

# VOICE OF FICCI



## SHAPING THE AGENDA

May 2021



### From the Secretary General

FICCI has been representing to all state governments and the central government to increase vaccination points and include accredited diagnostic labs, pharmacies, and home care organizations to ensure rapid vaccination. Increasing the vaccination centres is imperative to put the drive on a much-required faster track.

Further, FICCI, on behalf of its members, has also been requesting various state governments for exemptions on lockdowns to facilitate and continue smooth operations of services. State Councils have requested for allowing primary sector activities, including agriculture, plantation, and animal husbandry, shipments, and intra-state transport of export consignments.

Several members have requested the government to exempt Customs Duty, Health Cess on raw materials for Testing Kits and Medical Equipment for at least one year or till the pandemic lasts. This will help open access for supplies to manufacturers and importers, while making the labs better equipped with higher volumes at affordable price.

India Inc has been playing an instrumental role in COVID-19 vaccination drive. FICCI, in partnership with different hospitals across the country, is facilitating members, employees and their family members in getting vaccinated. Requests were received from more than 600 corporates for nearly 40 lakh vaccinations across the country out of which vaccines for nearly 20 lakh people has already been facilitated.

Jumbo Vaccination Centres are being organised in partnership with our regional member Chambers in Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and Hyderabad. 20 companies participated at the event held in Delhi with more than 500 employees of several member organisations getting inoculated. Apart from different hospitals, we are also in regular touch with the vaccine manufacturers, like Serum Institute, Bharat Biotech and Dr Reddy's Laboratory, to maintain the demand and supply of vaccines to different hospitals across the country.

The COVID-19 second wave has hit us hard. With a concerted effort by all it is possible to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on lives and livelihood.

Dilip Chenoy

### Members request for exemption of Basic Custom Duty and other surcharges on medical equipment and raw materials

FICCI members requested the Government to exempt Customs Duty, Health Cess and Single Window Clearance (SWC) on products listed in the Annexure (SARS CoV2 Testing Kits, raw materials for Testing Kits and Medical Equipment for COVID management) for at least one year or till the pandemic lasts. This will open access to supplies to manufacturers and importers, while making the labs better cope with higher volumes at affordable price points. This was submitted to Secretary Revenue, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Praveen K Mittal at praveen.mittal@ficci.com*

### FICCI representation for clarification on classification of 'endoscopy system' under customs

Further to the letter to Mr M Ajit Kumar, Chairman, CBIC, members requested the clarity on the components that are sought are essential components for the medical and healthcare industry. It is critically important to address the way forward on the representation filed by us. In this regard, members requested for a meeting as per convenient time slots for the purpose of discussion. This was submitted to Member Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Praveen K Mittal at praveen.mittal@ficci.com*

### Suggestions pertaining to exemptions during lockdown submitted by FICCI WBSC

FICCI West Bengal State Council submitted the following suggestions pertaining to exemptions/ permission during the COVID-19 lockdown in the state:

- Export-import sector may be covered in the list of essential services so that the sector is able to function with at least 50 per cent staff strength during the lockdown.
- Allowing shipments and intra-state transport of export consignments. Cargo ready for exports should be allowed to move to ports for onward shipment.
- Support services for trade, including custom houses, freight forwarders, liners should also be allowed to operate during the lockdown.

*'Voice of FICCI' is a service to all our members and shared with key policy makers and thought leaders. The document is a compilation of FICCI's views on macro-economic issues. These issues come to us directly from members, or through deliberations in conferences and seminars on sectoral issues, as also through Government notifications.*

- Include cargo services and transport of goods under essential category. Allow the movement of trucks, vehicles, containers carrying cargo, both within the state and from other states.
- Allowing movement of shipment containers and goods vehicles with special passes issued by factories as e-Pass takes time to be activated.
- Movement of people on ID cards.
- Allow home deliveries, ex-kirana stores or ex-e-Commerce for extended hours.
- One nodal officer from the state industries department, at each district can be nominated who can facilitate industry issues with local administration.
- Compliance dates to be revisited.
- Request to allow the Leather and Leather Goods industry to continue operating their factories with 50 per cent capacity (Representation from Indian Leather Products Association)
- Request to permit intra state and inter-state transportation of tea. Two auction centres in Kolkata and Siliguri conduct auctions electronically without requiring the physical presence of the participants, hence, minimal risk is involved. Second flush teas produced during this period have significant export potential and therefore it is imperative that port operations are allowed (Representations from Indian Tea Association).

These suggestions were submitted to Chief Secretary, Govt of West Bengal for consideration.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Mousumi Ghose at mousumi.ghose@ficci.com*

### **Request for immediate resumption of speedier movement of ICD originating cargo to Bangladesh**

As per Circular No 52/2017-Customs dated 22.12.2017 it was stated that 5 per cent of the containers originating from ICDs were to be allowed speedier clearance for export to neighbouring countries to decongest border points. This procedure was being followed as per the guidelines of the circular as well as the resolution passed at the meeting on 23.09.2017. However, the movement was disrupted since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After various representations with the concerned authorities, the resolution dated 23.09.2017 was re-validated on 24.02.2021. The speedier movement of ICD originating cargo to Bangladesh is important for timely EXIM trade and the re-validation played a huge role in reducing congestion at the border area. Unfortunately, the movement has once again come to a halt. Despite having a valid resolution issued by DM (North 24 Parganas), ICD originating cargo is still being re-routed to the parking lot, and direct entry at the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) is not taking place. Support was requested to immediately reinstate the speedier movement to 5 per cent of ICD originating cargo to Bangladesh. An SOP would greatly benefit in long-term resolution of this matter as the lack of an SOP is hampering the trade every day and it is causing huge losses to the traders who must meet their commitments within the promised time. This was submitted to Secretary, Dept of Industry, Commerce &

Enterprises, Government of West Bengal.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Mousumi Ghose at mousumi.ghose@ficci.com*

### **Proposed SOPs for micro containment zones submitted**

A proposal was submitted by FICCI basis the challenges faced by the industry last year during the lockdown phase. Standard Operating Procedures were created and shared with the respective Ministry ensuring health and safety of the people, breaking the chain of infections whilst ensuring un-interrupted economic activity of essential services and products. This was submitted to Additional Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry, and Internal Trade.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Leena Jaisani at leena.jaisani@ficci.com*

### **FICCI representation for e-Commerce member to seek operational exemption during weekend curfew**

e-Commerce member, Grofers, were facing operational disruptions and closures as the official Order (G.O. (Ms) No.364) dated 03.05.2021 did not permit them to operate on Sundays. Additionally, delivery executives were unable to reach their destinations for deliveries, coupled with fear of police harassment. A representation to seek operational exemption during weekend curfew was submitted to Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Leena Jaisani at leena.jaisani@ficci.com*

### **FICCI proposal for COVID-19 Break the Chain SOP**

SOPs on how industry should carry on their operations and distribution activities during the pandemic in the micro containment zones during the challenging times was submitted to, Minister for Railways, Commerce, and Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Leena Jaisani at leena.jaisani@ficci.com*

