

# Report

## 116th Annual Session of PHDCCI on 30th September 2021 at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi



# 116<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION

Thursday, 30th September 2021

PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

## Resilient India

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PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) organized the 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of PHDCCI on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi.

## PROGRAMME

9.30 AM – 10.00 AM	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; TEA</b> Venue: Hotel Taj Palace, Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi
10.00 AM – 10.01 AM	National Anthem & Lighting of Lamp
<b>INAUGURAL SESSION (HYBRID MODE)</b>	
Event Emcee : Ms Anisha Nayyar Dhavan ( Former , Anchor, NDTV)	
10.01 AM – 10.05 AM	Opening of the session by Ms Anisha Nayyar Dhavan (Former , Anchor, NDTV) – Introduction of PHDCCI, AGM theme of Resilient India
10.05 AM – 10.10 AM	Felicitation of Guest of Honour by President with a plant and memento
10.10 AM – 10.30 AM	Presidential Address by Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHDCCI
10.30 AM – 10.50 AM	<u>116<sup>th</sup> Annual Session Address by</u> General Manoj Mukund Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC, Chief of Army Staff
10.50 AM – 11.00 AM	Q&A with Chief of Army Staff (if time permits)
11.00 AM – 11.05 AM	Welcome & Felicitation of the Chief Guest by President with Plant and Memento followed by a few welcome remarks
11.05 AM – 11.30 AM	<u>Address by Chief Guest:</u> Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways
11.30 AM – 11.35 AM	Release of 116 <sup>th</sup> Year Book by dignitaries on the dais. Also inviting Dr S P Sharma, Chief Economist   DSG on the Stage.
11.35 AM – 11.50 AM	<u>Chief Guest's Interaction with the Delegates</u>
11.50 AM – 11.55 AM	Vote of Thanks by Shri Pradeep Multani Senior Vice President, PHDCCI
11.55 AM – 12.00 PM	Concluding the session by Ms Anisha Nayyar Dhavan (Former , Anchor, NDTV) and handover to moderator for the next session by Ms. Ruchi Bhaitya, Moderator, ET Now



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## CHIEF MINISTERS' ROUNDTABLE WITH CEOs ON

**“Is India 1 Nation or 30 States in Sustainability, Agriculture, Food Processing, Manufacturing and Exports?”**

**(VIRTUAL MODE)**

<b>12.00 Noon – 12.05 PM</b>	<b>Introduction of the session by Ms. Ruchi Bhaitya, Moderator, ET Now</b> <b><u>Welcome Address by</u></b>
<b>12.05 PM – 12.15 PM</b>	<b>Shri Sanjay Aggarwal</b> President , PHDCCI
<b>12.15 PM – 1.45 PM</b>	<b><u>Panel Discussion with Hon'ble Chief Ministers</u></b>  <b>Presentations by the confirmed dignitaries</b>  <b>Shri Pushkar Singh Dhani</b> Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand  <b>Shri Basavaraj Bommai</b> Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka  <b>Shri Jai Ram Thakur</b> Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh  <b>Yogi Adityanath*</b> Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh  <b>Shri Pema Khandu*</b> Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh  <b>Shri Gautam Bali</b> Managing Director, Vestige Marketing Pvt. Ltd.  <b>Shri Sanjiv Puri</b> CMD, ITC Ltd  <b>Shri. Alok Kirloskar</b> Managing Director, SPP Pumps Ltd, UK & Head – International Business, Kirloskar Brothers Limited,  <b>Shri Manish Bhatnagar</b> Managing Director, SKF India Limited  <b>Digital presentation of mementos to the dignitaries</b>
<b>1.45 PM – 1.55 PM</b>	<b>Vote of Thanks by</b>
<b>1.55 PM – 2.00 PM</b>	<b>Shri Pradeep Multani</b>



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	Senior Vice President, PHDCCI
<b>2.00 PM – 2.45 PM</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
<b>FIRE SIDE CHAT - “Empowering Women in Building Resilient India”  (VIRTUAL MODE)</b>	
<b>2.45 PM – 2.50 PM</b>	<b>Theme Address by Ms Anuradha Goel, Chairperson, PHDFWF</b>
<b>2.50 PM – 2.55 PM</b>	<b>Welcome Address by Shri Sanjay Aggarwal President , PHDCCI</b>
<b>2.55 PM – 3.15 PM</b>	<b>Address by Smt. Smriti Irani Union Minister of Women and Child Development</b>
<b>3.15 PM – 3.22 PM</b>	Q&A
<b>3.22 PM – 3.25 PM</b>	<b>Digital presentation of mementos to the dignitaries</b>
<b>3.25 PM – 3.30 PM</b>	<b>Vote of Thanks by Shri Pradeep Multani Senior Vice President, PHDCCI</b>
<b>SESSION ON “International Connectivity as a Force Multiplier for Resilient India”  (VIRTUAL MODE)</b>	
<b>3.30 PM – 3.32 PM</b>	<b>Introduction of the session by Ms. Anisha Nayyar Dhawan, Former Anchor, NDTV</b>
<b>3.32 PM – 3.37 PM</b>	<b>Welcome Address by Shri Sanjay Aggarwal President, PHDCCI</b>
<b>3.37 PM – 3.53 PM</b>	<b>Address by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia Union Minister for Civil Aviation</b>
<b>3.53 PM – 3.57 PM</b>	<b>Q&amp;A &amp; Digital presentation of memento to the Hon’ble Minister</b>
<b>3.57 PM – 4.00 PM</b>	<b>Vote of Thanks by Shri Saket Dalmia Vice President, PHDCCI</b>



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**SESSION ON**  
**“India’s Resilience: Converting Recession to Rebound”**

**(VIRTUAL MODE)**

4.00 PM – 4.03 PM	<b><u>Felicitation of Guests by Senior Vice President Shri Pradeep Multani</u></b>
4.03 PM – 4.05 PM	<b><u>Introduction of the session by Ms Ruchi Bhatia, Anchor , ET Now</u></b>
4.05 PM – 4.10 PM	<b><u>Welcome Address by</u></b> <b>Shri Pradeep Multani</b> Sr. Vice President, PHDCCI
4.10 PM – 4.15 PM	<b><u>Panel Discussion</u></b>
4.15 PM – 4.20 PM	<b>Shri Sanjeev Sanyal</b> Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance
4.20 PM – 4.25 PM	<b>Dr. D Subbarao</b> Renowned Economist and Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India
4.25 PM – 4.30 PM	<b>Dr. Ajay Chhibber</b> Renowned Economist and Distinguished Visiting Scholar The Elliott School of International Affairs The George Washington University, US
4.30 PM – 4.40 PM	<b>Shri Atantra Das Gupta</b> Director, South West Asia and Head, Samsung HME
4.40 PM – 4.42 PM	<b>Panel Discussion moderation by Ms Ruchi Bhatia, Anchor , ET Now</b>
4.42 PM – 4.45 Pm	<b>Vote of Thanks by</b> <b>Shri Saket Dalmia</b> Vice President, PHDCCI

**VALEDICTORY SESSION ON**  
**“Building a Resilient India – Edging out the Turbulent Times”**

**(VIRTUAL MODE)**

4.45 PM – 4.47 PM	<b>Introduction of the session by Ms. Ruchi Bhatia, Anchor, ET Now</b>
4.47 PM – 4.55 PM	<b><u>Welcome Address by</u></b> <b>Shri Sanjay Aggarwal</b>



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<b>4.55 PM – 5.23 PM</b>	<p>President, PHDCCI</p> <p><b>Address by the confirmed dignitary</b> <b>Shri Hemant Soren</b> Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand</p> <p><b>Shri Bhupesh Baghel</b> Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh</p> <p><b>International Perspective - Germany</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Peter Rimmele</b> Resident Representative to India Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)</p> <p><b>Digital presentation of mementos to the dignitaries</b></p>
<b>5.23 PM – 5.25 PM</b>	<p><b>Vote of Thanks by</b> <b>Shri Pradeep Multani</b> Senior Vice President, PHDCCI</p>
<b>5.25 PM – 5.30 PM</b>	
<b>5.30 PM – 5.35 PM</b>	<p><b>MC to invite SG for concluding remarks of the Annual Session and giving farewell to outgoing President and welcome incoming President and giving thanks to all delegates and some important announcements about MC meeting.</b></p>
<b>5.35 PM – 5.45 PM</b>	<p><b>TEA BREAK</b></p>
<b>5.45 PM – 6.15 PM</b>	<p>Business Session (For Members Only)</p>
<b>6.15 PM- 6.45 PM</b>	<p>Meeting of the Newly Elected Managing Committee (For MC Members only)</p>

## Background

The year 2020 has been an unprecedented year for India with the outbreak of COVID-19 wreaking havoc on not just human lives but even the Indian economy. However, in the face of this adversity, the Indian government has shown immense strength and robustness. Discussing the heroic initiatives undertaken and the sturdiness of the economy witnessed during this watershed event, the 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry was organized to throw light on measures taken to restore the Indian economy to pre-pandemic levels by the Union Government in tandem with the Defence Forces.



