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# Need to learn from China's Decentralization Policy & Regional Competitiveness Dynamics: Prof Tan Kong Yam, Singapore University

Thursday, March 19, 2015

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**New Delhi:** Mr Talleen Kumar, CEO & Managing Director, Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Ltd & Joint Secretary – DIPP, Government of India mentioned that urbanization is bound to unleash in India due to large scale migration to urban centres and the challenge is to embrace it in a planned way. Also, a structural shift is required in GDP whereby share of manufacturing sector in GDP grows upto 25% by 2020; agriculture needs to be quality driven by infusing technology and; the Urban Infrastructure needs to be planned with sustainability concepts embedded in it. DMIC is a valuable project as it attempts to solve all these three critical issues pertaining to manufacturing and agriculture growth coupled with smart urbanization.



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**Tuesday, March 24, 2015**  
**Hyderabad:** The Institute of Insurance and Risk Management (IIRM), Hyderabad has invited applications for admission to the following Courses, for the Academic Year 2015-16.
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**Monday, March 23, 2015**  
**Mumbai:** One of India's most prestigious educational institutions, The Cathedral & John Connon School has collaborated with Mumbai's music education visionaries, True School of Music (TSM), to introduce Western Music as the sixth subject in the ICSE syllabus from this academic year.
  - [BMS College of Engineering Students Wins Hackathon at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology](#)  
**Monday, March 23, 2015**  
**Bengaluru:** BMS college of Engineering students bagged the first prize in the Hackathon competition organized by Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology (NMIT) at their annual fest Anaadyanta held earlier this month at their campus at Yelahanka, Bangalore.

Explaining the concept of smart cities Mr Kumar said that an innovative financial structure will be followed under which every city will have an SPV and land assets will be monetized for undertaking development. Also, horizontal integration across government departments is necessary for a citizen-centric delivery system and effective governance.

Mr Shreekant Somany, Deputy Chairman, CII Northern Region and Chairman & Managing Director, Somany Ceramics Ltd. said that the need of the hour for the state governments to ease on stringent regulations vis a vis industry and bring in the concept of self assessment.

Mr Somany highlighted that since Northern India is land locked and distances from ports make the exports uncompetitive. It is important to bring down the costs by promoting the concept of competitiveness and also enhance connectivity with the ports. As each of the Northern states have some unique strength to contribute for nation's growth, the Industry needs to put its best foot forward and engage more actively with Academia to promote the concept of entrepreneurship by setting up incubation centres. This would indirectly lead to creation of more jobs besides propelling the economic growth.

CII has been working closely with the various state governments on the ease of doing business and has put forward a number of recommendations. This has led some of the state governments undertake a whole gamut of administrative reforms to facilitate quick decision-making, cut down red tape, reform in existing labour laws, provide single window clearances and deemed approvals to encourage private sector investment.

The biggest challenge faced by India is related to the mindset of bureaucracy. Hence, there has to be a change in attitude and mindset to enable investments in the country, remarked Mr Sali Singh, Chairman & Managing Director, P I Industries Ltd. Secondly, policies should not be people-driven, rather these should be process-driven. Finally, there has to be accountability in the various government departments with followed review, emphasized Mr Singhal.

Making a presentation on Attractiveness to Investors: Enhancing Resiliency, Prof Tan Kong Yam, Co-Director, Asia Competitiveness Institute - Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore said that decentralization and regional competitive dynamics led to China's growth. He suggested that India being a large democracy should promote competitive federalism, and such sharing and learning will consequently lead to dynamism in the states.

He said that the recent labour reforms' provides the window of opportunity for India's growth as Chinese wages and exchange rates are rising. India's competitive advantage lies in its large domestic market in an era of weak global demand.

He highlighted that the Government of Rajasthan has approved amendments to increase threshold of firm size to 300 workers (from 100 earlier) to allow retrenchment of employees without prior government approval and consequently the states of Maharashtra and Haryana has also evinced interest in this aspect.

He emphasized that with the high skilled labour force India has competitive advantage over Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh and can venture out for knowledge-intensive industries including IT, Pharma, Life Sciences etc. Coupled with this, its geopolitical environment has led countries like USA, Japan, China and EU courting India. With a weak global demand this presents a significant opportunity for the country to capture, remarked Prof Yam.

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Mr Jayant Davar, Co-Chairman, CII National MSME Council and Co-Chairman & Managing Director, Sandhar Technologies Ltd brought to the fore the various impediments which hinder a business-friendly environment. He focused on land being expensive, lack of developmental institutions for financing needs, dearth of skilled manpower, archaic labour laws, non-availability of power amongst others.

Challenging business environment is being considered as an obstacle in entrepreneurship development and gaining investments into the states. Infrastructure development is recognized as a pillar for the success of Make in India campaign.

The objective of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project is to expand India's manufacturing and services base, and create smart and sustainable cities. DMIC is critical for the Northern Region as 52 per cent of the influence area of the project falls in the region.

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