

Districts need to be engine of economic growth and exports

Indian economy is estimated to have grown at 8.5% in the current financial year and in the next year it is expected to grow at 8%. Faster economic growth is necessary to create more job opportunities, increase per capita income and eradicate poverty. Districts can be a key driver of this economic growth.

India, which has more than 740 districts, needs to support the district administrations in improving ease of doing business, creating industrial infrastructure and providing necessary facilitation services for industries.

Government of India is piloting an experiment to promote economic growth by developing District Development Plans (DDPs). These plans will identify the potential sectors in the districts and develop a strategic plan to develop these sectors. This approach of driving development at the grassroot level will boost economic growth in districts by an additional 2-3%.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce, is piloting this project by commissioning study on six districts on an experimental basis. The six districts identified for this experimentation are Varanasi, Solan, Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Muzaffarpur and Vishakapatnam.

Specific Recommendations

For instance, in the Sindhudurg district, the study identified tourism, cashew, mango and fisheries as potential sectors for development. The study proposed an action plan to develop beaches, forest eco-tourism, providing better tourist facilities, signage's and promotion of tourist friendly cash-less economy to support tourism in the district. In order to develop cashew and mango sectors, the study proposed setting up of clusters, conducting training programs for farmers, building common warehouse and storage facilities, opening a branch of Cashew Export Promotion Council in the district etc. One specific recommendation related to mango sector was encouraging Ultra High Density Plantation. Under this plantation, farmers are encouraged to grow nearly 700 trees in an acre instead of the conventional method of planting 60 trees in an acre. This method of plantation increases per acre productivity, enhances farmers' income and reduces water consumption per kilo of mango produced. In the fisheries sector, the study suggested support for deep-sea fishing, encouraging cage culture, creating basic facilities at landing points and developing cold storage infrastructure, to name a few.

According to official information, Phase I of this District Development Plan has been completed with the preparation of study on the identified six districts. Now, the government is implementing the Phase-II of this project by providing mentoring and handholding support to the district administration, including capacity building and skill initiatives.

Way Forward

Similar projects should also be implemented in other districts of the country to unleash their untapped growth potential. A major hindrance at the district level is the complexity in dealing with district administration for certifications, approvals and other statutory clearances. The state governments may work with district administrations to implement the 218 point District Reforms Plan developed by the central government to promote ease of doing business. The plan aims to simplify 43 different registrations and certification processes at the district level. These procedures will ease doing business in sectors such as retail, education, health, food and beverages, real estate, gems and jewelry, mining and entertainment.

Similarly, every district may religiously implement the One District One Product Scheme to promote large scale production and value addition of potential products identified for each and every district. District administrations, along with bankers, industry associations and state governments may provide assistance to producers or manufacturers of the identified product through marketing, technology, design and other business support.

India needs a well coordinated approach at the central, state and district level to bring out the untapped economic potential of every district.

Notifications

PIB

India's merchandise export has reached USD 390 billion

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1806925>

Status of Industrial Corridor projects in India

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1806625>

Make in India



WORLD TRADE CENTER®
MUMBAI



<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1806624>

FDI from neighbouring countries

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1806626>

Greenfield Industrial Nodes

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1806628>

Schemes for progress of industries

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1806619>

Data on imports and exports

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1806618>

Export of fresh fruits rises to USD 768 million in FY21

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1806621>

DGFT

Amendment in guidelines to allow submission of FIRC for exports made to OFAC listed countries

<https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/05052fc5-b7e1-4de4-b7ee-d3d79675f9b4/PN%2050%20English%2017-03-22.pdf>

New online IT module for Interest Equalisation Scheme

<https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/f3eb1858-a780-4960-9032-7c26820d4d24/Trade%20Notice%20No.%2038-2021-22.pdf>

CBIC

Exchange rate notification

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2022/cs-nt2022/csnt18-2022.pdf>

Fixation of Tariff value for certain products

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2022/cs-nt2022/csnt17-2022.pdf>



Details of contractors involved in petroleum operations – for availing exemption

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2022/Circular-No-06-2022.pdf>

RBI

RBI Bulletin

https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53430