Policy Submissions Bulletin
Voice of FICCI

27 representations across Health & Pharma • Taxation • Food • Capital Markets • Technology • Energy • Trade • Chemicals

Edition - March 2026

Director General's Message



Jyoti Vij
Director General
FICCI

March 2026 proved a substantive month for FICCI leadership, with engagements spanning international diplomacy, senior bureaucratic consultations, and 27 comprehensive policy recommendations encompassing medical devices, food safety, financial services, electronics, telecommunications, chemicals, trade, and logistics.

FICCI leadership's international engagement remained extensive. FICCI leadership participated in a luncheon meeting with H.E. Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan, Canada, and held a Closed-Door Interaction with H.E. Han Koo Yeo, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea, reinforcing the India–Korea bilateral relations. FICCI leadership also met H.E. Lee Seong-ho, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to India; Gourangalal Das, Ambassador of India to Korea; Puneet Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Ambassador Designate to Thailand; the Ambassador of Brazil, Kenneth Félix da Nóbrega; Ambassador Sardor Rustambaev of Uzbekistan; and Carey Arun, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General, Chennai. On the bureaucratic front, FICCI leadership engaged with Rajesh Agrawal, Commerce Secretary, and the Director General participated in the 52nd Meeting of the Insurance Advisory Committee of IRDAI. Past President Rashesh Shah represented FICCI at the RBI Governor's meeting with Trade and Industry Bodies in Mumbai.

FICCI's policy advocacy was wide-ranging, encompassing 27 representations across key sectors. Healthcare advocacy addressed timely access to IVD solutions, material shortage concerns, and GTE list inputs submitted to the Department of Pharmaceuticals, IVD regulatory representations to CDSCO, and contractual concerns regarding CGHS terms submitted to the Director General of CGHS and CEO of NHA. Food safety submissions encompassed Steviol Glycosides monograph clarifications, BIS Quality Control Orders for commercial kitchen equipment, Coffee-Chicory Mixture labelling, Safe Packaging Logo inputs, and FOPNL recommendations — all submitted to FSSAI and DPIIT. Financial services advocacy addressed SEBI regulations and GST challenges in real estate and food processing, submitted to CBIC. Electronics manufacturing advocacy highlighted tariff inversions submitted to the Joint Secretary (TRU-I), CBIC. Telecommunications representations encompassed ETA certification timelines for the 5925–6425 MHz band and the TRAI consultation on Domestic Leased Circuit tariffs. Trade advocacy comprised the West Asia Crisis energy security paper submitted to the Commerce Secretary, DPIIT, CEA, and Chairman CBIC; RoDTEP rate restoration submitted to DGFT; and logistics relief measures submitted to the Ministry of Railways, DPIIT, and DGFT. Chemicals submissions addressed anti-dumping inputs on Phenol and India–Korea CEPA tariff lines submitted to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. FICCI also submitted inputs to NITI Aayog on the Consumer Protection Act and Essential Commodities Act, and extension of implementation date for QCO for electrical devices and exemption from mandatory BIS Quality Control Order for Linear Alkyl Benzene (LAB), representations to DPIIT.

These submissions demonstrate FICCI's unwavering commitment to promoting dialogue between industry and government, enhancing India's competitiveness across key sectors, whilst ensuring regulatory frameworks balance development with accountability. FICCI remains steadfast in advancing the industry's vision aligned with the Viksit Bharat 2047 roadmap.

Jyoti Vij

Policy Submissions Catalogue — March 2026

This catalogue presents FICCI's policy submissions and industry representations made to Government ministries, regulatory bodies, and statutory authorities during March 2026, reflecting FICCI's commitment to shaping a competitive, transparent, and growth-oriented policy environment.

1 Health & Pharmaceuticals — 5 Submissions

- **Timely Access to Innovative IVD Solutions** — *Dept. of Pharmaceuticals*

  Recommendations for a reliance-based, harmonised regulatory approach aligned with IMDRF global practices to enable faster access to advanced diagnostics while leveraging international clinical performance data.

  [shilpa.sharma@ficci.com]

- **Industry Concerns — West Asia Situation & Medical Devices** — *Joint Secy, DoP*

  Member inputs on global supply disruptions impacting the medical devices sector, covering key concerns and requests for government consideration.

