



FTCCI *Review*

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THE FEDERATION OF TELANGANA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Vol.II. No. 34 | September 08, 2021 | Rs. 15/-

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**BIRLA
AEROCON**
BUILDING SOLUTIONS



**BIRLA
AEROCON**
PANELS

**FAST-TRACK,
LIGHT-WEIGHT DRY-WALL CONSTRUCTION**

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Application Areas:

- Prefab structures
- Full and half height partitions
- Mezzanine flooring
- Compound wall
- Fire separation wall
- Residential partitions
- Fins



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Birla Aerocon Panels

Birla Aerocon Panels are made of two fibre reinforced cement facing sheets on either side of a light-weight concrete core. Our unique ready-to-install Birla Aerocon Panels are poised to revolutionise building construction, taking it to a whole new level. Birla Aerocon Panels have become an ideal solution for dry walls and partitions.

Key Features

- High Axial Strength
- Light Weight
- Strong & Durable
- Termite Resistant
- Fire Resistant
- Sound Insulation
- Space Saving
- Pre-Cured
- Water-Resistant
- Tongue & Groove Technology

Birla Aerocon Benefits

- Savings**
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 - Time: 10-20 times faster to construct.
 - Labour: Pre-cured and ready-to-use, therefore eliminates on site curing.
- Services**
 - Support: Design and BOQ.
 - Training: Regularly conducted on the use of Birla Aerocon Panels.
 - Feedback: Site visits and feedback on the Birla Aerocon Panels work.
- Strength**
 - Solid & Sturdy: Cement-based panels.
 - Compressive Strength: High axial compression and bending.
 - Long Lasting: Durable Products.
- Sustainable**
 - Saves resources: Cement and sand are not required during construction or finish.
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- Safe**
 - Fire: Highly resistant.
 - Weather: Can withstand adverse conditions.
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 - Toxic emissions: None.
- Space**
 - Thinner Walls: Provides additional carpet area up to 5%.

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Technical Specifications - Birla Aerocon Panels**

Properties	Thickness		Remarks
	50 Mm	75 Mm	
Nominal weight (kg/sqm)	40	57	Nominal weight
Apparent Density (kg/m ³)	780	720	IS:2386-Part 3
Axial load/bearer width (kN/m)	53	83	Factor of safety - 2.5
Bending test (4 point UDL) uniformly distributed load (kg/m ²)			
2.8 m span	66	96	Factor of safety - 2.5
1.5 m span	108	205	
Flexural strength/modulus of rupture (kg/cm ²)	67	98	Typical test results
Thermal conductivity (W/m.K)	0.22	0.21	IS:4370-Part 2
Sound Transmission Class (dB)	33	36	IS:9901 (Part III) - 1981 IS:11050 (Part I) - 1981
(Typical test results of Prasar Bharati and National Physical Laboratories)			
Fire rating (minutes)*	60	120	IS:476 Part 20 - 22
Surface spread of flame*	Class I		IS:476 Part 7 - 1971
Fire propagation index (B)*	3.7		IS:476 Part 6 - 1981
Ignitability*	Class 1*		IS:476 Part 5 - 1968
	(not easily ignitable)		

Standard Size:
Length: 2.4 m, 2.7 m, 3.0 m Width: 800 mm

Note: The above specifications are based on typical test results of Birla Aerocon Panels with Flex-o-Board (conforming IS 14862 : 2000 Type A.I).

Note: Mechanical properties will vary due to change in moisture content in Panels.

* As per test results of CBRI, Roorkee. ** As per test results of Prasar Bharati, New Delhi.

As per the results of Spectro Lab Delhi.

Birla Aerocon Panels Installation:

Steps:

- Fix ceiling and floor channels.
- Erect the panel and align.
- Apply jointing material in tongue & groove joint.
- Apply jointing material and fibre mesh tape to the surface joint.
- Now, the surface is ready for any finish including paint, tiles, wallpaper, texture etc.



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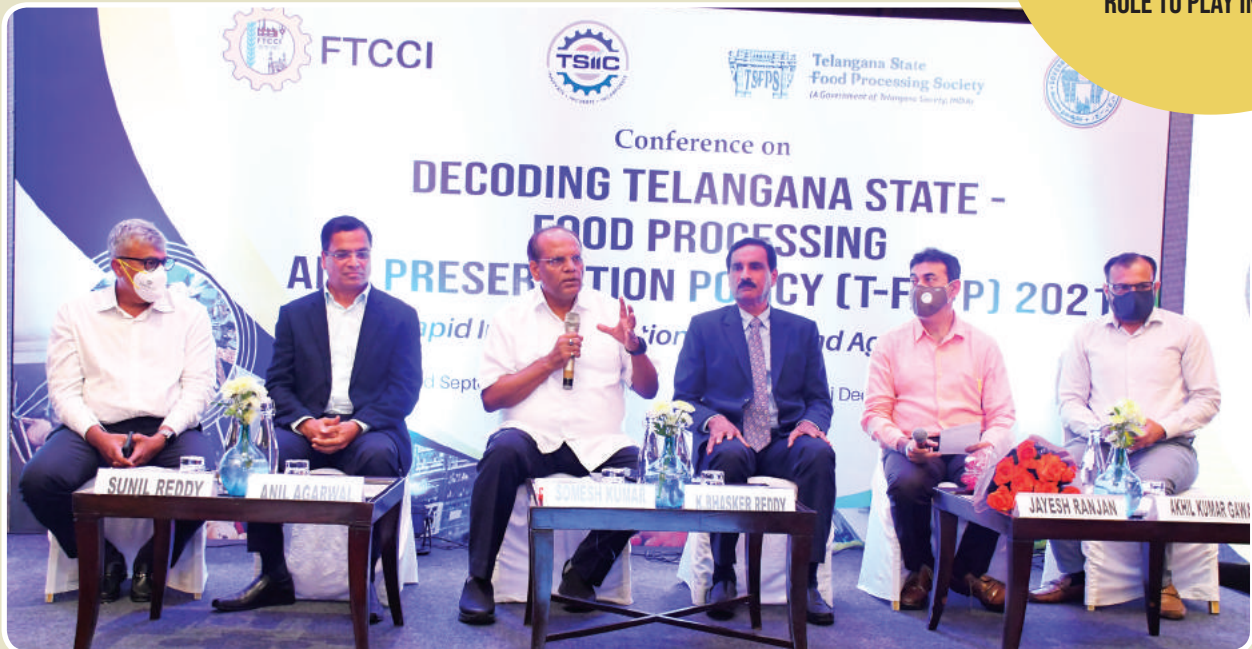
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Conference on T-FAPP - 2021

GOVERNMENT IS NOW
FOCUSING ON VALUE ADDITION
TO FARMERS AND THE
ENTREPRENEURS HAVE A GREAT
ROLE TO PLAY IN IT.



Sri Somesh Kumar, IAS, Hon'ble Chief Secretary,
Government of Telangana addressing the conference : 3rd September, 2021



K. Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI
addressing the conference

TO CREATE CAPACITIES IN THE
STATE TO PROCESS THE ADDITIONAL
PRODUCTION ACROSS AGRICULTURE,
HORTICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY,
DAIRY, AND FISHERIES SECTORS
TO CREATE VALUE ADDITION AND
REDUCE THE WASTAGE



Dear Members

The first quarter of FY 2022 shows a record growth of over 20 percent at Rs. 32.38 lakh crore as compared to contraction of 24.4 percent in first quarter of FY 2021 according to official release. This high growth rate is attributed to low base effect due to record contraction of GDP in first quarter of FY 2021 and a sharp rise in consumer demand. The economy is yet to reach pre-Covid levels of 2019.

Despite the second wave of Covid-19 the economy quickly bounced back to register an impressive growth mainly because of localized and lower restrictions on business and industry supported by vaccination drive. But we cannot be rest assured that the pandemic is behind us or under control as we are seeing the situation worsening in US and rise of cases in States like Kerala after Onam celebrations. The coming months are festival days and everyone has to be extremely careful to keep the numbers under control and state governments should not allow celebrations on large scale and continue the curbs on people's gathering.

The government of India aims at increasing share of exports to \$ 2 trillion by 2030, \$ 1 trillion of merchandise exports and \$ 1 trillion of service exports and taking initiatives towards achieving the target. The States are also asked to promote exports vigorously. The government of Telangana, by forming District Level Export Councils, is identifying the strengths of various districts in exports and giving thrust to the development of these sectors. The Federation, to understand the challenges faced by the exporters of the state organized a roundtable with Sri Somesh Kumar, Chief Secretary and Sri Jayesh Ranjan,

Principal Secretary on 2nd September. The meeting was extremely fruitful and they assured the exporters that government will take necessary measures to mitigate the challenges and remove the bottlenecks. I appeal to all our exporter members to bring to our notice the difficulties faced to take them to the notice of the government, central and/or State.

The members are aware that the TS Government has announced the Food Processing Policy in July and to disseminate the information seminar on T-FAPP 2021 is organized on 3rd September. More than 200 delegates participated to know more about policy and utilize the benefits. Our state is rich in various resources and is a major producer of turmeric, sweet orange, lemon, grapes, mango and soyabean. With the development of irrigation facilities and availability of water and power, the state turned into a rice bowl of the country. The state has huge potential to turn into a food processing hub in the country and the policy incentives, development of 10 special food processing zones will ensure the rapid progress of the industry.

A strong state level Federation of Chambers is an asset to industrial and trade fraternity of the State. It serves as a platform to exchange ideas and also to facilitate smooth conduct of business by bringing the issues before the government and resolving them. Let us all work together and join hands to strengthen FTCCI for the benefit of all.

