The Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the oldest national organisation of its kind in India, was established on 2nd February, 1887. It is pioneer in championing the cause of indigenous industries in pre-independent days. It has an immaculate record of service to the business community of West Bengal in particular and of India in general spanning over a century.

Since the independence of India in 1947, the Chamber has been actively involved in nation building activities engaging in the development of industry, trade, commerce and also infrastructure, particularly in the eastern region of India. Over the years, the Chamber has diversified its activities and grown in strength.

Various new activities, such as promotion of entrepreneurship, organising trade fairs, integrated development of rural areas, protection of environment, growth of industrial infrastructure, promoting international business relations, welfare of the women and weaker section of the society, etc. have been receiving close attention of the Chamber, apart from the promotion of free enterprise. The Chamber has set up Enterprise Development Institute for promoting entrepreneurship & career development, and also a Sub-Contracting Exchange to extend market benefit to small scale units.

At present, the Chamber is a major Chamber of Commerce in the eastern region of India with cross section of industry, trade and commerce, particularly in the small and medium sector, as its members.

Industries which are associated with the Chamber are, among others, chemicals, electronics, software engineering, bank and financial institutions, glass, hotel, iron & steel, leather, mines & minerals, paper & packaging, office stationeries, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, printing, jewellery, tea, textiles, timber & plywood, jute, transport & communication, consultancy, etc.

The Chamber maintains close and continuous contacts with the Government of West Bengal and the Government of India and other concerned authorities for safeguarding and promoting the interests of trade and industries in the state and the country as a whole.
Shri Dibyendu Basu graduated from Jadavpur University in Mechanical Engineering. Shri Basu is an expert in the field of power plant engineering with extensive experience in design and implementation of large power plants.

Shri Basu started his career as Design Engineer in Development Consultants Group of Companies and became Executive Director after holding various positions in India and abroad. He attended professional courses in Management and of power plant engineering with extensive experience in design and implementation of large power plants.

Presently and for last 12 years, Shri Basu is holding the position of Managing Director of DC Industrial Plant Services Private Limited (DCIPS), a turnkey contracting Company in mechanized Ash Handling System for NTPC and other plants during his association with Development Consultants Group of Companies.

Shri Basu was a Member of Executive Committee, Chairman - Energy (Conventional & Non-Conventional) Standing Committee, Member - Technical Education & Skill Development Standing Committee and Energy Conservation Group of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Kolkata.

Shri Basu is presently holding the position of Senior Vice-President of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry as well as Member of West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission, Government of West Bengal, representing BNCCI.

Shri Basu is married with two children, who are well settled in their own fields.


dear Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to present an overview of the various initiatives and programmes undertaken by Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI) during 2012-13 as president of the Chamber in its 126th year.

The Indian economy passed through a tumultuous period in the last year...

The nation’s Gross Domestic Product - the broadest measure of economic growth - came in at 4.4pc for April to June quarter. This was the lowest quarterly growth since the beginning of 2009, heightening concerns about a nation that is struggling with a falling currency.

The most recent International Monetary Fund report forecasts that India’s economy will expand by 5.6pc in fiscal 2013, but many economists believe that number is overly optimistic.

Indian rupee has lost roughly 12pc of its value in short period before staging a recovery. The sharp currency devaluation is extremely problematic since our country imports more than it exports, mainly on account of petroleum crude imports.

Depreciation of the rupee could leave consumers struggling to pay higher prices for everyday goods. The financial markets have also been passing through turmoil in recent days.

The government has responded with a series of policy changes, but none have been particularly effective in stabilizing the recent volatility. However, Finance Minister Shri P Chidambaram has prescribed a multi-point plan, to kickstart the economy which includes:

- Deficit to be contained at 4.8pc of GDP during 2013-14; CAD at $70 billion;
- PSU banks to be recapitalised;
- Revival of the investment cycle;
- Encouraging manufacture with special emphasis on the Micro, Small and Medium classes throughout the year. It has been recognized as an important business communiqué and is an integral part of the Chamber’s activities.
- PSU banks to be recapitalised;
- Capture benefit of good monsoon making fertilizer and petrochemicals domestic;
- PSU banks to be recapitalised;
- Environment protection and land acquisition to bring about meaningful progress in the economy.
- Environment protection and land acquisition to bring about meaningful progress in the economy.

We, on behalf of BNCCI, have consistently pursued our agenda for the reform of policies and these, I may state, have yielded remarkable results.

We also pursued our efforts to the challenge of growth and governance, particularly focusing on the Micro, Small and Medium enterprises.

The Chamber hosted several meetings during this period welcoming the who’s who of the world, hosting Ambassador, High Commissioners and Consuls of important countries. Events such as Buyer-Seller Meets, District Summit were aimed at identifying the problems and suggesting effective strategies.

Pragati- the ladies wing of the Chamber successfully organized several programmes during this time for ensuring awareness with regard to their rights, responsibilities and providing them with legal security advisory services and financial assistance.

The Enterprise Development Institute of the Chamber (EDI) organized number of programmes with the objective of providing effective inputs to the budding enterprise.

The monthly journal of the Chamber- ‘Resurgent East’ is circulated regularly among the members and other business classes throughout the year. It has been recognized as an important business communiqué and is an integral part of the Chamber’s activities.

I would like to thank each and every member of this historic Chamber for the support in the journey of delivering consistent and responsible performance throughout.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the officers of the secretariat, as well as the employees of the Chamber for their commitment and efforts.

With warm regards,
Shri B. P. Kanungo, Regional Director (West Bengal & Sikkim), Reserve Bank of India addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Interactive Session on ‘Indian Banking Sector - Challenges & Priorities’ held at the Chamber premises on Wednesday, the 24th April, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left and Sr. Vice President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu in his right.

Dr. Suman K Mukherjee, Dean & Principal, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan Institute of Management Science interacting with the Members of the Chamber at the Discussion Meeting on ‘Union Budget Proposals for 2013-14’ held at the Chamber premises on Friday, the 1st March, 2013. Shri Rajendri Dasgupta, Price Waterhouse Coopers Ltd., Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President of the Chamber and Shri Barun Kumar Ghosh, Partner, Ray & Ray seen respectively in his left.

Shri C. M. Chandola, IRS, Commissioner, Central Excise, Kolkata IV Commissionerate, Govt. of India addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Meeting on ‘Facilitating Role of Central Excise & Service Tax in Promoting Industrial Development & International Trade’ held at the Chamber premises on Tuesday, the 16th April, 2013. Shri G. Sree Harsha, IRS, Commissioner, Central Excise & Service Tax, Haldia Commissionerate, Govt. of India also graced the occasion.

Shri B. P. Kanungo, Regional Director (West Bengal & Sikkim), Reserve Bank of India addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Interactive Session on ‘Indian Banking Sector - Challenges & Priorities’ held at the Chamber premises on Wednesday, the 24th April, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left and Sr. Vice President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu in his right.

Dr. Suman K Mukherjee, Dean & Principal, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan Institute of Management Science interacting with the Members of the Chamber at the Discussion Meeting on ‘Union Budget Proposals for 2013-14’ held at the Chamber premises on Friday, the 1st March, 2013. Shri Rajendri Dasgupta, Price Waterhouse Coopers Ltd., Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President of the Chamber and Shri Barun Kumar Ghosh, Partner, Ray & Ray seen respectively in his left.

Shri C. M. Chandola, IRS, Commissioner, Central Excise, Kolkata IV Commissionerate, Govt. of India addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Meeting on ‘Facilitating Role of Central Excise & Service Tax in Promoting Industrial Development & International Trade’ held at the Chamber premises on Tuesday, the 16th April, 2013. Shri G. Sree Harsha, IRS, Commissioner, Central Excise & Service Tax, Haldia Commissionerate, Govt. of India also graced the occasion.

Shri B. P. Kanungo, Regional Director (West Bengal & Sikkim), Reserve Bank of India addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Interactive Session on ‘Indian Banking Sector - Challenges & Priorities’ held at the Chamber premises on Wednesday, the 24th April, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left and Sr. Vice President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu in his right.

Dr. Suman K Mukherjee, Dean & Principal, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan Institute of Management Science interacting with the Members of the Chamber at the Discussion Meeting on ‘Union Budget Proposals for 2013-14’ held at the Chamber premises on Friday, the 1st March, 2013. Shri Rajendri Dasgupta, Price Waterhouse Coopers Ltd., Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President of the Chamber and Shri Barun Kumar Ghosh, Partner, Ray & Ray seen respectively in his left.

Shri C. M. Chandola, IRS, Commissioner, Central Excise, Kolkata IV Commissionerate, Govt. of India addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Meeting on ‘Facilitating Role of Central Excise & Service Tax in Promoting Industrial Development & International Trade’ held at the Chamber premises on Tuesday, the 16th April, 2013. Shri G. Sree Harsha, IRS, Commissioner, Central Excise & Service Tax, Haldia Commissionerate, Govt. of India also graced the occasion.

Shri B. P. Kanungo, Regional Director (West Bengal & Sikkim), Reserve Bank of India addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Interactive Session on ‘Indian Banking Sector - Challenges & Priorities’ held at the Chamber premises on Wednesday, the 24th April, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left and Sr. Vice President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu in his right.

Dr. Suman K Mukherjee, Dean & Principal, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan Institute of Management Science interacting with the Members of the Chamber at the Discussion Meeting on ‘Union Budget Proposals for 2013-14’ held at the Chamber premises on Friday, the 1st March, 2013. Shri Rajendri Dasgupta, Price Waterhouse Coopers Ltd., Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President of the Chamber and Shri Barun Kumar Ghosh, Partner, Ray & Ray seen respectively in his left.

Shri C. M. Chandola, IRS, Commissioner, Central Excise, Kolkata IV Commissionerate, Govt. of India addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Meeting on ‘Facilitating Role of Central Excise & Service Tax in Promoting Industrial Development & International Trade’ held at the Chamber premises on Tuesday, the 16th April, 2013. Shri G. Sree Harsha, IRS, Commissioner, Central Excise & Service Tax, Haldia Commissionerate, Govt. of India also graced the occasion.
From R-L Shri Alok Gupta, Chairman, Foreign Trade Standing Committee, BNCCI, Shri Agneswar Sen, Zonal DGFT, Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President, BNCCI, Dr. Dipankar Sinha, DG, DGCIS, Dr. K. Rangarajan, IIFT, Prof. Mritunjay Mohanty, IMC, Shri Tapan Chatterji, Director, CLE, Shri Sanjeev Kejriwal, GJEPC, Shri Suranjan Gupta, EEPC. Dr. G. P. Sarkar, Hony. Treasurer, BNCCI at the Panel Discussion on 'Modified Exim Policy 2013' held on Wednesday, 19th June 2013 at the Chamber premises.

Mr. Rainer Schmiedchen, Honorable Consul General, General Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kolkata, addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Interactive Session on 'Enhancing Indo-German Business Cooperation' held at the Chamber premises on Wednesday, the 24th July 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left and Sr. Vice President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu seen in his right.
Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen delivering his welcome address, at the Interactive Session on ‘Doing Business with Mauritius’ held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, the 1st August, 2013. Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President of the Chamber and Dr. G. R Sarkar, Hony. Treasurer of the Chamber also seen in the dais.

Mr. Stefanus Botes, Minister Counselor (Economic), South African High Commission in India, addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Interactive Session on ‘Enhancing Indo-South African Bilateral Trade Relation’ held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, the 16th May, 2013. Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President of the Chamber and Dr. G. R Sarkar, Hony. Treasurer of the Chamber also seen in the dais.

Mr. Stefanus Botes, Minister Counselor (Economic), South African High Commission in India, addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Interactive Session on ‘Enhancing Indo-South African Bilateral Trade Relation’ held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, the 16th May, 2013. Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President of the Chamber and Dr. G. R Sarkar, Hony. Treasurer of the Chamber also seen in the dais.

M r. Stefanus Botes, Minister Counselor (Economic), South African High Commission in India, addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Interactive Session on ‘Enhancing Indo-South African Bilateral Trade Relation’ held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, the 16th May, 2013. Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President of the Chamber and Dr. G. R Sarkar, Hony. Treasurer of the Chamber also seen in the dais.

Shri Alok Gupta, Chairman, Foreign Trade Standing Committee, BNCCI, Shri D. P. Nigam, Secretary, BNCCI, Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President, BNCCI, Dr. Surajit Mitra, IAS, IIFT, Delhi, Sri Siddartha S. Bose, Vice President, BNCCI, Shri Chandra Kumar Ghimire, Consul General, Nepal Consulate in Kolkata, Shri Naeem Anwar, Minister Trade, High Commissioner for Pakistan in India, Dr. Abhijit Sen, Honorary Consul, Sri Lankan Consulate in Kolkata, at the Seminar on ‘SAARC : Success and Challenges’ held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, 10th January, 2013.

Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen delivering his welcome address, at the Interactive Session on ‘Doing Business with Mauritius’ held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, the 1st August, 2013. Mr. J. Nayeck, Deputy High Commissioner, Dr. P. Dinassing, Counsellor, Trade and Economic Affairs, Mauritius High Commission in India, seen in the table among others.

Dr. Anup Kr. Pujari, IAS, Director General of Foreign Trade, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, interacting with the members of the Chamber and representative of Export Promotion Councils and other dignitaries at the Meeting on ‘India’s Foreign Trade: Coping With Emerging Challenges,’ held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, the 7th February, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kr. Sen seen in his left.
Shri. Swapan Debnath, Hon’ble M inister of State for Micro & Small Scale Enterprises, Textiles and Land & Land Reforms, Government of West Bengal, seen the Interactive Session on ‘Unleashing Export Potential of MSMEs : Focus-West Bengal’ held at the Chamber premises on Tuesday, the 19th February, 2013. President of the Chamber Shri Amit Kr. Sen seen in his left and Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber; in his right.

Shri. Somnath Maity, Chief General Manager, Calcutta Telephones, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Interactive Session on ‘Challenges of the Telecom Sector’ held at the Chamber premises on Monday, the 25th February, 2013. President of the Chamber Shri Amit Kr. Sen seen in his left and Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber; in his right.

Dr. Anup Chanda, IAS, Addl. Chief Secy., Deptt. of MSSE & I, Govt. of WB, interacting with the members of the Chamber at the Buyer-Seller Meet on ‘Opportunities of Business with Indian Railways’ held at the Chamber Premises on Friday, the 27th June, 2012. Shri J. K. Mahanta, Zonal GM, NSIC Ltd. and Shri Amit Kr. Sen Sr. Vice President of the Chamber also seen in the dais.

Chamber President Shri Amit Kr. Sen delivering his welcome address at the ‘Vendor Development Programme on : Coal India & its Subsidiaries’ held at the Chamber premises on Friday, the 1st February, 2013. Col. Sabyasachi Bagchi, Chairman, West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd., Chief Guest of the occasion and Shri K. K. Basu Director, MSME-DI, Kolkata also seen in the table.

Col. Sabyasachi Bagchi, Chairman, The West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd. addressing the Members of the Chamber at the interactive session on ‘Vendor Development Programme cum Exhibition on Indian Defence Sector’ held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, the 14th March, 2013. Sr. Vice President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu in his left. Shri K. D. Bhattacharya, Dy. Director MSME Development Institute, Kolkata also present in the table among others.

Shri Sushobhan Bhattacharya, M.D., WBGECL and Director-in-Charge, WEBREDA addressing the Members of the Chamber at the Interactive Session on ‘Opportunities of Business with Power Sector’ held at the Chamber premises on Tuesday, the 23rd July, 2013. President of the Chamber Shri Amit Kr. Sen, Hony. Treasurer of the Chamber Dr. G.P. Sarkar and Immediate past Chairman IITF, Shri Samir Kr. Ghosh also seen in the table among others.

Dr. Anup Chanda, IAS, Addl. Chief Secy., Deptt. of MSSE & I, Govt. of WB, interacting with the members of the Chamber at the Buyer-Seller Meet on ‘Opportunities of Business with Indian Railways’ held at the Chamber Premises on Friday, the 27th June, 2012. Shri J. K. Mahanta, Zonal GM, NSIC Ltd. and Shri Amit Kr. Sen Sr. Vice President of the Chamber also seen in the dais.
Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber, addressing the members of the Chamber at a Seminar on ‘World Environment Day : 2013’ held at the Chamber premises on Wednesday, the 5th June, 2013. Prof. Binay Kanti Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, seen in his right, was the Chief Guest of the occasion.

Prof. K. J. Nath, Chairman, Arsenic Task Force, Govt. of West Bengal interacting with the members of the Chamber at the Meeting on ‘Observation of World Water Day - 2013’ held at the Chamber premises on Friday, the 22nd March, 2013. Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber and Shri R. C. Srivastava Head, Env. Sanitation & Sanitary Engg. also seen in the dias.

Chamber President Shri Amit Kr. Sen delivering his welcome address at a Debate on ‘Can Renewable Sources Meet Energy Security?’ held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, the 29th August, 2013.

Shri Krishnendu Narayan Choudhury Hon’ble M inster-in-Charge, Department Of Tourism, Govt. of West Bengal, addressing the members of the Chamber at a Seminar on ‘Beautiful Bengal : Today & Tomorrow’ held at the Chamber premises on Friday, the 3rd May 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left and Sr. Vice President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu in his right.

Shri Vikram Sen, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Tourism, GoWB, addressing the members of the Chamber at a Seminar on ‘Heritage Tourism - The Way Forward’ held at the Chamber premises on Monday, the 4th February, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left. Shri G. M. Kapur, State Convenor, Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage, Shri J. P. Shaw, Regional Director, Indian Tourism, Kolkata, also seen in the dais.

Shri Shantilal Jain, Chairman, Calcutta Tramways Company addressing the members of the Chamber at a Meeting on ‘Making Kolkata Tramways Self Reliant’ held at the Chamber premises on Tuesday, the 12th February, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen also seen in the dais.
Shri G.C. Jena, Additional Commissioner & Regional Director ESIC, addressing the members of the Chamber at a Meeting on ‘ESI Schemes in West Bengal: Awareness and Improvement’ held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, the 14th February, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left.

Shri Purnendu Basu, Hon’ble Minister of Labour & ES Department GoWB addressing the members of the Chamber at a Meeting on ‘Improving Industrial Relations in West Bengal’ held at the Chamber premises on Wednesday, the 16th January, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left.

Shri R. C. Datta, Director & Chief Inspector of Factories, GoWB addressing the members of the Chamber at a Meeting on ‘Factories Act - its Regulation & Amendments’ held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, the 26th April, 2012. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left.

Shri Radhey Shyam, General Manager, Metro Railway, addressing the members of the Chamber at a Meeting on ‘Business Opportunities and Ongoing Metro Railway Projects’ held at the Chamber premises on Friday, the 8th February, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left.

Prof. Binay Kanti Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen and Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber, seen in the inaugural session of the Seminar on ‘Environment Issues Affecting Industries’ jointly organised by Bengal Suburban Chamber of Commerce & Industry & Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Monday, the 24th December, 2012.

Shri R.P.S. Kahlon, IAS, Chairman Kolkata Port Trust, addressing the members of the Chamber at a Meeting on ‘Kolkata Port, It’s Prospects and Challenges’ held at the Chamber premises on Monday, the 18th March, 2013. Senior Vice President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu seen in his left.
Manager, NASSCOM, Shri Jeffrey Reneau
Director, American Centre, Shri Amit Kumar Sen
Chamber President, Shri Santanu Sanyal
The Hindu, Dr. Anjan Bera, HOD, Department of Journalism, CU, Shri Suparno Pathak
Business Editor, ABP and Shri D.P. Nag at the Seminar on 'Internet and Traditional Media: Comrades or Competitors' held at the Chamber premises on Wednesday, 17th April 2013.

Shri Suparno Moitra, former Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India, addressing the members of the Chamber at a Meeting on 'Look Before You Invest' held at the Chamber premises on Monday, the 21st January, 2013. Sr. Vice President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu, Shri B. Madhav Reddy, MD & CEO, Calcutta Stock Exchange and Shri Manish Sonthalia, Fund Manager, Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company also seen in the dais.

Prof. Anup Kumar Sinha, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, addressing the members of the Chamber at a Meeting on 'Economic Reforms and Macro Economic Policy in Changing Global Scenario' held at the Chamber premises on Friday, the 18th January, 2013. Dr. G. P. Sarkar, Hony. Treasurer of the Chamber also seen in the table.

Shri Navrang Saini, Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India, addressing the members of the Chamber at a Meeting on 'Look Before You Invest' held at the Chamber premises on Monday, the 21st January, 2013. Sr. Vice President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu, Shri B. Madhav Reddy, MD & CEO, Calcutta Stock Exchange and Shri Manish Sonthalia, Fund Manager, Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company also seen in the dais.

Shri Sadhan Pandey, Hon’ble Minister-in-Charge, Consumer Affairs Department, Govt. of WB addressing the members of the Chamber at a Meeting on 'World Consumers Rights Day' held at the Chamber premises on Thursday, the 7th March, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left and Sr. Vice President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu seen in his right.

Shri Chander Mohan, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology addressing the members of the Chamber at a Workshop on 'Enhancing Shelf Life of Fruits and Vegetables Without Refrigeration' held at the Chamber premises on Friday, the 30th August, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left.
Prof. Rabiranjan Chattopadhyay, Hon’ble Minister of Science and Technology, GoWB addressing the members of the Chamber at a Seminar on ‘Harnessing Research Potential in Higher Education’ held at the Park Hotel, Kolkata on Saturday, the 10th August, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left.

Shri Sajjan Kumar Poddar, Shri Balaram Kundu, Shri Madan Mohan Malty (Members of the Chamber), among others, seen at the Prize Distribution Ceremony of a Special Meeting on ‘Prospect and Problems of Agro Industries’ held at the Peerless INN, Durgapur on Saturday, the 13th April, 2013.

Shri Ramsebak Bandyopadhyay, Member, Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Kolkata, addressing the members of the Chamber at an Interactive Meeting on ‘CG, CSR Under the Companies Bill 2011’ held at the Chamber Premises, on Saturday, the 2nd February, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left.

Shri Gopal Krishna Bhattacharya, Additional Director General, West Bengal Fire & Emergency Services, addressing the members of the Chamber at a Interactive Meeting on ‘Fire Safety Norms’ held at the Chamber Premises, on Thursday, the 13th December, 2012. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left and Vice President of the Chamber Shri Siddhartha S. Bose in his right.

Shri Ramsebak Bandyopadhyay, Member, Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Kolkata, addressing the members of the Chamber at an Interactive Meeting on ‘CG, CSR Under the Companies Bill 2011’ held at the Chamber Premises, on Saturday, the 2nd February, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left.

Shri Gopal Krishna Bhattacharya, Additional Director General, West Bengal Fire & Emergency Services, addressing the members of the Chamber at a Interactive Meeting on ‘Fire Safety Norms’ held at the Chamber Premises, on Thursday, the 13th December, 2012. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen in his left and Vice President of the Chamber Shri Siddhartha S. Bose in his right.

A Snapshot of the Members of the Chamber and other dignitaries at 19th Annual General Meeting of Garbeta Chamber of Commerce and Industry held at the Peerless INN, Durgapur on Tuesday, the 27th August, 2013.

Prof. Rabiranjan Chattopadhyay, Hon’ble Minister of Science and Technology, GoWB addressing the members of the Chamber at a Seminar on ‘Harnessing Research Potential in Higher Education’ held at the Park Hotel, Kolkata on Saturday, the 10th August, 2013. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen seen at the dias along with other dignitaries.

Chamber President Shri Amit Kr. Sen interacting with the members at the Agri Business Camp-a full day Workshop on Agri Business, organised by the Chamber in collaboration with NIRJAFT, Kolkata held at the Chamber Premises on 18th March, 2013.
A view of the students participated in the 10 Days Vocational Training Course on making soft toys at Samaritan Help Mission, Bankra, Howrah.

Sitting from left to right: Smt Prajnaparamita Jana, Smt Sharmila Sur, Smt Sarmila Bose and Smt Shatorupa.

Inaugural Session of the project of generating self employment of twenty women engaged either in urea free muri making or mushroom cultivation through micro credit system.

From left to right: Smt Sarmila Bose, Smt Shatorupa, Smt Manju Roy Chowdhury, Smt Sharmila Sur and Shri Tapan Kumar Nath, Secretary, Manickpur Chaitali Sangha, Haridevpur, South 24 Parganas.

A view of the Seminar on ‘Is a Woman still not Human?’ on the eve of International Women’s Day.

From left to right: Smt Leena Panja, Advocate, Calcutta High Court, Smt Debjani Mukherjee, Smt Prajnaparamita Jana, Smt Kishori Roy, Shri Amit Kumar Sen and Smt Shatorupa.

25th Annual General Meeting of Pragati in progress.

From left to right: Smt Shatorupa, Shri Dibyendu Basu, Smt Sudeshna Roy, Eminent Media Personality, Smt Sarmila Bose and Smt Agnimitra Paul, Noted Fashion Designer.

Dignitaries and women entrepreneurs standing for a photograph just after the Seminar on ‘Women Entrepreneurs’.

From left to right: Shri D.P. Nag, Smt Jolly Chanda, Proprietor, Satin Rose, Shri Amit Kumar Sen, Smt Shatorupa, Shri S.K. Ghosh, Smt Rita Bhimani, PR Exponent; Smt Pallavi Chatterjee, Film Actress, Producer & Proprietor, DMAX Entertainment Smt Agnimitra Paul, Noted Fashion Designer and Smt Sharmila Sur.
Prof Satyajit Chakrabarti, Director, IEM addressing the students participating in the 3-days Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp at IEM, Ashram Camp.