  [shilpa.sharma@ficci.com]

- **GTE List Inputs to Department of Pharmaceuticals** — *Joint Secy, DoP*

  Member inputs submitted for inclusion and consideration in the GTE list under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

  [shilpa.sharma@ficci.com]

- **Representations on IVD Regulatory Matters to CDSCO** — *Dy. Drugs Controller, CDSCO*

  Four regulatory representations covering innovative diagnostics access, shelf-life clarification, regularisation of COVID-19 IVD licences, and NIB evaluation justification.

  [shilpa.sharma@ficci.com]

- **Legal & Contractual Representation on Revised CGHS Terms** — *DG-CGHS & CEO, NHA*

  Financial and operational concerns on MoA terms covering chemotherapy medicine supply liability, agreement duration, multiple surgical procedures, and oncology reimbursement linked to MRP.

  [shilpa.sharma@ficci.com]

2 Taxation & Tariffs — 3 Submissions

- **Correction of Inverted Duty Structure in Electronics** — *Joint Secy (TRU-I), CBIC*

  Recommendations to address tariff anomalies creating cost disabilities in domestic manufacturing of mobile components, hearables/wearables, inductor coils, and Flexible Printed Circuit Assemblies.

  [ira.khanna@ficci.com]

- **GST Issues Impacting the Real Estate Sector Member** — *GST Policy, CBIC*

  Representations on ambiguity in GST treatment of development rights under JDAs, TDR certificates, and additional FSI, calling for a stable and predictable tax regime to support investment.

  [ira.khanna@ficci.com]

- **GST Concerns for the Food Processing Sector Member** — *GST Policy, CBIC*

  Rate rationalisation has created an inverted duty structure; FICCI recommended extending ITC refund eligibility to input services and capital goods, and rationalising GST rates on key inputs.

  [ira.khanna@ficci.com]

3 Food & Consumer Products — 6 Submissions

- **Steviol Glycosides Monograph — FSSAI Clarifications** — *FSSAI*

  Clarifications sought by the FSSAI Scientific Panel on adoption of a Steviol Glycosides monograph covering extraction, fermentation, and enzyme glucosylation.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

- **Withdrawal of BIS QCO for Commercial Kitchen Equipment** — *DPIIT*

  Sought withdrawal of BIS Quality Control Orders that fail to distinguish household from professional-grade commercial kitchen equipment, posing unintended consequences for India's hospitality sector.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

- **Coffee-Chicory Mixture Front-of-Pack Declaration** — *FSSAI*

  Concerns on mandatory front-of-pack declaration under August 2025 regulations; proposed withdrawal of the Gazette Notification and implementation of changes agreed at the 48th Food Authority Meeting.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

- **Clarification on Labelling Implementation Timeline** — *FSSAI*

  Sought FSSAI clarity on the Office Order dated 6 January 2026 governing timelines for implementation of labelling changes across food categories.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

- **Comments on Safe Packaging Logo for Food Packaging** — *FSSAI*

  Detailed industry comments on the Safe Packaging Logo framework, submitted following the National Stakeholder Consultation held on 23 February 2026.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

- **FOPNL Inputs — Post Supreme Court Suggestion** *FSSAI*

  Inputs to FSSAI on Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling following the stakeholder consultation of 19 March 2026, in response to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's suggestion on the matter.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

4 Capital Markets & Finance — 1 Submissions

- **Recommendations on SEBI Regulations** *Executive Director, SEBI*

  Based on member inputs on MPS, ICDR, InvITs/REITs, and the delisting framework, FICCI submitted recommendations to improve ease of doing business while ensuring Indian markets remain robust and efficient amid the ongoing West Asia crisis.

  [santosh.parashar@ficci.com]

5 Technology & Telecom — 2 Submissions

- **Extension of ETA Certification Timeline — 5925–6425 MHz Band** *WPC Wing, DoT*

  Requested a 12-month extension for re-certification of legacy models in the 5925–6425 MHz band, citing fresh testing requirements, firmware upgrades, and extensive multi-product documentation demands.

