

# 'India's manufacturing ambitions at risk from red tape'

## HT Correspondent

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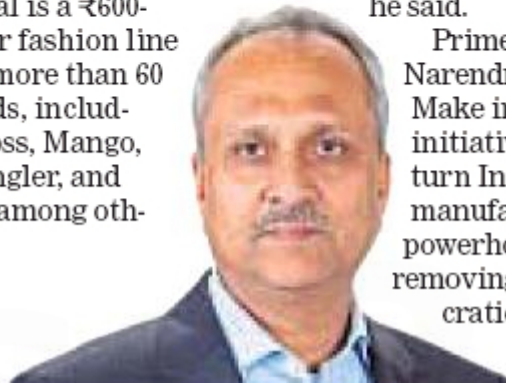
**NEW DELHI:** India could lose out to countries, including Vietnam and Phillipines, as the new manufacturing hotspots, if state level red-tape issues are not addressed urgently, a global vendor to storied brands such as Zara, Levis and All Saints has warned.

"Lack of decentralised decision-making and state-level delays is hurting India's

prospects," said Snehdeep Aggarwal, founder chairman of the Bhartiya Group.

The group's flagship Gurgaon-based Bhartiya International is a ₹600-crore leather fashion line supplier to more than 60 global brands, including Hugo Boss, Mango, Guess, Wrangler, and Marco Polo among others.

■ **Snehdeep Aggarwal**



"We wanted to convert our SEZ of leather goods into an industrial park. That application is still pending with the AP government for 2 years," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India initiative aims to turn India into a manufacturing powerhouse by removing bureaucratic sloth, and make

the country more investor-friendly.

Aggarwal said there is a need to "set up special cell maybe in the Prime Minister's Office to hasten decision-making and get things going on the ground."

The company, which runs a design studio in Milan and has major real estate projects in South India, is planning its own fashion label.

"We already have a label of high-end garments called Ultimaitalia in Italy," he said.