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India to Unveil Sustainable Aviation Fuel Policy as Sector Eyes Carbon Neutrality



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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



India's trajectory towards developed-nation status by 2047 crystallised into concrete policy action at FICCI's 98th Annual General Meeting in New Delhi last December, as senior ministers outlined an ambitious multi-pronged strategy spanning trade architecture, industrial policy, and infrastructure development. The convergence of announcements suggests the government is moving steadfastly to reshape the structural foundations of India's economy.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's revelation that India is pursuing comprehensive economic partnerships spanning 50 countries across 14 negotiating blocs marks a decisive break from the country's historically cautious trade posture. The minister framed this diplomatic offensive around Atmanirbhar Bharat, positioning self-reliance not as protectionism but as strategic economic positioning that prioritises balanced partnerships over blanket liberalisation. Particularly notable was Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal's disclosure that India is, for the first time, securing foreign direct investment commitments through FTA negotiations—a mechanism that could fundamentally alter how developing economies approach trade agreements by explicitly linking market access to capital flows.

The framework extends beyond trade diplomacy. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh's announcement that domestic suppliers secured 88 per cent of contract signings worth 2 lakh crores last year demonstrates that indigenisation targets are translating into measurable procurement shifts. Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat's exploration of harmonised infrastructure status for hotels addresses a critical capacity constraint as India seeks to transform tourism into a $1 trillion sector, whilst over 12,000 crores in destination development signals governmental recognition of tourism as a structural growth engine rather than a peripheral sector.

Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi projected a bumper harvest for 2024-25 whilst highlighting enhanced compliance with international food safety standards. Food Processing Secretary A.P. Das Joshi emphasised the labour-cost advantages that are attracting foreign investment to India's food processing sector.

Renewable Energy Secretary Santosh Kumar Sarangi acknowledged that transmission infrastructure remains a critical constraint threatening India's 500-gigawatt capacity target. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma positioned his state as investment-ready through single-window clearances and policy stability, leveraging renewable energy leadership and mineral wealth, whilst reflecting intensifying competition amongst states for capital flows.

As FICCI enters its 98th year, the organisation reaffirms its founding commitment to economic nationalism whilst partnering with the government to accelerate domestic capability creation, strengthen global competitiveness, and advance India's emergence as a trusted and resilient economic powerhouse aligned with the Viksit Bharat vision.

Jyoti Vij