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100 YEARS OF ASSOCHAM
THE KNOWLEDGE CHAMBER

ASSOCHAM President Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani and Secretary General, ASSOCHAM Mr. Deepak Sood with Shri Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister of India at New Delhi.

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ASSOCHAM
Celebrating 100 Years

A tightrope-walk for the finance ministry

The Indian economy has been one of the fastest growing economies as per the report released by the UNCTAD, second only to China. However if we need to continue with the tag of being 'Fastest Growing Economy', then there is a need for bold fiscal measures without being fiscal prudent. The Finance minister needs to come out with big budget bang to turn the economy around while pushing for more investments in infrastructure funding. This becomes important at a time when the international monetary fund has lowered India's growth forecast from 6.1 percent to 4.8 percent. We see the Union Budget 2020 as an opportunity to rise up to this challenge.

In the last union Budget, the finance minister had kept an ambitious target of becoming a $5 trillion dollar economy by the year 2024-25. There were a series of initiatives in terms of infra spending and steps to introduce liquidity in the system to achieve the target. However, one needs to understand that growth needs to be all inclusive, which means that the growth of the economy needs to be accompanied by job creation and infrastructure development. India needs to be growing at a 10-12 percent growth rate and not 5 -6 percent as is the case now.

Real estate is one of an important sector which employs a large number of people and it also has the potential to absorb excess workforce from other sectors like agriculture. The real estate sector today is faced with challenges of liquidity. Though the Central Government has reduced the GST rates from the earlier 12 percent to 5 percent, they have withdrawn the Input Tax Credit. Its revival can provide relief to the developers by reducing the acquisition cost and the same can be passed on to the final consumers at a lower cost.

The government also needs to see ways to ensure flow of early stage capital in agri and food ventures that are in the forefront of new innovation. The food processing sector should be developed right at agriculture cultivation centres, which will enhance the rural economy.

As for resource mobilisation, we expect big time disinvestment stake sale target of state-run companies. Huge un-utilised assets are lying with the public sector, in Railways and PSU companies. These should be monetised to give elbow room to the government so that outlays for education, health, other social sectors and infrastructure are enhanced. This would also result in improved efficiency and at times, expansion of enterprises and the creation of employment opportunities after management passed into private hands. The disinvestment proceeds will be critical for the government to stick to its target of keeping fiscal deficit at 3.3 percent of the GDP in this fiscal year.

Niranjan Hiranandani
President

ASSOCHAM
Celebrating 100 Years

From the Desk of Secretary General's

On behalf of ASSOCHAM, I take this opportunity to extend our best wishes and greetings for the 71st Republic Day.

As part of its efforts to boost economic growth, the Union Cabinet's approval on the INR 25,000 crore corpus for the real estate industry through a special window to provide priority debt financing, focused on the completion of affordable and mid-segment housing projects. The announcement was aimed at providing support to over 4.58 lakh housing units across 1,600 stalled housing projects in the country.

Both Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman had extensive consultations with industry and other stakeholders in the run-up to the Budget. The significant efforts made at the highest level to revive the economic growth are expected to be reflected in the upcoming Union Budget.

Our own interaction with the government suggests that this time around, the Budget would provide a push to the demand side, while continuing investments on infrastructure, particularly in the rural segment, with a focus on rural roads and affordable housing. At the same time, the industry expects some decisive reforms to improve investments.

While some fiscal liberty could be expected, given the resource constraint, the Finance Minister is likely to remain prudent with the fiscal discipline.

We are certain that some of leading economists are working on the Budget, to deal with the current global sluggishness. With the IMF lowering the global growth estimates for 2019 to sub 3 per cent, the upcoming Budget is expected to yield a solution to manage the challenge.

As for resource mobilisation, ASSOCHAM expects a significant disinvestment target to be set, alongside several asset monetisation measures, for public sector assets in Railways and PSUs. These should be monetised to give elbow room to the government so that outlays for education, health, other social sectors and infrastructure are enhanced.

The Finance Minister is expected to present a Budget that could show the glide path for faster economic growth. Despite various measures undertaken in recent times, the industry expects the government to introduce some out-of-the-box solutions to address concerns of the real estate, automobile, telecom and energy sectors.

Budget is being seen as a panacea for growth revival and the industry hopes that the Finance Minister would be pushing the envelope to boost economic growth. The recently held ASSOCHAM press conference highlighted the industry has expectations and hopes on various fronts from the upcoming Budget for it to be able to play a galvanizing role in the economy and the nation's development at its full potential and also help achieve the larger target of a US$5 trillion economy in the next few years.

Deepak Sood
Secretary General

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26th Nov 2019 - 26th Nov 2020

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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

ASSOCHAM
Celebrating 100 Years

Big boost to growth

Concerted efforts by the Honble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi himself in his outreach to wider sections of the industry and other key stakeholders, fiscal incentives and sustained public investment on infrastructure will lead to a spur in demand and will be big catalyst for reviving the growth momentum in the economy.

Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, President, Mr. Vineet Agarwal, Sr. Vice President and Mr. Deepak Sood, Secretary General, ASSOCHAM at the press meet at New Delhi.

Addressing a press conference ahead of Union Budget, ASSOCHAM President Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani said that concerted efforts by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi himself in his outreach to wider sections of the industry and other key stakeholders, fiscal incentives and sustained public investment on infrastructure will lead to a spur in demand and will be big catalyst for reviving the growth momentum in the economy.

However, he said, that the industry has certain expectations and hopes on various fronts from the upcoming budget for it to be able to play a galvanising role in the economy and the nation's development at its full potential and

also help achieve the larger target of a $5 trillion economy in the next few years.

As per Dr. Hiranandani, Industry Inc. was looking forward to some bold measures in key areas of concerns as follows:

Ease of Doing Business - Though India's ranking in Ease of Doing Business has improved at the national level, many states need to catch up by addressing ground level constraints and simplifying the approval process. India needs judicial reforms which can help in greater contract enforcement in the country. Also needed is faster allotment of land / sheds / warehouse obtained from government (fix timeline, online tracking of application, including Surrender of land). Digitization of land records is a long pending issue and we recommend a time bound policy for digitization of land records.

MSME Sector - MSMEs are the front end of the economy and reflect the picture of overall health of our country. However their viability has been hit on multiple ends such as High Cost of Capital, Poor Credit access, Poor infrastructure, Lack of connectivity to the market etc. We should have dedicated index of MSME's Ease of Doing Business. The reduction in income tax rates announced by the Government for corporate entities should also be extended to all MSMEs registered as Proprietary or Partnership concerns. MSMEs that provide high level of employment should be given financial incentives or specific tax rebate which can be linked to the new employment created by them. MSMEs face problems of delayed payments from the buyers. Further, MSMEs hesitate to enforce the legal provisions available to them under the MSMED Act due to their low bargaining power. It is recommended that amendment should be made in the MSMED Act requiring all MSMEs to mandatorily upload all their invoices above a specified amount to an Information Utility. A monitoring authority should be set up to facilitate the MSMs to get their payments from such buyers. Section 54 of the income Tax Act for granting exemption on investment of Capital Gain should be expanded to include all investments made in industry/businesses out of any kind of Capital Gain generated. In the budget 2019, investments made in start – ups out of Capital Gain had exempted. We recommend that investments made in all MSMEs out of Capital Gain should be exempted from Income tax. As in case of Infrastructure Finance Companies or Micro Finance companies, Special NBFCs for MSME financing should be established in the country to exclusively finance the MSMEs and such lending should be categorized as priority sector lending.

New education policy will lead to structural and curriculum changes, addressing the challenges posed by the 4th industrial revolution.

Manufacturing - Import substituting products, which attract new investments for manufacturing in India, should be kept outside the ambit of free trade agreement. Industries generating employment of 50 people & above for every 1 crore of investment, should be treated as high priority sector. Encouragement is needed for industries investing in adopting digitization of operations by giving interest or capital subsidies on systems and equipment. There is a need to recognize companies having 20% + women employment, by providing overall tax rebate of 1%.

Export Competitiveness - To improve export competitiveness there is greater requirement of stability in policy for at least 3-5 years. Industry is eagerly waiting for the interaction on the new scheme- Rebate of State & Central Taxes and Levies Scheme (RoSCTL). For competitive interest rates for exporters Govt's intervention is required, to avoid the ongoing delay in implementation. Infrastructure sector has a big role to play in achieving the target of $ 5 trillion dollar economy. Post ILFS bond market has not improved. We need to have market for long term bonds, where pension funds can invest.

Telecom Sector – The Sector has been going through financial stress in the last 3 years. The recent AGR judgment has further aggravated the stress and lead to an unprecedented financial crisis. Majority of companies holding ISP/NLD/ILD/VSAT license have become victim of this judgment because of the definition of Gross revenue in their license. While respecting the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, we urge the Government to intervene to avoid the unprecedented situation across sectors. It is absolutely imperative to address the AGR issue to ensure the continuity of business, investment in the sector and to meet the vision of 'Digital India'. TRAI has already

recommended reduction of Universal service levy by 2% - this recommendation may kindly be accepted and implemented. Balance license fee may be brought down to 1%. Steps may also be initiated to review the definition of AGR prospectively. Request that customs duty be reviewed at brought down to NIL, or at least, the hike from 10 to 20% be rolled back.

Agricultural Sector - Improving farmers' income by exempting leasing services for farm equipment and machinery from GST and provision of income tax. To infuse high end technology in farming, create Technology Up-gradation Fund (TUF) for agriculture to provide capital subsidy. Accord infrastructure status to agriculture value chain to widen the spectrum of funds availability.

Financial Sector - Most NBFCs are under a huge liquidity crunch, which has a direct impact on the economic activities resulting in a financial pressure and slowing down of businesses. The Finance Minister, with support from RBI, needs to create a professional panel to address the situation on a war footing. Allow large non-banks to convert into banks. They will be able to serve their target clientele (MSMEs, informal sector etc); Promote 'nationalist banks' with initial ownership of even 100% to be reduced gradually n to 26% over a given period of time; Revisit Section 29A of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) which prevents a promoter from bidding for his stressed company is a must.

Road Transportation & Electric-Mobility - A single nodal agency should be authorized to deal with all issues and problems of this sector. The subsidy of INR. 22,000/- should be permissible for all Electric Two wheelers ,otherwise the price will go high and the customer will not consider Electric vehicle as their priority. This amount of subsidy was available under FAME-I. The same should be continued for one more year so that old inventory is cleared. Consumer should be allowed to avail Income tax benefits on EMI or financing cost of E-Scooters/4 Wheelers. Retail financing for all Electric vehicles to be supported through government subsidies interest rate at PLR rate. Refunds: FAME subsidy refunds are currently made on Monthly basis. It is withholding the cash flow and expansion of business. Therefore, refunds should be processed on a weekly basis to all OEMs which can enable better cash flow for OEMs.

Partially exempt GST on outsourced services in Higher Education from 18% to 5% to create low-cost educational institutions that offer services at all levels - primary, secondary and higher education. Make education loans more affordable by reduction of interest rate from 12% to 5% and increase in repayment tenure from 5 to 10 years.

Healthcare Sector - Ensure the reach of healthcare to the masses by expeditious roll-out of Ayushman Bharat to Universal Basic Health Coverage. Bringing health infrastructure development to the rural area by promoting PPP model. Allow refund of accumulated unutilised input tax credit related to 'input services' to entities manufacturing life-saving vaccines (liable to GST @ 5%) considering the working capital blockage and increase in cost. Specific relief should be granted for life-saving vaccines, provide clarity about applicability of GST exemption accorded to local authorities in relation to functions entrusted under Article 243W / 243G of the Constitution of India, to private / public entities or charitable trusts who undertake waste management activities and preservation of environment.

Education - Partially exempt GST on outsourced services in Higher Education from 18% to 5% to create low-cost educational institutions that offer services at all levels - primary, secondary and higher education. Make education loans more affordable by reduction of interest rate from 12% to 5% and increase in repayment tenure from 5 to 10 years. A scheme of the same magnitude like Ayushman Bharat should be designed for Education for All. Raise income tax deductions for the industry under section 80G for donations made for education from the current 50% to 100% to incentivize education oriented donations. Foundations established by the industry and running their own educational institutions should also be extended this benefit to allow for greater fund availability that can be utilized for quality building. A special tax regime for teachers, professors and

researchers will help incentivize the profession and attract individuals who have a genuine aptitude towards teaching. Offering more technology-enabled higher education and more platforms for digital delivery of education. Re-structuring of the course curriculum in higher education institutions to facilitate multi-disciplinary and research-oriented learning.

Direct Tax Related Issues - The max cap of tax rates for the salaried individual should be kept at 25% keeping in mind the reduced corporate tax rates and to provide boost in consumption by giving more money in the hands of individuals. Further, all allowances and deductions for e.g., conveyance etc. should be indexed as per cost of inflation notified for capital gains, since the date of their introduction. Benefit of lower rate of corporate tax (25%) should be allowed to newly incorporated companies based on the turnover/ gross receipts threshold in the year of incorporation/ commencement of business. Limitation of 15 years period should be removed to provide respite to companies to utilize their accumulated MAT credit. A provision should be there to provide for carry forward of MAT credit in case of amalgamation/demerger. A chapter be incorporated to prescribe guidance on application of law in case of ambiguity. The chapter could also define what ambiguity means, e.g., if there are different rulings at certain levels or conflicts between rulings, a clarification to resolve this should be issues by CBDT. It is suggested that ICDS be withdrawn as it is leading to maintenance of parallel sets of Books for tax purposes over and above the prescribed Books maintained under the Company Law, thereby resulting in duplication of compliances. The 150% deduction under section 35(2AB) should be extended beyond FY 20-21 by at least 5 years.

