

Diplomatic Corner
Jasper Wieck, Deputy Head
of Mission, German Embassy

Interview
Enggartiaso Lukita, Minister
of Trade, Indonesia

GOAL 2019
International Convention
on Business of Football



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FRAMES@20

Global Goes Indian



BOAO Forum for Asia
Shared Future, Concerted
Action, Common Development



Fintech in India
The Next Phase
of Growth



Special Session with Arun Jaitley
FICCI Delegation Calls
on Finance Minister



IRDAI Chairman
Inaugurates Health
Insurance Conference



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Editorial Team

Nandita Bhardwaj

Sushmita Yadav

Manu Shankar

Marketing

Rahul Siwach

Advertising

P L Joseph

Rakesh Arora

Coordination

Dinesh Bhandari

Mukul Agrawal

Design & Art

Visualeyes Communications Pvt. Ltd.

vipul2001@gmail.com

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laxman@samratoffset.com

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Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry,

Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi - 110001

Phone: 23738760-70(11 Lines)

Fax: 23320714, 23721504

E-Mail: ficci@ficci.com

Website: www.ficci.in/wwwficci.com

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.



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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

FICCI President Sandip Somany applauds the success of 'Mission Shakti', this speaks of the laurels for our scientific community, which have done the nation proud and enhanced our strategic defence capability.

With the passing away of Manohar Parrikar, Chief Minister of Goa, we have lost in our Prime Minister's words an 'unparalleled leader, a true patriot and an exceptional administrator'. The country's first technocrat defence minister, had fought a brief but spirited battle with cancer. His demise is an irreparable loss.

A FICCI delegation had called up on Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley in his office on 5 March 2019. While, the Minister said that India continues to be the sweet spot as far as the Foreign Direct Investment is concerned and is the fastest growing economy in the world, he emphasized that the government is committed to keeping this growth momentum high and inclusive to ensure that the benefits of growth reach all sections of the society especially to the vulnerable and weaker sections. FICCI President Sandip Somany thanked the Union Finance Minister for the government's decision to introduce the Direct Income Support scheme for Small and Marginal Farmers during the Interim Budget 2019-20. FICCI President also presented a copy of the FICCI Publication 'Agenda for Growth and Shared Prosperity' to him.

FICCI organised a closed-door interaction for industry with Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance on 1 April 2019. The event saw participation of business leaders from various sectors including manufacturing, financial services, infrastructure, consulting, and tourism, amongst others. He presented the keynote address and interacted with participants, highlighting the state of economy and impact of key reforms undertaken over the last five years as well as sharing ideas and suggestions for meeting the key challenges being faced today, specifically those related to jobs, skills, competitiveness, financial stress, and export performance.

We also had a very engaging interaction of CEOs with Secretary Ramesh Abhishek, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on a number of issues. Some of the pressing issues for the manufacturing like competitiveness, Ease of Doing Business, Intellectual Property Rights, exports and environmental issues were discussed during the interaction. Also, discussions on retail trade and e-commerce were very stimulating.

March was the month when we held the 20th edition of three-day global convention on the media and entertainment industry, FICCI FRAMES 2019. Amit Khare, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, at the

conclave, underscored the need for self-regulation by media and entertainment industry players to allow the industry to grow. At the event, a 'FICCI-EY 2019' report titled 'A billion screens of opportunity' was also unveiled.

The government is keen to work with the Fintech sector and while there has been much advancement in the payments sector, there is still scope for a lot of growth in sectors such as pension and credit delivery said SC Garg, Finance Secretary, and Secretary Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, at PICUP Fintech 2019, which was on the theme 'Fintech Sector in India: The Next Phase of Growth'. 'In future, the financial services would be delivered essentially by Fintech,' he had added.

The Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, advised state governments to board the 'Udan' regional connectivity scheme to give a fillip to intra-regional and inter-regional air connectivity and realise the growth benefits from the multiplier effect of travel and tourism at the 3rd edition of 'Wings 2019' held this month.

A delegation of key members of the FICCI Health Services Committee met senior officials of NITI Aayog and the National Health Authority (NHA), to discuss the way forward for effective engagement of the private healthcare providers for

continued success of the government's flagship healthcare programme – Ayushman Bharat. FICCI presented its policy recommendations on the key tenets for implementation of AB-PMJAY, including scientific costing of medical procedures, sustainable pricing in healthcare, expansion of healthcare infrastructure in tier II and III cities and strategies for strengthening the number of specialist doctors in the country.

Meanwhile, during the 11th edition of the annual FICCI Health Insurance Conference discussions centred around the key change enablers for the health insurance industry as well as the regulatory roadmap in Health Insurance 2.0 landscape.

We also made our presence felt at the Annual Conference of the BOAO Forum for Asia (BFA) held at Boao, Hainan, China. The theme for this year's conference was 'Shared Future, Concerted Action, Common Development'. FICCI is one of the Founder Members of Boao Forum for Asia.

For this issue, we have interviewed Jasper Wieck, Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy New Delhi and Enggartiaso Lukita, Indonesian Minister of Trade, who share their perspectives on strengthening relations between their respective countries and India.

FICCI in collaboration with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) organised the sixth edition of 'GOAL', International convention on Business of Football. In an interview, Robert Klein the Chief Executive Officer of Bundesliga International talks about his India plans and what it would take for India to reach to the next level.

And we hope you will find a lot of interesting takeaways in this issue of *Business Digest*.



Dilip Chenoy