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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

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 Secretary General



In October, the Global Maritime India Summit 2023, inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi, marked a watershed moment for India's maritime sector. The unveiling of the 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047' by the Prime Minister heralded a new era for India's maritime ambitions, embodying the nation's aspiration to leverage its blue economy for national progress and global integration.

India's maritime prowess, with its expansive 7500-kilometre coastline, approximately 200 ports, and 14500 kilometres of navigable waterways, stands at a historical crossroads. Despite facilitating over 90 per cent of India's mercantile trade, the sector's potential for growth in shipping, ports, inland waterways, and coastal shipping remains largely untapped, poised for significant expansion.

The government's recent initiatives propel us towards realising the 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047'. At GMIS, the Prime Minister inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of projects worth more than Rs 23,000 crores that are aligned with the vision. These initiatives along with several others, reflect the government's vision of 'Ports for Prosperity and Ports for Progress', which is driving transformative changes at the ground level. The modernisation of coastal shipping modes has enhanced logistics performance, with India's coastal cargo traffic doubling and cargo handling on national waterways growing fourfold. Additionally, the registration of four global ship leasing companies with GIFT IFSC is a notable milestone.

To achieve India's ambitious maritime goals, a synergistic partnership between the government and the maritime industry is essential. The government's push for private investment and public-private partnerships has created a fertile landscape for industry involvement, pivotal for innovation and elevating India's global maritime stature.

At FICCI, our role in this transformation is multifaceted. We actively engage in dialogues, advocate policy reforms, and forge collaborations between industry leaders and policymakers. Our efforts are instrumental in achieving the ambitious targets, fostering sustainable growth and global competitiveness in India's maritime sector. This commitment was underscored at GMIS 2023, where FICCI facilitated the convergence of CEOs from 33 international and 17 Indian companies, along with 21 ministers from 10 countries.

Apart from GMIS, PM Modi also graced the second edition of 'World Food India 2023' (WFI), a mega food event FICCI organised along with the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Just like GMIS, WFI recorded a remarkable turnout of 1208 exhibitors, 14 country pavilions, 715 international and 218 domestic buyers, and 97 corporate leaders.

Summing up, the interactions at business events like GMIS and WFI are a testament to India's rising influence and FICCI's pivotal role in coalescing stakeholders into a platform, setting the stage for a bright future.

Shailesh Pathak