

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Competitiveness of North Indian States to Achieve Inclusive Growth

23-24
January, 2018
 The Grand Ballroom
 Hotel J.W. Marriott
 Chandigarh, India

AGENDA

| TUESDAY, 23 RD JANUARY, 2018 | |
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| 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 has ever been. 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. This session would focus on issues pertaining to enhancing competitiveness and Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in North Indian States, and scoping the possible cross-learnings between the two nations, so as to deepen private sector participation.</p> <p>Welcome Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International <p>Thematic Addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ariel Pollock, Director, North India Office, US Embassy • Daniel Mitchell, Chairman, Centre for Freedom & Prosperity • Paramjit Singh Sahai, Indian Foreign Services, Retd • Sebastian Saez, Lead Economist, Trade and Competitiveness, The World Bank • Vipul Goel, Hon’ble Minister of Industries & Commerce, Government of Haryana |

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| | Inaugural Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri VP Singh Badnore, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab |
| 20:30 – 22:00 | Dinner |
| WEDNESDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 2018 | |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Registration |
| 10:00 – 11:30 | Session I: Access to the FELT Elements <p>This session will focus on analysing key challenges faced by businesses in access to key elements (Finance, Electricity, Labour, Transport), impeding EoDB in North Indian States, along with identifying measures and reforms required to foster entrepreneurship and incubate new businesses.</p> <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paramjit Singh Sahai, Indian Foreign Services, Retd <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anushree Sinha, Senior Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Mitchell, Chairman, Centre for Freedom & Prosperity • Gopal Krishna Agarwal, National Spokesperson, Economic Affairs, BJP • Anoop Nautiyal, Founder, GATI Foundation • Amit Kapoor, Honorary Chairman, Institute for Competitiveness • Rachit Ranjan, Public Policy & Government Relations, UBER |
| 11:30 – 11:45 | Tea Break |
| 11:45 – 13:00 | Session II: Maximising Skills for Jobs and Jobs for Skilled <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, since it may also be driven by low quality education, demographic change, rapid technological development, new sources of job creation and newly created forms of organisation.</p> <p>Regardless, skills mismatch can negatively affect labour market outcomes, workers' productivity, competitiveness 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 skills mismatch.</p> <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakti Sinha, IAS (R), Director, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rahul Singh, Policy Analyst, CUTS International <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siddhartha, IAS (R), Principal Advisor, Industry & Chairman Industrial Development and Promotion Board Govt. of West Bengal • Mahesh Venkateswaran, Chief Growth Officer, Knack.it & Former Management Team Member, National Skill Development Corporation • Anil Bhardwaj, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Micro & Small and Medium Enterprises |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malti Jain, Advisor, British High Commission • R. Sudarshan, Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University, Haryana • Prachi Agarwal, Project Manager, Just Jobs Network |
| 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 for access and supply to foreign markets. The emergence of new business platforms and the openness of the economy has allowed MSMEs to become global companies. Thus, this session will focus on identifying opportunities pertaining to international trade for entrepreneurs and MSMEs in North Indian States, along with the regulatory challenges impeding their growth and sustainability. Practical solutions for relieving the ‘Dis-ease in Doing Business’ need to be thought of, so as to enable a thriving environment for growth of MSME’s.</p> <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rajesh Batra, Head, Centre for MSME, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs <p>Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kanika Balani, Senior Research Associate, CUTS International <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pankaj Gupta, President, Industries Association of Uttarakhand • Rajiv Chawla, Chairman, Integrated Association of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises of India, Haryana • Nazia Yusuf Izuddin, President, World Integrity Center India & Senior Vice Chairperson, FICCI FLO, Uttarakhand • Yogesh Sagar, Vice President, Mohali Industries Association • Dilnawaz Khan, Founder and Chief Evangelist, Codesign Labs |
| 16:00 –17:00 | <p>Concluding Session: Symposium Summary & Way Forward</p> <p>This session will summarise the discussions of the symposium and identify the way forward for Indian States, along with recommending new reforms which may be considered to attract investments and create business opportunities.</p> <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Udai Mehta, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International <p>Rapporteurs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rahul Singh, Policy Analyst, CUTS International • Sidharth Narayan, Research Associate, CUTS International <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arvind Mohan, Head Department of Economics, University of Lucknow & Secretary General, Policy Think Tank, Lucknow • Kanwar Sandhu, Punjab Legislative Assembly, AAP Party • Stanzin Dawa, Regional Director, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development • Douglas Fowler, Economic Officer, US Embassy |