Mr. B K Goenka, President, ASSOCHAM welcoming Prof. Edward I. Altman, Professor of Finance, Emeritus, TRIUM and New York University's Stern School of Business, USA at the ASSOCHAM Interactive session.

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- B K Goenka,
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Atlantis A, B and C wing are mortgaged with ICICI Bank Limited, Castle Rock has been mortgaged & financed by Shriram Properties Ltd. The purchase deed will be registered in name of the mortgagee in the event of the mortgagee exercising its security under the registered mortgage.

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We are in the midst of elections, and poll campaigns have already assumed a feverish pitch throughout the country, with major political parties having announced their economic manifesto and specific agendas for the next 5 years. ASSOCHAM had released its economic manifesto with recommendations for placing India on a growth trajectory of 8 to 8.5 per cent and becoming a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025. Through this manifesto, ASSOCHAM has indicated the direction which the succeeding Government should pursue to bolster India’s economic growth.

I am pleased to share that ASSOCHAM is spreading its wings in the international arena as well, by participating in global events. In addition to successfully organising a business delegation to Croatia during the visit of the Hon’ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind, ASSOCHAM participated in an exhibition on food processing and packaging in Chicago, USA. ASSOCHAM also participated at AMPER Expo – the prestigious Expo for Electrical & Electronic Engineering & Industrial Automation held in the Czech Republic. In the Gulf region, ASSOCHAM, in association with SIMA and IIMA, is organising Asian Conference on Metallics for Steel Making.

As outlined in the vision of ASSOCHAM through 4-Sight, which I am very passionate about, I am delighted to inform that ASSOCHAM has organised events covering the key pillars of 4-Sight. ASSOCHAM celebrated International Women’s Day on 8th March by organising a special conference in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. On Digitization, an international conference with the theme “Artificial Intelligence for India’s Transformation” was organised. Stalwarts from the IT & ITES were present at the event to guide the industry participants.

India is entering its golden era of sustained growth and inclusive development to become a leading global economy. To provide the necessary impetus, we continue with our efforts to impress upon the government through our activities and representations. In the recently held bi-monthly meeting with Mr Shaktikanta Das, Hon’ble Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), we shared industry’s concerns which included lowering the repo rate followed by passing of the rate cut benefit to borrowers. RBI’s move towards softening monetary policy by reducing key policy rates by 25 basis (bps) points to 6.0 per cent from 6.25 per cent is a welcome development and comes at the right time.

On 2nd April, the second Managing Committee Meeting was held, followed by presentations by council members. The meeting concluded with a Special Session by Dr John Joseph, Member (Tax Policy), Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), who shared his valuable thoughts and addressed some industry concerns. I am pleased to see the continued enthusiasm and responses from everyone at MC meetings.

To continue our journey towards a growing economy, I commend the role of industry. I urge every individual to cast their vote and elect a stable and secure government to continue the momentum of socio-economic growth together with political stability and reforms.

Thank you,
Balkrishan Goenka
Education being one of the most important aspects considered by every Indian, consistent upgradation of the sector is vital so that students across all ages can remain competitive and intellectually sound in future. However, the same needs to be affordable and accessible to all, he added.

Discussions were carried out at the 12th ASSOCHAM National Education Summit & Edu-Shine Excellence Awards 2019, with the topic ‘Making India Global Powerhouse: Catalyzing Reforms and Innovations’, which was organised in New Delhi. Mr. Prakash Javdekar, Minister of Human Resource Development, said that students need exposure across all spectrums of education and the Government is doing everything in order to bring positive changes in the way schooling and overall education is conducted across the country.

Speaking at the ASSOCHAM event, Mr. Javdekar said, “Introduction of affordable education, introduction of over 1.3 million teachers, and improved schooling are some of the aspects that we have implemented across the country. We have studied and worked towards bringing a holistic approach to the Indian Education system where handling of students at lower levels, ensuring pre and post matrix scholarships and
increased exposure to research has been given priority. The transformation that has happened in the past four years has resulted in maximum enrolment and reduced drop outs. The importance of teachers in a student’s life plays a very important role and we have introduced a system that makes teachers accountable in terms of outcomes of the examinations and facilitating options for students in the event of failures.”

Commenting further, Mr. Javdekar said that education should help in making students complete human beings, just not limiting it to studies. He said, “There is a need to change the mind-set of the way education is perceived. We have included sports, life skill education, value education in the education system that would improve students in their personal lives. We have also started constructing technological labs in schools and research and innovations and sanctioned 33,000 crores rupees to create additional lab and academic infrastructure. This is how we will ensure quality at all level and improve research and innovation. We have started embracing social research, joint cooperation between foreign universities and smart India hackathon, Gyan-digital library with 18 million books where everyone can be a member free of cost.”

Present at the event were Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon’ble Former President of India, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry, GoI and other dignitaries.

Commenting on the Indian education, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, said, “India boasts the ancient education system which now needs to excel at global level. The Government and people involved in bringing in change in the education sector should concentrate on making the Indian education excellent in all aspects. India's demographic dividend has the potential to add significantly to its GDP but, unless this potential is used fully.”

Mr. Suresh Prabhu reiterated the importance of change in mind-set required during his speech. He added that, “The purpose of education should be uniform in order to expose new areas of education to improve employability.”

We have the 3rd largest education system in the world which claims to have a turnover of 90 billion US dollars and is likely to cross 100 billion by 2020. With 44 central universities, 90 private and 903 state universities including technical ones the growth has been satisfactory. Now the focus should be on Rural transformation through education and the skilling architecture.”

He also stretched upon the huge challenges faced by the sector in terms of accessibility, equity and quality. He said, “We have highlands of excellences but there is vast presence of mediocrity. This can be eradicated and we can be in par with standards offered in foreign varsities by bringing in immense flexibility for switching the course of studies and subtle degree of transparency in the private education sector. In Indian context it is inconsiderable and a complex process. However, the Government and the decision-making bodies like AICTE should look into the matter. With the forthcoming of Industrial revolution - Industry 4.0 that includes artificial intelligence, IOT, robotic tactic etc. will create disruption and challenges in deciding the curriculum of education and the skills required. We need to embrace the fact and act upon it immediately.”

Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Hon’ble Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation addressing the august audience.
Mrs. Sushma Paul Berlia, Chair, ASSOCHAM Ease of Doing Council and President, Apeejay Stya & Svran Group

• The Key objective of round table conferences is to have discussion on Policy Changes, Operational Challenges & reason for the delays in clearances. The key concern is operational challenges & Devolution of power. There should be consolidation of rules: combining different regulation that serve the same purpose, the best example can be seen in the clearance of environment.

• We also need to specifically work on the Trading across border, India ranks 80 in this parameter which way below from countries like Korea, Singapore & China, so improvement in this parameter not only bring the transaction cost down but also helps in bringing down the logistics cost which is very high in India and estimated at 14-15% of GDP.

• To curb this problem, technology can play vital role if used in right direction. Singapore shows a best model which is known as Singapore trade net system which allows the application, submission, receiving processing & return of response to trade declaration submitted in a few minutes.

Shri Ajay Kumar Srivastava, Additional DGFT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

India has jumped many places in last 4 years but it only focuses on 2 cities and 10 parameters. However, we should focus on broad aspects and at zero level. The countries which are in top 20 not only because of these 10 parameters but also from other aspects and parameters as well. To overcome this problem, we have come with solution which is better known as Ease of implementation rating. In this all the government department scheme should be allotted ratings. The ratings can be made with the help of the third party and external committee but once the ratings have been fixed it should not be revoked. The rating can be made from 0 to 10. The rank should be used along with name of the department. For example: Income tax return filing should get top rating because if the scheme can be implemented without the need of human interpretation, the computer just show interpretive results and this will helps us to eradicate the corruption, delays etc. Through the rank all the promotions and incentives should be linked. The rank should also be visible on the website office etc. This will bring down 98 to 99% problem. Some schemes like refund under GST export will be rank lower. The moment we will detect the lower rank say 1 or 2, then somebody have to transfer or remove and it will lead to auto improvement.