### **FICCI representation on jewellery hallmarking**

A request was placed for consideration with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs for the deferment of date from which the hallmarking of Gold Jewellery is to be made a mandate. The new legislation, currently, is due from 01 June.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Leena Jaisani at leena.jaisani@ficci.com*

### **FICCI urges GOI to take up incorrect classification of infant food items by Nepal customs**

As per the deliberations of the SARC, an issue regarding Nepal custom classification has taken prominence since the Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal amended the custom handbook in 2020. Due to the same, some of India's food products are getting incorrectly classified by Nepal customs. FICCI has, therefore, requested the Government of India to facilitate a resolution of this issue by taking it up with the

Government of Nepal. The Commerce Secretary has also been requested for a meeting to discuss the issue.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Sushma Nair at sushma.nair@ficci.com*

### **FICCI representation for sufficient facilities for Carnet holders to re-export temporary imported goods**

With several states in India currently under strict lockdown measures, Carnet holders and representatives are facing difficulties in re-exporting goods out of India within the prescribed time limit as per the ATA carnet regulations. A representation from FICCI was sent to CBIC appealing that short delays in re-exportation attributable to the COVID-19 outbreak do not negatively impact ATA Carnet holders and requesting to direct all customs offices in India to provide sufficient facilities for Carnet holders and representatives to re-export temporary imported goods without unexpected additional costs in cases where delays in re-exporting were due to preventive measures taken by the government against the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This was submitted to Member (Customs), Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms S Vijayalakshmi at vijayalakshmi.s@ficci.com*

### **Permission for movement of Service Engineers and opening of service drop points during lockdown sought**

One of the important components that has kept the wheels of the economy moving during the COVID crisis is the Telecom and ICT infrastructure. It has enabled various sectors to work from home or from offices with minimum physical contact. In this context, FICCI received feedback from our member companies with respect to specific concerns that the IT industry has been facing on account of the need-based lockdown imposed by various states from time to time. Request for permissions regarding movement of service engineers and opening of service drop points was sought. Basis on their inputs, FICCI has submitted a recommendation to the Ministry of Home Affairs for the smooth functioning of the sector.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Sarika Gulyani at sarika.gulyani@ficci.com*

### **Request for inclusion of telecom infrastructure personnel under frontline workers for administering COVID-19 vaccination**

Telecom industry has huge manpower consisting of frontline workers who have been working tirelessly during lockdowns to maintain the 24\*7 services to enable uninterrupted Work-From-Home, online education, e-Health, and various governmental services to the citizens across the country. Accordingly, FICCI requested the National Health Authority and the Government of India to consider ICT frontline workforce must be given priority irrespective of their age group, for administering the COVID-19 prevention vaccine in all the States. This was submitted to National Health Authority.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Sarika Gulyani at sarika.gulyani@ficci.com*

### **Request for reduction in GST on COVID related medical devices & IVDs**

Members requested the Government to bring products mentioned in Annexure I & II into 0.1 per cent and NIL GST categories respectively for a period of one year or till the pandemic lasts. This was submitted to Chairperson, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, and Secretary Revenue, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Praveen K Mittal at praveen.mittal@ficci.com*

### **Request for consideration of expeditious approvals of medical devices manufactured under PLI- 1.0 scheme**

The implementation of Medical Devices Rule 2017 became effective from 01 April 2021 vide notification SO4672 mandating a license need for 8 medical equipment, including CT machines, Ultrasound scanners, Cath labs, Anaesthesia machine, Patient monitoring systems, medical device connectivity hub. Since the selection process of PLI 1.0 project for medical devices was completed only by end of February '21, most companies were unable to apply for licenses for the products under the PLI project by 01 April 2021. Members have therefore requested to move the effective date of notification for the PLI products to 01 April 2022, which will allow applications to be well in time. This was submitted to Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Praveen K Mittal at praveen.mittal@ficci.com*

### **FICCI representation regarding consent for usage of POC portable UC systems for COVID diagnosis**

Given the current menace of second wave of COVID-19 already penetrating the hinterlands of the country and the impending third wave, there is need to find innovative methods of testing and treatment of the disease. Several renowned clinical experts endorse the feasibility and ease of using POCUS for detection of pneumonia in COVID patients. FICCI has requested NITI Aayog and MoHFW to consider approving consent for usage of Point of Care portable Ultra-Sound at primary, secondary care and emergency care through trained medical/ para medical staff under supervision of Registered Doctors. This was submitted to Member- NITI Aayog and Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Praveen K Mittal at praveen.mittal@ficci.com*

### **Exemptions from requirements of conformity sought with immediate effect**

FICCI members have done a detailed analysis of the various QCO/ CROs – introduced by various departments of GoI, elaborating how CRO/QCOs are causing additional burden of compliance without doing any additional value addition over the regulatory pathway already declared by CDSCO and how the same is affecting the import/ manufacture of essential equipment and spare parts, diagnostic kits and other devices- many of which are required for diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of the patients affected by COVID pandemic. Members requested for considering revoking the QCOs/ CROs with immediate

effect – so that the supply chain can be maintained without the additional compliance burden. This was submitted to Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Praveen K Mittal at praveen.mittal@ficci.com*

### **FICCI representation for clarification on classification of essential medical components**

FICCI has sought clarifications on classification of 'endoscopy system' under Customs. The components on which clarity is sought are essential for the medical and healthcare industry, it is critically important to address the way forward on the representation filed. In this regard, FICCI requested to consider our application and accordingly provide us with convenient time slots for the purpose of discussion. This was submitted Director (Customs), Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Praveen K Mittal at praveen.mittal@ficci.com*

### **States offering healthcare services and facilities with Oyo**

In an agreement with various state governments, various government hospitals have tied up with Oyo for the treatment of COVID-19 patients and act as quarantine facilities. This was submitted to Principal Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, Govt of Kerala.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Savio Mathew at savio.mathew@ficci.com*

### **FICCI urges Govt of Kerala to ensure rapid vaccination for all**

FICCI requested the Govt of Kerala to ensure continuity of supplies through government channels for at least 90 days. A request to increase vaccination points to include accredited diagnostic labs, pharmacies, and home care organizations to ensure rapid vaccination for all eligible people was also made. This was submitted to Chief Minister, Govt of Kerala.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Savio Mathew at savio.mathew@ficci.com*

### **Exemptions for primary sector activities sought during state lockdown**

With a partial lockdown announced in the state on 01-02 May and from 04-09 May, FICCI request the Govt of Kerala to exempt all primary sector activities, including agriculture, plantation, and animal husbandry, etc., from it, while all secondary sectors, like industries, MSMEs, and constructions shall continue following COVID protocols and national directives. This was submitted to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Kerala.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Savio Mathew at savio.mathew@ficci.com*

### **FICCI recommendation to reschedule the working hours for banks in Kerala**

FICCI has requested the Govt of Kerala to reschedule working hours for

the banks in the state. The processing of collection cheques and daily deposits and withdrawal of cash is already facing challenges with reduced banking hours. Also, no such regulations have been imposed in any of the neighbouring states. This was submitted to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Kerala.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Savio Mathew at savio.mathew@ficci.com*

### **Exemptions on IT hardware services during curfew hours sought**

IT industry has been facing on account of the restrictions imposed by the state government. FICCI, therefore, submitted recommendations on:

- Allowing ICT Service Engineers to move without restrictions, including inter-and intra-district travel and in residential areas, to provide necessary services to the customers.
- ICT Repair/Refurbishment centres should be allowed to operate and provide services.
- ICT Stock Warehouses of Equipment and Spares should be permitted to open.

