



from the desk of the
PRESIDENT



6th December, 2016

Dear Member,

Soon after my last message addressed to you, the country underwent a paradigm shift owing to announcements by the Hon'ble PM of demonetising legal tender of denominations INR 500 and INR 1000, which account for 86% of India's monetary base.

Demonetization affects the economy through the liquidity side. Demonetization technically is a liquidity shock; a sudden stop in terms of currency availability and hence, its impact is being felt so widely. It creates a situation where lack of currencies jams consumption, investment, production, employment etc. In this context, the exercise may produce following short term/long term/, consumption/investment, welfare/growth impacts on the Indian economy. The intensity of demonetization effects clearly depends upon the duration of the liquidity shocks.

Demonetization is a generation's memorable experience and is going to be one of the most significant economic events of our time.

Meanwhile, coming to Chamber issues, the programmes and activities were unabated and stretched across international territories. The Bengal Chamber visited Moscow and Florence on invitations from OPORA Russia and The Indian Embassy Rome respectively. As the helmsman of Trade and Commerce in the region, we are greatly enthused by the potentiality we found for business collaborations between Russia, Italy and West Bengal and have endeavoured to take the relationships forward. Cutting across domains from Health to Pulses, from Shipping to Taxation, the Chamber is steadfast and is in continuous pursuit of maintaining and enhancing its relevance to the community and its constituents.

Wishing you all a wonderful New Year of 2017 !

Sd/-
Sutanu Ghosh
President

Announcing

Source : Newspaper reports

Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, The Immediate Past President of The Bengal Chamber, along with other experts will be part of a 20 member body which is to be chaired by The Hon'ble CM. This is a transformation of The West Bengal Planning Board and will now be called The West Bengal Public Policy and Planning Board. The body is deemed as Bengal's new "Think Tank" and has also been assigned to prepare a vision document for the State and chalk out a long-term mission plan.



NEWS FLASH

ABP News channel had held their 6th Healthcare Awards at Taj Lands End Mumbai on 23rd November 2016.

Medica Group of Hospitals, Corporate Member of the Chamber, had its nominations in three categories:

Best CSR of the year

Best Outreach Programme at Rural Areas

Best Healthcare Entrepreneur award for the year

For each of these, Medica's initiatives, that were presented, were:

- CSR- karma/arma/jarma/ women valet parking
- Outreach Programme in rural areas - MFD where patients from landlocked areas are treated.
- Healthcare Entrepreneur of the year- Dr. Alok Roy, Chairman, Medica Group of Hospitals.

Medica won in the first and third categories, while in the second category they were awarded a Certificate of Merit.

This feat would not have been possible without the help of certain individuals. Medica takes this opportunity to thank them for their continuous support:

Ms. Manjula Singh and Mr. Sudeep Bhatyacharjee for helping with all information, statistics and pictures related to CSR.

Dr. Bharadwaj and his team for all information, figures and pictures related to MFD.

Ms. Dorothy Singha and Ms. Soma Chatterjee for collating and sharing all data for the Chairman.

Last but not the least, Dr. Roy, for his continuous support and having faith in the team.



Ms Soma Chakraborty and Ms. Lopamudra Dutta take care of the Awards and Recognitions for Medica Hospitals. They are with the trophies (Ms. Dutta on the left and Ms. Chakraborty on the right).

NEWS FLASH

Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals (AGH), Kolkata have been blazing a trail of Awards in various forums in 2016. President and CEO ER, Apollo Hospitals Group, India, Dr. Rupali Basu was reflecting on the 13-year journey that had led to the establishment of AGH as the strongest pillar of holistic healthcare in Eastern India. AGH brought together world class infrastructure, equipment, people, and systems to serve the people of Eastern India with end-to-end tertiary healthcare. The institution grew with a continuous drive for expanding knowledge, introducing the latest technologies, and building a culture of compassion and care and recognition has followed. The awards won in the last year are :

1. **Chanakya Award for National Achievers-2016** : 22nd January 2016, Kolkata Innovative Leadership Award
2. **Healthcare and Fitness Leadership Awards** : 20th February, 2016, Mumbai
3. **Hospital Management Asia Awards** : Ho Chi Minh City 5 categories and Best Hospital 7-8th September, 2016
4. **CMO Asia (National Awards for Excellence in Healthcare)** - 5 Categories : 24th June, 2016, Mumbai
5. **Asia Healthcare Excellence Awards (CMO Asia)** - 2 categories : 4th-5th August 2016, Singapore



6. **Medicall Healthcare Innovations Awards 2016 - 4 categories** : 22-24th July, 2016, Chennai

7. **ABP News Presents Healthcare Leadership Awards 2016 - 6 categories** : 23rd November, 2016, Mumbai

8. **International Healthcare Summit and Awards 2016** : 30th November, 2016; New Delhi Best Innovation & Research in Healthcare of the Year

9. **Frost and Sullivan PERP Awards 2016 - 2 categories** : 9th November, 2016, Mumbai

There has been personal recognition for the dynamic Dr. Basu too in the year in the form of

- Dasabhuja Bangali Award in Medicine-2016 from Bangiya Sahitya Sansad,
- Ananya Shiropa Samman 2016 presented by Ajkal,
- Bhartiya Chikitsak Ratan Award for Best Performance 2016 presented by The Economic for Health and Educational Growth
- Savvy Honours Power Award in 2016
- Society ICON Award in 2016





As you may be aware that BCC&I offered its services since inception in the matter of dispute resolution of the business and trade community pertaining to their dealings and transactions. After the Indian Arbitration Act, 1940 came into force, BCC&I had constituted its Tribunal of Arbitration which had its own separate rules of Arbitration. The dispute resolution mechanism of BCC&I was particularly popular in the Gunny trade and Jute Industry. The Indian Arbitration Act, 1940 has since been repealed and Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has come into force and the dispute resolution mechanism has been widened into three segments namely i) Arbitration ii) conciliation and iii) Mediation.

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 encourages Institutional Dispute Resolution mechanism, the advantages whereof would serve the purpose of the new act, namely, i) it is independent ii) it is cost effective and iii) it is speedy.

ADR Service of BCC&I were re-launched during the National Conference on “Proposed Amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and ADR” held on April 23, 2011. The Bengal Chamber has, as its partners, the Bar Council of UK and Wales for international ADR with the objective of developing Kolkata as a major ADR centre like London and Singapore.



The Chamber offers its heritage and yet refurbished and convenient infrastructure to serve the ADR Cell. The Chamber’s panel of Arbitrators comprises competent, reputed, established and experienced persons from the world of business and commerce, and professionals from almost all professions, including the legal luminaries, both from Bench (retired judges of High Court) and the Bar.

The Chamber draws the attention of all members as well as non-members to make the greatest use of our ADR Services. The ADR Rules of the BCC&I are available for viewing at our website, www.bengalchamber.com. Whilst we already have panel members registered with us, with this end in view, we would like to invite you to also come forward and be a part of Bengal Chamber’s Panel of Arbitrators / Mediators. The Chamber would be benefited by your vast experience which, of course, would be remunerated on professional basis.

MEMBERS’ NEWS CORNER

Welcome to the Bengal Chamber family! That’s what we would like to convey to Ado Additives Mfg. Pvt. Ltd., Charnock Hospitals Pvt. Ltd., Landis + Gyr Limited and Re-emerging World Consulting Private Limited whose applications for membership were tabled and approved by the Managing Committee at its meeting on 27th October 2016. At the same meeting, Mr. Suwendu Seth, Transport Planning & Road Safety Consultant (Member, CEAI) was inducted as an Individual Professional Member.