• Remaining 1% complex scheme like GST, Agriculture policy and many others. In agriculture people should be able sale, lease & contracts without a middleman. We should be able to buy it sell it online like grocery store, it’s all happening in developed country and we are far behind

• The another area is exports an exporter require to be in touch with almost 9-10 departments in a single trade and if we approach to certain departments they say
they are totally automated but the problem is systems are not interlinked with each other. So, to curb or to overcome this problem we need an online portal like National Trade Portal. Where an exporter if he gets the ordered he should be able to meet all the regulatory requirements through the website. So, he files an information there, the Custom DGFT EIC they pick up there part of the information and they will comply in 6 to 7 hours. After that the exporter should get the permission and the export can happen. It is not happening because government has spent millions of dollar on the existing schemes and they don’t want to change it. They are only doing incremental changes which is not benefiting at all, they are solving 10 things and making 20 things difficult. So we need to change the entire process.

Mr. Jai Khurana, Co-Chair, ASSOCHAM Ease of Doing Council and Sr. Vice President and Head of Business Development, Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd.

- The first important part is land which can be converted into industrial land. It also looks good on paper that the government has created SEZ industrial park but when it comes to categorization between SEZ, industries & logistics it becomes difficult to convert the operations.

- The sunset clause is around the corner in 2020. A lot of industries, domestic as well as international they are not sure whether to invest in India or not. There is still no clarity by the government regarding rule and regulation. Moreover, No cost benefit analysis is also not done. The government should use the unused land to get some fruits from it.

- Another important part is water. We not only need potable water but for industry as well. Government is pushing for potable water but there is no work done with respect to industry water. There must be some policy and some PPP models which can work for the same. We must use our coast line for the fulfilment of water. Singapore also sets an example in the same field

- Electricity: The scenario has changed now there is more importance of renewable energy and it is also appreciated by the investors worldwide. But in some states we can use only 50% of total consumption in the form of renewable energy so, it becomes more of a contradict. The alignment in the state and centre is not there regarding the policy.

Ms. Namrata Mukherjee, Head Policy Advocacy, Sterlite Power Transmission Ltd.

(1) Streamlining Forest Clearance Process – 3 major debottlenecking steps
(2) Ease other approvals – Railways, National Highways, Canal crossings
(3) Resolve technology issues
(4) Availability of Accurate GIS Information

Mr. Sourav Biswas, Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas

- Policy Formulation & stakeholders consultations: The investor confidence is being lost as there is no specific regulation and if there is any, then it is not clarified and it is creating a havoc in the industry.

- Stamp duty aspects: All business are exploited to the stamp duty, the problem with the stamp duty is it’s differ from state to state. Although, Centre is having some power for only 8 to 9 states but they have left other states to dry. So, it becomes too difficult for the investors to cover the track of all the stamp duty paid.

- Enforcement of contracts: Not all states have adequate commercial courts and deficiency of judges should be considered. Appoint judges as soon as possible. Fast track court for contacts law should be made.

Ms. Paramita Sahoo, Head - Policy Advocacy, The Tata Power Company Limited

- Inter-alia legislation is one of the key drivers of economic growth, nurturing right economic environment through evolving legislation/ regulation is an essential ingredient required for robust growth.

- A plethora of regulations govern power generation sector.

- Nearly 90 approvals/ clearances required during construction for an integrated project (a single clearance for eg. forest clearance, might have as many as 233 steps)

- Around 53 key approvals/ clearances required during operations stage

- The processes/ procedures often varies with the state (for eg. open access regulations, NM regulations etc.)

- Some of these legislations have not been changed for as long as 50 years

- The power sector is plagued by constraints in two of the most critical segments in the value chain – (I) raw materials; (ii) consumers of power resulting in almost 40 GW of stressed assets

- 34 projects with aggregate capacity of 40 GW stressed; 24.5 GW are commissioned; only 18.5 GW PPAs tied up; 29 GW linked to fuels.

- With debts of Rs. 180000 crores, power sector is the biggest defaulter

Mr. Sanjeeva Singh, Sr Vice President & Head Corporate Relations Tata Realty

- Environmental clearance: We don’t require 2 bodies for the same purpose they should be integrated and the time taken to get the permission can be straightforward cut to 30days from 90 days. If the building is environment friendly then we need no to go the same or entire process again as it take a lot of time.

- Integrating Digitally across various agencies :
Interdepartmental linkages should be made and the time should be stipulated and the order made should be precise.

Ms. Shubra Thakur, Head Govt Affairs, Boston Scientific India

- Issue of pricing of medical devices: We should make some collaboration with the industry to set the price and should have the perspective from the ground level as well.
- Safety and quality of medical devices: There are several agencies coming up to do the governing part but we already have ministry and they are also regulating the policies and making them as well.
- Custom duty on medical devices: The custom duty is also going to increased without any reason and India imports 70%. Increasing the custom prices will lead to the pockets of the consumer.

Mr. M. Joshi, Chief Marketing Officer, BAG Electronics

- The main issue is GST refund where inputs is 18 or 20% and when we sell our product the GST driver is 12% the difference of 6% is creating problem in the working capital. There is also problem in the setting the refund done as the process is complicated. We have to take loan to manage the working capital management. The system of getting approval is very complicated.
- Electricity: The driver which we have to create is now 440W instead of 220W in single phase system. Due to inconsistency we have to design our product according to this. Taking about surges it should be 1kv but we have to work on 4kv. So the cost of product is getting higher.

Mr. Alok Agarwal, Director, Quest Global Technologies Ltd.

- Advantages for GST on Blockchain
  i. Infrastructure for GST is already in place, just need to create a blockchain for companies GST details.
  ii. Here are the advantages of creating a blockchain for GST number:-
  iii. Instant GST registration for the companies within a few minutes
  iv. GST numbers for all the companies can be verified on blockchain
  v. Ratings for the companies based on GST paid status can be seen on blockchain

Mr. Pratap Singh Chauhan, President – Logistics, Trident Group

- The government should focuses on the connectivity for the manufactures from the north to south. The train transit is cheaper but it takes a lot of time and there is no commitment in the costal and rail movement
- We are looking help from shipping line and we are looking for the relaxation or help for the government
- Exim Policy: custom should be operated 24*7 and should be easily accessible
- E sancti process: They are not compliance with the manufacturer. We should make online portal so that we will be able to send the data not only to the customs but to shipper as well. There should be more focuses on the digitalisation and all the bill lading and the documents should be sent online.
- There should be autotransmission. There should be 100% GPS devices and the ratio of the tracking devices should be increase & there should be a method to track over all the consignment.

Mr. Amir Singh Pasrich, Managing Partner, ILA Pasrich & Company

- Downgraded the commercial threshold disputes from 2cr to 3 Lac.
- Not giving any importance in the speeding up the judgement not only in contracts but in other area like divorce all, unfortunately we are not appointing the judges and the appointed judges are in the fear of getting corruption charges and they have to check their shoulders every time.
- It is also taking the lot time to come up the judgement by the courts and major reason is corruption and the dirty systems.
- The industries have to change the mindset regarding the disputes.
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In increasing fund and sustained advocacy for quality literacy programmes that empower women as literate women have a positive ripple effect on all development indicators, Mr. Anand Sahu, Member of Parliament BJP said at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi.

Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability. It will not only improve the quality of life of women, but for men, families, and communities as well. Empowerment of women has proven time and again across the world, to be the most efficient catalyst for rapid socio economic growth, while inaugurating a national conference on ‘Women’s Health Conference’ organized by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).
We all know that women are pivotal contributors to society in their roles as mothers, sisters, family members, and as socially responsible citizens. Addressing the gender, class or ethnic disparities that exist in healthcare and improving the health outcome, can contribute to women empowerment and socio-economic gain, Mr Sahu.

Between 30–50% of cancers can currently be prevented. This can be accomplished by avoiding risk factors and implementing existing evidence-based prevention strategies. Many cancers have a high chance of cure if diagnosed early and treated adequately. So, the key to survival is prevention, early detection, and proper cure which are possible only with proper awareness among people. Not only the Government, but also private players and NGOs have a great role in creating awareness on the preventive care and symptoms of these diseases. Cancer burden can thus be reduced through early detection and management,” added the Ms Niira Radia, Promoter and Chairperson, Nayati Healthcare Pvt. Limited.

Determining the goals of treatment and palliative care is an important first step, and health services should be integrated and people-centred. The primary goal is generally to cure cancer or to considerably prolong life. Improving the patient’s quality of life is also an important goal. This can be achieved by supportive or palliative care and psycho-social support,” said Ms Mohini Daljeet Singh, Founder & CEO, Max India Foundation.

