BCC&I

THE BENGAL CHAMBER



Overseas Linkages

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO

15TH-16TH SEPTEMBER 2022, RADISSON BLU CHATTOGRAM BAY VIEW

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata, in collaboration with Mati-Ta Wellness and Hospitality, Chittagong and Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata; organized an International Health and Wellness Expo in Chittagong on 15th and 16th September 2022 at Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View. Healthcare and Wellness Stakeholders from India, Bangladesh and Malaysia participated in the Expo with exhibition stalls and talk shows by doctors and healthcare experts.

Mr. M A Latif, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bangladesh was the Chief Guest. He said, "India's services in healthcare are appreciated by people in Bangladesh. Visiting India for treatment is convenient economically and also logistics wise. The hospitals in India are requested to keep a desk for patients of Bangladesh with interpreters for non-Bangla speaking doctors. These services are provided by hospitals in Dubai, Singapore, Thailand or other countries."

Mr. MahbubulAlam, President, The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and. Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Chittagong graced the Opening Session among other dignitaries.

Dr. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group and Dr.Alok Roy, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Chairman, Medica Group of Hospitals addressed the Opening Session, on 15th September virtually.

A 21 Member Delegation visited Bangladesh from India. Leader of the Delegation, Mr. Arnab Basu, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Advisory Leader and Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd., said "The objective of the Expo is to bring together the healthcare service providers of South and South East Asia not only to showcase their services and products to a potential consumer base but also to connect with each other for possible collaborations like Joint Ventures and Exchange Programmes." The other members of the Delegation were:

- Rana Dasgupta, CEO-Eastern Region, Apollo Hospitals Group
- Sayan Pal, Radiation Oncologist, Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata
- DebrajJash, Pulmonologist, Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals , Kolkata
- Rupak Barua, Group CEO, AMRI Hospitals
- Dr. Sanjoy Basu, Senior Consultant, Department of Gastroenterology, AMRI
- Dr. Binayak Chanda, Senior Consultant, Department of Cardiac Surgery, AMRI
- Biplab Chandra, Consultant Physician, Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital
- Dr. Avik Karak, Cardiologist, Fortis Hospitals
- Dr. Sandeep Prasad, Urologist, Fortis Hospitals
- Purnendu Roy, Chairman & Managing Director, Genesis Hospital
- Avijit Das, Managing Director, Hermes Voyages Pvt. Ltd.
- Satish Munoli, COO, ICATT Air Ambulance Service
- Ms SuparnaSengupta, CEO, IQ City Medical Collage and Hospital
- Soumik Sarkar, Neuro Medicine, IQ City Medical Collage and Hospital
- Harsh Dhar, MedicaSuperspecialty Hospital
- L. N. Tripathy, MedicaSuperspecialty Hospital
- YogeshJoshi , Vice President, Marketing & Business Development - External Group Hospital & International Marketing, MedicaSuperspecialty Hospital
- Dr. Arnab Gupta, Medical Director, Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre and Research Institute
- Soumyajit Roy, Co-Founder, Solaire Initiative Pvt Ltd
- Debajyoti Banerjee, Founder and Director, Seven Boats Info-System Pvt Ltd.

Dr. Munal Mahbub, Chairman, Mati-ta and Senior Vice President, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry said, "Over 56% people in Bangladesh visit India for treatment. They need to know where to go and who to contact."

"This is first of its kind Expo in Bangladesh. Thanks to this initiative of The Bengal Chamber, we are here and engaging with other hospitals in Bangladesh and also with suppliers. We are also learning new things which we may adopt or apply in our work", said Mr. Rana Dasgupta, CEO-Eastern Region, Apollo Hospitals Group

Mr. Rupak Barua, Group CEO, AMRI Hospitals said, "Collaborations are important to survive in this volatile environment. This Expo should be organized every year so that people of both India and Bangladesh are benefited."

2 Day Health Talks included

- Cardiology
- Lungs Diseases
- Urology
- Neurosurgery
- Chronic Pancreatitis
- Cervical Cancer
- Lifestyle modification to prevent non communicable diseases
- Health Insurance

and also

- Air ambulance services

Health Talk on Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery in the 21st Century was deliberated by Dr.Basabendra Choudhury, Cardiologist, Fortis Hospitals and Dr Binayak Chanda, Senior Consultant, Department of Cardiac Surgery, AMRI. A Talk on Urology (diseases, prevention, treatment) was given by Dr Sandeep Prasad, Urologist, Fortis Hospitals. Dr. Debraj Jash, Pulmonologist, Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata deliberated about Lungs Diseases and treatments of such diseases in the Pulmonology Department of Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata. Doctors from Medica Superspecialty Hospital, Dr. Harsh Dhar and Dr. L. N. Tripathy conducted a Talk Show on Recent Advances in Head & Neck Surgery and Decision making in Neurosurgery. Dr. Soumik Sarkar, Neuro Medicine, IQ City Medical College and Hospital discussed Interesting Neurological Cases to create awareness amongst the audience about symptoms, treatments and critical situations for hospitalization. Talk Show on Chronic Pancreatitis was conducted by AMRI Hospitals. Dr. SanjoyBasu, Senior Consultant, Department of Gastroenterology was the Speaker for the Session. 3 Talks Shows were held on Oncology, Cancer Treatments and Cervical Cancer by Dr. Shafatujjahan, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Medical Oncology and Radiotherapy and Dr. Shamsunnahar Bintha Mannan, Associate Professor, Department of Dermatology and Venereology from Chattagram Maa o Shishu Hospital and Medical College, Dr. Sayan Pal, Radiation Oncologist, Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata, Dr. Munal Mahbub, Senior Vice President, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Chairman, Mati-ta and Dr. Shahana Begum Shelly, Associate Professor, Gynae and Obstetrics and Colposcopist, Chittagong Medical College. The Session on Cervical Carcinoma, which is a growing health concern for women but awareness is yet to be achieved especially in developing countries like India and Bangladesh, attracted the audience in Bangladesh. Dr.Biplab Chandra, Consultant Physician, Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital conducted a Talk Show on 'Role of lifestyle modification to prevent non communicable diseases.' Talks Shows were also held on Insurance and Diagnostics Reports – Myths & Facts and were conducted by Ms. Sharmin Tarannum, Assistant Vice President, Business Development and Strategic Alliance, GD Assist and Dr. Saifuddin Md. Khaled, Consultant, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Epic Health Care. Dr. Soumyajit Roy, Co-Founder, Solaire Initiative Pvt Ltd in the Talk Show introduced their invention OM REDOX - Oxygen Box to the healthcare stakeholders in Bangladesh. ICATT Air Ambulance also introduced to the stakeholders in Bangladesh the 'Air Ambulance services - Connecting Bangladesh with the best Critical Care facilities across the world.'

The Exhibitors included mostly hospitals and also medical equipment start up, air ambulance, medical tourism agency, wellness resort, beauty products, digital marketing agency, digital payment platform and health insurance company.

B2B Meetings took place and some collaborations on medical tourism and medical equipment were initiated.

The 2 Day International Health & Wellness Expo and Heath Talk Shows attracted visitors from Chittagong City and adjacent areas.

Exhibitors from Bangladesh

- Bio-Xin
- DMFR,EWVilla,Toti Cell
- Epic Health Care
- GD Assist
- Maa-O-Shishu Hospital
- Mati-Ta
- Nagad
- Surgescope

Exhibitors from India

- Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata
- AMRI Hospitals
- Anubhab Limited
- Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital
- Fortis Hospitals
- GD Hospital & Diabetes Institute
- Genesis Hospital
- Genome- The fertility Centre (A unit Of Ambuja Neotia Healthcare Venture Limited)
- Hermes Voyages Pvt. Ltd.
- ICATT Air Ambulance Services
- IQ City Medical Collage and Hospital
- Medica Group of Hospitals
- Saroj Gupta Cancer Center & Research Institute
- Seven Boats Info-System Pvt. Ltd.
- Solaire Initiative Pvt Ltd

From Malaysia

- Institut Jantung Negara (IJN)






DAY 1


DAY 1








DAY 1


DAY 1
Radisson


DAY 1
Radisson


DAY 1


DAY 1


15th &16th SEPTEMBER
Fortis


15th &16th SEPTEMBER
DAY 1


DAY 1


DAY 1


DAY 1


DAY 1






OM REDOX






MALAYSIA HOSPITAL
ADISSON BLUE
5TH - 16TH Sep




GREEN DELTA INSURANCE
GD SSIST
GREEN DELTA INSURANCE












GREEN DELTA INSURANCE
GD SSIST




EPIC Health Care


GENOME




ADVENTURE




PASSIVE SMOKERS


ICATT AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE


AMRI HOSPITALS


CHATTOGRAM MA O SISHU HOSPITAL


SAROJ GUPTA CANCER CENTER & RESEARCH INSTITUTE


GD HOSPITAL & DIABETES INSTITUTE


A Legacy of Excellence


GENESIS HOSPITAL


ADMISSION
OPEN NOW!
MEDICAL EDUCATION
IN EAST INDIA
MEDICAL















2ND INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO IN CHITTAGONG

5TH AND 6TH OCTOBER 2023, RADISSON BLU CHATTOGRAM BAY VIEW



The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata, in collaboration with Mati-Ta Wellness and Hospitality, Chittagong organized 2nd International Health and Wellness Expo in Chittagong on 5th and 6th October 2023 at Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View. Healthcare and Wellness Stakeholders from India, Bangladesh and Thailand participated in the Expo with exhibition stalls and talk shows by doctors and healthcare experts.

In the Inaugural Ceremony, Welcome Address was given by **Mr. Arnab Basu,** President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd. **Dr. Munal Mahbub,** Chairman, Mati-ta and Senior Vice President, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, deliberated the Theme Address.

The Chief Guest of the Inaugural Ceremony was **Mr. Mahbubul Alam,** President, The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry. On behalf of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, The Chief Guest was felicitated by Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Omar Hazzaz, President, The Chittagong Chamber Of Commerce & Industry and **Mrs. Abida Mostafa,** Senior Vice President, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry graced the Inaugural Ceremony among other dignitaries.

Special Address at the Inaugural Ceremony was deliberated by **Mr. Rana Dasgupta,** CEO-Eastern Region, Apollo Hospitals Group.

Other dignitaries from India also included **Dr. V R Ramanan,** Director-SRIOS, Peerless Hospital, **Dr. Saumitra Bharadwaj,** Group President, Medica Group of Hospitals and **Mr. Sombrata Roy,** Unit Head, The Calcutta Medical Research Institute.

On Day 1, Health Talks were on :

- **'New Age Interventions - Small is beautiful'** by **Dr. Avik Bhattacharyya,** The Calcutta Medical Research Institute
- '**Knee Replacement - Current Perspectives' and 'Recent advancements in Orthopedics'** by **Dr. Amit Bandyopadhyay,** Charnock Hospital and **Dr. Tathagata Das,** Senior Consultant, Orthopedics, Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals, Kolkata
- **'Recent advancements in Oncology'** by **Dr. Tapas Kar, Consultant,** Surgical Oncology, Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals Kolkata
- **'Stroke Prevention'** by **Dr Harsh Jain**, Senior Consultant - Neurosurgeon and Spine Surgeon, Medica Superspecialty Hospital, Kolkata

On Day 2, Health Talks were on:

- **'Women's Health'** by **Dr. Parul Agarwal,** Clinical Head & Senior IVF Consultant, IVF Specialist & Reproductive Medicine, Milann Fertility Centre, New Delhi
- **'Cancer Treatment'** by **Dr. Indira Chowdhury,** Pediatric Hematology & Oncology and Assistant Professor (Pediatric Hematology & Oncology), Chattogram Ma-O-Shishu Hospital Medical College, Chattogram.
- **'Approach to a patient with chest pain & All patient comes with chest pain is not heart attack'**. By **Dr. Biplab Chandra,** Consultant Physician, Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital
- **Health is Concern** - by **Dr. Hamid Hossain Azad,** Manager Operations & Asst. Lab Director, Epic Health Care; **Dr. A.K.M. Fazlul Hoque,** Managing Director, Chattogram Metropolitan Hospital Limited; **Dr. Mohammad Nasir** Uddin, Urologist, Andrologist & Laparoscopic Surgeon, Chattogram Metropolitan Hospital Limited and **Dr. Md. Shaukat Ali,** Medicine and Kidney Disease Speacialist, Chattogram Metropolitan Diagnostic Centre Ltd.

The Exhibitors included mostly hospitals and also, medical tourism agency, wellness resort, and other healthcare facilitato B2B Meetings took place and some collaborations on medical tourism were initiated.

The 2 Day International Health & Wellness Expo and Heath Talk Shows attracted visitors from Chittagong City and adjacent areas.

Exhibitors from Bangladesh

- Akanksha Hospital and Research Institute
- Chattogram Metropolitan Hashpatal Ltd
- Chattogram Metropolitan Diagnostic Center
- Chattogram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital
- Este Medical Bangladesh Limited
- Epic Health Care
- Evercare Hospital
- G-Care Private Limited
- Health Connect
- Island Care
- Mati-Ta
- Monark Tours & Travel
- Sagar Hospitals



Gate : 2nd International Health and Wellness Expo in Chittagong on 5th and 6th October 2023 at Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View



Welcome Address by Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd

Exhibitors from India

- Apollo Hospitals Group
- Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital
- Charnock Hospital
- DrLalPathlabs
- Genesis IVF
- Indira IVF Hospital Pvt Ltd
- Medanta
- Medica Group of Hospitals
- Milann Fertility Center
- Narayan Memorial Hospital
- Peerless Hospitex Hospital & Research Center Limited
- Renew Healthcare
- Virinchi Hospitals

From Thailand

- Vejthani Hospital



2nd International Health and Wellness Expo in Chittagong on 5th and 6th October 2023 at Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View



Theme Address by Dr. Munal Mahbub, Chairman, Mati-ta and Senior Vice President, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Dignitaries on the dias : (L-R) Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Brigadier General Mr. Abu Sayeed Mohammad Ali, Chief Executive Officer, Radisson Blu Chattogram; Dr. V R Ramanan, Director-SRIOS, Peerless Hospital; Mrs. Abida Mostafa, Senior Vice President, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Omar Hazzaz, President, The Chittagong Chamber Of Commerce & Industry; Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd; Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry; Mohammed Faisal, Managing Director, Este Medical Bangladesh Limited; Mr. Rana Dasgupta, CEO-Eastern Region, Apollo Hospitals Group; Dr. Munal Mahbub, Chairman, Mati-ta and Senior Vice President, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Dr. Saumitra Bharadwaj, Group President, Medica Group of Hospitals; Salahuddin Md. Reza, President, Chittagong Press Club; Mr. Sombrata Roy, Unit Head, The Calcutta Medical Research Institute



On behalf of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, was felicitated by Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd



On behalf of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, was felicitated by Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd



Special Address: Mr. Omar Hazzaz, President, The Chittagong Chamber Of Commerce & Industry



Special Address : Mrs. Abida Mostafa, Senior Vice President, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Chief Guest Address : Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry



Special Address : Mr. Rana Dasgupta, CEO-Eastern Region, Apollo Hospitals Group



Exhibitor : Milann Fertility Center



Exhibitor : Akanksha Hospital and Research Institute



Exhibitor : Chattogram Metropolitan Hashpatal Ltd Chattogram Metropolitan Diagnostic Center



Exhibitor : Charnock Hospital



Exhibitor : Apollo Hospitals Group



Exhibitor : Epic Health Care



Exhibitor : Renew Healthcare



Exhibitor : Este Medical



Exhibitor : Medica Group of Hospitals



Exhibitor : Dr. Lal Pathlabs



Exhibitor : Narayan Memorial Hospital



Exhibitor : Health Connect



Exhibitor : Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital - Health Check-up in progress at the 2nd International Health & Wellness Expo in Chittagong



Exhibitor : Genesis IVF - Health Check-up in progress at the 2nd International Health & Wellness Expo in Chittagong



Exhibitor : Vejthani Hospital



Enthusiastic visitors at the 2nd International Health and Wellness Expo on 5th and 6th October, 2023



Exhibitor : Virinchi Hospitals



Enthusiastic visitors at the 2nd International Health and Wellness Expo on 5th and 6th October, 2023



Health Talk in progress : A Talk on "Women's health - current status and an exciting peek into the future"by Dr. Parul Agarwal, Clinical Head & Senior IVF Consultant, IVF Specialist & Reproductive Medicine, Milann Fertility Centre, New Delhi



Health Talk in progress : A Talk on "Approach to a patient with chest pain & All patient came with chest pain is not heart attack by Dr. Biplab Chandra, Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital



Enthusiastic visitors at the 2nd International Health and Wellness Expo on 5th and 6th October, 2023



Enthusiastic visitors at the 2nd International Health and Wellness Expo on 5th and 6th October, 2023



Dr. Munal Mahbub, Chairman, Mati-ta and Senior Vice President, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (L) and Team from The Bengal Chamber at the 2nd International Health and Wellness Expo on 5th and 6th October, 2023 – Women behind the scene

BUSINESS DELEGATION TO BHUTAN

12TH - 14TH MAY, 2015, THIMPHU

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Business Delegation to Thimphu, Bhutan in association with The Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 12th and 13th May 2015. Some meetings continued till 14th May.

It was a nineteen-member delegation led by Dr. Alok Roy, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry including three members from the Chamber Secretariat.

The delegation visited His Excellency Tshering Tobgay, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan on 13th May. The Hon'ble Prime Minister received the delegation very warmly**.** He observed that India is not only the closest neighbour of Bhutan but the most valued partner country as well. He also noted that growth of India and specifically West Bengal is crucial for the growth of Bhutan. He spoke fondly about Bhutan's association with India and West Bengal and that Siliguri is truly the gateway to Bhutan. He made special emphasis on Bhutan's reliance on West Bengal and Assam. He congratulated West Bengal on the success of the Global Bengal Business Summit on 7th and 8th January 2015 that was organized by the Government of West Bengal. Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry participated in it through The Bengal Chamber. The Hon'ble Prime Minister informed the delegation that Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal has been invited to Bhutan. Mr. D Karma Tsering Namgyal, Consul General of Bhutan in Kolkata was in touch with the Hon'ble Chief Minister's office. The Hon'ble Prime Minister individually interacted with some of the delegates including Mr. Subrata Dutta, Director, The George Telegraph Group; Mr. Pradip Bhowmick, Partner, KPMG Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Dhruv Bhalla, Vice President, Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited and Mr. Dibya Sankar Das, Managing Partner and Founder, Dellstar Overseas. Mr. Bhalla mentioned that his company, Srei, would be delighted to work with the Royal Government of Bhutan in the space of IT solutions and services for rural development. The Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned to Mr. Subrata Dutta that vocational training would be a sector with great prospects in Bhutan.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister was invited to launch the Confederation of Eastern Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CECCI), spearheaded by The Bengal Chamber to bring the Chambers of Commerce in the 'East' (spanning the Eastern and North Eastern States and those from the eastern neighbours of India) together and create a common platform for the greater benefit of the common membership and industry and business at large. The forum would be utilized for B2B networking, communicating with the local Governments, experience / best practices sharing and even for addressing day-to-day operational issues faced by the cross-section of the membership who might need a helping hand from Partner Chambers while transacting business in neighbouring States and/or Countries. The Hon'ble Prime Minister indicated that Kolkata would be an ideal venue to organize such a programme. He also mentioned that he thought about Kolkata not because he had special connection with West Bengal as he had studied in Darjeeling but that he believed that the city had the potential to connect the 'East'.

Ms. Nina Tshering La, Counsellor, Embassy of India in Thimpu, Bhutan accompanied the delegation in the meeting.

The delegation also visited His Excellency Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk, Hon'ble Minister of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan on 13th May 2015. The Hon'ble Minister shared his thoughts with the delegates. He highlighted that India-Bhutan relationship is at its peak. The cooperation has set a standard for the entire world. The foundation stone of the 600MW Kholongchu Hydro- electric project, a joint venture between India and Bhutan was laid by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. Bhutan and India now produce the cheapest and cleanest energy, said the Minister. Geographically, Bhutan is the best place for setting up such projects. The good governance of the Royal Government of Bhutan made it possible for it to be accomplished in record time. He observed that the people in Bhutan have a close affinity towards the people of West Bengal, Bhutan's closest neighbour. The two countries share a Free Trade Agreement. The focus sectors of Bhutan are Education, Infrastructure, IT, Health, Mining amongst others. Bhutan has a high rate of ease of doing business. The Royal Government of Bhutan is committed to simplifying business processes for entrepreneurs and corporates alike. IT infrastructure and IT applications would play an important role in this procedure. The Minister spoke about this while responding to a query made by KPMG. Mr. Subrata Dutta proposed that George Telegraph would be delighted to be a Partner of the Government in the area of Skill Development. The partnership would ensure that the youth in Bhutan is trained with skills relevant to the industry. He was advised to submit a proposal to the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources. The Minister emphasized the importance of a close connection between the Government and the Industry. Accessibility would play an important role in this regard. The Minister ensured all investors would be provided personalized assistance for business in Bhutan.

The delegates had a lengthy discussion with Ms. Nina Tshering La on the 13th before meeting the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister of Economic Affairs. Ms. Nina Tshering La individually interacted with the delegates and advised on their scope of business in Bhutan. She mentioned that she had been in touch with Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber and that she was happy that the Chamber had organized such a high level delegation. The economies of the two countries are well integrated. However, many Indian firms have reservations given the size of the market in Bhutan. The business collaborations are however increasing. There are 16 Indian FDIs in Bhutan.

She shared with the delegation in general and Mr. Subrata Dutta in particular that unemployment is an issue which needs to be addressed in Bhutan. Therefore, skill development and vocational training have great opportunities. Mr. Dutta observed that his Group would also be interested to invest in Bhutan if he had an investing partner. Mr. Dhruv Bhalla commented that he had fruitful discussions during the B2B

Meetings on the previous day. They would be interested in smart grid, financing of equipments and IT services for rural development. Mr. N K Ghosal, Director, NKG & Associates enquired about the scope of IT audit. He was told that this would be of interest to the Government as compliance is an important issue. He was advised to get in touch with the Secretary and Director of Information and Communications Ministry. Mr. Bidyut Majumder of JIS Group of Educational Initiatives was informed that Joint Venture Projects in Education would have great prospects.

The delegates had the B2B Meetings on 12th May. The meeting was attended by Mr. Phub Tshering, Secretary General; Mr. Kesang Wangdi Deputy Secretary General and other senior members of the Bhutan Chamber. Mr. Tshenchok Thinlay, Executive Director, Bhutan Airlines was also present.

The Bengal Chamber is in discussions with Mr. D Karma Tsering Namgyal for organizing a Indo-Bhutan Golf Tournament in Kolkata where Golfers from Bhutan would participate. It was decided that a return programme would be organized in Bhutan where 20-25 golfers and industry captains would be invited. On this subject, Dr. Alok Roy had a meeting with the Bhutan Chamber and Col. Jambay Dorji, President, Bhutan Shooting Federation.

The programme concluded on 13th May 2015 with an MoU signing between the two Chambers. Mr. Ugen Tsechup Dorji, President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry was present in the Concluding Programme and Networking Dinner. He mentioned that Bhutan may be considered as the regional manufacturing hub. There are many areas in which The Bengal Chamber and Bhutan Chamber may work together. Import of vegetables and fruits from Bhutan to India is one such area. Bhutan could be the "vegetable basket" for the region. In fact, the country enjoyed such a climate that seasonal vegetables could be grown all through the year in different locations.

THE DELEGATION INCLUDED :

Dr. Alok Roy	President	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Chairman, Medica Group of Hospitals
Mr. Subrata Dutta	Director	The George Telegraph Group
Mr. Pradip Bhowmick	Partner	KPMG Advisory Services Pvt Ltd
Mr. Dhruv Bhalla	VP	SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited
Mr. Pratin Kumar Khanra	Director, Operation	Saraswati Print Factory Pvt Ltd
Mr. Jagadananda Mahapatra	Director	Terrablock Machinery Pvt Limited, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Mr. Sanjeev Mahapatra	Director	Terrablock Machinery Pvt Limited,Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Mr. Dipnarayan Sinha	Head-Strategic Relation	Mission of Mercy Hospital and Research Centre
Mr Partha Sarathi Modak		Mission of Mercy Hospital and Research Centre
Mr. Onkar Kakar	Senior Associate	PQR Consultants Pvt Ltd
Mr. N K Ghosal	Director	NKG & Associates
Mr. Dibya Sankar Das	Managing Partner and Founder	Dellstar Overseas
M. Tarini Prasad Mohanty	Propreitor	Hotel Valley, Odisha
Mr. Arpit Mohanty	Agent	Naibuga Iron and Minerals Mines
Mr. Bidyut Majumder	AGM	JIS Group of Educational Initiatives
Mr. Ankur Saraogi	Proprietor	Genesis Creation
Mr. Subhodip Ghosh	Deputy Director General	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury	Assistant Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Ms. Lopamudra Dutta	Assistant Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Meeting with His Excellency Tshering Tobgay, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan



Meeting with His Excellency Tshering Tobgay, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan



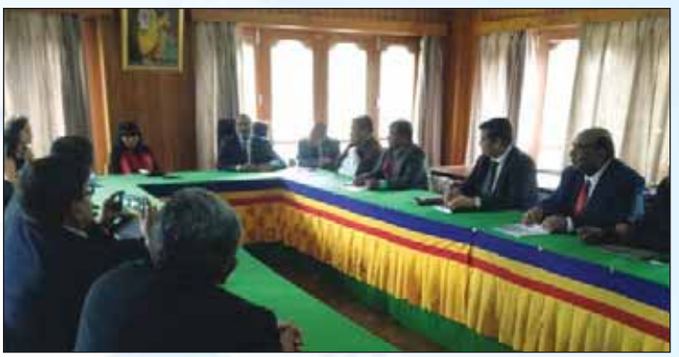
Meeting with His Excellency Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk, Hon'ble Minister of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan



Meeting with His Excellency Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk, Hon'ble Minister of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan



Meeting with Ms. Nina Tshering La, Counsellor, Embassy of India in Thimphu, Bhutan



Meeting with Ms. Nina Tshering La, Counsellor, Embassy of India in Thimphu, Bhutan



B2B Meetings in progress



B2B Meetings in progress



B2B Meetings in progress



B2B Meetings in progress



B2B Meetings in progress



B2B Meeting



B2B Meeting



B2B Meeting



Lunch with authentic Bhutanese cuisine



At Lunch with authentic Bhutanese cuisine



Delegation in front of Gyalyong Tshogkhang, Thimphu



Mr. Phub Tshering, Secretary General, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce was the master of ceremonies in the Closing Session



Mr. Ugen Tsechup Dorji, President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressing during the Closing Session



Dr Alok Roy, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressing during the Closing Session



Signing of MoU



Cultural Performace



Networking Dinner



Networking Dinner



Dr Alok Roy presenting a memento to Mr. Kesang Wangdi, Deputy Secretary General, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Dr Alok Roy presenting a memento to Mr. Sonam Phuntsho, Business Promotion Officer, Business Support Department, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry

BUSINESS DELEGATION TO MYANMAR

16TH - 20TH MAY, 2016, YANGON, NAY PYI TAW & MANDALAY

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry took a business delegation to Myanmar from 16th May to 20th May 2016. The delegation, led by the President Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, visited Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. The delegation comprised of industry representatives from West Bengal and Odisha.

The delegation members were:

Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta	President	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Mr. Pratin Kumar Khanra	Director-operations	Saraswati Print Factory Pvt Ltd
Mr. Khitish Ch Patra	CEO	New Life Diagnostic & Xray
Mr. Narayan Kumar	Managing Director	Mediaid Venture Pvt Ltd
Mr. Sanjeev Mahapatra	Director	Terablock Machinery Pvt Ltd
Mr. Jagadananda Mahapatra	Director	Terablock Machinery Pvt Ltd
Mr. Shyam Sunder Dey	Head- Business Development	Woodland Multispeciality Hospital Limited
Mr. Prakash Shah	Chairman	G S Marketing Associates
Mr. Utpal Roy	Consultant (liaison & Marketing)	G S Marketing Associates
Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya	CEO	Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd
Mr. Avik Roy	Managing Director	Re-emerging World Consulting Private Limited
Mr. Subhodip Ghosh	Director General Designate	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury	Assistant Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Mr. Sambit Dasgupta	Senior Manager	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The delegation met Union of Myanmar Federation Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 16th May 2016 in Yangon. The delegation was received by Ambassador Tint Swai, Chief Executive Officer. U Mg Mg Myint. Head of Department (IRD), UMFCCI was also present. Ambassador Tint Swai mentioned that Education and Healthcare sectors have immense opportunities in Myanmar. The institutions will have to showcase them well to attract business. Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General Designate proposed whether UMFCCI and BCC&I may formally work together to create a permanent forum for mutual collaborations, information sharing and facilitation to each others' members. A formal proposal will be submitted by BCC&I

The delegation met His Excellency U Ohn Maung, Hon'ble Minister of Hotels and Tourism, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Mr. Tint Thwin, Director General, Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Republic of The Union of Myanmar on 17th May 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw. The Hon'ble Minister expressed his pleasure receiving the delegation. It was the first delegation of this scale he received after taking over. He mentioned about Buddhist pilgrimage shared between India and Myanmar. Bodh Gaya attracts many from Myanmar on account of Buddhist tourism. He also said that there are not that many footfalls from India to Myanmar. With more Indian footfall in Myanmar, people in Myanmar will get the opportunity to interact more with Indians which will further encourage business relationships. Indian investors in tourism sector are also welcome in Myanmar. The other areas, he advised, in which Indian businesses are having opportunities in Myanmar are HR Training (as Myanmar needs capacity building in different sectors); IT including data collection and others; Skill Development especially English Language Training, and Mines and Minerals. The Bengal Chamber will submit a proposal of organizing a Golf Delegation to Myanmar which will be combined with a HR programme and Skill Development including English Language Training. President mentioned that this will lead to golf tourism from India to Myanmar which will give them exposure to Myanmar as a tourism destination. The Chamber will also submit a proposal to connect Kolkata and Yangon as Sister Cities to promote Buddhist Tourism. The proposal of Myanmar's participation in India International Mega Trade Fair in December 2016 in Kolkata was submitted to the Hon'ble Minister. This will give businesses in Myanmar exposure to the consumers' market in Kolkata and also B2B network of other countries participating in the Fair. The Hon'ble Minister was also invited to the Inauguration. Indo-Myanmar Cultural Programme, on occasion of the International Trade Fair, was also proposed to the Hon'ble Minister. The President informed that The Bengal Chamber would be delighted to offer the platform to promote Myanmar reaching out to Indian Stakeholders.

The delegation met Professor Thet Khaing Win, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Myanmar on 17th May 2016. Opportunities of promoting medical tourism from Myanmar to India were reiterated. The Permanent Secretary suggested that experts from Indian healthcare sector may also visit Myanmar and work in collaboration with their local counterparts. Medical Education Institutions of both the countries may collaborate. Indian Pharmaceutical organizations may set up factories in Myanmar. The Bengal Chamber proposed whether research may be conducted jointly by both the countries given most diseases are of similar nature due to similar climatic conditions. Funds from International Funding Agencies may also be approached together. Expertise on telemedicine and other technology expertise for providing healthcare to the people in Myanmar may be provided as well. In this context, the Permanent Secretary mentioned that connectivity may be an issue. There is a need to create IT infrastructure, connectivity and security. The Permanent Secretary advised to get in touch with the office of Minister of Transport and Communication in this context.

The delegation split in two groups on 18th May 2016. One group went to Mandalay for B2B Meetings and the other returned to Yangon to meet His Excellency Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The second group also participated in the Dinner hosted by the Embassy of India in Yangon.

The Hon'ble Minister started his speech with the emotional connection people in Myanmar share with Indians. He also referred to the historical connection the two countries share. He mentioned that Myanmar, with the new Government, is opening its market. The country is very keen to retain its good relationship with India and increase trade and commerce. More investments from India are expected. Infrastructure and capacity building are areas Myanmar is focusing on and the Indian companies may value add. The Hon'ble Minister mentioned that his Ministry is responsible for promoting Myanmar's trade with other countries and the Ministry is focusing on increasing exports. In this context, the Hon'ble Minister was apprised about the India International Mega Trade Fair organized by The Bengal Chamber with GS Marketing Associates who were also part of the delegation. The Chamber also apprised the Hon'ble Minister about the International Conference on Pulses in Kolkata, India in commemoration of this year being the International Year of Pulses as declared by the United Nations. The programme is being scheduled towards the end of 2016. The date will be finalized shortly in consultation with the Government of India and Government of West Bengal. The Chamber believes that it would be only be befitting to have Myanmar as our Partner Country for this programme. The Hon'ble Minister assured that he would look into the matter and his Ministry would evaluate the same discussing with the private sector.

The Delegation participated in a Dinner hosted by the Embassy of India in Yangon on the occasion of Myanmar-India Business Conclave: Forging Partnerships. The Dinner was graced by Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Commerce Minister of India; Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhaya, Indian Embassy in Yangon; Dr. Nandakumar Nagendran, Consul General, Consulate General of India in Mandalay; Smt. Arundhati Bhattacharya, CMD, State Bank of India and other dignitaries. It provided a significant networking session for the delegates with the business community in Myanmar and also with the Indian Diaspora in Myanmar.

Part of the delegation accompanied by one of the Chamber secretariat members visited Mandalay. In Mandalay, the delegation split according to their sectors of interest and one team met members of **Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association,** while the others headed to the Consulate Office in Mandalay for their relevant **B2B with representatives from the health sector.** The entire delegation which visited Mandalay assembled in CGI's office after their respective meetings. The delegates were received by Mr. Vipin Sharma, Consul, Indian Consulate General of India in Mandalay. The delegation visited



Meeting with Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) CEO, Yangon, Myanmar



Meeting with Professor Thet Khaing Win, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



Meeting with His Excellency, U Ohn Maung, Hon'ble Minister of Hotels and Tourism, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



The delegation with His Excellency, U Ohn Maung, Hon'ble Minister of Hotels and Tourism, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



Meeting with His Excellency Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Yangon, Myanmar



The delegates with His Excellency Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Yangon, Myanmar



Delegates at Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon, Myanmar



Meeting with business entrepreneurs/companies at Mandalay Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MRCCI), Mandalay, Myanmar



Meeting with business entrepreneurs/companies at Mandalay Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mandalay, Myanmar



At Indian Consulate General office in Mandalay, Myanmar



Meeting with business entrepreneurs/companies at Mandalay Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MRCCI), Mandalay, Myanmar



Meeting at Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association, Mandalay, Myanmar



Meeting with His Excellency U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister, Ministry of Industry, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Yangon, Myanmar



At Indo-Myanmar Business Conclave, Yangon, Myanmar



B2B Meetings in progress, UMFCCI office, Yangon, Myanmar



B2B Meetings in progress, UMFCCI office, Yangon, Myanmar

Mandalay Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MRCCI) for the prescheduled B2B meetings. **Dr. Maung Maung, Secretary General of MRCCI greeted the delegation.**

The Delegation met His Excellency U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister, Ministry of Industry, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 19th May 2016 in Yangon and participated in the Myanmar-India Business Conclave. The Hon'ble Minister listened to the areas of interest of the delegation. He took interest in the India International Mega Trade Fair. He advised to focus on Small and Medium businesses in Myanmar like fisheries, agro based, food processing, light engineering and others. The Bengal Chamber apprised him about the project on MSME zoning that the Chamber is undertaking in West Bengal. The same may be done for the Myanmar Government as well as the MSMEs in Myanmar which are also classified in terms of geographical area like that in West Bengal.

During the Myanmar-India Business Conclave, Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhaya expressed his appreciation for the delegation that the Chamber organized and requested the Chamber to work towards catalyzing connectivity between Kolkata and Sittwe Port, Myanmar. The deepwater port at Sittwe in Rakhine State in Myanmar is located on the Bay of Bengal at the mouth of the Kaladan River. Sittwe Port will be linked with Kolkata Port covering a distance of 539 km. The port has been financed and constructed by India at a cost of US$120 million and is part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, which is a joint collaboration between India and Myanmar.

BUSINESS DELEGATION TO ITALY

14TH - 19TH JULY, 2016

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a business delegation to Italy on invitation from Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Embassy of India in Rome; from 14th July to 19th July 2016

The delegation visited Milan and Rome in Italy and also San Marino, which is an independent sovereign republic sharing all its boundaries with Italy. As informed by the Embassy of India in Rome, it was a first-of-its-kind delegation from a region in India to Italy.

Name	Designation	Organization
Dr. Parimal Chandra Biswas	Director, International Affairs	Adamas University
Mr. Partha Mukherjee	Director	Adamas University
Mr. Onkar Banerjee	Managing Director	Birdman Chemeng Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Rajat Subhra Chatterjee	Chief Executive	Birdman Chemeng Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Ratiraj Tibrewal	President	Choice Peers International Pvt Ltd., Mumbai
Mr. Sayantan Sarkar	Director	Cyan Creations
Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh	Vice President- Corporate Relations	JIS Group
Mr. Abhisek Jain	Managing Director	Perfect Washers Fasteners Pvt. Ltd
Ms. Rimi Nayak	CEO	Rimi Nayak India
Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya	CEO	Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd
Secretariat		
Mr. Subhodip Ghosh	Director General Designate	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury	Assistant Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Mr. Sambit Dasgupta	Sr. Manager	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

14th July 2016

The delegation was invited to participate in the Seminar on 'Indian Opportunities for Italian Companies' in Melia Hotel, Milan on 14th July 2016, organized by ANIMA (Federation of the Italian Associations of Mechanical and Engineering Industries). The programme was graced by Ambassador Anil Wadhwa and Mr. Carlo Banfi, Vice President, ANIMA (Italy). The other speakers included:

- Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General Designate, The Bengal Chamber who addressed 'Opportunities of Italian Companies in West Bengal'
- Mr. Vivek Abraham, Assistant Vice President, Invest India who addressed 'The New India Story' and 'Opportunities for Italian companies in various sectors (food technology, water, energy including oil and gas, green technologies, infrastructure, automotive and others)'
- Mr. Vincenzo Abbate, International Relations, SACE and Mr. Marco Rosati, Italy Desk Responsible, Simest. They spoke on 'Support to export and investment abroad for Italian companies'
- Mr. Carlo Banfi also addressed 'Italian Excellence in Manufacturing - presenting the technologies and sectors in focus'.

The programme was followed by B2B Meetings which were joined by the members of the delegation from West Bengal.

There was also a display kiosk of Indian textiles and fashion products by the two members of the delegation who were fashion designers.

15th July 2016

The delegation visited San Marino. The Bengal Chamber took the first initiative of taking a business delegation from India to San Marino.

San Marino is perhaps the world's oldest surviving republic. It is an enclave in Italy, on the border between the region of Emilia Romagna and Marche and about 10 km (6.21 mi) from the Adriatic coast at Rimini. It is part of the Apennine mountain range. It has a population of 32000 with GDP being $ 1.365 billion (PPP 2012 est.) and GDP per capita at around $55,000. The main industries are tourism, banking, textiles, electronics, ceramics, cement, wine, paints, furniture and others. It has the lowest unemployment rate in Europe with a State Budget surplus and no National Debt.

The delegation attended a meeting organized by San Marino Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was attended by Ms. Antonella Mularni, Minister of Economy and International Cooperation and Mr. Marco Arzilli, Minister of Industry, San Marino. Mr. Massino Ghiotti, General Manager, San Marino Chamber of Commerce was also present. Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, First Secretary (Commercial), Embassy of India in Rome was present in San Marino with the Chamber's delegation.

The Bengal Chamber extended an invitation to San Marino Chamber of Commerce to bring a business delegation to West Bengal. The delegation is expected within a year.

Ministries of San Marino present in the meeting and the Embassy of India both confirmed that India and San Marino share an excellent diplomatic relationship. Both the countries are keen to enhance the business relationship. The Meeting included presentation from The Bengal Chamber on 'Opportunities in West Bengal' and addresses by the abovementioned Ministries of San Marino and the Embassy of India in Rome. It was then followed by B2B Meetings.

The B2B Meetings revealed that there was a great interest of the business community in San Marino to explore West Bengal/India. The sectors of interest are architecture, furniture, healthcare, startup village, food processing and others.

The delegation travelled to Rome the following day on 15th July 2016. The next meeting was held in Rome on 18th July 2016.

18th July 2016

The Delegation attended the Trade and Business Meeting at Embassy of India in Rome. The programme opened with welcome remark by the Ambassador. Mr. Subhodip Ghosh presented the Opportunities in West Bengal to the business community in Rome present in the said Meeting. Mr. Maurizio Miranda, President, Indo-Italian Institute for Trade and Technology presented '30 years of Trade, Technology, Innovation, Investments and Culture – Now the new revolution'. Mr. Maurizio Accinni, Senior International Development Manager, Corporate Division, BNL BNP Paribas Group presented 'BNL and BNP Paribas Group support to bilateral trade and investments'.

This was followed by B2B Interactions.

19th July 2016

The concluding day, 19th July 2016, was utilized for follow up and additional B2B Meetings.



Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Embassy of India in Rome addressing the Seminar on 'Indian Opportunities for Italian Companies'



The Delegation



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General Designate, The Bengal Chamber addressing 'Opportunities of Italian Companies in West Bengal' at the Seminar on 'Indian Opportunities for Italian Companies'



Bengal Chamber Delegation in audience at Seminar on 'Indian Opportunities for Italian Companies'. Ambassaor Anil Wadhwa (L) and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh (R) seated in the front row



Introduction of Delegates



Introduction of Delegates



Introduction of Delegates



B2B Meeting is progress after Seminar on 'Indian Opportunities for Italian Companies'



In San Marino- Seated (L-R): Mr. Vivek Abraham, Assistant Vice President, Invest India; Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, First Secretary (Commercial), Embassy of India in Rome; Mr. Marco Arzilli, Minister of Industry, San Marino; Ms. Antonella Mularni, Minister of Economy and International Cooperation, San Marino; Mr. Massino Ghiotti, General Manager, San Marino Chamber of Commerce: Mr. Subhodip Ghosh



Mr. Massino Ghiotti (L) and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh (R)



Ambassador Anil Wadhwa welcoming the delegates and participants in the Trade and Business Meeting at the Embassy of India in Rome



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh addressing the seminar in Rome



Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, First Secretary (Commercial), Indian Embassy in Rome initiating the B2B Meetings at the Embassy of India in Rome



B2B Meetings in progress at Embassy of India in Rome



B2B Meetings in progress at Embassy of India in Rome



B2B Meetings in progress at Embassy of India in Rome



Presentation of Chamber's Memento and Publication –'Discover Bengal' to Mr. Maurizio Miranda, President, Indo-Italian Institute for Trade and Technology



Presentation of Chamber's Memento and Publication –'Discover Bengal' to Mr. Maurizio Accinni, Senior International Development manager, Corporate Division, BNL BNP Paribas Group

VISIT TO RUSSIA

7TH - 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.



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

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
- 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.

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 members and stakeholders for match making.



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

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



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
- Ayurvdea
- 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



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



Chamber representatives at 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



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

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.



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



The Business Session in progress

BUSINESS DELEGATION TO BANGLADESH

15TH - 18TH FEBRUARY, 2017

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry took a business delegation to Bangladesh from 15th February to 18th February 2017. The delegation, led by Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President, BCC&I and co-led by Mr. R.N. Lahiri, Chairperson Emeritus, IT Committee of BCC&I, visited Dhaka and Chittagong. The delegation comprised of industry representatives from Bengal and Delhi.

The members of the delegation were :

Name	Designation	Organization
Mr Ambarish Dasgupta	Immediate Past President	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Mr. R.N. Lahiri	Director	Techno India Group
Capt S B Mazumder	Executive Director	Seahorse Ship Agencies Pvt Ltd
Mr. K K Mahapatra	Associate Vice President, IT Infrastructure (Business) & Infocom	ABP Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Dhruv Bhalla	Vice President and Head - International Business, Corporate Strategy and Planning	SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited
Mr. Owaiz Hossain	Chief Manager - International Business	SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited
Mr. Ashok Kr Goswami	Wholetime Director	India Power Corporation Limited
Mr. Dibya Sankar Das	Managing Partner	Dellstar Overseas
Mr. Nihar Chakraborty	Senior Vice President & COO – EAST & SAARC Countries	Sify Technologies Limited
Mr. Puneet Malik	Regional Marketing Head : SAARC Countries	Sify Technologies Limited
Mr. Rajat Upadhyay	Head Solution Architect	Sify Technologies Limited
Mr. Rafiqul Hasan	Chairman Cum Managing Director	M/s Techno Industry
Mr. Syed A Nabi	Director	M/s Techno Industry
Mr. Shubhabrata Som	Director	NrXen IT Technologies Private Limited
Mr. Vikash Sharma	Director	NrXen IT Technologies Private Limited
Mr. Arup Dutta	Technical Director	KPMG Advisory Services Private Ltd
Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha	Assistant Director General	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Mr. Sambit Dasgupta	Sr. Manager- Market, Research and Development	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Ms. Sankalpita Aich	Junior Programme Executive	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

■ Day 1: 15th February 2017: Dhaka

• Discussion and B2B Meeting with FBCCI :

On 15th February 2017, the delegation members had B2B interaction with the members of The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at Nitol Centre, Dhaka. The delegation was received by Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI and Chairman, Nitol-Niloy Group. Before the formal meeting, the delegation members had an informal interaction with the President of FBCCI, briefing him about their sectors of interest and their business purpose in Bangladesh. The Formal B2B meeting was also presided by Mr. Ahmad. The Bengal Chamber Delegation Co-leader Mr. R. N. Lahiri, delivered the opening remarks. In his remarks, he mentioned about the close cultural and demographic similarities that the two countries share and requested the delegate members for their self-introduction and also requested his colleagues to highlight their objective for the trip. Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmed, President, FBCCI also spoke in details about the opportunities available in the Sectors that the BCC&I Delegates represented, and arranged for B2B connects for some of the delegates for the next day. In his closing remarks, the FBCCI President thanked the Bengal Chamber secretariat for bringing such a dynamic and scholarly delegation to Bangladesh which had resulted in an erudite discussion. He invited the Bengal Chamber to join the BBIN forum and SME fair (both to be held in April) for which formal invitations will follow. The Bengal Chamber also requested FBCCI to take a formal delegation to West Bengal anytime soon. Mr. Sishir Kothari, Second Secretary Commercial, Indian High Commission in Dhaka also attended the session at the later stages, which was followed by dinner.

■ Day 2: 16th February 2017: Dhaka

• Participation in the Inauguration of the Indo-Bangla Trade fair:

The Bengal Chamber delegation members participated in the inauguration session of the Indo-Bangla Trade Fair, organized by the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Indian High Commission, at 10 a.m. at Pan Pacific SonarGaon Hotel, Dhaka. This was the fourth Indo-Bangla Trade Fair which was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh. More than 60 companies representing the sectors of automobiles, processed food, banking, insurance, home appliances, consumer goods, power, paints, electronics and electrical, textiles, cement manufacturing, and lubricants manufacturing exhibited their product lines in the Trade Fair. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla , High Commissioner of India, Dhaka; Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI and Chairman, Nitol-Niloy Group and Mr. Taskeen Ahmed, President, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry were the special guests of this prestigious programme. Mr. Jahangir Bin Alam, Secretary and CEO, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry commenced the session. He said that this Fair was "a landmark event" for the bilateral business relationship between Bangladesh, India and other neighbouring countries. Mr. Taskeen Ahmed, President, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivered the opening remarks. Mr. Pankaj Tandon, leader of CII Delegation and Mr. R.N. Lahiri, leader of BCC&I Delegation delivered their respective speeches. Subsequently, The Hon'ble Chief Guest Janab Tofail Ahmed addressed the audience. He said that the objective of this Fair was to bring Bangladesh and India together and to strengthen the bilateral business relationship between these two neighbouring countries. Bangladesh had imported many items from India for domestic industries. Bangladesh and India's two-way trade was $6.14 billion in 2015-16, though heavily tilted towards India. But in the last two years, Bangladesh's exports to India had seen a huge increase after India allowed duty-fee market access in 2015-16. Bangladesh exports to India surged 30.8 percent to $689.62 million and Indian exports declined by 6.3 percent. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla , High Commissioner of India, Dhaka said that this Trade Fair had opened a new era of corporate relationship between Bangladesh and India, and that he was looking forward to having more interactions and exchange . He also said that companies from both India and Bangladesh were exploring "new opportunities" for investing and setting up joint ventures in each other's country. It was a multiproduct Fair with the objective to develop business activities between the two neighbouring countries. Mr. Abhijt Chakravorty, Country Head Bangladesh, State Bank of India addressed the audience. SBI, the largest bank of India, was the Sponsor of this Trade Fair. Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI and Chairman, Nitol-Niloy Group delivered the formal vote of thanks. The trade fair was well covered in Bangladesh media and The BCC&I delegation found a prominent mention there.

• Meeting with Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla , High Commissioner of India, Dhaka :

The delegation members from BCC&I, had an interaction with Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, High Commissioner of India, Dhaka at Pan Pacific SonarGaon Hotel at 10:30 a.m on the sidelines of the Trade Fair. At the outset, the delegates introduced themselves, briefing the High Commissioner about their sectors of interest and purpose of visit to Bangladesh. The highlights of Shri Shringla's discourse are as follows:

- The marketing field in Bangladesh should be focused seriously
- More investments were required to develop the Chittagong port
- There would be railway connectivity between Mongla and Khulna Sea port to enrich the opportunities for export and import from both the countries
- Funding entirely for the development of Ashuganj port
- Speaking on the occasion, Shri Shringla stressed upon the fact that more and more bilateral interaction and cooperation was needed between Bangladesh and India to strengthen the bilateral business relationships between the two neighbouring nations.

• Meeting with Dr. A F M Manzur Kadir, Director General, Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau :

The members of BCC&I Delegation split in two groups- one group stayed back at the Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon for an audience with the High Commissioner and the other group went to meet **Dr. A F M Manzur Kadir, Director General, and other members of Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau** at 11 a.m.

The members of the delegation introduced themselves which was followed by an interactive presentation between the members of the delegation and the Export Promotion Bureau officials. **Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka,** is a National export Promotion Agency under the Ministry of Commerce, which was recognized by the promulgation of a Presidential Ordinance in 1977 as a semi-autonomous body. The ordinance had been converted into an ACT on 14th July, 2015. **EPB** promotes export and contributes to plan & policies helpful for the private sector. It is administrated by a Board of Management (BOM) comprising 15 (fifteen) members from both public and private sectors. The Hon'ble Minister of Commerce is the ex-officio Chairman of the Board of Management, and Vice-Chairman is the Chief Executive of the Export Promotion

Bureau. EPB is functioning with its head office in Dhaka while three regional offices are located in Chittagong. Rajshahi and Khulna and three branch offices are in Comilla, Sylet and Narayangonj. **EPB** is mainly responsible for

- Adoption of appropriate policy and programme measures for active promotion of export.
- Co-ordination of export development activities at various levels.
- Co-ordination and monitoring of national export performance.
- Carrying out of promotional activities in product & supply development.
- Exploration of markets abroad.
- Collection and dissemination of trade information.
- Organizing Bangladesh participation in the International trade fairs abroad.
- Imparting training for HRD on export related issues.
- Conducting study, surveys, research etc on product development.
- Issuance of various certificates against export of goods.
- EPB also assists Ministry of Commerce in formulating export policy of the country.

- **Meeting with Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Minster of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh:**

BCC&I Delegation had a meeting with the Hon'ble Commerce Minister of Bangladesh at 12:30 p.m. at his office in the Bangladesh Secretariat. At the outset, he mentioned about his past visit to Bengal and The Bengal Chamber a few years back on the occasion of the Chamber's annual India International Mega Trade Fair organized in partnership with GS Marketing Associates and subsequently spoke about bilateral trade related figures which is deep and is growing each day. He mentioned that over the years Bangladesh had been importing cotton and threads from India. The Hon'ble Minister highlighted the Government of India's anti-dumping duty and Minimum Input Price (MIP) on jute products imported from Bangladesh and Nepal. Janab Ahmed also apprised the delegates about the Tariff barrier removal request to the Indian Government that the Bangladesh Government had placed. He assured the Delegation members who were looking for business opportunities in Bangladesh that 100 SEZs were coming up in Bangladesh out of which 3 would be dedicated for Indian businesses.

The leader of the delegation, Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta mentioned that West Bengal had all kinds of similarities with Bangladesh and the objective of bringing such a delegation was to strengthen the existing bilateral relationship between the two countries. Mr. Dasgupta requested the delegation members for their respective self-introductions, which they did and alongside also mentioned about the rationale of their visit. While providing response to the queries of this Multi Sectoral Delegation, The Hon'ble Minister mentioned the Priority Areas for Bangladesh, of which Information Technology was one and informed the delegation that "Digital Bangladesh" was a key focus area. Lots of IT parks were coming up and a realistic output target of USD 1 billion by 2018 and USD 5 billion by 2021 had been set. The other priority areas mentioned by him were Shipping (which provides 10% cash incentive); Leather, for which the target earning was USD 3-4 billion by 2021; Food processing (which offers 20% cash incentive); Jute, which had been a traditional and major exporting item to India (although the recent anti-dumping duty had acted as a dampener); Plastics; Agro Products, etc. Bangladesh was the 4th largest fish producing country in the world and there was a specific focus on the **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal** (**BBIN**) Initiative.

- **Meeting with Janab Nasrul Hamid, Hon'ble State Minister, Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources**:

Some of the members of BCC&I Delegation had a meeting with the Hon'ble Power Minister and key officials of the Power Department at 2:00 p.m. in the Bangladesh Secretariat. The delegation members discussed possibilities of the Indian Private Sector companies making a penetration into the Power sector of Bangladesh – be it in generation or distribution of electricity in Bangladesh. The Hon'ble Minister also pointed out that Bangladesh currently was sourcing some of its power requirements from some Indian States. The Delegation members representing the power sector had a very fruitful meeting with the Power Minister focusing on 3 key initiatives:

- Long term power supply agreement (with a power plant at Haldia)
- Smart metering at Bangladesh distribution companies and
- Investment in solar or wind power business.

For Long term PPA, the Bangladesh Power Ministry requested to check on the Indian side as there were some regulatory clearances that were required prior to any project that maybe undertaken on that front.

- **B2B Meetings at the sidelines of the Indo-Bangla Trade Fair :**

- **Meeting with Mr. Sabur Khan, Chairman, Daffodil University:**

Mr. Dibya Sankar Das, Managing Partner, Delstar Overseas, Mr. Rafiqul Hasan, Chairman-cum-Managing Director with Mr. Syed A Nabi, Director, Techno Industry and Mr. Rabindranath Lahiri, Director and Vice Chairman, Techno India Batanagar with The Bengal Chamber Secretariat had a meeting with **Mr. Sabur Khan, Chairman of Daffodil University** at 4 p.m. at Pan Pacific SonarGaon Hotel. The focus sectors of this meeting were IT, Skill Development, Engineering, Instrumentation and Automation. Mr. Sabur Khan said that the education system in Bangladesh required further development. The students, after completing their education, did not get better job opportunities due to the lack of skillsets. The Skill Development scheme must be included in the education system to enable the students getting better opportunities in life. In Bangladesh, the engineering streams are, Computer Science, Electrical, Civil, Mechanical, Textile and Telecommunication Engineering. But Instrumentation and Automation engineering are required nowadays for proper training of instrumentation to the students and to enable them in getting better employable opportunities in industries. Mr. Khan said that the Bangladesh Government had decided to include the employability skills or soft skills course in the education system, as soft skills are considered as the key to workplace success. An IT Show would be held in Dhaka from 23rd to 25th March 2017. Mr. Khan requested Mr R N Lahiri and Mr Dibya Sankar Das to give a PowerPoint Presentation on Education & Skill Development and Instrumentation Course (Graduation and Diploma Course) respectively in that IT Show. Mr. Khan also requested Mr. Lahiri and Mr. Das to exchange their documents with him through email before the IT Show.

- **Meeting with Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry:**

The members of The Bengal Chamber Delegation had a meeting with Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) at 6 p.m. at BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Office, Symphony, 3rd Floor, Road 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka. The meeting was presided by Ms. Nihad Kabir, President of MCCI. The delegates introduced themselves briefing their sector of interest and business purpose in Bangladesh. While responding, Ms Kabir apprised that Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is one of the oldest Chambers of Commerce in Bangladesh. It is an organization of manufacturers and from the services sectors (Banking and NBFCs). 90% of their members are big players/big investors. They are mostly into policy formulation, policy analysis, lobbying etc. It was also informed that Dr. APJ Adul Kalam visited the Chamber's 110th anniversary. MCCI Secretary General mentioned that the country's macro economy was stable, macro indicators healthy with a GDP growth of 6.5% alongside a very vibrant private sector. The social indicators were also healthy. They also informed that the country's manufacturing standard was going through an upgradation with a booming IT sector. Skill development had a very bright opportunity. The alternative to the traffic situation in Petrapole and Benapole were barge services which needed a facelift. Pangaon port was at present a one-way traffic and economic feasibility of ocean going vessels to and fro Pangaon port needed to be looked into. Bengal was a good gateway for Bangladesh and hence talking a good talk was also to be followed by walking a good walk by the two countries. Ms. Kabir requested the delegates to share their business sectors through email for proper B2B facilitation going forward. The Delegation Leader, Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta invited the Metropolitan Chamber to The Bengal Chamber.

■ **Day 3: 17th February 2017: Dhaka**

- **Visit to Inauguration of ICT Pangaon :**

Capt. S B Mazumder, Chairman, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber, with his colleague, Mr. Arup Bandhu Guha visited Pangaon Port upon invitation from the Ministry of Shipping, to be a part of the Inauguration of the International Container Terminal at Pangaon accompanied by Ms. Binti Jahan, an official from the BBIN desk of FBCCI. Those present in the Inaugural Ceremony of ICT Pangaon:

- Minister of Shipping, Govt. of Bangladesh
- Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Govt. of Bangladesh
- Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of Bangladesh
- Indian Ambassador to Bangladesh
- Chairman, Chittagong Port Authority
- Terminal Manager, Chittagong Port Authority
- Commissioner of Customs, ICT Pangaon
- Terminal Manager, ICT Pangaon
- Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI

Mehboob Alam, Owner of the Coastal Vessel on berth, M.V.Nou Kolan

- Several Shipping Agents
- Freight Forwarders & Clearing Agents
- Exim Trade Representatives
- Vizag Container Terminal, Business Dev. Manager
- Haldia Container Terminal, Business Dev. Manager

The ICT Pangaon is owned and built by Chittagong Port Authority. The construction was completed in 2013 and

formally inaugurated by the Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina on 7th November 2013. In the first voyage, the Coastal Vessel M.V. NOU KOLAN from Kolkata had arrived with 65 units of Import Cargo from Kolkata. After the inaugural speeches of the Ministers and other officials 'at the jetty front', the off-loading of the import loaded containers on the M.V. NOU KOLAN Vessel from Kolkata commenced. All the Ministers and Government Officials spoke on similar lines that the Government has incurred a large expenditure building the ICT Terminal and requested the Exim Trade, especially Importers and Exporters situated in and around Dhaka area, to support the ICT by using the facilities. They advised that purpose of the ICT was to reduce part of the road traffic between Chittagong Port and Dhaka, by IWT Barges undertaking a regular service between Chittagong Port and ICT Pangaon.

□ Day 4: 18th February 2017: Chittagong:

• Visit to Chittagong Port and meeting with key Port Officials:

Representatives of the Shipping sector, who were part of the Bengal Chamber delegation, visited Chittagong Port at 9.00 am on 18th February 2017. They had a drive through Chittagong port and then a detailed meeting with the Terminal Manager Mr. Golam Md. Sarwarul Islam and Assistant Terminal Manager. The key highlights of the Port visit and subsequent discussions were:

- Chittagong is a Riverine Port on the Karnaphuli River and open to Tides.
- There are only 19 berths in the Port of which 13 are reserved for Container vessels.
- Only 2 of the 13 container berths have shore crane facilities and so most container vessels calling on Chittagong have to be self-geared vessels.
- The rise of tide is 1.5 – 2 mtrs and so ships at berth are subjected to the rise and fall of tides, in view of the Port not having Lock Gates.
- The throughput of the containers is 2.35 million Teus per annum.
- The annual increase in container throughput is high at 15-16%.
- The port has a yard capacity of 36357 Teus at any given time.
- 40% of the Imports are destuffed in Port and balance 60% is moved out to the off dock CFS.
- Container shipping being the lifeline of the port, there is generally berth congestion of average 1-2 days and at times much higher.

• B2B Meeting with The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry :

The members of The Bengal Chamber Delegation had a B2B Interaction with The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry at 11 a.m. on 18th February 2017 at WTC Building, Chittagong. At the onset of the meeting, there was a self-introduction of the delegates, followed by a video presentation by The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry showcasing the strategic location of Chittagong, its natural fundamental advantages and its unique biodiversity. A similar video presentation of BCC&I showcasing West Bengal followed.

Mr. Md. Nurun Newaz, Senior Vice President of CCCI delivered the formal Welcome Address. He mentioned India and Bangladesh have huge potentials in bilateral trade. Local markets called Border Haats have been opened to facilitate trade between small scale industries and farmers to generate market opportunities for them. Cost of doing trade is high between Bangladesh and India mainly due to lack of trade facilitation on both sides. Almost all border crossings lack modern infrastructure. Other non-tariff barriers like regulatory measures and lack of trade services have affected the bilateral trade. The Chittagong Chamber, through BCC&I, would like to request the Indian Government to accept BSTI (Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution) certification in case of export. Joint measures should be taken to remove other barriers so that both the countries could be benefitted. The delegation comprising consultancy, education, engineering, finance, health, IT, tourism, shipping, skilled development, logistics and transportation exchanged views with their Bangladesh counterparts to share knowledge and extend cooperation for mutual benefit. Mr. Somnath Halder, Assistant High Commissioner of India, Dhaka was present and while addressing the audience, he mentioned that Bangladesh and India share a historic relationship. Both the Governments need to work together closely to enhance the relationships and bilateral trade between the two countries. He also said that India could participate in the development of the Chittagong Port. Infrastructure development and more investments were needed to improve the tourism industry in Bangladesh. Development of Infrastructure sector had become a primary necessity in Bangladesh. Bangladesh was also trying to develop the two economic zones Mongla and Anwara. There was a great opportunity to develop healthcare in Bangladesh. Mr R.N Lahiri, Co-leader of the Delegation delivered his speech. He focused especially on Education and Skill Development and the Media Sector. Dr. Alam, Immediate Past President of CCCI, representing the Health Sector in Bangladesh, said that more investments were needed to develop the health sector in Bangladesh. Advance training should be given to the people of HR from the Health Sector. Dr. Mahmud Hasan, representing the tourism sector in Bangladesh said that development of infrastructure and the medical sector was needed to improve tourism opportunities.

India and Bangladesh enjoy a very deep-rooted bilateral relation based on mutual trust and cooperation. The two countries are closely cooperating in the fields of trade, investment, sharing of skill and transfer of technology, education, training and through people-to- people contact. There has been exchange of high-level visits between the two countries that have helped develop mutual understanding. The two countries have signed a number of agreements to institutionalize the bilateral relations. India is now investing more and more in Bangladesh in infrastructure development. This is very good news for the business community of both the countries. Both nations can become complementary to each other and be benefitted.



The Members of The Bengal Chamber Delegation having informal meeting with Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at Nitol Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh



The Members of The Bengal Chamber Delegation having Discussion Meeting with Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). L-R: Mr. Hussain Jamil, Secretary (International), FBCCI; Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI; Mr. R N. Lahiri, Co-Leader, BCC&I Delegation and Chairperson Emeritus, IT Committee, BCC&I



Capt. S. B. Mazumder, Executive Director, Seahorse Ship Agencies Pvt. Ltd. (and Chairman, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber), sharing his perspective on Shipping Sector during B2B discussions with FBCCI



Mr. R. N. Lahiri, Co- Leader of the BCC&I Delegation, presenting a memento to Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI



Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI, presenting a memento to Mr. R N Lahiri, Co- Leader of BCC&I Delegation



The members of BCC&I Delegation with the President and other members of FBCCI



Inaugural Ceremony of Indo Bangla Trade Fair. L-R: Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh; Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI; Mr. Jahangir Bin Alam, Secretary & CEO, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry



A section of audience with the BCC&I Delegation members at the Inaugural Ceremony of Indo Bangla Trade Fair



Meeting of The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Dr. A F M Manzur Kadir, Director General, Export Promotion Bureau



Members of BCC&I Delegation with Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Commerce Minister, People's Republic of Bangladesh



Members of the BCC&I delegation having a discussion meeting with Mr. Sabur Khan, Chairman of Daffodil University



Meeting of The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President of BCC&I and Leader of The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Commerce Minister, Bangladesh



Meeting of The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Janab Nasrul Hamid, Hon'ble State Minister, Power Division-Ministry of Power Energy & Mineral Resources



Meeting with Ms. Nihad Kabir, President, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dhaka (MCCI)



Members of BCC&I Delegation - on arrival at the Chittagong airport



Informal Meeting with Mr. Mahfuzul Hoque Shah, Director, The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Chittagong



Capt. S B Mazumder and Mr. Arup Bandhu Guha at the Pangaon Port upon invitation from the Ministry of Shipping accompanied by Ms. Binti Jahan, an official from the BBIN desk of FBCCI



Mr. R N Lahiri, Co-Leader of BCC&I Delegation with the members of CCCI



Mr. R N Lahiri, Co-Leader of BCC&I Delegation, during his speech at the B2B Meeting with CCCI



Mr. Somnath Halder, Assistant High Commissioner of India, addressing the audience during the B2B Meeting with CCCI



Mr. Md. Nurun Newaz , Senior Vice President, CCCI presenting a memento to Mr. R N Lahiri, Co-Leader of BCC&I Delegation



B2B Meeting with Chittagong Chamber of Commerce in progress



Members of The Bengal Chamber Delegation at World Trade Centre, Chittagong



Capt. S B Mazumder, Executive Director, Seahorse Ship Agencies Pvt. Ltd. with the Terminal Manager Mr. Golam Md. Sarwarul Islam and Assistant Terminal Manager of Chittagong Port



India plans to invest $3b in Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Investments from India worth over $3 billion have been registered with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), said Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, yesterday.

More investments in the power, liquefied natural gas and port sectors in Bangladesh are in the pipeline as there is great business potential here, said the top Indian diplomat at the inauguration of the three-day India-Bangla Trade Fair 2017 at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed opened the fourth version of the fair as chief guest. The India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI) organised the fair to display products and services from both countries to the customers.

Companies from both India and Bangladesh are also exploring new opportunities for investments and to set up joint ventures in each other's countries, said Shringla.

Indian companies such as Marico, CEAT, Tata Motors, Godrej, Sun Pharma, Asian Paints have made substantial investments in Bangladesh, the high commissioner said.

India has also been offered exclusive sites by Bangladesh to establish special economic zones, he said. These zones may be at Mongla or Chittagong, he added.

"With the India-Bangladesh trade and commercial relationship growing at a substantial pace, Bangladesh is now India's biggest trade partner in South Asia."

In the last 15 years, Bangladesh's exports to India have grown tenfold and India's exports to Bangladesh six times. Bilateral trade in 2015-16 stood at $6.14 billion, Shringla said.

In November last year, IBCCI had organised a fruitful discussion on enhancing India-Bangladesh Waterways Connectivity, which saw good participation from both the countries.

"In an important development in waterways and sea connectivity between India and Bangladesh, the first container ship will arrive from Kolkata to Pangaon Inland Container Terminal tomorrow [Friday] under the Coastal Shipping Agreement between our two countries," he said.

Around 60 companies from India and Bangladesh, from diverse sectors like automobiles, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, are participating in the fair.

This also includes business delegations from Confederation of Indian Industry and Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata.

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India plans to invest $3b in Bangladesh

FROM PAGE B1

Tofail Ahmed urged the Indian government to remove the tariff, para-tariff and non-tariff barriers for a higher export of goods from Bangladesh to India.

The balance of trade between the two countries is heavily tilted towards India because Bangladesh imports a lot of raw materials and food items from there, he said.

India has given duty-free access to all Bangladeshi goods except 25 alcoholic and beverage items. "I am happy that a large amount of investment is coming to Bangladesh," Ahmed said.

Abdul Matlub Ahmad, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Taskeen Ahmed, president of IBCCI, Abhijeet Chakravorty, country head at State Bank of India, Ambarish Dasgupta, leader of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Delegation, and Pankaj Tandon, leader of the Confederation of Indian Industry Delegation, also spoke.

The BCC&I Delegation, found good coverage in Bangladeshi media

BUSINESS DELEGATION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

10TH JULY 2017 TO 13TH JULY 2017

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry took a business delegation to the United Kingdom focusing on Education from 10th July to 13th July 2017. The delegation was led by Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman Education Committee, BCC&I & Chairman and Chief Mentor, Indismart Group. The delegation comprised of industry representatives from West Bengal. The delegation members were:

Name	Designation	Organization
Dr. Suborno Bose	Chairman of the Education Committee of BCC&I and Chief Mentor	Indismart Group
Mr. Moloy Dutta	Director	Next Generation Career Pvt Ltd
Mr. Dhruv Bhalla	Vice President and Head - International Business, Corporate Strategy and Planning	SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited
Dr. Suman Kumar Mukerjee	Director General	The Bhawanipur Education Society College
Shri. Miraj Digvijay Shah	Vice Chairman-Governing Body	The Bhawanipur Education Society College
Ar. Somali Sinha	Director	PROFEX Institute of Technical Education
Mr. Anish Chakraborty	Chairman	Seacom Engineering College
Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh	Vice President- Corporate Relations	JIS Group
Mr. Simarpreet Singh	Director	JIS Group
Ms. Atrayee Seth	Director	Keya Seth Ayurvedic Solution Pvt Ltd
Ms. Sukanya Bose	Deputy Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Day 1: London: 10th July 2017:Visit to Buckinghamshire New University for Discussions and B2B Meetings:

On 10th July 2017, the delegation members had B2B interaction with the professors, executives and departmental heads of the Buckinghamshire New University. The delegation was received Dr. Lorraine Watkins-Mathys, Dean of Faculty of Design, Media & Management and was welcomed and addressed by Professor Rebecca Bunting, Vice Chancellor of the University. Before the formal meeting, the delegation members had an informal discussion with the representatives of the University, briefing the latter about their sectors of interests and business purposes in the United Kingdom. The Formal B2B meeting was presided by the departmental heads and the faculty members. The Bengal Chamber Delegation was led by Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman Education Committee of BCC&I, who delivered the opening remarks. Dr. Bose spoke about the close cultural and traditionalties that the two countries share and after highlighting the objectives of the trip to the UK, Dr. Bose requested the members to introduce themselves. In her closing remarks, Professor Rebecca Bunting, Vice Chancellor of the Buckinghamshire New University thanked the Bengal Chamber for bringing such a dynamic and scholarly delegation, which led to a most stimulating and erudite discussion. Dr. Suborno Bose, along with Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber, thanked everyone present and expressed the interest of creating partner to partner based collaboration with the University.

Day 1: 10th July 2017: Visit to Brunel University:

On the same date, i.e., 10th July 2017, the delegation members had another interaction with the professors, executives and departmental heads of The Brunel University. The delegation was received Prof Andrew Ward, Director of Corporate Relations and was welcomed and addressed by Professor Ashley Braganza, Deputy Dean CBASS and Professor of Organizational Transformation at the University. Before the formal meeting, the delegation members had an informal discussion with the representatives of the University, briefing the latter about their sectors of interests and business purposes in the United Kingdom. The Formal B2B meeting was presided by the departmental heads and the faculty members. Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman Education Committee of BCC&I, delivered the opening remarks.

Day 1: 10th July 2017: Meeting with Ambassador Dinesh Patnaik, Deputy High Commissioner of India at the High Commission of India in the UK, London:

The delegation was received by Shri. Saikat Sen Sharma, Counsellor Economic, High Commission of India and was welcomed by the Ambassador Dinesh Patnaik, Deputy High Commissioner of India. Shri. Patnaik congratulated the Chamber on bringing such a niche and focused delegation. He discussed about the opportunities and the demand for setting up incubation centres at different Universities especially at Cambridge University. Any Indian Company interested to open up incubation centres would be welcomed by the Universities. He also mentioned about scaling up the startups present in various universities in India, to have an ecosystem where Indian startups could tie up with the startups present in the United Kingdom, as the startup success rate now is 1:50. Universities become crucibles when startups try and test out their products or services. He also shared that India and UK are very close is all aspects. He suggested that for Masters programmes, the Universities should tie-up with the UK Universities so that the students could go through two years' course (one year in India and one year in the UK). In such cases where the VISA Application is genuine and are for studies or short stays, VISA is not a problem in the UK. He also suggested BCC&I Education Committee could communicate with the UK Universities regarding the internship programmes with a concept like KNOW INDIA, where they could send their students for unpaid internship in India for 3 to 4 months and the Chamber could coordinate appropriately. He also suggested the need for looking into FINTECH as after demonetization, he felt India should look into FINTECH more. UK is one of the best in Innovation and FINTECH. Dr. Suborno Bose thanked Shri Patnaik on behalf of the Chamber and the delegation and concluded with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

Day 2: London: 11th July 2017: Meeting with United Kingdom Department for International Trade

The BCC&I delegation had an excellent interaction with Ms. Caroline Plumb OBE, Prime Minister's Business Ambassador for Professional Services. She stressed on innovation and observed that there are many opportunities for the small scale industries in context of innovation.