GST - Reduce GST rate across all slabs by 25% as it will encourage more businesses to pay tax which will lead to generate more revenue due to expansion of the tax base. Petroleum products are currently out of the ambit of GST due to which the local or inter-State taxes paid on their purchase constitute part of the operational cost of the business, as input tax credit of such taxes is not eligible. Hence, petrol and petroleum products should be brought under the ambit of GST. Option for availing ITC to all business: The option for availing input tax credit should be available to all the businesses, so that the credit chain does not get blocked. Similar to transportation services, option of paying higher tax rate and availing input tax credit of inward supplies should be available to the restaurant sector also. Centralized GST registration for certain industries: Concept of centralized registration should be brought in for certain large service providers, like aviation and banking industry, in order to simplify GST processes for such sectors. Government should subsume "Mandi Tax, Stamp Duty, Road Tax and Vehicle tax under GST.

The max cap of tax rates for the salaried individual should be kept at 25% keeping in mind the reduced corporate tax rates and to provide boost in consumption by giving more money in the hands of individuals.

Real Estate Sector - In case of stressed assets, vide circular dated June 2019, RBI permitted banks to restructure and/or roll over the loans at their option and in such cases the borrower will retain the asset classification of the restructured standard accounts as standard and the same will not be treated as NPA. However, the benefit of the said Circular has not been available to the Real Estate Sector. The banks and Financial Institutions should be given discretion to one-time restructuring and/or roll over of their existing loans to Real Estate Sector on the lines of loans to other sectors. To overcome the huge housing shortage in the country, the restriction imposed on investment of sale proceed on acquiring two residential houses should be removed and scope of broadened to exempt capital gain tax if the sale proceed is invested in creating three or more housing stock. Tax on notional income from house property held as stock in trade needs to be deleted. Also Incentives be there for rental housing to meet 'Housing for All commitment by 2022' mission like tax holidays, etc.

These are broadly some of the requests from Industry Inc. and we are very hopeful that our industry supportive and empathetic government headed by Shri Narendra Modi Ji and a very active Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji will take heed to our concerns, give us as much relief as possible in the upcoming budget and enable us to contribute our best to the economy and nation building. ■

Better foods made in CSIR labs

"Food products made by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories are better than those available in the market as they are much more cost-effective, tastier, have better nutritional value and are without any side-effects", said Dr Harsh Vardhan.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Government of India and Shri Rameswar Teli, Hon'ble Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Government of India lighting the lamp during the Inaugural Session of Exhibition of Technologies in Food Processing.

"All the machines and food products displayed here have been developed in CSIR laboratories especially those in Chandigarh, Mohali, Mysore, Palampur and I have visited these laboratories twice-thrice in the last five years and I have closely seen every product being developed by these machines and have even tasted them myself," said Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences while inaugurating an Exhibition of Technologies in Food Process-

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Government of India and Shri Rameswar Teli, Hon'ble Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Government of India during the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Inaugural Session of Exhibition of Technologies in Food Processing.

ing conducted by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) jointly with Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) and CSIR.

"I can guarantee that these products are much more cost-effective, tasty and have better nutritional value without any side-effects, so these products are better compared to other products available in the market in every which way," added the Union Minister who also holds the portfolio of Health & Family Welfare.

He further said that those industries that have borrowed the technology developed in these laboratories and have promoted the same in the market at their level are fortunate, while those that have not been able to utilise the valuable research conducted in these laboratories are unfortunate.

"I would like to thank ASSOCHAM along with Ministry of Food Processing Industries and CSIR officials, scientists for moving out of their respective laboratories to showcase the technologies developed by them at this exhibition," added Dr Harsh Vardhan.

He also said that such kind of events need to be conducted across states, especially food processing hubs like Palampur and others. Besides, he urged the media to spread the word about this exhibition so that people in large numbers at least from Delhi-NCR could come and see for themselves and also taste the food products made by CSIR laboratories.

The Union Minister also said that massive research was underway countrywide in the plastics sector to find its alternate. "We saw at this exhibition that they have come up with an edible plate itself, our laboratory had gathered all plastic waste generated across Dehradun and converted it into diesel, petrol, petrochemical, so everything is possible with the help of science."

In his address, Minister of State, MoFPI, Mr RameswarTeli said, "MoFPI provides 75 per cent subsidy to those setting up food processing industries in hilly regions and 50 per cent subsidy for those setting up food processing industry in north-east regions of India."

He further said that Department of Food Processing Industries was working towards promoting organic food consumption through various measures.

In his address, ASSOCHAM's secretary general, Mr Deepak Sood impressed upon the need to promote indigenous technology in the food processing sector which is also the bedrock of small-scale food processing enterprises that are crucial to India's development.

Empowerment through Leadership

In India, where women comprise only about 24 percent of the organised workforce, the focus should be on hiring women across roles, ensuring equal pay for equal work and encouraging representation in leadership forums.

The chief guest for the event was Ms. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for Textiles and Women & Child Development. "It's inevitable to lead the transformation of women from the grassroots on the importance of making services accessible in the tier 2 and 3 cities", said Ms Irani inaugurating ASSOCHAM's Women's Leadership and Empowerment Summit and Awards. "Women can be leaders as they are better equipped to sustainable development, digital revolution and even new gener-

Ms Shahnaz Hussain from Shahnaz Hussain Group receiving ASSOCHAM WOMEN ACHIEVERS AWARDS 2019 from Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for Textiles and Women & Child Development, Government of India.

Secretary General Assocham Deepak Sood, Dadi Chandro Tomar, World's Oldest Professional Sharpshooter, Ms. Aparna Popat, Arjuna Award Winner & Badminton Champion and Ms. Kashish Malik, Taekwondo International Champion who all spoke on Women at the Forefront in Sports.

ation entrepreneurship" Ms. Irani further added. Union Minister also felicitated women achievers in the field of education, healthcare and technology amongst others.

Ms Dipali Goenka, chairperson, ASSOCHAM Women's Council said the government has taken number of measures. "Whether it's providing vocational education or enabling women to leverage technology, a slew of schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojna, Mahila E-Haat, Skill Development for Women, etc have been launched in recent years".

Ms. Goenka also highlighted the ASSOCHAM Women's Council five Step Agenda for the coming year like addressing Sustainability and Climate Change, Improving the Health and Nutrition of women and children, Promoting Women led businesses, Promoting women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and Women Inclusion for Economic Empowerment.

"With the 2030 deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals approaching, the fight against climate change intensifies each year, with governments pumping resources into achieving them. One of the most critical SDGs is SDG 5, achieving

Winners of ASSOCHAM WOMEN ACHIEVERS AWARDS 2019.

Release of Knowledge Paper From (L - R): Ms Rinika Grover, Head, CSR and Sustainability, Apollo Tyres Foundation, Ms Tripti Shinghal Somani, Co-chair, ASSOCHAM Women's Council, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for Textiles and Women & Child Development, Government of India, Ms Dipali Goenka, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM Women's Council, Ms Sonal Mehta, Vice President, Resurgent India, Ms Swati Rangachari, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Sterlite Technologies Ltd.

gender equality and empowering all women and girls, because it will have positive cascading effects on the achievement of the other SDGs," said Ms. Goenka.

As per a report published by the World Economic Forum, only 14.3% of science researchers in India are women. Some of the highest-paying jobs in the word today are in the technology space – and if only 28% of the students enrolling in higher education in ICT are women – then the skill and pay gap will keep on widening. STEM education is also critical in fostering 21st-century skills such as analytical and conceptual thinking and creative problem solving.

"In India, where women comprise only about 24 percent of the organised workforce, gender bias is heavily stacked against them. In India, as things stand, the focus is on hiring women across roles, ensuring equal pay for equal work and encouraging participation/ representation in leadership forums."

"As per a report published by the World Economic Forum, only 14.3% of science researchers in India are women. Some of the highest-paying jobs in the word today are in the technology space – and if only 28% of the students enrolling in higher education in ICT are women – then the skill and pay gap will keep on widening". STEM education is also critical in fostering 21st-century skills such as analytical and conceptual thinking and creative problem solving.

Amid others who addressed the ASSOCHAM conference included – Ms Sonal Mehta, vice-president, Resurgent India; Ms Rinika Grover, Head-CSR and Sustainability, Apollo Tyres Foundation and Ms Swati Rangachari, Chief Corporate Affairs officer, Sterlite Technologies Ltd.

The technical session on Women Participation in Workforce was moderated by Ms Neelam Chhiber, Co-founder, Industree Foundation & MD, Mother Earth. The other panellist were Ms Namrata Rana, Director, Strategy & Brand, Futurescape, Ms Rashmi Anand, Consultant, POSH & Diversity and Inclusion Expert, Ms Sheetal Talwar, Associate General Counsel, TATA Chemicals Ltd and Ms Sonal Mehta, Vice President, Resurgent India Ltd.

There was also an interactive session with eminent leading women sports personalities: Dadi Chandro Tomar, World's Oldest Professional Sharpshooter, Ms Aparna Popat, Arjuna Award Winner & Badminton Champion and Ms Kashish Malik, Taekwondo International Champion who all spoke on Women at the Forefront in Sports. ■

Towards Healthy Delhi

Promoting awareness about need for changing lifestyle habits such as eating a healthier diet, indulging in physical activity, reducing screen time and others would help us in keeping illness away.

Lamp Lighting: Shri Satyendar Jain, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, along with Dr. Sunil Gupta, Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital, Government of India, Col. Saurabh Sanyal, Deputy Secretary General, ASSOCHAM, Shri Anil Rajput, Chairperson, ASSOCHAM CSR Council and Senior Vice President Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd., Dr. Hema Divakar, Consultant ObGyn and Medical Director, Divakars Speciality Hospital, Bengaluru and CEO - Asian Research and Training Institute for Skill Transfer ARTIST).

Promoting awareness about need for changing lifestyle habits such as eating a healthier diet, indulging in physical activity, reducing screen time and others would help us in ensuring that we keep diabetes at bay.

The Government of NCT of Delhi is promoting diabetes awareness including the causes, symptoms, complications and treatments associated with this unpleasant condition as knowledge is key to its prevention, Delhi Health Minister, Mr Satyendar Jain said at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi on the occasion of World Diabetes Day.

"Apart from raising diabetes awareness, the Delhi Government is also treating patients suffering from diabetes free of cost at hospi-

Shri Satyendar Jain, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, delivering an inaugural address during the conference.

Dr. Sunil Gupta, Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital, enlightening the august gathering by sharing his enthusiastic views.

tals and mohalla clinics," said Mr Jain in his inaugural address at a conference-cum-awards on Diabetes Awareness, Prevention and Wellness organized by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

He said that a myth is being spread that diabetes is incurable which is totally untrue and people need to be made aware that it can be cured if they tweak their lifestyles and make healthier food choices.

Diabetes is a major public health problem which is fast approaching epidemic proportions in India as many of us remain tense and worried, have poor eating habits, lead a sedentary and inactive life.

"If we are not able to control diabetes progression it would bring down working age-groups' productivity, thus early speciality care and education would go a long way in controlling diabetes."

Talking about the initiatives taken by the Delhi Government to reduce pollution in the national capital, Mr Jain said, "We have taken a lot of strict measures to cut pollution - earlier lakhs of diesel generators used to operate across the city during power outage, today Delhi enjoys 24-hour

Awardees group photograph with Shri Satyendar Jain, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, the Chief Guest & other Eminent Speakers.

electricity supply which helped bring down pollution level, we also came up with rule to cover construction sites to curb pollution, issued challans to stop polluting vehicles from plying on the city roads."

He further said, "However like every year, stubble burning in neighbouring states leads to pollution which is spread over one thousand kilometres with smog blanketing entire Delhi-NCR and going beyond Varanasi to Patna. But the government is committed to reduce pollution by taking stringent steps like odd-even scheme which is supported by the general public thereby leading to reduction in number of cars, traffic congestion and pollution."

If we are not able to control diabetes progression it would bring down working age-groups' productivity, thus early speciality care and education would go a long way in controlling diabetes.

In his address at the ASSOCHAM conference, Mr Anil Rajput, chairman, ASSOCHAM CSR Council said, "Diabetes is a killer, a monster that possesses the capability to bring a person's confidence and health to a screeching halt, however it is also a fact that if countered with proper medication, one can lead a normal life despite being diabetic."

Boost creative, critical & analytical thinking

Schools must devote more time to teachers who need to be trained rigorously and be groomed for three to six months to become mentors, highly motivated communicator, expressive, have critical thinking and emotional balance.

L TO R: Mr. Neeraj Arora, Senior Director & Head, Education Division, Dr. G. D. Sharma, Secretary (Retd.) UGC, Sh. Anurag Tripathi, IRPS, Secretary, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) & Mr. Jitin Chawla, Director, Centre for Career Development.

Hon'ble Chief Guest Sh. Anurag Tripathi, IRPS, Secretary, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) addressing the summit.

Dr. Biswajit Saha, Director, (Training & Skill Education), CBSE addressing the delegates.

With a view to boost creative, critical and analytical thinking among students, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) would introduce major changes in the pattern of question papers for class tenth and twelfth by 2023, a top board official said at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi.

"While this year with students of class 10 will get 20 per cent objective questions and ten per cent questions would be based on creative thinking, by 2023 question papers for classes tenth and twelfth will be based on creative, innovative and critical thinking and students will have to prepare in that manner, it is the need of the hour keeping in mind country's future," said Mr Anurag Tripathi, secretary, CBSE addressing an ASSOCHAM School Education Summit.

He said that vocational subjects do not find many takers in India due to factors like lack of employability, poor value and absence of stability in the market. Mr Tripathi also said that there is a need to promote proper linkages and bonding among key stakeholders in the schooling system i.e. infrastructure, teachers, parents and students. Talking about the new education policy, he said that it aims at bridging the gap between vocational and main subjects. "The new policy has recommended that vocational subjects need to be a part of the five subjects, it would be a good move."

