

VOICE OF FICCI

SHAPING THE AGENDA



November 2018



From the Secretary General

We would like to congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi on receiving the Seoul Peace Prize.

India has witnessed yet another significant jump in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking this year; India has jumped 23 notches to 77th position (among 190 countries).

A 21-point suggestion has been submitted by FICCI to the RBI and the government to tackle the NBFC liquidity problem. While meetings with the government have been held, meetings have also been sought with the RBI. The NBFC Committee met in Mumbai and further representations would be made.

It was pointed out at the 14th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2018 held this month, that 'Universities of the Future' must be prepared for both unprecedented challenges as well unparalleled opportunities for innovation and creation of 'new-age' knowledge.

Meanwhile, sports awards were presented during the Sports Summit.

We also attended a presentation to Secretary (DP) to brief him on draft 'SOP for Examination of Defence Import Applications'.

We support that every woman ESI beneficiary, irrespective of the fact whether she delivers a child in ESI hospital or in a private hospital, should be entitled to a paid maternity leave.

It's been a month with a lot to celebrate and a lot to work towards.

Dilip Chenoy



FICCI PITCHES FOR EASING LIQUIDITY AND STRENGTHENING OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

The government and the RBI's efforts to improve the liquidity situation have started yielding results, but more measures are required to make available adequate liquidity in the system and to strengthen the financial sector for supporting the economic recovery and attaining 8 per cent plus GDP growth rate.

FICCI's economic cell has been deliberating on this with the government and industry so that steps could be taken to better the liquidity situation and further strengthen the financial sector. While a 21-point suggestion has been submitted to the government and the RBI to tackle the NBFC (non-banking financial company) liquidity problem, the chamber also took part in the FSDC (Financial Stability and Development Council) deliberations.

FICCI has been asking for cheaper and easier availability of credit. The situation, therefore, demands that the RBI and the government should work to bring in measures to improve the liquidity scenario in the coming months, says FICCI.

31 October 2018



FICCI CONGRATULATES GOVERNMENT FOR A BIG JUMP IN INDIA'S EASE OF DOING BUSINESS RANKING

FICCI says that India has witnessed yet another significant jump in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking this year as a result of consistent collaborative efforts of the government to simplify the processes and in providing an investor-friendly environment for the business. India has jumped 23 notches to 77th position among 190 countries in the ease of doing business ranking of the World Bank. This year's leap in the ranking reflects the depth of reforms undertaken by the government not just at the centre but also at the state level with the support of the state governments.

31 October 2018

'Voice of FICCI' is a service to all our members and shared with key policy makers and thought leaders. The document is a compilation of FICCI's views on macro-economic issues. These issues come to us directly from members, or through deliberations in conferences and seminars on sectoral issues, as also through Government notifications.



FIRST-EVER INDIA-US DIALOGUE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CONCERNS

FICCI is committed to exploring new areas of cooperation IP ecosystem in India and to address IP concerns of the business community on both sides, which will give a boost to our dynamic trade and economic relations.

The US and India are the two leading world economies and strategic partners and it is in their mutual interest to continue to engage and cooperate on IP issues of bilateral interest. The discussions with representatives from both governments, industry, academia and other IP stakeholders provided an excellent opportunity to deliberate on various bilateral issues and challenges in the area of intellectual property.

31 October 2018



SPEAK-UP: NEED TO GO BEYOND TRADITIONAL HEALTHCARE METHODS TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

The neglect of mental health is evident from a World Health Organization report which estimates that 50 million Indians suffer from depression. Almost 20 per cent of children and adolescents suffer from some form of mental illness, but a very small proportion of them are able to access mental health services that result in a huge treatment gap. There could be several possible reasons for this gap ranging from stigma associated with mental illnesses, lack of resources for mental health and apathy on the part of policymakers to counter this problem.

FICCI emphasizes that one cannot overlook the initiatives of progressive companies to address mental health at workplace. During the conference, the Speak-up Award for noble work and contribution in the field of mental health was given to the Indian Psychiatric Society.

30 October 2018



HIGHER EDUCATION MUST PREPARE STUDENTS TO RESPOND TO INDUSTRY 4.0 NEEDS

Union Commerce, Industry and Civil Aviation Minister, Suresh Prabhu, urged the education fraternity to recognise the challenges of higher education and respond to the requirements of the 4th Industrial Revolution so that students of the future can live a life to face the world. The minister called for partnerships and collaborative efforts of all stakeholders as education cannot be designed only in the universities.

'Universities of the Future' must be prepared for both unprecedented challenges as well unparalleled

opportunities for innovation and creation of 'new-age' knowledge, says FICCI.

30 October 2018



VIETNAM KEEN TO TAP INDIAN TECHNOLOGY FOR FOOD PROCESSING AND CROP PROTECTION

Tran Thanh Nam, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, said that Vietnam was looking for transfer of technology from India to strengthen its food processing and crop protection base. It was also keen on harnessing India's strength and developing a mechanism for organic food production in Vietnam.