Prof Partha S. Ghosh, Founder, Boston Pledge distributing award at ESP 50K Business Plan Contest, 2012 organised by the Boston Pledge, USA jointly with EDI and BNCCI held at the Chamber premises.

Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen, Chairman EDI, Shri Samir Kumar Ghosh, Chairman EDI also seen in the dais among others.

Inaugural Function of Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme organized by EDI in Association with Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati.

Prof. (Dr) Suman K. Mukherjee, Principal & Dean, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan addressing the Faculty Development Programme organized by EDI. Shri Samir Kumar Ghosh, Chairman EDI also seen in the dais among others.

Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, NSOU, launching EXIM course materials at the Induction Meeting organized by EDI.

Prof Partha S. Ghosh, Founder, Boston Pledge distributing award at ESP 50K Business Plan Contest, 2012 organised by the Boston Pledge, USA jointly with EDI and BNCCI held at the Chamber premises. Chamber President Shri Amit Kumar Sen, Chairman EDI, Shri Samir Kumar Ghosh and Vice Chairman EDI, Shri Sandip Sen also seen in the dais among others.

EDI Pavilion at 25th Industrial India Trade Fair, held at Science City Fair Ground.
A view of the BNCCI Delegation visiting Sri Lanka

From L-R Shri Siddhartha S. Bose, Vice President, Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President, Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President, Shri D.P. Nag, Secretary and Dr. G. P. Sarkar, Hony. Treasurer seen at ‘Meet The President’ held on Saturday, the 13th October, 2012 at the Chamber premises.

Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President, BNCCI, unveiling the Logo of 26th IITF along with Chairman Shri Samir Ghosh, Chairman, 25th IITF Committee, Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber also seen in the dais among others.

From (L-R) President, Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, Immediate past President, Shri Siddhartha S. Bose, Vice President, Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President, Dr. G. P. Sarkar, Hony. Treasurer and Shri D. P. Nag, Secretary at the 125th Annual General Meeting of the Chamber held on Friday, 28th September, 2012 at the Chamber premises.

Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President BNCCI delivering the speech at the Closing Ceremony of 25th IITF. Shri Partha Chatterjee, Hon’ble Industry Minister, Govt. of West Bengal (Chief Guest of the occasion). Shri Samir Kr. Ghosh, Chairman, 25th IITF Committee, Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber also seen in the dais among others.

Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice Chamber celebrating 67th Independence Day
Contents

President’s Message

President - Elect

Report of The Committee of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the year 2012-2013

Office Bearers and Members of The Executive Committee for the year 2012-2013 01
Co-opted Members of The Executive Committee 02
Invitees to The Executive Committee 03
Past Presidents and Council of Advisors 04
Auditors 04
Formation of Standing Committee 05
Members 11
Advisors 12
Committee Meetings 12
Representatives of the Chamber on Public Bodies 13

Banking, Finance & Taxation

Avenues of Raising Fund for SM Es 17
Revisiting Schedule VI of the Companies Bill 2011 18
Meeting with Shri Sunil Kumar Das, IRS, Commissioner, Service Tax, Kolkata, Government of India. 18
Changing Role of Customs in Facilitating Foreign Trade of India 20
Recent Amendments on VAT & Entry Tax 21
Workshop on the New Companies Bill, 2011 22
Central Budget-2013-14 23

Foreign Trade

Meeting with Mr. Rodrigo Gallardo, Counsellor for Agriculture Affairs, Embassy of Chile in India 25
Doing Business with Slovak Republic 25
Doing Business with New Zealand 26
Doing Business with Bosnia & Herzegovina 27
Indo-Brazil Business Cooperation 28
Modified Exim Policy 2012 28
Doing Business with Zambia 30
Contents

SAARC: Successes & Challenges 31
India’s Foreign Trade: Coping with Emerging Challenges 32
Meeting with Business Delegation of New Jersey 33
Industry and Infrastructure

Does Misleading Advertisement and Publicity Help Market Growth 35
Enhancing Marketing Avenues of Agricultural Products 35
Role of Promotional Agencies for benefit of MSMEs 36
Opportunities of Business with Indian Railways 36
Challenges & Opportunities in Animal Husbandry 38
Vendor Development Programme on ‘Coal India & Its’ Subsidiaries’ 38
Unleashing Export Potential of MSMEs: Focus- West Bengal 39
Challenges of the Telecom Sector 40
Vendor Development cum Exhibition on Indian Defence Sector 41
Energy and Environment

Towards Green Economy 43
Environment Issues Affecting Industry 44
Seminar on World Water Day 45
Awareness Programme on ‘Increasing Awareness of Climate Change and Energy Conservation’ 46
Tourism & Transport

Beautiful Bengal : Today & Tomorrow 47
Heritage Tourism - the Way Forward 48
Business Opportunities & Ongoing Metro Railway Projects 49
Making Kolkata Tramsways Self Reliant 50
Kolkata Port- it’s Prospects and Challenges 51
Labour

Factories Act - Its Regulation and Amendment 53
Improving Industrial Relations in West Bengal 53
ESI Schemes in West Bengal-Awareness & Improvement 54
General Interest

Trends in Consumers’ Grievance Redressal in West Bengal 55
Digitisation of Cable Television 55

Consumers’ Laws - Role of Legal Metrology 56
Present Status of Consumers’ Movement in India’ 58
Meeting with Shri Jaidev Sarkar, Chairman, Sarbex Power Control System 59
Fire Safety Norms 59
Economic reforms and Macroeconomic Policy in Changing Global Scenario 60
Look Before You Invest 61
CG, CSR under the New Companies Bill, 2011 62
World Consumer Rights Day 62
Harmonisation of India’s Food Standards with Codex Standards and other International Best Practices 63
Agribusiness Camp organized by NIRAFT, Kolkata 64
Pragati, The Ladies Wing of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Workshop for inculcation of Values and Development of Personality for a Group of Students 65
Rabindra Jayanti Celebration 65
Seminar on ‘Nari Uttaran Ki Pragatir Pathey’ 65
Annual General Meeting of Pragati 65
Participation in the IITF 2012 66
Seminar on ‘Women Entrepreneurs’ 66
International Women’s Day Celebration 66
Mother and Child Care Programme & Health Awareness Camps 67
10 days Vocational Training Course on Making Soft-Toys at Samaritan Help Mission, Howrah 67
Entrepreneurship Development Programme 67
Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme on ‘Small Business Creation and Opportunities’ 67
Handicraft Training Programme 68
Highlights of Activities of Enterprise Development Institute (EDI) during 2012-13

i) Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Programme (ESDP) 69
ii) Six-week Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) for Science & Technology Persons 69
iii) Three-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp (EAC) 69
EAC at Durgapur Institute of Management & Science 69
EAC at IIT, Roorkee 70
EAC at Calcutta Institute of Engineering & Management (CIEM) 70
Contents (Contd...)

Page No.

EAC at Prabhu Jagatbandhu College, Andul, Howrah 70
EAC at IMS 70
EAC at IEM 70

iv) Two-week Faculty Development Programme (FDP) 71
FDP from 7th to 18th January, 2013 71
FDP from 4th to 14th February, 2013 71
FDP from 4th to 15th March, 2013 71

v) Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of EDI 71
vi) Two-Days Workshop on "Managing Finance for MSME Enterprises" with SBI Learning Centre 71
vii) Valediction of Four-Month Certificate Course in Small Business Development & Management 71
viii) Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Handicrafts Artisans 72
ix) Inauguration of : one year Diploma in Entrepreneurship Development & Small Business Management; One year Diploma in Travel & Tourism; Post Graduate Diploma in Export Import Management 72

x) Entrepreneurship Development Programme for PMEGP beneficiaries: 72
xi) Communication Skill Development Programme for the officials of M/s Technocon Services 72
xii) Four-Month Certificate Course in Entrepreneurship Development & Small Business Management (EDSBM) for Retiring Defence Personnel (October, 2012 session): 72
xiii) Training of Trainers for SITB, conducted by ILO 72
xiv) 4-Month Certificate Course in EDSBM for Retiring Defence Personnel (June, 2012 session) with NSOU: 73
xv) Six-week Export-Import Programme (18th batch) 73
xvi) Six-week Training in Export-Oriented Floriculture and Horticulture Business (13th batch) 73
xvii) Valediction of the EDP at Taki in North 24 Parganas 73
xviii) Valedictory Function of EDP on Food Processing Industries at Chakdaha, Nadia 73
xix) Training for International Chamber of Commerce in China 73
xx) Workshop on "Strengthening Entrepreneurship Spirit in Bengal" 73
xxi) Workshop on 'Stress Management' 74
xxii) EDI-Trained Entrepreneurs in 25” IITF at Science City Fair Ground 74

Miscellaneous
Visit to Srilanka 75
Website of the Chamber 75
Receipts of Books and Publications 75

Past Presidents 76
President
Shri Amit Sen
M/s. East India Pharmaceutical Works Limited

Vice Presidents
Shri Dibyendu Basu
M/s. DC Industrial Plant Services Pvt. Ltd.
Shri Siddhartha S. Bose (up to 4th September, 2013)
M/s. Deblines Pvt. Ltd.

Hony. Treasurer
Dr. G.P. Sarkar
M/s. Allen Laboratories Limited

Committee Members
Shri Balaram Kundu : M/s. Kundu Brothers
Shri Suvo Chandra : M/s. P. C. Chandra & Sons (India) Limited
Smt. Raka Sen : M/s. R. Sen and Co.
Shri Sourajit Palchoudhuri : M/s. Washabarie Tea Co. Pvt. Ltd.
Shri Puranijit Mukherjee : M/s. Process Educare Institute (P) Limited
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

(Contd...)
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
(Contd...)”

Past Presidents and Council of Advisors

Dr. S.C. Nundy
Shri R.K. Majumdar (deceased)
Shri Arun Kumar Chandra
Shri Samir Kumar Ghosh
Shri S.P. Saha
Shri Bhaskar Sen
Shri Niranjana Saha
Shri S. N. Nundy
Smt. Shanta Ghosh
Shri Sunil Das Gupta (deceased)

Shri Amal P. Sur
Shri Subimal Ghosh
Shri Dilip Kumar Roy
Shri Vikram Somyan
Shri Dipankar Dutta Gupta (deceased)
Shri Sushil Kumar Bagla
Shri Santosh Ranjan Saha
Smt. Nayanlata Palchoudhuri
Shri K.K. Nanda
Shri S.K. Roy
Shri Tijorey Roy Chowdhury

AUDITORS

M/s. Gupta and Mitra (Chartered Accountants) were re-appointed as Auditors of the Chamber for the year 2012-13 with a remuneration of Rs. 7500/- in case of Chamber and Rs. 6,000/- in case of Trade Fair Account.

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES
2012-13

Formation of Standing Committees

The following Standing Committees were appointed for the year 2012-2013

1. Agro Industry and Food Processing Standing Committee
   Chairman : Shri M.M. Maity
   Shri Sourajit Pal Choudhuri  Ms. Arpita Bhattacharjee
   Shri R.K. Basu Mallick  Shri Atanu Dutta
   Shri Pramatha Nath Manna  Shri Somendra Narayan Mukherjee
   Shri Sanjoy Das  Shri S.P. Sarkar
   Shri Salil Ganguly  Shri S.N. Mitra

2. Bank Insurance, Investment and Capital Market Standing Committee
   Chairman : Shri Indrajit Gupta
   Shri Vinod Kumar Singh  Shri Madhav Chand Mitter
   Shri S.S. Paul  Shri Gautam Ray M/s. M. Chatterjee
   Shri Ranjit Banerjee  Shri Arun Kr. Saha
   Shri Balaram Kundu  Shri Bijay Kumar Khaitan
   Shri Sachidananda Agarwal  Smt. B. Bhattacharjee
   Shri B.C. Basak  Shri A.K. Agarwal

3. Business Infrastructure, Logistics and Urban Infrastructure Standing Committee
   Chairman : Shri Arun Kumar Sarkar
   Co-Chairman : Shri R.C. Surana
   Shri R.N. Saha  Shri Suvo Chandra
   Shri Debasish Modak  Shri Sukhendu Roy Chowdhury
   Shri Debashis Datta  Late T.K. Hore
   Shri A.M. Roy  Shri B.G. Gupta
   Shri Indra Kumar Ghosh  Shri M.M. MAITY
   Shri Alok Gupta  Shri S.K. Roy Chowdhury

4. Business Laws and Legal Issues Standing Committee
   Chairman : Shri Shourya Mondal
   Shri Balaram Kundu  Shri J.C. Agarwal
   Shri B.C. Basak  Shri A.M. Roy
   Shri Sakti Biswas  Shri Arvind Agarwal
5. Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri Indra Kumar Ghosh
Shri Balaram Kundu
Shri A.K. Sarkar
Shri Debashis Modak
Shri Pramod Srivastava
Shri Sudip Dey
Shri Raju Goswami
Shri Alok Gupta
Shri Sujit Chakraborty
Shri A.K. Chakraborty
Shri Dhiran Chaturvedi
Shri Pramod Nahata

6. Civic Amenities and Environment Protection Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri N.R. Dutta
Co-Chairman: Shri Kishori Mohan Dey
Shri R.K. Pal
Shri Puranjit Mukherjee
Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri (Advisor)
Shri Alok Gupta
Shri M.M. Malty
Invitee
Dr. K.M. Agarwal
Dr. R.C. Srivastava
Prof. S.C. Santra
Dr. Somsubhra Sensharma
Prof. Sarajit Basu
Shri B.G. Gupta
Prof. (Dr.) A.K. Ghosh
Dr. Sugata Bhattacharya
Dr. Ashuu Bhattacharya

7. Consumer Forum Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri Kishori Mohan Dey
Shri Balaram Kundu
Shri N.R. Dutta
Shri R.P. Srivastava
Shri S.S. Paul
Shri Sourajit Palchoudhuri
Shri Sreemoy Banerjee
Shri Madhab Mittra

8. Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibilities and Corporate Law Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri J.C. Agarwal
Shri Kunal Sen
Shri G.P. Agarwal
Shri Anjan Kumar Roy
Shri Jayanta Pal
Shri Ashis Roy
Shri H.M. Choraria
Shri LN. Gupta
Shri B.C. Basak
Shri N.R. Kar

9. District Business Development Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri Sourajit Palchoudhuri
Co-Chairman: Shri Balaram Kundu
Shri Sreemoy Banerjee
Late T.K. Hore
Smt. Bani RoyChowdhury
Shri Sajjan Kumar Poddar
Shri R.K. Paul
Shri S.S. Malty
Shri Alok Gupta
Shri Madan Mohan Malty
Shri Kishori Mohan Dey
Smt. Raka Sen

10. Energy Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri S.K. RayChaudhuri
Shri Debajyoti Dutta
Shri Subrata Sen
Shri Ajit Kumar Saha
Shri Ajit Karmakar
Shri Prabir Basu
Shri Arun Kumar Sarkar
Shri Ranjan Chatterjee
Shri D.K. Bose

11. Education, Technical Education and Skill Development Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri Satyam RoyChowdhury
Shri S.K. Ghosh
Shri Subrata Sen
Shri Prabir Roy
Shri Apurba Saha
Shri Hirak Sengupta
Shri N.R. Dutta
Dr. N.R. Banerjee
12. Foreign Trade Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri Alok Gupta (co-opted in place of Shri T. K. Hore)
Smt. Bani RoyChowdhury
Shri Mahesh Kayal
Special Invitee
Smt. Debudutta Nandwani
Shri Tapan Chattopadhyay, ITS
Smt. Rumela Roy
Smt. Anima Pandey
Shri R.K. Roy
Shri P.P. Yohannan
Dr. K. Rangarajan

13. House Journal and Publication Standing Committee
Chairperson: Smt. Raka Sen
Smt. Bani RoyChowdhury
Shri Puranijit Mukherjee
Advvisory Board
Shri A.K. Chandra
Smt. S.K. Ghosh
Shri S.K. Ghosh
Shri Sandip Sen

14. Industry Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri Suvo Chandra
Shri Amartya Dutta Gupta
Shri S.S. Paul
Shri Goutam Mukherjee
Shri A.M. Roy
Shri D.P. Patra
Shri Puranijit Mukherjee

15. Inland Water Transport, Ports and Riverfront Trade Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri Debasis Dutta
Smt. Raka Sen
Shri Prithwiraj Sen
Shri Sukhendu RoyChowdhury
Late T.K. HORE
Shri Alok Gupta

16. Labour and Chamber’s HRD Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri R.P. Srivastava
Shri Balaram Kundu
Shri Prabin Gupta
Shri K. Seal
Shri Bhaskar Chakraborty
Shri Bijn Mukherjee
Smt. Palii Gupta
Shri M.K. Bhaduria
Shri Sibhankar Paul
Shri Nataraj Roy

17. Membership Development Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri Amit Sen
Shri D. Basu
Shri S.S. Bose
Dr. G.P. Sarkar

18. Public Relations Standing Committee
Chairman: Shri Debajyoti Dutta
Late T.K. Hore
Shri Samir Goswami (Invitee)
Shri S.K. Ray Chaudhuri
Shri Sunil Chakraborty (Invitee)
Shri Pradeep Googli (Invitee)
19. Service Industries (including IT) and Secretariat HR Development Standing Committee
Chairman : Shri Puranjit Mukherjee
Shri Sandip Sen  Shri Anjan Karla Banerjee Choudhury
Shri Ajoy Ghosh  Shri Ashish Nundy
Col G.S. Batyabal  Md. Toufi Ahmed
Shri Suvo Chandra  Shri Madhab Mitter
Shri Soumen Mukherji (Invitee)  Ms. Debosree Roy

20. Direct Tax Standing Committee
Chairman : Shri Arvind Agarwal
Co-Chairman : Shri Soumen Mukherji
Shri Balaram Kundu  Shri K.L. Kapur
Shri B. Ghosh  Shri Kunal Dutta
Shri Partha Pratim Sengupta  Shri Partha Sarathi De
Shri Saikat Biswas  Shri Uday Chandra Dey
Shri Samir Kumar Saha  Shri B.C. Basak
Shri H.S. Podder  Shri Indra Kumar Ghosh
Shri Anjan Kumar Roy

21. GST State Tax & VAT Standing Committee
Chairman : Shri Balaram Kundu
Co-Chairman : Shri Sreemoy Banerjee
Shri J.C. Agrawal  Shri Sourajit Palchoudhuri
Shri Kishori Mohan Dey  Shri S.S. Paul
Shri Shourya Mandal  Shri I.K. Ghosh
Shri A.K. Chakroborty  Smt. Raka Sen
Shri Ranajit Kumar Bose  Shri Saikat Biswas
Shri Sourav Chandra (Special Invitee)  Shri S.N. Agarwal
Shri R.N. Ganguly (Sales Tax Advisor, BNCCI)  Shri Sanjoy Bhattacharya

22. Tourism Standing Committee
Chairperson : Smt. Bani Roy Chowdhury
Co-Chairman : Shri Alok Gupta
Late T.K. Hore  Shri Suvo Chandra
Shri Debasish Dutta  Smt. Raka Sen
Shri Kishori Mohan Dey  Shri Ashish Nundy
Shri Purnendu Roy Chowdhury  Shri Debasish Modak
Shri Subrata De  Shri S.S. Paul
Shri Partha Bhattacharya (Invitee)  Ms. Debosree Roy

The following Office Bearers of the Chamber are the ex-Officio members of each of the above noted Standing Committees:

President : Shri Amit Sen
Vice-Presidents : Shri Dibyendu Basu
Shri Siddhartha Sadhan Bose
Hony. Treasurer : Dr. G.P. Sarkar

26th Industrial India Trade Fair Committee 2013
Chairman : Shri Sandip Sen
Aids to the Chairman : Shri Santosh Ranjan Saha
Shri S.N. Nundy
Smt. Nayantara Palchoudhuri
Smt. Shanta Ghosh
Shri Sunil Dasgupta (deceased)

MEMBERS

Shri Amit Kt. Sen  Shri Dibyendu Basu
Shri S.S. Bose  Dr. G.P. Sarkar
Shri J.C. Agrawal  Shri G.P. Agrawal
Shri Sreemoy Banerjee  Shri Suvo Chandra
Shri Debasish Dutta  Shri Debasish Dutta
Shri Alok Gupta  Shri Balaram Kundu
Shri Madan Mohan Maity  Shri Shourya Mondal
Shri Puranjit Mukherjee  Shri Sourajit Palchoudhuri
Shri Rabindra Kumar Paul  Shri S.K. Roy Chowdhury
Smt. Bani Roy Chowdhury  Shri Satyam Roychowdhury
During the year under review, there were eleven meetings of the Executive Committee. Important subjects requiring in-depth studies were referred to the Standing Committees or Special Sub-Committees concerned for discussions and recommendations to the Committee.

**ADVISORS**

Shri Niranjan Saha  
Shri Bhaskar Sen  
Shri Vikram Somany  
Shri Arun Kumar Chandra  
Shri R.K. Majumdar  
Dr. S.C. Nandy

Shri Sushil Kumar Bagla  
Shri Samarendra P. Saha  
Shri Dilip Kumar Roy  
Shri Subimal Ghosh  
Shri Amal P. Sur

Chief Patron of the Trade Fair: Shri S.K. Ghosh

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**FORMATION OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

(Contd...)
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHAMBER ON PUBLIC BODIES (Contd...)

RAC, Central Excise, Commissionerate, Kolkata-V
- Shri Puranjit Mukherjee
Regional Committee of Employees' Provident Fund, West Bengal
- Shri R.P. Srivastava
Regional Board of E.S.I. Corporation, West Bengal
- President of the Chamber
Regional Direct Taxes Advisory Committee at the Headquarters of the Commissioner of Income Tax, West Bengal
- Shri G.P. Agrawal
Regional Advisory Committee of RTC (ER)
- Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury
Regional Consumer Consultative Committee
- President of the Chamber
Regional Advisory Committee of NSIC Ltd.
- President of the Chamber
Sales Tax Advisory Board, West Bengal
- Shri Balaram Kundu
State Level Advisory Board attached to MSME-DI, Kolkata
- President of the Chamber
State Level Coordination Committee for District Industries Centre
- President, BNCCI
State Population Commission (SPC)
- Shri K.L. Kapur
State Advisory Committee on Industry
- Shri S.K. Roy
State level Advisory Board (SLAB) attached to Micro, Small and medium enterprises of West Bengal (M S M E-D I)
- President, BNCCI
State level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIC), West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- President, BNCCI
State level Selection Committee of Small Scale Entrepreneurs for the National Award to Small Scale Entrepreneurs
- President, BNCCI/Secretary
Sales Tax Advisory Committee, State Level
- Shri Balaram Kundu
State Level Export Promotion Committee, (SLEPC), W.B.
- Shri Sandip Sen
State Level Industry Facilitation Council
- President, BNCCI
State Advisory Committee (WBERC)
- Shri Dibyendu Basu
Trade Facilitation Committee Meeting of Customs
- Shri S.S. Bose
Tourism Advisory Committee
- President, BNCCI
Upgradation of ITS – Member of the Steering Committee
- Shri Sandip Sen
West Bengal State Labour Advisory Board
- President of the Chamber
West Bengal Labour Welfare Board
- Shri S.R. Saha
West Bengal State Export Promotion Society
- President, BNCCI
West Bengal Licensing Board (Electrical)
- Shri R.N. Saha
Zonal Railway Users’ Consultative Committee
- Shri Siddhartha Sadhan Bose
Zonal Public Grievances Redressal Committee
- President of the Chamber

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES 2012-13

14
**Representatives of the Chamber on Public Bodies (Contd..)**

| ESI Hospital, Sealdah          | Shri Sourajit Palchoudhuri                          |
| ESI Hospital, Kamarhati, Manicktala | Shri S.K. Ghosh                                      |
| ESI Hospital, Serampur, Baltikuri, Bandel | Shri Satyam RoyChowdhury                           |
| ESI Hospital, Belur            | Shri T.K. Hore (deceased)                           |
| ESI Hospital, Uluberia         | Shri T.K. Hore (deceased)                           |
| ESI Hospital, Kalyani          | Shri R.N. Saha                                      |
| ESI Hospital, Gourhati         | Shri Amit Sen                                      |
| ESI Hospital, Budge Budge      | Smt. Raka Sen                                      |
| ESI Hospital, Asansol          | Shri Bijoy Kumar Khaitan                           |
| ESI Hospital, Durgapur         | Shri S.K. Roy                                      |
| ESI Corporation Hospital & Occupational Disease Centre, Joka | Smt. Bani RoyChowdhury                             |
| State Advisory Committee (Building and Construction Workers Act, 1996) | Shri A.K. Sarkar                                   |
| West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation | President, BNCCI                                  |
| West Bengal State Council for Training in Vocational Trades | Smt. Nayanata Palchoudhuri                        |
| West Bengal State Apprenticeship Council | Shri Sandip Sen                                   |
| EKTA Incubation Centre, Kolkata | Shri R.P. Srivastava                              |
Avenues of Raising Fund for SMES

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry jointly with Peerless Securities Ltd. organized a Seminar on ‘Avenues of Raising Fund for SMES’ on April 27, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at The Peerless Inn, Kolkata.

The Seminar was addressed by Shri Suriender Kumar, Chief General Manager (Bengal Circle), Shri M.K. Nag, Chief General Manager (SME), State Bank of India and Shri P.N. Manna, Chairman, MPS group of Companies. Shri Amit Kr. Sen, Sr. Vice President, BNCCI presided over the Seminar.

Sharing his own experience, Shri P.N. Manna stated that conditions imposed by banks for granting loans to entrepreneurs are often very harsh and not right. He cited a case of a first generation entrepreneur who after having pledged everything was denied of his assured working capital as a result of which his project collapsed. Working capital, he said, is the most critical hurdle for any entrepreneur and banks should rework their policies for extending working capital sympathetically. He advised the upcoming entrepreneurs not to depend on bank entirely but also to tap alternative avenues of fund.

