AGENDA

FICCI Symposium - "Decoding the Science Behind UPF Hype"

Commission Room, 3rd Floor, FICCI Federation House, New Delhi

Friday, 13th March 2026

Time	Agenda Item
09:30 - 10:00 am	**Registration**
Inaugural Session	
10:00 - 10:05 am	**Welcome Address**: Mr. Tarun Arora, President, CIFTI-FICCI
10:05 - 10:15 am	**Context Setting and Agenda for the Symposium**: Mr. Siraj Hussain, Former Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GOI. Advisor, Food Processing, FICCI
10:15 – 10:30 am	**Keynote Address:** Dr. Alka Rao, Advisor (Science & Standards & Regulations), FSSAI
10:30 – 10:55 am	***Release of*** *FICCI Knowledge Paper on Understanding 'Sugar' and Sugars'* **Inaugural Address:** Dr. Satyen Kumar Panda, Advisor (Additional charge of Executive Director - Regulatory Compliance, Regional Office), Advisor (Quality Assurance), FSSAI
10:55 - 11:00 am	**Vote of thanks**: Dr. Anirudha Chhonkar, Lead Regulatory Affairs, CIFTI-FICCI
11:00 - 11:30 am	**Networking Tea**
Technical Session	
11:30 - 12:05 pm	**Presentation:** "Sustainability, Processing, and Nutrition: The Triple Bottom Line" **Speaker:** Dr. Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
12:05 - 12:15 pm	**Q & A**
12:15 - 12:50 pm	**Presentation:** "Global Perspective on Processed Foods in the Context of UPF Narrative" **Speaker:** Ms. Petia Nenova, IFBA (International Food & Beverage Alliance), Brussels, Belgium
12:50 - 01:00 pm	**Q & A**
01:00 - 01:50 pm	**Lunch Break**
01:50 - 03:00 pm	**Panel Discussion:** "The Purpose and Science Behind Food Processing to Drive Innovation and Consumer Trust" **Moderator:** Mr. Sanjay Khajuria, Former President, CIFTI-FICCI

	Panellists: • Ms. Apoorva Sharma, Assistant Director (Science and Standards), FSSAI • Dr. Deepti Gulati, Senior Advisor, TechnoServe and Former Industry Chair Professor NIFTEM-K • Dr. Heena Yadav, Assistant Professor, NIFTEM-K • Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh, Former Director, CFTRI • Ms. Parna Dasgupta, Country Head, Food Industry Asia (FIA)
03:00 - 03:10 pm	**Q & A**
03:10 - 3:40 pm	**Fireside Chat:** "Is Processing Level an Indicator for Nutrition and Health?" **Moderator:** Dr Eram Rao, Professor of Food Technology, Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, University of Delhi **Speakers:** • Dr. Subbarao M. G, Scientist – F & Head, Nutrition Information, Communication & Health Education (NICHE), ICMR - National Institute of Nutrition • Dr. Seema Puri, Former Professor, Institute of Home Economics, University of Delhi
03:40 - 3:50 pm	**Q & A**
03:50 - 4:00 pm	**Closing Remarks:** Ms. Varsha Yadav, Assistant Director, CIFTI-FICCI
4:00 pm onwards	**High Tea**