Towards the above objective, we would request you to please advise and include in all agreements and contracts the following in the Dispute Resolution Clause :

“Any dispute or difference arising out of or touching or concerning this contract including its construction, scope, implication, performance, effect, validity, breach thereof or for determining any claim, right or liability of the parties hereunder may, before referring the same to adjudication, be first referred to Arbitration / Conciliation / Mediation Cell of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in accordance with its Rules of Arbitration, Conciliation & Mediation and subject to the provisions of Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 or any statutory amendment thereof from time to time in force.”

We look forward to your support in using our value added services as requested above. We would reiterate that the above service are not only available to member companies but also to other Corporates / Organizations as well. For any information / clarification, you are requested to please contact **Mr. A K Sengupta (Cell : 99033 43146 / email to : aksg@bengalchamber.com)**.

The “Calcutta Talks” are a specially designed lecture series on Kolkata, in the backdrop of our “Calcutta Gallery”. It is instituted to awaken our collective consciousness about our very own Kolkata and also to bring all facets, snippets and a window to our beloved Kolkata, capturing the city’s unique tryst with its destiny as one of the world’s leading metropolises.

The inaugural edition of the Talk, which took place on 4th November 2016 at the Chamber premises, was marked by eminent speakers and a very decorous audience which possessed enormous knowledge and interest about the grand old metropolis called Calcutta. Shri Alapan Bandyopadhyay, IAS, Principal Secretary, Transport, Government of West Bengal was the keynote speaker. Mr. Bandyopadhyay mesmerized the audience with his astonishing orating skill. His keynote speech was on “Municipal Heritage of Kolkata”. Shri Bandyopadhyay who was the Municipal Commissioner of Kolkata Corporation for four years, possesses profound knowledge of the city’s heritage and history. His keynote speech interestingly focused on the underground history of our grand city.

He said, “When we talk about municipal heritage, my central hypothesis or my central contention is that, particularly in the second half of the late nineteenth century, Calcutta’s municipalization was characterized by certain global concerns relating to public health, mingled with certain local concerns also, which were related to imperial racism. The global and the local both together gave birth to some activities and systems and works and institutions, which have their signatures on many of our premises, installations, utilities, pipes, sewers, which we have inherited, which continue to exist as our heritage, but whom we don’t describe as our heritage. Seldom do we realize that our heritage often lies in our water pipelines also. It was our myopia which did not allow us to see the global in our local. But now that the global is being rediscovered in our locals, we will be profitably noting that the global concerns which gave birth to Calcutta’s municipal heritage were indeed universal concerns of the whole nineteenth-century world. The concern was for the community to protect its health. The problem of public health was inherent in the new industrial civilization. The same process that created the market economy, the factory, and the modern urban environment also brought into being the health problems that made necessary new means of disease prevention and health protection. The Fever Committee of Calcutta Municipal

Corporation had engineered a lot of municipal measures in nineteenth-century Calcutta. Calcutta was not unique – a series of epidemic fevers, globally, had brought into being several things. What I am trying to say is, the concerns of the City Fathers of Calcutta for municipal experiments with public health, in a manner of speaking, arrows largely out of a global concern, of the industrializing West in the nineteenth century, with sanitary movement and public health.”

Renowned Advocate Shri Anindya Mitra, President Ananya Onnomon, the programme partners of the Chamber, shared his vivid and thrilling memories of grand old Calcutta in his speech. Mr Indrajit Sen, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed the intellectuals of the city and also appealed to the august gathering for active participation in the Chamber’s initiative to work on the City’s grand heritage. Mr Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry explained how such a talk series on Kolkata was ideated and its significance for building the future. Mr Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry spoke both on the Calcutta Gallery and Calcutta Talks and especially why the Chamber felt the need for such initiatives.

During the interactive session at the end, the erudite audience suggested interesting areas on which “Calcutta Talks” could be premised in the future. Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce announced that the Chamber would organize talks on all suggested topics under the “Calcutta Talks” series and finally a book would be published with the keynote speeches.



Shri Alapan Bandyopadhyay, IAS, Principal Secretary, Transport Department, Government of West Bengal, a connoisseur of Kolkata’s history and heritage enjoying a moment at the Chamber’s Calcutta Gallery.

4th November 2016
Chamber Premises

Calcutta Talks



Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomes the guests for the Talks



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber elaborates the background of the Chamber's initiative to constitute a talk series



The illustrious audience



The decorous audience at the inaugural edition of "Calcutta Talks"



Mr. Indrajit Sen, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering his speech at the "Calcutta Talks"



Advocate Shri Anindya Kumar Mitra, President, Ananya Onnomon delivering his speech



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry introduces the "Calcutta Talks"



Shri Alapan Bandyopadhyay, IAS, Principal Secretary, Transport, Government of West Bengal delivers his keynote speech

PROGRAMME

Interactive Session on Development of Capital Goods Sector in the Eastern Region

4th November 2016
IIT, Kharagpur

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT, Kharagpur) organized a half-day interactive session with Shri Babul Supriyo, Hon'ble Minister of State, Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Government of India on 4th November 2016 at IIT, Kharagpur. Shri Vishvajit Sahay, Joint Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Government of India and Prof Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Director, IIT, Kharagpur were also present in the session.

The objective of the programme was to apprise the industry representatives about the initiatives taken by the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Government of India about setting up a Centre of Excellence in the Eastern region at IIT, Kharagpur for the development of Capital Goods Sector in the Eastern region, especially for and involving the MSMEs. The Bengal Chamber participated in the programme after being specially invited by the Department of Heavy Industry and was requested to bring a relevant delegation to the meeting at IIT Kharagpur. The Chamber had also held a meeting with Shri Sahay in Delhi.

The Government has taken this initiative in line with the Scheme of "Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Capital Goods Sector". There were around 70 representatives from various industries. The Bengal Chamber presented its observations and suggestions on the scheme at the meeting.



Shri Babul Supriyo, Hon'ble Minister of State, Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Government of India with Shri Vishvajit Sahay, Joint Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Government of India sitting on his immediate right and Prof Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Director, Indian Institute of Technology sitting on his immediate left



The participants present in the interactive session. Mr. Debkumar Basu, Chairman, Manufacturing and MSME Development Committee, BCC&I is second from right (seated at the table). Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber, is third from right, seated beside Mr. Basu

India Meets Tuscany : Business Summit

8th November, 2016
Florence, Italy

Confindustria Industrie, in association with the Indian Embassy, Rome, organized a business meet between India & Tuscany in Florence, with a specific focus on Business collaborations in Fashion, Mechanical Engineering & Life Sciences sectors.

The MSME Department, Government of West Bengal, presented West Bengal as a possible Investment destination. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rajiva Sinha, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, MSME & Textiles, Government of West Bengal spoke on West Bengal's inherent locational advantages, and highlighted the many investment opportunities present in WB which could be of interest to Italian Companies. Dr. Sinha highlighted the inherent advantages that West Bengal offered to potential investors particularly in the areas of

Urban Infrastructure, IT (both Hardware & Software), ITeS, Maritime as well as MSMEs. Dr. Sinha also elaborated on the key initiatives of the State Government with special emphasis on e-Governance, the Simplified Tax Regime in the State, Industrial Promotion Initiatives of the State, Single Window clearance systems, etc. He requested Italian companies to look seriously at West Bengal, and requested all present to be a part of the forthcoming Bengal Global Business Summit 2017.

The Bengal Chamber was also a part of this programme, and took active part in the deliberations with some Italian companies with special interests in the Manufacturing domain.

PROGRAMME

India Meets Tuscany : Business Summit

8th November, 2016
Florence, Italy



The Business Session in progress



Director, Bengal Chamber, Mr Smarajit Purkayastha, with Dr Madan Mohan Sethi, First Secretary, Commercial, Indian Embassy, Rome

Visit to Russia

7th November to
12th November 2016

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Moscow, Russia on invitation from OPORA Russia from 7th to 12th November 2016.