**Shri Sanjay Aggarwal**, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in his welcome address at the inaugural session of the Annual general meeting Session provided the pathway to make India more resilient. He appreciated the efforts of our government to promote MSMEs under the 'Make in India' and AatmaNirbhar Bharat campaigns and other similar policy support initiatives. The bold economic reforms under 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' have created a strong base for expanding manufacturing activities and building a thrust for industrial revolution 4.0 in order to make India a more robust economy. He also spoke about the need to minimize reliance on external sources and instead boost the development of MSMEs. He further elaborated upon the 25 mega sectoral reforms suggested to the government by PHDCCI to become the size of the USD 5 trillion by FY 2026-27 and restore the Indian economy.

He appreciated the reform-oriented approach of the government to make India a manufacturing hub and boosting economic growth and easing financial stress caused by COVID-19 disruptions. He highlighted the key contribution of PHDCCI to bridge the gap between government and industry, particularly for the Defence sector. Further, he emphasised on both the aspects of life and wellbeing that are inherent in the trade-offs between dynamic factors for India's development and uncertainty posed by the pandemic.



**Shri Nitin Gadkari**, Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, during his address highlighted how India can cut down on its import bill on the purchase of petrol and diesel which is as high as Rs. 12 lakh crore now. He spoke about the requirement to switch to indigenous fuels whilst expressing his concern over air and water pollution being serious issues in Delhi. He discussed how the government is working on steps to bring down the pollution levels in Delhi. He further mentioned that the new infrastructure is being developed in the form of new highways including Delhi-Meerut highway, Delhi-Mumbai green corridor, peripheral road for carriage goods that will strengthen the



industries by reducing the logistic costs and reduce the congestion and pollution prevailing over the city.

He stated that the government is seriously looking at ways to tap the potential of the waterways in the country and explained that as compared to the road and railways, the cost of logistics on waterways comes to just around 10 percent of the cost. This would mean huge savings giving the Indian companies competitive edge for exports. This would provide more connectivity to the South-East Asian region. He enunciated that new highways will reduce the travel time from Kashmir to other parts of the country and also highlighted the schemes for developing logistic parks, container depot nearby Delhi for food, cement, and cold storage among others.

His address also laid emphasis on how green fuel is the future of the world. He has proposed to introduce flex engines as mandatory in India to reduce cost and pollution. India has the capacity to produce ethanol, methanol and other green energy sources as India has excess capacity for the same. He suggested that the crop pattern should be changed as this will increase the income of our farmers and also increase the industrial participation for developing new avenues of employment. With a view to reduce the cost of logistics and power, Indian industries must be encouraged to use Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), bio fuel and green hydrogen. Adopting this approach shall also help in achieving the vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat. India is producing around 85% of Lithium batteries and working aggressively for promoting electric vehicles in the country. He concluded by saying that the government is working to make the automobile industry a Rs 15-lakh crore worth segment that will offer additional employment to around 1 crore people in India.



**General Manoj Mukund Naravane**, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC, Chief of Army Staff, in his inaugural address appreciated the efforts of the PHD Chamber for the promotion of industry, trade and socio-economic developments in the challenging time of COVID-19 pandemic as well as for promoting indigenized manufacturing in Defence sector. Indian economy is showing positive signs of growth with more resilient infrastructure in healthcare. He highlighted the exemplary contribution of the Indian Army to tackle the two waves of

the Covid-19 in India and to facilitate medical assistance, building health infrastructure and providing essential services throughout the country to the different sections of population and families. He shared how Indian manufacturing sector, MSMEs and start-ups are coming up to manufacture the defence equipment and tools. He embarked upon the Indian Army's significant contribution during the pandemic like Operation Samudra Setu, Floating Bridge, and Operation Namaste to combat the spread of COVID-19.

The inaugural session was concluded with the release of the 116<sup>th</sup> Yearbook and the annual report by PHDCCI followed by a vote of thanks by Shri Pradeep Multani, Senior Vice President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



## Chief Ministers' Roundtable with CEOs on "Is India 1 Nation or 30 states in Sustainability, Agriculture, Food Processing, Manufacturing and Exports?"



**Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHD Chamber**, in his welcome address for the Roundtable highlighted that the States of Indian economy have a prominent role to play in India's economic and socio growth story. The economic growth of a country must follow decentralized planning and it should be in-scripted at the development of grass root level, he said. He highlighted that each State is progressing on various fronts be it skilling, socio-economic, financial, entrepreneurship or innovation. Further proactive policy reforms and flexible norms could drive the States on a higher growth trajectory, going ahead.



**Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand**, stated that the road connectivity is all set to improve with Delhi – Dehradun connectivity cutting short to just two hours in the near future. He also explained that their Government is also in talks with the Union Railway Ministry to improve railway transportation in the State. While welcoming the industry representatives in the State, the Hon'ble Minister promised to hold deliberations with them at least once a month. The Government of Uttarakhand has been continuously working to facilitate the industries and businesses in the States through effective policies, infrastructure connectivity, among others, he said. Hon'ble Minister appreciated and congratulated the Chamber for playing an important role in taking industry and trade ahead.



**Shri Gautam Bali, Managing Director, Vestige Marketing Pvt. Ltd.**, said that in today's global economic scenario, any topical development leads to ramifications on other aspects of the system as well. He highlighted the role of Indo-Pacific and the opportunity for India to become the supply chain hub of this region. India is poised to become a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2026 and a US\$ 10 trillion economy by 2032-33. He opined that combined and cooperative efforts of the Central and State are crucial to enhance economic growth and further suggested that the focus should be on developing central feedback mechanism, boosting exports, adopting global best practices, investing in technology, among others.



**Shri Sanjiv Puri, CMD, ITC Ltd.**, said that India is a diverse country in terms of natural endowments, location, access, size and culture. This multifaceted diversification creates unique opportunities for each State. He emphasized on the importance of the agriculture value chains as

immense population depends on this sector. In this regard, he suggested to focus on climate smart agriculture and promote food processing at a larger scale, among others.



**Shri. Alok Kirloskar, Director, Kirloskar Brothers Limited & MD, SPP Pumps Ltd.**, stated that the significant amount of progress has been witnessed in various areas including logistics, infrastructure and power. He opined that there is a need to focus on the climate change aspect, attracting middle sized companies, enhancing plug-n-play infrastructure, facilitating intellectual property (IP) registrations, among others.



**Shri Manish Bhatnagar, Managing Director, SKF India Limited**, said that to achieve a US\$ 5 trillion economy size, there is a requirement of development in the entire country and not just a few States. He mentioned that focus is required on capitalizing the growth momentum in manufacturing sector, enhancing healthcare industry, and identifying sectors of promising growth, going ahead.



