

Non-compliance of safety issues may lead to trade barriers: Labour secretary

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With safety provisions increasingly coming up for discussions in free trade agreements (FTAs), maintaining high safety standards becomes imperative to avoid them being used as potential trade barriers by partner nations, Labour

Secretary Arti Ahuja said.

“In the context of India’s rapid economic growth and its integration into global markets, it is crucial that we address safety and labour issues, as non-compliance could lead to non-tariff trade barriers, impeding our growth story,” Ahuja said at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce &

Industry (FICCI) awards for excellence in safety systems. She also mentioned the use of software in Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) hospitals to detect and respond to occupational health issues as an example to illustrate the use of technology to detect health issues.

The software employed

across 160 ESIC hospitals has enabled the mapping of patterns related to occupational diseases, a measure drawing from the data analysis strategies used during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Earlier, FICCI Secretary General Shailesh Kumar Pathak noted that business continuity is more important than cost-cutting.