



Pg-08  
FICCI partners  
with Government of  
West Bengal for 6th BGBS



# BUSINESS

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## CONTINUOUS DIGITAL NUDGE BY THE GOVERNMENT



Waterways Could Provide The Greatest  
Opportunities For Our Young Entrepreneurs Pg-05

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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 organisation. 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.

## EDITORIAL

# From The Director General



For some years now, state-level reforms and national programmes have led to multiplier growth in several states. Today, cooperative federalism is encouraging every state to turn itself into a regional behemoth on the back of its competitive advantage – demography, infrastructure, talent/workforce availability, and natural resources, among others. In addition, there is also a growing realisation that the private sector can significantly help achieve development

goals faster. Consequently, there has never been a better time for the private sector to join hands with the state governments in realising the true potential of the country. FICCI as the apex business chamber is actively working with the state governments to facilitate this process.

FICCI partnered with the Government of West Bengal in organising the sixth edition of the Bengal Global Business Summit last month. In this edition of BGBS, 4,300 delegates from 42 countries participated. The event saw Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inviting industry to invest in the state and assuring all help. At the conclusion of the event, the state government received investment proposals to the tune of Rs 3.42 lakh crore which in itself is a big achievement. FICCI also organised its National Executive Committee Meeting in Kolkata, which was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal.

At the same time, a new opportunity unfolded a few hundred miles away in Dibrugarh, Assam. FICCI partnered with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in organising the Waterways Conclave 2022 in Assam. The event aimed to utilise the country's waterways for cost-efficient cargo movement, creating job opportunities, enhancing tourism, and opening the international market for local products. The event saw the participation of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and many Union Ministers, including Sarbananda Sonowal, Nitin Gadkari, G Kishan Reddy, and Ashwini Vaishnav, among others. The event also witnessed the participation of State Minister of Shipping from Bangladesh Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, who expressed keen interest in partnering with India in anchoring trade through inland waterways.

On the international front, coinciding with the United States visit of the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, FICCI mounted a high-powered delegation led by the Senior Vice President, Subhrakant Panda, to take the India story out. The Finance Minister addressed an industry roundtable, which was organised by FICCI in association with the USISPF, and encouraged constant engagements with investors to understand and address their concerns.

Overall, it was an eventful month for FICCI. In the months ahead, we have a plethora of events cutting across all states, sectors and countries. FICCI believes that the India growth story is going from strength to strength, and it is just the beginning. We are hopeful of a robust future despite global headwinds due to the Ukraine crisis, the rise in commodity prices, and consequent inflation.

**Arun Chawla**