**Shri Pradeep Multani, Senior Vice President, PHD Chamber**, extended his gratitude to esteemed guests, delegates, PHD Chamber Managing Committee Members, media, partners and sponsors. He concluded the session by highlighting that the success in each State reaps a multiplier effect towards the national development in a holistic way. He emphasized on the need of sharing the best practices and capacity development among the States to amplify ease of doing business and accelerate the overall economic momentum.

## Virtual session & Fire Side Chat - 'Empowering Women in Building Resilient India'



**Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHDCCI**, in his address for the Session stated that women empowerment is essential for realising the power of demographic dividend of the country and making it a catalyst for enhancing economic resilience. He said that with the emerging digitalization, education, modernization, globalization and urbanization, women are seeking gainful participation in several fields.

He further added that India's story on women empowerment is not complete without focusing on grassroots initiatives adopted by the Government. Ministry of Women and Child Development has undertaken several major policies and programmes for promoting social and economic empowerment of women such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, One Stop Centre, Ujjawala, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna, and many more.



**Ms. Smriti Irani, Hon'ble Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India**, while addressing the participants highlighted that India ranks 148th in a list of 193 countries based on the percentage of elected women representatives in the national parliament, however, women at grassroots levels are fighting their own political battles and coming out with flying colours.

She stated that the issue of women's emancipation need not be addressed by women alone and that men, too, need to contribute to it. She added that the country would witness holistic growth and behavioural changes when men stand with women. She further informed that the government seeks industry support to ensure that the Legislative Acts passed with regards to women are, at least, followed by the members of the industry. It needs to be practised in letter, where for equal work there should be equal pay, she said. She also added that women in India need to be given the joy of equal participation based on their competence. She said that some two to three years ago the highest amount of female fortitude was seen in the progressive and empowered South Mumbai area, but that has all changed now.

Commending the government's schemes like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, she outlined the results of this programme and the immense community participation related to it. Today, no doctor is allowed to identify the sex of a child, she added.

Quoting a 2012 World Bank report, she said that it stated India lost 6% of its GDP due to sanitation, because toilet was never a part of political conversation. The honourable Union Minister informed that initiatives like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan ensured that 10 crore families



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had access to their own toilet, and all this was possible due to the efforts made by a male **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi**. She also revealed that on the issue of menstrual hygiene, for the first time it was ensured that there was an administrative protocol for disposal of menstrual products. Also, for the first time through the Swamitva Yojana, the government used drone technology to ascertain digital land records. Through PMG Disha, 2 crore women were made digitally literate, she added.



**Ms Anuradha Goel, Chairperson, PHD Family Welfare Foundation (PHDFWF)**, spoke on the meaningful work done by the foundation over the period of last 35 years. She informed that the foundation has been running skill development programs in North India where skill sets such as computer repair, electrician, tailoring are taught to the people in a holistic manner.

She added that regular yoga classes in the resettlement areas are being organised. More than 30000 women have been trained and have become an integral earning power of their family. Ms Goel also informed that in the last 2 years the Family Welfare Foundation has been taking care of 3000 abandoned orphan children, many of whom were orphaned due to COVID pandemic. She added that the foundation also operated six mobile medical vans during the pandemic. 12 oxygen plants were also donated to needy hospital across the NCR and the donations for these plants were by managing by the contribution of the committee members itself. Also, she highlighted the unique initiative undertaken for 60 identified women, who have lost their sole earning member during the pandemic time.

## Virtual session- “International Connectivity as a Force Multiplier for Resilient India”



**Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, President of the PHD Chamber**, welcomed the Hon’ble Union Civil Aviation Minister and handed a digital Statue of Unity to the guest. He fondly remembered the dynamic and sterling leadership of Madhavrao Scindia in leading several departments of the Government of India and his proven transformational reality and the ability of a paradigm shift.



**Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon’ble Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Government of India**, stated the pandemic has taught us to share and collaborate and this would be the new mantra not only between individuals but going forward also between nations. The topic of connectivity assumes more relevance today as it promotes global interactions. Though the aviation sector suffered during the pandemic, it provided a lifesaving service with air cargo lifting, medical aid, food

packs etc across the globe.

Shri Scindia stated that even during the pandemic, when the global economy plummeted, the air cargo sector boomed as it carried life-saving medicines and vaccination to different countries.

He informed that though aviation forms only 3-3.5 per cent of the GDP as only 10 percent of the Indian population travel by air. In the next few years 20-40 million middle class may take to flying and air travel would overtake railway AC travel in a big way. He also commended the contribution made by the Chamber to the growth of the country at various levels and in various fields. He said that the topic of connectivity assumes more relevance today as it promotes global interactions. The aviation infrastructure development is no more a luxury but crucial for collaboration, exchange and share which is the guiding mantra for the development of this sector.

Shri Scindia said that the two Cs-connectivity and commerce are vital for economic growth. Geopolitical boundaries have not restrained India, he added as we believe in “Vasudeva Kutumbakam”. Saath, Vikaas, Vishwas and prayas with a prefix of ‘sabka’ as coined by the Hon’ble Prime Minister is central to the growth of international relationship and diplomacy. It opens the floodgates of economic progress, business network as well as social network. The latter, he said, was necessary for exchange of knowledge, improvement of access to the markets, etc.

The Hon’ble Minister explained how a neglected airstrip of Darbhanga has transformed into a busy airport today with a huge footfall. He also stated that Belgavi which is an educational hub



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has become an important centre for students and cargo movement. Similarly, long haul flights have to come on our agenda as an aviation hub. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has stressed on an infrastructural strategy in this field. There were only 76 airports built in 70 years but in the last seven years alone 60 more have been added.

He further stated that the dream in our pipeline is not just developing big metros but also smaller towns to be brought on the aviation map. He urged the State Governments to work together with the Central Government in the development of aviation sector. He praised the Uttarakhand State and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar for lowering the VAT on aviation. By this move, there would be boost in the volume of air travel. He also stated that there is a vast potential for increasing the growth of employment with the development of aviation.



**Shri Saket Dalmia, Vice President, PHDCCI**, proposed a vote of thanks saying that national and international air travel was here to stay. With the Minister introducing drone delivery regulations and ambitious projection for futuristic growth, it would be a hall mark of connectivity globally.



## Virtual session on the topic 'India's Resilience: Converting Recession to Rebound'



**Shri Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of India**, in his address during the session highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic has been a time of learning on multiple fronts and presented us with an opportunity to revisit our economic model for improvisation. Sharing his views on the current state of the economy, Shri Sanyal went on to explain how during the peak of COVID-19, the Indian government emphasised on mobilising available resources. The business sector received various incentive packages to keep it stable through the lockdown. The Hon'ble Finance Minister also announced a series of mid-size packages. Despite being adversely affected by the outbreak of the pandemic, significant parts of the economy continued doing reasonably well, he explained.



**Dr. D Subbarao, renowned Economist and Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India**, stated that despite the second wave being a lot more devastating, the economy was able to escape any serious consequences. He further mentioned that though the economy is showing signs of recovery, yet there is a wide gap that is building up between the rich and poor as a direct result of the pandemic. This rising inequality need to be rectified by adequate measures. Therefore, he said, that in the short term, we need to focus on exports and government spending while for long term we need all four factors for GDP — consumption, investment, government spending and exports to come together. To attain a higher growth and sustainability in the long term, he suggested expanding the government spending to create more jobs and increase the consumption.



**Dr. Ajay Chhibber, renowned Economist and Distinguished Visiting Scholar to the Elliott School of International Affairs and the George Washington University, USA**, said the economy is witnessing a K-shaped recovery. He said that we have come back a full circle to where we were two years prior. We must consider where we were before the pandemic - we weren't doing that well back then either. He emphasized that we need to prioritize on reducing the cost of doing business in the country. He explained that we have higher electricity prices for the producers, higher freight rates, higher turnaround times in ports. He embarked upon reviving consumer demand back on track for a growing economy.



