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EMPOWERING WOMEN



The Power to Empower

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FICCI's
NEXT 500

**The Leading
MSME Companies**

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FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies. Established in 1927, it is India's oldest and largest apex business organization. FICCI serves its members from large (domestic and global companies) and MSME sectors as well as the public sector, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry.



Contents

Vol No 15 ■ Issue No 02 ■ May 2018

04	From the Secretary General
05	Statistical Snapshot – India
06	FICCI's Newsmaker of the Month
08	Special Report: Boao Forum
12	Diary of Upcoming Events

14 - 17 Essay

- Road Ahead: Frontier of Japan-India Relationship

18-21 Briefings

32-37 Special Feature

- FICCI's Next 500: The Leading MSME Companies 38

Leadership

- Cargill Aspires to Become a Catalyst for Bringing Global Best Practices to India 48

50 - 55 Features

- Indian Industry Delegation Visits Spain to Deepen Engagement in Defence and Aerospace..... 50
- Forging Strong Links: Logistics Summit Organised 51
- Need to Evolve and Promote Realistic and Implementable Quality Standards 54

56 International

62 In the States

66 Viewpoint

67 Interview

69 Book Extracts

72 Flashback

We would like feedback/comments from our readers to enable us to improve our offering. Write to us at: george.skaria@ficci.com or sushmita.yadav@ficci.com



From the Secretary General

The new financial year ushered in the 34th Annual Session of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) which was held on 5 April 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan. The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind was the Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address. The theme for the 34th Annual Session was Women Transforming India. In the change of guard, Pinky 'Aparna' Reddy took on the mantle of FLO President from Vasvi Bharat Ram.

On the occasion, FLO also recognised 9 Indian Women Achievers with FLO Icon Awards, those who have touched the peak of their careers and businesses and are inspirational leaders. Crucially, in a significant step, FLO bought 11 acres of land in Telangana to spur women entrepreneurship. An MoU was signed where this land was divided among ten enterprising women who would develop their innovative ventures.

Commerce and Industry Minister, Suresh Prabhu urged all the stakeholders to come up with innovative ideas to enhance India's logistics efficiency at the 'Global Logistics Summit' jointly organised by FICCI, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India and The World Bank Group.

MSMEs form the bulwark of India's and FICCI's companies. It is in this context that we decided to bring out a listing of FICCI's Next 500 in this sector in this issue of *Business Digest*. In December 2013, FICCI had established Confederation of MSME (FICCI-CMSME) to cater to the MSME sector with a mission to empower Indian MSMEs and build their competitiveness. It has been the endeavour of FICCI-CMSME to take up the concerns and issues of MSMEs with the respective authority especially with the Ministry of MSME.

Another highlight of this month was the BOAO Forum for Asia that was organised between 8-11 April in Hainan Province, China. The forum is committed to promoting regional economic integration and bringing Asian countries closer to their development goals. BFA now boasts of 29 participant countries, including India, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) being a founding member.

FICCI has been instrumental in promoting bilateral trade and investments between the two countries. Recently, FICCI with other industry chambers

hosted K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal and organised the India-Nepal Business Forum in New Delhi on 6 April 2018.

To enhance the relations between India and Japan, in April, FICCI's India-Japan Forum of Parliamentarians organised two interactions with a focus on the way forward for India-Japan relations. The highlight of these events has been showcased in this issue.

Finally, it is time to say goodbye to all of you – our readers and members of FICCI. I have stepped down as the Secretary General and my colleague Dilip Chenoy will take over from me.

Thank you for your support to *Business Digest* and FICCI.

Sanjaya Baru