

Pakistan specific Non-Tariff Barriers and called for their early removal

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Punjab-Haryana-Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) are holding two separate Made in India exhibitions in Pakistan in February 2012 and March 2012 respectively. This was stated by LCCI President Irfan Qaiser Sheikh on reaching Pakistan after five day visit to India. LCCI Vice President Saeeda Nazar, Chairman PIAF Engineer Sohail Lashari and Executive Committee Members Mian Abuzar Shad and Nabila Intisar were also with part of the delegation. The LCCI president said that both peace and trade would get a new boost as it is not only Pakistani businessmen who are visiting India but the Indians were also making efforts to strengthen relation with their Pakistani counterparts.

The LCCI president said that the LCCI delegation in its meetings with Indian businessmen had conveyed their reservations about Pakistan specific Non-Tariff Barriers and called for their early removal. He expressed the hope that these NTBs would soon be removed to give peace a chance to prevail. Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said that the LCCI team had also visited Pakistan High Commission in Delhi and discussed the issues being faced by Pak businessmen in detail. The LCCI President particularly appreciated the Chief Minister Haryana Bopinder Singh Hooda for giving a patient hearing to the issues raised by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The LCCI President said that India and Pakistan should come up with a policy for opening the borders for trade and commerce, as there is huge trade potential between the two nations. He said he had urged the Indian authorities that there should be visa exemption for traders of both the countries. There should be no requirement of visa for Pak and Indian traders for more and more bilateral trade promotion, Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said.

The frequent visits of businessmen of both sides will lead frequent meetings, he added. Calling for liberalising of visa regimes, Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said, the more the meetings, the better communication, and lesser misunderstandings would pave way for mutual co-operation and unprecedented growth in bilateral trade. He said, we should move ahead with the present list of items and once the confidence between both the countries grows, the negative list can be revised again. He said that to further improve the trade between the two countries especially through Punjab, the LCCI and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry had signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mutual co-operation. Sharing the details of the MoU, he said that both the Chambers would facilitate the exchange of information about the products and manufactures of products; and respective buyers, sellers and service providers in both the countries. He further informed that both the Chambers would plan strategic trade delegations to either country. Further joint exhibitions for products and services in India and Pakistan would be organized in both India and Pakistan. He said that both LCCI and PHD Chamber would strive to expand and develop bilateral relations and cooperation in the fields of trade, industry, investment and other economic fields between the both countries.