

**SICCI's 87th Anniversary Dinner and SICCI-DBS SIEA Presentation Ceremony, 29 September 2011  
Welcome Address by Mr Kirpa Ram Sharma, Chairman, SICCI-DBS SIEA 2011 Organising  
Committee, and Vice-Chairman, SICCI**

- Mr Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
- Mr R Narayanamohan, Chairman, Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Mr Inderjit Singh, Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio GRC, and Chairman of the Panel of Judges
- Excellencies
- Panel of Judges
- SICCI-DBS SIEA 2011 Committee Co-Chairman, Mr M Rajaram, and Committee members
- SICCI's Advisors, Directors and members
- Ladies and gentlemen

I warmly welcome all of you to SICCI's 87<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner and the presentation ceremony for the SICCI-DBS Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards 2011.

The Chamber was formed in 1924. Today, it is one of the most respected business groups, with more than 850 members. In a highly dynamic global market place, I believe it has three key roles – it is a connector, enabler and advocator.

SICCI provides the necessary linkages to its members so that they are able to grow their companies locally and world-wide. It provides the necessary training courses, programmes and activities, so that its members can enhance their knowledge and build capabilities. It raises the views of its members at official platforms so that these views are taken into account during policy making.

These important roles have ensured that SICCI continues to meet the changing needs of its members and the larger business community.

This evening, while we celebrate the Chamber's anniversary, we also recognise the talent and success of Indian entrepreneurship. The annual SICCI-DBS Awards are our humble effort to showcase outstanding Indian entrepreneurs. Through the Awards, we present individuals who have overcome challenges and set up successful and well-rounded companies.

It is with this in mind that we continually examine ways to enhance the Awards initiative. This year, we have refined the criteria for the three categories – Large Enterprise, Medium Enterprise and Promising Entrepreneur. At the same time, we have launched a fourth category – Family Business. Such efforts are important as they allow us to reach out to a bigger group of entrepreneurs. They also ensure that the Awards continue to respond to changes in the business community.

Apart from these changes, the SICCI-DBS SIEA Committee has taken much effort to ensure that the whole campaign is presented in a most professional manner. The collaterals, media coverage, video presentations and the event magazine are all part of this effort. I am also pleased to announce that we now have a website on the Awards. It captures the winners and the events related to the Awards since their launch in 2004. You can visit the website at [www.sicci-siea.com](http://www.sicci-siea.com).

This evening, 15 persons have been chosen as 'Singapore's Leading Indian Entrepreneurs'. A winner in each of the four categories will be announced a little later on. We believe that all 15 entrepreneurs deserve recognition for achieving success through their hard work.

Besides the SICCI-DBS SIEA, we will also present two other important Awards this evening.

The first is the SICCI-DBS Singapore-India Business Award. This Award is into its fifth year. It recognises Singaporeans and Indians who promote ties between the two countries. A distinguished Singaporean will receive the Award this year.

The second Award is the SICCI-DBS India Enterprise Award. It was launched in 2010. It is presented to an Indian company in Singapore that has made important contributions to Singapore's social and economic development. We are pleased to announce that an esteemed Indian company will receive the Award this year.

In closing, I would like to say that the SICCI-DBS Awards have indeed come a long way. Today, they are Singapore's premier Awards for the Indian business community. They have also become a key milestone in the journeys of many successful Indian entrepreneurs.

I offer my very best to all the finalists and awardees this evening.

Thank you.

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