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REVIVING THE ECONOMY  
REIMAGINE. REBOOT. REFORM  
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## Session 12 - State of the Indian States

Friday, October 22, 2021

1315 – 1415 Hrs

### Panel



#### **Chandra Mohan Patowary**

Cabinet Minister for Commerce, Industry & Public Enterprise, Transport, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Act East Policy Affairs and Welfare of Minorities, Government of Assam

Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary is the Cabinet Minister for Commerce, Industry & Public Enterprise, Transport, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Act East Policy Affairs and Welfare of Minorities in the present Assam Government which assumed charge on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 under the dynamic leadership of Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam. Shri Patowary the Cabinet Minister for Commerce & Industry, Transport, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Act East Policy Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs during the period of 2016-2021. He was also the Cabinet Minister for Health & Family Welfare of Assam during the period of 1985-1990 and Cabinet Minister for Agriculture from 1996-2001.

Under the able & visionary leadership of Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, a sea change has been brought out in the industrial scenario of Assam from 2016 onwards. A total number of 2,317 new industrial units with investment worth Rs. 65,000 crores have been set up in the state of Assam. These new units have generated both direct & indirect employment opportunities for around 90,000 persons.

Assam Government passed the Ease of Doing Business Bill (EODB) in the very first Assembly Session of the government which took charge in 2016. The Industries &

Commerce Department under the leadership of Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary conceptualized & organized the Advantage Assam – Global Business Summit in the month of February, 2018 which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. The business summit was attended by a large number of international investors, NRIs, renowned Indian business houses. During the summit, MoUs of value of Rs. 79,000 crores were inked and investments worth around Rs.65,000 crores are already in various stages of investment in the State.

The Act East Policy Affairs Department under the leadership of Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary has played a very pivotal role in connecting Assam to the ASEAN and South East Asia. Connectivity to the ports of Bangladesh through the India-Bangladesh Protocol River Routes has opened up cargo movement from Assam directly to the international markets.

Assam Government has set up the Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) so that a talented, skilled and motivated workforce is readily available for the Industrial & Service Sector.

Shri Patowary conceptualized and established a state-of-the-art startup incubator named as “The Nest” with IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP) as operating partner. Assam Startup - the Nest has already incubated 75 Startups with turnover of around 11 crores and has generated 1690 direct and over 40,000 indirect employment. The track record of Assam Startup “The Nest” in nurturing and incubating successful Startups is the best among Startup Incubators in India.

For the first time in Assam, a dedicated land bank for industrial units has been set up for fast track allocation of industrial plots to investors. A new investor friendly ‘Industrial and Investment Policy of Assam, 2019’ has been implemented with a mission of projecting Assam as a preferred destination for investment.

With a vision for bringing in a tremendous chance in the field of Skill Development, Shri Patowary has initiated the process to set up a Skill University at a projected cost of Rs.950 Crores with financial support from Asian Development Bank. In order to combat the unemployment scenario of the state and to offer the youth in the state an organized platform of skill development for sustenance of livelihood, the Assam Government has proposed to set up a Skill University. The aim of setting up the University is to offer candidates practical, hands-on training in manufacturing & services sector and also to set up industry/employer linkage as a boost to the skills development eco-system in the state. The objective of this project is to develop the Skill University into a model Technical and Vocational and Educational Training(TVET) institution in the Northeast region of India that offers affordable and high-quality skills training for the masses especially for the youth unable to acquire higher education in other way.

Soon after assuming office for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term, Shri Patowary took the initiative in bringing out a trailblazing Policy namely “The Assam Ethanol Production Promotion

Policy,2021” to attract investments in Ethanol Plants in Assam with a host of incentives & tax breaks for production of Ethanol as a bio-fuel for blending in Automotive Fuel utilizing locally available feedstock like Rice Straw, surplus Rice, Sugarcane and other feedstocks as applicable under the National Bio-Fuel Policy of Government of India. This policy aims to achieve the following objectives for the overall growth and development of green-field new 100% ethanol manufacturing industrial units in the State with a goal of providing remunerative returns to investors, farmers and all other stakeholders.

Also Shri Patowary took the initiative in bring out another futuristic Policy namely “The Electric Vehicle Policy of Assam, 2021” to kickstart the changeover to Electric Vehicles in Assam with a wide range of goals. These include better air quality, reduced noise pollution, enhanced energy security and in combination with a low carbon power generation mix - reduced greenhouse emissions. The vision of the EV Policy is a dedicated strategy to address price of EVs, public charging infrastructure and investment in EV manufacturing and charging infrastructure required to promote adoption of EVs in the state. Government of Assam plans to ensure a robust infrastructure for electric vehicles that includes adequate power availability, network of charging points and favorable power tariff.