

Evaluation of Competitiveness & Ease of Doing Business among North Indian States



The Initiative

- ◆ Organise Speaking Tour in Six North Indian states (Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana) and a Regional Symposium on Competitiveness inviting participants from select North Indian states and US representatives to deliberate on issues of competitiveness and Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)
- ◆ Preparation of a Background Paper which would include both primary as well as secondary research to identify good practices and success stories in relation to competitiveness and EoDB among North Indian states
- ◆ Provide a platform for sharing of experiences as well as critical issues faced and practical knowledge from the US that could help provide direction and devise strategies for the respective states

Objectives

- Sensitising relevant stakeholders about the means of improving state competitiveness through the US experience, expertise and case studies
- Sharing of best practices from among the North Indian states and the experience of US which have positively impacted their business climate
- States have different realities and thus, require different solutions. This provides the policymakers with an approach to address critical issues pertaining to their respective states.

Speaking Tours and Symposium



Roundtable Interaction with Chief Secretary S. Ramaswamy (Dehradun, Uttarakhand, 2017)



US Expert Shanthi Nataraj, US Embassy Staff & CUTS Team with Rajasthan Deputy Speaker Rao Rajendra Singh (Jaipur, Rajasthan, 2017)



US Ambassador to India, Richard Verma delivering keynote address during the Symposium (Jaipur, Rajasthan, 2016)

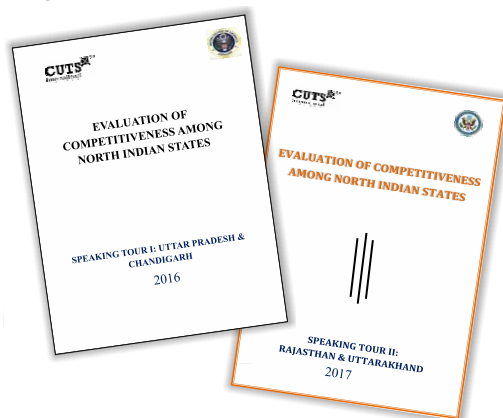


US Expert Albert Foer interacting with the audience (Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, 2016)



Publications

Reports



Op-eds

The unease in ease of doing business
The Asian Age, September 28, 2017

EODB been interpreted by states as ease of granting entry, real constraints begin after biz is established: CUTS Intl
KNN Knowledge & New Network, August 31, 2017

Ease of doing business not facilitating reforms on ground: Experts
Moneycontrol, July 25, 2017

India's ease of doing biz isn't just about permits
The Asian Age, November 09, 2016

How Does India Score Well on Competitiveness But Poorly on Ease of Doing Business?
The Wire, October 17, 2016

Upcoming Event

National Symposium on EoDB & Competitiveness
 Chandigarh | January 24, 2018

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Key Recommendations

- **State Level Competition Laws:** Healthy competition is one of the imperatives in a State's competitiveness. In a big country like India, it is not possible for regulatory actions to be taken up only in the national capital and therefore, state governments should establish their own state regulatory agencies to regulate the businesses in the state. Thus, there is a need to adopt state level competition laws in India.
- **Regulatory Impact Assessment:** Need for re-engineering of the regulatory framework in India. Thus, there is a need to use tools such as Regulatory Impact Assessment (cost/benefit analysis) to clean up the laws, and reduce the cost of regulations for doing business.
- **State Specific Export Policy:** There is a need to look at global value chains (GVCs), when marketing a State and have tailor made export policies to improve state's competitiveness. Thus, every State should have its own Export Policy/Strategy and Body to implement the same.
- **Inclusive Platforms:** There is a need for more multi-stakeholder platforms outside the political arena wherein economic and political economy issues could be discussed, built consensus and then forward the recommendations to the polity and government for implementation.
- **Analysis of Policy Failures:** The focus should be on analysing (*ex-post*) policy implementation failures, so as to learn from mistakes and avoid repetition.
- **Sharing of Good Practices among States:** There is a need to share good practices among states and also to learn from non-successes to as to put their best foot forward.