Others who also spoke during the conference were Ms. Ameera Shah, Managing Director, Metropolis Healthcare, Mr. U. Ramadas Kamath, Executive Vice President, Infosys Limited, Ms Subhalakshmi Nandi, Deputy Regional Director – Asia, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), Padmashri (Dr) D.S. Rana, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Wellness Council and Ms Upasana Arora, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Healthcare.

Dr. D.S. Rana, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Wellness Council & Chairman, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital addressing the conference.

Ms. Ameera Shah, Managing Director, Metropolis Healthcare delivering her address during the Conference.

RBI to Reduce the Repo Rate by 0.25% and Transfer the Benefit to Borrowers

- Requested permission to raise ECB by borrowers to ease liquidity issues

In a bi-monthly meeting with Mr Shaktikanta Das, Hon’ble Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Mr BK Goenka, President ASSOCHAM, discussed a number of topics and concerns which included aligning the repo rate with the consequent rate cut in order to pass the rate cut benefit to the borrowers. The meeting also saw discussions on the External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) Guidelines – End Use restriction, NBFCs inability to fund Projects and Infrastructure Financing.

Mismatch in Repo Rate Cut and Consequent Cut in MCLR/PLR

Since August’18, Repo rate has reduced by 0.25% whereas the MCLR has increased by 0.30% to 0.40% and in case of NBFC the same has increased in excess of 0.75%. This increase in MCLR, despite a reduction in repo rate, has increased the cost of borrowing.

ASSOCHAM requested RBI for taking necessary steps for passing on the repo rate cut benefit to the borrower. Further cut in repo rate by 25 basis points, support overall economic and industrial growth.

External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) Guidelines – End Use restriction

As per New ECB framework per Fifth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2018-19 released on December 5, 2018, The End uses does not include Repayment of Rupee loans except from foreign equity holder

The Regulation restrict even borrower having net positive US$ revenue, to raise funding through ECB for refinancing their rupee term loan.

With existing liquidity conditions and limited Capital adequacy available with the Indian Banking system, permission for raising ECB by borrower having net positive US$ revenue for last three years to refinance rupee term loan may be looked into. This will not only ease liquidity pressure on the Banking industry but also help Borrower to raise competitive funding from International market.

NBFCs inability to fund Projects

NBFCs have emerged as an alternative to fund viable projects, however in the last few quarters NBFCs have found it difficult to maintain the same credit lines with the banks and had to repay all the short term borrowings from money market and mutual funds thus their ability to finance has reduced significantly thereby virtual halt in their onward lending.

ASSOCHAM requested RBI support in taking necessary steps to ease liquidity and restore confidence in the Financial Market

Infrastructure Financing

Infra, backbone of the economy, finding it difficult to fund new projects due to limited availability of Capital & liquidity with the Banks/NBFCs and Bank’s sectorial limits.

ASSOCHAM requested RBI to ease funding for Infrastructure Project, including reduced capital adequacy to enable banks to fund infrastructure projects. The apex body also stressed on enhancing opportunities for refinancing, takeout finance and credit enhancement by expanding capital base and operations of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) and National Infrastructure & Investment Fund (NIIF).

ASSOCHAM also elaborated and discussed other important points such as Easing Liquidity for the Micro Segment of MSMEs, Revised Framework on Resolution of Stressed Assets – RBI Circular issued on February 12, 2018 and the need for a separate class of wholesale and long-term financing bank (WLTF) akin to term lending financial institutions which existed before as proposed in the RBI Discussion Paper released in May, 2017.
Global technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) would help create new opportunities in India for delivering services, needs and priorities in sectors like education, health, management and others through smart thinking, a top government official said at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi.

“The rise of artificial intelligence and industry 4.0 has a different meaning in a country where there is a deficit of young people and it has a different meaning in a country like India which has a demographic dividend, where the average age of nation is 29+ years and large number of people are educated, intelligent, energetic and young looking to create new opportunities,” said secretary to Department of Science and Technology (DST) professor Ashutosh Sharma while inaugurating ASSOCHAM’s third international conference on Artificial Intelligence for India’s Transformation.

He added that AI may actually not destroy jobs but basically replace people who are not there. “So, it does not destroy jobs because we are creating new opportunities by bringing in machines which do people’s jobs.”

“In India we need to create new opportunities using the same technology clearly skills are
very important, but basically you need to identify the unmet needs, unreach people who are not served by technology,” said professor Sharma.

The secretary also informed that Department of Science and Technology is starting a mission called Cyber Physical Systems. “It is a marriage between information, decision making and AI.” He said that the mission is worth about Rs 3,660 crore for next three years, it would set up hubs in every conceivable area of artificial intelligence. “This would be a very historical mission in which industry, corporations would be looking at AI as equal partners, I want industry to be totally on-board to provide direction, early vision, problems and work together in also leveraging resources that would be created by government.”

Professor Sharma also informed that another parallel mission is starting out in quantum communication and computing. There is another national mission going on which is related to super computing whereby DST and MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) are working as partners and setting up large number of super computers in the country.

“These missions bring different components of society i.e. government, industry, academia, R&D labs etc. on board in a very compelling way. The missions include the entire end-to-end value chain from knowledge generation to knowledge consumption. While it has basic R&D, it also has technology development, skills, human resource development, incubators, support for start-ups, international collaborations,” he said.

“This would be a great platform for all of us to work together,” he said addressing the industry leaders.

Amid others who addressed the ASSOCHAM conference included – Mr Shin Bongkil, Ambassador, Embassy of Republic of Korea to India; Dr Lovneesh Chanana, chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on IT/ITeS & e-commerce and vice-president (Digital Government), Asia Pacific and Japan, SAP; Mr Vipul Kaushik, director, Enterprise Intelligence and Analytics, Digital Government Advisory, EY and Col. Saurabh Sanyal, deputy secretary general, ASSOCHAM.
The government is exploring and encouraging the investments through the public private partnership (PPP) model in order to develop training and high-performance centres across the country and to build modern sporting infrastructure suitable for the future, Ms. Neelam Kapur, Director General, Sports Authority of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports said at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi.

The collaborative efforts by the private and public sector can promote overall infrastructure development in the sports industry in India. The private sector is a key stakeholder in the Indian sporting ecosystem. In particular, for sports infrastructure development,
private entities contribute towards areas such as development and maintenance of sports facilities and talent development, said Ms. Neelam Kapur, Director General, Sports Authority of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports while inaugurating ASSOCHAM’s National Summit & Awards on Sports Business.

The private sector individuals have opened the academy, sports training institutes which are the best in the world. Today, we have enlisted more than 45 institute’s academies for partnership for training of our athletes, she said.

Mr Madan Lal, Former Indian cricketer said, Identification and consolidation of information on existing sporting facilities need to be undertaken to help upgrade and refurbishment. There facilities can then be promoted to ensure better utilisation of facilities and sporting and training infrastructure by potential sportspersons.

Addressing the summit, Mr Shaji Prabhakaran, President, Football Delhi said, India has the potential to transform itself into a global sporting powerhouse with far reaching impact on health, education and tourism. This would require a dedicated approach towards building quality of sports infrastructure. Robust sports infrastructure has a positive impact on not only the development of sport ecosystem for a country but also the community and the economy at large.

Others who also spoke during the conference were Dr Malav Shroff, Olympian 2004, Board Member-World Olympians Association, Smt. Neelam Kapur, DG, SAI, MYAS, Gol, Shri Madan Lal, Former Indian Cricketer, Shri Saurabh Sanyal, DSG, ASSOCHAM, Shri Jose Antonio Cachaza, MD, La Liga India and Mr Saurabh Sanyal, Deputy Secretary General, ASSOCHAM.
Passenger Vehicle Sales in India May Reach 5 Million Units in FY23: Report

The passenger vehicle (PV) market in India is likely to reach a sales figure of about five million units in FY 2023 from 3.3 million units in FY18 thereby clocking a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) 7.7 per cent, according to a recent ASSOCHAM-Roland Berger joint study.

“Stronger preference for SUVs (sports utility vehicles) and crossover models is expected to continue in future as well leading to a CAGR of 12 per cent in FY18-23,” noted the study titled, ‘Moving towards greener transportation,’ conducted by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) along with global strategy consulting firm Roland Berger.

The report however noted that significant growth potential exists in terms of penetration of four-wheel vehicles in India which is much lower when compared to global economies such as USA and China.

The study also noted that domestic sales of commercial vehicles in India is expected to cross one million units by FY23 from 832,000 units in FY18 thereby clocking a CAGR of 5.6 per cent.

