## **Press Release**

There is a Memorandum of Understanding which has been signed on 12<sup>th</sup> January,2015 at Mahatma Mandir, in Gandhinagar during Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015 between Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO and Centre for Technology Commercialization under DRDO-FICCI-ATAC Programme, FICCI and The Government of Gujarat in the area of tourism to setup Bio-Digester Eco-Friendly Sanitation Toilets across various tourism sites in Gujarat.

## **Background**

India where almost 60% of women do not have access to proper sanitation in India; DRDO, together with FICCI have undertaken an initiative to rehabilitate the rural and tribal population of the country with its indigenously developed 'Bio-digester' sanitation technology. The technology developed by DRDO is a non-polluting and effective method that degrades and converts the human waste into usable water and gasses in an eco-friendly manner. The generated gas can be utilized for energy/ cooking and water for irrigation purposes. Bio-Digester has been designed in a manner that it can be customized to suit the requirements of the region and demography; also it does not require much of maintenance and decomposes the human waste completely without leaving any pathogens.

Earlier, FICCI in association with the Ministry of Defence and DRDO had organised a 'MoU Exchange programme between DRDO and Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation for Implementation of Bio-Digester based Eco-friendly Toilets in all Gram Panchayats in the country.

## MoU with the Government of Gujrat

With the signing of the latest MoU on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) And Centre for Technology Commercialization under DRDO-FICCI-ATAC Programme, FICCI will synergise together for a yet another Strategic Partnership with the Government of Gujrat in the area of tourism to setup Bio-Digester Eco-Friendly Sanitation Toilets across various tourism sites in Gujarat.

The MoU signing shall pave way to major employment opportunities in the state of Gujrat and will bring new heights to the tourism sector with the clean, eco-friendly Bio-Digester Sanitation Toilets in the state.