

Round-Table Discussion on "Overcoming Challenges in Aerospace and Defence sectors for sustainable Business growth at Hyderabad"

Date: 28th February 2020

Venue: Novotel Hotel Airport, Hyderabad

The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (AP & TS) organized a Round-Table Discussion on "Overcoming Challenges in Aerospace and Defence sectors for sustainable Business growth at Hyderabad" on 28th February 2020 from 10.00 am to 2:00 pm at Novotel Hotel Airport, Hyderabad.



IACC AP & TS Member's visit to GMR MRO in Hyderabad



(L-R) Mr. R.B.V.V. Narasimha Raju, EC Member, IACC, Mr. C. Narayana Rao, Branch Committee Member, IACC AP & TS, Dr. Ramkumar Rudrabhatla, Vice Chairman, IACC AP & TS, Mr. Vijaya Sai Meka, Vice Chairman, IACC AP & TS, Mr. Srikanth Badiga, Chairman, IACC AP & TS, Mr. Sourabh Jain, Branch Committee Member, IACC AP & TS, Mr. Praveen PA, Director – Aerospace & Defence,

Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Telangana, Dr Y Sreenivasa Rao, Project Director, RCI and DR G Padmanabham, Director, ARCI

Mr. Srikanth Badiga, Chairman, IACC AP & TS said that Aerospace and Defence sector play a very important role and to compliment and accelerate economy more industries need to come up. Hyderabad has a very good potential and the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park is complimenting the growth of the sector for India. The eco-system is there but minor issues have to be addressed and ironed out for the sector to bloom. Most international companies are looking at Hyderabad as a potential hub for setting up industries

He also mentioned that there is a huge business potential for Aerospace and Defence sectors in Hyderabad. With the cooperation of the Telangana Government a huge eco-system of Aerospace and Defence sectors can be created in Hyderabad. There is a very investor-friendly environment in Hyderabad. The Aerospace and Defence sectors have taken off smoothly and have a promising journey ahead. IACC would coordinate with American companies to bring in a good number of American companies to develop a very positive ecosystem and further strengthen it.

Mr. Sourabh Jain, Vice President & Head Leasing – Aerospace, Industrial & Warehousing Airport Land Development, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. and Head - Aerospace and Defence Committee, IACC AP & TS speaking at the Round table discussion said that the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are vying for the same pie. There is a lot of opportunity for the businesses in the Aerospace and Defence sector to grow. Hyderabad has the potential to become the bellwether in Aerospace and Defence sector, he stated.

Some other things discussed, shared and suggested by the eminent leaders from State Government, Industry leaders and other stakeholders were: Regulatory Certification processes to be streamlined; Tax structure in Engine MRO (Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul) to be rationalized as compared to other countries; Delay in processing of tax rebates by various ministries to be addressed; Focus on Aerospace and Defence industry for youth; Startup ecosystem in Aviation, Aerospace and Defence to be created; Skill development programs to be strengthened; Skill development programs between MSMEs Tier1 and Tier2 suppliers to be developed; etc.



Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. Praveen PA**, **Director**, **Aerospace and Defence**, **Government of Telangana** said that Aerospace, Defence, IT and Pharma are the thrust areas of the Telangana Government. More companies are looking at Hyderabad as it has the people with right skill sets, infrastructure, vendor base

and a proactive government. Aerospace and Defence companies are looking at Hyderabad to set up their manufacturing bases, he said. With GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park, Adibatla, Hardware Park, etc. the south of Hyderabad city is becoming home to 4-5 strong clusters in these sectors, Mr. Praveen said. Hyderabad will be a hub of aerospace and defence where all activities, including R&D, manufacturing, etc. will happen, Mr. Praveen opined. The government is having a multi-pronged approach with tie-ups with universities to setup need based education programs, setting up of centres of excellence and promoting lot of startups and related activities, he stated.

Mr. Vijaya Sai Meka, Senior Vice Chairman, IACC AP & TS said that the objective of the program is to highlight the challenges and to discuss the solutions for the sustainable business growth of Aerospace and Defence sectors at Hyderabad. The findings will be shared with the Government of Telangana and further steps will be taken to mitigate the problems.

Dr. Ramkumar Rudrabhatla, Vice Chairman, IACC AP & TS sharing his thoughts said that Hyderabad has a huge potential and it needs to be tapped. The private sector has a critical part to play, he said. He opined that we need to integrate R&D to the industry operations. Though there are a lot of issues and challenges, but the defence industry is going from an era of self-sufficiency to self-reliance.



Mr. Srikanth Badiga, Chairman, IACC AP & TS Felicitating the Mr. Sourabh Jain, Branch Committee Member, IACC AP & TS



A section of audience