“Implementation of GST will consolidate manufacturing operations resulting in faster turnaround times and an overhaul of the distribution system to a hub-and-spoke model,” it said.

The report further said that stricter enforcement of overloading ban, implementation of scrappage policy from April 2020, and GST are all expected to positively impact M&HCV market demand.

Noting that growth is expected in both agricultural as well as construction machinery segment due to increasing mechanization trends, the report said that off-highway machinery domestic sales are likely to reach 870,000 units by 2022 from 749,000 in 2017 thereby clocking a CAGR of about three per cent.

Driven by expectations of normal monsoons, increased minimum support prices (MSP) and farm loan waivers in states such as UP, Punjab, Maharashtra and Karnataka, the ASSOCHAM-Roland Berger study expects agriculture tractor segment is expected to grow at a CAGR of 2.8 per cent in 2017-22.

Terming the government’s intention to move from fossil fuel to clean fuel as a positive step towards positioning India at the forefront of global quest for clean mobility, the report said that the onus is not on the government alone.

“Auto-component suppliers need to swiftly catch up on green technology and business readiness by technology acquisitions, collaborations and capability demonstrations,” it suggested adding that they should de-risk their current businesses by pivoting towards future-ready opportunities that ideally leverage their current capabilities.

The report further said that original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in turn need to keep a nimble powertrain strategy with focus on green and work together as well as with the government to develop capabilities and roadmaps.
Dr. M. P. Poonia, Vice Chairman, AICTE delivering the Inaugural Speech at 12th ASSOCHAM National Education Summit 2019.

Mr. Nipun Goenka, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council for Education addresses the august gathering at 12th ASSOCHAM National Education Summit 2019.

Dr. Prashant Bhalla, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council for Education addressing the gathering at 12th ASSOCHAM National Education Summit 2019.

Padma Shri Dr. (Prof.) Pritam Singh addresses the auspicious gathering at 12th ASSOCHAM National Education Summit 2019.

Mr. Kunwar Shekhar Vijendra, Chancellor, Shobhit University addresses the auspicious gathering at the 12th ASSOCHAM National Education Summit 2019.

Ms. Arunima Das, VP, Little Laureates, Mrs. Lata Vaidyanathan, Chairperson, Made Easy School, Mr. Anurag Tripathi, Secretary, CBSE, Mr. Amol Arora, MD, Shemrock & Shemford Group of Schools, Ms. Bharti Sharma, Senior Director, GD Goenka Group and Maj. Gen. Sunil Chandra, Former MD, Army Welfare Education Society at the 12th ASSOCHAM National Education Summit 2019.
Mr. Anand Sherkhane, Additional Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME, Govt. Of India addressing the participants at Workshop Awareness Campaign of new MSME Schemes for SC/ST Entrepreneurs

Ms. Rashmi Chowdhary, Joint Secretary (Admin & CVO), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India addressing the participants at Workshop Awareness Campaign of new MSME Schemes for SC/ST Entrepreneurs

Mr. Ajay Sharma, Assistant Secretary General, ASSOCHAM addressing the participants at Workshop Awareness Campaign of new MSME Schemes for SC/ST Entrepreneurs

Shri C. Ramesh Rao, NSIC, addressing the participants at Workshop Awareness Campaign of new MSME Schemes for SC/ST Entrepreneurs

Mr. K.K. Sharma, General Manager, SC/ST HUB & Exhibition, NSIC, Ms. Reena Chauhan, Manager, NSIC Branch Office- Naraina, New Delhi, Mr. Manoj Kumar, President of DICCI – Delhi, Ms. Prachi Kaushik, Vyomini Enterprise, Mr. C. Ramesh Rao, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)

Mr. K. K. Sharma, General Manager, SC/ST HUB & Exhibition, NSIC addressing the participants at Workshop Awareness Campaign of new MSME Schemes for SC/ST Entrepreneurs
Winners of ASSOCHAM’s “Sports Excellence Awards” held on March 28, 2019, at Hotel Shangri-La’s Eros, New Delhi

From left to right: Mr. Luka Burilović, President, Croatian Chamber of Economy, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon’ble President of the Republic of India and H.E. Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Hon’ble President of the Republic of Croatia.

Mr. Nidish Nair, Partner PwC, Mr. Raman Kalra, Partner PwC, Mr. Shaji Prabhakaran, President, Football Delhi, Dr. Malay Shroff, Olympian 2004, Board Member – World Olympian Association, Smt. Neelam Kapur, DG, SAI, MYAS, Gol., Mr. Madan Lal, Former Indian Cricketer, Mr. Saurabh Sanyal, DSG, ASSOCHAM, Mr. Jose Antonio Cachaza, MD, La Liga India, and Ms Purnima Dhingra, Head–Sports, ASSOCHAM

Honouring the Chief Guest Smt. Neelam Kapur, DG, SAI, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Gol by Mr. Jose Antonio Cachaza, MD, La Liga India during the Sports Business Summit & Awards held on March 28, 2019 in New Delhi

(L-R) Ms Purnima Dhingra, Head–Sports, ASSOCHAM, Mr. Shaji Prabhakaran, President, Football Delhi, Dr. Malay Shroff, Olympian 2004, Board Member – World Olympian Association, Smt. Neelam Kapur, DG, SAI, MYAS, Gol., Mr. Madan Lal, Former Indian Cricketer, Mr. Saurabh Sanyal, DSG, ASSOCHAM, Mr. Jose Antonio Cachaza, MD, La Liga India

Honouring the Guest of Honour, Mr. Madan Lal, Former Indian Cricketer, Indian Cricket Team Coach & Member, World Cup India’s Squad by Mr. Jose Antonio Cachaza, MD, La Liga India during the Sports Business Summit & Awards held on March 28, 2019, New Delhi

Honouring the Guest of Honour, Mr. Madan Lal, Former Indian Cricketer, Indian Cricket Team Coach & Member, World Cup India’s Squad by Mr. Jose Antonio Cachaza, MD, La Liga India during the Sports Business Summit & Awards held on March 28, 2019, New Delhi

Winners of ASSOCHAM’s “Sports Excellence Awards” held on March 28, 2019, at Hotel Shangri-La’s Eros, New Delhi
Interactions

Ms. Shubra Thakur, Head Govt Affairs, Boston Scientific India

Mr. M. Joshi, Chief Marketing Officer, BAG Electronics

Mr. Sanjeeva Singh, Sr Vice President & Head Corporate Relations Tata Realty

Lighting of the lamp at Business Matching Meeting with Top Thai Brands, by Thai Consul General, Kolkata. Ms. Sweeya Santipitaks, Mr. Tharadol Minister Counsellor (Commercial), Thailand, Ms Perminder Jeet Kaur, Regional Director, ASSOCHAM

Members of Thailand Business Delegates with Thailand Consul General, Kolkata Ms. Sweeya Santipitaks, Mr. Tharadol, Minister Counsellor (Commercial), Thailand, Ms Perminder Jeet Kaur, Regional Director, ASSOCHAM
Chamber Interactions

Hon’ble Justice Mr. S. J. Mukhopadhaya, Chairperson, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) along with Mr. Saurabh Sanyal, Deputy Secretary General, ASSOCHAM and Mr. Ajay Sharma, Assistant Secretary General, ASSOCHAM.

Hon’ble Justice Mr. M. M. Kumar, President, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) along with Mr. Saurabh Sanyal, Deputy Secretary General, ASSOCHAM and Mr. Ajay Sharma, Assistant Secretary General, ASSOCHAM.

Mr. C K Mishra, Secretary MOEF&CC with Mr. Saurabh Sanyal, Deputy Secretary General, ASSOCHAM.

Secretary DONAR Dr. Inder Jit Singh with Mr. Saurabh Sanyal, Deputy Secretary General, ASSOCHAM.

Chairman of National council on Banking and Finance Dr. Charan Singh along with Mr. Ajay Sharma, Assistant Secretary General ASSOCHAM.

ASSOCHAM Health and Pharma Division with the distinguished guests at ASSOCHAM Women’s Health conference
ASSOCHAM Economic Manifesto for Nation Building

ASSOCHAM released its economic manifesto and recommendations for achieving 8 to 8.5 per cent growth. Through this manifesto, ASSOCHAM has indicated the Economic Growth Agenda, which the succeeding Government should pursue to bolster India’s economic growth. The manifesto suggests the new Government to focus on various steps that would enable an economic growth rate of 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent in the coming years.