Followed by Ms. Caroline Plumb, Mr. Phillip D'Costa, Partner, Commercial Dispute Resolution and India Group at Penningtons Law Firm made a presentation on technology transfer from the United Kingdom to international markets. He also discussed on the trends and opportunities. The session was very useful for some of the members especially those into financial services and financing as they clarified as well as discussed various issues. Thereafter, the delegates had a most engaging session with Mr. Andrew McHallam, Head of FCO Scholarship Unit, UK Export Finance. Mr. McHallam spoke about the Chevening Scholarships programmeas well as the fellowship programme. Following this the delegation met Ms. Julian Lynn, Export Finance Manager of UK Export Finance. SREI took a lead role and Mr. Dhruv Bhalla of SREI interacted with them extensively.

Day 2: London: 11th July 2017: Meeting with London Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

The Bengal Chamber officials met the officials of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Dr. Suborno Bose, leader of the BCC&I delegation introduced the Chamber. The Corporate Video of the Bengal Chamber was played for Mr. Peter Bishop, Deputy Chief Executive of London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Peter Bishop expressed his keenness to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Such a partnership was agreed to in-principle.

Day 2: London: 11th July 2017: Meeting with Lord Nick Bourne at the House of Lords

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry had the rare privilege of attending a specially convened meeting at the House of Lords. The Education Committee of the Chamber was invited by Lord Nick Bourne. Apart from Lord Bourne, the meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. Zenobia Nadirshawand Dr. Sanjeev Kanoria, Managing Director Advinia Healthcare and SREI Group. Dr. Suborno Bose, Leader of the BCC&I Delegation introduced the Chamber and shared the various activities of the Chamber. Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group presented a memento to Lord Nick Bourne.

Day 3: Birmingham: 12th July 2017: Visit to the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce:

The delegation first reached the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Paul Faulkner, Chief Executive, Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry formally welcomed the delegation. Dr. Suborno Bose, leader of the delegation introduced the Bengal

Chamber to the University representatives and the Chamber Members. The Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Commonwealth Association and various educational stakeholders in the City were present to meet the BCC&I Delegation. It was in this forum that the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Asian Chamber of Commerce and Industry expressed their eagerness to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the individual Chambers.

After the formal introduction at the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, the delegation had to split in order to have B2B meetings with different universities.

The visit concluded on 13th July 2017. The delegation marked the beginning of the international educational tie-ups facilitated by the Chamber and was appreciated by the members comprising the delegation.



BCC&I Delegation with Professor Ashley Braganza, Deputy Dean CBASS and Professor of Organizational Transformation of the University at the Brunel University.



Prof. Andrew Ward, Director of Corporate Relations and Professor Ashley Braganza, Deputy Dean CBASS and Professor of Organizational Transformation of the University at the Brunel University addressing the BCC&I Delegation.



Delegation with the Ambassador Dinesh Patnaik, Deputy High Commissioner of India at High Commission of India, India House, London, The United Kingdom.



Professor Rebecca Bunting, Vice Chancellor of the Buckinghamshire New University welcoming the delegation and inviting Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman, Education Committee, BCC&I to introduce the delegation.



Delegation meeting with Ms. Caroline Plumb OBE, Prime Minister's Business Ambassador for Professional Services at UKDIT.



Discussion session with Ms. Natasha Borroughs, Head of Great Investors, UKDIT (extreme right).



Visit to the London Chamber: L-R – Ms. Atreyee Seth; Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, BCC&I; Mr. Peter Bishop, Deputy Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman, Education Committee, BCC&I and Mr. Moloy Dutta, Member, Education Committee, BCC&I.



Meeting with Lord Nick Bourne at the House of Lords.



Visit to Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

BUSINESS DELEGATION TO SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

13TH- 19TH NOVEMBER 2017

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) partnering The Consulate General of Russia in Kolkata, organized a focused Business Delegation to St Petersburg, Russia between 13th and 19th November 2017 for participation at the "Global Entrepreneurship Week 2017 (GEW - 2017)" which was organized between 13th and 19th November 2017 at Saint - Petersburg, Russia.

The Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) commenced in 2007 is an annual international symposium and exposition which is organized for entrepreneurs/MSMEs and also Startups from within Russia and overseas countries representing various sectors. This year, the Global Entrepreneurship Week – 2017 (GEW - 2017) was organized by Opora Russia (the largest non–governmental association of Entrepreneurs/MSMEs in Russia). The objective of GEW 2017 was to initiate a global movement to inspire people globally to unleash their ideas and take the next leap towards their entrepreneurial journey. This event provided the platform of a single global entrepreneurial ecosystem covering 170 countries to share ideas and turn them into promising ventures like creating jobs, accelerating innovation and strengthening economic stability around the world. As India was the focus country, there was a large participation from Indian entrepreneurs/MSMEs in this mega programme.

The Bengal Chamber was privileged to have with us in Saint Petersburg Shri S Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal, who represented the State Government at GEW 2017 and invited the Government of Saint Petersburg to participate in BGBS 2018. The other delegates from the Chamber were,

- Mr Debkumar Basu, Chairperson, Manufacturing & MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Director, ZETADEL Technologies P. Ltd.
- Mr Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chief Executive Officer, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.
- Ms Sila Singh Ghosh, Vice President- Corporate Relations, JIS Group
- Mr Supriyo Ghosh, Sr Member, Manufacturing & MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Partner, M/s Girish Ch Ghosh & GGS
- Mr Mahadi Hossain, Technical Supervisor, M/s Girish Ch. Ghosh & GGS

Apart from the Indian delegation, there were also delegations from other countries like China, Finland, Syria, UK, Philippines, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, USA, UAE, Nigeria, Kenya, etc.
In this long week of GEW – 2017, there were exhibitions and concurrent sessions like round-tables, lecture series, workshops, discussions, seminars, etc on various sectors for the budding entrepreneurs/MSME units and last but not the least there were separate B2B meetings for the delegates.

The delegates from the Chamber, as part of GEW - 2017, had the opportunity of having some good B2B meetings in Saint – Petersburg like meetings at The Saint – Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, INGRIA Business Incubator, Russia, First Business Incubator in Russia and also a visit to The REP Holding, Nevskiy Plant.

Besides, there was a dedicated session organized for the Indian delegates which was on "India – Russia Co- operation" and the objective of organizing this session was to understand the different formats of business collaborations between India and Russia.

Shri S Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal was one of the eminent speakers at this session.The entire session was conducted by Opora Russia. The GEW – 2017 was organized taking into account the emerging sectors like Engineering, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Leather, Textiles and Garments, Gems and Jewellery, Transport and Logistics, Education, Skill Development, Food Processing and Agro, Infrastructure, Energy and Power, Healthcare, Tourism, Hospitality, IT & ITeS, Refractories, Pharmaceuticals, Shipping, etc.



The Panelists at the Inaugural Session of the Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) – 2017 held at The Lenexpo, Saint – Petersburg, Russia, 13th– 19th November 2017. Second from left, Shri S. Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal.



Shri S. Kishore, IAS giving his speech at the Inaugural Session.



Shri Arun Kumar Sharma, Consul General of India, Saint - Petersburg, Russia giving his speech at the Inaugural Session.



Meeting in progress between some of the very senior representatives of The Saint Petersburg Government. Extreme right, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber.



Meeting in progress between Shri S. Kishore, IAS, Shri Arun Kumar Sharma and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh during the GEW – 2017.



Meeting in progress between Shri S. Kishore, IAS, Mr. Mikhail Gusev (Deputy Consul General, The Consulate General of the Russian Federation, Kolkata, West Bengal, India), Ms. Elena Kapustina (Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, Committee For Entrepreneurship and Consumer Market Development of Saint – Petersburg, Government of Saint – Petersburg) and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh during the GEW – 2017.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh in a meeting with Mr. Starkovsky Daniel, Director, Centre of Entrepreneurship Development, Russia during the GEW – 2017.



The delegates present at the press conference.



The panelists of the Press Conference of GEW – 2017. Second from right is Shri S Kishore, IAS. Third from left, Shri Arun Kumar Sharma.



The Panelists at the Session on "India - Russia Dialogue" organized during the GEW – 2017. Third from left, Shri Arun Kumar Sharma, fourth from left, Shri S Kishore, IAS.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh and the delegates from The Bengal Chamber during an interaction at the Session on "India - Russia Dialogue".



A group photo of some of the Chamber delegates with some of the representatives of GEW – 2017.



The Bengal Chamber delegates with Shri S. Kishore, IAS (at the middle) at GEW – 2017. L-R: Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chief Executive Officer, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Supriyo Ghosh, Managing Partner, M/s Girish Ch. Ghosh & GGS; Mr. Ramit Sircar, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. S. Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal; Mr. Mahadi Hossain, Technical Supervisor, M/s Girish Ch. Ghosh & GGS; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Debkumar Basu, Chairperson, Manufacturing & MSME Committee and Director, ZETADEL Technologies P. Ltd. and Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh, Vice President- Corporate Relations, JIS Group.



A group photo of some of the Chamber delegates with some of the representatives of GEW – 2017.



Mr. Debkumar Basu from The Bengal Chamber presenting a memento to Ms. Tamara from Opora Russia, the organizers of GEW – 2017.



Ms. Tamara presenting a memento to Mr. Debkumar Basu for bringing a Delegation from The Bengal Chamber for participation at The GEW – 2017.



Mr. Debkumar Basu presenting a memento to Ms. Veronika Peshkova, Board Member, Committee on Women's Entrepreneurship Development, Opora Russia.



Mr. Debkumar Basu presenting a memento to Mr. Mikhail Gusev.



Mr. Debkumar Basu presenting a memento to Mr. Supriyo Ghosh.



Mr. Supriyo Ghosh presenting a memento to Mr. Debkumar Basu.



The Bengal Chamber delegates in front of Lenexpo, the venue for the GEW – 2017.



A group photo of the delegates with the representatives of the First Business Incubator of Russia.



Meeting of the delegates with the representatives of the First Business Incubator of Russia.



A group photo of the delegates with the representatives of REP Holding, Nevskiy plant, Saint – Petersburg, Russia.



The snapshot of the REP Holding, Nevskiy plant.



A visit of the Chamber delegates to REP Holding, Nevskiy plant.



The visit of the plant in progress.



The visit of the delegates to the Museum of REP Holding, Nevskiy plant.



The visit of the delegates to INGRIA, business incubators of Saint – Petersburg, Russia.



A group photo of the delegates with Ms. Polina Lukianova, CEO, Business Incubator INGRIA (third from left).



A Roundtable meeting in progress between the Chamber delegates and INGRIA at their office premises.



A Session on IT/ITeS organized during the GEW – 2017. Extreme right, Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya.

A group photo after the meeting with the Saint – Petersburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry. L-R: Mr. Ramit Sircar, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chief Executive Officer, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd; Mr. Debkumar Basu, Chairperson, Manufacturing & MSME Committee and Director, ZETADEL Technologies P. Ltd; Ms. Ekaterina Lebedeva, Vice President, Saint – Petersburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Mr. Supriyo Ghosh, Managing Partner, M/s Girish Ch. Ghosh & GGS.



BUSINESS DELEGATION TO BANGLADESH

22ND TILL 26TH APRIL 2018, CHITTAGONG AND DHAKA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Business Delegation to Bangladesh visiting Chittagong and Dhaka from 22nd April to 26th April 2018. The Delegation was led by Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber.

The delegation list is mentioned below :

- Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director and CEO, Bandhan Bank Limited (Leader of the Delegation)
- Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Senior Partner and Founder Intueri Global and Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. K K Mahapatra, Head-INFOCOM, ABP Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Pranabesh Bhaumik, Director, Conacent Consulting Private Limited
- Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP
- Md Tofazzal Haque, Country Manager, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
- Mr. Souvik Chaki, Business Head – India, Indus Net Technologies
- Mr. Dipayan Roy, Manager-Infrastructure, Government and Healthcare, KPMG Advisory Services Private Limited
- Mr. Manish Topdar, Director, Nimbus Systems Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Raktim Mitra, Director, Nimbus Systems Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Anindya Ghosh, Associate Director, PwC
- Mr. Abhishek Jhunjhunwala, Managing Director, Sityspace Properties Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Debabrata Samaddar, Managing Director, Tata Steel Processing And Distribution Limited
- Mr. Jayanta Basu, Proprietor, Tech-o Enterprise
- Mr. Sujan Pandit, Managing Trustee, TKP Memorial Trust
- Ms Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Chief Manager- Research, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

A) Chittagong

22nd April

The Delegation reached Chittagong on 22nd April. Shri Anindya Banerjee, Assistant High Commissioner, Assistant High Commission of India hosted the Delegation for dinner at Chittagong Club.

23rd April

B2B Meeting was organized by The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry at the World Trade Centre in Chittagong on 23rd April. Before the Meeting, the Delegation visited the Exhibition Centre of WTC. The Meeting was presided over by Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Board Members of The Chittagong Chamber joined the Meetings. Association Heads from the relevant sectors were also invited to facilitate B2B meetings.

B) Dhaka

The Delegation reached Dhaka on 23rd April night.

24th April

The Delegation met Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, High Commissioner of India in Dhaka at the Indian High Commission on 24th April.

It was followed by meeting with M. A. Mannan, Hon'ble State Minister, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) organized B2B meetings for the delegation on the same day at the Chamber premises. The Meeting was presided over by Mr. Abul Kasem Khan, President. Md. Riaz Uddin Khan, Vice President was also present. DCCI invited their relevant Members for B2B.

The day concluded by joining Networking Dinner at Hotel Westin hosted by PwC Bangladesh. Mr. Mamun Rashid, Managing Partner, PwC Bangladesh was present. Mr. Pulak Saha, Partner - Tax and Regulatory Services, Price Waterhouse & Co. LLP and Chairperson, Indirect Taxes Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Kaushik Mukherjee, Partner - Tax and Regulatory Services, Price Waterhouse Coopers Pvt. Ltd. also joined.

25th April

On 25th April, the delegation split in two groups. One group met Indian Importers Chamber of Commerce & Industry Bangladesh. The other group met Ahmed Jamal, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank.

Meeting was also held with Mustafa Jabbar, Hon'ble Minister, ICT Division, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh. The delegates from IT sector, led by the President met the Hon'ble Minister.

The delegation had B2B Meeting with The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) on that day at the Chamber premises. The Meeting was presided over by Md. Shafiul Islam, President. Md. Muntakim Ashraf, Vice President moderated the Meeting.

26th April

B2B Meeting was organized by India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Nitol Centre. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, IBCCI chaired the Meeting.

The Delegation was co-led by Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP.

The visit of the Delegation was well covered in the media in Bangladesh.



Shri Anindya Banerjee, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh with The Bengal Chamber Delegation at Chittagong Club



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Shri Anindya Banerjee, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh



The delegate members visiting exhibition gallery at World Trade Centre, Chittagong



B2B meeting with the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, L-R : Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI); Shri Anindya Banerjee, Assistant High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh



Distinguished audience during CCCI meeting



Distinguished audience during CCCI meeting



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry



The Bengal Chamber Delegation at World Trade Centre, Chittagong



The delegation having interaction with H.E. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, High Commissioner of India in Dhaka



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to H.E. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, High Commissioner of India in Dhaka



The delegation having interaction with M. A. Mannan, Hon'ble State Minister, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to M. A. Mannan, Hon'ble State Minister, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



The delegate members with M. A. Mannan, Hon'ble State Minister, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Business meeting with Mr. Abul Kasem Khan, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI)



Distinguished audience during DCCI meeting



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Abul Kasem Khan, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Meeting with Mr. Mamun Rashid, Managing Partner of PwC Bangladesh



Distinguished audience



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Mamun Rashid, Managing Partner of PwC Bangladesh



Networking dinner



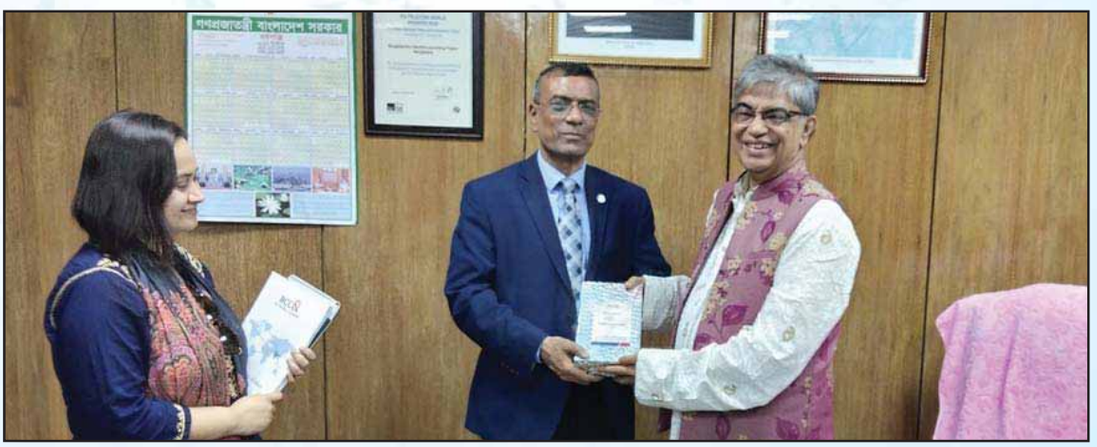
Meeting with Mr. Ahmed Jamal, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Ahmed Jamal, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank



Meeting with Mr. Mustafa Jabbar, Hon'ble Minister, ICT Division, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Mustafa Jabbar, Hon'ble Minister, ICT Division, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh



Meeting with Md. Shafiul Islam (Mohiuddin), President, The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI)



Distinguished audience during FBCCI meeting



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressing the audience



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Md. Shafiul Islam (Mohiuddin), President, The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry



B2B Interaction in progress at FBCCI



The Delegate Members having meeting with Indian Importers Chambers of commerce and Industry



Meeting with Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI)



One of the delegate members sharing his business interest and purpose of visit in Bangladesh during IBCCI meeting



One of the delegate members sharing his business interest and purpose of visit in Bangladesh during IBCCI meeting



Distinguished audience at the IBCCI meeting



B2B Interaction in progress during IBCCI meeting



B2B Interaction in progress during IBCCI meeting



B2B Interaction in progress during IBCCI meeting



B2B Interaction in progress during IBCCI meeting



B2B Interaction in progress during IBCCI meeting



প্রথম আলো

২৫/০৪/১৮

এফবিসিসিআইয়ের সঙ্গে বেঙ্গল চেম্বারের বৈঠক

দেশে চার খাতে ব্যবসায় আগ্রহ ভারতীয়দের

The BCC&I Delegation, found good coverage in Bangladeshi media (Pratham Alo)



News B3

West Bengal investors keen on health, education and IT

The BCC&I Delegation, found good coverage in Bangladeshi media (B3 DT)

THE BENGAL CHAMBER BUSINESS DELEGATION TO AUSTRALIA

21ST TO 27TH JULY 2018

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a Business Delegation to Australia, in association with Australian Trade Commission (Austrade), from 21st July 2018 to 27th July 2018.

The Delegation was led by Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director and CEO, Bandhan Bank Limited and **co-led by Mr. Indrajit Sen**, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Managing Director, International Combustion (India) Limited.

The delegation visited **Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne** and also **Perth**.

The composition of the delegation was as under,

- **Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh**, President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director and CEO, Bandhan Bank Limited (**Leader of the Delegation**).
- **Mr. Indrajit Sen**, President Designate The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Managing Director, International Combustion (India) Limited. (**Co-Leader of the Delegation**).
- **Sayantan Sarkar,** Director, Cyan Creations.
- **Dr. Rupali Basu,** Chairman, Women Empowerment Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Director (Non Executive)- IQ City Medical College and Narayana Multi-Specialty Hospital, Durgapur.
- **Mr. Simarpreet Singh**, Director, JIS Group.
- **Dr. Malay R Dave**, Principal, JISCE
- **Mr. Dhruv Bhalla,** Senior Vice President- International Relations, SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited.
- **Mr. Satyam Roychowdhury,** Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University and Founder and Managing Director, Techno India Group.
- **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh,** Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- **Ms Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury**, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

A: Sydney (21st July to 23rd July 2018)

The Delegation joined in Sydney on **21st July evening**. The meetings started from **23rd July 2018, 22nd July 2018** being a WarmUp day with orientation meeting.

The objective of the delegation was **B2G** and **focused B2B.**

The Inaugural Meeting was with **Mr. Paul Manoharan**, Manager, New South Wales Trade & Investment on **23rd July 2018** at **NSW T&I Office, Sydney.** He shared an overview on **business opportunities** in Australia, especially in **New South Wales,** which is the most concentrated economy in Australia. **New South Wales** is the **fastest growing economy** with **26 years uninterrupted growth**. **The lowest employment** with **4.6%** has been reported. **41% newTech Startups** are in **New South Wales,** which makes **New South Wales number one** in the country. **AUD 80 Billion** will be spent by the Government in **Infrastructure** in the next 4 years. The focused sectors being **Transport, Health, Education** and **Water Infrastructure.** Infrastructure is the **key priority** of **PPP Models.** Significant investments have been made from **Middle East, Canada, Korea and Japan. 61%** of more than **510 Fintech companies** in Australia are in **New South Wales. Indian presence in IT is notable**. **New South Wales** is the **most popular destination for international students including Indians**.

It was followed by focused B2B for the delegates throughout the day.

The significant B2Bs were:

Name of the Delegates	B2B meetings
Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director and CEO, Bandhan Bank Limited	• **Mr. Ritesh Srivastava**, Founder and CEO, of Epic Tenet, (Indian origin Fintech entrepreneur) • **Mr. Michelle Long**, Manager-Operations, Sydney Startup Hub • **Marie-Anne- Lampotang,** General Manager, Stone & Chalk, Sydney (Independent Fintech Hub) • **Derek Condell**, Founder and Managing Director, Mafematica • **Commonwealth Bank-Tour of Innovation Hub**

Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Managing Director, International Combustion (India) Limited	• **Mr. Vince Sunter**, Director of Engineering and Projects (Founding Partner), iPUT Pty Ltd. • **Mr. Mark Walter**, Commercial Manager, Vayeron • **Mr. Kevin Bagust**, National Sales Manager, Syntechtron and **Mr. Robert Kaye-Smith**, General Manager, Syntechtron.
Dr. Rupali Basu, Chairman, Women Empowerment Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Director (Non Executive)- IQ City Medical College and Narayana Multi-Specialty Hospital, Durgapur	• **University of New South Wales (UNSW)-** School of Public Health & Community medicine • **Macquarie University** (including visit to Macquarie University hospital) • **University of Western Sydney**
Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group and **Dr. Malay R Dave,** JIS Group	• **Macquarie University** (including visit to Macquarie University hospital) • **University of Western Sydney**
Mr. Satyam Roychowdhury, Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University and Founder and Managing Director, Techno India Group	• **Macquarie University** (including visit to Macquarie University hospital)

Mr. Dhruv Bhalla and **Mr. Sayantan Sarkar** had separate meetings.

B : Canberra (24th July 2018)

The delegation visited Canberra on 24th July 2018.

The delegation had meeting with **Mr. Paul Myler**, Assistant Secretary, South and West Asia Division, **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia**. It was mentioned that there has been increasing consciousness on Australian business community on business opportunities in India. **Business culture, Diaspora linkages and Political scenario** are being addressed**.** It is estimated that India would be on **top three export market** by **2035.** Australia does not have **investment led relationship** with **India.** It is based more on **economic collaborations, strategic partnership and P2P ties** being important factors. **Skill development** in **Mining** and **other sectors** was mentioned in this context. **Health Tech**, **Hospital Management** and **Education** were also mentioned.

It was followed by meeting with **Ms. Tania Constable**, CEO, **Minerals Council of Australia**. The meeting was attended by **Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh**, President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director and CEO, Bandhan Bank Limited; **Mr. Indrajit Sen**, President Designate The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Managing Director, International Combustion (India) Limited and **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh**, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. During the meeting, it was discussed that Mining comprises of 15% of Australia's GDP. The primary focus of the **Minerals Council of Australia** is on **Mining equipment, Technology and Services (METS)** and there are a number of areas ranging from **technology applications in Geo Sciences** to processing, extraction and looking at the proliferation of technology are some of the key aspects that the minerals council is stressing on. In the context of cooperation with overseas countries including India, the newly minted "AN INDIA ECONOMIC STRATEGY TO 2035" was referred to in-depth and the aspects of regional connectivity and negotiations on issues like **CECA and RCEP** were also discussed. The members of the council requested the Bengal Chamber for its views on various aspects of the Indian mining industry and the Chamber provided them with the insight by focusing on not only mining and minerals in India, but also on the dynamics of this sector in West Bengal and the Eastern region. Regulatory issues with respect to overseas investments were also discussed. The meeting concluded with the Chamber suggesting that **it would be most opportune for the Minerals Council to visit India and West Bengal and specifically take part in the Bengal Global Business Summit 2019. Perhaps, showcasing of demonstration mines by the Minerals Council could also be a part of a wider domain of collaboration.**

Dr. Rupali Basu, Mr. Simarpreet Singh and **Dr. Malay R Dave** met **Australian National University (ANU),** college of **Health and Medicine. Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury** accompanied them.

The delegation met **Dr. A.M. Gondane**, High Commissioner of India to Canberra, Australia. High Commissioner assured all support for Indian Businesses in Australia. During the meeting, the discussions were made on **Mining equipment, Technology and Services (METS), Education, Skill Development, Innovation, Textile and Fashion (Ethical Fashion,** which promotes sustainable production and welfare for environment). High Commissioner advised that collaboration may be explored in different areas understanding the compatibility of business models. He advised to follow **legal regulations minutely** for doing business in Australia.

The day was concluded by the dinner, hosted by, **Bongo Sanskriti Australia Inc** at **Hyatt Hotel Canberra**, which was attended by **Senator David Smith** (Australian Capital Territory) and **Mr. Brendan Smyth**, Commissioner for International Engagement. **Dr. Milan Bhattacharjee**, President**, Bongo Sanskriti Australia Inc** was present**. Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh** was felicitated.

C: Melbourne and Perth (25th July 2018)

Mr. Indrajit Sen, along with Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, went to **Perth** and rest of the delegation went to **Melbourne.**
Mr. Indrajit Sen had meetings with:

- **Downer Group**
- **Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science & Innovation, Western Australian Government. Austmine** joined the meeting.
- **Striker Crushing**

In Melbourne, **Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh**, **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh** and **Dr. Rupali Basu** met **Mr. Mouli Ganguly**, CEO & Australian Principal, AUSINDGRO. He organized Round Table meetings with **Australian banking and financial services ecosystem.** The discussion included:

➢ **Trends transforming banking & customer experience:**
- Customer experience and Intimacy
- Evolution in products and channel strategies
- Data the game changer and data quality
- AI, insights, gamification, digital

➢ **Preserving the bank:**
- Security- Rod
- Regulation, Risk & Compliance

➢ **Making the core more effective:**
- Evolution in retail products and channels- simplification, cost reduction
- Payments and secure transactions
- Core banking

➢ **Making banking relevant:**
- Learning from micro-finance – basic payments and remittances, micro-loans and farm insurance
- Empowering and educating customers who might be in a debt trap
- Fintech & Innovation- Disruption and new value creation – here and now
- Stories of 3 Fintechs and a tour of YBF facilities.

The meeting was attended by **Mr. Rod Tasker,** Strategic Management and innovative solution delivery in Banking and Finance industry and **Mr. John Salamito**, Australian and International FSI corporate leader and Entrepreneur.

D: Melbourne (26th July 2018)

The delegation had meeting with **Ms. Irene Tkalcevic,** Director, Trade Development, Trade Victoria and **Mr. Karls Ellis**, Policy Adviser, International Policy, International Coordination Office, State Government of Victoria.

The meeting had a comprehensive overview of the **Victorian economy** with complete focus on **Trade, Education, Health and Professional services**. They also facilitate Victorian businesses to connect internationally. There were detailed presentations on **exports from Victoria with 8 billion $ exports to South East Asia and 3.6 billion $ exports to Asia Oceania. 32% of all international students come to Victoria and Melbourne is the 3rd best Student friendly City in the world with initiatives like "Study Melbourne" – Student Centres which includes Live Initiatives, Live Internships and Volunteer Experience.** Institutes like **Monash University and Deakin University** are prime examples. Professional Services which includes **Financial Services, Mining Equipment Services, Urban Technology** formed a large chunk of the Victorian Economy. **There was keen interest in Urban Technology and India's Smart City programme**. In this context, "Samriddhi"- the Kalyani City of Analytics project concept was discussed with them by the Chamber secretariat.



The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Mr. Paul Manoharan, Manager, New South Wales Trade & Investment at NSW T&I Office, Sydney



Mr. Paul Manoharan, Manager, New South Wales Trade & Investment with Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director and CEO, Bandhan Bank Limited at Stone & Chalk (Independent Fintech Hub) along with Mr. Paul Manoharan, Manager, New South Wales Trade & Investment



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Managing Director, International Combustion (India) Limited with Mr. Kevin Bagust, National Sales Manager, Syntechtron and Mr. Robert Kaye-Smith, General Manager, Syntechtron



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director and CEO, Bandhan Bank Limited visiting Commonwealth Bank-Tour of Innovation Hub along with Mr. Paul Manoharan, Manager, New South Wales Trade & Investment



Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group; Mr. Satyam Roychowdhury, Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University and Founder and Managing Director, Techno India Group and Dr. Rupali Basu, Chairman, Women Empowerment Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Director (Non Executive)- IQ City Medical College and Narayana Multi-Specialty Hospital, Durgapur having B2B meetings on Education Sector



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director and CEO, Bandhan Bank Limited with Dr. A. M. Gondane, High Commissioner of India to Canberra, Australia



The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Dr. A. M. Gondane, High Commissioner of India to Canberra, Australia



Meeting with Mr. Paul Myler, Assistant Secretary, South and West Asia Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government



The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Mr. Paul Myler, Assistant Secretary, South and West Asia Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government



Meeting with Ms. Tania Constable, CEO, Minerals Council of Australia



Senator David Smith (Australian Capital Territory) addressing The Bengal Chamber Delegation during the dinner, hosted by Bongo Sanskriti Australia Inc at Hyatt Hotel Canberra, Mount Ainslie Room



The Bengal Chamber Delegation at the Dinner, hosted by Bongo Sanskriti Australia Inc



Meeting with Mr. Mouli Ganguly, CEO & Australian Principal, AUSINDGRO, Melbourne and select Startups in Melbourne



Dr. Milan Bhattacharjee, President, Bongo Sanskriti Australia Inc with Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director and CEO, Bandhan Bank Limited



The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Ms. Irene Tkalcevic, Director, Trade Development, Trade Victoria and Mr. Karls Ellis, Policy Adviser, International Policy, International Coordination Office, State Government of Victoria

BCC&I SECRETARIAT VISIT TO BANGLADESH

APRIL 23RD TO APRIL 26TH 2019, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Mr. Kumar Shivam, Associate Director – Strategy and Business Development and Mr. Debjit Ghosh, Sr. Executive of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Dhaka, Bangladesh from April 23rd to April 26th 2019.

Outcomes of the Visit

- Collaboration of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) with Bangladesh Society of Human Resources Management, Bangladesh (BSHRM) for jointly working on Human Capital Challenges and Opportunities and singing a MOU on 25th April 2019 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Signing of MOU between The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) and Professional Training Development and Consultant Associates (PTDCA) Bangladesh at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 24th April 2019 for joint efforts on training and development of Human Resources in both regions.
- A very constructive meeting with The CFO Foundation Bangladesh. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and CFO Foundation Bangladesh will explore opportunities to work jointly.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry will conduct joint programmes with the overseas partners very soon in both Kolkata, India and Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Collaboration of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) with Bangladesh Society of Human Resources Management, Bangladesh (BSHRM) for jointly working on Human Capital Challenges and Opportunities and singing a MOU on 25th April 2019 at Dhaka, Bangladesh



Signing of MOU between The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) and Professional Training Development and Consultant Associates (PTDCA) Bangladesh at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 24th April 2019 for joint efforts on training and development of Human Resources in both regions



A very constructive meeting with The CFO Foundation Bangladesh. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and CFO Foundation Bangladesh will explore opportunities to work jointly

BCC&I BUSINESS DELEGATION TO GERMANY

24TH TO 28TH JUNE 2019

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Business Delegation to Germany from 24th to 28th June 2019. The Delegation was led by Mr. Indrajit Sen, President**,** The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The cities visited were:

- **Stuttgart**
- **Uhingen**
- **Dusseldorf/Cologne**
- **Berlin**

The Delegation was comprised of :

Leader of the Delegation:

- Mr. Indrajit Sen, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Managing Director, International Combustion (India) Limited

Delegate Members :

- Mr. Abraham Stephanos, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Managing Director, Tata Steel Processing And Distribution Limited
- Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chief Executive Officer, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Debkumar Basu, Director, Zetadel Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Anandagopal Maity, President, Confederation Of Purba & Paschim Medinipur – District Chamber Of Commerce & Industry -DCCI
- Mr. Basudev Chakraborty, Legal Advisor, Confederation Of Purba & Paschim Medinipur – District Chamber Of Commerce & Industry -DCCI
- Mr. Goutam Das, Proprietor, M/S. Das Roto Print
- Ms. Joyoti Chaudhuri, Principal, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata
- Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi, Head Mistress – Senior Secondary Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata

The Chamber Secretariat:

- Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Chief Manager-Research, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Day 1: 24th June 2019

The Delegation visited **BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG INTERNATIONAL**, Agency for International Economic and Scientific Cooperation on 24th June. The Meeting was attended by **Ms. Ines Banhardt**, Regional Manager Latin, International Economic Cooperation and Location Marketing, BW International and **Ms. Kathrin Seitz**, Consultant North America, South and Southeast Asia, Foreign Trade and Services, Chamber of Industry and Commerce, IHK Region Stuttgart.

BW is the third largest State and 15.2% of GDP of Germany is contributed by BW. BW's GDP growth in one of the highest in Germany.

Discussions included possible collaborations on:

- **Vocational Training**
- **Technologies**
- **Waste Management**

It was decided that the above mentioned areas would be focussed to commence the work on collaborations and the other areas of complementarities would be identified going forward.

Visit at the International School of Stuttgart:

Ms. Joyoti Chaudhuri, Principal, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata, **Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi**, Head Mistress – Senior Secondary, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata and **Ms. Sukanya Bose**, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited the International School of Stuttgart at the day one of the delegation. The team met **Mr. Matthias Krusch**, Director Admission and Enrollment. Recognized by the state of Baden-Württemberg, International School of Stuttgart offers a diverse and exciting experiential and student-centered curriculum to a co-educational, multi-cultural student body of over 800 students from over 45 countries.

Day 2: 25th June 2019

The Delegation was divided in two groups.

The second day of the delegation had a very high intake as the Education Delegation which included Ms. Joyoti Chaudhuri and Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi along Ms. Sukanya Bose of BCC&I visited RWTH Aachen University and Institute for Textile Engineering of RWTH Aachen University.

The day started with great hospitality and a warm welcome provided to the team by the representative of RWTH Aachen University. **Dr. Stefan Diederich**, Coordinator, Strategic India

Activities along with **Ms. Kathrin Helsen**, Coordinator Visitor Programs gave an outline on the prospective of collaboration with the universities of Bengal. The role of Bengal Chamber for being the mediator between the Accahen University and Indian Universities was also discussed.

The second meeting of the day was at RWTH Aachen University and Institute for Textile Engineering of RWTH Aachen University. **Mr. Amool Raina**, Programme Manager, Aerospace Engineering and Manufacturing Programme took the team for a visit to the different laboratories and work station showing and explaining the process through which textile manufacturing and fabrication is being processed.

The other Delegate Members visited Allgaier Automotive GmbH in Uhingen. With a total of around 65,000 m2 production and logistics space, the company is the largest location of the Allgaier Automotive division. All activities of the Allgaier Group in this area - from technological innovations to innovative engineering services to sustainable processes - converge here.

Bundled with the services of the plants in eastern Germany, France, Mexico and China, Allgaier Automotive GmbH sets global standards in bodywork and special tool manufacturing, in the production of pressed parts as well as in the development and production of tank systems and other ready-to-install components in the body sector. Here, the Uhinger company offers a wide range of knowledge and decades of experience in the processing of aluminum and deep-drawing steels up to high-strength steel goods.

The engineering of Allgaier Automotive GmbH is also spearheading the recent development of attractive future technologies for the automotive industry. These include the development of battery cases for hybrid and electric vehicles as well as the revolutionary and worldwide patented cold forming process Variotempo.

Day 3: 26th June 2019

The Delegation attended the Annual Meeting of the Members of Indo-German Chamber of Commerce at Rheinterrasse (Düsseldorf).

The programme commenced with Welcome Address by **Mr. Sunil Mathur**, President, Indo-German Chamber of Commerce. Chief Guest was **Mr. Lutz Lienenkämper**, Minister of Finance of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). The Session was also graced by **Mr. Thomas Geisel**, Mayor of the City of Dusseldorf; **H.E. Mukta Dutta Tomar**, Ambassador of India to Germany; **Dr. Jasper Wieck,** Deputy Chief of Mission, German Embassy New Delhi. **Mr. Bernhard Steinrücke,** Director General, Indo-German Chamber of Commerce moderated the programme.

Ms. Vandana Yadav, Managing Director, WBIDC made a presentation on West Bengal. NRW and West Bengal made an MoU during Bengal Global Business Summit in February 2019. **Mr. Indrajit Sen**, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce introduced the Chamber and the purpose of visit by the Delegation – to present West Bengal and explore collaborations to work together with the stakeholders of NRW and other parts of Germany. **Mr. Indrajit Sen; along with Mr. Bernhard Steinrücke, requested Dr. Amit Mitra, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Departments of Industry, Commerce & Enterprises, Information Technology and Electronics, Finance and MSME & Textiles, Government of West Bengal for representation of West Bengal in the said programme.**

The other Sessions of the programme included 'Permanent Establishments and Projects India' and How to do 'Business in India? Tradition vs Start – Up'.

The Delegation met **Ministry of Economics, Innovation, Digitalization and Energy, NRW** at their Office. T**he Delegation was represented by Mr. Indrajit Sen; Mr. Abraham Stephanos; Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya; Mr. Debkumar Basu; Ms. Joyoti Chaudhuri; Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury and Ms. Sukanya Bose. Ms. Vandana Yadav was also present at the Meeting. Mr. Uwe Kerkmann**, Director, International Economic Relations and FDI met the Delegation along **Mr. Alexander Hoss,** Policy Advisor-Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitization and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and **Mr. Stephanus Lintker**, Geophysicist, Head- International Relations, Foreign Affairs, Energie Agentur. NRW was present at the Meeting.

The discussions included:

- **Possible connect of Technology Startups from NRW with our Innovation Hub, that is a joint endeavour between The Bengal Chamber and Information Technology & Electronics Department, Government of West Bengal. The possible contours of such a connect can be developed once we hear from the Ministry. The partnership could be in the form of joint workshops on the topic of mutual interest or may be to connect like- minded Startups. We may also look for experts from NRW to address/consult with Small and Medium Enterprises in Bengal which are into activities like Foundry, Forging, Fabrications, Light Engineering, Textiles, etc.**

- **For Delegation to Bengal, The Bengal Chamber would be delighted to offer its services in organizing all B2B Meetings and also host your Delegation programmes in Kolkata.**
- **Given the focus on Mining, Allied Activities and Fossil Fuels and Clean Technologies and Energy Efficient Practices, we shall connect exploring possibility of presence of Members at befitting Forums of the Chamber. This may also be on video conference.**

Visit to Cologne International School:

The third day of the delegation began with a very interesting and fruitful visit to the Cologne International School. This school has the option of both national board and international board curriculum. Ms Beatrice Eickhoff, Marketing Head, Cologone International school showed us the total infrastructure of the school and had fruitful chat with DPS ruby Park School on Summer Programmes and regarding the other common activities of the school. The visit gave new ideas and also helped in learning new concepts

Day 4: 27th June 2019

Visit to Berlin:
The delegation flew to Berlin to visit some prominent University and Institute Visit:

The first meeting started with EURASIA. The founder and Managing Director Mr. Andrew Geddes gave a presentation on the activities of Eurasia. This was an extremely fruitful meeting with DPS Ruby Park for their student exchange programmes.

Followed by the Eurasia meeting, the delegates meet Mr. Diego Tellkamp, Director International Business & Operations of IUBH University of Applied Sciences. They shared that their study programmes have a strong practical focus. Internship opportunities are included in all Bachelors programmes.

The third meeting of the day was at SRH University of Applied Science. This is one of the largest and oldest private university of Berlin.

Delegate Members visited GIFA - International Foundry Trade Fair with Technical Forum which was held on 25th to 29th June in Dusseldorf.

There were some individual meetings of the Delegate Members as well.

Day 5: 28th June 2019

Technical University of Berlin:
The last day of the delegation witnessed a Campus tour of the Technical University of Berlin. TU Berlin is one of Germany's highest ranked Universities in Statistics and operations research and in Mathematics. The tour included class visit, library visit, laboratory visit and also interaction with students.

Meeting with Chamber of Commerce Dusseldorf: The Delegation visited **Chamber of Commerce Duesseldorf.** Meeting was with **Ms. Katrin Lange**, Executive, International Business Division. She briefed about Chamber of Commerce Dusseldorf which concentrates on the City of Dusseldorf which is 624 sq km. There are 85000 Member Companies. Dusseldorf has Euro 58.2 billion GDP. They have export ratio of 45%. More than 25% of Europe's top 500 companies are at Dusseldorf.

It was discussed that The Bengal Chamber and Dusseldorf Chamber of Commerce would be in contact and explore the areas of complementarity to work together. To begin with, Innovations would be the key focus. The Chamber will connect the incubates of the Chamber's Incubation Centre with Chamber of Commerce Dusseldorf to offer an enabling eco system.

The concluding Meeting was with Innovations Hub Dusseldorf. Innovations Hub is a joint venture of **LAVAlabs Moving Images, Tennagels Media Technology and University of Applied Sciences Dusseldorf. LAVAlabs Moving Images** is a creative studio specializing in visual effects, 2D and 3D animation for advertising, feature film and entertainment industries. **Tennagels Media Technology** makes tailor-made media and event technology, custom LED, trade fair solutions, permanent installations like showrooms and out of home installations and fabrications at workshops. **University of Applied Sciences** with departments for social sciences and cultural studies, technical sciences, architecture, media, design and business education in Düsseldorf. It is the second largest University of Applied Sciences in North Rhine-Westphalia, after the Technical University of Cologne.

Innovations Hub is continuously researching on digital innovations which are going to be the constant component of business and life in future.

Demonstrations of unique projects with Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality were made during the tour at the hub.



(L-R) **Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi**, Head Mistress – Senior Secondary, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata; **Mr. Amool Raina**, Institute for Textile Engineering of RWTH Aachen University, **Ms. Sukanya Bose**, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Dr. Stefan Diederich**, Coordinator, Strategic India Activities, **Ms. Joyoti Chaudhuri**, Principal, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata



(L-R) **Ms. Kathrin Helsen**, Coordinator Visitor Programs, RWTH Aachen University, **Dr. Stefan Diederich**, Coordinator, Strategic India Activities, **Ms. Joyoti Chaudhuri**, Principal, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata; **Ms. Sukanya Bose**, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi**, Head Mistress – Senior Secondary, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata and **Dr. Satish K Batra**, President, Horizon Group of Companies



Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry**; Ms. Joyoti Chaudhuri**, Principal, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata and **Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi**, Head Mistress – Senior Secondary, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata with the representatives of SRH University



Ms. Joyoti Chaudhuri, Principal, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata; **Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi**, Head Mistress – Senior Secondary, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata; and **Ms. Sukanya Bose** , Deputy director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Technical University of Berlin



(L-R) **Ms. Joyoti Chaudhuri**, Principal, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata; **Ms. Beatrice Eickhoff**, Marketing Head, Cologne International school, **Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi**, Head Mistress – Senior Secondary, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata and **Ms. Sukanya Bose**, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry handing over a memento on behalf of the Bengal Chamber



(L-R) **Ms. Sukanya Bose**, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi**, Head Mistress – Senior Secondary, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata; **Mr. Matthias Krusch**, Director Admission and Enrollment recognized by the State of Baden-Württemberg, International School of Stuttgart; **Ms. Joyoti Chaudhuri**, Principal, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata



(L-R) **Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi**, Head Mistress – Senior Secondary, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata; **Ms. Joyoti Chaudhuri**, Principal, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata; **Mr. Andrew Geddes**, Founder and Managing Director, Eurasia; **Ms. Sukanya Bose**, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Members of IUBH University of applied Sciences along with the Eurasia MD and the Bengal Chamber Delegation



Ms. Kundavalli Saraogi, Head Mistress – Senior Secondary, Delhi Public School Ruby Park, Kolkata taking a trip of the school



The Delegation at the Annual Meeting of the Members at Indo German Chamber of Commerce



The Bengal Chamber Delegation at BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG INTERNATIONAL



The Bengal Chamber Delegation at Allgaier



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President, The Bengal Chamber addressing in the Inaugural Session of the Annual Meeting of the Members at Indo German Chamber of Commerce



Smt. Vandana Yadav, IAS, Managing Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd and Secretary, Department of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises & Textiles, Government of West Bengal addressing in the Inaugural Session of the Annual Meeting of the Members at Indo German Chamber of Commerce



The Bengal Chamber Delegation at the Annual Meeting of the Members at Indo German Chamber of Commerce





The Chamber Delegation at the Indian Stalls organized by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC)

Mr. Debkumar Basu, Chairperson, Manufacturing and MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Director, Zetadel Technologies Pvt. Ltd. at the stall of Quaker in GIFA in front of containers manufactured in his factory



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry is trying digital graffiti at Innovation Hub



The Chamber Delegation at the Indian Stalls organized by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC)





The Overseas Desks





Meeting with Chamber of Commerce Dusseldorf



Delegation at the Innovation Hub

"ACCELERATING ELECTRIC MOBILITY WITH GREEN JOBS AND GENDER PARITY"

10TH NOVEMBER 2021, GREEN ZONE OF COP26 IN GLASGOW, UK. AND KOLKATA LEADERSHIP AT THE CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been granted approval for organizing a Panel Discussion on **"Accelerating Electric Mobility with green jobs and gender parity" on 10.11.2021 at Green Zone of COP26 in Glasgow, UK.**

This year's conference aimed to reach a consensus on **actions to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels and to secure net-zero emissions by 2050**. At the heart of COP26, there were, **negotiations involving the 197 Parties to the UNFCCC**. The UK aimed to bring countries together to agree to a comprehensive, ambitious and balanced outcome that takes forward coordinated climate action and resolves key issues related to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

As a socially responsible organisation, The Bengal Chamber took a pledge - "As a leading and relevant representative of businesses, governments, policy, institutions and civil society in general, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry is looking forward to working together with all stakeholders in realizing the goal of Zero Emission in the next few decades. We must all go faster and this is the motto that is driving us as we go ahead with this universal dream." said Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber. It was released at a ceremony addressed by Mr. Alok Sharma, COP26 President.

The Bengal Chamber Team in Glasgow comprised of **Mr. Gautam Ray**, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Executive Director (HR & Admin) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG, **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee,** immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber and **Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury,** Director, Head of Operations, The Bengal Chamber.

Mr. Neil Spann, CEO, Power Roll Limited and **Mr. Don Scott**, Business Development Director, Power Roll Limited also joined the Delegation.

The Panel Discussions focused on the followings:

- *Kolkata's success story on E- vehicles in public transport*
- *Green Solutions for the city- Case study of New Town, satellite of Kolkata*
- *Implementation of low price green vehicles - Job creation through electric rickshaws and toto rickshaws*
- *Gender parity in e mobility*
- *More inclusion of EVs in public transport- focusing on infrastructure*
- *Financing of e-vehicles (including low price vehicles)*

Janab Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Transport, Government of West Bengal; Chairman, Board of Administrators, Kolkata Municipal Corporation and Chairman, WBHIDCO Limited was the Lead Speaker who joined virtually from The Bengal Chamber in Kolkata. **Mr. Arnab Basu**, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Advisory Leader & Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd. along with **Mr. Manohar Bethapudi**, Head Growth & Corporate Strategy, Motovolt Mobility Pvt. Ltd. and **Mr. Apurva Sircar**, Head Marketing, Bandhan Bank Limited also joined from the Chamber.

Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance also took part in the panel discussion virtually.

Amongst others were **Shri Debashis Sen**, Chairman, New Town Kolkata Development Authority and New Town Kolkata Green Smart City Corporation Ltd, **Dr. Daniel Bradley,** Team Leader, Low Carbon Growth, British High Commission, India, **Mr. Subir Chakraborty**, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited who also joined virtually.

There were audiences both at the Chamber in Kolkata and in Glasgow. This apart the programme was streamed online.



Janab Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Transport, Government of West Bengal; Chairman, Board of Administrators, Kolkata Municipal Corporation and Chairman, WBHIDCO Limited



Shri. Debashis Sen, Chairman, New Town Kolkata Development Authority and New Town Kolkata Green Smart City Corporation Ltd



Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance



Mr. Gautam Ray, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG



Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited



Mr. Arnab Basu, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Advisory Leader & Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited (a UK company); Investor and Country Representative (India), Power Roll Limited, UK



Dr. Daniel Bradley, Team Leader, Low Carbon Growth, British High Commission, India



Mr. Neil Spann, CEO, Power Roll Ltd.



Mr. Manohar Bethapudi, Head Growth & Corporate Strategy, Motovolt Mobility Pvt Ltd



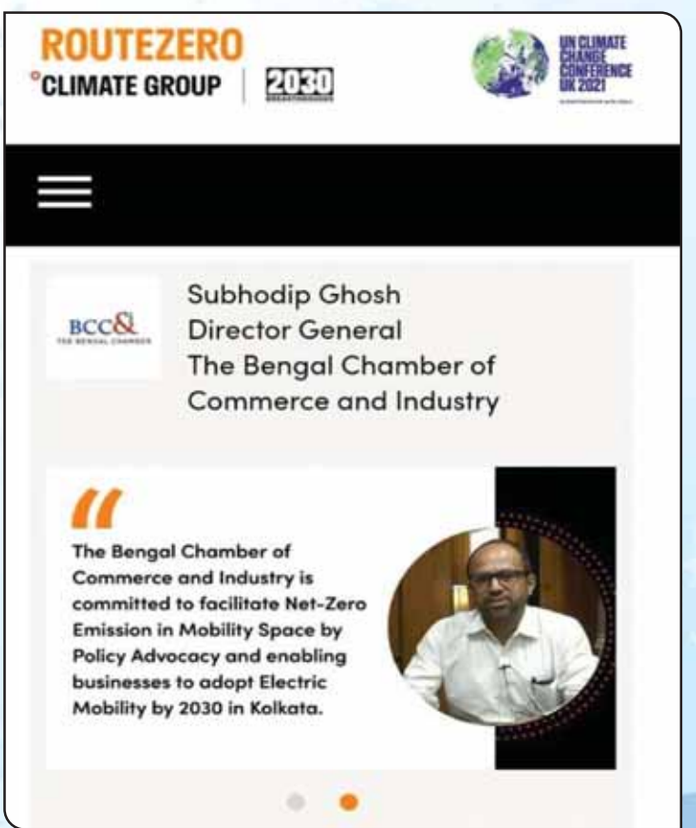
Mr. Apurva Sircar, Head Marketing, Bandhan Bank Limited



Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Director and Head of Operations, The Bengal Chamber emceed the Panel Discussion



Audience at The Chamber



Pledge, made by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



The Bengal Chamber Delegation at COP26 in Glasgow

THE BENGAL CHAMBER EDUCATION DELEGATION TO SINGAPORE

17TH TO 20TH AUGUST 2022, SINGAPORE

The Education Committee of The Bengal Chamber took an Education delegation to Singapore from the 17th of August to 20th of August 2022. The team consisted of 5 members and 1 Secretariat member from The Bengal Chamber. The delegation visited various renowned Universities and Business Schools of Singapore and discussed on the possibilities of MOUs, Dual Degrees, Online Joint Courses, Joint Conclaves, Conferences etc. Campus visits were also conducted.

The delegation was led by Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group and Co – Chairperson, Education Committee of The Bengal Chamber. The other members of the delegation were Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh, VP - Corporate Relations, JIS Group, Ms. Ina Bose, Director - HR, Corporate Communications & Industry Connect, Sister Nivedita University, Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, CEO & Director, Wizertech Informatics Pvt Ltd and Mr. Arindam Basu, Head of the Department – Economics, Delhi Public School Ruby Park. From The Chamber Swarnali Dhar, Assistant Director coordinated the delegation.

The universities and Business Schools visited were **S P Jain School of Global Management, James Cook University, Nanyang Polytechnic, Singapore Management University, ESSEC Business School and INSEAD Singapore.**

Day 1



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation with Members of S. P. Jain School Of Global Management, Rashmi Udaykumar, Director – Campus Administration & Admissions (Singapore) and Ms. Anu Madan, Deputy Director-Alumni Relations

Day 2



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation Members with Mr. Parthipan Poospernathan Senior Regional Manager, James Cook University



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation team was invited for Lunch by the senior officials of the Nanyang Polytechnic International



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation with Members at the James Cook University Campus



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation with the senior officials of the Nanyang Polytechnic International



Handing over of the memento to Mr. Lim Chin Tong, Chairman, Board of Directors, Nanyang Polytechnic International by Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber



Handing over of the memento to Ms. Esther Bay, Director, Nanyang Polytechnic International by Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber



Handing over of the memento to Dr. Henry Hong, Chief Executive Officer, Nanyang Polytechnic International by Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Co- Chairperson IT Committee and Member, Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber and CEO & Director Wizertech Informatics Pvt Ltd

Day 3



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation Members with the team at Singapore Management University



Handing over of the memento to Ms. Lydia Ang, Client Director, Singapore Management University Executive Development by Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Co-Chairperson IT Committee and Member, Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber and CEO & Director Wizertech Informatics Pvt Ltd



Handing over of the memento to Ms. Charmaine Wong, Commercial Team Assistant, SMU Executive Development, by Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Diector, JIS Group and Co-Chairperson, Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation Members in a meeting at ESSEC Business School



Handing over of the memento by Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Co-Chairperson IT Committee and Member, Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber and CEO & Director Wizertech Informatics Pvt Ltd



Handing over of the memento to Ms. Yvonne Tan, Director, Recruitment, Marketing and Communications, ESSEC Business School, by Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group and Co-Chairperson, Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber



Handing over of the memento to Ms. Reetika Gupta, Deputy Dean, ESSEC Business School, by Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group and Co-Chairperson, Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation Members with the team at ESSEC Business School



Handing over of the memento to Mr. Duarte Lima, Project Director, Dean's Office, INSEAD, by Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group and Co-Chairperson, Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation Members with the team at INSEAD, Singapore

THE BENGAL CHAMBER'S BUSINESS DELEGATION TO BANGLADESH

17TH TO 21ST FEBRUARY 2023



The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized a business delegation to Bangladesh covering Chittagong and Dhaka from 17th to 21st February 2023. The delegation was led by Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited. Mr. Gautam Ray, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG CESC Limited was the deputy leader. The 20-member delegation was multi sectoral covering various verticals like Auto Ancillaries, Energy, Environment, Agriculture, Healthcare, Education, Technology Consulting Sector and Consultancy for other sectors, Information Technology, Manufacturing, Real Estate, Drinking Water, Retailing.

The delegation comprised of:

Name **President**	**Designation**	**Organisation**
Mr. Subir Chakraborty	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer	Exide Industries Limited
President Designate		
Mr. Gautam Ray	Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG	CESC Limited

Delegate Members		
Mr. Kanailal Saha	Director	Autonome Technology Solutions LLP
Mr. Rabi Chowdhury	MD - CESC Generation and MD Haldia Energy Limited & Director Dhariwal Infrastructure Limited - wholly owned subsidiaries of CESC	CESC Limited
Mr. Sudipta Mukherjee	ED- Generation	CESC Limited
Mr. Debanjan Basak	General Manager	CESC Limited
Mr. Animesh Ghosh	CEO	EELAB AGRO PVT LIMITED
Mr. Kumanduri Madhusudan Chari	Vice President Automotive Exports	Exide Industries Limited
Mr. Arunava Chatterjee	Founder & Business Head	INVESMATE
Mr. Anirban Nag	Associate Director	Pricewater HouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd (PwC)
Mr. Sushobhan Mukherjee	Cofounder and CEO	Prime Infoserve LLP
Mr. Subrata Saha	Director	Saha Steel Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Arijit Das	Director	Schoppen Solutions Pvt Ltd
Mr. Nihar Chakraborty	Vice President- Sales & COO- EAST & SAARC Countries	Sify Technologies Ltd
Mr. Krishnendu Mitra	Regional Segment Head – Enterprise Vertical	Sify Technologies Ltd
Mr. Manab Paul	Founder	SREE BALAJI
Mr. Surajit Lahiri	Managing Director	Sunanda Environmental International Pvt Ltd
Sanjay Bhattacharjee	Business Head - Bangladesh	Titan Company Limited
Secretariat		
Mr. Subhodip Ghosh	Director General	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury	Assistant Director General	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mr. Sambit Dasgupta	Assistant Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

On 17th February 2023, post landing in Chittagong, the delegation was split in 2 groups, one group visited Mati-ta, an Eco Tourism Resort to discuss possibilities of collaborations and understanding the ecosystem in Bangladesh focusing on the sectors like real estate, tourism, epiculture. The other group visited a cement manufacturing company named Confidence Cement Ltd. This visit was facilitated by Chittagong Chamber catering to specific request from some of our delegate members. The GM of the plant gave a detailed presentation of their factory operations, import-export materials and routes, production capacity and the overall cement manufacturing ecosystem in Bangladesh.

The Assistant High Commissioner of India in Chittagong, Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, invited our delegates for a networking dinner, where Select industry leaders of Chittagong were also invited. President of Chittagong Chamber, Mr. Mahbubul Alam and Chief Operating Officer of Evercare, Mr. Samir Singh were present among others.

On 18th February 2023, The Delegation had B2B Meeting with the Members of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry where as an outcome of B2B interaction:

- To ease out flight connectivity especially from Chittagong, The Bengal Chamber has requested CCCI to send a communiqué for introduction of more flights were covered. We also discussed about Help Desk which will be hosted on The Bengal Chamber website for receiving queries on bilateral business issues. DCCI has also been requested if a similar initiative can be undertaken at their end, following which we shall circulate it amongst our membership and stakeholders.

- B2B Meeting and Networking Lunch at The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI)- Metropolitan Chamber organized a networking lunch for our delegation. Their President and Senior Board Members were present. They also organized select B2B meetings for some of our delegates.

The Delegation also met the following Industry Associations and Government Agencies and had the following discussions as under :

- Mr. Lokman Hossain Miah, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)-Excellent presentation was made on investment opportunities and manufacturing potential in Bangladesh. The queries from our delegates on retail, manufacturing, tourism and real estate were shared by the delegates. The representative of India help desk at BIDA was present at the meeting. The queries will be addressed on case-to-case basis.

- Mr. Shaikh Yusuf Harun, Chairman of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) - They essentially mentioned about the special economic zones- the infrastructure and benefits prevalent in Bangladesh. Certain technical aspects for initiating investments in such SEZ's were enquired by some of our delegate members. Such queries will be separately addressed by nodal officers from their end.

- Engr. Mohd. Shohel Rana, Vice President, Finance, Real Estate & Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB)- Few of our relevant delegates met the VP Finance of REHAB. Potential partnership collaboration in terms of investment in Bangladesh and potential supply contract for such projects were the key areas of discussion.

- BASIS (Bangladesh Association for Software & Information Services)- We also had a good meeting with Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) and discussed possible areas of collaboration like organizing joint programmes, training workshops and B2B facilitation.

Our delegates have come back with a number of promising prospects from Bangladesh in these 5 days business delegation, all of which we are working upon.



The Bengal Chamber Delegation, led by President Mr. Subir Chakraborty, met Mr. Tipu Munshi, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



The Bengal Chamber Delegation, led by President Mr. Subir Chakraborty, met Mr. Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Industries, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



The Bengal Chamber Delegation representing the IT&ES sector, led by President Mr. Subir Chakraborty and Co- led by President Designate Mr. Gautam Ray, met Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



The Bengal Chamber Delegation representatives Mr. Surajit Lahiri, Managing Director, Sunanda Environmental International Pvt Ltd; Mr. Arijit Das, Director, Schoppen Solutions Pvt Ltd; Mr. Animesh Ghosh, CEO, EELAB AGRO PVT LIMITED and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber met Mr. Md. Tazul Islam, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to discuss potential areas of synergy



The Bengal Chamber Delegation, led by President Mr. Subir Chakraborty, at the dinner hosted by Assistant High Commissioner of India, Shri. Rajeev Ranjan at Chittagong Club along with President of Chittagong Chamber Mr. Mahbubul Alam and other senior business leaders from Chittagong



Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President, The Bengal Chamber & Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited and President of Chittagong Chamber Mr. Mahbubul Alam presided over The Bengal Chamber delegation's B2B meeting with Chittagong Chamber of Commerce



The Bengal Chamber Delegation meeting Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Executive Chairman, Mr. Lokman Hossain Miah led by President Subir Chakraborty



The Bengal Chamber Delegation meeting Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) Executive Chairman, Shaikh Yusuf Harun led by President Designate, Mr. Gautam Ray

MULTISECTORAL DELEGATION FROM KOLKATA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH FOCUS ON NET ZERO

6TH MAY TO 9TH MAY 2024, THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a **Multisectoral Business Delegation focusing on "Net Zero"** from Kolkata **to the United Kingdom from 6th May to 9th May 2024. The delegation had B2B meetings in London, Birmingham and Glasgow.** This was a follow up trip after the visit of the Delegation from the UK to The Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) in November 2023, for which the Country Session was coordinated by BCC&I, and also the visit by a high-level delegation from the UK to Kolkata to exchange knowledge on clean technologies, policies and sectoral skill developments attending a Session on "Net Zero Pathway for States and Businesses" in March 2023 which was organised by BCC&I in association with The British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata.

The constituents of this delegation were **decision makers and sectoral industry captains** from **Energy, Education, Legal, Water, Agri/Horticulture & Fertilizers, Manufacturing, Pharmaceuticals, Technology** amongst others. The delegation consisted of 14 members. **The Department of Business and Trade, Government of UK and The British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata** assisted to organize the B2B meetings in London and Glasgow. The list of Indian Delegates is as given below :

Name	Designation	Organization
Mr. Gautam Ray	President	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & President- Corporate, RPSG Group
Mr. Abhijit Roy MD and CEO Berger Paints India Ltd. and Senior Vice President, BCC&I	MD & CEO	Berger Paints India Ltd. & Senior Vice President, BCC&I
Ms. Syeda Shamima Nasrin	CEO	M/S Girish Chandra Ghosh & G.G.S
Mr. Supriyo Ghosh	Managing Partner	M/S Girish Chandra Ghosh & G.G.S
Mr. Surajit Lahiri	Managing Director	Sunanda Enviromental International Pvt Ltd
Mr. Debarshi Duttagupta	Managing Director	East India Pharmaceutical Works Ltd.
Mr. Rajarshi Dasgupta	Executive Director	AQUILAW
Mr. Jayanta Kumar Saha	Founder CEO	SOFTTHINK Intelligent Solutions Pvt Ltd
Mr. Jayanta Kumar Chakraborty	Consultant Limited	Indofil Industries
Mr. K L Saha	Designated Partner	Autonome Technology Solutions LLP
Mr. Akshan Gupta	Senior Manager-Finance & Commercial	Swach Environment Private Limited
Mr. Nikhil Kumar Mohanta	Sr. Vice President Cum Executive In-charge	Haldia Water Services Pvt Lt
Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury	Assistant Director General	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mr. Sambit Dasgupta	Deputy Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The delegation arrived in London in the afternoon of 6th May 2024. The delegation formally commenced from **7th May** 2024 with a programme on **"Net Zero – UK & India Collaborations"** in London at Hilton London Kensington followed by B2B meetings in the sidelines. The opening session of the programme was graced by Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I and President- Corporate, RPSG & **Mr. Abhijit Roy,** MD and CEO Berger Paints India Ltd. and Senior Vice President, BCC&I; followed by a Special Address on **Opportunities of UK-India Collaborations by Mr. Sourav Niyogi,** Trustee, Bengal Heritage Foundation and Senior Partner, IBM.

A panel discussion was set up on **"Roadmap to Net Zero"** featuring, **Mr. Ian Sutherland,** CFO and Head of Net Zero, Tide, **Mr. Sthitadhee Sarkar,** Transmission Control Delivery Manager, National Grid & **Mr. Suranjan Som,** Vice President, Hitachi Digital. The panel discussion was moderated by, **Mr. Jayanta Kumar Chakraborty,** Consultant, Indofil Industries Limited.

A session was organized for the Delegation Members to introduce their businesses to the Members of **London Chamber of Commerce & Industry, UK India Business Council & Bengal Heritage Foundation** and the B2B interactions followed thereafter, post programme.

President **Mr. Gautam Ray,** paid homage to Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore on his birth Anniversary at his bust installed at Gordon Square in London. He also met the Chairperson, Founder and Members of The Tagore Centre, UK on the occassion of Rabindra Jayanti.

The delegation also visited **Aston University** in **Birmingham** on **8th May 2024** for a meeting with **Dr. Prasanta Dey,** Professor, Aston University, **Professor Pawan Budhwar,** Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor International, Aston University, Birmingham, UK & **Dr. Krishna Chaitanya Balthu,** Lecturer, Aston Business School. The discussions mainly focused on Industry Academia collaboration opportunities in **Sustainability, Circular Economy and related areas.**

On 9th May 2024, the delegation travelled to **Glasgow** for the concluding set of **B2B Meetings** of the Business Delegation. These meetings were held from morning to the afternoon, at **Radisson Blu, Glasgow.** This commenced with the **meeting with Ms. Seona Shand,** International Trade Director, **Scottish Chambers of Commerce** in Glasgow for discussing possibilities of **business collaborations.**

Subsequently, the Delegation members engaged in vibrant and engaging **B2B discussions with the business fraternity in Scotland.**

The Business Delegation to the United Kingdom formally concluded in the evening of 9th May 2024 in Glasgow after the B2B meetings.



14-member delegation representing varied sectors such as Energy, Education, Legal, Water, Agri / Horticulture & Fertilizers, Manufacturing, Pharmaceuticals, Technology during the net zero session in London on 7th May 2024.



Opening Session by Mr. Sourav Niyogi, Trustee, Bengal Heritage Foundation and Senior Partner, IBM, Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I and President- Corporate, RPSG, Mr. Abhijit Roy, MD and CEO Berger Paints India Ltd. and Senior Vice President, BCC&I (Left to Right)



A session on "Roadmap to Net Zero" by Mr. Sthitadhee Sarkar, Transmission Control Delivery Manager, National Grid, Mr. Ian Sutherland, CFO and Head of Net Zero, Tide, & Mr. Suranjan Som, Vice President, Hitachi Digital- moderated by Mr. Jayanta Kumar Chakraborty, Consultant, Indofil Industries Limited (Left to Right)










Our Delegate Members introducing their businesses during the Members of London Chamber of Commerce & Industry, UK India Business Council & Bengal Heritage Foundation during the "Net Zero – UK & India Collaborations"







President Mr. Gautam Ray, paying homage to Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore at his bust installed at Gordon Square in London. He also met the Chairperson, Founder and Members of The Tagore Centre, UK on the occassion of Rabindra Jayanti









B2B in London with Members of London Chamber of Commerce & Industry, UK India Business Council & Bengal Heritage Foundation



B2B in London with Members of London Chamber of Commerce & Industry, UK India Business Council & Bengal Heritage Foundation



Interaction of the Members of Delegation with Dr. Prasanta Dey, Professor, Aston University, Professor Pawan Budhwar, Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor International, Aston University, Birmingham, UK & Dr. Krishna Chaitanya Balthu, Lecturer, Aston Business School



Visit of the Delegation to Aston University, Birmingham





The Delegation met Ms. Seona Shand, International Trade Director, Scottish Chambers of Commerce in Glasgow for discussing possibilities of business collaborations













B2B Meetings of The Bengal Chamber Delegation in progress in Glasgow with the business fraternity in Radisson Blu, Glasgow, Scotland

THE CAREER AND EMPLOYABILITY GLOBAL SUMMIT

22ND JUNE 2024, AMBASSADOR HOTEL, BANGKOK, THAILAND

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized 'The Career and Employability Global Summit' held on Saturday, 22nd June 2024 at Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. It was an international networking platform for Industry, Academia and Entrepreneurs.

The Career and Employability Global Summit was a pioneering initiative aimed at bridging the gap between industry demands, academic curriculum, and entrepreneurial aspirations of India and Thailand. This summit promised to be a transformative event for professionals, academics, and entrepreneurs alike. The summit established a robust platform for collaboration between the participating nations, leveraging the strengths of these nations to enhance career opportunities and employability prospects for the next generation workforce. The summit established robust partnerships, fostered knowledge and MOU exchanges.

The objectives of the summit were to facilitate cross-border collaboration between industry and academia in India and Thailand, thereby identifying emerging skill requirements and employment opportunities in key sectors of the participating nations, fostered partnerships for joint research, technology transfer, and innovation between the stakeholders of the participating nations, enhanced the employability of the next generation workforce through industry-relevant education promoted cultural understanding and academic exchange between India and Thailand.

Key focus of the summit :

1. Industry Requirements Perspective Sharing Session by Participating Nations
2. Academia Introductory Session by Participating Nations
3. Industry Academia Collaboration (MOU Signing)
4. Scope and Opportunities for Students to study in other countries
5. Faculty Exchange and Student Exchange Collaborations

Speakers at this event were :

- Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Conference Chairperson – The Career and Employability Global Summit, BCC&I and Whole Time Director, India Power Corporation Ltd.
- Mr. Arnab Chakraborty, Conference Co-Chairperson – The Career and Employability Global Summit, BCC&I and Vice President – HR, CESC Ltd.
- Mr. Abhijit Datta, Director of the Committee on South Asia, Middle East and Africa, Board of Trade of Thailand
- Mr. Khaga Raj Pandeya, First Secretary, Nepal Embassy, Bangkok
- Mr. Chuan Thakur, President, Indian Association of Thailand
- Mr. Abhishake De Sarkar, Managing Director, Advent Education Global Advisors Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. "Paul Narula" Pornthep Sri Narula, Motivational Speaker, Real Estate and Hospitality Entrepreneur and Founder / CEO / Mentor, SYNCATE Group, RE/MAX Synergy, Paul Narula Academy, Omni Tower Syncate Suites, Thailand
- Mr. Jaidip Chatterjee, Co-Chairperson, People Management National Committee, BCC&I and CHRO, Reliance Group
- Dr. Nitin Kumar Tripathi, Vice President – Academic Affairs, Executive Director, Special Degree Programs, Professor, School of Engineering and Technology, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
- Professor (Dr.) Tirthankar Nag, Dean, International Relations, International Management Institute, Kolkata
- Mr. Rohit Sanyal, Manager, Marketing & Business Development, JIS University
- Dr. Rittin Abraham Kurien, Silpakorn University, Thailand
- Dr. Henry Chow, Mahidol University, Thailand
- Dr. Ranjit Gupta, Core Faculty, Sasin School of Management, Thailand
- Dr. Sopon Pornchokchai, Founder and President, Agency for Real Estate Affairs, Thailand
- Mr. S. Sinha Roy, Managing Director, Roy Global Co. Ltd., Thailand
- Dr. Vorrakorn Chamnanpaisarn, President, Justin (Thailand) Co. Ltd., Thailand
- Mr. Abhijit Chatterjee, Founder and Chairman & Managing Director, Ascensive Educare Limited
- Mr. Jonathan C. Nowell, CEO – Hospitality Solutions, TSA Consulting Asia Co. Ltd., Thailand
- Mr. Adrian Koh, Vice President - International Markets, Philips Carbon Black Limited - part of the RP Sanjiv Goenka Group
- Mr. Tanapong Rattanapornprom, Dhonburi Rajabhat University, Thailand

Speaking of the summit, there were slots for speaking opportunity for the Academia, Industry and Entrepreneurs who introduced themselves and shared their expectations with the august gathering who graced the event from India and Thailand. This was followed by MOU Signing between Academia and Industry.

By bridging the gap between industry demands and academic offerings, the summit aimed to empower the next generation of professionals with the skills and knowledge required to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and dynamic world. The Chamber will continue organizing similar summits to strengthen global business ecosystem.



