

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
“COMPETITIVENESS OF NORTH INDIAN STATES TO ACHIEVE INCLUSIVE
GROWTH”**

TUESDAY, 23RD JANUARY - WEDNESDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 2018

THE GRAND BALLROOM, J.W. MARRIOTT, CHANDIGARH

AGENDA

TUESDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 2018	
18:00 – 19:00	Registration
19:00 – 20:30	<p>Inaugural Session, “US & India Competitiveness: New conversation with renewed opportunities”</p> <p>India-US relationship at this moment is without any doubt the strongest it’s ever been. There is a solid foundation and the potential is huge, and in every area ranging from people-to-people, education, security and defence, and also research. Trade, investment, research collaboration, education and tourism are some of the areas which have immense potential for close cooperation between the two nations. Strong private sector participation is crucial to strengthen integration through expanded commercial ties between India and the United States. Thus, this session would focus on issues pertaining to enhancing competitiveness and Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) among North Indian States and what could be the cross-learnings between the two nations, so as to deepen private sector participation.</p>
20:30 – 22:00	Dinner
WEDNESDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 2018	
09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 11:30	<p>Session I: Access the FELT Elements</p> <p>This session will focus on analysing key challenges in access to key elements (finance, electricity, labour, transport) for EoDB in North Indian States along with identifying measures and reforms required to create a healthy ecosystem for new businesses. The session would focus on some of the common issues and challenges that are being faced by the States with the intention of finding some solutions. Certain best practices from other States would also be presented and discussed during the session.</p>
11:30 – 11:45	Tea Break
11:45 – 13:00	<p>Session II: Maximising Skills for Jobs and Jobs for Skilled</p> <p>High and persistent levels of unemployment together with job vacancies that remain unfilled are often attributed to mismatches between jobs and skills. However, the idea of skills mismatch does not always explain why employers are unable to fill the vacancies they have. Skills mismatches are driven by low quality education and systems, demographic change, rapid technological development, new sources of job creation and newly created forms of organisation. Regardless, skills mismatch can negatively affect labour market outcomes, workers’ productivity, competitiveness</p>

	and economic growth. Thus, the purpose of this session is to discuss and identify key policy priorities, challenges, and applicable solutions to the problem of skill mismatch, with particular emphasis on the role of public-private partnerships and of supportive public policies in North Indian States.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Session III: Opportunities for Entrepreneurs & MSMEs</p> <p>The world’s economy is increasingly becoming interconnected and MSMEs are looking at international trade to access and to supply foreign markets. The emergence of new business platforms and the openness of the economy have allowed MSMEs to become global companies. MSMEs have a crucial role to play in building a sustainable future through responsible business practices. To be successful, they cannot be indifferent to the society and environment in which they operate. The regulatory environment must be, however, made transparent and appropriate for MSMEs to properly function. Thus, there is a need for optimal regulation, so as to avoid regulatory burden on the MSME’s.</p> <p>Thus, this session will focus on identifying opportunities for entrepreneurs and MSMEs in North Indian States, what regulatory challenges do they face in EoDB and how can one arrive at practical solutions, so as to allow a thriving environment for growth of MSME’s.</p>
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Concluding Session: Symposium Summary & Way Forward</p> <p>This session will summarise the sessions and identify way forward for the North Indian States and what new reforms may be considered to attract investments and create business opportunities.</p>
