

FICCI's New Presidium
Sandip Somany Takes
Over as President

Progressive Maharashtra
Creating Jobs for a
\$1 Trillion Economy

Reinventing Indian Agriculture
Innovations for
Agri Start-ups



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Business Digest

91st Annual General Meeting

Building a New India



Envisioning India
On Employment, Competitiveness
and Shared Prosperity



CEOs Retreat
FICCI's Yearly Event Hosted
for CEOs and Their Families



Reviewing the Bombay Plan
Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog,
Unveils the Book



Interview with Pradeep Parameswaran
India and South Asia Head of Uber
Technologies Inc Shares His India Strategy

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FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies. Established in 1927, it is India's oldest and largest apex business organization. FICCI serves its members from large (domestic and global companies) and MSME sectors as well as the public sector, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry.



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Building a New India

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We would like feedback/comments from our readers to enable us to improve our offering. Write to us at: george.skaria@ficci.com or sushmita.yadav@ficci.com



From the Secretary General

I would like to wish all the policymakers, thought leaders as well as FICCI stakeholders and associates a very Happy New Year. Turning of the calendar gives us a chance to look back and ahead with determination. Our biggest asset remains trust and we will continue to strengthen it this year as well.

In December, we held our 91st AGM at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, Delhi. The theme of the AGM was Building a New India. The vision for the Indian economy was foretold by Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, at the inaugural session, where he said that contrary to IMF's forecast of the slight slowdown in the world, India still maintains its position as the fastest among the major economies in terms of growth with ability to be within the range of 7-8 per cent rate.

A special session on GST was organised for member bodies.

At the AGM, we also elected our new Presidium: Sandip Somany as President, Sangita Reddy as Senior Vice President and Uday Shankar as Vice President. Sandip Somany is Vice Chairman and Managing Director, HSIL Limited and is recognised as a pioneer of the Indian ceramic industry and has played an instrumental role in making it an organised industry. Sangita Reddy is Joint Managing Director of the Apollo Hospitals Group and Uday Shankar is Chairman and CEO of Star India and President of 21st Century Fox Asia-Pacific (Only Asia), who has recently been appointed Chairman, Star and Disney India, and President of the Walt Disney Company, Asia-Pacific. FICCI's top leadership for 2018-19 represents a diverse expertise domain from manufacturing, healthcare to media & entertainment.

During December, we also organised a two-day retreat for our CEOs in Goa. The retreat is a special event that FICCI hosts every year, we give a snapshot of the outcome of the discussions and deliberations, at the retreat, in this issue. This issue of *Business Digest* also features two publications: one, our very own 'Envisioning India 2030' and the other, The Bombay Plan edited by former FICCI Secretary General Sanjaya Baru and renowned economist Meghnad Desai.

With over 1 billion trips in India and South Asia and counting and approximately 300,000 driver partners, Uber is focused on winning hearts and minds in the market by doubling its products that can solve our low network connectivity, congestion and pollution problems. For this issue of *Business Digest*, we interviewed Pradeep Parameswaran who heads the India and South Asia operations for Uber Technologies Inc.

We also organised PubliCon 2018 on the theme: 'Publishing in Indian Languages'. The conference discussed creation of original content in Indian

languages, translation opportunities for publishers, promotion of Indian languages across the globe and use of artificial intelligence in translation of Indian languages.

FICCI-ARISE School Education Conference 2018 - Schools of Future: Learners of 'Tomorrow' was held this month. FICCI-ARISE had prepared, in collaboration with Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., the Model Code for states to regulate the establishment and operation of new schools and recognise existing schools as self-financed independent schools.

FICCI submitted detailed proposals for the GST Council meeting. The Meeting chaired by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, took a number of key decisions. This was a very welcome step which would result in lower costs to consumers and growth of the market. We look forward to more such steps in the future.

FICCI also submitted a Pre-Budget memorandum.

This year, too, we will continue our effort to keep you abreast of all our activities and endeavours.

Dilip Chenoy