Policy Submissions Bulletin
Voice of FICCI

34 representations across Capital Markets • Education • FMCG • Healthcare • Pharmaceuticals • Medical • Food • Internal Security • Consumer Affairs • Chemicals • Taxation

Edition - May 2026

Director General's Message



Jyoti Vij
Director General
FICCI

May 2026 proved extensive in scope, with FICCI advancing 34 comprehensive policy recommendations spanning capital markets, higher education, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, food safety, private security, consumer affairs, trade facilitation, and taxation, whilst sustaining high-level engagement with Union Ministers, senior government officials, and international partners across a range of bilateral and multilateral forums.

FICCI leadership met Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region; Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas; Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; H.D. Kumaraswamy, Minister of Heavy Industries and Steel; and Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir — engaging each on sector-specific priorities aligned with India's industrial and infrastructure growth agenda.

International engagement remained substantive. FICCI leadership led the CEO Immersion Tour to China from 11 to 15 May, reinforcing strategic business linkages with India's economic partners. They met Canada's Minister of International Trade, Maninder Sidhu, and participated in a Banquet in Rome on 20 May. The diplomatic calendar encompassed meetings with the High Commissioners of Cyprus and New Zealand, the Ambassadors of Lebanon and Sierra Leone, Canada's Chief Trade Commissioner Sara Wilshaw, and CEPA Chief Negotiator Bruce Christie — advancing the India–Canada CEPA negotiations. A notable engagement with Dr Akinwumi Adesina, Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of the Global Africa Investment Summit and former President of the African Development Bank, underscored the breadth of India–Africa economic partnership. FICCI also contributed to the India–Korea CEPA upgrade negotiations and engaged with CGI India in Shanghai, Pratik Mathur, CGI designate to Belfast, Northern Ireland, Kiran Khatri and High Commissioner of India to Cyprus, Manish.

Bureaucratic engagement encompassed meetings with Ranjana Chopra, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs; Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Skills and Entrepreneurship; Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary, External Relations; and Lekhan N. Thakkar, Joint Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat.

Policy advocacy was wide-ranging, spanning healthcare and pharmaceuticals, medical devices, food safety, financial markets, consumer affairs, telecommunications, trade, and chemicals, education, private security, and taxation. 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.

As India advances towards Viksit Bharat 2047, FICCI remains steadfast in its role as the nation's foremost industry voice — prepared, persistent, and trusted.

Policy Submissions Catalogue — May 2026

This catalogue presents FICCI's policy submissions and industry representations made to Government ministries, regulatory bodies, and statutory authorities during May 2026. It covers a wide spectrum of sectors — from food safety and chemicals to trade, finance, defence, infrastructure, and consumer affairs — reflecting FICCI's commitment to shaping a competitive, transparent, and growth-oriented policy environment.

1 Capital Markets & Finance — 3 Submissions

- **Submission on Securities Markets Code post-hearing Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance** — *Ministry of Finance*

  Submitted detailed clarifications and recommendations in response to issues raised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance following FICCI's deposition on the proposed Securities Markets Code.

  [abha.seth@ficci.com]

- **Press Note 2 (2026 Series) – Clarifications on FDI Policy** — *Ministry of Commerce /DPIIT/PMO*

  Representation seeking clarifications on the implementation of Press Note 2 (2026 Series) concerning investments linked to countries sharing a land border with India, aimed at removing practical challenges arising from beneficial ownership provisions.

  [abha.seth@ficci.com]

- **Corporate Restructuring Framework** — *SEBI*

  Recommendations to streamline approval processes for restructuring transactions involving listed companies and to strengthen the minority squeeze-out framework to reduce transaction timelines while ensuring investor protection.

  [abha.seth@ficci.com]

2 Education — 1 Submission

- **Recommendations on the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025** — *Joint Parliamentary Committee on VBSA Bill, 2025*

  Presented recommendations on Commission independence, Chairperson's role, removal of deemed university nomenclature, representation of industry and self-financing institutions in governance structures, and creation of a statutory higher education financing body aligned with NEP 2020 objectives.

  [rajesh.pankaj@ficci.com]

3 FMCG & Retail — 1 Submission

- **Inclusion of FICCI in the Maharashtra Direct Selling Monitoring Committee** — *Government of Maharashtra*

  Requested inclusion of a FICCI representative as a Subject Matter Expert in the proposed State-Level Direct Selling Monitoring Committee to provide industry inputs, support effective policy implementation, and strengthen consumer protection.