FICCI says that India's agrochemical strengths complement Vietnam's market opportunities. India is currently the fourth largest producer of agro-chemicals, with the market projected to grow at 8.3 per cent and reach USD 8.1 billion by FY-25.

26 October 2018



FICCI CONGRATULATES THE PRIME MINISTER ON BEING CONFERRED 2018 SEOUL PEACE PRIZE

The Seoul Peace Prize Committee's decision to confer the 2018 Seoul Peace Prize on Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a recognition of India's growing stature in the world as one of the most significant nations driving international cooperation and economic growth.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done tremendous work in improving international cooperation and raising aspirations of the people in India through major reform initiatives. *FICCI congratulates the PM on the recognition of his exemplary work by the Seoul Peace Prize Committee.*

25 October 2018



LANGUAGE LOCALISATION IS TOP PRIORITY TO BRING GOVERNMENT SERVICES CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE

The government is going full steam ahead in combining the efforts of the government e-Marketplace (GeM) and My Gov by giving primacy to localisation of languages. The effort is to bring government services closer to the people and to create a window of opportunity for start-ups and young entrepreneurs.

FICCI says that India is witnessing a huge explosion of internet users. Today, over 450 million internet users have access to the government and other content which has made localisation extremely important. The next 500 million would be using the internet in the next few years. Therefore, both G2G and G2C services would have to optimise the use of local languages so that e-governance touches all.

15 October 2018



QUARTERLY MANUFACTURING OUTLOOK SEES MARKED IMPROVEMENT

FICCI's latest quarterly survey on the manufacturing sector portrays a positive outlook in Q-2 (July-September 2018-19) on account of higher production in the previous quarter Q-1.

The output growth during July-September 2018 quarter has increased to 61 per cent from 49 per cent in April-June 2018, according to FICCI's Manufacturing Survey. This is the highest percentage of respondents expecting higher production since Q-2 of 2015-16 where 63 per cent of respondents expected higher production – a twelve quarters high sentiment. The percentage of respondents reporting low production decreased to 9 per cent in Q-2 2018-19 from 13 per cent in Q-1 of 2018-19.

FICCI's Quarterly Manufacturing survey assessed the sentiments of manufacturers for Q-2 (July-September 2018-19) for twelve major sectors, namely, automotive, capital goods, cement & ceramics, chemicals, fertilizers & pharmaceuticals, electronics & electricals, food products, leather & footwear, medical devices & technologies, metal & metal products, paper products, textiles machinery & textile. Responses have been drawn from over 300 manufacturing units from both large and SME segments with a combined annual turnover of over 2.8 lakh crore.

11 October 2018



ENDEAVOURS AFOOT TO DEVELOP AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN JHARKHAND

The Government of Jharkhand, as a part of its endeavour to develop agriculture sector in the state and with a view to provide a focussed platform to the prospective investors in the Agriculture & Food Processing Sector, organised 'Global Agriculture & Food Summit 2018' in association with FICCI in Ranchi.

Raghubar Das, Chief Minister of Jharkhand, said that one of the objectives of the Global Agriculture & Food Summit 2018 is to double the farmers' income by 2022 and to make Jharkhand, a food-processing hub in eastern India through introduction of new technologies in agriculture and allied sector.

Addressing the industry gathering, Das also highlighted the opportunities in horticulture, floriculture, milk processing, fisheries, meat & meat products in the state of Jharkhand and appealed to the industry to invest and reap the benefits.

9 October 2018



WIN CONSUMERS' TRUST, UPHOLD THEIR RIGHTS THROUGH LEGIBLE PRODUCT LABELLING

Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs,

Food and Public Distribution, advised industry to win the trust of the consumers and uphold their rights through transparent and legible product labelling in Hindi and regional languages.

Paswan said that the consumers had the right to be correctly informed of the weight and volume of the product, the MRP, date of manufacturing and expiry of a merchandise. These should be of a size that is readable, and preferably be in languages other than just English. This would enable the consumers to make informed choices, he added.

FICCI feels that innovation, purpose and leadership, the trio will propel manufacturers to transform their business models. FICCI also states that retail was the kingpin in the value chain. It drives consumption which propels demand, production and consumption in a virtuous cycle. Food retail, Paswan added, played a critical role as it had the potential of doubling framers' income in the next five years and reducing food wastage.

9 October 2018



GLOBAL PRE-2020 COMMITMENTS ON REDUCTION IN CARBON EMISSIONS SACROSANCT

CK Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, made clear that the global pre-2020 commitments on reductions in carbon emissions were sacrosanct and emphasized that climate finance and technology transfer were critical not just for India but for countries completely dependent on the dedicated fund to combat the impact of climate change.