**Mr. Atantra Das Gupta, Director, South West Asia and Head, Samsung HME**, spoke about the impact of Covid-19 on the healthcare sector. He stated that the maternal and infant mortality rates have reduced. Life expectancy has gone up from 58 to 69 years. He raised the issue of limited



budget in health care as India's spending on health sector is quite low. There is huge gap in infrastructure health care system so there is need for strong technological intervention in the building resilient infrastructure for inclusive growth, he said. India has the potential to supply largest volume and velocity of data which can benefit countries around the world. Data can fuel the economy and so inclusiveness is needed on that front too.



**Shri Bhupesh Baghel, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh**, while addressing the gathering highlighted that the Indian economy has witnessed various changes amid COVID scenario. Though economy is improving now and coming back on-track, focus should be on taking the problems faced into consideration and finding appropriate solutions to them, he said.

Hon'ble Minister said that despite the significant impact of COVID on economy, agriculture sector remained resilient. While talking about the performance of economy of Chhattisgarh amid COVID scenario, Hon'ble Minister mentioned that the State Government has worked towards strengthening its rural economy much before the emergence of COVID.



**Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative to India, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)**, said that he is honoured to be among the esteemed guests at the august gathering of PHD Chamber's 116th Annual Session and discuss the building of a resilient India, constituting a critical topic for all of us.

While highlighting the need of supply chain diversification at the global level, he said that India holds a great future in this aspect. He also discussed about the Indo-German relations for cooperation in potential sector for robust growth.



**Shri Hemant Soren, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand**, said that the State of Jharkhand has been in the forefront in the area of industry from the decades with presence of large and renowned companies. Through the platform of PHD Chamber's 116th Annual Session, Hon'ble Minister invited large companies to come and set-up businesses in the State.



The Session ended with a vote of thanks by **Shri Saket Dalmia, Vice President, PHDCCI**.

## Key Take Aways:

- The economic growth of a country has to follow decentralized planning and it should be in-scripted at the development of grass root level.
- India will see huge development in the field of road connectivity.
- Efforts of government to promote MSMEs under the 'Make in India' and AatmaNirbhar Bharat campaigns and other similar policy support initiatives were highlighted.
- 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' has created a strong base for expanding manufacturing activities and building a thrust for industrial revolution 4.0.
- India can cut down on its import bill on the purchase petrol and diesel which is as high as Rs 12 lakh crore.
- The logistics cost through the waterways is just 10 percent of the cost compared to the road and railways.
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) bio-fuel, and green hydrogen are the future of Indian industries for reducing the cost of logistics and power as well as provide more strength to AatmaNirbhar Bharat.
- Crop pattern should be changed as this will increase the income of our farmers and also increase the industrial participation for developing new avenues of employment.
- India is producing around 85% of Lithium batteries and working aggressively for promoting electric vehicles in the country.
- India is moving in the right direction when it comes to indigenized manufacturing in Defence sector as MSMEs and start-ups are coming up to manufacture the defence equipment and tools.
- India is poised to become a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2026 and a US\$ 10 trillion economy by 2032-33.
- Focusing on climate smart agriculture, promoting food processing at a larger scale.
- The need to focus on the climate change aspect, attracting middle sized companies, enhancing plug-n-play infrastructure, and facilitating intellectual property (IP) registrations.
- Focus is required on capitalizing the growth momentum in manufacturing sector, enhancing healthcare industry, and identifying sectors of promising growth.
- Need of sharing the best practices and capacity development among the States to amplify ease of doing business and accelerate the overall economic momentum.
- The Government has undertaken several major policies and programmes for promoting social and economic empowerment of women such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao,

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, One Stop Centre, Ujjawala, Sukanya Samridhi Yojna, and many more.

- For the first time through the Swamitva Yojana, the government used drone technology to ascertain digital land records.
- Through PMG Disha, 2 crore women were made digitally literate.
- The air cargo sector boomed as it carried life-saving medicines and vaccination to different countries during the pandemic.
- Despite being adversely affected by the outbreak of the pandemic, significant sectors of the economy such as Healthcare, E-retail, Financial and Banking and Information Technology, continued doing reasonably well.
- There is a huge gap in the infrastructure health care system. So, there is need for strong technological intervention in the building resilient infrastructure for inclusive growth.



PHD CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



## Glimpses



### 116<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION



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# 116<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION



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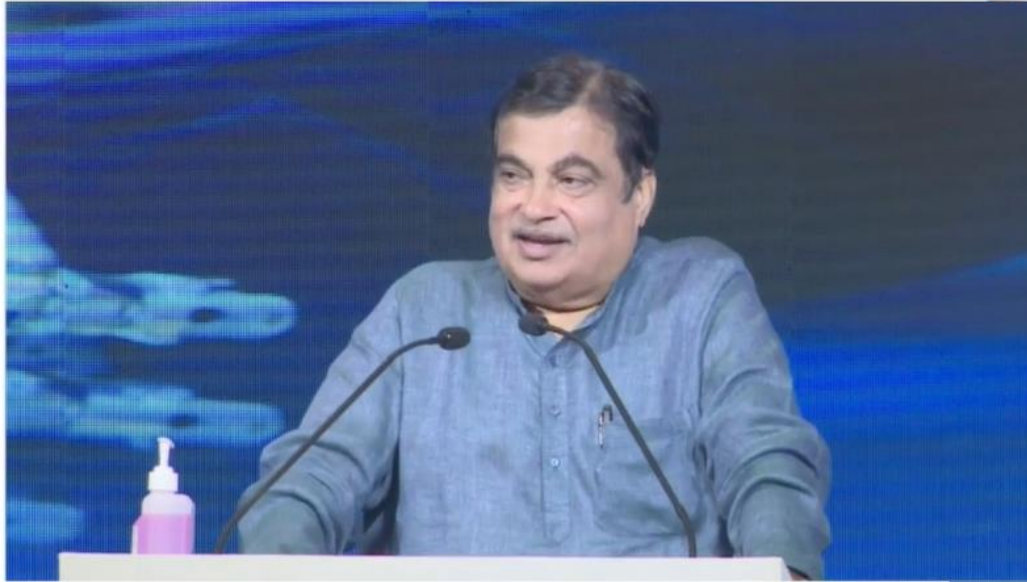
# 116<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION





CO-PARTNER  ASSOCIATE PARTNER  INDUSTRY PARTNERS   



# 116<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION



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INDUSTRY PARTNERS



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ASSOCIATE PARTNER



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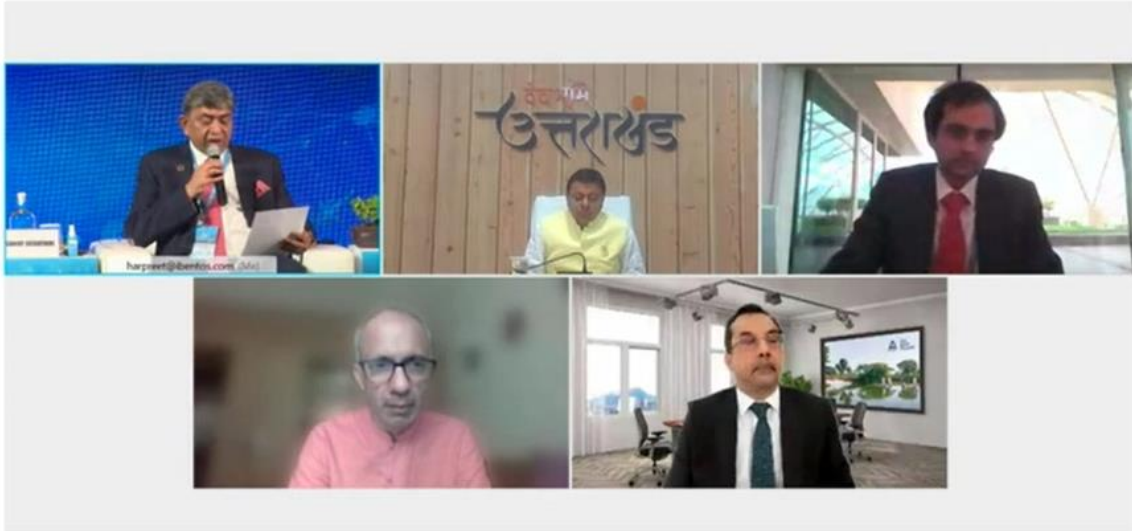