Welcome Address by Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Conference Chairperson – The Career and Employability Global Summit, BCC&I and Whole Time Director, India Power Corporation Ltd



Special Address by Mr. Abhijit Datta, Director of the Committee on South Asia, Middle East and Africa, Board of Trade of Thailand



Special Address by Mr. Chuan Thakur, President, Indian Association of Thailand, Thailand

Special Address by Mr. "Paul Narula" Pornthep Sri Narula, Motivational Speaker, Real Estate and Hospitality Entrepreneur and Founder / CEO / Mentor, SYNCATE Group, RE/MAX Synergy, Paul Narula Academy, Omni Tower Syncate Suites, Thailand



Address by Mr. Arnab Chakraborty, Conference Co-Chairperson – The Career and Employability Global Summit, BCC&I and Vice President – HR, CESC Ltd



Special Address by Mr. Khaga Raj Pandeya, First Secretary, Nepal Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand



Special Address by Mr. Abhishake De Sarkar, Managing Director, Advent Education Global Advisors Pvt Ltd





Vote of Thanks by Mr. Jaidip Chatterjee, Co-Chairperson, People Management National Committee, BCC&I and CHRO, Reliance Group



Emceeing by Mr. Kumar Shivam, Director, BCC&I



A group photo of the dignitaries of the first session



Special Address on "AIT - Science and Technology Park for Innovative Business", by Dr. Nitin Kumar Tripathi, Vice President – Academic Affairs, Executive Director, Special Degree Programs, Professor, School of Engineering and Technology, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand



University Introductory Address by Mr. Rohit Sanyal, Manager, Marketing & Business Development, JIS University, India



Institute Introductory Address by Professor (Dr.) Tirthankar Nag, Dean, International Relations, International Management Institute, Kolkata, India



University Introductory Address by Dr. Henry Chow, Mahidol University, Thailand



University Introductory Address by Mr. Tanapong Rattanapornprom, Dhonburi Rajabhat University, Thailand



Special Address by Mr. Adrian Koh, Vice President - International Markets, Philips Carbon Black Limited - part of the RP Sanjiv Goenka Group



Special Address by Mr. Abhijit Chatterjee, Founder and Chairman & Managing Director, Ascensive Educare Limited, India



Business Networking



MOU signing between International Management Institute, Kolkata and Dhonburi Rajabhat University, Thailand



MOU signing between JIS University and TSA Consulting Asia Co. Ltd., Thailand



A section of delegates

THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY'S EDUCATION DELEGATION TO VIETNAM

5th to 9th August 2024, Vietnam

The Bengal Chamber of Industry's Vietnam Education Delegation organised from the Education Committee, took place from 5th to 9th August 2024, visiting Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam . The delegation consisted of 18 members from institutions such as Techno India Group, SNU University, JIS University, Delhi Public School, Omdayal Education & Research Society, Jyotirmoy Education and Welfare Foundation, Saraswati Online.Com India Limited, Ascensive EducarePvt Ltd, Bright Future.Com Skills Private Limited, Kingston Educational Institute, Aditya Group.

In Ho Chi Minh City, the delegation visited Van Lang University, the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (HCMUSSH), Saigon International University (SIU) and Hoa Sen University. Five MOUs were signed with Hoa Sen University by JIS University, Techno India/SNU University, Saraswati Online.Com India Ltd, Kingston Educational Institute and Kingston Law College. The Delegation also met Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, the Consul General of India. The meeting focused on strengthening educational ties between India and Vietnam. The delegation expressed gratitude to Dr. Sethi for his crucial role in facilitating connections with Vietnamese universities.

In Hanoi, delegation visited FPT University, Vietnam National University, Hanoi University of Industry (HaUI), Phenikka University, TH School and Phenikaa School. MOUs were signed with HaUI with JIS University, Techno India/SNU University (including its Agartala branch), and Kingston Educational Institute.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in collaboration with the Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam (INCHAM), organized a B2B meet in Pullman Hotel, Hanoi. The event, attended by Mr. Chinpu Ngaihte, First Secretary from the Embassy of India, provided a platform for Indian delegates to connect with key stakeholders from Vietnam. Participants included representatives from TH School, FPT University, Hanoi University of Pharmacy, Vietnam National University, National Economics University, RMIT University Vietnam, and Navigos Search. The B2B meet facilitated valuable networking and relationship-building, focusing on educational exchanges and internship opportunities.



The BCC&I Education Delegation at Van Lang University, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam



Meeting in progress at The University of Social Sciences and Humanities (HCMUSSH) – HCMC



The BCC&I Education Delegation in Vietnam with Mr. Bui Pham Lan Phuong - Vice President, The University of Social Sciences and Humanities (HCMUSSH) – HCMC



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation at Hoa Sen University, HCMC, Vietnam



The BCC&I Education Delegation at the Saigon International University Campus



Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Deputy Director, BCC&I (left) and Ms. Rajashree Mukherjee, Manager, BCC&I (right) met the Consul General of India in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi



Prof. Pham Thanh Huy, President, Phenikaa University



Memento handover at Vietnam National University by Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Deputy Director, BCC&I (right) and Rajashree Mukherjee, Manager, BCC&I (left)



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation at Vietnam National University



At TH School. Ms. Rajashree Mukherjee, Manager, BCC&I handing over the memento



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation visited TH School



The Bengal Chamber Education delegation at FPT University



Memento handover at FPT University by Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Deputy Director, BCC&I



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation taking a tour at Hanoi University of Industry



Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Deputy Director, BCC&I at Hanoi University of Industry



The Bengal Chamber Education Delegation at Hanoi University of Industry



Ms. Rajashree Mukherjee, Manager, BCC&I handing over a memento to Mrs. Huong, CEO, Phenikaa School



Ms. Rajashree Mukherjee, Manager, BCC&I at Phenikaa School



MoU signed between JIS University and Hoa Sen University, HCMC, Vietnam



MoU signed between Kingston Educational Institute (KEI) and Hanoi University of Industry



MoU signed between JIS University and Hanoi University of Industry



MoU signed between Saraswati Online.Com and Hoa Sen University, HCMC, Vietnam



MoU signed between Techno India Group/ Sister Nivedita University and Hanoi University of Industry Techno India Group/ Sister Nivedita University



MoU signed between Kingston Educational Institute (KEI) and Hoa Sen University, HCMC, Vietnam



Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Deputy Director, BCC&I (left) and Ms. Rajarshree Mukherjee, Manager, BCC&I handing over a memento Mr. S. Chinpau Ngaihte, First Secretary, Embassy of India, Hanoi at the Business-To-Business Meeting



Mr. Indronil Sengupta, Chairman-Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam (INCHAM Hanoi) and Co-founder & CEO Invesify addressing the delegates and audience present during the Meet



Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Deputy Director, BCC&I addressing the audience present during the Meet



The audience present during the Meet

'GLOBAL BUSINESS CONNECT SUMMIT – 2ND EDITION'

30TH NOVEMBER 2024, BANGKOK, THAILAND

The Entrepreneurs & Startup National Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized 'Global Business Connect Summit – 2nd Edition' held on Saturday, 30th November 2024 at Hotel Holiday Inn, Silom, Bangkok. The theme for this edition was "Business - Connect, Promote, Recognitions". The continued emphasis on connecting, promoting, and recognizing excellence in business reinforced the importance of this gathering in our evolving marketplace.

A brief about the Summit :

The 2nd Edition of the Global Business Connect Summit was a pivotal event fostering market linkages and driving economic growth among South and South-East Asian countries like India, Thailand. By bringing together key stakeholders and facilitating meaningful interactions, the summit unlocked new opportunities, paving the way for a more integrated and prosperous regional economy.

- Connect : Facilitated networking opportunities with Business Leaders to network and establish connections.
- Promote : Showcased cutting-edge innovations, successful projects, case studies and business models to promote sustainable growth and development.
- Recognitions : Acknowledged the achievements and contributions of outstanding Businessmen from India and Thailand

Speakers at this event were :

- Mr. Tanmoy Banerjee, Chairperson, The Entrepreneurs and Startup National Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Director, RT Network Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Binod Kumar Homagai, Co-Chairperson, The Entrepreneurs and Startup National Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Co-Founder & COO, Wow Momo Foods Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Abhijit Datta - Director of the Committee on South Asia, Middle East and Africa, Board of Trade of Thailand and Head of International Business and Managing Director of SCG International
- Mr. Sushil Kumar Dhanuka, President, India-Thai Chamber of Commerce
- Mr. Songphon Pholsane, The Federation of Thai Industries - Board of Directors and Vice-Chairman of Thailand – South Africa Business Council
- Mr. "Paul Narula" Pornthep Sri Narula, Chairperson, Indo-Thailand Business Connect, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Founder / CEO / Mentor, Paul Narula Academy
- Mr. Anirban Biswas, Vice – Chairperson, The Entrepreneurs and Startup National Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Founder & CEO, Adwitiya Enterprise
- Mr. Pulak Chamaria, Director, Infinity Infotech Parks Limited
- Mr. Samrat Ghosh, Business Head, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd.
- Mr. Kalyan Kar, Co-Founder, Prediqt Business Solutions Private Limited
- Mr. S. Sinha Roy, Managing Director, Roy Global Co. Ltd.
- Mr. Sandeep Sengupta, Managing Director, ISOAH Data Securities Pvt. Ltd.
- Dr. Arijit Bhattacharyya, Founder & CEO, virtualinfocom – Deeptech
- Mr. Abhijit Chatterjee, Founder and Chairman & Managing Director, Ascensive Educare Limited
- Mr. Abhishake De Sarkar, Managing Director, Advent Education Global Advisors Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Clayton Wade, Writer, Speaker, Instructor, and Real Estate Entrepreneur
- Mr. Diego Sala, CEO, Siam Trade Development Co. Ltd.
- Dr. Chatchawass Ratsillapakorn, Chairman of Marketing and Organizational Development, Siam Rattana Corporation Ltd.
- Prof. Satyajit Chakrabarti, Pro Vice Chancellor at University of Engineering and Management (UEM)
- Mr. Somporn Poopuang, Management Advisor, Panyapiwat Institute of Management
- Mr. Debajyoti Banerjee, CEO, Seven Boats Info System Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Biswajit Sarkar, Lawyer, Biswajit Sarkar Advocates and IP Attorneys
- Mr. Jonathan C. Nowell, CEO – Hospitality Solutions, TSA Consulting Asia Co. Ltd.
- Mr. Partha P Chattaraj, Mentor, Greenspec Management Services
- Dr. Apichart Prasitnarit, President, Real Estate and Partnership Trade Association
- Dr. Sopon Pornchokchai, Founder and President, Agency for Real Estate Affairs

Speaking of the summit, there were designated slots for entrepreneurs to present their businesses for sharing insights about their ventures and outlining their expectations. Additionally, educational institutes had the chance to introduce their respective incubation centers, highlighting the support they offer to aspiring entrepreneurs.

The intent of the summit was to bring together potential stakeholders and foster impactful exchanges, thus generating fresh possibilities and establishing the groundwork for a more interconnected and prosperous regional economy.



Welcome Address by Mr. Tanmoy Banerjee, Chairperson, The Entrepreneurs and Startup National Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Director, RT Network Solutions Pvt Ltd



Theme Address by Mr. Binod Kumar Homagai, Co-Chairperson, The Entrepreneurs and Startup National Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Co-Founder & COO, Wow Momo Foods Pvt Ltd



Special Address by Mr. Abhijit Datta - Director of the Committee on South Asia, Middle East and Africa, Board of Trade of Thailand and Head of International Business and Managing Director of SCG International



Special Address by Mr. Sushil Kumar Dhanuka, President, India-Thai Chamber of Commerce



Vote of Thanks by Mr. Anirban Biswas, Vice – Chairperson, The Entrepreneurs and Startup National Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Founder & CEO, Adwitiya Enterprise



Address by Mr. "Paul Narula" Pornthep Sri Narula, Chairperson, Indo-Thailand Business Connect, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Founder / CEO / Mentor, Paul Narula Academy



Emceeing by Mr. Kumar Shivam, Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



A section of delegates



Esteemed Panelists at the Inaugural Session



Deliberation by Mr. Samrat Ghosh, Business Head, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd



Deliberation by Mr. Pulak Chamaria, Director, Infinity Infotech Parks Limited



Deliberation by Mr. Kalyan Kar, Co-Founder, Prediqt Business Solutions Private Limited



Deliberation by Mr. Clayton Wade, Writer, Speaker, Instructor and Real Estate Entrepreneur



Deliberation by Mr. Abhijit Chatterjee, Founder and Chairman & Managing Director, Ascensive Educare Limited



Deliberation by Mr. Sandeep Sengupta, Managing Director, ISOAH Data Securities Pvt Ltd



Deliberation by Mr. Diego Sala, CEO, Siam Trade Development Co. Ltd



Deliberation by Prof. Satyajit Chakrabarti, Director, IEM UEM Group



Group Photo



Deliberation by Mr. Somporn Poopuang, Management Advisor, Panyapiwat Institute of Management



Deliberation by Mr. Jonathan C. Nowell, CEO – Hospitality Solutions, TSA Consulting Asia Co. Ltd



Deliberation by Mr. Debajyoti Banerjee, CEO, Seven Boats Info System Pvt Ltd





Networking at the event



Group Photo

INTERACTION WITH MR. JONATHAN WARD, PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL OFFICER US CONSULATE GENERAL KOLKATA

3RD AUGUST, 2015, CHAMBER PREMISES

The members and invitees of the Managing Committee of the Bengal Chamber interacted with Mr. Jonathan Ward, who has recently taken over as the Principal Commercial Officer of the US Consulate General in Kolkata. Mr. Ward spoke about his experiences as a Foreign Service officer of the United States Government and briefed the members about the ongoing initiatives and focus areas of his department in the Eastern Region.



Mr. Jonathan Ward (extreme right) exchanging gifts with the President of the Chamber, Dr. Alok Roy, while Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President Designate, looks on (extreme left).

SELECT USA ROADSHOW

16TH OCTOBER 2015, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted The U.S. Department of Commerce's SelectUSA Road Show, the first-ever India event, in Kolkata on 16th October 2015. The other cities the Road Show included were Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.

The Bengal Chamber and U.S. Commercial Services in Kolkata convinced the delegation to include Kolkata in their itinerary. The U.S. delegation was led by SelectUSA Executive Director, Ambassador VinaiThummalapally who was effusive in his praise for the Chamber and mentioned that it was a 'perfect event'. Ambassador VinaiThummalapally is President Obama's friend and former room-mate and major campaign fund-raiser. This programme was closely monitored by Washington DC. This event re-positioned The Bengal Chamber and Kolkata in the business map of the USA. For the first time ever, at least in recent memory, such a delegation led by an Ambassador visited Kolkata and The Bengal Chamber had the honour of hosting it exclusively.

President Obama launched SelectUSA in 2011 to promote business investment into the United States. SelectUSA was created at the federal level to showcase the United States as the world's premier business location and to provide easy access to federal-level programs and services related to business investment. It provides information, data analysis, ombudsman services, and tools to connect investors with state and local economic development organizations across the United States.

The Kolkata Road Show hosted in the Chamber premises featured a half-day seminar with sessions by American professionals on investment visas, legal and financial issues, investment incentives, and successful investment strategies, followed by one-on-one consultations with a range of participating U.S States and localities. Participants gained insights about the unique incentives for each area, and gained key contacts to guide their investment decisions.

The Bengal Chamber and The U.S. Consulate General in Kolkata invited Indian companies looking to invest in the United States to register for SelectUSA's first-ever India Road Show.

From the Chamber, Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President Designate and Mr. S Radhakrishnan, Past President and President, TiE Kolkata were present. The programme was also partnered by TiE Kolkata, TiE being the global organization for entrepreneurs headquartered in Silicon Valley.

Mr. Craig Hall, U S Consul General in Kolkata; Mr. Jonathan Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, US Commercial Services in Kolkata and Mr. Paul Frost, Commercial Officer, US Commercial Services in New Delhi were also present.

SELECT USA ROADSHOW

16TH OCTOBER 2015, CHAMBER PREMISES



(L-R): Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. S Radhakrishnan, Past President, The Bengal Chamber and President, TiE Kolkata; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, The Bengal Chamber; Ambassador VinaiThummalapally, Executive Director, SelectUSA; Mr. Craig Hall, US Consul General in Kolkata; Mr. Jonathan Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, US Commercial Services in Kolkata and Mr. Paul Frost, Commercial Officer, US Commercial Services in New Delhi.



The Bengal Chamber Secretariat Team with the Delegation.



Ambassador Vinai Thummalapally, Executive Director, SelectUSA presenting The Certificate of Appreciation to the Chamber, to Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber in presence of Mr. Jonathan Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, US Commercial Services in Kolkata and Mr. Craig Hall, US Consul General in Kolkata.



Press Conference in progress.



(L-R): Mr. Craig Hall, US Consul General in Kolkata; Ambassador Vinai Thummalapally, Executive Director, SelectUSA; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, The Bengal Chamber and Mr Greg Pardo, Acting Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate in Kolkata in the Press Conference.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General Designate, The Bengal Chamber briefing Ambassador VinaiThummalapally, Executive Director, SelectUSA about the activities of the Chamber especially in the context of its partnerships with overseas Chambers.

SEMINAR AND B2B ON INDIA-GULF BUSINESS EXCHANGE

26TH APRIL, 2016, ROYAL EXCHANGE, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, organized a Seminar and B2B on India-Gulf Business Exchange on 26th April 2016 in the Chamber. The Chamber is initiating more and more overseas linkages for its Members and Stakeholders by organizing business delegations, organizing Seminars with Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and Interactive Sessions with Diplomats.

Mr. Tariq Izzaldeen Hassan Al-Mouthen, Commercial Counselor, The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen to India delivered the Keynote Address on Promising investment opportunities in GCC and India. The Business Session included addresses on "Taxation: Cross-border taxation management" by Mr. Prasun Maiti, Director - Transfer Pricing, Price Waterhouse & Co. LLP; Overseas Business of India with special focus on GCC by Dr. Ranajoy Bhattacharya, Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata; Policies on EXIM with special focus on GCC by Mr. Sudhakar Kasture, Director, Helpline Impex Pvt. Ltd. & Partner; Generation Next Business Consulting and Entrepreneurship Opportunities by Mr. Ashwin Srivastava, Co-founder & Director, Idein Ventures; Mr. Ardhendu Mandal, Chairman, International Trae Cell of the Chamber, moderated the Session. The session concluded with a lively Q/A session with the delegates coming up with diverse questions on Business with GCC.





Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, The Bengal Chamber delivering the Welcome Address



Mr. Tariq Izzaldeen Hassan Al-Mouthen, Commercial Counselor, The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen delivering the Keynote Address

Business Session in progress (L-R): Mr. Sudhakar Kasture, Director, Helpline Impex Pvt. Ltd. & Partner, Generation Next Business Consulting; Mr. Ashwin Srivastava, Co-founder & Director, Idein Ventures; Mr. Ardhendu Mandal, Chairman, International Trade Cell of the Chamber; Dr. Ranajoy Bhattacharya, Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata; Mr. Prasun Maiti, Director - Transfer Pricing , Price Waterhouse & Co. LLP

BUSINESS DIALOGUE - INDO-RUSSIA OPPORTUNITIES AND SCOPE

1st June 2016, Gorky Sadan, Kolkata

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Consulate General of the Russian Federation jointly organized a "Business Dialogue - Indo-Russia Opportunities and Scope" on 1st June 2016 from 2.30 p.m. onwards (IST) in Gorky Sadan - Russian Cultural Centre for Kolkata, 3 Gorky Terrace, Kolkata 17. The programme was streamed live between Kolkata and Russia.

The Chamber felt that it is a most opportune time to explore opportunities of Indo-Russian Business in the East and this video conference was the first dialogue between Russian and businesses from West Bengal in many years.

From the Indian side, representing West Bengal, the conference was attended by Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Hemant Kanoria, Chairman & MD, Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd; Dr. Rupali Basu, CEO, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital Ltd; Mr. S Radhakrishnan, Past President, Bengal Chamber; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Chairman Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber & MD, Enfragy Solutions India Pvt. Ltd; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General Designate, The Bengal Chamber, along with a few more industry representatives. There were a total of 25 participants and around 25 representatives from the media, from the Indian side. The Russian side was represented by Mr. Konstantin Petrokov, President Advisor of OPORA, Ms. Veronica Peshkova, Executive Member of OPORA Russia, Ms. Elena Antonova, Ministry of Economy, Russian Federation, Asia Advisor, Mr. Vasily Petrechenko, Deputy Head of Moscow State University's Technopark and few more industry leaders. The entire session was moderated by Mr. Mikhail Gosev, the Acting Consul General of The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata.

Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta spoke about the strategic importance of trade between the two countries and how the Government of India has emphasized to enhance the bilateral trade between Russia and India. Bengal being strategically located as a gateway to South East Asia and being rich in minerals, water and power has the true potential of bringing business and developing bilateral trade between the two countries. Mr Dasgupta also highlighted the fact that State Government has key focus in MSMEs and the State possesses huge intellectual capital for IT and ITeS. Therefore, there is a huge scope of Analytics. Skills, Education and Healthcare are other sectors wherein business opportunities are also quite bright. Mr. Hemant Kanoria, the Keynote Speaker, spoke about how two countries have been good partners for decades. He also reiterated the opportunities for MSMEs in engineering goods. He spoke about agriculture and agro based industries, consumer goods, tea, jute and other relevant sectors.

The Russian representatives discussed about various products from the Russian side focusing on analytics, biotechnology applications, wound dressing, molecular biotechnology products which are less expensive and have huge customer and distributer support system. The conference acted as a precursor to the Chamber's upcoming business delegation to Russia later this year.



Video Conference in progress



Dr. Rupali Basu, CEO, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital Ltd during her address



Mr Mikhail Gosev the Acting Consul General of The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata, moderating the conference.



The Russian Side.



Mr. Hemant Kanoria, Chairman & MD,
Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd during his address



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, BCC&I during his theme address



Dr. Rupali Basu, CEO, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital Ltd and Mr. S Radhakrishnan, Past President, Bengal Chamber, during the conference



During the Video Conference



L-R Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, BCC&I; Mr Hemant Kanoria, Chairman &MD SREI Group; Mr Mikhail Gosev, Acting Consul General, Russian Federation to Kolkata



Members interacting with the Russian counterparts



During the session



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General
Designate, The Bengal Chamber

BUSINESS SESSION WITH THAILAND BOARD OF INVESTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND

11th August 2016, The Taj Gateway, Kolkata

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Business Session with Thailand Board of Investment, Government of Thailand on 11th August 2016 at Poolside Hall, The Taj Gateway Hotel, EM Bypass Kolkata, from 6.30 pm onwards followed by an Interactive Session and Networking Dinner.

Ms. Chitra Kulvanich, Executive Director , General Administration Bureau graced the session along with Ms. Kanokporn Chotipal , Senior Diplomat & Director of Investment from Board of Investment, Mr. Preecha Kaensa, Consul General of Royal Thai Consulate General, Kolkata and Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The objectives of the session were:

• Facilitating interaction on the growing level of engagement between Thailand and India.

• Highlighting opportunities and areas for India based companies to successfully establish and grow their business in Thailand.

Ms. Kanokporn Chotipal, Senior Diplomat & Director of Investment from Board of Investment was the prolocutor of the session. Ms. Chitra Kulvanich, Executive Director, General Administration Bureau delivered a presentation on "Thailand's Dynamic Investment Environment and Opportunities".

Key topics of the presentation, addressed by Ms Kulvanich were :

• Thailand's globally established position
• Thailand as the ASEAN Hub
• Investment Incentives
• BOI Services



Welcome Address by Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Presentation by Ms. Chitra Kulvanich, Executive Director, General Administration Bureau



Address by Mr. Preecha Kaensa, Consul General of Royal Thai Consulate General, Kolkata



A section of the audience



Q/A Session in progress

FORGING STRONGER INTRA BRICS TRADE : EXPLORING COMPLEMENTARITIES

6TH SEPTEMBER 2016, CHAMBER PREMISES

West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) and the Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal, in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Indian Chamber of Commerce hosted the BRICS Young Diplomats Forum during their visit to Kolkata on 6th September 2016 at the Chamber Premises at an event titled "Forging Stronger Intra BRICS Trade: Exploring Complementarities". The event was a part of the initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India's elaborate plan to publicize its foreign policy initiatives to reach out to more people, especially the youth, and a beginning was to be made at the BRICS Summit in Goa on October 15-16. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is planning to hold 90 events across several cities ahead of the eighth meeting of the five-nation group – Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa – that holds 42 % of the world's population and 25% of the global GDP.

The Speakers included:

- Shri Amarendra Khatua, IFS, Dean FSI and Secretary, Government of India.
- Dr Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal.
- Shri Talleen Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of IT&E, Government of West Bengal.
- Ms Nayantara Pal Chowdhury, Senior Member from Indian Chamber of Commerce.
- Shri P Kamlakanth, IFS, Executive Director, WBIDC.
- Shri Pradip Majumdar, Advisor, Agriculture Department, Government of West Bengal.

The Young Diplomats, for whom the session was organized, included a team of at least five to six from each of the five BRICS nations. All the Diplomats from the BRICS nations stayed in Kolkata from the 3rd to the 6th of September and the session was part of their tour programme.

Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, in charge of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal presided over the Session.

Shri Amarendra Khatua, IFS, Dean FSI and Secretary, Government of India, thanked the Chambers of Commerce and the Government of West Bengal for hosting the forum at Kolkata. He felt that were a number of technical co-operation programmes open to the BRICS nations and the interactions here would surely add a lot of knowledge and experience for the participants.

Mr Sutanu Ghosh, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in his welcome address expressed his happiness at Kolkata being included by the MoEF in the BRICS schedule. He stated that with a cumulative global trade of 20 percent and generating over 40 percent of global economic growth, the BRICS countries and India specifically can position themselves as a prominent global leader in trade and are poised to strengthen their relationship through intra-BRICS trade. He also stated that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce in association with the Government of West Bengal has envisioned to reposition Kolkata as a "niche city" promoting a select skill set, like the Silicon Valley in the USA.

Shri Talleen Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of IT&E, Government of West Bengal, in his detailed presentation on the "ICT landscape in West Bengal", distinctly elaborated on the IT sector and opportunities that exist in the State for members of the BRICS nations. Cyber security, big data analytics, designs and innovations were the areas of strength in West Bengal. He emphasized the availability of skilled manpower with presence of several renowned technical institutions in the State as well as the immense growth prospects of the State in the context of the large market it offers. An interesting round of Q&A followed Shri Kumar's presentation.

Ms Nayantara Pal Chowdhury from Indian Chamber of Commerce, stated that West Bengal was emerging as an important investment hub in the country and would provide the BRICS nations trade and investment opportunities especially in IT, agriculture, horticulture and fisheries and offered ICC's help from areas ranging from policy advocacy with the Government of India to identifying key sectors for investments by the BRIC nations.

Shri P Kamlakanth, IFS, Executive Director, WBIDC, in his presentation, emphasized the opportunities available in the State for investment in the manufacturing sector and the State's focus towards development of the industrial eco-system. The specially earmarked manufacturing belts and industrial parks, development of ports and dedicated freight corridors and skill development initiatives taken up were highlights of his presentation.

Shri Pradip Majumdar, Advisor, Agriculture Department, Government of West Bengal, presented in detail the growth story of India's agriculture in general, particularly highlighting the improvements brought about on West Bengal's agricultural front through use of IT and IT enabled services, and by addressing the problems faced by the farmers, 95% of whom are marginalized. IT support, financial support and legislative changes in the State has brought about immense improvements and today West Bengal happens to be the leading producer of rice and vegetables. 66% of land area in West Bengal is under cultivation against the Indian average of 50%. There exist immense opportunities for export of agricultural produce, including a variety of fruits from West Bengal.

The Panel Discussion which followed the opening session had Mr S Radhakrishnan, Chairman, TIE and Past President, Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Mr Kalyan Kar of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Prof Soikat Sinha Roy, Professor of Economics of Jadavpur University, who deliberated on the outcome and prospects of the cooperation in the BRICS group. Mr Snehasish Sur Moderated the session. The panel discussed a number of important issues ranging from the key economic and strategic measures to be adopted for sustained growth as well as harnessing each other's strengths through FDI flows and treaties.



(From L – R) Shri Amarendra Khatua, IFS (Dean, Foreign Service Institute); Mr Sutanu Ghosh (President, The Bengal Chamber); Dr Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal; Shri Pradip Majumdar, Advisor, Agriculture Department, Government of West Bengal; Ms Nayantara Pal Chowdhury, Senior Member from Indian Chamber of Commerce and Shri P Kamlakanth, IFS, Executive Director, WBIDC.



Shri Talleen Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of IT&E, Government of West Bengal and Shri Amarendra Khatua, IFS (Dean, FSI) take questions from the audience, while Mr Sutanu Ghosh, President, Bengal Chamber, looks on.



Mr Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber, delivering the Inaugural Lecture.



The visiting Diplomats.



The visiting Diplomats.



The visiting Diplomats.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH H.E. MS. MELBA PRIA, AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO IN INDIA

9TH SEPTEMBER 2016, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Her Excellency Ms. Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico in India on 9th September 2016 in the Chamber.

The Interactive Session was also graced by Mr. Sumit Mazumder, former President of The Bengal Chamber and Hony. Consul of Mexico in Kolkata.

Discussions in the session focused on opportunities to define the path of India-Mexico Partnership that allows the growth of bilateral relations in the fields of economy, science and technology. Emphasis was on increasing the importance of diversifying the economic exchanges to promote trade and investment.

The interaction commenced with an address by the Ambassador on 'Mexico- as an investment destination'.

Some of the statistics on Mexico which emerged are mentioned below:

- 15th largest economy in the world, projected to be one of the top 10 economies by 2050.
- Leading exporter in Latin America.
- Solid macroeconomic stability.
- Network of free trade agreements which gives the country access to 45 countries and 1.2 billion consumers.
- Part of the TPP and the Pacific Alliance.
- 120 million people = strong domestic market.
- One of the best ratios for working age population in the world.
- Competitive labor costs.
- Expanding skilled labor force.

The interaction with Members led to discussions on various issues like energy and environment, health, education, labour, industry specific issues like catalytic converter for automobile sectors and others.

The Meeting was preceded by a Networking Lunch.

The Bengal Chamber proposed to take a business delegation to Mexico. The Ambassador encouraged the proposition and also advised that it would be a positive approach to showcase West Bengal in Mexico.



L-R: Mr. Sumit Mazumder, former President of The Bengal Chamber and Hony. Consul of Mexico in Kolkata; Her Excellency Ms. Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico to India; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber



Her Excellency Ms. Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico in India addressing the Members.



Interaction in progress

INDO-RUSSIA B2B MEET

26TH SEPTEMBER 2016, CHAMBER PREMISS

The Russian Export Center represents a huge number of companies, manufacturers, exporters of goods and technologies from different areas, including IT, food, energy, mining, metallurgy, oil and gas, infrastructure projects, equipment etc, and they have a wide range of interests. Mr. Dmitry Makeev, Head of the E-Commerce Department (India) and Mr. Pavel Borisov, Special Project Manager (India) of the Russian Export Center visited Kolkata during the last week of September, when the Chamber organised a focused B2B meet of companies from the food sector which would like to have fruitful cooperation with the Russian businesses.

From the Indian side, Mr. Sashank Shah, Vice President, Keventer and Mr. Saurabh Maheshwari, Additional GMProcessed Food and Dairy of Spencer's Retail Limited participated in the exploratory meeting and discussed import-export opportunities amongst the 2 countries. During discussions both parties presented their cases in terms of mutual product categories. The Russian delegates were requested to appoint a distributor (out of the list of distributors which would be provided) for supplying into the Indian market as a whole. The requirements have to be consolidated and while importing, FSSAI rules and regulations need to be complied with. The Russians would specify and share the packaged food and beverage product categories for import over email exchanges with respect to the linkages established during the meeting.



Seen in the picture (second from left) Mr. Saurabh Maheshwari, Additional GM-Processed Food and Dairy, Spencer's Retail Limited; (in the middle) Mr. Sashank Shah, Vice President, Keventer; (second from right) Mr. Dmitry Makeev, Head of the E-Commerce Department (India) and (extreme right) Mr. Pavel Borisov, Special Project Manager (India), of Russian Export Center



Mr. Mikhail Gosev, Dy Consul General, The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata moderating the session

Interactive Session on 'Business Opportunities in the realm of IT between West Bengal and Russia'

28TH SEPTEMBER 2016, AT GORKY SADAN, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Consulate General of the Russian Federation jointly organized an Interactive Session on 'Business Opportunities in the realm of IT between West Bengal and Russia" on 28th September 2016 from 3.00 p.m. onwards (IST) in Gorky Sadan - Russian Cultural Centre for Kolkata, 3 Gorky Terrace, Kolkata 17. The programme was streamed live between Kolkata and Russia.

A few months back, The Chamber had successfully organized a similar forum of Indo-Russian Business Dialogue to explore opportunities of Indo-Russian Business in the East. During the session, two key sectors emerged viz, Health and IT, in which closer bilateral business ties were possible. The Chamber, therefore, felt the need of organizing another Interactive Session with a more focused approach specializing in IT and IT Applications.



Address by Mr. Yuri Dubovoy, Head, Russian Centre of Science and Culture.



Mr. Mikhail Gosev, Deputy Consul General of The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata, moderating the conference.

Interactive Session on 'Business Opportunities in the realm of IT between West Bengal and Russia'

28TH SEPTEMBER 2016, AT GORKY SADAN, KOLKATA

From the Indian side, representing West Bengal, the conference was attended by the following:

Name	Designation	Company
Shri Ritesh Mukherjee	Principal Engineer Computing	Centre for Development of Advanced
Mr. Subho Samanta	Founder	Dirac Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd
Mr Rajarshi Chatterjee	Founder	Dirac Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd
Mr. Goutam Ghosh	Co-founder & Executive Director	InfraStrat Private Limited
Mr Ranjay Ghosh	Vice President-Operations	Nevaeh Technology Pvt. Ltd.
Mr Rahul Naskar	Vice President-Software	Nevaeh Technology Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Prabir Dasgupta		PDG Associates
Mr Nirmal Ray	GM-Technical	West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited
Mr Sanjib Banerjee	DGM	West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited
Mr. Bhaswata Sinharoy	General Manager	Wipro Limited
Mr Ankit Kumar	Founder and CEO	Re-rise
Mr Somik Banerjee	Director	Re-rise
Mr. Pronab Chatterjee	Executive Director- Tech Consulting Services	Strat Aid Consulting
Mr Indranil Mitra	Director-Advisory	PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd
Mr Ashis K Chakraborty	CEO	ITOrbital
Mr Akash Arora	Assistant Vice President Marketing	Management and Computer Consultants

The Russian side was represented by companies such as:

1. "RELEX" - software and IT services
2. "Comnet" - cyber security
3. "Kodofon-T"- hardware and software (mobile communications, broadband wireless access, navigation, etc).
4. "BI-Leasing" - corporate information systems
5. "Doctornet.pro" - design
6. "Peremena" - data storage
7. "Angels IT Group" - medical information systems



B2B interaction between India and Russia via video conferencing

The discussions took place over video conferencing between Kolkata and Moscow, where the participants shared their individual as well as Company profile and explored opportunities in the realms of IT and IT allied services. Some of the elements of IT and IT related services like Analytics, IOT, medical informatics, Dot Net etc. were discussed where the aim was to develop an ecosystem for cooperation among the two countries and their businesses. Another interesting aspect which came out of the interactions was about certain Mobile Applications, the technology aspect of which has already been developed by one of the participants from the Russian side. The Indian counterpart was willing to explore whether the same can be made available in Indian Languages.

The Russian representatives also invited the delegates and also the BCC&I IT Fraternity to pay a visit to Voronezh sometime soon to explore more on mutually beneficial collaborative arrangements.



Interactive Session in Progress

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. PATRICK SANTILLO, MINISTER COUNSELOR FOR COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS,U.S. EMBASSY NEW DELHI

4TH OCTOBER 2016, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Mr. Patrick Santillo,Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy –India, for its senior members, on 4th October 2016 from 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. in the Chamber.

Mr. Santillo was accompanied by Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer and Mr. Arup Mitra, Senior Commercial Specialist, US Commercial Service, US Consulate General Kolkata.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber. Mr Aloke Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber was also present. The other Members who joined the programme were:

Mr. Aloke Das Ghosh, Advisor, Larsen & Toubro

Mr. A Mandal, President - Business Development, Techno Electric and Engineering Company Limited

Dr. Amit Ghose, Consultant Urologist, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital

Mr. Arnab Basu, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Director (Technical), Prerana Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Director, Teknowlegion Private Limited

Mr. P S Bhattacharyya, Former Chairman, Coal India Limited

Mr. Samrat Sarkar, Indismart Group Worldwide

Mr. R. N. Ghoshal, Regional President and Mrs. Madhusree Daityari, Regional Director, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce were also part of the Session.

The focus areas of discussions were:

- Energy
- Health
- Infrastructure
- Information Technology
- Water

The sector focused discussions were as under:

Health

Dr. Amit Ghose initiated the discussions on Health which he mentioned as one of the booming sectors. His observations included the demography, social structure, increased affordability, emergence of insurance in healthcare sector as the factors behind growth of this sector. He also spoke about the gap between the demand and supply of quality doctors and paramedical staffers. He highlighted that the country is in apex performance in some specializations like robotics surgery. He identified e-commerce as a potential element for the healthcare industry. The increase in medical tourism in India is also another important factor for its growth.

Technology collaboration and tie-ups for medical education and training are the areas where partnerships may be explored with the US.

Energy

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee commenced the discussions on Energy speaking about India's INDC in in COP 21, held in November 2016. Towards this, Mr. Mukherjee mentioned the value chain as:

- Policy
- Regulations
- Business Model
- Delivery
- Finance

He emphasized innovative financial models to make the renewable target viable. Technology collaboration and financial tie-ups with US companies will help India achieve its INDC target.

For solar, technology for smart and efficient grid is important for availability of power for all 24*7. In this context, he also talked about creating appropriate skills to maintain the assets which are being created in solar and other renewables. Discussions in this context highlighted that the materials and processes involved in generating solar energy may be obtained from the US.

Nuclear Power was also mentioned which would be an area of focus in the near future.

Emphasis was on clean coal. Bacteriological intervention for coalbed methane was mentioned where technology transfer from the US would help. Need for environment friendly mining equipment was also indentified.

Smart grid for electricity transmission and distribution is also important.

Water

Mr. Aloke Das Ghosh started the discussions on Water. He mentioned that India had mostly use of ground water in earlier days. However, the use of surface water is increasing in recent times, which is more predominant in the western part of the country. In West Bengal, though the quantity of ground water is not a challenge, but quality is a concern both in terms of health and environment. He indicated that there are opportunities for US companies in the water segment. Opportunities are also in waste water treatment. The technology from the US would be helpful in this sector.

An important observation on network management of water was made. USA may play a major role by providing technology for reduction of wastage of water during distribution.

Infrastructure

The President mentioned that a deep sea port would be very crucial for West Bengal. It is expected that the Tajpur Port project will be executed. The Chamber is in the process of preparing a Position Paper.

Information Technology

Mr. Arnab Basu addressed on IT which is one of the key export identities of India. In IT, India has several large Indian companies operating alongside foreign MNCs. The sector is going through a transition. Policies like implementation of GST which will have impact on all organizations, across all sectors, will need major technological intervention. The Government's Digital India Campaign is also a major catalyst for the sector.

With the advancement of technology, the outsourcing jobs are being reduced. Value chain is witnessing a vertical movement.

Startups constitute a key feature of India's IT eco-system. Some of the home grown IT Start Ups are becoming major players with potential competition to global ones.

There is a gradual shift towards products from services. Major IT companies are making investments in products.

Innovations and revolution around cloud are changing the eco system. Establishment of datacenters of global IT companies in India has made a positive impact on building confidence as data is not leaving the boundary.

Many conventional organizations are revamping themselves as technology organizations. Technological interventions in conventional areas like agriculture are changing the paradigm.

Internet of Things (IoT) and Cyber Security are major areas of focus.

MSME development is a focus of the Government of West Bengal. Electronics hardware industry is primarily constituted with MSMEs. In this regard, the US may share suggestions and models to create electronics hardware growth in the State.



L-R: Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata; Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Mr Aloke Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber.



Meeting in progress. L-R: Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Director (Technical), Prerana Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. P S Bhattacharyya, Former Chairman, Coal India Ltd; Mr. A Mandal, President - Business Development, Techno Electric and Engineering Company Limited; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Director, Teknowlegion Pvt. Ltd. and Big Solar Ltd.; Dr. Amit Ghose, Consultant Urologist, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital; Mr. Arnab Basu, Partner, Technology Consulting & Digital Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata; Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber; Mr Aloke Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. R. N. Ghoshal, Regional President; Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.



Meeting in progress. L-R: Mr. Samrat Sarkar, Indismart Group Worldwide; Mr. Arup Mitra, Senior Commercial Specialist, US Commercial Service, US Consulate General Kolkata and Mrs. Madhusree Daityari, Regional Director, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.



Meeting in progress. Mr. Patrick Santillo; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury; Mr Aloke Mookherjea; Mr. R N Ghosal and Mr. Aloke Das Ghosh, Advisor, Larsen & Toubro Limited seating next to Mr Aloke Mookherjea (L-R)



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh and Mr. Patrick Santillo at the Calcutta Gallery of The Bengal Chamber.



Ms. Soma Mitra Mukherjee, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber with President Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, explaining the concept of The Calcutta Gallery to Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy –India.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY NILS RAGNAR KAMSVAG, AMBASSADOR OF NORWAY TO INDIA,

18TH OCTOBER 2016, THE CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with His Excellency Nils Ragnar Kamsvag, Ambassador of Norway to India on 18th October 2016 in the Chamber.

The Ambassador was accompanied by his gracious wife and his colleagues, Mr. Helge Tryti, Counsellor, Commercial Affairs, Embassy of Norway in New Delhi and Director, Innovation Norway and Mr. Johan Loov, Second Secretary, Political Affairs, Embassy of Norway in New Delhi. Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri, Hony. Consul, Royal Norwegian Consulate, Kolkata was also present.

The Ambassador commenced his address mentioning that Kolkata would be the ideal destination, as indicated by the map, for Norway to connect with India by sea route. He spoke about the historical linkage Norway shares with Calcutta. Their first Consulate was opened in Calcutta in 1845.

He exclaimed that India and Norway share the common vision of a prosperous, sustainable and peaceful future based on international law and diplomacy. India is now one of the world's largest economies and is set to emerge as a global power. He made special emphasis on Energy and Environment and Shipping. He applauded India's forward looking attitude in the realm of Energy. He mentioned that Norway's direct and indirect investment in India would be approximately USD 13-14 billion. There is a steady increase in Norwegian companies setting up business in India.

Mr. Helge Tryti reiterated His Excellency's views on the locational advantage of West Bengal and Kolkata for Norway to do business in India. He highlighted the under mentioned sectors which Norway is focusing on:

- Maritime
- Oil and Gas
- Water Treatment
- Innovation and Start Ups
- Renewable Energy
- Marine
- Health
- ICT
- Infrastructure and Smart Cities
- Defence
- Science and Technology

He spoke about the presence of Indian companies in Norway. He advised that West Bengal could showcase the opportunities it has to offer to the Norwegian companies.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber emceeing the Interactive Session.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber delivering the Welcome Address.



His Excellency Nils Ragnar Kamsvag , Ambassador of Norway to India addressing the audience.



Mr. Helge Tryti, Counsellor, Commercial Affairs, Norway Embassy in New Delhi and Director, Innovation Norway addressing the audience.



Mr. Indrajit Sen, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the Vote of Thanks.



Distinguished audience.



His Excellency Nils Ragnar Kamsvag , with the delegation, at The Calcutta Gallery escorted by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh.



(L-R): Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Mr. Indrajit Sen, His Excellency Nils Ragnar Kamsvag, Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri, Hon. Consul of Norway in Kolkata.



Press Conference in progress.



His Excellency Nils Ragnar Kamsvag at The Calcutta Gallery.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH H.E. MR. ASFAW DINGAMO, AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY OF ETHIOPIA IN INDIA

25th November 2016 Chamber Premises

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'aaba, 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

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

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 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.



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



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

B2B MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION OF THE INDO-CANADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

6TH JANUARY 2017 CHAMBER PREMISES

The Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) had embarked on their "Annual India Mission in January 2017". The objective of this trade mission was to strengthen the bilateral trade relationships between Canada and India. The delegation members of The Indo-Canada Chamber had intended to visit 7 Indian cities - Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and New Delhi.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized B2B meetings for the delegation members of the Indo-Canada Chamber with the industry participants on 6th January 2017 in the Chamber premises.

Her Worship Bonnie Crombie, Hon'ble Mayor, City of Mississauga graced the session along with Mr. Jay Banerjei, Chair-Trade Committee, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Pappur Shankar, Vice President- Finance and SME, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Arjun Kumar Dutta, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Trade Office, Kolkata and Mrs. Anjana Bharat, Regional Chair, Indo Canada Business Chamber and NE Chapter. Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry were also present along with the senior members who participated in the Business session.

Mayor Bonnie Crombie delivered a presentation on the City of Mississauga. Her presence and insights on business opportunities and work-life balance in Mississauga made the session more prestigious and relevant. Mr. Jay Banerjei gave an induction on the "Annual India Mission" organized by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Pappur Shankar spoke on manufacturing industry in Canada. Mr. Arjun Kumar Dutta addressed on Indo-Canada Trade Relationship and Mrs. Anjana Bharat highlighted the works of Indo-Canada Business Chamber in India.

The Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Her Worship Bonnie Crombie, Mayor, City of Mississauga looking at the Calcutta Gallery.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the delegate members of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce.



L-R: Mr. Arjun Kumar Dutta, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Trade Office, Kolkata; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Bonnie Crombie, Mayor, City of Mississauga; Mr. Jay Banerjei, Chair-Trade Committee, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Pappur Shankar, Vice President- Finance and SME, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Anjana Bharat, Regional Chair, Indo Canada Business Chamber and NE Chapter.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry commencing the session.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address.



A section of the audience.



Mr. Jay Banerjei , Chair-Trade Committee, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce.



Mr. Pappur Shankar, Vice President- Finance and SME, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce.



Mr. Arjun Kumar Dutta, Trade Commissioner, Deliberating his speech.



Her Worship Bonnie Crombie, Mayor, City of Mississauga.



Mrs. Anjana Bharat, Regional Chair, Indo Canada Business Chamber and NE Chapter delivering her speech.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Jay Banerjei , Chair-Trade Committee, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce greeting each other after the MOU signing.



MOU signing between the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce and The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

INTERACTIVE SEMINAR ON "HOW TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS IN HONG KONG & BEYOND"

27TH FEBRUARY 2017, TAJ GATEWAY, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with Invest Hong Kong, organized an Interactive Seminar on "How to grow your business in Hong Kong & Beyond" on 27th February 2017 at Taj Gateway Hotel, EM Bypass Kolkata, from 6.30 pm onwards followed by an Interactive Session and Networking Dinner.

The objectives of the seminar were:

- Ease of doing business in Hong Kong to cater to the Mainland China and Asia Pacific market.
- Highlighting the One Belt One Road initiative taken by China.
- Highlighting the opportunities and areas for India-based companies to successfully establish and grow their business in Hong Kong.

Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry set the tone with his welcome speech while Mr. Francis Ho, Associate Director General, InvestHK (Government of Hong Kong) graced the session along with Mr. Rampat Gupta, Consultant, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Delhi. Mr. Siddhant Gupte, Consultant, International Operations, Invest Hong Kong India Team moderated the Q&A session.

Mr. Francis Ho delivered a presentation on "Investment Promotion - Where Business Goes to Grow". His presence and insights on business opportunities in Hong Kong and bilateral business relationships between Hong Kong and India made the session most relevant and meaningful. Mr. Rampat Gupta shared his perspectives on "Exploring Business Opportunities via HKTDC's Integrated Marketplace." His insights on the business landscape of Hong Kong enlightened the representatives of the local industries on the opportunities of doing business in Hong Kong.



L-R: Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Francis Ho, Associate Director General, InvestHK (Government of Hong Kong); Mr. Rampat Gupta, Consultant, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Delhi; Mr. Siddhant Gupte, Consultant, International Operations, Invest Hong Kong India Team



Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, emceeing the Session



Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, delivering the formal welcome address



Mr. Francis Ho, Associate Director General, InvestHK (Government of Hong Kong) addressing the audience



A section of the audience



Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha presenting a memento to Mr. Francis Ho



Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha presenting a memento to Mr. Rampat Gupta



Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha presenting a memento to Mr. Siddhant Gupte



Q/A Session in progress



Q/A Session in progress



Mr. Rampat Gupta, Consultant, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Delhi, during his discourse



Mr. Rampat Gupta addressing the audience during the Q/A Session

A SPECIAL INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY MR. PARAMASIVUM PILLAY VYAPOORY, HON'BLE VICE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

17TH APRIL 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Special Interactive Session with His Excellency, Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President of Republic of Mauritius on 17th April 2017 at The Chamber premises. The session was graced by His Excellency Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President of Republic of Mauritius and Mr. Deven Coopoosamy, Partner - Client Relationship CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius. The audience included important stakeholders and members of the Chamber. The objective of the session was to explore bilateral business opportunities between India and Mauritius in general and building new bonds between Kolkata/West Bengal and Mauritius in particular.

It was the first ever business forum His Excellency graced in the City.

His Excellency Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory and Mr. Deven Coopoosamy took a walk down the Calcutta Gallery accompanied by Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, BCC&I, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General BCC&I and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, BCC&I, following which the interactive session commenced.

Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, in his welcome speech, highlighted the Indo-Mauritius bilateral relations and also introduced the Hon'ble Vice President to the audience. Mr. Abhishek Basu, Executive Trustee of Basu Foundation for the Arts, the cultural partner of BCC&I for this event, showcased the gamut of interesting work that The Basu Foundation had been doing on connecting people through art, through an audio visual presentation.

An Introduction of Business Opportunities along with the Ease of Doing Business in Mauritius was presented by Mr. Deven Cooposamy with the help of an audio visual presentation.

Subsequently, His Excellency Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory addressed the gathering by elaborating on the ideal environment for doing business in the island nation and the bilateral relationship between India and Mauritius. The Hon'ble Vice President mentioned that Mauritius had a skilled workforce and modern infrastructure for setting up factories. He shared how Mauritius used to be a mono-crop model economy at the time of their Independence when sugar used to constitute 90% of their trade which accounted for only 1% of their GDP, and how the Government now envisions raising Mauritius to the level of a high income economy as part of the Vision 2030 exercise. His Excellency spoke of the trade links Mauritius has had with India, where he mentioned certain facts like - India has been the largest exporter of goods and services to Mauritius and how India and Mauritius have been sharing strong trade relations even in the recent past, and how the double tax avoidance convention has helped play a key role in enhancing the financial statistics.

To highlight the strong Indian influence on Mauritius, His Excellency Mr. Vyapoory named several places/monuments that were named after famous Indians including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore. The relations between the armed forces of India and Mauritius have also been good. The famous Mauritius navy ship, Barracuda was constructed by an Indian shipbuilder, while even today India carries out patrols and surveillances with Mauritius.

India is Mauritius's leading trading partner and has been the largest exporter of goods and services to the country since 2007. His Excellency highlighted the joint operations that both the countries are carrying out presently, with a reference to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi's Mauritius visit in 2015. His Excellency complimented the Hon'ble Prime Minister for redefining the bilateral relationship between the two countries during his visit.

The proposed Indo-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement is expected to be signed later this year as both countries finalised the areas of exchange, he added. He said that the two sides had agreed upon the areas in which the agreement would be implemented. Areas which have been identified are financial services, ICT, health, education, R&D and construction. He said that the agreement would lead to an expansion of trade

on both sides and enhanced investment besides enhanced economic relations. Sectors which offered investment opportunities to Indian companies were ICT and BPO, banking services and insurance. He also mentioned that investments in Mauritius will give Indian companies preferential market access to USA and to Africa.

Regarding the Direct Tax Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between India and Mauritius, he said that it was due to this agreement that the cumulative equity inflow to India till April, 2015 was to the tune of USD87 bn. He said that India had extended several lines of credit to Mauritius, the last one being USD500 million announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March, 2015. Mauritius is also ready to offer financial incentives to the Indian film industry, he observed. His Excellency thanked The Bengal Chamber for providing a relevant platform for exploring bilateral trade and B2B interfaces.

Mr. D N Mittra, Chairperson, Legal Committee and Member, Managing Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivered the formal Vote of Thanks.



H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius walking through The Calcutta Gallery.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcoming H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius to the Chamber.



H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius entering the Chamber premises with Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



L-R: Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber; H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius; Mr. Dip Narayan Mittra, Chairperson, Legal Committee and Member, Managing Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Deven Coopoosamy, Partner – Client Relationship, CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius on the dais.



Mr. Deven Coopoosamy, Partner – Client Relationship, CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius with Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address.



Mr. Deven Coopoosamy, Partner – Client Relationship, CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius during his presentation.



Mr. Dip Narayan Mittra, Chairperson, Legal Committee and Member, Managing Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Vote of Thanks.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry emceeing the interactive session.



Mr. Abhishek Basu, Executive Trustee, Basu Foundation for The Arts addressing the audience.



H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius gracing the session.



Q/A session in progress.

A SPECIAL INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY MR. PARAMASIVUM PILLAY VYAPOORY, HON'BLE VICE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

17TH APRIL 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to Mr. Deven Coopoosamy, Partner – Client Relationship, CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius.



L-R: Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius; Mr. Deven Coopoosamy, Partner – Client Relationship, CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius; Mr. Dip Narayan Mittra, Chairperson, Legal Committee and Member, Managing Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



A section of the audience.

MEETING WITH MR. ARCHIL DZULIASHVILI, AMBASSADOR OF GEORGIA TO INDIA

12TH JULY 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

A meeting with Mr. Archil Dzuliashvili, Ambassador of Georgia to India on 12th July 2017 was held at the Chamber. He interacted with Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President of the Bengal Chamber along with members of the Chamber Secretariat. This was his first visit to Kolkata. The objective of the meeting was to explore the possibilities of building trade relations between West Bengal and Georgia and to understand Georgia's potentiality as a preferred investment destination. The Ambassador gave a presentation discussing the same in details. Film tourism emerged as a focus area for the Ambassador.



(L-R): Mr. Archil Dzuliashvili, Ambassador of Georgia to India; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Mr. Archil Dzuliashvili, Ambassador of Georgia being presented a memento by Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

MEETING WITH MR. PETER TRUSWELL, DIRECTOR- INDIAN POLITICAL SECTION, INDIA AND INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT BRANCH, AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT- DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE, SOUTH AND WEST ASIA DIVISION

20TH JULY 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

A meeting with Mr. Peter Truswell, Director- Indian Political Section, India and Indian Sub-Continent Branch, Australian Government- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, South and West Asia Division, was held on 20th July 2017 at the Chamber. Mr. Truswell was accompanied by Dr. Jibby Thomas, Senior Research Officer, Australian High Commission and Mr. Partha Sen, Business Development Manager, Eastern India, Australian Trade Commission, Australian Government.



In Discussion: At Right Mr. Peter Truswell, Director- Indian Political Section, India and Indian Sub-Continent Branch, Australian Government- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, South and West Asia Division.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. BRUCE BUCKNELL, DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION, KOLKATA

28TH JUNE, 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES



L-R – Mr. C S Ghosh, President Designate of the Chamber; Mr. Bruce Bucknell, Deputy High Commissioner of the UK and the President of the Chamber, Mr. Sutanu Ghosh introducing Mr. Bucknell.

Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, introduced Mr. Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata, who represented the UK in the 13 Indian States of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chattisgarh, Assam, Sikkm, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Before taking up his assignment in Kolkata, Mr. Bucknell was Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus from 2012 to 2016. Earlier, he was the Deputy Head of Security in Estates and Security Directorate of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (2009-2011) and Deputy Head of the Joint FCO and Department for International Development's Sudan Unit (2007-2009). He served as First Secretary in the British Embassy in Madrid from 2003 to 2007, and his previous postings were in Milan (1995-99) and Amman (1988-91). He studied modern history at Durham University, and takes a keen interest in the history of the places he visits.

Mr. Bruce Bucknell thanked the Chamber for inviting him over for an interactive session with its Managing Committee. He was aware that there was a business delegation from the Chamber visiting the UK next month. He stated that he would not be speaking too much on the current state of affairs in the UK because far more information was available with all from the English media. Mr. Bucknell's talk covered the following points.

- There were more than one and a half million people of Indian origin living in the UK and that means a lot insofar as Indo-British relations are concerned which has been good, especially commercial relations. Financial trade between the UK and India has been to the extent of over 16 billion Pounds and investments from the UK has been almost 21 billion Pounds (between 2006 to 2016) to India, followed by 15.6 billion Pounds to Japan, 15.3 billion Pounds to America and 17.7 billion Pounds in Germany. UK-India bilateral investment partnership was very strong, and would get better.

- On the issue of jobs and growth, actually British Companies from former colonial India had increased the number of employees to more than 110000. Acquiring Companies in the UK was also easy.

- The issue of Brexit and the results of the latest general elections in the UK were realities to be faced. In this scenario Britain was committed to widening its economic and diplomatic relations outside EU. There were uncertainties but Britain was confident about the fundamental strengths of UK's economy and optimistic about the role it would forge by building on its strength as a trading nation.

- UK Export Finance (UKEF) would play a major role in boosting Britain's international trade. UKEF is UK's export credit agency which provides export finance and insurance that complements commercial business. It works closely in partnership with UK Trade & Investment and ensures that no viable UK export fails for want of finance or insurance. Export Finance was well recognized by the US, Japan and other international trading nations.

- The International Ease of Doing Business Index of Britain remains higher than the US. It has the lowest Corporate Tax, currently at 19% and was committed to reducing it to 17% by 2020. In Global Innovation it was above the US, for the third year in a row. UK was a very open and welcoming place to do business.

Mr. Bruce Bucknell's talk was followed by a very invigorating round of discussions which covered matters ranging from restoration of direct flights from Kolkata to London, UK's focus on Kolkata and West Bengal and its various programmes towards development, poverty alleviation and climate mitigation in this part of the country as well as challenges the UK would face post-elections. Mr. Bucknell assured that he would be looking into the prospects of restoration of flights between the UK and Kolkata. He also gave a detailed account of the climate, energy and poverty alleviation programmes that were underway in Kolkata, West Bengal and the Eastern and North Eastern States of the country.



The President of the Chamber and Mr. Bucknell exchanging notes during the interactive session.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh thanking Mr. Bruce Bucknell and presenting a memento.

LUNCHEON MEETING WITH HON. MR. KEITH PITT MP, ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR TRADE, TOURISM AND INVESTMENT, FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HINKLER, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

30TH AUGUST, 2017, THE OBEROI GRAND, KOLKATA

An exclusive Luncheon Meeting with the Australian MP and Minister, Hon Mr. Keith Pitt MP, Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Federal Member for Hinkler, Queensland was held on 30th August 2017 at The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata. Mr. Pitt was accompanied by Mr. Chris Elstoft, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, New Delhi and Mr. Lindsay Hermes, Assistant Adviser, Office of the Hon Keith Pitt MP, Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. From The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. B B Chatterjee, Vice President; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Chairperson of Energy and Environment Committee; Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairperson of Education Committee and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General were present at the meeting.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration and business opportunities between Bengal and Australia.



L-R: Mr. Chris Elstoft , Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, New Delhi; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber; Hon Mr.Keith Pitt MP, Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Government of Australia and Federal Member for Hinkler, Queensland; Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairperson, Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. B B Chatterjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber.

INFINITY - GROW YOUR BUSINESS

1ST SEPTEMBER 2017, THE BENGAL CHAMBER

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in association with ALIBABA.COM, a leading global wholesale trading platform and a subsidiary of Alibaba Group, organized a Conference titled "Infinity – Grow your business" for Indian resellers of leather products in Kolkata on 1st September 2017 at the Willamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber premises. The objective of the Conference was to empower the resellers to further expand their business and increase their presence in the global market. The Conference also focused on enlightening the exporters & traders about numerous Government policies related to exports and innovation in the SME sector. The programme was supported by Indian Leather Products Association (ILPA) and Council of Leather Exports (CLE).

The programme was graced by Mr. Debkumar Basu, Chairperson – Manufacturing & MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr. Zia Nafis, Panel Convenor – Finished Leather, Eastern Region, Council of Leather Exports, Mr. Vinay Bhartia, Senior Vice President - Strategic Partnership, Alibaba.com and Mr. Syed Tariq Ali, Partner – Oriental Overseas Exports. The conference was attended by more than one hundred delegates from the leather sector in Kolkata.



Mr. Zia Nafis, Panel Convenor – Finished Leather, Eastern Region, Council of Leather Exports delivering his address.



Mr. Vinay Bhartia, Senior Vice President - Strategic Partnership, Alibaba.com delivering his address.

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY DR. DEMETRIOS A. THEOPHYLACTOU, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CYPRUS TO INDIA

25TH NOVEMBER 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with TAFI, organized an Interactive Session with His Excellency Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou, High Commissioner of Cyprus to India on 25th November, 2017 at the Tata Steel Room of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry on " Cyprus : An Exotic Tourist Destination".

The Programme started with Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal welcome address. Mr. Anil Jhunjhunwala, Honorary Consul, Honorary Consulate of Cyprus introduced H.E. Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou to the audience.

A man of letters, the High Commissioner very aptly started by describing the geographical demographic composition of Cyprus. It was a part of the British Empire, as a military occupation from 1914 to 1925 and a Crown colony from 1925 to 1960. Cyprus became an independent nation in 1960. Cyprus joined European Union in May, 2004. He also touched upon the rich culture and heritage of the country and went on to describe the socio economic developments in the country till date. H.E. Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou mentioned that tourism accounts for 10.7% of GDP indicating a heavily tourism driven economy. One of the main attractions of Cyprus is the beaches. It ranks first in cleanest water in EU. To attract more tourists, the Government of Cyprus is proceeding with licensing in the development of the Integrated Casino Resort. Cyprus is also a full member of the World Tourism Organization due to the huge tourism prospects in the country.

He however mentioned that apart from tourism, situations are also conducive for the growth of other sectors like shipping, banking and healthcare. H.E Dr. Theophylactou specially harped upon the safety aspect of the country stating that it ranks number one in the safest small country category. He also stated that India Cyprus relation is being further boosted by a recent agreement increasing maritime trade between the two countries. Of the thirteen other agreements signed, the important sectors include Education, Defence, IT and Mining. He also mentioned that Cyprus was one of the largest foreign direct investors in India following Brexit. The investments can also be attributed to the much lower tax structure.

The programme concluded with Mr. Anil Punjabi, Chairman, Tourism Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal vote of thanks to H. E. Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou and other dignitaries present at the session and Deb A Mukherjee presenting a memento to His Excellency Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou on behalf of The Bengal Chamber.



Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and H. E. Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou during the interaction

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. THOMAS VAJDA, ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, US GOVERNMENT, WASHINGTON DC

1ST DECEMBER 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Mr. Thomas Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington DC on 1st December 2017 in the Chamber premises. The theme of the discussions was Regional Connectivity and Trade.

Mr. Thomas Vajda was accompanied by Mr. Craig L Hall, U.S. Consul General in Kolkata; Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Consul for Political & Economic Affairs, U.S. Consulate General in Kolkata and Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General in Kolkata.

Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber shared the Chamber's insights on Regional Connectivity. His address included Global Value Chain (GVC) and West Bengal's potentiality to explore the advantage of GVC, with its strategic location and MSME focus for the economic development of not only the State or the Country but also the Region of South and South East Asia. Mr. Dasgupta's address was followed by a presentation by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber on the initiatives being made by South and South East Asian Countries for developing multimodal connectivity for a shared economy and how West Bengal is featuring prominently in this landscape.

Mr. Thomas Vajda, who was most impressed with the Chamber's presentation, shared his perspectives on trade relationship between USA and India and addressed issues like potentiality of West Bengal and North East, entrepreneurship for Global Economic Development, influence of China as an emerging superpower, market access of US companies in India, India's IT industry and prospect of US technologies for Smart Cities, Digital India, Make in India Missions, US crude oil being purchased by India and other issues.



Mr. Craig L. Hall, U. S. Consul General in Kolkata and Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U. S. Consulate General in Kolkata with Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry at The Calcutta Gallery in The Bengal Chamber Premises.

L-R: Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Consul for Political & Economic Affairs, U. S Consulate General in Kolkata; Mr Craig L. Hall, U. S Consul General in Kolkata; Mr. Thomas Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington DC; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.





Mr. Thomas Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington DC addressing the session.



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressing the audience.



Distinguished audience.



Interaction in progress.



Distinguished audience.



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to Mr. Thomas Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington DC.



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to Mr. Craig L. Hall, U.S Consul General in Kolkata.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. THEO J.J. GROOTHUIZEN , SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE HAGUE SECURITY DELTA AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

11TH DECEMBER 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Entrepreneurs' Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an interactive session with Mr. Theo J.J. Groothuizen, an international consultant for international collaboration in science & technology, Special Envoy for The Hague Security Delta and the Municipality of The Hague, Netherlands on 11th December 2017 at Tata Steel Room, The Bengal Chamber Premises.

Mr. Theo J.J. Groothuizen has a Masters Degree in Industrial Design Engineering from the Delft University of Technology and also studied architecture at the same university. He worked for Royal Dutch Telecom for 6 years after which he started running his own professional design practice. He was co-founder of Design Consultancy Landmark in the Netherlands (1986), of which he became Principal in 1994, and Founder of Landmark Switzerland. He is CEO and Principal of Groothuizen Beheer BV, a consultancy for international collaboration and innovation. During his professional life he was Executive Board member of the Dutch Designer's Association (BNO) and the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) and Convener for the Bureau of European Designers Associations (BEDA). Theo is honorary member of BNO, Regional Advisor for ICSID and Fellow of Design for the World. He has lectured at several universities and was member of the external research advisory board of the faculty of Design, Engineering and Manufacturing at the Delft University of Technology. Theo Groothuizen has been invited on numerous occasions as speaker, workshop leader, jury member, moderator or curator and he organized several events to promote Dutch Design & Innovation abroad.

The objective of the interactive session in Kolkata was to explain to the participants about the HSD (Hague Security Delta) organization and to discuss how the State of West Bengal could develop a similar ecosystem like the triple helix model and a relevant innovation ecosystem. Participants included senior executives from ITC Ltd, Ericsson Global India Services, Infosec Foundation, Integral Technocom, Department of IT&E, Government of West Bengal and many more. Post the interaction the participants expressed their interest to set up an ecosystem which could offer multiple opportunities for collaboration with HSD and experts in the Netherlands on safety & security, in particular on Cyber Security. A draft proposal would be prepared at the earliest involving HSD to suggest a roadmap to bring the international best practices on Cyber Security in West Bengal.



Participants interacting over breakfast with Mr Theo J.J. Groothuizen an international consultant for international collaboration in science & technology, Special Envoy for The Hague Security Delta and the Municipality of The Hague, Netherlands.



Session with Mr Theo J.J. Groothuizen in progress.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR MA ZHANWU, CONSUL GENERAL, CONSULATE GENERAL OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN KOLKATA

20TH DECEMBER 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Members of the Managing Committee of the Bengal Chamber interacted with Mr. Ma Zhanwu, Consul General, Consulate General of People's Republic of China in Kolkata on 20th December 2017 in the Chamber premises.

Mr. Zhanwu said that he had been in the City of Kolkata for two and a half years now and that he loved Bengal and Kolkata which he thought was indeed a city of vitality, knowledge, development, joy and a city of prosperity. He felt that with the growth and development in this part of the world, this City should rank amongst the top cities of the world in the next few years. Mr. Zhanwu stated that he greatly admired the history and heritage of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and felt happy to be at the Chamber.

The Consul General spoke about current Chinese infrastructure and connectivity initiatives spanning continents, trade relations and prospects of trade with India and specifically Bengal, while focusing on the scope of future Chinese investments in Bengal.

He commented that China's growth story is currently transforming from 'high-speed growth' to 'high quality growth'. From an average yearly growth rate of about 9% over several years, China has come down to a growth rate of 6.9% per annum this year and it should settle at around 6.5% with its new thrust on quality and efficiency. Innovation was the new course to be adopted in place of extension of scale. The traditional ties between Bengal and China could provide further scope for expansion of business here.



L-R: Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Ma Zhanwu, Consul General, Consulate General of People's Republic of China in Kolkata; Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Managing Committee Meeting in progress



Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry interacting with Mr. Ma Zhanwu.



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Ma Zhanwu, Consul Generalof People's Republic of China in Kolkata

POLAND - INDIA BUSINESS FORUM: B2B INTERACTION WITH THE DELEGATION FROM INDO POLISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, WARSAW (IPCCI)

15TH JANUARY 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized B2B Interaction (Poland-India Business Forum) with the Delegation from the Indo Polish Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IPCCI) on 15th January 2018 in The Bengal Chamber premises.

The Delegation of IPCCI also participated in the Bengal Global Business Summit on 16th and 17th January 2018 at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre.

The meeting in the Bengal Chamber was addressed by Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland who was accompanied by Mr. Grzegorz Tobiszowski, Hon'ble First Deputy Minister of Energy of Poland and Mrs. Malgorzata Ocheduszko-Ludwik, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of the Silesia Province, Poland. His Excellency Adam Burakowski, Ambassador of Poland to India also graced the occasion.

Other dignitaries gracing the session were, Mr. Maciej Falkowski, Deputy Joint Secretary , Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Mr. Krzysztof Dobrowolski, Deputy Joint Secretary (Asia-Pacific Department), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Mr. Bartomiej Pawlak, President, Polish Development Fund; Mr. J. J. Singh, President, Indo Polish Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Shri Prasanta Kumar Barai, Joint Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal and Ms. Kuhuk Bhushan, IAS, OSD, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.

It was a high profile delegation with majority of the representatives from energy and mining sectors. The objective of the programme was to create a platform to facilitate dedicated B2B Meetings with the delegate members of IPCCI. It was the first B2B of the Polish Delegation to BGBS, hosted by The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. There was a positive feedback of taking the relationship forward by organizing a return business delegation to Poland.

The session commenced with the addresses by Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. J. J. Singh, President, Indo- Polish Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Poland. Ms. Kuhuk Bhushan, IAS shared insights on "West Bengal –Emerging growth engine of India". She focused on the opportunities of doing business in West Bengal.

Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland addressed on Poland-India Business and Economic Relationship. Mr. Magierowski highlighted the importance of mining and its contribution to the economic growth of Poland. He showcased Silesia in Poland, famous for its Coal and Industry, as a potential region for economic partnership with Bengal. He also mentioned that mining, coal, food processing, power, academic, medical, information and communication technologies were the potential sectors for bilateral collaboration between Poland and India.

Mr. Grzegorz Tobiszowski, Hon'ble First Deputy Minister of Energy of Poland addressed on Economic collaboration between Poland and West Bengal.

Mr. Maciej Falkowski, Deputy Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland addressed on "Poland and India- towards a business partnership." His address covered topics like Poland-India economic cooperation's state of play, Poland-India trade dynamics, Poland's GDP- past and present, the reasons for investment in Poland, Poland-foreign trade, Poland as an attractive investment market, Poland with a stable financial sector, sound banking system in Poland, Poland-India-perspectives for economic partnership and Poland-India-possible cooperation in the environmental protection sector.

Mr. Daniel Ozon, President, JSW presented an overview of JSW Group. He mentioned that JSW was the largest producer of high quality coking coal and the key independent producer of coke in the European Union. JSW's coking coal was used mainly to produce coke, which in turn was an important element in the steel production process. He also highlighted the investment opportunities in Poland.

Mr. Miroslaw Skowron, President, PeBeka shared his perspectives on PeBeka, one of the largest specialist construction companies in Poland. His address included, galleries and Chamber working; shaft works; infrastructure construction engineering; industrial construction engineering; surface drilling work; innovation directions- mechanical excavation of galleries in hard rock conditions, construction of mining central air conditioning system, utilization of drilling holes as alternative way of connecting surface and underground infrastructure; 22 completed international contracts- wide spectrum of operations from the comprehensive execution of Shaft Sinking through the construction of hydro technical, road and railway tunnels, to construction project in domestic areas; PeBeka's potentiality in Shaft, Tunnel and Horizontal Work.

Mr. Jan Bondaruk, Assistant General Director, GIG shared information on GIG-Central Mining Institute in Poland.He spoke about the basic areas of GIG activity- mining and geoengineering, occupational safety in the industry, environmental engineering, material engineering, socio-economic studies, certification, attestation, integrated

management systems, training and education; R&D staff and infrastructure; Experimental Mine "Barbara"- a unique place for mining investigations in a real scale; Clean Coal Technology Centre; Environmental Engineering Centre (EEC); Silesian Centre for Environmental Radioactivity; International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane; Location of Polish coal basins and coal production in Poland in 2016 and Polish hard coal mining industry in 2016.

The meeting included a very vibrant B2B session during which the local business participants interacted with the Polish participants.



