



REIMAGINE THE WORLD

Day 1: Tuesday, 14th September 2021

Inaugural Session: Future of Partnerships

Time: 1000 - 1115 hrs (IST) / 0430 – 0545 hrs (GMT)

Theme: Leadership is as much about innovation, as much as it remains to be an ‘art’, in an environment where change is the only constant. An environment wherein convergence between seemingly divergent philosophies of self-reliance and globalization is essential. An environment wherein independence and interdependence will go hand in hand when we look at future global partnerships. Global leaders continue to strive for excellence while making their business resilient and adaptable. Leadership vision focuses on sustainability and gender diversity as the fundamental principle for future partnerships. However, with 2020 having forced the world to ‘reimagine the future’, **SMAC** (Social, Mobility, Analytics and Cloud) takes centerstage, and will form the foundation of future business touching lives of millions of citizens.

The inaugural session of LEADS 2021 set the tone for two days of intense deliberation bringing together government and business leaders from Asia, Europe, Africa, Americas, and the Pacific, to share their vision on reimagining the world through resilient Leadership, economic Excellence, and Adaptability of business models, built on pillars of Diversity and Sustainability.

I. ASEAN Session: Future of India ASEAN Connectivity Partnerships

Time: 1130 – 1245 hrs (IST) / 0600 – 0715 (GMT)

Theme: Connectivity between ASEAN and India is the key to future of our economic partnerships. Leadership in India and ASEAN has a shared vision for both physical and digital connectivity. India has offered a Line of Credit of US\$ 1 billion to promote connectivity between India and ASEAN to take our development cooperation to a strategic level. Young and diversity focussed demographics of ASEAN, has already taken the people-to-people connectivity with India to the new heights.

There are number of infrastructure projects linking India and ASEAN which are in progress, including the Trilateral Highway connecting India’s Northeast to Thailand, the Dawei Deep-sea Port in Myanmar, and the Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project. On Digital front, connectivity is the high-speed catalyst to facilitate trade, logistics and customs integration between us using land, sea and air infrastructure for seamless movement of goods and services. This session will attempt to discuss partnership opportunities to develop connectivity between India and ASEAN. Aspects of regulatory frameworks to support digital technologies, financing and improving cross-border channels across India’s north eastern borders will hold the key to sustainable economic growth between India and ASEAN.

II. East Asia Session: Future of Global Manufacturing Partnerships with India **Time: 1300 – 1415 hrs (IST) / 0730 – 0845 (GMT)**

Theme: Major economies across the globe have strategically embarked on de-risking their investments and diversifying their supply chains in view of the uncertainties brought to forefront by the pandemic. India offers a viable option to specially the east Asian economies for simplifying their business value chains cost-efficiently. In this backdrop, Government of India has announced path-breaking reforms to encourage integration with global value chains, providing an opportunity to the world to reimagine their manufacturing partnerships for the future.

The session would attempt to deliberate on leadership vision on manufacturing excellence which could be enhanced by key policy initiatives like the “Production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme” for 13 manufacturing sectors. At the same time it would qualify the contours of an ‘AtmaNirbhar Bharat’ as part of India’s globalisation strategy. It is a long-term vision to nurture global economic growth resilient to these VUCA times, while repositioning India as a manufacturing hub for the world. Case studies and success stories of East Asian businesses, showcasing manufacturing excellence in India, will be a highlight of this theme session.

III. Europe Session: Future of Sustainable Technologies in India – Europe Partnerships **Time: 1500 – 1615 hrs (IST) / 0930 – 1045 hrs (GMT)**

Theme: Sustainable technologies in various sectors – from mobility and healthcare to digitalisation, are shaping our economy and society like never before. These technologies are not only significantly lowering the overall environmental costs, but also driving efficiency and innovation. Not only large companies, start-ups and spin-offs too are playing a key role in accelerating adoption and diffusion of such technologies. A vital element in adaptation of the sustainable technologies would be funding these projects. Forging a global partnership for financing sustainable technologies involves a fine balance between economic, social, and environmental needs of various stakeholders. These provide a unique opportunity for both the geographies to explore partnerships. Providing high-growth innovative businesses with the capital they need to scale-up rapidly and address emerging opportunities would be a key pillar on which the partnership should be built.

