



**from the desk of the
PRESIDENT**

Dear Member,

10 January, 2013

The New Year has dawned cold and yet there may be signs of an early spring in the economy. On the one hand, the Government's reform momentum, fiscal correction and deficit-reduction plan coupled with the much awaited and hoped-for interest cuts can do a lot to rejuvenate the economy, which is showing some signs of picking up, albeit at a slower pace. On the other hand, there is every possibility that politics overtakes economics, as is generally the case and the recent speed of activities shifts to a lower gear, the growth rate takes the sedentary 5% route, projects stay stuck, NPAs mount leading to lowering of the appetite for further loans, interest rates and inflation remain high. In both scenarios, the focus is on the 2014 Elections and ultimately politics does play a huge role in economics. However, a more immediate focus is the Union Budget 2013-14, which will probably set the direction towards which way the economy is heading.

As I write, we are all gearing up for Bengal Leads, the show-piece exposition organized by the Government of West Bengal. We are proud to inform you that the Bengal Chamber is playing an integral part in Bengal Leads 2013 and that we are coordinating the sessions on IT and Tourism, two very key sectors for West Bengal. As the newsletter would reveal, the Chamber is also awash with programmes and activities in the coming month. We look forward to your participation and support in all these.

Sd/-
Kallol Datta
President

NEWS FLASH

The award was received by Ms. Nilima Ghosh, Member, Executive Committee, Bandhan-Konnagar as a fitting culmination to the Financial Inclusion Day. The program that helped Bandhan earn the accolade is 'Bandhan Health Program' (BHP). Bandhan has been



▲ Ms. Nilima Ghosh, Member, Executive Committee, Bandhan Konnagar receiving the prestigious award from Dr. C Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and Mr. Sameer Kochhar, Chairman Skoch Group for Bandhan's health program

▶ Ms. Ghosh displays the award

involved in delivering services in this crucial area of health since 2007. This program is run by the not-for-profit entity of Bandhan.

Skoch Awards have been identifying and saluting best practices that others can take note of and learn from. They comprehensively document, publish and put in public domain this knowledge so that every concerned individual or institution can mutually learn from it and grow together. Skoch today enjoys the distinction



of having instituted several of the oldest, most prestigious and comprehensive civilian awards in the field of governance, capacity building, empowerment, inclusive growth, citizen services



▲ All awardees pose for a group photograph

delivery, technology, academics and change management. The Jury comprised of industry leaders, domain experts, economists and academicians. Bandhan first won the Skoch Challenger Award in March 2008 for financial inclusion. The organization bagged the Skoch Financial Inclusion Award again in 2011 and 2012 respectively for its Targeting the Hard-core Poor (THP) Program and Education Program. The coming of this award for the fourth time asserts the relevance and uniqueness of Bandhan's two-pronged approach towards poverty alleviation viz. microfinance and development.

We are proud to have Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Chairman & Managing Director, Bandhan Financial Services Pvt. Ltd. as a member of the Managing Committee of the Bengal Chamber.

MEMBERS' NEWS CORNER

Welcome to the Bengal Chamber family! That's what we would like to convey to A. K. Power Industries Pvt. Ltd., B. M. Birla Heart Research Centre, Klystron Electronics Pvt. Ltd., Tijiya Steel Pvt. Ltd. and Total Agri Care Concern Pvt. Ltd. whose applications for membership were tabled and approved by the Managing Committee at its meeting on 14th December 2012.

NEWS FLASH



Bandhan

'Hope for the poor'

CONGRATULATIONS TO BANDHAN!

Bandhan wins Skoch Financial Inclusion Award 2013

Skoch Financial Inclusion Award 2013 was conferred upon Bandhan yet again, this time for the initiative it has taken in the field of health. The announcement was made in New Delhi on January 05, 2013 being the Financial Inclusion Day.

Skoch Financial Inclusion Awards seek to recognize best practices from the banking and financial services sector for promoting inclusive growth and poverty alleviation from across urban and rural India.

CONGRATULATIONS

mjunction's MD and CEO wins "The Chief Executive of the Year" from the Indian Institute of Materials Management



▲ Mr. Viresh Oberoi, Managing Director and CEO, mjunction services limited

We are delighted to share with you that our corporate member, mjunction recently received yet another prestigious accolade. The Managing Director and CEO, Mr. Viresh Oberoi, was adjudged "The Chief Executive of the Year" by the Indian Institute of Materials Management. Mr. Oberoi is Co-Chairperson of our Coal, Minerals and Mining Committee.

