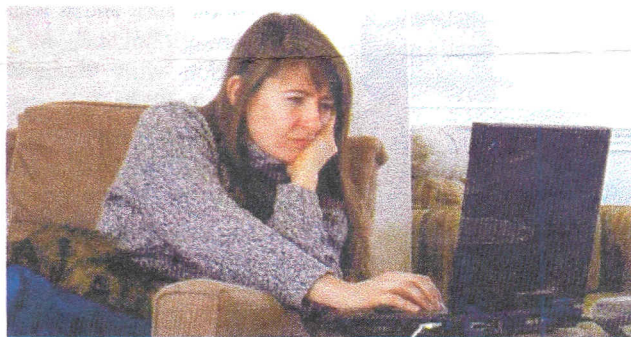


# FICCI prepares concept note India, Gulf surges ahead in IT operation

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After its successful forays in the UAE and Oman during its recent interaction, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is working on a huge plan towards forming an alliance in information and communication technology between India and the GCC nations. The alliance will delve into specific areas of synergy between India and the GCC nations wherein both the parties would mutually benefit in expanding the IT and communication network where the FICCI is confident a huge potential exists. The synergy could see a multifold increase in the trade and commerce relations between the GCC nations and New Delhi. FICCI senior official and Director International Operations **Tabrez Ahmad** who recently visited UAE and Oman along with the delegation of Indian IT giants is confident that the potential could be optimally used for the benefit of both the

parties. "I see a tremendous opportunity in this sector". **Tabrez** who has been working on this project and plans to visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia said that the growth of Indian IT sector and in the communication technology could be



utilized by the GCC nations which has a tremendous scope to develop and fortify their IT sector. "I was amazed to see the level of development that have reached the Gulf states and it is high time that the synergy between India and GCC could flourish into a new brand of relationship," Tabrez said. The focus of FICCI towards the GCC nations also marks a shift in the policy and

approach of the Indian IT sector that has localized itself to the US and the European market for long and many years as of now. **Tabrez** said that FICCI hopes that Indian expertise would be utilized in making the Gulf industries

further globally competitive and infrastructure between utilized by creating synergy with Indian Information and Communication Technology sector. E-governance and e-business projects can also enhance the national productivity and efficiency. The FICCI has already prepared its two concept notes for UAE and Oman after its meeting with the top officials in both

the countries including the local Chambers of commerce, IT professionals and visit to the various ICT sites. "I was highly impressed with the level of development in these countries and possibility of such a larger interactions". Tabrez said. Now with Kuwait as the leader of the six nation GCC states, FICCI hopes that Indian IT sector would have a larger role in the areas both because of the historical past and the long and traditional relationship that exists between India and the GCC states. India is already a dialogue partner with the GCC and only recently a meeting was held in Mumbai where captain of Indian Industry and the GCC nations met. Now with FICCI looking for larger interaction with the GCC states, there is huge possibility of big spurt in the relationship not only in the IT sector but in other areas as well as FICCI represent the most prestigious industrial groups of India.