Shri M.K. Nag, made a power point presentation. He observed that Banks provide umbrella for sunny days but take them away for rainy days. Despite this, banks, particularly SBI, have a sharp focus on the SMES. He pointed out that the key challenge for small units in getting advances from banks and other financial institutions is to develop a clean and transparent balance sheet and get rated by rating agency, which acts as a benchmark. While it can certainly help in raising fund it also gives a clear picture to the SMEs themselves about their present position and helps them grow. He also referred to asymmetry of information, lack of transparency and reliability of data and gap in perception that need to be taken care of.

Shri Nag further stated that, venture capital is a financial capital provided to early-stage, with high potential, high risk, growth start-up companies. This fund makes money by owning equity in the companies it invests which usually have a novel technology or business model. There are five common stages of venture capital funding – the seed stage or the set-up stage of the project; the start-up stage when the project qualifies for further investigations; the next stage when the project is transformed to be saleable; the maturity stage and finally the Bridge/Pre-public stage when the venture capital exists and the project goes public. The hybrid capital, he said, is the combination of equity and debt with a capacity to convert as equity. Factoring, according to him, refers to a financial transaction where a business entity sells its accounts receivables or invoices to a third party at a discount. Factoring is not a loan facility. It only allows companies to convert their accounts receivable to instant cash. Factoring services benefit SMES by providing them with liquidity that is not linked to their balance sheets, as well as professional debt administration and collection services. SIDBI, he said, has introduced a Growth Capital & Equity Assistance for MSMEs (GEMs) for shortfall in meeting margin requirements of MSMEs. SIDBI offers this assistance in the form of mezzanine/convertible instruments, subordinated debt and equity, where exit options are available. Another alternative avenue is subsidy which is extended to eligible MSMEs to promote the development of the industrial sector. Of the different subsidy schemes, he made special reference to Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation scheme that was launched in 2003 with a view to enhancing the competitiveness of the industries located in clusters by providing infrastructure through PPP. He asserted that SMES should form clusters and take full advantage of this scheme.

In this address, Shri Suriender Kumar stated that SBI is the pioneer and market leader in financing SMES with 14,000+ branches serving over 13 lakhs of SMES customers. Total SME loan portfolio has surpassed Rs.1.26 lakh crores as on 31.3.2011. The bank has special focus with monitoring mechanism to ensure growth in SME segment in 579 SME intensive branches. There are relationship managers to provide personalized services to both medium and small enterprises.

Continuing, Shri Kumar stated that in West Bengal, with 42 SME intensive branches and 125 specialized SME marketing and credit officers, SBI caters to more than 1.60 lakh SME units. The loan portfolio is of around 11,000 crores. It is also actively engaged in supply chain financing, cluster financing and developing innovation loan and deposit products. The bank is looking at a 25 percent growth to advances to SMES this
fiscal. It is coming up with four more specialized SME branches in the state. The four branches will come up at Howrah, Bidhannagar, South and Central Kolkata and will hopefully be operational in the next 6 months. The existing specialized branch for SMEs at the city Head Office is operational in full swing.

Earlier, Shri Amit K. Sen in his welcome address stated that in our country, SMEs are mostly dependent on bank credit. But they find it much harder than larger businesses to obtain funds from the banks at reasonable rates and at the right time. The cost of credit for these small enterprises is much higher as compared to the average of 5 percent in South East Asian countries. The problem is further compounded by the complex application procedures for approval. Most SMEs encounter difficulties while trying to access finance on account of regulatory rigidities, insistence on collaterals, gaps in the legal framework, lack of information on both sides etc. However, in the expanding universe of funding for SMEs, different avenues, other than banks and financial institutions, like venture capital, private equity, factoring, external sources, subsidy, hybrid capital, etc. have also emerged, though there is hardly any unit that can tap all such sources. Efforts are even on for an exclusive exchange for the SMEs.

After a vibrant interactive session, Shri Indrajit Gupta summed up the deliberations of the seminar and offered the formal Vote of Thanks.

Revisiting Schedule VI of the Companies Bill 2011

The Chamber organized a Workshop on ‘Revisiting Schedule VI of the Companies Bill 2011’ on Friday the 17th May 2012. Shri Debashis Mitra, practicing Chartered Accountant, Member of Regional Direct Taxes Advisory Committee of India, and former President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Shri Anjan K. Roy, practicing Company Secretary and immediate Past President of Eastern India Regional Council of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, were the speakers of the day.

While welcoming the participants, the Chamber President, Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury stated that the revision aims to harmonize and synchronize the general disclosure requirements under Schedule VI with those prescribed in International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), adopted from 1st April 2011. The efforts involved in implementing the Revised Schedule VI and the consequences thereof cannot be underestimated. He anticipated that the application of the Revised Schedule VI will entail significant time and investments and may necessitate customizing IT/MIS systems within a short period.

Shri Roy clarified the need for a Revised Schedule VI. He explained that the Schedule VI prescribed the format of Balance Sheet (B/S) and the Profit & Loss Account (P&L A/c). It was on the basis of these statements that the stock market moves and the Indian economy moves. It is important that India gradually move towards global standards, as India is fast becoming a major player in the WTO. When India adopts the IFRS, the Schedule VI will change again informed Shri Roy and mentioned that IFRS based on principles, takes one to the epic of professionalism...

Clarifying the intentions of the Board, Shri Roy said that India was moving from Rules based accounting system to a Principle based one. The Revised Schedule VI was a vertical format instead of a horizontal format of the B/S. The P&L A/c has been rechristened as Statement of P&L A/C.

Shri Debasis Mitra moved into the different implications of the Revised Schedule VI. He also clarified doubts and answering questions raised both by the participants. He informed that once the Bill was enacted the present Revised Schedule VI would again change and become Schedule III.

The Workshop came to an end with the Vote of Thanks being proposed by Shri J.C. Agarwal, Chairman, CC, CSR & Corporate Law Standing Committee of the Chamber.

Meeting with Shri Sunil Kumar Das, IRS, Commissioner, Service Tax, Kolkata, Government of India

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an Interactive Session on Service Tax with Shri Sunil Kumar Das, IRS, Commissioner, Service Tax, Kolkata, Government of India on Wednesday, the 18th July 2012 at 3:30 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, President of the Chamber presided over the meeting and delivered the welcome address and Shri I.K. Ghosh, Chairman, Central Excise, Customs Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the Vote of Thanks. The meeting was also addressed by Shri Mayank Sharma, IRS, Assistant Commissioner, Division III, Service Tax, Kolkata, Government of India and was attended by other senior officials of the Service Tax Commissionerate, Kolkata.

At the outset Shri Sunil Kumar Das, IRS, Commissioner, Service Tax, Kolkata, Government of India mentioned that the journey of taxation of services began by selective taxation of just three services on July 1, 1994. The first year collection was Rs. 407 crore. The Service Tax was just another tax for the first 8 years and it took some giant leaps in the next 7 years, reaching Rs. 60,941 crore in 2008-09. In the next two years, the growth was somewhat moderate and amount collected as Service Tax Rs. 70,896 crore in 2010-11.

Shri Das informed that ‘Service’ has been defined in Clause (44) of the new Section 65B and means ‘any activity; for consideration; carried out by a person for another; and includes a declared service’. The said definition further provides that ‘Service’ does not include – any activity that constitutes only a transfer in title of goods or immovable property by way of sale, gift or in any other manner; a transfer, delivery or supply of goods which is deemed to be a sale of goods; within the meaning of Clause (29A) of Article 366 of the Constitution a transaction only in money or actionable claimable service provided by an employee to an employer in the course of the employment; fees payable to a court or a tribunal set up under a law for the time being in force.

Shri Sunil Kumar Das, IRS, added that there is a paradigm shift in approach to Service tax i.e. Negative List approach and he gave a brief detail of 66B.

He informed that most services provided by the Central or State Government or local authorities are in the negative list except the following services provided by the Department of Posts by way of Speed Post, express parcel post, life insurance, and agency services carried out on payment of commission on non government business; services in relation to a vessel or an aircraft inside or outside the precincts of a port or an airport; transport of goods and/or passengers; support services, other than those covered by clauses (a) to (c) above, to business entities.

Service tax would be levied on processes, unless otherwise specified in the negative list, not amounting to manufacture or production of goods carried out by a person for another for consideration.

He said that if Central Excise duty is leviable on a particular process, as the same amounts to manufacture, then such process would be covered in the negative list even if there is a central excise duty exemption for such process.

The developer or the housing society would be covered under this entry only if it is entrusted with such function by the Central or a State government or if it is, for such distribution, a distribution licensee licensed under the Electricity Act, 2003. The entry does not cover services provided by way installation of gensets or similar equipment by private contractors for distribution of electricity. Moreover the services provided are not by way of transmission or distribution.

The phrase ‘residential dwelling’ has not been defined in the Act. It has therefore to be interpreted in terms of the normal trade practice as per which it is any residential accommodation, but does not include hotel, motel, inn, guest house, camp-site, lodge, house boat, or like places meant for temporary stay.

This would also be a case of bundled services as renting service is being provided both for residential use and for non residential use. Taxability of such bundled services has to be determined in terms of the principles laid down in Section 66F of the Act.

However, there are separate exemptions available to the services provided by the goods transport agency. These are services by way of transportation of fruits, vegetables, eggs, milk, food grains or pulses in a goods carriage; goods where gross amount charged on a consignment transported in a single goods carriage does not exceed one thousand five hundred rupees; or goods where gross amount charged for transportation of all such goods for a single consignee in the goods carriage does not exceed rupees seven hundred fifty.
Earlier, in his welcome address, Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, President of the Chamber said when Service Tax was introduced in the year 1994-1995; only three services were covered under Service Tax net. New Service Tax regime based on negative list has been introduced by the Central Government from July 1, 2012. Under new Service Tax regime all activities attract Service Tax except the negative list. He also requested to give details of the principle of the negative list approach and also the negative list of Service Tax with thrust on mega exemption notification; place of provision of service; point of taxation rules; Service Tax in relation to service receiver; to sale/construction of residential complexes; Service Tax in respect of works contract; charitable trust and Declared Service.

Shri K. Ghosh, Chairman, Central Excise, Customs Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the Vote of Thanks.

**Changing Role of Customs in Facilitating Foreign Trade of India**

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a Meeting on ‘Changing Role of Customs in Facilitating Foreign Trade of India’ with Smt. D.B. Dasgupta, IRS, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Government of India on Monday, the 13th August 2012 at 3.00 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, President of the Chamber presided over the meeting and delivered the welcome address and Shri K. Ghosh, Chairman, Central Excise, Customs Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the Vote of Thanks. The meeting was also addressed by Shri K.P. Nadad, Joint General Manager, Airport Authority of India and was attended by other senior officials of the Customs, Kolkata.

At the outset Smt. D.B. Dasgupta, IRS, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Government of India explained the rationale behind the facilitating role of Customs and collection of revenue. The customs clearance of cargo, which takes place only during working hours, ends up hindering the growth of foreign trade. It is more often than that cargo gets stuck at airports or ports until the clearance facilities for the day open causing a series of delays resulting in the piling of cargo awaiting clearance and thereby slowing down the pace of foreign trade of India.

Smt. D.B. Dasgupta informed that to remove the major bottleneck in foreign trade, round the clock customs clearance is needed seven days a week in four major airports and ports in the country. Four airports where round the clock customs clearance for cargo would be available are Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Mumbai, while the four ports are Chennai, Kolkata, Kandla and JNPT, Mumbai. She further added that this facility would begin from September 1, 2012 and would be intimated through public notice. She felt that International trade in the region is expected to get a major boost, with the city’s port having a round-the-clock customs clearing and other allied facilities.

The 24x7 operations would begin on a pilot basis with customs operations along with all other supporting services. This would be initially for four months after which efforts would be made to expand similar operations at other locations. The 24x7 operations would be available for certain categories of imports and exports. For imports, ‘No Assessment No Examination’ category cargo would be covered. This would account for 70 per cent of imports. In case of exports, the 24x7 facility would be extended to those exports not claiming benefits and where containers are factory-stuffed.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, President of the Chamber said international trade is a key driver of the economic growth, development and prosperity. Globalization and regional integration further highlight the importance of incorporating international trade policies in national development strategies. Developing countries like India must integrate national economy into global markets if they are to reap the benefits brought about by trade liberalization and globalization. He requested for streamlining the customs formalities in clearance of goods to reduce the transaction costs giving competitive advantage.

Shri K. Ghosh, Chairman, Central Excise, Customs Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the Vote of Thanks.

**Recent Amendments on VAT & Entry Tax**

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an Interactive Meeting on ‘Recent Amendments on VAT & Entry Tax’ with Shri Binod Kumar, IAS, Commissioner, Commercial Taxes, Government of West Bengal on Friday, the 14th September 2012 at 3.30 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

The meeting was also attended and addressed by Shri K.A. Anwar, Joint Commissioner and Shri K.C. Chowdhury, Additional Commissioner, Commercial Taxes, Government of West Bengal. Shri Amrit Kumar Sen, Senior Vice-President of the Chamber presided over the meeting and delivered the welcome address.

At the outset, Shri Binod Kumar, IAS, Commissioner, Commercial Taxes, Government of West Bengal mentioned that in the quarter ended in June 30, 2012, the State witnessed a 29 percent year-on-year growth in commercial tax collection amounted to Rs. 4,322 crore. He further added that the State has achieved a total tax revenue target of Rs. 31,222.25 crore for the fiscal year 2012-2013 against revenue of Rs. 24,934.04 crore for the year 2011-2012. He further added that West Bengal had introduced an amnesty scheme in the 2012-2013 Budget to bring a large swath of traders under the tax net to raise additional revenue. The Government’s amnesty scheme would allow a dealer to pay only at the rate of 2 percent of the taxable sales done earlier and got registered under VAT. The State Government set the scheme’s tenure till 31st December 2012.

Shri Kumar pointed out that the simplification of the tax structure has resulted in a win-win situation and the introduction of e-systems and simpler norms have reduced the cases of tax evasion. He felt that the State Government would introduce several measures to widen the tax base by facilitating the registration of new dealers through simplification in the registration process.

He called upon traders to be more transparent in their disclosures and stressed on mutual trust.
payment interest shall be payable at the rate of 1 percent per month for each day of default.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Shri Amit Kumar Sen, Senior Vice-President of the Chamber appreciated the e-governance initiatives made in recent times to simplify the procedures and to bring about efficiency and transparency, but suggested certain broad areas where further changes to be made in making tax compliance simple and hassle free.

He proposed the removal of filing of hard copy of the return as early as possible.

He also sought the cooperation of the Commissioner of the Commercial Taxes in the matter of mismatch and requested the Commissioner for withdrawal of Entry Tax.

Shri Balaram Kundu, Chairman, GST, State Tax & VAT Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Workshop on the New Companies Bill, 2011

The Chamber to organize a Workshop on the New Companies Bill, 2011 On 13th February 2013 at 3.00 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

The speakers were Shri Timir Baran Chatterjee, Ex. Sr. Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Legal, DIC India Ltd., Shri Vinod Kothari, Chartered Accountant & Co. Secretary, former Chairman of the EIRC of ICSI and Dr. Debashis Mitra, Chartered Accountant & Co. Secretary, former Chairman of EIRC of ICAI, Eastern Region.

Shri Amit Kumar Sen in his welcome address brought to notice that though of late CG & CSR have become the catchphrase, it is not new to our country as Kautilya’s Arthashastra perhaps, the earliest book on management, highlighted good governance which was necessary for good running of the kingdom. He hoped, with the new enactment of the Bill, the independent Directors will play a major role in ethical running of the company and shareholders will benefit out of the same. For the first time, he said, the role and responsibilities of the Directors as well as Key Managerial Persons have been clearly defined leaving no scope for ambiguity. Similarly the roles and responsibilities of the Auditors have been increased tremendously in the proposed Act. The new ideas like Class Action suits, CSR disclosure, fixed term for independent directors, one person company, woman directors, the concepts of registered valuer, cross border managers as well as strengthening the provisions to check fraud, tighten laws for raising money will help improve efficiency and increase accountability within the corporate sector, he remarked.

He expected that the forthcoming Act would make the Company Law live upto the best global practices. However, he apprehended that much power has been given to the administration bypassing the judiciary, which may cause aberration in the future.

Shri Timir Baran Chatterjee, Ex. Sr. Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Legal, DIC India Ltd., the first speaker of the day, gave a bird’s eye view of the whole Bill from the company’s perspective. Shri Chatterjee had provided an analysis of the Bill, which was circulated to all present at the workshop. He explained intricately the details of appointment and retirement of directors and the requirements of general body meetings both for public sector undertakings and private companies including MNCs.

CS Vinod Kothari, Chartered Accountant & Co. Secretary, former Chairman of the EIRC of ICSI, the next speaker, deliberated on the compliance aspect of the Bill. He warned about the class and freeze action, which may cause great embarrassment to companies. Touching upon various sections like S 23(2), vide which private companies may also issue securities through private placement, Clauses 267 and 269 regarding sick Companies through private placement, the role of the Auditors in the discharge of their duties through private placement, the need to regularize the process.

Similarly the roles and responsibilities of the Auditors have been increased tremendously in the proposed Act. The new ideas like Class Action suits, CSR disclosure, fixed term for independent directors, one person company, woman directors, the concepts of registered valuer, cross border managers as well as strengthening the provisions to check fraud, tighten laws for raising money will help improve efficiency and increase accountability within the corporate sector, he remarked.

He expected that the forthcoming Act would make the Company Law live upto the best global practices. However, he apprehended that much power has been given to the administration bypassing the judiciary, which may cause aberration in the future.

Shri Timir Baran Chatterjee, Ex. Sr. Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Legal, DIC India Ltd., the first speaker of the day, gave a bird’s eye view of the whole Bill from the company’s perspective. Shri Chatterjee had provided an analysis of the Bill, which was circulated to all present at the workshop. He explained intricately the details of appointment and retirement of directors and the requirements of general body meetings both for public sector undertakings and private companies including MNCs.

CS Vinod Kothari, Chartered Accountant & Co. Secretary, former Chairman of the EIRC of ICSI, the next speaker, deliberated on the compliance aspect of the Bill. He warned about the class and freeze action, which may cause great embarrassment to companies. Touching upon various sections like S 23(2), vide which private companies may also issue securities through private placement, Clauses 267 and 269 regarding sick Companies through private placement, the role of the Auditors in the discharge of their duties through private placement, the need to regularize the process.

Continuing, Dr. Mukherjee stated that the Union Budget for 2013-14 was presented at a time when the growth rate of the economy has fallen from the ‘potential’ 8 percent to 5 percent, the current account deficit has hit a record high and the fiscal deficit has been on a cliff. Inflation is above the comfort level for expected growth and investment. While the slowdown is partly rooted in external causes, domestic causes are also important. The slowdown in the rate of growth of services in 2011-12 at 8.2 percent and particularly in 2012-13 to 6.6 percent from the double-digit growth of the previous six years, contributed significantly to slowdown in the overall growth of the economy, while some slowdown could also be attributed to the lower growth in agriculture and industrial activities. But despite the slowdown, the services sector has shown more resilience to worsening external conditions than agriculture and industry.

Continuing, Dr. Mukherjee stated that the emphasis of the Budget on different social sectors, infrastructure, skill development, empowerment of women are all in the right direction. The outlays and increased expenditure will induce growth, while the holistic approach will ensure inclusiveness with sustainability. The thrust of the Budget on infrastructure and MSME sectors will induce growth through backward and forward linkages. Increased public spending with substantial rise in both plan and non-plan expenditure will stimulate the growth impulses and have multiplier effect on the growth process. This will be expedited by the accent on reforms. With 35 percent investment rate and 29 percent savings rate, inflow of foreign investment is necessary. FDI in retail allowed by the government can pave the way for investment in new technology and marketing of agricultural produce. He suggested that inflation needs to be tackled through supply-side management supported by well-crafted fiscal and monetary policy and apprehended that contrary to the assurances given by the Finance Minister fiscal deficit will go up.

Making an excellent power-point presentation on the Indirect Tax proposals of the Union Budget 13, Shri Rajanish Dasgupta stated that the Budget proposes no change in the normal rate of service tax of 12 percent, that of excise duty of 12 percent and the peak rate of basic customs duty of 10 percent for non-agricultural products. But the penal provisions have been made harsher.

While on Service Tax, Shri Dasgupta stated that to encourage voluntary compliance and broaden the tax base, the Budget has provided one time amnesty by way of waiver of interest and penalty and immunity from Prosecution, to the stop-filers or non-registrants or service providers who have not disclosed the liability in the returns filed by them during the period from October 2007 to December 2012 to pay the tax dues. Details of the scheme are available in Chapter VI of the Finance Bill 2013. Speaking on inclusions and exclusions, he mentioned that all air-conditioned restaurants will come under service tax net. Service Tax have been withdrawn on services provided by educational institution by way of renting of immovable property, services by way of vehicle parking to general public and services provided by government, a local authority or a government authority by way of repair or maintenance of aircraft. Temporary transfer or permitting the use or engagement of a copyright relating to cinematograph films, which as exempt so far, will now be restricted to exhibition of cinematograph films in a cinema hall or a cinema theatre. The scope of advance ruling, he said, is being extended to cover...

Thanks rendered by Shri J.C. Agarwal, Chairman, CGCSR & Corporate Law Standing Committee of the Chamber...

Central Budget-2013-14

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a Discussion Meeting on ‘Central Budget 2013-14’ on 13th March 1st, 2013 at 3.30 p.m. at its premises.

Dr. Suman K. Mukherjee, Dean & Principal, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Institute of Management Science, Shri Barun Kumar Ghosh, Partner, Roy & Ray and Shri Rajanish Dasgupta, Senior Manager, Price Waterhouse Coopers Ltd. addressed the meeting. Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President of the Chamber presided over the meeting. Shri Sanjay Bhattacharya, Chairman, Direct Tax Standing Committee of the Chamber offered the vote of thanks.

In his address, Dr. Suman K. Mukherjee stated that the Union Budget for 2013-14 was presented at a time when the growth rate of the economy has fallen from the ‘potential’ 8 percent to 5 percent, the current account deficit has hit a record high and the fiscal deficit has been on a cliff. Inflation is above the comfort level for expected growth and investment. While the slowdown is partly rooted in external causes, domestic causes are also important. The slowdown in the rate of growth of services in 2011-12 at 8.2 percent and particularly in 2012-13 to 6.6 percent from the double-digit growth of the previous six years, contributed significantly to slowdown in the overall growth of the economy, while some slowdown could also be attributed to the lower growth in agriculture and industrial activities. But despite the slowdown, the services sector has shown more resilience to worsening external conditions than agriculture and industry.

Continuing, Dr. Mukherjee stated that the emphasis of the Budget on different social sectors, infrastructure, skill development, empowerment of women are all in the right direction. The outlays and increased expenditure will induce growth, while the holistic approach will ensure inclusiveness with sustainability. The thrust of the Budget on infrastructure and MSME sectors will induce growth through backward and forward linkages. Increased public spending with substantial rise in both plan and non-plan expenditure will stimulate the growth impulses and have multiplier effect on the growth process. This will be expedited by the accent on reforms. With 35 percent investment rate and 29 percent savings rate, inflow of foreign investment is necessary. FDI in retail allowed by the government can pave the way for investment in new technology and marketing of agricultural produce. He suggested that inflation needs to be tackled through supply-side management supported by well-crafted fiscal and monetary policy and apprehended that contrary to the assurances given by the Finance Minister fiscal deficit will go up.

Making an excellent power-point presentation on the Indirect Tax proposals of the Union Budget 13, Shri Rajanish Dasgupta stated that the Budget proposes no change in the normal rate of service tax of 12 percent, that of excise duty of 12 percent and the peak rate of basic customs duty of 10 percent for non-agricultural products. But the penal provisions have been made harsher.

While on Service Tax, Shri Dasgupta stated that to encourage voluntary compliance and broaden the tax base, the Budget has provided one time amnesty by way of waiver of interest and penalty and immunity from Prosecution, to the stop-filers or non-registrants or service providers who have not disclosed the liability in the returns filed by them during the period from October 2007 to December 2012 to pay the tax dues. Details of the scheme are available in Chapter VI of the Finance Bill 2013. Speaking on inclusions and exclusions, he mentioned that all air-conditioned restaurants will come under service tax net. Service Tax have been withdrawn on services provided by educational institution by way of renting of immovable property, services by way of vehicle parking to general public and services provided by government, a local authority or a government authority by way of repair or maintenance of aircraft. Temporary transfer or permitting the use or engagement of a copyright relating to cinematograph films, which as exempt so far, will now be restricted to exhibition of cinematograph films in a cinema hall or a cinema theatre. The scope of advance ruling, he said, is being extended to cover...
residential public limited companies. A notification is being issued for this purpose.

Elucidating the changes in the customs duties and excise rates, he stated that, Customs Duty on pre-forms of precious and semi-precious stones has been reduced from 10 percent to 2 percent, on set-top boxes as well as value addition increased from 5 percent to 10 percent and in case of steel and bituminous coal imposed the same rate of levy of 2 percent Customs Duty and 2 percent CVD. As regards excise, he felt that registration of ‘zero excise duty’ route for cotton and manmade sector - spun yarn at the yarn, fabric and garment stages - would provide a fillip to the readymade garment industry. While he expressed his reservation about early implementation of GST, he lauded the first decisive step of the Hon’ble Union Finance Minister by setting apart a sum of Rs. 9000 crore towards first instalment of the balance of CST compensation.