*Wishing you all a safe and happy
Vinayaka Chavithi...*

K. Bhasker Reddy
President

India's Solar Power Tariffs remain Competitive despite custom duty on equipment:



Solar tariffs discovered through the recent auctions remain below ₹3 per unit, despite the imposition of 40% basic customs duty on solar modules. In what augurs well for India's green economy, solar tariffs discovered through the recent auctions remain competitive and below ₹3 per unit, despite the imposition of 40% basic customs duty (BCD) on solar modules and 25% on solar cells from 1 April next year, according to ICRA.

This also comes in the backdrop of high commodity prices playing out in these keenly contested auction rounds, with developers calibrating these new realities while placing bids.

"Tariff competitiveness offered by the solar and wind power projects in utility auction route continued to remain superior, with tariffs remaining below Rs. 3.0 per unit, despite the upward pressure arising from the imposition of customs duty on imported cells and modules, w.e.f. April 2022," ICRA said in a statement.

This assumes significance given that India is running the world's largest clean energy programme, with the Indian government tightening curbs on Chinese solar power equipment firms, keeping on hold decisions to grant them permission to feature in the approved list of solar photovoltaic models and manufacturers as reported by Mint earlier. Being on the list is essential to do business in the world's largest green energy market.

"Renewable energy sector outlook supported by strong project pipeline, superior tariff competitiveness and continued policy support," the statement added. India's electricity demand has been growing. In a reflection of revival of economic activity in the country, India's peak electricity demand recorded an all-time high of 200.57 gigawatt (GW) on 7 July. Also, in a reaffirmation of India's push for green energy sources, solar and wind generation recorded an all-time

high of 43.1 GW on 27 July as compared to the previously recorded high of 41.1 GW on 11 June.

"The key challenges constraining the growth remain on execution front, mainly associated with land and transmission infrastructure as well as the slow but improving progress in signing of power purchase agreements and power sale agreements by intermediate procurers with state distribution utilities," the statement added.

Govt allows gas producers to sell up to 500 mmscm through exchanges



The new government rule will induce market flexibility and depth, helping consumers as well as big producers such as Reliance Industries, BP, Cairn, and ONGC, industry executives said.

Natural gas from fields that enjoy marketing and pricing freedom can now also be sold on gas exchanges.

The new government rule will induce market flexibility and depth, helping consumers as well as big producers such as Reliance Industries, BP, Cairn, and ONGC, industry executives said.

The government has permitted the sale through the gas exchanges as an additional mechanism besides the e-auction route already available to gas producers, an official said.

"The contractor may sell a small quantity of gas, up to 500 million standard cubic meter or 10% of annual production from contract area, whichever is higher, per year through gas exchanges authorised by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory

board (PNGRB)," an official said.

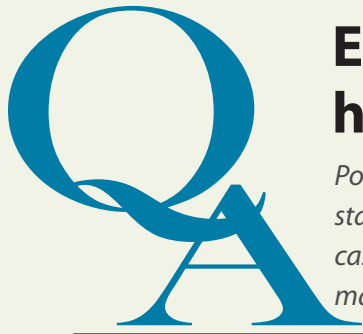
Only a small part of India's total gas output of 28 billion cubic meters can be freely sold in the market today. The biggest volume of such gas with marketing and pricing freedom currently comes from the Reliance-BP's fields in the KG Basin. Production from RIL-BP's fields is expected to peak at around 30 million standard cubic meters a day (mmscmd) by 2023. ONGC and Cairn also operate some fields with marketing and pricing freedom.

"The option to sell domestically-produced natural gas on the gas exchange will go a long way towards the development of the Indian gas markets," said Rajesh K Mediratta, Chief Business Officer, Indian Gas Exchange, the country's sole exchange for gas trading.

The government official said contractors will be required to inform the Director-General of Hydrocarbons at the end of every financial year the complete details of gas sold through the exchange and certify that it has fulfilled all requisite conditions to undertake trade on gas exchange as per the policy guidelines.

Last October the government had introduced a standardised e-bidding process for price discovery from new production areas and high-pressure, high-temperature fields.

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com>



Either consumer or taxpayer has to pay for power

— Minister R K Singh

Power minister R K Singh believes there are no free lunches. In an interview, he tells TOI that state governments need to pay subsidies upfront if they promise free electricity to voters. In any case, this eats up allocation that would have gone to build hospitals and roads, he says, while maintaining that reforms undertaken in recent years will help clean up the sector. Excerpts:

The power sector is often seen to have lagged since the 1991 reforms. Is it a fair assessment?

Today, we have surplus capacity despite peak demand reaching 2 lakh megawatt. We electrified more than 2.8 crore households before deadline in the world's largest universal energy access programme. We have achieved a single synchronised national grid. Given the size, it is unique in the world. The multi-pronged action has improved supply from around 12 hours in rural areas in 2015 to over 22 hours in 2021. For urban areas, it is 23 hours 30 minutes. We have addressed the issues of access and availability. Some disruptions are due to glitches in the distribution system or because discoms (distribution companies) don't have money to buy power.

Several steps have been taken to improve distribution. States have sought more funds to strengthen distribution and a new scheme has been sanctioned. There was a challenge to make the whole system viable. Implementation of letter of credit system and improvement in demand has by and large removed the stress on generation companies.

We have also undertaken structural reforms, while helping clean up discoms' books and bring about greater discipline. As a result, line losses have come down to 21.8% from over 25% in 2014-15. Dues of gencos have come down to Rs 32,000 crore against Rs 65,000 crore a year ago.

Every few years, the sector comes under stress and a relief package is announced. How long will this continue?

This time, we have put in place several checks and balances. Funding

is conditional to reduction in losses and improvement in operations. And, surprise, surprise, every state has agreed to it. We are insisting on pre-paid meters for new connections, proper accounting of subsidies, mandatory energy accounting and commitment on loss reduction along with a calendar before money is released.

What's the progress on giving more choice to consumers?

Earlier, the effort was to privatise government discoms. That meant replacing a government monopoly with a private monopoly. We have proposed delicensing of distribution. The government companies can continue functioning, but they need to compete. If their service is good, consumers will continue otherwise they will migrate. We have consulted states twice and no state has opposed the plan, barring one or two. We have finalised the proposal for the Cabinet after that. This will reduce the scope for any irresponsible management practices as only efficient players will do well.

Last week, a NITI Aayog report had cautioned that the purported benefits of carriage and content separation may not accrue to consumers fully without regulatory and tariff reforms.

What we have proposed is that the regulator will set a ceiling tariff and companies need to compete on tariff and services. The system is structured in such a way that it encourages competition. The regulator will look at the prudent costs and work out a trajectory to lower the costs by phasing out non-prudent costs. The shareholder has to bear the losses in the interim. A return on equity will be decided to set the tariff. The state can decide the

cost of supply and reduce it for certain consumer groups and account for subsidies.

How do you ensure that the government discoms do not turn into another BSNL or Air-India?

Only state governments can ensure that by adopting prudent policies. If a state is in a position to provide a subsidy of, say, Rs 5,000 crore then they should cap it there. Most of the time states over-commit. They need to ensure that government departments pay. They have to ensure efficiency of discoms. Today, the national average for billing is around 84%, while for collection it is around 94%.

Politicians offer free electricity before elections. Has power become a political tool?

That's the tragedy. You have educated people like Mr (Arvind) Kejriwal (Delhi CM) saying he is giving free power. When a politician says he is giving free power, he is not paying from his pocket. It is the taxpayer who is paying for it. Policies governing the sector have to be rational and divorced from electoral politics. If the state government has to give free power, they have to pay for it. Either the consumer pays or if the state government does not want the consumer to pay then it must pay according to the law. If the state budget has to pay for free power, that means that much less money for roads, hospitals, schools etc. It is the state's choice. Some states are paying salaries after a delay of 14-15 days, which is unimaginable.

(Published on August 09, 2021, ET Energyworld.com)

Performance of Telangana State - 2014-15 to 2020-21:

TS'GSDP at current prices increased by 93.8% between 2014-15 and 2020-21, as against India's increase of 58.4% in the same period. TS achieved the third highest percentage increase in GSDP value at current prices between 2014-15 and 2020-21. State's GSDP rose from Rs 5,05,849 crore to Rs 9,80,407 crore in 2020-21. The growth rate of GSDP in Telangana was 2.4 per cent in 2020-21, whereas the country's GDP growth pushed to minus three per cent. Telangana achieved the highest annual average growth in GSDP amongst all southern states, at 11.7 per cent post 2014-15

In 2020-21, the per capita income of

Telangana is Rs 2,37,632. This is one of the strongest economic indicators of well-being of the population. The per capita income (PCI) of the State is 1.84 times higher than that of the national PCI of Rs 1,28,828. Telangana surpassed seven states in a span of seven years, by moving from the 10th position to the third, in terms of per capita income in the country. The State experienced 90 per cent increase in SOTR collection from 2014-15 to 2020-21, achieving an amount of Rs 66,648 crore in 2020-21. The average annual growth rate (AAGR) of the SOTR between 2014-15 and 2020-21 is 11.52%. There was a 142% increase in contribution of the agriculture sector

to Telangana's Gross State Value Added between 2014-15 and 2020-21. Mining and quarrying added more than Rs 30,000 crore to the GSVA in the last three years.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com>

GDP grows 20% in Q1, but still below FY20 levels



Manufacturing, construction, electricity and mining grew fast enough in the June quarter to offset the steep declines in the year-ago quarter, while key services sectors could not even completely reverse the decline. Private consumption, the biggest constituent of the economy remained 12% below the pre-pandemic level.