This was submitted to Chief Secretary, Govt of Telangana.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Akhilesh Mahurkar at akhilesh.mahurkar@ficci.com*

### **Approval to set up mass inoculation centres sought**

FICCI, in partnership with Apollo Hospitals, will set up mass inoculation COVID Vaccination Centres in the Hyderabad to vaccinate the FICCI members, their employees and family members. This was submitted to Commissioner of GHMC.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Akhilesh Mahurkar at akhilesh.mahurkar@ficci.com*

### **COVID Task Force Recommendations**

A COVID Task Force comprising of industry leaders and domain experts has been formed in Hyderabad to address both immediate requirements as well as plan for possible future waves. Select recommendations were submitted to the Chief Ministers's office. This was submitted to Chief Minister, Govt of Telangana.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Akhilesh Mahurkar at akhilesh.mahurkar@ficci.com*

### **FICCI recommendations for the MSME Sector**

- There is a disparity in terms of power tariff in the country. It brings variation in the cost of production of same product in different states. There is a need of One Country One Power Tariff that brings equality in power tariff for all industrial units across the country.
- As the supply and demand of medical oxygen is getting stabilised and is expected to further improve due to the drop in the number of COVID cases, the excess quantities of oxygen may be released for industrial use, albeit not at the cost of the health sector.
- There is a need for a Special Scheme to support such MSMEs that had just begun production in last two-three years and are still in the



initial stages of setting up business. Appropriate financial package should be given to them- every tax invoice raised by GST registered MSME unit should reflect automatically on the respective TReDS platform where MSME unit is registered.

- Government should increase the size of the Emergency Credit Line from INR 3.0 lac crore to INR 6.0 lac crore and extend the period of availability to 31 March 2022. It is recommended that the 90 days limit fixed by RBI for classifying overdue of MSMEs be increased to 180 days so that MSMEs are not constrained to divert their working capital towards servicing of their loan-instalments and clearing of their over dues at the cost of normal business operations.

These recommendations were submitted to Union Minister, MSME, Govt of India.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Hemant Seth at hemant.seth@ficci.com*

### **Exemption for alcohol-based sanitisers under State Excise Laws sought**

Alcohol-based hand sanitisers is one of the essential hygiene products for battling the pandemic. However, supply of alcohol-based hand sanitiser is facing a serious challenge in the State of Gujarat. The sale and stock of alcohol products require a licence/ approval as per the State Excise laws. Such Excise licence/ approval requires lot of documentation, which is time consuming and hampers fast supply of the alcohol-based hand sanitisers. Considering the present situation, FICCI believes that it is in public interest that sale, stocking and transportation of alcohol-based hand sanitisers should be exempted from the requirement of any permission, licence or approval under the State Excise Laws as it will ensure fast movement of the said products. Further, all such hand sanitisers have denatured alcohol. Hence, misuse of the same is also ruled out. Under the circumstances, FICCI has requested the state govt to issue necessary exemption to sell, stock and transport alcohol-based hand sanitisers under the Gujarat State Excise Laws. This was submitted to State Commissioner of State Tax, Gujarat.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Pankaj Tibak at pankaj.tibak@ficci.com*

### **FICCI requests for release of liquid oxygen for manufacturing high pressure cylinder**

FICCI has requested for release of liquid oxygen for manufacturing high pressure cylinder in reference to the letter dated 27 April 2021 signed by Mr Sanjeev Kr Jindal, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, wherein they have clarified and permitted to use liquid oxygen for manufacturing Life Saving Oxygen Cylinders. This was submitted to Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Government of Gujarat.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Pankaj Tibak at pankaj.tibak@ficci.com*

### **FICCI observation on Draft Defence Procurement Manual 21 (DPM)**

FICCI has raised the issue of 'Notwithstanding Clause' with MoD for

incorporation in Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2021 for revenue procurement. The same has been necessitated with the Supreme Court of India's Judgement and subsequent guideline issued by Indian Bank Association (IBA). This was submitted to Joint Secretary (Armed Forces), Department of Defence, MoD.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Vivek Pandit at vivek.pandit@ficci.com*

### **FICCI recommendations on measures to support the Indian Defence Industry**

The impact of the second wave of COVID-19 post April 2021 has been severe with slowing down of MoD procurement process, delays in program execution, lock down of various MSMEs throttling supply chain, slow down in processing payments, etc. Following measures were recommended to MOD/ GOI to support the Defence Sector, which in turn could contribute to overall revival of economy.

- Enable Strategic Partnership Programmes - Due to buoyant collection of taxes especially GST, Make in India must be moved forward by the Government of India. Large programmes like Strategic Partnership with Private Sector for NUH and Submarines should be taken forward on priority. This will revive the industry and help the entire defence ecosystem to grow.
- Fastrack Awarding of Contracts - Contracts must be awarded to Indian firms in the next two months of a CNC concluded by MoD.
- Extension of time for ongoing contracts - Six months extension due to Force Majeure should be given for all ongoing contracts on India Industries as done earlier for COVID 1.0 by Ministry of Finance (MoF) / MoD. A document may be issued by MoF / MoD as it was done in the past.
- Ensure payments to Indian suppliers by foreign players - Wherever a foreign OEM is getting paid for goods or services by MoD, a certificate must be taken by MoD to ensure that the foreign OEM is not enforcing force majeure clause on Indian suppliers and vendors and reducing or stopping their payments.
- Refund of GST - Government / MoF should ensure speedier refund of GST to exporters or where applicable to MOD contracts to increase the fund availability with the companies. MoD may also take up this matter in parallel.
- Expedition of Pending Payments – It is suggested that all outstanding payments due to Defence Industry be released by MoD within 30 days.

This was submitted to Defence Secretary with CC to Secretary Defence Production, Home Secretary, Revenue Secretary.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Vivek Pandit at vivek.pandit@ficci.com*

### **FICCI recommendations regarding impact of COVID-19 on Aviation Industry**

While during the first wave of COVID-19, Industry made a robust start, the domestic flights were almost reaching the pre-COVID levels.

However, the 2nd wave has brought the industry to standstill. The sector needs measures and supports from the Government to survive this crisis. However, policy makers need to take a holistic view of the requirements across constituents of aviation community, viz airlines, airports, commercial concessionaires, ground handlers, cargo terminal operators etc and come out with relief measures, which ensure survival of each constituent on its own and not cannibalize other constituents. Policy measures are also required to restore passenger confidence and for the revival of international travel.

