VOICE OF FICCI

SHAPING THE AGENDA

June 2025



From the Director General

June 2025 marked a transformative month in our comprehensive engagement with global stakeholders and domestic policy formulation, as we continued to advance India's strategic economic interests through targeted advocacy and collaboration both domestically and internationally. Our sustained efforts across multiple domains reinforced our position as a pivotal intermediary between industry imperatives and governmental priorities, whilst strengthening India's competitive positioning in the global marketplace.

During June, FICCI senior leadership accompanied Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on his critical engagements across Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland—the engagements aimed to foster deeper bilateral cooperation across sectors of mutual strategic interest. Here, Senior Vice President Anant Goenka and Vice President Vijay Sankar joined Minister Goyal in Italy for several bilateral engagements. On the other hand, Past President Rajan Bharti Mittal accompanied the minister to his subsequent engagements in Sweden and Switzerland.

On the domestic front, our senior leadership maintained close engagement with key policymakers. President Harsha Vardhan Agarwal, Senior Vice President Anant Goenka, Vice President Vijay Shankar, Past Presidents Subhrakant Panda and Rajan Bharti Mittal, and I held significant discussions with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. Additionally, the President, along with the Chair of the FICCI Andhra Pradesh State Council, M. Prabhakar Rao, and I met with the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu. The AP State Council Chair and I also met Dr N. Yuvaraj, Secretary of Industries & Commerce, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Our interactions extended to MEA Additional Secretary (Eurasia) Charanjeet Singh and Rajasthan Principal Secretary for Industry & Commerce, Ajitabh Sharma, alongside productive diplomatic exchanges with the Ambassador of Italy to India, Antonio Bartoli, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to India, Lee Seong-ho. Our participation in the 'BRICS in Rio' conference further reinforced India's leadership in fostering an inclusive and sustainable global economic order.

Our policy advocacy this month included sophisticated interventions across key sectors. In healthcare and medical devices, we submitted detailed recommendations on knee implant price regulation, requesting treatment comparable to non-scheduled devices under Paragraph 20 of DPCO without annual revision clauses to ensure sector stability. We consolidated industry inputs on "Ease of Doing Business in Medical Devices Sector" for DPIIT. We provided vital feedback on the National Single Registry programme to the Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices. Our interventions involved requesting twelve-month extensions for compliance timelines related to labelling requirements under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, addressing supply chain complexities and regulatory challenges. We submitted important industry insights on self-limiting factors for foreign training and demonstrations under the UCMPMD Code. We offered comprehensive recommendations for the National Patient Safety Action Plan (2025-2030), focusing on infection prevention, patient engagement, and surgical safety.

Our technology and telecommunications advocacy proved equally comprehensive. We submitted detailed recommendations on the Draft National Telecom Policy 2025, emphasising completion of NDCP 2018 goals. Our strategic interventions addressed extending reimport periods for telecom equipment beyond seven years to support long-term international service obligations, and highlighted implementation challenges in the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules 2024. The Electronic sector advocacy included comprehensive comments on the Draft Framework on Repairability Index for the mobile sector.

Financial sector representations encompassed extensive submissions to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance regarding Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code review, addressing emerging issues and industry concerns. We proposed organising focused industry interactions on Export Promotion Mission 2025 and e-commerce awareness with the DGFT.

Our food processing and regulatory interventions addressed critical industry challenges. We submitted comprehensive inputs to FSSAI, challenging the proposed HFSS and UPF definitions from Dietary Guidelines for Indians 2024, advocating for wider consultations and consumer awareness campaigns. We requested one-year enforcement extensions for the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules 2024, highlighting implementation challenges in recycled plastic mandates, inadequate infrastructure, and regulatory alignment difficulties. Our submissions included detailed comments on provisions of "analogue provisions in the dairy context," nutraceuticals regulatory challenges, and standardised pack sizes for edible oils under Legal Metrology Rules. Our submission also included China-US WTO labelling notifications concerning packaged food.