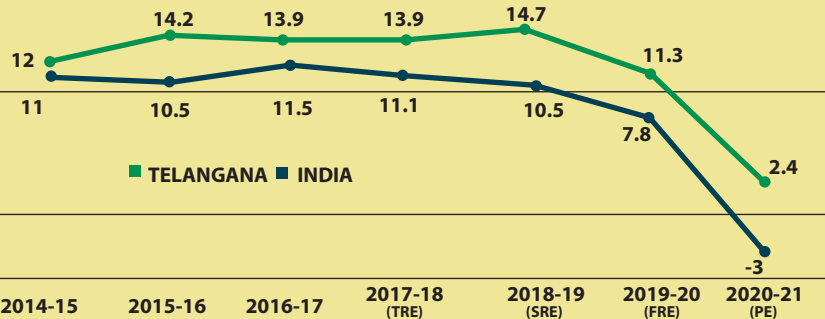
India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 20.1% in the June quarter from a year before, giving the illusion of a sharp economic recovery, but it was largely driven by a deeply-contracted (-24.4%) base. In absolute term, real GDP still trailed the pre-pandemic (June quarter in FY20) level by 9.2%, as the resurgence of Covid-19 infections hobbled the economy's gradual return to normalcy, of which there was some evidence in the March quarter.

Manufacturing, construction, electricity and mining grew fast enough in the June quarter to offset the steep declines in the year-ago quarter, while key services sectors could not even completely reverse the decline. Private consumption, the biggest constituent of the economy remained 12% below the pre-pandemic level.

<https://www.financialexpress.com>

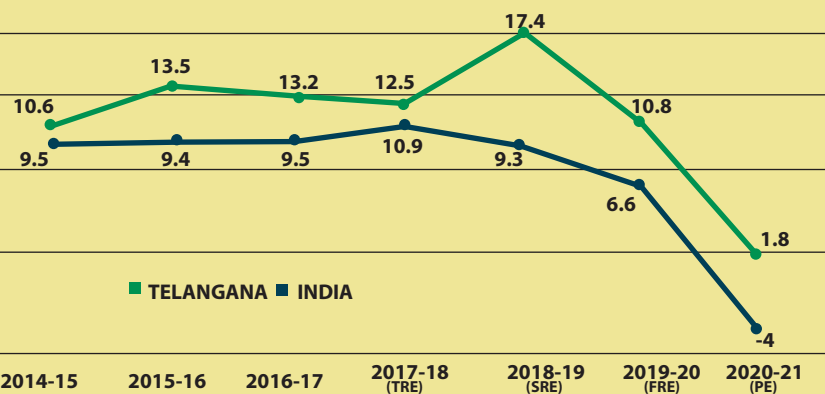
TELANGANA'S GROWTH RATE HAS CONSISTENTLY OUTPACED THE NATIONAL GROWTH RATE, EVEN DURING COVID-19

Telangana vs India: Growth rates of GSDP vs GDP at current prices



Source : Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, GOI; Note: AAGR has been calculated using growth rates from 2015-16. Since 2014-15 growth rate corresponds to the period before the formation of Telangana State

GROWTH RATE OF PER CAPITA INCOME AT CURRENT PRICES: TELANGANA VS. INDIA



Manufacturing push: Incentivise auto MNCs, forge more free trade agreements, says govt panel

Similarly, for bolstering farm and processed food exports, the country needs to re-negotiate imports tariffs and firm up trade pacts with the EU, the US and the UAE. Rigorous brand-building exercise must be undertaken to promote Indian products.



The panel's suggestions for the priority sectors aim to double manufacturing exports over the next five years, reduce imports by two-thirds and drive up annual domestic consumption growth to about 9% from roughly 7% in a normal year.

India needs to incentivise multinational corporations in sectors like auto components to set up mother plants here, scrap import duties on principal raw materials for furniture and toys, fix anomalies in existing free trade agreements (FTAs) and forge new ones with key economies to boost exports of manufactured products, a government-backed panel has suggested.

The Steering Committee for Advancing Local Value-Add and Exports (SCALE) – headed by former Mahindra & Mahindra Managing Director Pawan Goenka — has recommended that the government incentivise multinational original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to use India as a sourcing base for auto parts.

The panel, set up under the ministry of commerce and industry, has firmed up specific suggestions for boosting exports of manufactured products in 24 priority sectors. These include auto components, textiles, marine products, farm and processed food items, certain electric vehicles, toys and furniture.

While global trade in auto components stood at \$1.3 trillion in 2019 (before the pandemic), India's share was just

\$15 billion, the panel said, flagging the untapped potential. It has set an export target of \$30 billion for the auto parts industry by FY26.

The country should revisit the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) to better suit current realities and “explore favourable trade agreements” with Canada, the US, the EU and Mexico to brighten export prospects, it added. It acknowledged the crucial role of the proposed Rs 57,042-crore production-linked incentive scheme for the auto parts sector. At the same time, it also wants the government to develop dedicated export hubs, incentivise spending on research & development and promote investment in auto electronics and semiconductor.

To boost exports of furniture, in which India's share in the \$240-billion global trade was less than 1% in 2019, the panel has suggested that at least 3-4 integrated hubs be developed near ports. MNCs should then be lured into investing in the hubs through incentives. Appropriate policy interventions, such as duty-free imports of key inputs and a favourable timber policy, need to be initiated.

In textiles, the panel wants India to revisit both SAFTA and the Asean FTA and have sectoral trade pacts with Canada, the UK & the EU. India must focus on downstream value addition, diversify into man-made fibre products in a big way and facilitate mega clusters to address cost competitiveness. It has set an ambitious export target of \$80 billion for textiles and garments in the next five years from about \$37 billion (in 2019).

Similarly, for bolstering farm and processed food exports, the country needs to re-negotiate imports tariffs and firm up trade pacts with the EU, the US and the UAE. Rigorous brand-building exercise must be undertaken to promote Indian products.

In the leather and footwear segment, India's costs are about 20% higher than that in China, Vietnam and Indonesia, which needs to be removed, according to the panel. It has pitched for setting up export-oriented integrated plug-and-play clusters for footwear with common infrastructure facilities to enable even small players to operate with minimal costs.

The country should create port-based processing parks for value addition in marine products and develop cold chain infrastructure at harbours as well as airport at Kochi, Vizag and Chennai. It has set a marine export target of \$14 billion by FY25 and \$28 billion by FY30 from about \$6 billion in FY20.

The panel's suggestions for the priority sectors aim to double manufacturing exports over the next five years, reduce imports by two-thirds and drive up annual domestic consumption growth to about 9% from roughly 7% in a normal year.

SCALE has estimated that focus on these three critical factors would catalyse incremental domestic value addition of \$350-380 billion over the next five years.

The panel was tasked with identifying steps to improve the growth of manufacturing, the share of which in the GDP has remained stagnant at around 16% for decades now.

<https://www.financialexpress.com>

Seminar on Decoding National and Telangana State EV Policy



13th August, 2021

Mr. Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI said that the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020 is a national mission document providing the vision and the road map for the faster adoption of electric vehicles and their manufacturing in the country. The State policies are complementary to national- and city-level policies that aim to promote India's transition from internal combustion engine vehicles to electric vehicles. He mentioned that adoption of Electric mobility will not only ease burden of oil import bill for the government and lighter on consumers' pockets, it will also protect the environment. Thus, electric mobility and green energy must go hand in hand for the benefit of people, country, and Environment protection.

Mr. Sushil Sancheti, Chair, Energy Committee said that the automobile industry is passing through an evolution globally, ever since the Ford Company rolled out cars in 1908. For more than 100 years, the automobiles are run on either petrol or diesel, making countries depend on

oil and petroleum imports (other than OPEC countries). Electric Vehicles (EV) emerge as a promising alternate to ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) vehicles. They are economically viable and sustainable mobility solution and is fast finding global support from Policy makers and Industry leaders alike. Electric vehicles in India have received little public interest despite being available for a significant period (REVA was launched in 2001). The govt. of Telangana came out with EV and Energy Storage Policy 2020-2030 to

make the state preferred destination for Electric Vehicle & component manufacturing.

Mr. Ajay Mishra, IAS, Retd Spl CS, Energy Dept, Government of Telangana, said that the cost advantage of EV adoption is not been projected properly by the manufacturers to attract consumers and it is one of the reasons for slow growth in adoption of EV mobility. He also suggested the manufacturers to give details of mileage under various conditions.

Mr. N. Janaiah, VC & Managing



Director, TSREDCO, Hyderabad, said that the Government of India in order to promote Electric Mobility in the country has launched National Electric Mobility Mission 2020, with an outlay of Rs14,0000 crores towards the creation of infrastructure and promoting the use Electric Vehicles in India. He also mentioned that Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation(TSREDCO) , the State Nodal Agency (SNA) is helping in creating a conducive ecosystem

for a diverse and well distributed EV charging network as it can accelerate the EV transition.

Mr. Sujai Karampuri, Director (Electronics),Dept of ITE&C, Government of Telangana, said that Telangana is going to emerge as No 1 in EV Manufacturing Hub in India and Government is making all out efforts such as offering investment subsidy, transportation subsidy and power subsidy to attract investors into the

sector. Incentives are made available for 2 -wheeler (2 lakh), 3-wheeler , private 4-wheler, commercial 4-wheeler, light commercial vehicles and public transport segment, purchased and registered within telangana. He also mentioned that the state is developing two exclusive clusters for manufacturing EV's and batteries at Chandanavelli, Sitarampur in RR district and in Divitipalli at Mahabubnagar.

Interactive Meeting with Sri Radha Krishna, Hon'ble Chairman of Tripura Electricity



17th August, 2021

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry has organized an Interactive Meeting on 17th August , 2021, with Sri Radhakrishna, Hon'ble Chairman of TERC, Sri Ajay Misra, IAS, Retd Spl CS, Energy Dept, Government of Telangana, Sri. Bhasker Reddy , President, FTCCI, Sri Anil Agarwal, Sr. Vice President, FTCCI, Sri Sushil Sancheti, Chair, Energy Committee and other experts have participated in the meeting.

