

- **FICCI COMMENTS ON IIP DATA**  
**(10<sup>th</sup> March 2017)**

Commenting on the latest Index of Industrial Production, FICCI said that the manufacturing growth, though positive in January, remains fragile and a cause for concern. The sector may see a revival in the coming months as a result of measures taken in budget and other areas. The reform momentum has continued which is important to boost investor confidence and stimulate investments, added FICCI.

- **EMISSIONS NEED TO BE CUT DOWN BY 20% IN NEXT 15 YEARS TO STAND A CHANCE TO STAY BELOW 2 DEGREES**  
**(23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016)**

FICCI laid stress that establishing robust financing frameworks, technology partnerships and an enabling and regulatory environment lie at the heart of stimulating scalable business and industry action for combating climate change. The idea of channeling CSR funds to low carbon solutions in the areas of energy access, treatment and reuse of treated municipal wastewater and sanitation. There is a need for small and medium scale businesses to align towards the climate change agenda by driving scale and innovation.

FICCI's collaboration with the Climate Bonds initiative in forming the Indian Green Bonds Council in October 2016 for facilitating the development of Green Bonds Market and the launch of the Legislators-Business Forum on Low Carbon Local Area Development in December 2016.

The private sector needs to scale up efforts and investments in research and development particularly in respect of mass transportation, power generation, energy storage, electric vehicles and sustainable habitat. FICCI highlighted the importance of integration of surrogate carbon markets for energy efficiency and renewable energy into regional and global carbon markets. FICCI stressed on learning lessons from the CDM phase especially related to the challenges of the high transaction cost and unstable prices of carbon credits.

*FICCI's Voice – SG's Desk is a service to all our members and also shared with key policy makers and thought leaders. The document is a compilation of major topical issues that we take up with the Central, State governments and other concerned authorities. These issues come to us directly from members, or through deliberations in conferences, seminars etc. on sectoral issues, as also through Government notifications.*

**\*\* This issue of FICCI's Voice is a compilation of issues taken up by FICCI in the month of March 2017.**

- **COPYRIGHT BOARD TO OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION OF IP LAWS FOR FILM INDUSTRY IN THE OFFING**  
**(21<sup>st</sup> March 2017)**

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) has initiated discussions with the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, on the modalities of setting up a Copyright Board which would oversee strict implementation of IP laws for the entertainment industry, particularly the film sector.

FICCI said that the need of the hour was to maintain a balance between content and its monetization. The M&E industry witnessed many landmark policies and measures and after the implementation of GST, ratification of taxes and policies on digital media would enable the sector to flourish.

With the increased incidence of self-appointed street side groups trying to push censorship through, the creative minds were imposing self-censorship and freedom of expression was being undermined. FICCI added that such censorship left no room for civil debates and disagreement.

FICCI said that the industry was growing almost at the rate of nine per cent and the market was also maturing. This was FICCI FRAMES' 18<sup>th</sup> year and the media and entertainment industry which was growing from strength to strength offered immense business opportunities.

- **INDIA INNOVATION GROWTH PROGRAMME (IIGP) 2.0 TO SUPPORT INDUSTRIAL AND SOCIAL INNOVATIONS**  
**(14<sup>th</sup> March 2017)**

FICCI is proud to have been a partner of the India Innovation Growth Programme since its inception in 2007. With over 500 innovations supported, the exemplary work undertaken is noteworthy. Inclusion of new partners is a welcome addition as the programme grows from strength to strength. We remain committed to building on the tremendous success of the last decade in fostering and accelerating Indian technological innovations into the global marketplace.

FICCI said that over the last 10 years, the India Innovation Growth Programme has grown to be one of India's foremost technology acceleration platforms. FICCI strives to provide an entire ecosystem to the startups through diversified programs such as the IIGP, XLR8AP, Google digital unlocked certification program to meet the varied needs of startups in India. We work closely with innovators through various phases, from ideation to commercialization. Moving into the next decade, we remain confident of the continued growth & success of the IIGP in its' new avatar.

Several IIGP innovations have been further scaled through the XLR8AP Program of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, FICCI and University of Texas. An IIGP awardee, Sameer Panda has invented a tyre with burst-preventive puncture-curative technology and stated that the Xlr8 program with his commercialization strategy is soon planning to set up a manufacturing unit in Renigunta.