Taking a bird’s eye view of the different Direct Tax proposals, Shri Barun Kumar Ghosh stated that the Budget’ 13 has provided tax credit for resident individual of Rs. 2000 if total income does not exceed Rs. 5 lakhs. This credit will not be available to HUF, AOP, BOI etc. An individual HUF, AOR BOI, cooperative society, firm, local authority will be subject to surcharge of 10 percent of Income Tax, if total income exceeds Rs.1 crore. A domestic company having total income exceeding Rs.1 crore will continue to pay surcharge at the rate of 5 percent. Moreover, if income exceeds Rs.10 crore, surcharge will be 10 percent. A foreign company having total income of above Rs.10 crore will pay surcharge at a rate of 25 percent or at a rate of 5 percent. Dividend Tax will be subject to tax at a higher rate of 25 percent or at a rate of 5 percent.

Earlier in his welcome address, Shri Armit Kumar Sen stated that the Budget represents the Government’s viewpoint in which direction the economy is going. Currently we are passing through a very disquieting phase where our economy is growing at 5.8 percent. A reduction in excise duty and excise rates, he stated that, Customs Duty on pre-forms of precious and semi-precious stones has been reduced from 10 percent to 2 percent, on set-top boxes as well as value addition increased from 5 percent to 10 percent and in case of steel and bituminous coal imposed the same rate of levy of 2 percent Customs Duty and 2 percent CVD. As regards excise, he felt that registration of ‘zero excise duty’ route for cotton and manmade sector - spun yarn at the yarn, fabric and garment stages - would provide a fillip to the readymade garment industry. While he expressed his reservation about early implementation of GST, he lauded the first decisive step of the Hon’ble Union Finance Minister by setting apart a sum of Rs. 9000 crore towards first instalment of the balance of CST compensation.

Explaining the proposed reintroduction of investment allowance, Shri Ghosh said that in a bid to encourage substantial investment in plant or machinery, the Budget has proposed to insert a new Section 32AC in the Income Tax Act to provide that where an assessee being a company is engaged in the business of manufacture of an article or thing and incurs a sum of more than Rs.100 crores in new plant and machinery during the period beginning from 1 April 2013 and ending on 31 March 2015, the new plant and/or machinery cannot be transferred for a period of 5 years excepting cases of amalgamation or demerger but including amalgamated company or resulting company, as the case may be. The amendment will take effect from 1 April 2014 and will accordingly apply in relation to the assessment year 2014-15 and subsequent years.

Shri Ghosh also spoke at length on other proposals relating to disallowance of certain fee, charge etc in the case of state government undertakings, clarification for amount to be eligible for deduction as bad debts in case of banks, removal of the cascading effect of DDT, transfer of improvable property etc.

In his welcome address, Chamber President Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury said that in recent years, Indo-Chilean bilateral trade has grown substantially. He also mentioned that Chile was the first country in South America to sign a trade agreement with India. He informed that the country signed number of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with India. He further mentioned that during the State visit of Chilean President, several agreements on cooperation were signed between these countries.

Shri Ghosh observed that, when developed world was going through a phase of financial crisis, India deepens its trade relationship with Chile; a leading Latin American country, in order to explore alternative growth frontiers. In this regard, he also stated that India’s trade with Latin America increased to 25 bn $ in 2011 from 23 bn $ in 2010 and expected to go up to 50 billion by 2014.

At the end of the session, Vote of Thanks was offered by Shri T.K. Hore, Chairman, Foreign Trade Standing Committee of the Chamber.

Doing Business with Slovak Republic

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an Interactive Meeting with His Excellency Mr. Tomasik , Honorable Ambassador informed that the official currency of Slovak Republic is EURO and official language is Slovak and the Government is continuing with Parliamentary democracy. His Excellency also added that the Slovak Republic is Member of OECD, European Union, NATO, Schengen Zone and EURZ Zone. Mr. Tomasik observed that Slovak Republic enjoys full benefits resulting from the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labour in the EU and the Legislative and regulatory framework in this country are fully compatible with the rest of the EU.

Continuing, Mr. Tomasik said that the Slovak Republic is a country with a large number of educational population and adequate number of Universities, Automotive, electronics, energy, IT technologies, defence, tourism, agriculture and food industry are the top sectors of the country. He spoke about the visit of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru with his daughter Smt. Indira Gandhi during 1938 following Nehru’s visit in 1955 and later, during the year 1972, Smt. Indira Gandhi re-visited Czechoslovakia and Shri Rajiv Gandhi visited the country on August 1986.

Honorable Ambassador further informed that the diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia were established on November 18, 1947 and from 1993 onwards these two countries signed Free Trade Agreements in logistics, electrotechnical, metallurgy, chemical, food, tourism, balneotherapy, trade and
Shri Amit Sen, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber presided over the meeting.

Addressing the members of the Chamber, Mr. White described New Zealand as a first world country where people enjoy a good standard of living with an excellent environment and abundant natural resources. However, he felt that, New Zealand as a country, at present, facing an extraordinary shift in the relative power from the developed world to the emerging economies led by China and India.

Continuing, Mr. White said that since April 2010, 7 rounds of talks for free trade agreement held between these two countries, last being in Wellington during January 2012. Honourable Trade Commissioner opined that the significance of India was reflected not just to conclude a successful FTA, but through a collaborative, coordinated strategy for developing bilateral political, economic and trade ties. He also informed that the country had planned to double the two-way goods trade with India in near future.

Mr. White expected that the bilateral trade between the two countries would reach $2 billion by the year 2015 from about $1 billion at present and the key export items from New Zealand include coal, timber, dairy products and wool while major items of import from India were diamonds, jewellery articles, bed linen, table linen, garments and footwear. The country is investing heavily in science and technology to build its potential in non-traditional products and services.

Concluding, Mr. White stated that Healthcare in India was projected to reach $280 billion by 2020 from $40 billion in 2010 and India would be the third largest civil aviation market by 2020.

In his welcome address, Shri Amit Sen, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber said that India and New Zealand share cordial and friendly relations with significant associations in the tourism and sporting sectors. He further mentioned that the leaders of both the countries met frequently during international gatherings. In this regard, he stated that the Governor General of New Zealand to India. In his first State Visit, during 2008, named Mr. Edmund Hillary Fellowships to promote visits of distinguished persons of Nepal and India to New Zealand. He was honored with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award. Shri Sen also mentioned that New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. John Key’s visit to India during 2011, when two agreements were signed for Audio-visual Cooperation and also for Cooperation in Science and Innovation. Shri Sen also informed that many MoUs and Agreements were signed for cooperation in the areas of Information Technology, Education and Cultural Relations between these two countries.

Continuing, Shri Sen spoke about the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and New Zealand, commencing in April 2010 with 7 rounds of consultations have been completed. He informed that major items of export to India are cooking coal, wool, logs, sheepskin leather and major items of import from India are diamond, jewellery articles, bed linen, table linen, garments and footwear. Shri Sen anticipated that investing in West Bengal would be a lucrative proposal for the investors of New Zealand as the new Government of West Bengal has taken several positive steps to make the state investor-friendly and appealed to open a Honorary Consulate of New Zealand in Kolkata to stimulate exchanges of information in the field of investment, trade and commerce, science, information & technology, education, culture, tourism etc. between India and New Zealand.

At the end of the session, the Chamber President said that India and New Zealand share cordial and friendly relations, with significant associations in the tourism and sporting sectors. He further mentioned that the leaders of both the countries met frequently during international gatherings. In this regard, he stated that the Governor General of New Zealand to India. In his first State Visit, during 2008, named Mr. Edmund Hillary Fellowships to promote visits of distinguished persons of Nepal and India to New Zealand. He was honored with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award. Shri Sen also mentioned that New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. John Key’s visit to India during 2011, when two agreements were signed for Audio-visual Cooperation and also for Cooperation in Science and Innovation. Shri Sen also informed that many MoUs and Agreements were signed for cooperation in the areas of Information Technology, Education and Cultural Relations between these two countries.

Continuing, Shri Sen spoke about the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and New Zealand, commencing in April 2010 with 7 rounds of consultations have been completed. He informed that major items of export to India are cooking coal, wool, logs, sheepskin leather and major items of import from India are diamond, jewellery articles, bed linen, table linen, garments and footwear. Shri Sen anticipated that investing in West Bengal would be a lucrative proposal for the investors of New Zealand as the new Government of West Bengal has taken several positive steps to make the state investor-friendly and appealed to open a Honorary Consulate of New Zealand in Kolkata to stimulate exchanges of information in the field of investment, trade and commerce, science, information & technology, education, culture, tourism etc. between India and New Zealand.

At the end of the session, Vote of Thanks was provided by Shri T.K. Hore, Chairman, Foreign Trade Standing Committee of the Chamber.

Doing Business with Bosnia & Herzegovina

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an Interactive Meeting with His Excellency Sead Avdíc, Honorable Ambassador, Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in India, on ‘Doing Business with Bosnia Herzegovina’ held on Monday, 30th April, 2012 at 3.30pm at the BNCCI premises.

Bosnia and Herzegovina would institute the procedure for adoption of decision of the Council of Ministers on designation of parts of the customs area as a free zone provided it is economically justified and if the requirements for establishment of a Free zone set out in the Law have been met.

In his welcome address, Chamber President Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury said that India and Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH) enjoy a warm and friendly relation, from the period of Nehru and Tito of former Yugoslavia. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1995. BiH opened its Resident Mission in Delhi in 1997. Leaders of both the countries met frequently during international gatherings and hold regular Foreign Office consultations.

He further informed that the trade between BiH and India is limited to the range of US$ 50 million only and Indian companies have made investments in the fields, such as textile, automobile components, metal processing, energy, wood processing, mining, food processing, tourism, pharmacetical and infrastructure...
Brazilian exports to India includes: crude oil, copper sulphate, soyabean oil, sugar etc. Brazilian imports from India includes diesel, coke, yarn etc.

Brazilians have shown increasing interest in mining, oil and gas, infrastructure, tourism (hotel), automotive all these sectors.

In his welcome address, Chamber President Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury said that Brazil and India has many things in common and share common democratic values and developmental aspirations and informed India’s major exports to Brazil includes diesel oil, coke of coal, lignite or peat, equipments related to wind energy, engineering and electrical equipment, cotton and polyester yarns, naphtha, pigments, medicines and chemicals etc and India’s major imports from Brazil includes crude oil, copper sulphates, soya oil, raw sugar, denatured alcohol, minerals, asbestos, valves, motor pumps, wheat, precious and semi-precious stones etc.

The Chamber President expressed his satisfaction about the shared vision between these two countries in order to evolve global order in the multilateral arena, like BRICS, G20, ICS, etc. He also mentioned that a number of bilateral agreements/MOU’s have been signed between these two countries for co-operation in various fields. He however expressed concern that the travel to Brazil from India is roundabout and requested for a convenient and straightforward travel link.

Concluding, Shri Roychowdhury said that the Chamber President of the Chamber of Commerce in the eastern region and felt that both the countries need to exploit and utilize the enormous opportunities of cooperation that exist in the areas of drugs and pharmaceuticals, transport equipments, cotton yarn, fabrics, plastic and linoleum products, primary and semi finished iron and steel, cement, medical and surgical equipment, inorganic/organic/agrochemicals, electronic goods, IT and ITes, etc.

At the end of the session, Vote of Thanks was provided by Shri T.K. Hore, Chairman, Foreign Trade Standing Committee of the Chamber.

**Indo-Brazil Business Cooperation**

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an interactive meeting with His Excellency Carlos Duarte, Honorable Ambassador, Embassy of Brazil in India, on ‘Indo-Brazil Business Cooperation’ held on Thursday, 14th June, 2012 at 3.30pm at the BNCCI premises.

Chamber President Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury presided over the meeting. Shri Pradeep Kherma, Hony. Consul, Consulate of Brazil also graced the occasion.

Honourable Ambassador H.E. Carlos Duarte made a power point presentation and highlighted on following issues:-

Brazilian economic growth has been based on domestic market, employment, social policies, expansion of credit, sound fundamentals, fiscal policy, inflation and interest rates, external sector. Poverty alleviation policy of the country reaches more than 12 million families at a total cost less than 1 percent of Brazilian GDP. Main point is reduction of income inequality, regional inequalities, improving the condition of the population living in extreme poverty and emergence of small businesses in the poorer areas.

Bilateral trade between India and Brazil remains highly concentrated on few products. Brazilian exports to India includes: crude oil, copper sulphate, soyabean oil, sugar etc. Brazilian imports from India includes diesel, coke, yarn etc.

Brazilians have shown increasing interest in mining, oil and gas, infrastructure, tourism (hotel), automotive all these sectors.

In his welcome address, Chamber President Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury said that Brazil and India has many things in common and share common democratic values and developmental aspirations and informed India’s major exports to Brazil includes diesel oil, coke of coal, lignite or peat, equipments related to wind energy, engineering and electrical equipment, cotton and polyester yarns, naphtha, pigments, medicines and chemicals etc and India’s major imports from Brazil includes crude oil, copper sulphates, soya oil, raw sugar, denatured alcohol, minerals, asbestos, valves, motor pumps, wheat, precious and semi-precious stones etc.

The Chamber President expressed his satisfaction about the shared vision between these two countries in order to evolve global order in the multilateral arena, like BRICS, G20, ICS, etc. He also mentioned that a number of bilateral agreements/MOU’s have been signed between these two countries for co-operation in various fields. He however expressed concern that the travel to Brazil from India is roundabout and requested for a convenient and straightforward travel link.

Concluding, Shri Roychowdhury said that the Chamber President of the Chamber of Commerce in the eastern region and felt that both the countries need to exploit and utilize the enormous opportunities of cooperation that exist in the areas of drugs and pharmaceuticals, transport equipments, cotton yarn, fabrics, plastic and linoleum products, primary and semi finished iron and steel, cement, medical and surgical equipment, inorganic/organic/agrochemicals, electronic goods, IT and ITes, etc.

At the end of the session, Vote of Thanks was provided by Shri T.K. Hore, Chairman, Foreign Trade Standing Committee of the Chamber.

**Modified Exim Policy : 2012**

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a Panel Discussion on ‘Modified Exim Policy 2012’ on Tuesday, 17th July 2012 at 3.30 p.m. at its premises.

Chamber President Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury presided over the meeting.

Dr. K. Rangarajan, Centre Head and Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata, Prof. Partha Pratim Pal, Associate Professor, Economics, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, Dr. Dipankar Sinha, Director General, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata, Shri Agneswar Sen, JGD, Office of the Zonal Joint Director General of Foreign Trade, Kolkata were the respected speakers.

Panel Discussion was moderated by Shri Tapan Chattopadhyaya, Executive Director, Chemical and Allied Export Promotion Council, Kolkata.

Addressing the members of the Chamber, Dr. Rangarajan thanked the Chamber for inviting him as a speaker of such an important topic. He felt that the modified EIXM policy 2012 is an extension of the earlier policy and opined that, given the continued global economic problems, lot more needed to be done for employment generation as well as to achieve the target of $500 billion exports by 2013-14. He, however, appreciated the focus market scheme announced in the Annual Foreign Trade Policy as he felt that this would increase the competitiveness of export.

Continuing, Dr. Rangarajan said that during past few years, India had signed bilateral trade agreement with several countries with the objective to obtain faster business by providing concessional tariffs or reductions in trade barriers. He also appreciated the focus towards SEZ scheme, which many countries are adopting at present. The SEZ’s, special emphasis is given to exports by providing necessary supporting environment to make these exports hubs an attractive investment destination point for global players with multi-lateral trade dimensions. However, he felt that the implementation is the most important job.

Addressing the members, Shri Agneswar Sen said that the modified EIXM policy2012 aimed at addressing the mid-term problems and not to make the ‘drastic surgery’. He emphasised on the stability of the scheme and expressed concern over sectoral slowdown of the economy. He appreciated the fact that import under Advance Authorisation would be permitted at any of the EDI ports, irrespective of Advance Authorization and without Transfer Release Advice as this would facilitate imports and would significantly bring down transaction costs of the exporters.

Dr. Sinha observed that the product composition has changed from 2000-01 to 2010-11 and in the manufactured category, the traditional goods exports
were making the way for new products. He also observed that the petroleum products became an important segment of exports during 2009-10 and India became one of the leading petroleum refining centres in Asia. He mentioned about the declining share of textiles and gems and jewellery.

Shri Tapan Chattopadhyay, Executive Director, Chemical and Allied Export Promotion Council of India moderated the entire discussion and said that over last few years, India’s foreign trade has undergone a complete transformation in terms of composition of commodities. He stated that the exports covered a wide range of traditional and non-traditional products while imports mainly consisted of capital goods, petroleum products, raw materials, intermediates and chemicals to meet the ever increasing industrial demands.

Continuing the discussion, Shri Chattopadhyay said that with the introduction of major programme of economic reform and liberalization, introduced in 1991, direction of trade reversed. Exports of manufactured goods accelerated and the share of traditional exports like textiles tended to decline and new sectors emerged such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and engineering products.

However, he observed that during the recent years, more specifically after 2000-01, chemicals, petroleum products and transport equipment were moving towards the comparative advantage groups whereas steel and iron exports lagging far behind those of other Asian Emerging Economies both in quality and quantity, though in services, India’s exports are rapidly catching up.

Shri Chattopadhyay also stated that the growing importance of Asia as an export destination during 2010-11 was due to India’s ‘Look East Policy’ and India’s sustained effort to develop strong relations with China and the ASEAN. He also observed the declining share of the EU and the US in India’s foreign trade and concerted effort made to develop trade relation with Africa and Latin America.

Earlier, addressing the members of the Chamber, Chamber President Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury mentioned that in the face of weak global demand and persistence of the global economic crisis, specially the Euro-zone crisis, it is a heavy difficult task to present a policy. He also said that the Gross Fixed Capital Formation had slipped and GDP figures of last quarter were indeed a cause of serious worry, though Indian exports, maintained their momentum to touch US$ 303 billion and advised accessing newer markets in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Shri Roychowdhury appreciated the Focus Market Scheme, introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy 2012, to enhance India’s export to Asia, Africa and Latin America. He spoke about substantial increase in the engineering, gems and jewellery, textiles and pharmaceutical exports in India as also Trade in Goods Agreement with ASEA, Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements with Republic of Korea, Japan, and Malaysia.

Chamber President, however, expressed his strong hope that all the measures being introduced in the Annual Supplement would surely boost required dynamism in the export market in order to achieve $ 500bn by 2014 and to double India’s share in the world trade by 2020.

At the end of the session Vote of Thanks was offered by Shri T.K. Hore, Chairman, and Foreign Trade Standing Committee of the Chamber.

Doing Business with Zambia

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised an Interactive Meeting with Her Excellency Susan Sikaneta, honorable High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia in India on Thursday, 23rd August, 2012 at 3.30 p.m. at the BNCICI premises.

Chamber President Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury presided over the meeting. Shri Arjun De, Honorary Consul, Consulate of Zambia in Kolkata also graced the occasion.

Addressing the members of the Chamber, Her Excellency Susan Sikaneta thanked the Chamber for organizing the meeting. She also mentioned about the prospective areas of investment in Zambia and requested the members of the Chamber to enter into joint-ventures and business partnerships with their counterpart in Zambia.

M/s. Susan Sikaneta further mentioned that Zambia is a democratic and comparatively stable country with positive and business-friendly Macro Economic environment assuring investment security, efficient government machinery and educated workforce.

Referring to the infrastructural facility of Zambia, Ms. Sikaneta spoke about the existing road network that connects all major ports in the Southern Africa, three major international airports of the country, such as Lusaka International Airport, Livingstone and Ndola, two major rail lines linking the country to six major African sea ports: Dar-es-salaam, Beira, East London, Port Elizabeth, Durban and Cape Town. She also mentioned about international road Highways link Zambia to all neighbours including Durban and Dar-es-salaam ports.

Her Excellency also informed that priority sectors of Zambia includes fertilizer and cement production, timber, leather processing, agro processing, tourism, heavy engineering industry, energy, ICT, tele-communications, electronics assembly, pharmaceuticals, non metallic mineral products, health/medical/education, value addition – agro-mining.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Chamber President Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury said that Zambia and India have historically been close allies and both the countries share common perceptions on major international issues and committed to work together for global peace and security and equitable global trading regime. He also spoke about bilateral agreement for Cooperation in Trade, Joint venture of Indo-Zambian Bank and Review of Convention for Avoidance of Double Taxation.

Continuing, Shri Roychowdhury informed that major India’s export to Zambia include drug and pharmaceuticals, machinery and instruments, transport equipment, cotton yarn and fabrics, plastic, rubber, chemicals, and electronic goods where as India’s imports from Zambia include non-ferrous metals, ores (copper and cobalt), semi-precious stones and raw cotton. Shri Roychowdhury also mentioned about commissioned pan-African E-Network Project as a milestone of South-South Cooperation.

While concluding, the Chamber President stated the need for collective efforts between Indian and Zambian business community to add value to locally produced goods and to exploit and utilize the enormous opportunities of cooperation that exist in the areas of agriculture, irrigation, trade, investment, power, small and medium industries, education, telecommunication and tourism. He also added that West Bengal offered great opportunities and incentives for trade and investments in the thrust areas like food-processing, leather goods, garments, textile yarns & fabrics, ICT and many other fields where, Zambia can well participate and reap the benefits.

At the end of the session vote of thanks was offered by Shri T.K. Hore Chairman, Foreign Trade Standing Committee of the Chamber.

SAARC: Successes & Challenges

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a Seminar on ‘SAARC : Successes & Challenges’ held on Thursday, 10th January 2013 at the Chamber premises.

Dr. Surajit Mitra, IAS, Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade was the Chief Guest and Shri Naorem Anwar, Minister Trade, High Commissioner for Pakistan in India, Shri Chandra Kumar Ghimite, Consul General of Nepal Consulate in Kolkata, Dr. Anbhijit Sen, Honorary Consul of Sri Lankan Consulate in Kolkata, Mr. Kyaw Thu, Vice Consul of Myanmar Consulate General in Kolkata were the respected speakers of the Seminar.

Shri Dibyendu Basu, Senior Vice President of the Chamber presided over the meeting.

Addressing the members, Dr. Surajit Mitra mentioned that South Asia is home of one-fifth world population with largest concentration of poor. He pointed out that massive governance deficit in almost all South Asian countries as the root cause for huge gap between national aspiration of economic growth and poverty reduction and suggested that cooperation among the South Asian developing countries as the major key for economic and social progress.

Continuing, Dr. Mitra said that SAARC came into existence in the year 1985 with the objective to promote the welfare of South Asian people and to strengthen cooperation among the member nations in order to maintain peace and to accelerate economic growth.

Consequently, South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement came into formal operation in December 1995.

Dr. Mitra however, expressed concern about slow progress of SAARC countries and said that regional politics, inadequate implementation of decision, negligible trade among the member nations were the
main cause of slow progress of SAARC countries. He cited two positive developments in this regard - Free Trade Agreement between India and Sri Lanka, and Pakistan receiving Most Favored Nation treatment from India. Dr. M. Itra further mentioned about key areas of tariff liberalization programme, rules of origin, sensitive lists etc and informed that South Asian Free Trade Agreement would be implemented by 2016.

Appreciating India’s downsizing of sensitive lists for LDCs for global export item as trade creating measure, Dr. M. Itra suggested that non-tariff measures should be addressed in a time bound manner and stressed on further enhancement of intra-regional trade and effort for promoting investment in other SAARC countries and providing better infrastructural support at the border check posts of customs.

Concluding, Dr. M. Itra advised the Chamber to take initiative to boost up trade between the SAARC nations who were very closed like Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, etc. and commented that the Chamber could play an important role to increase the trade flow from the eastern border of the countries to the SAARC member nations as well as non member and ASEAN member nations.

Earlier in his welcome address, Shri Dibyendu Basu, Vice President of the Chamber mentioned that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is an organisation of South Asian nations, which was established on 8 December 1985 when the government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka formally adopted its charter for the promotion of economic and social progress, cultural development within the South Asia region and for friendship and cooperation with other developing countries.

He felt that SAARC catered to many diverse areas of regional cooperation and continued to serve as a common platform to address the common issues facing our region, there by building mutual trust and confidence among one another. He also informed that India is by far the largest country in South Asian region followed by Pakistan and Bangladesh and as such these three economies are of crucial importance for successful regional integration and cooperation. He however, expressed concerned about the fact that the volume of trade within the SAARC region is only 5 percent, where as 55 percent within the European Union, 32 percent within the Asia Pacific Regional Cooperation and a total trade volume within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries amounts to 22 percent.

Shri Basu further mentioned that the fundamental weakness of SAARC countries was trust deficit among the members states. He felt that, barring India, the region had not seen much of a democracy, this apart, he continued, lack of brand-building, poor infrastructure, tariff and non-tariff barriers of trade are some other factors which have really pulled back the organisation’s prospects. He opined that SAARC despite these limitations and poor performance, remains a useful tool for smaller countries to promote understanding and cooperation at the bilateral level and advised to eschew unrealistic economic and social goals to promote interests of the member countries.

At the end of the meeting Vote of Thanks was offered by Shri Alok Gupta, Chairman, Foreign Trade Standing Committee of the Chamber.

India’s Foreign Trade: Coping with Emerging Challenges

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an Interactive Meeting with Dr. Anup Kumar Pujari, IAS, Director General of Foreign Trade, Government of India on ‘India’s Foreign Trade: Coping With Emerging Challenges’ on Thursday, 7th February 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at the BNCCI premises.

Chamber president Shri Amit Sen presided over the meeting.