New education policy will lead to structural and curriculum changes, addressing the challenges posed by the 4th industrial revolution.

New education policy also focuses on different aspects like early childhood care, teacher training, promoting vocational education and thus, it would be a challenge to implement the same.

Earlier, in his address at the ASSOCHAM summit, Director (Training and Skill Education) CBSE, Dr Biswajit Saha had said that schools in India need to focus on students' capability and not employability implement adaptive & project-based learning and follow children-centric methodology in the classroom. "The flexibility in the system should be adapted in the curriculum transaction process to keep students' mind-set and what they need in mind. With respect to the common curriculum, whatever subjects are being offered, the room is very much there to introduce activity-based curriculum," he said. Dr Saha added, "If we want to really upgrade the system, then competency-based education needs to be implemented in the school systems which requires strong connect with the child."

(L to R) Mr. Jitin Chawla, Director, Centre for Career Development, Dr. Prashant Bhalla, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council for Education & President, Manav Rachna Educational Institutions, Dr. Manish Kumar Jindal, CEO, (NABET), Prof. Vinayshil Gautam, Founder Director – IIM (K), Kozikhode & Dr. G. D. Sharma, Secretary (Retd.) UGC.

He suggested that schools must give free semesters to students between class I to VIII and should not block them within curriculum boundaries. "It would lead to more outcomes; career orientations will rightly groom up by putting the students with concept of free semesters. If you are ready to experiment with the lower class, may be with class III or IV, with no curriculum load, I think over a period of time they will look into different dynamics of life and national education policy would be highlighting that agenda differently."

He also clarified that CBSE is not touching primary education and complete autonomy is given to government and private schools be it with regards to syllabus or textual material. "CBSE only comes into the picture only for class 10th and 12th examinations, there we strictly prescribe the syllabus for the examination but not the methodology." In his address at the ASSOCHAM conference, Dr Prashant Bhalla, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council for Education said that a paradigm shift is required to ensure that learning is made fun and interactive at the school level. "Integration of vocational skills is imperative for school students to learn life skills and soft skills that will help them in the long run," said Dr Bhalla focusing on holistic growth of country's youth.

The flexibility in the system should be adapted in the curriculum transaction process to keep students' mind-set and what they need in mind. With re- spect to the common curriculum, whatever subjects are being of- fered, the room is very much there to introduce activity-based curriculum.

Founder director, IIM Kozhikode and chairman, ASSOCHAM Skill Committee, Prof Vinayshil Gautam said that quality of schools in India plays and important role in skill formation and job creation for the next generation. "New education policy will lead to structural and curriculum changes, addressing the challenges posed by the 4th industrial revolution," said Dr G.D. Sharma, secretary (retd.), UGC. During his address, Mr Jitin Chawla, director, Centre for Career Development focused on the importance of early counselling for school students to ensure they make an informed career decision. While Mr Manish Jindal, CEO, NABET, Quality Council of India focused on the importance of upgrading the accreditation process in both government and private schools to ensure quality education and best interest of all stakeholders. ■

India Pavilion at 7th BAPA Expo

The India Pavilion consists of 50 Indian companies pertaining to food and food processing sector and was organized by the apex industry body ASSOCHAM in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 21-23 November, 2019.

ASSOCHAM organized an India Pavilion at 7th BAPA FoodPro International Expo in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The India Pavilion consisted 50 Indian companies pertaining to food and food processing sector. The India pavilion was inaugurated by Mr. Bishwadip Dey, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of India in Bangladesh.

The 7th Edition of BAPA FoodPro was kicked off by Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Bangladesh who was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural ceremony of the show. During his inaugural address, he talked about the great potential of the food sector of Bangladesh and how exhibitions like BAPA FoodPro can help in further expansion of this sector. He also talked about the potential of Indian food and food processing sector and expressed his views on how

sustainable partnerships between Indian and Bangladeshi companies in food and food processing sector could help in evolving Bangladesh's food processing industry. He further talked about the notable growth of food processing sector of Bangladesh by giving the account of decreasing rate of import of food commodities.

Mr. Bishwadip Dey, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of India in Bangladesh, delivering his address during the inaugural ceremony.

Mr. Bishwadip Dey, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of India in Bangladesh was the Guest of Honor. In his address, Mr. Dey talked about the significance of building partnerships in food and food processing sector. He further explained how the globally acclaimed Indian food processing industry could further assist the Bangladeshi companies in their growth. Mr. Dey also inaugurated the India Pavilion and visited the Indian booths to interact with the Indian companies during the exhibition.

Mr. Bishwadip Dey, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of India in Bangladesh joined by H.E. Mr. Jean Marin SCHUH, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh, during the inauguration of India Pavilion.

Other guests present during the inaugural ceremony of 7th BAPA FoodPro International Expo included Mr. A F M Fakhrul Islam Munshi, President, Bangladesh Agro-Processors' Association, H.E. Mr. Jean-Marin SCHUH, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh, Dr. F H Ansarey, Managing Director, ACI Agribusiness, Ms. Syeda Sarwar Jahan, Chairman, Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, Mr. Robert Douglas Simpson, Country Representative, FAO, Mr. Md. Nasiruzzaman, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Md. Iqtadul Hoque, General Secretary, BAPA among others. The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of businessmen, industry representatives from food and food processing sector, young entrepreneurs and local media.

Businessmen and industry representatives from food and food processing sector, young entrepreneurs and local media attending the inaugural ceremony.

The 3-day exhibition was organized at International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka from 21-23 November, 2019. BAPA FoodPro Expo 2019 is witnessing participation from Countries like India, China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Switzerland, Italy, Taiwan, Thailand and Austria. Amongst the countries participating, India has the highest presence of companies in the show with the India Pavilion organised by ASSOCHAM having about 50 Indian exhibitors from the food and food processing sectors.

During the 3-day course of the exhibition, Indian companies had B2B meetings with their counterparts and the potential buyers. The exhibition witnessed the presence of more than 23,000 visitors. The level of the exhibition was greater than the previous edition and exhibitors had a worthwhile visit. ■

90 lakhs trained under SKILL INDIA

India's transition to a knowledge-based economy requires a new generation of educated and skilled people. Its competitive edge will be determined by its people's ability to create, share, and innovate effectively.

(L-R) Ms. Sonal Mehta, Vice President – Resurgent India Limited, Ms. Divya Jain, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Deepak Sood, Secretary General, ASSOCHAM , Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, Shri Maninder Singh, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Gunjan Patel, Head CSR, SAP India Pvt. Ltd. during ASSOCHAM Summit and Awards on Skilling India.

The Government and industry need to collaborate to pave a roadmap for identifying the transforming needs of the future economy. Quality and cost need to be evaluated when competing with the global market. The government has skilled nearly around 90 lakhs people under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), 30-35 lakhs got placements, said Mr. Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship at an ASSOCHAM event

held in New Delhi. India is one of the youngest nations in the world, with more than 62% of the population in the working age. Today, less than four per cent of the Indian workforce is skilled, in contrast to the 42% in US, 76% in Germany, 80% in Japan and 96% in South Korea. Our workforce readiness is one of the lowest in the world and a large chunk of existing training infrastructure is irrelevant to industry needs. Without proper skills, this huge youth population would be demographic liability instead of demographic dividend; however, this could change if we reach out to more people with quality learning opportunities, revamp our existing infrastructure and execute plans more effectively by making better use of monetary and resource support available, said Mr. Singh.

"Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and

Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India addressing the participants during ASSOCHAM Summit and Awards on Skilling India.

social development for any country. Countries with higher and better levels of skills adjust more effectively to the challenges and opportunities of world of work. India is facing several skill development issues which are hampering its progress & economic growth and our government is fully committed to resolve those".

In order to cater the need of hour Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji was launched the National Skill Development Mission on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day i.e, 15th of July 2015. The government launched the mission which aims to train over 400 million people in India in different skills by 2022. The mission was launched for creating convergence across various sectors and different states in terms of activities relating to skill training, stated Mr. Singh.

Addressing the audience Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said, "India's

(L-R) Shri Vikramjit S. Sahney, Senior Managing Committee Member, ASSOCHAM Chairman, Sun International Private Limited, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Hon'ble Union Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Government of India Shri Deepak Sood, Secretary General, ASSOCHAM , Shri Maninder Singh, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, at ASSOCHAM Summit and Awards on Skilling India.

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Hon'ble Union Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Government of India addressing the participants during the Summit and Awards also seen Ms. Divya Jain, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Vikramjit S. Sahney, Senior Managing Committee Member, ASSOCHAM Chairman, Sun International Private Limited, Shri Deepak Sood, Secretary General, ASSOCHAM , Shri Maninder Singh, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

transition to a knowledge-based economy requires a new generation of educated and skilled people. Its competitive edge will be determined by its people's ability to create, share, and innovate effectively. The Skill India Mission has so far given a huge impetus to the skilling ecosystem of the country by placing importance on training people in vocational trades that have a direct link to livelihood. We understood early that with the skilled workforce, we can nudge our economy to grow at a faster pace."

"We all need to work together – the center, the states and the industries, towards a holistic approach, enabling our young workforce to be largely equipped with industry-relevant skills relevant to the jobs of the future. I urge all our partners to invest in our future by investing in skill development and work towards the dream of our Hon'ble Prime Minister of making India the Skill Capital of the World," Mr. Pandey further added.

Other who spoke during the conference were Mr. Vikramjit S. Sahney, Senior Managing Committee Member, ASSOCHAM, Chairman, Sun International Private Limited and President of International Chamber of Commerce, Mr Gunjan Patel, ead CSR, SAP India Pvt. Ltd, Ms. Divya Jain, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Mr. Maninder Singh, Co-Chairperson (National Council on Skill Development) and Mr. Deepak Sood Secretary General, ASSOCHAM.

Awards Winners of ASSOCHAM Summit and Awards on Skilling India.

Improve credit flow to boost real estate

As we move towards encouraging foreign investment by relaxing norms and eradicating the entry and exit barriers, foreign funds, technology and concept will only better the scenario in India.

A major milestone and policy initiated under Housing for All by 2022, which is aimed at providing housing to over 20 million families by 2022, shows the clear-cut commitment of the government.

While the regulations like Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) have been fixing accountability of developers which has improved consumers' and investors' sentiments towards the sector, there is an urgent need to stress on both demand and supply based constraints, Member of Parliament (MP), Mr. Jagdambika Pal said at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi. "There is a need to improve credit flow to the real estate sector," said Mr. Pal who is also the chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development in his inaugural address at ASSOCHAM National Conference on Real Estate and Housing Finance.

He also called for faster and better implementation of RERA. "The current implementation has been patchy and needs to be improved

Shri Jagdambika Pal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament & Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development addressing at Real Estate India and Housing Finance in India: Securitisation, Mortgage and Insolvency Code.

Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhambre, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Member & Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance addressing National Conference Real Estate India and Housing Finance in India: Securitisation, Mortgage and Insolvency Code. Seen in picture (L to R) Shri Saurabh Sanyal, Deputy Secretary General, ASSOCHAM, Shri Arpit Goel, Co-Chairman, National Council on Real Estate and Urban Development, ASSOCHAM & Managing Director, Suncity Projects (P) Ltd., Shri Pradeep Aggarwal, Chairman, National Council on Real Estate and Urban Development, ASSOCHAM & Chairman, Signature Global India Pvt Ltd., Shri Vinod Kothari, Director, Vinod Kothari Consultants P Ltd. and Ms. Swati Agrawal, Senior Director and Co National Head, CARE Ratings.

substantially to boost confidence in the sector."

The Member of Parliament suggested creating a developed market for long-term finance for the housing finance sector as currently the sector faces asset - liability mismatch. Mr Pal further said that since India has a low mortgage to GDP ratio, compared to other developing countries, the low penetration points to a very large opportunity for growth. "However, given the HFCs (housing finance companies) accounting for 40 per cent of mortgage market, the recent liquidity challenges may be a temporary blip in the sectoral growth story witnessed until March 2018."

Photo with Chief Guest & other Eminent Speakers Seen (L to R) Shri Harmit Chawla, Managing Director, HCorp Ltd, Shri Arpit Goel, Co-Chairman, National Council on Real Estate and Urban Development, ASSOCHAM & Managing Director, Suncity Projects (P) Ltd., Shri Pradeep Aggarwal, Chairman, National Council on Real Estate and Urban Development, ASSOCHAM & Chairman, Signature Global India Pvt Ltd., Shri Jagdambika Pal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament & Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development, Shri Jyoti Prakash Gadia, Managing Director, Resurgent India Limited, Dr. Arun Mohan, Senior Advocate

In his address at the ASSOCHAM conference, Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhambre, MP and member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance invited industry's recommendations and suggestions to further boost the affordable housing sector in India.

Addressing the conference, Mr. Pradeep Agarwal, chairman, ASSOCHAM Natioal Council on Real Estate and Urban Development and chairman, Signature Global India Pvt. Ltd. said, "The Concept of affordable housing has come out as a blessing for reviving India's real estate sector with a plan to take it to another level. And as we move towards encouraging foreign investment by relaxing norms and eradicating the entry and exit barriers, foreign funds, technology and concept will only better the scenario in India." Mr. Arpit Goel, Co-chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Real Estate and Urban Development and MD, Suncity Projects (P) Ltd. stressed on the need to align the goals of the government, developers, financial institutions to build homes for all, at the lowest possible cost and create value for all stakeholders in the process by collecting taxes, generating marginal profit, return of principal with interest.

Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhambre, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Member & Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance releasing Real Estate India and Housing Finance in India Souvenir. Seen (L to R) Shri Saurabh Sanyal, Deputy Secretary General, ASSOCHAM, Shri Arpit Goel, Co-Chairman, National Council on Real Estate and Urban Development, ASSOCHAM & Managing Director, Suncity Projects (P) Ltd., Shri Pradeep Aggarwal, Chairman, National Council on Real Estate and Urban Development, ASSOCHAM & Chairman, Signature Global India Pvt Ltd., Shri. Vinod Kothari, Director, Vinod Kothari Consultants P Ltd. and Ms. Swati Agrawal, Senior Director and Co National Head, CARE Ratings at National Conference Real Estate India and Housing Finance in India : Securitisation, Mortgage and Insolvency Code.

