

PRESS RELEASE

**Amidst pandemic, technology ensured uninterrupted governance: MeitY
Secretary Ajay Sawhney**

** Imperative for India to manufacture its own software and hardware products*

** Software potential of India a significant area of growth in the coming years*

** Connected devices will enable India to capitalize on 5G*

New Delhi, June 25, 2021: Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, said on Friday that Indian IT industry showcased its best potential and offered highly innovative solutions to ensure the continuation of governance with utmost efficiency during these highly unprecedented times.

Addressing a webinar organized by the **Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI)**, **Mr. Sawhney** said Indian IT Industry has rapidly adjusted to the new environment and added that the Aarogya Setu has reinvented itself as Vaccine Passport and has the possibility to leverage wide reach to bring more health services and to become a citizen-facing front-end as National Digital Health Mission develops.”

Mr. Sawhney said there was a pressing need to step up manufacturing of both software and hardware products in order to reduce dependence on imports from different countries. “Entrepreneurs and companies need to move aggressively in this area. The National Policy on Software Products has triggered significant growth and we expect the software potential to be a major area of growth in the next 5-10 years,” he added.

On electronics manufacturing Mr. Sawhney said, “The pandemic has slowed us down, but our ambition today is to grow more than 25% YoY over the coming five years or more. With PLI Scheme, many eminent brands have set up their units in recent times. We are committed to provide incentives to components manufacturing as these components make their way into a large array of products.”

He also talked about building Digital Products and said, “Digital technologies must be integrated into traditional sectors like energy, transportation manufacturing, healthcare and so on. The advent of digital technologies into each of these traditional sectors will help make 10-15% of growth a distinct possibility.”



Talking about E-governance he mentioned that the government is working on national scale and with National Public Digital Platforms. This will spread to Education, Healthcare, Smart Cities, Urban Governance, and other sectors.

On 5G, Mr. Sawhney said, “While we move from 4G to 5G, we have to strengthen and work on related devices like IOTs.” Our digital infrastructure needs to be strengthened with Digital India Infoway creating a robust network in Research and Development institutions.”

On IT laws, Mr. Sawhney said that, “While we have to focus on Data Privacy Bill, there is also a requirement to refresh the existing IT act, that was last amended in 2008, as the issues that we deal with IT sector have changed significantly -- the companies that we deal with have brought immensely in terms of innovation. As we strengthen our cyber security, the next thing would be to come up with a legal frame-work”.

Mr. Virat Bhatia, Vice President, PAFI & Managing Director, Apple India presented opening remarks and **Mr. Deepak Maheshwari, CEO, PAFI** gave a vote of thanks during the PAFI Dialogue.

Please find the link to the Dialogue here - <https://youtu.be/YHfl2WbpiRM>

-----XX-----

About Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI):

Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), the only platform for corporate/public affairs practitioners in the country, has completed 11 years of work in the field of Public Affairs, Advocacy & Public policy. PAFI (www.pafi.in) has representation from large and medium-sized transnational, Indian and foreign companies. Since its inception, PAFI has been actively promoting transparent Public Affairs, Advocacy & Policymaking. It provides a networking platform and opportunities to exchange views and share experiences between corporates and various stakeholders, through panel discussions, seminars, closed-door dialogues and the Annual National Forum. For more information, visit: www.pafi.in. (Twitter: @PAFI_India)

For more information contact:

Megha Puri
Email: mpuri@apcoworldwide.com
Phone: +91 98118 19526

Kuldeep Singh
Email: kusingh@apcoworldwide.com
Phone: +91 97113 06379

Shipra Singh
Email: ssingh@apcoworldwide.com
Phone: +91 96506 86227