INDIAN INSTITUTE OF BANKING & FINANCE

**Press Release**

**6th R K Talwar Memorial Lecture**

The 6th R K Talwar Memorial Lecture was organized by the Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF) on 17th July 2015 at the State Bank of India Auditorium, Mumbai in association with State Bank of India. The speaker on the prestigious occasion was Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Government of India. The speech by Dr. Panagariya was on “Growth, Poverty and Economic Transformation in India”.

Dr. J. N. Misra, Chief Executive Officer, Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF) welcomed the chief guest and the participants. Mr. B. Sriram, Managing Director & Group Executive (National Banking), State Bank of India spoke about the Memorial Lecture.

**About the Lecture**

Dr. Panagariya, in his opening remarks, mentioned that, as a trade economist, he has a deep appreciation of the principle of comparative advantage and tries to not just teach but also practice it. He then eloquently spoke at length on “Why Growth Matters”, “Growth Eliminating Poverty: A Digression to South Korea and Taiwan”, “India During the First Three Decades: What Went Wrong?”, “ The Transition Decade of the 1980s”, “Reforms Arrive, Growth Accelerates and Poverty Falls”, “Why “Make in India,” “Skill India” and “Smart Cities” Initiatives”?

Dr. Panagariya concluded his speech by stating that the prospects for India to become the third largest economy of the world in less than fifteen years are excellent today. Taking into account the real appreciation of the rupee, during the decade of 2003-04 to 2012-13, India has grown above 10 percent per annum in real dollars. At this pace, India can turn its current $2 trillion economy at 2014-15 prices into $8 trillion in fifteen years or less. That would place India well above Japan, the economy that currently ranks third.

Can India grow at the rate it grew during 2003-04 to 2012-13? The answer is a resounding yes. The savings rate remains nearly 30 percent of the GDP with prospects to rise above 35 percent, a level reached in 2007-08. India has a young population so that labour shortages will not be an impediment to growth. India also remains an open, competitive economy. The per-capita income being low, India is far from the global technology frontier so that India has a lot of scope to catch up. Above all, the country has a highly motivated and responsive government at the center and governments in numerous states that are in a race with each other to move the nation forward at a brisk pace.

At the end, Mr.A.R.Barve, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, IIBF proposed the vote of thanks. The lecture was well attended by senior bankers, economists and others.

**About the R K Talwar Memorial Lecture**

State Bank of India has instituted this annual memorial lecture in memory of late R. K. Talwar. Late Talwar was the Chairman of the State Bank of India during 1969-76 and had played a significant role in the development and shaping of the bank. A highly principled banker, Talwar was known for his values, integrity, dynamism and professionalism. The admirers of the late R. K. Talwar from amongst the pensioners, existing staff of the bank and some outsiders collected funds to create an endowment to perpetuate his memory and recall his role / contribution in the growth and development of the bank. State Bank of India, on its part, has contributed a matching amount to the corpus created for the purpose.

**About the speaker (Dr. Arvind Panagariya)**

Dr. Arvind Panagariya is the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and has been professor of Indian Political Economy at Columbia University. He was a former Chief Economist of the Asian Development Bank and professor of Economics at the University of Maryland at College Park. He had also worked with the World Bank, IMF and UNCTAD in various capacities. Dr. Panagariya has authored several books.

In March 2012, the Government of India honoured Dr. Panagariya with Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian honor, the country bestows in any field.