

Logistics Policy

DGFT to Revamp
IT Infrastructure

Smart Cities, Art Cities

Building Creative
Industries in India

Interview

Leadership Lessons
from Manoj Kohli



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Business Digest

A SHOT IN THE ARM

**India Pharma & India Medical
Device Conference 2019**



India-ASEAN Expo and Summit
Rajnath Singh Highlights the
Need for Deepening Cooperation



FICCI CSR Summit & Awards
Maximising Impact Through
Enterprise Development Model



**National Conclave on Technical Textiles &
Curtain-raiser for Technotex 2019**
Smriti Zubin Irani
Inaugurates the Conclave



Global R&D Summit 2019
International Collaboration Needed
for Sustainable Growth



**India Pharma & India
Medical Device 2019**
DV Sadananda Gowda Assures
Affordable Healthcare for All



**India Pharma & India
Medical Device 2019**
Manshuk L. Mandaviya Aims for
Universal Healthcare



Bengal Means Business
Mamata Banerjee Inaugurates
Bengal Global Business Summit



India Stonemart 2019
Ashok Gehlot Extends Full Support
to the Stone Industry

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FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies. Established in 1927, it is India's oldest and largest apex business organization. FICCI serves its members from large (domestic and global companies) and MSME sectors as well as the public sector, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry.



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



From the Secretary General

February 2019 was a month full of events for us at FICCI and we have captured their essence in this issue of *Business Digest*.

The Indian pharmaceutical and medical devices industry are important sectors for the nation's economy and high on government's priority and we at FICCI, too, give considerable importance to promoting them. The fourth edition of the India Pharma and Medical Device Conference 2019, one of the biggest conferences in this space, held in Bengaluru, is a testimony to this. Two days of deliberations attempted to place the sector in its rightful place in the global and national economies. The conference was inaugurated by Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Statistics and Programme Implementation, DV Sadananda Gowda, who emphasized the work the government is doing to ensure affordable healthcare for all through initiatives like Ayushman Bharat. Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Mansukh L Mandaviya, highlighted the government's intent of making the sector a INR3 lakh crore market and a global player. Meanwhile, KJ George, Minister for Large & Medium Industries, Government of Karnataka, unveiled the state government's plan to set up a special pharmaceuticals SEZ in Hassan and pharma parks in Bengaluru and Mangalore at the summit.

With the tagline 'Bengal Means Business', the message of 5th Bengal Global Business Summit 2019 could not have been clearer to the investors. The summit organised by the Government of West Bengal with FICCI as its Summit Partner was held in Kolkata this month. The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, inaugurated the summit. Amit Mitra, Finance and Industries Minister of West Bengal was also present at the inaugural session. Industry doyens including Mukesh Ambani, Sajjan Jindal, and Sanjiv Goenka and several FICCI Past President, namely, Rajan Bharti Mittal, Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises Ltd., YK Modi, Executive Chairman, Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd., Harshvardhan Neotia, Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Group, Saroj Kumar Poddar, Chairman, Adventz Group and Siddharth Birla, Chairman, Xpro India Limited joined in.

In New Delhi, the 4th India ASEAN Expo and Summit of Trade Ministers saw FICCI put its best foot forward by hosting this important meet where trade ministers and ambassadors and their delegations from 10 countries came together to help chalk out a roadmap to improve India-ASEAN economic relations. While Minister Suresh Prabhu addressed the inaugural session and Home Minister Rajnath Singh gave the valedictory address. FICCI President Sandip Somany highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's SAGAR initiative in this context and the government's continued Look East Policy.

At the National Conclave on Technical Textiles and Curtain-raiser for Technotex 2019, Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Textiles, released a booklet on HS Codes for 207 technical textiles items and addressed the delegates.

Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament & Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, emphasized the efficacy of soft power

of culture during the Smart Cities, Art Cities Summit. He appreciated FICCI's efforts in organising this 'valuable' initiative and elaborated that soft power can propel cities into the global cultural map, promote people-to-people contact, give a fillip to allied industries such as tourism and build smart infrastructure.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan at the 6th DST-FICCI Global R&D Summit 2019, held in Hyderabad, emphasized that in year 2018 country's research and development with technology led innovation got further recognition as one of the most powerful instruments of growth and development.

Meanwhile, at India Stonemart 2019, in Jaipur, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, in his inaugural speech, reassured government support to entrepreneurs and industrialists associated with the stone industry for setting up projects in the state.

For this issue of *Business Digest*, we have also interviewed Manoj Kohli, the Executive Vice Chairman of Softbank Energy, who shares with us some inspiring life lessons.

Above all, FICCI stands by the government and the Armed Forces during this time of crisis in Kashmir. We hope peace and stability will prevail soon.

I hope you find this edition useful and interesting.

Dilip Chenoy