India–Seychelles Business Forum

Marking 50 Years of Bilateral Relations and Expanding Economic Engagement

Friday, 6th Feb 2026 at Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai

FICCI organized the **India–Seychelles Business Forum** in Chennai on **6 February 2026** on the occasion of the official State Visit of **His Excellency Dr. Patrick Herminie, President of the Republic of Seychelles**, commemorating **50 years of diplomatic relations between India and Seychelles**.

The forum brought together **over 45 Indian CEOs, Chairpersons, and senior industry leaders** to explore opportunities for **trade, investment, and sectoral collaboration** between the two countries. The event served as an important platform to strengthen economic ties and promote partnerships across sectors including tourism, infrastructure, healthcare, digital technologies, blue economy, sustainability, and logistics.

Delivering the keynote address, **H.E. Dr. Patrick Herminie**, President of Seychelles, reaffirmed the longstanding and strategic relationship between India and Seychelles, describing it as time-tested, rooted in shared history, and forward-looking in ambition. He appreciated India's continued partnership and reiterated Seychelles' strong commitment to further strengthening economic engagement and cooperation between the two nations.

Mr. Pierre Laporte, Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Trade, Finance and Investment, Government of Seychelles, highlighted the steady growth in bilateral trade and acknowledged India's role as a key supplier of construction materials and essential goods. He emphasized the need to expand collaboration across priority sectors such as infrastructure development, tourism, healthcare, digital technologies, and sustainability, noting that these areas offer significant untapped potential for partnership.

Mr. Suresh Gopi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism, Government of India, underlined the strategic importance of Seychelles in the Indian Ocean region and highlighted the deep maritime, cultural, and people-to-people ties between the two countries. He pointed to India's strengths in infrastructure development, healthcare, digital innovation, and human capital, and emphasized closer cooperation in tourism, blue economy, logistics, and capacity building to further enhance bilateral relations and shared prosperity.

Mr. Vijay Sankar, Senior Vice President, FICCI and Chairman, The Sanmar Group, highlighted the growing strategic partnership between India and Seychelles and noted Seychelles' importance for India as a key partner in the Indian Ocean region and a gateway to Africa. He observed that both countries have complementary development priorities, with India's strengths in manufacturing, services, infrastructure, and digital economy, and Seychelles' focus on blue economy, sustainable tourism, connectivity, and climate resilience. He further pointed to emerging opportunities under India's MAHASAGAR vision, particularly

in renewable energy, digital technologies, infrastructure, green mobility, education, and the blue economy.

The forum underscored the strength of the **India–Seychelles economic partnership** and reaffirmed the commitment of both sides to translate shared priorities into **concrete and mutually beneficial outcomes**.

As part of the engagement, a **dedicated CEOs' Roundtable** was also organised, providing an opportunity for senior industry leaders from both sides to engage in focused discussions on **investment opportunities, business collaboration, and sectoral partnerships**.

Photo (L to R):

Dr. GSK Velu, Chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council and CMD, Trivitron Healthcare & Neuberg Diagnostics Group**, Mr. Pierre Laporte**, Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Trade, Finance and Investment, **Mr. Vijay Sankar**, Senior Vice President, FICCI and Chairman, The Sanmar Group, **H.E. Dr. Patrick Herminie**, President of Seychelles, **Mr. Suresh Gopi**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism, Government of India, **Mr. Barry Faure**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, **Mr. Ramesh Kumar Mutha**, Chairman, Mohan Mutha Exports.

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