The award was conferred by the National Headquarters of the Institute in recognition of mjunction's growth story from a start-up in 2001 to India's largest e-commerce company and the impact that it has had on society by transforming procurement and selling processes into transparent, efficient and convenient

services that have unlocked significant value to all stakeholders. mjunction has evolved from a fledgling start-up in 2001 to India's largest e-commerce company and the world's largest e-Marketplace for steel. mjunction has today eTransacted goods and services worth over Rs. 1,25,000 crores through its various business verticals.

'The Chief Executive of the Year' award was presented during the Inaugural ceremony of the National Convention 'Natcom 2012' which was held in Kolkata on November 23rd. Some of the past winners of this award include, Mr. B Muthuraman of Tata Steel, Mr. Rajiv Bajaj of Bajaj Auto, Mr. Baba Kalyani of Bharat Forge, Mr. Naveen Jindal of Jindal Steel & Power, amongst others. This award is an endorsement of the pioneering role that mjunction has played in transforming processes on both—the buy and sell—sides of the supply chain in the Indian industrial eco-system, by using IT, the Internet and a lot of innovation.

PROGRAMMES

THE BENGAL CHAMBER SUPPORTING AIDIAS CONSULTING GROUP ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY SEMINAR ON "CSR AND GRASS-ROOTS TRANSFORMATION - MAKING THE TWAIN MEET"

10TH DECEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

Human Rights Day, 10th December 2012, was observed with a day-long seminar, "Corporate Social Responsibility and Grass-roots Transformation – Making the Twain Meet" at The Williamson Magor Hall of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The event was organized by Aidiias Consulting Group with the support of The Bengal Chamber, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan, Young Horizons School, PC Chandra Group, National Insurance Company, National Jute Board, Techno Group, Turtle, Saltee Group, Gujral Distributors, Win Pens among others.

The seminar was an initiative to ensure that CSR actually benefits those that need them most, create a network of like-minded organizations and bodies that will complement and draw from each other to make their efforts structured, result-driven, and impactful. The objective was to unite all the stakeholders who will truly make a difference – the corporate world, the media, the state machinery and finally the youth. The Chief Guest of the seminar

was Mr. R. Bandyopadhyay IAS (Retd.) Former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India, whose wealth of experience in this sphere both as a policymaker and a ringside viewer of the impact of the governmental measures and policies, is unmatched. The Inaugural Session of the seminar was graced by the Guests of Honour, Mr. A. K. Chandra - Group MD, P. C. Chandra Group and Mr. Kallol Datta - President of The Bengal Chamber and CMD, Andrew Yule, Lt. Gen (Retd.) Dr. S. P Datta - President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan, and Mr. Anjan Majumdar - MD, Aidiias Consulting Group. While Dr. Datta focused on Rotary's activities and threw light on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's initiatives, Mr. Kallol Datta spoke on the roles of the chambers of commerce in driving and supporting causes that translate into meaningful achievements.

The theme for the first session of the day was, "The Corporate Story – Challenges, Lessons Learnt and the Road Ahead". Prof Sanjoy Mukherjee of IIM Shillong and Mr. Narendra Shyamsukha, Founder President of Terapanth Professional Forum were the speakers. The session "CSR and the Youth as Agents of Transformation" was addressed by Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal of The Heritage School; Mr. Amitava Bhattacharya, Founder of Banglanatak.com and Mr. Raja Menon, Director of Jeevika Development Society. "CSR and the Role and Function of Media" had stalwarts like Dr. Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Opinions Editor of The Telegraph; Mr. S. V. 'Bobby' Sista and Mr. Chandradeep Mitra, CEO PipalMajik and Managing Partner, Anvetion (also Visiting Faculty of MICA and IIM C). The session "Role of an Efficient State Machinery in bringing about Grass-roots Transformation" acquired a new distinction as it had a moderator in the form of Mr. Suparna Pathak,



▲ Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber, welcomes the Chief Guest of the seminar Mr. R. Bandyopadhyay IAS (Retd.) Former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India

Seated at the dais, from Left to Right, Mr Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber, Mr. R. Bandyopadhyay IAS (Retd.) Former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India and Shri AK Chandra, Group MD, PC Chandra Group

Business Editor, Anandabazar Patrika. Mr. Partha Bhattacharya IPS (Retd.) and Member PSC and Mr. Rupak Barua, COO CMRI were the other speakers. The organizers announced that the residual proceeds of the seminar would be distributed to three organizations - Village for Integrated Employment for Women (VIEW), Telegraph Education Foundation, and Jeevika Development Society.

