OUR MISSION

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is committed to creating the most powerful strategic partnership between the U.S. and India. Promoting bilateral trade is an important part of our work, but our mission reaches far beyond this. It is about business and government coming together in new ways to create meaningful opportunities that have the power to change the lives of citizens. We are entering a new era based on a strategic partnership between the U.S. and India – one where we will work closely together with business and government leaders to achieve our goals of driving economic growth, job creation, innovation, inclusion, and entrepreneurship.
On behalf of my fellow Board Members, I want to introduce you to the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). USISPF is a newly formed non-profit organization arising out of the unanimous decision of the USIBC board to separate from the US Chamber of Commerce.

While promoting trade is an important part of our work, our focus reaches far beyond this to promoting job creation, inclusion, start-ups, innovation, and education. We are committed to creating the most powerful strategic relationship between the two countries, and believe this can be achieved by business and government coming together to create meaningful opportunities that have the power to change the lives of citizens.

As champions of the U.S.-India commercial and strategic partnership, we believe there is an unprecedented opportunity for business communities in both countries to play a larger role in the next chapter of this important bilateral-partnership. USISPF is uniquely suited to work together with leaders in the U.S. and India to achieve our shared goals.

USISPF will engage with both US- and India-based companies through its 13 sector-specific committees, focusing on advancing, through advocacy, prosperity for all in both countries. Advocacy initiatives include tracking opportunities at the state and federal level, identifying new avenues for investment, and deepening engagement with stakeholders.

We are confident that our new organization will achieve impressive results, and would be honored to have you join our mission. We welcome your partnership and ideas for our agenda.
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“Today, there is a convergence of priorities between the U.S. and India that has never been stronger. USISPF is working to build upon this existing foundation, as to fully tap into the unbridled potential of this partnership. This platform brings together key stakeholders to engage on areas of collaboration, cooperation and mutual benefit.”

Dr. Mukesh Aghi
USISPF engages with U.S. and Indian Governments, together with business and other stakeholders on areas of collaboration that address challenges and create opportunities for its member companies. Through theme-based research and knowledge sharing, the Forum aims to chart the next chapter of collaboration between both the countries.

USISPF engages with member companies through its 13 sector specific committees focusing on policy advocacy to further economic growth and commercial partnership between both the countries.

USISPF aims to further interests of both nations by engaging with Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate along with the Parliamentarians in India. USISPF believes that our shared democratic values lie at the heart of the growing U.S.-India Strategic Partnership, and will lead through dynamic exchanges on the legislative side.
THE SIX PILLARS OF USISPF

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

USISPF will focus on inclusive growth by bringing closer corporate initiatives and government priorities. The Forum will pave the way for strategic development in U.S. and India by aggregating CSR initiatives, assisting in PPP Projects, facilitating more education related exchanges and building stronger cultural ties.

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

USISPF believes that innovation will fuel job creation in both economies. By working towards a robust IP framework supported by a strong entrepreneurial spirit, USISPF will enable investments, technology transfer and sustainable innovation. Institutional support system for start-ups will be deployed in the form of incubators, investor outreach platforms and mentorship infrastructure.

B-B-G OPPORTUNITIES

USISPF aims to provide its member companies a platform to track opportunities at the state and federal level, new avenues for investment and deepening engagement with relevant stakeholders. The Forum will also provide introductions government and business introductions where appropriate.
During his historical address to the Joint Session of the U.S. Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, 'Our relationship has overcome the hesitations of history. Comfort, candour and convergence define our conversations.'

USISPF will aim at bringing a working dynamic between the Houses of the US Congress and the Parliament in India. Discussion on policy issues between the largest and the oldest democracies will help further the agenda of tackling issues, both global and domestic by providing a platform for discussion between leaders from both countries. Progressive dialogues on matters pertaining to International security, trade and global economic policies will create a positive impact and strengthen the role of both nations in the geo-political sphere.
STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

Strategic Engagement
USISPF works towards setting the agenda on issues of bilateral and geo-political relevance. Our unique position of working closely with key decision makers, enables us to contribute meaningfully in strengthening the strategic partnership between India and the U.S.

The Forum’s areas of focus include:

- Defence security
- Energy and Infrastructure development
- Healthcare access and inclusion
- Food security and agriculture
POLICY ADVOCACY

Healthcare
The landscape for this sector is shifting dynamically in both nations, with the governments focusing on improving accessibility and quality of care, while lowering costs. Without compromising on innovation, there is a need to explore new partnerships and business models. USISPF is leading data-driven advocacy for alternative policy solutions by educating stakeholders, and creating dialogues for exchange of global experience, best practices and knowledge sharing.

Infrastructure
USISPF influences and advances infrastructure policy and regulatory regimes by promoting best practices and market-based solutions to positively impact business. Advocacy efforts focus on policies tied to critical issues including land use & acquisition, successful Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) implementation, project financing and reforms that directly impact investors and companies. USISPF also provides successful trade promotion through joint workshops and roundtables with the Indian government to showcase our members’ equipment, technologies, and services to meet India’s infrastructure needs. Simultaneously, USISPF also provides the platform for Indian companies to explore opportunities in upgrading and redeveloping the ageing US infrastructure, a space with immense investment potential but little Indian participation.

Energy
USISPF continues to promote reforms that would expand India’s power sector and promote safety, reliability and efficiency for generation, transmission, distribution, and grid management, including a regulatory policy to promote renewable energy consumption. India’s addressing key investment issues, including the creditworthiness of distribution utilities, domestic content requirements and technological neutrality, bidding processes, land acquisition and permitting, and grid stability, will facilitate participation by American companies and help India achieve its power generation targets. As the government takes steps to increase oil and gas exploration activity and accelerate the development of resources, USISPF helps companies advocate for favorable policy reforms in hydrocarbon exploration and production and promoting effective implementation frameworks necessary to attracting foreign investment in India’s domestic oil and gas sector.

