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#IHaveADream



Fireside chat with Ajay Piramal: India@100 – Charting the Path for Growth and Development



Ajay Piramal
Chairman, Piramal
Group

The conversation with Mr Piramal, a business icon known for his inclusive worldview, was the latest in the series "I Have a Dream".

This series features eminent Indians from different walks of life and seeks to see the new India through the eyes of those who have helped shape the vibrant, resilient India of today.

Highlights of the conversation with Mr Piramal

- CII is playing a very important role in presenting a balanced picture to the government on how an empowered Indian industry can herald equitable development.
- India has the potential to influence global growth and geopolitics. Being an Indian today, is truly advantageous.
- Business leaders need to lead by example when it comes to contributing to society. People look up to them.

[Watch the fireside chat](#)

INTERVIEW

“There is immense potential in organising the entire services sector in the country in terms of quality control, technology and robust processes.”

— Abhiraj Singh Bahl, Co-Founder, Urban Company



In recent years India has seen a strong surge of entrepreneurial energy fanned by an enabling policy environment. We reached out to **Abhiraj Singh Bahl, Co-Founder, Urban Company**, the organisation that changed the face of home services in India. In a free flowing conversation with India@75 Foundation, Abhiraj talks about the potential of the informal sector, the role of technology in bringing about equitable development and how businesses can make a positive impact. Do read the whole interview.

Snippets

“India has made remarkable progress in terms of digital transformation. The aspirational nature of India's young population has helped drive the adoption of digital platforms.”

“What we found in initial conversations with service professionals was that they lacked opportunities not intent. Most depended on local contractors and middlemen who sucked out all the profits from the value chain without adding commensurate value back into the system especially for these service professionals.”

“The more we did our research, the more it became evident that the space was ripe for disruption. The demand side had several pain points while the supply system was fragmented and fractured.”

“I believe that in the next 15 to 20 years, the top three companies by market capitalisation, in every single category, will be technology first companies.”

“I think one of the things that is very interesting and unique about India, is that we have a very, very aspirational young population. Whenever they identify something that can change their station in life, that solution organically diffuses in the market without the need for a marketing blitzkrieg.”

[Read the interview](#)

BYTES

Embracing Amrit Kaal, The Era of Transformation



“As we envision India@100, a nation that is prosperous, inclusive, and globally influential, we must acknowledge the importance of building a strong foundation for the journey ahead. The inauguration of the new Parliament building by Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stands as a significant step in realizing this vision.

As we embark on the journey towards Amrit Kaal, let us embrace the principles of transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance that this magnificent structure represents. India@100 is not just about reaching a centenary milestone; it encapsulates our aspirations for a vibrant, inclusively developed, technologically advanced, and sustainable India. Let us all draw inspiration from this historic moment and work collectively towards realizing our goal of inclusively developed India@100.”

— Dr Sanjiv Goenka, Chairman, India@75 Foundation



“As we embark on a new resolve to move from India@75 to India@100, we enter a phase of immense significance and potential. The inauguration of the new Parliament building by Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today stands as a defining milestone in this journey. It symbolizes our commitment to fostering a stronger democracy and advancing our country’s holistic development. This historic moment is just the beginning of the Amrit Kaal, the era of transformation, that calls upon each one of us to take a new resolve towards a new India@100 and to collectively work towards realizing the dreams and aspirations of our nation.

As we move forward, let us remember that the true essence of Azadi ka Amrit Kaal lies in the collective efforts of all stakeholders - Government, Industry, Civil Society, and Citizens. Together, we must channel our energies towards fostering inclusive growth, promoting innovation,

embracing technology and engaging with the world in ensuring its productive use, shaping the future to achieve our vision of an integrated inclusively developed India@100 that will be a super-partner to the rest of the world. Let us embrace this historic moment and strengthen ourselves to work together to realise this achievable vision.”

— Mr Rajan Navani, Chairman, CII Council on India@75

OUTREACH

Flip-on-Wheels: Taking digital literacy to the rural doorstep



India can gain significantly by accelerating digital adoption in the informal sector . In 2018, India@75 Foundation launched the Functional Literacy Programme (FLiP) to help the unorganized sector navigate the digital space. This easy to run, 3 module digital literacy course can be downloaded free from the India@75 Foundation website and run by anyone who wants to help the informal workers in their vicinity.

Given the response and its scalability potential, India@75 decided to develop a variant called FLiP-on-Wheels (FoW) to take the programme to the rural India where digital dissemination is not possible. The FoW uses a modified vehicle to travel from village to village in the target area and reach vulnerable sections who will most benefit from being a part of Digital India. FLiP-on-Wheels was piloted in 12 villages of Parbhani District in Maharashtra.

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