ASSOCHAM, India’s oldest apex body which represents the largest pool of SMEs and MSMEs suggests that the recommendations mentioned in the manifesto will help India become a $5 Trillion economy, elevating the country’s growth and development to a new level.

The ASSOCHAM manifesto suggests to create developmental financial institutions which would provide long term non-bank funding option to the businesses. The manifesto also suggested that further lowering of interest rates would pave the way for MSMEs to emerge out of the financial crunch.

The ASSOCHAM manifesto also focuses on various areas such as Export Promotion, Ease of Doing Business, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Infrastructure, Capital Markets etc.

“The present government has taken a lot of steps to solve the liquidity issues of the MSME sector. We believe that a further cut in repo rate by 25 basis points in next policy from 6.25 per cent to 6 per cent can help ease liquidity further. On the tax front, a reduction in the corporate income tax to 15 per cent for MSME and 20 per cent for large companies would ensure better operating surplus.”, Mr B K Goenka, President, ASSOCHAM said.

The Industry body advocates the introduction of accelerated depreciation. “If this is introduced companies would be able to deduct capital investments immediately from their taxable income rather than spreading out the deduction over many years. This move would boost new investments.” Mr Goenka said.

Key points from the manifesto:

Growth and Investment
- Formation of developmental financial institutions to provide long term non-bank funding to the industries
- Introduction of Accelerated Depreciation System to enable companies to deduct capital investments immediately from their taxable income

Export Promotion
- Reimbursing embedded taxes on all exports across all sectors
- Quick conclusion on INDO-EU FTA which would provide access to Indian companies in the Europe

Agriculture
- Exempting farm equipment and machinery from GST and provision of income tax as it will increase farmers’ income and modernise the Indian Agriculture

Infrastructure
- Hybrid annuity model to be replicated for coastal shipping and inland waterways to increase logistics coverage and maximum utilisation of waterways
- All new industrial ones to allocate 10% land for transportation and allied activities

Manufacturing
- Import substituting products which attract new investments for manufacturing in India, should be kept outside FTAs
- Gradual simplification of GST structure aiming for dual rate slab i.e. 8% and 16%
- Encourage investments in R&D that would make India an innovation hub

Capital Market
- Exemption of Long Term Capital Gain on securities held for three years and more
- Reintroduction of rebate under erstwhile Section 88E for STT and CTT paid and reduction in the rate of STT
- Rationalisation of STT on exercise of options with introduction of delivery based derivatives contracts
- An additional 50 lacs limit be given under Section 54EC for investment in CPSE ETFs
ASSOCHAM organized a business delegation to Croatia during the visit of the Hon’ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Croatia from 25-27 March, 2019. The objective of Indian business delegation was to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Croatia and explore business opportunities in both countries.

Led by ASSOCHAM, the Indian business delegation comprised 35 delegates and was supported by CII and FICCI. The Indian business delegation was led by ASSOCHAM’s delegate Mr. Shailesh Tewary, President, Croatia.
This was the first-ever Indian head of state visit to Croatia. President Mr. Ram Nath Kovind was honoured with Croatia’s highest civilian award -- the Grand Order of the King of Tomislav and he dedicated this award to India-Croatia friendship. The civilian award is awarded to heads of state for their prodigious contribution towards the development of state relations between Croatia and their respective countries.

This Presidential visit to Croatia witnessed signing of MOUs in the areas of tourism, sports and culture.

During the 2-day delegation schedule, meetings with Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Health, in Croatia were held on 26th March, 2019. On the same day, a visit to Aquae Vivae Water Park Project in Krapinske Toplice was organized.

The highlight of the visit of Indian business delegation was Croatia-India Business Forum, held at the headquarters of Croatian Chamber of Economy (CCE) on Wednesday, 27th March, 2019. The business forum was addressed by Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon’ble President of the Republic of India, H.E. Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Hon’ble President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Luka Burilović, President, Croatian Chamber of Economy and Mr. Shailesh Tewary, Leader of the Indian Business Delegation (ASSOCHAM) and President - Croatia Business Forum, India.

The business forum was followed by B2B meetings where Indian companies engaged in productive discussions with their Croatian counterparts. More than 90 Croatian companies participated in meetings.

Carrying the initiative further, ASSOCHAM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Croatian Chamber of Economy to work collaboratively in promoting trade and business between India and Croatia, hence, strengthening the bilateral relations between the countries.
ASSOCHAM in association with Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, and Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) organized India pavilion at Pro Food Tech from 26th-28th March, 2019 in Chicago, USA. Pro Food tech is a flagship exhibition organized by Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Institute (PMMI) and is one of the largest packaging and food processing show in the United States. ASSOCHAM along with FIEO mobilized 45-50 Indian companies to exhibit in the exhibition. The 3-day exhibition witnessed huge footfall of visitors and the exhibitors were satisfied with the response they got. The representative of ASSOCHAM also met Mr. L. P Gupta (Commercial Counselor) at the Consulate General of India situated in Chicago and briefed him about the event and composition of Indian delegation at Pro Food tech Exhibition. Through the Pro Food Tech Exhibition, ASSOCHAM strived to strengthen the business relations between India and United States, by offering a platform to the Indian business community to explore endless opportunities in Chicago and other states of USA.
In order to maintain a healthy population and to address the increasing demand of nutritious food, there is a need to change the agricultural pattern of India as focus is required on the nutritional value. The Government should focus on both Macro and Micro nutrients while working towards Food Security. This will help in generating more income for farmers and provide nutritional food for the huge Indian population.

Speaking at the 2nd National Conference on “Nutrition and Food” organised by ASSOCHAM, India’s oldest apex body, Mr Ashok Dalwai, CEO National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), said, “The consumption pattern of the Indian population is changing as it indicates that the expenditure on food has been reducing in...
Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority (Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, Government of India) addressing the Inaugural Session

the consumer’s basket and more spending is happening on nutrition. The Government should focus on creating a roadmap which would focus more on production of nutritional food. As agriculture is the main provider of food, it is also a major provider of employment to the society. The Government and the industries need to link up and work towards addressing the nutrition requirement of the people, employment engagement and the livestock sector."

Present at the occasion were Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Dr. Shariqua Yunus, Head of Nutrition, World Food Programme (UN), Dr. Shikha Sharma, Managing Director, NutriHealth, Mr. Arun Lal, Vice President, Hexagon Nutrition, Dr. R. Hemlata, Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Mr. Vikas Jain, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Food Processing and Value Addition and Mr. Saurabh Sanyal, Deputy Secretary General, ASSOCHAM.

The In India, Agriculture is seen only as a provider of food and it is important to see this as a major cultivator towards providing nutrition the budding population. There is surplus of food where there is still deficiency in the income of the farmers and nutrition supply through food to the people.

Even now the land, which is a primary resource for India, is being used for producing primarily for cereals. We need geometrical revising of agricultural pattern where we start producing the required food in lesser area and divert the surpluses to produce nutritional requirement such as pulses, meat, poultry, milk, fruits, vegetables. The consumption pattern in India indicates that the expenditure on food has been reducing in the consumer’s basket and more spending is happening on nutrition.
New Arbitration Regime – Challenges Faced by PSUs/Corporates

ASSOCHAM International Council of Alternate Dispute Resolution (AICADR) in association with Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) organized a Conference on ‘New Arbitration Regime – Challenges faced by PSUs/Corporates’ on 9th March, 2019 to provide a platform to discuss the challenges faced by public sector undertakings/corporate in the resolution of commercial disputes and how to overcome them.

Hon’ble Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, Former Chief Justice of India, as the Chief Guest, Hon’ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sikri, Judge Supreme Court of India and Mr. Lalit Bhasin, President BAI & SILF and Chairman, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK) as the Guest of Honors, Mr. Maninder Singh, Secretary, Bal Bharat Academy, as the Special Guest, Mr. S. Ravi Shankar, Sr. Partner, Lawsenate Law Firm, as the Key Note Speaker, addressed the Conference during the inaugural session.

Mr. K. K. Sharma, Chairman ASSOCHAM National Council on Arbitration welcomed the Chief Guest and the delegates. He indicated that we propose to organize a Global Conference on International Commercial Arbitration in New Delhi during later part of this year in which renowned speakers from around the world will participate.
world are expected to participate and sought support to make this Conference a big success.