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PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



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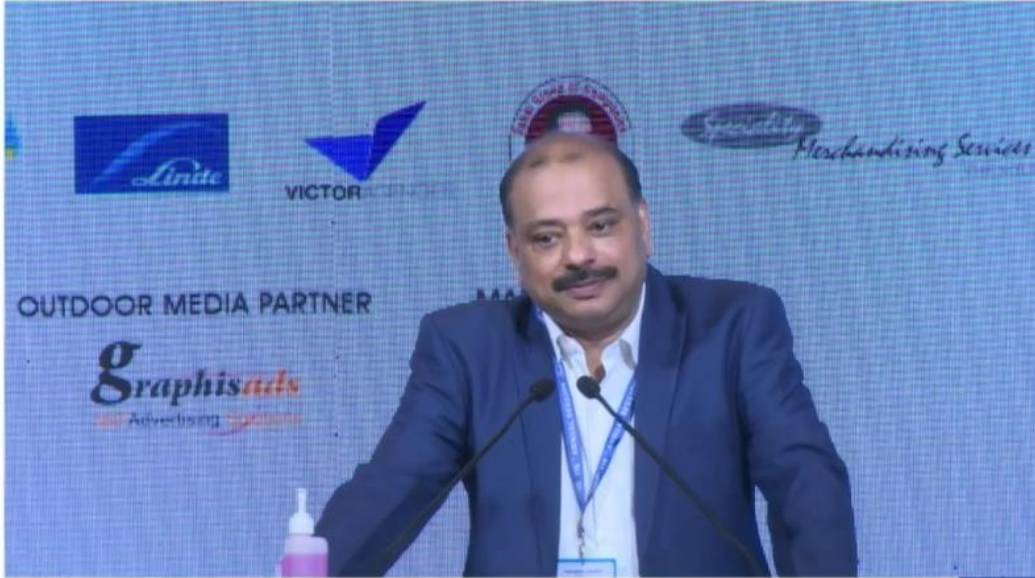




PHD CHAMBER  
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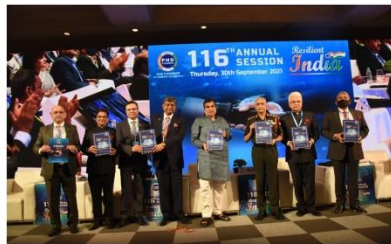




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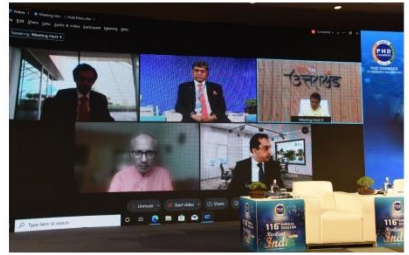


# 116<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION





PHD CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY





## Media Coverage

# LAC incidents to go on till boundary dispute is resolved: Army Chief

NEW DELHI

INDIAN Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane said on Thursday that developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh add to the ongoing legacy challenges on India's "active and disputed borders" on the Western and Eastern Front.

Speaking at the 116th annual session of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), General Naravane said as far as Northern neighbour is concerned India has an outstanding border issue.



Responding to continued Chinese aggression at the border, he said: "We are well prepared to meet any misadventure that may occur as we have demonstrated in the past. Such kinds of incidents will continue to occur till such

time a long term solution is reached, that is to have a boundary agreement... That should be the thrust of our efforts so that we have lasting peace along our northern borders." He also said that the unprecedented developments at the Northern Borders necessitated large scale resource mobilisation, orchestration of forces and immediate response, and all this in a Covid infested environment.

Concurrently, there was also a need to reinforce the efforts of the government in mitigating the ongoing health crisis.

Publication: The Hans India, Page: 01, Date: 1-10-2021

# Army keeping tabs on Af situation: Gen Naravane



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Incidents at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) will continue to take place till India and China arrive at an agreement regarding the boundary, Army Chief General M M Naravane said here on Thursday. He also said the Army is keeping tabs on the situation in Afghanistan and likely threat perceptions to India.

Naravane's observations about the LAC came in the backdrop of stand-offs still on at three points at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh since May last year. The intrusions' attempt by China last year led to a bloody clash between the two armies in the Galwan valley in June. Twenty Indian army personnel including the commanding officer were killed in the brawl and more than 40 Chinese troopers were also killed. However, Beijing has, so far, not confirmed the



number of casualties on its side. Addressing a gathering at the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry here, Naravane said "We have an outstanding border issue. We are again well prepared to meet any misadventure that may occur as we have demonstrated in the past. Such kinds of incidents will continue to occur till such time that a long-term solution is reached, and that is to have a boundary agreement. And that should be the thrust of our efforts so that we have lasting peace along the northern (China) border." More than 50,000 troops from both the sides are now

## India gets new Air chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari on Thursday took over as the new IAF chief here after incumbent R KS Bhaduria retired.

An alumnus of NDA, the new chief was commissioned in 1982 in the fighter stream of the IAF. He has flown more than 3, 800 hours on multiple fighter and trainer aircraft.

Flying for the country runs in his family as his son is also a Rafale fighter jet pilot. In his address, Chaudhari said he was honoured and privileged to have been entrusted with the responsibility of leading the Indian Air Force. He expressed absolute faith and confidence in the ability of his force to accomplish all assigned tasks with resolute dedication while maintaining the IAF's operational capability at an all-time high.

deployed at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh thereby heightening tension.

As regards Afghanistan, Naravane said developments there "have definitely been the focus" of the Indian Army



Outlining the focus areas for Commanders and personnel, Chaudhuri said, "Protection of our Nation's sovereignty and integrity is to be ensured at any cost". He said enhancement of operational capability through integration of newly inducted platforms, weapons and equipment with existing assets and dovetailing the same in concepts of operations would remain a priority area.

He spoke on aspects of acquisition of new technology, promotion of indigenisation and innovation, strengthening of cyber security, rapid adaptation of training methods to meet future demands and sustained

work to nurture human resources.

During his career spanning almost four decades, the new chief has tenanted many significant command and staff appointments. He has commanded a MiG-29 Squadron, two Air Force Stations and Western Air Command. His staff appointments include Deputy Chief of Air Staff, Senior Air Staff Officer at HQ Eastern Air Command, Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Air Defence), Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Personnel Officers), Deputy Commandant of Air Force Academy and Air Assistant to Chief of the Air Staff.

A Category 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor, he has served as an instructor at Flying Training Establishments and has also been an Air Force Examiner. He was a pioneer member of the Suryakiran Aerobatic Display Team.

## ER Sheikh assumes charge as first DG of Ordnance Directorate

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) reconstituted into seven defence public sector undertakings from Friday, ER Sheikh on Thursday assumed charge as first Director General of the Ordnance Directorate (Co-ordination and Services). It is the successor organisation of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

An Indian Ordnance Factory Service (IOFS) officer of the 1984 batch, he has been a spearhead of modernisation.

In particular, he has contributed to the establishment of the modern production line system for the manufacture of small arms ammunition at the Ordnance Factory Varanasi.

A graduate of IIT Kanpur,



he has served in various Ordnance Factories. He also led the successful indigenous development of Bi-Modular Charge System (BMCS) for artillery ammunition.

He is also the recipient of the Ayudh Ratna Award, 2020, conferred on him in recognition of his exemplary services

to the organisation.

The seven new entities will be styled as Munitions India Ltd, Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd, Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd, Troop Comforts Ltd, Yatra India Ltd, India Optel Ltd, and Gliders India Ltd.

said. "We have a very dynamic counterinsurgency and counterterrorist grid in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a dynamic grid and it is based on threat perception and the escalating levels of attempts by our western

neighbour (Pakistan) to push in more and more terrorists," he said.