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address. (L-R) on the dais: Mr. J. J. Singh, President, Indo-Polish Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Poland; Mr. Bartomiej Pawlak , President , Polish Development Fund; Mr. Krzysztof Dobrowolski, Deputy Joint Secretary (Asia-Pacific Department), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Mr. Grzegorz Tobiszowski, Hon'ble First Deputy Minister of Energy of Poland; Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Mrs. Malgorzata Ocheduszko-Ludwik, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of the Silesia Province, Poland; His Excellency Adam Burakowski, Ambassador of Poland to India; Mr. Maciej Falkowski , Deputy Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Shri Prasanta Kumar Barai, Joint Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal; Ms. Kuhuk Bhushan, IAS, OSD , West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry commencing the session



Mr. J. J. Singh, President, Indo - Polish Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Poland addressing the audience



Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland gracing the occasion



Mr. Grzegorz Tobiszowski, Hon'ble First Deputy Minister of Energy of Poland gracing the occasion



Mr. Maciej Falkowski, Deputy Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland addressing the audience



Mr. Miroslaw Skowron, President, PeBeka addressing the audience



Mr. Daniel Ozon, President, JSW during his speech



Mr. Jan Bondaruk, Assistant General Director, GIG during his speech



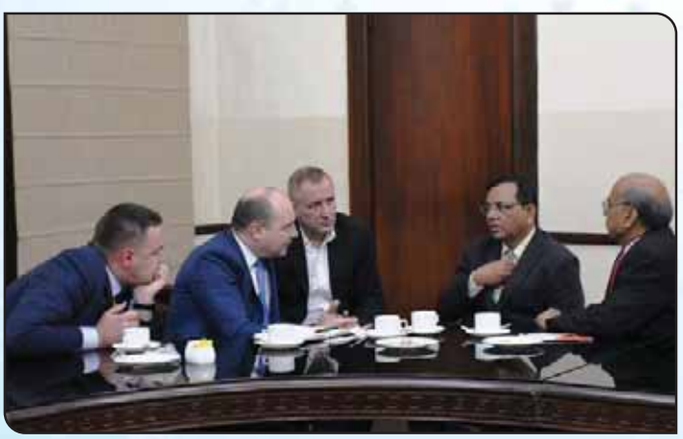
Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber addressing the press conference with Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland; His Excellency Adam Burakowski, Ambassador of Poland to India and Mr. Bartomiej Pawlak, President, Polish Development Fund



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry with Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland and His Excellency Adam Burakowski, Ambassador of Poland to India at The Calcutta Gallery in the Chamber premises



Distinguished audience



B2B Networking in progress.



Distinguished audience



B2B Networking in progress



Ms. Kuhuk Bhushan, IAS, OSD, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited sharing her perspective on Business Opportunities in Bengal

MEETING WITH MS. FRANCES ADAMSON, SECRETARY OF AUSTRALIA'S DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (FOREIGN SECRETARY)

23RD JANUARY 2018, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

An exclusive meeting with Ms. Frances Adamson, Secretary of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Foreign Secretary) was held on 23rd January 2018 in The Bengal Chamber Premises.

Ms. Adamson was accompanied by Mr. Chris Elstoft, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, New Delhi; Ms. Hilary McGeachy, First Secretary (Economic), Australian High Commission, New Delhi and Mr. Partha Sen, Business Development Manager, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), Kolkata.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President; Mr. B B Chatterjee, Senior Vice President; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General were among the attendees from The Bengal Chamber.

The summary of discussions is as follows: Indo-Australia relationship has three conspicuous areas of importance, which are strategic dimensions, regional connectivity and economic reforms in India. Strengthening of these three areas will lead to a greater strategic partnership and synergy between the two nations. Australia sees enormous opportunity in 10 major sectors, where both the nations can work jointly. Out of which the 4 lead sectors are:

- Education (inter disciplinary and huge opportunity as there is already inflow of students from India including West Bengal and Eastern India to Australia)
- Agriculture (particularly potato cultivation and cold chain facilities)
- Energy
- Tourism (Eco Tourism)

These sectors are followed by niche skill development in services sectors such as

- Health and IT
- Financial services

and subsequently

- Infrastructure (Urban development)
- Environment management
- Defense
- Sports (Sports Management, where opportunities may be created here with Australian expertise)

West Bengal plays a key role as far as the aforesaid sectors are concerned. The State has a pivotal role in trans-national connectivity. The ports, riverine and coastal routes of the State play an extremely significant role in the Sub-ASEAN region.



L-R- Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Chris Elstoft, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, New Delhi; Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Frances Adamson, Secretary of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Foreign Secretary); Mr. B. B. Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Ms. Hilary McGeachy, First Secretary (Economic), Australian High Commission, New Delhi; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber



L-R : Mr. Partha Sen, Business Development Manager, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), Kolkata; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee; Mr. Chris Elstoft; Mr. B. B. Chatterjee; Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh; Ms. Frances Adamson; Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh; Ms. Hilary McGeachy; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber; Ms. Sukanya Bose,Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Sr. Manager, Market Research & Development, The Bengal Chamber



Interaction with Ms. Frances Adamson, Foreign Secretary of Australia



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber presenting a token of appreciation to Ms. Frances Adamson, Foreign Secretary of Australia

MEETING WITH MR. ROBERT GARVERICK, MINISTER COUNSELOR, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AFFAIRS, EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN NEW DELHI

24TH JANUARY 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

Mr. Robert Garverick was accompanied by Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U. S. Consulate General Kolkata and Ms. Sangita Dey Chanda, Economic Advisor, Consulate General of the United States of America in Kolkata. From The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director were present in the meeting.

The economic strengths of Bengal, the regional dynamics, sectors of focus and cross-border trade and infrastructure issues were discussed.



L-R- Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor, Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, Embassy of the United States of America in New Delhi; Ms. Sangita Dey Chanda, Economic Advisor, Consulate General of the United States of America; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata



Interaction with Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor, Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, Embassy of the United States of America in progress



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh presenting a memento to Mr. Robert Garverick

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. JAMES C. F. HUANG , CHAIRMAN, TAIWAN EXTERNAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

24TH JANUARY 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Mr. James C.F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council and former Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Taiwan on 24th January 2018 in the Chamber Premises.

The objective of the session was to discuss about the possible areas of collaboration and business opportunities between West Bengal and Taiwan.

Mr. Huang was accompanied by Mr. Ho-Ching Huang, Vice Chairman, Dairen Chemical Corporation (DCC); Mr. Michael Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center Liason Office in Mumbai; Mr. George Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata and Mr. Kyle Chiu, Special Assistant to Chairman, General Administration Department, Taiwan External Trade Development Council.
Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr Aloke Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson Emeritus, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. R N Lahiri, Chairperson Emeritus, IT Committee, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. A. B. Guha, Sr. General Manager, Marine Container Services (I) P. Ltd. and Mr. Ashok Mukherjee, Managing Director, Sonodyne were also present at the meeting.

Mr. Huang shared his objectives of visiting Kolkata. He emphasized that there was lack of information about West Bengal amongst the business fraternity in Taiwan. His principal interest for this trip was to understand the business dynamics in this part of the country and identify the synergies. There was a positive feedback of taking the relationship forward by engaging in preparation of reports, organizing delegations and other possible collaborations.



L-R- Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. James C. F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council; Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. George Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta sharing his perspectives on West Bengal and its opportunities



Mr. James C.F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council gracing the session



Mr. Aloke Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber interacting with Mr. James C. F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council



Interaction in progress



Mr. George Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata addressing the audience.



Participants at the Roundtable meet



Participants



Mr. James C.F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council gracing the session



Mr. Aloke Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber interacting with Mr. James C. F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council



Interaction in progress



Mr. George Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata addressing the audience.



Participants at the Roundtable meet



Participants



L-R: Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. George Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata; Mr. Ho-Ching Huang, Vice Chairman, Dairen Chemical Corporation (DCC); Mr. Kyle Chiu, Special Assistant to Chairman, General Administration Department, Taiwan External Trade Development Council; Mr. Michael Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center Liason Office in Mumbai



Interaction in progress



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to Mr. James C.F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council



Mr. James C.F. Huang presenting a memento to Mr. Indrajit Sen

MEETING WITH AUSTRIAN DELEGATES

25th January 2018, Chamber premises

An exclusive meeting with the Austrian delegates - Mr. Gunter Dorflinger, COO, Christof Industries GmbH; Mr. Mag Bobo Ristic, Partner, EPIC and Mr. Heinz Wienen, Sales Director, Oschatz Energy and Environment GmbH, was held on 25th January 2018 in the Bengal Chamber Premises. Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Chief Executive Officer, Swach Environment Private Limited and Mr. Rituraj Borah, Lead-Business Development (SWM), India Power Green Utility Private Limited were also present at the meeting. The principal interest of the Austrian delegates was to visit The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry-India's oldest Chamber of Commerce, to understand the business dynamics of West Bengal and West Bengal Industrial Policy and to discuss about the collaboration and business opportunities between Bengal and Austria, especially in the Energy Sector.



L-R: Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Chief Executive Officer, Swach Environment Private Limited; Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Sr. Manager, Market Research & Development, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Mag Bobo Ristic, Partner, EPIC; Mr. Rituraj Borah, Lead-Business Development (SWM), India Power Green Utility Private Limited; Mr. Gunter Dorflinger, COO, Christof Industries GmbH; Mr. Heinz Wienen, Sales Director, Oschatz Energy and Environment GmbH



Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Chief Executive Officer, Swach Environment Private Limited presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Mag Bobo Ristic , Partner, EPIC; Mr. Gunter Dorflinger, COO, Christof Industries GmbH and Mr. Heinz Wienen, Sales Director, Oschatz Energy and Environment GmbH

FELICITATION OF MS. MANUSHI CHHILLAR-MISS WORLD 2017

2ND FEBRUARY 2017, THE BENGAL LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Special "Adda" Session & Felicitation of Ms. Manushi Chhillar, Miss World 2017 on 2nd February 2018 at The Bengal Lounge, The Bengal Chamber Premises.

Ms. Manushi Chhillar was accompanied by Ms. Julia Morley, Chairperson & CEO, Miss World Limited, Ms. Stephanie Del Valle, Miss World 2016 and other Continental Winners of Miss World. Their felicitation was followed by a special 'Adda' session, the discussion topic being "Women in India". The objective of this session was to discuss and promote awareness about Sanitation, Hygiene and Quality of Life.

Eminent panelists at the session were Mr. Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee - Essayist, Poet & Actor; Dr. Rupali Basu, Chairperson – Women Empowerment Committee, BCC&I; Ms. Agnimitra Paul, Fashion Designer; Ms. Keya Seth, Entrepreneur- Keya Seth Exclusive; Ms. Urmi Basu, Founder – New Light and Mr. Jaydeep Mandal, Founder & Managing Director, Aakar Innovations Pvt. Ltd. and Co-founder & Director, Aakar Social Ventures. Ms. Manushi Chhillar and Ms. Julia Morley also joined the session. Ms. Monideepa Banerjie, Executive Editor East - NDTV moderated the session.

The programme also included a performance by some special children representing APT Centre Kolkata. The programme was very well attended by guests from various walks of life.



Welcome Address by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Presentation of tokens of appreciation to the students of APT centre



Performance by students from APT Centre



Ms. Manushi Chhillar, Miss World 2017 along with her team enjoying the performance of the students from APT Centre.



Ms. Manushi Chhillar, Miss World 2017 being felicitated by Dr. Rupali Basu, Chairperson – Women Empowerment Committee, BCC&I and Ms. Keya Seth, Entrepreneur- Keya Seth Exclusive



Ms. Stephanie Del Valle, Miss World 2016 being felicitated by Dr Rupali Basu, Chairperson – Women Empowerment Committee, BCC&I and Ms. Keya Seth, Entrepreneur- Keya Seth Exclusive



Ms. Julia Morley, Chairperson& CEO, Miss World Limited being felicitated by Ms. Keya Seth, Entrepreneur- Keya Seth Exclusive and her daughter



Mr. Sanjay Sen, Co-Chairperson, Information Technology Committee, BCC&I and Senior Vice President, ITC Infotech India Limited presenting memento to one of the winners of the Continental Miss World contest



Mr. Abhijit Hazra, Chairperson – The Entrepreneurs' Committee, BCC&I and Founder and Managing Director,Touchstone Tie-up Pvt. Ltd. presenting memento to one of the winners of the Continental Miss World contest



Special Address by Ms. Julia Morley, Chairperson & CEO, Miss World Limited



Special Address by Ms. Manushi Chhillar, Miss World 2017



Panel Discussion on 'Women in India". To the left of Ms. Manushi Chhillar - Ms. Julia Morley, Chairperson & CEO, Miss World Limited; Dr Rupali Basu, Chairperson – Women Empowerment Committee, BCC&I; Ms. Agnimitra Paul, Fashion Designer and Mr. Jaydeep Mandal, Founder & Managing Director, Aakar Innovations Pvt. Ltd. and Co-founder & Director, Aakar Social Ventures. To her right -Ms. Stephanie Del Valle, Miss World 2016; Mr. Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee - Essayist, Poet & Actor and Ms. Urmi Basu, Founder – New Light



Ms. Monideepa Banerjie, Executive Editor East - NDTV moderating the session



Team Bengal Chamber with Ms. Manushi Chhillar- Miss World 2017



A section of the audience

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, H.E. KENNETH I. JUSTER

7TH FEBRUARY 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with the American Chamber of Commerce, Eastern Region chapter, and the U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata organized an Interactive session with the 25th United States Ambassador to India, His Excellency Kenneth I. Juster on 7th February 2018 at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber premises.

Ambassador Juster was accompanied by Mr. Craig Hall, Consul General of the US Consulate General Kolkata and Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, US Commercial Service, US Consulate General Kolkata.

The session was opened by Mr. B. B. Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry by delivering the formal Welcome Address. Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman, AmCham Eastern Region, moderated the session. Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry formally closed the session with Vote of Thanks to The Ambassador. Mr. Gulshan K. Sachdev, Vice Chairman, AmCham National Executive Board was also part of the Session.

The US Ambassador to India, H.E. Juster's speech primarily centered around two areas:
(1) The US Government's Indo-Pacific Strategy and
(2) Bilateral economic relationship – which he emphasized is the cornerstone of Indo-US strategic partnership.

He mentioned that The US Indo-Pacific strategy reflected the growing range of shared interests between the two countries and it was a natural complement to India's "Act East" Policy. It was vital that the Indo-Pacific region continued to be free and open. The US-India strategic partnership was designed to strengthen both countries and have a beneficial impact on the region. Promotion of economic connectivity through private sector-led growth, free and fair trade, use of responsible debt-financing practices, and the transparent development of infrastructure. Preserving regional stability and security, preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and eliminating the scourge of terrorism were all being aimed at.
The Ambassador believes that a strong foundation for strategic partnership that can have a significant positive impact on the 21st century and beyond had been laid and it is time now to build upon this partnership, make it durable and bring about remarkable economic rise of the region. It is believed that Indo-Pacific was increasingly a place of peace, stability and growing prosperity, rather than one of disorder, conflict, and predatory economic policy. Cooperation in defense and counter-terrorism has been a key pillar of Indo-US partnership, he said. The US sought to assist India's efforts to build up its indigenous defense capabilities, as well as enhance the inter-operability of the two forces as major defense partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

The US sought to pursue the same strategic policies on its economic relationship that it had applied to its defense relationship. While India was in the midst of an economic surge as it integrates fully in the global economy, the US trade and investment relationship with India also continues to grow. Bilateral grade has gone up from USD 20 billion in 2001 to USD 115 billion in 2016.There was plenty of room to expand these numbers by increasing flow of goods and services in both directions. He said "America First" and "Make in India" are not incompatible. Rather, investing in each other's markets will be mutually beneficial as it will increase economic
interactions and volume of trade, lead to collaboration on emerging technologies and create jobs in both countries.

India could now seize the strategic opportunity through trade and investment, to become a major hub for US business in the Indo-Pacific region. Continued reforms and trade liberalization will enable India products to more readily become part of the global supply chain, thereby accelerating job creation.

The US Ambassador enumerated a number of merits that US-India bilateral relations would have in the long run – some of which are as follows:

- America is a leader in entrepreneurship and innovation, and already has extensive linkages with India in the technology sector. Opening India's market further to U.S. trade and investment will spur the collaboration on many emerging technologies that will drive and protect the two economies, including those related to advanced manufacturing and cyber security.
- Greater US trade and investment, combined with a strong environment protecting intellectual property could lead to increased flows of capital and further sharing of intellectual know-how.
- Opening India's market further to the US trade and investment will spur collaboration on many emerging technologies that will drive and protect both economies including those related to advanced manufacturing and cyber security.

- Increased flow of capital and sharing of intellectual know-how through greater US trade and investment combined with strong environment protecting intellectual property.
- Private sector investment in improved infrastructure and overall connectivity to get stimulated through increased openness to US goods and services and expanded presence of US companies in India.
- The US shall try to enhance their efforts to promote connectivity within South Asia and are coordinating with India on financing for regional infrastructure projects to develop one of the least economically integrated regions of the world.
- Increased heft in the overall economic relationship would necessarily provide a broader and deeper, long term U.S. commitment to India and the Indo-Pacific region. This will complement the growing defense and counter-terrorism partnership and thus help in moderating any policy differences that might arise along the way.

The Ambassador felt that the defense sector provides ample opportunities for the two countries as India's defense needs are vast and because the US as a global leader in developing advance military technology is committed to enhancing India's security. India's digital economy, digital services and healthcare industry and environmental technology is expected to grow many fold and the US is ready to adhere to these sectors. US Technology can also help India address its food security and agricultural concerns. He also mentioned about Travel, Tourism and Education sectors which play critical role in Indo-US trade relationship.

Another important area which the Ambassador touched upon was about the US business presence in Eastern India which he considered as an important part of the overall picture. There were close to 200 American companies operating here in various sectors with companies such as Cognizant and IBM, food processing, chemicals and petrochemicals etc. US companies were also involved in engineering, automotives, life science, banking, insurance, consumer products etc. all of which were examples of enormous potential of mutually beneficial economic relationship.

The Ambassador stated that while both India and the US cherish their independence and sovereignty, the true value of the partnership is that it can better enable each country to positively influence global affairs and achieve their aspirations for the security and prosperity of its people.



Mr. B. B. Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address.



Mr. Gulshan K. Sachdev, Vice Chairman, AmCham National Executive Board addressing the audience



His Excellency Kenneth I. Juster, The 25th United States Ambassador to India gracing the occasion



Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman, AmCham Eastern Region during his speech



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Vote of Thanks



L-R: Mr. Gulshan K. Sachdev, Vice Chairman, AmCham National Executive Board; H. E. Kenneth I. Juster, United Sates Ambassador to India; Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman, AmCham Eastern Region; Mr Craig Hall, Consul General, U.S. Consulate in Kolkata; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. B. B. Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to H.E. Kenneth I. Juster, United Sates Ambassador to India



Distinguished audience

INTERACTION WITH DR. RICHARD BELLINGHAM, DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR FUTURE CITIES, UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

28TH FEBRUARY, CHAMBER PREMISES

An Exclusive Interaction was organized with Mr Richard Bellingham, Director, Institute for Future Cities, University of Strathclyde on 'Integrated Energy Planning for Sustainable Cities' on 28th February 2018 at the Chamber. Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber led the discussions. Mr. Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata was present. The interaction was also attended by Mr. Arnab Roy IAS, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal; Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board and Dr. Subrat Mukherjee, IFS, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board



L-R: Mr. Ashok Kumar Goswami, Whole time Director, India Power Corporation Limited; Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry;; Shri Arnab Roy, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal; Mr. Richard Bellingham, Director, Institute for Future Cities, University of Stratclythep; Mr. Bruce Bucknell, Deputy High Commissioner, British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata; Dr. Robert Rogerson, Deputy Director,Institute for Future Cities, University of Stratclythep and Dr. Subrat Mukherjee, IFS, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board during the interactive sessio

JAPAN HOUR DURING HEALTHTECH 2018

9TH MARCH, HYATT REGENCY, KOLKATA

Japan Hour

"Japan Hour" was organised in the afternoon of 9th March 2018 as a parallel session to Healthtech 2018.

A Japanese Delegation, comprising of five Japanese companies, participated in the "Japan Hour".

The delegation was led by Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Chief Director General, JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization),(under Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, Government of Japan).

It was a high profiled Delegation with the representatives from Heath Care Sector including • Hiroshima University Hospital; • Hitachi India Pvt. Ltd; • Asahi Intecc Co. Ltd; • Omron Healthcare India Pvt. Ltd. and • Air Water India Private Limited.

The objective of the programme was to create a platform to facilitate dedicated B2B Meetings with the delegate members of Japan and to strengthen the business collaboration between Japan and India.

The session was opened by Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, CEO, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd. by delivering the formal Welcome Address. Mr. Yasuhiko Tanaka, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata also graced the occasion.

Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Chief Director General, JETRO shared his insights on population of Japan in respect of aging, heath care system in Japan, the economics of Health Care in Japan and business opportunities in Japan in the realm of Health Care sector.

The meeting included a very vibrant B2B session during which the local business participants interacted with the Japanese companies.



Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, CEO, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd. delivering his Opening Remarks.



L-R- Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Chief Director General, JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) (under Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, Government of Japan); Mr. Yasuhiko Tanaka, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata; Mr. Tomohiko Kisaka, Clinical Lecturer, Hiroshima University; Mr. Masayoshi Tamura, General Manager- Digital Solutions & Services Group, Hitachi India Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Yasuaki Yamane, General Manager, Asahi Intecc Co., Ltd.; Mr. Kazunori Tokura, Managing Director, Omron Healthcare India Private Limited; Mr. Kazuya Higuchi, General Manager, Air Water India Private Limited



Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Chief Director General , JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization), (under Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, Government of Japan) gracing the occasion



Mr. Yasuhiko Tanaka, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata addressing the audience



Distinguished audience



Distinguished audience



B2B Interaction in progress.



B2B Interaction in progress.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH H. E. MICHAEL A.N. N. OQUAYE JNR., HIGH COMMISSIONER OF GHANA, THE HIGH COMMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, NEW DELHI

15TH MAY 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with H.E. Michael A.N. N. Oquaye Jnr., High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Ghana in India on 15th May 2018 in the Chamber Premises.

The High Commissioner was accompanied by Mr. Aaron Nuamah Sintim, First Secretary, Consular & Welfare and Mr. Michael Harry Ansah, Special Aide of the High Commissioner of Ghana. Mr. Dwarika Prasad Tantia, Hony. Consul of Ghana in Kolkata was also present.

Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed the High Commissioner. Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. A Mandal, President - Business Development, Techno Electric and Engineering Company Limited were also present from the Chamber.

Mr. Dwarika Prasad Tantia shared his insights on Ghana's Economy. He mentioned that Ghana was endowed with substantial mineral resources and had a well-established mining sector (diamond, gold bauxite, manganese, granite, marble, salt), which represented an important pillar of the Ghanaian economy. Mr. Tantia also said that Ghana was renowned for having world's largest Diamond and Gold mining. Ghana was also known for its Hydrocarbon industry and Biomass, Petroleum and Gas sectors. Tourism sector in Ghana also played a significant role in strengthening Ghana's economy. The other potential sectors in Ghana which were mentioned are: Agriculture and Agro Processing Business, Energy Sector, Food Processing, Health Sector, ICT, Infrastructure, Road and Transport Sector, Cotton Textile Sector, Textile and Garments sector. He also highlighted about the major Coco production in Ghana. He emphasized that jute export from West Bengal would have opportunities for packaging of Coco.

H.E. Michael A.N. N. Oquaye Jnr., High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Ghana shared his objective of visiting Kolkata. He said that Ghana and India shared a rich history. Ghana was part of India's Non-Aligned Movement after Independence. He also mentioned that there was commonality and complementarity between the two countries in the realm of culture, food habit, family values and many other aspects. He also highlighted all potential sectors in Ghana, especially Mineral and Mining Sector, Solar energy sector, Tourism sector, Infrastructure, Railways, Water Irrigation, and Housing. Ghana is one of the first few countries to ratify the International Solar Alliance. During the session, High Commissioner expressed his interest in extending business relationship with Bengal. He particularly mentioned about Health, Education, ICT. Contextually, he shared that Ghana also attracted Medical Tourists. However, India is working on a much larger scale in Medical Tourism. Ghana would like to collaborate with India in this area. Students from Ghana study at the top ranking global institutes. They travel at different places in Europe and US to study. India may also attract students from Ghana offering attractive scholarships for deserving ones. He acknowledged the recognition of Indian technocrats.

High Commissioner emphasized on the importance of more interactions between the two countries. He advised that his High Commission would connect the Chamber with the Chambers of Commerce in Ghana. It is important to create awareness about the opportunities offered by both the countries. He highlighted that Ghana is one of the safest countries. Indian investors and businessmen are well regarded there. He mentioned that Ghana would also look forward to compassion for its citizens during business in India.



H.E. Michael A.N. N. Oquaye Jnr., High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Ghana, New Delhi gracing the occasion



L-R: Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; H. E. Michael A.N. N. Oquaye Jnr., High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Ghana, New Delhi; Mr. Dwarika Prasad Tantia, Hony. Consul, Consulate of Ghana, Kolkata



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address



Mr. Dwarika Prasad Tantia, Hony. Consul, Consulate of Ghana, Kolkata addressing the audience



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry with H.E. Michael A.N. N. Oquaye Jnr., High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Ghana, New Delhi



H.E. Michael A.N. N. Oquaye Jnr., High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Ghana, New Delhi presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to H.E. Michael A.N. N. Oquaye Jnr., High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Ghana, New Delhi



Distinguished audience



Q/A Session in progress



H.E. Michael A.N. N. Oquaye Jnr., High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Ghana, New Delhi at The Calcutta Gallery, The Bengal Chamber premises

INTERACTIVE BUSINESS SESSION WITH H. E. MR. SIDHARTO REZA SURYODIPURO, AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, NEW DELHI

11TH JUNE 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Business Session with H.E. Mr. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi on 11th June 2018 in the Chamber Premises.

The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Ferry Samuel Jacob, Trade Attache, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi and Mr. Noviandri Wibowo, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi. Mr. Mahesh Saharia, Hony. Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia, Kolkata was also present.

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed the Ambassador. Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry was present from the Chamber.

Mr. Mahesh Saharia shared his insights on Geographical features and the Economy of Indonesia. He mentioned that Indonesia is a very unique country. It is an archipelago of 17000 islands out of which almost 6000 are inhabited. The logistics involved with the management of such a nation is massive. Indonesia extends for almost 5710 km from the Andaman and Nicobar Island up to Borneo. India has shared social, economic, religious connections with Indonesia for a very long time.Indonesia's Trade Balance with India has jumped from US$ 2.3 billion to almost US$ 20.3 billion. There has been an increase in the level of Intra Investment-from Indonesia to India and vice-versa. Mr. Saharia also mentioned that the tourism Industry has been considerably growing . Tourism from India to Indonesia has increased by 28% and is estimated to increase by 40% by next year. There exist vast differences between Indonesia and India in terms of geographical features, extent of population and the size of the economy. Hence, the true potential of the existing relation between these two countries are yet to be reached. With the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Indonesia, a number of agreements have been signed in regard to economic, education, defense, health and various other subjects. India and Indonesia has also jointly signed an agreement to construct a port that is to be used mutually. This agreement has tremendous strategic Comprehensive Partnership.

H. E. Mr. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi shared his objectives of visiting Kolkata. He mentioned that the recent visit by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to Jakarta marked the pinnacle of collaboration between the countries. Both the countries share similar election patterns and both these countries are to enter their respective election phases in 2019. He emphasized that the meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Joko Widodo has been considered to be the best bureaucratic meeting between the two countries, ascertained by the body language of both the leaders and the sheer number of agreements that have been signed with regard to trade and various other subjects. In the meeting with the Indian Prime Minister, the Indonesian President envisioned the goal of reaching a trade balance of US$ 50 Billion within the time span of next 10 Years. Trade relations with Indonesia have been driven largely due to its surplus endowment of Natural resources. About US$ 10 billion in Trade Surplus in the previous year could be attributed to Indonesia's abundance in Coal and Palm Oil. The meeting accentuated the importance of connectivity and Infrastructure between the two countries. In terms of connectivity, more emphasis is being given to air connectivity. The number of flights from India to Indonesia and vice-versa needs to be increased. In diversifying trade on the Indonesian side, a number of products have been given access to India- red meat, pharmaceuticals, dairy, rice, sugar etc. The meeting of the two leaders also laid emphasis on the development of e-commerce. Cooperation between the two countries should be increased in the field of aeronautics. Discussions were also held with regard to Defense, Security and Maritime-cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Indonesia is a country of 265 million people. Logistics is a major issue for the country. Focus has to be given on Infrastructure and connectivity. In terms of Gross Domestic Product(GDP), Indonesia is the 16th largest economy in the world. In terms of Purchasing Power Parity(PPP) Indonesia is the 7th largest economy in the world. India is the third largest economy in the world in terms of PPP. In terms of Logistical index, India is ahead of Indonesia. This could be attributed to the demographics of Indonesia.

Ambassador also highlighted few challenges that are to be met - a) More progress has to be achieved in terms of air connectivity b) Maritime connectivity - presently there are no direct shipping connections between India and Indonesia with the exception of coal barges and palm oil tankers. There should be provisions made for smaller ships to make direct connections with Indonesia. Agreements have also been made regarding the joint development of the Port of Sabang. Efforts need to be made in strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Indonesia. Cruise Shipping has been identified as an area of active discussion and has a lot of prospect for growth. The proximity of India and Indonesia calls for a closer relationship between the two countries. Emphasis should be laid on diversifying and improving the existing relationships between the two countries in terms of Business to Business, Government to Government, and People to People Connectivity.



H. E. Mr. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi going through The Calcutta Gallery in the Chamber Premises



Mr. Mahesh Saharia, Hony. Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia, Kolkata addressing the audience



L-R: Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; H.E. Mr. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi; Mr. Mahesh Saharia, Hony. Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia, Kolkata



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address



H. E. Mr. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi gracing the occasion



Interaction in progress



Distinguished audience



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to H. E. Mr. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HER EXCELLENCY MELBA PRIA, AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO IN INDIA

7TH SEPTEMBER 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Her Excellency Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico in India on 7th September 2018 in the Chamber premises.

The Ambassador was accompanied by **Mr. Sumit Mazumder**, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Honorary Consul, Republic of Mexico in Kolkata.

Mr. B. B. Chatterjee, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed the Ambassador. **Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee**, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh**, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other senior dignitaries were also present in the programme.

Mr. Sumit Mazumdar mentioned about the Photo Exhibition, held at ICCR, Kolkata which introduced the viewers to the roots of Mexican Gastronomy. The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E. Melba Pria. Mr. Mazumdar emphasized that culture is one of the most important verticals to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.



Her Excellency Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico in India and Mr. Sumit Mazumder, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Honorary Consul, Republic of Mexico in Kolkata at The Calcutta Gallery



H.E. Melba Pria graced the members and stakeholders of the Chamber in 2016 and it was her second visit to the Chamber. The Ambassador shared her perspectives on the economy of Mexico. She said that Mexico is the 12th most populous country and the largest Spanish speaking country in the world. Mexico is one of the largest economies in the world and is an open economy. She mentioned that Mexico is a leader in advanced manufacturing and the next global logistics high value added hub. Mexico is a country with great infrastructure. She also said the Mexico is a reliable and attractive destination for investment and it is the largest Latin American investor in India.

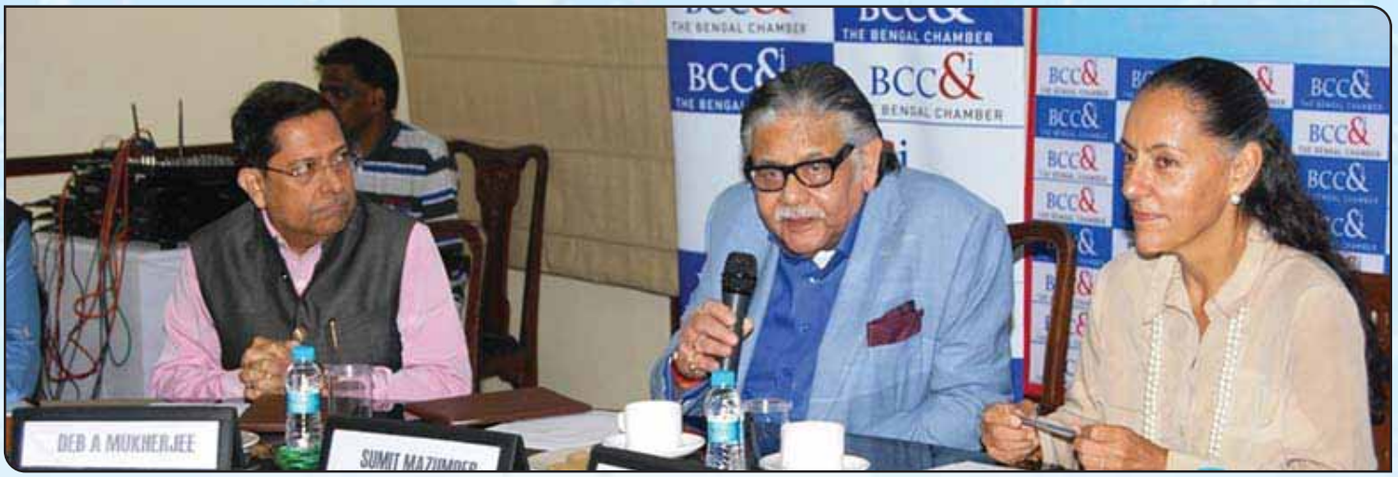
H.E. Melba Pria highlighted the potential sectors for bilateral trade between India and Mexico including Auto parts; Software and IT; Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, Engineering goods and Minerals. She stated that Trade with India has grown immensely in last few years. Now a days, Mexico's export to India is primarily on the account of the crude oil. The Ambassador also mentioned that Mexico's investment in India remains low owing Trade barriers.

The forum included a very vibrant interactive session with the Chamber invitees.



L-R: Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Sumit Mazumder, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Honorary Consul, Republic of Mexico in Kolkata; Her Excellency Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico in India; Mr. B. B. Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr. B. B. Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address



Mr. Sumit Mazumder, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Honorary Consul, Republic of Mexico in Kolkata addressing the audience



Her Excellency Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico in India gracing the session



Interaction in progress



Mr. B B Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting the Token of Appreciation to Her Excellency Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico in India



Distinguished audience

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER ROD HILTON ON 'AN INDIA ECONOMIC STRATEGY TO 2035: NAVIGATING FROM POTENTIAL TO DELIVERY'

20TH SEPTEMBER 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Australian Deputy High Commissioner Rod Hilton on **'An India Economic Strategy to 2035: Navigating from Potential to Delivery'** on 20th September 2018 in the Chamber premises.

The Ambassador was accompanied by **Ms. Hilary McGeachy**, First Secretary (Economic), Australian High Commission, New Delhi.

Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other senior dignitaries from the Chamber were also present in the programme.

The objective of the forum was to offer an exclusive platform with the Deputy High Commissioner to understand the opportunities of doing business with Australia, particularly in the realm of West Bengal's growing importance among the stakeholders in Australia.

Australian Deputy High Commissioner Rod Hilton, during the session, highlighted Kolkata as a preferred destination for Australia to establish business and diplomatic relationship. He stated that Australia has marked Bengal as a priority State amongst several Indian States to boost trade and economic ties with India by 2035.

A report, titled "**AN INDIA ECONOMIC STRATEGY TO 2035",** authored by Mr. Peter Varghese AO, Vice Chancellor, University of Queensland and former Australian Foreign Secretary, has featured West Bengal prominently. **Deputy High Commissioner** emphasized the bilateral trade relationship between Australia and India. He stated that Bengal is of special importance to Australia in the realm of Agriculture and Food Processing; Energy and Resources; Education; Infrastructure; Health; Mining; Startups; Technology and Tourism. **Mr. Rod Hilton** also mentioned that a discussion can be held with the State Government on skilling and Education Programmes where Australia can play a significant role in bringing Technology and skillsets.

Deputy High Commissioner also stated that Australian Government is going to set up a new Australian Consulate in Kolkata.

The forum included a very vibrant interactive session with the Chamber invitees and media.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry with Australian Deputy High Commissioner Rod Hilton and Ms Hilary McGeachy, First Secretary (Economic), Australian High Commission, New Delhi at The Calcutta Gallery



L-R: Ms. Hilary McGeachy, First Secretary (Economic), Australian High Commission, New Delhi; Australian Deputy High Commissioner Rod Hilton; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address



Australian Deputy High Commissioner Rod Hilton gracing the session



Distinguished audience



Distinguished audience



Mr. P S Bhattacharyya, Former Chairman, Coal India Limited presenting the Token of Appreciation to Australian Deputy High Commissioner Rod Hilton



Mr. P S Bhattacharyya, Former Chairman, Coal India Limited presenting the Token of Appreciation to Ms. Hilary McGeachy, First Secretary (Economic), Australian High Commission, New Delhi

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH H.E. BRIGITTE ÖPPINGER-WALCHSHOFER, AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRIA TO INDIA, AUSTRIAN EMBASSY, NEW DELHI

3RD OCTOBER 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with **H.E. Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer, Ambassador of Austria to India, Austrian Embassy, New Delhi** on 3rd October 2018 in the Chamber premises.

Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry formally welcomed the Ambassador. **Mr. Abraham Stephanos**, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh**, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other senior dignitaries from the Chamber were also present in the programme.

The objective of the session was to explore Bilateral Business Opportunities with Austria.

H.E. Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer**,** during the session, mentioned that Austria is landlocked economy and is very well known for culture. Austria is a country synonymous with culture and traditions. The Ambassador highlighted Austria as Innovation leader. Her Excellency also mentioned that the industry of Austria is completely export driven. Mostly the export is to EU followed by USA and Asia, majorly China.

Her Excellency stated that Austria is a highly developed industrialized country with an important service sector. The most important industries are mechanical engineering and steel construction, chemicals and vehicle manufacturing. In the field of Agriculture, Austria is witnessing a strong trend towards organic farming. She also highlighted the Electronics and Human Resources sectors as potential sectors.

The Ambassador emphasized that Tourism is an essential pillar of the Austrian economy. Austria is a mountainous country with one of the largest natural land reserves in central Europe.

Her Excellency conveyed that the trade between Austria and India has to be improved. She also mentioned that Austrian enterprises may be interested to do trade with West Bengal in the realm of Electronics Clusters.

The Ambassador shared her perspectives on the Transport sector of Austria, especially the public transport (tram, metro, bus and city bus). She mentioned that Austria has one of the most highly developed transport networks in the European Union with a dense bus and rail network criss-crossing the country. Especially the federal capital Vienna has an excellent public transport infrastructure. A single ticket format is possible for integrated transport system. This makes the facility cheaper incentivising the citizens to avail the service.

She emphasized that renewable energies are of major importance in Austria. Austrian energy comes from hydroelectric power and biomass. She also mentioned that Austrian companies are leading players in the global waste management industry. One of the latest trends in the waste-to-energy area is biological treatment, where energy is generated from biomass such as food and slaughterhouse waste.

The forum included a very vibrant interactive session with the Chamber invitees.



L-R: Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; H.E. Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer, Ambassador of Austria to India, Austrian Embassy, New Delhi; Mr. Abraham Stephanos, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the Formal Welcome Address



Mr. Abraham Stephanos, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressing the audience



H.E. Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer, Ambassador of Austria to India, Austrian Embassy, New Delhi during her speech



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to H.E. Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer, Ambassador of Austria to India, Austrian Embassy, New Delhi



Distinguished Audience

B2B MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION OF THE CHITTAGONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

30TH JANUARY 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) brought a Business Delegation to Kolkata for an exclusive meeting with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Delegation was led by Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During the delegation visit, The Bengal Chamber organized a B2B interaction with the members and stakeholders on 30th January 2019 in the Chamber premises.

Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry graced the session along with Mohammed Saiful Islam, First Secretary (Commercial), Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Immediate Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chief Executive Officer, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd. was also present in the programme.

Mohammed Saiful Islam, First Secretary (Commercial), Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata shared his perspectives on "Business Opportunities with Bangladesh".

Mr. Bhattacharya, addressed on "Value Creation Though Convergence in IT Services Industries of West Bengal and Chittagong". His address covered the issues ranging from the strength of Chittagong; Strength of West Bengal; need of the core industries and possible areas of collaboration between Chittagong and West Bengal.

The forum included a very vibrant interactive session with the Chamber invitees.



The Delegation of The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mohammed Saiful Islam, First Secretary (Commercial), Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata visiting The Calcutta Gallery



One of the delegate members of The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressing the gathering



L-R: Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chief Executive Officer, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Immediate Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mohammed Saiful Islam, First Secretary (Commercial), Bangladesh Deputy High Commission

B2B MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION OF THE CHITTAGONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

30TH JANUARY 2019



Delegate members of The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry gracing the occasion



Introduction of the delegation of The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry





B2B meeting in progress



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry





B2B meeting in progress

JAPAN COUNTRY SESSION AT BENGAL GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT (BGBS) 2019

7TH FEBRUARY 2019, BISWA BANGLA CONVENTION CENTRE, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with JETRO and Japanese Consulate in Kolkata organised the Japan Country Session at the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) 2019 on 7th February at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata. The programme, split into three sessions, saw **Shri Debashis Sen**, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal & Chairman and Managing Director, Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, Government of West Bengal and Chairman, Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority, deliver the opening remarks. He expressed how keen Bengal government is to build bridges with Japan and welcomed their involvement in building a robust platform for artificial intelligence and its applications, clean air and pollution free initiatives and transportation in general.

The opening session also witnessed **His Excellency Kenji Hiramatsu**, Ambassador of Japan to India deliver his Welcome Remarks. He mentioned that the number of Japanese companies in India is increasing. The number has now reached 1441. He spoke about India's promotion of the Act East Policy and Japan's renewed interest in West Bengal. Following this, the President of Kawasaki Rikuso Transportation, **Mr. Keiichi Higuchi** during his speech presented the inauguration of the KRT plant at Singur on January 1, 2019. The plant is a self-generating and charging temperature controlled warehouse. Many such small warehouses with operating space of a decent 2000 sq ft are in the plans which will be affordable and will not be far from farms. These warehouses implement Nizuri, the Japanese technique of warehousing and use Shikkui plaster to keep walls durable and humidity under control. Mr. Higuchi termed them as medium technology settlements which are easier to setup, operate and maintain. He ascertained that they will go a long way in increasing farmer's income.

The next session on Japanese Official Activities commenced as **Mr. Arnab Basu**, Chairperson, IT Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Private Limited, took up the role of moderator. He stressed again on the humungous number of Japanese companies in our country but however grieved that the north eastern region of India has yet to see enough interest from them.

Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India office, after gracing the stage said that JICA, a government agency of Japan that implements Official Development Assistance (ODA), over the past 40 years, has become one of the closest development partners in West Bengal. The cooperation with Bengal has now expanded to various fields. JICA funded projects have enhanced economic growth, quality of life and business environment of the state. Since the first ODA loan provision in 1983, JICA has made commitment of ODA loan for 28 projects, which amounts to JPY 352 billion (around INR 23,000 crore). The agency has further supported prioritized areas which contribute to the sound development of the state. Currently they support areas such as Energy, Water, Waste Management, Metro, Forestry & Biodiversity and Private Partnership.

Mr. Kanzuya Nakajo, the Chief Director General of JETRO New Delhi, citing examples of success cases of Indo-Japan collaboration such as Calsonic Kansei – Larsen & Toubro and Gray Orange – Ground Inc, explained how the role of Indian companies has changed from just being an outsource partner to being a total collaborator. **Mr. Takeshi Sato**, Representative, NEDO New Delhi Office, took the discussion forward presenting New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization or NEDO's activities in India. Japan's largest public sector organization, established in 1980, operates to address energy and global environmental problems. NEDO has already completed 13 projects pan India and are currently working on Micro-Grid System with PV Power Generation, Smart Grid Pilot Project, EMS for Multiple Energy Sources at Steel Plant and ICT Based Green Hospital.

The seminar moved towards the last session on Showcasing Japanese Technology & Products which was moderated by Shri Debasish Sen. **Mr. N Venkatakrishnan**, Senior Vice President & CFO, Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery exhibited the 50 + year joint venture between Tata and Hitachi. Employing more than 1930 people, the organization has its facilities in Dharwad, Jamshedpur and Bangalore apart from the one in Kharagpur, established in 2009, which over the years has grown to become the India's largest State of Art CE Manufacturing Plant. Currently the facility has 20 - 45 T and Wheeled Products. **Mr. Kosuke Nakagawa**, COO, Tera Motors then introduced Tera Motors' electric vehicle business which focuses on South and South East Asian markets. He also said that the company is also venturing into the drone business. The company currently manufactures E-Rickshaws with around 2000 monthly sales. **Mr. Sanjay Mundley**, Senior Vice President – Business Development, Mistubishi Heavy Industries displayed a corporate overview of Mistubishi Hitachi Power Systems India whose product line includes

Gas Turbine Combined Power Plants, Boiler Turbine Generation Plants, Integrated coal Gasification Combined Cycle Power Plants, Geothermal Power Plants, Generators, Boilers and more. They also have complete integration of emission control systems which will help meet the criteria for the new emission norms in India. MHPS also delivers novel emission reduction technology which has been developed to meet the strict emission norms in World Bank, Japan, EU and the US. Having served all throughout the world, the company boasts an incredible order amount of 35.2 billion USD from 2017. Thereafter, **Mr. Masato Yuasa**, President & CEO, Nomura Research Institute Financial Technologies India, graced the stage to deliver on NRI FinTech's capacity to deliver a range of reliable, scalable and adaptable IT Solutions to capital market entities around the world. NRI FinTech has 300 technical consultants focused on consulting, design, development, delivery and support who ensure a balanced skill set to optimize delivery quality. They work on I-STAR/GV, I-STAR/CS and T-STAR/GV, serving clients such as Broker Dealers, Custodians and Asset Managers.

The three-session program concluded with Mr. Subrata Majumdar's deliverance of the Vote of Thanks. He thanked the West Bengal Government for taking the initiative to host a summit of such a big stature, of which the Japan Session was a part of.



Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry emceeing the Session



Shri Debashis Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal & Chairman and Managing Director, Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, Government of West Bengal and Chairman, Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority, Government of West Bengal addressing the audience



H. E. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India gracing the occasion



L-R on the Dias: Shri Debashis Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal & Chairman and Managing Director, Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, Government of West Bengal and Chairman, Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority, Government of West Bengal; H. E. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India; Mr. Keiichi Higuchi, President, Kawasaki Rikuso Transportation



L-R on the Dias: Shri Debashis Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal & Chairman and Managing Director, Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, Government of West Bengal and Chairman, Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority, Government of West Bengal; Mr. N Venkatakrishnan, Senior Vice President & CFO, Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery; Mr. Kosuke Nakagawa, COO, Tera Motors; Mr. Sanjay Mundley, Senior Vice President - Business Development, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries ; Mr. Masato Yuasa, President & CEO, Nomura Research Institute Financial Technologies India; Mr. Keiichi Higuchi, President, Kawasaki Rikuso Transportation



L-R on the Dias: Mr. Arnab Basu, Chairperson, IT Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India office; Mr. Takeshi Sato, Representative, NEDO New Delhi Office; Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Chief Director General, JETRO New Delhi



Panel discussion in progress





Interaction in progress





Distinguished audience



Japanese delegate members visiting Japanese Forest, ECO Park, Kolkata



Japanese delegate members at Japanese Forest, ECO Park, Kolkata



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry with Shri Debashis Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal & Chairman and Managing Director, Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, Government of West Bengal and Chairman, Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority, Government of West Bengal; H. E. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India and other Japanese delegate members

MEETING WITH DIGNITARIES FROM EU DELEGATION TO INDIA AND EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

21ST FEBRUARY 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted Ms. Marika Jakas, Counsellor - Head of Trade and Economic Affairs, Delegation of the European Union to India and Mr. Donal Cannon, Head of Regional Representation for South Asia, European Investment Bank on 21st February at The Chamber premises. From the Chamber, Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson Emeritus, Energy and Environment Committee, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director and Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Chief Manager attended the meeting.

The discussions majorly happened on understanding the scope of work of the Delegation of the European Union to India and also of European Investment Bank to India. Areas of mutual collaboration such as environment and sustainability, entrepreneurship, public and private sector project financing were contemplated.



Meeting in progress with Ms. Marika Jakas, Counsellor - Head of Trade and Economic Affairs, Delegation of the European Union to India and Mr. Donal Cannon, Head of Regional Representation for South Asia, European Investment Bank



L-R: Ms. Marika Jakas, Counsellor - Head of Trade and Economic Affairs, Delegation of the European Union to India; Mr. Donal Cannon, Head of Regional Representation for South Asia, European Investment Bank; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson Emeritus, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

INTERACTIVE SESSION ON CLEAN ENERGY AND TRANSPORT CHOICES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON AIR QUALITY

1ST MARCH 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an interaction with **Mr. Andrew Stokes, Energy Systems Catapult, Birmingham, UK** and **Mr. Tom Reade, Principal Air Quality Consultant, Hilson Moran**.

Catapult centres are a network of world leading centres designed to transform the UK's capability for innovation in specific areas.

The interaction focused on "**Clean Energy and Transport Choices and their effects on Air Quality**".

The discussion was driven by **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee,** Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, **Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee,** Chairperson Emeritus, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and **Mr. Aloke Mookherjea**, President, The Bengal Chamber.
Stakeholder from Industry such as India Power Corporation Limited, Karam Chand Thapar & Bros (Coal Sales) Limited, KPMG Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Soil & Enviro Industries Pvt Ltd, Thermax Limited, Exide Industries Limited, WBHIDCO, India Power Corporation Ltd, The British Deputy High Commission, Development Consultants P Ltd and others.

The three major areas in which Catapult offers assistance are Energy Systems, Future Cities and Transport Systems.

Catapult wants to work with the Indian stakeholders to create decision making tools that influence choices in energy and transport to improve urban air quality and improve the local ecosystem for innovation.



Mr. Andrew Stokes, Energy Systems Catapult, Birmingham, UK



Mr. Tom Reade, Principal Air Quality Consultant, Hilson Moran



Mr. Aloke Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber



Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson Emeritus, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



(Middle) Ms.Haimanti Poddar, Senior Energy Adviser-UKTEP, British Deputy High Commission



Interaction during the session

MEETING WITH BELGIAN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES

14TH MARCH 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

Mr. Guillaume Choquet, Counsellor Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium and Mr. Hubert Goffinet, Trade and Investment Commissioner, Embassy of Belgium met Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 14th March 2019 to discuss areas of mutual collaboration.



L-R: Mr Guillaume Choquet, Counsellor Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium, Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, BCC&land Mr Hubert Goffinet, Trade and Investment Commissioner, Embassy of Belgium

MEETING WITH UK GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

26TH MARCH 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber Team had a meeting with the officials of UK Government to discuss industry sectors where Bengal can aspire to draw more FDI. The Delegation comprised of

- Harris Macleod, Deputy Director, Trade & Prosperity
- Andy Barr, First Secretary, Head of Trade & Investment
- Faisal Moosa, Strategy Adviser, Ministerial Strategy Directorate
- Nathan Birac, Head of Strategic Communications, International Projects, Government Communication Service International

They were accompanied by Mr. Bruce Bucknell, The British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata. From the Chamber the meeting was attended by Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Former President, Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, Senior Official from CESC, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury and Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Directors.



MEETING WITH MR. MATT INGENERI, ECONOMIC GROWTH UNIT CHIEF, EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NEW DELHI, INDIA

11TH APRIL 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES



L-R: Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha,** Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Matt Ingeneri**, Economic Growth Unit Chief , Embassy of the United States of America , New Delhi, India; **Ms. Sangita Dey Chanda**, Economic Advisor, Consulate General of the United States of America in Kolkata; **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh**, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry .

MEETING WITH MR. STEVEN LIU, DIRECTOR, TAIPEI WORLD TRADE CENTER, LIAISON OFFICE IN KOLKATA

20TH MARCH 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

An Exclusive meeting with Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata was held on 20th March 2019 at 11 a.m. in The Bengal Chamber Premises.

The Bengal Chamber shares a very good relationship with Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata. The Chamber worked closely with Mr. George Lin, Former Director, Taipei World Trade Centre. The Chamber also hosted Mr. James Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council on 24th January 2018 in the Chamber Premises.

The objective of the meeting with Mr. Steven Liu was to discuss how to enrich the Bilateral Collaboration between Taiwan and India. During the meeting, Mr. Liu apprised about the Trade Delegation from Taiwan visiting Kolkata on 11th April 2019 and requested The Bengal Chamber to organize few factory visits for the delegation in Kolkata. TAITRA Kolkata office organized B2B Meetings for the Taiwan Delegation on 11th April 2019 at The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata. The Bengal Chamber organized factory visit to CESC Limited, Budge Budge and Neogi Technologies for the Delegation on 12th April 2019.

Mr. Liu also proposed the Chamber to take a Business Delegation to Taiwan. It would be a great opportunity to strengthen the Economic and Trade relationship between the two countries.



L-R: Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Chief Manager-Research, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata.

TAIWAN DELEGATION

12th April 2019, Kolkata

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) in collaboration with Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata office organized a business delegation with the delegates from Taiwan on 12th April 2019 at Kolkata.

The objective of this delegation was to give an exposure to the delegates on the industrial environment in Kolkata and surrounding areas particularly in the area of Manufacturing and MSME.

As part of the delegation, the delegates visited factories like CESC Limited, Budge Budge, Kolkata and Neogi Technologies and Research Pvt Limited, Rajpur, Kolkata.

The delegation was led by the Secretariat from BCC&I and Mr Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata office.

The delegates were mostly representing the manufacturing companies in areas like Food and Beverages, Rubber, Precision Engineering, etc and overall the total number of companies visited were 17 (seventeen) approx.

The delegates had a good meeting with the companies they had visited and overall the meetings had become quite productive for the visiting delegates.



A visit to CESC Limited, Budge Budge Plant and Neogi Technologies & Research Pvt Ltd by the Taiwanese Delegates, organised by The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA)



Taiwanese delegation during a presentation by CESC at the Budge Budge plant during the visit



Taiwanese Delegation at Neogi Technologies & Research Pvt. Ltd.

INTERACTIVE SESSION ON DOING BUSINESS WITH HONG KONG AND MAINLAND CHINA

7TH MAY 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

Invest Hong Kong, the Government Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), in association with **The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I),** organized an Interactive Session on Doing Business with Hong Kong and Mainland China on 7th May 2019 in The Bengal Chamber Premises.

The objective of the forum was to attract businesses & entrepreneurs to set-up a business in Hong Kong and facilitate Foreign Direct Investment into Hong Kong to create jobs and growth.

Mr. Stephen Phillips, Director General, InvestHK, The Government of the Hong Kong special Administrative Region graced the occasion along with **Mr. Charlie Idiculla,** Consultant, InvestHK, The Government of the Hong Kong special Administrative Region. **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee,** Senior Vice president, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General,** The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry were also present in the programme.

Mr. Phillips delivered a presentation on **"Doing Business in Hong Kong and Investment Opportunities".** His presentation was followed by interactions on various aspects of doing business with Hong Kong and Mainland China including Visa, market, tariff and others.



Distinguished Audience



Mr. Stephen Phillips, Director General, InvestHK, The Government of the Hong Kong special Administrative Region gracing the occasion



L-R: Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice president, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Stephen Phillips, Director General, InvestHK, The Government of the Hong Kong special Administrative Region; Mr. Charlie Idiculla, Consultant, InvestHK, The Government of the Hong Kong special Administrative Region



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice president, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address



Interactive Session in progress



Mr. Charlie Idiculla, Consultant, InvestHK, The Government of the Hong Kong special Administrative Region addressing the audience.



Interactive Session in progress



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice president, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Stephen Phillips, Director General, InvestHK, The Government of the Hong Kong special Administrative Region.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH TRADE WINDS BUSINESS DELEGATION & MS. PATRICIA HOFFMAN, UNITED STATES CONSUL GENERAL IN KOLKATA

9TH MAY 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with the U.S. Commercial Service in Kolkata, hosted the Trade Winds Business Delegation and organized an Interactive Session with the Delegation on 9th May 2019 in The Bengal Chamber premises.

Trade Winds was the largest annual U.S. Government-led trade mission, that was headed to India in 2019 in its 11th edition to discover business opportunities in the Indo-Pacific Region. The delegates participated in the Indo Pacific Business Forum in New Delhi from 6th to 8th May 2019 and then spin off to other cities.

The programme featured two sessions:

➢ **Morning Session:**

The Morning Session included dedicated B2B meetings with the following five U.S Companies:

- **Anvil Attachments (**Manufacturer of clamshell buckets and grapples for material handling).
- **Michigan State University (**Higher education, executive education and training provider).
- **Filtroil Inc. (**Industrial filtration including by-pass fine filtration for all industrial oils and fuel).
- **Earth Networks (**Provides real-time resolution and maximum reliability to observe, inform, and alert the public, businesses, and government agencies to impending weather hazards).
- **Vaksea Inc.** (Immune boosting proteins to protect livestock raised in aquaculture).

➢ **Evening Session**:

The Evening Session was graced by **Ms. Patricia Hoffman,** Consul General, United States Consulate in Kolkata as our Guest of Honour, along with **Ms. Anastasia Mukherjee,** Senior International Trade Specialist-Certified Global Business Professional, U.S. Commercial Service, South Carolina. **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh**, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The session also included presentations by the aforementioned five U.S Companies.

Ms. Patricia Hoffman addressed on Trade Winds Business Delegation and Bilateral Business relationship between the United States and India. She mentioned that it was a very special week for the US-India Bilateral Trade Relationship. **US Ambassador Mr. Kenneth I Juster**, in the month of June, will lead a delegation of Indian Business leaders, interested in investing in US to participate in 'SelectUSA Investment Summit'.

Ms. Anastasia Mukherjee shared the overview on Trade Winds Business Delegation. She stated that the Trade Winds Indo pacific featured a three days business forum in New Delhi, India, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bangladesh. At each mission destination, attending companies met directly with the Government Leaders; market experts and potential business partners.

The participation and the interaction with the Delegate Members indicated a great interest of businesses on both sides to work together.



B2B Meetings with the Trade Winds Business Delegation in progress



B2B Meetings with the Trade Winds Business Delegation in progress



Ms. Patricia Hoffman, United States Consul General in Kolkata visiting the Calcutta Gallery



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address





Distinguished audience



Ms. Patricia Hoffman, United States Consul General in Kolkata gracing the occasion



Ms. Anastasia Mukherjee, Senior International Trade Specialist-Certified Global Business Professional, U.S. Commercial Service South Carolina addressing the audience.



One of the Delegate members of the Trade Winds Business Delegation gracing the session.



One of the Delegate members of the Trade Winds Business Delegation gracing the session



L-R: Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Patricia Hoffman, United States Consul General in Kolkata; Ms. Anastasia Mukherjee, Senior International Trade Specialist- Certified Global Business Professional, U.S. Commercial Service, South Carolina



Interactive Session in progress



The Delegate members of Trade Winds Business Delegation

THE CHAMBER'S MANAGING COMMITTEE'S INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH DR. MICHAEL FEINER, HON'BLE CONSUL GENERAL, CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, KOLKATA

17TH MAY 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

Mr. Indrajit Sen, President welcomed Dr. Michael Feiner thanking him for accepting the Chamber's invitation for an interactive session with its Managing Committee. He also welcomed Ms. Sabina Pandey, the Regional Director of Indo German Chamber of Commerce. Historically, Germany and German Industry has been very close to India and Indian industry. The Chamber has had a very close tie with the Indo German Chamber of Commerce and is currently working on a project towards a Centre of Excellence which will add great value to the industry, particularly the MSME sector of this region through technology upgradation and skill development and this would enhance the business relationships between the State of West Bengal and this part of the country with Germany.

Dr. Michael Feiner had assumed charge as the Consul General of Germany at Kolkata in August 2017. Dr. Finer, a doctor by training, had served all over the world, particularly in Asia, Africa and North America. One of his areas of interest and passion has been upholding of human rights. He pursued his medical studies at Wurzhurg, Tubingen, Germany and Liverpool, UK. His MD thesis was on child and adolescent psychiatry from the Kennedy School. He is a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University.

Dr. Feiner presented an overview of the German economy. The country's GDP rate grew 1.5 percent in 2018, compared with 2.2 percent in 2017. However, employment figures in Germany currently stood at an all-time high. Export was improving and it was amongst the leading exporting nations in the world. Germany has very strong industrial and manufacturing belts grown over many generations. The country can boast of a highly skilled workforce and it has a tradition in developing skilled workers which had continued over centuries. Germany also has excellent professionals hailing from very respected educational and research institutes and universities. Germany is positioned in the centre and embedded in the globe's largest market of importance in the European Union. When it comes to research and development, Germany has been a pioneer for centuries. The country has a unique network of small and medium sized enterprises employing the majority of the country's workforce and also provided the highest support to the country's GDP. Amongst the SMEs, the so-called 'hidden champions' are found who are world market leaders in their respective niches, producing high quality cutting edge products. According to recent statistics, Germany has over 1300 of such Companies compared to 320 in the US, 220 in Japan and a small number in China. These small family owned enterprises are a big strength of Germany. One would find many of these Companies present here in India.
A high proportion of contribution towards GDP in Germany comes from industrial production (23%), which was substantially higher than the US, UK or France. Service sector does not contribute much as yet to the country's GDP. The country has remained hugely invested in the old industries, automobiles, machineries and chemicals and still lagged in creative IT and innovative services. He felt that the country's investment structure helped in weathering the economic crisis in 2008 and 2009. However, their Government decision makers and corporates all agree that the country will also have to change and influence the structure of the economy in order to remain tuned to the global environment.

Dr. Feiner also spoke about the demographic challenges that Germany faces. Post the economic and demographic boom in the 50s and 60s, from 70s onwards Germany saw a gradual shrinkage in population growth which did affect its production levels. This posed a challenge to the industry and the economy and enterprises suffered owing to lack of qualified and skilled labours and engineers. Government has passed legislations for precipitating immigration of qualified labour from outside of EU which hopefully should ease the situation. Germany in contrast to the US, Australia and Canada has never been a classical immigration destination. 23.6% of people residing in Germany are from emigrational background, which means either the person himself or one of their parents were born outside Germany. In terms of foreign born residents the figure is 40.5%. For Germany the future lies in utilization of potentials and benefits that migration offers.

Dr. Feiner took a look at the changing world scenario in terms of sizes of world economies in the next 10 years as per published reports. The 10 largest economies would be China, India, USA, Indonesia, Turkey, Brazil, Egypt, Russia, Japan and Germany (in descending order), which meant that in 11 years, Germany may climb down to no.10. India will reclaim its historical place. However, in a globalised world there are no constants but a robust peaceful economic order will have to be in place. Countries like Germany would have to make adjustments to go through adaptations.

The Consul General felt that the Indo-German trade had developed well over the past years. Last year it crossed the 20 trillion Euro mark. Looking at the product range, Germany exports machinery, capital goods, electrical components etc., and India exports, textiles, garments and yarns, chemicals products, food items, leather shoes and cigarettes. He pointed out that while India is the fourth largest trading partner for Germany, India happens to be on the 28th position as far as exports from Germany was concerned and at the 24th position as far as imports from India (0.8% of Germany's total imports), leaving a lot of space to be explored. There are about 1700 German Companies operating in India, about 1600 Indo-German Federations and over 600 Indo-German joint ventures.

Dr. Feiner mentioned that of all the German economic presence in India, only about 3% was in West Bengal. He said that as far as investment of large German companies was concerned, West Bengal had some difficulties attracting large companies. Smaller companies could of course be accommodated in the State. For the State it would be a challenge to compete with other States in India which already had sizeable German presence as Companies would like to go to places where there is already a cluster along with the infrastructure. In West Bengal there are a number of German Companies who feel they are happy being here with dedicated and committed workforce and once they start functioning they feel comfortable.

Sector-wise, apart from manufacturing, the IT sector could also benefit from German companies using IT services here. Opportunities exist in areas of higher value research and development. When it comes to West Bengal's exports or collaboration with German companies, Dr. Feiner mentioned, the IGCC was here and businesses in this part of the country could also look at the 1700 Germany companies present mostly outside of the State.

Dr. Feiner felt that the Chamber's planned trip to Germany was an excellent option to explore possibilities of co-operation. He suggested the area of Healthcare where he had not seen much co-operation looked promising. The Chamber could look into the prospects of medical technologies as about 1500 companies existed in this sphere. Trade fair was one other entry point towards effective co-operations and Germany is famous for its trade fairs in different sectors. Lastly, Dr. Feiner also felt that the visiting delegation could closely look at the Indian Companies operating at Germany. The number of such companies had been increasing over the years.

Dr. Michael Feiner's talk was followed by an intense round of invigorating question answer session which covered range of interests from members like:

- Water level depletion as a result of global warming, eventually affecting riveriene ports' navigation. If this was an issue in Germany.
- Interest of German Companies in taking part in the BCC&I's annual Mega Trade Fair.
- With increasing trade disputes, would Germany consider India as manufacturing hub?
- The Consul General's views on increasing investments in Bengal from German Companies.
- Brining back Lufthansa services from Kolkata.
- Income disparities and poverty issues in Germany.
- Health Tech Hub in Germany and current collaborations with Indian Companies.
- Robust education system of Germany not attracting as many students from India as the US Universities are.

The Meeting concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks on behalf of the Chamber presented by Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President.



Dr. Michael Feiner, Hon'ble Consul General, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Kolkata gracing the Session.
L-R: **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh**, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Indrajit Sen**, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Dr. Michael Feiner**, Hon'ble Consul General, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany; **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to **Dr. Michael Feiner**, Hon'ble Consul General, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Kolkata



Distinguished audience

SPECIAL SESSION WITH MR. KV KUMAR, FOUNDING CHAIRMAN, INDIAN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (IAICC)

20TH MAY 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Special Session with Mr. K V Kumar, Founding Chairman, Indian American International Chamber of Commerce (IAICC), Washington, DC, on 20th May 2019 in The Bengal Chamber Premises. The session was followed by Networking Cocktails and Dinner.

Mr. KV Kumar had been visiting India as part of Trade Winds Business Delegation, the largest annual U.S. Government-led trade mission and the idea behind organizing this Special Session was to brainstorm with Mr. Kumar on how The Bengal Chamber and IAICC can collaborate in facilitating B2B Connects, not only between the U.S. businesses and their Indian counterparts from the East and the North East, but also, how IAICC with the help of The Bengal Chamber can jointly connect with the larger East and South East Asian markets.

Prior to the Special Session, organized in the Chamber, Mr. K V Kumar had an exclusive meeting with Shri Alapan Bandyopadhyay, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Home & Hill Affairs, Government of West Bengal and Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal and Smt. Vandana Yadav, IAS, Managing Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited and Secretary, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises & Textiles, Government of West Bengal on the 20th May morning at West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation. The meeting featured discussion on possible areas of collaboration between the Indian American International Chamber of Commerce (IAICC) and The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and how IAICC could provide a relevant platform to the Government of West Bengal for showcasing the State's value as an investment destination and particularly as a logistics hub for the entire South-East Asian market.

The Interactive Session was graced by **Ms. Patricia Hoffman,** U.S Consul General in Kolkata; **Mr. B B Chatterjee**, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta,** Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh,** Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with other senior members and stakeholders of the Chamber.

During the Session, The Bengal Chamber signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IAICC to provide business advisory services to medium and small enterprises of India and USA and to collaborate in facilitating B2B connects between American Businesses and its Indian counterparts from East and North-East Region.

Mr. K V Kumar mentioned that IAICC is very keen to open offices in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Dubai, Hong Kong and 30 chapters in United States itself. IAICC could set up a representative office in India in The Bengal Chamber premises and institute a Joint Council to address co-branded issues for stakeholders. Mr. Kumar also mentioned that West Bengal, being strategically placed, is ideal to act as a gateway to accessing markets in the ASEAN countries. At present, IAICC is working in four States in India where each State has made a Chamber of Commerce- a platform to create business links. IAICC works with entrepreneurs, professionals, businesses and Governments to develop entrepreneurship and commerce through training, seminars and networking opportunities.

Mr. Kumar also mentioned about IAICC Business Summit, in collaboration with NAVIKA 5th World Kannada Summit, which will be held from 30th August, 2019 to 1st September, 2019 at Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. He said that Senior Officials of Government of West Bengal and The Bengal Chamber would be invited to participate in the Business Summit at Ohio. Especially, **Dr. Amit Mitra,** Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Departments of Information Technology and Electronics, Finance, MSME and Textiles and Industry, Commerce & Enterprises, Government of West Bengal would be invited as the Chief Guest. The meeting is expected to be attended by Consul Generals of India in some of the major cities of US, business leaders and Government officials.



L-R: Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Founder, Intueri Consulting LLP; Mr. K V Kumar, Founding Chairman, Indian American International Chamber of Commerce (IAICC); Ms. Patricia Hoffman, U.S Consul General in Kolkata; Mr. B B Chatterjee, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

SPECIAL SESSION WITH MR. KV KUMAR, FOUNDING CHAIRMAN, INDIAN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (IAICC)

20TH MAY 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES



Distinguished audience



Mr. K V Kumar, Founding Chairman, Indian American International Chamber of Commerce (IAICC) with Ms. Patricia Hoffman, U.S Consul General in Kolkata



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry with Mr. K V Kumar, Founding Chairman, Indian American International Chamber of Commerce (IAICC)



Press conference



Mr. K V Kumar, Founding Chairman, Indian American International Chamber of Commerce (IAICC) gracing the session



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian American International Chamber of Commerce (IAICC) and The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in presence of Ms. Patricia Hoffman, U.S Consul General in Kolkata

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION AND B2B DISCUSSION WITH DUTCH DELEGATION FOCUSING ON WATERWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

14TH JUNE 2019, THE CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of commerce & Industry (BCC&I) in collaboration with the Consulate of the Netherlands in Kolkata organized an **Interactive Session and B2B Discussion** with the **visiting Dutch delegation** on **Friday, 14th June 2019** at the **Chamber premises**. **The Ambassador of Netherlands in India His Excellency Marten van den Berg had very kindly graced the occasion**.

The objective of this interactive session and B2B discussion was to explore business opportunities and to have possible business tie – ups between the Dutch and the Indian Companies for furthering developments and growth of Maritime trade in India with a prime focus on West Bengal.

There were altogether 15 companies which visited India, out of which 4 companies were involved in dredging, manufacturing and operations of river-sea vessels, propulsion systems, developing port infrastructure, etc. and they had participated in this interactive session.

Following were the Dutch companies present in the programme:

- **Alar Infrastructures Pvt Ltd**
- **Royal IHC**
- **Van Oord (India) Pvt Ltd**
- **Hydromaster Propulsion BV/Parikh Power Pvt Ltd**

The programme brought together senior government officials, port users, trade representatives, industry representatives, etc. and altogether the total no of delegates present at the programme was approx 30.

Overall the programme was an eye-opener for those in the EXIM trade, the Ship owners/charterers, the Shipping lines/agents, the CHA's, the Port users, the Freight forwarders, the logistics providers, etc. as they had a clear understanding based on the deliberations made by the Dutch companies as well as the interactions during the programme and also the B2B discussions held thereafter.



The Bengal Chamber of commerce & Industry (BCC&I) in collaboration with the Netherlands Consulate in Kolkata organized an **Interactive Session and B2B Discussion with the visiting Dutch delegation** on **Friday, 14th June 2019** at **the Chamber premises**
L-R seated are **Mr. A B Guha,** Member, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber, **Mr Tapas Banerjee,** Co-Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber, **His Excellency Marten van den Berg,** Ambassador of Netherlands in India and **Mr. Namit Shah**, Honorary Consul, Consulate of the Netherlands in Kolkata



Mr. Tapas Banerjee presenting a memento to **His Excellency Marten van den Berg**



One of the Dutch companies making a presentation



The delegates present in the programme



Mr. Praful Tayal, Member, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber presenting a memento to one of the Dutch companies

THE CHAMBER'S MANAGING COMMITTEE'S INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. ANDREW FORD, HON'BLE CONSUL GENERAL, CONSULATE GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA IN KOLKATA

24TH JULY 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber organized an Interactive Session with Mr Andrew Ford, Hon'ble Consul General, Consulate General of Australia in Kolkata during its Managing Committee meeting on 24th July 2019.

Mr. Andrew Ford, Hon'ble Consul General, Consulate General of Australia in Kolkata, is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He was previously Head of Mission, Australian High Commission, Tonga, a South Pacific island. He had previously served in Kuala Lampur and Seoul in Canberra. A Bachelor of Economics (Honours) from Monash University, Mr. Ford held a range of positions, including the position of Director of the Free Trade Agreement Policy and New Issues Section. The Australian Consulate-General in Kolkata is Australia's fourth diplomatic post in India, the other three being New Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai. The Consulate-General had recently re-opened its office in Kolkata and this meeting was the Consul General's first business meeting in the State of West Bengal.

Mr. Ford thanked members for their warm welcome before his lucid presentation on 'Perspectives on Trade and Investments' between India and Australia'. He went on to explain the India Economic Strategy 2035 which is an independent report to the Government which looks at how Australia could build deep economic partnership with India over the next two decades. This strategy was written by Mr. Peter N Varghese, who was Australian High Commissioner to India from 2010 to 2014. He was also the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He brings a very deep understanding of both Australia and India. The Strategy is an independent assessment about the current and future economic policy towards India and involved wide consultations between the two countries. The report was publicly released in July 2018. It is virtually a blue print now for conducting business between the two countries. The Australian Government also released a formal response strategy in November last year when the President of India had visited Australia which was the first visit to Australia by an Indian President.

Mr. Andrew Ford went on to explain why Australia needed an India Economic Strategy. Australia had also done another important paper in 2017 which was a Foreign Policy White Paper which placed India at the top tier amongst their international partners. With this Australia's economic policy was at par with the strategic relationship. It was felt that there was a need to deepen the two-dimensional economic relationship between the two countries, mostly on free trade and negotiations. This strategy has been written mostly from the Australian point of view and it was equally important to build a India-literacy in Australia.