D. Radhakrishna while sharing his opinion on the performance of energy sector in the country stated that the generation capacity of power has recorded an impressive growth and reached about 4 lakh MW. But the effective capacity utilization is only 1.5 lakh MW indicating that there is a huge surplus generating capacity. The lower per capita consumption of power can be attributed to the higher tariff across the country despite the excess capacity. This calls for prudent supply and demand management by the government and also improving the financial health of DISCOMs.

Sri Ajay Misra expressed that the operational cost of the DISCOMs and production cost of GENCOs have to be reviewed and plug the excess cost to improves their balance sheet.

Mr. Bhasker Reddy while welcoming the guest said that affordable electricity plays a critical role in rapid industrial growth and he appealed to the Chairman of Tripura Electricity Regulatory Commission to work towards removing hurdles in making electricity cheaper, qualitative and sustainable.

Mr. Anil Agarwal said that though the electricity Act 2003 provided for road map trajectory for reduction of cross subsidy the ERC's are not providing any road map. The burden on consumers subsidising for other categories is still high making electricity costlier there by reducing competitiveness of Indian Industry.

Other participants also shared their views on various issues in the power sector .Mr. Sushil Sancheti proposed Vote of Thanks and meeting ended with facilitating D. Radhakrishna.

Interactive Meeting on Enhancing Trade & Business between Islamic Republic of Iran & India through Telangana State



19th August, 2021

FTCCI in association with Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran, Hyderabad organized an Interactive Meeting on Enhancing Trade & Business between Islamic Republic of Iran & India through Telangana State. Mr. K Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI said that bilateral relationship between India and Iran has evolved into a diverse partnership nurtured by a long history of cultural connections. India has actively engaged with Iran to secure energy sources considering that Iran is the most viable option in this sphere given its geographic proximity to India. The Chabahar port being jointly developed by India will be a gateway to opportunities for trade with central Asian nations. FTCCI signed MoUs with Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, Mashad Chamber of Commerce, Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Khorasan Razavi and also with Commercial Organization of Khorasan Province, to foster friendship and to promote trade, investment, social, economic, human resource development, technical and scientific cooperation and all

other spheres of economic activity. Business delegations from FTCCI also visited Iran and most of them have entered into business contacts with their counterparts.

Mr. Rajendra Agarwal, Chair, International Trade Committee, FTCCI mentioned that both countries are negotiating a Preferential Trade Agreement, on which five rounds of talks on have been held so far with a focus on diversifying the bilateral trade basket to include manufacturing, services, and light engineering items.

H.E. Mr. Mahdi Shahrokhi, Consul General, Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran stated that there is a need to promote connections between people of Telangana and people of Iranian states. We share great heritage of common values. Hyderabad Consulate is open to address and facilitate the business proposals.

Mr. Sreenivasulu Budigi, IFS., Deputy Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, GOI said India Iran relations goes back to 4000 BC. India has always maintained good relations with Iran and focused on not just business exchange

but also cultural exchange.

H.E. Mr. Ali Chegeni, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to India said Iran and India have the potential to cater to each other's needs provided the businessmen have the exposure to the available opportunities. He offered to start barter trade with Iran to facilitate the businessmen and to jack-up the volume of two-way trade. He said that the business community in the two countries would have to increase interaction to share their experiences in the larger interests of the people of two brotherly nations. He said that Chambers of Commerce in the two countries would have to focus on expansion of trade by holding single country exhibitions and through trade delegations to each other's country.

Speaking on strategic port of Chabahar in Iran, he said that it is being developed to build a transport-and-trade corridor giving India an access to global markets. The construction of this port assumes significance, as it allow bypassing the route for accessing markets in Europe and Central Asia and also save on time and cost of doing business.

He hoped that Preferential Trade Agreement between India and Iran will be signed soon and this will enhance the trade, as both the countries have huge potential to touch the staggering figure of \$ 10 billion trade.

Indian exports to Iran between 2011-12 and 2019-20 have grown by 45.60%. The bilateral trade during 2019-20 was

\$4.77 billion. India's major exports to Iran include rice, tea, sugar, soya, medicines/ pharmaceuticals, man-made staple fibres, electrical machinery, etc. Major imports from Iran include inorganic/organic chemicals, fertilizers, cement clinkers, fruits and nuts, leather, etc.

The Meeting was also participated by

Mr. Khodadad Nejad Asad, First Consul of the Mission. Mr. Malayeri Zadeh, Second Consul of the Mission. Mr. Syed Tamjeed Hyder, Public Relations Officer, Mr. Anil Agarwal, Senior Vice President, Mr. Meela Jayadev, Vice President and Ms. Khyati Naravane, CEO of FTCCI.

Meeting with Mr. Agus P. Saptono, Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, Mumbai

23rd August, 2021

FTCCI Team & Indonesian Consulate had discussion on ways to deepen India-Indonesia cooperation in trade and investment especially with Telangana State. FTCCI suggested for exchange of Business Information – Trade Fairs/ Exhibitions, Trade Enquiries, etc., MoU with prominent Chambers of Indonesia and FTCCI, Awareness Program on Halal Certification and opening of Consulate/Trade Office in Hyderabad.

Mr. Agus P. Saptono, Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, Mumbai assured all his support in enhancing the trade between the two countries more particularly with State of Telangana.

On behalf of Consulate, Mr. Pangky B.P. Saputra, Consul (Economics), Mr. Mutaqien Priyo Hutomo, Officer (Socio-Cultural) and Mr. Vijay V. Tawde, Assistant (Economics) were present at the meeting.

On behalf of FTCCI, Mr. K. Bhasker Reddy, President, Mr. Anil Agarwal, Senior Vice President, Mr. Meela Jayadev, Vice President attended the meeting.



WE WELCOME YOUR PARTICIPATION

FTCCI Review attempts to keep abreast its members with latest information on various developments taking place around the globe. If you have any news/information on the issues related to Government policies, programs and latest developments that you may like to share with the FTCCI members.

Please write to info@ftcci.in

Webinar on CSR provisions under Company Law



28th August, 2021

Sri K. Bhasker Reddy, president –FTCCI in his welcome address said that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has evolved in India over the last few years from being voluntary and philanthropic to organizations instituting strategic programs to contribute toward causes that enable the welfare of the society. The focus and effort made around CSR was enhanced by the amendments to the Companies Act, 2013 that defined the scope for organizations above a certain size and threshold. Today, CSR is playing a crucial role in supporting COVID-19 relief initiatives through contributions at multiple levels.

CA Naresh Chandra Gelli. V, Chair-Corporate Laws and IBC Committee of FTCCI in his introductory remarks said that the essence of CSR comprises philanthropic, corporate, ethical, environmental and legal as well as economic responsibility. In India, the evolution of CSR refers to changes over time in cultural norms of corporations' engagement and the way businesses managed to develop positive impacts on society as a whole.

Dr. (HS) Tasneem Sharif, Co-Chair, Corporate Laws Committee-FTCCI introduced the Chief Guest CS Dr. Ahalada Rao, Council Member, ICSI and CA Kali Prasad, Senior Partner-

Kali& Co, Hyderabad.

CS Dr. Ahalada Rao in his Key note address explained the evolution of CSR in India and Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Amendment Rules, 2021. He cautioned that the penal provisions for non-compliance of CSR provisions changed the very nature from "comply or explain" to "comply or suffer". Pursuant to the amendment, the companies are now required to do either of the following:

- (i) spend the required amount for CSR activities as prescribed under schedule VII or
- (ii) park the unspent amount of ongoing projects in a separate account within 30 days of the end of financial year or
- (iii) transfer unspent amount to such funds as mentioned in Schedule VII viz. Clean Ganga Fund or PMNRF or like within 6 months of the end of financial year.

He also explained other amendments in the Rules.

CA Kali Prasad, Senior partner- Kali & Co, Chartered Accounts, Hyderabad in his presentation said that The Company law in India mandates certain category of companies to carry out Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities mandatorily. Section 135 of

the Companies Act, 2013 enlists the companies which are mandatorily required to comply with the CSR requirements, which are:

- i. Net worth of Rs. 500 crore or more,
- ii. Turnover of Rs. 1000 crore or more,
- iii. Net profit of Rs. 5 crore or more during the immediately preceding Financial Year

b) Such companies will have to spend at least 2% of the average net profit of the Company made during the three immediately preceding Financial Years (or where the Company has not completed the period of three Financial Years since its incorporation, during such immediately preceding Financial Years) earned by the Company towards CSR.

He elaborated on Several amendments to Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 notified with effect from 22 January 2021.

Visit for detailed presentation :
<https://www.ftcci.in/source/csr.pdf>

Round Table discussion on Understanding the Challenges of Exporters and the way forward



He informed that IT and ITeS exports from the Telangana State increased 12.98% to Rs.1,45,000 crore in the fiscal ended March, 2021. He said the exports can be increased under three heads, more value by increasing the volumes of exports, making them broad-based i.e, raising the number of products and new geographies. He also felt the need to have regular interaction to understand the operational problems of exporters and make attempts for solving the same. Such meetings are frequently required to monitor and understand the best practices.

Sri Somesh Kumar, IAS., Chief Secretary, Govt. of Telangana informed that the State under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri K Chandrashekar Rao has achieved rapid progress in the last seven years since its formation. He asked the exporters to come out with suggestions to boost exports in the State. Referring to the exporters as partners of development, he assured that the State Government will do everything possible to solve the problems of the exporters which will bring buoyancy to the economy and will expedite recovery in the post covid era. He said that it is only with active involvement of industry the State has achieved the 65% growth in 2021. He assured the exporters

2nd September, 2021.

FTCCI organized a Round Table Discussion on Understanding the Challenges of Exporters and the way forward on 2nd September, 2021 at Federation House.

