

**Hon'ble Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Government of India Shri Jayant Sinha addressed the Inaugural Session of the 187th AGM of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce on October 01, 2018.**

Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Shri Jayant Sinha while speaking on Farm to Frontier : A Different Development Model for India, in the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce said that people are going to get up to 5 lakh of coverage for their health treatments through a cashless portable way - all that is needed is to show their Gold Card in the place of treatment.

Mr. Sinha said the Government is on the way to make a platform called DG Yatra as well as building an extraordinary platform for drones to enable automated traffic management for the digital sky. According to Shri Sinha such platforms will enable people to get to the productivity frontier and hence they act as game changers for India's development. There are many frontier industries and frontier companies where people are very productive, generating high output, developing more ways of innovations and thus making them globally competitive too, he pointed out. He said the challenges for us now, as we have about total formal jobs of 75 billion or so, out of which Government jobs are about 15 million and we have other jobs of about 50 million, is to think about how we can increase the number of direct frontier jobs as well as develop more and more ways of innovations.

Shri Sinha also pointed out that this frontier industries give employment to 10 million people out of which 4 million are in IT services. They are supporting additional 30 million jobs in indirect frontier job, he said and we can go from 10 million frontier jobs to 50 million frontier jobs in the next 20 years, he added, which means 2 million jobs a year. And hence, the total number of jobs that are linked to highly productive industries, like IT Services, automotive banking aviation may create 200 million jobs and then we can really transform India and that is what we have to try for, he commented.

By following this development model, our GDP per capita will likely increase from about \$1,800 to \$5,400 and overall GDP will reach about \$10 trillion in the next 20 years - making us a prosperous middle-income country.

Answering to the queries of industrialists, Shri Sinha also hinted at the investments to be done at airports for their uplift and said Rs.1 lakh crore investments will be done for giving facelift to the airports in the next 15 to 20 years, when the Government will try to massively increase the airports capacities three to four times. He even hinted at the financial package for making Air India strong and vibrant and added that financial packages, series of reforms for transformation as well as a series of strategies will be undertaken to give Air India a complete facelift.

Shri Rajendra Khandelwal, the outgoing President, welcomed the gathering and the incoming President Shri Om Prakash Agarwal proposed vote of thanks at the inaugural Session of 187<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Chamber. The meeting was attended by the most respectable leaders of the business fraternity and senior members of the diplomatic core.