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nmerce and Industry (JMCI) intends to set up convention centre for entrepreneurs-Slowdown hits MMR reside

India may miss the bus on GVC if it does not follow three-pronged approach, warns Dr. Mattoo, and raised concern at the 13% decline in India's trade to GDP ratio in 6 years

TOPICS: #All India Association Of Industries #Ambit Capital Pvt. Ltd. #Global Value Chains (GVCs)
#J.P. Morgan India MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbal

POSTED BY: SACHIN MURDESHWAR JANUARY 3, 2020



MUMBAI, 03rd January 2020: From (L-R): Mr. Vijay Kalantri, President, All India Association of Industries; Mr. P. D. Singh, Managing Director, J.P. Morgan India; Dr. Aaditya Mattoo, Chief Economist, East Asia and Pacific Region, World Bank; Mr. Siddharth Rastogi, managing Director, Ambit Capital Pvt Ltd; Ms. Rupa Naik, Senior Director, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Captain Mr. R. K. Gulati, Member of the Council of Management, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and Mr. Y. R. Warerkar, Director General, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai at an Interactive Programme on the first-ever release of World Bank's World Development Report 2020: 'Trading for Development in the Age of Global Value Chains' organised by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries in association with Meghnad Desai Academy of Economics, held at World Trade Center Mumbai – Photo By Sachin Murdeshwar GPN

MUMBAI, 03rd JANUARY, 2020 (GPN): "Global Value Chains (GVCs) can be a path for economic development if India implements deeper economic reforms to support manufacturing sector, consolidate its strength in the services sector and cooperate with foreign countries on issues beyond trade. Reforms such as a liberal trade policy, conducive land and labour laws are needed to attract manufacturing investments. India needs to consolidate its strength in the services sector by upgrading its higher education and skill development. Thirdly, India needs to cooperate with foreign countries on issues such as taxation, competition policy, data protection and others." said Dr. Aaditya Mattoo, Chief Economist, East Asia and Pacific Region, World Bank at an Interactive Programme on first-ever release of World Bank's World Development Report 2020 'Trading for Development in the Age of Global Value Chains' in Mumbai.

Emphasising on labour reforms, Dr. Mattoo said, "Only 10% of firms in India employ more than 500 people as majority of the companies do not want to expand their operations because of regressive labour laws. In countries like China, the number of firms employing more than 500 workers is three times as large as India."

Dr. Mattoo also suggested Government of India to enter into agreement with foreign countries on data privacy regulations, on the lines of the deal between USA and EU. This will promote cross-border flow of data and information among countries, which is the life blood of global value chain.

Highlighting the importance of skill upgradation, Dr. Mattoo pointed out how China started manufacturing domestically the tip of ball point pen by mastering the technology of high precision engineering. He informed, "A few years ago, China was dependent on imports from Japan and South Korea for the tip of ball point pen as it did not have indigenous technology to produce it. However, in the course of time, the country acquired this skill and started producing this product domestically." This tip is used in the production of ball point pens, which China exports USD 38 billion annually.

Speaking about India's trade performance, Dr. Mattoo remarked, "While world trade has performed badly in recent years, India's performance has been worse. India's total trade (goods and services) to GDP ratio has fallen 13% from 56% in 2012 to 43% in 2018. India, which has a low share in world exports, cannot blame the weak global environment for poor performance in its exports. India's underachievement in excelling in basic manufacturing is the reason for the country's poor share in world exports."

In his remarks, Mr. Siddharth Rastogi, Managing Director, Ambit Capital Pvt. Ltd. suggested Indian exporters to target the USD 14 trillion global market for advanced manufacturing products such as integrated circuits, computers & its parts, solar panel diodes and other high tech products. He said, "India accounts for 40% of world rice exports, 90% of buffalo meat exports and 70% of world shrimp exports; however, the country has negligible share in the export of advanced manufacturing products, that account for 70% of world imports of USD 19.5 lakh crore. India's export of these advanced manufacturing products account for hardly 30% of its overall shipments.

Mr. Rastogi remarked that India will gain from Global Value Chains only if it shifts its focus to high end manufacturing products by adopting cutting edge technologies and innovation.

Mr. Rastogi pointed out that a lot of innovation and business growth is happening in the unlisted corporate sector, including start-up enterprises, which attracted a record USD 11.5 billion in 2019 from private equity and other venture funds.

Mr. P. D. Singh, Managing Director, J.P. Morgan India moderated the panel session during the programme. Earlier in his welcome remarks, Mr. Vijay Kalantri, President, All India Association of Industries said, "Government of India must improve ease of doing business by simplifying legislations and tax procedures. Complex regulations increase the compliance burden of the industry, thereby rendering it uncompetitive in the global market. Simple legislations and low tax rates promote investments and economic growth. All legislations must be designed after comprehensive discussion with stakeholders to avoid complications at the implementation stage."

On the taxation front, the government needs to eliminate multiplicity of taxes and reduce GST rates to 14%, which is the average rate across countries that have implemented GST. Empirical evidence suggests that low tax rates leads to increase in tax base and buoyancy in tax revenue."

Mr. Kalantri also suggested government and Reserve Bank of India to infuse liquidity into the industry to promote consumption-led economic growth.

Ms. Rupa Naik, Senior Director, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai proposed vote of thanks for the event. She suggested Government of India to establish institutional mechanism for investor aftercare to facilitate new investors to navigate through administrative procedures. Similarly, there is a need to address the constraints facing India's agriculture sector, MSMEs, start-up enterprises and women entrepreneurs, who contribute significantly to economic growth, but suffer from lack of access to credit and business support services.

The programme was attended by consular corps, members from trade & industry, academia, financial institutions and other stakeholders. Meghnad Desai Academy of Economics partnered with MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai for the event .ENDS



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by Suman Gupta

Dr. Mattoo raised concern at the 13% decline in India's trade to GDP ratio in 6 years

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taxation, competition policy, data protection and others." said **Dr. Aaditya Mattoo,** Chief Economist, East Asia and Pacific Region. World Bank at an Interactive Programme on first-ever release of World Bank's World Development Report 2020 'Trading for Development in the Age of Global Value Chains' in Mumbai.

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