

Highlights of the speech by Mr. Anshu Prakash
Additional Secretary, Department of Heavy Industries
of the Republic of India
at the 170th session of the World Forum WP.29

Thank you Mr. Chair for giving this opportunity to India to address the distinguished delegates.

While the Indian delegation is a regular to WP-29 deliberations, for me personally, this meeting is a maiden experience. And I must commend you for the ease with which you conduct the deliberations, taking along all stakeholders and progressing in building harmonized vehicle regulations in a harmonious manner. I also commend the Vice Chair, and the Secretariat, for their painstaking effort in preparing the comprehensive agenda and building the base for the success of this meeting. The deliberations yesterday were very productive and the interventions by the distinguished delegates were both succinct and meaningful, resulting in significant value addition.

Mr. Chair, the Indian economy is growing at a rate of over 7% per annum, and with the progressive policies by the Government spurring investment and growth, we aspire to reach double digit figures. The automotive industry is an engine for realizing these aspirations, and in turn, is also a beneficiary of this high growth. The estimated contribution of the automotive sector in our GDP is nearly 7 to 8%. We are indeed happy that most major OEMs have made and are making investments in India. We would like to contribute in meeting the road mobility requirements in India and abroad and manufacture safe, consumer and environment friendly, technology driven vehicles. We consider the forum of WP 29 to be a leading light for meeting the aspirations and realising the potential of the auto sector.

Mr. Chair after significant achievements in the Indian automotive mission plan 2006 to 2016, we have now finalized the Mission Plan for the next ten years. We expect growth in all sectors, high-end passenger vehicles, middle and low budget cars, commercial vehicles, 3 wheelers, two wheelers, and agriculture tractors. We envisage significant progress in green technologies with focus on e-mobility, hybrids and even biofuels. Environment concerns are a major challenge which the automotive industry must address in a responsible manner. We will focus on sustainable development, and enhancement of road and vehicular safety. Our homologation testing, research and development infrastructure is witnessing large investments in synch with the anticipated growth of the auto sector. Our regulatory system will be progressive. Recently we have notified substantive amendments in the Motor Vehicles Act with provisions of control of spurious components, requirements for vehicle recalls, heavy penalties for drunken driving and other traffic offences and also ELV provisions. In particular we are conscious of the emission norms and have notified leap-frogging and migration to BS VI emission norms for all categories of vehicles from 2020. Stringent crash regulation and norms for pedestrian safety have also been notified.

Mr. Chair, India is committed to transpose GTRs adopted under the 1998 agreement in the national regulations. We are also happy to collaborate with other stakeholders to accelerate the objectives of better vehicles, wholesome and harmonized regulations and contributing towards addressing the challenges of complex, mobility scenario facing humanity.

Thank you Mr. Chair.