OPORA Russia, Moscow is the regional department of the Russian non-government organization for small and medium entrepreneurs. It works efficiently in a whole range of the areas to execute its key tasks covering representation of the interests of small and medium businesses in Russia and in Moscow. Their goals include the improvement of the existing relevant legislations in Russia, protection of the entrepreneurs' rights and interests and interacting with various authorities with the objective being addressing the issues confronting MSMEs in Russia.

The visit was organized with active support from the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata.

Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director visited along with Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Managing Committee Member, The Bengal Chamber and Director, JIS Group- the Chief Patron of the Chamber along with his colleague, Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh, Vice President-Corporate Relations.

Day 1: 8th November 2016

The Chamber representatives attended The International Export Forum – "Made in Russia", organized by the Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow.

The Plenary Session "Russia on the map of world trade – a new paradigm for development" included the following discussion topics:

- The effectiveness of the Russian system for supporting exports
- Russia's current place in global trade
- Barriers for Russian exports



L-R: Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry ; Mrs. Veronika Peshkova, OPORA Russia; Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh, Vice President-Corporate Relations, JIS Group; Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Managing Committee Member, The Bengal Chamber and Director, JIS Group and Mr Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry at The International Export Forum – "Made in Russia", organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Centre, Moscow

- Russia's prospects for integration into global trade chains, international cooperation and integration
- New format of exports: exporting services

The discussion's participants included: First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Igor Shuvalov; Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Denis Manturov; CEO of the Russian Export Center, Mr. Petr Fradkov; Member of the Board and Minister for Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission, Ms. Veronika Nikishina; and, CEO of the Agency for Strategic Initiatives, Mr. Andrey Nikitin. Mr. Valery Fadeyev, Editor-in-Chief, Expert Magazine moderated the Session.

**7th November to
12th November 2016**

Visit to Russia

The other Sessions of the Forum included :

- Master Class by the Education Project of Russian Export Center
- Presentation of the new project “Online database of export statistics on Russian regions”
- Panel Session “Seeking new points of growth- exporting services”
- Panel Session “Exporting Non-Commodity Goods as part of shaping Russia’s image in the world”
- Practical seminar on certification of Russian goods

- Panel Session “Foreign trade education – a tool to kickstart exporting”
- Panel Session “E-commerce – high priority for exports”

On the sidelines of the Forum, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce had a meeting with Mr. Konshin Mikhail, International Sales Department Head, Sady Pridonia Group of Companies, Russian producer of natural juices and natural baby food (puree) made of natural fruits and vegetables. The Chamber assured assistance to him in connecting with potential distributors/retailers in India.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh at The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow



Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury at The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow



First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Igor Shuvalov



Plenary Session of The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow



Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh and Mr. Simarpreet Singh at The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow



Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh at The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow

Day 2 : 9th November 2016

The following meetings were held on the Day 2: 9th November 2016 : ● Moscow State University Science Park ● Russian Franchise Association (RFA) ● Indian Embassy in Moscow

● **Moscow State University Science Park**

Mr. Vasily Petrechenko, Deputy CEO, Moscow State University Science Park met the Chamber representatives. The meeting commenced with an introduction of the Science Park.

MSU Science Park is the oldest of the operating technoparks in Russia. MSU Science Park provides office and laboratory premises in the centre of Moscow in the close vicinity to the best University in Russia, the Moscow State University. One hundred twenty technological (IT, industrial engineering, medical devices and oil & gas services) companies are the residents of the Science Park.

Residents of the Science Park undertake joint studies with MSU laboratories with the involvement of the University graduates. A number of centres for collective use equipped with the State-of-the-Art equipment are operating at MSU including centres for preclinical trials, nano-materials, materials testing and others.

A Letter of Intent was requested from the Science Park expressing interest of working together following which the two organizations may share details about their projects to identify the suitable one(s).

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry separately proposed an institutional partnership with the Science Park. The Chamber requested the Science Park to share their updates on various innovations taking place in their eco-system which the Chamber will circulate among their



Chamber representatives with Mr. Vasily Petrechenko, Deputy CEO, Moscow State University Science Park

● **Russian Franchise Association (RFA)**

The Meeting was held in the office of Baskin Robbins Russia. Dr. Agnessa Osipova, President, Baskin Robbins (Russia) received the Chamber representatives. She is also the President of RFA. She mentioned that the markets of both the countries are developing. There lies significant scope for businesses in both the countries to explore contacts for business enhancement.

The Chamber briefed about the historical linkage shared by West Bengal with Russia and the State's strategic location. The Chamber also mentioned about its stakeholders who



At Moscow State University Science Park

members and stakeholders for match making.

Two of the residents made presentations on their innovations.

LighTiO: It produces coatings for the greenhouses. The same may be used for cars - side mirrors, side windows, head lights and others. The solution may be used for buildings in India with glass walls. This will save resources involved for cleaning the walls. The Chamber mentioned that the proposal may be circulated to its members and stakeholders in the domain of construction.

Naftobioclean: They provide solutions for water treatment for industrial and storm drains. Their usage is in :

- o Airfields and airports
- o Thermal Power Stations
- o Car Parking Areas
- o Others

The solution does not work for arsenic treatment. It may be used for treating water borne effluents from chemical plants and the above mentioned work spaces. The Chamber enquired whether the same may be used for treating water flowing from leather parks. The concerned person indicated that the same was possible but water sample test would provide a better feedback.

The Chamber made an introduction of West Bengal and the activities of the Bengal Chamber. Some other projects were briefly discussed in the IT domain like online portal for private tutors.



Meeting with Russian Franchise Association (RFA) at Baskin Robbins Russia

**7th November to
12th November 2016**



Chamber representatives at Baskin Robbins Russia

are in the business domain of hyper markets with whom discussions may be initiated to import consumable goods from Russia.

The Chamber proposed to form an institutional partnership with RFA to share updates from stakeholders/members of both organizations for mutual benefits. This may be an online platform. Nodal persons from both organizations would be nominated.

RFA mentioned that a catalogue would be published by them with the details of various franchises. A sample of an existing catalogue was shared. They offered that the publication may also include Indian organizations interested to work in Russian market as franchise holders.

The Chamber representatives were also escorted to a tour in the production centre of Baskin Robbins.

• Indian Embassy in Moscow

The Chamber representatives visited the Indian Embassy in Moscow and met Shri Pankaj Saran, Ambassador, Embassy of India in Moscow and Shri K D Dewal, First Secretary (HOC and Commercial), Indian Embassy in Moscow.

The Ambassador received the Chamber representatives very warmly and expressed his great appreciation to the Chamber for visiting Russia. The Chamber briefed the Ambassador about its activities especially about its outreach activities. The Director General mentioned that there had been a steady increase of interest, among the members, to explore the overseas markets.

The Ambassador mentioned that the Economic and Commercial Sections of the Embassy had been strengthened. The Ambassador advised that participating in mega programmes in Russia is a way of exploring participation in the Russian market. The Chamber may explore bringing delegations to participate in such programmes in St. Petersburg and Vladivostok. Some of the focus areas are:

- Pharmaceuticals • Agro • Minerals • Chemicals
- Others

The Embassy offered to provide guidance on sectors of exports from India to Russia. The Ambassador also mentioned that

both the countries have to be made aware about business potentiality of each other. The Chamber may play a role to address this gap.