A Knowledge Report titled ‘New Arbitration Regime – Challenges faced by PSUs/Corporates’ jointly prepared by ASSOCHAM and Mr. Ravi Shankar, Mg. Partner, Law Senate, was released by the Chief Guest. Mr. S. Ravi Shankar, the author of the Knowledge Report, highlighted the features of the Knowledge Report concerning issues regularly faced by PSUs and corporate houses while drafting and enforcing commercial contracts.

Mr. Maninder Singh, Secretary, Bal Bharti Academy in his special address stated that initially we used to refer disputes that occurred in our Educational Academy to courts only. But now with the change in ADR mechanism, we have decided to opt for institutional arbitration with ASSOCHAM-ICADR provisions.

Mr. Lalit Bhasin, President, BAI & SILF and Chairman, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK, who was the Guest of Honor, in his address observed that India’s litigation system is on the verge of breakdown. India’s arbitration too has failed to take off and mediation is the only answer for faster resolution of commercial disputes, he stated.

Hon’ble Justice A.K. Sikri in his address supported institutional arbitration mechanism for settlement of disputes arising under PSUs contracts. He cited many judgments delivered by the Supreme Court on international commercial arbitration. He offered his services to ASSOCHAM in making AICADR provisions more proactive and user friendly.

Hon’ble Justice Dipak Misra, in his inaugural address stressed the need to make India as a hub for international commercial arbitration comparable to other institutions like SIAC, London Court of Arbitration etc. He supported institutional arbitration in comparison to ad-hoc arbitration. He informed that courts have taken a supportive view on the role of institutional arbitration in settlement of commercial disputes.

Dr. G. P. Srivastava, Director General, AICADR, proposed Vote of Thanks to the Chief Guest, the dignitaries present and the delegates. He mentioned that AICADR which commenced functioning from April, 2016 had been spreading awareness of ADR mechanism to all stakeholders in the public and private sector, government departments and the judiciary. Many PSUs have incorporated our ADR provisions in their contracts and even made a roster of arbitration institutions including AICADR to refer their disputes on rotation basis.
To meet the rising demand for power across the country and to avoid any delays in procurement of the coal, the Government has decided to allow stoking from 7 to 15 days. This will allow power manufacturers enough breathing room to streamline the sourcing of the coal and maintain a steady supply of power.

Attending a Conference on the India Coal Sector by ASSOCHAM, Mr Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary, Minister of States for Mines and Coal, GOI, said that over 75 per cent of total power production in India is met by coal. It is imperative for the Government to maintain the consistent supply to meet the rising demand for power in the country and sustained economic growth.

Speaking during the ASSOCHAM Conference on India Coal Sector, Mr Haribhai Prathibhai Chaudhary, citing the need for increasing the number of days for coal stocking, he said, “Our approach for 24 hour electricity supply has resulted into increased supply of coal to the
power stations with an insight to keeping inventory stock of at least 15 days in advance. Earlier the coal stock at power stations were for 7 days but from last 2-3 years the number of days has increased to 15 days. We are also increasing dependency on our railways, which is one of the fastest and reliable mode of transporting coal.

He further added that commercialization of the coal sector was required in order to increase the production. He said, “With commercialization and opening the coal sector for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), this has reformed the industry in a big way. Introduction of E-auction is regularizing the coal production as it has brought in transparency which was required for decades. The Industry has also learnt new and good possible technologies of mining which is an indirect effect of International Relationship Building Campaign lead by the present Government.”

According to the latest BP statistic report states that Coal is the dominant fuel in India’s energy mix, accounting for 56% of the country’s consumption needs. During FY14-18, the coal production in India has grown to a CAGR of 4.6%. The power sector accounts for more than 70% of India’s coal use, making it central to the coal outlook in India. 57% of primary commercial energy is coal dependent.

Commenting on the recent global developments of coal, Mr Vinay Prakash Goel, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Coal said that, “The global demand for coal increases by 2 per cent every year and is set to grow by 25% in next 2 decades due to the growth expected from developing economics like India, which is an attraction for the world. Power generation in India has grown by 6 per cent over the last 6-7 years. To augment the domestic supply to meet the demand, commercial mining will play a vital role.”

India is moving forward with the production of 650 million tons coal, which has increased from 460 million tons in 2014. The initiative of coal linkage has taken the foreground by speedy and rational distribution of coal to nearby power stations has saved approximately 3,500 crores from the funds of the government and has also cut down the price of electric power.

Given the present demand supply situation and the projected economic growth of the country, commercial mining will be a necessary step to increase production of coal. The reform is bound to bring efficiency in the coal sector by inducing more competition in the industry. It will also allow the use of new and advance technology, new talents and invite higher investment in the coal bidding section, creating direct and indirect employment.
Data consumption in India will grow from the level of 71,67,103 million MB in 2017 to 10,96,58,793 million MB in 2022 growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 72.6%. According to an ASSOCHAM-PwC joint study.

With lower than ever data tariffs and increasing number of smartphone penetration in the country, which is around 40% as of 2017, it is safe to assume that the Video on Demand (VoD) market will be a significant beneficiary of these developments. Internet consumption is clearly on the rise in India. While the average Indian used to spend more on voice services than on mobile data services until 2013, the majority of an average mobile bill is now spent on data.

According to the report, the average monthly spend on voice services in 2013 was 214 INR compared to 173 INR spent on data. In 2016, the spend on voice fell to 124 INR, while data spends rose to 225 INR. Video streaming constitutes roughly 65–75% of the traffic according to the Nokia Mobile Broadband Index 2018. While Internet penetration is increasing in the country, with mobile Internet penetration set to reach 56.7% in 2022 from a mere 30.2% in 2017, connectivity and consistency in speed issues need to be addressed, noted ASSOCHAM-PwC joint study on ‘Video on Demand: Entertainment reimagined’.

Video consumption is heavily reliant on quality/Internet connectivity. Therefore, there is a requirement for considerable investment in Internet infrastructure in the country to maintain consistent high-speed connections.

In a country where approximately 65% to 70% of the population resides in rural areas, no service meant for the masses can afford to ignore this market. Internet connectivity and speed issues are significant in rural areas as against urban areas. It is important for OTT players to cater to the rural market if they wish to stay relevant. Thus,
As more and more people opt for smartphones, it is evident that data consumption will be on the rise, which will eventually lead to an increasing number of hours spent on mobile devices for viewing content online. Tablets are another promising device for the VoD industry. However, India has just about 5.3% penetration as of 2017, and this is expected to go up to just about 10% in 2022. The low penetration is definitely a missed opportunity for players as tablets offer fairly larger screens which are better for consuming HD content as compared to smartphones.

While the Indian video OTT market is at a fairly nascent stage, the video OTT market globally has entered into the growth phase of the market life cycle. With a CAGR of 22.6% during the period of 2017–2022, the Indian video OTT market is poised to outperform the global video OTT market, which is pegged to have a CAGR of 10.1% during the same period. Also, by 2022, the Indian video OTT market will be amongst the top 10 markets globally with a market size of 823 million USD (53,630 million INR).

Further, a comprehensive policy embracing learnings from other markets globally would help in building a stable platform for OTT service providers to grow. In this digital age, an upgrade to the IP laws along with strict implementation is needed more than ever before. Clarifications under IT and taxation laws would also go a long way in providing certainty. Rapid convergence in the entertainment and media industry has led to consolidation of companies which operate in different segments of the industry. In fact, consolidation is not just confined to the entertainment and media industry— with telecom players also increasingly showing interest in investing in media businesses. OTT services are one such segment which has recently managed to garner a huge amount of interest from various players within the industry as well as outside of it.

Five fundamental drivers of change have ensured that segments such as VoD will continue to flourish in the long run. With ongoing investments in technology and broadband, consumers are promised ubiquitous connectivity. Low data tariffs and increasing smartphone penetration have ensured that consumers and their devices are always connected and on. Mobile devices are becoming the consumer’s preferred choice to consume content. This has made it crucial for content creators and distributors to tailor their content and services for the mobile consumer. Diversifying revenue streams is one of the most essential aspects of survival in the increasingly competitive entertainment and media space. Many businesses are seeing OTT services as a reliable investment option, as they realise the power of digital viewing.

As a result, there has been a value shift to platforms. Social media and technology platforms, instead of content creators and packagers, have emerged as the primary beneficiaries of the increase in user time and spending. Another major aspect in the journey of OTT players would be the ability to personalise experiences. Emerging technologies would help companies create unique experiences that add value to the services provided to users.
A meagre four per cent of organizations are confident that they have fully considered the information security implications of their current strategy, and that their risk landscape incorporates and monitors relevant cyber threats, vulnerabilities and risks, noted a recent ASSOCHAM-EY joint study.

