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India: Enlightened and United – The Road Ahead
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Sustainable Development Profile for West Bengal

*Nation is bigger than political party,
organizations or individuals*

I am indeed delighted to address the members of the Bharat Chamber of Commerce, here in the historic city of Kolkata. I am very happy to know that this Chamber, established in the year 1900, is one of the leading Chambers of Commerce in the nation and covers small, medium and large industries. My greetings to all of you. When I am in the midst of entrepreneurs, industrialists and business leaders, I would like to share a few thoughts on the topic ***Sustainable Development Profile for West Bengal***.

We got freedom in 1947 which was the result of first vision for the nation. This vision created best of leaders in many fields like politics, philosophy, judiciary, science & technology and industry. In many aspects of life, improvement in literacy, agricultural products, strategic areas, certain small and large-scale industries took place. Now more than 60 years have gone by and we are called as one of the hundreds of developing countries, in a distinct way a separation from G-

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8 countries. We have many challenges. Nearly 340 million people who are below the poverty line have to join the mainstream of a good life. 100% literacy, health for all, multiple industrial and agricultural productivity and life style with value system has to emerge. Nation needs strategic linkages between industries and academia for generation of a large number of professionals to meet the economic growth and prosperity. Hence we need the second vision for the nation to become developed.

Current Ambience in India

Indian economy was growing at an average of 9% per annum till the 2008. In 2009-10 year, Indian economy has got affected due to global economic turbulence, but nevertheless it grew at over 7% in the year of global recession. Even this year, with two economic zones of US and Eurozone still looking bleak, India still grew at 5.3% in the last quarter. I was asking myself, what type of innovation is needed to enrich the Indian economy and put the growth to around 10% per annum figure needed to achieve a developed India profile by 2020. I had discussions, on this subject, with many experts including those from IIMs. It came to light that the Indian economy has five core strengths. They are:

- (i) The liberalization process in India has its checks and balances consistent with the unique social requirements of the country.

- (ii) The Indian banking system has always been conservative which has prevented the crisis
- (iii) The Indian psyche is generally savings oriented and living within means is part of the mind set.
- (iv) The 400 million strong middle class structure is indeed, with its purchasing power, is providing the stability in the economic structure of the nation. It is a unique economic environment of India.
- (v) 600,000 villages need innovative and a new way of thinking for bringing economic prosperity, social equity and sustainable growth.

Fillip to Rural Economic Growth: This is the time innovation is needed and encouraged in our thinking to rejuvenate the agricultural sector particularly through value addition and the small and medium scale industries and enterprises for making higher levels of contribution to the GDP, particularly in the Agriculture, Rural development and imaginative products. I foresee possibilities of creating new markets through rural potential and employment, giving rise to interesting possibilities of Public-Private-citizen partnerships and international partnerships.

In the recent years, India's performance in IT sector, Pharma, small scale industries and the infrastructure has brought a new dimension to the Indian economy. With its credible legal framework in place, robust banking system,

dynamic financial system, its skilled manpower and dynamic 600 million youth force India has become an attractive proposition for the world order. Still we have to work with high intensity to compete in the competitive world and re-energize ourselves to a more dynamic economic engine.

At the domestic level, India is focusing on bringing sustainable development through rural and urban infrastructure, quality education, healthcare, environmental up-gradation, bringing vibrancy in the public institutions for better and enhanced delivery of essential public services on time, reforming the financial system for better global integration and a proactive regulatory system. It is critical to the success of India becoming a Global player. 65 years of democratic vibrancy in providing leadership to the nation gives confidence to manage the socio-economic turbulences and providing the leadership to the one and a quarter billion people in a democratic, multicultural, multi-linguistic and multi-religious environment. This experience will help us in overcoming any difficult time.

With this ambience, let me give my visualization of India during the year 2020:

Distinctive profile of the nation

1. A Nation where the rural and urban divide has reduced to a thin line.

2. A Nation where there is an equitable distribution and adequate access to energy and quality water.
3. A Nation where agriculture, industry and service sector work together in symphony.
4. A Nation where education with value system is not denied to any meritorious candidates because of societal or economic discrimination.
5. A Nation which is the best destination for the most talented scholars, scientists, and investors.
6. A Nation where the best of health care is available to all.
7. A Nation where the governance is responsive, transparent and corruption free.
8. A Nation where poverty has been totally eradicated, illiteracy removed and crimes against women and children are absent and none in the society feels alienated.
9. A Nation that is prosperous, healthy, secure, devoid of terrorism, peaceful and happy and continues with a sustainable growth path.
10. A Nation that is one of the best places to live in and is proud of its leadership.