Addressing the members, Dr. Pujari spoke about moderation of India’s foreign trade for last few years. In this regard, he informed that, except April 2011, India’s export performance was continuously slowing down since June 2008. December 2011 showed a negative trend. He commented that though petroleum, gems and jewellery and pharmaceutical sector performed well but export growth of agriculture and chemical fertilizer was unimpressive. Except pulse and edible oil, oil export of most of the agricultural items were forbidden during recent years. He also referred to three different types of data like EDI, non EDI and manual data and expressed concern about method of computation of data as well as time lag between compilation and publishing of the data by DGCI.

Continuing, Dr. Pujari defined the word ‘challenge’ as pursued of opportunity beyond resources controlled, where ‘opportunity’ refers to product innovation which is possible either by creating cheap version or finding new set of customers and ‘resources’ were categorized as human, social and financial and risk depends on demand, technology as well as execution.

Dr. Pujari stated that ‘Target Plus’ scheme had been misused and hence eliminated. Expressing dissatisfaction about long term growth performance of Focus Market and Focus Scheme, announced in the earlier Foreign Trade Policy, he recommended that through rewarding incremental export, the growth of more than 10 percent could be ensured. He also advocated for stage investing.

Concluding Dr. Pujari said that there was a growing realization in the Union Government that India must try to strengthen its currency in the global economy. He felt that allowing export realization in rupee was an important step in that direction. He also informed that the centre after discussing with the Reserve Bank of India for deciding appropriate measures is planning to extend realization of export in rupee terms to more foreign nations replacing the Dollar or Pound. Dr. Pujari, however felt that extending export realization in Rupee to neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh was not desirable as India’s border with these countries were very porous making it impossible to keep all exports unaccounted for.

In his welcome address, Chamber President Shri Amit Sen said that the global economy faces a number of challenges during long period due to prevailing financial difficulties in the Euro Zone, weak recovery in several advanced economies outside Europe, notably United States. He observed that Emerging Economies like Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa was relatively less reinforced by a potential decline in global trade and volatile capital flows.

Chamber President informed India’s export growth started moderating in the second half of 2011-12 which turned negative during first quarter of 2012-13 as major trading partners were not showing any sign of revival and the risks of weaker growth in the advanced countries remain elevated with knock on effects to developing countries like India.

He suggested that structural reforms aimed at enhancing competitiveness would be necessary to stabilize economic growth and to ensure the rising prosperity in light of these uncertainties. He also stressed on efficiency of Government operation and its attitudes towards markets. As a short term crisis management, he advocated to establish the fundamentals that underpin economic growth which would ensure development for longer term.

At the end of the session, Vote of Thanks was provided by Shri Alok Gupta, Chairman, Foreign Trade Standing Committee of the Chamber.

Meeting with Business Delegation of New Jersey

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised an Interactive Meeting with three member business delegation of New Jersey led by Shri Raj Mukherji, Deputy Mayor of Jersey City. Ms. Maria Nieves, President, Hudson County Chamber of Commerce also graced the occasion. The business delegation had the mission to explore possibilities of joint ventures with their counterparts in Bengal. The meeting was held on Tuesday 19th March 2013 at 3:30 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

Sr. Vice-President of the Chamber Shri Dibyendu Basu presided over the meeting.

Addressing the members of the Chamber, Shri Raj Mukherji thanked the members for inviting him to the Chamber. He also spoke about the potential areas of investment in New Jersey and requested the members of the Chamber to enter into joint-ventures and business partnerships with them.

He informed that New Jersey has historically been one of the most attractive states in the United States for Foreign Direct Investment. He felt that with its highly-developed network of roads, rail, air and seaport facilities, New Jersey is the best connected region in the country for speeding product to market domestically and overseas.

Continuing, Shri Mukherji said that the State of New Jersey has a highly qualified team to guide international firms interested in establishing a presence in the State and also that the State of New Jersey provides economic incentives to...
encourage foreign companies to make an investment and to establish a corporate presence in the State.

Shri Mukherji also spoke about International trade promotional events organized by the state to explore new markets, to identify new business opportunities, to secure distributors, agents and partners in the strategic foreign markets. He said that the state organizes, participates and sponsors market and industry specific exhibitions of State-produced goods and services in the overseas markets and works with foreign governments to host incoming buying missions from the international business community.

Ms. Maria Nieves, President, Hudson County Chamber of Commerce mentioned that the objective of this delegation to India is to bolster investment and to strengthen trade and cultural relationships between Hudson County and the Asian nation.

She further said that Hudson County are casting their nets across the nation, and even around the world, to market the area to the potential businesses and customers. M. Nieves felt that, in order to showcase Hudson County on an international level, it is essential to build business-to-business relationships with leaders in other countries and as such this mission is important.

She said that India is a highly desirable market and this delegation’s visit to India is the first step for enhancing Bilateral Relations.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, President of the Chamber said that as advertisement and publicity is basically meant to promote a product or a service, there exists some exaggeration. It is often observed that sometimes there occurs falsification or an attempt to misrepresent the facts which not only misguides the consumers/users but also goes against the fair business ethics resulting negative market growth.

At the end of the Session, Shri Amrit Kumar Sen, Senior Vice-President of the Chamber proposed a hearty Vote of Thanks.
Earlier Shri Tejomoy Roychoudhury, President, Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry stated that West Bengal is one of the leading states in agriculture, contributing about 20 percent of the state’s Gross Domestic Product. He also mentioned about poor transport network, inadequate banking and credit facilities, creating big challenges in the rural market. He stressed on appropriate marketing facility in agriculture to avoid distress sale by the farmers specially in the post-harvest session.

Dr. G.P. Sarkar, Chairman, District Business Development Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the formal Vote of Thanks.

Role of Promotional Agencies for Benefit of MSMEs

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry jointly with National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. organized a Meeting on ‘Role of Promotional Agencies for Benefit of MSMEs’ on Wednesday, the 20th June, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the premises of the Chamber.

At the outset Shri Tejomoy Roychoudhury, President, BNCCI welcomed guests and delivered his welcome address.

Delivering the key-note address, Shri Mankilal Das said that NSIC has introduced several direct and indirect marketing schemes over the years and provides support in government purchase registration for getting concessions while participating in government tender, BiI finance and subsidized participation in domestic & global exhibition. Shri B.K. Mtra made a presentation on e-Bid schemes mentioning specific benefits in schemes like marketing support, single point registration, tender and consortia marketing, raw material assistance, performance and credit rating etc.

Referring to the third All India Census on MSMEs, Shri A. Bandopadhyay, Dy. Director-in-Charge M.SMEDi said that approximately 10.52 million MSMEs contribute to 14, 199 crore and 7 percent in GDP and mentioned that MSMEs have a major share sports goods, ready made garments, processed foods, leather products, etc.

Shri P. Chowdhury, joint Director, Department of MSSE, Government of West Bengal mentioned that their Directorate is currently providing incentive scheme 2007, Assistance scheme for Handicrafts, Financial assistance through Bank/KW/BFC/PM EGP, Cluster Development, Coir Development, Marketing Assistance Schemes NSIC and WBSDC and other Government of India schemes which are applicable for development of MSMEs in our sector.

While interacting with the members, Smt. Jhumur Roychowdhury, Sr. Business Development Manager, CRISIL informed that credit rating is necessary for banks to judge the credit worthiness of SMEs.

Earlier, in his welcome speech, Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, President, BNCCI stated that Small Scale sector plays a vital role in employment generation, foreign exchange earning and country’s growth process. He also mentioned that different promotional organizations like WBSDC, MSME DI, Department of MSSE, Govt. of West Bengal and National Small Industries Corporation Limited etc. have their own schemes for promotion of MSMEs.

Shri Amit Kumar Sen, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber proposed formal Vote of Thanks.

Opportunities of Business with Indian Railways

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry jointly with National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. organized a Buyer Seller Meet on ‘Opportunities of Business with Indian Railways’ on Friday 27th June, 2012 at 11 a.m. at the premises of the Chamber.

Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, Chamber President presided over the meeting.

Dr. Anup Chanda, Additional Chief Secretary, Deptt. of Micro & Small Scale Enterprises & Textiles, Govt. of West Bengal was the Guest-in-Chief. Shri J. K. Mahanta, Zonal General Manager, National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. delivered the welcome and key note address. The inaugural Session was followed by Technical Session and product display by 20 small scale entrepreneurs.

In his welcome address, Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, President, BNCCI said that selling and buying activities in which are required for the sustenance of every and any industry or commercial venture. He also added that MSMEs contribute significantly to faster development of country and hence this sector should be encouraged. However, he observed a major drag on the development the inadequate marketing network to push their products. This Buyer-Seller Meet has been organised with the main objective of exploring the synergies between the MSMEs and the big units in the large scale sector, thereby, enabling them to surmount their marketing difficulties. He further stated that programme provides a common platform where both the parties i.e. Buyers and Sellers would get ample scope for interacting with each other for opening up the channels in meeting their requirements.

Shri J.K. Mahanta, Zonal GM, NSIC Ltd. appreciated the effort of BNCCI and requested to promote such kind of B2B (Business to Business) activity in the near future.

Dr. Anup Chanda, IAS, appreciated the role of both BNCCI and NSIC in organizing the Buyer Seller Meet. He said that in the post independence regime our economy was static and looked and largely protected and growth among different sectors centered around the concept of trickle down mechanism. Majority of engineering goods enjoyed the advantage of protectionism and the scenario underwent a sea change with the introduction of liberalization, competition has become the buzzword even for MSME units who otherwise enjoyed the benefits of protection. He further stated that in the age of globalisation, merger and acquisition has become common and in the era of cut-throat competition MSMEs forming cluster for their survival is the right strategy.

The inaugural session was followed by technical Session. Shri S.S. Kaltwa, Dy. CM, ER, Shri A.K. Mondal, Dy. Chief Material, CMM, Shri M.A. Alam, Director (Quality Assurance), ROSO, Shri Nilanjan Lahiri, Manager RTES Ltd., Shri Anwar Karim, Sr. Manager, IRCCT, Shri A.K. Singh, Deputy Director, Quality Assurance, DISGSD were speakers in the technical Session.

Addressing the meeting, Shri S.S. Kaltwa, Dy. CM, ER said that Eastern Railway announced the purchase items worth Rs. 800 crore and added that ER tenders are of three categories - Open Tenders (above Rs. 10 lakhs and are published in website), limited Tenders (Rs. 10 lakhs and less) and Bulletin Tender which is restricted to registered sources. He informed that authenticated copy of NSIC, Balance Sheet, VAT/Sales Tax Registration Certificate, digital Signature Certificate for e-procurement, PAN Number are essential items for registration. He also mentioned that registration renewal for NSIC firms is done after 3 years but for other ordinary vendors it is to be done within 2 years.

Shri Kanhaiya Kumar, Dy. CM, S.E Railway, mentioned about online registration policy of S.E Railway and e-procurement through the website www.ireps.gov.in.

Shri G.S. Dash, Dy. CM, Metro Railway encouraged MSME entrepreneurs to register in his office at Metro Railway.

While discussing the vendor registration policy, Shri A.K. Mondal, Dy. Chief Material, CMM said that Chittaranjan Locomotive, one of the leading locomotive manufacturers also manufacture AC & DC Traction Motors, switch gears/control gears, bogies, etc. He felt that since MSMEs play an important role as ancillary units, so expansion of procurement will create opportunity for this sector.

Shri M.A. Alam, Director (Quality Assurance), ROSO said that there are 345 approved vendors in mechanical, 92 in electrical, 125 in S&T and 33 in engineering sector. He also informed that rubber, INDUSTRY AND INFRASTRUCTURE (Contd...)
fabrication, forgings, electro-mechanical, power supply, cables and bridge components are some of the common items where RDSO approvals are awarded to vendors. He further stated that for on-line product inspection system, which is in vogue, vendor has to register inspection request which is followed by nominating inspection staff.

Shri Nilanjan Lahiri, Manager, RITES Ltd. described RITES a multi-disciplinary consultancy organization in the fields of transport, infrastructure and related technologies. He also added that it is internationally recognized as a leading consultant with operational experience in over 55 countries in sectors like railways, highways, bridges, tunnel, IT, Airports, urban transport, waterways, water resources, ports & harbour, marine engineering, urban development, ropeways.

Shri Anwar Karim, Sr. Manager said that IRTC is an extended arm of Indian Railways engaged in providing catering services, tourism business, internet reservation as well as distribution of packaged drinking water under ‘Rail Neer’.

Shri A.K. Singh, Deputy Director, Quality Assurance, DGSSD mentioned that DGSSD is engaged in diversified activities like rate contracting, inspection and e-procurement policy. He further added that for technical registration a particular unit should be established as private/public limited co. with adequate testing facility and past performance certificate from government is necessary.

Shri D. P. Nag, Secretary, BNCCI proposed the formal Vote of Thanks.

Challenges & Opportunities in Animal Husbandry

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry had organized a Meeting with Janab Nure Alam Choudhury, Hon’ble Minister for Animal Resource Development, Government of West Bengal held on July 31, 2012.

Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, President of the Chamber presided over the meeting.

Janab Choudhury in his address said that the steep increase in the feed prices was affecting the livestock sector. He also said that livestock farming received only 12 percent of the total funds allocated for agriculture industry. He felt there was need for more insurance coverage for the animal husbandry sector as only four to six percent of the farms were provided with insurance services. He also deliberated on different prospects of the animal husbandry industry, haringhata farm, etc.

The Hon’ble Minister said that forward trading of corn and soyabean, acute shortage of green fodder, weak linkages between the marketer and producer and the adverse impact of climate change were some of the major challenges faced by the livestock sector.

Earlier, in his welcome address Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury said that animal husbandry had been an integral part of human civilization and culture from the day primitive man started domestication of wild animals. He mentioned that animal wealth in India had increased manifold and the animal husbandry practices have changed to a great extent following the introduction of newer technologies particularly for crossbreeding and upgradation of indigenous breeds. He felt that we must encourage the development of small animal husbandry units. He was in favour of propagating a management on co-operative style which involved small farmers, the rural poor’s, etc.

He further stated that for on-line product inspection staff, inspection request which is followed by nominating inspection request is required.

Shri M. M. Maiti, Chairman, Agro Industry and Food Processing Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Vendor Development Programme on ‘Coal India & Its Subsidiaries’

A Vendor Development Programme on ‘Coal India & Its Subsidiaries’ was organized by M S M E Development Institute, Kolkata in association with Bengal National Chamber Of Commerce & Industry (BNCCI) held on 1st February, 2013 at 11 a.m. at the Chamber premises.

In the Inaugural Session, Col. Sabyasachi Bagchi, Chairman, WBSDC Ltd. was the Chief Guest. Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President, BNCCI delivered welcome address and Shri S.K. Basu, Director, M S M E Development Institute, Kolkata gave the keynote address.

The following nine companies Asati Enterprise, Tekmek Switchgear & Controls, Alibhaba Rubber & Engineers, Disha Equipment Technologies, Technician Engineering Industries, W C Kolkata, L.D. Bhattrak & Co, Oriental Minerals & Industries, Century Industrial Products Pvt. Ltd. displayed their products in the VDP.

Addressing the VDP as the Chief Guest, Col. Sabyasachi Bagchi, Chairman, WBSDC Ltd. said that with the inception of globalization, competition has become more fierce and SMEs want to stick to competition has to change their mindset. He welcomed New Procurement Policy 2012 as a right step for M S M E but at the same time cautioned them to maintain right quality and standards. He added that current government is positive for industrialization in the state and requested M S M E units to set up factories at the proposed new industrial estates.

Delivering his welcome address, Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President, BNCCI said that contract manufacturing from small & medium scale industries and final assembling of product in the main factory has become the need of the day. He added that in West Bengal, unfortunately the absence of large industries have been detrimental to the growth of these SMEs as there are no assured buyer. He advocated for maintaining proper quality to stick to competition and expect that this VDP will also provide a golden opportunity for sourcing of spares, components etc to the large units, leading to a win win situation.

Delivering the keynote address, Shri S.K. Basu, Director, M S M E DI Kolkata said that Public Procurement Policy under M S M E Act, 2006 is a boost to SME sector. He said that current VDP with BNCCI will be immensely helpful to develop competencies, capabilities and competitiveness, develop successful partnerships between SMEs and large units to exchange knowledge amongst them.

In the Technical Session of the VDP was addressed by Shri S. Mishra, Director, General Director of Mines & Safety, Shri Tushar Kant Mishra, Chief Manager Materials, Coal India Ltd., Shri Ujjal Bose, Dy. CMM, Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. and Shri Achinta Sengupta, Sr. Manager, Retail, Eastern Coal Field Limited. This session was chaired by Shri A. Bandopadhyay, Dy. Director, M S M E DI Kolkata. Shri Rajesh Bhattacharya, Ass. Director, M S M E DI Kolkata gave a presentation on New Procurement Policy, 2012.

Shri S. Mishra, Director, Director General of Mines & Safety (DGMS) gave a vivid presentation on different aspects of this reputed institute and explained the various roles of DGMS.

Shri Tushar Kant Mishra, Chief Manager, Materials, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) stated that all CIL/subsidiary any requirement of Rs. 10 lakh and above is procured through open or advertised tenders.

Shri Ujjal Bose, Dy. CMM, Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) said that there is a sea change in the working style of PSUs with the onset of liberalization which were rigid otherwise very rigid earlier and encouraged young entrepreneurs.

Shri Achinta Sengupta, Sr. Manager, Retail, Eastern Coal Field Ltd. (ECL) said that mines situated from Asansol to the border of Jharkand are under the purview of ECL and advised M S M E units to participate in the open tender process after collecting detail information from website.

Unleashing Export Potential of M S M E: Focus - West Bengal

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a Meeting with Shri Swapan Debnath, Hon’ble Minister of State for Micro & Small Scale Enterprises, Textiles, Land and Land Reforms, Government of West Bengal on ‘Unleashing Export Potential of M S M E: Focus - West Bengal’ on February 19th, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at the Chamber premises.
Earlier in his welcome address, Shri Dibyendu Basu stated that in this era of globalization, the importance of small firms to sustain and increase the overall export growth of any country is indeed great. There is also huge potential to expand the volume of export of traditional products, as they are handicrafts, exclusive and eco-friendly. The Europe, North Americas, South East Asia, Middle East Asia and Far East Asia are the major export destinations of this sector. The MSMEs of our state can play a much bigger role in our national task of export promotion because of certain comparative advantages that West Bengal enjoys.

Shri Basu further said that, as this sector reorients its export strategy towards the new trade regime in this WTO era, issues like procurement of raw material at competitive cost, problems of storage, design, packaging, quality improvement and product display, lack of access to global markets, inadequate infrastructure facilities, low technology level and lack of access to modern technology, lack of availability of adequate and timely credit, high cost of credit, multiplicity of laws and complicated procedures associated with compliance of such laws and other issues need to be addressed to ensure steady expansion of this sector.

Challenges of the Telecom Sector

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a meeting on ‘Challenges of the Telecom Sector’ on February 25th, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at its premises.

Shri Somnath Maity, Chief General Manager, Calcutta Teledistance Ltd. was present as the Chief Guest.

Smt. Rupa PaulChoudhury, Advisor, Kolkata Regional Office, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India was also present on the occasion. Shri Amit Sen, the Chamber President delivered the welcome address.

Addressing the members, Shri Somnath Maity expressed his sincere thanks to the Chamber for inviting him. He said that the telecom industry had come a long way and in the last decade there had been a huge development in technology as well as the customer base. He highlighted upon Next Generation Technologies (NGN), PSTN networks, IPTV, etc. He said that the broadband transmission bandwidth was checked up and this would help in enhancing speed of the broadband network. He spoke of common problems of the operator and customer. He felt that there was cut throat competition in the field and therefore market share and revenue was shrinking. He also highlighted on problems like regulation of electromagnetic radiation, teledensity problems and theft of cables. He added that there had been a good growth in the rural sector as Calcutta telephones had extended optical fibre up to the panchayet level. He further added that information kiosks would be set up very soon.

Smt. PaulChoudhury in her address, spoke of government policy initiatives, policy regulations of the telecom sector. She stated that this sector has created lots of jobs and there would be significant investment in the sector in years to come. She also spoke of some challenges faced by this sector like financial stress due to spectrum auction, plethora of laws, hyper competition due to the presence of many operators.

Shri Amit Sen in his welcome address, said that India’s telecom market was larger than both Germany and UK. He felt that in order to strengthen business in rural areas the operators must come out with some value added services for the rural market. He felt that very soon the SIM card would become your wallet, passport, and identity card all bundled up into one.

Challenges of the Telecom Sector

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a meeting on ‘Challenges of the Telecom Sector’ on February 25th, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at its premises.

Shri Somnath Maity, Chief General Manager, Calcutta Teledistance Ltd. was present as the Chief Guest.

Smt. Rupa PaulChoudhury, Advisor, Kolkata Regional Office, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India was also present on the occasion. Shri Amit Sen, the Chamber President delivered the welcome address.

Addressing the members, Shri Somnath Maity expressed his sincere thanks to the Chamber for inviting him. He said that the telecom industry had come a long way and in the last decade there had been a huge development in technology as well as the customer base. He highlighted upon Next Generation Technologies (NGN), PSTN networks, IPTV, etc. He said that the broadband transmission bandwidth was checked up and this would help in enhancing speed of the broadband network. He spoke of common problems of the operator and customer. He felt that there was cut throat competition in the field and therefore market share and revenue was shrinking. He also highlighted on problems like regulation of electromagnetic radiation, teledensity problems and theft of cables. He added that there had been a good growth in the rural sector as Calcutta telephones had extended optical fibre up to the panchayet level. He further added that information kiosks would be set up very soon.

Smt. PaulChoudhury in her address, spoke of government policy initiatives, policy regulations of the telecom sector. She stated that this sector has created lots of jobs and there would be significant investment in the sector in years to come. She also spoke of some challenges faced by this sector like financial stress due to spectrum auction, plethora of laws, hyper competition due to the presence of many operators.

Shri Amit Sen in his welcome address, said that India’s telecom market was larger than both Germany and UK. He felt that in order to strengthen business in rural areas the operators must come out with some value added services for the rural market. He felt that very soon the SIM card would become your wallet, passport, and identity card all bundled up into one.

Shri Arun Kumar Sarkar, Chairman, Business Infrastructure, Logistics and Urban Infrastructure Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Vendor Development cum Exhibition on Indian Defence Sector

A ‘Vendor Development Programme cum Exhibition with India’s Defence Sector’ was organized by MSME Development Institute, Kolkata in association with Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BNCCh) on 14th March, 2013 at 10 a.m. at the Chamber premises.

In the Inaugural Session Col. Sabyasachi Bagchi, Chairman, WBSIDC Ltd. was the Chief Guest. Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President, BNCCh delivered welcome address and Shri K.D. Bhattacharya, Dy. Director, M.SME Development Institute, Kolkata gave keynote address. The following ten companies Disha Equipment Technologies, Technicon Engineering Industries, L.D. Bhattar & Co., Oriental Minerals & Industries, Samadhan Systems, Allied Moulding Machinery Co. Indian Galvanizing Works, Ivolatile Engineers & Industries, Partha & Associates and Pus Mtech displayed their products in the vendor development Programme. There was also display of components from HAL and Rifle Factory, Ishapore.

Addressing the VDP as the Chief Guest Col. Sabyasachi Bagchi, Chairman, WBSIDC Ltd. said that with the inception of globalization competition has become more fierce and SMEs want to stick to competition has to change their mindset. He welcomed New Procurement Policy 2012 and expressed hope that M SME units will take a leading role in the near future to regain past glory of chamber.

Delivering his welcome address, Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President, BNCCh said that contract manufacturing from small & medium scale industries and final assembling for the product in the main factory has become the need of the day. He added that in West Bengal, unfortunately the absence of large industries have been detrimental to the growth of these SMEs as there are no assured buyer.

Delivering the key-note address, Shri K.D. Bhattacharya, Dy. Director, M SME DI Kolkata said that Public Procurement Policy under MSMED Act, 2006 is a boon to SME sector as every central ministry or department or PSUs shall set annual goal of procurement of minimum 20 percent of total annual purchase from M SME from 2012-13 of which 4 percent shall be earmarked for SC & ST.

Shri Surovo Chandra, Chairman, Industry Standing Committee, BNCCh proposed formal Vote of Thanks of the Inaugural Session.
The Technical Session was addressed by Shri Shyamalendu Banerjee, Additional GM, Purchase, GRSE, Shri Abhijit Banik, Director, OFB, Shri K.C. Nanad, GM and Shri Manoj Mishra, DGM, IMM, HAL and Shri Dibyendu Chowdhury, AGM and Shri S. Rajan, DGM, Purchase, Rifle Factory, Ishapore. Shri K.D. Bhattacharyya, Dy Director, M SME Di was the chairman and Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, Immediate Past President, BNCCI proposed formal Vote of Thanks.

Shri S. Rajan, DGM, Purchase, Rifle Factory said that high precision machineries, investment casting, forgings, plastic and wooden items are main items for procurement. He stated that tenders are of two types—limited tenders and open tenders and controlled through e-procurement. Tenders are generally floated through website www.tenders.gov.in or published in newspaper Times of India, ABP and Nababharat Times.

Shri Manoj Mishra, DGM, IMM, HAL said that HAL is the largest aeronautical complex in South-East Asia having design and development capability for a large variety of aircraft, aerospace and avionics and equipment. He added that Barrackpore division has been trying to promote vendors by imparting training, providing technical support to have long term relationship. He advised vendors want to register HAL to download form from www.hal-india.com website.