The Ambassador advised that collaborations with some Regions (apart from Moscow) may be explored. Showcasing West Bengal to the Regions of Russia was also recommended. He assured all support from the Embassy for Chamber's initiatives in Russia. Some of the sectors which have significant potentiality are:

- Restaurants • Yoga • Ayurveda • Textiles • Tea

He also mentioned about :

- Cyber Security • Defence – manufacturing of components



Chamber representatives with Shri Pankaj Saran, Ambassador, Embassy of India in Moscow



Representatives from The Bengal Chamber of Commerce of Industry and OPORA, Russia with Shri K D Dewal, First Secretary (HOC and Commercial), Indian Embassy in Moscow.

Day 3: 10th November 2016

Meetings on Day 3 included :

- Meeting with Ministry of Economic Development
- Meeting with Ulyanovsk Region
- Meeting with Ministry of Economic Development

The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Natalia N. Strigunova, Deputy Director, Asia, Africa and Latin America Department, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation. Representatives from OPORA Russia; Moscow State University and other stakeholders including a senior functionary from

the Region of Tatarstan also participated in the Meeting. The Deputy Director provided an overview of the business landscape in Russia and possible areas of collaborations between businesses of Russia and West Bengal. The Director General made a presentation on West Bengal and the possible areas of collaboration. Tea, engineering and logistics were discussed in particular.

● **Meeting with Ulyanovsk Region**

The Chamber representatives met the representatives from the Government and business fraternity of Ulyanovsk Region. The delegation from Ulyanovsk Region was headed by Her Excellency Ms. Tatyana Murdasova, Deputy Governor to Ulyanovsk Region. Mr. Igor Rybikov, Deputy Director,

Ulyanovsk Region Development Corporation was also present. Mr. Rybikov made a presentation on “Doing Business in Ulyanovsk Region”.

The Meeting continued with presentations from some innovative enterprises:

- ZAO PromServis- Energy saving, diagnostics, expertise
- Industrial Group: MICROELECTRONIC SENSORS
- G C Tools, Ltd.
- Development of Federal Multifunctional Roadside Service Complex (MFC) «Travel Park
- Tourism and Recreation Area: Handicrafts Centre
- Treatment and Diagnostic Centre for Rehabilitation and Restorative Medicine in Dimitrovgrad, Ulyanovsk Region



Meeting in progress with Ministry of Economic Development of The Russian Federation



Mr Subhodip Ghosh making a presentation on Bengal at the meeting with the Ministry of Economic Development of The Russian Federation



Meeting with Ulyanovsk Region



Meeting in progress with Ministry of Economic Development of The Russian Federation.



Chamber representatives with Her Excellency Ms. Tatyana Murdasova, Deputy Governor to Ulyanovsk Region and Mr. Igor Rybikov, Deputy Director, Ulyanovsk Region Development Corporation

Day 4: 11th November 2016

On Day 4, the Chamber representatives had the following agenda :

- **Workshop on “Recommendations for the Foreign Investors in Russia”**
- **Meeting with Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO**
- **Meeting with Education Sector**

The Team split in two groups - Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Mr. Simarpreet Singh and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury

attended the above mentioned Workshop and the Meeting with Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO. Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh met the representatives of Education sector separately.

• **Workshop on “Recommendations for the Foreign Investors in Russia”**

The Workshop was conducted by Mr. Pavel Gagarin, Chairman of the Board, Gradient Alpha Investments Group. He is an expert in investments, taxation, banking and strategic risk-management. Gradient Alpha Investments Group has 22 years of work experience, being the 13th largest audit company in Russia. They have 2137 successfully implemented projects and among which 97% is drafted according to the need of the clients.

• **Meeting with Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO**

The Chamber representatives met the Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO.

Mr. Alexey Kalinin, Director and Ms. Ekaterina Molchanova, Project Leader, Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO received the Chamber representatives along with their other colleagues.

The Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO is one of the leading private business schools in Russia and the CIS. It was founded in 2006 by members of the business community. The school’s founding partners are 8 Russian and multinational firms and 11 individuals, each a leader of Russian business. The International Advisory Board of the Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO provides strategic advice and participates in shaping the school’s development. The Board includes Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation.

The Institute provides Business Education and undertakes Research. Business Education includes MBA, Executive MBA and Start Up Programmes and Leadership Programmers for SMEs. The theme is how Russia may contribute to the world. The Global IEMS Network is supported by Ernst and Young. MSU has collaboration with ISB Hyderabad in India. The Partners are China Europe International Business School in Shanghai, Hong Kong University of Technology and others. MSU provides advice, education and information to policy makers, industry and society. The focus areas are:

- Rise of Asia and China
- Digital Transformation and Innovation
- Sustainable Business
- Globalization
- Urbanization

The Bengal Chamber also made a presentation on Bengal – its locational advantage and resources and the Chamber’s role in setting up social and educational institutions in West Bengal. The Chamber proposed to work together with SKOLKOVO in areas of mutual interest citing its deep connect with higher education and policy advocacy.

Presentations of some innovative products/services by the residents were made at the Forum as under:

- Cardberry
- Motorica
- Group IB

The Chamber representatives were also invited to the Speaker’s Night organized by SKOLKOVO – a Talk by Dr. Sergei Guriev, Chief Economist of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh had meetings with the Education Sector organized by the Indian Embassy. Dr Abhishek Vaish, (Counsellor – Science and Technology) was present in the Meeting.



Mr. Pavel Gagarin, Chairman of the Board, Gradient Alpha Investments Group



Workshop on “Recommendations for the Foreign Investors in Russia” in progress



Chamber representatives at Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO

PROGRAMME

Visit to Russia

7th November to
12th November 2016



Mr Subhodip Ghosh making a presentation on The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO



Meeting in progress in Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO



Chamber representatives at Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO



Talk by Dr. Sergei Guriev, Chief Economist of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

11th November 2016
Chamber Premises

Annual Shipping Conclave on “Maritime Infrastructure Developments in East and North East India”

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) organized the fifth edition of the annual shipping event with the help and participation of senior representatives from Government, Industry leaders, Policymakers, Researchers, and all Shipping stakeholders. The focus was on, “Maritime Infrastructure Developments in East and North East India”.

The objective was to understand the present status of Maritime Infrastructure in East and North East India and project a growth plan for its Economic development. The

deliberations in this conclave also provided directions for the way ahead in increasing domestic and international trade in East and North East India.

Capt S B Mazumder, Chairperson, Shipping Committee, BCC&I welcomed the inaugural speakers on the dais and Mr Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President, BCC&I delivered the Welcome Speech at the Inaugural Session. The other eminent speakers present on the dais were Shri Pravir Pandey, IA & AS, Vice – Chairman & Project Director

11th November 2016
Chamber Premises

Annual Shipping Conclave on “Maritime Infrastructure Developments in East and North East India”

- Jal Marg Vikas, (IWAI), Ministry of Shipping, Government of India; Shri S Balaji Arunkumar, IRTS, Deputy Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India; Shri S Nishat Ali, IRTS, Group General Manager, Business Development Division, Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL); Shri Shakti Sinha, IAS (Retd), Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library & Chairman, Policy Research Group, Bureau of Research on Industry & Economic Fundamentals (B.R.I.E.F) and Mr Mahboob Ahmed, Managing Director, M/s River Line Logistics & Transport Ltd, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The other key speakers at the seminar were Mr Vikram Nahar, Associate Director, CRISIL Ratings; Mr. Rahul Saikia, Head - Corporate Finance and Investment Banking, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd (PWC); Shri Bharat Bushan Dev Choudhury, Director, Inland Water Transportation (IWT), Government of Assam; Mr. Tamal Roy, President, Business Development & Corporate Strategy, J M Baxi Group (he was the Session Chairperson of Technical Session II); Mr. Amar Nath Dhar, General Manager & Regional Head, Corporate Accounts Group Branch, State Bank of India (SBI); Mr S Varadarajan, Chief Executive Officer, Shreyas Relay Systems Limited, (a member of Transworld Group); Mr Ganesh Prasad

Bagree, Sr Vice President, Infrastructure Project Finance, Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited and Mr Kaustubh Mankad, Managing Director, Mankad & Associates.