Sri K. Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI thanked the Government of Telangana State for allowing production even during the lockdown period which benefitted the exporters. He informed that FTCCI will be organizing a mega event Showcasing Telangana every alternate year with the support of State Government, to promote State

of Telangana. He also assured of organizing regular industry interaction meetings, for the economic growth of State. He suggested the need to improve ease of doing business and raise economic competitiveness by minimizing / removing supply chain bottlenecks, congestion and logistics costs, availability of raw materials, and others, so as to help exports to grow and achieve the target.

Sri Jayesh Ranjan, IAS., Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, IT, E&C, Govt. of Telangana mentioned that the Central Govt. has set a target of \$2 trillion exports by the year 2030.



that special focus is being laid on increasing agricultural exports from the State.

He suggested for organizing sector specific interaction meetings viz. agriculture, horticulture, for understanding their difficulties and arrive at possible solutions.

Members expressed concern about container shortage which is effecting

outbound shipments as a result hampering large scale exports. They also raised the issue of GST refund in respect of capital goods and asked the government to take up with the Government of India. Members also requested for a dedicated international courier cargo clearance facility to be operationalised at RGIA, Hyderabad to help the exporters. The members sought notifying a town for export excellence, setting up of another

Inland Container Depot and a mega industrial park of world class standards to boost exports from the State.

Officials from DGFT, Railways, State Taxes, Concor, Logistics, FIEO, EPCES and leading exporters from the State participated in the discussion. Sri Anil Agarwal, Senior Vice President, Sri Meela Jayadev, Vice President, Ms. Khyati Naravane, CEO and other senior officers of FTCCI also participated.

Certification of Origin & Attestation of Export Documents



The Chamber is recognized by the Government of India to issue Certificates of Origin for non-preferential countries. Export documents are also accepted as authentic by the Consular offices of various countries and international authorities.

Visa Facilitation

The letters of recommendation are issued to Embassies and Consulates for issue of business visa to representatives of member

companies for business travel.

Passport under Tatkal Scheme

FTCCI is being recognized by the Govt. of India to issue Verification Certificate to the Owners, Partners Or Directors of the Companies having Membership with the FTCCI.

For details, Please Contact
Mr. Firasath Ali Khan,
e-Mail: co@ftcci.in,
040-23395515-22

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Decoding Telangana State–Food processing and Preservation Policy (T-FAPP) 2021 with the Rapid Industrialization in Food and Agri Sector

3rd September, 2021.

Sri Somesh Kumar, IAS, the Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana while addressing the gathering stated that the new food processing policy primarily aims to provide value addition and better pricing for the farmer. It also ensures that the consumer gets good quality product.

The Hon'ble Chief Secretary informed the participants that land has been identified in each and every district of the state for setting up a food processing zone. He also stated that each Food Processing Zone will include common facilities like cold storage facilities, quality testing laboratories etc.

He expressed that the Government is now focusing on value addition to farmers and the entrepreneurs have a great role to play in it.

Sri Somesh Kumar assured them

that the policy of the government is to encourage more Private players in the food processing sector and those who missed earlier will be given an opportunity to apply again at an appropriate time.

Sri Jayesh Ranjan IAS., Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Information Technology, Electronics

and Communications Department, GoT took questions from the participants and clarified their doubts. Most of the queries are related to providing land at concessional rate, subsidies, partnering with Private agencies for skilling, branding for Telangana Sona rice etc.

Sri K. Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI





expressed his gratitude towards the government for announcing the much awaited food processing and preservation policy in July and said that with the support given by the government, food processing industry will become largest sector after IT and Pharma in the State.

He opined that the increased irrigation facilities under minor, medium and major irrigation projects in the state coupled with free power supply to farmers 24 x 7 has given a tremendous boost to agriculture sector. The fruits of all the efforts of the government are visible from increase in the share

of agricultural sector in GSDP of Telangana from 12.2% (2015-16) to 17.4% (2020-21).

He was happy to share that the state has become the rice bowl of the country with tremendous increase in paddy production; there is also significant increase in all other agricultural products.

Sri K. Bhaskar Reddy opined it is need of the hour to create capacities in the state to process the additional production across agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, dairy, and fisheries sectors to create value addition and reduce the wastage.

Sri Akhil Kumar Gawar, Advisor, FTCCI Agro Food processing & Rural Development Committee & Director, Telangana State Food Processing Society gave detail presentation on the Telangana State-Food processing and Preservation Policy(T-FAPP) 2021 and clarified the doubts raised by the entrepreneurs.

Sri Anil Agarwal, Senior Vice President, Sri Sunil Reddy, Chair, Agro Food processing & Rural Development committee, Ms. Khyati Naravane, CEO and Ms. Sujatha, Dy CEO also participated in the programme.



FTCCI Office Bearers with



Mr. G. Raghuma Reddy, Chairman & Managing Director, TS Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited., (TSSPDCL) : 18th August, 2021



Mr. Anjani Kumar, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City, Government of Telangana : 18th August, 2021



Mr. Mahesh Bhagwat, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda Police Commissionerate, Government of Telangana : 19th August, 2021



Mr. Niranjan Reddy, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Co-operation and Marketing, Govt. of Telangana : 23rd August, 2021



Mr. Sunil Reddy, Managing Director, Dodla Dairy Limited felicitated Mr.K.Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI : 25th August, 2021



Mr. Somesh Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana : 27th August, 2021

Why Factoring failed to address delayed payments for MSMEs and how recent amendments can help

**Shrinivas Kasar*



“Amending the Factoring Regulation Act, and changing the definition of “assignment”, “factoring business” and “receivables”, “will bring them in consonance with international definitions”

Nirmala Sitharaman

The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, was recently passed by the Rajya Sabha to provide an efficient working capital cycle for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and in turn provide a boost to the economy of the country. The amendment bill aims at expanding credit facilities for small businesses and access to funds from thousands of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). The basic purpose of this bill is to make available the factoring service of well over 5000 NBFCs to the starved MSME sector where currently a lot of businesses are suffering due to lack of funds.

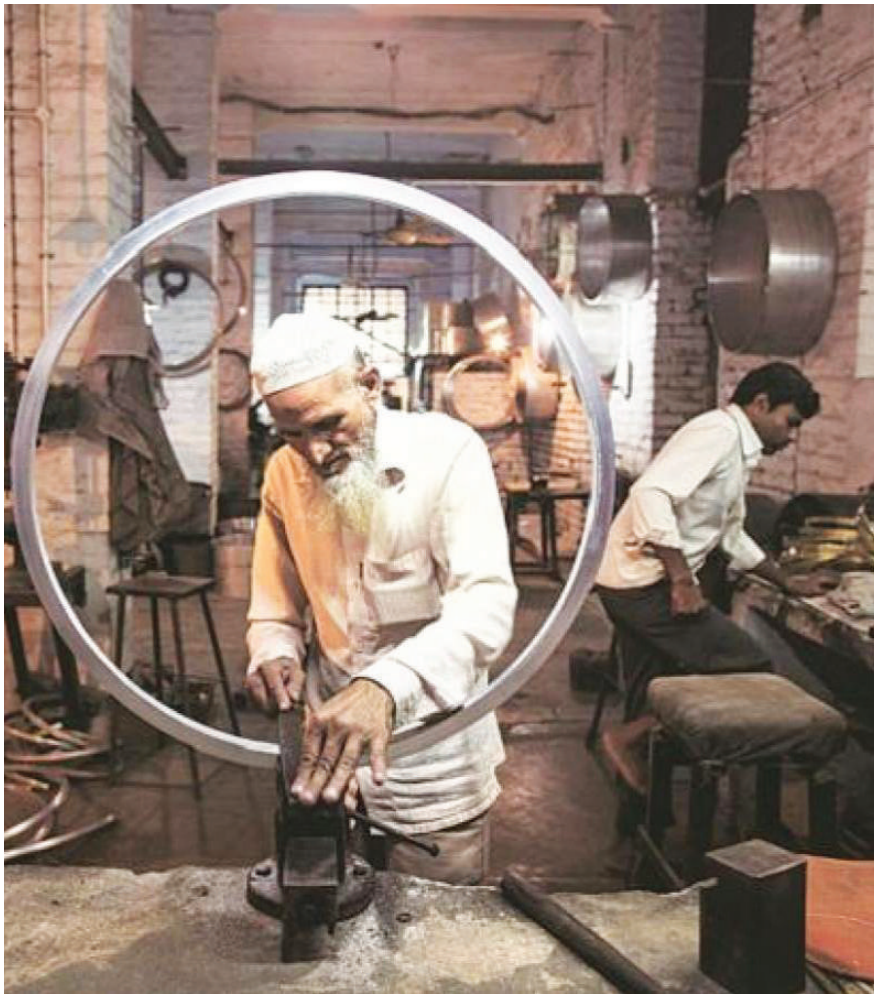
The change is marked to bring about a key legislation to make it easier for small businesses to monetize their receivables. The bill was tabled in September last year and was recently passed on 29th July, 2021. The amendment bill makes it easier for NBFCs to participate in the factoring business. It also removes the tedious requirement of an entity in this business to report factoring information within 30 days.

The 2011 Factoring Regulation Act allowed the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to authorise NBFCs to remain in Factoring business only if that's their main focus of the business and over 50% of their assets have been deployed and 50% of their revenue is earned from the factoring business. This bill aims at removing this threshold which will open new avenues in this business to more non-bank lenders at the current times of financial stress during the pandemic.

What is Factoring and why is it important?

Factoring is a transaction where the accounts receivables of an entity, known as the factor, is paid by another entity, known as the assignor. A factor can be a bank or an NBFC or any institution registered under the Companies Act. Factoring helps businesses to monetize its receivables quickly and tackle cash-flow problems conveniently and in time. This bill enables NBFCs and other companies to enter the factoring businesses and help small businesses survive during these difficult times. The move will help bring down the overall cost to acquire funds and empower small businesses to generate cashflows even at difficult times. The provision of liquidity to support MSMEs have been a key element of the government's plans and policies to cushion the impact of the pandemic. Empowering the MSMEs is important because they are a major source of employment generation in the rural and urban areas.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, “Amending the Factoring Regulation



Act, and changing the definition of “assignment”, “factoring business” and “receivables”, “will bring them in consonance with international definitions”, she further added, “The Bill seeks to provide a strong oversight mechanism for the factoring ecosystem, and will empower the Reserve Bank of India to make regulations with respect to factoring business”.