Healthcare sector advocacy included requesting ESMA extensions in Goa to ensure the continuity of the pharmaceutical sector. We also pressed for exemptions for the pharmaceutical sector from recycled plastic content mandates under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, citing strict regulatory requirements and patient safety concerns. Our White Paper on global drug pricing advocated for the introduction of a global affordability index and improvements in evidence-based policymaking.

Tax policy interventions encompassed comprehensive GST rationalisation proposals submitted to the CBIC and the GST Council Secretariat. We also addressed technical provisions, including Input Tax Credit allowability on demo vehicles, promotional goods clarification, pipeline ITC outside factory premises, and e-commerce operator obligations.

Our trade policy advocacy included comprehensive submissions on the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement. We developed comprehensive annexures addressing offer lists, sensitive products, and offensive strategies for enhanced bilateral trade relationships.

Additional interventions included Natural Gas GST inclusion representations to NITI Aayog and Golf Tourism strategic recommendations to the Tourism and Sports Ministries.

This multifaceted engagement strategy reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering constructive dialogue between industry perspectives and governmental priorities, whilst maintaining sustained international outreach to enhance India's global economic competitiveness and strategic positioning across all critical sectors of our dynamic economy.

Jyoti Vij

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.

Promotion of Golf as a Strategic Pillar for Tourism, Youth Engagement and Economic Growth

Formation of an inter-ministerial task force (Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Industry stakeholders) to synergize efforts and chart a National Golf Tourism strategy. Positioning India as an attractive golf tourism destination, leveraging the country's diverse landscapes, rich heritage, and increasing interest in leisure sports tourism globally.

This was submitted to the Additional Secretary & Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and Ministry of Sports, Government of India.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Anirban Chatterjee at anirban.chatterjee@ficci.com

Submission of Consolidated list on 'Ease of Doing Business in Medical Devices Sector' to DPIIT

FICCI requested inputs from the committee members regarding the compliances required in the medical devices sector and submitted the consolidated list to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Shilpa Sharma at shilpa.sharma@ficci.com

FICCI Representation on Knee Implant Price Control (Medical Devices)

FICCI submitted a representation to the Health Minister on an on-going issue of Knee Implant Pricing. This has been taken up with the Department of Pharma and NPPA earlier and both had said that they will do what they can do, but nothing was changed. The Industry Plea is to request Government of India to treat knee implants at par with other non-scheduled devices and retain them under Paragraph 20 of DPCO, without an annual revision clause (as it creates unpredictability for the sector). It was submitted to the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Shilpa Sharma at shilpa.sharma@ficci.com

Inputs for National Single Registry

FICCI submitted the received inputs from the industry members regarding the national single registry program with the purpose to provide a platform to exporters from where they can get a wide range of testing labs being offered for their products/goods. These were submitted to Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices (EPCMD).

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Shilpa Sharma at shilpa.sharma@ficci.com

Labelling requirements with respect to Rule 11 of Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016

FICCI submitted a request letter for the Extension of Compliance Timeline by 12 months i.e. June 2026 as integrated nature of the MedTech supply chain, implementing labelling changes in line with the amended PWM Rules requires significant lead time and coordination with global OEMs and regulatory teams adds to the timeline considering the ongoing challenges in regards to Import-Driven Supply Chains, Regulatory Constraints on Labelling & High SKU Complexity with respect to Rule 11 of Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016. This was submitted to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Shilpa Sharma at shilpa.sharma@ficci.com

Industry Inputs on Self-Limiting Factors for Training and Demonstration wrt. UCMPMD Code

With reference to the stakeholders meeting held 26.06.2025 with Joint Secretary Ms Palka Sahni regarding the UCMPMD Code, FICCI Submitted industry inputs on self-limiting factors for foreign trainings and demonstrations under the Code to the Joint Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Shilpa Sharma at shilpa.sharma@ficci.com

FICCI Inputs on the Draft National Patient Safety Action Plan (2025-2030)

FICCI submitted inputs for the development of National Patient Safety Action Plan (2025-2030), for 2 pillars – Infection Prevention and Control including Patient Engagement and Surgical Safety, to the National Patient Safety Secretariat, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Shilpa Sharma at shilpa.sharma@ficci.com

FICCI Comments Draft Framework on Repairability Index in Mobile and Electronic Sectors