Mr. Ford went on to say that today India is Australia's sixth largest trading partner. The two-way trade has grown by over 15% a year over the past 5 years. However, there was a need to grow and make significant change to reach the desired level. Australia's trade with India represents about 3.6% of its global trade, the large trading partners being China (25.2%), Japan (10.1%) and United States (8.7%), followed by Korea and Singapore who all come under the top 10 trading nations of Australia. Australia's exports to India constitutes coal (11% of the country's total exports to India), education related travel, copper and gold. What India was exporting to Australia was primarily refined petroleum, railway vehicles, pearls and gems. He felt that there was a growing need to build the India-Australia relationship as economic relations underpinned a country's international relationship. Countries who have invested in each other do have a keen interest in each other prosperity, security and stability.

There is a need to build 'India Literacy' in Australia. The Report, he spoke about, was designed for an Australian audience. The understanding between the two countries are still not as it should be. Beyond education and resources, India current does not actually look at Australia as a preferred partner. Australia wants to try and change this. The India Economic Strategy aims at promoting long-terms relations between the two countries in the highest levels of the Australian Government and the Prime Ministers of the two countries are fully committed to this. The key conclusion of this Strategy is that over the next twenty years or so when India is poised to become the third largest economy of the world, more opportunities are likely to open up for Australia. The report covers challenges faced and provides practical road maps to Australians doing business in India. The strategy sets a number of ambitious goals which pertain to lifting India into the top three export markets, making India the third largest destination for outward investment, and bringing India into Australia's inner circle of relationships. The core of the Strategy revolves around a 'Sectors and States' framework. Ten priority sectors and 10 priority States, including West Bengal have been identified to remain

focussed. The 10 priority sectors include Education, Agri-business, Resources, Tourism, Energy, Health, Financial services, Science and innovation, Infrastructure and Sport. The 10 States have been chosen because of a combination of economic depth, commitment to reforms, competitive advantage for Australia, ease of doing business etc.

Mr. Ford felt that The Chamber would be interested to know why West Bengal has been chosen as a preferred State. West Bengal was a centre of India's mining and resources sector and it is a regional hub for Australia's engagement on mining and materials. It is also a gateway to the mining resource of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa. Australia sees several opportunities here in energy, agriculture, education and health-care sectors. For this reason, Kolkata has been chosen as a Centre of presence of an Australian mission. The State is also a gateway to the North East. Strengths that the State and the region has in mining and minerals could open up opportunities towards India's desire to be self-sufficient in this area. Australia would have a lot to offer, particularly as a supplier of mining equipment, technology and services. The Strategy looked at thinking differently towards India over the other economic partners of Australia like North East Asia, Japan, China, Korea etc. Australia will bring in not just Australian products but expertise and knowledge as well.

The Consul General stated that Australia believed in building relationships through people to people links. They believed this could come through a very large number of Indian people who live in Australia. Education and Tourism are the two priority sectors in this Report in finally connecting people in this relationship through better understanding. Looking at migration into Australia by citizenship in 2016-2017, India was at the top. Indian migration to Australia has increased dramaticallyover the last decade. At almost 700,000 strong (or nearly 3% of Australian population), the Indian diaspora already makes a significant contribution to its economy and society. This diaspora can build relationships where governments cannot. It creates personal links, and sustains effort and engagement over time. The diaspora, with their deep understanding of both countries, couldhelp overcome difficulties. The reports indicates that the most ambitious goal of the Strategy is to have Australian investment in India rise to over $A 100 billion from the current level of $A 15 billion.

Finally, the Consul General said that while considering why India should really be doing business with Australia which apparently is a small market, having just reached 25 million, it should be borne in mind that population and size were obviously not the only measure of the potential of an economic relationship. Australia is a high-value market and had also been through several reforms on competition policies, privatisations etc.

The Australian Government was committed to support, in principle, recommendations of the Report. One of the recommendations of the Report was to set up a Consul General's Office in Kolkata. The focus will be around the ten sectors and 10 Indian states identified in the report. Ministerial champions would be appointed for the Strategy's major sectors. The Australian Government is very committed to make this work. The Indian Government has also responded very strongly and positively on this Report and has commissioned a similar report. CII has now been commissioned to do a similar report for the Indian Government which will be Australian Economic Strategy for India. He further stated that the idea of having a team on the ground at Kolkata from Australia was to build the right networks, build links with the Government of West Bengal as well as businesses here and to promote delegations both ways. This was a start of a long term project.

Mr. Andrew Ford's presentation was followed by a very invigorating round of questions and answers session. Mr. B B Chatterjee, President Designate, proposed a vote of thanks for a very comprehensive presentation on how India Australia relationship can be further strengthened through a clear road map for increasing India-Australia trade and areas of bilateral co-operation.



L-R: Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. B B Chatterjee, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Indrajit Sen, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Andrew Ford, Consul General, Australian Consulate-General in Kolkata; Mr. Abraham Stephanos, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Distinguished Members of The Managing Committee during a presentation by Mr. Andrew Ford, Consul General, Australian Consulate-General in Kolkata



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Andrew Ford, Consul General, Australian Consulate-General in Kolkata in presennce of Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. ROBERT CHATTERTON DICKSON, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BANGLADESH

25TH JULY 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with **Mr. Robert Chatterton Dickson**, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh on 25th July 2019 in The Bengal Chamber premises.

Mr. Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata also graced the programme.

The session was chaired by **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The programme was attended by the senior members and stakeholders of the Chamber whose insights contributed to a great extent on the enhancement of Economic and Business relationship of both India and Bangladesh.

The discussions included:

- Perception of Bangladesh as a business destination.
- Opportunities of doing business in Bangladesh and the areas which require special focus for better efficiency.

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee particularly mentioned about the opportunities involving UK Technology, Indian man power and Bangladesh market.



L-R: Mr. Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata; Mr. Robert Chatterton Dickson, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata and Mr. Robert Chatterton Dickson, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh during interactions



Distinguished audience



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Robert Chatterton Dickson, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. RAHUL TABHANE, COUNTRY HEAD -INDIA, UK EXPORT FINANCE, BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION, MUMBAI

25TH JULY 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Special Session with **Mr. Rahul Tabhane,** Country Head-India, UK Export Finance, British Deputy High Commission, Mumbai on 25th July 2019 at The Bengal Chamber premises.

The objective of this forum was to discuss financing support available from UK Export Finance (UKEF) for Indian companies importing from the United Kingdom and for export oriented UK subsidiaries of Indian Companies

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed **Mr. Rahul Tabhane**. **Mr. Robert Chatterton Dickson,** British High Commissioner to Bangladesh also graced the session along with **Mr. Rishikesh Chanda,** Senior Trade & Investment Adviser, UK Trade & Investment, British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata and other senior dignitaries of The Bengal Chamber.

Mr. Rahul Tabhane, during the session, mentioned that UKEF is a UK Government Department and is the operating name of the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD). UKEF's primary function is to support exports from the UK and it operates within the conditions set out under the OECD Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits. UKEF extends its support in two broad categories: a) Products and services that finance the overseas buyer. b) Products and services that support the UK exporter.

Mr. Tabhane emphasized that the UKEF guarantee is equivalent to the UK government guarantee which has an outstanding global credit profile. The guarantee acts as a credit enhancement instrument for Indian companies thereby substantially reducing the financing cost and helps them attract long tenor loans from banks and financial institutions. The main criteria to avail the UKEF guarantee is a minimum 20% UK origin content from UK which can be fulfilled via import of goods, services, technology or intellectual property.

He also mentioned about the financing support for UK exporters through various products such as working capital scheme, Bond support scheme, Export Insurance Policy, Bond Insurance Policy, etc and all export oriented UK entities including the UK subsidiaries of Indian companies are eligible for the same.

Mr. Tabhane took the session through few successful case studies like the Oil and Gas case study where UK Export Finance issued a guarantee in respect of a US$1 billion line of credit to Petrobras, to support the financing of contracts involving UK suppliers which related to Petrobras's programme to expand various exploration and production

facilities and with Reliance Industries Ltd. of India, a US$300m line of credit facility was set up to enable it to finance the purchase of goods and services from the UK for the expansion of its Petrochemicals facilities and setting up the new Petcoke Gasification and Refinery Off-Gas Cracker.

He concluded his presentation with the aspiration to work with Indian Banks while providing UKEF guarantee in Indian Rupees to finance the import purchase of Indian companies thereby saving nearly 4% per annum hedging cost which gets incurred while attracting foreign currency borrowings.



Mr. Rahul Tabhane, Country Head-India, UK Export Finance, British Deputy High Commission, Mumbai addressing the audience.



L-R: Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson Emeritus, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Rishikesh Chanda, Senior Trade & Investment Adviser, UK Trade & Investment, British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata; Mr. Rahul Tabhane, Country Head-India, UK Export Finance, British Deputy High Commission, Mumbai; Mr. Robert Chatterton Dickson, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Interaction in progress : L-R: Mr. Rahul Tabhane, Country Head-India, UK Export Finance, British Deputy High Commission, Mumbai; Mr. Rishikesh Chanda, Senior Trade & Investment Adviser, UK Trade & Investment, British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata; Mr. Robert Chatterton Dickson, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh



Distinguished audience



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Rahul Tabhane, Country Head-India, UK Export Finance, Mumbai in presence of Mr. Robert Chatterton Dickson, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO INDIA H.E KENJI HIRAMATSU

10TH AUGUST 2019, THE BENGAL LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Ambassador of Japan to India **H.E Kenji Hiramatsu** on **'Japan - India : Areas of Cooperation' with special focus on West Bengal'** on Saturday, 10th August 2019 at The Bengal Chamber Premises.

The Ambassador graced the Session along with **Mr. Masayuki Taga**, Consul General of Japan to India. **Mr. Indrajit Sen,** President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh,** Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry were also present in the programme.

Mr. Masayuki Taga expressed his sincere thanks to The Bengal Chamber to invite the Ambassador in the Chamber. **Mr. Taga** mentioned that the Chamber extended its kind support to organize the Japan Session in The Bengal Global Business Summit, held in the month of February 2019. He also mentioned this was the first formal visit of the Ambassador to the Chamber. **Mr. Taga**, during his speech, stated that 19 Japanese companies and 209 Japanese establishments are here in West Bengal. Japan was keen on seeing the increase in people to people connect in this region and invited people from this region to visit Japan**.**

The Ambassador H. E. Kenji Hiramatsu, during his address, mentioned that Japan was keen to see increasing people-to- people connect with the Eastern Region of India and invited investors from West Bengal to Japan. He also stated that the Japanese companies operating in India were being given incentives from the Northern states and such incentives from West Bengal could encourage more companies here.

The Ambassador said that a new momentum has been added to economic partnership between Japan and India while shared security and defence cooperation is rapidly catching up with the already robust economic partnership.

The Ambassador mentioned that Skill, Waste Management and SME Sector are the possible fields for joint collaboration between the two countries for investment in West Bengal. Japan is looking for more platforms to establish business to business connects in West Bengal. He also stated that Japan is already working in Infrastructure project jointly with India in Bangladesh and has been very keen to continue the same since West Bengal is the gateway to other Eastern States and South East Asia. Japan is also looking to support the opening of more Japanese language centres in India to the tune of 1000 in next five years in India where trained teachers would be provided from Japan that would increase Indian employment in Japanese companies.

The Ambassador said that with Japanese firm Kawasaki Rikuso Transportation Company's investment in setting up temperature controlled solar powered warehouses for Agri storage in West Bengal, there has been an increasing interest from both sides for business exchanges and alliances in the eastern part of India. The other major Japanese companies operating in West Bengal include Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery, Nippai Shalimar Feeds, Nomura Research Institute Financial Technologies.



H.E. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India; Mr. Masayuki Taga, Consul General of Japan to India visiting The Calcutta Gallery



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



Mr. Masayuki Taga, Consul General of Japan to India addressing the audience



H.E. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India gracing the occasion



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to H.E. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India



Distinguished audience

MEETING WITH MS NATALIE TOMS, ECONOMIC COUNSELLOR AND DIRECTOR-PROSPERITY FROM BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION, NEW DELHI

30TH SEPTEMBER 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

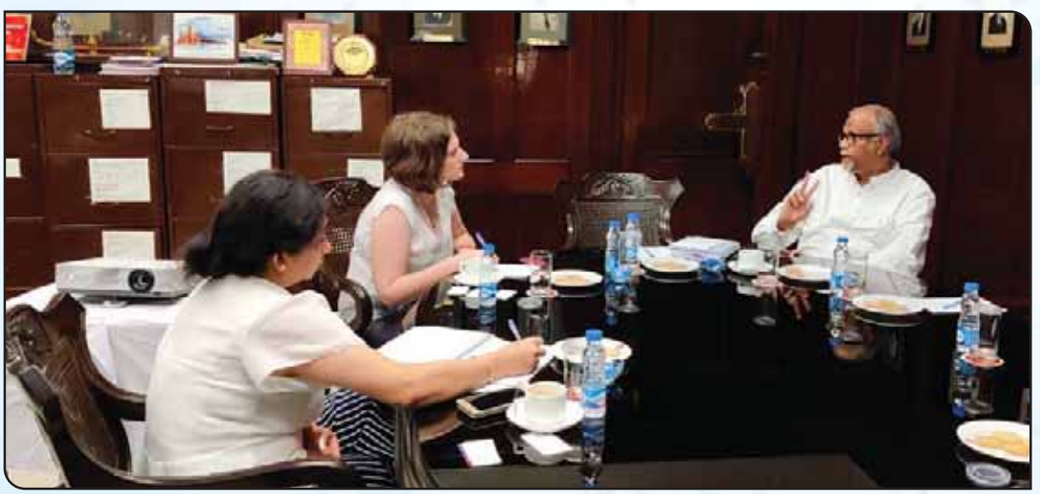
The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized a discussion with Ms. Natalie Toms, Economic Counsellor and Director-Prosperity from British High Commission, Delhi with senior members on 30th September, 2019 at the Chamber premises. The meeting was attended by Mr. T. B. Chatterjee, Senior Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP and Chairperson, Indirect Tax, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited and Ms. Haimanti Poddar, Senior Energy Adviser-UKTEP, British Deputy High Commission.

The meeting gave an overview of West Bengal's overall economic scenario. So basically a snapshot of industrial development, key initiatives by the State to invite private investment, implementation of GST, infrastructure financing and boosting finance for SMEs.

The meeting included discussions over how West Bengal have benefited by implementation of GST, as GST is a consumption based tax. Post demonetization and implementation of GST about 18 lakh (1.8 million) taxpayers have increased.

Agriculture is the most important sector for the development of the State. Water and agriculture are the areas which need to be focused and United Kingdom can take active part in implementation and policies.

Energy and Climate are also focus areas where State and UK government can work together. UK plays a major role in Industry and academia partnership.



(L-R) Ms. Haimanti Poddar, Senior Energy Adviser-UKTEP, British Deputy High Commission; Ms. Natalie Toms, Economic Counsellor, British High Commissioner and Mr. T.B. Chatterjee, Senior Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP and Chairperson, Indirect Tax, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



(L-R) Ms. Haimanti Poddar, Senior Energy Adviser-UKTEP, British Deputy High Commission; Ms. Natalie Toms, Economic Counsellor, British High Commissioner; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited and Mr. T.B. Chatterjee, Senior Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP and Chairperson, Indirect Tax, The Bengal Chamber

B2B MEETINGS WITH THE DELEGATION (ENGINEERING AND MINING SECTOR) FROM GERMANY

5TH NOVEMBER 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry shares a deep connect with German stakeholders. With such background and reference, The Bengal Chamber hosted a Delegation from Germany, consisting of the mining machinery manufacturers, on 5th November 2019 at the Chamber premises for B2B Meetings with the Indian Counterparts.

The delegation consisted of 12 delegates joining from 8 German companies in opencast as well as underground technology. They included exploration, extraction, beneficiation, mineral processing and safety equipments.

The German companies were:

- Allmineral Asia Pvt. Ltd.
- CFT GmbH Compact Filter Technic
- Eickhoff Bergbautechnik GmbH
- JD Theile GmbH & Co. KG
- Putzmeister Concrete Machines Pvt. Ltd.
- SMT Scharf GmbH
- EnergieAgentur.NRW
- VDMA Mining
- VDMA India

The delegation of German mining machinery manufacturers presented to the Mining Industry in West Bengal, about latest technologies in safety and efficiency in Mining.

Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed the delegation. **Mr V K Arora**, Chief Mentor, Karam Chand Thapar & Bros. (Coal Sales Ltd.); **Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury**, Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other Senior Members and Stakeholders of the Chamber were also present in the programme.

Mr. Abraham George Stephanos stated that Engineering and Mining Sector is very important to the Eastern part of India. The Bengal Chamber's Centre of Excellence, along with Indo German Chamber of Commerce, is created to provide expertise particularly to MSME and SME Sector of the State. **Mr. Stephanos** also mentioned that The Bengal Chamber took a delegation to Germany this year where the focus was B2B and B2G. The delegation also participated in the Annual General Meet of Indo German Chamber Of Commerce in Dusseldorf.

Mr. Rajesh Nath, Managing Director, VDMA India Limited, who was coordinating the delegation, stated that Coal production has to increase. Underground Mining has lots of potential that is yet to be explored. Better quality of Coal is available underground. Mr. Nath also mentioned that there is excessive dependency on open cast mines. With open cast mines, there is a problem of procuring land, however for underground the problem does not arise. The policy makers need to think for underground mining possibility.

Mr. Karl Heinz Rieser, Eickhoff Bergbautechnik GmbH mentioned that they are very keen to extend their expertise in Mining Sector in Bengal and other parts of the Country as well.

Mr. Peter Hartlieb, Energie Agentur.NRW stated that the use of coal is abridged in Germany where as the Power sector has started baking upon energy mixes and the investments are being made on exploration of alternative energies in India.

Mr. Damir Martic, SMT Scharf GmbH said they are very willing to provide technical support towards further improvement in the coal and mining sector in India.

The session was followed by vibrant interactions with the Indian business fraternity.

The programme was also very well covered by media.



Distinguished members and stakeholders of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Delegate members from Germany during the session



L-R: Mr. Rajesh Nath, Managing Director, VDMA India Limited; Mr. Abraham Stephanos, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry during interactions



Mr. Abraham Stephanos, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal welcome address



Mr. Rajesh Nath, Managing Director, VDMA India Limited during the session



One of the delegate members from Germany addressing the audience



Press meet in progress

INTERACTION WITH MR. PRASHANTH NAIR, TRADE COMMISSIONER – DIGITAL INDUSTRIES AND TECHNOLOGY, HIGH COMMISSION OF CANADA IN INDIA

5TH NOVEMBER 2019, WEBEL-BCC&I TECH INCUBATION CENTRE



On Tuesday, 5th November, 2019, an Interaction with **Mr. Prashanth Nair, Trade Commissioner – Digital Industries and Technology, High Commission of Canada in India** was organized by The Bengal Chamber at WEBEL-BCC&I Tech Incubation Centre. Professionals from the IT Fraternity of the city participated in this interactive session where topics like Bilateral Trade, Women Entrepreneurship and Emerging Technologies were discussed primarily. The representatives of Canadian High Commission also discussed about the potential of Indian Market for the Canadian companies which account to around 400 present in our country for doing business. The Canadian Government is also working actively in the space of Startups and is keen to bring such delegations to India for creating new Market opportunities.



In this picture from (R to L): Mr. Prashanth Nair, Trade Commissioner – Digital Industries and Technology, High Commission of Canada; Mr. Arjun Dutta, Trade Commissioner, Canadian High Commission, Canadian Trade Office; Mr. Kalyan Kar, Co-Founder & MD, Inqube Innoventures Pvt Ltd; Mr. Pratik Banerjee, Director – Business Development & Alliances, Protiviti India; Mr. Prasun Nandy, PwC; Ms. Kasturi Bhattacharya, CEO, DCG AILABS Academy Pvt Ltd & CEO, DCG Data Core Systems (India) Pvt Ltd; Mr. Prodip Mukhopadhyay, Managing Director, WBEIDC; Mr. Sounak Ghoshal, PwC | Partner | Advisory – Technology Consulting, PwC;Mr. Sounak Ghoshal, PwC | Partner | Advisory – Technology Consulting, PwC and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Director, The Bengal Chamber

ZOOHACKATHON 2019 - A TECH CHALLENGE TO FIND TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN SOLUTIONS FOR FIGHTING WILDLIFE

9TH & 10TH NOVEMBER 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

On Saturday & Sunday, 9th & 10th November, 2019, Zoohackathon 2019 - A tech challenge to find technology driven solutions for fighting wildlife crime – in Kolkata, organized by U.S. Consulate General Kolkata, TRAFFIC and WWF-India, and The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry at The Bengal Chamber premises.

Sixteen teams, each having two to six members, comprising students of higher educational institutes and working professionals, demonstrated tech-based solutions to stop wildlife trafficking got five minutes to present their project before the jury panel. New Delhi was the first Indian city to host such an event in November 2017, while it is being held for the first time in the eastern metropolis. The Zoohackathon, which had started in 2016, is a global tech challenge to find technology-driven solutions to combat wildlife trafficking and this event was part of that initiative.

The participating teams developed solutions to help detect traffickers and educate the public through mobile apps and other software. At the end of the Zoohackathon, teams presented their solutions to the panel of jury. The Zoohackathon, being held all over the world, aims to brings together students of higher educational institutes and wildlife enthusiasts. Each team is given 48 hours each to develop technology-based solutions to address wildlife trafficking challenges. The event is being organized in 16 cities, including Kolkata and New Delhi, across 14 different countries this year.

The team "Pineapples" which comprised a group of students from St. Thomas College of Engineering and Technology, Kolkata was named as the Champions of Zoohackathon 2019 of Kolkata edition. "Data Sutram", an AI-driven startup was named as the Runners-up



Team "Pineapples" (Champion) with Mr. Krish Das, Deputy Director, US Consulate General, American Centre, Kolkata



A glimpse of the Williamson Magor Hall during Zoohackathon 2019



Team "Data Sutram" (Runners Up) with Mr. Krish Das, Deputy Director, US Consulate General, American Centre, Kolkata and other dignitaries



One of the teams, participated in Zoohackathon, delivering their presentations during the programme



Judges (L-R): Ms. Kasturi Bhattacharjee, Chief Executive Officer, DCG AILABS ACADEMY PVT LTD & Chief Executive Officer, DCG Data Core Systems (India) Pvt Ltd and Mr. Kalyan Kar, Co-Founder & Managing Director, Inqube Innoventures Pvt Ltd interacting with the participants



Dr. Pradeep Vyas, Political and Economic Affairs Officer of US Consulate, one of the esteemed Judges, interacting with the participants



Ms. Sonia Laul, Political-Econ Officer, U S Consulate Kolkata gracing us during the Inaugural Session



The teams working on their projects



Brainstroming session to generate ideas in progress.



A glimpse of the Williamson Magor Hall during Zoohackathon 2019

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR NICK LOW, BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, KOLKATA

11TH NOVEMBER 2019, 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Chamber was privileged to have Mr. Nick Low, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata, addressing the Managing Committee members at its Meeting on 11th November 2019. The Interactive Session commenced with the President welcoming Mr. Law to the Chamber. This was followed by an introduction of Mr. Nick Low and an audio visual presentation covering the history, heritage and activities of The Chamber.

Mr. Nick Low, the new British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata, joined office on 16th October 2019 and represents the UK in the 13 Indian States in the Eastern Region, North East India and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Mr. Low has been a Counsellor at the British Embassy responsible for the United Kingdom's relations with China's Second and Third Tier Cities (2015 to 2019). He was previously the Deputy Head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Crisis Management Department. From 2010 to 2014, Mr. Low was the UK's Deputy High Commissioner in Bangladesh. From 2007 to 2010 he led the FCO team developing policy to reinforce the nuclear non-proliferation regime, in particular the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle and the International Atomic Energy Agency. He has worked in South America (Santiago de Chile and Brasília) and the Maghreb (Rabat and Algiers) covering a wide range of political, aid, economic, commercial and counter-terrorist work. He was educated at Christ's College Cambridge and Bedford College London.

At the outset, Mr. Nick Low, thanked The Chamber members for inviting him for interacting with the Managing Committee Members. He mentioned that he was hopeful of being in this City for about 3 to 4 years during which time he hoped to interact with members of The Chamber more intensively.

Mr. Suborno Bose, Chairperson of The Chamber's Education Committee requested Mr. Low to speak about the introduction of the Post-Study work visa in the UK. Mr. Low felt that this was a welcome move by UK's friends and partners across the world. The current 2-year post study visa to students will open the door to their career paths. However, he felt that this will go a long way in helping aspirants coming over to the UK which has some of the best universities of the world.

Mr. Aloke Mookherjea, Former President, sought the British Deputy High Commissioner's opinion on the aspects on which India should be careful about in its dealings and bi-lateral relations between India and the UK in view of the impending Brexit. Further, even post-Brexit it was important to understand how the bilateral relationships between India and the UK could be taken forward.

Mr. Low mentioned that what UK was concentrating presently on the global challenges the country may have from progress of the human race - challenges from climate change, microbiological resistance, rebalancing the global economy 10 years after the financial crisis, issues concerning eradication of poverty etc. He felt that none of these bigger challenges can be solved by any country on its own. UK's policy was to have the top ten large economies working together and India should be right in the middle of the ten. Speaking about Brexit, Mr. Low strongly felt that it would never mean United Kingdom turning its back to the world. Not one country in the EU derives a larger proportion of its GDP from foreign trade than what the UK does. UK has no other option but to trade. He felt that as far as relationship with India with Brexit was concerned, he could see bilateral relationship being on the upside. Many Indian Companies were looking to make Investments in the UK. Bilateral trade between the two countries was booming.

Mr. Low spoke about the 'single market' concept. Single market was a single market in manufactured goods. It is not a single market in 'services'. And this had done a great damage to the British economy which now has a structural trade deficit with the European Union. Today the country's trade deficit with the EU alone is 4% of GDP, which in the long-term is not sustainable.

Dr. Rabin Chakraborty, Chairperson, Health Committee, who had spent a considerable period of time in the United Kingdom working as a Consultant there and had returned to India, shared his experience in the healthcare sector in the UK and his experience in working in the same sector in India and sought Mr. Low's views on the subject. He also wanted to set up an exchange programme between UK and India for Trainee Doctors.

Mr. Low thanked Dr Chakraborty and the entire community of doctors from India for their immense contribution to the National Health Service in the UK. There were 19000 doctors and healthcare professionals of Indian origin or actually from India in the UK. He said that UK takes growth and

improvements in the health services very seriously. The country needs to bring in more medical professionals from overseas.

Mr. Subrata Dutta, Chairperson, Sports and Skill Development Committee, requested Mr. Low to speak about the ease of doing business in the UK by Indian entities and how could a Chamber of Commerce facilitate the same.

Having said that the UK was always very high on the ease of doing business index, being among the top 10 countries on this parameter, Mr. Low stated that if anyone wanted to set up a business or go for acquisitions or expansion of business in the UK, they have an end to end service for the same. UK welcomes foreign investments and the country continues to attract foreign investments far more than any other country in the EU.

Dr. Abhijit Sen, Former President of the Chamber, talking about the close ties between the two countries, especially with regard to trade and investment, said that these ties are specially close with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce. He drew Mr. Low's attention to the portraits of several Past Presidents of The Bengal Chamber displayed on the walls of the Hall. He also stated that the very room at which the meeting was being held viz. Williamson Magor Hall, was named after two Past Presidents, Mr. George Williamson and Mr. Richard Magor.

Mr. Low was very happy to acknowledge what Dr Sen had said. He fully agreed that the strong ties between the two countries was visible everywhere be it in sports, cuisine, in popular and classical culture, in medicine, in business, in commerce, in academia, in science and technology of which we are all very proud of. He wanted to build on this and see more UK business coming to India.

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President, brought the session to a close by heartily complimenting Mr. Nick Low on his very incisive in-depth analysis of the current realities. On behalf of The Chamber, Mr. Mukherjee expressed his gratitude to Mr. Low for having chosen The Bengal Chamber as the first Chamber that he had visited.



Mr. Nick Low, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata addressing the members of the Managing Committee during the Interactive Session



Mr. Nick Low, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata seen with (L-R): Mr. Subir Chakraborty, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. B B Chatterjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



The Interactive Session with Mr. Nick Low, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata in progress

THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ORGANISED A BRIEF INTERACTIVE MEETING WITH THE OFFICIALS OF THE INDONESIAN TRADE PROMOTION COUNCIL (ITPC)

29TH NOVEMBER 2019, CHAMBER PREMISES

Mr. Kumara Jati, Director, Indonesian Trade Promotion Centre (ITPC), Chennai and his team member were present to meet members of BCC&I having trade relations with Indonesia to discuss the possibilities of Cooperation in India- Indonesia bilateral trade. They discussed issues faced by our exporters / importers.

The meeting was attended by companies like EXIDE, Philips Carbon Black, KC Thapar Group and CESC.







INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY FEDERICO SALAS LOTFE, AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO TO INDIA

3RD FEBRUARY 2020, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with His Excellency Federico Salas Lotfe; Ambassador of Mexico to India on 3rd February 2020 in the Chamber premises.

The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Sumit Mazumder, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Honorary Consul, Republic of Mexico in Kolkata.

Mr. B B Chatterjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed the Ambassador.; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other senior dignitaries were also present in the programme.

Mr. B B Chatterjee shared the inputs on bilateral business between Mexico and India. There are about 70 Indian companies operate in Mexico, across sectors such as automobiles, pharma, and IT and around 20 Mexican companies operate in India across sectors such as auto parts, entertainment, information technology, energy, processed foods, and industrial products.

Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Founder and Senior Partner, Intueri Consulting LLP, who was also present in the programme, made an insightful address on "Bengal - Partnering State for Mexico". Mr. Dasgupta said that India and Mexico have striking similarities in geo-climatic conditions, biodiversity, physiognomy and people, cultural and family values, as well as European connections of the colonial era. Bengal has three main components, namely the Energy sector, MSME and deep Sea Ports that serve to link ASEAN countries. He also mentioned that most of the goods like gems and jewellery and aluminium that India exports to Mexico, are manufactured in Bengal. The vision of Bengal is to be a strong logistic hub. So there is a good potential of these sectors with regards to Mexico.

Mr. Sumit Mazumder highlighted the potential sectors for bilateral trade between India and Mexico including Auto parts; Software and IT; Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, Engineering goods and Minerals. He stated that Trade with India has grown immensely in last few years.

His Excellency Federico Salas Lotfe mentioned that Mexico is looking to expand its economic, Political and cultural footprint in India. Apart from businesses and cultural contacts, Mexico is trying to expand People to people connect and tourism. His Excellency emphasized that India is one of the countries that are being involved in refinery infrastructure project. In the areas of Startups and IT, Mexico is trying to bring added value with India through collaboration and look to move with greater dynamism in Innovations, Artificial Intelligence and IT. He also asserted that development of Spanish Language and its growing interest in India is a very encouraging sign. Water Technology in Mexico and so share of this knowledge with India is another common area of Interest. His Excellency mentioned that Mexico also shares clean air experience with India since it's a major area of concern in most Indian cities. Cybercrime and data theft are other areas where Mexico looks to India to share technology since both Governments share challenge of digital governance as a drive of combat corruption.

His Excellency also mentioned that The signing of the US-Mexico- Canada Agreement (USMCA) has lent "certainty" on foreign direct investment by international companies in the Latin American economy, including some 200-odd enterprises from India.

The forum included a very vibrant interactive session with the Chamber invitees.



L-R: Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Founder and Senior Partner, Intueri Consulting LLP; Mr. Sumit Mazumder, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Honorary Consul, Republic of Mexico in Kolkata; His Excellency Federico Salas Lotfe; Ambassador of Mexico to India; Mr. B B Chatterjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. B B Chatterjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY FEDERICO SALAS LOTFE, AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO TO INDIA

3RD FEBRUARY 2020, CHAMBER PREMISES



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Founder and Senior Partner, Intueri Consulting LLP addressing the audience



Mr. Sumit Mazumder, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Honorary Consul, Republic of Mexico in Kolkata gracing the session



His Excellency Federico Salas Lotfe; Ambassador of Mexico to India gracing the Session



Distinguished audience



Interactive Session in progress



Interactive Session in progress



Mr. B B Chatterjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento on behalf of the Chamber to His Excellency Federico Salas Lotfe; Ambassador of Mexico to India

ONLINE B2B MEETING WITH TAIWANESE COMPANIES

15TH JULY 2020, ZOOM

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized an Online B2B Meeting with leading Taiwanese Companies on 15th July 2020, Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Type of Taiwanese companies was:

- Distributor
- Manufacturer
- Supplier
- Wholesaler

The Companies, representing Taiwan, were:

- Hartford Industrial Co. Ltd.
- Hv Apollo Industries Corp.
- Riotec Co. Ltd.
- Team Young Technology Co. Ltd.
- Voltronic Power Technology Corp.
- Isamu Co. Ltd.

It was one-on-one online business session through video conferencing with the Taiwanese companies.

The Bengal Chamber facilitated dedicated b2b meetings of one of our member companies, Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Limited with few prospective manufacturers and exporters of Steel Safes and Lockers from Taiwan, named as Sheng Shiuh Metal Co. LTD; SoungPieng Enterprise Co. Ltd. and Yuan Bao Metal Cabinet Furniture Co.



Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre Kolkata (first row, second left) with other participants

ONLINE SEMINAR ON TAIWAN'S MACHINERY INDUSTRY

24TH AUGUST 2020, ZOOM PRO

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized an Online Seminar on Taiwan's Machinery Industry on 24th August 2020, Monday from 11 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry shares a deep connect with TAITRA. In this context, The Chamber partnered with TAITRA in the aforementioned programme.

The Session focused on:

- TAITRA's Online Trade Service
- TAITRA Exhibitions and Conventions
- Taiwan's machinery industry-introduction and opportunity

Datre Corporation Ltd. and ZETADEL Technologies Pvt. Ltd., the esteemed member companies of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry joined the said programme.



Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre Kolkata (second row, left) with Mr. Debkumar Basu, Director, Zetadel Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and Chairperson, Manufacturing & MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (first row, fourth left); Mr. Indranil Dutta, Chief Executive Officer, Datre Corporation Limited and Member, Manufacturing & MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (first row, third left) and other participants

VIRTUAL B2B MEETINGS WITH EXPORTERS OF PRINTING INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA

16TH, 17TH, 18TH, 21ST AND 22ND SEPTEMBER 2020

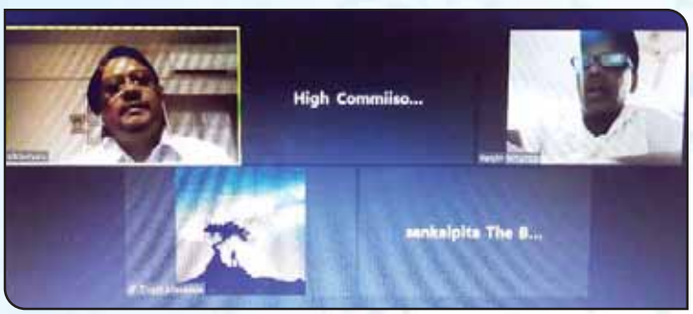
High Commission of Sri Lanka, New Delhi, in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized virtual B2B meetings with the prospective suppliers of Printing Industry in Sri Lanka on 16th, 17th, 18th, 21st and 22nd September 2020 respectively.

The objective of the B2B meetings was to facilitate joint venture collaboration with the Printing Industry in Sri Lanka for expansion of production for the export market.

The Companies, representing Sri Lanka, were:

- M/s Sharp Print Expo
- M/s Austriya Printing Pvt Ltd
- M/s M.G Printers Pvt Ltd
- M/s Sanmik Printing & Packaging Pvt Ltd
- M/s Graphic Systems Pvt Ltd

Goodricke Group Ltd and Saraswati Print Factory Pvt. Ltd., the distinguished stakeholders of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry took part in the said B2B Sessions.



B2B Meetings – Mr. Ranjith Fernando, M/s Sharp Print Expo with Mr. K Krishnan Nair, Head Purchase Department, Goodricke Group Limited



B2B Meetings - Mr. Thamira Rupasinghe, M/s Sanmik Printing & Packaging Pvt Ltd with Mr. Pratin Kumar Khanra, Managing Director, Saraswati Print Factory Pvt. Ltd



B2B meetings- Mr. Merwyn Gunawardene, M/s M.G Printers Pvt Ltd with Mr. Pratin Kumar Khanra, Managing Director, Saraswati Print Factory Pvt. Ltd



B2B meetings- Ms Venthini Sivajeevan, M/s Austriya Printing Pvt Ltd with Mr. K Krishnan Nair, Head Purchase Department, Goodricke Group Limited.

ONLINE SEMINAR ON TAIWAN'S STEEL AND MACHINERY INDUSTRY

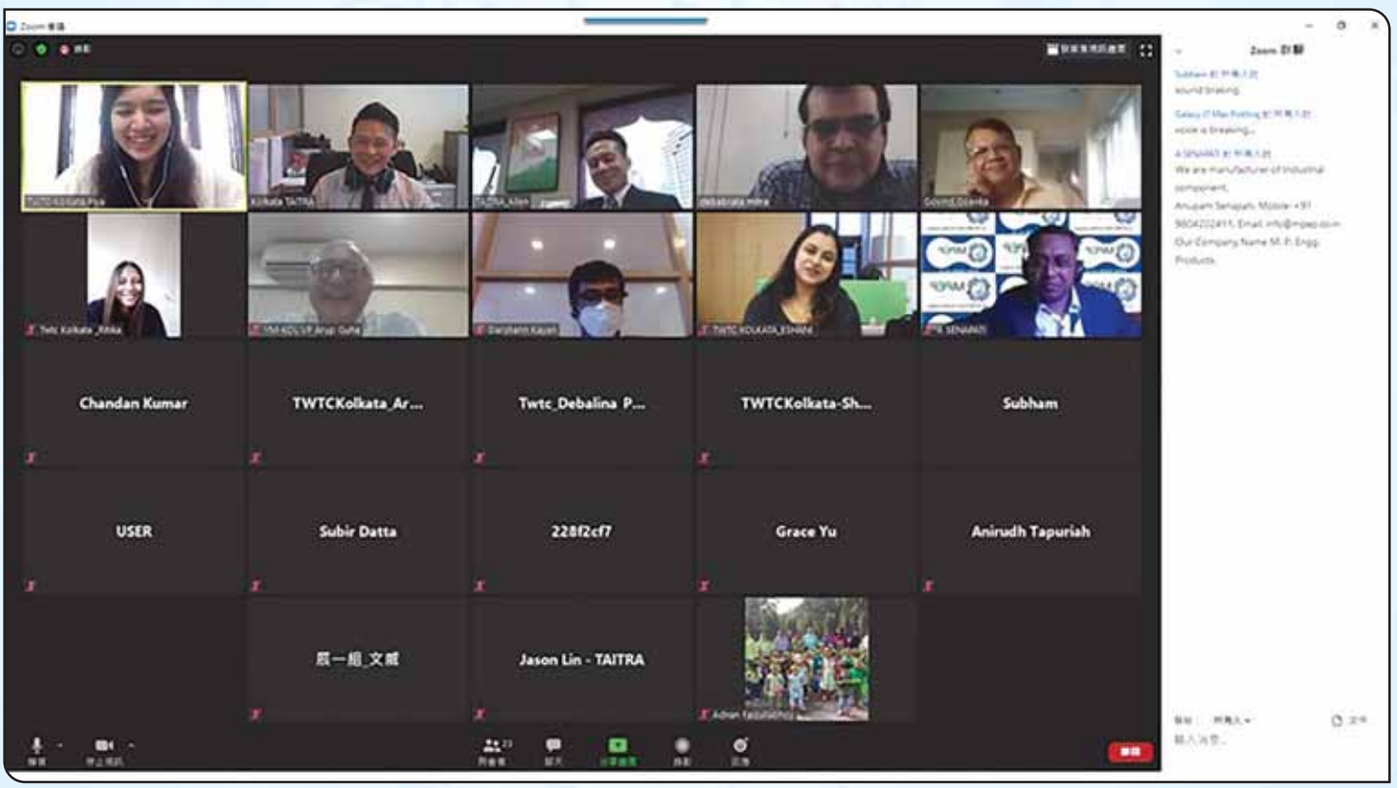
22ND SEPTEMBER 2020

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized an Online Seminar on Taiwan's Steel and Machinery Industry on 22nd September 2020, Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry shares a deep connect with TAITRA. In this context, The Chamber was partnering with TAITRA in the aforementioned programme.

Mr. Allen Hsu, Manager, TAITRA South Asia Section graced the forum along with **Ms. Shazia Kazmi**, Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA and **Ms. Eshani Ghosh,** Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA.

A special announcement had been made on TAITRA's forthcoming online event on Taiwan Expo, scheduled to be held in the month of December 2020.



Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA) (first row, second left) with the distinguished participants.

VIRTUAL B2B MEETINGS WITH M/S HAYLEYS FREE ZONE LTD, SRI LANKA

8TH OCTOBER 2020

The High Commission of Sri Lanka, New Delhi , in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized virtual B2B meetings with M/S Hayleys Free Zone Ltd , the transportation arm of the Hayleys Group, one of Sri Lanka's largest blue chips multinationals companies on 8th October 2020.

The objective of the aforesaid meeting with M/S Hayleys Free Zone Ltd, Sri Lanka was to establish business collaboration with potential Indian companies to provide integrated logistics solutions including shipping, freight forwarding, agency representation, transportation, project logistics, logistic services for the oil and gas industry, free zone operations, 3PL services and warehousing of goods locally and internationally.

Philips Carbon Black Limited, one of the esteemed members of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry took part in the meeting.



Mr. Subir Roychoudhury, Divisional Head- International Market , Philips Carbon Black Limited joining the meeting.

ONLINE SEMINAR ON TAIWAN'S ELECTRIC VEHICLE AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

16TH OCTOBER 2020

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Online Seminar on Taiwan's Electric Vehicle and Chemical Industry on 16th October 2020.

The Session focused on :

- **TAITRA's Online Trade service**
- **Service of Eternal Materials Co Ltd in India**
- **Q&A session**

Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata delivered the formal Welcome Address. **Mr. Willis Wu**, Director, Eternal Materials Co. Ltd graced the session along with **Mr. Mukesh N. Karachandani**, Eternal Materials Co. Ltd and **Ms. Ritika Nandy**, Trade Promotion Specialist, Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata.



Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata and **Mr. Willis Wu**, Director, Eternal Materials Co. Ltd along with distinguished audience

SOUTH ASIA BUSINESS DAY

28TH OCTOBER 2020

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata, in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized Online South Asia Business Meeting with the leading Taiwanese suppliers, representing the industries, such as Medical; ICT; Machinery & Hand Tools; Bicycles; Green Energy and Biotechnology on 28th October 2020.

The Session focused on:

- **Taitra's Online Trade service**
- **One on One business meeting with Taiwanese suppliers**

Around 15 Indian companies from various industrial sectors took part in the one-on-one B2B meetings with the Taiwanese suppliers.



Virtual Meeting in progress

ONLINE SEMINAR ON TAIWAN'S ICT AND SMART MEDICAL INDUSTRY

19TH NOVEMBER 2020

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized an Online Seminar on Taiwan's ICT and Smart Medical Industry on 19th November 2020, Thursday.

The session focused on:

- Taitra's Online Trade service and introduction
- Taiwan ICT and Smart Medical Products & Industry insight



Meeting in progress.

Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata delivered the formal Welcome Address. **Mr. Abhijit Das**, Manager - Brand &Marketing, Karma Healthcare Limited; **Mr. Steven Tseng**, Sales Manager, Delta Corp. and **Mr. Raunak Joshi**, Sales Manager, Innolux Corp graced the Session.



Meeting in progress.

"ONLINE SEMINAR ON TAIWAN'S GYM AND FITNESS PRODUCT"

11TH DECEMBER 2020, VIRTUAL

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized an Online Seminar on Taiwan's Gym and Fitness Products on 11th December 2020, Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. (IST).

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry shares a deep connect with TAITRA. In this context, The Chamber partnered with TAITRA in the aforementioned programme.

The Session focused on:

- Taitra's Online Trade service and introduction
- Introducing Alexandave, a leading Taiwanese firm
- Fitness Industry in India and Taiwan.

Ms. Ritika Nandy, Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA delivered the formal Welcome Address. Ms. Emi Wu, Alexandave Industries Ltd; Mr. Darshann Kayan, Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA and Mr. Arkadeb Datta, Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA were part of the Session.



Meeting in progress

TAIWAN EXPO 2020 IN INDIA

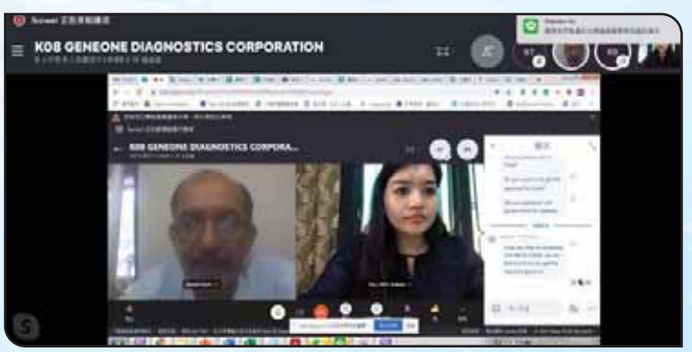
16TH & 17TH DECEMBER 2020, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized Taiwan Expo 2020 in India with the best Taiwanese Suppliers from various industries, such as, Medical, ICT, Agricultural and Food Products, Green Energy, Biotechnology, Sports Products and Health on virtual platform on 16th and 17th December 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The objective of the aforesaid Expo was to facilitate opportunities to expand trade cooperation in the Asian region.

It was one-on-one online business session through video conferencing with the Taiwanese companies.

AMRI Hospitals and **Cleotech Energy Pvt Ltd** –the esteemed stakeholders of The Bengal Chamber and **EzeRx Health Tech Pvt. Ltd.**, one of the incubates of WEBEL-BCC&I Tech Incubation Centre took part in the business session.



Meeting in progress



Meeting in progress

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY FREDDY SVANE, AMBASSADOR OF DENMARK TO INDIA ON "SUSTAINABLE URBAN REGENERATION MODEL PLAN FOR THE CITY OF KOLKATA AND THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL" DURING BCC&I MANAGING COMMITTEE MEETING

20TH JANUARY 2021, PHYGITAL

During The Managing Committee Meeting of The Chamber on 20th January 2021, The President Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, introduced His Excellency Freddy Svane, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to India, and also Ambassador to Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Nepal, who participated in the meeting virtually. This was his second tenure in India and this region, the first one being in 2010-2015. Among his various roles, he was CEO of Danish Agriculture Council (2008-2010).

The President advised that The Bengal Chamber would like to set up an Urban Regeneration Lab for the City of Kolkata in association with The Danish Embassy towards sharing of best practices and learnings in civic infrastructure and development. Kolkata being a heritage city with a rich legacy, the Chamber needs to focus on its regeneration to ensure that the city grows and is a part of the global success story going forward. The Chamber would like to build this Lab keeping two fundamental principals in mind:

(1) Sustainable Practices:- Keeping in mind the Sustainable Development Goals as envisioned by the UN as part of the SDG-17 goals for 2030. Hence, The Chamber was also embarking on an exercise of building a vision - "Vision Bengal 2030", and

(2) Resilient Ecosystem:- Through the Living Urban Lab that was being proposed to be created along with the Danish Embassy; The Chamber wished to build a strong and resilient urban eco-system.

The President thereafter invited His Excellency, Freddy Svane, Ambassador of Denmark to India, to address the Members present.

The following are the highlights of His Excellency Freddy Svane's address:

Having spent his first tenure in India he has been familiar with Kolkata and Bengal. Kolkata was not just a city but a gateway to the North East; with the Bay of Bengal being the other gateway to explore opportunities in South East Asia.

Currently the Danish Embassy was working in Udaipur and Goa in the context of aiding the"Urban Living Lab". Towards sustainable growth and development of a future oriented city and civic amenities and infrastructure facilities, Denmark can offer and help immensely for which he was interested to meet in person to discuss in detail and take the proposed collaboration further. He was interested to look into what was being planned for "Vision Bengal 2030" for Kolkata and for Bengal and was ready to extend whatever help required. He felt that perhaps a common project could also be developed with KPIs set up to take this collaboration further.

Sustainable goals now need to be taken on at the ground level and worked upon and he would be interested in looking at the various solutions available in hand as he believed that there are plenty of opportunities to be explored.

The Session concluded with Mr. Subir Chakraborty, Senior Vice President, extending a formal Vote of Thanks to His Excellency.



Ongoing Managing Committee meeting in a hybrid mode



Members physically attending the Managing Committee meeting



His Excellency Freddy Svane, Ambassador of Denmark to India interacting with the members of the Managing Committee

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY FREDDY SVANE, AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK TO INDIA

18TH FEBRUARY 2021, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with His Excellency Freddy Svane, Ambassador of The Kingdom of Denmark to India on 18th February 2021 at The Bengal Chamber premises.

His Excellency graced the session along with Mr. Steen Malthe Hansen, Head of Political and Economic Section, Royal Danish Embassy in India; Ms. Smita Bajoria, Honorary Consul General, Royal Danish Consulate, Kolkata; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry .

The Session was attended by the senior members of the Managing Committee of The Bengal Chamber.

The programme was commenced with the Formal Welcome Address by Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President, The Bengal Chamber. Mr. Mukherjee stated that the proposed Urban Regeneration Lab would be based on the concept of a living lab which would perpetuate an inclusive city with characteristics of resilience and equitable. The Chamber would like to engage with the Embassy of Denmark in India for learning and best practices in this area. The Chamber is willing to take up exchange programmes on resource efficiency and other related capacity building with the Embassy to facilitate this mission.

His Excellency, during his address, highlighted the areas in which the collaborations with India may be explored - renewable energy; water; agriculture; technology startups; health tech especially robotics; fintech and urban regeneration. He mentioned that urban living labs are early experimentation gardens, embedded in neighbourhoods and cities in which residence, Governments, private sectors and knowledge institutions interact to design, test and fine-tune social and technical interventions in real life. There has been a growing up take of the living lab method for participatory urban initiatives since, focusing on four key functions, such as experimentation; engagement; co-creation; and learning to help reverse the degeneration of urban settlements and bring about urban regeneration. The Ambassador also mentioned that only 4 percent of water is pushed into distribution network in Denmark is unaccounted due to leaks and other factors where as in most Indian cities it is about 50 per cent. Denmark would love to work with Indian cities to reduce the volume of unaccountable water. His Excellency also stated that he is willing to be associated with the Chamber's initiative of Vision Bengal 2030 wherein the Chamber looks forward to bring in expertise/technologies and skills of Denmark to implement with the scale of India.

The programme was followed by vibrant interactive session with the members of the Chamber.



Ms. Smita Bajoria, Honorary Consul General, Royal Danish Consulate, Kolkata; Mr. Steen Malthe Hansen, Head of Political and Economic Section, Royal Danish Embassy in India; His Excellency Freddy Svane, Ambassador of The Kingdom of Denmark to India; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Distinguished audience

ONLINE SEMINAR ON TAIWAN'S ICT, SMART MEDICAL AND EV INDUSTRY

25TH MARCH 2021, VIRTUAL

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), organized an Online Seminar on Taiwan's ICT, Smart Medical and EV Industry on 25th March 2021, Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (IST).

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry shares a deep connect with TAITRA. In this context, The Chamber was partnering with TAITRA in the aforementioned programme.

The Session focused on:

- **TAITRA's Online Trade service and Introduction**
- **Taiwan's ICT Industry**
- **Taiwan's Smart Medical Industry**
- **Taiwan's EV Industry**

Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA) delivered the formal Welcome Address. **Ms. Ambalika Ganguli,** TAITRA addressed on TAITRA's Service in Taiwan's Smart Medical Industry. **Ms. Debalina Pramanik,** Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA shared her perspectives on Taiwan's ICT Industry and **Ms. Ritika Nandy,** Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA addressed on Taiwan's EV Industry. The Session was followed by vibrant interactive session.





Meeting in progress

INTERACTIVE BUSINESS SESSION WITH THE DELEGATION FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA IN INDIA

9TH APRIL 2021, WILLIAMSON MAGOR HALL, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Business Session with the Delegation from The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India on 9th April 2021, Friday at the Chamber.

The Delegation was led by **His Excellency Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay**, The Chargé d'affaires for The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India; **Ms. Annie Yulianti**, First Secretary (Economic), Delhi and **Mr. Bona Kusuma**, Trade Attache, The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi. **Mr. Mahesh Saharia**, Honorary Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Kolkata also graced the Session. Senior Members and Stakeholders of the Chamber from various sectors-agriculture, energy, health, mining, textiles participated in the Session. (MC Members present) were present among others.

His Excellency Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay shared his objectives of visiting Kolkata. As stated by him, Indonesia has strong bilateral relationship with India. Indonesia has emerged as the second largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN. In 2018, the visit by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Jakarta marked the pinnacle of collaboration between the countries. India and Indonesia have elevated their bilateral ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

His Excellency emphasized that there is further room to strengthen the trade relationship between India and Indonesia. Trade relations with Indonesia have been driven largely due to its surplus endowment of natural resources. At present, India has $20 billion total trade of Indonesia with $10 billion of Trade Surplus in coal and palm. His Excellency stated that India and Indonesia have agreed to join the Trade Agreement after India pulling out from RCEP. Due to the pandemic, the process has been slowed down however, the preparations are in progress. The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India would like to go extra miles to support the relationship between the two countries. Indonesia would like to diversify the business portfolios. In diversifying trade on the Indonesian side, a number of products have been given access to India- red meat, pharmaceuticals, dairy, rice, sugar etc. Energy Security is very important in Indonesia. Working Groups of various sectors would facilitate progress of trade. His Excellency mentioned about Indonesia's focus on increasing business with India not only by increasing the exports but also the imports by the way of channelizing its deficits with some other countries. The Session accentuated the importance of connectivity between the two countries.

In terms of connectivity, more emphasis is being given to air connectivity. The number of flights from India to Indonesia and vice-versa needs to be increased. His Excellency is already in discussions with Port and Airport Authorities to increase the connectivity between India and Indonesia.

Mr. Mahesh Saharia stated that in ASEAN, Indonesia has 1/3rd weightage in GDP and population. In 15 years, the trade of Indonesia has grown to $20 billion. India realizes the potential with Indonesia in bilateral agreement. Mr Saharia also mentioned that more progress has to be achieved in terms of air connectivity and maritime connectivity between India and Indonesia.

The Session was followed by the vibrant interactions with the members and stakeholders of the Chamber. The Chamber shall collate the inputs/queries of the members and shall share the same with the Embassy to seek their guidance based on various sectors which have opportunities of bilateral business between India and Indonesia. Director General proposed alliance of Chambers to facilitate more bilateral business.



L-R: Mr. Mahesh Saharia, Honorary Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Kolkata; His Excellency Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay, The Chargé d'affaires for The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India; Ms. Annie Yulianti, First Secretary (Economic), The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi; Mr. Bona Kusuma, Trade Attache, The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi



Distinguished audience



Dr. Rabin Chakraborty, Chairperson – Health Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Senior Vice Chairman - Cardiology Services & Senior Consultant Interventional, Cardiologist, Medica Superspecialty Hospital presenting memento to His Excellency Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay, The Chargé d'affaires for The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India



His Excellency Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay, The Chargé d'affaires for The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India presenting memento to Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

ONLINE B2B MEETING WITH TAIWANESE COMPANIES

22ND APRIL 2021, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized Online B2B Meetings with leading Taiwanese Companies from various sectors on 22nd April 2021, Thursday.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry shares a deep connect with TAITRA. In this context, The Chamber was partnering with TAITRA in the aforementioned B2B Session.

The companies, representing Taiwan, were:

- German Solar Asia Co. Ltd.
- Chien Hua Paper Pipe Co. Ltd.
- Goalead International Co. Ltd.
- Hermes Global Co. Ltd.
- Ho Cheng Safety Enterprise Co. Ltd.
- Orient Development Enterprises Ltd.
- Ficer Technology Co. Ltd.
- Hsin Ho Mfg. Co. Ltd.
- Songxin Taipei Tech Solutions Co. Ltd.

The programme was commenced with the formal Opening Remarks by Mr Sambit Dasgupta, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Dasgupta addressed on "The Business Prospects between West Bengal and Taiwan". Mr. Steven Liu, Director, TAITRA delivered his presentation on "Brief introduction of India" to the Taiwanese delegates.

The Bengal Chamber facilitated dedicated B2B meetings of few of its esteemed members and stakeholders: Amit International; Chloride Power Systems and Solutions Ltd.; Energy Efficiency Services Limited; Enveron; International Export House; Lintas Packaging Pvt. Limited; Navitas Green Solutions Pvt. Ltd. with the Taiwanese companies.



Online B2B meeting in progress

SHORT TERM ONLINE CERTIFICATE COURSE ON BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE

5TH JUNE ONWARDS, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the support of Japan Foundation, New Delhi has successfully launched Short Term Online Certificate Course on Business Communications in Japanese Language with 30 participants from corporates like PwC India, PwC SDC, Exide, Indian Oil (Bangladesh) and also MSMEs and Start Ups.

Ms. Pampa Saha Roy, Japanese Language Faculty has been assigned by Japan Foundation, New Delhi.

The Chamber has embarked on this initiative for the business professionals to provide them with the ability to demonstrate goodwill and facilitate international communication at both personal and organizational levels and to enable them to build association and strengthen relationships with the Japanese collaborators and to empower the students to explore their career opportunities related to Japanese Companies or companies having Japanese stakeholders. It would be 60 hours course with weekend morning classes (4 hours per week, total 15 weeks, number of classes: 30.

The Orientation Session of the course was held on 5th June 2021, Saturday.

Ms. Yoko Kanagae, Japanese Language Adviser, Japan Foundation, New Delhi was the Observer, being present in the class on 13th June 2021.

Joint Certificate by The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Japan Foundation, New Delhi will be provided to all participants on successful completion of the course and clearing of the assessment held post completion of the training programme.



Orientation Session in progress



Ms. Yoko Kanagae, Japanese Language Adviser, Japan Foundation, New Delhi gracing the Session

ONLINE WEBINAR FOR THE INDIA BUSINESS COMMUNITY - "HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL STORY FOR ASIA AND THE WORLD

15TH JUNE 2021, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Singapore, in association with **The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I)** organized an Online Webinar on **"Hong Kong's Financial Story for Asia and the World"** on **15th June 2021.**

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in Singapore is a representative office of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) in India and three ASEAN countries, namely Laos, Singapore and Vietnam. Their office is responsible for fostering the bilateral relations between Hong Kong and these four countries, including investment promotion, enhancing people's ties and exchanges.

With the largest youth population in the world and growing middle class, the Indian market presents enormous potential for the world, including Hong Kong. Hong Kong – an international financial centre enjoying competitive edges in a wide range of financial services – will complement with Indian companies' strategies to expand overseas and go international.

Targeting at business leaders and senior representatives from companies in India that are looking for business expansion and internationalisation, the webinar comprised two parts, first a **Keynote Address by Mr. Christopher Hui, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the HKSARG** and followed by **a Panel Discussion** by **Mr. Rashesh Shah, Chairman of Edelweiss Group and Mr. Rohit Gupta, Chief Executive of ICICI Bank Hong Kong** who are the key players working with/in the financial services sector in India. The session was moderated by **Mr. Stephen Phillips, Director-General of Investment Promotion of the HKSARG.**

Mr. Christopher Hui, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the HKSARG shared despite COVID19 Hong Kong's GDP growth has been 7.9%. He also focused on why Hong Kong is an important part of their institutions' business strategy in providing financial services in the region; how Hong Kong's institutional strengths, financial infrastructures, and market opportunities have benefitted their business operations and growth. Hong Kong also focused on Green and Sustainable Finance. The roadmap for Hong Kong's financial sector is to promote diversified development.

Mr. Rashesh Shah, Chairman of Edelweiss Group mentioned Hong Kong is an important financial hub and plays an instrumental role for maintaining the bilateral economic relations between India and Hong Kong.

Mr. Rohit Gupta, Chief Executive of ICICI Bank Hong Kong also mentioned that Hong Kong is the financial gateway for multiple corridors of North Asian countries where there is availability of immense market opportunities and talent pool.



Mr. Wong Chun emceeing the Online Webinar on "Hong Kong's Financial Story for Asia and the World on 15th June 2021



(Top L-R) Mr. Stephen Phillips, Director-General of Investment Promotion of the HKSARG, moderating the Panel Discussion. The panelists are Mr. Rohit Gupta, Chief Executive of ICICI Bank Hong Kong, Mr. Christopher Hui, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the HKSARG and Mr. Rashesh Shah, Chairman of Edelweiss Group



Mr. Christopher Hui, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the HKSARG delivering the Keynote Speech

ONLINE SEMINAR ON TAIWAN'S MACHINERY AND STEEL INDUSTRY

17TH JUNE 2021, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized an Online Seminar on Taiwan's Machinery and Steel Industry on 17th June 2021.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry shares a deep connect with TAITRA. In this context, The Chamber was partnering with TAITRA in the aforementioned programme.



His Excellency Baushaun Ger, Representative, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center, India delivering the Formal Welcome Address

The programme commenced with the formal Welcome Address by His Excellency Baushaun Ger, Representative, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center, India. Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Director & Head- Operations, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressed on "Opportunities between West Bengal and Taiwan". Ms. Eshani Ghosh, Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA shared her perspective on "TAITRA'S Service & Taiwan Machinery Industry". Ms. Shazia Kazmi, Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA addressed on "Taiwan's Steel Industry".



Meeting in progress



Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Director & Head- Operations, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry gracing the session

MEETING WITH MS. ROWAN AINSWORTH, AUSTRALIAN CONSUL GENERAL, KOLKATA

18TH JUNE 2021, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a meeting with Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Australian Consul General, Kolkata on 18th June 2021 in The Bengal Chamber premises. Ms. Ainsworth was accompanied by Ms. Angelina Nair, Senior Research and Visits Officer, Australian Consulate General, Kolkata.

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Director and Head-Operations, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry were present in the meeting.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss about the possible areas of synergies between the Chamber and the Australian Consulate General, Kolkata.



Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Australian Consul General, Kolkata (M) visiting The Calcutta Gallery with Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (R) and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. (L)



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Australian Consul General, Kolkata



L-R: Ms. Angelina Nair, Senior Research and Visits Officer, Australian Consulate General, Kolkata; Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Australian Consul General, Kolkata; with Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

SESSION WITH MS. PATRICIA HOFFMAN, CONSUL GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN KOLKATA AT THE CHAMBER'S MANAGING COMMITTEE MEETING

24TH JUNE 2021, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

During The Managing Committee Meeting on 24th June 2021, BCC&I President formally introduced Ms. Patricia Hoffman, the Consul General of the United States of America for the Kolkata Consular District who had taken charge in August 2018, to the Managing Committee Members. Ms. Hoffman had come over from Washington DC and after having served in places like London, Quito and Rio de Janerio.

In his Welcome Address, the President spoke about the close working relationship of The Bengal Chamber with the US Consulate General and the US Commercial Centre, Kolkata. He also highlighted the initiatives which had been taken up by The Chamber with the Consulate during her tenure and in the past as well.

Ms. Hoffman expressed her sincere thanks and appreciation to The Chamber for having invited her for an interaction as she was preparing to move out of Kolkata at the conclusion of her tenure. She was happy to take the opportunity to reflect on the growing India-US relationship and to express her appreciation to The Bengal Chamber for its valued partnership in strengthening bilateral economic ties in Eastern India. She thankfully acknowledged the support extended by The Chamber in 2019 during the visit of the high-profile Trade Winds business delegation from the US and for the support extended during the programme 'Zoohackathon-2019', which addressed issues of wildlife trafficking.

Ms. Hoffman's engrossing address covered several aspects ranging from Indo-US bilateral relations, Covid-19 and vaccination related partnerships, partnership in the sustainability sphere, climate change and clean energy related matters to the eclectic experiences from her extensive tours to all the districts of the State of West Bengal as well as the North and the North East. The highlights are given below:

- India-US strategic partnership had continuously improved over the last few decades and the last 4 years had seen an acceleration of the diplomatic co-operation, which had inspired the leadership of the two countries to declare this as a Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership in February 2020.

- The United States had continued to co-operate with India at the highest levels on many fronts including defense, climate change, energy, trade and investment, environment, health, education, science and technology, agriculture, space, oceans and many more.

- The Consul General spoke in detail about the strong COVID related collaborations between the two countries, partnerships built and support extended with regard to vaccines, technologies, training and other aspects.

- She spoke at length on the bilateral efforts to address issues concerning climate change, clean energy partnerships and cross-border power issues in India as also the USAID's Forest Management Projects and programmes with the Ministries of Environment & Forest and Climate Change of India.

- The Consul General spoke about the encouraging trend of growth in bilateral trade and investments between the two countries, substantiating the same statistically.

In conclusion, the Consul General once again thanked everyone present and The Chamber for the support extended to the US Consulate over the years and hoped that her successor would also continue receiving the same going ahead, reiterating that it was her pleasure to have interacted with many business leaders during her tenure in Kolkata.

The Consul General's address was followed by an Open House Session.

The Meeting concluded with the President extending his appreciation and sincere thanks to Ms. Patricia Hoffman for having spared her time and for sharing her thoughts. The President, on behalf of all Members of The Chamber and on his personal behalf, conveyed his good wishes to Ms. Hoffman for all her future endeavours going forward.



Ms. Patricia Hoffman, Consul General of the United States of America in Kolkata gracing the Session



Ms. Patricia Hoffman, Consul General of the United States of America in Kolkata (L) with Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (R)



Ms. Patricia Hoffman, Consul General of the United States of America in Kolkata (L) with Mr. Indrajit Sen, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (R)



Ms. Patricia Hoffman, Consul General of the United States of America in Kolkata (First Row R) with Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (First Row L) and Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Second Row)

DOING BUSINESS IN THAILAND- GATEWAY TO ASEAN

7th July 2021, Virtual Platform

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Thailand Board of Investment organized an online session on '**Doing business in Thailand- Gateway to ASEAN' on 7th July 2021. The focus of the session is to** strengthen connections with Indian companies, introduction to the Board of Investment (BOI) and create awareness about the investment opportunities and government support measures for a company.

Ms. Sweeya Santipitaks, Consul-General, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Kolkata in her Opening Remarks mentioned about focus sectors of Indian Companies like food processing, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, manufacturing, biodegradable products, organic chemicals, food ingredients and flavouring, renewable energy, IT, agriculture and others have a potential market in Thailand. Indian business can depend on Thailand as a prospective business partner for stability, growth and sustainability.

Mr. Nanthapol Sudbanthad, Director Consul, Thailand Board of Investment, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Mumbai made a presentation on how BOI provides business support services and the Targeted Industries of Investment Promotion. Thailand's strategic location makes it an Investors' Gateway to Asia. Thailand's flagship Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will accelerate future growth of the region. Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECi) will provide infrastructure and innovation ecosystem which is scheduled to officially open in 2021. The target industries include modern agriculture, biorefinery, battery and modern transports, aviation and medical devices will also offer tax incentives and privileges.



Ms. Sweeya Santipitaks, Consul-General, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Kolkata



Mr. Nanthapol Sudbanthad, Director Consul, Thailand Board of Investment

SOUTH ASIA BUSINESS DAY 2021

25TH AUGUST 2021, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with **The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, hosted South Asia Business meeting on 25th August 2021 from 10.00 am-3:30 pm, virtually.**

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry shares a deep connect with TAITRA. In this context, The Chamber was partnering with TAITRA in the aforementioned programme.

The objective was to organize one-on-one B2B meetings with the leading Taiwanese suppliers, representing the industries, such as, Medical; ICT; Machinery; Hand Tools, Bicycles; Green Technology; Biotechnology; Fitness Equipment and Water Treatment Equipment.

Around 20 Indian Companies joined the meetings.





Meeting in progress

DISCUSSION ON GENDER EQUITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE WITH FOCUS ON COP26 AND SUNDARBANS

28TH SEPTEMBER 2021, THE CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with The British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata, organized a Discussion Forum with **Mr. Alex Ellis**, British High Commissioner to India on **Gender Equity and Climate Change with Focus on Cop26 and Sundarbans on 28th September 2021 in the Bengal Chamber premises.** The forum was also graced by **Mr. Nick Low**, British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata.

The Bengal Chamber Leadership was present including **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited; **Mr. Subir Chakraborty**, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited; **Mr. Abraham George Stephanos**, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited; **Mr. Gautam Ray**, Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee and Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG; **Mr. Arnab Basu**, Chairperson, IT Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Advisory Leader & Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd sharing their perspectives.

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee moderated the discussions which were also joined by **Ms. Shakuntala Ghosh**, Principal Architect and Partner of M/s. Ghosh, Bose & Associates (GBA); **Mr. Jayanta Basu,** Environment journalist, The Telegraph; **Ms. Sumana Banerjee,** Project Manager, UKRI-GCRF Living Deltas Hub, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University; **Dr. A. Anurag Danda,** Director, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – India Sunderbans Programme and Senior Visiting Fellow at Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata; **Ms. Soma Saha,** Community Specialist, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – India Sunderbans Programme; **Ms. Reema Banerjee ,** Programme Director – East, Centre for Environment Education and **Ms. Arpita Mukherjee**, Gender Specialist in rural India-Director Operations- Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage.

British High Commissioner to India, Mr. Alex Ellis stated that the challenge of putting the world on a path to global warming of 1.5 degree Celsius is a task for everyone. Inclusion is essential for success both for mitigation of climate change adaptation, for example, building the resilience of climate vulnerable communities in the Sundarbans and elsewhere.

The discussions focused on understanding the inter-relationships between gender equality and climate action and on discussing best practices and strategies to close the gender gap. The participants shared with the High Commissioner how the UK work on Living Deltas Hub is addressing gender equality in Sundarbans.



Distinguished dignitaries



L-R: **Mr. Subir Chakraborty**, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited; **Mr. Abraham George Stephanos**, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited; by **Mr. Nick Low**, British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata; **Mr. Alex Ellis** , British High Commissioner to India; **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited; **Mr. Gautam Ray**, Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee and Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG; **Mr. Arnab Basu**, Chairperson, IT Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Advisory Leader & Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.

TAIWAN EXPO 2021

27TH TO 29TH OCTOBER 2021, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with **The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I)**, had organized **Taiwan Expo 2021** from **27th to 29th October**, on virtual platform. This Expo had exhibitors from different industrial sectors of Taiwan - Home life accessories, Industrial testing & safety equipment, Furniture hardware, Information communication, Tours & Travel to name a few. Some prominent Taiwanese companies which were present in the event included **Jye Lian Technologies Ltd**, **Sheng Yuan Electric Co. Ltd.**, **Bam Boo Lai Ltd., Kuching Travel Service Co**, **Yuden Tech**, **OncQue Corporation** etc.

The main objective of the event was to **develop bilateral trade relations between India and Taiwan and widen the connection between the two countries, both economically and culturally.** This was done by conducting dedicated, one-to-one B2B meetings between the Taiwanese exhibitors and relevant and potential Indian buyers engaged in manufacturing, distributing and providing the same line of products or services.

Through some intense **primary and secondary market surveys**, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) was able to connect with around **108 Indian units** located across India. By informing them about the event and helping them realize how fruitful the meetings can be for them and India as a whole, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) was able to organize a total of **46 one-to-one B2B meetings.**

The opening ceremony of the event was hosted in Taiwan. In Kolkata, the event was coordinated from the **King's Bakery, Kolkata**. The event commenced at **10.00 AM (IST)** on **27th October** and the opening ceremony was followed by the one-to-one B2Bs. A total of **18 meetings** were conducted virtually on that day. Some eminent Indian organizations which were a part of this event on 27th were **Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)**, **Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Ltd.**, **Vinayak Group**, **Klystron Electronics**, **SAGS Control Pvt. Ltd.**, **Shree Ganesh Enterprise**, **Exciting Tales** etc.

On **28th October**, electrical goods wholesalers like **HL Engineering Corporation**, construction companies like **Merlin Projects Ltd.**, **Belani Group** and **Orbit Projects Pvt. Ltd.**, travel companies like **Cirrus Adventures** and **Tour My India**, bamboo construction and bamboo product companies like **Go-Bamboos**, **Meera International**, **Manmayee handicrafts** and companies like **Navitus Controls**, **Cosmos Engineering Works**, **DB Products & Systems**, etc were present in the meetings. A total of **22 meetings** virtually were organised on this day.

29th October was the last day of the event on which, a total of **6 virtual meetings** were conducted. On this day, sanitaryware wholesalers like **Bengal Sanitations**, electrical goods wholesalers like **Ganguly Electricals**, construction companies like **Ambrus Construction**, travel and M.I.C.E companies like **Wizard Events** and **Sai Dot Com**, companies like **Viotech Electrical Pvt. Ltd.** were present in the meetings.

The event was witnessed live by a lot of visitors out of which The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry coordinated and facilitated more than **150 visitors registration** and **viewing**. The companies and the viewers who took part in the event gained knowledge about the international markets and shared their thoughts with each other. The stakeholders of the 3-day expo were pleased with the efforts of TAITRA and The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry to expand the trade relations between India and Taiwan, and wished for more such events in the future.



