National Conference: 'Speak Up' - National Mental Health Movement
Date: October 30, 2018
Time: 9:30 am onwards
Venue: FICCI, Federation House, New Delhi

Mental health is a major concern worldwide and India is not far behind in sharing this. If we evaluate developments in the field of mental health, the pace appears to be slow. The neglect of mental health is evident from a World Health Organization report which estimated that 50 million Indians suffered from depression. Almost 20 % of children and adolescents suffer from some form of mental illness, but a very small proportion of them are able to access mental health services that results in a huge treatment gap. The situation is particularly grim in India where almost 30 % of population of the country consists of children in the age group between 0 and 14 years. There could be several possible reasons for this gap ranging from stigma associated with mental illnesses, lack of resources for mental health and apathy on part of policy makers to counter this problem.

The enactment of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 is an attempt to protect the rights of the mentally ill and enable citizens to decide on the method of treatment in case of mental illness, lest they are mistreated or neglected. Although several steps have been taken like formulation of national mental health policy and programme(s) to increase coverage for mental health in India, a lot remains to be done.

With an aim to bring together all stakeholders of mental health (service providers: medical and non-medical professionals, Government bodies, national associations, corporates, media, influencers, academicians) and discuss serious concerns around Mental Health in India, Mpower in partnership with FICCI Aditya Birla CSR Centre for Excellence is organising an annual leadership forum organized by 'Speak Up' – National Mental Health Movement on October 30, 2018 at FICCI, Federation House, New Delhi.

The flagship event would witness public addresses, panel discussions, QnA and exhibits set-ups at the venue by influencers and sponsors, supporting the cause. The platform is to encourage stakeholders to 'SpeakUp' about the ground level realities at various levels and steps taken to fight the stigma attached to Mental Health in India.