FICCI submitted its comments on the Draft Framework on Repairability Index (RI) for the mobile sector, recommending changes to ensure global alignment, clarity, and feasibility for stakeholders. The recommendation acknowledged the importance of part pairing in safeguarding consumer data, especially for biometric components, and recommended that alerts regarding unidentified parts be restricted to those affecting consumer safety or privacy. The recommendation suggested introducing a globally recognised symbolic RI representation using an alphabetical scale (A–E) for better consumer communication. It further proposed that independent repair providers be allowed to self-list, enhancing inclusivity, and urged adopting the scientifically validated EU weightage methodology for RI parameters to ensure consistency and credibility. It was also recommended to delete provisions that duplicate existing rights under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, such as clauses on post-repair product liability, mandatory product recalls, and performance guarantees. It flagged certain obligations with ambiguous language for removal, arguing they could increase litigation risk due to a lack of clarity. This was submitted to the Ministry of Electronics and IT.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Sarika Gulyani at sarika.gulyani@ficci.com

FICCI Recommendations on National Telecom Policy, 2025

FICCI submitted its detailed recommendation on the Draft National Telecom Policy 2025, highlighting the need for a future-ready, inclusive,

and globally competitive telecom ecosystem to the Department of Telecom. It emphasized completing unfinished goals of NDCP 2018, including rationalization of spectrum pricing, enhancing broadband infrastructure, and improving ease of doing business through simplified licensing and taxation frameworks. The recommendation supported strategic goals such as increasing ICT's contribution to GDP from 7.8% to 11%, generating one million jobs, doubling telecom exports, and achieving carbon neutrality in the telecom sector by 2040. The recommendation also advocated for robust cybersecurity frameworks, cross-sectoral infrastructure sharing, and clear regulatory coherence with other national policies.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Sarika Gulyani at sarika.gulyani@ficci.com

FICCI Recommendation for Extension of Reimport Period for Telecom Equipment Beyond Seven Years

FICCI submitted a recommendation to Department of Telecom, addressing a critical regulatory challenge faced by Indian telecom equipment exporters. The recommendation highlighted that telecom equipment typically had a lifecycle of 15–20 years, and corresponding maintenance contracts with international clients often extended over similar durations. The seven-year limitation hindered exporters from fulfilling these long-term service obligations, thereby affecting India's credibility in the global market and reducing repeat business opportunities. The letter recommended that DoT consider extending or exempting the reimportation period for telecom goods up to 15 years from the date of export.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Sarika Gulyani at sarika.gulyani@ficci.com

FICCI Recommendation Letter on - Implementation of Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules 2024 (29.05.2025)

FICCI submitted a representation to the Hon'ble Minister of Communications regarding challenges in the implementation of the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024. The recommendation raised the concerns that although the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had made commendable efforts to ensure state compliance, implementation gaps persisted, and many State RoW portals were reportedly non-compliant with essential provisions of the 2024 Rules such as digital application processes, processing timelines, and survey permissions. The letter requested the Ministry to initiate focused engagement with State/UT administrations to expedite the issuance of adoption orders, upgrade their portals in a time-bound manner, and ensure legal compliance.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Sarika Gulyani at sarika.gulyani@ficci.com

Review of working of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and Emerging Issues

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, chaired by Mr Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP, is undertaking a review of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and emerging related issues. FICCI was invited to submit its comments on 'Review of working of IBC and Emerging Issues'. Based on inputs from members, a detailed representation has been submitted on industry concerns and suggestions pertaining to the Code.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Santosh Parashar at santosh.parashar@ficci.com

FICCI Request for Meeting to Invite/Discuss DGFT-FICCI Awareness Session on Export Promotion Mission 2025 & e-Commerce

FICCI proposes to organise a focused industry interaction aimed at enhancing awareness and fostering greater engagement with the Government's Export Promotion Mission. The half-day event is structured in two key segments:

Plenary Session: Featuring a keynote address and presentation by the Director General, DGFT and/or a senior official from the Ministry of Commerce, outlining the core pillars and implementation roadmap of the Export Promotion Mission.

