk out strategic partnership between Japan and North East Region of India.

The conference had participation from more than 150 delegates comprising Japanese companies in India, Indian companies, Government officials from North East States and other stakeholders.
### India National Pavilion at DSEI 2019

We are pleased to inform you that, ASSOCHAM India’s Apex Chamber of Commerce & Industry, is organizing the “INDIA NATIONAL PAVILION” at DSEI 2019 from 10th - 13th September, 2019 at the ExCeL, Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, London E16 1XL.

The world leading event that connects governments, national armed forces, industry thought leaders and the global defence & security supply chain on an unrivalled scale.

### India pavilion at World Food Moscow 2019

We are delighted to inform you that “ASSOCHAM” with the support from Department of Commerce, Govt. of India is organizing India pavilion at World Food Moscow 2019 during September 24 - 27, 2019. India export business to Russia is worth US$ 2,113.39 during 2017 - 2018. There are good opportunities for Indian companies to expand their business to Russia.

### India Pavilion at Iraq Agrofood 2019

We are delighted to inform you that “ASSOCHAM” with the support from Department of Commerce, Govt. of India is organizing India pavilion at Iraq Agrofood 2019 during 30th September-03rd October, 2019. Iraq Agro-Food has marked its position in the region as a leading exhibition for the Agro-food products and technology, with nine successful shows under its belt. In its 10th edition, Iraq Agro-Food will underpin market demand and opportunities and will cover all aspects of the food production cycle from harvesting to manufacturing, packaging, and distribution.

### India Pavilion at 39th Edition of Hong Kong Electronics Fair 2019

ASSOCHAM is pleased to announce a delegation to participate at the 39th Edition of Hong Kong Electronics Fair 2019, 13 to 16 October, organised by Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), with the support of Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

ASSOCHAM with the support of Department of Commerce, Govt. Of India is organizing India Pavilion at AgriTechnica, Hanover, Germany. The International Exhibition on Agriculture Technologies will be held from 10th to 16th November, 2019 at convention center in Hannover, Germany. About 2,800 exhibitors from 52 countries are expected to participate in this exhibition.

18 November - 21 November, 2019, Thailand

organizing India Pavilion at BAPA FoodPro International Expo, Bangladesh

ASSOCHAM with the support of Department of Commerce, Govt. Of India is organizing India Pavilion at BAPA FoodPro International Expo, Bangladesh. This event showcases product from Food & Beverage industry. Discussions, demonstrations and debates will attract visitors eager to find products insights and intelligence that will keep them at the top of their game. Bangladesh Agro Processors’ Association jointly organizes this expo with Extreme Exhibition & Event Solution Ltd. who are one of the leading expo organizer of Bangladesh. Participation from more than 20 countries is expected where around 200 exhibitors will come up to exhibit their products & services.

India Pavilion at Food Africa, Cairo, Egypt

ASSOCHAM with the support of Department of Commerce, Govt. Of India is organizing India Pavilion at Food Africa, Cairo, Egypt. The International Exhibition on Food Products and Technologies will be held during 9-10-11 December, 2019 at Egypt International Exhibition Center, Cairo, Egypt. About 400 exhibitors from 35 countries are expected to participate in this exhibition.

India Pavilion at FOOD EXPO GREECE

ASSOCHAM, with support from Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, is organizing India Pavilion at FOOD EXPO GREECE. The exhibition brings together Greek and international Food & Beverage professionals such as manufacturers, importers and traders. The exhibition would be organized from 7-9 March, 2020 at Metropolitan Expo Exhibition Centre in Athens, Greece. More than 1,300 Greek and international exhibitors and more than 3,500 international buyers are expected to participate in the exhibition. Visitors from supermarket chains, bakeries, food factories, liquor stores, hotels, restaurants, chefs, food and wine importers are expected to visit the exhibition.
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## Forthcoming Events

**August – September 2019**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>23 August</td>
<td>ARC Summit</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 August</td>
<td>National Summit- Cum- Expo- Cum- Awards on FAD-2019</td>
<td>Hotel BNR Chanakya, Ranchi, Jharkhand.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-28 August</td>
<td>Workshop on Totality of Project Management (TPM) leading to the Certificate in Project Management (CIPM)</td>
<td>ASSOCHAM House, New Delhi</td>
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<td>28 August</td>
<td>Promoting Exports in MSME Industries</td>
<td>FKCCI, Bengaluru</td>
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<td>28 August</td>
<td>12th India Security Summit Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy</td>
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<td>29 August</td>
<td>Workshop on New GST Return Offline Tool</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 August</td>
<td>Conference on Mining in Karnataka</td>
<td>Bengaluru</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 August</td>
<td>MSME Sammelan *MSMEs - Growth Engine of UP’s Economy</td>
<td>UP</td>
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<td>31 August</td>
<td>National Conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code</td>
<td>FKCCI, Bengaluru</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 August</td>
<td>Workshop on GST on New Return Offline Tool</td>
<td>Hotel BNR Chanakya, Ranchi, Jharkhand.</td>
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<td>The New Indian Express - Devi Awards</td>
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<td>4 September</td>
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<td>5 September</td>
<td>North Bengal : Growth, Opportunities for MSMEs</td>
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<td>7 September</td>
<td>Start-Ups Launch Pad</td>
<td>Jaipur</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 September</td>
<td>National Conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-17 September</td>
<td>Business Delegation Accompanying Hon’ble President of India to Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia</td>
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<td>10 &amp; 13 September</td>
<td>DSEI 2019 Defence and Security Equipment International</td>
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<td>12 September</td>
<td>Conference on Menstrual Hygiene</td>
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<td>FinTech Meet 2019</td>
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<td>19 September</td>
<td>Conference on Indian Agriculture - Agenda for Inclusive Growth</td>
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<td>16th International Tax Conference</td>
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<td>24-27 September</td>
<td>World Food Moscow</td>
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<td>25 September</td>
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<td>25 September</td>
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<td>5th National Symposium on Nutraceuticals</td>
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<td>Underground Construction and Tunneling Conference</td>
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<td>27/28/29 September</td>
<td>Arogya Exhibition</td>
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<td>27 September</td>
<td>National Conference on Modernization of Railways : Vision 2030</td>
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<td>30 Sept-3 Oct</td>
<td>Iraq Agro Food</td>
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