Interactive Workshop with RE Industry

Key issues deliberated were:

- India has set aggressive RE targets 175 GW by 2022 and recently PM announced long term RE commitment for 450 GW by 2030. There is huge demand to harness renewable energy.
- Power sector needs intervention of weather and climate forecast – for effective planning, generation, distribution, load forecast and disaster management
- In view of sharp increase in RE integration, weather and climate forecast services will have to be more accurate and systematic. New numerical computation methods need to evolve.
- MNRE is trying to reduce variability through solar & wind and other Hybrid Models.
- Demand projection needs to be perfected.
- Demand for quality power has increased. Frequency needs to be stabilized.
- Most information received is qualitative. However system operators expect more of quantitative information so that it can directly be ingested into the decision making process. Quantitative relationship between weather and demand need to be established. Need of the hour is to dovetail old 7-8 years stacked data with weather parameters to leverage and synergise forecast trends. Some empirical relation has already been established.
- Shared experience from TEXAS
- NIWE has largest measured wind and solar data bank. The NIWE's forecast is single largest regional forecast with 26.95 GW (73%) of Wind power across India. NIWE also signed MoU with various SLDCs to provide 13 GW of additional forecasting services in upcoming months this would cover about 90% of entire wind installation in the country. For every 15 minute 45 forecasts are received, which is run through the Dynamic model selection to get last 24 hr/ 48 hrs dynamic model. This indicates

which IMP model is best suited for next 15 minute prediction. NIWE thus makes single forecast based on aggregate 45 forecasts. The substation forecast is aggregated to get SLDC level forecast.

- Weather is the main variable causing errors in energy forecast. Without accurate weather prediction, it is impossible for a renewable generator to submit accurate schedules.

Challenges:

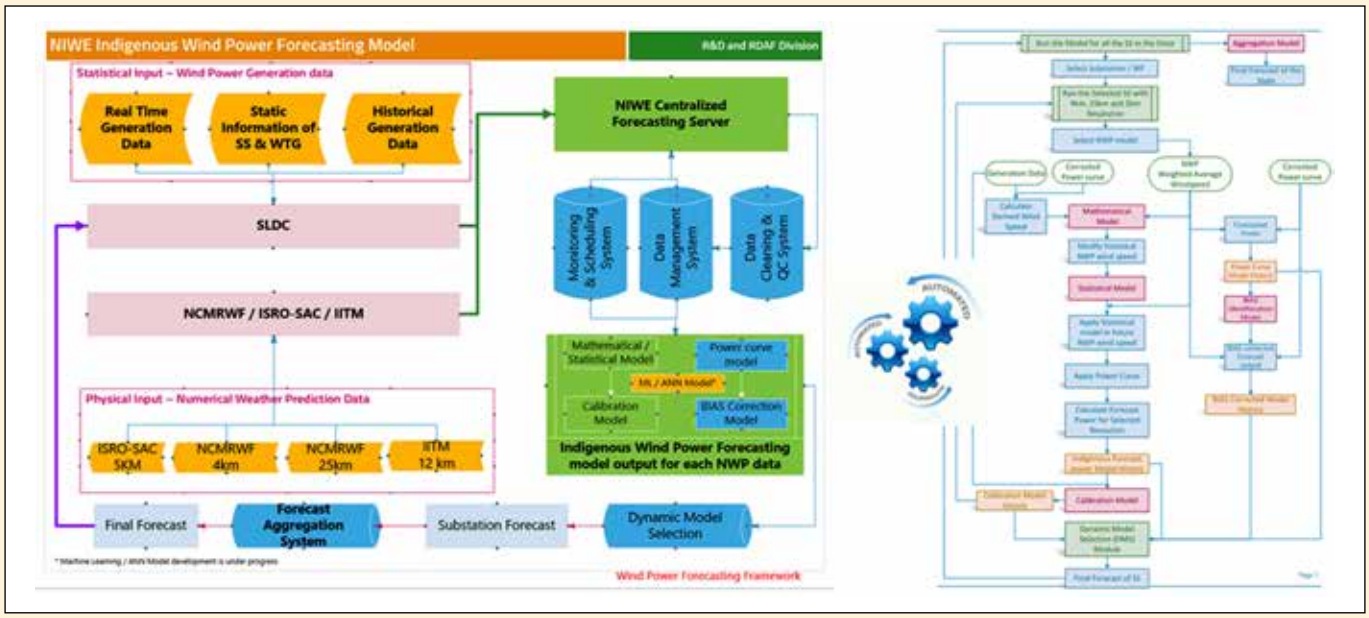
- Operational real time IMD weather stations in India are around 573, however data are shared only with CDAC and are not commercial available.
- NWP models are available at a spatial resolution of 50KM. To achieve a higher spatial resolution, local or regional models are required which converts to 4x4 resolution with frequency of 1hr interval, which are not available in India for remote locations where are most of the Solar Plants are located.
- Skymet provides wind and solar forecast for different renewable energy companies by running its own meso and micro scale NWP models which has frequency ranging from 6 hrs-24 hrs and resolution of 4x4 KM for day ahead forecast. The same is applicable for **Dark sky** and **Weather underground** as well.
- Since solar and wind sites having footprint of 1 sqkm and located at across varying location, it is not possible to predict the weather conditions for a particular site.

Localized nature of cloud phenomenon

- Weather forecasts with good accuracies are available at 4x4 sq. km spatial resolutions as the best case scenario; However phenomenon such as Cloud Movements happen at a highly localized level ranging from 1's to 10's of square kilometers for plants rated a 5 to 100 MW.
- If a larger area is covered with dispersed power plants over 1000's of square kilometers, the impact of cloud movements can be smoothened as a result of averaging

Duration of local cloud phenomenon

- Since the variations due cloud movements range from a few seconds to a few minutes, capturing these variations in forecasts would have to be done at a fine temporal scale where the delay in forecast applicability may result in larger errors.
- As per current regulatory mechanisms, any forecast is applicable with a delay of 45-60 mins in the best case scenario and 90 mins in worst case scenario.
- Given the intermittent nature of renewable resources, integration of RE into the national grid would pose technical, commercial and regulatory challenges for generators.
- Distribution is the most critical link in the entire electricity supply chain. This segment has an overall impact on the sector's commercial viability and eventually the price to consumers.



Recommendations for improved weather forecasting:

- Increased granularity of weather forecasts by IMD would result in improved scheduling by Discoms & Generators.
- IMD is requested to reduce the frequency of data resolution to ~15 minutes in the future for better scheduling.
- Futuristic measures for accuracy : IMD is requested to deploy more number of Laser Doppler Instruments (LiDARs), Mesonets, Wind Profilers for better prediction.
- IMD is also requested to source data from other government agencies like NIWE & NISE to help improve accuracy.
- The data required by power sector may be presented on the IMD website for each specific site location in a more readable format so that it can be utilized efficiently and effectively.

Regulatory Aspects:

1. Aggregation of DSM calculation on State/Regional Level

- While RE generators continue to forecast and schedule, depending on weather forecasts and their own availability, the deviations should not be computed at an individual plant/ PSS level, but over a larger geographical area, thereby mitigating variability in generation due to local weather phenomena.
- Deviation on account of Renewable power plant to be apportioned as per any of the below mechanisms:
  - Based on Connected capacity (MW)
  - Based on Actual generation (kwh)
  - Based on the % Error in schedule (% Error)
- RLDC's/SLDC's to bifurcate DSM paid at State/Regional level on account of:
  - Deviation on Demand side
  - Deviation on Generation side
    - Deviation on account of Conventional power plant (Controlled generation)
    - Deviation on account of Renewable power plant (Infirm nature)

2. Error Bands should be rationalised based on seasons & a cap should be introduced based on PPA tariff.

Rationalization of Error Bands and Tariff-linked DSM Rates with cap

- Until regional aggregation is implemented, the DSM Charges should be linked to the PPA tariff – 10% of PPA Tariff or @ 0.5/unit, whichever is lesser. This would normalise the penalties for newly installed capacity as tariffs have fallen drastically over the years.
- Permissible deviation & DSM rates shall be as below for monsoon period (June to Oct)
  - <35% - No charges
  - >35% to <50% – 10% of PPA tariff
  - >50% to <65% - 20% of PPA tariff
  - >65% - 30% of PPA tariff
- DSM charges should be applied one year after the COD as forecasting agencies need a minimum of 1 seasonal cycle historic data to train the model for better accuracy.

3. Applicability of DSM Charges should be made effective in trial and then proceed towards commercial implementation.

- Gradual implementation of

DSM Charges - The DSM Mechanism is new for RE generators and there are lot of process which are in nascent stage for effective implementation of the DSM Regulations. Commercial applicability of DSM should first be made effective in trial and then shall proceed in a gradual manner. It would help the stakeholders to understand, develop and nurture the forecasting and scheduling process and accuracy without impacting revenue of the plant at once.

- RERC Case Study - Reference can be taken from recent RERC DSM order wherein the DSM has been waived off for first few months considering the developing phase of regulation in state. More so, commercial applicability has been placed in strategic gradual manner such as 25% of total DSM charges for the first year, 50% for next 12 months and thereafter, complete 100% of the DSM Charges would be applicable.

4. Relaxed DSM Collection Cycle

Timelines for collection of DSM Payments should be relaxed to at least 15 working days instead of 10, similar to RERC regulations. Introduction of weekly settlement cycles in states like Gujarat put undue financial stress on projects.

5. Exclusion of Blocks with Grid Unavailability

Most states do not account for unavailability of grid for any reason, Rajasthan being an exception to incorporate the exclusion.Frequent grid unavailability also impacts machine learning forecasting model accuracy, thus reducing overall accuracy.

6. Integrated Scheduling Software

Centralized web-based scheduling would enable seamless communication between RLDCs, SLDCs, Generators and Discoms. A common platform can ensure the transparency and minimize the risk of grid security in case of an outage of a generating station.

7. Rationalise and standardise the scope of work of QCAs to mitigate challenges faced by them

- **Data Sharing Protocol :**

Many RE generation sites have poor/ no availability of data due issues such as outdated technology or poor communication network. Sharing of meter/ RTU data with QCA should be encouraged to avoid poor accuracy and resulting high DSM charges.

- **Better metering Infrastructure**

Lack of Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) results in the requirement of physical presence of QCAs at sites for data collection. QCAs should be allowed to install modems/ data communication on revenue meters for efficient data sharing with SLDC.

- **Standardised Scheduling**

Every state has a different portal/ format/ procedure for schedule submission which results in operational complexity. A standardised scheduling procedure should be implemented across states for enhanced efficiency and communication.

8.Utilisation of PSDF

Initiatives like Ancillary services, battery storage etc. should be included and given priority during utilization of Power System Development Fund. Schemes for reduction of DSM violation on various front at State level should be introduced utilising the fund.

9. Availability of Real Time Data

Appropriate mechanism should be introduced to provide real-time data access to forecasting agencies. Reference can be taken from RERC, which has directed SLDC to make real-time PSS level data available through check meter.

10. Energy Settlement Timelines

Forecasting agencies are currently required to submit weekly meter data for validation & reconciling the discrepancies. It is recommended that this cumbersome process be done on a monthly basis exercise like states such as Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh.

Key speakers

- Dr. Mohapatra, DG, IMD
- Shri S C Bhan Scientist IMD
- Shri Bhanu Pratap Yadav, JS, MNRE
- Shri K.V.S. Baba, CMD, POSOCO
- Mr. Bill Magness, CEO and president ERCOT, US
- Dr. K. Balaraman, DG, NIWE
- Shri Raghavendra Arshit NCMWRF
- Mr. Parthasarthi Mukhopadhyay Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune
- Shri Jayant Parimal CEO Adani Greens : INDUSTRY CONCERNS
- Shri Saurabh Singhal Director Auctus Advisors (ASSOCHAM's Consulting Partners)
- Dr. P. Mukhopadhyay, IITM
- Dr. Gopal Iyengar, Scientist G, MoES

ASSOCHAM President Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani and Secretary General, ASSOCHAM Mr. Deepak Sood met with Defence Minister Mr. Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister of India to extend him an invitation for the upcoming DefExpoIndia conference in Lucknow on 5th February.

ASSOCHAM President Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani and Secretary General, ASSOCHAM Mr. Deepak Sood met with Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Mr. Nitin Gadkari to discuss enforcing tunnelling contracts.

ASSOCHAM Sr. Vice President Mr. Vineet Agarwal and Deputy Secretary General ASSOCHAM Mr. Saurabh Sanyal met Mr. R. K. Singh, Minister of State (IC) Power and New & Renewable Energy to discuss hydropower measures, SARAL 2.0 and other measures on new and renewable energy.

Dr. John Joseph, Member (Tax Policy), (CBIC), Ministry of Finance, Shri Avinash Sharma, Director, ASSOCHAM , Shri Sudipta Bhattacharjee, Partner, Advaita Legal, Dr. Tejpal Singh, Principal Commissioner CGST & CX, Delhi – South, Shri Anand Tiwari, Additional Commissioner, Department of Trade & Taxes, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Shri N. Mathivanan, Principal Partner, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan and Ms. Anita Rastogi, Partner, PwC India.

Dr. John Joseph, Member (Tax Policy), CBIC, Ministry of Finance.

Dr. Tejpal Singh, Principal Commissioner CGST & CX, Delhi - South.