Panel Discussion: Bringing together key stakeholders including leading e-commerce platforms, logistics service providers, MSME exporters, and a senior DGFT representative to deliberate on the practical opportunities and challenges in scaling cross-border e-commerce trade from India.

Joint Director General of Foreign Trade, Directorate General of Foreign Trade; Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Leena Jaisani at leena.jaisani@ficci.com

FICCI Meeting Request for Resolution of Key Challenges Affecting the Cosmetics & e-Pharmacy Sectors

FICCI highlighted key policy and operational challenges impacting the e-Pharmacy and cosmetics sectors. These include restrictions on substantiated claims by the Cosmetic Division, ongoing technical issues with the ONDLS portal, and lack of harmonization across State FDAs. These issues are creating regulatory uncertainty, operational delays, and limiting consumer access to essential and wellness products. FICCI requested intervention to resume a substantiation-based review process and consider issuing central clarifications to streamline state-level practices. Tese were submitted to the Drugs Controller General of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Leena Jaisani at leena.jaisani@ficci.com

Request for Clarification and Transition Framework for Pre-QCO Legacy Stocks under Medical Textiles QCO

As the QCO implementation date nears, distributors and channel partners are raising urgent concerns about the sellability of pre-QCO legacy stocks, especially for essential hygiene products like sanitary napkins and diapers. In the absence of a formal clarification or FAQ, apprehension is growing at the retail level, with some stakeholders hesitant to sell previously compliant products. Given the wide distribution of these items, particularly through kirana stores and

public health channels, the industry urges the timely issuance of a clarification. This will ensure supply chain continuity, prevent market disruption, and support both consumer access and the principle of ease of doing business.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Leena Jaisani at leena.jaisani@ficci.com

Submission of FICCI Recommendations on GST Issues

The following recommendations related to GST issues were submitted to the Member - Tax Policy, CBIC, Ministry of Finance; Chairman, CBIC, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance and Additional Secretary, GST Council Secretariat, Ministry of Finance:

- Rationalize GST from 18% to 12% on Ready to Eat-RTE Breakfast Cereals
- Rationalise GST Rate on nuts namely Almonds, Cashews and Walnuts
- Reduce GST rate on Ghee from 12% to 5%
- Reduce GST on Daycare Centres from 18% to 5%.
- Reduce GST Rate on Cement from 28% to 18%
- Provide 5% GST rate to the healthcare sector with Input Tax Credit
- Reduce GST rate on life insurance services specifically Term Life Insurance to 5% along with full ITC
- Reduce GST on health insurance from 18% to 5%
- Rationalise rate of tax on non-alcoholic beverages"
- Rationalise GST for Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Equipment and Internet Broadband Services
- Provide exemption from GST on assignment of leasehold rights for MSMEs
- Request for amendment in Section 17(5) of the GST Act to allow Input Tax Credit on Demo Vehicles used by the Authorized Agents
- Provide circular/change in law to clarify that allowability of ITC on promotional goods distributed under Contractual obligation
- Allow Input Tax Credit on pipelines laid outside factory premises [Section 17(5)]
- Extend mechanism to pay tax under Section 107(6) to file an appeal by an ISD Registration
- Clarify scope of section 9(5) for e-commerce operators"
- Provide clarification on date from which interest is leviable in cases of reversal of input tax credit due to non-payment of vendor invoices within 180 days
- Streamline the manner of utilization of ITC laid down in Section 49 of the CGST Act
- Allow ITC on passenger motor vehicles up to 13 seating capacity used for Research & Development activities by manufacturers of motor vehicles
- Provide a facility to withdraw the application for amendment of registration on the GST Portal
- Extend timeline to respond to the notice issued in FORM GST DRC-01B to thirty days from the current period of seven days

For detailed recommendations, please write to
Ms Ira Khanna at ira.khanna@ficci.com

CIFTI-FICCI letter pursuant to National Stakeholder Consultation held on 16th May 2025 on inclusion of HFSS and UPF definitions

FICCI appreciated the initiative undertaken by FSSAI in organizing the National Stakeholder Consultations across the country.