One of the major challenges faced by the aviation industry is that cash reserves are running down quickly as fleets are grounded and flights are not operational. Many aviation companies are almost at the brink of bankruptcy. Due to this, the companies have asked many of their staff/employees to go on leave without pay. Moreover, the aviation industry needs an urgent bailout from the Government. This was submitted to Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance; Minister of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Manoj Mehta at manoj.mehta@ficci.com*

### Ministry intervention in timely implementation of pipeline projects sought

Considering the recent notification related to Fuel Policy of the State of Odisha and the environmental superiority of using piped natural gas and ESG commitments of Aluminium Industries, FICCI requested the intervention of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in timely implementation of projects and support in executing the fuel change policy in case of delayed projects:

- GAIL to expedite completion of Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas pipeline (JHBDPL Phase-II).
- OSPCB to extend the Fuel change Policy in case of delays in completion of the pipeline.

This was submitted to Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Vivek Pandit at vivek.pandit@ficci.com*

### Suggestions to encourage banking correspondents and banking agents in assisting the COVID vaccination drive

The Banking Agent fraternity has been serving the citizens in line with policy objectives of the Government. Most importantly, during the lockdown, the industry stood along with the Government in helping reach subsidy amounts in the hands of intended citizens. Even MHA recognised them as essential services and DFS announced that these are COVID warriors. The Banking Agents have now been helping citizens to register for vaccination and even job registrations. They are helping dispense sachet of insurance to citizens to safeguard their costs on COVID care and even help 55 NBFC/ MFIs to collect their loan EMIs from the willing customers who want to pay but cannot travel to branches. To encourage these banking correspondents and banking agents in assisting the vaccination drive, FICCI has made the following suggestions-

- Vaccination of essential service provider Banking Agents & staff of

BC companies is critical and should be a priority in wake of their work as a frontline support. However, there is crowd at most of the vaccination centres and slots are not available. The intent of Government is appreciated and an operational directive to all hospitals would help. Procedurally, as an essential service provider the Corporate BC can again give a pass to its Banking Agents, Staff members, who should walk into to any vaccination centre with Aadhaar ID and carry this pass to get a priority vaccine. It would be helpful to issue appropriate directions.

- Already announced TDS waiver for BC Agents (on cash withdrawal) but not implemented by Banks: CBDT notified 2 years ago that no TDS would be deducted on cash withdrawn by any Banking Agent of a Bank. The Banking Agents of new age banks can do a great job with high end of tech being taken to tech-oblivious citizens and disbursing Government subsidy, but they need to withdraw cash from the local bank branches of PSU and RRBs. These local branches of Banks are not recognising the Banking Agents (since they work with other banks) and hence these banks are ignoring the CBDT circular and deducting 2 per cent to 5 per cent TDS on the entire cash withdrawn. Many Banking Agents are slowly stopping the services because of such apathy of the local Banks. An advisory may be issued to the banks for strict implementation of the guidelines in this regard.
- Insurance coverage for Banking Agents & staff of BC companies: Amidst rising insurance premiums, the so identified / recognised COVID warriors and essential service providers are doing their national duty and ensuring that the Government subsidies are handed over to citizens in their hands. The insurance premiums have multiplied, and it is requested that Government helps the industry in getting a decent insurance coverage while serving their duty. Just like the army men get insurance cover from the Government, these times are similar and if the COVID warriors are given similar shelter by Government, it would go a long way in helping them perform their responsibilities in an able manner. This was submitted to Secretary, Department of Financial Services.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Anshuman Khanna at anshuman.khanna@ficci.com*

### Suggestions on improving on-boarding and accessing finance through TReDS

The COVID-19 second wave has hit India hard, destroying lives and livelihoods. Most part of the country are under lockdown imposed by local Governments. RBI and the Government have been proactive in extending several support schemes to the MSMEs. However, the MSMEs are perennially plagued with delayed payments. TReDS platforms ever since their launch have been addressing the liquidity challenges faced by MSMEs. These were submitted to Secretary, Department of Financial Services; Additional Secretary, DEA, and Secretary, MSME.

The following suggestions would help in improving on-boarding and Accessing Finance through TReDS.

- On TReDS, Digital signatures (DS) are used by MSMEs for their transactions on web portal and phone app. In the previous

FY 20-21, about 3.5 lakhs transactions have been performed by MSMEs. MSMEs have option to Aadhar based Digital Signatures.

Aadhar based Digital signatures cost INR 25.90 for every transaction performed. Request is for UIDAI to reconsider their charges and reduce it suitably as it would be direct benefit to MSMEs and in turn promote Digital usage.

Also, as cost of digital signatures comes down, the MSME will be motivated to get their mobile no linked with Aadhar and expand the network for usage.

- In the current construct TReDS addresses the liquidity needs of MSMEs where banks are willing to take exposure on their buyers. Quite often the supply chains are multi-tiered. For instance, a large corporate would place an order with an intermediate supplier, who in turn will place an order with an MSME supplier.

In case the intermediate supplier is not an MSME, it would not be eligible to be on-boarded on TReDS as a supplier. In the current economic environment, many intermediate non-MSME suppliers face acute stress. If the intermediate entity does not have strong financials or a good rating, financiers would be unwilling to discount the receivables of its MSME suppliers.

Therefore, the MSMEs at the lower end of the supply chain remain starved of liquidity and are unable to derive any benefits from TReDS. With a view to mitigating the genuine problems and to provide much required liquidity to MSMEs in such multi-tiered supply chains, we would like to propose permitting financing of intermediaries in the supply chain on TReDS platform.

HOW: TReDS can become a unified platform for discounting of invoices of the entire supply chain ecosystem, including both MSMEs and non-MSMEs (intermediate supplier), of a corporate buyer. MSME vendors of non-MSME buyers will be able to realize their dues in a timely manner if the non-MSME buyers get their receivables discounted on TReDS.

- Allow Moratorium on repayment by Corporates for invoices discounted in months of March and April 2021, without penal interest, on need basis.

For detailed representation, please write to

*Mr Anshuman Khanna at anshuman.khanna@ficci.com*

### Suggestions on digitisation of trade finance

The future of trade finance, which has traditionally been a paper and people heavy business, lies in digitisation. The adoption of digitisation in trade finance has been slow as practices have traditionally relied on the transfer of paper documents between involved parties and largely manual processes. This vitally important area of financial services has trailed behind the digitisation progress that has been made, especially in the last decade, in consumer and retail banking. Currently there are no fixed standard for documentation & processes. Process & documentation defined by each party adds to complexity. Physical documents lead to delay in receiving acceptance/payment and longer time is taken for cash realization. Further, additional time taken in management of document discrepancy.

The vision is that the process of getting a Bank Guarantee (BG) issued and delivered to a beneficiary should be completely electronic and physical storage of Bank Guarantee by individual participants should be replaced by a central repository of digital BGs. The beneficiary can access the details of BGs and get reports on BGs to be renewed or invoked in its favour by accessing the central system. This process will eliminate the need for face-to-face interaction, remove paper and would also speed up the trade transactions. This efficiency improvement will help to enhance Ease of doing business enabling SMEs and corporates faster access to goods to convert into business opportunity. Post COVID-19, this can be an element of new normal in trade processing. This was submitted to Additional Secretary, DEA.

