

Press Release

FICCI's REACTION TO IIP and CPI DATA FOR JANUARY 2014

12 March 2014, New Delhi: *"Negative growth in manufacturing, though seems to be waning, remains a cause of concern. Depressed demand and investment conditions continue to plague the sector. With little room for any new policy measure to address the slowdown, we expect the sector to register a subdued growth in next few months"*, said **Mr Sidharth Birla, President, FICCI.**

"We however hope that the clearance of nearly 130 large projects, many of which are in sectors like metals and minerals, by PMG may yield results in next few months" noted **Mr Birla.**

The consumer price index (CPI) eased for the third consecutive month in February 2014. The CPI inflation rate was reported at 8.1% in February 2014, vis-à-vis 8.8% growth witnessed in January 2014 and 10.9% growth in February 2013.

"With the trend reflected in retail inflation and IIP data released today, we see no reason why the Central Bank should not bring the focus back on growth and affect a rate cut in the forthcoming policy announcement on April 1, 2014", **he added.**

FICCI MEDIA DIVISION