During the consultation held on 16th May 2025, a proposal had been presented to incorporate definitions of HFSS (High in Fat, Sugar and Salt) and UPF (Ultra-Processed Foods) from the Dietary Guidelines for Indians, 2024 (DGIs 2024) into key FSSAI regulations, including:

- FSS (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020
- FSS (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018
- FSS (Safe Food and Balanced Diets for Children in School) Regulations, 2020

Concerns were raised by FICCI that DGIs 2024 had been intended to guide overall dietary intake and not to define individual food products. It was noted that applying daily dietary goals to individual foods could lead to regulatory misalignment and misinterpretation by consumers.

Instances of conflict with existing FSSR provisions were also highlighted (e.g., fat content in paneer). It was further noted that no global consensus existed on definitions of HFSS and UPF.

Accordingly, it was recommended that the current proposal be revisited. FICCI strongly urged the Authority to initiate wider consultations and instead focus on consumer awareness campaigns around balanced diets, label literacy, portion control, and responsible consumption.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

FICCI Comments for EWG on the Application of Food Labelling Provisions in Emergencies under CCFL

FICCI submitted comments on Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) EWG consultation paper on the Application of Food Labelling Provisions in Emergencies to National Codex Contact Point (NCCP).

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

CIFTI-FICCI request for One-Year Extension on Enforcement of Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2024

In the submitted representation to FSSAI, FICCI highlighted various implementation challenges under the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024, particularly concerning the mandatory use of recycled plastic for food packaging.

Challenges were noted in meeting the obligations for use of recycled plastic content due to:

- Limited segregation and collection of plastic waste,
- Inadequate recycling infrastructure and lack of categorization,
- Difficulties in recycling multilayered packaging,
- Foreseeable scarcity of recycled resins, and
- Absence of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in many regions.

Additionally, regulatory challenges were faced in aligning with the recently notified FSSAI Packaging Amendment Regulations, 2025. While r-PET was permitted from approved sources, other recycled materials such as PE and PP had not yet been approved for food contact use.

Difficulties in complying with the reuse obligation of rigid plastic packaging from FY 2025–26 were also raised. Brand-agnostic targets did not align with brand-specific logistics, and technological gaps in cleaning and disinfection were cited.

Given the overlap between reuse and recycled content mandates, the need for regulatory flexibility was emphasized.

Accordingly, a one-year extension for enforcement was requested, along with an industry consultation to address the practical challenges in meeting the reuse obligations under the Rules.

For detailed representation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

CIFTI-FICCI comments on Provisions of "Analogue in Dairy Context"

In the submitted representation to FSSAI, FICCI shared comments on the FSSAI Consultation Paper on Compliance with the Provisions of "Analogue in Dairy Context" issued by FSSAI on 16th April 2025.

For detailed representation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

FICCI CODEX Cell comments on CCCF18

FICCI submitted comments to National Codex Contact Point (NCCP), on various agenda items of 18th session of Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

CIFTI-FICCI inputs on Issues related to Nutraceuticals ref. stakeholder consultation meeting held on 7th May 2025

CIFTI-FICCI shared inputs with FSSAI, on various challenges outlined by FSSAI during the "FSSAI stakeholder consultation meeting on issues related to Nutraceuticals" dated 7th May 2025.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

CIFTI-FICCI inputs on NIFTEM SWASTH Draft FAQ Document

CIFTI-FICCI shared input on draft FAQs shared by NIFTEM on HFSS and UPF.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

CIFTI-FICCI representation pursuant to Stakeholder Consultation on omitted second schedule dated 15th May 2025

The representation was submitted to MoCA, in reference to the stakeholder consultation held on 15th May 2025 regarding the proposed omission of the Second Schedule under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 (LM PCR), particularly concerning edible products. As per the minutes circulated on 5th June 2025, stakeholders were invited to submit detailed proposals for standardised pack sizes for edible oils.

Attention was drawn to the existing provisions under LM PCR which already served the objective of consumer protection, including:

- Rule 6(11): mandatory disclosure of unit sale price (price per ml/g),
- Rule 7(3): prescribed minimum font size for net quantity,
- Rule 8(1): requirement for clear space around quantity declaration,
- First Schedule: defined permissible error limits.