Shri Anand Tiwari, Additional Commissioner, Department of Trade & Taxes, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

Shri Ravi Raghavan, Executive Partner, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan, Shri M S Srikar, Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Government of Karnataka, Shri D.P. Nagendra Kumar, Principal Chief Commissioner of Central Tax, Bengaluru Zone, Shri S Sampathraman, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Karnataka Council and Shri J K Mittal, Co-Chairman, National Council on Indirect Taxes, ASSOCHAM.

Shri D.P. Nagendra Kumar, Principal Chief Commissioner of Central Tax, Bengaluru Zone.

Shri M S Srikar, Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Government of Karnataka.

Seamless & Efficient Arbitration

ASSOCHAM organised Global Conference on International Commercial Arbitration to discuss effects and implications of amended Arbitration & Conciliation Bill and establishment of Commercial Courts.

Shri K K Sharma, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Arbitration with Dr. Richard Wilson QC, Queen's Counsel, Barrister, The 36 Group, London, UK.

In order to build confidence among international investors it is very necessary to establish that dispute redressal system in India will not be time consuming, Hon'ble Mr Justice B.R. Gavai said at Global Conference on International Commercial Arbitration organised by ASSOCHAM in New Delhi.

Extending his best wishes for the conference he said, "Such conferences would go a long way in solving the nitty-gritties, the problems that Indian arbitration system faces and also the provide solutions therefore."

In his keynote address at the ASSOCHAM conference, Hon'ble Mr Justice Hari Shankar talked about the statutory scenario of International Commercial arbitration in India. He said that international commercial arbitration today has achieved a great deal of significance and in years to come commercial disputes in international arena are most likely to be completely resolved by arbitral process rather than litigation process. So it is essential that such conferences where we get to know the nitty-gritties of international commercial arbitration are welcome and are held more often.

Delivering Welcome Address, Shri Vineet Agarwal, Vice President, ASSOCHAM said,"The ASSOCHAM National Council on Arbitration seeks to nurture and provide opportunity to arbitration practitioners in the country as a platform for networking with other counterparts in foreign countries. Today's global conference on International commercial arbitration is part of our endeavor to bring together best minds of the world to discuss and debate on issues that are of concern to everyone."

He further said,"The dispute resolution process has a huge impact on the Indian Economy and the global perception of doing business in India. This is clearly indicated by the World Bank rating on ease of doing business. Hence, it is very imperative for us to discuss effect and implications of amended arbitration and reconciliation bill and establishment of commercial partners. India is on track to build confidence in its legal system which is the fundamental condition for any country to become International Arbitration venue."

Shri K K Sharma Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Arbitration and Shri Vineet Agarwal, Sr. Vice President, ASSOCHAM and Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India Limited facilitating Hon'ble Justice B R Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India.

Delivering special address Dr. Richard Wilson QCgave brief overview of international commercial arbitration and what it takes for India to be a preferred seat for International commercial arbitration.

Emphasizing the role of international commercial dispute resolution for the future of Indian trade and business, Mr Wilson highlighted the need for India to develop its own arbitration institutions fit for the purpose and future purpose of international commercial arbitration.

He said that such institutions will support country's rise as a future giant in global trade when there is likely to be a massive quantum increase in cross border trade which will then almost inevitably result in massive quantum increase in dispute between trading parties.

Addressing the inaugural session, Mr. Mukundkam Sharma, Judge, Supreme Court of India (Retd.) discussed the evolution of concept of arbitration in India and amendments in arbitration laws. He highlighted the need to expedite arbitration proceedings in the country to make India an International hub for commercial arbitration.

The conference was attended by several legal luminaries like Justice Surya Kant, Hon'ble Judge Supreme Court of India; Mr Niels Schiersing, Independent Arbitrator, Member of Arbitration Chambers Hong Kong & London, Dubai, UAE; Ms. Vasanti Selvaratnam QC, The 36 Group, London, UK; Professor Malik Laazouzi , University Paris II Pantheon-Assas, France; Dr. Jamsheed Peeroo, Vice President MARC advisory Board, Barrister, The 36 Group London UK, and Peeroo Chambers, Mauritius; Shri K K Sharma, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Arbitration & Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; Shri Deepak Chauhan, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Arbitration & Director, Legal, Welspun Group

it is very imperative for us to discuss effect and implications of amended arbitration and reconciliation bill and establishment of commercial partners. India is on track to build confidence in its legal system which is the fundamental condition for any country to become International Arbitration venue."

The key issues discussed during the conference included developments in Indian Arbitration Scenario, Institutional Arbitration vs Ad-hoc Arbitration, India as a preferred seat for International Commercial Arbitration - Key Issues and Challenges, Issues relating to pre-Arbitration process, Issues relating to Drafting of Arbitration Clauses, Fast Track Provisions for resolution of disputes, Enforcement of Foreign Awards, Role of Courts in Arbitration, Investor-State Arbitration: The Indian-EU experience and recent developments, The Singapore Convention 2019 and the use of Mediation for the Settlement of International commercial disputes.

Launch pad - Startup Elevator Pitch Series

We are delighted to provide a platform whereby up- coming startups, investors, and corporates can convene for creat- ing alliances thereby leading to co-development of Indian Startup Ecosystem as envisioned by our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Jury Members with all the participants from the Indore Event

The Indore round of ASSOCHAM Launch pad - Start-up Elevator Pitch Series, an initiative and platform for budding entrepreneurs conducted at Prestige Inspire Foundation concluded with city based - NovorbisItus, Clothing Innovations LLP & We Wake Indi Green Team emerging as the most promising innovators around Madhya Pradesh (MP) who will now battle in the ring, pitch for glory and get a chance to become India's startup heroes at grand finale at Statue of Unity in February 2020.

All the applications received have been evaluated on the basis of certain parameters including – innovation, problem solving, social impact, team qualification, experience, business scalability, profitability and others. Budding startups from different sectors had been invited for pitching. The participants mostly belonged to

the early stage startups' category i.e. those between 0-2 years of operations and established startups with 3–5 years of operations. After careful review and evaluation by an expert panel of judges, three winners stood out among their competition for demonstrating exemplary innovation and other achievements.

As part of the Elevator Pitch all shortlisted entrepreneurs and founders were given 300 seconds to explain the concept and idea of a service or product to the jury. "With sole focus on making Indian startups successful, the ASSOCHAM Startup Launch pad is proving to be a great enabler and is instrumental for tier II and III centres' based budding startups seeking collaborations and business associations with investors and corporates," said Mr Anil Khaitan, chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council of Startups. "We have created the ASSOCHAM Startup Launch pad as a means of bringing Indian startup community together. The pitching competition series is aimed at supporting business goals of promising entrepreneurs and other startup professionals alike," he added.

Ms Tripti Somani, co-chairperson of ASSOCHAM's Startup Council said, "We are delighted to provide a platform whereby upcoming startups, investors, and corporates can convene for creating alliances thereby leading to co-development of Indian Startup Ecosystem as envisioned by our Hon'ble Prime Minister." Ms Somani, who is also CEO, KGS Advisors, the knowledge partner for ASSOCHAM Startup Launch pad informed, "KGS would offer the top three from every city with financial and compliance advisory services and would love to be part of their service to the nation." She further said, "The ASSOCHAM 'Startup Elevator Pitch Series,' is to be held in 12 cities, while three winners have been selected each from Jaipur, Lucknow, Pune, Chandigarh, Jammu, Goa and now Indore, gradually we will move to remaining cities where local startup entrepreneurs will compete for cash and in-kind prizes."

The start ups also got a chance to meet world class mentors, investors, companies having decades of industry experience to help them give a better shape to their business idea and pitch for funding & technology partners to generate business opportunities.

"The ASSOCHAM Startup Launch pad is giving budding startups in non-metro cities of India an access to industry experts who can give them the guidance they need on business, product, marketing and also connect them with right people that can help with funding process and proper guidance on how to setup business case for funding," said Col Saurabh Sanyal, deputy secretary general, ASSOCHAM. The program both complements and supports Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship initiative of 'Startup India,' thereby supporting the spurring entrepreneurship ecosystem of the country. It incorporates mentorship and guidance from industry's best leaders together with co-working space for all selected startups for a period of three months with no cost. Each of the startups making it would get three meetings with investors and a chance to pitch directly to them.

The selected startups will also get expert coaching and exposure with Pan-India incubation partner – New Delhi Institute of Management (NDIM). There would also be Google Cloud vouchers available, besides it will provide a direct entry into the accelerator programme with IncubateIND, India's fastest growing technology community network.

36 finalists (3 each to be selected from 12 cities) are expected to present their ideas at the grand finale in February 2020 in Delhi, of which the top three will be selected. There are prizes worth Rs 1.5 Cr to be won. While top five startups will get $5000 each from AWS (Amazon Web Service), next 15 startups will get $2000 and the next 80 will get $1000 worth credits. PayTM being a partner will provide payment gateway boosters i.e. INR one lakh of free payment gateway transactions for 12 months to top 3 startups in each city. Offering $2500 credit for Superb Cloud to all startups. Cloud telephony solutions worth INR 28,500 to all associated startups of growth centers, at zero-cost for 6 months. The setup includes - Virtual business number + customized IVR solution; Call tracking, recording & monitoring and Dedicated account manager for your support, and more. Besides, access to free Incubation Centre at NDIM (New Delhi Institute of Management) will also be provided. Further details on the ASSOCHAM Launch pad and all the information related to the Elevator Pitch schedule and plan together with details of venues, jury members etc please. ■

3 Participant won the Goa Startup Pitching Competition

The top three winners will get an opportunity to scale up and raise finance and/ or technology or even marketing partnership with venture capitalists, mentors or independent professionals.

The Goa round of ASSOCHAM Launch pad - Start-up Elevator Pitch Series, an initiative and platform for budding entrepreneurs conducted at Goa Institute of Management concluded with – Mrinq Technologies LLP (Rohin Parker & Malcom Dsouza), TGP Bioplastics Pvt. Ltd. (Karan Chavan) and Anabattle field Systems Pvt. Ltd. (Rajeshwari Chinagudi & Somaling appa Chinagudi) winning top three prizes respectively.

All the applications received have been evaluated on the basis of certain parameters including – innovation, problem solving, social impact, team qualification, experience, business scalability, profitability and others. Budding startups from different sectors had been invited for pitching.

The participants mostly belonged to the early stage startups' category i.e. those between 0-2 years of operations and established startups with 3–5 years of operations.

After careful review and evaluation by an expert panel of judges, three winners stood out among their competition for demonstrating exemplary innovation and other achievements. As part of the Elevator Pitch

Jury Members with the winners from the Goa event of the ASSOCHAM STARTUP LAUNCHPAD.

all shortlisted entrepreneurs and founders were given 300 seconds to explain the concept and idea of a service or product to the jury.

The top three winners from Goa will now be invited for grand finale in February 2020 in Delhi. Besides, they will also get an opportunity to scale up and raise finance and/or technology or even marketing partnership with venture capitalists, mentors or independent professionals of global repute.

"With sole focus on making Indian startups successful, the ASSOCHAM Startup Launch pad is proving to be a great enabler and is instrumental for tier II and III centres' based budding startups seeking collaborations and business associations with investors and corporates," said Mr Manguirish Pai Raiker, Chairman, ASSOCHAM MSME Development Council.

"We have created the ASSOCHAM Startup Launch pad as a means of bringing Indian startup community together. The pitching competition series is aimed at supporting business goals of promising entrepreneurs and other startup professionals alike," said Mr Anil Khaitan, chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council of Startups.

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She further said, "The ASSOCHAM 'Startup Elevator Pitch Series,' is to be held in 12 cities, while three winners have been selected each from Jaipur, Lucknow, Pune, Chandigarh, Jammu and now Goa, we now move to Indore where local startup entrepreneurs will compete for cash and in-kind prizes on November 29."

The program both complements and supports Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship initiative of 'Startup India,' thereby supporting the spurring entrepreneurship ecosystem of the country.

The ASSOCHAM Startup Launch pad is giving budding startups in non-metro cities of India an access to industry experts who can give them the guidance they need on business, product, marketing and also connect them with right people that can help with funding process and proper guidance on how to setup business case for funding.

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SEZ needs stable policy

Availability of a stable policy framework is the most important factor to accelerate the growth of the SEZs in India, noted a recent ASSOCHAM-Centrum Legal joint study.

Address by Chief Guest Shri Bidyut Bihary Swain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

"Considering the development of SEZs in far off areas, the physical and infrastructure facilities provided therein and the employment opportunities created therein it can be said that the SEZs have been instrumental in the creation of industrial/commercial infrastructure in the country. However, had the SEZ policy not been marred with the continuous instability and adequate support from the government, the situation could certainly have been much better," highlighted an ASSOCHAM-Centrum Legal joint study titled, 'Special Economic Zones in India.'

The study was released by dignitaries which included top officials from government and key private sector representatives at the 13th ASSOCHAM International SEZ Investment Summit held here recently.

The joint report also noted that while the single window mechanism was certainly one of the most

Release of the Knowledge Report (from L to R) Shri D S Rajora, Assistant Secretary General, ASSOCHAM, Shri Hitender Mehta, Co- Chairman, SEZ Council, ASSOCHAM, Mr. Sharief Habib Al Awadhi, Director General, Fujairah Free Zone, UAE, Dr. L B Singhal, Development Commissioner, Noida SEZ, Shri Bidyut Bihary Swain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, Shri Bhuvnesh Seth, Vice Chairman, Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs and Shri Indranil Dasgupta, Co- Chairman SEZ Council, ASSOCHAM & Chief Executive Officer, Attivo Economic Zones.

lucrative aspects of being located in a SEZ as it would rid the investor of all the delays, traditional red tape. However, the effectiveness of the single window mechanism has been under the scanner for a long time now.

Noting that the single window mechanism exists only on paper and in a lot of cases the developers and investors are forced to run from pillar to post to take clearances from State as well as SEZ authorities, the report said that there

Dr. L B Singhal, Development Commissioner, Noida SEZ addressing the conference.

are inordinate delays faced by the stakeholders to get the requisite permissions from various Government authorities.

