## FICCI to Frame Agenda to Boost Civil Aviation Industry; To Suggest How GST Would Affect Taxation on Aviation

**NEW DELHI, May 5, 2011.** The **FICCI Civil Aviation Committee** met today, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Dinesh Keskar, and set for itself a wide-ranging agenda to give the civil aviation industry a fillip and make air travel safer, secure, cheaper and hassle-free.

The Committee, said Dr. Keskar, deliberated on important issues confronting the civil aviation sector such as safety, security, taxation, air traffic management, training, MRO, cargo, infrastructure, regional connectivity, regional airports and business aviation.

He said position papers would be prepared in consultation with the committee members on the key issues in civil aviation. In particular, FICCI would suggest ideas on how the implementation of the Goods & Services Tax (GST) would affect taxation in the aviation industry.

Dr. Keskar said that FICCI would be participating in the US-India High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) meeting to be held in New Delhi in a month. Members will deliberate on issues to be discussed with their US counterparts at the HTCG meeting.

The U.S.-India High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) was formed in 2002 to provide a forum for discussing US-India high-technology trade issues and building the confidence necessary to facilitate trade in sensitive items. The HTCG Statement of Principles provides the framework under which the group operates. Work conducted within the HTCG has led to many positive developments in the US-India trade relationship and has helped to promote bilateral high-tech trade.

He said that the Committee will work towards organizing a conference on civil aviation by yearend to highlight the issues critical to the growth of the Indian civil aviation sector.

Dr. Keskar informed the Members of the Committee that FICCI, along with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Farnborough International Ltd., would be holding the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Exhibition & Conference on Civil Aviation – India Aviation 2012 – at Hyderabad from March 14-18, 2012. The FICCI Civil Aviation Committee will play a major role in shaping the international conference and attracting the best participation from companies engaged in aircraft manufacture, machinery & equipment, airline services and airport infrastructure.

The FICCI Committee also noted the importance of the centenary celebrations of civil aviation in India and will partner with the Government in some of the activities.

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