It was submitted that these provisions had provided a robust framework for transparency and fair consumer practices, eliminating the need to reinstate the Second Schedule.

The edible oil sector was identified as a fast-moving product category where pack size flexibility was essential to meet diverse consumer preferences, affordability, and operational efficiencies. Reinstating rigid standard sizes was likely to constrain market adaptability.

Accordingly, it was respectfully recommended that the Second Schedule not be reinstated. However, if considered necessary, pack sizes may be limited to multiples of 25 ml up to 1 litre and thereafter in 250 ml increments up to 5 litres.

It was also suggested that enforcement of existing labelling norms and consumer awareness efforts be strengthened to safeguard consumer interests.

For detailed representation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

FICCI CODEX Cell inputs on China and US WTO notification related to labelling requirements of packaged foods

FICCI submitted comments to NCCP, on the China National Food Safety Standard General Rules for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, which includes the following proposal:

- Separate definitions of both production date (manufacturing date) and packaging or filling date
- Single-ingredient foods do not require a separate ingredients list on the label if the nature of the ingredient is clear and the entire product is that one ingredient, and no further ingredients are added.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

FICCI Comments on agenda items under the consideration of CCCF18

FICCI shared comments with NCCP, on the proposal for a new work on the revision of the Code of practice for the reduction of acrylamide in foods (CXC67-2009).

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

CIFTI-FICCI comments on the 30th meeting of Dairy Products Sectional Committee, FAD 19

CIFTI-FICCI shared comments with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on various agendas of the 30th Meeting of FAD19.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

CIFTI-FICCI comments on the final report of R&D project on "Development of test method for determination of chicory content in coffee-chicory powder" submitted by Dr. Paul Atish Tulshiram, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy, BITS

CIFTI-FICCI shared comments with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), on Project "Development of test method for determination of chicory content in coffee chicory powder" in which we propose that 5-HMF shall not be used as potential marker for chicory quantification and the method proposed for determination of chicory content in coffee-chicory powder is not an appropriate method to be used for regulatory purpose.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com

FICCI Submission on India-US BTA

FICCI submitted detailed inputs to Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, on the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), received from industry members. The report presents comprehensive feedback highlighting key sectors where tariff concessions and enhanced market access are sought. Inputs were received from sectors including agriculture, food processing, apparel and textiles, auto components, aluminium, steel, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and steel articles.

The report also includes detailed annexures on Offer and Sensitive List, suggesting products for potential tariff concessions while safeguarding domestic interests and the Offensive List, recommending products and sectors where India should seek greater tariff liberalisation from the US.

The industry strongly supports a balanced and mutually beneficial BTA that will boost bilateral trade, strengthen India's global supply chain integration, and open new opportunities for Indian exporters.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Pragati Srivastava at pragati.srivastava@ficci.com

Request for Extension of ESMA to Ensure Continuity of Pharma Operations in Goa

India's pharmaceutical industry is globally recognised as the "Pharmacy of the World," ranking 3rd in volume and 13th in value. Goa plays a significant role in this ecosystem, contributing over 12% to national pharmaceutical output, with 70% of its production exported to regulated international markets. The sector generates approximately ₹18,000 crore annually, contributes nearly 10% to the state's GDP, and is projected to grow at a CAGR of 10.8% in 2025.

However, FICCI member companies operating in Goa have reported an increasing number of disruptions caused by non-recognised union groups. These include threats of strikes, go-slow actions, intimidation of staff, and attempts to obstruct production and exports, posing serious risks to industrial peace, public health, and international commitments.FICCI acknowledges the Goa Government's proactive steps in invoking the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA), currently in force until 9 June 2025, to safeguard pharmaceutical operations as essential services.

