



Newsletter



Look East

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from the desk of the PRESIDENT

5th April 2011



Dear Member,

We have begun a new financial year. This is the time for all of us, in our respective organizations, to put in operation the plans for the year ahead that we have developed. All of us are looking forward to a better and a brighter 2011-12.

Your Chamber is faced with a similar task. The Bengal Chamber broke new ground in many areas this past year. While such activities would continue in earnest, the Chamber will also unlock newer value added services that it shall offer to our stakeholders. Our engagement with various agencies of the Government and civil society, as well as the academia, is set to deepen and many new windows on newer realms of engagement would also be opened. The Chamber has commenced the new year on a very strong footing scripting newer genres of programmes like the "Think..." series of lectures in which eminent personalities address the Chamber members and invitees on a diverse range of subjects and continuing with its regular interfaces / seminars / workshops.

In the month gone by, the Chamber heard Mr. Paranjy Guha Thakurta, a noted media personality, talk about a most thought-provoking and in fact, controversial and challenging subject, "Corruption in Indian media". The Chamber also met with teams from the International Finance Corporation and the Australian High Commission in keeping with its role of engaging with foreign missions and multilateral agencies on matters of business / economic progress of the East.

A number of exciting projects are lined up for the immediate future, more of which we shall discuss in the forthcoming editions of the Bengal Chamber Newsletter.

Sd/-
SANDIPAN CHAKRAVORTTY
President

MEMBERS' NEWS CORNER

Welcome to the Bengal Chamber family! That's what we would like to convey to Elbee Securities Pvt. Ltd. and Tower Infotech Limited whose applications for membership were tabled and approved by the Managing Committee at its meeting on 9th March 2011.



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NEWS FLASH

ROYAL EXCHANGE, HOME OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER AND A HERITAGE BUILDING IS NOW ILLUMINATED IN THE EVENINGS

The President of the Chamber, Mr. Sandipan Chakravortty while inaugurating the illuminations of the Chamber building. He is flanked by Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber (right) and Dr. R P Banerjee, Director and Dean, EILM (left)

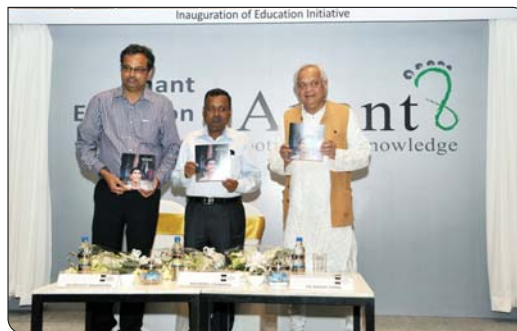


▼ The illuminated Chamber building



NEWS FLASH

A NEW CSR INITIATIVE OF INFINITY, A KEY MEMBER OF THE CHAMBER, WHICH PLAYS A LEADING ROLE IN CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES



Anant Education Initiative, created to empower education and eliminate poverty, was launched on 26th March 2011 at ITC Sonar by Padma Bhusan Dr Bikash Sinha, Homi Bhabha Professor, the distinguished Chair of Department of Atomic Energy and

Shri Ravindra Chamaria, Chairman & Managing Director of Infinity Infotech Parks Limited. This is a CSR initiative of Infinity.

Anant's vision is to promote and reach higher education to deserving students



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

from the **economically weaker sections of the society irrespective of any cast, creed or race.** **Anant** will offer merit scholarships to a large number of meritorious students from the economically weaker sections of the society initially from **rural and urban areas of North & South 24 Parganas and Kolkata.** **Anant** will commence operations from this year 2011 by disbursing merit scholarships to Higher Secondary passed students from economically weaker sections of the society who have

secured at least 70% marks for future studies in the fields of graduation, engineering, medical, engineering law etc. **Anant** intends to disburse 50% of the total number of scholarships to deserving meritorious girl students. In the first year 100 merit scholarships of minimum total worth Rs 10 lakhs will be disbursed and the corpus would be scaled up subsequently. Besides, **Anant** also aspires to provide supporting educational infrastructure, to facilitate higher education and provide

vocational training and motivational workshops to help in overall moral, personality and life style development of such students.



PROGRAMMES

9TH MARCH 2011, PALLADIAN LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

THE BENGAL CHAMBER AND KKN GROUP PRESENTED, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE TELEGRAPH POWERED BY SEAGRAMS, THE THIRD EDITION OF THINK SERIES OF LECTURES – MR. PARANJOY GUHA THAKURTA SPEAKING ON “CORRUPTION IN INDIAN MEDIA”

Noted media personality, Mr. Paranjoy Guha Thakurta addressed Chamber members on “Corruption in Indian Media” in the third session of “Think”, presented by The Bengal Chamber and KKN Group, in association with The Telegraph and powered by Seagrams. Other partners were Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Limited and Tata Metaliks Limited.

Mr. Guha Thakurta spoke on the perceived negative role of Media, and how Media, at times, joins hands with Business and Political entities in an effort to create news which sells. He started his lecture in his inimitable style with the observation that media, being a part of a corrupt society, cannot but be corrupt. From this, he moved on to talk about how the representation of Journalism and Journalists has undergone a radical change. Unafraid to take names, he observed, at length how India’s leading media house institutionalized corruption by initiating a service, which allowed people to publish their news for a fee. The private treaties scheme, according to Mr. Guha Thakurta, took corruption to the next level, as it allowed the media group to buy equity stakes in certain companies that advertised in their publications. As a natural corollary to this, the group’s business interests in those companies made them write positive articles only about those companies, which led to not very ethical journalism, as per Mr Guha Thakurta.