It also said that better coordination between the ministries at the central level is one of the most important factors needed to be addressed for accelerating the growth of SEZs in India.

The ASSOCHAM-Centrum Legal study further stated, "To address these issues, the provisions of 'deemed approval' should be built in. There should be time bound disposal of applications, and if the approvals are not issued within the given timeframe, the same should be deemed to have been granted. Not only, this would help making the SEZ scheme more attractive, but also improve India's ranking in Ease of Doing Business (EODB) in India."

Shri Indranil Dasgupta, Co- Chairman SEZ Council, ASSOCHAM & Chief Executive Officer, Attivo Economic Zones felicitating Shri Bidyut Bihary Swain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India in the ASSOCHAM Conference on 13th International Special Economic Zone Investment Summit.

It was also noted that based on experience, should there be any need to have greater checks and balances, the Government should do it on a constant basis. At the same time, depending on the ever dynamic internal and external environment and business scenario, the Government should be proactive enough to make quick progressive adjustments to benchmark our laws vis-à-vis best global practices.

Shri Hitender Mehta, Co- Chairman, SEZ Council, ASSOCHAM felicitating Dr. L B Singhal, Development Commissioner, Noida SEZ in the ASSOCHAM Conference on 13th International Special Economic Zone Investment Summit.

Further, the report suggested that there should be separate policy, within the existing SEZ policy framework, for manufacturing SEZs to promote "Make in India" policy in true sense.

It also recommended that SEZ Act needs to be amended without much delay as there have been sea changes in the tax regime of SEZs since introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST). "Pursuant to introduction of GST, so many central and state taxes and levies have been subsumed in single indirect tax, called GST. The provisions relating to Service Tax, Central Sales Tax, Central Excise Act, etc. still exist in the SEZ Act."

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

Ministry of Corporate Affairs

To recognise Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for inclusive and sustainable development

Nominations are invited for

NATIONAL CSR
AWARDS 2020

AWARD CATEGORIES

- Four awards for excellence in CSR, based on CSR spend
- Five awards for CSR projects in Aspirational Districts / difficult - terrains
- Eleven awards for CSR projects in National Priority Areas

Three awards, one each in above three categories are reserved for MSMEs

NOMINATION & SELECTION PROCESS

- All registered companies required to comply with Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 are eligible
- Online nominations submitted through designated nominating organisations
- Selection process: nominations, shortlisting of nominations followed by detailed submission and field verification of projects
- For detailed guidelines, visit **www.csr.gov.in**

ONLINE NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UPTO 15 FEBRUARY 2020

For Nomination through ASSOCHAM, please contact Mr. Chander Taneja, chander.taneja@assocham.com, 9810412217/8851961854

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IICA Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs
Partners in Knowledge, Governance, Transformation

Towards universal health coverage

A synergetic relationship between the government and private sector will nurture the vision of 'Health for All' and will turn it into a reality.

Release Of Thought Leadership Document developed by ASSOCHAM – KPMG. (Left to Right) Dr. Sudhir Kalhan, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Healthcare & Chairman, Institute of Minimal Access & Bariatric Surgery, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Mr. Rakesh Chitkara, Senior Director, Global Government Affairs, Abbott India, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Dr. Praveen N. Gedam, Deputy CEO, AB-PMJAY & National Health Authority, Govt. of India, Mr. Nilachal Mishra, Partner, Health & Human Social Services, KPMG India.

With Ayushman Bharat having its key objectives aimed at elevating India's overall healthcare system, a just released ASSOCHAM-KPMG joint report has highlighted the urgent need to focus on bigger operational aspects such as provisioning of quality and standardized care, driving quality accreditation, emphasizing on learning and capacity development, leveraging analytics and technology and imbibing learning from across the globe to make the scheme more effective and successful.

The joint report titled, 'Ayushman Bharat Programme - A big leap towards Universal Health Coverage in India,' was released by Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Mr Ashwini Kumar Choubey at ASSOCHAM's Ayushman Bharat Conclave.

The purpose of this whitepaper

(Left to right) Mr. Rakesh Chitkara, Senior Director, Global Government Affairs, Abbott India, Dr. Sudhir Kalhan, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Healthcare & Chairman, Institute of Minimal Access & Bariatric Surgery, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Mr. Nilachal Mishra, Partner, Health & Human Social Services, KPMG India, Dr. Praveen N. Gedam, Deputy CEO, AB-PMJAY & National Health Authority, Govt. of India, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Ms. Payal Swami (Pharma & Health Team, ASSOCHAM).

is to find ways to leverage partnerships between the government and private sector as both are important stakeholders contributing towards rapid and effective implementation of the scheme. The report also provides insights into challenges being faced during implementation of the scheme and suggests additional interventions that can be incorporated to accelerate India's journey towards universal health coverage.

Addressing the august gathering at the ASSOCHAM conference, Mr Choubey said, "The dream of building a successful India, an empowered India, will only come true if we ensure a healthy India."

In a video message, Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO, AB-PMJAY and National Health Authority said, "We are going to change the picture of the health sector in the years to come. With this scheme we are going to be expanding the availability and quality of services and will be making them more affordable by putting a cap on the cost of the services. For this scheme to succeed we need two things - very active participation of private sector and innovations."

The report also provides insights into challenges being faced during implementation of the scheme and suggests additional interventions that can be incorporated to accelerate India's journey towards universal health coverage.

Addressing the industry leaders at the ASSOCHAM event, Dr Praveen N. Gedam, Deputy CEO, AB-PMJAY and National Health Authority said, "Private sector can help us spread awareness about the Ayushman Bharat scheme to every possible beneficiary across the country."

He added, "We are happy to promote startups that can help us amplify or enhance the Ayushman Bharat scheme."

Dr SudhirKalhan, chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Healthcare said, "Access to primary healthcare, across urban and rural cities, is the need of the hour."

Sharing his perspective on the

Mr. Rakesh Chitkara Senior Director, Global Government Affairs, Abbott India presenting sapling as token of thanks to Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India.

study, Mr Nilachal Mishra, partner, Health & Human Social Service, KPMG said, "Private sector has rapidly been involved in health infrastructure creation and quality of service. Private sector and government should work together to ensure that 'health for all' becomes a reality."

The ASSOCHAM-KPMG report provides perspective and recommendations on leveraging the expertise of the private sector in strengthening key functional areas. Some of the key recommendations where private sector can effectively collaborate are:

1. Provisioning of primary care services: Developing HWCs with Private Partner; Nurturing the entrepreneurship model to develop HWCs; and Strategic purchasing of primary care services

2. Provisioning of secondary and tertiary care services:

a) Strategic purchasing of clinical program management services, where the government shall build, equip and operate such a facility and evaluate strategic purchasing of clinical programme management services from single or multiple partners like individual specialist/ super-specialist or private providers on fees for service model.

Establishing a centre for supply chain and logistic in healthcare for up-skilling, training, certification and accreditation of both workforce and public health supply chain points is necessary.

b) Developing 'Ayushman Bharat Hospitals' – District/regional level: The government and private player could look at setting up a tertiary care services at regional level to cater to three to five districts depending on the population, geographical connectivity and availability of specialist/ super specialist.

c) Provisioning for diagnostic and specialised care equipment: Model with medical equipment players to lease or pay per use for capital intensive medical equipment such as Cath lab, CT scan MRI and other equipment

d) Capacity building: Developing

(L-R) Mr. Lalit Mistry, Director - Healthcare, KPMG India , Mr. Varun Jhaveri Officer on Special Duty, National Health Authority, Govt. of India, Dr. Shuchin Bajaj, Promoter and Founder Director, Cygnus Hospitals, Mr. Pankaj Tomar, Chief Underwriting Officer, Axa France Vie – India Reinsurance Branch, Dr. Sandeep Chatrath, Regional CEO & Medical Director, Metro Group Of Hospitals, Mr. Vibhav Garg , Associate Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Director (Government Affairs), Medtronic India.

a national/state level learning and development portal utilising e-content, innovative tools, online and classroom-based interactive learning, gamification, on-demand training videos, learning pathway, etc. could be useful. Establishing a centre for learning and development up-skilling and training of the healthcare workforce with consortium of private partners consisting of providers, pharmaceutical, medical equipment and other players.

e) Augmenting Supply Chain Management: Establishing a centre for supply chain and logistic in healthcare for up-skilling, training, certification and accreditation of both workforce and public health supply chain points is necessary.

f) Development of a differential and privileged pricing system in the form of 'National Health Pricing Index, which can create a matrix of gradation system or differential pricing for geographical, facility-level variation

The joint report also provides ways to engage private players that will not only give us ideas for derive a better output from private partnership, but could be utilized for future public private partnership models:

Forum to foster a dialogue between partners: Setting up of 'National Health Forum' under MoHFW to provide formal and structural recognition of such forum

Developing collaboration charter to clearly set out expectations: Includes creating the target operating models and sharing of risk/reward to future proof any agreement and delivery services

Developing national repository national repository and learning developed by third party evaluation: to present realistic challenges and success elements

Setting up a 'National Health PPP Agency' entrusted to develop an innovative partnership, engage with private sector, support state governments, evaluate PPP proposals and monitor the impact of the collaboration

The report provides a comprehensive outlook on private participation and how the launch of Ayushman Bharat is aiming to achieve the vision of healthcare coverage for the underprivileged section of the society. ■

Accessible Insurance Sector

As far as insurance penetration is concerned, India is yet to cover large ground. It is at 3.71% (premiums as a percentage of GDP) as compared to the world average of 6.11%. In fact, the country is also lower than the Asian average.

Lamp lightning by Chief Guest Dr Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Hon'ble Chairman Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India at ASSOCHAM 12th Global Insurance Summit "Making India a Fully Insured Society".

Eminent minds from the Indian insurance sector congregated at the ASSOCHAM 12th Global Insurance Summit in Mumbai. The event was inaugurated by Hon. Chief Guest Dr. Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Chairman, Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India in presence was distinguished leaders including Mr. B K Goenka, immediate past President, ASSOCHAM.

Addressing the distinguished gathering from the Insurance Industry at the 12th Global Insurance Summit, instituted by the ASSOCHAM, Dr. Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Chairman, Insurance Regulatory &

Development Authority of India, said, "As far as insurance penetration is concerned, India is yet to cover large ground. We are at 3.71% (premiums as a percentage of GDP) as compared to the world average of 6.11%. In fact, we are also lower than the Asian average. People do need protection but this protection would be possible only if there is sufficient awareness, affordability and access to a range of products for protection. All the stakeholders have a role to play and we all need to work together for this."

Exhorting insurance service providers to focus on make India a fully protected society, Dr. Khuntia said that the industry should integrate in adopting strategies, follow the path and deliver, ensuring that every person in India is fully covered. In his speech, Dr Khuntia touched upon several important issues like natural catastrophes, awareness about the insurance among people and making claim settlements a smooth process.

Dr Khuntia added, "India is fastest growing economic country in the world and we must concentrate on young people in India whose population is high among whom awareness about insurance can be created."

Dr. Khuntia also highlighted that the insurance companies need to assess the needs of the customer as the customers' needs are changing in today's scenario. He also lauded government's efforts to insure 10 crore families across the country.

Mr. B K Goenka, ASSOCHAM immediate past President, in his welcome address, said, "Insurance culture has grown well among the youngsters and insurance cover should be made available for everyone in the society. There is a need of an awareness program among the people about insurance coupled with simple and transparent business model. To make India fully insured society, the industry participants must come together and put sustained collective efforts to adapt successfully implement solutions."

Speakers from L to R : Shri Deepak Sood, Secretary General, ASSOCHAM, Shri Atul Sahai, Chairman cum Managing Director, New India Assurance co Ltd, Dr Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Hon'ble Chairman, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India, Shri Vipin Anand, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation Authority of India, Shri G Srinivasan, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council for Insurance and Director, National Insurance Academy at ASSOCHAM 12th Global Insurance Summit "Making India a Fully Insured Society".

"India is fastest growing economic country in the world and we must concentrate on young people in India whose population is high among whom awareness about insurance can be created."

Also sharing his perspective, Shri G. Srinivasan, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council for Insurance, said, "There is indeed a lack of insurance awareness. Industry is short of insurance talent and insurance is a major job creator. Insurance is a very important tool and social net for individuals, families and businesses. It is therefore essential that insurance reaches everyone. Making India a fully insured society will also facilitate availability of large long-term capital for economic development."

Anuj Mathur, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council for Insurance and MD, CEO, Canara HSBC Oriental life insurance, said, "Insurance is something which has great potential and especially with PM Modi talking about US dollar 5 trillion economy – the opportunities will only grow. We are going to partner with the government for various social welfare schemes and it is something wonderful government is doing and we support government for that."

The other highlight of the eventwas the release of the Knowledge Report

Release of Knowledge Report : (L to R)Shri Deepak Sood, Secretary General, ASSOCHAM, Shri Atul Sahai, Chairman cum Managing Director, New India Assurance co Ltd, Shri Balkrishan Goenka immediate past President,ASSOCHAM, Dr Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Hon'ble Chairman, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India, Shri Vipin Anand, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation Authority of India, Shri G Srinivasan, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council for Insurance and Director, National Insurance Academy, Shri Anuj Mathur, Co- Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council for Insurance and MD & CEO, Canara Hsbc Obc life insurance company Limited, Shri Sandeep Ghosh, Partner & Leader Financial Services, Ernst & Young LLP at ASSOCHAM 12th Global Insurance Summit "Making India a Fully Insured Society".

titled, 'Making India a fully insured society', by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) jointly with global advisory services firm Ernst & Young (EY).

Life Insurance Perspective: Shri Vipin Anand, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India at ASSOCHAM 12th Global Insurance Summit "Making India a Fully Insured Society".

