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CHANGE AGENT, NATION-BUILDER

Reflections from Past Presidents



Chairman - Editorial Board

Dr Sanjaya Baru

Head - Media & Publications

George Skaria

Editor

Sukumar Sah

Senior Assistant Editor

Sushmita Yadav

Marketing

Rahul Siwach

Advertising

P L Joseph

Rakesh Arora

Coordination

Dinesh Bhandari

Anjana Rajwar

Design & Art

Visualeyes Communications Pvt. Ltd

vipul2001@gmail.com

Printed by

Samrat Offset Pvt Ltd

laxman@samratoffset.com

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Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry,

Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi - 110001

Phone: 23738760-70(11 Lines)

Fax: 23320714, 23721504

E-Mail: ficci@ficci.com

Website: www.ficci.in/wwwficci.com

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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We would like feedback/comments from our readers to enable us to improve our offering. Write to us at: sukumar.sah@ficci.com or sushmita.yadav@ficci.com



From the Secretary General

The theme of the two-day Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) 90th Annual General Meeting (AGM) is, “**Indian Business in a New India**”. *Business Digest* sought out reminiscences from Past Presidents on FICCI's contribution to policy advancements and economic reforms over the last nine decades. These vignettes capture the passion of our business leaders to the building of FICCI and how they led the institution to be an important change agent in nation-building.

The historic 90th AGM of the oldest industry association in the country is being organized in the above backdrop. This “New India” has many dimensions but the most important ones for Indian business are the transformations on the economic front.

It is in the above backdrop of optimism and opportunities that for the first time Shri Narendra Modi after he took over as the Prime Minister in 2014 will speak at the AGM of a leading industry chamber in the country. It is a proud moment for FICCI. At the same time, Mr. Rashesh C. Shah, President-Elect, FICCI & Chairman & CEO, Edelweiss Group will take over from the current president Mr. Pankaj R. Patel at the AGM.

The above Lead Story package will be complemented in this edition with other interesting feature and commentary articles: 'Leapfrogging to Education 4.0: Student at the Core' was the theme of FICCI's annual Higher Education Summit this year. This was the 13th edition of the summit.

In a first-of-its kind initiative, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Antrix Corporation, ISRO's commercial arm and FICCI joined hands to organise an international seminar to explore the trend and opportunities for industry to forge collaborative models of development to provide access of the advantages of space to the common people. The seminar was seminal as it brought together stakeholders from industry, policy makers, thought leaders and academia to brainstorm on the policies of the Government of India in a bid to exploit the limitless commercial space segment.

The importance of giving pre-eminence to human resources to achieve an innovation-led growth strategy cannot be over-emphasised. To turn the spotlight on this critical aspect of business, the second edition of the FICCI HR Conference 2017 was held in November.

FICCI felicitated seven companies with its CSR Awards on November 30, 2017, in New Delhi at the FICCI CSR Summit and Awards function. An eminent jury, chaired by former SEBI Chairman, U. K. Sinha, elected the award winners. The theme of the summit was 'CSR: Investing in Generation Next'. A report on the conference appears in the pages that follow.

The third edition of FICCI's India Industry Water Conclave and the fifth edition of FICCI Water Awards were organised in New Delhi on November 28, 2017. The conclave is a platform for policy debate and showcasing initiatives by industry in sustainable water management. The FICCI Water Awards have been instituted to recognise exemplary work in the area of water management, conservation and use by industry and non-government organisations.

We hope you will find the issue of the magazine informative and useful.

Sanjaya Baru