

North India-Canada Trade & Investment: Exploring Prospects with Trade Commissioner of Canada

FICCI Regional Advisory Council, Chandigarh discussed the status of the bilateral trade between North Indian States and Canada and explored further trade potential across key sectors of this region in a close-meeting with Mr. Frank Le, Trade Commissioner, High Commission of Canada - New Delhi on June 18, 2019 in Chandigarh.

Bilateral trade between India and Canada has grown from US\$ 3.21 billion in 2009-2010 to US\$ 7.23 billion in 2017-18. Both the economies are committed to enhancing trade ties and thereby are putting increasing focus on exploring each other's market for goods and services. The meeting with Trade Commissioner of Canada aimed at mapping the areas of mutual interest and understanding scope of FICCI's contribution in facilitating trade especially with the States of Punjab, Haryana & Himachal Pradesh.

The meeting commenced with GB Singh, Head - Regional Council, FICCI explaining the industry dynamics of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and UT Chandigarh while also identifying textile, technical education & skills, media & entertainment, livestock and service tourism as key areas of potential collaboration and trade. Mr. Deepak Nanda, Managing Director-Trident Limited represented textile and paper cluster in the discussion over deepening trade in this sector. Considering Canada's success in development and implementation of advanced technologies for industrial and non-industrial use, the need to promote startups and entrepreneurship by leveraging Industry 4.0 technologies, including Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), was raised by FICCI Officials. The possibility of enhanced trade in sports goods, a cluster of which is based in Jalandhar, was also discussed.

Responding positively over the discussion points, Mr. Frank Le extended support to Regional industry members to engage with their Canadian counterparts for collaboration. Initiatives/measures as discussed during the meet shall be followed up with High Commission of Canada in subsequent meetings/engagements.