Overall, the seminar brought together port users, trade representatives, barge operators/owners/manufacturers, coastal vessel operators/manufacturers/owners, industry representatives, experts, policy makers, researchers and academicians.

The full-day Conclave was an eye-opener for those in the Exim and Domestic Manufacturing Industries, Shipping and Logistics Players, Supply Chain Companies, Barge Operators and Manufacturers, Real Estate Developers, etc as they had a clear understanding of the present and future status of Maritime Infrastructure in the Eastern and North Eastern regions of India.

The Conclave also provided a way forward for furthering developments in Maritime Infrastructure in East and North East India, which in turn would help in the development and growth of maritime trade in the near future.



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta presenting the Welcome Speech



Capt S B Mazumder, Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber delivering his speech. L-R: Seated on the dais: Shri S Balaji Arunkumar, IRTS, Deputy Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India; Mr Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber; Shri S Nishat Ali, IRTS, Group General Manager, Business Development Division, Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL); Shri Shakti Sinha, IAS (Retd), Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library & Chairman, Policy Research Group, Bureau of Research on Industry & Economic Fundamentals (B.R.I.E.F) and Mr Mahboob Ahmed, Managing Director, M/s River Line Logistics & Transport Ltd, Dhaka, Bangladesh



Shri S Nishat Ali, IRTS addressing the session while seated on the dais (L-R): Capt S B Mazumder, Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber; Shri S Balaji Arunkumar, IRTS, Deputy Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust; Shri Pravir Pandey, IA & AS, Vice – Chairman & Project Director - Jal Marg Vikas, (IWAI), Ministry of Shipping, Government of India; Shri Shakti Sinha, IAS (Retd), Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library & Chairman, Policy Research Group, Bureau of Research on Industry & Economic Fundamentals (B.R.I.E.F) and Mr Mahboob Ahmed, Managing Director, M/s River Line Logistics & Transport Ltd, Dhaka, Bangladesh



Shri Shakti Sinha, IAS (Retd) addressing the session

PROGRAMME

Annual Shipping Conclave on "Maritime Infrastructure Developments in East and North East India"

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Mr Mahboob Ahmed addressing the session



Shri Pravir Pandey, IA & AS addressing the session



Shri S Balaji Arunkumar, IRTS addressing the session



Mr Tapas Banerjee, Co – Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber presenting a memento to Shri S Nishat Ali, IRTS



Mr Arup Bandhu Guha, one of the senior members of the Bengal Chamber's Shipping Committee presenting a memento to Shri Pravir Pandey, IA & AS



Mr Ashutosh Jaiswal, one of the senior members of the Bengal Chamber's Shipping Committee presenting a memento to Shri S Balaji Arunkumar, IRTS



Capt Ravi Dey, one of the senior members of the Bengal Chamber's Shipping Committee presenting a memento to Mr Mahboob Ahmed



Mr. Vikram Nahar, Associate Director, CRISIL Ratings addressing while seated on the dais (L-R): Mr. Rahul Saikia, Head - Corporate Finance and Investment Banking, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd (PWC); Shri Bharat Bushan Dev Choudhury, Director, Inland Water Transportation (IWT), Government of Assam; Mr Tamal Roy, President, Business Development & Corporate Strategy, J M Baxi Group (he was the Session Chairperson of Technical Session II); Mr Amar Nath Dhar, General Manager & Regional Head, Corporate Accounts Group Branch, State Bank of India (SBI); Mr S Varadarajan, Chief Executive Officer, Shreyas Relay Systems Limited, (a member of Transworld Group); Mr Ganesh Prasad Bagree, Sr Vice President, Infrastructure Project Finance, Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited and Mr Kaustubh Mankad, Managing Director, Mankad & Associates

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Annual Shipping Conclave on “Maritime Infrastructure Developments in East and North East India”



Mr. Rahul Saikia addressing the session



Mr. Amar Nath Dhar addressing the session



Shri Bharat Bushan Dev Choudhury addressing the session



Mr Ganesh Prasad Bagree addressing the session



Mr Kaustubh Mankad addressing the session



Mr S Varadarajan addressing the session



Mr Tapas Banerjee, presenting a memento to Shri Bharat Bushan Dev Choudhury



Mr. Manas Bose, one of the senior members of the Bengal Chamber's Shipping Committee presenting a memento to Mr Amar Nath Dhar

PROGRAMME

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Mr. Tapas Banerjee, presenting a memento to Mr Kaustubh Mankad



Mr. Praful Tayal, one of the senior members of the Bengal Chamber's Shipping Committee presenting a memento to Mr Rahul Saikia



Mr. Arup Bandhu Guha presenting a memento to Mr Vikram Nahar



Mr. Praful Tayal presenting a memento to Mr Ganesh Prasad Bagree



Mr. Praful Tayal presenting a memento to Mr S Varadarajan



Capt S B Mazumder presenting a memento to Mr Tamal Roy



Delegates present in the conclave.



Delegates present in the conclave.

19th - 20th November 2016
Visva-Bharati, Shantiniketan

Conference on Self Sufficiency in Pulses : Challenges and Way Forward

The Conference was organized jointly with Visva-Bharati and in association with the Government of West Bengal, Department of Agriculture on 19th and 20th November, 2016. Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya was our esteemed Knowledge Partner for this Conference. This was the inaugural edition of our agriculture focused programme and the principal objective was to create a platform for all agriculture stakeholders to discuss, analyze, share best practices and bring forward the opportunities in agriculture and related allied sectors especially production of pulses and technicalities, distribution and marketing support for the farmers. The United Nations has announced 2016 as the International year of Pulses and the conference was organized in Commemoration of the UN's announcement, especially since India is a net importer of pulses, the source of major nutrients and crucial in the context of the Nation's food security.

Our objective was to create a vibrant and most relevant forum for farmers, scientists, the Government, agro-based industries, research scholars and all agriculture stakeholders. This was also a continuation of the Chamber's Agri and Rural Development Committee's ongoing agri-related village-level projects towards improving farm productivity.

The inaugural session of this Conference was graced by Dr. D.D.Patra, Vice-Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya; Prof. (Dr.) Swapan Kumar Datta, Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati University; Dr. Rajeew Kumar Varshney, Director, Centre of Excellence in Genomics, ICRISAT; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber.

Dr. Rajeew Kumar Varshney, Director, Centre of Excellence in Genomics, ICRISAT addressed the Conference on the subject, "Improvement of Pulses: Genome to Field" as the Keynote Speaker. Session I & II, following the Inaugural Session, addressed various aspects of Self Sufficiency in Pulses:

- Self Sufficiency in Pulses: Challenges and Way Forward by Dr. N. P. Singh, Director, IIPR, Kanpur.
- Technology Vision – 2035 by Dr. Gautam Goswami, DST, New Delhi.
- 4R Nutrient Stewardship – A Way Forward towards

Day – 1 (19th November 2016)



Su sustainable Pulse Production by Dr. Sudarshan Datta, IPNI, Kolkata.

- Importance of Zn nutrition in Pulse production by Dr. Soumitra Das, IZA, New Delhi.
- Integrated Breeding approaches to sustain global chickpea productivity under heat stress by Dr. Uday Jha, IIPR, Kanpur.
- Appropriate management practices towards self-sufficiency in pulse production by Prof. Kajal Sengupta, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalyani, West Bengal.
- Resource conservation Technologies and weed management in pulse based cropping systems: Way to achieve the self-sufficiency in Pulses by Dr. C.P. Nath, IIPR, Kanpur.