The Bengal Chamber Secretariat along with the team of Taipei World Trade Centre Kolkata and other stakeholders present at King's Bakery, Kolkata during the Opening Ceremony of Taiwan Expo 2021



The Bengal Chamber Secretariat at King's Bakery on the first day of Taiwan Expo 2021



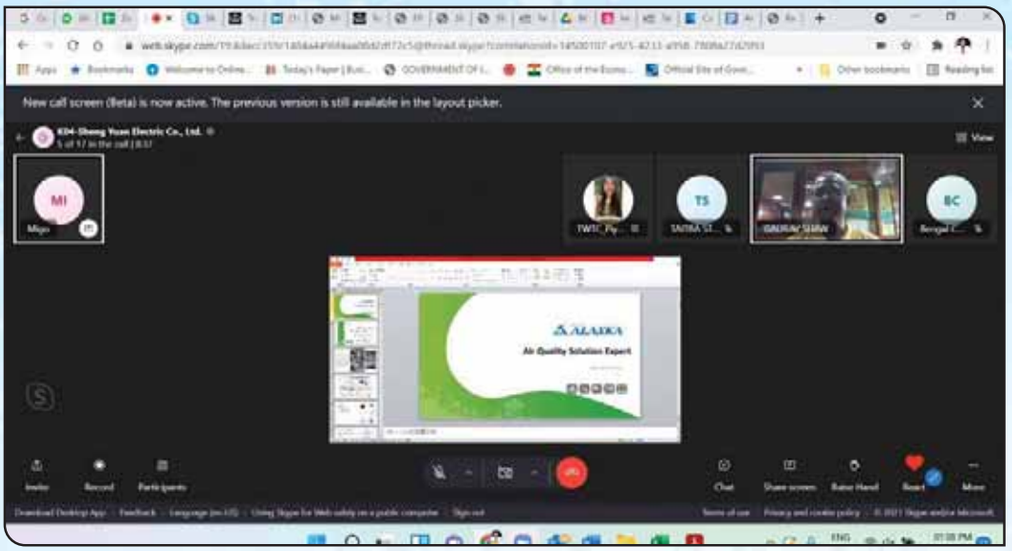
The Bengal Chamber Secretariat with Mr. Arup Bandhu Guha, Vice President, YANG MING LINE (INDIA) PVT. LTD. & Member, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry at King's Bakery on the first day of Taiwan Expo 2021



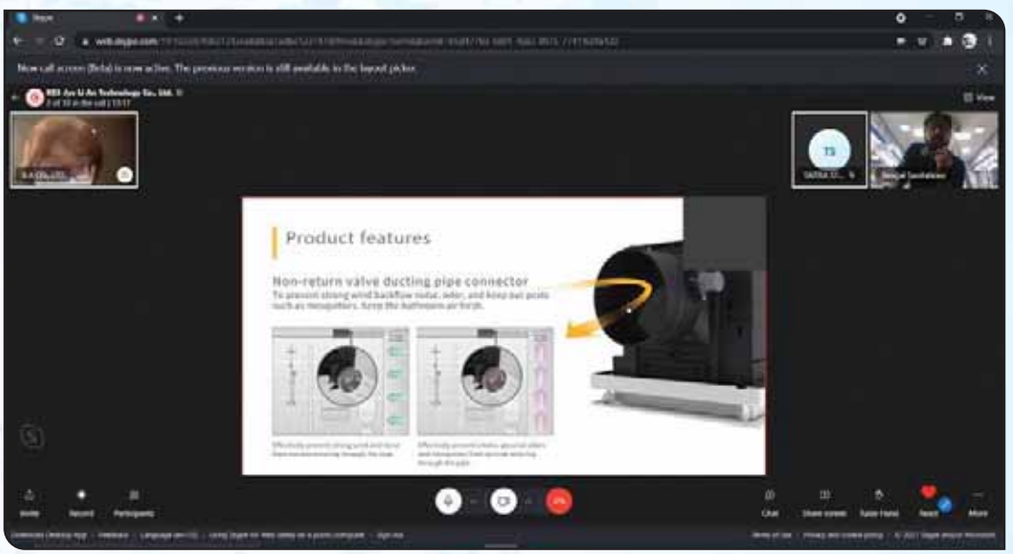
Meeting in progress



Meeting in progress



Meeting in progress



Meeting in progress



The Indian Companies visiting the virtual Exhibition

SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY ANDRE ARANHA CORREA DO LAGO, AMBASSADOR OF BRAZIL TO INDIA

16TH NOVEMBER 2021; WILLIAMSON MAGOR HALL, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised two sessions with His Excellency Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil to India on Tuesday, 16th November 2021 from 4:00 p.m. onwards at Williamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber premises.

His Excellency Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil to India visited The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, along with **Mr. Pradeep Khemka, Honorary Director and Treasurer of Consular Corps of Kolkata and Director, Khemka Group of Cos.** His Excellency addressed a round table meet on **"Built Heritage of Settlements around Kolkata"**. The programme started by showcasing a short film **"Europe on the Ganges", f**ollowed by a presentation on **"Architectural styles of Kolkata" by Mr. G M Kapur, Chairperson, Heritage Committee, BCC&I and State Convenor, INTACH** and another on **"Restoration of Danish Governor's house in Serampore" by Ms. Gopa Sen, Proprietor, The Designers,** who has worked on restoration of Danish Governor House, Serampore**.**

The second session was an exclusive interactive session with His Excellency Andre Aranha Correa do Lago and senior members of the Chamber and representatives from various sectors like **IT, Energy and Environment, Mining, Engineering & Manufacturing, Agriculture and Rural Development, Culture and Heritage, Education, Health and Pharmaceuticals, Shipping, and Defence, on "Potential Bilateral Synergies between India and Brazil".**

H.E. Lago tried to connect the similarities between Brazil and India, how both countries adopted an essential-centric economy that have boomed in the later years by efficiently producing its own essentials for the population, cheap and standard quality food, cars, clothing etc. Both of them are not competitors but are extremely complimentary to each other. He also mentioned about India's incredible revolution as the world leaders in the sectors of IT and Pharma.

His Excellency shared his views on how Brazil and India can work together on aspects of reducing GHG emissions, water conservation as Brazil brought a revolution in agri-tech, using innovative techniques that give the information about the right use of fertilizers and reduction in the use of chemicals. The Brazilian Ambassador was very keen to establish stronger ties between Bengal and Brazil, remembering the emotional connect of Football, especially admirers of Pele and supporters of the Brazilian national football team here in the lands of Bengal. His Excellency also announced that the Brazilian Embassy in India is going to organise a Large quiz on football with the schools of Kolkata, New Delhi. For which they are planning to bring Zico to India for the finals of that quiz. He tried to emphasize that India has a great scope in the Brazilian market for investments and collaborations. His Excellency concluded the session with the message that for both countries bilateral trade, joint ventures will be beneficial and as Brazil is working on technologies that bring social justice, India can adopt these and can work jointly towards sustainable economic development.

The programme was supported by G S Marketing Associates. It was widely appreciated by all the senior members of The Bengal Chamber and was well covered by media.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I welcoming His Excellency Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil to India along with Mr. Pradeep Khemka, Honorary Consul, Consulate of Brazil, Honorary Director and Treasurer of Consular Corps of Kolkata and Director, Khemka Group of Cos



(From L-R) Ms. Gopa Sen, Proprietor, The Designers, Mr. G M Kapur, Chairperson, Heritage Committee, BCC&I and State Convenor, INTACH, His Excellency Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil to India, and Mr. Pradeep Khemka, Honorary Director and Treasurer of Consular Corps of Kolkata and Director, Khemka Group of Cos



His Excellency Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil to India addressing the media



Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the Welcome address



Mr. Pradeep Khemka, Honorary Director and Treasurer of Consular Corps of Kolkata and Director, Khemka Group of Cos. delivering Special address



Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President, BCC&I, presenting memento to His Excellency Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil to India



(From L-R) Mr. G M Kapur, Chairperson, Heritage Committee, BCC&I and State Convenor, INTACH, Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President, BCC&I, His Excellency Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil to India, and Mr. Pradeep Khemka, Honorary Director and Treasurer of Consular Corps of Kolkata and Director, Khemka Group of Cos



Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President, BCC&I, presenting memento to Mr. Pradeep Khemka, Honorary Director and Treasurer of Consular Corps of Kolkata and Director, Khemka Group of Cos



Interactive session on "Potential Bilateral Synergies between India and Brazil" undergoing.

TAIWAN TRADE MISSION 1-ON-1 ONLINE MEETING

25TH NOVEMBER 2021

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), organized Taiwan Trade Mission 1-on-1 Online Meeting on 25th November 2021.

The objective of the programme was to organize dedicated B2B Meetings between the Taiwanese Companies from various industrial sectors, such as, air purifier, medical equipments, chemicals and materials, automobile parts, to name a few and Indian Counterparts to develop bilateral trade relations between India and Taiwan and widen the connection between the two countries, both economically and culturally.

Few prominent Taiwanese companies, present in the meeting:

- **HER SHINE PRECISION TECHNOLOGY CO. LTD**
- **JIMMAO INTERNATIONAL CORP.**
- **EVERFOCUS ELECTRONICS CORP.**

Through some intense secondary market research, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) was able to connect with around 90 Indian units located across India and organized a total of 30 one-to-one B2B meetings with some eminent Indian Companies, such as

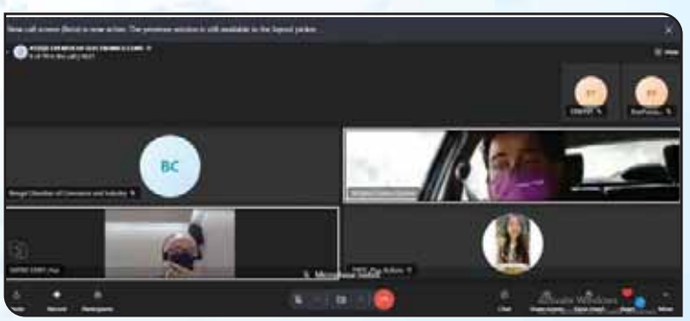
- **Asian Security & Fire Systems Limited**
- **Cadillac Engineering Works**
- **Ecoair**
- Infoage Technologies Pvt Ltd
- **IVL Dhunseri Petrochem Ind Pvt Ltd**
- **Garg Chemicals**
- **Omsys India**
- **Saicom Technologies**
- **Smartlock International**
- **Technomax Corporation**
- **TCE Enterprises Pvt Ltd**



The Bengal Chamber Secretariat at King's Bakery on the day of the programme



The Bengal Chamber Secretariat with the Taipei World Trade Centre Kolkata (TAITRA) team at King's Bakery on the day of the programme



Virtual Meeting in progress





Virtual Meeting in progress

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. ZHALIYOU, CONSUL GENERAL, THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN KOLKATA

18TH JANUARY 2022, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with **Mr. Zha Liyou**, Consul General, The Consulate of the People's Republic of China in Kolkata, on "**Business Opportunities with China**" on **18th January 2022** in virtual platform.

Mr. Liyou graced the session along with **Dr. Yang Xuhong**, Deputy General Manager, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited, Mumbai Branch and **Mr. Zhang Hongjie,** Economic and Commercial Consul, The Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Kolkata.

Mr. Nick Low, British Deputy High Commissioner of Kolkata joined the session.

The session was also attended by the senior members and stakeholders of the Chamber's Managing Committee and other Expert Committees.



Mr. Zha Liyou, Consul General, The Consulate of the People's Republic of China in Kolkata gracing the session



Mr. Zhang Hongjie, Economic and Commercial Consul, The Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Kolkata addressing the audience

Mr. Zha Liyou highlighted the scenario of China-India economic and trade cooperation in 2021 and the progress of bilateral cooperation in his consular area. He mentioned that Indian companies could firmly grasp the development trend of the Chinese market and be better prepared for more exchanges after the end of the pandemic.

Dr. Yang Xuhong presented the key areas and prospects of cooperation between Chinese and Indian enterprises. Dr. Yang stated that ICBC Mumbai Branch is the only Chinese bank that has been deeply involved in the Indian market for more than 10 years. It provides not only traditional global financial services, but also investment banking to help Indian start-up financing.

The programme was followed by vibrant interactive session. The discussion focused on business opportunities between the two countries, in the fields, including, farm produce, new energy, supply chain and cooperation between chambers of commerce.



Dr. Yang Xuhong, Deputy General Manager, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited, Mumbai Branch gracing the session



Distinguished audience

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR

19TH APRIL 2022, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry was invited to join a Luncheon Meeting, on **19th April 2022** with **Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund**, Ambassador of Norway to India and Delegation from Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi, who visited Kolkata for the Bengal Global Business Summit 2022.

The meeting was organized **by Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri**, Honorary Consul, Royal Norwegian Consulate in Kolkata. **Mr. GM Kapur**, State Convenor, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and Chairperson, Heritage Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry was also present in the meeting.

The Delegation included:

- **Mrs. Gina Lund**, Spouse of Ambassador Frydenlund, County Governor of Agder, Norway
- **Mr. Cristian V Carter**, Commercial Counsellor, Royal Norwegian Embassy and Head of Innovation, Norway-India
- **Ms. Undis Vatvedt Singh**, Advisor politics and business promotion, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi
- **Mr. Mohit Batra**, Country Head, Scandinavian Tourism Board India

The Chamber was represented by :

1. **Mr. Abraham George Stephanos**, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited.
2. **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited
3. **Dr. Sudipta De,** Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Jadavpur University and Member, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The discussions included possible collaborations in Industry-Academia interface; innovations, clean energy like hydrogen and other areas of mutual interest.



L-R- **Mr. G M Kapur**, State Convenor, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and Chairperson, Heritage Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh,** Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited; **Ms. Monica Maurud**, Project Manager, Escape Travel Norway; **Mrs. Gina Lund**, Spouse of **Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund**, Ambassador of Norway to India and County Governor of Agder, Norway; **Mr. Abraham George Stephanos**, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited; **Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund**, Ambassador of Norway to India; **Mr. Cristian V Carter**, Commercial Counsellor, Royal Norwegian Embassy and Head of Innovation, Norway-India; **Dr. Sudipta De,** Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Jadavpur University and Member, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Mohit Batra**, Country Head, Scandinavian Tourism Board India; **Ms. Undis Vatvedt Singh**, Advisor politics and business promotion, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi ; **Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri**, Honorary Consul, Royal Norwegian Consulate in Kolkata and **Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury,** Director and Head-Operations, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



L-R- **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh,** Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited; **Mr. Abraham George Stephanos**, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited; **Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund**, Ambassador of Norway to India; **Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri**, Honorary Consul, Royal Norwegian Consulate in Kolkata



Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited presenting memento to **Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund**, Ambassador of Norway to India



Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited with **Mrs. Gina Lund**, Spouse of **Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund**, Ambassador of Norway to India and County Governor of Agder, Norway



Meeting in Progress

B2B NETWORKING MEETINGS WITH THE DELEGATION FROM RUSSOFT

19TH APRIL 2022, SISTER NIVEDITA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, NEW TOWN, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized B2B Networking Meetings with the Delegation from RUSSOFT, who visited Kolkata for the Bengal Global Business Summit 2022.

The Delegation was led by **Mr. Valentin Makarov,** President of St. Petersburg-based Russoft and comprised of multisectoral Russian Companies:

- **ICL Group**
- **ScPAStarLine Ltd**
- **Electronics Developers and Manufacturing Association – EDMA**
- **IBIK LLC**

The Bengal Chamber was represented by:

- **Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya**, Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and CEO, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Debjit Chakraborty**, Member, IT Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Consulting Partner & Global Head- Cloud Advisory & Application Consulting Practices, Tech Mahindra.
- **Ms. Ina Bose**, Director - HR, Corporate Communications & Industry Connect, Sister Nivedita University- Techno India Group
- **Mr. Rajiv Mondal**, Incubate, WEBEL-BCC&I Tech Incubation Centre and CEO, Arogyam Medisoft Solution Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Rajat Biswas,** Incubate, WEBEL-BCC&I Tech Incubation Centre and Chief Marketing Officer, Aunwesha Knowledge Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Soumyajit Roy,** Incubate, WEBEL-BCC&I Tech Incubation Centre and Co-Founder, Solaire Initiatives.
- **Mr. Lalit Lakhani,** Managing Director, ASL Plastic Private Limited.
- **Mr. Nikhil Jaiswal**, General Manager- East, Green Base Industrial & Logistics Park
- **Mr. Shovankar Roy**, CEO, Ragilly Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Rajarshi Ghosh,** COO, Ragilly Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Kaushik Basu,** Director, VTL Electronics Limited

Mr. Valentin Makarov, President, St. Petersburg-based Russoft, stated that a number of Russian software companies are very keen to expand footprint and forge JVs in the BRICS nations and India appears to be the best potential partners for Russia to create and achieve technological goals. A total of 267 software companies from across Russia are part of Russoft, which was formed in 1999 with a consortium of only 10 entities. Around seven Russoft companies had 'stable partners' in India. The technology giants such as Microsoft, Intel, Dell and HP had development centres in Russia, and some of these companies had shut shop in the country after the invasion of Ukraine. **Mr. Makarov** also said that Russian IT companies can boost Indian firms with technological prowess- i.e. by including artificial intelligence (AI), automation of industrial production, cyber security, telemedicine and digital governance; by bringing AI in tax treatment, optimising traffic movement through software, economising electricity consumption and working on information systems for logistics. **Mr. Makarov** also emphasized on digital currency and a Rupee-Ruble payment mechanism to avoid dependence on U.S. dollar for international trade.

The session was followed by vibrant business-to-business meetings between the Russoft delegation and Indian companies.



Distinguished members of Russoft Delegation and distinguished members and stakeholders of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Head Table : Mr. Valentin Makarov, President of St. Petersburg-based Russoft with Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and CEO, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.



One of the members of Russoft Delegation addressing the audience



One of the Delegation member company ScPA StarLine Ltd has carried on their initial meeting synergy and met VTL electronics (one of the representative company from Indian side) for a possible tie up on their car tracker component. They have discussed future Technology Transfer and bulk production by VTL in India once international ISO is achieved by VTL. For the time being, they have proposed a trading tie up for marketing by VTL in Indian Markets



B2B Networking in progres



Media coverage of RUSSOFT Delegation B2B

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON "AUSTRALIA-INDIA ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE AGREEMENT"

25TH APRIL 2022, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized **Round Table Discussion on "Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement" on 25th April 2022 in The Bengal Chamber Premises.**

The Chamber was delighted to have **Ms. Rowan Ainsworth,** Consul General, Australian Consulate – General in Kolkata**; Mr. Hugh Boylan**, Economic and Public Affairs Counsellor, Australian High Commission, New Delhi and **Mr. Debarka Chakraborty**, Principal Consultant, MN Dastur & Company (P) Ltd. **Dr. Prabir De,** Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi graced the session virtually. **Mr. Abraham George Stephanos**, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited and other senior members and stakeholders were also present in the programme.

The session was commenced with the formal Welcome Address by **Mr. Abraham George Stephanos**, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited. He said that it is important for businesses to understand the opportunities unlocking from the trade agreement and the Chamber is actively acting as a facilitator.

Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Consul General, Australian Consulate – General in Kolkata shared the overview of the Foreign Trade Agreement (FTA). Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India and India is Australia's 9th largest trading partner. India and Australia, on 2nd April 2022 , had signed an economic cooperation and trade agreement under which Canberra would provide duty-free access in its market for over 6,000 broad sectors of India, including textiles, leather, furniture, jewellery and machinery. This agreement is likely to be implemented in about four months.

Mr. Hugh Boylan, Economic and Public Affairs Counsellor, Australian High Commission, New Delhi highlighted benefits of the deal, which would help in taking the bilateral trade from $27.5 billion at present to $45-50 billion in the next five years. This is the first trade agreement that India has signed with a developed economy after more than a decade.

Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi shared his perspectives on possible impacts of FTA on industries in both Australia and India and its bilateral trade. He stated that India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement is going to strengthen not only the bilateral trade between the two countries but also improve India's image in the world post-RCEP.



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited addressing the audience



Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Consul General, Australian Consulate – General in Kolkata sharing her overview on FTA



Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi gracing the session virtually

L-R - **Ms. Rowan Ainsworth**, Consul General, Australian Consulate – General in Kolkata; **Mr. Abraham G Stephanos**, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited; **Mr. Hugh Boylan**, Economic and Public Affairs Counsellor, Australian High Commission, New Delhi; **Mr. Debarka Chakraborty**, Principal Consultant, MN Dastur & Company (P) Ltd.; **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited





Mr. Debarka Chakraborty, Principal Consultant, MN Dastur & Company (P) Ltd addressing the audience



Mr. Abraham G Stephanos, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited addressing the audience



Distinguished audience



Senior members of the Chamber - **Mr. Indranil Dutta**, Co-Chairperson, Manufacturing and MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chief Executive Officer, Datre Corporation Limited; Mr. A Lahiri, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman, Trishul Engineering Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and **Mr. Digbijoy Chakraborty**, CEO and Managing Director, SunEco Tech Ventures Pvt. Ltd. presenting in the programme

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON "RUSSIA-UKRAINE : DYNAMICS OF GEOPOLITICS"

5TH MAY 2022, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a **Roundtable Discussion on "Ukraine : Dynamics of Geopolitics",** with **Air Chief Marshal (Rtd.) Arup Raha,** Honorary Member and Ambassadeur Extraordinaire, The Bengal Chamber and President, CENERS- K, on 5th May 2022 in The Bengal Chamber premises.

Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, Director, Centre for New Economic Diplomacy & ORF Kolkata Centre, Observer Research Foundation moderated the discussion forum.

The following discussions on Russia-Ukraine : Dynamics of Geopolitics, were made during the session :

The Russia-Ukraine war has generated a climate of fear rooted in Cold War geopolitics of mutual "mistrust" between Russia and the West. There are apprehensions that it may even extend up to the Indo-Pacific region.

India had taken a neutral, stance, born of its historic strategic partnership with Russia. This alliance is spread over several fronts—diplomacy, nuclear energy, and — making Russia a pivotal part of India's nation-building process.

Indian banks have small exposure to the two warring countries; but oil price surge above $100/bbl mark could impact India's current account deficit and inflation. A major setback for global economic growth has taken in place as Russia is one of the largest exporters of crude oil globally. India's trade, however, comprises only 1% oil imports from Russia, but there could be a spillover impact in the form of high inflation and sluggish growth.

Reserve Bank of India is giving extra ammunition to seek dominance in the changing world order as alternate payment and settlement mechanisms are explored. Russia's disconnect from trading partners in the world has created a void, which India would be able to fill in terms of exports.

With the increase in sanction against Russia, more opportunities are likely to open for India, for not only traditionally traded items, such as, pharmaceuticals; tea; rice etc, but also in newer areas like medical devices; software and hardware; transport, machinery; mobile and telecom devices; chemicals; textiles; leathers; ceramic and agriculture.

The proposed Rupee-Ruble payment mechanism could settle payment in non- dollar currencies among interesting jurisdictions of BRICS and SAARC Countries.

Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited presided over the programme.

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Dr. Abhijit Sen**, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other senior members of the the Managing Committee of the Chamber were present in the programme .



L-R: Dr. Abhijit Sen, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; **Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh**, Director, Centre for New Economic Diplomacy & ORF Kolkata Centre, Observer Research Foundation; with **Air Chief Marshal (Rtd.) Arup Raha,** Honorary Member and Ambassadeur Extraordinaire, The Bengal Chamber and President, CENERS- K; **Mr. Abraham George Stephanos,** President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited; **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee**, Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Distinguished Audience



Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited presenting memento to **Air Chief Marshal (Rtd.) Arup Raha,** Honorary Member and Ambassadeur Extraordinaire, The Bengal Chamber and President, CENERS-K



Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited presenting memento to **Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, Director,** Centre for New Economic Diplomacy & ORF Kolkata Centre, Observer Research Foundation

WEBINAR ON ICT AND IT INDUSTRY OF TAIWAN AND INDIA

5TH MAY 2022, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized a Webinar on "ICT and IT Industry of Taiwan and India" on 5th May 2022.

The session focused on Taiwanese ICT Industry and Indian IT Ecosystem and how they can co-exist in a mutually inclusive way.

The session was commenced with formal welcome address by **Ms. Elina H. L. Lee**, Executive Vice President, TAITRA, Taiwan. **Ms. Aunkita Nandi**, Co-founder & Managing Director, Tier5 Technology Solutions Pvt. Ltd. addressed on Opportunities in Indian IT Industries. **Ms. Debalina Pramanik**, Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA Kolkata and **Ms. Eshani Ghosh**, Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA Kolkata introduced ICT Industries of Taiwan and COMPUTEX Taipei Trade Show 2022.

The session was followed by a vibrant interactive session.



Ms. Elina H. L. Lee, Executive Vice President, TAITRA, Taiwan delivering the formal welcome address



Ms. Eshani Ghosh, Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA Kolkata addressing the audience



Ms. Aunkita Nandi, Co-founder & Managing Director, Tier5 Technology Solutions Pvt. Ltd. gracing the session

"TAIWAN ONLINE SOUTH ASIA BUSINESS DAY"

26TH MAY 2022, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), organized "South Asia Business Day 2022" on 26th May 2022 on virtual platform.

The programme featured dedicated one –on –one meeting between the Indian Buyers and exclusive leading suppliers from Taiwan, in the realm of various industries - Smart Medical; Smart/EV Bicycles; Smart Manufacturing; Smart Home Appliances.

Horsemen Energy, one of the incubates of WEBEL- BCC&I Tech Incubation Centre joined the meeting with Phihong Technology Co. Ltd.-(EV Charger), a leading supplier from Taiwan.



B2B Meeting in progress- Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata with the Indian Delegate



B2B meeting in progress

B2B SESSION : BUSINESS DELEGATION FROM DHAKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

27TH MAY 2022, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

A **47-member Business Delegation from Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI)** visited The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 27th May 2022, Friday. The Delegation was led by **Mr. Rizwan-ur Rahman**, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Bengal Chamber organized a B2B Session for the Delegate Members of DCCI, with the members and stakeholders of The Bengal Chamber.

About 123 Indian participants, from various Industries, registered for the B2B Session.

The business fraternities of both the countries extensively engaged over B2B Meetings and the potential collaborations would be discussed over virtual calls.

Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited and **Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh,** Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director and CEO, Bandhan Bank Limited presided over the programme.

The Business Delegation represented the following sectors:

- AGRO & Food Processing
- Banking & Financial
- Chemical
- Electronics
- Engineering
- Film Production
- FMCG & Beauty Products
- Healthcare & Medical Instruments
- Infrastructure
- IT, ITES & Telecommunications
- Leather & Footwear
- Plastic
- Power & Energy
- Real Estate
- RMG & Textile
- Tourism & Hospitality



The Business Delegation from Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry visiting The Calcutta Gallery



Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited delivering the formal Welcome Address



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director and CEO, Bandhan Bank Limited addressing the audience



Mr. Rizwan-ur Rahman, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the Collaboration Address



Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited presenting memento to **Mr. Rizwan-ur Rahman**, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Prasanta Kumar Dutt, Co-Chairperson, Legal Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Industry and Partner, Sandersons & Morgans presenting memento to **Mr. Rizwan-ur Rahman**, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Rizwan-ur Rahman, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting memento to **Mr. Subir Chakraborty,** President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited





Distinguished participants



Mr. Kamalesawar Mukherjee, Indian Film Director joined the B2B Meeting



B2B Meetings in progress.

WORKSHOP ON INDIA AUSTRALIA & INDIA UAE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT : ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA (IND-AUS ECTA) & COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (CEPA) WITH UAE-OVERVIEW, BENEFITS & WAY FORWARD

27TH MAY 2022, ZOOM PLATFORM

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry had organized a Workshop on India Australia & India UAE Free Trade Agreement, Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement with Australia (IndAus ECTA) & Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with UAE - Overview, Benefits & Way Forward, on 27th May, 2022 in Phygital Mode in The Bengal Chamber premises. Online participants joined via Zoom.

Opening remarks was given by Mr. Timir Baran Chatterjee, Chairperson, Indirect Taxes Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Senior Partner & Mentor, TCN Global & Economic Advisory Services LLP.

Address on Foreign Trade Policy was deliberated by Mr. Timir Baran Chatterjee, Chairperson, Indirect Taxes Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Senior Partner & Mentor, TCN Global & Economic Advisory Services LLP and Mr. Hardik Shah, Director, Deloitte India. Mr. Shah joined online.

Keynote Address on India Australia Free Trade Agreement, Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement with Australia (IndAus ECTA), was deliberated by Mr. Suhail Nathani, Managing Partner, Economic Laws Practice & Indian representative to the WTO trade appellate body.

Prof. Biswajit Nag, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi, who joined online deliberated on India UAE Free Trade Agreement, Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with UAE.

The deliberations after each session were followed by an interactive session with the participants. The Workshop was attended by close to 40 delegates.



Opening remarks by Mr. Timir Baran Chatterjee, Chairperson, Indirect Taxes Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Senior Partner & Mentor, TCN Global & Economic Advisory Services LLP



Address by Mr. Hardik Shah, Director, Deloitte India, on Free Trade Agreement





Audience at the Workshop

WORKSHOP ON INDIA AUSTRALIA & INDIA UAE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT : ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA (IND-AUS ECTA) & COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (CEPA) WITH UAE-OVERVIEW, BENEFITS & WAY FORWARD

27th May 2022, Zoom Platform



Address by Mr. Hardik Shah, Director, Deloitte India on Free Trade Agreement



Address by Mr. Suhail Nathani, Managing Partner, Economic Laws Practice & Indian representative to the WTO trade appellate body on India Australia Free Trade Agreement, Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement with Australia (IndAus ECTA)



Address by Prof. Biswajit Nag, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi

HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. CAMERON MACKAY, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA IN INDIA WAS AT THE BENGAL CHAMBER

3RD AUGUST 2022

His Excellency, Mr. Cameron MacKay, High Commissioner for Canada in India was at The Bengal Chamber on 3rd August 2022 for an interactive dinner. He was accompanied by Ms. Jennifer Kay, First Secretary, High Commission of Canada; Ms. Archana Mirajkar, Senior Media and Communications Officer, High Commission of Canada and Mr. Arjun Dutta, Trade Commissioner, Trade Office of Canada, Kolkata. Mr. Gautam Ray, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber and Executive Director, CESC Ltd. and Mr. Aniruddha Lahiri, Former President, The Bengal Chamber and Former Director, HUL and Senior VP, Unilever were present along with The Director General, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh and other senior members of the secretariat. The discussions centered around possible synergies on Agriculture, Infrastructure, Education, Clean Tech, ICT and Innovation.









MEETING WITH MR. DREW SCHUFLETOWSKI, MINISTER COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AFFAIRS, U.S. EMBASSY

18TH AUGUST 2022, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a meeting with Mr. Drew Schufletowski, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy in New Delhi on 18th August 2022 in The Bengal Chamber premises.

The discussions focused on the regional dynamics and also sectoral perspectives on knowledge, manufacturing, logistics, and the green economy.

The meeting was joined by Ms. Melinda Pavek, US Consul General, Kolkata and Ms. Sonia Laul, Consul for Political and Economic Affairs, US Consulate General in Kolkata. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited; Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited; Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Nitin Jain, Managing Director & VP - India & South East Asia, Vesuvius India Limited and Mr. Manojit Sengupta, Delivery Centre Head - Eastern Region, Tata Consultancy Services Limited participated in discussions. The meeting was also joined by Ms. Sangita Dey Chanda, Economic Specialist at U.S Consulate General, Kolkata, Ms. Pratnashree Basu, Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation and The Bengal Chamber Secretariat- Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director General; Ms. Soma Mitra Mukherjee, Director and Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Assistant Director. The members also shared their experiences of working in West Bengal.

President, BCC&I highlighted the availability of minerals and resources in eastern India and the importance of Kolkata with its connectivity advantage.

President-designate, BCC&I mentioned about the land availability from the Government of West Bengal. President also mentioned about mobility in India. India is one of the highest vehicle consumers, and a major shift to electric vehicles has been identified. Smart traffic management may offer opportunities in the future. He emphasized on potential of agriculture and related areas like food processing, cold chain, new technologies, etc. He appraised the diplomats against the general perception. West Bengal offers working convenience for industries and many industries thriving in the state. The Government of West Bengal is also engaging continuously to promote the offerings and address the perception. He also mentioned about the Chambers' involvement in these areas.

The wishlist suggested by Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee, where the Chamber may play a part :

- Image and ecosystem
- Value generation and taking research to market with a focus on commercialization and IP
- Green transformation
- Food-energy-water system

President, BCC&I shared about the need and the scope of technical training. President-designate, BCC&I mentioned about the courses in the format of dual certification from India and abroad initiated by Govt. of West Bengal.

Mr. Manojit Sengupta mentioned about the role of IT industries in the context of industries-academia connect, being enquired by the consul general on the sectoral importance of the same.



L-R : Ms. Pratnashree Basu, Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation; Mr. Nitin Jain, Managing Director & VP - India & South East Asia, Vesuvius India Limited; Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited; Mr. Drew Schufletowski, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy in New Delhi; Ms. Melinda Pavek, US Consul General, Kolkata; Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited; Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Manojit Sengupta, Delivery Centre Head - Eastern Region, Tata Consultancy Services Limited

MEETING WITH MR. DREW SCHUFLETOWSKI, MINISTER COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AFFAIRS, U.S. EMBASSY

18TH AUGUST 2022, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES



Meeting with Mr. Drew Schufletowski, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy in New Delhi in progress



Ms. Melinda Pavek, US Consul General, Kolkata interacting with Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited

ONLINE B2B MEETING WITH TAIWAN TRADE DELEGATION

25TH AUGUST 2022, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Taipei World Trade Center Liaison Office in Kolkata (TAITRA) in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), organized 1-on-1 B2B meetings with the Taiwanese Suppliers from various industries, on 25th August 2022 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on virtual platform. The aim of this B2B Session was to discuss all possible business collaborations between Taiwan and India.

Andrew Yule & Company Limited , one of the esteemed member companies of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, joined the aforesaid B2B meetings.



Meeting in progress.

MEETING WITH EVER CLEAR - TAIWANESE COMPANY

20TH SEPTEMBER 2022, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce of Industry, over the last couple of years, has worked closely with Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata, facilitating Taiwan's investment promotion. In continuation to the collaborative efforts, the Chamber organized a Luncheon B2B Meeting between Ever Clear, a Taiwanese environmental issue solution provider who is mainly concepted on high-quality wastewater treatment service and its Indian Counterparts, on 20th September 2022 at The Bengal Chamber Premises.

Ever-Clear has been established for more than 20 years, accumulated sufficient engineering experience and 314 engineering achievements and established standardized operation procedures. It specialises in industrial waste water treatment for removal of Bio-refractory organics. It undertakes industries including food, chemicals, optoelectronics, papermaking, textile dyeing and finishing, leather and pharmaceuticals, etc. Its technologies and services can meet the needs of wastewater treatment in various industries. Mr Yu Jen Huang, Head of R&D Department, Ever Clear attended the session along with Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre Kolkata (TAITRA) and other representatives of TAITRA.

Top level representatives of the relevant members and stakeholders companies of The Bengal Chamber joined the aforementioned meeting, viz-Aquatherm Water Treatment Pvt. Ltd.; Sunanda Environmental International Pvt Ltd; Swach Environment Limited; Water Tech & Enviro Solutions. Mr Huang, during the session, showcased the market and products of Ever Clear :

The business market of Ever Clear is mainly in industrial wastewater and organic waste gas treatment:

- Equipment manufacture for Wastewater/Sludge/ Underground Water/Organic waste gas treatment
- Existed wastewater or organic waste gas treatment plant upgrade or expansion
- Evaluation/Process Design/Detailed Design of Wastewater/Sludge/Underground Water/Organic waste gas treatment
- Turnkey of Wastewater/Sludge/Underground Water/Organic waste gas treatment
- Industrial wastewater reuse

Mr Huang highlighted the Key Technology of Ever Clear:

- A number of professional engineering design software is used to match the existing Upflow Anaerobic Sludge Bed (UASB), Anaerobic Fluidized Bed, BioNET(BioNET), Fluidized Bed Fenton, Electrolytic Reduction Fenton, Catalytic Feton and Fluidized Bed Six core technologies including crystallization reactor, tailor-made for customers to meet water quality discharge standards and cost-effective solutions.

- In response to the tightening of wastewater discharge standards, Ever Clear will assist customers in the integration and upgrade of anti-fouling systems.

Mr Huang also stated that Ever-clear cooperated with the Indian engineering company XH2O to build a new joint wastewater treatment plant project in the Vatva Industrial Park in Gujarat, India, with a daily processing capacity of 30,000 tons and a total amount of 47 crore INR.

The Session was interactive and thought provoking where various aspects of Wastewater Technology solutions, Industry specific problems, opportunities and challenges of the IndianIndustry sector, were discussed. Some areas of mutual interest were emphasized, where Ever Clear and Indian Counterpartscan work collaboratively:

- Surface Water Treatment
- Ground Water Treatment
- Possible technology promotion and business exploration in wastewater sectors specifically textile, pharma, food processing and also rural sewage treatment using Bionet Technology for recycle and reuse -reducing fresh water resources on sustainable basis.









MEETING WITH H.E. BAUSHUANGER, REPRESENTATIVE, TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CENTER IN INDIA

22ND SEPTEMBER 2022, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

H.E. BaushanGer, Representative, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India visited The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 15th September 2022 and had a luncheon meeting with Mr. Abraham Stephanos, President; Mr. Indrajit Sen and Mr. AmbarishDasgupta, Former Presidents; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General; Ms. AnganaGuha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber. He was accompanied by Madam Hui-Chen Chen Ger; Ms. Estela Chen, Executive Director; Ms. Allison Chao, Assistant Representative and Mr. Andy Jian, Assistant Representative, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India; Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata and other officials of the Centre. The Bengal Chamber was also represented by other senior officials.

HE BaushanGer, Representative, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India, spoke about beauty of the City of Kolkata and how it has changed from past.

He mentioned that India and Taiwan need FDI to increase bilateral business. Increase of trade will, in turn, encourage Taiwanese companies to set up industries in India of which West Bengal may take the benefit by attracting investors suitably.

According to HE BaushanGer, people in Taiwan understand India. But people of both countries do not visit each other much. This can be bridged if tourism is promoted by both the countries. Tea Tourism was suggested by him. Buddhist Tourism was suggested by Mr. Abraham Stephanos. People to people connect will also help in business collaborations. Organic foods also have scope of exporting from India as Taiwan imports 30% of the food they eat.

In the other South East Asian Countries, Taiwan's investment is significant. But such investments are still not visible in India. Investments of Taiwanese Companies from some of these countries may be channelized to India for interest of both Taiwan and India. Gaming industry also has great potential.

Banking Institutions from Taiwan need to come to India to encourage and facilitate Taiwanese companies operating here. Most of the Taiwanese companies are SMEs. Therefore, favourable financial support is needed by them. Currently there is only one bank operating in New Delhi and Chennai. The Bengal Chamber may also create a forum for capital financing from Taiwan.

There is a need to increase the awareness in India regarding the expertise of Taiwanese companies , though there are existing continuous B2B Meetings organized by Taiwan Liaison Office in Kolkata and The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Exhibitions of Taiwanese products and technologies in Eastern part of India are needed. Roadshows of Taiwanese companies may be organized in West Bengal and vice versa of Indian companies in Taiwan. The Bengal Chamber may facilitate this.

International schools in Taiwan and India can encourage students to study in Taiwan and India.

India Taiwan Industrial Summit will be held on 3rd November 2022. Discussions will be held on green energy, smart city and electric vehicles.

MEETING WITH H.E. BAUSHUANGER, REPRESENTATIVE, TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CENTER IN INDIA

22ND SEPTEMBER 2022, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES











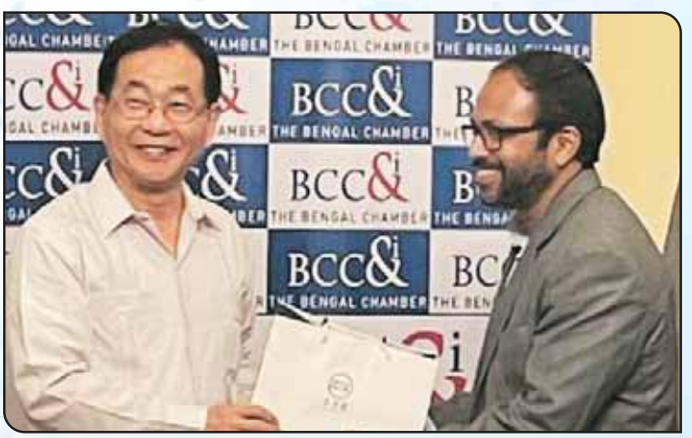
MEETING WITH H.E. BAUSHUANGER, REPRESENTATIVE, TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CENTER IN INDIA

22ND SEPTEMBER 2022, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES











ONLINE TAIWAN EXPO 2022

28TH – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with **The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I)**, had organized **Taiwan Expo 2022** from **28th to 30th September 2022** on virtual platform. This Expo had exhibitors from different industrial sectors of Taiwan- Fitness Devices, Medical & Tele Healthcare, AVL&GPS tracking Devices, Home life components, ICT, IOT & Smart Electronics, Packaging material & Machinery to name a few. Some prominent Taiwanese companies which were present in the event were **Avalue Technology, AREC, In Win Development, Joy Com Bio-Cem, MSI, Somnicsinc, Toyo Automation, General Biologicals, BXB Electronics, VicRound** etc.

The main objective of the event was to **develop bilateral trade relations between India and Taiwan and widen the connection between the two countries, both economically and culturally.** This was done by conducting dedicated, one-to-one B2B meetings between the Taiwanese exhibitors and relevant and potential Indian buyers engaged in manufacturing, distributing and providing the same line of products or services.

Through some intense **primary and secondary market surveys**, BCC&I was able to connect with around **130 Indian units** located across India by informing them about the event and helping them realize how fruitful the meetings may be for them. The Chamber finally organized a total of **111 one-to-one B2B meetings.**

The opening ceremony of the event was hosted in Taiwan. In Kolkata, the event was coordinated from the **King's Bakery, Kolkata**. The event commenced at **10.30 a.m. (IST)** on **28th September 202** and the opening ceremony was followed by the one-to-one B2Bs. A total of **54 meetings** were conducted virtually on that day. Some eminent Indian organizations which were a part of this event on 28**th** were **Fortis Hospitals, CMRI Hospital, Apollo Pharmacy, Emami Frank Ross Ltd, TATA Medical, Institute of Neuroscience** etc.

On **29th September 2022**, Telemedicine service providing medical facilities like **Ruby General Hospital, Saroj Gupta Cancer Institute**, wholesalers of various types of ladders like **B. Impex & Trade**, **Sai Siddhi Corporation** and **Alum Fab,** healthcare facilities treating sleep apnea like **Tribeca** and **Physfix**, wholesalers dealing with air compressors like **Verbessern Drives And Energy Solutions LLP**, **Tradetech** and companies dealing with face recognition access control like **Avs Solutions**, **Anu India Pvt. Ltd.**, etc were present in the meetings. A total of **36 meetings** virtually were organised on this day.

30th September 2022 was the last day of the event on which, a total of **21 virtual meetings** were conducted. On this day, companies dealing with Hepatitis Elisa/ Pcr & Covid 19 Pcr/Rapid Test/Elisa, VTM, Extraction like **The Mission Hospital**, **KPC**, companies dealing with gaming, content creations like **A.C. Infotech**, etc were present in the meetings.

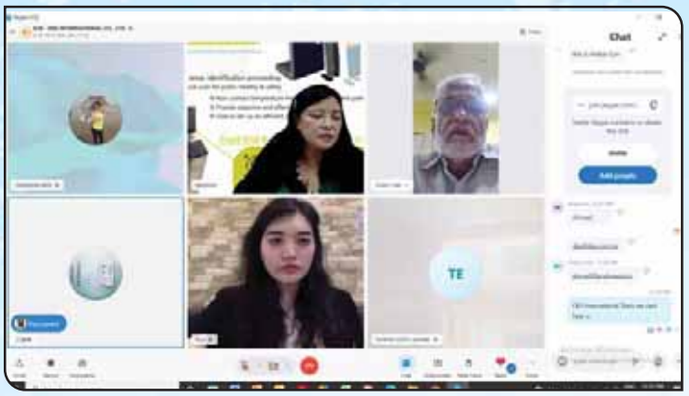
The event was witnessed live by a lot of visitors out of which The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry coordinated and facilitated **200 visitors registration** and **viewing**. The companies and the viewers who took part in the event gained knowledge about the international markets and shared their thoughts with each other. The stakeholders of the 3-day expo were pleased with the efforts of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and TAITRA to expand the trade relations between India and Taiwan, and wished for more such events in the future.



Opening Ceremony of Taiwan Expo 2022 - 28th September (Day 1) : The Bengal Chamber Secretariat with the team of Taipei World Trade Centre Kolkata



Opening Ceremony of Taiwan Expo 2022- 28th September (Day 1) - The Bengal Chamber Secretariat at King's Bakery



Meeting between Indian Buyer Anglo Swiss Watch Co and Taiwanese Exhibitor Des International in progress



Meeting between Indian Buyer Dheeraj's Metals and Taiwanese Exhibitor Chiao Teng Hsin Enterprise in progress



Meeting between Indian Buyer India Treatment and Taiwanese Exhibitor AREC in progress



Meeting between Indian Buyer Saroj Gupta Cancer Institute and Taiwanese Exhibitor Avalue in progress



Meeting between Indian Buyer Techno Steel and Taiwanese Exhibitor AREC in progress

MEETING WITH SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (DIT) OF UK

11TH OCTOBER 2022, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with the senior leadership team of Department of International Trade (DIT) of UK on 11th October 2022 at The Bengal Chamber premises**. Ms. Ajita Hathlia**, Department of International Trade, DIT's head of Trade and ODI and Mr. Nick Low, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata graced the session.

Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and MD & CEO, Exide Industries Limited and **Mr. Gautam Ray**, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG were present in the session along with senior representatives of the relevant members and stakeholders companies of The Bengal Chamber, viz-

- Mr. Nikhil Jaiswal, General Manager- East, GreenBase Industrial & Logistics Park
- Ms. Reshmi Chatterjee, Entrepreneur Curator, Halo Heritage
- Mr. Avijit Das, Director, Hermes Voyages Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Charanpreet Singh, Co-Founder and Director, Praxis Business School Foundation
- Mr. Anupam Dutta, Partner- Data Analytics and Tax Technology, PwC India
- Mr. Digbijoy Chakraborty, CEO & MD, SunEco Tech Ventures Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Managing Director, Swach Environment Limited
- Mr. Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP

- Ms. Ina Bose, Director HR & Industrial Relations, Techno India Group & Sister Nivedita University
- Mr. Arijit Ghosh, Techno India Group & Sister Nivedita University
- Mr. Samujjal Ganguly, GM Policy & Corporate Affairs and Plant Head Falta, Vikram Solar Limited

During the discussions, some generic issues like ongoing visa turnaround time between UK and India and certain specific suggestions for easing the same were discussed. As there were representatives present in the forum, some other possible sectoral opportunities were discussed in the realms of education, water and sustainability, medical tourism, information technology and startups , fintech, tourism, heritage and real estate.



L-R : Mr. Nick Low, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata ; Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited and Ms Ajita Hatilia, Director, Trade and UK Exports, The Department of International Trade (DIT) of UK with other senior members and stakeholders of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Meeting in Progress



Mr. Nick Low, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata ; Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited; Mr. Gautam Ray, President Designate, Chairperson Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG, CESC Limited; with other senior members who joined in the session



Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited felicitating Ms. Ajita Hatilia, Director, Trade and UK Exports, The Department of International Trade (DIT) of UK

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE THAILAND BOARD OF INVESTMENT - GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND

19TH JANUARY 2023, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

Madame Excellency Acharapan Yavaprapas, Consul-General, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Kolkata along with Mr. Nanthapol Sudbanthad, Director & Consul, BOI Mumbai, Mr. Pichaya Lapasthamrong, Consul, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Kolkatawere present in person for the conference. Virtually, Mr. Chanin Khaochan, Deputy Secretary General, Thailand Board of Investment (BOI), Bangkok and Mr. Kampanart Preechawai, Investment Promotion Officer, Thailand Board of Investment (BOI), Bangkok were present on 19th January 2023.

From The Bengal Chamber, participants across various member companies like C-DAC, TCS, Calcutta University, Tech Mahindra, Solaire Initiatives, White Hat Media Pvt. Ltd., Karamyog Foundation and Nestcare were present.

Ms. Richa Singh Debgupta, Chairperson, Health Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chief of Strategy & Operations for Fortis Healthcare Group welcomed them formally.

The discussion was centered around long term residence visa in Thailand, Government's support measures and initiatives, business advantages in Thailand and opportunities of Indian Companies in all the sectors like Bio-Circular-Green Economy and healthcare related sectors. Thailand Board of Investment expressed their need for Bio Technology support from Indian Companies and encouraged the Indian Investors to invest in the regions of Thailand. They also spoke about unlimited opportunities under BCG Economy which has smart farming, breed and seed improvement, precision agriculture, plant based protein, bio-mass power plant biodegradable/bio-plastics, eco-packaging thereby leading to sustainable environmental growth and development.



L-R : Pooja Mimrot, India Consultant, Thailand BOI, Mr. Nanthapol Sudbanthad, Director & Consul, BOI Mumbai; Madame Excellency Acharapan Yavaprapas, Consul-General, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Kolkata; Ms. Richa Singh Debgupta, Chairperson, Health Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chief of Strategy & Operations for Fortis Healthcare Group



Ms. Richa Singh Debgupta, Chairperson, Health Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chief of Strategy & Operations for Fortis Healthcare Group felicitating Nanthapol Sudbanthad, Director & Consul, BOI Mumbai



Meeting in Progress

DELEGATION FROM CHITTAGONG PRESS CLUB

17TH FEBRUARY 2023, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

A Delegation from Chittagong Press Club visited Press Club Kolkata recently. The Delegation was also brought to The Bengal Chamber on 17th February 2023 for meeting with the Secretariat. Mr. Salahuddin Md. Reza, President and Mr. Debdulal Bhowmik, General Secretary, Chittagong Press Club were present along with Mr. Snehasis Sur, President, Press Club Kolkata

Discussions included flight connectivity, visa procedures, bilateral trade and possibility of dual currency among other issues.

The visit of the Delegation has been widely covered in the press in Chittagong. The dossier is attached for your kind reference.

In this context it may be mentioned that The Bengal Chamber organizes Health and Wellness Expo in Chittagong. The Inaugural edition was held in September 2022 and second edition will be held in October 2023 tentatively.





Chittagong Press Club Delegation Meeting in Progress

NET ZERO PATHWAY FOR BUSINESSES OF EAST AND NORTH EAST INDIA

20TH MARCH 2023, HYATT REGENCY, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, India and **British Deputy High Commission,** Kolkata organized **"Net Zero Pathway for States and Businesses"** on Monday, 20th March 2023 at Hyatt Regency Kolkata.

The programme was part of a larger initiative where Strategy for Net Zero Pathway for businesses and states were discussed followed by sharing best practices and a comprehensive roadmap.

A high-level delegation from the United Kingdom also visited Kolkata to exchange knowledge on clean technologies, policies and sectoral skill development. The event was attended by senior policymakers and businesses from across India. The event witnessed a panel discussion on various topics like, Net Zero Target for India by 2070; Exploring local livelihoods and good landscape practices through artist/researcher collaborations with communities in the Sundarbans Delta; Corporate Case Studies on Roadmap to Net Zero in India and Electric Vehicle (EV) were discussed.

India submitted its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), during the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27), setting out a broad framework for meeting Net Zero goal by 2070. During the Summit few of India's biggest companies have declared net-zero targets and many companies have also pledged to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. States and cities are adopting clean growth strategy to move towards the Net Zero target. The event was part of a larger initiative to come up with a Strategy for Net Zero Pathway for businesses and states sharing best practices and by coming up with a comprehensive Roadmap on the way forward.

The UK Delegation included representatives from Centre of Excellence for Low Carbon and Fuel Cell Technologies (Cenex) UK, Connected Places Catapult, Motability, NPTC Wales, KPMG UK and Newcastle University.

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited and Past President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr.

Peter Cook, Acting British Deputy High Commissioner to East and Northeast India; Sri S. Suresh Kumar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Power, Government of West Bengal were present. Dr. Ashok Kumar Ghosh, Chairman, Bihar State Pollution Control Board; joined virtually with Mr. Anirban Ghosh, Head, Centre for Sustainability, Mahindra University. Other speakers present were Shri Kaliyamurthi Balamurugan, IFS, Chief Environment Officer, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal, Mr. Surajit Majumdar, Senior General Manager and EA to MD & CEO II CORPORATE, Exide Industries Limited, Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Managing Director, Swach Environment Pvt Ltd, Shri Pankaj Kumar Gupta, General Manager in Engineering Division, NTPC.

The UK case studies were presented by Dr. Sagar Mody, Technical Consultant, Infrastructure Strategy, Centre of Excellence for Low Carbon and Fuel Cell Technologies (Cenex), Dr. Niki Black, Senior Research Associate, School of Architecture, Landscape and Planning, Newcastle University, UK and Professor Maggie Roe, Professor of Landscape and Co-Director of the Centre for Landscape, Newcastle University, UK.



Opening and Policymakers' Session-Net Zero Target for India by 2070



Session - Case Studies on Net Zero UK and India



Mr. Manojit Sengupta, Co-Chairperson, Energy and Environment and Water Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Delivery Centre Head - Eastern Region, Tata Consultancy Services Limited presenting memento to Sri S. Suresh Kumar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Power, Government of West Bengal



Shri Kaliyamurthi Balamurugan, IFS, Chief Environment Officer, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal addressing the audience



Dr Ashok Kumar Ghosh, Chairman, Bihar State Pollution Control Board addressing the audience virtually



Dr. Sagar Mody Technical Consultant, Infrastructure Strategy, Centre of Excellence for Low Carbon and Fuel Cell Technologies (Cenex), UK, addressing the audience on UK Net Zero strategies and achievements



Dr. Niki Black, Senior Research Associate, School of Architecture, Landscape and Planning, Newcastle University, UK and Professor Maggie Roe, Professor of Landscape and CoDirector of the Centre for Landscape, Newcastle University, UK sharing their research report on Global Challenges, Collaboration, Culture and Climate Change



Mr. Anirban Ghosh, Head, Centre for Sustainability, Mahindra University addressing the audience virtually



Mr. Surajit Majumdar, Senior General Manager and EA to MD & CEO II CORPORATE, Exide Industries Limited addressing the audience on Net Zero Pathway



Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Managing Director, Swach Environment Pvt Ltd sharing his views on Net Zero Pathways for Businesses



Shri Pankaj Kumar Gupta, General Manager in Engineering Division, NTPC shared NTPC's Case Study on Roadmap to Net Zero in India



Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber, emceeing the panel



Audience



Mr. Aloke Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber in the audience

SPANISH EMBASSY MEETING

30TH MAY 2023, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

Ms. Lucia Paternina Torme, Chief Economic & Commercial Counsellor to India, Embassy of Spain and Ms. Vineeta Chauhan, Deputy Market analyst, Economic and Commercial Office, Embassy of Spain in New Delhi, visited The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 30th May 2023.

From The Bengal Chamber, participants across various companies like Exide, CESC, Cenergist Energy Private Limited, NTPC Limited, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd, Indo Hispanic Language Academy, Kolkata where present.

Mr. Subir Chakraborty President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited welcomed them formally. Mr. Gautam Ray President Designate, The Bengal Chamber and Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG, CESC Limited and Mr. Deb A Mukherjee Former President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited along with Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber were also present among others.

The discussions were centered around focus on overseas trade, programmes and engagements through The Embassy. It was emphasised to focus on trade negotiation between India and European Union along with focus on EV vehicles, trade, and investment of Spain in India. Discussion was also held regarding Start-up Collaboration and Incubation Collaboration along with pilot projects in Green Hydrogen and Batteries.



L-R Mr. Vinod Jain, Senior Manager- International Business Development, NTPC Limited; Mr. Rohan Nag, Deputy Manager (Central Pricing Desk), Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd; Dr. Dibyajyoti Mukhopadhyay, Director, Indo Hispanic Language Academy, Kolkata; Mr. Gautam Ray, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber; Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG, CESC Limited; Ms Lucia Paternina Torme, Chief Economic & Commercial Counsellor to India, Embassy of Spain; Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President, The Bengal Chamber; Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Former President, The Bengal Chamber; Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited, Mr. Prashant Ojha, Manager, Aludecor Lamination Pvt Ltd, Ms. Vineeta Chauhan, Deputy Market analyst , Economic and Commercial Office, Embassy of Spain in New Delhi, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Meeting in Progress



Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President, The Bengal Chamber; Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Exide Industries Limited felicitating Ms. Lucia Paternina Torme, Chief Economic & Commercial Counsellor to India, Embassy of Spain.

B2B MEETINGS WITH THE BUSINESS DELEGATION FROM TAIWAN

8TH AND 9TH JUNE 2023, TAJ BENGAL, KOLKATA

A multisectoral Business Delegation from Taiwan, visited Kolkata, with the objective to meet Indian counterparts, in person, to explore business opportunities between Taiwan and India.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) shares deep connect with Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA). In this context, on 8th June 2023, at Taj Bengal Kolkata, TAITRA, in association with BCC&I, organized dedicated B2B Meetings with Taiwanese Suppliers from various Industries- steel coils and sheets, 3D printing and food machinery, screw and fastener manufacturers, tinsel wire, speaker wire manufacturers, shoe glue and industrial adhesive, E-sports games, consumer electronics and mobile phone accessories to name a few.

The main objective of the B2B meetings was to develop bilateral trade relations between India and Taiwan and widen the connection between the two countries, both economically and culturally. The Taiwanese companies which took part in the delegation were: BTP Co; Maeden Innovation Co. Ltd; MCXAS Multek Corp; Nan Pao Resins Chemical Co. Ltd.; Top Green Fastener- Tech Corporation and Yu Tong Steel Co. Ltd.

Through some intense primary and secondary market surveys, BCC&I was able to connect with more than 50 Indian units located in Kolkata. By informing them about the event and helping them realize how fruitful the meetings could be for them, BCC&I was able to organize a total of 31 one-to-one B2B meetings on 8th June 2023.

BCC&I also facilitated a factory visit for Taiwanese Delegation to Exide Shamnagar on 9th June 2023. From the Chamber Secretariat, Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Assistant Director accompanied the Delegation.



The Indian companies at the meeting venue for B2B Meetings with Taiwanese Companies





B2B Meetings in progress between Taiwanese suppliers and Indian Buyers





B2B Meetings in progress between Taiwanese suppliers and Indian Buyers



The Taiwanese Delegation at Exide Factory Shamnagar with Mr Sambit Dasgupta, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Factory visit in progress

B2B WITH UK DELEGATION IN COLLABORATION WITH BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION, KOLKATA

28TH & 29TH AUGUST 2023, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry recently hosted a highly productive B2B session with a distinguished UK business delegation at its premises in collaboration with British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata. The event served as a platform for fostering international business collaborations and promoting economic ties between Bengal and the United Kingdom. Representatives from various sectors such as technology, manufacturing, healthcare, and finance engaged in insightful discussions, exploring potential partnerships and investment opportunities. The event facilitated the exchange of innovative ideas and expertise, further enhancing the region's global business network.

In addition to the B2B session, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a plant visit, allowing the UK delegation to gain firsthand insight into the region's industrial capabilities. The plant visit offered a unique opportunity for the delegates to witness the state-of-the-art facilities and production processes of local businesses. This hands-on experience not only showcased the industrial prowess of Bengal but also fostered a deeper understanding of the potential synergies between businesses in the UK and Bengal. The event underscored the Chamber's commitment to promoting economic growth and international collaborations while strengthening the bonds between these two dynamic business communities.



British delegates doing B2G interactions with Indian agencies



British delegates doing B2B interactions with Indian organisations

UK Delegation Details :

Stroth Limited
InQubeInnoventures Limited
Wootzano Ltd
Randox

Details of Indian Organizations in the B2B :
Spencers
JGB Agro
Steelsworth Limited
Thacker Dairy
Z.A. Sea Foods Pvt. Ltd
Red Cow

Details of Government of West Bengal attending the B2G :
West Bengal Livestock Development Corporation Ltd.
Department of Animal Resources Development, Government of West Bengal
West Bengal Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Ltd.

Plant Visit of UK Delegation :

Date: 29th August 2023

Stroth Limited, InQube Innoventures Limited, Randox visited the Plant of Thacker Dairy in Howrah

Wootzano Ltd visited the Pack House of JGB Agro in North 24 Parganas



L-R : Jasdeep Jassal, Senior Sector Manager Agriculture, Agri-Tech and Food & Drink and Head of Trade, BDHC; Gabriel Robinson, Agri-Tech Deputy Sector Lead Agriculture, Food & Drink, Department for Business & Trade; Dr. Mosaraaf Hussein, Dr. Tapas Ghosh, Department of ARD, GoWB; Dr. Tapas Kar, West Bengal Livestock Development Corporation Ltd; Nick Low, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata; Jayanta Chakraborty, Chairperson, Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, BCC&I;

INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE

28TH & 29TH SEPTEMBER 2023, BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES



Day 1: 28th September 2023

On 28th September, Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with the Ministry of External Affairs presented the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, an event of paramount significance that aimed to bring together countries in the Indo-Pacific region. The significance of cross border participation lies in initializing dialogue to foster cooperation and interaction between entities, organizations, or individuals from different countries or regions. This collaboration can occur in various fields, including business, resource optimization, innovation, economic growth and much more.

The Bengal Chamber premise was glorified with the branding of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, these programme brandings were also spread across the city. All these creative efforts contributed a great amount to the success of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave. Some pictures are appended below, of the brandings across Kolkata and at the venue.

The theme for Day 1 Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2023 was "COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION TOWARDS COMMON GOALS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC".

Discussions between the Chambers of Commerce, Business Associations and representatives of multilateral agencies, revolved around to collaborate and contribute in fields like trade, supply chain, green economy and fair economies.

The Knowledge Partner of the Conclave, Intueri Global LLP had released a Position Paper on Indo-Pacific Economic Unity.

Inaugural Session

The Inaugural address was delivered by **Mr. Subir Chakraborty,** Immediate Past President, BCC&I and Managing Director & CEO, Exide Industries Ltd. He Said,

Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry is honoured and privileged to have esteemed guests and leaders from business and government from 11 nations – Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and United States, apart from India. These initiatives collectively aim to promote inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economic development across the Indo-Pacific region, fostering cooperation, mutual benefit, and peace and security.

The Inaugural Session was moderated by **Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta,** Former President, BCC&I and Senior Partner, Intueri Consulting LLP. He stated a famous quote by a geopolitical scholar, Dr. Amitava Acharya, "Asia was built by the nations, Asia-Pacific was built by the economists, East Asia definition was made by the culturalists and Indo-Pacific by the strategists".

Indo-Pacific has 2 connotations : geographically and geopolitically. The geographic definition defines a vast biogeographic region which comprises the tropical waters of the Indian Ocean and Western- Central Pacific and the seas connecting the two. It comprises of the Indian sub-continent, South East Asia, Oceania, Indian Ocean and the Middle East. The geo-political definition includes many more countries. It extends from the eastern coast of Africa across the entire span of the Indian Ocean to the western reaches of the Pacific encompassing countries such as Japan and Australia.

The esteemed speakers also made discussions on women integration, climate and generic qualities, regional cooperation between the chambers of commerce, food security, service sector improvements to produce better results together.

The discussions were led by :

- **Ms. Melinda Pavek,** Consul General, U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata
- **Ms. Mikiko Tanaka,** Head, Subregional Office for South

and South-West Asia, United Nations ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) General, Kolkata, India

- **Mr. Sanjeev Nandwani,** East India Chapter Chairperson and Vice President, Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce (IACC)
- **Shri Sanjeev Sanyal,** Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)
- Dr. Devyani Uttam Khobragade, Ambassador, E/I, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Smt. Neelam Rani, IFS, Director, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

The second half of the Inaugural Session was moderated by **Prof. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri,** Ph.D, Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Chairperson, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I. Some prominent pictures from the opening session are appended below.

Shri Sanjeev Sanyal, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) was the Guest of Honour and the expert speaker for the Inaugural Session. In his address he said:

Indo-Pacific is an important framework and we are already beginning to build the financial, physical, economic, and commercial architecture by concrete step by step measures. Indo-Pacific Framework is a maritime concept. The maritime aspect of this is absolutely critical because without taking this into account much of the conversation is meaningless but once we go into a maritime framework then the way we look at the world changes. So once we begin to think in maritime terms we begin to have a far more flexible world view than when we have a landlocked view of the world. So, he is emphasizing in this maritime aspect over and over again because in the end Indo-Pacific is a maritime concept.

He added that there is also a financial aspect to the framework. Instead of having rigid financing systems we need to have globally fluid network of financing. Indo Pacific region also has some serious finance hubs. Example Singapore, Tokyo, Mumbai. Interlinking all of these is the key. India intends to internationalize the Indian Rupee over the next decade or so for it to be much more widely used. India aspires to be like other hard currencies like Yen, Pound, Singapore Dollar, and Euro etc. The nation expects that the Indian bonds will be more widely used. India is becoming a more prominent part in the international financial network.

Dr. Devyani Uttam Khobragade, addressed the session virtually.

She stated that the indo pacific is volubly one of the most strategically important region in the world now. The importance can be underscored by the fact that the region is at the center of global trade and commerce accounting for 65% of the world's population, 63% of the world's GDP, 46% of world's merchandise trade and 50% of world's maritime trade. India was amongst the first to articulate its vision for the Indo-Pacific. She also quoted India's vision as laid out by Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi which calls for a free open and inclusive order in the Indo-pacific based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Nations, peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and adherence to international rules and laws. India's concept of Indo-Pacific is inclusive in nature and supports an approach that respects the freedom of navigation and over flight clearances for all international seas. Further she described India's relationship with Cambodia and stated that the relationship has achieved a multifaceted character with regular interaction at the political and official levels, exchange of bilateral visits, capacity building and cultural exchange, change of development partnership, assistance towards de-mining efforts and restoration of cultural monuments.

Further she elaborated the extend of this relationship by stating that an institutional arrangement is already in place for exploring the integration of Unified Payments Interface with Cambodia. India also wishes to establish a physical connectivity through infrastructure development with further extension of Eastward expansion of the India Myanmar trilateral highway and by negotiating with the investment treaty.

BCC&I was overwhelmed to listen an overpowering address by **Smt. Neelam Rani,** IFS, Director, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

She stated that, this conclave is an important platform as it will serve as a unified platform for the business community from the Indo-Pacific region to deliberate upon their agendas. This Conclave will prove to be catalyst to enhance business engagements and will further connect the business community in the Indo-Pacific region. The Indo-Pacific region accounts to 63% of GDP and half of all global trade passes through the waters this region. The growing importance of this region on the global geopolitical map and the problem of economic concentration prompted us to intensify our business engagements in the region as India strives for an open free rule-based Indo-Pacific region. India stands for freedom of navigation and respect for international laws in the Indo-Pacific region. De-risking the global economy now involve reliable and resilient supply chain as well as

promoting trust and transparency in the digital domain. India pacific region documents call for close cooperation within Indo-pacific countries for improving connectivity in all its dimensions: - transport, digital and human.

Special Session I : The East in India's Act East & Common Charter Development

In this session the Chamber brought together various Chambers of Commerce, Leaders representing Industry, Diplomats and Trade Agency Experts from 11 Indo-Pacific countries for the formation of Indo-Pacific Chamber of Commerce (AIPCC).

The organizations which participated were :

- *ASEAN-India Business Council*
- *Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry*
- *Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Bangladesh*
- *Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam (INCHAM)*
- *Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce (IACC)*
- *Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)*
- *Korea Trade - Investment Promotion Agency, Embassy of the Republic of Korea (KOTRA)*
- *Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NICCI)*
- *U. S. Consulate General, Chennai*
- *Thailand-India Business Council*
- *The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCCI)*
- *Taipei World Trade Centre*

All the participating nations suggested to be more productive by working on shared principles of collaboration, innovation, pioneering, shared learning, teamwork, and trust.

A context of existing trade agreements, supply chain management, air and maritime connectivity especially addressing procedural issues to cross-border trade were some other suggestions. Financial markets, digital integration and wellness could be the other pillars.

People connect (cultural) issues like tourism, work-force training, cross-border labour mobility (including professionals and technicians with special emphasis on youth and gender), collaboration in technology, sustainable energy, creating an educational equilibrium and undertaking a gap analysis customized to the needs of the diverse challenges faced by individual nations in the Indo-Pacific can be some of the key drivers as suggested by the Nations.

Based on these suggestions and the arguments of the meeting a forum was formed titled "Association of Indo-Pacific Chambers of Commerce" (AIPCC) and a Charter was released in presence of the media.

Special Session II : Trade Creation and Market Access Dialogues

The session's speakers highted on re-building of the global cooperation between the nation states, re-structuring of the supply chain and on shoring of global production networks. India has made a lot of investment for strengthening transport links within the country and also for dedicated trade corridors.

The discussions were led by :

- **Dr. Nagesh Kumar,** Director and Chief Executive, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) (Virtual)
- **Mr. Tarun Sharma,** Deputy Managing Director, Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank)
- **Dr. Prabir De, Professor,** Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
- **Mr. Pranav Kumar,** Vice President, International Trade Policy & Compliance, Reliance Industries Limited

The Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2023 promises to be a milestone event in shaping the economic destiny of the Indo-Pacific region. It reflects the collective vision of nations in the region to create a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future for their people.

Day 2 : 29th September 2023

The theme for Day 2 of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave was "India leads- towards 3rd largest economy"

Day 2 of The Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave on 29th September 2023 witnessed the leaders of our Nation's economic ecosystem and policy makers on a single platform.

The keynote address was delivered by **Shri T Rabi Sankar,** Hon'ble Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

Addressing the Conclave Shri T Rabi Sankar, said, Digital Payment Infrastructure (DPI) to be one of the most important drivers of the Indian Economy. He also mentioned that impact of digital payment systems on cross border payments and its impact will be felt in years to come in cross border payment. As per the world Bank research, Global cross border remittances in 2022 was estimated to be US$ 830 billion. India was the top recipient of US$ 111 billion. According to World Bank remittance prices Worldwide database, the global average cost of retail size of global remittance was 6.2 % in Q4 2022. For some countries this cost can be as high as 8%. Such a high cost in today's context when data-connectivity is so cheap is simply unconscionable. I believe that given the

available technology, the present situation is not sustainable. In February this year India and Singapore enabled UPI Pay.

Now linkage to enable the citizens of both countries to make instant and cost-effective cross-border transfers. This inter linkage also aligns with the G20s financial inclusion priorities of driving faster, cheaper and more transparent cross-border payments and will be a significant milestone in the development of infrastructure for cross-border payments between India and Singapore.

The Conclave was opened to public and approximately 150 people were in the attendance. During the Conclave, the esteemed keynote speakers, Hon'ble Ministers, and other eminent industrialists shared the remarkable growth rates in various sectors of India and also came up with suggestions to lead India towards a 3rd largest economy.

A commemorative address was made by **Shri Sanjeev Sanyal,** Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) on the day. In a compelling and visionary speech, Shri Sanyal passionately articulated a vision that promised to breathe new life into the heart of Kolkata. His Concept focused on reimagining Kolkata's river front through a detailed urban renewal plan focusing on creating a Hooghly corridor featuring a unique pedestrian precinct connect. Modernizing and Syncing tradition with millennia needs and reality was at the core.

Other eminent speakers were :

- **Shri Ajay Seth,** Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India
- **Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran,** Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India
- **Shri Suneet Mehta,** Dy Chief of Mission, HCI, Canberra, Australia
- **Shri Mayank Joshi,** Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Tokyo, Japan
- **Shri Rajeev Kumar,** IPS, Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal
- **Mr. C S Ghosh,** MD & CEO, Bandhan Bank Ltd. and Former President, BCC&I
- **Mr. Shiv Shivakumar,** Operating Partner at Advent International, Gurgaon and Ex Chairman& CEO – PepsiCo India and Ex CEO, EM – Nokia
- **Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar,** Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

Discussions were based on digital public infrastructure, impact of digital payment system on cross border payments, investments to provide better housing and water connections to the people, attention towards skilling, re-skilling and vocational training, empowering women for inclusive growth, promoting technology and PLI schemes.