“With a view to achieve actual benefits of the fourth industrial revolution, government will need to take measures so that cybersecurity market in India grows hand in hand with Industry 4.0,” said the study titled, ‘Cybersecurity for Industry 4.0,’ conducted by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) along with global professional services firm Ernst & Young (EY).

The report added, sector specific security baselines and an integrated data protection framework will help India derive sustainable benefits from current technological revolution.

It also said that cybersecurity should no longer be viewed as a function of information technology (IT) or information security alone, it needs to form an integral part of culture and strategy of the organization and should be reflected in each and every facet of the organization, right from the strategy to the behavior of an individual employee.

“Such an integrated cybersecurity vision aligns business functions of the organizations with needs of the stakeholders and becomes a more acceptable strategy,” said the ASSOCHAM-EY study.

It noted that government and organizations face a challenge to be cyber resilient in order to adapt to evolving and disrupting technologies. “Traditional information security practices might provide necessary approach but might not be enough to completely protect the organizations.”

Organizations need to focus and commit to a framework that:

• Provides an integrated approach to cybersecurity – holistic approach to threat landscape rather than employing security technologies in silos.
• Develops capabilities for threat detection to respond appropriately and proactively.
• Employs use of artificial intelligence to recognize patterns for smart monitoring of IT infrastructure.
• Develops strong relationships between organizations across different sectors and government bodies for sharing information, intelligence, capacity building and research.

The study further said that in Industry 4.0 and its emerging technologies, gender diversity, cultural diversity and divyangjan, or differently abled bodies inclusion form a core of human resource management and merit based recruitment. “Empowering and disinhibiting these is a fundamental aspect of innovation in governmental departments and organisations.”

It also suggested that capacity building in human resources for Industry 4.0 must involve a multi-pronged strategy internally in
Only 4% Organisations Confident of Information Security Implications of their Current Strategy: Report

“Only 4% Organisations Confident of Information Security Implications of their Current Strategy: Report”

departments, with a ground-up focus on mindset development.

“It is important for the government to develop programs for skill upgradation of existing man-force and ensure that the curriculum of school and universities is suitably modified to include these as core subjects in future,” said the ASSOCHAM-EY study.

With so much dependence on data flow and communication between processes, components and sub-systems, data integrity and systems integrity assume critical dimensions. Manual supervision of various processes is neither feasible nor effective. Even patching security flaws from time to time is not practical – data by itself needs to be both abstracted and secured through different tools and techniques. Following secure design principles and guidelines such as in ISO 21827 is critical to secured system design.

Cybersecurity should no longer be viewed as a function of information technology or information security alone. It needs to form an integral part of culture and strategy of the organization. It should be reflected in each and every facet of the organization, right from the strategy to the behavior of an individual employee. Such an integrated cybersecurity vision aligns business functions of the organizations with needs of the stakeholders and becomes a more acceptable strategy.

The IoT phenomenon is one of the most disruptive technologies changing the way organizations function and carry out business. It is a system of inter-connected computing devices, mechanical and digital machines, objects or people that are provided with unique identifiers and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction. Devices and sensors are used to collect data from everywhere – home, cars, office, manufacturing plant, hospital, etc.

The data is collected and processed to automate responses or provide tools for decision making. IoT is aimed at increasing efficiency and productivity while conserving resources.
Co-operative NAFED is planning to buy 20 lakh tonne of mustard and 15-20 lakh tonne of pulses in the ongoing rabi (winter-sown) harvesting season at the minimum support price (MSP), its Managing Director Mr. Sanjeev Chaddha said at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi.

NAFED will buy pulses and oilseeds on behalf of the government to provide MSP to farmers, he said, adding that the co-operative has made arrangements of funds to carry out this procurement operations said Mr. Sanjeev Chaddha (IFS), Managing Director, NAFED while addressing ASSOCHAM Workshop on Green Jobs here at New Delhi.

"We will be purchasing 15-20 lakh tonne of pulses and 20 lakh tonne of mustard in the ongoing rabi harvesting season," said Mr. Chaddha.

He said NAFED already has a stock of 35 lakh tonne of pulses. Asked about disposal of the pulses stock, Chaddha said the Centre provides pulses to states at a subsidised price for distribution through the ration shops.

On the compressed bio-gas programme, Chaddha said NAFED and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) are working with private
entrepreneurs to set up bio-CNG manufacturing plants across the country using agri-wastes.

IOC Executive Director Mr. Subodh Kumar said about 200 letters of intent (LOIs) have been issued so far to set up plants, which would require an investment of Rs 25-40 crore each. About 5,000 units are likely to be set up for 150 person per unit. This will generate the employment of about 7.5 lakh jobs in green job.

He said oil marketing companies would buy compressed bio-gas from these plants for supply through their retail outlets at around Rs 50 per kg.

Mr. Kumar said these projects should be treated under the priority sector lending so that the private companies get finance at cheaper rates.

Green Energy Company Clean Effentech (CEF) will provide technology to these proposed plants.

"We expect that many plants will become operational by the end of this year in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab," CEF group Director (Business Development) and Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Skill Development Mr. Maninder Singh said, adding that the government is targeting 5,000 such plants by 2023.
Non communicable diseases have become a major concern in our country with Diabetes as one of the leading cause of critical diseases, disability and mortality. Diabetes scenario in India has been changing very rapidly in past few decades. According to the latest International Diabetes Federation (IDF) stastics, the persons suffering from diabetes may reach 140 million by the year 2040. Further reports suggested as 2.3 % and 1.5% in urban and rural areas in 1970’s to figure of 14% in 2017 – an almost 7 fold increase over a period of 2 decades.

Diabetes is a chronic disease – when uncontrolled leads to microvascular and macrovascular complications, amply proved in studies. Also, Diabetes is a very costly disease which imposes huge burden on the economic resources of both the country as well as individuals. During the year 2010, the annual direct and indirect cost of treatment for Diabetes was estimated to be 1541.4 Billion rupees which constitutes approx. 23-25% of total income of low to middle income Indian household. Furthermore, the cost of diabetes treatment and its complications increases manifolds with its complications. It’s pertinent to understand that approximately 80% of the major healthcare expenditure in India is ‘out of pocket’. Diabetes also leads to increased mortality and decreased years of productive life.

Controlling diabetes can prevent the complications of diabetes and its related costs for the individuals. In continuation of Diabetes Awareness, Prevention & Wellness Programs, ASSOCHAM Foundation For Corporate Social Responsibility (AFCSR), with the support of our highly esteemed member ITC, organized 19 Free Diabetes Health Check-up camps in the month of March, 2019 under the banner “Illness to Wellness” to spread public awareness about Diabetes and other lifestyle diseases, which would result in better treatment and controlling of these conditions would result into better outcomes and quality of life.

During these camps, our field officers visited about 14,260 households, covering almost 58,330 persons. About 4,927 persons visited in these camps, around 3,632 registered of which 52% were males & 48% were females. Data depicts that more than 15% (363) of all the participants whose data is available (2385) had an HbA1C level higher...
than 6.5 % and approx this is similar to the Diabetes prevalence of 14-15% reported in other studies in north Indian metros and our own observation during the previous year 2017-18. Approximately 21% of the participants and abnormal Fasting (384) or Random Blood Glucose levels (108). The Cholesterol figure is even more alarming- with approx. 70% (1652) of the participants having Total Cholesterol more than 150 mg/dl. These figures are in conformity with the national figures – as approx. 75% of adult population was found to be suffering from Dyslipidemia in the Indian Study. High Cholesterol levels greatly increase the risk of suffering from cardiac arrest and heart stroke. Biothesiometry was another important new diagnostic technique which was used in these camps for early detection of Diabetic neuropathy for prevention of Diabetic Foot complications.

About 3,650 visitors of all age groups watched the street play (nukkad natak). Visitors from diverse background highly appreciated the commendable endeavors made by all under the flagships of ASSOCHAM and its highly esteemed members. Persons attending these camps in vicinity of their residences are facilitated with various diagnostic tests and comprehensive treatment of Diabetes and other related critical diseases. These camps organized by ASSOCHAM have been very useful and effective in bridging the gaps concerning spreading public awareness, regular check up, continuing medications, regular exercise and timely good healthy diet. The importance of control may be assessed by the facts that even 1% reduction in HbA1C of a Diabetic may result in 25% decrease in all causes of mortality and a 7% Decrease in Myocardial Infarction, Similar encouraging results are shown in many important worldwide studies. Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, High Cholesterol are the conditions which do not yield any symptoms yet need chronic management, and hence if left uncontrolled they may lead to unfavorable consequences.