A number of high impact social enterprises selected under the IIGP have also been supported under the Millennium Alliance Program being implemented by FICCI. One such enterprise is Aakar innovations which has developed a ~100% compostable menstrual hygiene solution providing affordable pads to adolescent girls and women. This is done using a unique low cost, low electricity consuming machine that produces 1200-2400pads/8-10 hrs through community participation from 12-16 women(no specific skills required) as production workforce. FICCI is now supporting Aakar to scale this technology to Kenya and Uganda.

With support from the Department of Science and Technology, FICCI recently announced an Indo - Rwanda Innovation Growth Program. The Program will deploy 20 demonstrated and validated Indian technologies

and innovations over a period of two years. The joint programs/ventures created with Rwandan partners will deliver at least 20 sustainable social enterprises that will stimulate economic impact development in Rwanda.

- **ENGAGING CORPORATE SECTOR WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL SDGS**  
(9<sup>th</sup> March 2017)

FICCI believes that it is significant to have sustainable business with responsible and inclusive growth. Out of the ambitious 17 SDGs, FICCI conference deliberated on the three environmental SDGs cutting across corporate sectors, such as– Sustainable Waste Management in Cities, Sustainable Consumption of Natural Resources and Sustainable forestry and Agriculture. Many corporates are at the forefront of sustainability and there are several examples of how corporates have integrated sustainability as a strategic business imperative.

It is important to have a deep and abiding commitment in engaging corporate sectors in the discussions on SDGs. There has been minimal conversation with the private sector on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is heartening to see the shift in the UN to embrace the private sector for sustainable development goals. Role of corporate sector has gone on unheralded. Creating viable business models lies at the heart of sustainability.

India is in the centre of global debate for issues such as, growing population, unregulated urbanization and requirement of international cooperation for addressing biodiversity and global warming. Corporates need to put protocol to embrace circular economy. Corporates are already taking initiatives that are aligned with the SDGs. There is a need to have substantial data to measure SDGs through existing actions of the corporates. In a report by DNVGL, it is forecasted that SDGs would not be achieved in its entirety, though to some extent developed countries would be able to achieve them.

- **FICCI TO PROVIDE PLATFORM TO CONNECT GOVERNMENT WITH INDIAN GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGIES INNOVATORS**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017)

FICCI highlighted that mainstreaming Geospatial Technologies for effective decision making and better governance is one of the mandates of FICCI. As India endeavours to achieve its developmental goals, the multifaceted and specialised capabilities offered by Geospatial Technologies will play a crucial role for information management in future.

There are several areas where use of Geospatial Technologies has benefit the Government and Private Sector. However, this sector is facing challenges in the areas of awareness about this technology, ready to use Geospatial Technology and solutions, Policy for use of Geospatial Datasets and Trained Manpower.

The two decades of learning Geospatial Technologies, teaches us that we need to look at five things i.e. making Geospatial Applications more ubiquitous and on demand, use of technology which is exploding fast, enhancing the roles of owners and users of geospatial technologies than only professionals, understand societal forces such as safety, environmental concerns, transparency, and, study various economic factors such as providing return on investments in developing such technologies.

- **FIRST MEETING OF INDO-FINNISH BUSINESS WORKING GROUP ON ENERGY & MINING HELD (10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017)**

FICCI said that Finnish companies were specifically looking at collaborating with local partners to leverage the local knowledge and expertise. India was looking at the scale that was needed to expand and technological solutions to drive down the costs. To address the challenge of availability, accessibility and affordability of energy resources, India needed to enhance the domestic growth drivers, remove structural constraints and harness the technology and innovation for energy management. India's thrust on building an ecosystem for energy and mining provides immense potential for collaborations, for enhancing the manufacturing base, creating innovative business models and investing in R&D.

The meeting gave an opportunity to business houses in India and Finland to devise an action plan for realizing the potential of future collaborations. With an impressive set of companies from both sides at the meeting, FICCI was committed to making this a meaningful and outcome-oriented platform.

Finnish embassy took forward the agenda of joint initiatives between India and Finland with a proactive approach. Finland had expertise in bio-energy which could benefit India and FICCI could play the role of a facilitator between the government and industry. He added that besides energy, water and waste treatment were other areas for effective cooperation and India could utilize Finland's expertise in this arena.

FICCI will be steering the Working Group as an ongoing dialogue which will be outcome-oriented for Indian and Finnish companies. India with its stable business environment offered Finland a large market and several investment opportunities.

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