FICCI



pg 80

India and Singapore Chart Ambitious Roadmap for Strategic Economic Partnership as Diplomatic Ties Mark Six Decades

BUSINESS Digest

OCTOBER 2025

VOLUME:22

ISSUE No: 07

Kashmir courts innovation economy

pg10





Futuristic Vision for Development with Appropriate Knowledge is the Need of the Hour

pg36



India Sets 2047 Target for Equitable, Accessible, Affordable Healthcare Access as Medical Education Expands

pg62



Maharashtra unveils four-year plan to transform Mumbai Film City as industry reaches ₹2.5 lakh crore milestone

pg46



Madhya Pradesh unveils ₹544 crore financial package for MSMEs and startups

pg106



Afghanistan Seeks Indian Investment as Bilateral Trade Reaches $1 Billion

pg159

Contents

OCTOBER 2025 VOL 22 ISSUE 07

COVER STORY



LEAD STORIES





India's Research Deficit Sparks Calls for Private Sector Investment 32



SPECIAL

18 FICCI Names Anant Goenka as President-Elect

20 RBI Growth Upgrade Signals Economic Resilience

SPECIAL FEATURES

46 Maharashtra unveils four-year plan to transform Mumbai Film City as industry reaches ₹2.5 lakh crore milestone

54 Delhi Positions Itself as Global Storytelling Hub with New Film Policy Push

56 UK and India Forge Creative Corridor as Trade Agreement Opens New Opportunities

58 Frame Your Idea Sets New Benchmark with 3,233 Curated Writer-Producer Meetings

62 India Sets 2047 Target for Equitable, Accessible, Affordable Healthcare Access as Medical Education Expands

66 India's Healthcare Innovators Honoured as Nation Pursues Demographic Dividend

70 India Scales Health Infrastructure Investment to ₹60,000 Crore as Digital Mission Expands

74 AI-Powered Cancer Screening Identifies 150 Suspected Cases in Primary Healthcare Pilot

80 India and Singapore Chart Ambitious Roadmap for Strategic Economic Partnership as Diplomatic Ties Mark Six Decades

NATIONAL

88 Government and Industry Unite to Strengthen India's Research Data Infrastructure

91 FICCI and GlobalLogic Launch AI Platform to Drive Sustainability Among Indian MSMEs

95 Telecom Sector Seeks Regulatory Clarity to Sustain Digital Momentum

98 India Mobilises AI and Language Technologies to Bridge Digital Divide Across 22 Official Languages.

102 India and UK Deepen Digital Energy Collaboration as Smart Meter Deployment Transforms Grid Management

STATE

106 Madhya Pradesh unveils ₹544 crore financial package for MSMEs and startups

108 Madhya Pradesh courts Northeast investors with cultural diplomacy and sectoral incentives

110 India and Europe Explore Strategic IP Partnership to Propel Startup Innovation

113 Indian Startups Urged to Embed IP Strategy Early as Government Lowers Entry Barriers

116 Borosil Pioneers Antimony-Free Solar Glass in Push for Cleaner Manufacturing

119 India-Japan Carbon Credit Framework Set for Launch as Business Matchmaking Accelerates

122 India and Japan Unite to Combat Transnational Illicit Trade Threatening Economic Growth

126 FICCI and Hitachi Launch AI-Driven Sustainability Platform for India's MSME Sector

130 Indian Air Force Accelerates Indigenous Drone Development for Island Territory Logistics

133 India Seeks Greater Industry Participation in National Science Survey to Bridge R&D Investment Gap

137 India Launches ₹1 Lakh Crore Innovation Fund as Industry Contribution Lags Advanced Economies

140 India Positions Carbon Markets as Business Catalyst in Climate Push

144 Madhya Pradesh Secures ₹3,665 Crore Tourism Investment as Regional Partnerships Reshape Sector Strategy

148 India's Bio-Economy Set to Double to $300 Billion, Says Secretary, DST

151 Goa Positions Itself as Defence Manufacturing Hub as 16,000 MSMEs Drive Indigenous Capabilities

INTERNATIONAL

154 India and Spain Chart Collaborative Defence Manufacturing Pathway

156 India and Brazil Target $20 Billion Trade by 2030 as Strategic Partnership Deepens

159 Afghanistan Seeks Indian Investment as Bilateral Trade Reaches $1 Billion

ARTICLE

162 India and Austria: Seven Decades of Enduring Partnership and Emerging Opportunities

164 India–Latvia: Boosting trade and economic relations for prosperity and sustainability

166 India–Romania ties have enormous potential - businesses should take note

168 Energy Transition Beyond Renewables: Building India's Integrated Energy Future

170 RBI's Policy Actions have Re-energised India's Real Estate Finance Ecosystem

PUBLICATIONS

174 Future-ready campuses: Unlocking the power of AI in higher education

175 AI in Healthcare Reimagine care with AI-driven transformation

