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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



The transformation of India's economic landscape finds perhaps its most compelling expression in the convergence of food security ambitions, agricultural innovation, workforce evolution, and youth empowerment initiatives that have gained unprecedented momentum this July. From Minister Chirag Paswan's bold vision to establish India as the "global food basket" to the systematic reimagining of industrial relations frameworks for the AI era, these developments collectively demonstrate how India is orchestrating sectoral transformation while maintaining its commitment to inclusive growth and technological sovereignty.

World Food India 2025, scheduled for September at Bharat Mandapam, represents far more than a trade exhibition—it embodies India's strategic pivot from agricultural production to sophisticated food processing leadership. Paswan's assertion that "India has the capacity to present itself as a global food basket to the world" gains significance when viewed against the sector's remarkable untapped potential, with current processing covering less than 10 per cent of total agricultural production.

This optimism found parallel expression in Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's ambitious declaration to achieve 86 million tonnes of maize production by 2047. His emphasis on enhanced productivity through "superior research, farmer education, and improved agricultural practices" aligns perfectly with India's philosophy of technology-enabled growth rooted in traditional wisdom. The deployment of 11,000 agricultural scientists across 60,800 villages under the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan exemplifies the government's lab-to-land approach.

The evolution of India's industrial relations framework, as articulated during the Global Industrial Relations Summit, reflects a profound recognition that demographic advantages must be strategically harnessed during periods of technological disruption. Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's vision of moving "from compliance-driven mechanisms toward strategic frameworks" resonates with the summit's central theme—that artificial intelligence integration requires enhanced, not diminished, focus on human-centred workplace policies.

Perhaps most encouraging is the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme, as highlighted during Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's interaction with interns from the Northeast in Shillong. Her observation that the programme supports "those who have never had an assignment or a job" while creating pathways for entrepreneurial aspirations captures the scheme's transformative potential. With over 4,600 opportunities across Northeast states and growing nationwide traction, this initiative exemplifies how strategic government-industry collaboration can democratise access to meaningful career development opportunities. FICCI's role in facilitating this government-industry alignment underscores our commitment to ensuring India's emergence as a developed economy by 2047.

Jyoti Vij