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FICCI compliments government's moves to balance environment & development imperatives

NEW DELHI, 13 June, 2014: "FICCI believes that government's decisions have shown a way of striking a welcome balance between the needs of environment and development, **said Mr. Sidharth Birla, President, FICCI.** "We are happy to see government's swift actions in granting green clearances to important projects such as raising the height of Sardar Sarovar dam, and the radar project in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The government's serious commitment in cleaning and rejuvenating the holy river Ganges is also very welcome", he added.

"We note media reports on an Intelligence Bureau report that social activism affected India's growth. We believe there is need to sensitize society that poverty is the greatest peril for the country, and that growth must be the real antidote. Employment provides real livelihood security and is critical for uplifting the poor. It is the collective responsibility of government, industry and civil society to generate this security. FICCI firmly believes that the agendas for economic development and ecological sustainability must go hand-in-hand and not be seen as being at cross purposes", **said Mr. Birla.**

"Imposing ecology standards relevant to advanced societies on ourselves without first accounting for our needs and demographic imperatives have negative consequences on the social front; if no jobs and livelihoods are created, we will have social chaos. Thus, we need to create a rational balance between environment and development and any agenda disruptive to this ultimately goes against the interests of the Nation and the people" added **Mr. Birla.**

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