  [sarika.gulyani@ficci.com]

- **TRAI Consultation on Domestic Leased Circuits** *TRAI*

  Advocated strongly for continuation of the existing forbearance-based regulatory framework for DLCs; recommended against additional tariff regulation given a competitive market with 70+ NLD licensees and market-determined pricing.

  [sarika.gulyani@ficci.com]

6 Energy & Power — 1 Submissions

- **Electricity Duty — Retrospective Levy in Andhra Pradesh** *Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh*

  Urged Chief Minister's personal intervention to address the retrospective hike in Electricity Duty from ₹0.06 paise to ₹1 per unit via Ordinance — disrupting business predictability and adversely affecting power-intensive industries, particularly Textiles, in a state where no comparable duty exists elsewhere.

  [arpan.gupta@ficci.com]

7 Standards & Quality Control — 3 Submissions

- **Extension — QCO for Electrical Devices (19 May 2025)** *Joint Secy, DPIIT*

  Requested a one-year extension for implementing the QCO for household and commercial electrical appliances, covering newly added categories including toothbrushes, shavers, IPL devices, and epilators requiring fresh certification and packaging updates.

  [leena.jaisani@ficci.com]

- **Temporary Suspension of BIS QCO for Linear Alkyl Benzene** *Joint Secy, DPIIT*

  Requested a six-month exemption from the BIS QCO for LAB imports to enable sourcing from alternate suppliers amid acute shortages caused by disruptions to Saudi Arabia's supply, India's largest source of this key detergent raw material.

  [leena.jaisani@ficci.com]

- **Inputs on Consumer Protection Act & Essential Commodities Act** *NITI Aayog*

  Submitted to NITI Aayog's Deregulation Working Group, recommending digitisation of compliance processes, decriminalisation of minor non-compliances, risk-based regulation, and greater inter-state harmonisation.

  [leena.jaisani@ficci.com]

8 Trade & Commerce — 3 Submissions

- **Representation on RoDTEP Rates** *DGFT, Ministry of Commerce*

  Sought restoration of RoDTEP rates halved for tariff lines from Chapter 25 onwards, citing increased export costs, risk of order losses in price-sensitive global markets, and compressed margins under existing contracts.

  [pragati.srivastava@ficci.com]

- **Global Insight: Energy Security Under Pressure — West Asia Crisis** *Commerce Secretary & others*

  Detailed paper (submitted 18 & 27 March) outlining policy responses by governments across Asia, Europe, Africa, and Oceania to the West Asia crisis, shared with the Commerce Secretary, DPIIT, CEA, Secretary Shipping, and Chairman CBIC.

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- **Relief Measures in Rail Freight & Logistics — Gulf Disruptions** *DPIIT, CBIC, Railway Board, DGF*

  Recommended waivers on stabling and haulage charges for rakes, special waivers for empty container movements, CBIC SOP for cross-stuffing of Indian-origin cargo, and simplified fast-track FTWZ procedures for transit cargo.

  [pragati.srivastava@ficci.com]

9 Chemicals & Petrochemicals — 3 Submissions

- **Anti-Dumping Investigation on Phenol Imports** — *Dept. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals*

  Called for initiation of an anti-dumping investigation on Phenol originating from Korea RP, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United States.

  [manoj.mehta@ficci.com]

- **Impact of West Asia Geopolitical Situation on Chemicals** — *Dept. of Chemicals & Petrochemical*

  Submitted comments and inputs to mitigate distress on the chemicals and petrochemicals industry caused by the ongoing West Asia crisis and disruptions to global energy supply chains.

  [manoj.mehta@ficci.com]

- **India–Korea CEPA Upgrade — Chemicals Tariff Lines** — *Dept. of Commerce*

  Submitted industry inputs on the proposed tariff liberalisation of 7 specific chemicals sector tariff lines under India–Republic of Korea CEPA upgrade negotiations being undertaken by the Department of Commerce.

  [manoj.mehta@ficci.com]

These 27 submissions collectively reflect FICCI's commitment to constructive, evidence-based policy dialogue with the Government of India. For sector specific inquiries, please contact the respective FICCI division leads referenced in each submission. To access full submission documents, write to tripti.kataria@ficci.com.

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