MEETING WITH MS. ROSALINE KWAN, SENIOR TRADE COMMISSIONER (NORTHERN INDIA) AND DEPUTY COMMERCIAL PROGRAM MANAGER, HIGH COMMISSION OF CANADA, NEW DELHI

11TH DECEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

Ms. Rosaline Kwan, Senior Trade Commissioner (Northern India) and Deputy Commercial Program Manager, High Commission of Canada, New Delhi visited The Bengal Chamber on 11th December 2012. Mr. Arjun Dutta, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Trade Office, Kolkata and Mr. Subroto Halder, Assistant to Honorary Consul, Consulate of Canada were present with her. From The Bengal Chamber, the Meeting was attended by Mr. P Roy, Director General, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director, Mr. Arnab

Chakraborty, Assistant Director, Ms. Somdutta Mazumder, Senior Business Development Manager and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Senior Programme Manager.

Ms. Kwan and her team were briefed about the Chamber activities. They particularly took interest in Energy and Environment, Information Technology, Infrastructure and Education in all of which the Chamber has mounted significant activities, programmes and projects.



▲ During the meeting (L-R): Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Arjun Dutta, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Trade Office, Kolkata; Ms. Rosaline Kwan, Senior Trade Commissioner (Northern India) and Deputy Commercial Program Manager, High Commission of Canada, New Delhi and Mr. Subroto Halder, Assistant to Honorary Consul, Consulate of Canada.

**12TH DECEMBER 2012,
AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. DEAN R. THOMPSON,
CONSUL GENERAL, US CONSULATE, KOLKATA**

**MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DAN MOZENA,
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH**

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry was invited by Mr. Dean R. Thompson, Consul General, US Consulate, Kolkata to meet Ambassador Dan Mozena, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh on 12th December 2012 at the Consul General's residence.

The objective of the meeting was to learn from the Ambassador about the investment climate in Bangladesh and the opportunities and challenges of doing business there. Discussions were on banking, infrastructure, capital markets development, business

practices, procedural issues like visa processing and sector wise investment opportunities. Readymade garments manufacturing, Information Technology, Telecommunication, Agro based industry, leather industry got special mention among others.

**12TH DECEMBER 2012,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

**THE BENGAL CHAMBER SUPPORTED THE IGEP FOUNDATION, IN
ASSOCIATION WITH THE BUSINESS SOCIAL COMPLIANCE INITIATIVE
(BSCI), IN THEIR ROUND TABLE ON CSR / SOCIAL COMPLIANCE**

IGEP (www.igep.org) is a trade promotion organization sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. Established in 1988 IGEP uses various trade development instruments to promote Indian exports to Germany and to other member countries of the European Union. BSCI is an initiative of European retail companies initiated by the Foreign Trade Association (FTA), Brussels. It has at present more than 1000 European members who are

buyers/importers. IGEP Foundation is the official representative of BSCI in India. The BSCI is the leading business-driven initiative for companies committed to improving working conditions in the global supply chain. For BSCI and its 600+ participants, IGEP functions as the contact point, information centre and service provider for all questions and activities related to social compliance and auditing procedures.

**14TH DECEMBER 2012,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

**INTERACTION WITH JANAB GHULAM MUHAMMED QUADER,
HON'BLE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, BANGLADESH**

Janab Ghulam Muhammed Quader, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Bangladesh addressed the members of the Managing Committee of The Bengal Chamber on 14th December 2012. He had a very candid discussion with the members on opportunities and challenges in doing business in Bangladesh. He talked

about infrastructure, power, labour, governance and other aspects. Mr. Nasir ud din Sheikh, Chairman, Standing Committee on Fairs and Exhibitions (2012), The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry was also present at the meeting.



▲ (L-R): Mr. Nasir ud din Sheikh, Chairman, Standing Committee on Fairs and Exhibitions (2012), The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Janab Ghulam Muhammed Quader, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Bangladesh; Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber; Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. S D Gupta, Chairperson, Exhibitions & Trade Fairs Committee, The Bengal Chamber



▲ Meeting in progress

**14TH - 24TH DECEMBER 2012,
SCIENCE CITY, KOLKATA**

11TH INDIA INTERNATIONAL MEGA TRADE FAIR

The annual fair was organized by G S Marketing partnered by the Bengal Chamber. With over 500 participants, over 150 overseas companies from 10 foreign countries including Bangladesh, Thailand, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Egypt, Ghana, Turkey, Iran and Kenya, the trade fair was actually of mega proportions.

