



Odisha fast emerging as the investment hub in Eastern India

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Govt has roadmap for recovery: PM at 93rd FICCI AGM



UDAY SHANKAR BECOMES FICCI PRESIDENT FOR 2021

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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 organisation. 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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We would like feedback/comments from our readers to enable us to improve our offering. Write to us at: rahul.siwach@ficci.com, publications@ficci.com

From The Secretary General

While this past year has been a mixed bag, FICCI, led by President Sangita Reddy and the Presidium, made sure to end this year on a high. We had the privilege of hosting the Prime Minister at FICCI's 93rd Annual Convention. The AGM this year boasts of a gamut of high-profile speakers, from policy makers to ministers, government dignitaries, thought leaders and industry champions.

The Prime Minister in his inaugural address suggested the industry invest its energy in finding ways to make agriculture, service, manufacturing, and social sectors complement each other. He also reiterated that members should look at investing in agriculture and rural India for it is the villages and small cities that will support and aid the growth of 21st century India. He lauded FICCI for partnering with the government and playing an effective role in the process of nation building.

The AGM was also addressed by great leaders like Satya Nadella, who said technology is the key to exploring new frontiers of economic recovery and resilience; Eric Schmidt who opined AI is a game-changer and the most powerful tool in generations for expanding knowledge, freedom, and increasing knowledge; N Chandrasekaran who believes that the 2020-s belong to India; Lord David Prior who said that one of the silver linings of this pandemic could be to open up a whole new branch of pharmaceutical research and development and that there needs to be a fundamental change as to how we deliver healthcare; and Dr Peter H Diamandis who convinced us to believe that the world's biggest problem is the world's biggest business opportunity.



Other annual events, Global Sports Summit- TURF 2020, Young Leaders' Summit and India Sanitation Conclave, were a roaring success. Kiren Rijju, at the former event urged the industry, business, and corporate houses to come together with the government in helping create a sporting obsessive society. Smriti Irani, in her keynote address at the Young Leaders Summit said that sustainability is not merely an environmental promise but also a business culture that needs to become the cornerstone of our work ethics. Amitabh Kant at the India Sanitation Conclave noted that owing to the success of the Swachh Bharat Mission, all our villages, districts and states are open defecation free.

The great Indian business fest, FICCI's Annual Expo 2020, is up and running. The numbers of participating business houses and visitors keep growing that make us believe that the wheels of economy are moving at a good pace.

Finally, as tradition goes, the outgoing President, Dr Sangita Reddy passed on the baton of FICCI's leadership to Uday Shankar, President, The Walt Disney Company APAC & Chairman, Star & Disney India. Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman, and Managing Director, Hindustan Unilever Limited; President, Unilever South Asia and Member, Unilever Leadership Executive, has been elevated as Senior Vice President and Subhrakant Panda, Managing Director, Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd joined the FICCI leadership as Vice President.

We will all remember this year as a great moment of learning. A chance for humanity to learn, to be more humane, to live better, and for the government and industry to take a closer look at its people.

Here is hoping that 2021 is better. I wish you all a healthy, happy and a COVID-free year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dilip Chenoy'.

Dilip Chenoy