It is foreseeable that the future of India-Europe partnership will be re-imagined on how well these sustainable technologies are nurtured, exchanged, funded, and adopted between the two geographies.

IV. Middle East Session: Future of India-Middle East Partnerships in Entrepreneurship and Start-Ups **Time: 1630 – 1745 hrs (IST) / 1100 – 1215 hrs (GMT)**

Theme: Middle East economies are making a beeline to adopt innovative technologies and encouraging an entrepreneurship culture for business beyond oil. These high per-capita income nations are investing in partnerships for nurturing start-up ecosystems, throwing up a great opportunity for the start-ups culture maturing in India. The digitally savvy citizens of Middle East, with high interest in new business ideas creates a strong foundation for developing win-win partnerships with Indian start-ups. These start-ups, driven by innovations touching our daily lives, be it e-Commerce or agriculture, be it manufacturing or citizen services. With a younger population and a renewed focus on diversity and inclusivity aspects from Middle East leadership, innovation led collaborations with Middle East countries, could take India’s strategic interests to the next level.

India can develop partnerships with Middle East to create an ecosystem of venture funds for scaling up Indian start-ups in Middle East. This comes in the backdrop of a historic pact, touted as the “Deal of the Century” between Israel and the Middle East countries. This bonhomie will create new opportunities with Israel being the start-up capital of the world.

V. LAC Session: Future of India-LAC Partnerships in Services
Time: 1800 – 1915 hrs (IST) / 1230 – 1345 hrs (GMT)

Theme: India and the Latin American & Caribbean nations have remarkable similarities belying the expected gulf due to oceans of distances and cultural evolution. Blessed with human capital, abundant natural resources and a growing pool of technologists, innovators and entrepreneurs, this relationship between our emerging markets can unlock new opportunities of industrial prosperity and human development.

Even as India and LAC nations have evolved as diversified and mature global trade and investment partners covering an array of goods and services. However, the pandemic has highlighted the need for collaborative efforts in services sector for transforming lives.

This session will explore partnership opportunities in non-traditional areas of services like aviation, telemedicine, E-governance, Ayush, Fintech, EdTech, innovative technologies, joint research, and skill development.

VI North America Session: Future of Innovation in India-North American Partnerships
Time: 1930 – 2045 hrs (IST) / 1400 – 1515 hrs (GMT)

Theme: LEADS 2020 talked about how technology led innovation has taken the centre stage. The global leaders highlighted how India and the North American countries can complement each other in developing an innovation ecosystem for the future and an opportunity to scale up creative ideas.

Despite 2020’s healthcare and global economic crisis, humanity did not stop. The crises gave rise to innovative technologies and disruptive business models to overcome the challenges. 2021 is presented as the year of the renaissance, with the world looking for “something different” and a new way of life. The thirst for something new has no limits in today’s world. From Space Tourism to Colonization of Planets; from Robots in workplace to Robots as butlers; from Electric cars to Flying cars; from Lab grown meats to 3D printed food; from Artificial intelligence to Augmented reality. The list of such ambitious innovations is endless and continues to grow. Technology led innovations have changed business models around the world. On the organisation front, innovations in human resource development, finance, marketing and even work spaces, is enhancing business excellence. This throws up an opportunity for North American countries, with strong innovation ecosystem and India, with its ‘frugal’ innovation skills, to come together to pave way for an innovation led future.

The session would talk on Leadership approach that India & North America could take together, to drive the future of innovation, built on tenets of business excellence & adaptability to change.

VII. Oceania Session: Future of India-Oceania Space Technology Partnerships
Time: 1000 – 1115 hrs (IST) / 0430 – 0545 hrs (GMT)

Theme: Oceania region has many unique advantages, from their geographical position in the southern hemisphere, to their wide-open spaces and relatively low light pollution, to expertise in satellite data applications. India already has end-to-end capabilities and evolving as force to reckon with in the world, making and launching its own rockets, satellites and information systems for larger benefit of its people. At the same time India is building a reputation for frugal space technologies vis-à-vis the West.

This session will focus on how India and Oceania countries can evolve partnerships in space exploration in areas such as data calibration, remote sensing and Artificial Intelligence (AI), to make the world a better place. The session will also discuss how the decision-makers were able to utilise these technologies to plan, develop, and implement smart and resilient infrastructure that can adapt to changing environment. Though Space cooperation is largely domain of Governments in most parts of the world, the deliberations will also attempt to through light on opportunities for private sector to help scale up such development cooperation.