Integrated Action for developed India

To achieve the distinctive profile of India, we have the mission of transforming India into a developed nation. We have identified five areas where India has a core competence

for integrated action: (1) Agriculture and food processing (2) Education and Healthcare (3) Information and Communication Technology (4) Infrastructure: Reliable and Quality Electric power, Surface transport and Infrastructure for all parts of the country and (5) Self reliance in critical technologies. These five are correlated and progressed in an integrated way leading to overall national progress and development.

Out of box ideas needed to meet the distinctive profile

Friends, what will be required for achieving the distinctive profile of the nation are out-of-box ideas and innovations. We must also remember that challenges faced by the nation are diverse, and yet they are common across different nations and would require cooperation across borders. Technological complexities and cost factors in solving issues like water, energy independence, environment protection, health, will require intense cooperation in research, development and operationalization. We need to work together to understand and protect against the fury of nature like earthquakes, cyclones, flood and famine. The recent economic turbulence has taught us the need for resilient economy. The youth of the nation are ready to contribute to development, and we need to enable them with global cadre skill sets and higher education skills. We have to combine our vigilance

against terrorism of any kind. Of course we have to fight against common enemies of illiteracy, poverty, corruption, drug menace and other diversions for development. Art, music and sports are indeed integrating factors for the unification of human minds.

West Bengal is 4th largest state in terms of population and 6th largest economy in the country. It represents a wealth of cultural and political history and is the birth place of modern Indian industry. How can the member of Bharat Chamber of Commerce make the state of West Bengal a cultural and economic hub for the nation?

West Bengal Development Goals

Developed states will make developed India. To achieve developed India, West Bengal has to be developed. For making West Bengal a developed state, the following five criteria have been identified.

- a. Per-capita income to tripled from the current Rs. 33,000 (2004-05 price level) to over Rs. 120,000 by 2020
- b. Literacy rate to be 100% from the current 77%
- c. IMR rate has to be less than 10 from the current figure of about 35 per 1000
- d. WB to be malaria, leprosy and TB free state
- e. Minimize the unemployment rate, which is 15.4% in Urban Youth and 10.3% in rural youth, through

value added employment generation especially in the Northern and Sunderban areas

Development Missions for West Bengal Prosperity

For realizing this mission mode programmes are essential taking into account the core competence of the West Bengal.

The possible missions are:

- a. PURA missions (600 PURA – Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) – Providing Physical connectivity, electronic connectivity and knowledge connectivity leading to economic connectivity to the cluster of villages. Special Delta PURA need to be created to enable the socio-economic development of Deltaic regions in the state
- b. Education mission - School drop out to be reduced to zero. Reaching out the quality education through tele-education and computerized primary education. We have also to work on generation of skilled manpower who can undertake tasks in international market. Ideally, West Bengal should aspire to become an educational hub for the nation and nearby countries for which they should concentrate on developing employable skills and expertise through university and school education system
- c. Healthcare mission – reinforcing healthcare through tele-medicine and mobile medical vans and boats to

all the PHCs from the corporate and district hospitals.

- d. Agro – food processing mission: This would include improved production, processing and marketing of core products like rice, fish and jute
- e. De-silting of rivers and water bodies and Linking them for creating smart waterways within West Bengal.
- f. Transforming IT into Knowledge products (Value addition) and Setting up of BPO and KPO industries. Kolkata is fast emerging as one of the leading cities in the field of IT Industry and this model needs to be extended across the state including tier 2 and tier 3 cities and towns. West Bengal should target to contribute over \$30 Billion in IT exports by 2020
- g. West Bengal is historically known for small and medium industries. We need to embark on a major mission for rejuvenation of these industries by modernization through technology, financing, marketing and product value enhancement support.
- h. Creating all weather roads covering the rural villages and cities. Infrastructure up-gradation to reduce the urban congestion is the need of the hour.

- i. Evolution of enlightened citizens. (which includes education with value system, bridging religions through spirituality and empowering the state to transform into an economically developed state)

Friends, now I would like to discuss on the role of Bharat Chamber of Commerce in translating the above missions into reality.