For detailed representation, please write to

*Mr Anshuman Khanna at anshuman.khanna@ficci.com*

### Suggestions on Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

To mitigate the stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on several sectors across the country, the Government has announced an Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, which incorporates ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0 and ECLGS 3.0. The ECLGS was launched as part of the INR 20 lakh crore COVID-19 relief package called the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Suggestions to make the scheme more inclusive -

- The Media & Entertainment and Advertising sectors are not included in the above lists. Given the impact of the pandemic on these sectors, the companies in these sectors should be included in the Kamath Committee list so that banks can provide loans under this scheme to companies in these sectors.
- Under the ECGLS 1 and 2 schemes hospitality sector was not considered. Under the ECGLS 3 scheme, the Government has expanded the definition to include Hospitality, Travel and Tourism, Leisure, and sports activities. While they have specifically not mentioned multiplex sector in the scheme, the banks are taking a view and covering the same under the hospitality sector. Under the ECGLS 3 scheme, any company that has total borrowings not exceeding INR 500 crs on 29 February 2020 is eligible to participate in the scheme and is eligible to do fresh borrowing of up to 40 per cent of the total outstanding loans as on 29 February 2020 from their respective lenders. These fresh borrowings will be guaranteed by Government of India. Unfortunately, the way scheme has been envisaged is that it intends to cover only small / medium enterprises and since borrowings of the large operators from the multiplex industry is above the 500 crs threshold and they despite being most adversely hit are unable to participate in the scheme and are facing tough liquidity situation. Given the significant negative impact of the pandemic on the business, no lender or financial institution is willing to provide additional borrowings to the sector. It is therefore requested to relax the above condition for multiplex sector so that they can participate in the above scheme. To ensure that no large player can take disproportionate amount of the limit due to their higher borrowings, the overall credit guarantee on fresh borrowing under the scheme can be limited to 40 per cent of the total

outstanding fund-based exposure of INR 500 crs as currently defined under the scheme – i.e., a maximum amount of INR 200 crores. This was submitted to Additional Secretary, DEA.

For detailed representation, please write to  
 Mr Anshuman Khanna at [anshuman.khanna@ficci.com](mailto:anshuman.khanna@ficci.com)

### **Inclusion of Drinking Water and Wastewater Projects under ECGLS 2.0 published by Ministry of Finance**

Several MSME organisations involved in drinking water projects have been seeking support from lending institutions under the ECGLS 2.0 scheme. However, it has been understood that the lenders are having difficulty to process the additional funding since water sector is not specifically mentioned in list of 26 sectors defined by the K V Kamath Committee.

FICCI, therefore, requests to provide guidelines to the Competent authority to issue an additional clarification pertaining to the Water and Wastewater sector covering the same as eligibility under the specific Infrastructure sub-sector as mentioned for other infrastructure sectors like Mining, Port, Power, Roads, etc., or clarify the same under the construction sector or one of the listed subsectors mentioned.

Many water projects under drinking water scheme funded by the Central and State Governments' ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission have been affected during the COVID-19 lockdown. These projects have suffered immensely due to combination of lack of manpower, lack of raw material and lockdown restrictions imposed on all such activities. Failure to define the water and wastewater projects under any of the pre-defined sub-sectors of Infrastructure or Construction will spell doom for the viability of projects which are under severe financial distress due to the COVID-19 lockdown. This was submitted to Additional Secretary, DEA.

For detailed representation, please write to  
 Mr Anshuman Khanna at [anshuman.khanna@ficci.com](mailto:anshuman.khanna@ficci.com)

### **FICCI suggestions to make Digital Lending more effective especially for non-individual borrowers**

India has made good progress on digital lending over past few years. The digital lending structure follows a faster process across the value chain – from consumer engagement to onboarding, credit assessment, and collection of documents digitally with minimal paperwork and disbursement – all within a low turnaround time. Given the second wave of COVID, it is key we keep credit flows open to consumers and MSMEs. digital lending will play an even more crucial in these times. Below are some of the suggestions to make Digital lending more effective especially for non-individual borrowers.

**Customer Identification (KYC):** Remove OSV requirement for DSC affixed digital documents: While there have been several regulations to enable Digital Customer Identification Process for individual borrowers, one key regulation is missing for lending to non-individuals. Whereas RE's can download KYC documents of limited companies from MCA, there is still a requirement of OSV. Since companies can share DSC affixed documents with lenders, which are valid under the IT Act, the OSV requirement can be done away with for KYC documents of entities

affixed with DSC, and this will significantly smoothen the KYC process for companies (including partnership firms, and LLPs). These were submitted to Additional Secretary, DEA and Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India.

**Collections (eNACH):** E-NACH does not work for current account, hindering the touchless distribution of credit for COVID impacted MSMEs. In order to deliver credit to MSMEs who will be hugely impacted because of COVID, it is necessary for lenders to get NACH mandates. While the onboarding and underwriting is largely touchless, the process of collecting NACH is physical since e-NACH does not work seamlessly for current account holders.

This problem has been solved for savings account holders through a Netbanking/Debit card authorised mandate. But due to the non-standard and maker-checker type structures in current accounts, it currently does not work.

To create a fully touchless process (important for both speed and safety), we need a solution through which a current account holder can authorise a NACH mandate electronically.

#### **Suggestions on eNACH**

- eNACH coverage expansion for non-individual borrowers: For non-individuals, there are a few roadblocks which could be cleared to enable digital mandates-
  - a. eNACH works only for saving accounts, not for current accounts, rendering several non-individual eNACH requests invalid. eNACH should be enabled for current accounts as well.
  - b. eNACH for non-Individuals only works for Login Type 'Retail Banking' in Net Banking, not for 'Corporate Banking', additionally, there is no digital API for financier/finTech to know beforehand whether a customer has a Retail or Corporate login. eNACH should be enabled for Corporate Login as well.
  - c. Finally, if the non-individual has a joint account mode of operation (maker/checker) then eNACH will not work. More detailed workflows should be evolved for secondary eNACH links to go to the joint holders.
- eNACH bank registration expansion: For individuals, the eNACH experience is convenient now with Net Banking based authorization or Aadhaar authentication through OTP. The key request here is that only approximately 30-35 banks are registered on either mode of operation, and if the eNACH implementation could be expanded to all banks above a certain threshold of customers, it would aid the process considerably.
- Within the above 30-35 banks, only 21 allow registration via Debit Card. Customers often do not feel safe entering NetBanking login details, and banks should be mandated to allow registration via Debit Card (with due security precautions of OTP, etc).
- Currently eNACH maximum limit is INR 1 lac/mandate, eNACH limit should be increased to INR 5lac/mandate to make it practical given SME loan EMI sizes.
- In paper NACH process, it is mandatory to save the physical copy of



NACH form for 7 years after registration. Lenders should be allowed to retain the scanned copy and dispose of the physical copy after the first three successful transactions. It is a good enough time for customer to safeguard their interest.