Shri Shyamalendu Banerjee, Additional General Manager, Purchase, GRSE said that GRSE is one of the four defence shipyards having shipdivison with 4 drydocks, 5 launching berths, 3 slipways, 1 drydock with Kolkata having ship, engineering division technical training center and Ranchi having engineering division. He said that GRSE has implemented Public Procurement Policy 2012 to encourage participation of MSMEs. GRSE and asked vendors to go through websites/booklet for selecting items for MSMEs.

Shri Abhijit Banik, Director, Ordnance Factory Board said that OFB is largely a departmentally run organization. Its outsourced jobs include small arms, artillery and defense guns, ammunition and exclusives, transport and armoured vehicle and cable, special metal and alloy and other mechanical, chemical, plastic, paper technology, textile engg. items, etc.

Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, immediate past President, BNCCI offered the formal Vote of Thanks.

INDUSTRY AND INFRASTRUCTURE (Contd...)

Towards Green Economy

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a Seminar on ‘Towards Green Economy’ on 5th June 2012 at the Chamber premises.

The esteemed speakers of the day were Chief Guest Prof. Binay K. Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Guest-of-Honour Dr. Bikash Sinha, Homi Bhabha Professor, Department of Atomic Energy, Variable Energy Cyclotron Center, Prof. Joyashree Roy, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University and Director, JU-SYLFF Project, Dr. Indra N. Mitra, Vice President, Technology, Indian Operations, World Water Works, USA. The speakers were greeted by the office bearers of the Chamber.

The first speaker of the day was Prof. Joyashree Roy, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University and Director, JU-SYLFF Project. Speaking on her topic of “Towards Green Economy: What is new?” she raised the question whether it was necessary to revisit human actions followed so far since first industrial revolution? She said that humanity as a whole today is consuming in one year the resource which earth can regenerate only in one year and two years, but if we net out added consumption rates then it slides down. By misreporting our richness we are blinding the consumers towards corrective actions. Additional challenge comes from global scale unprecedented problem of carbon constraint which threatens with potential 5 percent global GDP loss (Stern 2007) by middle of the century. She emphasised the need for accounting framework in reality as it provides the guiding norms, rules and regulations, incentives through price and non price mechanisms, budgetary allocation to act in a day to day socio-political structure.

The next speaker was eminent scientist Dr. Bikash Sinha, Homi Bhabha Professor, Department of Atomic Energy, Variable Energy Cyclotron Center. Speaking on the topic of ‘Sustainable Clean Energy For Economic Prosperity - A New Paradigm for Saving the Earth’, he said that as we manage the beginning of the twenty first century, we see man relentlessly pursuing one single dominant goal – and that is prosperity and prosperity sometime at any cost. The final epiphany according to him is: we have to live, generations after generations, sometime at any cost. The final epitaph according to him is: we have to live, generations after generations after us have to live, and, to live they have to breathe and we have but have to embark on ‘a new paradigm for conserving the ecological balance’ by quoting Mahatma Gandhi.

TOWARDS GREEN ECONOMY

Addressing the members, Dr. Indra N. Mitra, Vice President, Technology, Indian Operations, World Water Works, U.S.A. said that Green Economy is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive economy, implementation of which results in improved human well being. He suggested for incentive programmes, industry friendly positive regulation, fresh investment in green sectors and public–private partnership. He also mentioned that Zero Energy Municipal Plants and Water Meters and Water Tariff, Deamonification Technology for sustainable use of water in the near future.

Shri Binay Kant Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board stated that the concept of Green Economy is ever changing although it was originated in early 80’s by D.W. Pearce in 1989 in his book ‘Blueprint for a Green Economy’. He argued that the underlying principal includes equity and fairness and overall management of resources of all kinds, and more importantly to fit these objectives with the existing macroeconomic goals with transformations as necessary through the creation of green jobs, poverty eradication and green competition for growth in key sectors.

In his welcome address, President of the Chamber said that the long-term impact of past industrialization, exploitation and environmental damage of the developed world cannot be wished away. It is only right that development in this new century should emphasize not just strong economic performance but intagereational and intergenerational equity. He pointed out that India with her population of 1.21 billion has her own problems of poverty, malnutrition, unemployment and the lot. Inspite, India has to maintain a steady growth rate supported by high level of industrialization, which cannot be overbearing on our nature and environment. He urged the speakers to express their views of the ways and means of achieving the right path to green economy.

Shri S.K. Ray Chaudhuri, in his Key Note address said that globalization as it is taking place today is increasing the divide between the rich and the poor. It has to be steered so that it serves not only commercial interests but also the social needs of development. He further said that we can have our Green Economy only when development was socially equitable, ecologically sustainable, culturally acceptable, politically participative and empowering and economically income generating.
Shri Ray Chaudhuri further stated that the transition to a Green Economy would entail investing in people, in natural capital, greening high impact sectors ad services and improving governance and making governments, businesses and consumers more accountable to people and to the planet. But, he cautioned that for companies to become less polluting or emit minimum CO2, the policy makers have to keep in mind that the cost of bringing down pollution does not become so imperious that the basic business loses its viability.

A sponsorship of Rs. 3000/- was received with thanks from M/s. Exodus Marine Products & Export towards expenses of a Folder which was given to the participants.

The seminar ended after an enthusiastic interactive session with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Shri Amit K Sen, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber.

Environment Issues Affecting Industry

A Seminar on ‘Environment Issues Affecting Industry’ was jointly organized by Bengal Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Monday, the 24th December, 2012 at the Peerless Inn, Durgapur.

Prof. Binay Kanti Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution control Board was the Chief Guest. Shri Ujjwal Basu, Sr. Vice President, Bengal Suburban Chamber of Commerce, (BSCCI) and Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President, Bengal National Chamber Of Commerce & Industry (BNCCI) delivered welcome and key note address respectively.

Prof. Binay Kanti Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution control Board (WBPCB) said that industrial growth is necessary for rapid economic environment but at the same time industry should follow some norms and guidelines for protecting environment. He mentioned that there are different methods to calculate emission/effluent in industry. India’s position in different composite index proves its pitiable condition as it stands 149 in terms of water quality and 155 in terms of air.

Prof. Kalyan Ray Chaudhuri further stated that the air quality of a city/region has intensified competition domestically among the participants.

Shri Ray Chaudhuri further stated that the transition to a Green Economy would entail investing in people, in natural capital, greening high impact sectors ad services and improving governance and making governments, businesses and consumers more accountable to people and to the planet. But, he cautioned that for companies to become less polluting or emit minimum CO2, the policy makers have to keep in mind that the cost of bringing down pollution does not become so imperious that the basic business loses its viability.

A sponsorship of Rs. 3000/- was received with thanks from M/s. Exodus Marine Products & Export towards expenses of a Folder which was given to the participants.

The seminar ended after an enthusiastic interactive session with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Shri Amit K Sen, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber.

Environment Issues Affecting Industry

A Seminar on ‘Environment Issues Affecting Industry’ was jointly organized by Bengal Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Monday, the 24th December, 2012 at the Peerless Inn, Durgapur.

Prof. Binay Kanti Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution control Board was the Chief Guest. Shri Ujjwal Basu, Sr. Vice President, Bengal Suburban Chamber of Commerce, (BSCCI) and Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President, Bengal National Chamber Of Commerce & Industry (BNCCI) delivered welcome and key note address respectively.

Prof. Binay Kanti Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution control Board (WBPCB) said that industrial growth is necessary for rapid economic environment but at the same time industry should follow some norms and guidelines for protecting environment. He mentioned that there are different methods to calculate emission/effluent in industry. India’s position in different composite index proves its pitiable condition as it stands 149 in terms of water quality and 155 in terms of air.

Prof. Kalyan Ray Chaudhuri further stated that the air quality of a city/region has intensified competition domestically among the participants.

Shri Ray Chaudhuri further stated that the transition to a Green Economy would entail investing in people, in natural capital, greening high impact sectors ad services and improving governance and making governments, businesses and consumers more accountable to people and to the planet. But, he cautioned that for companies to become less polluting or emit minimum CO2, the policy makers have to keep in mind that the cost of bringing down pollution does not become so imperious that the basic business loses its viability.

A sponsorship of Rs. 3000/- was received with thanks from M/s. Exodus Marine Products & Export towards expenses of a Folder which was given to the participants.

The seminar ended after an enthusiastic interactive session with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Shri Amit K Sen, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber.

Environment Issues Affecting Industry

A Seminar on ‘Environment Issues Affecting Industry’ was jointly organized by Bengal Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Monday, the 24th December, 2012 at the Peerless Inn, Durgapur.

Prof. Binay Kanti Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution control Board was the Chief Guest. Shri Ujjwal Basu, Sr. Vice President, Bengal Suburban Chamber of Commerce, (BSCCI) and Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President, Bengal National Chamber Of Commerce & Industry (BNCCI) delivered welcome and key note address respectively.

Prof. Binay Kanti Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution control Board (WBPCB) said that industrial growth is necessary for rapid economic environment but at the same time industry should follow some norms and guidelines for protecting environment. He mentioned that there are different methods to calculate emission/effluent in industry. India’s position in different composite index proves its pitiable condition as it stands 149 in terms of water quality and 155 in terms of air.

Prof. Kalyan Ray Chaudhuri further stated that the air quality of a city/region has intensified competition domestically among the participants.

Shri Ray Chaudhuri further stated that the transition to a Green Economy would entail investing in people, in natural capital, greening high impact sectors ad services and improving governance and making governments, businesses and consumers more accountable to people and to the planet. But, he cautioned that for companies to become less polluting or emit minimum CO2, the policy makers have to keep in mind that the cost of bringing down pollution does not become so imperious that the basic business loses its viability.

A sponsorship of Rs. 3000/- was received with thanks from M/s. Exodus Marine Products & Export towards expenses of a Folder which was given to the participants.

The seminar ended after an enthusiastic interactive session with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Shri Amit K Sen, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber.
The speakers at Kamala Girls School were Dr. S. Sensarma and Prof. Pranab Sur. The essay writing competition preceded the seminar, where 32 students participated. The Principal Dr. Swapan Basu and the teachers were very much impressed with this venture of BNCCI.

The speakers at Patha Bhavan were Prof. Sujay Basu and Prof. Pranab Sur. The essay writing competition followed wherein 23 students participated.

The speakers at RKKM, Narendrapur were Prof. Sujay Basu and Prof. Pranab Sur. The class of 79 students comprising Std XI along with the Principal Swami Vedapurushanandaji and other senior monks and teachers attended the lectures. The Principal was very enthusiastic. All 79 students participated in the essay writing competition.

Topic of the essay writing competition was ‘Only Renewable Energy can solve the Demand for Energy Satisfactorily’.

Prof. Sujay Basu, Dr. Somsubhra Sensharma and Prof. Pranab Sur, along with a slide show on global warming and an essay competition on a subject provided on the spot. Shri S. K. Ray Chaudhuri, Chairman, Energy Standing Committee and Smt. Purnasree Nag, Sr. Asst. Secretary of the Chamber.

The presentations were followed by an essay competition wherein twenty three students participated. The school has been assigned the responsibility of judging three best essays and sending them back to the Chamber. Best student will be awarded at the next AGM of the Chamber.

A booklet on renewable energy was distributed amongst the students and a poster highlighting tips on Energy conservation was put up in the school’s Notice Board. M/s. Shishu Sathiya Samrid sponsored the booklet and posters.

Shri N.R. Datta, Chairman, Civic Amenities & Env Protection Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the formal Vote of Thanks.

Awareness Programme on ‘Increasing Awareness of Climate Change and Energy Conservation’

The Energy Standing Committee along with CG, CSR & Corporate Law Standing Committee and the Public Relations Standing Committee of the Chamber organized the Awareness Programme under ‘Increasing Awareness of Climate Change and Energy Conservation’ campaign, at various schools of Kolkata.

At Baligunge Govt. High School, Prof. Sujay Basu and Dr. Somsubhra Sensharma presented a slide show on global warming. An essay competition on the subject, was conducted on the spot. The Chamber was represented by Shri Amit Sen, Sr. Vice President, Shri S. K. Ray Chaudhuri, Chairman, Energy Standing Committee and Smt. Purnasree Nag, Sr. Asst. Secretary of the Chamber.

The Principal of the School, Shri Hom Roy was very much supportive and enthusiastic towards this project.

Shri Amit Kr. Sen, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber highlighted the activities of the Chamber and thereafter went on a nostalgic note sharing some of his experiences of his Alma Mater, which happened to be Baligunge Govt. High School.

Shri S. K. Ray Chaudhuri, in his brief address touched upon the Chamber’s activities on energy conservation and climate change.

Awareness campaign was held during the month of July, 2012, in three other schools namely Kamala Girls School, Patha Bhavan and Ramakrishna Mission Higher Secondary School, Narendrapur.

TOURISM & TRANSPORT

Beautiful Bengal : Today & Tomorrow

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a Meeting on ‘Beautiful Bengal : Today & Tomorrow ‘ with Smt. Pritha Sarkar, WBCC (Exe), Managing Director, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. on Thursday, the 21st June 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

Shri Tejorny Roychowdhury, President of the Chamber presided over the meeting and delivered the welcome address.

At the outset, Smt. Pritha Sarkar appreciated the efforts of the Chamber in organizing a meeting on such an important and relevant topic: ‘Beautiful Bengal: Today & Tomorrow’. She informed that travel and tourism industry is the second highest foreign exchange earner for India. The Government of India has given travel & tourism organizations the status of the export house.

According to Smt. Pritha Sarkar, the buoyancy in the Indian tourism industry can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, the tremendous growth of Indian economy has resulted in more disposable income in the hands of middle class. Secondly, India is a booming IT hub and many more people are coming to India on business trips. Thirdly, aggressive advertising campaign ‘Incredible India’ by the Tourism Ministry.

Smt. Pritha Sarkar also mentioned that the travel and tourism industry is one of the major foreign exchange earners as well as provides employment to millions of people in India.

She further stated that the West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation (WBTD) is also initiating a number projects to display the State as one of the foremost tourist destination. Some of India’s most preferred travel destinations like the Darjeeling Himalayan hill region in the northern extreme of the state, the highest peak of the state Sandakfu (3,636 m) and the Sundarbans mangrove forests in the extreme south. Darjeeling Himalayan Railway or Toy Train declared as the World Heritage Site by UNESCO is West Bengal’s third wonder.

Smt. Sarkar informed that the State Government has increased the budget allocation to a large extent to create more facilities including accommodation and infrastructure development. Apart from this, the Government has taken several other measures for the promotion of tourism.

Smt. Pritha Sarkar informed that WBTD has initiated to explore more tourist destinations at beaches. The Corporation has already started to add more public amenities like illumination of including Digha, Shankarpur, Mandarmani, Bakkhali, Tajpur and Junput. The West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation also initiated the process of constructing new Tourist Lodge at different wildlife sanctuaries and national parks including Gorumara National Park, Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary and Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary.

Smt. Sarkar said that the State Tourism Department issued an expression of interest for developing a tourist hub spreading over 200 acres of land at Gajodoba off Siliguri in Jalpaiguri district. WBTD also has a plan to build a tiger rescue centre at Jharkhali as part of making a tourist attraction destination at Sundarbans. WBTD is also mulling deployment of vessels to start one-day package trips from Kolkata to Gangasagar.

Earlier, while giving welcome speech, Shri Tejorny Roychowdhury, President of the Chamber, mentioned that tourism sector in India emerge as the largest service industry in terms of both gross revenue and foreign exchange earnings. It is now considered as one of the most important tool to create employment opportunities and wealth.

BEAUTIFUL BENGAL: TODAY & TOMORROW

Contd...
TOURISM & TRANSPORT

India has a diversified tourism resources spread over different states of the country and is known to the world for its ancient rich heritage, culture and wealth. West Bengal is one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse states of India. He however observed that unfortunately Bengal is still lagging behind in comparison to some other states in attracting tourists, due to non-availability of adequate and proper infrastructure and marketing efforts. He suggested that the State Government should concentrate on improvement, standardization and diversification of existing tourism products as well as creation of new ones to West Bengal in an attractive manner both domestically and internationally.

Smt. Bani Roy Chowdhury, Chairperson, Tourism Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

Heritage Tourism - the Way Forward

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a Seminar on ‘Heritage Tourism - the Way Forward’ on Monday the 4th February, 2013 at 3.00 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

Shri Vikram Sen, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Tourism, Government of West Bengal; Shri J P Shaw, Regional Director, India Tourism Kolkata, Government of India and Shri G.M. Kapur, State Convenor, Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH) addressed the seminar as the Panel Speakers. Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President of the Chamber, mentioned that tourism sector in India emerged as the largest service industry in the country and it is an instrument for economic development and employment generation, particularly in remote and backward areas. He then added that in spite of global recession in 2011, the foreign tourist arrivals was increased by 9.2 percent resulted an increase in the foreign exchange earnings by 19.6 percent in Rupee terms and by 8.3 percent in US$ terms.

Shri J P. Shaw stressed on the issues of Government’s role as the facilitator and catalyst; synchronization of public-private partnership; focus on up market clientele; thrust on quality than quantity; conservation, preservation & sustainability; transparent, competitive policy on privatization as well as promoting innovative products and projects.

Shri G.M. Kapur, State Convenor, Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH) in his audio-visual presentation gave emphasis on different activities of INTACH including - to sensitize the public about India’s pluralistic cultural legacy; to protect and conserve India’s heritage; to document cultural resources of India; to formulate heritage policy and regulations; to train and to develop skills and related professions; to emergency response to save heritage and to form strategic partnerships and collaborations.

Shri Sen also mentioned that India has a diversified tourism resources spread over different states of the country and is known to the world for its ancient rich heritage, culture and wealth but unfortunately Bengal is still lagging behind in comparison to some other states due to non-availability of proper infrastructure and marketing efforts. He suggested that the State Government should concentrate on improvement, standardization and diversification of existing tourism products as well as creation of new ones.

Smt. Bani Roy Chowdhury, Chairperson, Tourism Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Business Opportunities & Ongoing Metro Railway Projects

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a Meeting on ‘Business Opportunities and Ongoing Metro Railway Projects’ with Shri Radhey Shyam, General Manager, Metro Railway, Kolkata on February 8th, 2013 at 12 noon at its premises.

Shri Amit Kr. Sen, President of the Chamber presided over the meeting. Senior officials of Metro Railway, Kolkata, a large number of guests and members as well as representatives of the media, both print and electronics, attended the meeting.

While making an excellent power-point presentation on the theme of the meeting, Shri Radhey Shyam stated that the necessity of Metro Rail in Kolkata arises because of unprecedented growth of road traffic and increased congestion, need for faster and safer mode of transport as well as energy efficient transport system and air pollution and traffic accidents causing concerns. He informed that the Railway Board has allocated Rs. 20 crore to beef up security measures in Kolkata Metro and an integrated security system will be installed with the money and 23 new escalators will also come up at various metro stations for the benefit of commuters. He further added that Metro Rail would soon acquire 24 hectares of land from a private agency at Joka to set up a car shed and work on expanding metro connectivity from Dum Dum to Baranagar metro station will start by March 2013.

Dwelling on the business opportunities in Metro Railway, he stated that in addition to the regular hoarding sites a lot of space exists for display of advertisements through hoardings on the entire Metro stretch. He felt that there is scope for display of advertisement inside and outside of the rakes a large number of kiosk spaces are available inside all Metro Railway stations. Large numbers of spaces are lying vacant along metro corridor for setting up of ATMs by various Banks. CCTVs exist at stations between Dum Dum and Mahanayak Uttam Kumar and there is scope for introducing CCTVs from Netaji Bhavan to Kavi Subhash. There is provision for playing of ambient music along with transmission for commercial advertisements at all stations. 283 AFC Gates have been installed at all Metro stations. Advertisements could be displayed on these gates. At present mobile connectivity is restricted
to the underground Metro stations only. Mobile connectivity could be extended inside the tunnel. 34 large LCD display panels of 28 sq.ft. each have been installed at all Metro stations.

Speaking on the requirement of new technology equipments, Shri Radhey Shyam stated that procurement of additional rakes with state-of-the-art technology is under process for Metro Railway, Kolkata.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Chamber President Shri Amit K. Sen stated that the Kolkata Metro was the first underground railway to be built in India, with its operations commencing in October, 1984. Being the country’s first and a completely indigenous process, the construction of the Kolkata Metro was more of a trial-and-error affair in contrast to the Delhi Metro, which has seen the involvement of numerous international consultants.

Continuing, Shri Sen said that annually Kolkata Metro procures materials worth several crores, out of which about 50 percent is from the MSMEs. The Vision 2020 Document of the Indian Railways envisages massive expansion and improvement of Metro Railway, involving additional investment in hefty doses in the coming years. Many projects have been undertaken. Shri Sen requested Shri Radhey Shyam to explain the details of expansion plan of the Kolkata Metro including the ongoing projects vis-à-vis the emanative business opportunities particularly the potential areas of co-operation between Metro and MSMEs, both for the existing units as well as the upcoming entrepreneurs.

Shri Suvro Chandra, Chairman, Industry Standing Committee of the Chamber offered the Vote of Thanks.

Making Kolkata Tramways Self Reliant

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a Meeting on ‘Making Kolkata Tramways Self Reliant’ on February 12th, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

The meeting was addressed by Shri Shantilal Jain, Chairman, The Calcutta Tramways Co. (1978) Pvt. Ltd. Shri Amit Sen, the Chamber President delivered the welcome address.

Shri Jain in his address mentioned about the forthcoming plans of Kolkata Tramways. He was against the idea of selling out trams. He stated that very soon single bogey AC trams would be introduced in Kolkata. He also spoke about his plans of introducing cafeteria in trams, banquet trams, single bogey trams etc. He elaborated his plans of letting out tram for organising meetings against nominal charges.

Shri Jain said that tram till date was the cheapest mode of transport. He emphasized that land holdings of Kolkata Tramways would be utilised for public services like developing parking plaza, shopping malls, hospitals, etc. He thanked the media for playing a positive role to highlight the positive sides of transport. He also spoke about his plans of introducing cafeteria in trams, banquet trams, single bogey trams etc. He elaborated his plans of letting out tram for organising meetings against nominal charges.

Shri Jain said that tram till date was the cheapest mode of transport. He emphasized that land holdings of Kolkata Tramways would be utilised for public services like developing parking plaza, shopping malls, hospitals, etc. He thanked the media for playing a positive role to highlight the positive sides of transport. He also spoke about his plans of introducing cafeteria in trams, banquet trams, single bogey trams etc. He elaborated his plans of letting out tram for organising meetings against nominal charges.

Earlier Shri Amit Sen in his welcome address said that Kolkata was the only Indian city which maintained the resilience of the Kolkata tram. He felt that Kolkata Tramways needed to be upgraded. He mentioned that CTC had substantial land-holding at prime locations which could be intelligently developed to generate revenue.

Shri Arun Kumar Sarkar, Chairman, Business Infrastructure, Logistics and Urban Infrastructure Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Kolkata Port - It’s Prospects and Challenges

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised an Interactive Meeting on ‘Kolkata Port - Its Prospects and Challenges’ on Monday, 18th March, 2013 at the Chamber premises.

Shri Dibyendu Basu, Senior Vice President of the Chamber presided over the meeting.

Addressing the members, Shri R.P.S. Kahlon, J&S, Chairman, said that the Global Economy slowed down in 2011 with GDP growing by only 2.7 percent as compared to 4.1 percent in 2010. He felt that many of these factors remained relevant in 2012 and so the adverse impact continued. The slowdown translated into weaker imports, which grew at a modest 3.5 percent in 2011 compared to 11 percent in 2010. He felt that many of these factors remained relevant in 2012 and so the adverse impact continued. The slowdown translated into weaker imports, which grew at a modest 3.5 percent in 2011 compared to 11 percent in 2010.

He observed that during 2012, the growth in global merchandise trade volumes grew by just 2.5 percent. The expansion in world seaborne trade was driven by rapid growth in dry cargo volumes propelled by upbeat container and major bulk trades-grew by 8.6 percent & 5.4 percent respectively. He said that the Container Trade, because of productivity gains, remained the fastest growing cargo segment.

Emphasizing the Impact of Global Macro Developments on Indian maritime Trade, Shri Kahlon said that the maritime transport activity was mainly driven by the growth in world output & trade. Referring to the data he said that during 2011-12, India’s GDP posted a growth of 6.5 percent compared to 8.5 percent in 2010-11. During the 3rd quarter of 2012-13, the GDP growth slowed down to 4.3 percent. Cargo traffic at India’s 12 major ports showed a decline of 1.7 percent and 3.3 percent during 2011-2012 and 2012-13 (first 6 months). The manufacturing sector, which has major influence on India’s seaborne trade recorded a very low GDP growth rate of 6.5 percent during the Q1 & Q2 of 2012-13. Trends in POL, coal and fertilizers are largely driven by the dynamics of domestic demand supply. Container traffic & Iron Ore are largely shaped by the state of global demand. Container traffic & coal recorded growth during Q1 & Q2 of 2012-13. Iron ore traffic posted a sharp decline of 33.3 percent and 58 percent in Q1 & Q2 of 2012-13 respectively mainly due to ban of exports by the state of Karnataka. During the first half of 2012-13, traffic at non-major ports recorded a growth of 10 percent compared to 8.2 percent during the same period previous year. Non-major port in M arashtra and Gujarat contributed to this growth by increased handling of coal & POL.

Stating the Maritime Agenda for 2010-2020, the Chairman said that target of 3130 MT Port Capacity has been set for the year 2020. More than 50 percent of the capacity will be created in non-major ports. Proposed investment is expected to be Rs. 2,96,000 crore-mostly from private sector. The agenda for the Ports are the development of two new major ports one each on east and west coasts; full mechanization of Cargo handling and movement. Major Ports to have draft of not less than 14 metres and hub ports 17 metres, identification and implementation of projects for rail, road and inland waterway connectivity to ports.