Naravane noted developments along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh added to the ongoing legacy challenges on "our active and disputed bor-

ders on the Western and Eastern Front."

The Army chief also talked about rapid developments in defence technology, saying that avoiding "technological obsolescence" remains a big challenge.

Publication: The Pioneer, Page: 04, Date: 1-10-2021

# Flex-fuel engines to be mandatory soon: Gadkari

**New Delhi:** Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said that the government will make it mandatory for all vehicle manufacturers to make flex-fuel engines, after it gets permission from the Supreme Court.

Flex-fuel, or flexible fuel, is an alternative fuel made of a combination of gasoline and methanol or ethanol.

Addressing the annual session of industry body PHDCCI, Gadkari further said that the government is working to develop an ethanol economy.

"We are going to make it mandatory for all vehicle manufacturers to make flex-fuel engines (that can run on more than one fuel)," the road transport and highways minister said. The minister cited examples of Brazil, Canada and the USA, where most automobile companies manufacture flex-fuel engines vehicles.

"We have submitted an

affidavit in the Supreme Court. When we get the permission of the Supreme Court, then we will make it mandatory for all vehicle manufacturers to make flex-fuel engines," Gadkari added.

Gadkari suggested that the military should ban the use of diesel engine vehicles and use trucks which run on LNG, CNG and ethanol.

The minister pointed out that ethanol is much cheaper than petrol and diesel.

Noting that the government is working to develop the ethanol economy, he said, "450 factories have shown interest in manufacturing ethanol.

Stressing that there is a need to switch to indigenous fuels, the minister said that the government is working to make the automobile industry a Rs 15-lakh-crore worth industry that will offer additional employment to around 1 crore people in India. *PTI*

## Scindia for hub & spoke model in aviation

Rhik Kundu  
rhik.k@livemint.com  
NEW DELHI

India will have to look at a hub-and-spoke model to fly more passengers from and to the country, civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Thursday.

Addressing the PHDCCT's annual general meeting, Scindia said the aim should be to make India a robust aviation hub, which will allow more passengers to fly to different parts of the world and vice versa.

"We have to look at putting in place systems that allow connectivity on long-haul travel, to places such as Europe, where we currently have one or two airlines flying to such destinations," Scindia said.

At present Air India is the only Indian airline flying extensively to Europe and North America. Vistara, a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, also operates flights to Europe.

"To connect to places like Europe, North America, South America, parts of Central Asia, hub-and-spoke model is what we have to look at and therefore the creation of an aviation hub (in India) is extremely important," Scindia added.

A hub in aviation is a central airport that flights are routed through, and spokes are the routes and cities, often in the same country, that planes take out of the hub airport.

Publication: The Pioneer, Page: 09, Date: 1-10-2021

Publication: HT Mint, Page: 06,  
Date : 1-10-2021



# Every ₹100 Invested in Aviation Gives Economic Output of ₹325: Scindia

Civil aviation minister says India must become an aviation hub to facilitate better connectivity



Our Bureau

**Mumbai:** For every ₹100 invested in civil aviation, the country receives economic output of ₹325 and for 100 new direct aviation jobs, 610 more indirect jobs are created, civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Thursday, highlighting the need for developing the sector in India. International business, investments, trade and jobs cannot be generated without connectivity, the minister

said. Therefore, India must become an aviation hub to facilitate better connectivity, he argued.

"The creation of an aviation hub in India is extremely important. Increasing long haul flights means we have to get more wide-bodied aircraft. And this will be a challenge in the days to come but the aviation hub has to come back on our agenda as a country, as a ministry and as an industry," Scindia said. He was speaking at the 116th annual meeting of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The sector was already contributing

close to 3.5% to India's GDP in an environment where just 10-11% of the population travelled by air, Scindia said. With 20-40 million more middle class families expected to start travelling by air in the near future, there is great opportunity for growth in the sector. In the next 5-6 years, more people could be travelling by air in India than by air-conditioned trains, he added.

"And what that tells us is that the runway is immense. And we are today, just about entering the taxiway of the runway, no pun intended. The potential of this sector is tremendous," the minister said.

The national infrastructure pipeline for civil aviation was close to ₹90,000 crore and the government was going to build this infrastructure "aggressively."

"We are going to build aggressively, connect aggressively. And not only the metros but places like Darbhanga, places like Jharsuguda in Odisha, Kapa, and many more," Scindia said.

**The creation of an aviation hub in India is extremely important. Increasing long haul flights means we have to get more wide-bodied aircraft. And this will be a challenge in the days to come, but aviation hub has to come back on our agenda as a country, as a ministry and as an industry**

**JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA**  
Civil Aviation Minister

Publication: The Economic Times, Page: 12, Date: 1-10-2021

## Boundary agreement not yet reached Standoff with China on: Army Chief Naravane

NEW DELHI

Border incidents between India and China will continue to occur till a boundary agreement is reached between the two countries, Army Chief General M M Naravane said on Thursday.

Recent developments in Afghanistan "have definitely been the focus" of the Indian Army that continues to evaluate threat perceptions and formulate strategies accordingly, the Army chief added while addressing a gathering at the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Discussing China, he said, "... we have an outstanding border issue. We are again well prepared to meet any misadventure that may occur as we have demonstrated in the past."

"Such kinds of incidents will continue to occur till such time that a long-term solution is reached, and that is to have a boundary agreement. And that should be the thrust of our efforts so that we have lasting peace along the northern (China) border," he stated during the annual session meeting of the industry body. Referring to Afghanistan, he said the Indian Army "or the armed forces for that matter continue to carry out periodic evaluation of threat perceptions". Based on



General M M Naravane

those evaluations, the Indian Army formulates strategies and doctrines that are needed to meet future threats, he noted. "This is a continuous process that never stops," he added. Kabul fell to the Taliban on August 15. Expressing its concerns about the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, India had on September 20 had said the country's territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or fi-

ancing terrorist acts. As far as the terrorist threat is concerned, the Indian Army is ready to meet all challenges, Naravane said. "We have a very dynamic counterinsurgency and counterterrorist grid in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a dynamic grid and it is based on threat perception and the escalating levels of attempts by our western neighbour (Pakistan) to push in more and more terrorists," he said.

## Delhi to be free of air, water, noise pollution in 3 yrs: Gadkari

New Delhi: The government will make the national capital free of air, water and noise pollution in the next three years, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday, observing that pollution is the biggest concern for the country.

Addressing the annual session of industry body PHDCCI, the road transport minister said that his ministry has spent Rs 60,000 crore on road infrastructure development -- an effort that also helped in reducing air pollution in Delhi. "Air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution are major concerns for the country. We will make Delhi free of air, water and sound pollution in the next three years," he said. Gadkari said the road ministry is working on a proposal to shift all container depots and 1,700 godowns out of Delhi. "In the next 15 days, we will be discussing that proposal with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi Development Authority (DDA)," he said.

Publication: The Hans India, Page: 01, Date: 1-10-2021



# Unprecedented standoff at LAC needed quick response: Naravane

## HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh added to challenges faced by the Indian military on the "active and disputed borders" in the western and eastern fronts, army chief Gen MM Naravane said on Thursday.

The "unprecedented" military standoff with China required an immediate response and large-scale mobilisation of resources at a time when the country was grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic, he said, while addressing

the annual session of the PHD Chamber Of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).

Naravane, who spoke on the theme "Resilient India", outlined the role played by the military in countering the pandemic and the current focus on indigenisation in acquiring advanced hardware and weaponry. He called for doing away with the "LI system" of awarding defence contracts to the lowest bidder to ensure India gets access to advanced technology.

Without naming China, Naravane highlighted the challenges posed by the standoff on the

LAC, which began in May last year and resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops during a clash at Galwan Valley, the first such fatalities since 1975.

