# State: Punjab Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit 2021 – Key Deliberations

**Theme of the Summit -** Progressive Punjab – A Story of Partnership, Delivery & Growth: Investors Reassured

Plenary Session - 26th October 2021, Tuesday

In the Welcome Address by Shri S. Gurkirat Singh Kotli, Industries & Commerce Minister, Punjab, the key points mentioned were:

- Punjab is one of the most important pillars of the country. Since the beginning,
   Punjab has made a remarkable contribution to the national and international community by championing the qualities of entrepreneurship, innovation and progress.
- The state is a leader across sectors such as food processing, textiles, sports goods,
   Auto and pharma. Being home to brands such as Nestle, Coca Cola, SML Isuzu,
   Mahindra Swaraj for numerous years has provided a good base on which we have built further.
- In recent times, the state has received new investments of Rs 99,000 crores across various sectors.
- Market leaders such as Vardhman, Sonalika, Trident group among others have grown leaps and bounds forging new market linkages across the world - in new technology and investment partnership
- O This Progressive Punjab Investors Summit will go a long way to boost the confidence of prospective industrialists and investors to further propel Punjab as the most preferred destination not only within the country but across the globe. Support and cooperation to accord all necessary clearances/approvals for setting up their units in a fast-track mode will be provided to the investors.

In Context Setting by Shri Anirudh Tewari, IAS, Chief Secretary, Punjab, the key points mentioned were:

- O Punjab believes in collaborative partnerships to promote inclusive growth and balanced regional development of the state. With the entrepreneurial spirit of industry and supportive policies of the government, the state government wants to make Punjab a global manufacturing hub and is committed to provide all support that industry needs for its growth.
- The Industrial and business development policy 2017 was laid out in consultation with all stakeholders and this policy has a slew of incentives to attract investment in the state.
- The flagship Punjab Innovation Mission which is a 150 Cr initiative is a privateled, government-backed initiative to promote start-ups in Punjab.
- o The industrial and business development policy was complimented with the slew of unprecedented initiatives to ease the regulatory burden in the state. Till now, over 2000+ reforms have been undertaken by the state in the last few years.

# **Address by Industry Leaders**

The key points mentioned by Shri Harsh Pati Singhania, Vice-chairman and MD, JK Paper Limited were:

- The new industrial and business development policy has been a major impetus which has identified 8 crore strategic pillars for growth and promotion of industries of which ease of doing business and stakeholder engagement feature prominently. The establishment of the business first portal has been a pioneering initiative with a focus on time-bound approvals on digital mode thereby easing the compliance burden on investors.
- o The group has already committed an investment of Rs 150 crore in the state for setting up a corrugated packaging paper manufacturing unit in Ludhiana.

The key points mentioned by Shri Dilip Shanghvi, Founder and MD, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd were:

- The overall investment of the company has been more than Rs 12,000 crores in Punjab.
- There are two facilities of the company in Punjab in Toansa and Mohali
- The company will continue to invest and expand their facilities in Punjab.

#### The key points mentioned by Shri Atul Chauhan, Chancellor, Amity University were:

- Amity has already invested around Rs 500 crore in setting up a world class university in Mohali.
- There are plans to invest another Rs 300 crore in next two-three years and set up educational institutes across the state.

## The key points mentioned by Shri Deepak Bagla, MD & CEO, Invest India were:

- o Invest Punjab is one of the top state investment promotion agencies.
- The team has worked on 287 business proposals for Punjab that have come in from 11 countries. The proposals are across 31 sectors that show the broad basing of opportunities that Punjab offers - such as textiles, construction, food processing, healthcare, energy, chemicals, defence, IT, Mining, Education, food processing, electric vehicles, pharma, automobiles, banking and finance, logistics, medical devices.
- O Punjab can play an important role in making the nation a \$10 trillion economy by 2030. "The state's GDP is \$73 billion. On global ranking, the state would stand anywhere between 70 and 71. Its GDP growth is one of the fastest.