Financial Services & Tax
Innovation and technology are at the heart of today’s global financial services sector. While working to help deepen India’s capital markets, along with its banking and insurance sectors, USISPF will also provide a platform to global leaders to work as partners with the Government of India to promote financial inclusion. Today, less than 10% of India’s population is active in the capital markets and less than 5% of the country has access to insurance. This scenario presents an enormous opportunity for USISPF member companies to introduce their companies into these communities, which include India’s growing middle class. Prime Minister Modi’s vision of financial inclusion and bold move of demonetization has already pushed the country towards digital payments. USISPF members are well positioned to take advantage and partner with the government on these initiatives.
B-B-G OPPORTUNITIES

State Engagement is one of the processes through which USISPF will aim at building a harmonious working environment between governments and business/industry players. Recognizing State policies pertaining to various sectors will be key to engaging companies and various other stakeholders with the government. USISPF will aim to facilitate this relation between state governments and companies to carry out mutually beneficial objectives.
Technology, Media and Telecommunications

In our globalized world, the ever-increasing importance of technology is undeniable. The ability for seamless data-flows and interoperability between our nations and businesses, in a secure and effective way, is imperative. The TMT committee aims to drive synergies and educate stakeholders to ensure flexibility in policy making, given the dynamic nature of this sector. USISPF will facilitate exchange of ideas in the areas of artificial intelligence (AI), big data, and Internet of Things (IoT), as these concepts have the ability to greatly impact the lives of citizens. Convergence of cyber-security threats and challenges also provides an opportunity for both countries and industry to work together towards better solutions.

In Media, the forum liaises with stakeholders both in the public and private area driving forth issues of companies on censorship, intellectual property and opening the Indian market for foreign investments in the sector.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

USISPF will focus on building a framework to support high technology transfer between the US and India. Innovation is the lifeblood of both economies, and a strong and predictable IPR regime will help encourage this.

Business Process Management

USISPF will aim to create a streamlined dialogue between all stakeholders to address tactical challenges in this space ranging from cyber security issues to fraud challenges.

Services

The Services Committee is the premier platform for law firms and consultancies that seek to promote their expertise in India-related issues. Leveraging its membership and long-standing relationships, USISPF connects committee members with potential corporate clients and senior government officials. Whether your goal is to be seen in India, make connections, or quietly resolve issues, USISPF can help you grow your business.

Aerospace & Defence

India is entering a historic period of military modernization with acquisition expansion and heavy developmental programs underway. Aerospace and Defense will be a major focus for USISPF. USISPF is well-positioned to capitalize on the U.S.–India Defense Trade Initiative (DTI) to ensure U.S. and Indian industry success in both providing advanced military capability, while simultaneously fulfilling the “Make in India” mandate. The Forum will lead frank and productive discussions with all parties to develop a better understanding of what more must be done to advance this friendship, while simultaneously defining an actionable roadmap for mutual success. The time has never been better to advance military cooperation and the Forum is positioned to be the leading entity to develop and deliver solutions to ensure success.
USISPF will focus on inclusive growth by bringing closer corporate initiatives and government priorities. The Forum will pave way for strategic development in U.S. and India by aggregating CSR initiatives, assisting in PPP projects, facilitating more education related exchanges and building stronger cultural ties.

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT
Manufacturing
USISPF believes the Indian economy, and particularly its manufacturing sector, would gain substantially from the further expansion of trade. Further trade liberalization will serve as a catalyst for greater domestic reforms that lead to improvements in ease of doing business. USISPF advocates for expanding duty free export opportunities for manufacturers in India and recommends India expand its export markets through concluding high-ambition free trade agreements with key countries. USISPF is committed to the long-term goal of a U.S.-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and we believe the successful completion of several other comprehensive bilateral FTAs will lay the groundwork towards accomplishing that goal. USISPF and its member companies stand committed to supporting these initiatives and facilitates regular dialogues with relevant ministers to pursue implementation of these recommendations.

Workforce Mobility
Trade is a two-way street. U.S. companies are major job creators in India. Likewise, it is important to recognize the contribution Indian companies make here in America. They have made significant moves to hire Americans announcing tens of thousands of new jobs in recent months. In addition to creating well-paid American jobs, Indian companies are addressing the STEM skills gap, and driving innovation across the US economy. These companies are truly deepening the U.S.-India relationship in part by leveraging high skilled visa programs that are widely recognized as benefiting the US economy. Visa holders bring skills that are not easily available, pay taxes, and help drive the US innovation economy. USISPF’s Workforce Mobility Committee will continue to champion the contributions these companies are making to communities across the US, and will continue to make the case for the free flow of skilled labor in both countries.

Food, Agriculture and Retail
The food and agriculture sector represents the largest sector in the Indian economy and great potential exists in this area for increased partnership between the U.S. and India. India’s huge raw material base, paired with a growing 1.3 billion population, presents vast investment and engagement opportunities for the U.S. USISPF will tap into this partnership by sharing U.S. best practices, technology, and innovation with India, and, in exchange, provide U.S. companies with untapped investment opportunities that exist in India’s enormous consumer base.
USISPF is committed towards helping create an entrepreneurship-friendly ecosystem, as we believe this is key in driving job creation in both countries. USISPF works as a catalyst among diverse stakeholders including academia, investors, corporates and entrepreneurs, to help create and design opportunities to collaborate.

Our focus is on powering growth through sustainable innovation, which is enabled by a combination of technology transfer mechanisms and robust long-term investments. USISPF facilitates such co-creation through an institutional ecosystem of start-up incubators, investor outreach platforms and mentorship infrastructure.