

FICCI Diaspora Engagement

The Indian Diaspora is estimated to be second largest in the world and has a diversified global presence. The Diaspora, estimated at over 25 million, is spread across countries with a high concentration in regions such as the Middle East, the United States of America, Malaysia, South Africa. The Indian Diaspora has not only increased in numbers but has been gaining universal recognition for the unique contributions to its host countries. Indian Diaspora has transformed their host economies over decades, contributing to their growth and development across different spheres. Be it entrepreneurs, workers, traders or teachers, researchers & inventors; doctors, lawyers, engineers or managers and administrators, Indian Diaspora has left deep footprints through their enterprise and skills. The successes of Indian Diaspora can be attributed to traditional ethos, cultural values and heritage, educational aptitude and qualifications, and Diaspora's capacity to harmonize and adapt.

India's engagement with its Diaspora is symbiotic, the strands of both sides of the relationship equally important to create a resilient and robust bond. There is a need to strategically capitalize on our Diaspora as the size, spread and the growing influence of Overseas Indians today is truly impressive and they play an active and participatory role in the economy and politics of the host nations where they reside. FICCI recognizes the importance of Its Diaspora and the need for India's Diaspora to reconnect with emerging India, develop a sense of shared history and cultivate an appreciation for the varied challenges that India faces and the opportunities that the economy offers. Hence recognizing this need and in lieu of this backdrop, **FICCI has established a Diaspora Division, the first Industry Chamber globally to do so.** The Diaspora division has the following objectives:

- Provide an opportunity for overseas Indians to interact and engage with their counterpart Indians
- Productively channelize their energy and expertise for the development of India
- Discuss potential areas of collaboration

The **Diaspora Division** is a unique initiative of FICCI, along with **Migration Division**, under the leadership of its Secretary General, Dr. A Didar Singh [former Secretary - Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India]. The division aims to create an eco-system with Indian Diaspora globally for cross-fertilization of ideas, knowledge sharing and resource mobilization, towards socio-economic development of India while also developing a stronger community of overseas Indians around the world.

FICCI through its offices overseas strengthens connects with the Indian diaspora and its organizations. FICCI has been associated with the India's largest diaspora event - **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** since its first edition when with a vision to forge a constructive relationship with our Diaspora overseas and make it participate in India's socio-economic development, a beginning was made by the then NDA Government and FICCI in 2003 to organize the first ever Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. FICCI have so far organized its 7 editions with Government of India.