General Insurance Perspective : Shri Atul Sahai, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, New India Assurance Company Limited at ASSOCHAM 12th Global Insurance Summit "Making India a Fully Insured Society".

ASSOCHAM-EY study highlighted that the insurance sector in India today has reached the crucial, initial steps in increasing penetrations through proactive regulatory support in driving awareness and customer centricity. It recommends employing technology as a catalyst for re-defining the way of doing business. The study also said that technology is crucial to boost insurance ecosystem. The study also impressed upon an urgent need to introduce more customer centric, differentiated solutions and seamless experiences across the customer life cycle. It further stated that there is a need to address gaps in the existing social schemes, while increasing financial awareness, driving holistic adoption by ensuring customer avail benefits from insurance schemes.

CSR Key to country's Progress

It is a subject close to my heart, and it is indeed, the pursuit of wealth creation in harmony with the environment and the society. For me, history always shows the way for the future, and therefore, let's look at how the concept of CSR came into existence.

A concern for social responsibility can be traced back to the 1930s in Chester Barnard's 1938 publication, "The Functions of the Executive", and Theodore Krep's, "Measurement of the Social Performance of Business", which was published in 1940. These were the early references about the social responsibilities of executives and business.

The 1950s saw the start of the modern era of CSR, at that time it was more commonly known as SR or Social Responsibility. In 1953, Howard Bowen published his book, "Social Responsibilities of the Businessman", and is largely credited with coining the phrase 'Corporate Social Responsibility'. In 1963, Joseph W McGuire in his book, "Business and Society", stated: "The idea of social responsibilities supposes that the corporation has not only economic and legal obligations but also certain responsibilities to society, which extend beyond these obligations".

In the Indian context, the concept of CSR dates back to the Mauryan history, where philosophers like Kautilya emphasised on ethical practices and principles while conducting business. CSR has been informally practiced in the ancient times in the form of charity to the poor and disadvantaged.

Shri Anil Rajput, (Chairperson, ASSOCHAM CSR Council and Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, ITC Ltd.)

Coming back to our times, it is with the enactment of the Companies Act in 2013 and the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014, that India became the first country to make CSR mandatory. The legislation has largely had a positive outcome, though challenges do remain.

Overall, the companies in India spent over Rs. 52,533 crore on CSR activities during the last four years (2014-15 till June, 2019). In this companies spent over Rs. 15,742 crores on the education sector, followed by healthcare (over Rs. 9093 crore), rural development projects (over Rs.5467 crore), environmental sustainability (Rs. 3723 crore), Swacch Bharat Kosh (Rs. 837 crore), Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (Rs. 763 crore), safe drinking water (Rs. 612 crore) and in many other areas.

The downside is that many of the smaller companies are yet to show their alignment to CSR in a convincing way vis-à-vis the larger companies. In addition, the country's most backward districts that require maximum CSR support, mostly remain deprived. According to the NITI Aayog there are around 117 districts in India that are backward.

The problem can be better understood when we see that Jharkhand has 19 such districts and Chhattisgarh has 10, and only 1 per cent of all CSR programmes have been implemented in these two states. The situation is nearly as serious in Bihar (13 backward districts) and Madhya Pradesh (8 backward districts) where only, 2 and 3 per cent of CSR grants have been received.

In-addition, the most backward districts got only 13% of the funds in 2018 and not more than 25% of the total projects. NITI Aayog stipulates that corporate handholding can ensure the development of such

districts. Today, top corporates are investing more than ever before with the overall objective of making a difference where it matters. Here are some of the companies that have done creditable work in CSR:

Reliance Industries Limited, spent Rs. 904 crore in FY 2018-19. CSR activities are carried out under the aegis of Reliance Foundation (RF) which was established in 2010. The company has focussed on health, education, sports for development, disaster response, arts, culture, heritage and rural transformation projects among others.

TATA Group prominent contributors were TATA Consultancy Services (TCS), TATA Chemicals and TATA Motors, they spent Rs. 434 crore, Rs. 25.68 crore and Rs. 22 crores respectively.TCS has invested in various sustainable development programmes along with a great deal of focus on education, health and wellness, skill building and environment, TATA Chemicals has focussed on improving the quality of life and fostering sustainable and integrated development in the communities where it operates, while TATA Motors has focussed on health, education and environment.

Infosys, spent Rs. 342 crore, it implements social development projects primarily through its CSR trust, the Infosys Foundation which was established in 1996. The foundation primarily works with non-governmental organisations as the nodal agency for implementing projects.

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, spent Rs. 93.50 crore, it used Rs. 8.36 crore on Nanhi Kali Programme which provides educational support to underprivileged girls in India through an afternoon support programme. Other initiatives include 20th Lifeline Express (hospital on a train) in Arrah, Bihar (medical treatment) and Mahindra Hariyali (tree plantation).

Vedanta Ltd, spent Rs. 309 crores on a consolidated basis on social investments and CSR. It focussed on community development projects. Its Nandghar Project is its flagship initiative which looks to re-build Aanganwadis for ensuring the health and learning of children in rural areas, as well as a platform for women's empowerment and skilling.

ITC Ltd, spent Rs. 306.95 crore, ITC has been an early proponent of the Triple Bottom Line and it has its social development initiatives in place, much before the enactment of the Companies Act, 2013. ITC's Sangeet Research Academy was created in 1977 as part of its initiative of preserving the classical music heritage of India. In-fact over the years ITC has been supporting young Indian artists, an example of this can be seen in its hotels which are more like art galleries. ITC's bouquet of CSR initiatives is diverse to say the least, it includes the Social and Farm Forestry Initiative, Integrated Watershed Development Initiative, Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative, Livestock Development Initiative, Primary Education, Skill and Vocational Training, preserving art and culture and much more.

Clearly, rural areas have to be on the corporate radar as a priority, and much more CSR action has to be directed towards the rural parts of our country. Here, I would like to compliment and credit the NITI Aayog for its stellar role in the entire process of getting CSR activity and funds directed towards rural India, especially in the most backward districts.

It has achieved this through proactive engagements with the corporate world, and using the regional and core strengths of different companies, thereby entering into crucial and game changing tie-ups with corporates like ITC, Tata group, Piramal and the likes.

Besides the unequal urban-rural spread of CSR funds, another problem that is still plaguing companies with regard to CSR, is that many of them instead of engaging with communities and understanding their social needs, do a one-time cheque signing exercise.

The problem is aggravated by inadequate infrastructure and implementation capabilities within organizations and lack of required expertise. The policymakers, while enacting the Companies Act, 2013 and the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014, in their wisdom, wanted the corporates to use their managerial skills for the social initiatives vis-à-vis the monetary contributions.

It is the people who have the ability to use resources efficiently and effectively and this will make a positive difference for the society as a whole. There is also an urgent need to have a clear vision on how the CSR funds will be channelized and used and their purpose has to be well laid out.

Needless to say, a great amount of progress has been made in the last four years, however, we have a long way to go before we fulfil our obligations in a more meaningful manner for the people living at the margins. ■

Energy Meet 2019 & Excellence Awards

To celebrate 100 years of its foundation, ASSOCHAM organized Annual Energy Leaders meet at Kolkata with presence of 15 national leaders from various parts of the country. The dignitaries who graced the occasion included H.E. Jagdeep Dhankar, Hon,ble Governor of West Bengal along with First Lady Smt. Sudesh Dhankar and Shri Sushil Kumar Singh, MP(Lok Sabha) & member of Advisory Committee of Power, Govt. of India.

On the occasion Mr. Hemant Kanoria, Member ASSOCHAM & Chairman, India Power Corporation Ltd. & Mr. Yogesh Daruka, Partner, PwC was present along with Mr. Surojit Samanta, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Eastern Region welcomed the dignitaries with Mrs. Perminder Jeet Kaur, Director, East & North East. The day long program had two key discussion session and awards were given to the exceptional leaders in Energy sector.

Lighting of the Lamp by H.E. Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and First Lady Mrs. Sudesh Dhankhar in the presence of Mr. Hemant Kanoria, ASSOCHAM Member & Chairman, India Power Corporation Ltd. and on his left Mr. Surojit Samanta, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Eastern Region and Mrs. Perminder Jeet Kaur, Director - East & North East.

Program introduction by Mrs. Perminder Jeet Kaur & put forward the agenda of the day and called upon the leader and the panellists to develop a framework which is beneficial for all the stakeholders and shall help take forward the agenda of growth for the sector and looked to solve them together with a better framework for a better future. She also share with all dignitaries that it's auspicious day that ASSOCHAM has completed 100 years. She said that all these years of ASSOCHAM has been committed to support industry and ASSOCHAM believe India is a strong Nation and industry can do much more here as compare to any part of the World.

In the occasion of 100 years of celebrating of ASSOCHAM Mr. Hemant Kanoria, Member ASSOCHAM and Chairman, India

Mr. Sushil Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) & Member of Advisory Committee of Power, Govt. of India addressing the conference.

Power Corporation congratulates everyone. He raised the issues on the present situation of the of the industries and requested an invention from the Government of India and the stakeholders of the industries on policy issues for optimum results and a better future of the Energy Sector in India.

During the discussion he said that in West Bengal there are 4 to 5 distribution companies who are coexist and this is an example which should take this forward and replicate this model in the other parts of the country. He also said that competition is not bad, competition is always good, because competition creates efficiency, it makes people more custom oriented. Now everyone is asking for increase the tariff but we have been reducing the tariff successively year after year and that is what we have able to do because of efficiency.

Therefore every company tries to see that how they are retains the customer how they can be profitable and which is very good for the customers. He thoughts that this is an example which everyone should be taken everywhere in the country. At the end he said that we have the capacity here, we have the capable here, it just needs a conducive environment, it needs congirealioty and the clarity from the government.

Mr. Sushil Kumar Singh, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) & member of Advisory Committee of Power, Govt. of India said that the Indian power sector has been a key driver for the country's socio-economic growth since independence. He committed that in his capacity try to take forward the message and the agenda of the industry to the relevant people.

He would like to inform all that there is a silver lining of growth, a huge population who previously dreamt of electricity are now enjoying it in real life. It was because of 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana'

H.E. Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal share his thoughts with delegates.

Release of ASSOCHAM Knowledge report. (R-L) - Mr. Yogesh Daruka, Partner, PwC, Mr. Hemant Kanoria, Member ASSOCHAM & Chairman, India Power Corporation Ltd., First Lady Mrs. Sudesh Dhankhar, H.E. Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Mr. Sushil Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) & Member of Advisory Committee of Power, Govt. of India, Mr. Surojit Samanta, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Eastern Region.

— scheme which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi in September 2017 to achieve household electrification by providing last-mile connectivity and free electricity connections to the poor and at very low cost to others. He assures industry that he will try his level best to take forward the suggestions to govt. He also request all stakeholders to work together towards a better future and try everything in our capacity to make the future bright as possible.

Hon'ble Governor H.E. Jagdeep Dhankar said that very significant issues raise by industry people and requested Hon'ble MP to take forward the issues to concern department.

There was two plenary sessions. In those sessions great leaders from energy sector like Mr. Alok Perti, IAS (Retd.), Former Coal Secretary, Govt. of India, Mr. P. Uma Sankar, IAS (Retd.), Former Power Secretary, Govt. of India, Mr. S. Rath, I&T, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board, Mr. Sutirtha Bhattacharya, IAS, Former CMD, Coal India and Chairperson, West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission debate on the future road map.

A huge population who previously dreamt of electricity are now enjoying it in real life. It was because of 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana' — scheme which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi in September 2017 to achieve household electrification by providing last-mile connectivity and free electricity connections to the poor and at very low cost to others.

Panelists share their thoughts that with a customer base more than 200 million and service outreach spanning of nearly 3028 million sq. Km, the Indian power system is one of the largest and most complex power systems in the World. In recent years, substantial growth in installed generation capacity and transmission and distribution infrastructure, coupled with various government initiatives has led to a reduction in energy and peak shortage (2% peak deficit in 2017-18 as against 10% deficit in 2010-11) and surplus generation capacity.

The Govt. of India released roadmap of achieve 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, which is one of the key actions to meet its commitments towards COP21 obligations. This roadmap also underlines its pledge to grow as a low carbon emitter.

Summed up the discussion and winners were awarded mementos of appreciation at the end of the program by Hon'ble Member of Parliament. A knowledge report was released.

Adding wings to MSME dreams

Organized by MSME-Development institute, Kolkata, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India in association with ASSOCHAM, 'Awareness Program on Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) & other Government Schemes' held at Kolkata provided the much needed information for the beneficiaries.

Mr. Partha Choudhury, Joint Director, Directorate of Industries, Directorate of MSME& T, Govt. of West Bengal. Mr. K D Bhattacharjee, Director I/C, MSME-DI, Kolkata.

The Welcome address was given by Mr. K D Bhattacharjee, Director I/C, MSME –DI, Kolkata, while addressing the audience Mr. Bhattacharjee mentioned that to avail the benefit under CLCS-TUS scheme, the beneficiary unit will have to remain in commercial production for a period of three years after installation and commissioning of the plant and machinery, on which subsidy under the CLCS-TUS is being availed.

The subsidy released by the Government under CLCS-TUS will be kept in the form of Term Deposit of equivalent amount for a period of three years with effect from the date of approval of the subsidy by the concerned PLI. The TDR will not be eligible for earning any interest, neither it can be hypothecated/ pledged by the beneficiary unit/ Bank or PLIs as security against any other liabilities/loans. On expiry of the prescribed retention period of three years, Banks/PLIs will liquidate the TDR and credit the proceeds into the loan amount of the beneficiary after being satisfied that the requisite terms and condition of CLCS-TUS regarding continuity of commenced production of the beneficiary are duly adhered to.