"Developments along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh added to the ongoing legacy challenges on our active and disputed borders on the western and eastern front. The unprecedented developments necessitated large-scale resource mobilisation, orchestration of forces and immediate response, all this in a Covid-infested environment," he said.

Publication: The Hindustan Times, Page: 13, Date: 1-10-2021

## 'LAC incidents will go on till pact is signed'

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

Developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh have added to the ongoing legacy challenges on India's active and disputed borders on the western and eastern front, Chief of the Army Staff Gen-

eral Manoj Naravane said on Thursday. According to him, such incidents will continue till a long-term solution is reached, which is to have a boundary agreement.

"The unprecedented developments necessitated large-scale resource mobilisation, orchestration of forces

and immediate response, all this in a COVID-19 environment," he said, referring to the stand-off with China last May. Speaking at the annual session of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Gen. Naravane said, "We are well prepared to meet any misadventure... Such kinds

of incidents will continue to occur till such time a long-term solution is reached – that is to have a boundary agreement. That should be the thrust of our efforts so that we have lasting peace on our northern borders."

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

Publication: The Hindu, Page: 01 & 08, Date: 1-10-2021

## ‘LAC incidents will go on till a pact is signed’

Referring to issues in defence procurement, he observed that with the cycle of new and disruptive technologies getting shorter and faster, avoiding technological obsolescence remained a big challenge.

“The danger that our long-drawn procurement processes and bureaucratic speed-breakers would prevent us from acquiring cutting edge technology is a real one,” he pointed out. Much work had been done to bring about systemic changes with the aim of ease of doing business.

“This however remains a

work in progress. There are still archaic rules and processes that defy logic and are at variance to modern best practices. This needs to be addressed,” he urged.

In this regard, he referred to a recent initiative that gave “extremely positive results”, which was the invoking of emergency powers under the Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services (DFPDS) 2020 for emergency procurement that was initially invoked in June last year till March 31 this year and subsequently extended till August.

## Scindia lauds tax cuts on aviation fuel

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday thanked the governments of Uttarakhand and Andaman and Nicobar Islands for lowering VAT (value-added tax) on aviation turbine fuel.

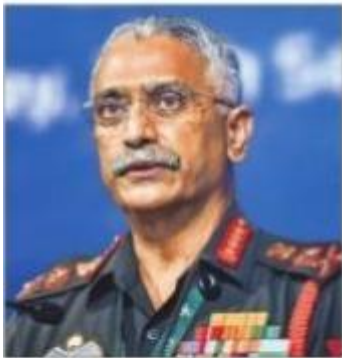
Uttarakhand has brought down the VAT to 2%, while Andaman and Nicobar have brought it down to 1%, Mr. Scindia said at an event organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Noting that fuel accounts for 37.5% of operational costs of an airline, the Minister was it was only by decreasing taxes that an impetus could be given for greater connectivity to these States.

Publication: The Hindu, Page : 01 & 08, Date: 1-10-2021

Publication: The Hindu, Page : 10,  
Date: 1-10-2021





General Naravane in New Delhi.

## Only boundary pact can ensure peace at LAC: Army Chief

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30

Taking a pragmatic view of the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane on Thursday said "incidents (at the border) would continue to happen till a long-term solution in the form of a boundary agreement was reached".

General Naravane was referring to the un-demarcated LAC that is the de-facto boundary between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. The Himalayan ridge line that runs in an east-west direction has been considered a traditional boundary, but never has an agreed-upon border been demarcated on ground.

The Army Chief was speaking at the 116th annual session of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. — TNS

## Delhi to be free of air, water, noise pollution in 3 yrs: Gadkari

New Delhi: The government will make the national capital free of air, water and noise pollution in the next three years, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday, observing that pollution is the biggest concern for the country.

Addressing the annual session of industry body PHDCCI, the road transport minister said that his ministry has spent Rs 60,000 crore on road infrastructure development -- an effort that also helped in reducing air pollution in Delhi. "Air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution are major concerns for the country. We will make Delhi free of air, water and sound pollution in the next three years," he said. Gadkari said the road ministry is working on a proposal to shift all container depots and 1,700 godowns out of Delhi. "In the next 15 days, we will be discussing that proposal with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi Development Authority (DDA)," he said.

Publication: The Tribune, Page: 03  
Date: 1-10-2021

Publication: The Hans India, Page: 01, Date: 1-10-2021



# ‘Delhi to be free of air, water and noise pollution in 3 yrs’

**New Delhi, Sept. 30:** The government will make the national capital free of air, water and noise pollution in the next three years, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday, observing that pollution is the biggest concern for the country. Addressing the annual session of industry body **PHDCCI**, the road transport minister said that his ministry has spent ₹60,000 crore on road infrastructure development — an effort that also helped in reducing air pollution in Delhi.

“Air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution are major concerns for the country. We will make Delhi free of air, water and sound pollution in the next three years,” he said.

Mr Gadkari said the road ministry is working on a proposal to shift all container depots and 1,700 godowns out of Delhi.

“In the next 15 days, we will be discussing that proposal with Delhi chief



Union minister for road transport & highways Nitin Gadkari addresses the 116th Annual Session of PHDCCI in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

minister Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi Development Authority (DDA),” he said.

Gadkari also said that the road ministry is also building logistics park of worth ₹1 lakh crore.

The minister said he has put forth his suggestion to Kejriwal to run only electric buses for the public transport purpose in Delhi. — PTI

# Border disputes with China will continue: Army Chief

New Delhi, Sept. 30: Border incidents between India and China will continue to occur till a boundary agreement is reached between the two countries, Army Chief General M.M. Naravane said on Thursday.

Recent developments in Afghanistan “have definitely been the focus” of the Indian Army that continues to evaluate threat perceptions and formulate strategies accordingly, the Army chief added while addressing a gathering at the **PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry**.

Discussing China, he said, “... we have an outstanding border issue. We are again well prepared to meet any misadventure that may occur as we have demonstrated in the past.”

“Such kinds of incidents will continue to occur till such time that a long-term solution is reached, and



M.M. Naravane

that is to have a boundary agreement. And that should be the thrust of our efforts so that we have lasting peace along the northern (China) border,” he stated during the annual session meeting of the industry body.

Referring to Afghanistan, he said the Indian Army “or the armed forces for that matter continue to carry out periodic evaluation of threat perceptions”.

Based on those evaluations, the Indian Army

formulates strategies and doctrines that are needed to meet future threats, he noted. “This is a continuous process that never stops,” he added.

Kabul fell to the Taliban on August 15. Expressing its concerns about the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, India had on September 20 had said the country’s territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing terrorist acts.

As far as the terrorist threat is concerned, the Indian Army is ready to meet all challenges, Naravane said. “We have a very dynamic counterinsurgency and counterterrorist grid in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a dynamic grid and it is based on threat perception and the escalating levels of attempts by our western neighbour (Pakistan) to push in more and more terrorists,” he said.



**AMID SINO-INDIA BORDER TENSION**

# Long-term Solution Needed to Stop LAC Incidents: Army Chief

**Our Political Bureau**

New Delhi: Incidents of transgressions and faceoffs on the border between India and China will continue to take place till the two sides reach a boundary agreement to ensure lasting peace, Army chief General MM Naravane has said.

Asserting that the Army is well prepared to meet any misadventure on the border as it has demonstrated in the past, the top officer stressed that a long-term solution is required to prevent such incidents from taking place in future.

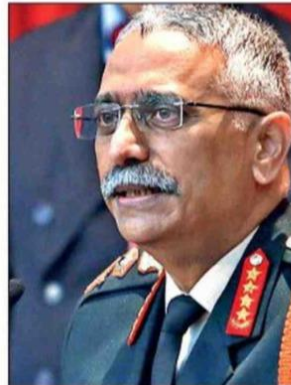
"Such incidents will continue to occur till such time that a long-term solution is reached—that is to have a boundary agreement. And that should

... that (boundary agreement) should be the thrust of our efforts so that we have lasting peace along the northern border

**GENERAL MM NARAVANE**  
Indian Army chief

be the thrust of our efforts so that we have lasting peace along the northern border," Gen Naravane highlighted during the annual session meeting of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Army chief resonated the stand of the armed forces on the recent developments along the border with an ag-



gressive China seeking to test the patience of Indian border forces with continuous provocations from Ladakh to the North East.

