

FICCI leads innovation and technology delegation to US

By Our Correspondent

New Delhi, Sept 22. Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has mounted a multi sectoral innovation and technology led business delegation to the United States of America. The delegation comprises of about 60 companies from sectors as diverse as information technology, health care & pharmaceuticals, clean energy, education and electronics. The delegation has participation from senior leaders including Saurabh Srivastava, Chairman, Steria; Yogesh Andlay, Co-Founder, Nucleus Software and Polaris Financial Technology & Board Member, School of Inspired Leadership and Padmaja Ruparel, President, Indian Angel Network.

The visit has been planned in partnership with the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum, TiE Silicon Valley, IC2 Institute at the University of Texas, Austin, Center for Innovation (CFI) at Arlington and Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO).

The prime objective of the visit is to showcase Indian innovations to the U.S. investors, venture capitalists, angel investors in the Silicon Valley; learn best practices from leading technology incubators and technology commercialization centres and interact with representatives from the U.S. federal labs and industries in Austin and Arlington.

Speaking on the visiting delegation, Dr. A. Didar Singh, Secretary General, FICCI stated that "FICCI has mounted this delegation with an aim to further strengthen the Indo-US strategic relations in the field of innovation and technology. Our endeavour is to match

innovations".

Speaking on the partnership, Mr. Venkatesh Shukla, President at TiE Silicon Valley stated "We welcome the FICCI delegation visiting US to promote cross border entrepreneurship between India and the United States. We look forward to the exchange and confluence of ideas, and are confident this will help foster entrepreneurship & innovation in both countries".

Mr. Wes Jurey, President, Arlington Chamber of Commerce shared "We are very pleased to welcome our Indian partner FICCI and its members to the Center for Innovation at Arlington, a non-profit affiliate of the Chamber that represents 344 US Federal Labs under federal partnership agreements with 11 federal agencies and a growing national and international network of Industry, Academia and Economic Development entities."

Mr. Sid Burback, Director, Global Commercialization Group, IC2 Institute, University of Texas at Austin stated "The

excellence of Indian innovation has grown tremendously over the years. India is now developing some of the most impressive innovations the Institute has examined around the globe. The IC2 Institute will host the delegation to explore business opportunities in the U.S. We will discuss challenges and solutions to launching technology enterprises, especially on foreign soil, followed by an open forum with a panel of international technology commercialization experts."

GOPIO International's USA National Coordinator, Mr. Jeevan Zutshi said "GOPIO as the world's largest Diaspora organization that started 25 years ago this month in 1989 is proud to welcome and host the FICCI business delegation of technology and innovation entrepreneurs from India on the sidelines of the state visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The growing investment and technology trade between India and USA is a hallmark of the special impetus to bilateral ties which have often been termed as the most defining relationship of the 21st Century".