

Making Tourism Robust and Inclusive



Mamata Banerjee woos investments from UK



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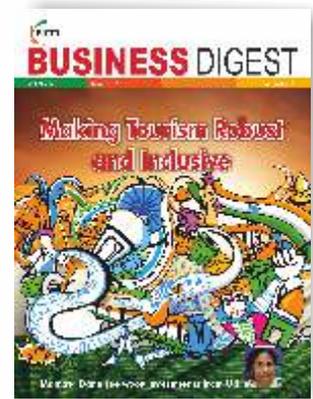
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FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. Established in 1927, it is India's oldest and largest apex business organization. FICCI is in the forefront in articulating the views and concerns of industry. It services its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry across states, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies.

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From the Secretary General's Desk...

The Indian tourism sector grew at a rapid pace of 10.6 per cent compared with the global tourism growth of 4.4 per cent last year. Now is the time for all stakeholders to work as a team to position the Indian tourism products on a higher pedestal. It is therefore vital to ensure that tourism infrastructure grows in step with the demands of the travelers.

With this in view, FICCI in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and Tourism Finance Corporation of India, organised the first-ever two-day 'Tourism Investors Meet' where as many as 12 Indian States showcased their tourism products to potential investors. The event has been conceptualised to bring together the policy makers and investors on the same platform.

In this context, a Knowledge Paper by FICCI & Ernst & Young on 'Tourism Infrastructure: The Role States Play', merits attention. It recommends a six-point agenda to enable the states to achieve their potential in attaining the desired growth in tourist arrivals. The paper calls for introduction of a robust and inclusive tourism policy as the first step towards introducing the right set of initiatives and achieving the desired tourist inflow. The policy should focus on specific interventions, incentives offered to private players and vision for development of tourism in the state, among others. We carry a report in this issue.

Bringing 'Britain to Bengal and Bengal to Britain' event was kicked off in the UK by Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, who led a high-powered delegation of industrialists and policy makers to London during July 27-29, 2015, in a bid to promote the state as a destination for UK investments. The objective obviously was to attract more British businesses to West Bengal and create investment and jobs which would be important for the people of Bengal and in turn for the people of Britain. (See report in the pages that follow.)

We also bring to you an interview with François Richier, Ambassador of France to India, who shares his insights on bilateral economic relations, the success of the existing cooperation in focus sectors, and opportunities in other prominent and promising areas directly related to mega initiatives of the Government of India.

Beginning with this issue, the magazine will carry the thoughts and observations of Indian Parliamentarians on their vision for the country and the way forward. We are honoured to publish an article by Udit Raj, Member of the Lok Sabha from the North West Delhi Parliamentary constituency who forcefully advocates the need for industry to adopt and nurture 'Adarsh' villages in keeping with the Prime Minister's call to provide urban amenities in rural India.

We hope you will find the contents of the magazine informative and we look forward to your feedback and comments.

A Didar Singh