**21ST DECEMBER 2012,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

**MEETING WITH SHRI PARTHA CHATTERJEE, HON'BLE MINISTER-IN-CHARGE, COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRIES, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS, PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS, INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION, PUBLIC ENTERPRISE, GOVERNMENT OF WEST
BENGAL ON THE UPCOMING INDUSTRIAL POLICY OF GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented its recommendations to Shri Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Commerce and Industry, Information Technology and Electronics, Parliamentary Affairs, Industrial Reconstruction, Public Enterprise, Government of West Bengal on the upcoming Industrial Policy of Government of West Bengal on 21st December 2012. The meeting was attended by Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber, Mr. B D Bose, Past President, The Bengal Chamber, Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber, senior members of the Chamber and members of the media. Shri Chatterjee took note of the points mentioned in the presentation. He also raised his queries on certain points.

Presentation of Recommendations to Shri Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Commerce and Industries, Information Technology and Electronics, Parliamentary Affairs, Industrial Reconstruction and Public Enterprise (Middle). Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber (R) and Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber (L)



**5TH JANUARY 2013,
CU CAMPUS, SALT LAKE**

**THE BENGAL CHAMBER PARTNERED GENESIS, THE ONE-DAY
SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZED AS PART OF THE 100TH INDIAN
SCIENCE CONGRESS HELD IN KOLKATA**

EVENTS AT

THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE

17th December '12

Children's Christmas Party in association with Rotary Club, New Light NGO and a special performance by the students of Calcutta International School



18th December '12



Calcutta Rescue: Charity Fundraiser performance by Abhijit Ghosh and Sohini Roy Chowdhury. Padma Bhushan Sister Cyril was the Chief Guest

16th December '12

Palladian participated in the IAS Carnival in New Delhi



Ode to Brush: Painting exhibition by Gallery Katayun in the aid of Oral School of Deaf, Kolkata

21st December '12



UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

- ▶ The Bengal Chamber in association with Calcutta Business School to present a seminar for executives on "Quality of Work Life", 11th January 2013, Chamber premises
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber supporting Bengal Leads 2013 (15th - 17th January 2013) in the Panel Discussions on "Tourism Strategy in West Bengal" and "Electronic Manufacturing in India- Charting New Course" on 16th January 2013 at Helipad Ground, Haldia
- ▶ Interaction with Shri Rajesh Pandey, IAS, Chairman and Managing Director, West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, 17th January 2013, Chamber premises
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber partnering Jadavpur University in presenting a series of seminars on "Sustainability of Indian Energy Sector: prospects and challenges", Inaugural edition on 18th January 2013, JU Campus.
With World Bank funding, Jadavpur University is implementing 'Technical Education Quality Improvement Program - Phase II'. As 'Industry Institution Interaction' of that programme, Jadavpur University is organizing a year-long lecture series on 'Sustainability of Indian Energy Sector: prospects and challenges', jointly with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC). National policy makers, technologists as well as actual industrial organizations will be invited to deliver lectures in this program to present their views.
- ▶ Workshop on Contract Labour Management - Approach and Solution, 18th January 2013, Chamber premises
- ▶ Panel Discussion on 'India IT - Present and Future', 18th January 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- ▶ East & North East Infrastructure Conclave, 19th January 2013, Chamber premises
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber "Think..." session with Mr. S V Bobby Sista, Founder Director, Sista Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, 29th January 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- ▶ Roadshow with the Zambia Tourism Board, 13th February 2013, Chamber premises
- ▶ India Eurasia Business Partnership Seminar, 14th-15th February 2013, Chamber premises
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber Serving Humanity Forum presents a Workshop on "Road Emergencies and Our Response" on the occasion of World CSR Day 2013, 18th February 2013, Chamber premises
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber "Think..." session with Prof. (Dr.) Bikash Sinha, Homi Bhabha Professor, Dept. of Atomic Energy at VECC and Former Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics & Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre - "Meeting the growing clean energy needs of India - a new paradigm for prosperity", 18th February 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- ▶ Adda Session : "Feluda-r Sathe", 20th February 2013, Chamber premises
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber Delegation to Myanmar, 20th-23rd February 2013
- ▶ Application of Technology in Education: Business Session and Exposition, 22nd February 2013, Chamber premises
- ▶ Annual Bengal Chamber IT Quiz, 23rd February 2013, Chamber premises