On the second day of the Conference about 250 farmers were exposed to scientific methods and latest technologies in cultivation of Pulses during farmers-scientists meet. Prof. D.C. Ghosh, Dr. Swapan Kr. Maity, Dr. Suchhanda Mondal, Prof. Chirantan Chattopadhyay, Dr. Ranjan Nath, and Dr. Prahlad Deb interacted with the farmers and clarified their doubts.

Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary & In-Charge – Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal addressed on "Opportunities in the area of Agriculture in West Bengal" in the Valedictory Session. Prof. (Dr.) Chirantan Chattopadhyay, Vice-Chancellor, Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya and Prof. (Dr.) Swapan Kumar Datta, Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati University also delivered their speeches in the Valedictory Session.

Mr. Satyabrata Mukherjee, (Chairperson-Agriculture & Rural Development Committee, The Bengal Chamber) formally thanked all the Speakers, Sponsors & Participants at the successful conclusion of our Chamber's first agriculture focused Conference.

The Conference brought together the Government, the Academia, Agro-based industries, Farmers and Research Scholars – all on a common platform. The Conference had a footfall of nearly 500 participants from the Agriculture Sector especially progressive farmers, scientists, researchers, senior Government officials and the Media.

Seen in the picture (Left to Right) Prof. Sarthak Chowdhury, Principal Pally Siksha Bhavan, Visva-Bharati; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Dr. N. P. Singh, Director, IIPR, Kanpur; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Prof.(Dr.) Swapan Kumar Datta, Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati; Dr. D.D. Patra, Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya; Dr. Rajeew Kr. Varshney, Director, Centre of Excellence in Genomics, ICRISAT, Hyderabad; Prof. Sabujkali Sen, Director, Studies, Educational Innovative & Rural Reconstruction, Visva-Bharati; Prof. Sudhendu Mondal, Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati

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Conference on Self Sufficiency in Pulses : Challenges and Way Forward

19th - 20th November 2016
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Lamp Lighting by Prof. (Dr.) Swapan Kumar Datta, Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati University and Dr. Rajeev Kr. Varshney, Director, Centre of Excellence in Genomics, ICRISAT



Address by Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry in conversation with the media



Address by Dr. Kajal Sengupta, Professor & Head- Department of Agronomy, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya



Address by Dr. C.P. Nath, IIPR, Kanpur



Cultural Programme by Sangeet Bhavan, Visva-Bharati

Day - 2 (20th November 2016)



Farmer-Scientist Interaction



A section of the audience

19th - 20th November 2016
Visva-Bharati, Shantiniketan

**Conference on Self Sufficiency in Pulses :
Challenges and Way Forward**



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry presenting a memento to Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary & In-Charge – Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal



Prof. (Dr.) Swapan Kumar Datta, Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati delivering his speech in the Valedictory Session



Valedictory Address by Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary & In-Charge – Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal



Prof. (Dr.) Chirantan Chattopadhyay, Vice-Chancellor, Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya during his speech



Vote of Thanks by Mr. Satyabrata Mukherjee, Chairperson, Agriculture & Rural Development Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Conclusion of the Conference with "Ashram Sangeet"

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with The Telegraph organized a Think Series Lecture on 21st November 2016 at the Bengal Lounge, Chamber premises. The topic of the discussion was “Proud to be Indian”. Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber delivered the welcome address.

The Chairperson of the Marketing and Brand Committee of the Chamber, Mr. Anoop Hoon talked about the legacy of Asian Paints and shared some information about the Company’s past, its growth trajectories, and shared inputs about how Asian Paints as an Organization modernized itself.

Mr. KBS Anand, MD & CEO, Asian Paints started his discussion with the success stories of Asian Paints. Soon after liberalization, the top management of the company had identified the need for changes in its business policies for holding on to the market share against the Foreign competitors. He mentioned that processes involved for the success of Asian Paints as an organization lay in modernizing the plants, investment in R&D, using extensive IT based processes, studying global competition, understanding the behaviour of today’s consumer, consumer awareness, increasing the distribution network, upgrading and

benchmarking products amongst others. The Company came up with full varieties of home decor instead of just paints in the market, and have reached billions of people through concepts like colour ideas, ezy colour and AP homes. Asian Paints are also engaged in skilling people and is also environment friendly - they continue to use less and less water in their plants. Eventually, with strategic planning and strong value chain system Asian paints have out-competed foreign players and it is now an example of how an Indian company with good intention and determination can showcase their image in the world.



Seated (Left to Right) – Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. KBS Anand, MD & CEO, Asian Paints and Mr Anoop Hoon, Chairperson, Marketing & Brand Committee, The Bengal Chamber



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber, presenting a memento on behalf of The Bengal Chamber to Mr KBS Anand, as Mr Sutanu Ghosh and Mr Anoop Hoon looks on



Mr. KBS Anand, MD & CEO, Asian Paints, addressing the audience

UPCOMING PROGRAMME

Certificate Course on Indirect Taxes (including GST) 18th, 19th, 25th, 26th November, 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th December 2016, Chamber premises

Partnering 31st Indian Engineering Congress on SMART Technologies for Natural Resource Conservation and Sustainable Development, 15th December - 18th December 2016, Hotel JW Marriott

BCC&I EXIM Summit 2016 17th December 2016, Park Plaza Hotel

India International Mega Trade Fair (IIMTF), 17th – 26th December 2016, Science City Grounds

Leadership Lecture Series with Dr. Kaushik Basu, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, World Bank, 23rd December 2016, Chamber premises

BCC&I Financial Summit, 12th-13th January 2017, The Park

Workshop on Film Tourism, 24th January 2017

25th November 2016
Chamber Premises

Interactive Session with H.E. Mr. Asfaw Dingamo, Ambassador, Embassy of Ethiopia in India

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised an interactive session with His Excellency Mr. Asfaw Dingamo, The Ethiopian Ambassador to India on Friday, 25th November at the Chamber premises.

His Excellency Mr. Dingamo was welcomed by The BCC&I President, Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, who delivered the welcome address. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Kiros Hailemariam, Counsellor - I, who also delivered, a comprehensive presentation on Ethiopia and investment opportunities by Indian Industry in Ethiopia. From the Chamber, Mr. Ardhendu Mandal, Chairperson of the International Trade Cell was also present. Amongst the attendees, there were many delegates from the existing investors in Ethiopia.

His Excellency Mr. Dingamo spoke most eloquently about the history and culture of Ethiopia, from its proto-historic emergence in world history, to the reign of the Queen of the Kingdom S'aba, known in literature as Sheba, to its present day emergence as a developing power in the African vis-a-vis international perspective. He stated that Ethiopia is Africa's oldest independent country and its second largest in terms of population. Apart from a five-year occupation by Mussolini's Italy, it has never been colonised. It has a unique cultural heritage, being the home of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church - one of the oldest Christian churches - and a monarchy that ended only in the coup of 1974. It served as a symbol of African independence throughout the colonial period, and was a founder member of the United Nations and the African base for many international organizations. Ethiopia, officially known as the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a Sovereign State located in the Horn of Africa. It shares a border with Eritrea to the north and northeast, Djibouti and Somalia to the east, Sudan and South Sudan to the west, and Kenya to the south. With nearly 100 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the world, as well as the second-most populous nation on the African continent after Nigeria.