For detailed representation, please write to  
Mr Anshuman Khanna at [anshuman.khanna@ficci.com](mailto:anshuman.khanna@ficci.com)

### FICCI representation on Draft National Electricity Policy 2021

FICCI made a representation on Draft National Electricity Policy 2021 to Mr Ghanshyam Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power and Mr Debranjay Chattopadhyay, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Power.

The following are the key points of the recommendation:

- NEP 2021, instead of calling for addition of coal based Thermal Power Plant (TPP), because they are the cheapest source (which is incorrect), should instead call for addition of TPP as a replacement of existing TPPs which have completed their useful life and operate below normative operating and efficiency norms. India cannot wish away TPPs from its energy mix and TPPs are required to meet base load and balancing & flexibility requirement.
- CERC and SERCs to monitor strict adherence of the Transmission planning and filing of Transmission plan annually and five-year Multi Year Plan on a rolling basis.
- Promotion of Pump Storage plants which will help in meeting peaking power requirements.
- National Policy and State Policy for promoting Microgrid should be formulated, which should cover Micro/Mini-Grid Standards of Performance as well as designing, installing, testing, commissioning, Operations & Maintenance, clearances & permission requirements.
- Draft NEP suggests implementation of two-part tariff mechanism for RE sources. This is a welcome move in view of the frequent curtailment of RE power by Discoms. Discoms will be liable to pay fixed charges even for curtailed power. Further, as variable cost of the renewable power is zero, the fixed cost may be considered substantial part of the PPA tariff. Payment should be made as per scheduled power.
- Ministry of power may notify a long term RPO trajectory. The State Regulatory Commissions can adopt the same or notify higher RPO under section 86(1)e. In case the State Commissions have not notified the RPO as specified by Ministry of Power may be considered for compliance.
- Integrated resource planning – Distribution companies should adopt integrated resource planning by factoring in supply side generation, demand side interventions, inclusive of distributed energy sources, demand responses, EV charging systems, etc., and consequent net load assessments to demonstrate that resource adequacy and power procurement portfolios are compatible and resilient with load serving obligations.

These were submitted to Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power and Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Power.

For detailed representation, please write to  
Ms Rita Roy Choudhury at [rita.roychoudhury@ficci.com](mailto:rita.roychoudhury@ficci.com)

### Request for priority COVID-19 Vaccination for all power sector personnel

FICCI made a representation for priority COVID-19 Vaccination for all power sector personnel to ensure uninterrupted 24X7 Power supply in the country to Mr Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

The following are the key points of the recommendation:

- Treat all the power sector personnel across the entire value chain (including staff and their families) in the essential category and given priority vaccination to protect from COVID-19 infection.
- Such measures should be extended to all the contractual as well as permanent employees operating in the sector.

For detailed representation, please write to  
Ms Rita Roy Choudhury at [rita.roychoudhury@ficci.com](mailto:rita.roychoudhury@ficci.com)

### FICCI representation on Draft National Electricity Policy 2021 submitted to JS, MoP

The key points of the representation pertaining to renewable energy sector are the following:

1. Two-part tariff to stop illegitimate curtailment
 

Draft NEP suggests implementation of two-part tariff mechanism for RE sources. This is a welcome move in view of the frequent curtailment of RE power by Discoms. Discoms will be liable to pay fixed charges even for curtailed power. Further, as variable cost of the renewable power is zero, the fixed cost may be considered substantial part of the PPA tariff. Payment should be made as per scheduled power.
2. Forecasting and Scheduling
  - a. Differenentalty may not be appropriate. The Forecasting and scheduling margins and penalty shall be uniform across the sector irrespective of the state and irrespective of the grid in which the project is connected and should follow CERC norms.
  - b. For all STU connected projects, forecasting of Solar and Wind generation shall be done on an aggregation basis at state level instead of pooling at substation level.
  - c. Separate Entity by Discoms for forecasting - A separate entity may be conceptualized to instill a separate Regulatory Process for Long Term Demand Forecasting and Planning for Discom
3. Enforcement of directives issued by Regulatory Commissions
  - To bring discipline to the sector, Government of India may make suitable amendments to Electricity Act at appropriate time to vest the regulatory commissions and the Appellate Tribunal of Electricity with wide powers of a Civil Court as per the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

4. A mechanism of advanced Transmission Planning and construction  
In case of RE resource rich areas, a mechanism for advance planning and construction of transmission system shall be developed. Options of creation of RE transmission licensee and/or advance procurement of standard equipment like transformers may be evaluated.
5. Allocate fund for R&D in Renewable energy sector  
A pragmatic mechanism to allocate funds for R & D in the renewable energy sector shall be devised.
6. Ancillary Services for Grid through market-based mechanism  
Central Commission under guidance of Government of India shall develop mechanism to institutionalize market based ancillary services - Currently, Ancillary services are availed by the RLDCs mainly from the projects based on their variable cost of generation.

These were submitted to Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power.

For detailed representation, please write to

*Ms Rita Roy Choudhury at rita.roychoudhury@ficci.com*

### **FICCI representation for the appointment and re-appointment of members of APTEL**

FICCI has requested expedition of the technical and judicial members' appointment; reinstate the members of the ERCs and APTEL who are eligible in terms of the provisions of recently passed Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021 dated 04.04.2021 with immediate effect on an urgent basis. FICCI has also requested for bringing in necessary changes in the statutory framework and increase the number of benches to at least four to provide a long-term solution to address delays in adjudication. These were submitted to Minister of State (I/C) Power, New & Renewable Energy, GOI and Secretary, MNRE Mr Alok Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Power.

For detailed representation, please write to

*Ms Rita Roy Choudhury at rita.roychoudhury@ficci.com*

### **Request to link interest rates with Repo Rate to ensure automatic policy rate transmission to Indian Renewable Energy Sector**

Requested to issue directives to RBI to further direct Banks & FIs (like IREDA, PFC & REC) as follows:

- MCLR to be linked directly to Repo rate fixed by RBI from time to time so that government initiative on Repo rate reduction is passed on to borrowers.
- Spread not exceeding 1.5 per cent to be clearly defined for RE companies with different ratings starting from BBB to AAA categories in maximum of 3 categories.
- The above should be made applicable with immediate effect, for both existing loans and loans to be sanctioned in future to new projects.

These were submitted to Finance Minister, GOI.

For detailed representation, please write to

*Ms Rita Roy Choudhury at rita.roychoudhury@ficci.com*

### **FICCI recommendation for declaring truck drivers and equipment operators as Frontline Workers**

FICCI has submitted a representation to declare truck drivers and equipment operators in logistics facilities as 'Frontline Workers' in view of the obstacles/ hurdles faced due to COVID-19 pandemic. This was submitted to Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs to Special Secretary-Logistics, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India.

For detailed representation, please write to

*Mr Manab Majumdar at manab.majumdar@ficci.com*

### **FICCI representation on creation of a Green Channel to facilitate clearance of overseas medical aid and charitable donations**

FICCI has submitted a representation on creation of a Green Channel to facilitate clearance of medical aid and charitable donation from overseas amidst the pandemic. This was submitted to Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; Special Secretary-Logistics, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance.

