



**NASSCOM**



Tuesday, August 28, 2018

**CONTACT:** Brooke Armour  
**PHONE:** 916.553.4093

## **CALIFORNIA BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE PARTNERS WITH NASSCOM TO PROMOTE STRONG BILATERAL TRADE ENGAGEMENTS THROUGH THE VISIT OF INDIAN UNION MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**SAN FRANCISCO**— The Honorable Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Electronics & IT, Law & Justice, Government of India today participated in a series of in-depth discussions and meetings with CEOs and senior executives from some of California’s most prominent businesses including VC’s focused on the Indian market. He also met business leaders of the Indian technology companies successfully operating in the US market, making investments, generating jobs and fueling an innovation growth story in the US. The meetings discussed the need to work collectively to better manage technology challenges like data privacy and security issues, especially in the context of next-gen. technologies i.e. AI, IoT, big data in priority sectors that have huge social impact including healthcare, fin-tech and social inclusion.

The Minister’s visit, was facilitated by NASSCOM, the Indian trade association representing the \$167 billion Indian IT industry, in partnership with California Business Roundtable and other local partner organisations. Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM said, “As representative of companies across the globe, we have always believed in pushing boundaries to expand business opportunities. We would like to thank the Hon’ble Minister for enabling us to start the process to build a robust ecosystem for India-based companies in California and across US. We are confident that the digital transformation opportunities in India, as outlined by him, will open doors for investors to establish and participate in India’s rewarding growth story. With innovation and digitisation at the heart of both the countries’ DNAs, we are sure that our synergies with the business community in California, will lead to a long and fruitful symbiotic relationship.”

Minister Prasad highlighted the inclusive growth that Indian digital space had witnessed in wake of the Government led Digital India programme, and invited the tech firms in California to take advantage of the growth opportunities that India offered. “At our tour of the Wipro Innovation Center, we saw how a strong trade relationship benefits both the Indian and California economy. As world leaders in the technology arena, our two countries can build on this success to grow more jobs and create even more economic opportunities for each other. This is the message I shared with leaders from California’s business community. These partnerships make us stronger and will further cement our shared leadership in the technology industry. I look forward to new and lasting partnerships that will result from today’s meetings,” said Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

“We were honored to host Minister Prasad for a series of in-depth discussions with leading members of the California business community on ways to help create new economic opportunities for both India and California. The technology industry in this state is critical in helping to create and grow jobs and our state heavily relies on the Bay Area and Silicon Valley for its economic stability. New and expanded relationships between our two countries will only strengthen both economies,” said Rob Lapsley, President of the California Business Roundtable and co-host for today’s activities.

###

#### **ABOUT MINISTER PRASAD**

Ravi Shankar Prasad is the Union Cabinet Minister for Law and Justice & Information Technology in the Government of India, headed by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi. He is an eminent Lawyer and a Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court of India. He is a Member of Parliament since the year 2000 and has been the member of important Parliamentary Committees in the Parliament like Finance, Communication & IT, Petroleum & Chemicals. Since his appointment as the Cabinet Minister for Communications and Information Technology on 26th May 2014, he has been spearheading the task of reviving India’s telecom sector. He is also actively leading the task of developing India into a global electronics manufacturing hub. India is sitting at the cusp of a Digital Revolution. It is a priority agenda for present government and as the Minister for Communications & IT, he is at the forefront of its implementation. The flagship program of Digital India, which aims to bring about good governance by extensive use of Information Technology, is being implemented under his leadership. He is also spearheading reforms in the Indian legal and judicial system.

Read more at <http://www.ravishankarprasad.in/index.php/en/biography>

#### **ABOUT NASSCOM**

NASSCOM, a not-for-profit industry association, is the apex body for the \$167 billion IT BPM industry in India, an industry that had made a phenomenal contribution to India's GDP, exports, employment, infrastructure and global visibility. NASSCOM is focused on building the architecture integral to the development of the IT BPM sector through policy advocacy, and help in setting up the strategic direction for the sector to unleash its potential and dominate newer frontiers. NASSCOM’s ~2,500 members constitute 90% of the industry’s revenue and have enabled the association to spearhead initiatives at local, national and global levels. In turn, the IT BPM industry has gained recognition as a global powerhouse. In India, this industry provides the highest employment in the private sector.

#### **ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE**

The California Business Roundtable is a non-partisan organization comprised of the senior executive leadership of the major employers throughout the state – with a combined workforce of more than half a million employees. For more than thirty-five years the Roundtable has identified the issues critical to a healthy business climate and provided the leadership needed to strengthen California’s economy and create jobs.

###