Shri Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India quoted "India leads towards a 3rd largest economy - is a journey not a goal. That is a means to an end and the end is well-being of our people and a well-developed India." He presented some data in this regard. Just about ten years back in 2013 India was at the 10th position and the size of the economy were 1.4 trillion. In these 9-10 years India is at the 5th position and the size of the economy is 3.7 trillion. In 1991, India was at the 16th position; the size of the economy was only 300 billion. The implications are huge. The country today has lot more wealth and resources for basic amenities, infrastructure and to facilitate business activities including industries. In the last 7-8 years India added four crore affordable houses. Today there are more than 19 crore houses who has proper water connections. Today the country can aspire and deliver on a saturation approach to basic amenities. There are almost 12 crore households under Swatch Bharat Mission where individual washrooms are there in each house. The country is moving from live to livelihood. Today 50 crore people under various schemes such as PM Suraksha Viman, PM Jibon Jyoti Yojna has insurance cover of the one form or the other. India has been able to achieve a very strong growth rate and a potential to grow faster in the coming years. India contributes to almost 15% of global growth in each year and creates opportunities for global investors and global companies. It also generates a virtual cycle of higher growth leading to higher savings, higher investment, more employment and again coming back to more growth. India's GST system has led to huge productivity gains and the goods can move with much better efficiency and check post facilities. He listed four sectors which requires attention – energy, skilling and re-skilling, urban infrastructure, and private sectors. A creative re-development of our cities and an orderly transformation to urbanization. He mentioned in this aspect the role of state government is very import for creating reforms in health, education and fiscal consolidation both as expenditure orientation and stepping up the tax efforts. The role of the chambers of commerce as stakeholders are important for India's development.

Shri Suneet Mehta, Dy. Chief of Mission, HCI, Canberra, Australia in his address expressed that India and Australia are really coming closer as the India-Australian partnership from June 2020 has created an unprecedented

momentum and the business environment is growing more collusive with each passing day. It is already anchored in both the nations desire to increase engagement in the Indo-Pacific, to realize a shared vision for an open free trade prosperous rules-based region that respects sovereignty in terms of mutual commitment. India and Australia are working together to create more diverse and resilient supply chains. Going by the lines of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Mr. Mehta also emphasized the development on the 3 T's i.e., trade, technology, and tourism. In order increase the bilateral trade strategies three strategies are being followed: tariff reductions, expanding market access and diversifying the trade basket.

Shri Mayank Joshi, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Tokyo, Japan expressed that to become an "Atma Nirvar Bharat" by 2047 the vision should be development on economic infrastructure, demography, democracy, supply chains and energy. Japan has been an important partner for economic development of India. He mainly focused on India- Japan partnership for creating better technological and infrastructure development in India. The two countries are focused to reform multilateralism and are working together closely in important constructs like the United Nations, the QUAD, the CDRI and also the Indo-Pacific framework. As per the information with regard to the Indian government's production linked incentive scheme, application of 26 Japanese companies with a commitment investment worth of 1.8 billion dollars has been approved.

Speaking about India's growth story post COVID at the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2023, Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India said that the response and recovery phase is over and now it is all about consolidation. India poised for good and steady growth for the rest of this decade. Our goal should not be only to become the third-largest economy in aggregate size but also in per capita terms, becoming a middle-income or upper middle-income country, for that we need to make sure that the aspiring middle class is not only able to get the kind of goods and services that they need but they are also in a position to contribute and this is not just a task for the public sector but also the private sector. To prepare the Indian demographic dividend we need right skilling, right education and right attitudes. If MSMEs get paid on time, India will have a vibrant economy and that will eventually be a win for large corporations.

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India said, that as per him, we certainly seem to be living in very interesting and exciting times from a global perspective. He stated "almost everyday history is being made, milestones are being crossed. For the first time ever in the history of independent India we have a new parliament, which is a great moment and occasion to celebrate. Two days after the new parliament was released, a law enacted by which historical women's reservation bill was passed, which will absolutely transform the landscape of opportunities for women and young girls. Two days post that event, iphone 15 was globally launched and at the same day Indian people could also walk in to buy the same phones. The Indian consumers got the "Made in India Iphone 15", manufactured in India. A $3 billion unit, first ever semiconductor plant, the ground breaking ceremony for that was held in Sanand, Gujrat. India is the fastest growing economy in the world. A country in 2014 who was importing 82% of its mobile phones, had no electronics manufacturing of any kind, is now manufacturing 100% of what it consumes and exported 1 lakh crore Apple and Samsung phones last year. "India is seeing almost 30 startups in semi-conductor device design. We were in the fragile five and here we are now at the top five economies of the world and our Prime Minister has guaranteed that we will move from the top 5 to the top 3 in the next three years. We will cross Japan and Germany and we will be in the league with the US and China amongst the top three economies in the world. Year after year the GST number shows that how the economic growth is not just a statistic, it is creating more and more resources for the Government to invest in infrastructure, in poverty of India to make them move out of poverty, giving them more opportunities. In India there were always lack of modern infrastructure, and here we are today, one of the largest spending nations in world in building modern infrastructure, from rail to roads, to ports to logistics, networks. We are spending 13 lakh crores in this financial year in creating modern infrastructure. The deep transformation changes that has happened for the past 9 years has provided an enabling framework for today's and future growth."

Experts' Roundtable on: A Discussion on "India Leads- Three Pillars of Success (Agriculture, Manufacturing & Services)"

The industrialist panel provided suggestions on three major sectors – **agriculture, manufacturing, and service sectors.** The suggestions were to allocate more resources to agricultural research and development to develop new crop varieties, technologies, and farming practices that increases productivity and resilience to climate change; to promote technological education, differential literacy, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) in school; to focus on demand side management and also on

food processing system in case of the manufacturing sector.

Eminent speakers of the session :

- **Mr. Vijay Deshwal,** Chief Strategy Officer and Head of Investor Relations, Aditya Birla Capital Limited
- **Mr. Manish Kumar Agarwal,** Chief Financial Officer, Indorama India Pvt Ltd.
- **Mr. Simarpreet Singh,** Director, JIS Group Educational Initiatives
- **Mr. Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya,** Director – Projects, NTPC Limited
- **Mr. Abhijit Banerjee,** Managing Director, Linde India Limited

Mr. Vijay Deshwal discussed how we have seen the services industry evolve over the last two to three decades and where we see it going forward. According to him, there are now there are other services like healthcare, education centres, etc, which can still be at the forefront and where we see a large opportunity coming through.

Mr. Manish Kumar Agarwal in his address talked about how India has come a long way since Independence on the agricultural front development, and productivity, and this rapid advancement in technology is also helping Indian industry but still India faces a lot of challenges in the agriculture sector contributing to the agricultural economy.

Mr. Simarpreet Singh conveyed the message that, education in India is slowly adopting technology and the rate is much slower than other sectors like banking and agriculture.

Mr. Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya in his address said that, the manufacturing sector has dwindled and it must come up if we need to have sustainable service, agriculture, and manufacturing-driven export-oriented economic growth which ultimately adds to the pathway of India becoming a developed country by 2047.

Mr. Abhijit Banerjee said that, over the last few years, we have seen substantial investments coming in on the back of the PLI Schemes, which we believe that the government should continue and that would eventually have a rebounding effect on the economy. And in terms of scaling, we need to ensure that our biggest asset i.e. our population



Branding of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave across Kolkata

















Branding at the venue during the conclave



Release of Position Paper on Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave by Intueri Consulting LLP on Day 1, 28th September 2023 (L-R: Smt. Neelam Rani, IFS, Director, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata, Ministry; Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Head, Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, United Nations ESCAP; Mr. Subir Chakraborty, Immediate Past President, BCC&I and Managing Director & CEO, Exide Industries Ltd.; Ms. Melinda Pavek, Consul General, U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Former President, BCC&I and Senior Partner, Intueri Consulting LLP; Mr. Sanjeev Nandwani, East India Chapter Chairperson and Vice President, Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce (IACC); Shri Sanjeev Sanyal, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister; Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri, Ph.D, Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Chairperson, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I)



Opening Address by Mr. Subir Chakraborty, President, BCC&I and Managing Director & CEO, Exide Industries Ltd on Day 1, 28th September 2023



Ms. Melinda Pavek, Consul General, U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata during her address in the opening session on Day 1 of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, 28th September 2023



Mr. Sanjeev Nandwani, East India Chapter Chairperson and Vice President, Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce during his address in the opening session panel of Day 1 of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave



A glimpse from the opening session address on Day 1 of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave by Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Head, Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, United Nations, ESCAP



Dr. Devyani Uttam Khobragade, Ambassador, Embassy of India, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, during her virtual address at the Day 1 of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave on 28th September 2023



Smt. Neelam Rani, IFS, Director, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, sharing insights onIndia's engagement in Indo-Pacific on Day 1 of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave



Shri Sanjeev Sanyal, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) during the Expert Speak on Day 1 of the conclave



Delegation from the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Day 1 of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, 28th September 2023








B2B Sessions organized for the delegation from Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry with Member Organizations of BCC&I and select startups of Webel-BCC&I Tech Incubation Centreon first day of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave sidelines





Glimpses form the special session on "The East India's Act East & Common Charter Development" on Day 1 of the Conclave, 28th September 2023





Glimpses from the special session on "Trade Creation and Market Access Dialogues" on Day 1 of the conclave



Signing of MOU between Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry and The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry






Press meet for the presentation of the Common Charter on Day 1 of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, 28th September 2023




Some moments from the post-programme networking dinner at The Bengal Club on 28th September 2023













Some moments from the post-programme networking dinner at The Bengal Club
on 28th September 2023



Keynote address by Shri T Rabi Sankar on Day 2 of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, 29th September 2023





Shri Sanjeev Sanyal during his Day 2 conclave address on 29th September 2023





Shri Ajay Seth during his virtual special address on "India leads towards 3rd largest economy"on Day 2 of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, 29th September 2023



Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran speaking about "India's growth story" on the 2nd Day of the conclave



Virtual Address by Shri Suneet Mehta on Day 2 of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclaveon Day 2 of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, 29th September 2023



A glimpse from Shri Mayank Joshi's virtual special address on the 2nd Day of the conclave, 29th September 2023





Virtual Inaugural Address on 2nd Day of the Conclave by Chief Guest, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India





Glimpses from the Expert's Roundtable Session on "India Leads- Three Pillars of Success (Agriculture, Manufacturing & Services)" conducted on Day 2 of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave on 29th September 2023

UK RAILWAY TRADE DELEGATION

9TH OCTOBER 2023, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

An 18-member team of the UK Railway Trade Delegation visited Kolkata on Monday, 09 October '23. The Delegation was jointly organized by the UK Government's Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and the Railway Industry Association (RIA), UK. It comprised of UK companies with technologies ranging from AI based project execution solutions advanced connecters and lighting systems to safety valves for hydrogen fuel cells and remote monitoring and predictive maintenance solutions for railways.

BCC&I partnered with the British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata to deliver a programme for the delegation, which allowed the participating UK companies an opportunity to meet the members and stakeholders of BCC&I and discuss potential partnerships.

BCC&I arranged a Workshop and B2B meetings to maximize interactions and discussions between BCC&I members and members of the delegation from 4.00 p.m. on 9th October at The Bengal Chamber premises. The team also went for an Industrial visit at Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd and had a fulfilling interaction with Mr. Indrajit Mookerjee, Vice Chairman.



Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I and Executive Director (HR & Admin), CESC Ltd, Mr. Eduardo Mendoza, Yeltech Limited, Mr. Paul Ravenhill, Worldline, Mr. Neil Walker, Railway Industry Association, Mr. Sameer Singh, Rail Vision Europe Ltd, Mr. Giles Williams, Atkore.

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH DR. PHILIPP ACKERMANN, GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA & BHUTAN THURSDAY

12TH OCTOBER 2023, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised an Interactive Session with His Excellency Dr. Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India & Bhutan on Thursday, 12th October 2021, from 12:15 p.m. onwards at ITC Room, The Bengal Chamber premises. The session was also joined by Ms. Barbara Voss, Consul General of Germany in Kolkata and Mr. Johannes Hoeber, Cultural Head, Embassy of Germany.

The session commenced with the welcome address by Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I where he said that the Indo-German relationship is marked by a strong connection through cultural and academic interests. German scholars have played a pivotal role in introducing Indian art, culture, literature, and philosophy to Germany and the wider world. In June 2019, The Bengal Chamber organized a Business Delegation's visit to Germany, including stops in Stuttgart, Uhingen, Dusseldorf/Cologne, and Berlin. The delegation actively participated in the Annual Meeting of the Members of Indo-German Chamber of Commerce in Dusseldorf, alongside various other B2B and B2G meetings. More recently, in August, the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) collaborated with The Bengal Chamber to host a workshop in Kolkata, focusing on "Strengthening Supply Chain Integrity in India." These initiatives highlight the multifaceted nature of the Indo-German relationship, encompassing cultural exchange, academic collaborations, and bilateral business efforts.

Followed by that H.E. Dr. Philipp Ackermann mentioned in his address that German companies are interested in investing in India but require strong infrastructure support. Progress has been made in infrastructure development, with a focus on Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Healthy competition among Indian states is recognized. Well-developed infrastructure is vital for India's economic growth and to attract German investments. Germany acknowledges India's achievements in the IT sector and the availability of well-trained engineers but emphasizes the need for vocational training. There's a growing interest from German businesses to invest in India, particularly in research and development and manufacturing sectors. India is increasingly seen as an attractive destination for German investments.

The entire gathering was an exclusive interactive session

which had presence of representatives from multi sectors like Education, Skill, MSME, IT, Energy and Environment, Engineering & Manufacturing, Culture and Heritage, Health, Shipping, and Logistics. Around 35 senior industry representatives participated in the interactive session, which also had the presence of Former Presidents of BCC&I. This entire session received widespread appreciation from senior members of The Bengal Chamber, and was well covered by media.



(From L-R) Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I, H. E. Dr. Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India and Bhutan, Ms. Barbara Voss, Consul General of Germany in Kolkata, and Mr. Johannes Hoeber, Cultural Head, Embassy of Germany during the interactive session



Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I conferring a memento to H.E. Dr Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India and Bhutan



Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I conferring a memento toMs. Barbara Voss, Consul General of Germany in Kolkata



Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I conferring a memento to Mr. Johannes Hoeber, Cultural Head, Embassy of Germany



Interactive session underway

HEALTHCARE ROUND TABLE SESSION WITH US CONSULATE GENERAL WITH DELEGATION FOR BGBS 2023

20TH NOVEMBER 2023, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and U.S. Consulate General organized a Round Table Session on Healthcare on 20th November, 2023 in the Chamber premises.

Welcome address was given by Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Chairperson, Biotech & Pharma Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University.

Dr. Kingshuk K. Sinha, Chair and Professor, Supply Chain and Operations Department & Elmer L. Andersen Chair in Sustainable Supply Chain, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota was the Keynote Speaker.

Representatives from various hospitals in and around the city, medical devices and equipments manufacturing companies, pharmaceutical companies, life sciences and biotech companies, scientists, researchers joined the Round Table Session. The objective of the Session was to explore and identify and scoping out the needs for educational outreach & training, and research aimed at advancing mental and physical healthcare (including surgical care) delivery with a focus on improving affordability, access and awareness.

The Round Table Session was followed by Q/A Session with the audience. The Session was attended by close to 50 delegates.



Round Table Session on Healthcare with US Consulate General in progress



Round Table Session on Healthcare with US Consulate General in progress



(L-R) Dr. Kingshuk K. Sinha, Chair and Professor, Supply Chain and Operations, Department & Elmer L. Andersen Chair in Sustainable Supply Chain, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Chairperson, Biotech & Pharma Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University

THE BENGAL CHAMBER, US CONSULATE PANEL DISCUSSION ON STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING , MATHEMATICS) DEVELOPMENT WITH DELEGATION FOR BGBS 2023

20TH NOVEMBER 2023, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber, US Consulate Panel Discussion on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Development was organized on the 20th November 2023 at The Bengal Chamber Premises.

The Bengal Chamber along with the US Consulate conducted a Panel Discussion on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Development.

Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber and Advisory Leader, Price Waterhouse Coopers Pvt. Ltd., delivered the Welcome Address.

The distinguished speakers were; Dr. Daniel B. Schwab, President and Founder, STEM for Development who joined online.

Professor Rangina Hamidi, Professor of Practice, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University.

Dr. Kanadpriya Basu, Professor of Practice, Data Science & Leadership Development. Senior Advisor to Dean & Director General, Lead – Business Analytics Executive Program, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University.

The session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, Adamas University.

Ms. Melinda Pavek, Consul General of the United States of America, delivered the concluding remarks and Ms. Rupkatha Sarkar, Member, The Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Principal, La Martiniere For Girls delivered the formal Vote of Thanks.



From L to R : Dr. Kanadpriya Basu, Professor of Practice, Data Science & Leadership Development. Senior Advisor to Dean & Director General, Lead – Business Analytics Executive Program, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University, Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber and Advisory Leader, Price WaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd., Prof. Dr. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, Adamas University, Ms. Melinda Pavek, Consul General of the United States of America, and Professor Rangina Hamidi, Professor of Practice, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University, distinguished speakers in the session



Distinguished audience



Dr. Daniel B. Schwab, President and Founder, STEM for Development addressing the audience



Dr. Daniel B. Schwab, President and Founder, STEM for Development addressing the audience



Professor Rangina Hamidi, Professor of Practice, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University addressing the audience



Professor Rangina Hamidi, Professor of Practice, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University addressing the audience



Dr. Kanadpriya Basu, Professor of Practice, Data Science & Leadership Development. Senior Advisor to Dean & Director General, Lead – Business Analytics Executive Program, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University during the session



Dr. Kanadpriya Basu, Professor of Practice, Data Science & Leadership Development. Senior Advisor to Dean & Director General, Lead – Business Analytics Executive Program, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University during the session



Distinguished audience asking questions








Distinguished audience asking questions



Ms. Melinda Pavek, Consul General of the United States of America, delivering the concluding remarks



Ms. Rupkatha Sarkar, Member, The Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Principal, La Martiniere for Girls delivering the formal Vote of Thanks



Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber and Advisory Leader, Price Waterhouse Coopers Pvt. Ltd. handing over the memento to Ms. Melinda Pavek, Consul General of the United States of America



Dr. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, Adamas University handing over the memento to Professor Rangina Hamidi, Professor of Practice, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University



Dr. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, Adamas University handing over the memento to Dr. Kanadpriya Basu, Professor of Practice, Data Science & Leadership Development



Students attending the programme



Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber emceeing the session

UK COUNTRY SESSION, BENGAL GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT (BGBS 2023)

21ST NOVEMBER 2023, ITC SONAR BANGLA

The UK is one of the partner countries at the Bengal Global Business Summit **(BGBS)** and brought 55 members UK Delegation to further strengthen UK-West Bengal business partnerships. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry **(BCC&I)** joined hands with British Deputy High Commission **(BDHC)** in bringing the Indian businesses towards networking at this exclusive session.

The UK Delegation included delegates from sectors like Renewable Energy, Sustainable Infrastructure, Waste and Water Management, Net Zero Standards, and Air Pollution, Agri and Agritech among others.

The Welcome Address was delivered by **Mr. Gautam Ray,** President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry BCC&I, **Mr. Firhad Hakim,** Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal and Hon'ble Mayor of Kolkata delivered the Keynote Address at the session.

The other senior speakers included **Mr. Anoop Agrawal** IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Technical Education, Training and Skill Development (TET &SD), Government of West Bengal, **Ms. Anna Shotbolt,** Deputy Trade Commissioner (Trade Policy, Exports and Economics), South Asia, **Mr. Andrew Flemming,** British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata

There were three parallel sessions after the Opening session on Net Zero, Energy and Agritech. The Sessions had participation from relevant Indian businesses to facilitate B2B networking.



Mr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata; **Mr. Gautam Ray,** President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry; **Mr. Firhad Hakim**, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal and Hon'ble Mayor of Kolkata; **Ms. Anna Shotbolt,** Deputy Trade Commissioner (Trade Policy, Exports and Economics), South Asia and **Mr. Anoop Agrawal,** IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Technical Education, Training and Skill Development (TET &SD), Government of West Bengal

AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY VISIT

11TH DECEMBER 2023, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Australian Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, comprising of 5 Members of the Australian Parliament visited Kolkata and requested for a Meeting with Senior Members/Executives of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry at 3:15 pm on Monday, 11th December 2023. The roundtable was organized to understand more on outcomes of the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (in case any Member has benefitted from it) and gain insights on the business environment in the Eastern part of India.

A brief note on Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement :-

The coming into force of Ind – Aus ECTA brings together two major economies of the world - India the 5th largest economy and Australia the 14th largest economy. Since the trade between the two countries is hugely complementary, this offers opportunities on both sides and will pave the way for a win-win solution for both India and Australia. The India Australia-ECTA is expected to further grow the existing trade in sectors like minerals, cosmetics and wine and give a big boost to several other sectors of the Indian economy especially textiles, gems, jewellery and pharmaceuticals. Australia will provide zero-duty access to India for 100 percent of its tariff lines. India will provide zero-duty access immediately on 40.3 percent of its tariff lines and the remaining 30 percent in a phased manner over a period of three, five, seven, and 10 years. This also includes 125 tariff lines where duties will be reduced rather than eliminated.

For more information on Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, please refer to:-

https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/australia-india-ecta/outcomes/australia-india-ecta-benefits-australia-overview#:~:text=ECTA%20will%20enable%20Australian%20goods,by%20value%20will%20be%20eliminated.

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1889525

The meeting was attended by delegation from Australian Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, comprising of 5 Members of the Australian Parliament accompanied by the Australian Consul General in Kolkata, Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Austrade Trade Commissioner, Mr. John Southwell and Austrade Director – Business Development, Mr. Varun Kukreti.

Attendees of the meeting :

- Members from Australian Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, Australian Parliament, Austrade and Australian Consulate:

  - Mr. Matt Burnell MP, Federal Member for Spence, Federal Parliament, Australia
  - Mr. Josh Wilson MP, Federal Labor Member for Fremantle, Federal Parliament, Australia
  - Senator Matthew Canavan, LNP Senator for Queensland, Federal Parliament, Australia
  - Mr. John Southwell, Trade and Investment Commissioner, Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Australian Government
  - Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Consul General, Consulate of Australia
  - Mr. Varun Kukreti, Director - Business Development, Kolkata, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)

- Relevant senior members, stakeholders and executives of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry:

  - Mr. Gautam Ray, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG, CESC Limited
  - Dr. Abhijit Sen, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
  - Mr. Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP
  - Mr. Bidyut Majumder, AGM- Business Development, JIS Group
  - Mr. Sourabha Dutta, Senior Vice President - Sales & Marketing, Traction & Exports Industrial, Exide Industries Limited
  - Ms. Surbhi Sharma, Associate Consultant, Intueri Consulting LLP
  - Ms. Sohini Nayak, Senior Research Associate, CUTS International, Kolkata
  - Mr. Sushil Dugar, Head Logistics Services Business, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
  - Mr. Tanmoy Banerjee, Director, RT Network Solutions Pvt Ltd
  - Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
  - Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
  - Mr. Arnab Chakraborty, Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

- Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

President, Mr. Gautam Ray, rightly pointed out in his opening remarks that, the Australia-India ECTA in the years to come will help expand the trade vision between India and Australia and shall strive new horizons of business among the two countries.

According to him, the ECTA should bolster services trade between the two countries, particularly due to commitments in the agreement covering the movement of natural persons under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade Services and in the category of professional services. The agreement on professional services should support Mode 4 access, particularly as a result of the decision to develop systems for 'recognising professional qualifications and experience, registration and licensing of professionals, including through mutual recognition or similar arrangements'.

The Consul General, Ms. Ainsworth said that, "The trade relation has never been better among India and Australia. The Audio-Visual Co-operation agreement is one such example. ECTA has eliminated most of tariffs that gives a frontload approach to the businesses who are benefitted right away. Since the ECTA is devised Indian textile exports to Australia has gone up to 28%. Additionally, CECA once operational, will provide a more comprehensive sets of benefits to the countries.

MP, Mr. Josh Wilson, MP, Federal Parliament, Australia & chair of the board of the drafting committee of ECTA has pointed out during the meeting that, "the bilateral relation when in draft form was addressed as one of the most dynamic treaty with a vibrant outlook on trade affairs".

Since the ECTA is still at a very nascent stage of its function, the roundtable also featured a discussion on the unrealized benefits of the agreement. The senior members and stakeholders from The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry were requested to identify few of the unrealized benefits of the ECTA as per their opinion.

One of the objectives for the discussion was identifying the benefits of Australia-India ECTA so far experienced by the Indian industry since its implication on 29th December 2022. Since the effect of the ECTA, Exide business has gone up by 2.45% due to customs reduction by 5%. The aim for the organization next year is reaching the 5% growth. Which can be further accelerated if their dependence on Chinese raw material is could be reduced.

Although exports of minerals and textiles have increased significantly since implementation of ECTA, Ms. Ainsworth additionally gave an overview on the expectations from Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) which is set to be signed by December 2023. According to the feedback, Australia-India CECA will provide more comprehensive sets of benefits for both the countries once operational.



(Left to Right) Mr. Josh Wilson MP, Federal Labor Member for Fremantle, Federal Parliament, Australia, Senator Matthew Canavan, LNP Senator for Queensland, Federal Parliament, Australia, Mr. Matt Burnell MP, Federal Member for Spence, Federal Parliament, Australia, Mr. John Southwell, Trade and Investment Commissioner, Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Australian Government, Mr. Varun Kukreti, Director - Business Development, Kolkata, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Consul General, Consulate of Australia, Mr. Gautam Ray, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG, CESC Limited, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry



(Left to Right) Mr. Gautam Ray, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Executive Director (HR & Admin.) - CESC Limited & President (HR) – Power Group, RPSG, CESC Limited during his opening remarks and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dr. Abhijit Sen, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry were also present



Senator Matthew Canavan, LNP Senator for Queensland, Federal Parliament, Australia sharing views on how dynamic the ECTA was at a draft level



Discussion on Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement in progress



Glimpse of **Ms. Rowan Ainsworth,** Consul General, Consulate of Australia addressing the gathering



(Left to Right) Dr. Abhijit Sen, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr. Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP, Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr. Arnab Chakraborty, Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr. Tanmoy Banerjee, Director, RT Network Solutions Pvt Ltd, Mr. Bidyut Majumder, AGM- Business Development, JIS Group, Mr. Sushil Dugar, Head Logistics Services Business, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., Ms. Surbhi Sharma, Associate Consultant, Intueri Consulting LLP & Ms. Sohini Nayak, Senior Research Associate, CUTS International, Kolkata among others



Group snapshot of the Australian Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, Australian Parliament, Austrade, Australian Consulate & Relevant senior members, stakeholders and executives of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

INTERACTIVE BUSINESS MEETING WITH A VISITING MYANMAR DELEGATION

18TH JANUARY 2024, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Business meeting with a visiting Myanmar delegation in India on 18th January 2024, Thursday ; 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the ITC Room, 1st Floor, The Bengal Chamber Premises.

Context of the business delegation meeting :

The Bengal Chamber shared a deep connect with Myanmar. The Chamber took a business delegation to Myanmar from 16th May to 20th May 2016, visiting Yangon; Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. The focus of the Delegation was B2B and B2G. The delegation was led by the then President Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta. The Delegation comprised of industry representatives from West Bengal and Odisha. The delegation met His Excellency U Ohn Maung, the then Hon'ble Minister of Hotels and Tourism, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce, His Excellency U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister, Ministry of Industry and Professor Thet Khaing Win, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health notably among others.

The Chamber would be delighted to work more closely with Chambers of Commerce and Ministries in Myanmar to facilitate business between West Bengal and Myanmar. The Chamber, through its connections in the neighbouring States and Countries, may also facilitate enhanced bilateral and multilateral business.

The meeting was attended by delegation from Myanmar to India accompanied by representative from Ministry of External Affairs (Branch Secretariat, Kolkata) and relevant senior members, stakeholders and executives of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry in order to explore concrete avenues for strengthening business and trade relations with Myanmar on the represented sectors.

Attendees of the meeting :

- Members form Myanmar
  - Dr. Charlie Than, Union Minister, Ministry of Industry, Government of Myanmar
  - Dr. Aung Khine, Managing Director, Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry
  - Mr. Tun Tun Kyaw, Superintendent, No. (1) Steel Mill (Myingyan), No. (1) Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry
  - Dr. Sai Myo Thurein, Lecturer, University of Pharmacy (Mandalay), Ministry of Health
  - Mr. Kyaw Lin, Managing Director, Myanmar Economic Corporation
  - Mr. Tint Aung, Senior Consultant from Myanmar Economic Corporation
  - Mr. Ravi Ranjan Pandit, Administrative Officer, Ministry of External Affairs (Branch Secretariat, Kolkata)

- Relevant senior members, stakeholders and executives of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry :
  - Mr. Gautam Ray, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry & President - Corporate, RPSG Group
  - Mr. Abhijit Sen, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
  - Mr. Aniruddha Lahiri, Chairman, Trishul Engineering Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
  - Mr. Ardhendu Mandal, Consultant, Techno Electric and Engineering Company Limited
  - Mr. Arnab Ganguly, Associate Director, Head, CUTS Calcutta Resource Center, CUTS International
  - Mr. Arup Bandhu Guha, Vice President, Samsara Group
  - Mr. Debashis Dutta, Director, BG Somadder & Sons Pvt. Ltd.
  - Mr. Debasish Dutta, Chief Executive Officer, Kolkata Biotech Park
  - Mr. Dibya Sankar Das, Managing Partner, Dellstar Overseas
  - Mr. Indrajit Sen, Managing Director, International Combustion (India) Limited
  - Mr. Joydeep Mitra, CEO, KPC Medical College & Hospital
  - Mr. K Sunil Kumar, GM- PR, JIS Group
  - Mr. M C Banerjee, Director, Everett (India) Pvt. Ltd.
  - Mr. Mayank Jain, Senior Manager, International Business, NTPC Limited
  - Mr. Nikhil Jaiswal, General Manager- East, Green Base Industrial & Logistics Park, Nidar Group of Companies
  - Mr. Rajeev Gupta, Chief Executive, Inter Global Education Services
  - Mr. Rajiv Mondal, CEO, Arogyam Medisoft Solution Pvt. Ltd.
  - Ms. Sandhya Kaushik, Chief-Business Services, JIMSH

- Mr. Santanu Saha, Deputy Manager, International Business, Manipal Hospitals –Kolkata
- Mr. Saptarshi Chatterjee, Associate Director, Incubation, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, Chief-Coordinator & Principal Project Investigator, BIRAC E-YUVA CENTER, Adamas University
- Mr. Saumik Dasgupta, HOD International Division, Narayana Health Howrah
- Mr. Seemanta Kumar Das, Asst. General Manager (Retail Marketing), Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. (A Govt. of India Enterprise)
- Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Former Member Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Adviser, Centre for Sustainable Development Goals, Government of Assam
- Mr. Shyam Sundar Dey, General Manager - Growth & Development, AMRI Hospital
- Mr. Siddhartha Sanyal, Chief Economist and Head-Research, Bandhan Bank ltd
- Mr. Subhasish Datta, Chief General Manager Operations, Ruby General Hospital and Ruby Cancer Centre
- Ms. Tanusree Jasu, Branch Manager, Samsara Group
- Mr. Tapas Banerjee, Managing Director, Everett (India) Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Tuhin Nag, Director, Everett (India) Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Udoy Sekhar Ghosh, Managing Director, Marinecraft Engineers Pvt Ltd
- Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The tone of the meeting with delegation was set by Mr. Dutta, the brief notion of which is appended below :

According to Mr. Debashis Dutta, "In coming years, the overall relationship between India and Myanmar will continue to grow and has the potential to assume greater prominence. The prospects for bilateral relationship are recognized in both countries as strategically useful, economically productive and aligned with each other's new agenda. India is looking forward to better protection of borders, long-term involvement with key projects, diversity in investments and a non-condescending approach to its neighbor."

Mr. Ravi Ranjan Pandit, Administrative Officer, Ministry of External Affairs (Branch Secretariat, Kolkata) rightly identified some potential synergies between India and Myanmar which could be explored in the coming years as both nations are emerging strong in the following sectors:

- Tourism
- Trade and Industry
- P2P

Some important identification of probable areas of collaboration among India and Myanmar by Dr. Charlie Than, Union Minister, Ministry of Industry, Government of Myanmar is given below :

There is a growth of investments in the MSME sectors of Myanmar over the years. Following which industrial training institutions and industrial parks are being opened in order to engage the large available workforce. Factories are being privatized to invite international investments in the nation.

The future prospects those are closer than it seems such as- technology transfer, knowledge sharing, trade facilitation, market linkage as necessary infrastructure and policy level support would be provided by the Government of Myanmar for ease of doing business.

According to Dr. Khine, pharmaceutical industry in Myanmar such as, HIV, Oncology etc., are experiencing maximum development compared to last decade both in terms of research and production. In order to scale up and make prominence in the international market Myanmar is welcoming investments in the Pharmaceutical industry.

Dr. Sai Myo Thurein, Lecturer, University of Pharmacy (Mandalay) apprised the representatives from academia that Ministry of Health, Government of Myanmar is open to collaborate with pharmaceutical research institutes in the neighboring countires.

Mr. Tuhin Nag, Director, Everett (India) Pvt. Ltd. rightly mentioned during the interactive session with the delegation that reinstallation of the steel plants in Myanmar and commissioning the factories in Myanmar may in turn increase the return on investment and cap the drainage of forex.

Mr. Mayank Jain, Senior Manager, International Business, NTPC Limited informed the hon'ble Union Minister and other dignitaries of the meeting that, NTPC shall be interested in conducting small scale programmes in order to contribute to development in the EV ecosystem in Myanmar. Subsequently, NTPC is also preparing solarization report for many ISA countries, hence, owing to that Myamnar could also experience the same and therefore planning the utility of solar power given the data procured from the report.

According to Mr. Jain, this if implemented properly could also accelerate innovation in the power generation sector, therefore making way for participation in Industry 5.0.

Mr. Saumik Dasgupta, HOD International Division, Narayana Health Howrah and Mr. Santanu Saha, Deputy Manager, International Business, Manipal Hospitals –Kolkata have pointed out that there is no production of Oncology, Pediatric and HIV medications in Myanmar. Hence both of esteemed attendees requested to facilitate a visit to Myanmar for exploring possible avenues of business in order to address the production issue of the said medicines and help to mitigate.

The interactive session was filled with queries and dialogues among the Indian and Myanmar stakeholders marking a very engaging and fruitful session for the delegation from Myanmar accompanied by the Ministry of External Affairs (Branch Secretariat, Kolkata). Mr. Pandit suggested that further queries maybe addressed to Consulate General of Myanmar in Kolkata or Embassy of India in Yangon. This was a very well knitted interaction with foreign delegation with industry specific members from manufacturing, healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors. The Union Minister of Myanmar delightfully invited all attendees and respective organizations to do business in Myanmar as it is gradually taking shape of a favorable location for trading.



Mr. Gautam Ray, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry & President - Corporate, RPSG Group addressing the delegates from Myanmar



Dr. Charlie Than, Union Minister, Ministry of Industry, Government of Myanmar during his address to the esteemed Members and stakeholders of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Discussions on the way forward to grow trade relations with Myanmar in progress



Mr. Saumik Dasgupta, HOD International Division, Narayana Health Howrah proposing the Myanmar visit to hon'ble Union Minister



Mr. Debashis Dutta, Director, BG Somadder& Sons Pvt. Ltd. interacting with the Myanmar Delegation in order to understand the trade policies and incentive schemes if any

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HER EXCELLENCY, MS. MARISA GERARDS, AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF NETHERLANDS TO INDIA

3RD APRIL 2024

Indo-Dutch business relations date back to more than 400 years. In 1604, the Dutch East India Company (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie, the VOC) began trading in India, first establishing itself in Dutch Coromandel, notably Pulicat, looking for textiles to exchange with the spices they traded in the East Indies. Diplomatic relations between India and the Netherlands were established in 1947. While Dutch colonial rule in Bengal was relatively short-lived, their presence left a mark. Dutch architecture and cultural influences can still be found in places like Chinsurah. The historical trade connection between the Netherlands and Bengal highlights the global importance of Bengal's textile industry and the fierce competition for Asian trade routes in the colonial era.

The Netherlands is the fifth largest foreign investor in India during F.Y. 2022-2023 with FDI equity inflows of USD 2.498 billion (INR 19,855 crores). From April 2000 to June 2023, the Netherlands was the fourth largest investor into India comprising 7% of overall investment with cumulative FDI equity inflow of USD 45.288 billion (INR 296,000 crores).

The two countries enjoy strong economic ties with high bilateral trade and significant Dutch foreign direct investment (FDI) in India. They are working together to facilitate trade and investment through initiatives like the India-Netherlands Fast-Track Mechanism (FTM) established in September 2022. This mechanism aims to streamline the process for Dutch companies investing in India.

Attendees of the meeting :

- **Mr. Gautam Ray,** President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & President - Corporate, RPSG Group, CESC Limited
- **Mr. Peter Knoope,** Distinguished Fellow, The International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT)
- **Mr. Namit Shah,** Honorary Consul of The Netherlands in Kolkata & Managing Director - F.Harley & Co Pvt Ltd
- **Mr. Debashis Dutta, Chairperson,** National Shipping and Logistics Committee, BCC&I & Director BGS GROUP (B G Somadder & Sons Private Limited)
- **Mr. Jayanta Chakraborty,** Chairperson, Agri-Horti-Food Processing-Rural Dev Committee & Consultant, Indofil
- **Mr. Tridibesh Bandyopadhyay,** Director & CEO, InQube, India and UK
- **Mr. Avik Ghose,** Research Head, Healthcare and Med-Tech, TCS
- **Mr. Manohar Bethapudi,** Founder, Uneverse Mobility Private Limited
- **Mr. Ritvik Modi,** Director, Allied Infrastructures & Projects Pvt Ltd
- **Mr. Nikhil Jaiswal,** General Manager- East (Green Base Industrial & Logistics Park), Nidar Group of Companies
- **Mr. Shrey Tayal,** Director, Riverine Group
- **Mr. S. Hajara, Director,** Apeejay Shipping Limited
- Mr. Adhip Nath Palchaudhuri, Director Service Business, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
- **Mr. Sagar Khastagir,** Partner, Sure Data Keeping System
- **Mr. Sidharth Udani,** Regional Head, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd
- **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh,** Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- **Ms. Sukanya Bose,** Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- **Mr. Sambit Dasgupta,** Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Notes of the meeting :

- Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I formally welcomed Her Excellency, Ms. Marisa Gerards, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to India and began the session with a round of introduction and interaction along with the members of The Chamber
- The Session had the presence of senior industry representatives from the Shipping and Logistics Sector, Agriculture, IT and Energy Sector, E-Mobility Sector
- The Director General of BCC&I, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh updated Her Excellency on the ongoing and a very significant project of BCC&I, on accumulation of Blue Carbon Credits that is taking place in Gangasagar, South 24 Paraganas, West Bengal. The Chamber also expressed its interests on working in the Plastic Credits area in future.
- Several areas of trade co-operation between the two countries were identified at the onset of the interactive session, they are as follows :
  - Water and irrigation systems
  - Hydrogen
  - Energy
  - Health

- Technology & Innovation
- Sustainability

- Suggestion on developing collaboration opportunities for green port, skill development requirements related to logistics and shipping sector, cold chain/ storage technology in agricultural field, precision farming, and inland waterways opportunities, support in developing sodium ion cell manufacturing technology, came from the participating members of The Chamber.

- Her Excellency appreciated all the suggestions and put forward the existing collaboration opportunities in sectors like, Argiculture, Shipping & Logistics and Med-Tech. She also mentioned about the current collaboration with Government of West Bengal for a project aiming to protect water bodies and reduce pollution.



Interactive session between the Members of The Bengal Chamber and Her Excellency, Ms. Marisa Gerards, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to India in progress



The opening address of Her Excellency, Ms. Marisa Gerards, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to India to the Members of the interactive session



Mr. Gautam Ray, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & President- Corporate, RPSG Group, CESC Limited, presenting a token of appreciation to the Ambassador

COACHING FOR ALL

4TH APRIL 2024, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Wellness and Communities Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd; Kolkata's ICF Coaching Community and ICF Educators curated a workshop titled "Coaching for All" dedicated to the Members of The Chamber on 4th April 2024 at ITC Room, The Bengal Chamber Premises.

Ms. Magdalena Mook, CEO of the International Coaching Federation (ICF) graced the occasion through online platform along with Dr. Ratna Sinha, Mentor of Wellness & Communities, BCC&I, Mr. Adhip Pal Chaudhuri, Director Service Business, Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd, Mr. Partho Chatterjee, HR-Adviser, ICF Global Member, Associate Certified Coach (ICF); Ms. Sharmi Roy, Executive Coach, Coach Educator, CEO-Coachezzy and Founder Director-Art To Lead; and other senior representatives were also physically present.

The workshop had 3 different sessions. The first one focused on "Coaching and Women Leaders : Challenges and Opportunities," The second one focused on "Coaching for Business Leaders/Executives/Organization," and the third one discussed the importance of "Coaching for Diversity, Inclusion, and Growth," which reflected the diverse facets of coaching's transformative potential.

This workshop featured a compelling agenda, including a roundtable discussion and panel sessions. Distinguished leaders from various spheres in Kolkata convened to delve into the profound impact of coaching on personal and professional transformation. The initiative received support from key entities, namely Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd, Coachezzy Art To Lead Coach Education, Moulting Caterpillar LLP, and Neuro Leadership Training Pvt Ltd, signifying a unified commitment towards advancing coaching practices.

Overall the workshop was a successful one and had the presence of Senior Dignitaries such as CXO's, HR's , Coaching Professionals, and various other Industry stakeholders. The conclave was well attended by more than 70 participants. The entire programme was very well covered by leading media houses.



Senior Women Representatives were present at the special session on Coaching and Women Leaders: Challenges and Opportunities, at the Coaching For All initiative curated by Wellness and Communities The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 4th April 2024, at ITC Room, The Bengal Chamber Premises



Senior Industry Leaders were present at the special session on "Coaching for Business Leaders/Executives/Organization", at the Coaching For All initiative curated by Wellness and Communities The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 4th April 2024, at ITC Room, The Bengal Chamber Premises



Senior Representatives from different stara of the society were present at the special session on "Coaching for Diversity, Inclusion, and Growth", at the Coaching For All initiative curated by Wellness and Communities The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 4th April 2024, at ITC Room, The Bengal Chamber Premises.

B2B MEETINGS WITH THE BUSINESS DELEGATION FROM TAIWAN, 9TH MAY 2024 AT TAJ BENGAL

10TH MAY 2024, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES AND BALMER LAWRIE

A multisectoral Business Delegation from Taiwan, visited Kolkata, with the objective to meet Indian counterparts, in person, to explore business opportunities between Taiwan and India.

9th May 2024 :

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) shares deep connect with **Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TWTC Kolkata).** In this context, **on 9th May 2024, at Taj Bengal Kolkata, TAITRA,** in association with **BCC&I,** organized ***dedicated B2B Meetings with Taiwanese Suppliers from various Industries- CNC Machining, Ball Stud, Ball Joint, Rack End, Stabilizer link, Tie rod end, Control arm, STEAM Games, STEAM Toy, Educational Games, Learning Games, Card Games, Science Kit, Board Games, wash & dry combo coin laundry - Business*** *to name a few.*

The main objective of the B2B meetings was to develop bilateral trade relations between India and Taiwan and widen the connection between the two countries, both economically and culturally. The Taiwanese companies which took part in the delegation were : **Chang Shen Machinery; Double Max, Aniki Hardware; Chk Sealing; Great Auto Parts Industrial; Honeycomb Learning; Ible Technology; Lydsec Digital Technology; Rih Wang Industrial; Shiang Long; Tsan Yu Yen Food; Up Young; Wel-Bloom Bio-Tech; Ye Chime.**

Mr. Peter Huang, Manager, TAITRA HQ; **Ms. Sing Yi Jheng,** Director, TWTC Kolkata and Ms. Eshani Ghosh, Trade Promotion Specialist, TWTC Kolkata accompanied the Delegation.

Through some intense **primary and secondary market surveys,** BCC&I was able to connect with more than **50 Indian units** located in Kolkata. By informing them about the event and helping them realize how fruitful the meetings could be for them, BCC&I was able to organize a total of **31 one-to-one B2B meetings** on **9th May 2024.**

10th May 2024 :

- The Delegation visited The Bengal Chamber to interact with the Senior Chamber Secretariat. We organized an Interactive Session with **Mr. Arnab Chakraborty,** Director, BCC&I. The session highlighted collaboration opportunities between Taiwan and India in the realm of **Electronics; IT, Manufacturing, Machinery; Medical; Steel; Tourism, Renewables.**

- BCC&I also facilitated the meeting with **Balmer Lawrie** for Taiwanese Delegation on the 10th. The Delegation met **Mr. Adika Ratna Sekhar,** Chairman and Managing Director; **Mr. Saurav Dutta,** Director (Finance); **Ms. Mohar Mukhopadhyay,** Head-Corporate Communications and other officials of BalmerLawrie. From the Chamber Secretariat, **Mr. Avishek Mukherjee,** Chief Manager and **Ms. Sankalpita Aich,** Manager accompanied them.

9th May 2024 :



The Bengal Chamber Secretariat with the team of TAITRA





B2B Meeting in progress





B2B Meeting in progress

10th May 2024 :



The Meeting in progress with Mr. Arnab Chakraborty, Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



The Delegation with the officials of Balmer Lawrie



The Delegation with The Bengal Chamber team at the Chamber premises





Meeting in progress at Balmer Lawrie

15TH EDITION OF BUSINESS IT CONCLAVE (BITC) 2024

28TH JUNE 2024, TAJ CITY CENTRE, KOLKATA



The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented **the 15th edition of its annual signature Business IT Conclave (#BITC2024) on 28th June 2024, Friday at Taj City Centre, Kolkata.** The Bengal Chamber has created BCC&I Sustainability Forum and has embarked on synergizing its initiatives in different verticals towards sustainable development goals of the United Nations. In this context the IT committee's offering was "Tech for Good" as the theme for this year's conclave which signifies the emerging technologies enabling and accelerating contributions towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Conclave had footfall of over 300 delegates and invitees bringing together stakeholders in IT businesses including Government, developers, service providers, user industries, academia, startups investors and others. The Conclave witnessed Bengal's accelerated importance in the digital map of the Country and across borders. Major IT players, from outside the State and also the homegrown ones, joined the Conclave showcasing cutting edge technologies and business opportunities around the same. The companies included Oracle, HPE, Savex Technologies, CtrlS Datacenters., British Telecom, CISCO, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Tenable, MSTC, Tally, Zensar, Arodek, Hoichoi, Sundew Solutions, Infinity, HSBC, STPI and RT Network Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), New Delhi brought a delegation of IT companies from India and Bangladesh. The delegation was led by **Mr. Takashi SUZUKI,** Chief Director General, JETRO New Delhi. Bangladesh Association for Software & Information Services (BASIS) brought a delegation from Bangladesh led by **Mr. Mostafizur Rahaman Sohel,** Director, BASIS and Director, CCBL (Central Counterparty Bangladesh Limited).

The Conclave featured seminar discussions, CXO roundtable, country sessions, exhibitions simultaneously. **Shri Babul Supriyo,** Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Information Technology and Electronics, Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest. **Shri Rajeev Kumar, IPS,** Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal was also present.

The opening session was graced by **Mr. Gautam Ray,** President, BCC&I and President - Corporate, RPSG Group; **Mr. Arnab Basu,** President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd; **Mr. Gopala Ramanan,** Vice President & JAPAC Controller, Oracle India; **Mr. Rajesh Dhar,** Senior Director, Sales Head-Industry Verticals, HPE India; **Mr. Vinod Karumampoyil,** Director - Digital Transformation Office, CISCO; **Mr. Amit Singh,** Sr. Vice President, CtrlS Datacenters Ltd; **Mr Takashi SUZUKI,** The Chamber also felicitated the former leadership of the IT committee during the tenure of the BITC and the Founding Chairperson on the occasion of the milestone year. **Mr. Ravindra Chamaria,** Group Chairman, Infinity Infotech Parks Limited joined President and President Designate to do the honours.

Other Sessions included :

- Session: Role of Cyber Security in ESG presented by Tenable
- Fireside Chat Session : "Empowering Digital Transformation: Leveraging Technology for Impact" presented by CISCO
- Session : "Connected Enterprise to Execute Strategies at Pace and Scale" presented by Oracle India
- Session : Digital Sustainability: Driving Profit with Purpose presented by HPE and Savex
- Session : Digital innovations towards 'Technology for Good" – driven by experience + engineering + engagement continuum presented by Zensar Technologies
- Session : Panel Discussion on Gen AI, Digital Disruptions and Competitive Strategies
- Session : Sectoral Tech Adaptions
  - Track 1 : Session on Indo-Bangladesh Collaboration

Opportunities in E-Commerce presented by MSTC
  - Track 2 : Benefits of Channel Automation presented by Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd.
  - Track 3 : "Security as a Design" - a mandatory paradigm shift for SMEs presented by Sundew Solutions
- Session : Enhancing opportunities in Kolkata presented by Infinity Infotech Parks Limited

The Parallel Sessions included :

- Session : Japan Country Session by JETRO
- Session : B2B Roundtable by CtrlS Datacentres Ltd.
- Session : Empowering Business with Innovation & Automation by Oracle.

Shri Babul Supriyo, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Information Technology, Government of West Bengal, delivered an inspiring speech focused on the region's potential to become a major IT hub in India.

He emphasized the government's strategic vision to make Kolkata the next significant **IT hub, capable of rivalling cities like Bangalore and Gurgaon.** He shared details about the Bengal Silicon Valley, where 38 companies have already committed, with investments totalling around 25,000 crores and the potential to create 40,000 IT jobs. Highlighting the presence of industry giants such as Reliance, TCS, Infosys and L&T, he assured that Kolkata is already attracting the best in business.

He also mentioned the extensive infrastructure development, including **22 government IT parks and 60 private IT parks,** aiming to make the region more user and employee-friendly. He cited the government's stability and its impact on business confidence, ensuring that decisions are made swiftly to support enterprises.

Encouraging entrepreneurs to consider Kolkata, he pointed out the advantages of the planned smart city, New Town, which offers a conducive environment for business with ample space and modern amenities. He invited attendees to visit the Bengal Silicon Valley to witness the rapid development and the beautiful infrastructure firsthand.

His vision is to alleviate the overcrowding in traditional IT hubs by promoting Kolkata as an attractive alternative. He highlighted the city's potential to stop the brain drain and provide high-quality jobs for IT professionals. With a commitment to a 24-hour operational ministry, he assured unwavering support for businesses looking to invest in West Bengal. He concluded by expressing optimism about the future of Kolkata in the IT sector, urging attendees to believe in the city's potential and collaborate with the government to achieve shared aspirations. His speech was a call to action for investors and entrepreneurs to contribute to making Kolkata the next big thing in India's IT industry.

Shri Rajeev Kumar, IPS Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal, emphasized the importance of not only focusing on technology but also on goodness.. The Prisoner's Dilemma from game theory was introduced to illustrate the significance of cooperation. It was noted that while intelligence and smartness are often valued, cooperation plays a crucial role in human success.

The discussion extended to the realm of AI, particularly large language models (LLMs), with differing opinions on their potential to surpass human intelligence.

The current demographic advantage of India was acknowledged, with a call to leverage it effectively. The unique challenges faced by the Indian tech industry were discussed, including the need for improved logistics and aggregation systems.

Mr. Gopala Ramanan, Vice President & JAPAC Controller, Oracle India, addressed the role of finance in the IT industry, starting with an introduction to his background and experience. He explained how he worked with customers, primarily CFOs and CIOs, to understand their requirements and implement best practices into the Fusion system. He highlighted the challenges of the ever-changing business world, noting that businesses need systems that can sustain long-term and do more with less. He elaborated on how Oracle Fusion addresses these challenges with its comprehensive systems and innovative solutions. Over the past 20 years, Oracle has acquired over 150 companies, integrating their best-in-class industry verticals into the Fusion system. Mr. Ramanan mentioned notable acquisitions like PeopleSoft and described how these integrations have strengthened Oracle's ERP, supply chain management, human capital management, and customer experience applications.

Mr. Ramanan discussed the advancements in automation within Oracle's financial operations, such as global journal entries and cash predictiveness tools. He explained how automation has reduced manual intervention, improved efficiency, and enabled faster financial closing processes. He also highlighted the role of AI and machine learning in enhancing Oracle's systems, particularly in areas like digital assistants and predictive analysis.

He shared examples of how Oracle has streamlined processes, such as auto-reconciliation of bank statements and automated order processing, to reduce errors and

improve efficiency. Mr. Ramanan emphasized Oracle's commitment to innovation and continuous improvement, noting the integration of acquired technologies into the Fusion system to benefit all customers.

Session : ***Role of Cyber Security in ESG***
The discussion was led by :
Mr. Sudeep Das, Head SE, India & SAARC, Tenable India.

Mr. Sudeep Das, addressed the role of cyber security in Environmental Social Governance (ESG) initiatives, starting with an introduction to ESG basics and their importance to businesses. He highlighted examples of ESG practices, such as shifting to renewable energy and using reusable materials, and emphasized how these efforts contribute to environmental preservation and societal improvement. He underscored the need for businesses to understand their environmental impact to implement effective ESG programs. He connected ESG with business success, noting that ESG initiatives often lead to increased profitability and efficiency. He then transitioned to the role of cyber security, arguing that data and technology are crucial for any ESG program's success, and thus, cyber security becomes imperative. He stressed on the need for visibility, risk understanding and communication in cyber security to protect digital assets and ensure the smooth operation of ESG programs. Mr. Das concluded by asserting that cyber security should be integral to any business initiative involving technology and data, reinforcing that secure, well-governed systems are foundational to the success of ESG and other business programs.

Fireside Chat Session : ***"Empowering Digital Transformation:*** Leveraging Technology for Impact"
The discussions were led by :

- **Mr. Raghavan Kasturirangan,** Principal System Architect, CISCO.
- **Mr. Partha Sengupta,** Senior Vice President, ITC Infotech & Head of IT Shared Services, ITC Limited.

Mr. Kasturirangan highlighted that the network industry is undergoing significant changes due to the growing adoption of artificial intelligence and the shift towards diverse network conditions post-COVID.

He noted three major trends: enhanced customer experience, integrated security and automation. Customer experience now emphasizes seamless network access and intelligent issue resolution, while security has shifted to a zero-trust model. Automation and orchestration are becoming critical as networks grow in complexity, enabling rapid deployment and reducing error rates.

Mr. Sengupta elaborated on the evolving landscape, where data is increasingly scattered across multiple data centers due to cloud and SaaS adoption, leading to a reliance on internet access over traditional MPLS networks. He pointed out the significance of 5G in revolutionizing connectivity, although its adoption in corporate segments remains limited due to cost and endpoint support issues.

The discussion then turned to the role of generative AI in network management. Mr. Kasturirangan explained how AI is being used to automate troubleshooting, providing network administrators with real-time insights and diagnostics to quickly resolve issues.

Session : ***"Connected Enterprise to Execute Strategies at Pace and Scale".***
The discussion was led by :

- Mr. Rajesh Goel, Solution Consulting Director, Oracle India.

Mr. Rajesh Goel, delivered a comprehensive overview of the challenges posed by disparate systems within organizations and the transformative potential of Oracle ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) Cloud. He highlighted how fragmented applications across HR, finance and procurement often lead to operational inefficiencies and hinder growth. These inefficiencies include complex processes for reconciliation and reporting due to data scattered across multiple platforms. Such challenges not only impede agility but also pose barriers to scaling operations effectively.

Mr. Goel mentioned Oracle ERP Cloud as a solution that integrates these disparate systems into a unified platform. This integration allows for streamlined processes such as procure-to-pay and hire-to-retire, facilitating smoother operations and faster decision-making. Moreover, Oracle's ERP Cloud offers real-time insights and analytics, enabling organizations to make informed decisions promptly. He highlighted Oracle's commitment to innovation, with regular updates and enhancements delivered through Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI), ensuring that businesses can stay ahead in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Session : ***Digital Sustainability : Driving Profit with Purpose.***

- **Mr. Manish Ranjan,** ESG Practitioner, India Geo Sustainability SWAT lead, Hewlett Packard Enterprise.
- **Mr. Partha Dasgupta,** DGM Sales & Operations, Savex Technologies.

In this session the importance of linking digital and sustainable transformation for future business success was highlighted. The challenges technology leaders face in this process and emphasized the need for strategic questions about maintaining innovation and building a sustainable future was also acknowledged. HP offers sustainable IT solutions from Edge to Cloud, aiding organizations in modernizing their IT strategies through pathways like HP Green Lake. These solutions focus on enhancing operational efficiency, reducing energy consumption and costs, and ensuring full asset life cycle management. HP's long history in sustainability was emphasized, including their early adoption of CSR and commitment to environmental responsibility since the 1940s. Mr. Dasgupta detailed HP's multiple solutions for sustainability tailored to the Indian market, such as frameworks for climate disclosure and reporting. He underscored HP's unique selling proposition (USP) of providing comprehensive ESG solutions, including training, tools for identifying sustainable partners and achieving Net Zero targets. Additionally, HP's commitment to sustainability extends across their product lifecycle, from manufacturing with sustainable energy to recycling and upcycling. The HP Green Lake platform was highlighted as a key solution for reducing over-provisioning and lowering operational costs, making sustainability both achievable and profitable. Finally, Mr. Dasgupta addressed the needs of MSMEs, explaining that HP offers affordable ESG solutions tailored to different sectors, ensuring even small and medium-sized enterprises can benefit from sustainable practices.

Session : ***Digital innovations towards "Technology for Good" - driven by experience + engineering + engagement continuum.***

- **Mr. Kaushik Chatterjee,** Global Delivery Head - BFSI, Healthcare & Life sciences, Zensar Technologies Ltd.
- **Mr. Animesh Mukherjee,** Global Head - Industry Solutions Group, Insurance, Zensar Technologies Ltd.

The session focused on the main drivers behind the current wave of digital disruption and highlighted changes in consumer behaviour. People now prefer the convenience of online shopping, personalized experiences, and digital-first services. The younger, digitally native generation also demands digital experiences. Additionally, growing concerns about sustainability are forcing companies to adopt eco-friendly solutions.

These trends are transforming industries across the board. For example, over 20% of global retail sales now happen online through platforms like Amazon, which has a $2.1 trillion market capitalization. Similarly, over 40% of TV consumption is now through streaming services like Netflix. The rise of ride-sharing apps like Uber, which does 28 million trips per day, is another example of digital disruption.

To succeed in this era of digital disruption, companies need to focus on several key areas. First, they must design digital experiences that cater to diverse user preferences, rather than just digitizing existing processes. Second, they need to leverage data and analytics to personalize offerings. Third, they should leverage cloud and micro services architectures to rapidly innovate. Finally, driving enterprise-wide digital transformation, with buy-in from all departments, is critical for success.

Session : ***Panel Discussion on Gen AI, Digital Disruptions and Competitive Strategies.***

- **Mr. Mainak Bhattacharya,** Technology Head-SAP, arodek.
- **Mr. Ramyanshu Datta,** Ph.D, Head of Product Generative AI on Amazon Sage Maker and GM AWS Human-in-Loop (HIL) AI Services (virtually from USA).
- **Mr. Anil Nama,** CIO, CtrlS Datacenters Ltd.
- **Mr. Aloke Majumder,** VP-Technology, Hoichoi.
- **Mr. Rahul Guha,** Director, Oracle India.
- **Mr. Nitin Raj,** Partner - Data Sciences - AI/ML/Gen AI and Optimization, PwC India.
- **Mr. Jaideep S Kalra,** Director & Region Head, Business Banking, North & East India, HSBC Bank Ltd.
- Session Moderated by: ***Mr. Partha Sengupta,*** Senior Vice President, ITC Infotech & Head of IT Shared Services, ITC Limited

The focus of the discussion was on the transformative era of technological innovation, where AI and generative models are reshaping industries at an unprecedented pace. This discussion aimed to offer valuable insights on leveraging these technologies to enhance efficiency and drive innovation in organizations.

The discussion delved into the rapid integration of generative AI into various sectors, highlighting both excitement and ethical concerns. Panellists provide insights into real-world applications and responsible usage.

Mr. Kalra discussed how AI and the 4D methodology are revolutionizing the banking sector.

Mr. Majumder talked about how AI is driving the digital and content creation revolution, particularly in Bengali media.

Mr. Guha explained how embedding generative AI into products enhances business processes, emphasizing built-in AI capabilities.

Mr. Nama, highlighted the importance of digital infrastructure and AI operations in democratizing AI initiatives.

Mr. Raj He emphasized the importance of understanding both the "what" and "how" of democratization. He highlighted that large issues like supply chain and ESG involve vast unstructured data, which generative AI now combines with structured data, offering new perspectives. The rapid success of Chat GPT, with 100 million users in two months, exemplifies democratization—no longer do users need to be data scientists to leverage technology. Generative AI compresses global information into one accessible file, empowering everyone to build their models and businesses, marking unprecedented democratization. Mr. Kalra discussed how banks have adopted AI for financial intelligence and process automation. Generative AI promises improvements in productivity and customer experience, but data confidentiality and compliance are critical. Internally, banks create data lakes for easy access and processing, while externally, they partner with service providers to help clients leverage AI for business insights, all while maintaining data privacy.

During the audience Q&A, Mr. Guha addressed data security with generative AI, ensuring that Oracle does not access or use customer data for training or inferencing, keeping data private and secure. On the issue of hallucinations in AI models, prompt engineering was recommended to make questions more specific and contextual, with human oversight being crucial. Another point raised was the use of other AI techniques beyond large language models (LLMs), such as smaller, more targeted models tailored to specific business needs, to minimize computational and environmental costs.

The panellists closed by emphasizing the importance of balancing democratization with data governance, security, and human-centric adoption processes. They stressed starting small, ensuring data privacy, and gradually scaling up AI initiatives across the organization.

Session : ***Sectoral Tech Adaptations :***
Track 1 :
Session on Indo-Bangladesh Collaboration Opportunities in E-Commerce presented by MSTC.

- **Shri Dibyendu Roy,** HOD-eCommerce, MSTC Limited (topic to be decided) in discussion with **Mr. Mostafizur Rahaman Sohel,** Director, BASIS (Bangladesh Association for Software & Information Services) and Director, CCBL (Central Counterparty Bangladesh Limited).
- Moderated by: ***Dr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chairperson,*** IT Entrepreneurs and eCommerce Committee, BCC&I; Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Chief Executive Officer & Director, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.

In the session, it was conveyed that businesses today face increasing challenges due to digital transformation and economic volatility. AeroD, a global professional services organization, was introduced as a solution, offering 360° IT and management solutions through various products to help businesses improve their operations.

Mr. Roy provided an overview of MSTC, a central government PSU under the Ministry of Steel, which specializes in e-commerce services like e-auction, e-procurement, and custom software development. It was highlighted that MSTC has been involved in various sectors, including mining, telecom, power, and agriculture.

Mr.Sohel explained BASIS's role as the apex body for software and information services in Bangladesh, focusing on policy making, market development, and capacity building. He emphasized the collaboration opportunities with MSTC and the benefits of leveraging existing solutions rather than redeveloping them.

The discussion concluded with a focus on the future steps for collaboration. It was mentioned that MSTC and BASIS are exploring opportunities to work together, with expectations for formal outcomes and progress to be made within the year. The session ended with an invitation for questions from the audience, indicating ongoing optimism for successful collaboration.

Track 2 :
Benefits of Channel Automation : presented by Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd.

- **Mr. Sidharth Prashar,** Deputy General Manager - Enterprise Sales, Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd.

In the session, it was shared that Tally Solutions, established 40 years ago, had significantly transformed operations for small and medium enterprises by moving from manual to computerized systems. The narrative focused on how Tally had evolved to address challenges faced by businesses, including financial and inventory management. About six years ago, Tally had expanded into the government sector and enterprise solutions, aiming to assist large enterprises and their channel partners with stock and sales visibility.

The benefits of Tally's solutions, such as automated order processing and price control, were discussed. Tally had been instrumental in helping various industries, including cement, tire, and fast-moving consumer goods. Emphasis was placed on the integration of Tally with other systems through APIs and its recent transition to a cloud-based platform with AWS for improved efficiency.

The session highlighted Tally's role in enabling data accessibility and real-time insights for both channel partners and principal companies. It was mentioned that Tally was involved in pilot projects exploring new solutions and would soon introduce its first AI product to further enhance business insights. The founder's quote was shared, stating that there are businesses using Tally and those that will use Tally in the future.

Track 3 :

"Security as a Design" - a mandatory paradigm shift for SMEs.

- **Mr. Charly Graf,** CISO and CIO, Sundew Solutions (from Switzerland).

Mr. Charly Graf, emphasized the importance of data privacy and governance, noting that smaller organizations often overlook these aspects, assuming they are only relevant for larger entities or regulated industries. Mr. Graf advocated for proactive measures in cyber security, highlighting that any action is better than inaction.

He discussed key compliance obligations under India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act of 2023, which includes requirements for explicit consent, data breach notifications, and data localization. He also compared these with European standards and emphasized the importance of integrating privacy and security into organizational design.

A Q&A session followed, during which Mr. Graf addressed questions on sustainability solutions and the availability of open-source software for corporate responsibility. He acknowledged the challenges and commercial aspects of such tools and advocated for a conceptual shift towards valuing and protecting data as a critical asset. The session concluded with a formal acknowledgment of Mr. Graf's contributions.

Session: *Enhancing opportunities of Kolkata*

- **Mr. Amit Srivastava,** Director and Site Lead, BT Group.
- **Mr. Chandrakirti Roy,** Senior Director - Administration and Facilities, Teleperformance.
- **Mr. Santanu Ghosh,** Head East, Cushman & Wakefield.
- Session Moderatedby: ***Mr. Aninda Das, Vice President-Marketing, Infinity Infotech Parks Limited.***

The session's focus was on enhancing opportunities in Kolkata, emphasizing the city's potential as a major IT hub. Despite some clichés, the discussion highlighted Kolkata's strengths: a vibrant talent pool, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and a favorable cost of living. The optimism for Kolkata as the next big IT destination was palpable, with predictions of significant growth in the coming decade.

Mr. Shantanu Ghosh, provided an overview of Kolkata's real estate market. He noted a growth from 1 billion square feet to an anticipated 1.67 million square feet by the end of 2024. Despite comparing favorably with other cities like Pune and Chennai, Kolkata still faces challenges, including perception issues and a shortage of Global Capability Centers (GCCs). He emphasized the need to change perceptions and leverage the city's strengths.

Mr. Chandrakirti Roy highlighted the company's significant presence in Kolkata with over 7,000 employees. He discussed the challenges of overcoming negative perceptions and emphasized that Kolkata remains an attractive location due to its talent pool and supportive government initiatives. Tele performance plans to continue its expansion, reflecting confidence in the city's growth.

Mr. Amit Srivastava discussed the company's growth in Kolkata from 3,000 to 4,000 employees. He noted Kolkata's competitive advantages, including talent, cost efficiency, and property costs. However, he called for more proactive efforts from both corporate and government to improve the city's image and capitalize on the growth potential. Amit emphasized the need for policy development and enhanced outreach to attract more GCCs.

The discussion also touched upon the exit of major companies like Tata from Kolkata, which has left a significant impact. The need for an image makeover and collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce and real estate sectors was highlighted as essential to address these challenges.

The session concluded with a call for collaboration and continued efforts to showcase Kolkata's strengths and potential.



Opening Session Welcome Address by **Mr. Gautam Ray,** President, BCC&I and President - Corporate, RPSG Group



Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd setting the agenda during the Opening Session



Conclave Address by **Shri Rajeev Kumar,** IPS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal



Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest **Shri Babul Supriyo,** Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Information Technology and Electronics and Departments of Environment and Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal



Opening Panel of 15th Edition of BITC 2024 (Left to Right): **Dr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya,** Chairperson, IT Entrepreneurs and eCommerce Committee, BCC&I; Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Chief Executive Officer & Director, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.; **Mr. Takashi SUZUKI,** Chief Director General, JETRO New Delhi; **Mr. Rajesh Dhar,** Senior Director, Sales Head-Industry Verticals, HPE India; **Mr. Gautam Ray,** President, BCC&I and President - Corporate, RPSG Group; **Shri Rajeev Kumar, IPS,** Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal; **Mr. Arnab Basu,** President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd; **Mr. Ravindra Chamaria,** Group Chairman, Infinity Infotech Parks Limited; **Mr. Amit Singh,** Senior Vice President, CtrlS Datacenters Ltd; **Mr. Vinod Karumampoyil,** Director - Digital Transformation Office, CISCO; **Mr. Gopala Ramanan,** Vice President & JAPAC Controller, Oracle India





Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest **Shri Babul Supriyo,** Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Information Technology and Electronics and Departments of Environment and Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal



Mr. Sudeep Das, Head SE, India & SAARC, Tenable India during his session on **Role of Cyber Security in ESG,** presented by Tenable



Fireside Chat Session : "Empowering Digital Transformation: Leveraging Technology for Impact" presented by CISCO featuring (L to R) Mr. Raghavan Kasturirangan, Principal System Architect, CISCO and Mr. Partha Sengupta, Senior Vice President, ITC Infotech & Head of IT Shared Services, ITC Limited









Glimpses of Felicitation of the Former IT Committee Leadership during the tenure of BITC over the years, on the occasion of 15th Edition of BITC





Session on "Connected Enterprise to Execute Strategies at Pace and Scale", presented by Oracle India featuring Mr. Rajesh Goel, Solution Consulting Director, Oracle India





Session on Digital Sustainability: Driving Profit with Purpose, presented by HPE and Savex featuring (L to R) Mr. Manish Ranjan, ESG Practitioner, India Geo Sustainability SWAT lead, Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Mr. Partha Dasgupta, DGM Sales & Operations, Savex Technologies



Session on Digital innovations towards "Technology for Good" - driven by experience + engineering + engagement continuum presented by Zensar Technologies featuring (L to R) Mr. Kaushik Chatterjee, Global Delivery Head – BFSI, Healthcare & Life sciences, Zensar Technologies Ltd



Panel Discussion on Gen AI, Digital Disruptions and Competitive Strategies. The speakers of the panel were (left to Right)- Mr. Anil Nama, CIO, CtrlS Datacenters Ltd, Mr. Mainak Bhattacharya, Technology Head-SAP, arodek, Mr. Jaideep S Kalra, Director & Region Head, Business Banking, North & East India, HSBC Bank Ltd., Mr. Aloke Majumder, VP –Technology, Hoichoi, Mr. Rahul Guha, Director, Oracle India, Mr. Nitin Raj, Partner- Data Sciences- AI/ML/Gen AI and Optimization, PwC India



Session on Indo-Bangladesh Collaboration Opportunities in E-Commerce presented by MSTC featuring (left to right) Shri Dibyendu Roy, HOD-eCommerce, MSTC Limited with Moderator, Dr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chairperson, IT Entrepreneurs and eCommerce Committee, BCC&I; Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Chief Executive Officer & Director, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Mostafizur RahamanSohel, Director, BASIS (Bangladesh Association for Software & Information Services) and Director, CCBL (Central Counterparty Bangladesh Limited)



Session on Benefits of Channel Automation presented by Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd. featuring Mr. Sidharth Prashar, Deputy General Manager - Enterprise Sales, Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd



Session on "Security as a Design" - a mandatory paradigm shift for SMEs presented by Sundew Solutions featuring Mr. Charly Graf, CISO and CIO, Sundew Solutions (from Switzerland)



Session on Enhancing opportunities of Kolkata presented by Infinity Infotech Parks Limited



Japan Session by JETRO (India and Bangladesh)



Parallel Session on Empowering Business with Innovation & Automation by Oracle





Tenable B2B Lunch on the sidelines of BITC 2024





B2B Roundtable by CtrlS Datacenters Ltd- “Key trends and technologies impacting the future of datacenter industry”

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MS. ALESSANDRA CARREON, COMMISSIONER FOR THE MICHIGAN STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

11TH JULY 2024, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) organized an Interactive Session with Ms. Alessandra Carreon, Commissioner for the Michigan State Public Service Commission on 11th July 2024, at the Chamber premises.

Ms. Alessandra Carreon is the Commissioner for the Michigan State Public Service Commission. Previously, she was a manager in carbon-free transportation for RMI, a nonprofit working to secure a clean energy transition. She led projects focused on affordable and accessible electric vehicle adoption and charging. Her work aims to accelerate global transportation electrification while ensuring equity across the battery value chain. She formerly led Ford Motor Company's Responsible Material Sourcing team and spent years in environmental, social, and governance roles.

From the U.S. Consulate General Kolkata, **Mr. Anutosh Biswas,** Public Engagement Coordinator and **Ms. Sucharita Bhattacharjee,** Public Engagement Specialist accompanied Ms.Carreon.

The Session focussed on the future of Electric Vehicle and its impact on the environment. The deliberations included thoughtful ideas and insights to better understand the current state and future potential of this important technology. The transition to electric vehicles is a critical step in addressing climate change and creating a more sustainable future.

The Session also focussed on:

- India-U.S. Trade Relations and the Future of Electrified Transportation.
- India-US Trade / Bilateral Trade.
- India-US Economic Relation.
- India-US Trade Treaty.
- United States in the EV Space.
- Michigan in the EV Space.
- India in the EV Space.
- West Bengal in the EV Space.

The Session was presided by **Mr. Gautam Ray,** President, BCC&I and President- Corporate, RPSG Group and **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh,** Director General, BCC&I. It was also graced by Industry experts like **Mr. Alok Kumar Ghosh,** GM(OS), Corporate, WBPDCL, **Mr. Jayanta Chakraborty,** Consultant, Indofil Industries Limited; **Mr. Manohar Bethapudi,** Founder & CEO, Uneverse Mobility; **Mr. Rajesh Jain,** Vice President - Finance & Resource Mobilisation, SWACH Environment Private Limited and Mr. **Surajit Majumdar,** Senior General Manager to MD's Office, Corporate, Exide Industries Limited.