For detailed representation, please write to

*Mr Manab Majumdar at manab.majumdar@ficci.com*

### **Feedback on evaluation criteria guidelines for Logistics Excellence Awards submitted**

FICCI has submitted inputs/ feedback on Guidelines for Evaluation Criteria on Logistics Excellence Awards. This was submitted to Special Secretary-Logistics, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

For detailed representation, please write to

*Mr Manab Majumdar at manab.majumdar@ficci.com*

### **Permission for movement of Service Engineers and opening of service drop points during lockdown sought**

FICCI has submitted representation on the concerns that the IT industry has been facing on account of the need-based lockdown imposed by various States from time to time. It was suggested that during these need-based lockdowns:

- ICT Service Engineers should be allowed move without any restrictions, including inter-and intra-district travel and in residential areas, to provide necessary services to the customers.
- ICT Repair/Refurbishment Centres should be allowed to operate and provide services.
- ICT Stock Warehouses of Equipment and Spares should be permitted to open.

Where it cannot be opened and where movement needs to be restricted, may we request you to kindly allow-

- Deployment of a Service on Wheels option: Wherein a customer

can deposit the laptop/ desktop/ Other IT asset in a van parked close by and collect once it is repaired.

- Pick-up and Drop: Hardware can be picked up from customers and dropped back post repair.

These were submitted to Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

For detailed representation, please write to  
Mr Manab Majumdar at [manab.majumdar@ficci.com](mailto:manab.majumdar@ficci.com)

### **FICCI representation on issues regarding MEIS and SEIS**

FICCI has submitted representation on the difficulties the trade is facing, due to the delay in notifying/ disbursement of the pending MEIS and SEIS benefits. Several exporters, both of goods & services, are still waiting for filing the claim for and disbursement of claims for 2019-20 and 2020-21 (up to December 2020) in respect to Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and Service Export from India Scheme (SEIS).

It was therefore requested to release the funds for MEIS from 01 April 2020 to 31 December 2020 at an early date and helping the exporters to stay afloat. It was also suggested to issue notification of SEIS and release the benefits of this scheme for the year 2019-20, at an early date.

This was submitted to Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

For detailed representation, please write to  
Mr Manab Majumdar at [manab.majumdar@ficci.com](mailto:manab.majumdar@ficci.com)

### **FICCI representation on RoDTEP scheme**

FICCI has submitted representation on RoDTEP, with a focus on Aluminium, Zinc and Lead sectors. This was submitted to DGFT, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

For detailed representation, please write to  
Mr Manab Majumdar at [manab.majumdar@ficci.com](mailto:manab.majumdar@ficci.com)

### **Proposed action in Section 301 investigation of India's Digital Services Taxes submitted**

FICCI has submitted the Preliminary Testimony regarding the proposed action in the Section 301 investigation of India's Digital Services Tax (DST). This was submitted to Ambassador Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative, USA.

For detailed representation, please write to  
Mr Manab Majumdar at [manab.majumdar@ficci.com](mailto:manab.majumdar@ficci.com)

### **Rebuttal comments on proposed action in Section 301 Investigation of India's DST submitted**

FICCI has submitted Rebuttal Comments/ Post-Hearing Comments on the proposed action in the Section 301 investigation of India's Digital Services Tax (DST). This was submitted to Ambassador Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative, USA.

For detailed representation, please write to  
Mr Manab Majumdar at [manab.majumdar@ficci.com](mailto:manab.majumdar@ficci.com)

### **FICCI feedback on India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement submitted**

FICCI has submitted feedback on India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. This was submitted to Under Secretary (FT-NAFTA), Department of Commerce.

For detailed representation, please write to  
Mr Manab Majumdar at [manab.majumdar@ficci.com](mailto:manab.majumdar@ficci.com)

### **FICCI representation on exemption of period for calculating validity for concession holders**

FICCI has recommended to exempt period between 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2022 for the purpose of calculation of validity period or otherwise as has been done by other Ministries/ Departments. FICCI highlighted that a host of permissions and mobilisation of resources (which is restricted during the current challenging times & the subsequent lockdowns) is needed to start mining operations, therefore, adherence to timelines as mandated by Section 4A(4) of the MMDR Act (Lapsing of Mining Lease and Rule 10(6) of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (Grant of Mining Lease) becomes difficult. Thus, FICCI recommended that the Ministry of Mines, may exempt the period between 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2022 for the purpose of calculation of the validity period or otherwise as has been done by other Ministries/ Departments. This was submitted to Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

For detailed representation, please write to  
Mr Arpan Gupta at [arpan.gupta@ficci.com](mailto:arpan.gupta@ficci.com)

### **FICCI representation on procurement against Form C – Proposed Amendment in Central Sales Tax Act, 1956**

FICCI has requested Ministry of Finance to restore issuance of Form C for inter-state sale of petroleum products even if it is for use in manufacture of GST goods till petroleum products are included in the GST. FICCI recommend for re-instating the language of Section 8(3)(b) of the CST Act similar to which was prior to the Amendment proposed in the Union Budget 2021-22 and allow the facility of issuance of Form C for the respective activities. Representation highlighted that the withdrawal of concessional rate would adversely affect the expenditure towards procurement of diesel used for HEMM used in mining works of many companies. FICCI also added that the cost estimates for contract of mining companies would witness major over-runs and cost economics of the contracts will suffer a big jolt. It thus, requested the Government for re-instating the language of Section 8(3)(b) of the CST Act similar to which was prior to the Amendment proposed in the Union Budget 2021-22. This was submitted to Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance.

For detailed representation, please write to  
Mr Arpan Gupta at [arpan.gupta@ficci.com](mailto:arpan.gupta@ficci.com)

### **FICCI urges Ministry of Corporate Affairs to allow setting up of COVID-care centres by organisations**

Request for allowing set up of COVID care centres by companies for use

of employees and their dependents as CSR activities was submitted to Joint Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Abha Seth at abha.seth@ficci.com*

### FICCI representation on Overseas Listing

Trading in depository receipts issued abroad has been exempted from taxation. Similar exemptions may be extended to trading in Indian shares listed on foreign stock exchanges. Further, permission to list shares in jurisdictions where DRs are currently permitted to be issued be granted at the earliest; and other jurisdictions be allowed in due course. This was submitted to Finance Minister.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Abha Seth at abha.seth@ficci.com*

### FICCI recommendations on SPAC listing in IFSC

FICCI has made recommendations on the regulatory framework that would be helpful to bolster the process of listing through SPACs in IFSC.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Abha Seth at abha.seth@ficci.com*

### FICCI recommendation on separation of role of Chairman and CEO/MD be deferred

FICCI has once again represented industry's concern vis-à-vis the requirement of separation of offices of Chairperson and MD/CEO. In the current COVID scenario and in view of the profound impact that the pandemic has had on the corporate sector, it has been submitted that implementation of the requirement of separation of the roles of Chairperson and MD/CEO for companies where such dual roles already exist may be deferred. This was submitted to Finance Minister.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Abha Seth at abha.seth@ficci.com*

### FICCI submission on Companies Act & IBC (VC, CFSS, CSR & procedural requirements)

FICCI has submitted a detailed representation on need to permanently allow VC as an option for Board & Committee meetings/AGMs; reintroduction of Companies Fresh Start Scheme 2020; compliance issues regarding certain procedural requirements and need for certain timeline related amendments under IBC. This was submitted to Secretary, MCA.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Abha Seth at abha.seth@ficci.com*

### FICCI submission on FCRA

FICCI has submitted that any foreign aid received by Indian subsidiaries from multinational parent only for providing COVID related relief may be made exempt from FCRA approval, at least for the next 6-8 months. This was submitted to Director, Ministry of Home Affairs.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Ms Abha Seth at abha.seth@ficci.com*

### FICCI representation on issues related to COVID

The FICCI representation included suggestions on reducing the impact of COVID on lives and livelihood. For the tea industry, it was suggested that movement through tea estates be limited. Suggestion for SOPs for tea industry and suggested that tea estate hospitals may be utilised for testing and vaccination. It was also recommended the Government should continue to involve private sector hospitals in the vaccination campaign.