Currently due to the number of issues, the factoring credit constitutes only 2.6 percent of total formal SME credit finance in India. The estimate points out that only 10% of the receivable market is presently covered under the bill discounting system while the rest is covered under conventional cash credit overdraft arrangements with financial institutions. The delay in getting payments against their bills, the MSMEs struggle with working capital and it hampers with the efficient activity and functioning of the MSMEs and this bill aims to remedy just that.

Factoring and its growth in China

We already discussed factoring, but China adopted Factoring in a big way a decade ago and they are far ahead of the world as far as the number of MSMEs are concerned. They have adopted debtor financing where the company sells accounts receivables at a

discount to clear current debts and seek capital for smooth functioning of the business. Banking and e-commerce sector has found this to be a sustainable business model across various industries.

Large companies, especially e-commerce, set up in-house financing or Factoring company as a subsidiary to fund and support thousands of small and medium enterprise clients, with huge amounts of receivables in the ledger. This dual layered model of factoring is called double factoring. Banks finance the subsidiaries which are a separate entity from the company being funded within the umbrella.

Double factoring helps suppliers meet their immediate credit and cash flow needs and increases the asset liquidity of the in-house factoring entities. The costs of funding reduces significantly from that of a bank and proves beneficial in the long run.

Conclusion

Factoring is an important step towards stabilizing the economy in current times. NBFCS can come to the aid of the cash-starved MSMEs and help them with their financing needs.

In the current environment where access to finance is critical to jumpstarting economic growth, the Factoring Regulation Bill may play a key role in bridging the gap and helping Indian businesses push forward into 2022.

In the past, in other countries, what we’ve seen is that a more liberalized approach to factoring takes the pressure off lending institutions - this means more access to capital for the businesses that need it. In the long term, the implications here are clear. The Factoring Regulation Bill isn’t just going to help businesses come out of the pandemic induced crisis situation. As we move into the next decade, the enhanced access to capital will help Indian businesses drive consistent economic growth.

**Co-founder, Cashinvoice*




Electricity safety: Need of time

*D Radhakrishna

The country is going through unprecedented medical turmoil and there are many lessons learnt by us. One of the lessons which require immediate attention is Electrical Safety as in past 8 months we have seen around 25 major fire accidents in hospitals all across the country and one of the main reasons attributed to such accident is short circuit and or over loading. It is really sad that Patients along with their caring relatives and medical staff died because of fire which could have been controlled or avoided

The Central Electricity Authority is empowered by Electricity Act 2003 to specify Safety requirement. In fact, the electricity business can be divided into two parts one is production of electricity at a Power Plant and then the delivery of Electricity to the doorsteps of the User and another is of User. The country has around 4lakh Mw and power is transmitted through a large network second in the world and then handed over to around 110 distribution companies and deemed distribution companies to deliver it to users. As per practice, the responsibility of distribution companies is to deliver till its meter and thereafter its usage is the responsibility of user.

The entire safety requirements are done by Electrical Inspectors who state government officials and in most of the states are not part of Energy



One of the major cause which prima facie reason which has been attributed to this cause is that the wiring and loads have not been computed properly and Electrical Safety aspects were missing.

department.

The safety of electrical is very complexed as Power Plants Transmission matrix is very complicated. In fact, as per technical standards, the higher the voltage is lesser the law and the country is heading towards the highest voltage of worls is 1200 KV and the lowest voltage where residents are given power is 220 KV. Thus uploading of Power Voltage from 6.6Kv at which is produced to upgrade upto 1200 Kv and then at destination down load upto 220 Kv require lot many transformations and everywhere safety element is paramount importance.

One more complicity with the electricity is the large amount of thefts and pilferage and that jeopardises the lives and safety of human and animals. It is estimated that every year we are losing accounted 10000 persons on this count and it may increase substantially as now Government is focusing to increase per Capita Consumption from existing 1200 kwh to 3000 Kwh by increasing industrial transportation and living standards.

One of the major cause which prima facie reason which has been attributed to this cause is that the wiring and loads have not been computed properly and Electrical Safety aspects were missing. The same is true with other Electricity Accidents in the country which is rising. It is estimated that the country has lost around 10000 persons due to Electrocutions and Electricity related burns.

As per Electricity Act in vogue, the electricity which is produced in power plants travels to the transmission network at stepping up voltages to reduce the losses and then step down at loads location for delivery to consumers who are categorized in Industries, Domestics, Public Works and Commercial etc. Further , as per estimates that the country has got 35 crores, consumers, using around 2lakh Mw of Electricity travelling upto 1200 Kv voltage before stepping down as below as 220 Voltage before it reaches to users which have got all categories. The last house is also said to be electrified that means the country has proudly given Electricity to All and thus safety regulations are now of utmost importance.

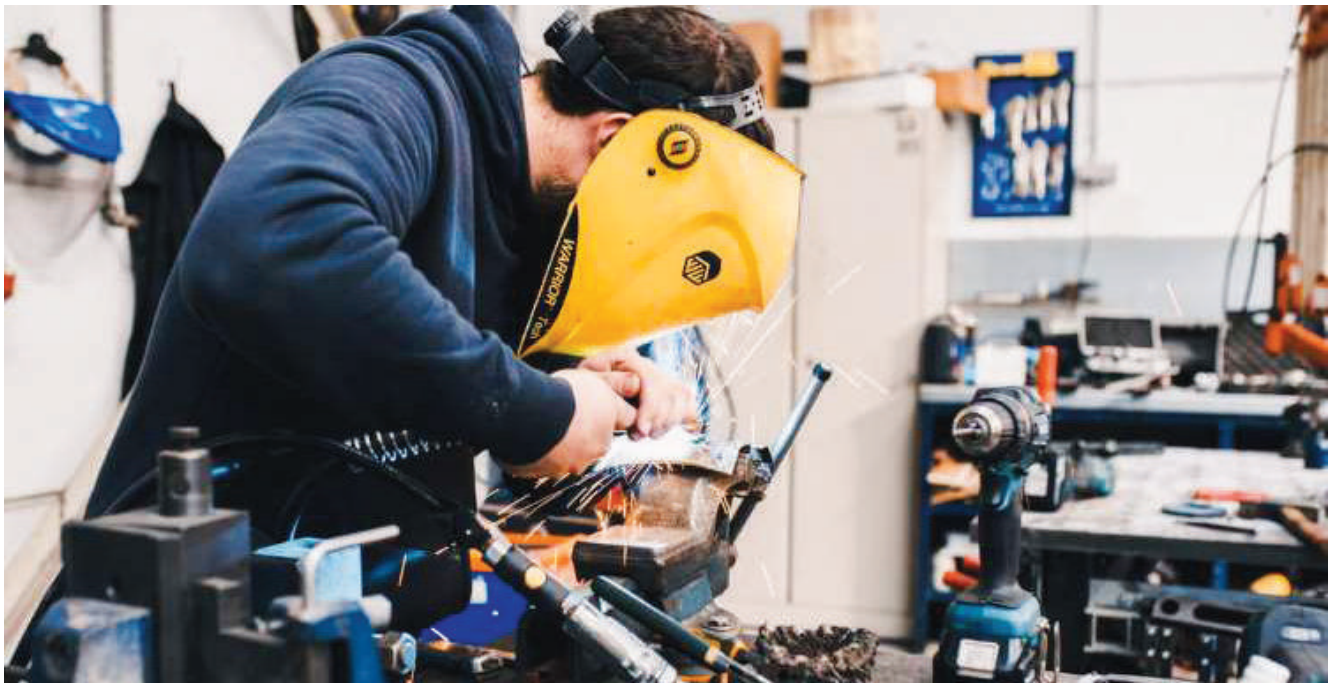
As per Electricity law the Electricity is the Concurrent list of the Constitution and with now Private players also playing an entire sector is Regulated by State Regulators and for Inter State and Central by Central Regulators. The Central Electricity Authority has functions inter alia to specify technical and safety standards. The entire Electricity Safety aspect is taken care by Electrical Inspectors who is the body of State Government and most of the states independent to Energy department who enforces safety standards and enforcement. But in most of the states, there is a dearth of staff and as the volume of electricity is getting increased day by day it is necessary that the Electricity Inspectorate work be given to outsourcing verified credible Inspectorate and shall help in job creation

Technically speaking Electricity until it reaches the precincts of the user is maintained by Distribution Companies which are around 110 both Private and Public and total consumers are around 35 Crores. Once the power is reached till meter than the use of such electricity is the concern of the user and need to comply with National Electricity Code and other prescribed standards of Central Electricity Authority

Thus it is time that the Consumers of Electricity need to be well informed, educated for Safe Electricity. At Tripura, Consumer Education Forum has stated regarding Safe Electricity. The government is planning to give Electricity nit by choice but as an object and they should be properly trained for Electricity Safety.

**Chairma, Tripura Electricity
Regulatory Commission*

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/voices/electricity-safety-need-of-time/>



Ecosystem for MSMEs requires complete overhaul

Ease of Doing Business for MSMEs:

**B.Yerram Raj*

The pandemic has transited risks of the MSME sector to the uncertainty zone. Targeting their growth is now an imperative and no longer an option. What is required is an overhaul of the ecosystem to enable MSMEs to grow.

