

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2010

Dear Chief Minister,

As you are aware, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has constituted a National Innovation Council (NInC) to drive the innovation movement in the country. The Council consists of 17 prominent members from diverse fields (the list of members is attached for your reference). The first meeting of the Council took place on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 where it was discussed that the core focus of NInC will be to drive an Indian model of innovation to provide solutions related to basic human needs for the people at the bottom of the pyramid. This inclusive innovation model should create new affordable opportunities in key areas such as Health, Agriculture, Education, Energy, Transport, Housing etc.

The NInC will seek to create a Roadmap for Innovations for the next decade by focusing on five key parameters: Platform; Inclusion; Eco-system; Drivers and Discourse. The aim is to re-define innovations to go beyond R&D laboratories and factories to offer novel solutions that lead to inclusive growth for the people and by the people; foster appropriate eco-system across domains and sectors to strengthen entrepreneurship; focus on key drivers to ensure scalability, sustainability, durability and quality and expand the space for dialogue and discourse on innovation.

At the meeting, the Council also deliberated upon some key initiatives like Inclusive Innovation Fund; regional innovation clusters; innovation centres in universities; local and national awards and related challenges. A National Innovation Portal was also launched to network people, ideas, experiences, resources and galvanise the innovation community in the country.

To drive the innovation agenda in your great State and to harness the core competencies, local talent, resources and capabilities to create new opportunities, we request you to explore the possibility of setting up a State Innovation Council to focus on the following:

- 1.0 Support your Government to promote innovation in the State;
- 2.0 Encourage young talent and local universities, colleges, Medium and Small Scale Industries (MSME), R&D Institutes;
- 3.0 Map opportunities for innovation in the State;
- 4.0 Identify and reward talent in innovation and disseminate success stories;
- 5.0 Organise seminars, lectures, workshops on innovation and create State innovation portal to educate;
- 6.0 Help create innovation eco-systems;
- 7.0 Organise risk capital and prepare an Innovation Roadmap 2010-2020 for the State.

The Council should be a lean organisation consisting of a group of 7 to 11 eminent people from civil society, universities, private sector and a few representatives from the Government who are the leading innovators in the State. The Members should be co-opted on a voluntary

basis with a small secretariat serving them. Ideally, existing resources should be leveraged without the creation of new posts and structures so as to ensure autonomy, flexibility and efficiency.

This initiative will recognise and leverage the enormous pool of domain experts working in the area of innovations in the State and provide a platform to scale existing innovative practices. It will also enhance the productivity and efficiency of the State, create new employment opportunities, boost growth, reform institutional and organisational structures, and herald a change in mindsets. Such a systematic organisation will also allow States to disseminate good practices to the whole country.

We feel State Innovation Councils will be a critical part of creating an eco-system in the country to boost innovation performance and for ensuring continued high economic growth and global competitiveness for our industries and institutions. However, we would like to emphasise that the core activities of the Council should align themselves to creating an inclusive vision of innovation as well as driving competitive advantage. The NInC would be happy to collaborate and share guidelines for setting up the State Innovation Council.

Please find enclosed for your perusal a booklet outlining the strategy and key initiatives of NInC. This will give you a brief overview of the Council's agenda.

We look forward to your personal leadership in this endeavour to unleash the enormous, untapped innovation opportunities in your State.

Thank you and warm personal regards,

Your's sincerely

Sam Pitroda