Session in progress



Presentation of Memento to Ms. Alessandra Carreon, Commissioner for the Michigan State Public Service Commission by Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I



From L-R: Mr. SubhodipGhosh, Director General, BCC&I, Mr. SurajitMajumdar, Senior General Manager to MD's Office, Corporate, Exide Industries Limited, Mr. JayantaChakraborty, Consultant, Indofil Industries Limited, Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I, Mr. Alok Kumar Ghosh, GM(OS), Corporate, WBPDCL, Ms. Alessandra Carreon, Commissioner for the Michigan State Public Service Commission, Mr. Rajesh Jain, Vice President - Finance & Resource Mobilisation, SWACH Environment Private Limited, Mr. ManoharBethapudi, Founder & CEO, Uneverse Mobility and Ms. SucharitaBhattacharjee, Public Engagement Specialist, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THAILAND

20TH SEPTEMBER 2024, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) hosted **Ms. Nakrisorn Klaikeow, the Director Consul from the Thailand Board of Investment, Mumbai Office** for an Interactive Sessionon Investment Opportunities in Thailand with stake holders from Agro & Food processing, Packaging, Export & Import, Start Up and IT.

From BCC&I, **Mr. Sambit Dasgupta,** Deputy Director, delivered the welcome speech.

The Session emphasized on Thailand's investment landscape and numerous opportunities that exist for businesses here in India to engage with Thailand's dynamic markets.

The participants included **Mr. N C Banerjee,** Aricha Organics; **Mr. Taj Mohammad,** MD, ZA Sea Foods; **Dr. Binoy S Das,** CEO, West Bengal Poultry Federation; **Mr. Sanjay Tiwari,** Shalimar Hatcheries; **Mr. Kalyan Kar,** Co-Founder, Prediqt Business Solutions Private Limited; **Mr. Somnath Halder,** Director, Exportence International Pvt. Ltd; **Mr. Arijit Das,** CEO, Schoppen Solutions Pvt Ltd; **Mr. P P Chattaraj,** Associate Director - Human Resources, Steel Plantech India Pvt Ltd; **Mr. Ankush Saha,** Managing Director, JGB Agrofresh Pvt Ltd to name a few.



Welcome speech being delivered by Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Deputy Director, BCC&I



Interactive Session in progress



Presentation of Memento to Ms. Nakrisorn Klaikeow, the Director Consul from the Thailand Board of Investment, Mumbai Office by Mr. Kalyan Kar, Co-Founder, Prediqt Business Solutions Private Limited

2ND EDITION OF INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE 2024

26TH AND 27TH SEPTEMBER 2024, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES



The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) presented **the 2nd edition of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2024, on the occasion of its 170th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 26th and 27th September 2024, at the historic and heritage premises of The Bengal Chamber.** This Conclave was presented in association with Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). In this year's Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, themed The India Vision for One Indo-Pacific; Technology in Connecting Trade and Economic Progress, we witnessed a compelling showcase of how cutting-edge technologies are shaping the future of trade and economic collaboration across the region. The discussions highlighted the critical role that digital infrastructure, fintech ecosystems and innovative policy frameworks play in driving economic growth and regional integration. A notable focus was on the transformative use of technology in the banking sector, where advancements in digital payments and cross-border financial solutions are enhancing trade efficiency and financial inclusion. Thought leaders explored how technological innovation can bridge vast geographical distances, integrate key sectors into global value chains, and unlock new opportunities for economic development. The Conclave underscored the potential of digital advancements in fostering inclusive prosperity and building a more interconnected Indo-Pacific.

The Conclave attracted a diverse range of participants, with over 200 attendees each day. The audience at this year's Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave comprised a diverse and influential group of stakeholders, reflecting the Conclave's broad appeal and strategic focus. Industry captains and corporate leaders, including heads of firms and business units, were present to drive discussions on technology, innovation, and sustainability, particularly in the context of the Indo-Pacific. Senior leaders from top technology companies spearheading digital transformation and sectoral integration within the region also played a key role. The Conclave attracted CXO-level executives such as CEOs, CFOs, COOs, and CTOs from leading organizations across various industries, including technology, finance and manufacturing. Founders and decision-makers from dynamic startups and MSMEs were keen to explore growth opportunities and business expansion within the Indo-Pacific region. Additionally, representatives from prominent think tanks, research organizations, and academic institutions contributed expert insights on regional and global trade, technology, and economic policies. Diplomatic missions from Indo-Pacific countries facilitated discussions on international collaborations and partnerships, while economic leaders from major Indian banks, investment firms and financial services companies brought perspectives on fintech, cross-border trade and digital payments innovation. Together, this diverse audience enriched the Conclave's discussions with a broad range of insights and expertise. There was also vibrant participation of attendees joining from Bangkok, Australia, Colombo, New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata which highlighted the strong interest in leveraging technology to build a unified Indo-Pacific.

The Conclave was made possible with the support of several esteemed sponsors, including PwC, Bandhan Bank, BT Group, Exide, Linde, NTPC, SBI, Adamas, Berger, Indorama, JIS, Sify Technologies, Tally Solutions, Tata Tele, Tax Connect, 6 Ballygunge Place, Girish Chandra Ghosh, Selvelone, RT Network Solutions, and Paperboat Holidays.

Dr. Amit Mitra, Hon'ble Principal Chief Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal and Finance Department (in Cabinet Minister Rank), Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest for day 1 of the Conclave. He also delivered the Inaugural Address for the day. On the same day, the Keynote Address was delivered by **Ms. Paramita Tripathi,** Joint Secretary, Indo-Pacific and Oceania Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The Inaugural Session for day 1 (26th September 2024) was also graced by **Mr. Gautam Ray,** President, BCC&I & President

- Corporate, RPSG Group; **Dr. Prabir De,** Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I; **Mr. Nakagawa Koichi,** Consul General, Consulate General of Japan Kolkata; **Mr. Kevin Goh,** Deputy Consul General, Australian ConsulateGeneral Kolkata and **Mr. Arnab Basu**, President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.

On day 2 (27th September 2024) of the Conclave, Chief Guest **Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran,** Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address on **"Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Catalyzing Indo-Pacific Growth".**

The Inaugural Session for day 2 was graced by **Mr. Gautam Ray,** President, BCC&I & President - Corporate, RPSG Group; **Ms. Mikiko Tanaka,** Director and Head, South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA), New Delhi, UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific); **Ms. Kathy Giles-Diaz,** Consul General, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata and **Mr. Arnab Basu,** President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.

Other sessions for both the days included :

Day 1: 26th September 2024 - Theme: "Emerging Technologies and Their Impact on Indo-Pacific Relations".

- **Plenary Session -** Special Address by Dr. Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP (United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific).

- **Special Session I -** Sub-Theme: Harnessing Technology to Integrate Key Sectors into Global Value Chains.

Discussion Points:

- Blockchain Technology in International Trade Finance: Sectoral Integration Strategies.
- Tech-Enabled Supply Chain Resilience: Best practices for building resilient supply chains using technology.
- Regional Collaboration: Opportunities for technology-driven collaboration across the Indo-Pacific.
- Policy Frameworks: What policies are needed to support technology adoption and integration?

- **Special Session II - Roundtable Dialogue of the Association of Indo-Pacific Chambers of Commerce (AIPCC)**

Day 2 : 27th September2024 – Theme: "Strengthening Indo-Pacific Partnerships through Technology Collaboration".

- **Interactive Session: Fintech Innovation and Standardization for Seamless Trade and Payments in the Indo-Pacific**

Discussion Points :

- **Leveraging Tech and Infrastructure for Trade Standardization :** Examining how companies can contribute to creating unified standards, driving innovation in digital infrastructure and ensuring secure, efficient cross-border transactions in the Indo-Pacific
- **Driving Fintech Collaboration :** Exploring how fintech ecosystems can foster innovation and partnerships to enhance financial inclusion and economic growth.
- **Global Digital Payment Integration :** Discussing the role of digital payment systems in promoting interoperability and expanding financial inclusion across borders.

- **Experts' Roundtable on : Digital Transformation in Indo-Pacific Trade and Connectivity**

Discussion Points :

- India's Vision for Digital Connectivity and Technological Innovation in the Indo- Pacific
- Bridging the Digital Divide: Initiatives for Inclusive Growth in the Indo-Pacific
- Opportunities and Challenges for Indo-Pacific Economies in Adopting Digital Technologies
- Enhancing Cybersecurity and Data Governance in the Indo-Pacific Nations
- Technological Innovations for Tax Harmonization in the Indo-Pacific
- Technologies needed in cross-border financial transactions

Day 1: 26th September 2024
Theme: Emerging Technologies and Their Impact on Indo-Pacific Relations

Discussions were led by :

- **Dr. Amit Mitra,** Hon'ble Principal Chief Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal and Finance Department (in Cabinet Minister Rank), Government of West Bengal
- **Ms. Paramita Tripathi,** Joint Secretary, Indo-Pacific

and Oceania Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
- **Mr. Gautam Ray,** President, BCC&I & President - Corporate, RPSG Group
- **Dr. Prabir De,** Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I

- **Mr. Nakagawa Koichi,** Consul General, Consulate General of Japan Kolkata
- **Mr. Kevin Goh,** Deputy Consul General, Australian ConsulateGeneral Kolkata
- **Mr. Arnab Basu,** President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.

Session Moderator: Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri, Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Chairperson, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I

Dr. Amit Mitra, Hon'ble Principal Chief Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal and Finance Department (in Cabinet Minister Rank), Government of West Bengal delivered the Inaugural Address on Day 1 : 26th September 2024.

He focused on the impact of emerging technologies on Indo-Pacific relations, presenting the broader regional picture before highlighting West Bengal's technological advancements. West Bengal was showcased as a case study, particularly with the establishment of a 200-acre Silicon Valley Hub, which attracted 41 companies, including major players in the telecom and data center sectors. A significant investment of □ 7,500 crores in telecom infrastructure followed the state's broadband policy introduced in 2020. By 2024, 11 data centers were established, with 7 already operational, from companies such as Jio, Airtel, and Tata Tele Data Center.

In 2021, the introduction of a data center policy helped enhance West Bengal's digital infrastructure, further supporting collaborations with the 14 Indo-Pacific countries. The Digha cable landing station, the first of its kind in Eastern India, improved digital connectivity, linking West Bengal to global hubs in Singapore, the Middle East, and Europe, positioning the state as a significant digital gateway. Additionally, the partnership with Fujisoft from Japan established a Centre of Excellence for 3D manufacturing and printing, upgrading MSMEs' technological capabilities and providing training to thousands of students across the state.

Global firms like Calsoft and Persistence Systems also invested in the Silicon Valley Hub, strengthening the region's technological capabilities. Persistence Systems, with its focus on cloud computing, IoT, and big data analytics, brought over 23,000 employees and generated $1.2 billion in revenue, drawing ancillary businesses to West Bengal. Similarly, TCS expanded its presence in Kolkata, employing 50,000 professionals, with plans to increase this number to 66,000 due to the city's low attrition rate and availability of skilled human capital. These developments underscored West Bengal's growing importance as a digital and economic hub within the Indo-Pacific region.

Concerns were raised about India's trade deficit with ASEAN, as imports from the region doubled compared to exports, partially due to the 2010 free trade agreement. The misuse of the ASEAN framework by companies incorporating within the region to evade tariffs was highlighted as a potential risk, emphasizing the need for careful collaboration with Indo-Pacific countries to avoid similar issues in future agreements.

Ms. Paramita Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Indo-Pacific and Oceania Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India recognized the Indo-Pacific region as a vital region for global economic growth, housing 65% of the world's population and contributing over 60% of global GDP. It also serves as a hub for half of global trade, with crucial trade routes like the Malacca Strait, the Suez Canal, and the Strait of Hormuz acting as lifelines for global commerce. However, the region faced challenges such as geopolitical uncertainties from territorial disputes and shifting power dynamics, threatening supply chains and the overconcentration of production in manufacturing.

India's engagement in the Indo-Pacific reflected its own growth trajectory, emerging as the fifth-largest economy globally. Initiatives like Make in India, Digital India, and Skill India advanced India's infrastructure and economic capacity. Prime Minister Modi's vision of Sagar, promoting security and growth for all in the region, guided India's approach, while the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) fostered maritime safety, environmental conservation, and trade connectivity.

India's leadership in digital transformation was highlighted through innovations like India Stack and UPI, which revolutionized digital governance and financial inclusion. With a projected digital economy of $1 trillion by 2025, India supported regional growth through funds like the ASEAN India Fund for Digital Future and the ASEAN India Science and Technology Fund. Trade with ASEAN surpassed $131 billion in 2022-23, emphasizing India's strong economic ties with the region.

Technologies such as blockchain, smart port solutions, and regional data-sharing were identified as essential for the future of trade, while sustainable energy-based transportation was prioritized. The need for sustainable financing in infrastructure projects was emphasized, with initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure helping to ensure regional economic stability.

India's commitment to regional cooperation was demonstrated through its leadership in forums like BIMSTEC, IORA, and the Quad, reinforcing the importance of resilient supply chains and secure, transparent trade. Through innovation and sustainability, the Indo-Pacific's challenges were seen as opportunities for growth, with a shared focus on ensuring peace, prosperity, and progress for all stakeholders.

Mr. Nakagawa Koichi, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan Kolkata emphasized on Japan's position in the Pacific region and its strong relationship with India were expected to remain stable and continue to strengthen. Japan and India shared a special strategic and global partnership, which marked its 10th anniversary this year. The relationship between the two nations had evolved steadily over the years, with significant collaboration confirmed during Prime Minister Kishida's visit to the U.S. for the Japan-Australia and U.S. Summit meeting on September 21st. During this visit, Kishida and Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing joint initiatives.

Japan played a crucial role in India's economic transformation, having committed US$34 billion in public and private investment and financing between 2020 and 2027. At the G20 New Delhi Summit, Kishida announced Japan's mobilization of over US$75 billion for Indo-Pacific infrastructure projects by 2030. Bilateral trade between Japan and India reached approximately US$23 billion in the previous fiscal year, with Japanese exports accounting for US$18 billion and imports from India around US$5 billion.

Japan's commitment to developing an industrial value chain in the Bay of Bengal region, particularly in northeast India and Bangladesh, was reflected through the Japan-India Act East Forum. This initiative, along with Japan's ongoing support for creating multi-layered connectivity, highlighted the importance of investment and logistics for both nations. The economic relationship between Japan and India remained firmly rooted in a foundation of multi-dimensional cooperation.

As one of India's key investors, Japan ranked fifth in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI), with cumulative FDI totaling US$42 billion from 2000 to 2024. In the most recent fiscal year, from April to December, Japanese FDI in India was nearly US$3 billion. Japan had been a consistent development partner since 1958, providing official development assistance that facilitated infrastructure growth in India's priority sectors.

Several high-profile projects were developed with Japanese cooperation, including the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed railway, the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. Japanese companies, such as Tata Steel-Nippon Steel and Air Water India, were also actively contributing to Indian society across various sectors, from manufacturing to healthcare and agriculture.

Mr. Kevin Goh, Deputy Consul General, Australian ConsulateGeneral Kolkata states the relationship between India and Australia had long been strong and built on deep historical connections. While most Indians were more familiar with cities on Australia's eastern coast, such as Sydney and Melbourne, the speaker hailed from Perth on the west coast, which had ancient geological ties with eastern India. Both nations recognized the importance of diversifying their economic and strategic relationships, making India a crucial partner for Australia. This partnership aimed to benefit the entire Indo-Pacific region by advancing shared economic, strategic, and people-to-people interests, ensuring peace and prosperity.

In recent years, the economic collaboration between the two countries gained momentum. An Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) had been concluded 18 months earlier, facilitating nearly 30 billion Australian dollars' worth of exports to India at zero or reduced tariffs. Negotiations for a more comprehensive economic agreement were underway, which would include a digital trade chapter to boost the benefits of the digital economy for businesses in both nations. Australia had also demonstrated its commitment to strengthening bilateral relations through initiatives like establishing the Centre for Australia-India Relations, opening a new consulate in Bengaluru, and launching a roadmap for further economic engagement with India.

Technological collaboration between India and Australia also flourished, with a focus on addressing global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development. The Clean Energy Supply Chain Diversification Program was one such initiative aimed at advancing clean energy solutions across the Indo-Pacific. Australia acknowledged India's growing tech ecosystem

and sought partnerships in areas such as blockchain, fintech, and quantum computing. Furthermore, the Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership, established in 2020, had funded numerous projects to enhance cooperation in cyberspace and critical technologies, with artificial intelligence being identified as a key area for further innovation and governance.

Plenary Session

Discussions was led by: **Dr. Rupa Chanda,** Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP (United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)

Session Moderator: **Dr. Prabir De,** Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I

In this session, **Dr. Rupa Chanda,** Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP (United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) focused on the emerging technologies such as AI, blockchain, and IoT had increasingly become integrated into daily life, bringing both opportunities and challenges. These advancements created a heightened need for regulatory cooperation, particularly across regions like the Indo-Pacific. Without sufficient collaboration, the rapid growth of these technologies could have resulted in chaotic development. Technological innovations played a key role in fostering regional integration, especially for MSMEs, by enhancing their participation in global value chains. However, the successful adoption of these technologies required solid regulatory and infrastructural foundations, as Dr. Amit Mitra had highlighted.

Blockchain and AI were already transforming trade facilitation and promoting regulatory harmonization. The ASEAN Global E-Trade Service Platform, which utilized blockchain for greater transparency and efficiency, exemplified this transformation. Meanwhile, 5G and IoT had emerged as critical components in building smart infrastructure, improving connectivity, and enhancing trade efficiency. Technologies such as FinTech and cloud computing had empowered MSMEs by providing access to digital services that were previously out of reach. Nonetheless, the success of these technologies depended heavily on key prerequisites like high-speed broadband, 5G networks, and digital literacy, which were vital for their effective deployment.

Efforts to harmonize regulations across the Asia-Pacific region had proven challenging due to significant variations in regulatory maturity. Countries across the region, including ASEAN members, exhibited different approaches to data privacy, cross-border data flows, and cybersecurity. This fragmentation had created barriers to seamless trade and digital technology adoption. ESCAP had been working to assess these regulatory gaps and develop tools, including a regional digital trade integration index, to evaluate countries' preparedness for digital transformation. However, the Asia-Pacific region's regulatory heterogeneity remained a critical obstacle, making convergence and cooperation essential for advancing regional interoperability and harnessing the full potential of emerging technologies in trade.

Special Session I - Sub-Theme: Harnessing Technology to Integrate Key Sectors into Global Value Chains

Discussions were led by :

- **Dr. Pralok Gupta,** Associate Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT New Delhi
- **Amb (retd.) Sumith Nakandala,** Former Secretary General, BIMSTEC, Colombo
- **Mr. Abhijit Banerjee,** Managing Director, Linde India Ltd.
- **Mr. Jitendra Kumar,** President (Legal & Corporate Affairs) & Company Secretary, Exide Industries Limited.
- **Dr. Priyadarshi Dash,** Associate Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Session Moderator : Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Member, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I, Former Member Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Adviser, Centre for Sustainable Development Goals, Government of Assam

The session featured diverse insights from experts regarding the integration of technology into trade facilitation and the development of resilient supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region. Dr. Pralok Gupta highlighted his experience as a trade negotiator, noting a shift from just-in-time to just-in-case inventory practices following COVID-19. He emphasized the need for Indian firms to enhance their participation in global value chains, particularly in manufacturing. Key trade agreements, such as the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, were discussed as vital mechanisms for reducing tariffs and streamlining import and export processes.

Dr. Gupta also underscored the importance of technological advancements in improving supply chain visibility and efficiency, illustrated by the significant reduction in truck crossing times at the West Bengal-Bangladesh border through digital authorizations.

Mr. Abhijit Banerjee shared Linde India's digitalization

journey, aimed at enhancing customer service and inventory management in the localized gas industry. He discussed how the company adopted digital solutions, including Power BI, to track packaging safety documents and improve operational efficiency in response to growing demand in the photovoltaic cell market.

Ambassador (retd.) Sumith Nakandala reinforced the necessity of regional cooperation, advocating for affordable broadband access and enhanced connectivity via submarine optical fiber cables to facilitate digital platforms. He pointed out the lack of an international treaty for cable maintenance, highlighting the need for a legal framework, potentially developed by UNSCAP. Nakandala discussed the significance of regional organizations like SAARC and BIMSTEC in fostering collaboration, emphasizing a sustainable policy framework linking national and regional strategies. He also addressed the ethical considerations and risks associated with technological advancements, particularly in artificial intelligence, stressing the importance of ensuring technology serves human development.

Mr. Jitendra Kumar from Exide Industries elaborated on the company's extensive digital transformation efforts over the past seven years. He noted that Exide is leveraging Industry 4.0 technologies for real-time insights across operations, enhancing logistics, and ensuring data-driven decision-making. Kumar acknowledged the challenges of rapid technological adoption and emphasized the importance of a robust policy framework to manage risks associated with cybersecurity and data protection.

Dr. Priyadarshi Dash examined the transformative potential of blockchain technology in international trade and financial transactions. He highlighted its capacity to streamline processes, enhance transparency, and facilitate financial inclusion, particularly in developing countries. Dash pointed out the growing significance of FinTech applications, emphasizing their role in improving access to credit and the operational efficiency of underserved segments of the population. He noted the Indian government's supportive policies for digital technology in financial services, recognizing the gradual evolution of regulations since 2014.

Session Moderator, Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee concluded that the session highlighted the critical role of technology in enhancing trade facilitation, promoting regional cooperation and developing resilient supply chains in the Indo-Pacific. The discussions also emphasized on the need for a balanced approach that addresses the ethical implications and challenges of rapid technological adoption while leveraging the potential of digital advancements to foster economic growth and inclusion.

Special Session II - Roundtable Dialogue of the Association of Indo-Pacific Chambers of Commerce (AIPCC)

Discussions were led by :

- **Mr. Indronil Sengupta,** Chairman, Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam (INCHAM)
- **Dato' Ramesh Kodammal,** Co-Chair, ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Malaysia and Chairman, Goldtex Group of Companies (virtual)
- **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh,** Director General, BCC&I

Session Moderator : Mr. Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP

In this session **Mr. Vivek Jalan,** reflected on the evolution of AIPCC over the past year. Notable engagement from the Bengal and other chambers coincided with the upcoming 29th anniversary of the WTO, leading to extensive discussions on various preferential trade agreements (PTAs). Four primary types of PTAs were identified: Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) focusing on tariff rationalization, customs unions that combine tariff rationalization with centralized economic tariffs, common markets that allow for the movement of production factors, and economic unions that encompass all previous types alongside political and socio-economic integration. The session underscored the success of various PTAs, such as the ASEAN Plus 6 arrangement and specific trade successes from countries like Ecuador and Malaysia. The BCCI is actively working to advance trade facilitation through a trade facilitation agreement among 11 chambers, emphasizing the importance of continued collaboration to enhance regional trade and cooperation.

Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, discussed the Bengal Chamber's recognition of the potential for Indian chambers to support members in Export-Import businesses and franchise setups with tech transfer agreements. He highlighted how chamber membership facilitates connections, market discovery, and government engagement, enhancing business setups and collaborations. The Chamber aims to establish partnerships with foreign chambers that have historical ties to the region, leading to broader business connectivity. Initial outreach efforts included engagement with various consulates and agencies, resulting in the participation of several ASEAN chambers and the establishment of a network of chambers in the Indo-Pacific region. Subsequent meetings, including an

Entrepreneur's Summit in Bangkok, are paving the way for the formalization of this collaborative network. **Mr. Indronil Sengupta,** emphasized the BCCI's significant role in facilitating educational delegations and signing six MOUs during visits to Vietnam. Future plans aim to strengthen bilateral relations, particularly in the healthcare sector. He noted the success of the recent session in Bangkok regarding entrepreneurship but stressed the need for greater formalization of the collaborative framework to engage interested chambers fully.

Dato' Ramesh Kodammal, highlighted the initiative's significance in the current geopolitical landscape of increasing economic alliances. He acknowledged various regional frameworks, emphasizing the need for unity and cooperation to enhance economic relationships within the Indo-Pacific region. Dato' stressed the importance of registering the platform and obtaining government mandates, particularly from India, to facilitate collaboration. He pointed out the critical role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in driving business growth and called for chambers to provide mentorship and connections to these foundational entities. Dato' encouraged the establishment of a committee focusing on the legal aspects necessary for the platform's launch and sustainability, reinforcing a commitment to continuous improvement and progress essential for the platform's success.

Day 2 : 27th September 2024
Theme: Strengthening Indo-Pacific Partnerships through Technology Collaboration Inaugural Session

Discussions were led by:

- **Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran,** Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India
- **Mr. Gautam Ray,** President, BCC&I & President - Corporate, RPSG Group
- **Ms. Mikiko Tanaka,** Director and Head, South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA), New Delhi, UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)
- **Ms. Kathy Giles-Diaz,** Consul General, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata
- **Mr. Arnab Basu,** President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.

Session Coordinator: Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I

Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, delivered insights into the complexities of the Indo-Pacific region, which comprises advanced, developing, and transitioning economies. He noted that, despite recent stock market surges, global economic conditions had revealed medium-term uncertainties. A downward trend in global trade volume growth was evident, significantly impacted by notable spikes and contractions in the years 2008 and 2020. Additionally, he highlighted a decline in global industrial production, indicating shifts in manufacturing hubs towards the East and, to a lesser extent, Mexico. This period also witnessed a trend of de-industrialization, exemplified by companies like Volkswagen considering factory closures in Germany, alongside increased global trade restrictions driven by climate change, geopolitical tensions, and strategic competitiveness.

He emphasized a notable shift from cooperation to competitiveness, suggesting that the balance had tilted towards the latter in recent years. Supply chain management evolved from a "just in time" to a "just in case" model, reflecting concerns over security and geopolitical challenges. He asserted that the current global context differed significantly from the relative stability experienced between 1980 and 2015, suggesting that the world might be on the brink of a new phase of globalization characterized by increased competition, trade restrictions, and active industrial policies.

Dr. Nageswaran concluded by discussing the importance of improving educational quality and learning outcomes, noting the significant increases in enrollment rates in rural India. However, he also acknowledged persistent restrictions on women's participation in the workforce and the need for safety measures and legal reforms to enhance their involvement. The advent of artificial intelligence was recognized for its potential benefits, but caution was urged regarding job displacement and the impact on labor income.

India's macroeconomic prospects were cautiously optimistic, with growth rates projected between 6.5% and 7%, bolstered by recent initiatives such as financial inclusion, GST, and improved ease of doing business. By addressing key challenges in agriculture, SMEs, deregulation, and energy transition, India could potentially enhance its growth rate to between 7.5% and 8%. The path forward required careful navigation of complexities and uncertainties, balancing confidence with caution in decision-making.

India's post-COVID recovery was described as strong, with projected growth rates of 8.2% for FY24, following 7% and 9.7% growth in previous years. The government's effective management of COVID-19 was critical to this recovery, involving a combination of health and economic responses. Calibrated fiscal and monetary stimulus measures were implemented and withdrawn timely,

contributing to macroeconomic stability and sustained growth. Economic stability enhanced corporate earnings and capital market performance, with consumption growth remaining stable and capital formation rising from 27.3% in FY21 to 30.8%. Export growth improved from 18.7% to 21.4%, though future growth could face challenges due to stagnant global trade volumes.

He highlighted India's robust external financial position, with low vulnerabilities stemming from minimal foreign currency debt. The domestic banking system showed improvement, with increased lending activity and a diminishing negative credit gap. Fiscal expenditures shifted towards a more balanced 50-50 ratio between revenue and capital spending, enhancing long-term growth prospects. He drew attention to the UK's approach to infrastructure spending, which could serve as a model for India in showcasing capital expenditure without negatively affecting fiscal deficit calculations.

Dr. Nageswaran pointed out that India had performed well in managing inflation, maintaining interest rates below 6.5% and government bond yields under 7%. He attributed lower borrowing costs for housing and corporate loans to prudent monetary and fiscal policies. His analysis suggested that a more massive fiscal stimulus during the COVID-19 pandemic could have deteriorated India's macroeconomic position. Significant improvements in infrastructure, such as increased national highway length, the introduction of Vande Bharat trains, and enhanced turnaround times at Indian ports, had notably bolstered India's supply-side capabilities.

To sustain a growth rate of 6.5% to 7% or more, India needed to focus on domestic sources of growth and productive employment. Addressing the skill gap was deemed essential for improving employability and generating job opportunities. The agricultural sector was identified as crucial for food security and a potential driver for entrepreneurship and job creation. Nageswaran stressed the need to simplify regulatory requirements for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to enhance their role as job creators.

He also noted that India's energy mix must transition gradually towards non-fossil fuels to support sustainable growth, amidst competitive pressures from China in both low-tech and high-tech manufacturing. He advocated for leveraging China's achievements while addressing the challenges posed by its manufacturing capabilities. The need for deepening the corporate bond market was emphasized, along with developing both the bond market and banking sector to effectively support growth and energy transitions.

He further underscored the importance of land consolidation in agriculture to improve productivity, highlighting the fragmented land holdings as a barrier to agricultural yields. Significant job creation was necessary, with an estimate of 8 million jobs required annually over the next decade, necessitating growth in SMEs alongside large enterprises. Deregulation was identified as crucial to encourage SMEs to scale effectively beyond micro and nano sizes.

Ms. Kathy Giles-Diaz highlighted the Indo-Pacific as a dynamic and rapidly growing region crucial for America's future security and prosperity, noting that it is home to over half of the world's population and accounts for 60% of global GDP. During her speech, she outlined the Biden Administration's Indo-Pacific Strategy, which aimed to strengthen relationships with allies and partners to advance a vision of a free, open, connected, prosperous, resilient, and secure Indo-Pacific region.

She discussed the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), which combined the markets of 14 countries, representing nearly 40% of the world's GDP, and offered significant opportunities for collaboration. She highlighted recent achievements in supply chains, including the signing of the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement, which focused on cybersecurity, cargo risk assessment, workforce development, and simulations for supply chain disruptions. Additionally, she mentioned the inaugural Clean Energy Investor Forum under the IPEF Clean Economy Agreement, which resulted in $23 billion in investment opportunities for sustainable infrastructure and climate technology projects. Furthermore, the IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund was launched to support clean economy infrastructure projects through concessional funding, technical assistance, and capacity-building.

Ms. Giles-Diaz emphasized the importance of the Quad Leaders' Summit and the cooperation on diverse topics such as maritime security, technology, humanitarian assistance, and climate change. She noted that new announcements were made following the summit held on September 21st. Under the Health Security Partnership, the Quad launched the historic Quad Cancer Moonshot initiative aimed at reducing cancer deaths in the Indo-Pacific, initially focusing on cervical cancer. Additionally, the Global Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI) was introduced to enhance partners' abilities to monitor and secure waters and deter unlawful behavior, while the Indo-Pacific Logistics Network pilot project was launched to improve airlift capacity among Quad nations for natural disaster response.

She also discussed the Quad Fellowship, which would

award 50 scholarships worth $500,000 to Indo-Pacific students for a four-year undergraduate engineering program at Indian technical institutions. She highlighted the affirmation of the U.S.-India Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership as a defining partnership of the 21st century during President Biden's meeting with Prime Minister Modi on September 21st. Both leaders emphasized technology innovation as a crucial aspect of this partnership, welcoming the U.S.-India roadmap to build safe and secure global clean energy supply chains, aiming to unlock $1 billion in multilateral financing for renewable energy projects. They also highlighted the success of the initiative on critical and emerging technologies (ISET), which expanded cooperation across sectors like space, semiconductors, and telecommunications.

The announcement of the creation of the Global Foundries GF Kolkata Power Center was also made, which was expected to bring jobs and foster resilient and secure communities. Ultimately, the U.S.-India partnership aimed to translate shared values into a peaceful, secure, and prosperous future, emphasizing that both nations benefitted from working together. Ms. Giles-Diaz concluded her address by expressing appreciation to the audience for their contributions and efforts.

Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, speaking on behalf of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, addressed a distinguished group of business leaders. She referenced UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' remarks on the world entering an era of epic transformation, facing challenges requiring global solutions. The Summit of the Future led to the adoption of the Pact for Sustainable Development, Peace, Security, and Human Rights, which emphasized the role of digital and emerging technologies, like AI, as enablers of sustainable development.

Ms. Tanaka highlighted that innovations must be affordable and accessible, especially to billions in developing countries without access to critical technologies. She stressed the importance of responsibly managing technological risks to avoid deepening inequalities, including the gender gap. The recent Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation had underscored the need for comprehensive digital transformation, with a focus on creating an inclusive digital society.

Ms. Tanaka noted the Asia-Pacific region's vulnerability to climate-related disasters, its contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, and how smart technologies were both reducing carbon footprints and increasing emissions through the demand for digital devices. She emphasized the need for balanced management of technology to support sustainable development. She provided examples of innovative technologies addressing climate-induced disasters, such as the AI-powered early warning system developed by Comunidad in the Philippines, which included the Curbeat platform that provided emergency alerts in local languages and via SMS, even to basic phone users. The World Bank's data on nearly half a billion people living below the poverty line in South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific in 2022 highlighted the persistent digital divide, which businesses could help bridge with both high-tech and low-tech solutions.

Regional cooperation, she noted, was essential for expanding technology access, and she cited Indonesia's Kopernik as an example of a successful research and development lab addressing socioeconomic and environmental challenges through simple, affordable technology. A 2011 collaboration with DripTech India helped transfer low-cost drip irrigation technology to small farmers in Odisha.

Ms. Tanaka emphasized the need for cooperation across sectors—public, private, and research—to connect communities with essential technologies. She encouraged chambers of commerce to facilitate inclusive technology cooperation, and noted ESCAP's Asia-Pacific information superhighway initiative, which aimed to close the digital divide. She also mentioned the Asia-Pacific Center for Transfer of Technology's role in fostering environmentally sound technology partnerships.

Interactive Session: Fintech Innovation and Standardization for Seamless Trade and Payments in the Indo-Pacific

Discussions were led by :

- **Mr. Balaji Rajagopalan,** Chief Technology Officer (CTO), State Bank of India
- **Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh,** Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (Interim), Bandhan Bank Ltd.
- **Mr. Raj Jain,** Managing Director and CEO, RS Software
- **Mr. Sidharth Prashar,** DGM - GVLA Business - BD/IS/Govt. Large Accounts Business Group, Tally Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
- **Dr. Raj Rajesh,** Director, Department of Economic & Policy Research, Reserve Bank of India
- **Mr. Karthik Srinivasan,** Founder & CTIO, Ziksu

Session Moderator : Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri, Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Chairperson, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I

In the session, the speakers shared their insights on the transformative role of technology in financial inclusion and economic growth. **Mr. Balaji Rajagopalan,** emphasized the crucial link between identity, access to banking, and economic empowerment. He highlighted that acquiring an identity enables individuals to open bank accounts, which are vital for accessing loans and credit. He pointed out that the digital payment infrastructure in India has created an identity layer that supports low-cost banking operations and facilitates secure data sharing. Mr. Rajagopalan also discussed the importance of seamless integration among various stakeholders in trade, suggesting that the current documentation processes pose challenges that could be mitigated through technology, including enhanced cybersecurity measures.

Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh, reflected on the theme of empowerment, particularly for women at the bottom of the pyramid. He shared a compelling story of a woman from Nodia district who, through small financial support, achieved remarkable success. He stressed that financial inclusion is about more than opening accounts; it requires empowering individuals, especially micro-entrepreneurs. He noted that while the mobile revolution has increased access, many still face barriers to empowerment. Mr. Kesh advocated for the use of blockchain technology to enhance trust and efficiency in trade, positioning the Indo-Pacific region as a leader in leveraging this innovation.

Mr. Raj Jain, provided a macro perspective on the strategic importance of digital transformation. He acknowledged India's digital payment achievements, particularly the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), developed by RS Software, which has set a global benchmark. He stressed the importance of collaboration between fintechs and banks, noting that while fintech funding has surged, many startups still face challenges in scaling. Mr. Jain called for clarity in partnerships and highlighted the potential of Calcutta and West Bengal as a hub for fintech innovation.

Mr. Sidharth Prashar, discussed the critical role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in job creation and economic growth. He explained how Tally assists SMEs with financial management and compliance, particularly in navigating loan documentation challenges. His insights emphasized the need for integration with banks and fintechs to streamline operations and empower SMEs through standardized reporting.

Dr. Raj Rajesh outlined the growth of India's digital economy, projecting a rise from 10% to 20% of GDP by 2026. He highlighted key initiatives, including the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit, which aim to enhance financial inclusion. However, he also acknowledged challenges such as financial literacy and the digital divide, stressing the RBI's commitment to consumer protection and education in the digital banking landscape.

Finally, **Mr. Karthik Srinivasan,** discussed the launch of his FinTech in India, focusing on cross-border payments and QR code-based systems. He underscored the need for collaboration among various stakeholders, including regulators and traditional banks, to build a financial bridge between Australia and India. His insights highlighted the complexities of establishing effective cross-border frameworks and the potential for replication across different markets. The session collectively emphasized the vital intersection of technology, empowerment, and collaboration in driving economic growth and financial inclusion.

Experts' Roundtable on : Digital Transformation in Indo-Pacific Trade and Connectivity

Discussions were led by :

- **Mr. Kamal Nath,** CEO, Sify Technologies Ltd.
- **Mr. Jay Doshi,** MD, Digital, Corporate Units & India, British Telecom Group
- **Mr. Balaji Doraiswamy,** South Asia Head, RE & Infra, Oracle India
- **Mr. Anirban Banerjee,** Global VP – Operations, Wipro
- **Mr. C N Raghupathi,** Founder Director, Manipal Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship School and Former Head, India Business, Infosys

Session Moderator : Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.

The session brought together industry leaders to discuss the evolution of trade, digital transformation, and infrastructure development in the Indo-Pacific region, emphasizing the need for innovation and collaboration to enhance India's role in the global economy. In the session, **Mr. C N Raghupathi,** emphasized his extensive experience in government infrastructure projects, particularly GST and MCA21, while highlighting ongoing discussions around information warfare as they relate to Indo-Pacific trade. He provided a comprehensive overview of global trade, noting that it amounts to approximately $60 to $70 trillion. Mr. Raghupathi traced the evolution of trade routes, pointing out that while the Atlantic route dominated global trade until 1980, the rise of China has shifted some focus to the Pacific route, though growth on this side remained limited.

He stressed two crucial aspects of trade: the pivotal role of technologists and the increasing digitization of services, with 20 to 30 percent of global services now being digital. Mr. Raghupathi called for India to enhance its position in the digital services sector and eliminate friction in trade, citing advancements from the GST implementation and proposing the use of emerging technologies such as 5G, generative AI, and blockchain to streamline operations and reduce trade barriers. He concluded by asserting the need for reforms to elevate India's share in global trade, which currently stands at one to two percent.

Mr. Kamal Nath, shared insights on the evolution of SIFY, which began as India's first private internet service provider in 1995. He highlighted the company's pivotal role in establishing secure enterprise networks and co-location data centers, which are integral to India's interbanking infrastructure. Nath discussed SIFY's partnerships aimed at financial inclusion, reaching remote areas, and noted the company's plans to expand its data center capacity significantly by 2025. He illustrated SIFY's global importance by mentioning that the top three hyperscalers host their services within its data centers. Furthermore, he spoke about SIFY's contributions to submarine cable routes across the Indo-Pacific region, emphasizing India's potential to lead in creating unique use cases in digital technology and assist less developed nations through technological advancements.

Mr. Anirban Banerjee, addressed the fundamental themes of regulations, policies, and infrastructure as critical elements for future opportunities. He noted that despite technological evolution, core business challenges remain largely unchanged globally. Banerjee emphasized Wipro's unwavering commitment to solving complex problems, underscoring a significant investment in generative AI and a strong focus on research and development. He highlighted the company's extensive presence in Asia and its collaborations with academic institutions to enhance innovative capabilities. He concluded by reaffirming Wipro's preparedness to tackle the next generation of global challenges through continued investment in emerging technologies and talent.

Mr. Balaji Doraiswamy,discussed South Asia's digitization progress, highlighting the region's shift from basic customer management to more integrated operations across various sectors. He pointed out the emergence of smart cities, with Kolkata being a focal point for Oracle's growth. Doraiswamy stressed the importance of last-mile connectivity for accessible digitized services and highlighted the necessity of building talent pools for developing required technologies. He addressed the sustainability challenges faced by large corporations and emphasized the need for collaborations between big and small firms to meet future demands. Doraiswamy concluded by emphasizing the significance of standardization and mutual respect among countries for collaborative growth.

Finally, **Mr. Jay Doshi,** focused on the critical need to eliminate friction in digital transformation. He highlighted the importance of digital inclusion, emphasizing digital literacy, infrastructure, and talent accessibility. Doshi stressed the significance of empowering women and girls through corporate social responsibility initiatives to foster greater digital adoption. He described the challenges of building infrastructure in remote areas and the potential for collaboration with startups. Doshi elaborated on British Telecom's utilization of Indian talent for critical functions and projectedsignificant economic value from these initiatives, including the creation of new jobs. He concluded by reaffirming the necessity of supportive government policies and the entrepreneurial spirit within the region for advancing digital transformation.

Conclusion

The Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave highlighted several key areas for strengthening regional trade and economic collaboration among Indo-Pacific nations. A significant step forward is the formal establishment of the Asia-Indo-Pacific Chamber of Commerce (AIPCC), which aims to streamline trade and foster economic ties, particularly addressing India's trade imbalances with ASEAN countries through fairer agreements. By promoting access to broader markets, the AIPCC can significantly contribute to economic growth in the region.

West Bengal has the potential to emerge as a leading digital and technological hub, showcased by the presence of major tech companies like TCS and Jio. Marketing the Silicon Valley Hub and the Cable Landing Station in Digha will attract global investments in digital infrastructure and data centers, enhancing India's position in the digital trade landscape. Collaborative efforts in emerging technologies, such as AI, fintech, and IoT, can further strengthen technological capacities across the region. Hosting global events like a VLSI Conference would reinforce West Bengal's reputation as a semiconductor hub, driving innovation and partnerships.

Furthermore, the Conclave emphasized the importance of fostering the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through technology. Initiatives like Fujisoft's 3D manufacturing training center can empower MSMEs in the Indo-Pacific by facilitating joint ventures and technology sharing. By scaling such programs regionally, BCC&I can foster cross-border MSME collaboration and support their development through technological advancements.

A critical aspect of this collaboration is enhancing digital infrastructure and cyber security. BCC&I should advocate for standardized cyber security frameworks and promote the integration of block chain and AI in trade to ensure efficiency and transparency. Moreover, ensuring inclusive digital transformation by addressing gaps in digital literacy, particularly among marginalized communities, will enhance regional participation. Scaling Fujisoft's training programs to various districts in West Bengal can ensure a steady supply of skilled workers, promoting broader access to digital opportunities.

Sustainability remains a core focus, with BCC&I emphasizing the need for sustainable development initiatives across the Indo-Pacific, particularly in clean energy and green technologies. Leveraging global commitments, such as Japan's $75 billion Indo-Pacific infrastructure initiative, will further enhance India's role in promoting sustainable and inclusive growth in the region. By cultivating partnerships in technology and innovation, BCC&I can address pressing challenges like climate action and economic development.

To foster sustainable development through technological cooperation, BCC&I should support B2B platforms connecting innovators across Indo-Pacific nations, facilitating technology transfer for inclusive economic growth. Enhancing cross-sector collaboration between governments, the private sector, and research institutions will ensure that technological innovations are responsive to local needs, scalable, and effective in addressing challenges like poverty and energy access.

By diversifying global trade partnerships and exploring new trade agreements, BCC&I can counter declines in global trade volumes and reduce reliance on single-country supply chains. Supporting domestic manufacturing and agricultural reforms will further strengthen India's competitiveness and enhance global export opportunities. Finally, prioritizing financial empowerment and digital literacy through micro-loan programs and educational campaigns will enhance financial inclusion, particularly in rural areas.

The Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2024 received substantial coverage in both print and social media. Major Indian newspapers, such as ***The Times of India, The Telegraph, The Indian Express, Millennium Post, The Economic Times, Anandabazar Patrika*** among others, extensively reported on the Conclave, offering detailed insights into the discussions and outcomes. These publications focused on themes such as trade, economic cooperation, sustainability and digital transformation within the Indo-Pacific region. The conclave was particularly praised for addressing crucial economic policies, innovation in technology, and partnerships aimed at fostering regional development.

On social media, platforms like Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram saw a surge of real-time engagement. Thought leaders, influencers and organizations shared live updates, key insights and takeaways from the Conclave. Twitter hashtags helped consolidate the conversation, while LinkedIn provided in-depth discussions among professionals. Instagram was primarily used for sharing visual content, including photos and video clips, capturing the Conclave's highlights. These platforms amplified the conclave's reach, ensuring wide engagement and discourse on the economic strategies and collaborations shaping the Indo-Pacific region.The Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2024 has achieved ***a total social media reach of 2.744 million*** users. Additionally, the conclave has garnered ***a total of 3.706 million*** impressions, representing the number of times the content was viewed.

The Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave was followed by a business session, with **Mr. Arnab Basu,** Advisory Leader at PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd., taking over as the new President of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) during its **170th Annual General Meeting.**

In summary, the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave highlighted the importance of collaboration across various sectors to enhance regional trade, promote sustainable development and drive technological innovation. These strategic initiatives can position West Bengal and India as key players in the evolving global economic landscape.



Venue branding of the 2nd Edition of BCC&I's Indo Pacific Economic Conclave on 26th and 27th September 2024 at the historic BCC&I premises









Venue branding of the 2nd Edition of BCC&I's Indo Pacific Economic Conclave on 26th and 27th September 2024 at the historic BCC&I premises









Pre-Conclave outdoor promotion across Kolkata



Pre-Conclave outdoor promotion across Kolkata



Inaugural Session was graced by Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri, Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Chairperson, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I (moderator), Mr. Kevin Goh, Deputy Consul General, Australian Consulate-General Kolkata, Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I & President - Corporate, RPSG Group, Dr. Amit Mitra, Hon'ble Principal Chief Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal and Finance Department (in Cabinet Minister Rank), Government of West Bengal, Mr. Nakagawa Koichi, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan Kolkata, Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd., Ms. Paramita Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Indo-Pacific and Oceania Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (virtual) and Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I (left to right)



Inaugural Address by Day 1: Chief Guest, Dr. Amit Mitra, Hon'ble Principal Chief Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal and Finance Department (in Cabinet Minister Rank), Government of West Bengal



Partner Address by Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I



Keynote Address (virtual) by Ms. Paramita Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Indo-Pacific and Oceania Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



Opening Address by Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I & President - Corporate, RPSG Group



Conclave address by Mr. Nakagawa Koichi, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan Kolkata



Conclave address by Mr. Kevin Goh, Deputy Consul General, Australian Consulate General Kolkata



Vote of Thanks by Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd



Address by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I



Inaugural Session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri, Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Chairperson, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I



Special address by Dr. Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP (United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) during the Plenary Session at 2nd Edition of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave



Plenary Session was moderated by Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I (right)



Special Session on Harnessing Technology to Integrate Key Sectors into Global Value Chains graced by Mr. Jitendra Kumar, President (Legal & Corporate Affairs) & Company Secretary, Exide Industries Limited, Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, Managing Director, Linde India Ltd., Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Member, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I, Former Member Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Adviser, Centre for Sustainable Development Goals, Government of Assam (moderator), Amb (retd.) Sumith Nakandala, Former Secretary General, BIMSTEC, Colombo and Dr. Pralok Gupta, Associate Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT New Delhi (left to right)



Address by Dr. Pralok Gupta, Associate Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT New Delhi at the Special Session on Harnessing Technology to Integrate Key Sectors into Global Value Chains



Address by Amb (retd.) Sumith Nakandala, Former Secretary General, BIMSTEC, Colombo at the Special Session on Harnessing Technology to Integrate Key Sectors into Global Value Chains



Address by Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, Managing Director, Linde India Ltd. at the Special Session on Harnessing Technology to Integrate Key Sectors into Global Value Chains



Address by Mr. Jitendra Kumar, President (Legal & Corporate Affairs) & Company Secretary, Exide Industries Limited at the Special Session on Harnessing Technology to Integrate Key Sectors into Global Value Chains



Address by Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) (virtual) at the Special Session on Harnessing Technology to Integrate Key Sectors into Global Value Chains



The Special Session on Harnessing Technology to Integrate Key Sectors into Global Value Chains was moderated by Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Member, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I, Former Member Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Adviser, Centre for Sustainable Development Goals, Government of Assam



Special Session on Roundtable Dialogue of the Association of Indo-Pacific Chambers of Commerce (AIPCC) was graced by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I, Mr. Indronil Sengupta, Chairman, Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam (INCHAM), Mr. Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP (moderator) (left to right) and Dato' Ramesh Kodammal, Co-Chair, ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Malaysia and Chairman, Goldtex Group of Companies (virtual)



Address by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I at the Roundtable Dialogue of the Association of Indo-Pacific Chambers of Commerce (AIPCC)



Address by Mr. Indronil Sengupta, Chairman, Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam (INCHAM) at the Roundtable Dialogue of the Association of Indo-Pacific Chambers of Commerce (AIPCC)



Virtual Address by Dato' Ramesh Kodammal, Co-Chair, ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), Malaysia and Chairman, Goldtex Group of Companies at the Roundtable Dialogue of the Association of Indo-Pacific Chambers of Commerce (AIPCC)



The Roundtable Dialogue of the Association of Indo-Pacific Chambers of Commerce (AIPCC) was moderated by Mr. Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP





Esteemed Audience at the Conclave Venue






Few Glimpses of the esteemed speakers and guests networking during the formal cocktails and dinner at The Bengal Club on 26th September 2024



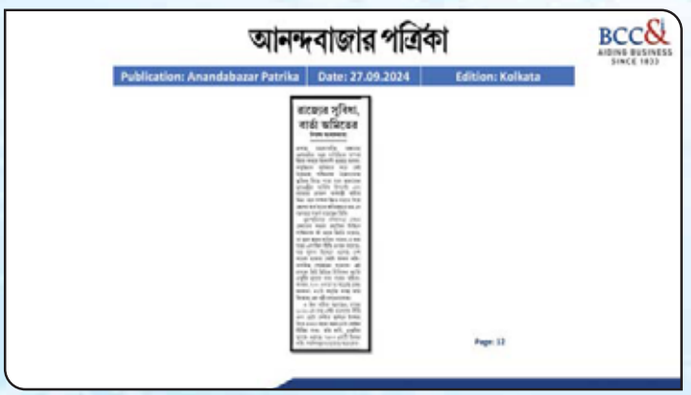
Few Glimpses of the esteemed speakers and guests networking during the formal cocktails and dinner at The Bengal Club on 26th September 2024







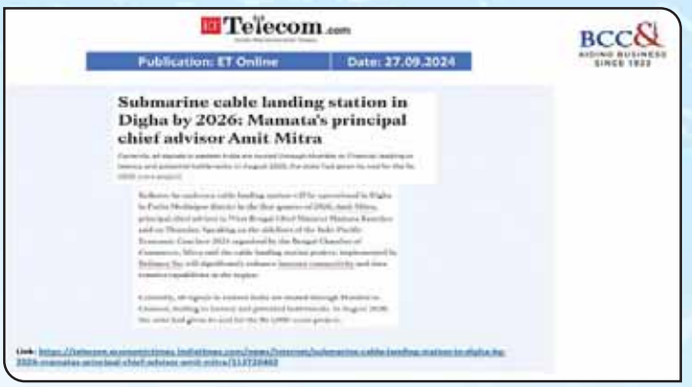






Print and Online Media Coverage reports on Day 1 of the 2nd Edition of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2024









Print and Online Media Coverage reports on Day 1 of the 2nd Edition of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2024

Day 2 : 27th September 2024



Opening Session was graced by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I, Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Director and Head, South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA), New Delhi, UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I & President - Corporate, RPSG Group, Ms. Kathy Giles-Diaz, Consul General, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata, Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd. (pic left to right)



Virtual address was delivered by Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India



Opening Address at the Inaugural Session by Mr. Gautam Ray, President, BCC&I & President - Corporate, RPSG Group



Special Address by Ms. Kathy Giles-Diaz, Consul General, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata at the Inaugural Session



Keynote Address by Chief Guest, Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India at the Inaugural Session



Address by Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Director and Head, South and South-West Asia Office (ESCAP-SSWA), New Delhi, UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) at the Inaugural Session



Closing Remarks of the Inaugural Session was delivered by Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.



The Inaugural Session was coordinated by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I



Interactive Session on Fintech Innovation and Standardization for Seamless Trade and Payments in the Indo-Pacific was graced by Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (Interim), Bandhan Bank Ltd., Mr. Raj Jain, Managing Director and CEO, RS Software, Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri, Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Chairperson, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I (moderator), Mr. Karthik Srinivasan, Founder & CTIO, Ziksu, Mr. Balaji Rajagopalan, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), State Bank of India, Dr. Raj Rajesh, Director, Department of Economic & Policy Research, Reserve Bank of India and Mr. Sidharth Prashar, DGM - GVLA Business - BD/IS/Govt. Large Accounts Business Group, Tally Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (left to right)



Address by Mr. Balaji Rajagopalan, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), State Bank of India at the Interactive Session on Fintech Innovation and Standardization for Seamless Trade and Payments in the Indo-Pacific (middle)



Address by Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (Interim), Bandhan Bank Ltd. at the Interactive Session on Fintech Innovation and Standardization for Seamless Trade and Payments in the Indo-Pacific (left)



Address by Mr. Raj Jain, Managing Director and CEO, RS Software at the Interactive Session on Fintech Innovation and Standardization for Seamless Trade and Payments in the Indo-Pacific (middle)



Address by Mr. Sidharth Prashar, DGM - GVLA Business - BD/IS/Govt. Large Accounts Business Group, Tally Solutions Pvt. Ltd. at the Interactive Session on Fintech Innovation and Standardization for Seamless Trade and Payments in the Indo-Pacific



Address by Dr. Raj Rajesh, Director, Department of Economic & Policy Research, Reserve Bank of India at the Interactive Session on Fintech Innovation and Standardization for Seamless Trade and Payments in the Indo-Pacific



Address by Mr. Karthik Srinivasan, Founder & CTIO, Ziksu at the Interactive Session on Fintech Innovation and Standardization for Seamless Trade and Payments in the Indo-Pacific



The Interactive Session on Fintech Innovation and Standardization for Seamless Trade and Payments in the Indo-Pacific was moderated by Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri, Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Chairperson, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I (right)



Address by Mr. Kamal Nath, CEO, Sify Technologies Ltd at the Experts' Roundtable on : Digital Transformation in Indo-Pacific Trade and Connectivity



Address by Mr. Jay Doshi, MD, Digital, Corporate Units & India, British Telecom Group at the Experts' Roundtable on: Digital Transformation in Indo-Pacific Trade and Connectivity



Virtual Address by Mr. Balaji Doraiswamy, South Asia Head, RE& Infra, Oracle India at the Experts' Roundtable on: Digital Transformation in Indo-Pacific Trade and Connectivity



Experts' Roundtable on Digital Transformation in Indo-Pacific Trade and Connectivity was graced by Mr. Anirban Banerjee, Global VP – Operations, Wipro, Mr. Kamal Nath, CEO, Sify Technologies Ltd, Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd. (moderator), Mr. Jay Doshi, MD, Digital, Corporate Units & India, British Telecom Group (left to right)





Mr. C N Raghupathi, Founder Director, Manipal Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship School and Former Head, India Business, Infosys and Mr. Balaji Doraiswamy, South Asia Head, RE & Infra, Oracle India delivered their respective addresses virtually during the Experts' Roundtable on Digital Transformation in Indo-Pacific Trade and Connectivity



Address by Mr. Anirban Banerjee, Global VP – Operations, Wipro at the Experts' Roundtable on: Digital Transformation in Indo-Pacific Trade and Connectivity



Virtual Address by Mr. C N Raghupathi, Founder Director, Manipal Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship School and Former Head, India Business, Infosys at the Experts' Roundtable on: Digital Transformation in Indo-Pacific Trade and Connectivity



The Experts' Roundtable on: Digital Transformation in Indo-Pacific Trade and Connectivity was moderated by Mr. Arnab Basu, President Designate and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Advisory Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd





Conclave branding at the venue on both days (26th and 27th September 2024)









Esteemed Audience at the Conclave Venue


THE TIMES OF INDIA

Publication: The Times of India | Date: 28.09.2024 | Edition: Kolkata

CEA suggests roadmap to reduce fiscal deficit


The Telegraph

Publication: The Telegraph | Date: 28.09.2024 | Edition: Kolkata

Call to recast building laws


Business Standard

Publication: Business Standard | Date: 28.09.2024 | Edition: Kolkata

Economy expected to grow at 6.5-7% in FY25: CEA


The Indian EXPRESS

Publication: The Indian Express | Date: 28.09.2024 | Edition: Kolkata


আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা

Publication: Anandabazar Patrika | Date: 28.09.2024 | Edition: Kolkata

খাদ্যপণ্যের মূল্যবৃদ্ধি নিয়ে চিন্তিত নাগেশ্বরনও


এই সময়

Publication: Ei Samay | Date: 28.09.2024 | Edition: Kolkata

অর্থনীতি এগোচ্ছে: নাগেশ্বরণ


THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Publication: The Economic Times | Date: 27.09.2024

Indian economy to grow at 6.5-7% in FY 2024-25 on steady state basis, says CEA Nageswaran


THE TIMES OF INDIA

Publication: The Times of India | Date: 27.09.2024

Economy to grow at 6.5-7% in 2024-25: CEA Nageswaran

Print and Online Media Coverage reports on Day 2 of the 2nd Edition of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2024

CONNECTED PLACES CATAPULT (UK) DELEGATION WITH BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION

10TH TO 12TH MARCH, THE BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION, KOLKATA

Connected Places Catapult (UK) and the British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata, with support from Global Business Inroads, Bengaluru (GBI), conducted a research to identify the dynamics needed to accelerate electric vehicle (EV) and micromobility adoption in India, highlighting Kolkata as a key city ready for this transition.

Towards the same, eight leading UK companies with relevant technological solutions were selected to address the identified challenges. A delegation from these companies visited Kolkata from 10th – 12th March 2025.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) and the British Deputy High Commission co-hosted the cohort of eight UK SMEs specializing in cutting-edge electric vehicle technologies, including modular decentralized generators, battery energy storage systems (BESS) for grid constraints, AI, IoT, and telematics.

The project aimed to support bilateral trade and investment between the UK and India, fostering long-term collaborative partnerships between Indian and UK stakeholders in the two- and three-wheeler EV market.

The delegation visited IIT Kharagpur Research Park and Reliance Jio BP Charging Facility at Rajarhat, New Town on 10th March.

BCC&I facilitated a dedicated B2B Session between the major Industry Stakeholders like CESC Limited, Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), Vikram Solar, ITC Limited, Exide Industries Ltd, Unirox Bikes, Uneverse Mobility Pvt. Ltd., Fleet Worth Automotives Pvt. Ltd., Nangia Andersen India Pvt. Ltd., EroEV India Pvt Ltd, Konnectiva LLP, Speedigo Engineering & Technology, Green Enco, SOLIDMATER, RELIANCE BP MOBILITY LTD., Advantex Battery LLP, Platinum Truc King LLP, Swach Environment Private Limited and the cohort of Delegation on 11th March. It was followed by the Technology Showcase Event where the Key Note Address was delivered by Mr. Vineet Sikka, Chairperson, Energy Environment and Water National Committee, BCC&I and Managing Director (Distribution), CESC Limited in presence of Dr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to East and North East India.

BCC&I also facilitated B2G meetings between the visiting UK company cohort and Sri Snehasis Chakraborty, Hon'ble MIC, Transport Department, GoWB, along with Dr. Saumitra Mohan, IAS, Secretary, Transport Department, GoWB on 10th March 2025 and Shri Harish, Executive Director, WBIDC, GoWB on 12th March 2025.

The following were the representatives from UK companies, and senior officials from Connected Places Catapult and Global Business Inroads.

- **Ms. Elena Willia, Director, Government and Global Engagements, Connected Places Catapult**
- **Ms. Megan Ford, SME Ecosystem Support Manager, Connected Places Catapult**
- **Ms. Alizee McLorg, Social Research Specialist, Connected Places Catapult**
- **Mr. Abhinav Saxena, Concept Demonstration Engineer, Connected Places Catapult**
- **Mr. Harsha Lingam, Chief Operating Officer, Global Business Inroads**
- **Dr. Debayan Bose, Senior Technology and Innovation Associate, Global Business Inroads**
- **Mr. Eddie Davidson, Head of Technology, Aegis Energy**
- **Mr. Bryn Jones, Project Engineer, Allye**
- **Mr. Manish Pillay, Co-Founder and CEO, DOCK-Y**
- **Mr. Kevin Prescott, MD, HODOS Media**
- **Mr. Adam Huckstep, Co-founder and CEO, Hypermotive**
- **Mr. David Collinson, Director and Co-founder, PowerUp**
- **Mr. Saket Mohan, Co-founder and CEO, Secure Elements**



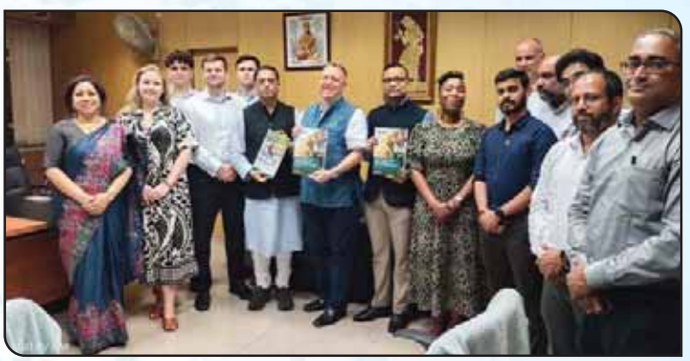
The cohort of 8 UK companies on a site visit at the Reliance Jio BP charging facility in Rajarhat, Newtown along with BCC&I, BDHC, CPC, and GBI team on 10th March 2025





The cohort of 8 UK companies on a site visit at the Reliance Jio BP charging facility in Rajarhat, Newtown along with BCC&I, BDHC, CPC, and GBI team on 10th March 2025





A B2G meeting was held with Shri Snehasis Chakraborty, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Transport Department, Government of West Bengal, and Dr. Saumitra Mohan, IAS, Secretary, Transport Department, Government of West Bengal on 10th March





B2B meetings in progress with the cohort of 8 leading UK companies with Indian stakeholders in the EV segment on 11th March 2025







B2B meetings in progress with the cohort of 8 leading UK companies with Indian stakeholders in the EV segment on 11th March 2025



Mr. Vineet Sikka, Chairperson, Energy Environment and Water National Committee, BCC&I and Managing Director (Distribution), CESC Limited delivering the keynote address at the Technology Showcase Event on 11th March

UK LOW CARBON BUILT ENVIRONMENT TRADE MISSION TO INDIA

17TH MARCH & 18TH MARCH 2025, MUMBAI & 21ST MARCH, 2025 KOLKATA

UK Low Carbon Built Environment Trade Mission to India Networking Reception & B2B Sessions organized by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UK Government in collaboration with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry 17th March & 18th March, 2025, Mumbai & 21st March, 2025 Kolkata.

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UK Government, in collaboration with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), organized a series of Networking & B2B Sessions with the Low Carbon Built Environment Trade Delegation from the UK in Mumbai and Kolkata. Bringing together some of the UK's most innovative Built Environment companies, this delegation engaged with key Indian stakeholders across infrastructure, construction, architecture, materials, and technology sectors, with a strong emphasis on sustainability and cutting-edge technology. The initiative provided a valuable opportunity for knowledge exchange on technological advancements that can enhance infrastructure and construction projects in India.

The Mumbai segment of the program commenced with a Networking Reception on 17th March 2025 at the UK Trade Commissioner's residence. Hosted by Ms. Ajita Hathlia, Deputy Director of Trade and UK Exports, Department for Business and Trade, the event brought together leading stakeholders from Mumbai's infrastructure and construction industry sector including Ajmera Realty, L&T, ITD Cementation, JSW, IIT Bombay, Balajee Infratech & Construction, Turner & Townsend Private Limited, PGP Glass Pvt. Limited and many more. Members of CREDAI-MCHI also participated adding further depth to the discussions.

Ms. Hathlia delivered the Welcome Address. Mr. Arnab Basu, President, BCC&I and Advisory Leader and PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. welcomed the UK delegation and emphasized the critical role of Indo-UK collaborations in driving sustainability and innovation. Mission Lead Ms. Julie Godefroy, Built Environment Specialist, Department for Business and Trade, UK Government introduced the UK Delegates setting the stage for meaningful dialogues. Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director General; BCC&I and Mr. Arnab Chakraborty, Director, BCC&I were also in attendance at the reception.

On 18th March 2025, the focus shifted to direct business interactions, as a very engaging B2B Session was hosted between the UK Delegates and Indian builders, architects, construction and infrastructure companies at Mumbai. Ms. Ajita Hathlia, Deputy Director of Trade and UK Exports, Department for Business and Trade delivered the Welcome Address followed by a presentation by Mission Lead-Ms. Julie Godefroy, Built Environment Specialist, Department for Business and Trade, UK Government followed by an overview on "Net Zero Buildings and Opportunities" by Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and presentations by each of the UK companies viz. AirNode, Arup, Bennett Associates, Buro Happold, CMCL, Integrated Environmental Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Offgrid Works and Sintali before engaging in one-on-one meetings with the Indian companies.

On the sidelines, the UK delegation also had a meeting with Shri Vikram Kumar, IAS, Additional Metropolitan Commissioner-I & Project Director, MUTP, MMRDA at his office led by Mr. Arnab Basu, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) and Advisory Leader, PwC India and Mission Lead Ms. Julie Godefroy, Built Environment Specialist, Department for Business and Trade, UK Government. The Meeting was to facilitate a knowledge exchange between MMRDA and UK delegates with expertise in digital and sustainable construction technologies. It was a great opportunity for the delegation to understand MMRDA plans about decarbonising the real estate and construction sector and adoption of relevant technology in the sector. Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury was also present at the Meeting.

On 21st March 2025, the UK Delegation arrived in Kolkata for an engaging B2B session, where they met the city's builders, infrastructure developers and construction companies. Ms. Jen Kaul, First Secretary, British Deputy High Commission, Mumbai delivered the Welcome Address at the B2B Session at Kolkata. The UK delegation included AirNode, Bennett Associates, CMCL, Currie & Brown, Lattice, Offgrid Works, Sintali Ltd., SmartViz Ltd. and Lattice. The session included presentations where the UK companies showcased their expertise in sustainable construction and advanced technology, followed by B2B discussions.

In the evening, a Networking Reception was held at the prestigious British Club at the British Deputy High Commission at Kolkata, bringing together the UK delegates and business leaders from Kolkata providing an excellent opportunity for the UK delegates to engage with senior contacts from the broader business community. The Networking Reception was attended by Mr. Abhijit Roy, President Designate, BCC&I and Managing Director & CEO, Berger Paints India Ltd.; Mr. Abhinav Chandra (IAS), Director, IESWM and Secretary, Environment Department, Government of West Bengal; Mr. S. Radhakrishnan, Director, Infinity Group and Former President, BCC&I; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Senior Partner & Founder-Intueri Consulting LLP and Former

President, BCC&I; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited and Former President BCC&I; Dr. Meera Mitra, Mentor, Economic Affairs (National) Committee, BCC&I and Member, Governing Body, Centre for Responsible Business; Mr. G M Kapur, Chairperson, Heritage Committee, BCC&I and State Convenor, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) among others along with the Delegate Members and Officials of BDHC and BCC&I.

The Mumbai and Kolkata engagements concluded on a positive and optimistic note with exciting prospects for future collaborations, business partnerships and a deeper exchange of knowledge between the UK and Indian companies that will support the future of infrastructure and construction in India.



Ms. Ajita Hathlia, Deputy Director of Trade and UK Exports, Department for Business and Trade delivering the Welcome Address.
Networking Reception with the UK Low Carbon Built Environment Trade Delegation at the UK Trade Commissioner's Residence, Mumbai hosted by Ms. Ajita Hathlia, Deputy Director of Trade and UK Exports, Department for Business and Trade on 17th March, 2025



Mission Lead - Ms. Julie Godefroy, Built Environment Specialist, Department for Business and Trade, UK Government.
Networking Reception with the UK Low Carbon Built Environment Trade Delegation at the UK Trade Commissioner's Residence, Mumbai hosted by Ms. Ajita Hathlia, Deputy Director of Trade and UK Exports, Department for Business and Trade on 17th March, 2025



Mr. Arnab Basu, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) and Advisory Leader, PwC India addressing the UK Delegates.
Networking Reception with the UK Low Carbon Built Environment Trade Delegation at the UK Trade Commissioner's Residence, Mumbai hosted by Ms. Ajita Hathlia, Deputy Director of Trade and UK Exports, Department for Business and Trade on 17th March, 2025





Networking among the Indian Stakeholders and UK Delegates. Networking Reception with the UK Low Carbon Built Environment Trade Delegation at the UK Trade Commissioner's Residence, Mumbai hosted by Ms. Ajita Hathlia, Deputy Director of Trade and UK Exports, Department for Business and Trade on 17th March, 2025



Networking among the Indian Stakeholders and UK Delegates.
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Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director General, BCC&I, Mr. Arnab Chakraborty, Director, BCC&I along with a guest at the Reception.
Networking Reception with the UK Low Carbon Built Environment Trade Delegation at the UK Trade Commissioner's Residence, Mumbai hosted by Ms. Ajita Hathlia, Deputy Director of Trade and UK Exports, Department for Business and Trade on 17th March, 2025





Meeting of the UK Delegation with Shri Vikram Kumar, IAS, Additional Metropolitan Commissioner-I & Project Director, MUTP, MMRDA at his office led by Mr. Arnab Basu, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) and Advisory Leader, PwC India and Ms. Julie Godefroy, Built Environment Specialist, Department for Business and Trade, UK Government



Shri Vikram Kumar, IAS, Additional Metropolitan Commissioner-I & Project Director, MUTP, MMRDA with Mission Lead, Ms. Julie Godefroy, Built Environment Specialist, Department for Business and Trade, UK Government
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B2B Session with the UK Delegates at Mumbai on 18th March,



BCC&I team with British Deputy High Commission team and Mission Lead UK Delegation




B2B Session with the UK Delegates at Kolkata on 21st March 2025



B2B Session with the UK Delegates at Kolkata on 21st March 2025



Presentations by the UK Delegation at the B2B Session at Kolkata





Presentations by the UK Delegation at the B2B Session at Kolkata



(L-R) Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Senior Partner & Founder-Intueri Consulting LLP and Former President, BCC&I, Dr. Meera Mitra, Mentor, Economic Affairs (National) Committee, BCC&I and Member, Governing Body, Centre for Responsible Business, Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited and Former President BCC&I, Mr. S. Radhakrishnan, Managing Partner and Chairman, Imperium Energy and Utility Services LLP and Former President, BCC&I at the Networking Reception at British Club.

Networking Reception at British Club, Kolkata on 21st March, 2025

Mr. Abhijit Roy, President Designate, BCC&I and Managing Director & CEO, Berger Paints India Ltd. attended the Networking Reception



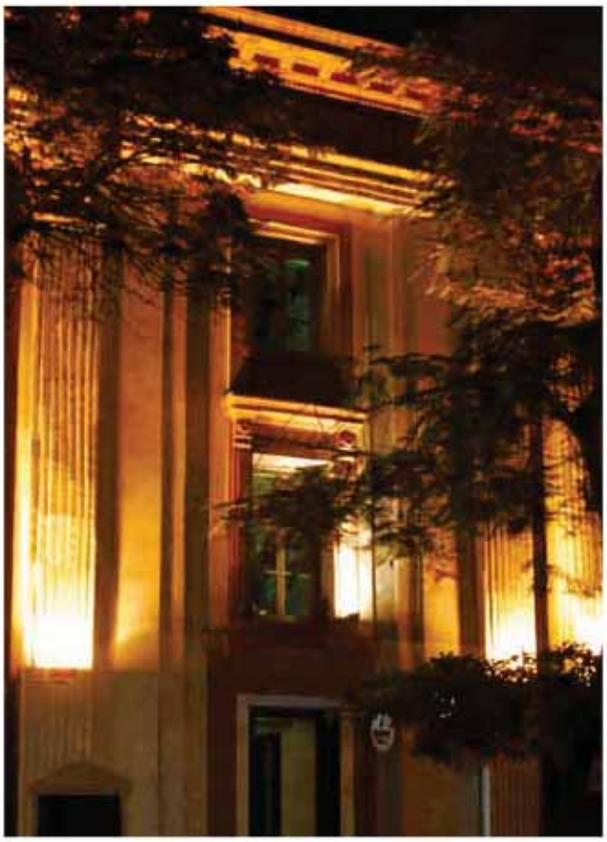






Networking Reception at British Club, Kolkata on 21st March, 2025

Mr. Abhijit Roy, President Designate, BCC&I and Managing Director & CEO, Berger Paints India Ltd. attended the Networking Reception



BCC&I
THE BENGAL CHAMBER

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