VIII. South Asia Session: Future of India-South Asia 4th IR Partnerships
Time: 1130 – 1245 hrs (IST) / 0600 – 0715 hrs (GMT)

Theme: South Asia, with its demographic dividend, has the potential to become a hub of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). There is great disparity among and within countries of South Asia in the digital and tech domain. The 4IR could be a way of blurring of boundaries between the physical, digital, and biological worlds and hence reducing these disparities. 4IR is a fusion of advances in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), 3D printing, genetic engineering, quantum computing, and other technologies and is evolving at an exponential rather than a linear pace. Moreover, it is disrupting almost every industry in every country. And the breadth and depth of these changes herald the transformation of entire systems of production, management, and governance.

The session highlights the enhanced opportunity presented by digital and technology ecosystem to fast-track economic development and seamless governance. The session further spotlights the knowledge and digital infrastructure gaps and the need for nurturing a digitally connected South Asia. Public Private Partnerships model successfully followed in India, could also be a way forward towards this objective considering the role governments in South Asia, play in economic development of their countries. It is time for South Asia to lean into the exciting, limitless world of digital and tech revolution, to achieve sustainable regional economic growth.

IX. CIS Session: Future of India-CIS ‘Silk Route’ Partnerships
Time: 1400 – 1515 hrs (IST) / 0830 – 0945 hrs (GMT)

Theme: Strategically located at the convergence of Asia and Europe, CIS economies can play an important role in enhancing economic interests w.r.t. to energy and minerals resources. India’s cooperation and development partnerships with the region can be effectively enhanced through land and air connectivity. Our economies stand to gain immeasurably by developing new “Silk Routes”. CIS economies, with their unexplored natural wealth and untapped resources, beckon Indian industry like never before. Even as INSTC heralds a new era of multimodal land-sea route to CIS countries, partnerships towards air-connectivity could augur well for fledgling airline industry.

This session endeavours to explore a leadership vision between India and CIS, towards building a 'development corridor' between our business communities. The future of our economic relations, driven by connectivity initiatives, will also help to harness natural resources in a sustainable manner. Connectivity infrastructure will not only enhance economic cooperation between India and CIS, but also bring our people 'closer'.

X. Multilateral Session: Future of Global Governance & Development Partnerships

Time: 1530 – 1645 hrs (IST) / 1000 – 1115 hrs (GMT)

Theme: Global governance brings together diverse set of State and industry stakeholders to further a shared vision on inclusive economic development. It aims at collective actions to provide global public good, open markets and unified standards for industry. Global institutions such as the IMF, World Bank and United Nations, WTO, for instance, have a stamp of global governance that is increasingly realised and recognized globally. These institutions take a multilateral approach to world affairs, epitomise vision of world leaders, to achieve commonly accepted goals for global economic development, in a sustainable and inclusive way.

On the other hand, industry aligns with these local and global governance frameworks which are unable to keep pace with these VUCA times. Hence, are the multilateral and global governance mechanisms adapting fast to a world where change is the only constant? Are they able to accommodate and involve industry to a greater extent? Is the industry in turn willing to play a greater role in achieving the key human development goals through its disruptive business models, resources and influence?

The session would discuss the future of global governance and development partnerships, in a complex, interconnected and rapidly changing world.

XI. Africa Session: Future of a Digitalisation in India-Africa Partnerships

Time: 1700 – 1815 hrs (IST) / 1130 – 1245 hrs (GMT)

Theme: The true potential of Africa region, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa, lies in the rapid spread of digital technologies, in the coming decade. India's long term strategic interests with the continent need to be nurtured in this decade, by way of development partnerships which would help it accelerate its economic growth. Our prowess in EdTech, MedTech, Telemedicine, Fintech, FarmTech and e-governance platforms, has shown the world the leaps India has taken towards inclusivity and diversity initiatives. These possibilities are capturing leadership mind-space in India for exploring partnerships with African economies and development institutions. Digital technologies built on foundation of robust communication networks would also translate into new-age jobs for a young, adaptable African population while keeping sustainability at forefront of a digital Africa.