  [FMCG & Retail Team]

4 Medical Value Travel — 1 Submission

- **Strengthening Visa and Regulatory Facilitation for Medical Value Travel** — *Ministry of Home Affairs*

  Recommendations to simplify medical visa processes and establish a clear regulatory framework for cross-border healthcare services to improve patient convenience, continuity of care, and India's competitiveness as a Medical Value Travel destination.

  [ishan.pandita@ficci.com]

5 Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare — 6 Submissions

- **Inclusion of Self-Testing Devices under Eighth Schedule of Medical Devices Rules, 2017** — *DCGI*

  Recommended exemption of specified low-risk self-testing and self-detection medical devices from sale licence requirements to improve accessibility, affordability, and preventive healthcare outcomes.

  [ishan.pandita@ficci.com]

- **Reimbursement Framework for High-End Oncology Therapies under CGHS** — *Ministry of Health & Family Welfare*

  Recommendations to ensure reimbursement at MRP for patented oncology therapies where no equivalent alternatives exist, supporting patient access and treatment continuity.

  [ishan.pandita@ficci.com]

- **Policy Support for Rare Disease Management in India** — *Ministry of Health & Family Welfare*

  Submitted recommendations on improving treatment strengthening the National Policy for Rare Diseases, expanding Centres of Excellence, and exploring sustainable financing and CSR support mechanisms.

  [ishan.pandita@ficci.com]

- **The Pharma Sector Inputs on Cost of Doing Business in India** *NITI Aayog*

  Recommendations addressing regulatory approvals, clinical trial timelines, compliance burden, GST issues, API cost pressures, counterfeit medicines, and regulatory data protection.

  [ishan.pandita@ficci.com]

- **Inputs on Clinical Trial Site Assessment Framework** *ICMR*

  Industry recommendations on strengthening clinical trial infrastructure, enhancing clinical research capabilities, and improving access to innovative therapies.

  [ishan.pandita@ficci.com]

- **Upward Revision of Ceiling Prices under DPCO, 2013** *Department of Pharmaceuticals*

  Requested urgent revision of ceiling prices of scheduled formulations due to extraordinary increases in manufacturing costs arising from geopolitical disruptions, supply chain constraints, and currency depreciation.

  [ishan.pandita@ficci.com]

6 Medical Devices — 5 Submissions

- **Inputs on Draft Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2026** *Ministry of Health & Family Welfare*

  Industry recommendations concerning sterilisation site labelling requirements, implementation timelines, testing fee structures, and globally aligned risk-based regulations.

  [shilpa.sharma@ficci.com]

- **Extension of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Medical Devices** *Department of Pharmaceuticals*

  Recommended extension of the existing Medical Devices PLI Scheme by 4–5 years, utilisation of unspent funds, fresh applications, and inclusion of additional device categories.

  [shilpa.sharma@ficci.com]

- **Recommendations on MedTech Industry Issues under CGHS** *Ministry of Health & Family Welfare*

  Recommendations on inclusion of innovative technologies, reimbursement revisions, streamlined implant approvals, and industry participation in future consultations.

  [shilpa.sharma@ficci.com]

- **Inputs on BIS Certification Challenges for Medical Devices & Components** *Scientist-G & Group Coordinator, MeitY*

  Highlighted certification-related challenges affecting critical medical products and recommended measures to ensure uninterrupted healthcare delivery and patient safety.

  [shilpa.sharma@ficci.com]

- **Request for Meeting and Industry Inputs on QCOs – Medical Devices Sector** *NITI Aayog*

  Submitted recommendations on regulatory alignment of Quality Control Orders impacting the medical devices industry and ease of doing business.

  [shilpa.sharma@ficci.com]

7 Food & Consumer Products — 6 Submissions

- **Proprietary Food Products under Malt-Based Foods Category (SP-11 Query)** *FSSAI*

  Submitted market examples of products licensed under the Malt-Based Foods category in response to an SP-11 query.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

- **Caffeine Content Requirement in Soluble Coffee Powder** *FSSAI*

  Scientific Panel (SP-17) Industry representation on proposed caffeine content requirements for soluble coffee powder.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

- **An Amendment to the Definition of "Unsafe Food" under the FSSAI Act, 2006** *FSSAI*

  Proposed amendments to the statutory definition of unsafe food under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

- **Amendment to Fat Spreads Standard (2.2.5(3))** *FSSAI*

  Requested expedited publication of the final gazette notification removing mandatory package size and Agmark certification requirements under the Fat Spreads Standard.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

- **Expediting ePASS Portal Integration and Stakeholder Consultation** *FSSAI*

  Requested early deployment of the ePASS portal, stakeholder consultation, and revised implementation timelines to facilitate smooth adoption by food businesses.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

- **Publication of Revised Pet Food Specification IS 11968:2019** *BIS*

  Requested expedited publication of revised pet food standards to improve quality, safety, international alignment, and export competitiveness.