Overviewing the Kolkata Port the Chairman said that the KoPT ranked 3rd among Indian Major Ports in terms of Container handling (57.32million tonnes). KDS registered the highest growth in Containers during 2011-12 vis-à-vis 2010-11. It is the earliest Major Port...
with 142 years of distinguished service to the nation besides being the only riverine Major Port in India. It has 126 mm long navigational channel - one of the longest in the world and it was the only port connected thoroughly with Inland Waterways (NW1 and NW2). It was ISO 9001:2008 certified and ISPS compliant.

Shri Dibyendu Basu, Sr. Vice President of the Chamber welcomed and congratulated Shri Kahlon on his assumption of charge of the Kolkata Port Trust. Shri Basu further stated that providing additional facilities and upgrading the Port logistics in sync with international standards in terms of performance, infrastructure and last but not the least 'charges' would actually help Kolkata Port retain and acquire more business thereby act as a catalyst to the Development of the Eastern Region. In today’s most competitive business environment, the transaction cost has to be the minimum to retain present load and attract lost loads to come back. It is only then, that we can look at catering to the extended hinterland of the ASEAN countries felt Shri Basu.

Shri Debashis Dutta, Chairman, Inland Water Transport, Port and River Front Trade Standing Committee of the Chamber offered the Vote of Thanks.
Continuing, Shri Sen informed that though Industrial Relations in West Bengal have improved in comparison to earlier decades but even now are lagging far behind what is desired. He also mentioned that there is lack of work culture in West Bengal and the state still suffers from the highest man-days lost in the country due to indiscipline and violence, non-payment of wages and allowances, bonus, personal matters, leave and retrenchment. He appealed to increase the competitiveness of our country by way of raising level of productivity and necessary amendment in the Industrial Dispute Act requires amendment.

Shri R.P. Srivastava, Chairman, Labour Standing Committee of BNCCI proposed the formal Vote of Thanks.

ESI Schemes in West Bengal-Awareness & Improvement

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a meeting on ‘ESI Schemes in West Bengal-Awareness & Improvement’ organized with Shri G.C. Jena, Additional Commissioner & Regional Director, ESI Corporation on Thursday, the 14th February, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

Addressing the member, Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President, BNCCI said that ESI is the sole health insurance scheme offering various cash benefit and medical benefits to workers and their families through single contribution under the scheme. The ESI scheme is based on the principle of ‘pooling of risks and resources’, in which every contributor, at any given point of time, emerges as a beneficiary of a benefactor and society at large is the net gainer. The Section 46 of the ESIC Act, includes several social security benefits like medical benefits, sickness benefit, extended sickness benefit, enhanced sickness benefit, maternity and disablement benefit, dependants benefit, funeral expenses and also vocational rehabilitation, unemployment allowance and skill up gradation training.

He mentioned that the package of medical benefit consists of primary care and secondary care including hospitalization and health care. Shri Sen suggested that the ESI corporation should penetrate more and more in the unorganized sector and added that it has come a long way since inception. He observed that the role of ESI has gradually expanded over time and mentioned the problem of managing all employees from the Head Quarter.

Dr. G.P. Sarkar, Hony. Treasurer, BNCCI offered formal vote of Thanks at the end of the Session.

He informed that health benefits offered by the scheme fall into 2 broad categories, viz. medical and cash benefit. Among these various benefits, medical benefit is the most important one available to insured person under ESI scheme. Cash benefit includes benefits payable in cash through branch offices of corporation on account of loss of wages or earning capacity caused by sickness, maternity, disablement or death of an insured person. Shri Jena further stated that ESI is still working for compulsory card system which will be issued by employer from nearest polyclinic.

Addressing the members, Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President, BNCCI said that ESI is the sole health insurance scheme offering various cash benefit and medical benefits to workers and their families through single contribution under the scheme. The ESI scheme is based on the principle of ‘pooling of risks and resources’, in which every contributor, at any given point of time, emerges as a beneficiary of a benefactor and society at large is the net gainer. The Section 46 of the ESIC Act, includes several social security benefits like medical benefits, sickness benefit, extended sickness benefit, enhanced sickness benefit, maternity and disablement benefit, dependants benefit, funeral expenses and also vocational rehabilitation, unemployment allowance and skill up gradation training.

He mentioned that the package of medical benefit consists of primary care and secondary care including hospitalization and health care. Shri Sen suggested that the ESI corporation should penetrate more and more in the unorganized sector and added that it has come a long way since inception. He observed that the role of ESI has gradually expanded over time and mentioned the problem of managing all employees from the Head Quarter.

Dr. G.P. Sarkar, Hony. Treasurer, BNCCI offered formal vote of Thanks at the end of the Session.

Trends in Consumers’ Grievance Redressal in West Bengal

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a meeting on ‘Trends in Consumers’ Grievance Redressal in West Bengal’ with Shri Sadhan Pande, hon’ble M inister-in-Charge, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of West Bengal on Tuesday, the 29th May 2012 at 3:30 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, President of the Chamber presided over the meeting and delivered the welcome address. Shri Trilochan Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of West Bengal, Shri Ashok Kumar Dhar, Controller and Shri Sajal Kanti Jana, Joint Controller of Legal Metrology, Government of West Bengal were present at the meeting and actively participated in the Interactive Session.

At the outset, Shri Sadhan Pande appreciated the efforts of the Chamber in organizing the meeting. He said that the enforcement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 actually marked the beginning of the formal recognition of consumer movement in our country. It was enforced with an objective to redress the grievances of the consumers and to save time, expenses and inconveniences of the consumers. He also stated that West Bengal is the only state in India where there is a separate cabinet Ministry for this department. He also mentioned that the Department of Consumer Affairs has developed a website for updating consumer complaints across the state, which would be monitored through e-governance.

Continuing, the hon’ble M inister informed that the duty of Legal Metrology is to see that the producers adhere to provide the desired goods in right quantity and price. The department was to procure master Machines from the funds to be provided by the Centre to keep a check on weighing machines. He also added that the Department of Consumer Affairs was also planning for an amendment to West Bengal Consumers’ Protection Rules to give more teeth to the inspectors and Mediators in preventing anti-consumers practices.

Hon’ble M inister appealed to the members of the Chamber to create an environment of fair business in the state.

Shri Pande further informed that the Department of Consumer Affairs is already in the process of recommending prescriptions by generic names rather than brand names and thereby bringing down the costs of drugs.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, President of the Chamber had specified the role of service and product providers to be religiously maintained to gain more confidence of the consumers, thereby enhancing their goodwill and reputation. He further requested to Hon’ble M inister to look into the issue of speedy disposal of cases thereby reducing the related expenses.

He also stressed that the networking between different Government agencies like the BIS, IPO, Legal Metrology as well as the NGOs should be strengthened to make them more effective for quick redressal of the disputes.

Shri Kishor M. Dey, Chairman, Consumer Forum Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed a vote of Thanks.

Digitisation of Cable Television

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industries organised a Panel Discussion on ‘Digitisation of Cable Television’ on June 1, 2012 at the Chamber premises at 3:30 pm.

The Panel Discussion was addressed among others by Shri Swapan Chowdhury, representative of Cable Operators Federation of India, Shri Suvo R Chatterjee, General Manager, Manthan Broadband Pvt. Ltd., Shri Soumen Roy Chowdhury, Vice President, Indian Cable Net Pvt. Ltd. and Shri Anupam Paul of Airtel DTH Services Pvt. Ltd. Shri Sreeshasis Sur of DD News was the moderator of the Panel Discussion.

Chamber President Shri Tejomoy Roy Chowdhury presided over the meeting.
GENERAL INTEREST
(Contd...)

Shri Snehasis Sur spoke of the different delivery modalities of the television like Cable, DTH, etc. He mentioned about the facts and figures highlighted in the KPMG reports on media and entertainment. He apprised the audience about the cable amendment bill of 2011. He said that at present 150 million households had television out of which 94 million have cable connections.

Shri Swapan Chowdhury spoke on the twenty year long journey of the cable system starting from 1991. He said that cable operators had accepted the digitization and six laths of set top boxes would be required in Kolkata to meet the deadline. He added that at present there were forty laths of cable subscribers in the KMDA area. He also spoke on the advantages and disadvantages of the digitization.

Shri Goutam RoyChowdhury showcased the evolution of the MSO in Kolkata, benefits of digitalization, quality of digital cable, HD TV, channel and MSO forward linkages, etc. He said that it was a win win situation for everyone and we must be ready for the big jump.

Shri Anupam Paul highlighted the product features of Airtel DTH. He said that Airtel was looking forward to this opportunity. He deliberated upon the quality of pictures, service and distribution networks of Airtel DTH.

Shri Suvo P. Chatterjee congratulated the Chamber for organizing the panel discussion on this issue. He said that digitization would enhance the picture clarity of a television. He spoke on the rationality to see whether the service providers were delivering the right goods in right quantity at the right price. He appealed to the people not to take items when weighed by indigenous wooden weighing machine.

In his welcome address Shri Tejorny RoyChowdhury, President of BNCCI said that digitization would create transparency in the cable system and ensure accurate reporting of subscriber numbers and revenue, thus creating higher value for the exchequer. He further said that digitization would enhance the growth in profitability for the Broadcasters and Multiple System Operators (MSO) which in turn will ensure creation of higher value jobs and drive value in the industry.

GENERAL INTEREST
(Contd...)

Shri Puranjit Mukherjee, Chairman, Service Industry Standing Committee, BNCCI proposed a hearty Vote of Thanks.

Consumers' Laws - Role of Legal Metrology

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry jointly with Kalna Chamber of Commerce & Small Industry organized a meeting on ‘Consumers’ Laws - Role of Legal Metrology’ on Thursday, the 14th June 2012 at 11.00 a.m. at Lions Club, Bidyabagispara, Kalna, Burdwan.

Shri Ashok Kumar Dhar, Controller, Directorate of Legal Metrology, Government of West Bengal and Shri Sajal Kant Jana, Joint Controller, Directorate of Legal Metrology, Government of West Bengal addressed the meeting as the Chief-Guest and Guest of Honour respectively.

Shri Ashis Choudhury, Deputy Magistrate, District Office, Kalna; Shri Ranjit Kumar Das, Assistant Controller of Legal Metrology, Burdwan; Shri Pankaj Kumar Das, Legal Metrology Officer, Katwa; Shri Ranajit Sahoo, Legal Metrology Officer, Burdwan and Shri Partha Bhattacharjee, Legal Metrology Officer, Katwa were present at the meeting.

A delegation from the Chamber including Shri Sunil Dasgupta, immediate past President, Dr. G.P. Sarkar, Chairman, District Business Development Standing Committee, Shri Kishori M. Dey, Chairman, Consumer Forum Standing Committee, Shri Srikant Biswas, Executive Committee member, Shri Sanjay Podder, Executive Committee member, Shri Dilip Bose, Editor, Paribartan Dhara Patrika, Smt. Pranaprampala Jana, Assistant Secretary and Shri Somnath Chakraborty, Assistant Secretary of the Chamber attended the meeting and took part in the deliberation.

Shri Adwaita Kumar Dawn, President, Kalna Chamber of Commerce & Small Industry presided over the meeting and delivered the welcome speech. Shri Dawn gave warmth welcome to everybody for participating in the seminar and further added that such awareness meeting on Consumers’ Laws would definitely yield successful results.

At the outset, Shri Ashok Kumar Dhar, Controller, Directorate of Legal Metrology, Government of West Bengal briefly narrated the history of units of measurement. He mentioned that the enforcement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 actually marked the beginning of the formal recognition of consumer movement in our country. It was enforced with an objective to redress the grievances of the consumers and to save time, expenses and inconveniences of the consumers.

He also mentioned that through the enactment of the said Act, a separate department of Consumer Affairs was created under a separate ministry and the department had already introduced a toll free help-line number -18003452808 from this Bengal New Year. He also added that the Department of Consumer Affairs was also considering an amendment to West Bengal Consumers’ Protection Rules to give more teeth to the Inspectors and Mediators in preventing anti-consumers practices.

He mentioned that the duty of Legal Metrology is to see whether the service providers were delivering the right goods in right quantity at the right price. He appealed to the people not to take items when weighed by indigenous wooden weighing machine.

He gave a detailed note on BS Hallmark, a mark of conformity widely accepted by the consumer and appealed to the audience to buy hallmarked gold items.

Shri Sajal Kant Jana, Joint Controller, Directorate of Legal Metrology, Government of West Bengal mentioned that the enforcement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 actually marked the beginning of the formal recognition of consumer movement in our country. It was enforced with an objective to redress the grievances of the consumers and to save time, expenses and inconveniences of the consumers.

Shri Jana gave an excellent power point presentation on Legal Metrology Act 2009 with particular reference to new entrepreneurs and defined Legal Metrology as that part of metrology which deals with units, methods and measuring instruments of weight and measurement specific to the mandatory technical and legal requirements for ensuring security as well as accuracy of the weighments and measurements.


Earlier, in his address, Shri Sunil Dasgupta, former President of the Chamber said that the Legal metrology concerns with regulatory requirements of measurements and measuring instruments for the protection of health, public safety, environment, enabling protection of consumers and fair trade. He said that the Government of India had enacted different Acts and Rules from time to time, for implementation of modern system of weights and measures to ensure countrywide uniformity and also to ensure legal control on weights and measures.

Dr. G.P. Sarkar, Chairman, District Business Development Standing Committee of the Chamber stated the importance of the meeting and requested Kalna Chamber of Commerce & Small Industry to write letters on issues hindering trade and commerce. He also requested all the participants to feel free to contact the Chamber in solving any business related problems and assured them that the problems would be forwarded to the appropriate authority for action.

Shri Kishor M. Dey, Chairman, Consumer Forum Standing of the Chamber praised Kalna Chamber of Commerce & Small Industry for organizing such kind of meeting. He then said that in the era of market-oriented and competitive economic structure, consumers must have right to get products and services according to their choice at a right price at right place and at right time, with their satisfaction. He also commented that the role of service and product providers should be religiously maintained to gain more confidence of the consumers, thereby enhancing their goodwill and reputation.
Shri S. K. Naskar, Secretary, Kalna Chamber of Commerce & Small Industry, proposed a hearty Vote of Thanks.

Present Status of Consumers’ Movement in India

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a Meeting on ‘Present Status of Consumers’ Movement in India’ with Smt. Mala Banerjee, President, Federation of Consumer Associations, West Bengal on Friday, the 3rd August 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

Shri Sunil Dasgupta, immediate past President of the Chamber presided over the meeting and delivered the welcome address.

At the outset, Smt. M.ala Banerjee mentioned that consumers play a vital role in the economic system of a nation because in the absence of effective demand that emanates from them, the economy likely to collapses. She also added that still many people do not have knowledge of the basic rights of consumers as per the Consumer Protection Act. The rights are the right to be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property; the right to be informed about the quality, quantity, purity, standard and price of goods, or services; the right to be assured of access to variety of goods and services at competitive prices; the right to be heard; the right to seek redressal against unfair trade or restrictive trade practices.

Smt. Banerjee further felt that the right to seek redressal against unfair trade practices is the most important part of the Consumers’ Act. Two popular methods of protecting consumers’ rights are Redressal by Government or other agencies and ADR (Alternate Dispute Redressal). To provide inexpensive, speedy and summary redressal of consumer disputes, quasi-judicial bodies have been set up in each District and State and at the national level, called the District Forums, the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission respectively. At present, there are 604 District Forums and 35 State Commissions with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) at the apex.

Smt. Mala Banerjee informed that the consumers can approach to the consumer forum for the disputes such as electricity consumption and bills, telecommunication companies, builder and purchaser, banking services, sale and purchase of consumables and any other goods, manufacturer of any goods, any other service provider, deficiency in service and defect in goods.

There are no legal formalities for filing the complaint. One can make a complaint to consumer court, by writing the details on a plain paper and attaching the supporting documents, i.e., guarantee or warranty card and cash memo and submit it in the district consumer court. The consumers do not have to go to any lawyer or professional for legal assistance. They themselves can plead the case in the consumer court. She then mentioned that apart from the Government redressal agency there are several agencies which act as a forum to mitigate consumers’ dissatisfaction against services provided by banks, telephone, insurance, electricity, etc. These are as follows: Bank - Ombudsman, Share-SEBI, Telephone- TRAI, Insurance- Insurance Regulatory Board, Share- SEBI etc. She further added that for mobile telephones there is a three tier Mobile Redressal Appellate Body has been set up to redress the disputes and she herself is the judge of that body.

Smt. M.ala Banerjee also appreciated that reputed brands are quite aware of the fact that business stands on good will. She then shared her experience of different reputed brands and MNCs who called off their products within very short notice, whenever there were complaints for a particular product.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Shri Sunil Dasgupta, immediate past President of the Chamber said that in the era of open market and competitive economic structure, consumers play a crucial role and they exercise full right to get products and services according to their choice at a right price of right quality at the right place and at the right time, to their fullest satisfaction. Protecting the interests of consumers has become a major concern of the Governments all over the world and as a result different policies have been designed and legislations enacted to protect the interests of consumers and grant them the rights of choice, safety, information and redressal.

Shri Dasgupta also stressed that the networking between different Government agencies like the BIS, FPO, Legal Metrology as well as the NGOs should be strengthened to make them more effective for quick redressal of the disputes. Shri Dasgupta also felt the need of disseminating information to the people at the grassroots level to make them aware of different consumers’ rights.

Shri Kishor M. Dey, Chairman, Consumer Forum Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed a hearty Vote of Thanks.

Meeting with Shri Jaidev Sarkar, Chairman, Sartrex Power Control System

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a meeting with Shri Jaidev Sarkar, Chairman, Sartrex Power Control System held on Monday, September 10th, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

At the onset, Shri Samir Kumar Ghosh, former President of the Chamber and former Chairman, Industrial India Trade Fair Committee introduced Shri Jaidev Sarkar as a successful entrepreneur and business man and also being elected as President of Prabasi Bangali Cultural Association. He further stated about the journey of Shri Sarkar to become a successful entrepreneur in Canada. He felt that interacting with Shri Sarkar would certainly help the members to get useful information about business environment of Canada.

At the outset, Shri Samir Kumar Ghosh, former President of the Chamber and former Chairman, Industrial India Trade Fair Committee introduced Shri Jaidev Sarkar as a successful entrepreneur and requested him for participation of his country in the forthcoming Silver Jubilee edition of Industrial India Trade Fair, as he felt that the event would provide a strong platform for interacting with the industrialists of the eastern part of the country.

Addressing the members of the Chamber, Shri Sarkar initially extended the note of appreciation to the members for organizing the interactive meeting within such a short span of time.

At the onset, he mentioned about his journey of getting his first job in the quality assurance Department of Sintrex Limited, a Canada based company and thereafter reaching the position of Senior Vice president of the same company within a period of 20 years. He also recalled his turning point of heading the same company and renaming the company as Sartrex Power Control Systems.

Shri Sarkar further mentioned that the Sartrex Power Control System developed, designed and qualified very specialized instruments for the nuclear power.

He also spoke about forthcoming Bengal Mela- a mega show to be organised at Toronto inviting industrialists worldwide and also requested the members of the Chamber for their presence as well as for their financial assistance to make the event successful. Shri Sarkar stated about his plan for building a Medical College at a joint venture between West Bengal and North America.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Chamber president Shri Tejpranoy Roychowdhury congratulated Shri Sarkar for being a successful Canada-based business man and also being elected as President of Prabasi Bangali Cultural Association. He further stated about the journey of Shri Sarkar to become a successful entrepreneur in Canada. He felt that interacting with Shri Sarkar would certainly help the members to get useful information about business environment of Canada.

Fire Safety Norms

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised an Interactive Meeting on ‘Fire Safety Norms’ was organised by the Chamber on December 13th, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the Chamber premises.

Shri Gopal Bhattacharya, Additional Director General, Fire and Emergency Services, Government of West Bengal addressed the members. Shri Amit Sen, President of the Chamber delivered the welcome address.
Economic Reforms and Macroeconomic Policy in Changing Global Scenario

Continuing, Dr. Sarkar viewed that, though some progress was made in early 2012 in easing financial market tensions; euro area policymakers did not address the fundamental of the crisis and as a result, many economies faced anemic growth. The scenario however was somewhat different in some major developing countries, like China, India, Brazil, Russia and few others.

Referring to the Indian scenario, Dr. Sarkar said that in India, GDP growth rate showed gradual slow down, recording 5.3pc in the last quarter, because of fiscal mismatch, negative growth in exports, manufacturing industry, alarming current account deficit accompanied with high rate of inflation and business people were at a loss to manage their business affairs as they did not know, how much time it might take to return to stability.

At the end of the session, Vote of Thanks was offered by Shri R. P. Srivastava, Chairman, Labour Standing Committee of the Chamber.

Look Before You Invest

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized this Investor Awareness programme on ‘Look Before You Invest’ mainly to strengthen and deepen investor awareness and promote equity markets as an attractive investment option, resulting in economic growth and opportunity across the country on Monday the 21st of January 2013 at its premises.

Eminent speakers in the panel were Dr. Navrang Saini, Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, Shri B. Madhav Reddy, MD and CEO, Calcutta Stock Exchange and Shri Manish Sonthalia, Fund Manager, Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company.

Shri Dibyendu Basu, Vice-President of the Chamber presided over the meeting.

While welcoming the participants Shri Dibyendu Basu appreciated that for India’s growth story to continue and create new chapters, expanding capital market by way of more retail investor participation is the need of the hour. Systematic channelization of the savings of common man can turn out to be a major resource for the economy. The lure of the share market that is made out to be, by the mushrooming broking agencies seduces the commoner into this very volatile market. Without proper homework it is difficult to invest one’s hard earned money to make a decent profit and again such is the dynamics of the market that no amount of homework/knowledge is adequate to tide over all the crevices. So the endeavour should be to play it safe, and to do that one must be aware of the options that are available for him to invest as per his capacity and the safeguards that he must take to protect his stake.

Dr. Navrang Saini, while addressing the members stated that his office has been receiving serious complaints of fraud by certain fund collectors and securities issues in West Bengal. He warned investors against getting into such schemes without authentication, which promise astronomical returns. He said his office was aware of unlawful practices adopted by section of operators and asked investors to ward off such lures.

Shri Manish Sonthalia, in his presentation explained the gamut of products now available for investment and said that one should try and assess whichever would be beneficial to him.

Shri B. Madhav Reddy, explained the difference between savings and investment and the need to invest. He said that Government programmes such as Social Security would probably play a less significant role for us than they did for previous generations. Shri Reddy moved on to explain the best way to invest and advised one to organise his finances to help manage his money more efficiently as investing was just one component of overall financial plan. Understanding the impact of time was important so was reviewing one’s progress
CG, CSR under the New Companies Bill, 2011

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a Meeting with Shri Ramsebak Bandyopadhyay, hon’ble member, Central Administrative Tribunal, Kolkata, the principal mind behind drafting the Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility Clauses in the Companies Bill 2011, on 2nd February 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at its premises.

Addressing the members, Shri Ramsebak Bandyopadhyay said that the Bill that was initially proposed had undergone several and extensive changes. He explained the reasons behind the amendments of the Act as such. He said that the core elements of CSR were: care for all stakeholders; ethical functioning; respect for workers’ rights and welfare; respect for human rights; respect for environment; activities for social and inclusive development.

In his welcome address, Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President of the Chamber said that with a specific role and response Independent Directors and stringent qualifying criteria for such appointment, benefits of transparency and objectivity in decision making of the Company are much likely to flow more easily to the ordinary stakeholders than before. He felt that the big companies having substantial net profit should have started the CSR activities on their own much earlier sans law ful compulsion.

He felt it was very important for stakeholders to enjoy and become a part of CSR. He reminded that CSR was not ‘pity’ but actually the DNA of a company. The better the CSR, better is the market value of the company. Shri Bandyopadhyay said that the corporate sector has to grow but this growth has to be inclusive and sustainable and CSR are integral to each other. He emphasized that CSR should be voluntary and not mandatory, hence no penalty has been imposed on non-compliance.

The meeting thereafter terminated with Vote of Thanks rendered by Shri J. C. Agarwal, Chairman, CG CSR & Corp. Law Standing Committee of the Chamber.

World Consumer Rights Day

Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an Interactive Meeting with Shri Sadhan Pande, Hon’ble Minister-In-Charge Consumer Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal on the eve of ‘World Consumer Rights Day’ on Thursday, the 7th March 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President of the Chamber presided over the meeting and delivered the welcome address. Shri Ashok Kumar Dhar, Controller and Shri Salaj Kanti Jana, Joint Controller of Legal Metrology, Government of West Bengal and Shri Surendra Bhattacharjee, P.A., to MIC were present at the meeting and actively participated in the interactive session. The meeting was well attended by the representatives from different Consumers’ Associations and NGOs and representatives from press and electronic media.

At the outset, Shri Sadhan Pande gave a brief history of World Consumer Rights Day, which is on 15th March. On 15th March 1962, American President Mr. John F Kennedy delivered a historic speech in the US Congress in which he outlined his vision of consumer rights. He also mentioned that in India, the enforcement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 actually marked the beginning of the formal recognition of consumer movement. Honorable Minister claimed that West Bengal is the only State in India where there is a separate cabinet ministry for this department.

