

# **BUSINESS** DIGEST

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## **ICT a major lever to tighten homeland security**



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FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. Established in 1927, it is India's oldest and largest apex business organization. FICCI is in the forefront in articulating the views and concerns of industry. It services its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry across states, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies.

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We would like feedback/comment from readers to enable us to improve our offering. Write to us at: [sukumar.sah@ficci.com](mailto:sukumar.sah@ficci.com) or [sushmita.yadav@ficci.com](mailto:sushmita.yadav@ficci.com)



## From the Secretary General's Desk...

**T**he ninth edition of the Homeland Security Conference was organised by FICCI on May 24-25, 2017, in association with Vivekananda International Foundation on the theme 'Modernisation of India's Internal Security Mechanism'. The conference brought together experts from the Government, Central Armed Police Forces, State Police Forces, foreign governments, industry, academia and think tanks to discuss solutions to the numerous challenges of procurement by internal security forces in the areas of policies and regulations, processes, technological advancements and capacity building.

Special addresses by General (Retd.) NC Vij, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, Director, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), former Chief of the Army Staff & Founder Vice Chairman, NDMA, and other experts raised germane issues relating to internal security of the country and highlighted the ground conditions in Jammu & Kashmir and North-East and the rising of Left Wing extremism and the looming threat of radicalization. Anil Baijal, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi & Former, Union Home Secretary, Government of India, emphasized that to strengthen and modernize India's internal security mechanism and the police force it was essential to re-engineer and adopt processes and procedures and at the same time leverage technology and ICT to remain connected with the people. He stressed the need to create a cadre of specialized and expert police personnel who are skilled and well-equipped to cope up with specialized crimes such as accounting frauds, cyber-crime and homicide. See report in the pages that follow.

The government is currently in the process of extensively appraising the hydrocarbon potential in the country and the National Data Repository (NDR) programme has been launched to accumulate relevant data which could be provided to potential investors for making informed exploration decisions. The government has also revamped the process of procurement and assimilation of data to make it more precise and easily accessible to stakeholders. This was stated by K D Tripathi, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, while addressing FICCI's 4th National Conference on Energy Security on the theme 'Energy Transition-Building a New Energy Security Architecture' in New Delhi on May 11, 2017.

The Rajasthan Global Agritech Meet (GRAM) 2017 was organized in Kota (Rajasthan) by the Government of Rajasthan with FICCI as the partner organisation. GRAM 2017 was aimed to double farmer income, explore untapped potential of Kota Division in agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry, attract industry to explore agri-potential, share best agriculture practices and explore new avenues of growth. GRAM 2017 followed a similar event in Jaipur in November 2016 which sought to lay a strong foundation for the state's agri and allied ecosystem by empowering farmers and attracting investment from private players. We carry a report in this issue.

FICCI along with the Ministry of Steel, Government of India, organized the third edition of India Steel Expo in Mumbai. With the theme 'Indian Steel Industry: Looking up to 2030 (Raw materials, Production, Demand & Logistics)', the conference focused on key aspects of Indian steel industry such as raw material, technology and demand stimulation. The event provided a platform for business alliances between international buyers and steel producers in India. A new feature at the conference was a special session on 'Growing Influence of Women in Steel Industry' focussed on increasing the role of women in both steel production and consumption in terms of modern lifestyle. The unique feature of the conference was CEOspeak that witnessed presence of major steel CEOs who shared their experiences and perspectives on the regulatory developments in the last two years and the opportunities they foresaw for Indian steel industry in the decade ahead.

S N Tripathi, Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, unveiled a study 'Exploring Potential of E-Commerce for Retail Exports of Indian MSMEs in Manufacturing Sector' prepared by FICCI, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade-Centre for MSME Studies and Apex Cluster Development Services in New Delhi on May 30, 2017. The study was launched at a discussion organized by FICCI jointly with Indian Institute of Foreign Trade-Centre for MSME Studies and Apex Cluster Development Services. (See report).

We hope you will find the contents of this issue informative and useful.

A Didar Singh