FICCI says there is a need for regulation in compliance and policies and engagement of the private sector. FICCI has adopted a holistic approach towards climate change mitigation in alignment with the Paris Agreement. The chamber is also working on a position paper on movement towards sustainable plastics.

8 October 2018



FICCI WELCOMES RBI'S DECISION TO KEEP THE REPO RATE UNCHANGED

FICCI welcomes the RBI's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged. The move sends positive signal to the industry and is expected to maintain the momentum in investments seen lately. This was especially important in the wake of tightening financial environment in domestic as well as global market. In fact, investment revival is very important at this juncture, especially when the IBC process is showing that the credit culture in India is changing for the better, which will help not only in handling the existing NPAs but will also curb the creation of fresh NPAs.

5 October 2018



CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS INDUSTRY AIMS TO REACH MARKET SIZE OF \$304 BN BY FY2025

The Minister of Road Transport and Highways Development, Nitin Gadkari, urged the Chemicals and Petrochemicals industry to look at ways to promote import substitution.

Global investors in the chemical and petrochemical sector have a huge opportunity to invest in India. In the wake of rising crude oil prices, India needs to reduce its dependence on import and increase export. There is a huge potential in the Indian petrochemical sector, but we need import substitutes, pollution-free, cost-effective and indigenous ways to go ahead.

FICCI states that as India gains increased traction from major countries, looking at investment in the Indian chemical sector, the government needs to put its combined vigour to grow the chemical industry multi-fold in the coming decade. FICCI further highlights that with improved infrastructure, road connectivity, coal/piped energy and already being the 7th largest in size, India has become a formidable player in the chemical market.

5 October 2018



NEED FOR A GROWTH SUPPORTIVE MONETARY POLICY STANCE: FICCI

The RBI Monetary Policy stance comes at a crucial time when there are increasing pressures on the inflation front and there is also a need to support growth revival, says FICCI.

While inflation, at present, is at a manageable level of around 4 per cent, it is expected to move up in the coming months due to the surge in crude oil prices and weakening of the rupee, but it may still be considerably below 5 per cent, and not pose a big challenge to the inflation management by the RBI.

Monetary policy stance will play a crucial role in this and RBI will obviously keep this in mind while announcing its decisions, even though the interest rate hike appears imminent in the backdrop of rising pressures from the rupee and oil prices. Investment revival is very important at this juncture, especially when the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) process is showing that the credit culture in India is changing for the better, which will help not only in handling the existing NPAs but will also curb the creation of fresh NPAs.

The positive sentiments in the economy, thanks to reforms like GST, RERA and IBC, will prove to be a big help in taking the growth cycle to the double digit in coming years, if the investment revival happens fast.

4 October 2018



DRAFT SOP FOR EXAMINATION OF DEFENCE IMPORT APPLICATIONS

FICCI attended a presentation to Secretary (DP) to brief

him on draft 'SOP for Examination of Defence Import Applications'. The presentation was a short briefing on the draft SOP prepared for defence imports. With the addition of the upcoming notice, there will now exist three distinct guidelines for defence imports: Imports from USA; Imports from Russia for the purpose of design, development and manufacturing of spare parts/components of Russian origin platforms; and, Imports from other countries. While, SOP for import of military items from Russia requires an added undertaking requirement, Internal compliance protocol requirement, and lists that the applications will be examined on a case-to-case basis for approval by Secretary (DP).

14 October 2018

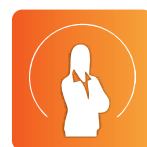


SPORTS AWARDS GIVEN TO 17 SPORTS ACHIEVERS AND ORGANISATIONS AT FICCI-TURF 2018

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Statistics & Program Implementation Vijay Goel, gave away the India Sports Awards to 17 sports achievers and organisations at FICCI-TURF 2018 awards ceremony. The award recognises the achievements of sports achievers as well as public & private sector enterprises who have contributed immensely towards the development of sports at all levels in the country.

Speaking on the occasion Vijay Goel said that we have a lot of talent in the country but it's important that the government and the federation work in sync for better development of sports. He added, 'We additionally have to believe that sports are an essential part of everyone's life.'

25 October 2018



FICCI SUGGESTS THAT EVERY WOMAN ESI BENEFICIARY SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO A PAID MATERNITY LEAVE

FICCI wholeheartedly welcomes the government initiative to promote women's employment and would support it through communication to its members. Since it's a promotional measure, the wage/salary ceiling of Rs 15,000 should be enhanced to Rs 21,000 in order to bring a higher number of women under its umbrella.

Meanwhile, to finetune the ESI (Employees' State Insurance) scheme supporting the objective, *FICCI suggests that every woman ESI beneficiary, irrespective of the fact whether she delivers a child in ESI hospital or in a private hospital, she should be entitled to a paid maternity leave for a prescribed period.*

15 November 2018

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