The presentation on Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) was given by Mrs. R Chakraborty, Asst. Director, MSME-Di, Kolkata, which was the focus of the program. The scheme was enforced with effect from 01.04.2017 and it has been extended till 31.03.2020. The subsidy is applicable only in cases where the loans have been sanctioned / approved having on or after 01.04.2017. The scheme is only for the micro and small enterprises (MSE) and not for the medium sector. The CAP on the loan amount is 1 Crore which may be the maximum value of plant and machinery

Mrs. R Chakraborty, Asst. Director, MSME-DI, Kolkata, Mr. Partha Choudhury, Joint Director, Directorate of Industries, Directorate of MSME& T, Govt. of West Bengal, Mr. K D Bhattacharjee, Director I/C, MSME-DI, Kolkata.

under this scheme and maximum subsidy which is available is 15% and this has been given in 51 sub sectors as the Government of India Ministry of MSME has Identified these 51 sector in which the scheme is available. Some important topics mentioned below were discussed during the presentation:-

A valid Udyog Aadhar Number (UAN) and entry of the MSE into the MSME Data Bank is mandatory for availing the subsidy under CLCS Component.

The ceiling limit of amount of loan/ institutional finance eligible for subsidy is Rs. 1.00 Crore.

SC/ST, women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from NER, Hill States (Jammu & Kashmir Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand) island territories (Andaman & Nicobar & Lakshadweep) and aspirational Districts/ Lift-wing Extremism (LWE) the subsidy shall also be admissible for investment in acquisition/replacement of plant and machinery equipments and technology up-gradation of any kind. But fabricated / second hand machinery / equipment will not be eligible for subsidy under the CLCS component of the scheme.

In addition to the above, after disbursement 15% of the subsidy under CLCS, additional 10% subsidy to SC/ST MSEs will be provided under National SC/ST Hub (NSSH) as per the guidelines of SCLCSS.

The CLC subsidy cases where the reference date is prior to 01.04.2017 shall not be entertained in any case. The total subsidy you can claim is Rs. 15.00 lakh not more than that.

While interaction with audience on issues such as cost of plant and machinery the point to note is that that subsidy is being extended on the machinery not on the tools and equipments that are being purchased along with the machinery, such additional are not being covered under the cost of plant and machinery.

Mr. Partha Chaudhary, Joint Director, Directorate of MSME&T, Government of West Bengal added that all MSE unit shall avail this Government scheme and take the maximum benefits out of it as there are just few month to avail the scheme because the last date to avail the scheme is 31.03.2020. In order to limiting disbursement of subsidy within the prescribed ceiling limit of Rs. 15.00 Lakh, the PLI/ Nodal Bank will certify the subsidy amount availed earlier by the unit itself.

MSE desirous of subsidy may apply to a bank for a loan to finance eligible investment. Once the loan is approved disbursement and the acquisition of plant and machines completed the disbursal of tern loan, the subsidy will be considered. In case, if disbursement is , in more than one installments, the date of disbursement of the last installment will be referred as the reference date. The interest payment and principal re-payment schedule will drawn up by the respective bank after actual on-site visit and the bank have to confirm that the machinery have been installed before recommendation and forwarding the subsidy proposal to the Ministry through online application and tracking system.

Units availing subsidy under CLSCC shall not allowed to avail and other subsidy for technology up-gradation from the Central/ State/UT Government. However, cases covered under National Equity Fund (NEF) Scheme, which are otherwise eligible under the CLCSS can also be covered under this scheme.

Unit in the North-Eastern Region which are enjoying financial incentives/subsidy under any other scheme from the Government in the region would, however, be eligible for subsidy under the CLCSS.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs. R. Chakraborty, Asst. Director, MSME-DI, Kolkata. ■

Har Saans Swachh

ASSOCHAM, as a responsible industry body with the rich legacy of 100 years, through its social arm, ASSOCHAM Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility (AFCSR) is relentlessly and consistently strengthening, "HAR SAANS SWACHH" campaign and activities under Program on Air Pollution in Punjab and NCR in partnership with Reckitt Benckiser (RB) India led by Dettol SiTi Shield.

The project team of AFCSR has proactively created an ecosystem to engage stakeholders, including experts, industries and corporate, state governments, village community and farmer groups, etc to address the issue of stubble burning. With a vision to enable zero stubble burning, advocating the sustainable farming management practices and several other interventions.

AFCSR regularly organizes a wide range of activities such as interactive sessions, sensitization workshops, outreach programs, cascading mass awareness, tree plantation drives, walkathons, extra-curricular activities with students, based on behavior change communication (BCC) strategies involving the broader fraternity and all the significant stakeholders including farmers, village community, school and college students from academic, technical and professional institutions, medical and paramedical staff, government officials, persons from both electronic and print media, representatives from expert groups, development sector, NGOs, etc to cascading public awareness on Air Pollution and its impact on health and environment in general and encouraging the farmers community to adopt sustainable farming management practices in particular.

In continuation to their endeavors, the AFCSR project team had visited to Rongla village in Patiala (Punjab) and held numerous meetings with local community members including small and big farmers to discuss about the burning of Parali (stubble). Earned an inspiration from "HAR SAANS SWACHH" campaign, this year many farmers from the Patiala district (Punjab) have come forwarded to not to burn the crop waste (stubble) and started managing it to protect the environment.

Mr. Promod kumar Bhardwaj, a very active farmer and a small businessman of the Allowal village, for the first time attended workshop in kathmathi village. At that time, he got so much impressed with the program & activities, he took an initiative and specially invited HAR SAANS SWACHH TEAM to come to their village and run the outreach programs activities.

While sharing his experience, Sarpanch Sitar Mohammad, feeling proud to be a part of this campaign, emphatically mentioned that in earlier years we tried ourselves to convince the farmers to stop stubble burning, however, all our endeavors proved in vain due to lack of convincing communication, regular interaction and consistent follow-up. Now, AFCSR's 'Har Saans Swachh' campaign, supported by Dettol SiTi Shield, regular interventions has made this possible. The direct sequel of this campaign is that now, this year many farmers have come forwarded to not to burn their crop waste to protect the environment and health of their children and family members. Sarpanch Sitar Mohammad himself involved to aware more farmers about air pollution and its impact on health and environment.

Dr. Singh, Professor, Punjabi University, while sharing his views, explained that people have been suffering from a recurring respiratory problem and the trouble aggravates at the onset of winter season. As a sequel the expenditure on medicine increase manifolds. He further asserted, in the light of the central and state government stringent directions, to stop the stubble burning completely. Har Saans Swachh da narahai, iss bar parali nu aag nahi lagana hai: has become slogan in Punjab.

The worth noticing point here is that the impact of interventions are very encouraging and during these sensitization programs and interactive workshops people very passionately and enthusiastically 'pledge to save environment and earth'. In crux, it deserves a special mention here that the AFCSR holistic interventions are benefitting a very large number of village communities. We will continue with our endeavors in this direction to strive to achieve the vision of 'zero stubble burning' in the coming years.

Forging international Alliances

Representatives of companies like Reliance Industries, VAAPS Energy, VELOGIC India Pvt Ltd, TVS Dynamic Global freight Ltd, DHUNI Exim Pvt Ltd, River Engineering amongst others participated in the meeting.

Mr. Roger Costa, Global Head-FDI, Govt of Catalonia & Mr. Suprio Bose, Trade Commissioner, Catalonia Trade & Investment Office South Asia, in an interactive meeting with ASSOCHAM members.

ASSOCHAM organized an interactive meeting with Mr Roger Costa, Global Head-FDI, Govt of Catalonia & Mr Suprio Bose, Trade Commissioner, Catalonia Trade & Investment South Asia Office, on Tuesday, 26th November 2019 at ASSOCHAM House, New Delhi.

The meeting provided a platform to the representatives from Govt of Catalonia to discuss possible collaborations in business & trade in Catalonia with Indian companies from Automobile, Chemical & Biotech sectors.

Catalonia, an independent region in North East of Spain is one of the wealthiest regions. It is inhabited by 3.7 Million people and attracts around 23 million tourists annually. A total of 8,642 multinationals operate from Catalonia, accounting for 50% of Catalan exports and 19% of total employment. The Financial Times publication fDi Magazine has recognised Catalonia as the most attractive region in Southern Europe in terms of foreign investment for 2018 and 2019. Tarragona and Barcelona are its two important cities. Barcelona holds two major events ***The Mobile World Congress***, largest exhibition for the mobile industry & **Smart City Expo world Congress** to promote awareness, under-

Mr. Roger Costa, addressing the delegates in an interactive meeting at ASSOCHAM house.

standing and critical reflection on the smart urban revolution.

Mr Saurabh Sanyal, Deputy Secretary General, ASSOCHAM welcomed the representatives from Government of Catalonia. He stressed on the importance of connectivity and access to international markets as key factors considered for Investment by Indian companies.

Mr. Suprio Bose, Trade Commissioner, Catalonia Trade & Investment Office South Asia briefed on Catalan Trade & Economy. On connectivity & global access, he shared that Catalonia is a coastal Mediterranean location in Southern Europe. With excellent transportation systems, it is the ideal crossroads between Europe, Latin America, North Africa, Asia and The Middle East. Its capital, Barcelona, is one of the few cities in Southern Europe with full-modal transport integration (sea, airport, motorways & railways) within a 12-kilometre radius, each with global connectivity. Port of Barcelona & Tarragona are the major ports providing connectivity with international markets.

Catalonia Trade & Investment Office is the Catalan Government's agency that promotes foreign investment and business competitiveness. Headquartered in Barcelona, it operates globally through a network of 40 offices all over the world. In India it has been present since last 28 Years. Indian companies in Catalonia are Samvardhana Motherson Peguform (SMP) & Oyo rooms. A few big international companies with presence in Catalonia are Schneider Electric, Nissan, Merc, AstraZeneca amongst many others.

Mr. Roger Costa, Global Head-FDI, Govt of Catalonia highlighted Digital Health, Meditech, Silver Economy, Big Data, Oncology, R&D, Pharma, Clinical trials & Logistics as some of the major sectors for investment in Catalonia. He invited Indian automobile companies to leverage Catalonian R&D based innovations & Technology leadership to capitalise the opportunities available in Catalonia in the sector of automobiles especially in E-vehicles. Another sector with plethora of opportunities in Catalonia is Biotechnology as the R & D Centres and innovative labs have advanced technology based operations. He shared that a delegation in Biotechnology is scheduled to arrive India in 2020. Mr. Costa stated that the general tax rate for corporate of 25% can be noticeably reduced with certain legally established tax benefits in areas of R & D & innovation. In personal income tax the tax base for saving income is taxed at maximum rate of 23% which is significantly low as compared to rest of the EU. He provided relevant data on various other tax incentives, infrastructural support and cooperation from Governmental of Catalonia to strengthen his point that manufacturing in Catalonia will be more cost efficient as compared to any other region of EU.

Representatives of companies like Reliance Industries, VAAPS Energy, VELOGIC India Pvt Ltd, TVS Dynamic Global freight Ltd, DHUNI Exim Pvt Ltd, River Engineering amongst others participated in the meeting. They enquired on modalities and formalities to connect with Catalonia and to scout for mutual alliances and JVs which were duly explained by representatives of Govt of Catalonia.

Mr Santosh Mathew, Senior Director & Head – International Affairs ASSOCHAM offered vote of thanks and called this meeting as the first step towards starting a mutually beneficial relationship with Catalonia. He appreciated the deep interest of ASSOCHAM members in being a part of this Interactive Meeting with the Catalonian Government and expressed hope that ASSOCHAM going forward will explore mounting business delegation from India to the world renowned *The Mobile World Congress* & *Smart City Expo world Congress* in Barcelona. ■

Forthcoming Events

February-March 2020

1 February	Union Budget - 2020-21	New Delhi
4 February	Post Budget Conference - Analysis of Tax Related Proposals	New Delhi
4-6 February	India Pavilion at SIRHA Budapest 2020	`Hungexpo, Budapest Fair Centre, Hungary
5-8 February	DEFEXPO ASSOCHAM International Conference Aerospace & Defence Application of Contemporary Technologies in Strategic Programs	Lucknow
7 February	Startup Launchpad : An Elevator Pitch Series	Dehradun
7 February	IWAI's Stakeholders' Conference : Integratging Inland Waterways into Coastal Shipping	Mumbai
11-13 February	India Pavilion in World AG Expo	California, USA
14 February	Health Insurance - Rethinking Business Models	Kolkata
15 February	India-Portugal Business Forum in honour of H.E. Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Souza, President of Portugal	Mumbai
17 February	INDISEC - India's Most Comprehensive Expo & Summit	New Delhi
25-26 February	13th National Education Conclave, Expo & Awards 2020	New Delhi
27-29 February	Emerging North East	Guwahati
28 Feb-1 March	India International Beauty Fair	Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai
1-4 March	EISENWARENMESSE - International Hardware Fair	Cologne
5 March	Conference on Nutrition & Food Fortification	New Delhi
6 March	15th Annual Banking Summit	Mumbai
7-9 March	India Pavilion at Food Expo Greece 2020	Athens, Greece
18 March	Conference on India Pipeline Infrastructure	New Delhi
19 March	4th National Summit & Awards on "FMCG"	New Delhi
20-22 March	Nepal Agritech	Chitwan

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The projects have been registered via MahaRERA registration number; Atlantis - A & B wing: P51800000154, Atlantis - C wing: P51800000143, Castle Rock - A & B wing: P51800000408, Castle Rock - C & D wing: P51800000405 and are available on the website https://maharera.mahaonline.gov.in under registered projects.

Atlantis A, B and C are mortgaged with ICICI Bank Limited. Castle Rock has been mortgaged & financed by St Helen's Nominees India Private Limited acting as a security trustee on behalf of Standard Chartered Bank. The No Objection Certificate (NOC)/permission of the mortgagee Bank would be provided for sale of flats/units/property, if required.

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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.

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