Recommendations were also made regarding easing the pressure on liquidity faced by industry:

- It was recommended that, the State Government should reduce EMD and Performance security requirements for contracts, in line with the steps taken by the Central Government,
- All pending payments from Government to industry should be released expeditiously,
- Request for support to the Tourism Industry. Apart from this, specific suggestions were made regarding passes for industrial workers and guidelines for declaring industrial units as containment zones. This was submitted to Chief Secretary, Assam.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Biswajit Chakrabarty at biswajit.chakrabarty@ficci.com*

### Representation for allowing Normal attendance in Pharmaceutical Units in Sikkim

On 17 May 2021, the Government of Sikkim, by an order, restricted attendance in pharmaceutical companies to 50 per cent. Based on inputs from members, FICCI has represented that such a restriction will severely impact ability of the companies to produce much needed medicines. Therefore, companies should be allowed to operate with full attendance while following required COVID protocol. This was submitted to Principal Secretary Home, Sikkim.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Biswajit Chakrabarty at biswajit.chakrabarty@ficci.com*

### FICCI recommendations on Drawback Rate Fixation

The multiple challenges faced by Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals industry exporters including high freight rates, local lockdown and labour availability issues, withdrawal of Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), very high input costs and Drawback rate fixation. As a result of this, importers find that the duty savings under advance license are higher than the drawback amount. This forces the exporter to import all raw materials even when sufficient domestic capacity for the inputs is available. The Government of India promotes Atmanirbhar Bharat, but the above methodology of drawback rate fixation is forcing exporters to import chemicals despite adequate local availability. In view of the above concern, FICCI sought the support of Ministry of Finance, Government of India to consider the request to compensate the national import duty that is included in the local price of inputs by way of drawback. This was submitted to Chairman, CBIC, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Manoj Mehta at manoj.mehta@ficci.com*



## Request for disbursements under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)

The recommendation submitted to Minister of Commerce and Industry, Railways and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India is in reference to the recent notification issued by the DGFT limiting the reward available to exporters under the MEIS during the period of September 2020 to December 2020 and notifying withdrawal of MEIS effective from 01 January 2021.

Also, for exports made during the period of 01 September to 31 December 2020, the total reward to be granted to an Importer Exporter Code (IEC) holder under MEIS shall not exceed INR 2 crore. The limit shall apply basis the Let Export Order (LEO) date of the shipping bill. The aforesaid ceiling may be subject to further downward revision to ensure that total claim under the scheme, for the above period, does not exceed the allocation prescribed by Government of INR 5,000 crore. Additionally, it is also notified that the benefits under MEIS shall not be available for exports made with effect from 01 January 2021. DGFT had earlier announced that MEIS will be replaced by Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme in a phased manner.

The entire exporter community has not been provided the benefit of the above period that was considered by all the companies in their P&L account and at present, there is no clear statement from the government on the status of past dues.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Manoj Mehta at manoj.mehta@ficci.com*

## FICCI recommendations regarding impact of COVID-19 on the aviation industry

The second wave of the pandemic has brought the aviation industry to a standstill. The sector needs measures and supports from the Government to survive this crisis. However, policy makers need to take a holistic view of the requirements across constituents of aviation community, viz airlines, airports, commercial concessionaires, ground handlers, cargo terminal operators etc and come out with relief measures, which ensure survival of each constituent on its own and not cannibalize other constituents. Policy measures are also required to restore passenger confidence and for the revival of international travel. This was submitted to Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Manoj Mehta at manoj.mehta@ficci.com*

## FICCI recommendations to overcome impact of COVID-19 on Private Security Services Sector

FICCI Committee on Private Security Industry put across different challenges faced by each component of the committee and submitted recommendations to address lives and livelihoods issue. These recommendations seek support from Govt of India by:

- classifying private security, cleaning, fire professionals, ATM

workers in frontline workers category and including them in the free vaccination drive.

- issuing directives to State/UT Govts to prioritise vaccination for these workers along with frontline workers.
- allowing organizations to use CSR allocation to support their workforce.
- rolling out Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme to support employment generation, in line of PLI scheme.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Sumeet Gupta at sumeet.gupta@ficci.com*

## FICCI Recommendations to overcome Impact of COVID-19 on Homeland Security Industry

FICCI Homeland Security Committee put across various challenges faced by the industry on demand and supply sides and submitted recommendations to address lives and livelihoods issue. These recommendations seek support from Govt of India by:

- Creating vaccination centres at schools, hotels, and large public/private corporate offices.
- Extending Force Majeure clause to cover the entire COVID affected timeframe.
- Issuing directive to states/ UTs, govts to allow industry to avail performance security / bank guarantee at a reduced rate of 3 per cent of value of the contract under GFR as approved by Govt of India.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Sumeet Gupta at sumeet.gupta@ficci.com*

## FICCI recommendations for COVID containment and re-opening of economic activities

The country went through one of the most difficult phases during April-May 2021 when the second wave of the pandemic was claiming lives and impacting livelihoods. FICCI constantly and carefully analysed ground situations to help establish a feedback mechanism between the Government and Industry. FICCI proposed steps towards providing immediate relief to select economic activities stressed under the pandemic and recommended preparing a roadmap to open some of the remaining activities as the situation improves going forward.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Sumeet Gupta at sumeet.gupta@ficci.com*

## Approval to set up mass inoculation centres sought

FICCI, in partnership with Apollo Hospitals, will set up mass inoculation COVID Vaccination Centres in the Hyderabad to vaccinate the FICCI members, their employees and family members. This was submitted to Secretary, Health, Govt of Telangana.

For detailed representation, please write to  
*Mr Akhilesh Mahurkar at akhilesh.mahurkar@ficci.com*



## VOICE OF FICCI

Voice of FICCI is a monthly compilation of all the representations and recommendations of the industry, which FICCI had made / taken up with the Government. The recommendations are mentioned briefly in Voice of FICCI along with the Team Leaders' name and their email ids.

### ADVERTISEMENT OPTIONS & RATES

#### VOICE OF FICCI (Frequency - Monthly)

ADVERTISEMENTS	RATES in (Rs)				
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