Definition change that was sought to be a gamechanger didn't have a lasting impact on the sector other than the reclassification by banks from one sector to the other. Also, lack of risk appetite for this sector despite lowest NPAs in micro and small manufacturing sector from the financial sector is too well known.

Reforms in six areas are key to increase productivity and competitiveness; more than half of which could be implemented rapidly via policy or law.

(i) Sector-specific policies to improve productivity in manufacturing, real estate, agriculture, healthcare, and retail;

(ii) Unlocking supply in land markets to reduce land costs by 20 to 25 per cent;

(iii) Creating flexible labour markets for industry, with better benefits and safety nets for workers;

(iv) Enabling efficient power distribution to reduce commercial and industrial tariffs by 20 to 25 percent;

(v) Enabling the largest state-owned enterprises to potentially double their productivity. Government can provide PSU's more autonomy and emphasize on them creating long-term plans, linking their supply chains to the skilling and re-skilling of the downstream enterprises; and

(vi) Improving the ease and reducing the cost of doing business.

MSME Sector is viewed as an employment driver in manufacturing while the

facts show that the small business promoters too have started looking at optimizing manpower costs through improved technology access. Their main problem continues to be access to credit for this transformation. It should have been very clear for the Finance Minister that her counseling the public sector banks' chairpersons would not be adequate to deliver results. Today, barely 23 percent of the MSMEs have access to institutional credit. Can the RBI and state governments target that at least 50 percent of the MSMEs have access to formal credit in a couple of years? This is a challenge that needs to be addressed without delay.

Nature and diversity, size, and spread of the MSME sector require different institutional mechanisms. We claim superior technology prowess but do not have world class technology for credit access which is cognizant of MSMEs' sectoral and temporal diversity.

While the artisans – rural and urban, handicrafts and handlooms have niche areas in spread and even have developed a brand-effect to sell online and on online marketplaces, the core manufacturing sector is highly dependent on the development of specific equity markets instead of debt markets at one end and linkages with the large manufacturing industry at the other end.

Overall, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Telangana, and Haryana outshine other states in the growth of MSMEs. Many manufacturing clusters are located here. The reasons for other states lagging behind needs an inquiry.

Credit Access

Small Finance Banks, NBFCs, regional rural banks are the best bets for financing the sector with cash-flow financing and easy guarantee facilitation from the government as the ten PSBs and SBI may take care of funding the large corporate sector.

Even SIDBI failed miserably in working towards its stated objectives in the

statute with absolute impunity and several funds wait at its gate. The government should restructure this institution as a gateway for the sector and a role model in extending refinance and guarantees to the primary lenders just on call. CIBIL scores should be consigned to cupboards for at least next two years if the sector has to be given an objective credit assessment.

All lending institutions working for the MSME sector need to move to cash-flow based lending from the balance sheet approach. For example, if balance sheets were still to guide the credit risk, then due to slow growth of the economy in 2018-19 followed by the severe supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic, no MSME can be lent any further by the next fiscal. If the banks look at the order book and cash flows, lending becomes easier, and the sector has every chance for revival.

In that sense, the state of Telangana has some commendable initiatives for institutional development with T-Hubs, We-Hub, TSIPASS, TPRIDE, TASK, and Telangana Industrial Health Clinic (TIHCL) where the main objective is revival and restructuring of manufacturing micro and small enterprises. Take the case of TIHCL which is a NBFC but it has a consulting arm where focus is on revival of stressed enterprises, by identifying the problems and offering rehabilitation solutions to the promoter.

Other issues

Data on registration of the enterprises and exit of the enterprises in the manufacturing sector should be possible with data synchronization between the lending institutions and the governments through better validated MIS at both the levels.

District Industries Centers (DICs) as delivery instruments need organisational development and HR interventions without delay. While the ball is in the courts of the states, resources are with the center. They should have a welcome environment



for investors in the sector and all incubation and skill development centers should be synchronized with the DICs.

Land continues to be another major hurdle for the growth of the sector as its price has touched the roof and is not accessible to the small sector. It is desirable to go back to the 1960s approach when lands were given out on lease with leasehold rights allowed for mortgage with lenders at no registration cost.

This sector requires credit with extension and strategy oversight. Covid -19 shocks in both first and second wave pushed many micro enterprises towards closure – but no statistical count is available because exit of enterprises was never recorded. There is a need to look at the MSME ecosystem in its entirety rather than introducing several half-baked schemes that end up benefiting none.

**Founder Director,
TIHCL, Government of Telangana*

Incentives for Electrification of Road Transport –push from Government of India and Telangana

**Ajay Misra, IAS*

India is on the cusp of revolutionizing its mobility system through electrification, which presents an opportunity to strengthen its role and move upstream in the global automotive value chain. India's efforts in implementing several policies, signal the country's vision for a shared, clean and connected mobility system. Participation of multiple stakeholders will help capture the benefits of these interventions and its intended effect on the electric mobility ecosystem.

Incentives from Government of India

Government of India had started its drive to spur Electric Vehicles (EV) growth in the country since 2015, with implementation of the phase I of the extensive national program of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) and its extension through phase II since 2019. In the first phase of the scheme, major thrust was given to creating demand through incentives / subsidies (62%) across all vehicles segments, with a total budget outlay of 795 crores. In the second phase too thrust is being given to creating demand through demand incentives (89%.8596cr) for about 16 lakh EVs across different segments. However, the beneficiaries for the demand incentives are limited to all vehicles segments for only fleet services and 2W for private individuals. There has been increased outlay for charging infrastructure with 1000 crores (10% of the

total outlay). Given the nascent status of the EV market in the country, demand incentives support the early market development of electric vehicles. According to NITI Aayog estimates, vehicles eligible under FAME II scheme can cumulatively save 5.4 million tones of oil equivalent over their lifetime worth Rs 17.2 thousand crore and 7.4mn tons of net CO₂ emission over their lifetime. A range of guidelines and notifications have been released by the central Government to support the EV adoption. It includes guidelines and notifications on EV charging standards, delicensing of EV charging services capping of EV tariff for charging infrastructure, model Development Control Regulations (DCR) and building codes for EV charging, and green license plates for EVs further support the ecosystem.

Government of India has also backed with extensive programs for transport electrification through the interventions on the supply side. With the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage rolled out, the phased manufacturing programmes detailed out 2024 under the mission will enable localization of production across the entire EV value chain, especially for a few large-scale, export-competitive integrated batteries and cell-manufacturing Giga plants. It will enable India to leverage upon its size and scale to develop a competitive domestic manufacturing ecosystem for electric mobility. It will bring



in significant benefits to the MSME sectors and the entire economy as a whole. Apart from this, the production linked incentives scheme, which is the National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage (NPACC) has an outlay of INR 18,100 crore, which has been earmarked by the government for achieving manufacturing capacity of fifty (50) Giga Watt Hour (GWh) of ACC and 5 GWh promote exports, achieve economies of scale and produce cutting edge high globally competitive products.

Incentives from Government of Telangana

Government of Telangana has started its drive towards the faster adoption of Electric Vehicles through the implementation of Telangana Electric Vehicles (EV) and Energy Storage Policy 2020-2030. The policy builds upon the FAME II scheme being administered by Govt of India, with the intention to steer the overall ecosystem in the right direction. It includes various policy incentives and measures, both at the demand and supply side with specific objectives and implementation strategies, to ensure the smooth transitioning to electric.

Demand Side Measures:

- ▶ Incentives are made available for 2-wheeler (2 lakh), 3- wheeler (20,000), private 4-wheeler (5000), commercial 4- wheeler (5000), Light Commercial Vehicles (10,000) & Public Transport (500) segments, purchased and registered within Telangana. The incentives include 100% wavier on road tax & registration charges.
- ▶ There is a separate retro-fitment incentives at 15% of the retro-fitment cost capped at Rs 15,000 per vehicle for first 5,000 retrofit 3-seater auto rickshaws in Telangana.
- ▶ The policy entails to the promotion of EVs at Institutional Level starting with Government entities.
- ▶ Policy also ensures preferential parking slots with required charging infrastructure be made available for Electric Vehicles.
- ▶ The State strongly believes that creating a conducive ecosystem for a diverse and well-distributed EV

charging network can accelerate the EV transition. In this regards, Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation (TSREDCO), the State Nodal Agency (SNA) for the implementation of charging infrastructure in the State, is enabling the increased penetration of the charging station to meet the growing EV demand.

Supply-side Measures-

- ▶ Policy apportions incentives for manufacturing of Electric Vehicles, Energy Storage System & related components in Telangana. Incentives shall includes Capital Subsidies (20% of investment capped at 30 Cr for Mega Enterprises), SGST reimbursements, power tariff subsidies, etc. EV & ESS sectors shall be incentivizes as per the subsidies and incentives available under the State Electronics Policy 2016. Government shall extend tailor -made benefits to Mega and Strategic Projects on case-to-case basis.
- ▶ Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) and Industrial Parks will be identified for promotion of EV& Energy Storage manufacturing Companies.
- ▶ Manufacturing and assembly of EV related batteries and cells shall be encouraged in the State through Electronics Manufacturing Policy and Incentives.
- ▶ The Government shall promote reuse of EV batteries in stationary energy storage applications. The government shall enable collaboration between cell/battery manufacturers, EV manufacturers, energy storage operators & recyclers to ensure efficient reuse & recycling of batteries.
- ▶ Urban Mining of rare material and cell/ battery recycling shall be incentivized on par with EV & ancillary manufacturing

Through the State EV policy support, it is estimated that 1.2 lakhs + jobs will be created within the EV ecosystem and will leverage a private sector investment of INR 290 billion

**Retd Spl Chief Secretary,
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Resolving Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 ('the Code') has, with the proactive approach of the legislature, the judiciary, the regulator and the market participants, been successful in infusing much needed credit discipline and has significantly changed the way businesses are run in India.