176 Ture accountable care Maximizing healthcare delivery impact, efficiently

177 Unlocking the Longevity Dividend Active and Healthy Ageing in India

FICCI In News **180**

#Social Wall **182**

Statistical Snapshot **184**



OCTOBER 2025

Chairperson – Editorial Board
Jyoti Vij

Editor
Santanu Ghosh

Editorial Team
Nitin Srivastava
Anurag Mankhand
Gargi Bhardwaj
Mandeep Yadav

Marketing & Advertising
Rahul Siwach

Subscription & Distribution
Dinesh Bhandari

Design & Art
Sandeep Thapa

Printed by
Genesis Printers

All rights are reserved.
No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system,or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording and/or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed and published by Director General on behalf of (or owned by) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi and Published at Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi 110001

R.N.I No. DELENG/2004/13722

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Federation House, Tansen Marg,
New Delhi – 110001

Phone: 23738760-70 (11 Lines)
Fax: 23320714, 23721504
EMail: 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 Director General



October marked a significant convergence of industrial momentum and regional economic focus, as India's manufacturing sector demonstrated remarkable resilience while new frontiers emerged in previously underexplored territories. The confluence of robust production data and expanding regional opportunities suggests that India's economic narrative is both deepening and broadening simultaneously.

FICCI's latest Quarterly Survey on Manufacturing revealed an industrial sector operating at near-optimal efficiency, with 87 per cent of surveyed firms reporting sustained or higher production levels in the July-September quarter. This marks a significant improvement from the 77 per cent recorded in the previous quarter and indicates more than a cyclical recovery—it signals a structural enhancement of India's industrial base. The survey, now in its 67th edition, canvassed manufacturers across eight major sectors representing firms with a combined annual turnover of over Rs 3 lakh crores, providing a comprehensive overview of industrial health.

The manufacturing upswing has been amplified by recent cuts to the goods and services tax rate, which manufacturers expect will result in higher disposable incomes in the hands of consumers, thereby spurring demand and consequently accelerating industrial activity. With 83 per cent of respondents predicting increased orders and close to half planning capacity expansion over the next six months, the sector is showing confidence that goes beyond immediate quarterly performance. Capacity utilisation has reached approximately 75 per cent across sectors, indicating healthy economic activity while leaving enough headroom for expansion without immediate supply constraints.

Equally noteworthy was FICCI's return to Srinagar for its National Executive Committee meeting—the first such high-level gathering in the region in 15 years. The meeting represented more than mere symbolism; it signified a substantive reassessment of Jammu and Kashmir's economic potential as the territory seeks to position itself for innovation-driven investment beyond traditional manufacturing. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah highlighted specific sectoral opportunities in agriculture and horticulture processing, pharmaceuticals, packaging, electronics, and information technology-enabled services, recognising both the territory's recent challenges and its significant untapped potential.

The ongoing infrastructure projects—including the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, the four-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, and the fully operational Jammu-Baramulla railway line—are addressing historical logistical challenges that have long hindered industrial growth. The railway link has decreased apple transit times to Delhi markets to under 24 hours, a vital improvement for perishable horticultural produce that could unlock significant value in a sector.

The contrast between the manufacturing sector's strength and regional development efforts underscores FICCI's dual role: to sustain industrial momentum while fostering economic growth in emerging areas. Both require ongoing policy support, infrastructure investment, and collaboration between government and industry—areas where FICCI remains actively involved in fostering meaningful progress.

Jyoti Vij