Missions for Bharat Chamber of Commerce

Friends, as discussed, I suggest the following missions for the Bharat Chamber of Commerce:

- 1 Bharat Chamber of Commerce may like to evolve a road map for necessary infrastructure which is needed for making West Bengal as a preferred destination for industry both India and abroad. This would include analyzing the power scenario of the state from a futuristic perspective. At the same, with ample of sunshine and presence of multiple smaller islands along the Sunderbans, West Bengal also has a demand and opportunity for solar based power plants.
- 2 We need to generate a focus on business for livelihood. The Bharat Chamber of Commerce may like to use PURA as a tool to propose integrated development and empowerment of the villages of West Bengal. Each of the associated industry or corporate may like to be the champion of PURA mission in their respective district.

- 3 Bharat Chamber of Commerce may like to evolve strategies for the partnership between academia and industry and how this can lead to a mutual win-win situation. This may lead to the evolution plans for PURA implementation in the state with focus of value adding enterprise creation.
- 4 Bharat Chamber of Commerce should focus on identifying the core-competencies of the state and linking them with employment opportunities and economic activities. This can include forest products, tourism, agro-processing, marine industry and special craft and skills.
- 5 I was recently going through an article in the Economist, which talked about the growing strength of Indian workforce. The article says that, in the next ten years, out of every ten new worker around the world, three would be Indians. This workforce will be spread across different sectors of the economy and involved in a variety of services. The Bharat Chamber of Commerce should study the profile of skill in the youth of the state and identifying the gap from a futuristic perspective. The Chamber should further suggest time-bound skill development plan for the youth. There is a potential for both national and international needs.

I have discussed many of these missions with various business and industry fora of West Bengal. I am giving these missions to the members of Bharat Chamber of Commerce so that they can interface with other industry organizations and the government for generating a roadmap and executing it.

In achieving these missions, we have to ensure that the entrepreneurial community has to work with integrity and succeed with integrity. Is it possible?

Profit with integrity

Profit with integrity leads to sustained growth. How is it possible? We need to have national ethics for sustained growth and peace. Where from it starts?

- * Nation has to have ethics in all its tasks, for sustained economic prosperity and peace.
- * If nation is to have ethics; society has to promote ethics and value system.
- * If society is to have ethics and value system, families should adhere to ethics and value system;
- * If families have to get evolved with ethics and value system, parenthood should have inbuilt ethics.
- * Parental ethics come from great learning, value based education and creation of clean environment that leads to righteousness in the heart.

Let us all resolve: we will carry this message to our home, family, business, state and the nation.

Conclusion

In order to implement these missions and to be a partner to the developmental missions, it is imperative to provide a leadership. All of you are responsible for leading the 91 million people of the state in various aspects such as providing basic amenities, infrastructure development, utilizing the biodiversity and natural resources and value add resulting in competitive quality products which can be marketed in the international market.

As industry leaders present here at the Bharat Chamber of Commerce all of you have to consider yourself has partners in the of mission of development of the state of West Bengal, particularly in the establishment of 600 PURA complexes.

Friends, in any such system of human Endeavour performance excellence occurs, when there is a vision supported by hard earned competence and creative leadership.

Now let us see what is creative leadership?

I have seen three dreams which have taken shape as vision, mission and realization. Space programme of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization), AGNI programme of DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization) and PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) becoming the national mission. Of course, these three programmes succeeded in the midst of many challenges and problems. I have worked in all these three areas. I want to convey to you

what I have learnt on leadership from these three programmes:

- a. Leader must have a vision.
- b. Leader must have passion to realize the vision.
- c. Leader must be able to travel into an unexplored path.
- d. Leader must know how to manage a success and failure.
- e. Leader must have courage to take decisions.
- f. Leader should have nobility in management.
- g. Leader should be transparent in every action.
- h. Leader must work with integrity and succeed with integrity.

For success in all your missions you have to become creative leaders. Creative leadership means exercising the vision to change the traditional role from the commander to the coach, manager to mentor, from director to delegator and from one who demands respect to one who facilitates self-respect. For the prosperous and developed West Bengal, the important thrust will be the availability of number of creative leaders.

I wish you all success in your missions.

May God bless you.