As reported by ET, the most recent provocation has been in Uttarakhand's Barahoti area where over 100 PLA soldiers transgressed in late August, causing some damage to infrastructure before retreating.

This caused alarm bells to ring, given the large number of troops who managed to cross the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

On the Taliban takeover, the Army chief said changes in the region will be taken into account during the periodic evaluation of threat perceptions and mentioned that strategies are being formulated to meet all future threats.

Publication: The Economic Times, Page: 03, Date: 1-10-2021

## 'Govt to make manufacturing of flex-fuel engines mandatory'

**NEW DELHI:** Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said that the government will make it mandatory for all vehicle manufacturers to make flex-fuel engines, after it gets permission from the Supreme Court.

Flex-fuel, or flexible fuel, is an alternative fuel made of a combination of gasoline and methanol or ethanol.

Addressing the annual session of industry body PHDCCI, Gadkari further said that the government is working to develop an ethanol economy.

"We are going to make it mandatory for all vehicle manufacturers to make flex-fuel engines (that can run on more than one fuel)," the road trans-



port and highways minister said.

The minister cited examples of Brazil, Canada and the USA, where most automobile companies manufacture flex-fuel engines vehicles.

"We have submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court. When we get the permission of the Supreme Court, then we will make it mandatory for all vehicle manufacturers to make flex-fuel engines," Gadkari added.

Gadkari suggested that the military should ban the use of diesel engine vehicles and use trucks which run on LNG, CNG and ethanol.

The minister pointed out that ethanol is much cheaper than petrol and diesel.

Noting that the government is working to develop the ethanol economy, he said, "450 factories have shown interest in manufacturing ethanol."

Stressing that there is a need to switch to indigenous fuels, the minister said that the government is working to make the automobile industry a Rs 15-lakh-crore worth industry that will offer additional employment to around 1 crore people in India.

PTI

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# India has highest number of women in political offices: Irani

*...if one looks at their participation in the three-tier governance structure*

**NEW DELHI:** India has the highest number of women in political offices across the world if one looks at their participation in the three-tier governance structure of the country, which includes female panches and sarpanches, Union minister Smriti Irani said on Thursday.

She was speaking at a session on 'Empowering Women in Building Resilient India' hosted by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Reacting to a global index according to which India ranks 148th in a list of 193 countries based on the percentage of elected women representatives in the national Parliament, Irani, the Minister of Women and Child Development, asked, "Do we look at political empowerment of women only from the prism of perspective of how many women right now operate or serve in Parliament?"

"Are we to not recognise the potential and the contribution of the women who are part of panchayats zila parishads councils in urban areas in India, are we to dissuade them, and not celebrate their contribution, just because they do not figure in a global index," she added.

Irani said if you look at



women's political participation in our systems and the three-tier governance structure of our country, "you will see that today we have the largest amount of women in political offices across any nation in the world".

"So, I think that one needs to recognise the deep -eated bias in the reflection of an indice, which doesn't recognise female panches or sarpanches of our country, aren't their political battle tough enough for them to get that respect," she said.

The Union minister said that if an indice represents all spectrums of our political diversity and then if India doesn't rank well enough, "I'd be extremely concerned".

"But for me, as long as women in rural India, who partake in panchayat elections are not recognised globally, then that indice does injustice to the potential of Indian women," she said.

MPOST

## FLEX-FUEL ENGINES PRODUCTION TO BE MADE MANDATORY, SAYS GADKARI

Press Trust of India

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**NEW DELHI:** Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said that the government will make it mandatory for all vehicle manufacturers to make flex-fuel engines, after it gets permission from the Supreme Court.

Flex-fuel, or flexible fuel, is an alternative fuel made of a combination of gasoline and methanol or ethanol.

Addressing the annual session of industry body PHDCCI, Gadkari further said that the government is working to develop an ethanol economy.

"We are going to make it mandatory for all vehicle manufacturers to make flex-fuel engines (that can run on more than one fuel)," the road transport and highways minister said.

The minister cited examples of Brazil, Canada and the USA, where most automobile companies manufacture flex-fuel engines vehicles.

"We have submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court. When we get the permission of the Supreme Court, then we will make it mandatory for all vehicle manufacturers to make flex-fuel engines," Gadkari added. He suggested the military should ban the use of diesel engine vehicles and use trucks which run on LNG, CNG and ethanol.





Three-wheelers ride past the mural with message on girl child education near ISBT in New Delhi on Monday. — G.N.JHA

## ‘Delhi to be free of air, water and noise pollution in 3 yrs’

New Delhi, Sept. 30: The government will make the national capital free of air, water and noise pollution in the next three years, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday, observing that pollution is the biggest concern for the country. Addressing the annual session of industry body PHDCCI, the road transport minister said that his ministry has spent ₹80,000 crore on road infrastructure development — an effort that also helped in reducing air pollution in Delhi.

“Air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution are major concerns for the country. We will make Delhi free of air, water and sound pollution in the next three years,” he said.

Mr Gadkari said the road ministry is working on a proposal to shift all container depots and 1,700 godowns out of Delhi.

“In the next 15 days, we will be discussing that proposal with Delhi chief



Union minister for road transport & highways Nitin Gadkari addresses the 116th Annual Session of PHDCCI in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

minister Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi Development Authority (DDA),” he said.

Gadkari also said that the road ministry is also building logistics park of worth ₹1 lakh crore.

The minister said he has put forth his suggestion to Kejriwal to run only electric buses for the public transport purpose in Delhi. — PTI

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## About The Partners

### **PHD Chamber Of Commerce and Industry**

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, established in 1905, is a proactive National Apex Chamber working at the grass-root level and with strong national and international linkages. The Chamber acts as a catalyst in the promotion of industry, trade and entrepreneurship. PHD Chamber, through its research-based policy advocacy role, positively impacts the economic growth and development of the nation. PHD Chamber is more than an organisation of the business community, as it lives by the chosen motto In Communitys Life & Part of It and contributes significantly to socio-economic development and capacity building in several fields.

“PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) is one of the Premier Chambers in India to have been accredited with “Diamond Grade” by NABET (QCI), at national and international level.

PHDCCI is a National Apex Chamber having its international office at Bahrain for 6 GCC countries, with 2,00,000 companies as its members base, as total focus on the development of small and medium businesses. PHDCCI has co-opted National and International Industry Associations and Organisations through over 151 MoUs signed between the parties.”

### **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung**

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a political foundation. Established in 1955 as “Society for Christian-Democratic Civic Education”, in 1964 the Foundation proudly took on the name of Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

With 16 regional offices in Germany and over 120 offices abroad, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation is committed to achieving and maintaining peace, freedom and justice through political education. We promote and preserve free democracy, social market economy, and the development and consolidation of the value consensus. We focus on consolidating democracy, the unification of Europe and the strengthening of transatlantic relations, as well as on development cooperation.

The leitmotif of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation "Germany. The next chapter" is supported by a thematic focus. With the three main topics Innovation, Security and Representation and Participation, it is quite clear which topics the Konrad Adenauer Foundation will focus on in the coming years.

We cooperate with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organizations, building strong partnerships along the way. In particular, we seek to intensify political cooperation in the area of development cooperation on the foundations of our objectives and



values. Together with our partners, we make a significant contribution to the creation of a global order that empowers every country to determine its own developmental priorities and destiny in an internationally responsible manner.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has organized its program priorities in India into five working areas:

1. Foreign and Security Policy
2. Economic, Climate and Energy Policy
3. Rule of Law
4. Political Dialogue focussed on Social and Political Change
5. Media and Youth

The India Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation takes great pride in its cooperation with Indian partner institutions who implement jointly curated projects and programmes.