While the Code has evolved with six amendments thereto from time to time since its enactment in May 2016, there is no denying that the sheen of this legislation is waning away with delays in insolvency resolution and resultantly, diminution in value of the underlying asset.

The observations and recommendations as contained in the Thirty-Second Report of Standing Committee on Finance (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the Implementation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code ('the Report') is an outcome of deliberations between the legislator and key stakeholders of the insolvency regime to identify the issues and recommend measures to improve the performance of the Code. This article is an attempt to analyze some of the recommendations of the Report.

** Mr. Y. Srinivas Arun*

1) Quantum of hair-cuts taken by the financial creditors

The core objective of the Code as reiterated from time to time, is timely resolution and maximization of value of a Corporate Debtor either by insolvency process or in the event of failure thereof, by liquidation. The recovery for the financial creditors, admittedly, is an incidental event.

The quantum of 'hair cut' which is a determinant of various factors – specific to the corporate debtor and the markets, in general, should not, inter alia, be the

yard stick to determine effectiveness of the Code and call for the legislators to recommend changes therein on this ground itself.

Nevertheless, it would be interesting to see how the "global standards" are moderated and adopted to suit Indian business models and norms for credit availability to ensure that the recommended benchmark for the quantum of "hair-cut" (comparable with global standards) is achieved.

2) Regulating the Resolution Professionals

The Insolvency Professional is by large the most regulated – by the statutorily recognized other pillars of the Code viz. Insolvency Professional Agencies; Adjudicating Authorities and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India on one hand and informally by the ‘creditor(s) in control’ on the other.

IBBI as a regulator has oversight over the Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies, Insolvency Professional Entities and Information Utilities. One cannot agree more to the fact that IBBI has done a commendable job as a pillar to the insolvency ecosystem having regard to the steps taken by it to equip the professionals by knowledge management as also to regulate the Insolvency Professionals (given the number of inspection and consequent disciplinary proceedings).

The recommendation to have yet another professional body to regulate only IPs at this juncture, lacks adequate reasoning and is bound to create ripples in the existing set up which is otherwise poised to achieve consolidation. The need of the hour is to fine tune the existing processes and conduct of market forces to strengthen its efficacy by timely resolution of stressed assets.

Excessive regulation of any one class of stakeholder is bound to result in indecisiveness in most of the cases, if not all.

3. Professional code of conduct for the Committee of Creditors (COC)

The Committee of Creditors comprises of a diverse group and the individual decision making thereat is a determinant of varying terms of their exposure to the Corporate Debtor – nature of exposure; underlying security; constitution of such creditor etc. to name a few and above all, the ability to absorb losses on account of low recovery. Any attempt to balance the interests of a varied group of creditors by a misfit straight jacket approach might further complicate the decision-making exercise which is already marred with delays in most



Code has evolved with six amendments thereto from time to time since its enactment in May 2016, there is no denying that the sheen of this legislation is waning away with delays in insolvency resolution and resultantly, diminution in value of the underlying asset.

of the cases.

The contours of the proposed code of conduct should at best, restrict itself to mandating timely decision making by the CoC, since any mandate beyond this may unintendedly creep into the market driven/ determined decision making of the Committee of Creditors which has thus far enjoyed the supremacy under the Code, duly reinforced by judicial precedents.

4. Performance Review of NCLT System

The committee recommended the following while analyzing the performance of NCLT:

- a. NCLT should accept defaulters within 30 days and transfer control to a resolution process within this time period.
- b. No post hoc bids are allowed during the resolution process.
- c. The recruitment process for NCLT Members to be suitably planned in advance.
- d. NCLT judicial members should be at least Hon'ble High Court judges so that the country can benefit from their judicial and procedural experience and wisdom.
- e. Specialized benches for sectors such as MSMEs with requisite domain expertise.

The above are all welcome steps and expected to address the concerns regarding adherence to the timelines stipulated under the Code.

5. More Flexible Resolution Plans

The Committee recommended sale of various divisions/ assets/ undertaking of the Corporate Debtor to various bidders for maximization of value under the insolvency process. This might

not be a possibility in all the cases and wherever feasible, sale of various divisions/ assets to multiple bidders might result in there being nothing within the Corporate Debtor capable of being revived, thus frustrating the core objective of resolution.

With the bidders' interest restricted to the respective asset/ division/ undertaking acquired by it, who would take the onus of revival/ implementation of such a resolution plan. It is therefore better to leave this option of sale of assets to various bidders under liquidation process (which is already in place), where the objective (in view of absence of a viable resolution) is limited to realization, distribution and dissolution of the corporate debtor.

6. Strengthening Homebuyer Rights

The Committee observed that the homebuyers are facing practical difficulties in gathering the required number of homebuyers to initiate insolvency proceedings against the real estate owner and therefore,

recommended that once a single homebuyer decides to initiate insolvency proceedings in NCLT, the real estate owner should be obligated in the Rules/ Guidelines to provide details of other homebuyers of the project to the concerned homebuyer so that the required 10% or 100 homebuyers can be mobilised.

The moot question is how the amended rules/ guidelines of the Code would be applicable to the real estate owner prior to the commencement of insolvency process thereof. The alternate could be to cast such an obligation on the real estate owner under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 by mandating the real estate owner to share information about other homebuyers of the said project to a homebuyer at the time of allotment and a further obligation to periodically update such information (till the completion of the project).

The above recommendations have still a long way to go before and if so, they find a place in the Code and only time would determine the extent to

which the intended objectives are achieved.

Lastly, the curious case of the following less fortunate issues which could have been subject of assessment and recommendations:

- ▶ Approved resolution plans – status of implementation and key challenges therein;
- ▶ Separate status of operational creditors generally and MSME's specifically within the waterfall mechanism under section 53 which needs a revisit given the miniscule (at times nil) payouts to this class of stakeholders; and
- ▶ The unique case of sector regulator/ authority (the likes of TRAI/ NHAI) – balancing their interests as against those of the secured financial creditors to ensure revival is not derailed.

** Partner, Link Legal*

(The views expressed herein are his personal views)

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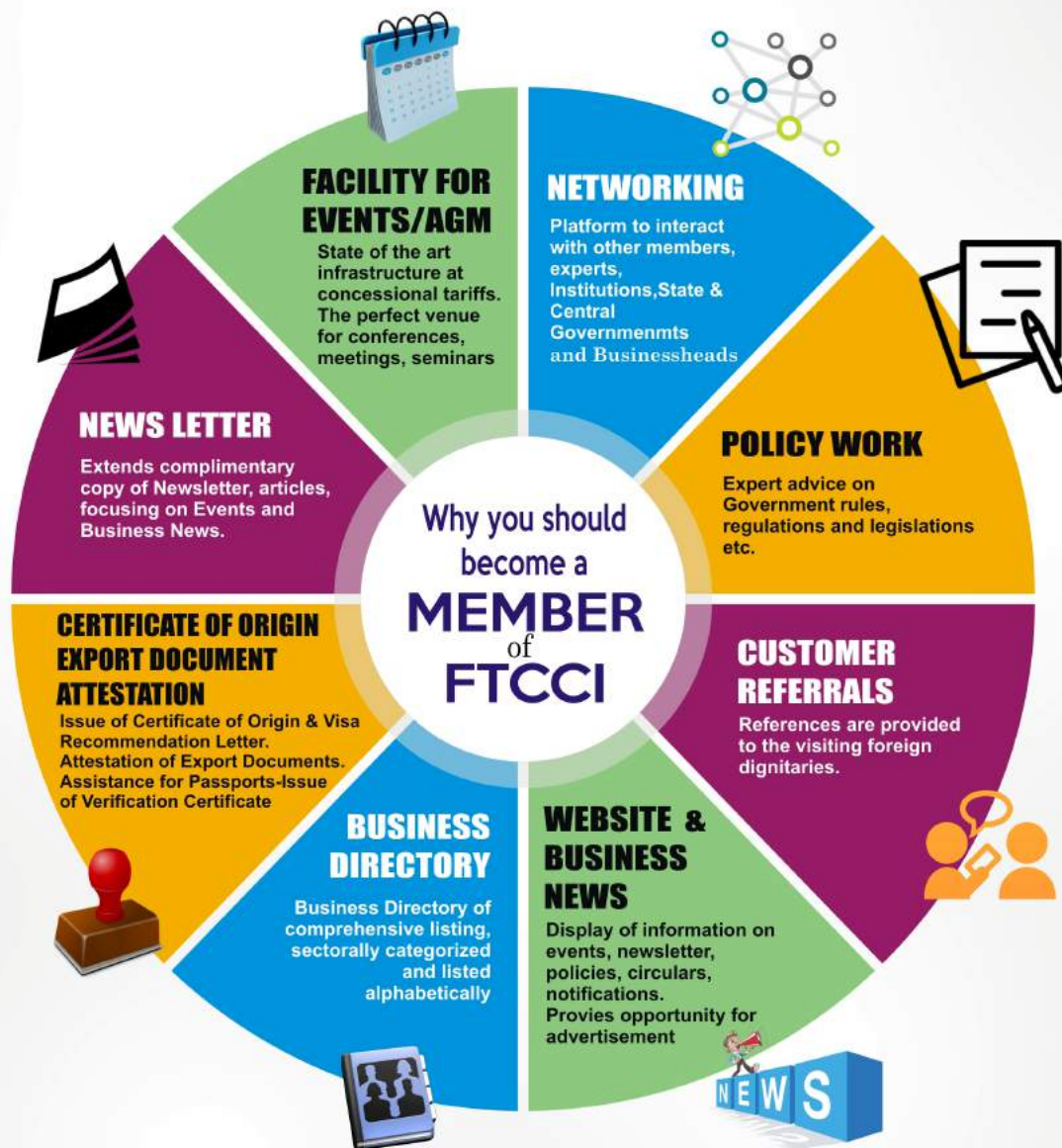
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