However, during the Q&A session that followed, Mr. Guha Thakurta also spoke about a few very senior journalists who were very honest to their profession.



▲ L-R: At the dais, Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty, President, The Bengal Chamber; Seated: Mr. Kausshik Kumar Nath, Director, KKN Group; Mr. Paranjoy Guha Thakurta; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Harsh K Jha, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber

▼ Mr. Paranjoy Guha Thakurta during his talk



▲ The session in progress

PROGRAMMES

11TH MARCH 2011, CHAMBER PREMISES

TALK SHOW, "FRESH OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOL-LEAVING STUDENTS AND EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORY LAUNCH



The Bengal Chamber, in association with JIS Group Educational Initiatives, presented a Talk Show, "Fresh Opportunities for School-Leaving Students" on 11th March. The objective was to help students graduating from Class X and XII learn more about opportunities on offer in their pursuit of higher education. The Talk Show was attended by Prof. Sabyasachi Sengupta, Vice Chancellor of West Bengal University of Technology (WBUT) and Prof. Pradip Narayan Ghosh, Vice Chancellor of Jadavpur University. The Talk Show was followed by the launch of the educational directory "What Next" by eminent educationist, Dr. Bharati Ray.

◀ Releasing the Education Directory, "What next?": L-R: Prof. Pradip Narayan Ghosh, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University; Dr. Bharati Ray; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber, Mr. Taranjit Singh, Managing Director, JIS Group; Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh, General Manager, Corporate Communications, JIS Group



▲ Prof. Sabyasachi Sengupta, Vice Chancellor, WBUT



PROGRAMMES

The programme in progress ▶

14TH MARCH 2011, CHAMBER PREMISES

MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION, NEW DELHI



Ms. Sarah Kirlaw, Second Secretary and Ms. Chiara Porro, Third Secretary, Australian High Commission, New Delhi met Mr. P Roy, Director General of the Chamber and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director to learn more about the business and economic scenario in West

Bengal in the run-up to the Assembly Elections. The discussions also covered furthering business cooperation and areas of focus for economic cooperation between West Bengal and Australia and the role that the Chamber could play in this regard.

◀ The meeting in progress



▲ L-R: Ms. Sarah Kirlaw and Ms. Chiara Porro

HAPPENINGS AT THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE

8TH MARCH 2011
AT THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE



An evening of fusion music with Pandit Subroto Roy Chowdhury and The Brooklyn Duo



11TH MARCH 2011, CHAMBER PREMISES

MEETING WITH IFC ON REGIONAL INVESTMENT FEASIBILITY FUND (OR CHALLENGE FUND)

Mr. Sukhwinder Arora, Principal Consultant, Financial and Private Sector Development, Oxford Policy Management and Mr. Sushanta Kumar Pal, Operations Officer, International Finance Corporation, IFC (Kolkata Office) met Mr. P Roy, Director General and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director of the Bengal Chamber to discuss the proposed Regional Feasibility Fund (or Challenge Fund) as part of the South Asia Regional Trade and Investment Project of the

IFC. The objective of IFC was to create a fund for entrepreneurs engaged in cross-border economic/business linkages and share initial risks and costs with the private sector enterprises on a competitive basis to accelerate cross border trade and investment oriented business linkages in South Asia.

The objective of the meeting with the Chamber was to initiate dialogue to elaborate on the

rationale and scope of a competitive fund (core challenge fund concept). The method and procedure were discussed in details. The Chamber could act as a nodal agency for collecting the ideas and would be in constant engagement with the potential participants. The Chamber could organize a seminar and provide logistics support for it.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

The Bengal Chamber sponsoring "Hello Daktarbabu" programme focusing on Prostrate Disease Awareness on Doordarshan on 6th April 2011

Interactive Session with Shri R K Pachnanda, IPS, Commissioner of Kolkata Police, 7th April 2011, Chamber premises

The Bengal Chamber and KKN Group present, in association with The Telegraph powered by Seagrams, the next edition of Think Series of Lectures – Dr. Kaushik Basu, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India speaking on "India at Crossroads – Managing Inflation and Sustaining Growth", 7th April 2011, Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises

Workshop on Service Tax, 7th April 2011, Chamber premises

Ritu-O-Raag, 12th April 2011, Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises

A collage of dance, music and narration based on classical Raagas and Rabindrasangeet, representing six seasons – We would be felicitating some leading ladies of Bengal on the occasion

Poila Boishakh programme presented by The Bengal Chamber and United Spirits Limited, 14th – 17th April 2011, City Clubs

Workshop on "Knowledge Updation on ESI Act", 18th April 2011, Chamber premises

Launching of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Cell of The Bengal Chamber, 23rd April 2011, Chamber premises

The Bengal Chamber and Calcutta Business School present Evolve Series of Panel Discussions, first edition with the theme, "Towards a Resurgent Bengal", 29th April 2011, Chamber premises

Workshop on Business Continuity Management with KPMG, April 2011, Chamber premises

Health Quiz, end May 2011 (tentative), Chamber premises