#### The key points mentioned by Shri Rajinder Gupta, Chairman, Trident Group were:

- The group promised aggregate investment of Rs 2,000 crore in the next 18 months, offering employment to around 10,000 people in rural and semi-urban areas.
- The group is ready to partner with the state government for setting up a mega textile park in the state under the Centre's PM-MITRA scheme.

#### The key points mentioned by Mr Kazunori Ajiki, MD, Yanmar were:

- International Tractors Limited has partnered with Japanese collaboration Yanmar
   India to build next generation tractors at Hoshiarpur
- o Punjab's road infrastructure has improved drastically
- With Manufacturing cost increasing in China, many manufacturers shifted their facilities to countries such as Thailand, Vietnam.
- The company also decided to shift their Brunt truck production to India. The trucks that are produced in India are being exported to south-east Asian countries, USA, Brazil, Turkey.

### The key points mentioned by Shri Prakash B Hinduja, Chairman, Hinduja Group were:

- There is a concern over environmental issues caused by stubble burning. Suggestion
  was given to the state government that the issue can be tackled with Japanese and
  Italian technology.
- The Group CEOs are being encouraged to view Punjab as the preferred investment destination.
- o Under the leadership of the new CM, Punjab can soar high.

# The key points mentioned by Shri Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman & MD, Hindustan Unilever Ltd were:

- HUL is the largest FMCG company in India. HUL has a significant presence in Punjab and generates employment to 12,000+ in the state.
- The company has invested close to Rs 1000 Cr in the last 5 years and is looking at a planned additional investment of over 1200 Cr in the next 5 years.
- A lot of progress has taken place in the state in terms of ease of doing business, relating to the reforms, robust self-certification programme to bring down the red tape.
- The introduction of Invest Punjab portal which will act as a one-stop-shop for investment facilitation.
- The government must rationalise the open access tariff to boost the industry and renewable energy. A request to the state government to incentivise the industry using renewable energy was made.

The key points mentioned by Ms Sumita Dawra, Additional Secretary, DPHT were:

o The government of India is committed to reforms and other measures for creating a conducive business and investment environment in all sector. It has adopted a multi-dimensional approach to take India to first become a \$5 trillion economy in 4-5 years and then become a \$10 trillion economy by 2030.

The key points mentioned by Shri Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and & MD, ITC Limited were:

- The state's industrial policy is competitive and unique. It is different because of the collaborative approach of the government It has the vision to recognise the strengths of Punjab and the opportunity in markets.
- The largest investment of ITC in Punjab for food processing is in Kapurthala the company had already acquired additional land for expansion at the company's food park in Kapurthala.

The key points mentioned by His excellency, Mr Satoshi Suzuki, the Ambassador of Japan to India were:

• The government of Punjab has been working tirelessly to attract investment from other countries. The establishment of the Japan Desk in Invest Punjab is highly appreciated. It has helped in attracting more Japanese investment. A considerable number of Japanese companies have established their presence in Punjab. These companies are active in manufacturing farm machinery, automobiles, packaging films contributing to Punjab's diverse sectors.

The key points mentioned by Shri Anand Mahindra, Chairman, Mahindra Group were:

Swaraj tractors is blessed to have a home in Punjab. It is amongst the top manufacturers in the country. The government of Punjab has been very supportive of us and it is a key factor in our success. Currently, the company is in talks with the government to set up its third tractor factory in the state shortly.

- Mahindra Holidays is working on developing a 5-star resort on an island at Ranjit Sagar.
- O There are plans on rolling out electric 3wheelers to boost last-mile connectivity and therefore usher in carbon-free sustainable mobility. The tipping point in the electric mobility revolution in India will come with electric 3 wheelers.

## The key points mentioned by Shri KM Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group were:

- Punjab is not only the rice bowl of India but has also produced a stock of farmers, soldiers and athletes for the country. This is the state that led India's effort in becoming self-sufficient in food supplies.
- Apart from strong supply chains for agricultural raw materials, Punjab has other competitive advantages including its road and rail connectivity and availability of power. The workforce of Punjab as we know is hardworking and entrepreneurial. Mohali and the surrounding area are emerging as a major destination for IT, knowledge-based sectors, and start-ups.
- The group has a significant presence in Punjab Cement Manufacturing unit at Bathinda. Apparel business and finance business large footprint with several outlets across the state.
- The group has already committed Rs 1,500-crore investment in the state Rs
   950 crore would be invested in setting up a paint manufacturing unit and the remaining Rs 500 crore in a cement unit in Rajpura.