In light of ongoing challenges and global supply chain uncertainties, FICCI respectfully requests the Government of Goa to extend ESMA orders beyond 9 June 2025 to ensure uninterrupted operations, protect employee safety, and maintain Goa's leadership in the pharmaceutical sector. This was submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Government of Goa.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Ishan Pandita at Ishan.pandita@ficci.com

FICCI request for seeking exemption for Drug manufacturers from complying with PCR

FICCI, on behalf of the pharmaceutical industry, submits its concerns regarding the draft Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025, which mandate the inclusion of recycled plastic in packaging by Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PIBOs) from FY 2025–26.Pharmaceutical packaging is governed by stringent national and international regulations (Schedule M, Indian Pharmacopeia, and USFDA guidelines) that restrict the use of recycled plastics due to risks of contamination, patient safety concerns, and loss of product integrity. Therefore, compliance with the proposed rule presents critical challenges for industry.

In light of these statutory constraints and the life-saving nature of pharmaceutical products, FICCI requested an exemption for the pharmaceutical sector from the recycled plastic content mandate under the said rules. This was submitted to the Scientist F, UPC – II Division, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Government of India.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Ishan Pandita at Ishan.pandita@ficci.com

Unveiling India's Pricing Edge: FICCI's Comparative Analysis of Global Drug Prices

FICCI recently submitted its White Paper titled "Unveiling India's Pricing Competitive Edge: A Comparative Analysis of Global Drug Prices". The White Paper, based on extensive industry input, highlights India's status as the world's most affordable pharmaceutical market, a position achieved through robust and transparent drug price control mechanisms. It presents an international comparison of prices for 12 essential medicines, including anti-hypertensives, corticosteroids, and analgesics, benchmarked against key reference countries. India consistently ranks as the most cost-effective across these categories, reaffirming its leadership in global drug affordability.

The document also advocates for forward-looking reforms, including the introduction of a global affordability index, to reinforce India's position as the 'Pharmacy of the World' and to promote equitable access to medicines worldwide. FICCI's initiative is aimed at supporting

evidence-based policymaking, enhancing pricing transparency, and advancing India's global competitiveness in the pharmaceutical sector. This was submitted to Chairman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Ishan Pandita at Ishan.pandita@ficci.com

FICCI's suggestion on proposed transition of specific health supplements and nutraceuticals from Food to Drug regulations

FICCI has submitted consolidated industry inputs on the proposed transition of certain nutraceuticals, including prebiotics and probiotics, from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). The proposal has raised significant concerns across industry stakeholders. The shift from food to drug regulation poses operational, regulatory, economic, and consumer-related challenges. It risks disrupting manufacturing, impacting exports, increasing compliance costs, limiting market access, and confusing consumers. This move also deviates from global best practices, where such products are regulated as food.

FICCI strongly recommends retaining these products under the FSSAI framework and aligning with international standards like Codex. We request urgent stakeholder consultation under your leadership involving regulators, industry leaders, and technical experts to ensure a harmonized and balanced regulatory approach that fosters innovation, safeguards public health, and supports India's global trade and manufacturing leadership. These were submitted to the Secretary (H&FW) Department of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Nirman Bhawan.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Mr Ishan Pandita at ishan.pandita@ficci.com

Inputs on Draft Guidelines on the issue of commencement of Warranty period

This is with reference to the Draft Guidelines formulated on the issue of commencement of Warranty period i.e. From Date of Purchase or From Date of Installation issued by your Department. These were submitted to the Secretary, Consumer Affairs.

For detailed recommendation, please write to
Ms Purtika Kalra at purtika.kalra@ficci.com

Representation on Inclusion of Natural Gas under GST Regime

Inclusion of Natural Gas under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. Presently, while finished products are covered under GST, Natural Gas as an industrial input is subjected to VAT without input tax credit, leading to a cascading tax burden and increased cost of production.

Bringing Natural Gas under GST will help align with the Government's target of increasing its share in the energy mix to 15% by 2030, promote cleaner fuel usage across sectors, and support cost competitiveness for industries such as steel, cement, glass, fertilizers, and MSMEs. This was submitted to CEO, Niti Aayog, GOI.

For detailed representation, please write to
Mr Arpan Gupta at arpan.gupta@ficci.com

Please share your valuable feedback at:
https://meet.ficci.in/voiceofficci/survey.asp

For more details, contact:
FICCI Membership: tripti.kataria@ficci.com/+91 98 1800 0591