This has been a great initiative which has been very helpful in creating awareness and achieving better outcomes in the management of Diabetes and related lifestyle diseases. Even as approx. 18% of the participants were suffering from Hypertension and approx. 8% were suffering from Thyroid disease (Hypothyroidism), many new cases of Diabetes and Hypertension were detected and treatment initiated. More such activities are needed as the number of patients is continuously on rise and complications rising as well. Counselling and reinforcement of concepts of care are very important factors in successful management of lifestyle diseases, which are delivered to the doorstep without any significant discomfort and in an acceptable and interesting manner through Talks, Exhibitions and personal interactions in these camps.
We began 25 years ago. To empower Indians to take charge of their destiny. To fulfil dreams and aspirations. By getting all of India on a common platform. Where investment opportunities were created. Where multiple products were offered. Where entrepreneurs could access capital and businesses could prosper. And, wherever you were, it was a level playing field. Because the opportunity to prosper and fulfil life goals were available at the touch of a button. Today, NSE is the largest domestic stock exchange and amongst the top three stock exchanges, globally.

25 years later, we’ve just begun. As we embark on the next leg of our momentous journey, we transform ourselves. Because the new India, with a view to become a $5 trillion economy in the near future, calls for new initiatives. New asset classes, new technologies, lots of new ideas and a new identity. Our new identity embraces the solidity of the old and the dynamism of the future.

The new NSE. Ready for the new India.
Three Days Arogya Fair to showcase strength of Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa

Three days state level AROGYA fair was organized at Triangular Park, Kolkata, West Bengal for promotion of AYUSH way of life and to connect AYUSH industry stakeholders and to take forward the government agenda of promotion and awareness of AYUSH across the country.

The program was supported by Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. The state level guidance and cooperation was extended by Government of West Bengal, Department of Health and Family Welfare.

The event was inaugurated by Hon’ble Minister of Power and Non Conventional Energy Sources Government of West Bengal and MLA, Rash Behari Constituency Shri Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay. The program witnessed visit of more than 20,000 visitors from various strata of the society from professions as diverse as government officials to corporate to armed force families to university students to housewives and entrepreneurs. More than 5000 patients were examined by government doctors and by private participants. Ministry of AYUSH was represented by 5 councils and Government of West Bengal had participation from Department of Health and Family Welfare and state medicinal plant board.

The program has brought all key stakeholders of AYUSH sector under one roof to showcase latest research and developments in alternative medicine systems of India and boost exports of AYUSH products. More than 50 private companies, Institutes, NGOs from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ranchi and Guwahati registered for the fair. The program was well received by all in the state of West Bengal.
Air pollution, irrespective of its diverse sources, is accepted as the single largest man-made catastrophe to public health and environment affecting the human population globally. In India, air pollution is now ranked as the leading cause of death, disability, lung cancer & other critical diseases. Air pollution is no longer a problem confined to India’s metros rather it’s a national problem that is killing 1.2 million Indians every year.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), acknowledged as a significant voice of Indian industry committed to combat air pollution on priority through implementing short-term and long-term solutions to prevent persistent rise in air pollution. ASSOCHAM leadership engaged with key stakeholders and developed very close working association & network with Punjab Government, Media, Academicians, Technical & Medical Experts and others. All key stakeholders, such as key govt. officials, Universities, Medical College, environment & technical experts, doctors, academicians, farmers, women, students, media, panchayat representatives, volunteers, self-help groups, district & block health program workers, village community and others are actively engage & support the “Har Saans Swachh” campaign in Punjab.

ASSOCHAM Foundation For Corporate Social Responsibility (AFCSR) in partnership with Reckitt Benckiser (RB) India led by Dettol Banega Swachh India relentlessly working on “Har Saans Swachh” campaign powered by Dettol SiTi Shield under Awareness Program on Air Pollution in Punjab.

With an objective to increase India’s green cover through the planting trees initiative and to educate the farmers in Punjab to reduce stubble burning and crop management, numerous outreach activities are being conducted by AFCSR Team in both rural and urban areas of Patiala, Punjab. It has been gaining a lot of momentum and covering more areas. Air pollution has become a serious threat hence encouraging tree plantation drive to make environment clean and green.

The dedicated team of AFCSR has covered around 100 villages in Patiala. About 3,00,000 people have been sensitized directly & indirectly through various channels of Behavior Change Communication (BCC) initiatives. Organized more than 80 sensitization workshops, interactive sessions, signature
campaign & marathon run for clean healthy air, approximately 120 Street Plays (nukkad natak), large number of Wall Paintings.

Organized Slogan & Essay Writing, Drawing & Painting competitions along with other extra-curricular activities in 70 schools covering more than 10000 students. Endowed with passion & enthusiasm, students are taking clean air challenge and making aware at least another 10 persons from their nearby community regarding impact of air pollution on health and environment. Nearly 2500 students have pledged to become vayudoots (air messengers) to cascade the message deep into the society & further strengthening the awareness activities regarding “Air Pollution and Its impact on health and Environment”.

Further, these sensitization programs & outreach activities have transformed the campaign of “Har Saans Swachh” into a household campaign & popularized the slogan of “Jab Hogi Har Saans Swachh, Tabhi Banega Bharat Swachh” among the village community. Also, “Har Saans Swachh” campaign extensively and regularly covered in national & regional media enhanced the visibility of program.

The most significant impact is that it has substantially changed the perception of people. Now community especially farmers have started talking about air pollution, its impact on health and feasible alternate solutions in overcoming challenges. Initially, people were largely ignorant or negligent about the harmful effects of air pollution due to its intangible nature.

The worth noticing intervention outcome is that air pollution did not rise much during the months of October ’18 to January ’19. Highly commendable contribution is that post intervention, the number of stubble burning incidence substantially reduced in those areas. Post intervention, Patiala not only performed better among 74 cities but has also ranked as the safest city in terms of air quality assessed by the Central Pollution Control Board, as per report. The situation is substantially improving in Punjab & neighboring states in general & in the villages of Patiala in particular.
Forthcoming Events

April – May 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>Roundtable discussion on proposed New Direct Tax law</td>
<td>ASSOCHAM House, New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>Business Interaction with High Powered Business Delegation from CHINA</td>
<td>ASSOCHAM House, New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>National Summit on Promoting Green, Sustainable &amp; Innovative MSMEs in India</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 April</td>
<td>National conference on GST - Unresolved Issues and Agenda for the New Government</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 April</td>
<td>Geospatial Conference &amp; Awards</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 April</td>
<td>National Consultation on Real Estate Agenda for the New Government</td>
<td>ASSOCHAM House, New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 April - 2 May</td>
<td>International Exhibition - SIAL Canada</td>
<td>Montreal, Canada</td>
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<td>30 April</td>
<td>Interactive Session with Joint Secretary - Hydro. Briefing on the National Hydro Policy cleared by the Cabinet</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>National Conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code</td>
<td>Hotel Le-Meridien, New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 May</td>
<td>National conference on GST - Unresolved Issues and Agenda for the New Government</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 May</td>
<td>Conference–cum–Awards on Diversity &amp; Inclusion</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>National conference on GST - Unresolved Issues and Agenda for the New Government</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>Roundtable discussion on Transforming Manufacturing Sector and Exports</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
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International Exhibitions

April 2019 to March 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th Agritec Africa</td>
<td>19-21 June</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agritechnica</td>
<td>10-16 Nov</td>
<td>Hanover, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th BAPA Food Pro International Expo</td>
<td>21-23 Nov</td>
<td>Dhaka, Bangladesh</td>
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<td>Food Africa</td>
<td>09-11 Dec</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Expo</td>
<td>07-09 Mar</td>
<td>Athens, Greece</td>
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For queries related to registration and participation, please contact Balakrishnan, Senior Executive, International Affairs Division Email: international@assocham.com
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The Group’s social vision is enshrined in the 3Es (Environment, Education, Empowerment & Health) which have become the guiding principles of our Corporate Social Value initiatives.

In everything we do, there is a strong commitment to a wider, all-round social progress, as well as to sustainable development that balances the needs of the present with those of the future.