  [hemant.seth@ficci.com]

8 Internal Security & Regulatory Reforms

1 Submission

- **Recommendations on Implementation of Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005 (PSARA)** *Ministry of Home Affairs*

  Recommendations covering licensing reforms, 100% FDI, workforce professionalisation, digitisation, compliance simplification, and a One Nation–One Licence framework for private security agencies.

  [akhil.gupta@ficci.com]

9 Consumer Affairs, Financial Services & Telecom

3 Submissions

- **The Country-of-Origin Filter Requirement under Legal Metrology Rules, 2026** *Department of Consumer Affairs*

  Recommended a simplified Country of Origin disclosure framework, distinguishing between domestic and imported products while reducing compliance burdens.

  [sarika.gulyani@ficci.com]

- **The RBI Draft Amendment Directions on Technology-Based Loan Recovery Mechanisms** *Reserve Bank of India*

  Recommendations on operational implementation, borrower protection, device restoration timelines, and technology-enabled lending frameworks for NBFCs.

  [sarika.gulyani@ficci.com]

- **Draft Telecom Consumers Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026** *TRAI*

  Recommendations opposing mandated Voice+SMS-only plans and proportional pricing requirements, while advocating continued tariff forbearance and consumer choice.

  [sarika.gulyani@ficci.com]

10 Chemicals, Petrochemicals & Trade Policy

6 Submissions

- **Request for Inputs on India–South Korea CEPA** *Department of Commerce*

  The Department of Commerce shared India's request list of 147 tariff lines and Korea's request list of 148 tariff lines, seeking recommendations on tariff lines at the Korea national tariff line level where India may seek concessions from Korea under the ongoing CEPA upgrade negotiations.

  [manoj.mehta@ficci.com]

- **India–Korea CEPA Upgrade Negotiation – Additional Offer List (AOL)** *Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals*

  Inputs were submitted on tariff lines on chemicals under Chapters 28, 29, 32 and 38 seeking tariff concessions under the Additional Offer List (AOL), enabling the timely consolidation of India's position for the upcoming India–Korea CEPA negotiations.

  [manoj.mehta@ficci.com]

- **Inputs Sought Regarding Indigenisation of 100 Items** *DPIIT*

  Following a meeting chaired by the Additional Secretary, DPIIT, inputs were submitted regarding the indigenisation of 100 products identified under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

  [manoj.mehta@ficci.com]

- **Requirement of Data on 46 Chemicals** *Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals*

  The Department sought inputs for the indigenisation of 46 chemicals under its purview, forming part of the 100 products proposed by DPIIT. Relevant industry inputs and data were provided to support the initiative.

  [manoj.mehta@ficci.com]

- **Data Regarding 40 Commodities Covered under Notification No. 12/2026-Customs** *Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals*

  Following the temporary reduction of Basic Customs Duty to zero on 40 critical petrochemical and chemical inputs from 2 April 2026 to 30 June 2026, industry data was submitted to assist the Government in assessing the effectiveness of the measure and the need for its extension.

  [manoj.mehta@ficci.com]

- **Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) Faced by Indian Exporters in the US, UK, EU and New Zealand** *Department of Commerce*

  Inputs were submitted to identify and address non-tariff barriers impacting Indian exporters and trade flows with

key partner countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union and New Zealand, in the context of ongoing and recently concluded Free Trade Agreements.

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11 Taxation

1 Submission

- **Concerns Related to GST for the Food Processing Sector** — *GST Council / Department of Revenue*

  Recommendations were submitted, highlighting the unintended inverted duty structure arising from GST rate rationalisation in the food processing sector. Suggestions included extending refund eligibility for accumulated input tax credit on input services and capital goods, rationalising GST rates on key input services, permitting utilisation of ITC for reverse charge liabilities, and providing relief under the reverse charge mechanism for eligible cross-border related-party service transactions.

  [ira.khanna@ficci.com]

These 34 submissions reflect FICCI's engagement with policymakers on trade negotiations, chemicals and petrochemicals, manufacturing indigenisation, customs duties, export competitiveness, and taxation reforms to strengthen the domestic industry, enhance global market access, and improve ease of doing business. 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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