#### The key points mentioned by Shri LN Mittal, Executive chairman, Arcelor Mittal were:

- India's largest petroleum refinery in private sector HMEL is set up at Bathinda.
- HMEL has invested over Rs 15,000 Cr in Punjab over the last 10 years. It is the first oil and gas unit in the state and is also the largest investment at a single location in Punjab.
- A few suggestions were put forth. Such as -
  - The state government should introduce PLI (production-linked incentive) scheme on the lines of the Centre to boost investment.

- The state government can set up petroleum and petrochemical investment region hub in the Malwa region.
- Allow change of land use (CLU) from agricultural to industrial through selfcertification was also put forth.

The key points mentioned in address by Shri Manpreet Singh Badal, Hon'ble Finance Minister of Punjab were:

- The immense contribution of stalwarts of industry in scripting the new chapter of industrialization in the state as Punjab has already reached a point of saturation in agriculture and now to boost industry is the need of the hour.
- The Punjabis are known for their resilience and valour throughout the world. That's why they ushered in the green revolution. Thus, making the country self-reliant in food production besides playing a vanguard role in protecting its national security.

The points mentioned in the Keynote Address by Shri Charanjit Singh Channi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, were:

- Punjab aspires to further improve state's ranking from top 10 to becoming top 5
   states in the country in terms of attracting foreign direct investments (FDIs).
- The state has developed a land bank of 6000 acres with plug & play facilities and created an efficient skill development ecosystem with active participation of industry. Punjab Skill Development Mission has also been revamped to cater to futuristic skills for Industry.
- The government's commitment is to act a true facilitator showing zero tolerance for political or bureaucratic corruption, negative attitude, delays and inertia.
- Punjab would live up to their expectations as the state is the best place to do business in India.
- Suggestions from the industry would help the government further fine tune the
  existing industrial policy by incorporating some requisite amendments to make it
  more investor friendly.

#### Key dignitaries present from the Government

- i. Shri Charanjit Singh Channi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab
- ii. Shri Om Parkash Soni, Deputy Chief Minister
- iii. Shri Manpreet Singh Badal, Minister of Finance
- iv. Shri Gurkirat Singh Kotli, Minister of Industries & Commerce, Information Technology, Science & Technology
- v. Shri Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Minister of Transport
- vi. Shri Vijay Inder Singla, Minister of Public Works, Administrative Reforms
- vii. Shri Dr Amar Singh, Lok Sabha MP
- viii. Shri Anirudh Tewari, IAS, Chief Secretary, Punjab

### **Key Announcements**

The two-day long Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit has seen a fresh investment commitment to the tune of ₹7,700 erore, including from foreign countries, resulting the overall investments in Punjab to surpass ₹1 lakh crore mark in the past over four years.

- i. The State Government will scrap 40,000 of the 48,000 pending Value-Added Tax (VAT) cases related to financial years: 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17. The 8,000 remaining cases will be settled amicably by asking the traders and industrialists concerned to deposit only 30% of the total outstanding tax liability.
- ii. The government announced the abolishing of the institutional tax, which had been implemented since 2011.
- iii. A one-time settlement (OTS) scheme for the defaulters to be introduced in Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation (PSIDC), Punjab Financial Corporation (PFC) and Punjab Agro Industries Corporation (PAIC).
- iv. An amnesty scheme will also be introduced for the plot holders of the Punjab State Industries Export Corporation (PSIEC).

- v. To assuage the pain of medium-scale industries the fixed charges on electricity connections for the micro, small and medium industry having load up to  $100~\rm KVA$  have been slashed to 50%.
- vi. The government will simplify the procedure for change of land use to facilitate the industry in setting up ventures seamlessly.