Some of the oldest evidence for anatomically modern humans has been found in Ethiopia, which is widely considered the region from which modern humans first set out for the Middle East and places beyond. According to linguists, the first Afro-asiatic-speaking populations settled in the Horn region. Tracing its roots to the 2nd millennium BC, Ethiopia was a monarchy for most of its history. During the first centuries AD, the Kingdom of Aksum maintained a unified civilization in the region, followed by the Ethiopian Empire circa 1137. Ethiopia derived prestige with its uniquely successful military resistance during the late 19th-century Scramble for Africa, becoming the only African country to defeat a European colonial power and retain its sovereignty.

It was in July 1948, India and Ethiopia first established diplomatic relations at the level of legations. The relationship was raised to ambassadorial level four years later in 1952. India maintains an embassy in Addis Ababa and Ethiopia in New Delhi. The two countries have enjoyed close and friendly relations with India supporting Ethiopian developmental efforts while Ethiopia has supported Indian interests such as its claim to a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. India and Ethiopia share a common understanding on such issues as cross-border international terrorism, the need and direction for reform of the United Nations, and the importance of action on Climate Change.

He stated that trade between the two countries is expected to surpass \$1 billion by 2017. Indian exports to Ethiopia consists

of drugs and pharmaceuticals, steel, machinery, food items, plastic and linoleum products, paper, textiles, chemicals, transport equipment and steel. India's imports from Ethiopia include raw hides and skins, pulses, oil seeds, spices, leather and scrap metal. India is Ethiopia's second largest source of Foreign Direct Investments with investments amounting to \$5 billion. Indian investments in Ethiopia are expected to be worth \$10 billion by 2015 with India approving investments worth \$4.78 billion in 2011.

He further stated that India and Ethiopia signed a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement in 2007 and a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement in 2011 to promote mutual trade and investments. At the Second India Africa Forum Summit, the then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced a \$300 million line of credit to help revive the Ethiopia-Djibouti rail route. The Duty Free Tariff Preference scheme that was announced at the summit allowing for imports from Least Developed Countries into India has however had a positive impact on bilateral trade with the value of Ethiopian exports to India now reaching \$120 million. The balance of trade however continues to remain in India's favour. India has also extended \$710 million in lines of credit to help in rural electrification and the revival of the sugar industry in Ethiopia.

Mr. Kiros Hailemariam, Counsellor - I, the diplomatic team member accompanying H.E. the Ambassador explained that labour costs in Ethiopia are 50% cheaper compared to India and power tariffs one-third, and it was a favoured destination because of its favourable political and economic climate. The Ethiopian government is offering attractive incentives to draw foreign investors, such as land on decades-long lease, cheap power and duty-free exports to key markets like the US and Europe. Ethiopia is emerging as a favoured low-cost destination for apparel makers on the lines of Vietnam, Bangladesh and India. It is not only Indian textile companies that are making a beeline for Ethiopia - companies from China, Korea and Turkey too are investing in this African nation.

Indian enterprises, both large and mid-sized, have taken note of the benefits and are setting up manufacturing facilities in Africa's oldest independent country. Fabric-to-apparel maker Raymond has invested \$100 million over the next two-three years for a garmenting unit in Awasa, a lake-side city, which will be one of its largest facilities. Arvind, another Indian textile major, has set up a six-million-piece garment plant in Ethiopia. Mr. Hailemariam further pointed out that, among various factors, the long-term lease for factories that the Ethiopian government offers is one of the main attractive propositions for the company's decision to invest in this east African nation. There is also single-window clearance for industrial projects. Kanoria Textiles, too, is setting up a project there. With its value proposition similar to that of Bangladesh which includes large population, cheap and young labour, Ethiopia also offers cheap power and a highly committed government. Ethiopia, without doubt, is set to be the epicentre of textiles across Africa. Mr. Hailemariam said that roads, railways, consultancy, telecommunication, power, mango plantation and water resource management are the areas where the Indian companies are jointly working with Ethiopian companies. He further stated, "We offer incentives such as tax holidays of one to five years depending on the project location, tax holidays of up to two years on income from expanded projects and unrestricted repatriation of profits, dividends, interest payments from approved projects." Investment activities eligible for income tax exemption are manufacturing or agro-industrial activities or agricultural products, and there are no stipulations

25th November 2016
Chamber Premises

Interactive Session with H.E. Mr. Asfaw Dingamo, Ambassador, Embassy of Ethiopia in India

on foreign investors on re-investing profits or dividend, as long as at least 60 per cent of the output is exported, he added.

For exporters looking at longer term and a bigger picture, investing in Ethiopia is definitely an option. For Ethiopia to be able to integrate and assimilate foreign investment into its economy, the levels of technology and capital intensiveness should be appropriate for a developing economy. India's long experience in developing appropriate technology and in the promotion of small industries could be used by Ethiopia, keeping the above objective in mind. Opportunities for foreign investment in Ethiopia abound in the areas of mineral extraction, agro based industries and light manufacturing. Indian businesses can invest either individually or as a consortium in areas like infrastructure development and mineral extraction. Smaller units can be set up to tap opportunities in areas like leather & leather manufactures and food processing.

This was followed by a very proactive Q/A session, where several attendees from the industries, all of them prospective investors or existing business owners in Ethiopia, asked several questions with focus on Power, Trades, Infrastructures and similar industrial verticals forming a major percentage of the representation. The questions were noted down by HE Ambassador Dingamo, and he addressed all the issues mentioned. A gist of these solutions offered are as follows:

1. In response to the JIS Group, HE Dingamo stated The Ethiopian educational system is a good potential area for Indians. Of course the process of partnering was open to all, but he felt that it would be easy for any educational investor to expand in the country.
2. As regards transmission technology providers, in response to a query raised by the representative from Skipper, the Ambassador spoke of the UAP (Universal Electrical Access Programme) aimed at electrifying Ethiopia to 100% by 2025, and assured that there was good opportunity for investors. However, this would be a totally government owned project, he stated, as there was no private player in the Power or Transmission Sector as yet in Ethiopia.
3. Professor B.K.Chowdhury, HOD, Public Systems - IISWBM spoke of Energy systems prevalent in Ethiopia, as well as existing frameworks guiding the same. The Ambassador replied with the kinds of green initiatives that Ethiopia was taking, inclusive of its general climate conditions, which were extremely affable.
4. DCPL, a major Indian consulting firm operating in Ethiopia for more than two decades raised the issue of non-existence of foreign banks in Ethiopia, to which both Mr. Dingamo and Mr. Hailemariam commented that all the Ethiopian nationalised banks corresponded with all international banks.
5. RTS Power inquired as to whether the tax exemptions extended to existing operators in Ethiopia, to which he received a positive affirmation.
6. Mr. Indrajit Sen, Sr.VP, BCC&I inquired regarding which entity was the equivalent body to be approached to facilitate Ease of Doing Business in Ethiopia. This very relevant query was replied, and the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce's coordinates were shared.

7. Dakshata Technical Academy and Mr.Zariwala also received affirmative responses to their queries regarding expansion opportunities in Skills domain and export of medium voltage switchgears to Ethiopia.

The programme was a great success. The high tea organised by BCC&I at the end of the programme provided excellent opportunities in the way of a networking platform for further exchanges between the overseas dignitaries and the delegates attending the programme.



The Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Asfaw Dingamo (extreme right) and the Counsellor I, Mr. Kiros Hailemariam taking a look at "The Calcutta Gallery" accompanied by the President, Mr. Sutanu Ghosh (extreme left) and the Senior Vice President of the Bengal Chamber, Mr. Indrajit Sen (second from left)



The speakers at the Interactive Session



During the Interactive Session

PROGRAMME

26th November 2016
Chamber Premises

'Deceased Donor Programme - Cadaver Daan'

The Health Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a programme titled, 'Deceased Donor Programme - Cadaver Daan' on 26th November, 2016 in the Chamber premises. The programme had been organized to spread awareness on Cadaveric Transplantation. Cadaveric Transplantation happens when a patient is brain dead and the family decides to donate the person's organs or the family of an accident victim donates the organs. The Chamber, which has stood with Society for over 180 years, feels that this is an area, where it, as a social organization should step in and catalyze the connect between the donor with the hospitals and the Government authorities, more so since the demand for organs is growing by multiples and yet the number of donors are only a few. This is a serious problem for the Nation and the Chamber should commence by creating awareness. The objective of the programme was just that!

The programme witnessed the deliberations of eminent speakers like Dr. Amit Ghose, Chairperson Emeritus - Health Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Consultant Urologist, Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals Kolkata;

Dr. V V Lakshminarayanan, Chief Nephrologist, Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals Kolkata; Dr. Aditi Kishore Sarkar, Addl DHS (Admin), Government of West Bengal; Dr. Vivek Jha, Executive Director, The George Institute for Global Health & Consultant Nephrologist, Fortis Escorts Hospital, New Delhi; Dr. Sunil Shroff, Senior Consultant Urologist, Transplant Surgeon & Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation; Dr. Sujoy Kar, Director, Medical Services, Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals, Kolkata; Shri V. Solomon Nesakumar, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic). The speakers discussed the overview of cadaveric transplantation and the steps that are being taken by the WB Government to boost awareness on the issue. Some donors had also come forward in the last five months and the role of the Traffic Police in the movement of organs from one hospital to another via a green corridor was also addressed. Various legal and ethical problems that are involved in organ transplantation, how to overcome those hurdles and to enhance people's awareness on the issue were also addressed. The programme was attended by close to 200 delegates.



Welcome Address by Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Special Address by Dr. Aditi Kishore Sarkar, Addl DHS (Admin), Government of West Bengal



Introductory Address by Dr. Amit Ghose, Chairperson Emeritus - Health Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Special Address by Dr. Vivek Jha, Executive Director, The George Institute for Global Health & Consultant Nephrologist, Fortis Escorts Hospital, New Delhi



Theme Address by Dr. V V Lakshminarayanan, Chief Nephrologist, Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals Kolkata



Special Address by Dr. Sunil Shroff, Senior Consultant Urologist, Transplant Surgeon & Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation

26th November 2016
Chamber Premises

**'Deceased Donor Programme -
Cadaver Daan'**



Speakers of the dais (L-R): Dr. Sunil Shroff, Senior Consultant Urologist, Transplant Surgeon & Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation; Shri V. Solomon Nesakumar, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic); Dr. Amit Ghose, Chairperson Emeritus - Health Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Consultant Urologist, Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals Kolkata; Dr. Vivek Jha, Executive Director, The George Institute for Global Health & Consultant Nephrologist, Fortis Escorts Hospital, New Delhi; Dr. Aditi Kishore Sarkar, Addl DHS (Admin), Government of West Bengal; Dr. Sujoy Kar, Director, Medical Services, Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals, Kolkata



Special Address by Dr. Sujoy Kar, Director, Medical Services, Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals, Kolkata



Special Address by Celebrity Guest, Film Director, Mr. Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury



Special Address by Shri V. Solomon Nesakumar, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic)



Film Director, Mr. Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury presenting a memento to Dr. Vivek Jha, Executive Director, The George Institute for Global Health & Consultant Nephrologist, Fortis Escorts Hospital, New Delhi



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I presenting a memento to Film Director, Mr. Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury



The eclectic audience at the programme.

PROGRAMME

Business Delegation by The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Cracow, Poland to Kolkata

30th November 2016
Chamber Premises

The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Cracow, Poland led by their President, Mr. Andrzej Zdebski organized a trade mission to Bengal. The objective of this mission was to identify potential business partners from this region and to discuss the possibilities, conditions and areas in which effective economic cooperation would be taken forward. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry met the Polish delegation members in Kolkata and organized a focused B2B meet for the delegation members with local industry participants on 30th November 2016 from 11 am to 1 pm at The Chamber premises.

The focused sectors of the business session were - Plastics & Polymer Products (Manufacturing), Sanitary Products, Hydraulics, Radiators (Consumer/Industrial Products Manufacturing), Safety & Security (Services), Conveyors, Rollers & Allied Mining/Production Line/Construction/ Industrial Tools (Manufacturing), Mining Accessories Including Gate Roof Support Control and Other Steel Accessories (Industrial Tools Manufacturing) and Chamber Of Commerce (Advisory; Not-For-Profit; Developmental Sector Company), which would like to have fruitful cooperation with the businesses of Poland and Bengal.



Mr Andrzej Zdebski, President, The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other delegation members at the Calcutta Gallery



Mr Indrajit Sen, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the Welcome Address



Shri Kaushick Saha, Executive Director, WBIDC delivering the Special Address



Mr Andrzej Zdebski, President, The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry during his speech

Mr. Andrzej Zdebski, President, The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry graced the session along with Shri Kaushick Saha, Executive Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Cooperation and Mr Indrajit Sen, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Shri Kaushick Saha, Executive Director, WBIDC delivered a presentation on "West Bengal-Emerging growth engine of India". His insights made the discussions and B2B Networking thereafter more meaningful and relevant. Mr. Andrzej Zdebski, President, The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry made a presentation on "Economic Potential of Malopolska, Poland". His insights on the business landscape of Cracow enlightened the representatives of the local industries on the opportunities of doing business in Poland.

The meeting included a most vibrant B2B session during which the 40-odd local business participants including those from large organizations, interacted across the table with their Polish counterparts.



L-R- Mr Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr Andrzej Zdebski, President, The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr Indrajit Sen, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Shri Kaushick Saha, Executive Director, WBIDC



A Section of audience.



B2B interaction in progress

NEWS FROM THE J I S G R O U P



JIS Group Educational Initiatives organized a one-day workshop, “Corporate Pulse” at Narula Institute of Technology on December 2, 2016 at its campus in association with INFOCOM 2016, an ABP initiative. It was a very innovative and challenging platform where students got an opportunity to interact with highly recognized professionals of National and International repute. The objective of the interactive session was to synchronize academic curricula with industry requirement. The technical thirst of every student was quenched and the workshop was highly productive in all aspects.

The notable professionals who graced the sessions were:

- 1) Mr. Avinash Velhal, Group CIO at Atos International
- 2) Mr. Vipul Anand, Group CIO for Jindal Steel & Power Ltd
- 3) Mr. Joydeep Dutta, Group CTO at CDSL
- 4) Mrs. Puneet Kaur Kohli, Group Executive, Vice President, IT & CTO at Bajaj Capital Ltd



NEWS FROM THE JIS GROUP



INFOCOM CORPORATE PULSE 2016 is an effort by JIS Group in collaboration with ABP to meet the confluence of frontiers of latest innovations and techno commercial practices at the global frame of reference by intensive interactions with technocrats and business leaders. Guru Nanak Institute of Technology hosted the CORPORATE PULSE on 3rd December 2016 by an engrossing and lively session with Mr Vicky Ray, the internationally acclaimed speaker and cyber threat intelligence expert.

Mr Ray, Senior Threat Intelligence Analyst, Palo Alto Networks, Unit 42 elucidated the whole universe of Offensive and Defensive Techniques of Digital Security systems. He took all in an exhaustive tour in the world of his research and business experiences in the functional domain of cyber threat intelligence.

The session was viewed live on GNIT Facebook by 2100 followers.

All the staff members and students of GNIT sincerely thank JIS Group for providing the opportunity to interact with a brilliant and lively speaker and expert in Cyber Security.



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