



Sardar Patel Institute Of Technology
Autonomous Institution affiliated to Mumbai University
Institution's Innovation Council

Bhavans Campus, Old D N Nagar, Munshi Nagar, Andheri West, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400058

Event Summary Report

Program driven by: IIC Activity

Program /Activity Name: India's Leadership Talk Series

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Venue: Home

Date: 23rd May 2020

Dr Abhay Jere, Chief Innovation Officer, MHRD Innovation Cell organised a live session with Shri Mahesh Babu, CEO, Mahindra Electric Mobility Ltd. on 23rd May 2020 as part of his novel initiative, India First Leadership Talk Series. The session was attended by the students and faculty members of IIC, SPIT with full vigour and enthusiasm from the safety of their homes keeping in mind the current COVID crisis. Shri Mahesh Babu enlightened the listeners on the current situation of the automobile industry and the opportunities for the auto-sector in the post-COVID world. He began the session by emphasising on the importance of the auto sector in India's economy. He suggested that the auto sector accounts for about 50% in the manufacturing sector in India and thus, is an integral component in India's GDP. Mahesh Ji spoke about how the auto industry has restructured itself to shift to a more technology-driven approach where a majority of the tasks apart from the actual production are handled online without any physical contact. Thus, he felt that the coronavirus had forced them to revisit their business model and organisation. He spoke about the dwindling car sales and how he hoped that the opening up of the economy will help bring in the sales once again. Dr Abhay also asked Mahesh Ji on the impact of dropping crude oil prices on the automobile sector. Mahesh Ji stressed on the efficiency, climate compatibility and the need for electric vehicles moving forward and how the manufacturing of the electronic components should be localised not just with the perspective of serving the country but with a view to cater to the entire world. He spoke about a state of the art facility being developed by Mahindra in Pune capable of manufacturing more than 50% of the electronic components of any electric vehicle. He spoke on the opportunities for start-ups in the electronic sector with respect to battery management, battery packs, motor optimisation and even cell manufacturing. He suggested that India must revolutionize its labour laws, land laws and

rules with respect to industries in order to be able to fill in the void as a global supplier which has been created due to the world's disappointment and anger over China's COVID response. He concluded the session by stressing on the need for a collaboration between the auto industry and the software industry for creating autonomous vehicles as an alternative for the future and how the students much develop such skills along with soft skills.