The Hon’ble Minister informed that the duty of Legal Metrology is to see that the producers adhere to provide the desired goods in right quantity and price. He further added that the Department of Consumer Affairs was considering an amendment to West Bengal Consumers’ Protection Rules to prevent anti-consumers practices. The Department jointly with the Home Department was planning to set a team of law keepers to conduct sudden raids on markets in the State to check unfair business practices. In some cases, NGOs and other voluntary organizations came forward to help the Department to enforce actions against irregularities in quality, quantity and the legitimate price of goods.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Shri Amit Kumar Sen, President of the Chamber mentioned that the role of service and product providers should be religiously maintained to gain more confidence of the consumers. He also requested to the Hon’ble Minister to look into the issue of speedy disposal of cases thereby reducing the related expenses. He informed that the consumers’ movement in India particularly in West Bengal started under the leadership of Shri Renuka Roy in 1972 to create awareness and to unite consumers against the prevailing malpractices. He also stressed on the strengthening networking between different Government agencies like the BIS, FPO, Legal Metrology as well as the NGOs and felt the need to make the people at the grassroot level aware of different consumers’ rights.

Shri Kishor M. Dey, Chairman, Consumer Forum Standing Committee of the Chamber proposed a hearty Vote of Thanks.

Harmonisation of India’s Food Standards with Codex Standards and other International Best Practices

An awareness workshop on ‘Harmonisation of India’s Food Standards with Codex Standards and other International Best Practices’ was organized on March 8th, 2013 at the Chamber premises.

The workshop was addressed among others by Shri Anil M. Mehta, Deputy Director (Technical), FSSAI and Shri Himanshu Gupta, FICCI Codex Cell. Shri Amit Sen, the Chamber President presided over the meeting and delivered the welcome address.

Shri Anil Mehta in his address said that the vision of the workshop was to harmonise India’s Food Products, upgrade laboratory infrastructure and implement FSMS in 11 schemes. He felt that harmonization was necessary to consider the latest development in food science across the globe, food consumption pattern, new specifications, presence of new contaminants and toxins as well as use of new food additives and ingredients required by the producers and manufacturers in food business. He stated that India’s food standards need to be revised. He further said that new standards must be developed and old standards revised from time to time. He elaborated on different processes available for harmonization of standards like horizontal and vertical standards. He felt that different stakeholders need to be engaged in order to carry out the process of harmonization. He stated that the adoption and notification of the final standards by FSSAI would be done by 2014.

Shri Himanshu Gupta highlighted upon the different Codex applications that would come into force in the new regime. He also spoke on Codex Alimentarius Commission their roles, regulations from an industry perspective. He deliberated upon the new standards format and requested the members present to comply with the standards which could enhance their export potentiality.

Earlier Shri Amit Sen in his address said that in order to be a successful food exporter, a country must produce food that is acceptable to consumers in other countries and which complied with the statutory requirements of the importing countries. He felt that Compliance with the statutory or mandatory requirements of importing countries was unavoidable and essential prerequisite for profitable food exports. He added that compliance was becoming increasingly
demanding because of the preoccupation of the world community with food safety.

The Chamber President thanked FICCI for collaborating with the Chamber in organizing this programme. A booklet on Food Safety was also released on this occasion.

At the end of the session, Vote of Thanks was offered by Shri Madan Mohan Malty, Chairman Agro Industry and Food Processing Standing Committee of the Chamber.

Agribusiness Camp organized by NIRJAF, Kolkata

The Agriculture and Food Processing standing committee of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industries in collaboration with National Institute of Research on jute and Allied Fibre Technology (NIRJAF), Kolkata organized a full day workshop on Agribusiness on March 18th, 2013 held at the Auditorium of the Chamber.

Shri Madan Mohan Malty, Chairman, Agriculture and Food Processing Standing Committee of the Chamber was present as the Chief Guest. He gave a brief presentation on agribusiness and highlighted the potential of West Bengal in this area.

Shri Debjan Dutta, Managing Director, WBCON was present as the Guest of Honour. He highlighted the different prospects of agribusiness in this state. He felt that there exists huge prospects in the area of food processing.

Dr. K.K. Satapathy, Director, NIRJAF, & Consortium Leader, ZTM-BPD Unit, spoke about the overall scenario in agribusiness and highlighted the technologies available at their institute which could be utilized by the entrepreneurs in this area.

Dr. D. Nag, CPI, ZTM-BPD Unit and Head, Div of Transfer of Technology, NIRJAF, Kolkata gave the overview of this programme and spoke about the different aspects of agribusiness.

The Inaugural Session was followed by some presentations on agribusiness. The TMU VC’s highlighted on their commercially potential technologies available to entrepreneurs. Dr. S.K. Samanta, Former Director of Research, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya also deliberated in this area. The presentation by ABI-ICRISAT, Hyderabad was very informative.

In the post lunch session there were a series of presentations on the role of different financial institutions in the promotion of agribusiness. This session was addressed among others by representatives from NABARD, UBI, SBI, Canara bank, Allahabad Bank, Paschim Banga Gramin Bank, Howrah. The meeting ended with the presentation of success stories of three successful entrepreneurs in this area.

Dr. A. K. Roy Co-PI, ZTM-BPD Unit and Head, Div. of Chemical and Bio-Chemical Processing, NIRJAF, Kolkata proposed the hearty Vote of Thanks.

Shri D.P. Nag, Secretary of the Chamber delivered the welcome address. He highlighted about the different programmes in food processing undertaken by Enterprise Development Institute promoted by the Chamber. He felt that there exists huge prospects in the area of food processing.

Dr. A. K. Roy, Co-PI, ZTM-BPD Unit and Head, Div. of Chemical and Bio-Chemical Processing, NIRJAF, Kolkata gave the overview of this programme and spoke about the different aspects of agribusiness.

Pragati, the Ladies Wing of the Chamber organized several seminars, workshops and programmes for the welfare of women as well as physically challenged people during the year under review.

The Executive Committee of Pragati conducted 13 meetings. Some of the programmes organized during this period, were seminars/meeting/workshop/course on Ajajer Nari - ‘Nari Uttaran Ki Pragatir Pathey’; ‘Is a Woman Still Not Human?’, ‘Violence Against Women’; Health Awareness & Check-up for Mother & Child; EDP course on Soft Toys Making; Self-Employment of a group of women on the basis of micro-credit system; Rabindra Jayanti Celebration; Independence Day Celebration, etc. Pragati also helped the women entrepreneurs to participate in the 25th Industrial India Trade Fair, 2012.

Workshop for Inculcation of Values and Development of Personality for a Group of Students

Pragati organized a workshop for inculcation of values and development of personality for a group of college students aged 18 to 22 years on Thursday, the 12th April 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at Calcutta Girls’ College (3 Goaltuli Lane, Off S.N. Banerjee Road, Near Janbazaar, Kolkata 700013).

M ataji Pravajika Atandraprana, Assistant Secretary, Sarasaa Math & Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Dakshineswar addressed the workshop as Chief Guest. Mataji gave a Powerpoint presentation from the teachings of different renowned personalities and preachers on the subject. The workshop was very informative and seventy-five students participated in it.

Rabindra Jayanti Celebration

Pragati organized one cultural programme on the occasion of Rabindra Jayanti on the 24th May 2012 at the Auditorium of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry as a tribute to Rabindranath Tagore on his 151st birth anniversary. Smt. Sarmila Bose, President of Pragati gave the welcome speech. Smt. Kabita Mandal, Executive Committee member of Pragati recited from Rabindranath’s poem. Shri Subrat Sengupta was the main singer of the evening. The programme was well attended by members and their family.

Seminar on ‘Nari Uttaran Ki Pragatir Pathey’

Pragati organized a seminar on ‘Nari Uttaran Ki Pragatir Pathey’ on Wednesday, the 1st August 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the premises of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Smt. Rama Sengupta, Chairperson, Tagore Centre, U.K. & Member, Central Board of Film Certification and Dr. Rima Mukherjee, Consultant Psychiatrist addressed the seminar as Guest Speaker.

Shri Tejomoy Roychowdhury, President, Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry gave the keynote address. Smt. Sarmila Bose, President, Pragati presided over the meeting and gave the welcome address. Smt. Shitorupa, Senior Vice-President of Pragati proposed the vote of thanks.

Annual General Meeting of Pragati

The 25th Annual General Meeting of Pragati was held on Thursday, the 4th October 2012 at 11:30 a.m. at the premises of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Smt. Agnimitra Paul, noted fashion designer and Smt. Sudeshna Roy, eminent media personality were present as the Guests-Of-Honour of the occasion. Shri Dibyendu Basu, Senior Vice-President, Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry addressed the session as the Special Guest. Many renowned dignitaries and members of the Chamber as well as NGOs attended the Annual General Meeting.

At the outset, Smt. Sarmila Bose, President, Pragati welcomed the guests and members present at the meeting. She delivered a brief overview of the
activities and also the future programmes of Pragati. Shri Dibyendu Basu praised Pragati for doing commendable work in the sphere of socio-economic upliftment of the weaker section of the society, particularly of the women. He also promised to extend all sorts of help and cooperation to Pragati in properly organizing the future programmes.

Smt. Agnimitra Paul, renowned fashion designer extended thanks to Pragati for inviting her in such an August gathering. She appreciated Pragati for actively involved in entrepreneurship development training and guidance to women in taking up self-employment as their career. She also shared her experience, to become a successful fashion designer in Mumbai and Kolkata.

Smt. Sudeshna Roy, an eminent media personality sketched the transition of women from past to present times through her different writings & cinema. She said that there are many women who are confined in their household activities inspite of having much talent and skill. She also mentioned that everybody should try to be self-independent. She observed that immense talent of women lying unutilized and under-utilized in the state which be properly utilized. She felt that education is the only way through which women can be drawn from their shell of shyness. Smt. Shatorupa, Sr. Vice-President, Pragati through which women can be drawn from their shell of shyness. Smt. Shatorupa, Sr. Vice-President, Pragati addressed the seminar as the Panel Speakers. Dr. Srila Roy, Lecturer in Sociology, University of Hyderabad,how the women are confined in their household activities inspite of having much talent and skill. She also mentioned that everybody should try to be self-independent. She observed that immense talent of women lying unutilized and under-utilized in the state which be properly utilized. She felt that education is the only way through which women can be drawn from their shell of shyness. Smt. Shatorupa, Sr. Vice-President, Pragati addressed the seminar as the Panel Speakers.

In the Business Session, Smt. Shatorupa (M/s. E.C. Bose Co. Private Ltd.) was elected as the President for the year 2012-2013. Smt. Sharmila Sur (M/s. Sur Industries Pvt. Ltd.) and Smt. Swati Sen (M/s. Technicon Services) were elected as the Vice-Presidents for the year 2012-2013. Smt. Debjani Mukherjee (M/s. Process Educare Institute (P) Ltd.) was elected as the Honorary Treasurer.

Participation in the IITF 2012

Pragati participated in the 25th Industrial India Trade Fair in a successful manner and set up a pavilion exclusively for women entrepreneurs. The pavilion covered an area of 100 square metres in the commercial area where the participants could display and Smt. Pallavi Chatterjee, the renowned film actress inaugurated the pavilion.

The participants at the Pragati pavilion included women entrepreneurs from a cross-section of industries including handmade soaps, fabric, decorative candles, jute items, food products- mushrooms, pickles, mouth freshener, leather products, water filters & purifier, jewellery etc. The participants of Pragati made brisk business.

Seminar on ‘Women Entrepreneurs’

Pragati organized a Seminar on ‘Women Entrepreneurs’ jointly with 25th Industrial India Trade Fair Committee on Tuesday, the 6th November 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the Trade Fair Auditorium.

Smt. Rita Bhimani, PR exponent; Smt. Pallavi Chatterjee, film actress, producer & proprietor; DMAX Entertainment and Smt. Jolly Chanda, Proprietor; Satin Rose addressed the seminar as the Panel Speakers.

Shri Amit Sen, President, Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Shri S.K. Ghosh, Chairman, 25th Industrial India Trade Fair Committee addressed the Seminar. Smt. Shatorupa, President, Pragati presided over the seminar and gave the welcome address, Smt. Sharmila Sur, Vice President of Pragati proposed the hearty Vote of Thanks.

International Women’s Day Celebration

Pragati celebrated the International Women’s Day on the topic ‘Is a Woman still not Human?’ on Friday, the 8th March 2013 at 11.30 a.m. at the premises of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Dr. Srima Roy, Lecturer in Sociology, University of Nottingham; Ms. Gargi Dasgupta, Clinical Psychologist, Medical College & Hospital and Ms. Leena Panja, Advocate, Calcutta High Court addressed the seminar as the Panel Speakers. Shri Amit Sen, President, Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry gave the keynote address. Smt. Shatorupa, President, Pragati presided over the seminar and gave the welcome address, Smt. Sharmila Sur, Vice President of Pragati proposed the hearty Vote of Thanks. Shri. Koity Roy, Executive Committee Member, Pragati coordinated the seminar as the Moderator.

Programme for 10 Days Vocational Training Course on Making Soft-Toys at Samaritan Help Mission, Howrah

Pragati organized a 10 Days Vocational Training Course on Making Soft Toys at Samaritan Help Mission, Bankra, Howrah. 36 women from underprivileged background joined the course. The inauguration of the course was held on 4th September 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the premises of Samaritan Help Mission, Bankra, Howrah. The Valedictory session held on Thursday, 4th October 2012 at Chamber’s premises. Smt Agnimitra Paul, renowned Fashion Designer distributed the certificates of participation to the students of soft-toys course. The soft toys made by the students in the course were displayed for sale in the 25 IITF.

Entrepreneurship Development Programme

Unemployment is one of the pressing problems in our country and the only solution lies in the generation of more and more employment through the self-employment schemes. For this, Pragati is regularly organizing Entrepreneurship Development Programme only for prospective women entrepreneur since 1999.

Self-Employment of two groups of women engaged in urea free muri making and mushroom cultivation on the basis of Micro-Credit System at Harinavi, South 24 Parganas.

Pragati jointly with M Manikpur Chaitali Sangha, Hampi, North 24 Parganas had undertaken a project of generating self employment of twenty women through micro credit system. Twenty women of self-help groups are granted an interest free loan for one year. The women are either involved in mushroom cultivation or in Urea Free Muri production.

Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme on ‘Small Business Creation and Opportunities’

Pragati jointly with Enterprise Development Institute organized an Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme on ‘Small Business Creation and Opportunities’ on Thursday, the 17th & Friday, the 18th January 2013 at the BNCCCI premises.

The objectives of the Orientation Workshop were to motivate the participants towards entrepreneurship; to make them aware of the formalities for starting an enterprise; to guide them about small business opportunities in Food Processing, Agri-Business and Travel & Tourism and to give them some knowledge about incentives/subsidies available with Governments including Government sponsored Loan Assistance Scheme like PM EGDP, BSKP, SJRY, etc.

The Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme was inaugurated by Shri Armit Kumar Sen, President, Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Smt. Shatorupa, President, Pragati presided over the programme and gave the welcome speech.

The details of the sessions and the faculty details of the first day 17th January 2013 were as follows:
The last part of the session was a panel discussion on ‘Sharing Experience with Successful Entrepreneurs’. The panelists were Smt. Rupa Dasgupta, exporter of silk items, an EDI-Trained Entrepreneur; Smt. Babita Banerjee, jute and leather products manufacturer, an EDI-Trained Entrepreneur and Smt. Mousumi Biswas, manufacturer and exporter of decorative candle, chocolates and gift items & Guest Trainer, EDI.

The Orientation Workshop concluded with a final interaction with the participants and collection of a feedback form from each of them. Forty three participants from different NGOs including Budge Budge Nari Kalyan Samity, South 24 Parganas, EKTP, IASA Infotech, Hope Kolkata Foundation, SYSEC, Annapurna, Harinavi Srijan and HIVE India participated in the workshop.

Handicraft Training Programme

Pragati conducted a Vocational Training Class at Nabannir, Chetla, where the girls are trained professionally to make skilfully handicraft items like beaded cord-bags, laundry bags, aprons, cushion covers, mats etc. The students had enthusiastically participated in a number of fairs and were able to make good sale. They also participated in the Pragati Pavilion at the 25th Industrial India Trade Fair organized by the Chamber.

Handicraft Training Programme

Pragati conducted a Vocational Training Class at Nabannir, Chetla, where the girls are trained professionally to make skilfully handicraft items like beaded cord-bags, laundry bags, aprons, cushion covers, mats etc. The students had enthusiastically participated in a number of fairs and were able to make good sale. They also participated in the Pragati Pavilion at the 25th Industrial India Trade Fair organized by the Chamber.

Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Programme (ESDP)

EDI conducted 6 Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Training programmes (ESDP) with Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IE), Guwahati. These programmes were sponsored by Min of MSME, Govt. of India, training periods are ranging from 5 to 6 weeks.

Shri M.N. Pradhan, IAS, Director, State Urban Development Agency, Govt. of West Bengal inaugurated 3 ESDPs in Food Processing, Tour Operator & Fashion Designing at a function held on 27th September, 2012 at EDI premises. Shri S.K. Ghosh, Chairman, EDI and Shri Sandip Sen, Vice-Chairman, EDI were also present in the Programme. Prof. (Dr.) Gautam Dutta, Programme Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata, Shri Dilip Dhal, General Manager, DIC, North 24 Parganas also spoke on this occasion. 94 trainees completed these training programmes.

Shri Gautam Das, General Manager, DIC inaugurated a 3-month Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Training in Computer Hardware Repairing & Maintenance on 18th December, 2012. Shri Sandip Sen, Vice-Chairman, EDI, Shri Ajit Kr. Shil, Chief Manager, SBI and Shri M.N. Malty, Dy. Director, EDI addressed the participants. The programme was held in newly established Computer Lab at the EDI premises. 33 candidates completed the training.

Shri P.C. Banerjee, AGM (Training), SBI Learning Centre inaugurated a 4-week programme in ‘Training of Trainers’ (TOT) on 18th December 2012. Shri S.K. Ghosh, Chairman, EDI and Dr. G.P. Sarkar, Hony. Treasurer, EDI were present. 30 candidates completed the training.

Second ESDP in Training of Trainers (TOT) was inaugurated on 4th February, 2013.

Six-week Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) for Science & Technology Persons

EDI conducted 3 EDPs for Science & Technology persons in Kolkata, Chinsurah in Hooghly district and Behala in South 24 Paraganas district. These programmes were sponsored by the Deptt. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India.

Sri Sushim Banerjee, Director General, Institute for Steel Development & Growth inaugurated the EDP on 15th January, 2013. Shri Sandip Sen, Vice-Chairman, EDI presided over the Programme. 21 candidates had successfully undergone the training. Plant visits were arranged in Behala Industrial Estate and an Electronic Panel manufacturing unit at Thakurpukur run by an EDI-trained entrepreneur.

EDI in South 24 Paraganas was inaugurated by Dr. Sunit Kumar Mukherjee, Chairman, Technical Advisory Committee, Department of Food Processing Industries, Govt. of West Bengal on 21st January 2013 at the premises of Indian Plastic Institute, Behala. Shri S.N. Nundy, Former President, BNCCI presided over the function. Shri Aloke Ghosh, Former Chairman, Indian Plastic Institute and Shri PK. Chakraborty, President, Behala Industrial Estate Entrepreneurs’ Association were present. 20 trainees completed the training. Shri M.N. Malty, Dy. Director, EDI, proposed vote of thanks.

EDI in Hooghly was inaugurated by Shri S. Paramanik, General Manager, DIC-Hooghly on 5th February, 2012 at Chinsurah. Shri M.N. Malty, Dy. Director, EDI presided over the function & delivered welcome address. 21 trainees completed the training. The participants visited M/s. S. N. Beverages, M/s. Swaraswati Engineering Works Pvt. Ltd. and Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vidyasala for practical exposure.

Three-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp (EAC)

EDI organised 6 EAC in 2012-13 in some Engineering and Science Colleges and Management Institutes. The Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India sponsored such programmes. Objective of EAC is to make the students aware about the scope of putting up business projects.
The students visited units like M/s. SAS Aerotechnik Pvt. Enterprise and Smt. Shakuntala Sen, Faculty of CIEM. Faculty, EDI, Shri T.P. Ghosh, Manager, DIC-South 24-Director, EDI; Prof. Ashok Kr. Banerjee, Shri Santanu Estate. Classes were conducted by Shri M.N. Maity, Dy. Management and Engineering students participated. Secretary, CIEM Society spoke on this occasion. 74 Haque, President, CIEM Society, Shri Goutam Banerjee, Chairman, Board of Governors, CIEM; Shri Azizul delivered welcome address. Dr. N.R. Banerjea., CIEM Campus. Shri Sandip Sen, Vice-Chairman, EDI were present. 19 February, 2013. Shri S.K. Ghosh, Chairman, EDI presided over the meeting. 20 participants, mostly MSME entrepreneurs attended the workshop. Shri Sandip Sen, Vice-Chairman, EDI and Shri Ajit Kumar Shill, Chief Manager, SB and Dr. Dhurba Ranjan Dandapad, Dept. of Commerce, University of Calcutta spoke on the occasion. Mr. M.N. Maity, Dy. Director EDI offered formal Vote of Thanks.

vi) Two-Days Workshop on “Managing Finance for MSME Enterprises” with SBI Learning Centre

EDI organised this workshop jointly with the SBI Learning Centre at EDI premises on 18th & 19th December 2012. 20 participants, mostly MSME entrepreneurs attended the workshop. Shri S.K. Ghosh, Chairman, EDI and Shri Ajit Kumar Shill, Chief Manager, SB and Dr. Dhurba Ranjan Dandapad, Dept. of Commerce, University of Calcutta spoke on the occasion. Mr. M.N. Maity, Dy. Director EDI offered formal Vote of Thanks.

vii) Valediction of Four-Month Certificate Course in Small Business Development & Management

It was held on 7th August, 2012 at the Institute’s premises. Shri M.N. Maity, Dy. Director, EDI presided over the meeting. Mr. Shahid Alam, WBCS (Exe), General Manager, West Bengal Minorities Development & Finance Corporation, Mr. G.A. Khan,
HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES OF ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (EDI) DURING 2012-13 (Contd.)

xii) Four-Month Certificate Course in Entrepreneurship Development & Small Business Management (EDSBM) for Retiring Defence Personnel (October, 2012 session):

This course was conducted jointly with NSOU and Directorate General Resettlement, Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India. 44 retiring defence personnel from Army, Navy and Air Force joined in this course. Inaugural Session was organized on 8th October, 2012. Shri Sandip Sen, Vice-Chairman, EDI, Group Captain Soumitra Mukhopadhyay, Jt. Director (Zone-East), Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India, Dr. Anil Kumar Ghosh, In-Charge, Non- Conventional Courses, NSOU, Prof. (Dr.) Prabal Kumar Majumder, HOD, Dept. of Textile & Engineering, Govt. College of Textile & Engineering, Serampore and Shri D.P. Nag, Hon. Secretary, Enterprise Development Institute were present in the meeting.

xvi) Six-week Export-Import Programme (18th batch)

Export-Import Management Course was started by the EDI on 24th April, 2012.

xvii) Valedictory Function of EDP on Food Processing Industries at Chakdaha, Nadia

Valedictory Function of the programme was held on 2nd April, 2012 at Mayatree Bhavan, Chakdaha. Shri M. N. Malty, Dy. Secretary, BNCCI and Dy. Director, EDI went to China in June 2012 to attend a 3-week training programme for International Chamber of Commerce organised by China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). He also attended the meeting of China South Asia Business Forum (C-SABF). During his stay in China, he visited some SME Units, International Trade Fair Complex and interacted with senior Officials of Government organizations, Chamber of Commerce, SME Associations, Export-Import organizations etc.

xx) Workshop on “Strengthening Entrepreneurship Spirit in Bengal”

Prof. Partha Ghosh, Chairperson, The Boston Pledge-USA delivered a highly motivating speech on ‘Strengthening Entrepreneurship Spirit in Bengal’ on 20th May, 2012. Prof. Ghosh explained about several steps of writing a good business plan and invited the participants to take part in the 50K ESP Business Plan Contest-2012 being organised by The Boston Pledge, EDI and BNCCI.

Award Distribution Ceremony of ESP 2012 50K Business Plan Contest-2012. It was held on 10th December 2012 at the BNCCI premises. Dr. Aatish Aftab,
xxi) Workshop on ‘Stress Management’
EDI organised one-day workshop on ‘Stress Management’ on 9th February, 2012 for the officials of NHDC Ltd at their premises.

xxii) EDI- Trained Entrepreneurs in 25th IITF at Science City Fair ground
About 25 successful entrepreneurs of EDI participated in the 25th Industrial India Trade Fair conducted by BNCCI.

Visit to Srilanka:
A fifteen member delegation departed from Chamber to visit Colombo, Kandy and Bentota in Srilanka. They stayed there for a week. They visited Ayurveda Expo 2013. A MOU was signed with the National Chamber of Commerce. The members of the delegation also met the Hon’ble Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Website of the Chamber:
The website of the Chamber was redesigned and the new revamped website hosted as www.bncci.com.

Resource Partner:
Food Processing Standing Committee of the Chamber has been selected as the resource partner of the Department of Food Processing and Horticulture, Government of West Bengal for one year effective from September 16, 2013.

During the year under review the Committee paid the following subscriptions to the undernoted institutions:

- Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry - Rs.16,854/-
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry - Rs.8,427/-
- Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management - Rs.5000/-
- State Productivity Council West Bengal - Rs.1500/-

Receipts of Books and Publications
In conclusion the Executive Committee of the Chamber takes opportunity of extending their cordial thanks to various Government Departments both Central and States, Chambers of Commerce and Associations, both in India and abroad, Consul and Trade Commissioners of various countries, editors of journals and periodicals and publishers, both Indian and Foreign. Members of Chamber of Commerce and Affiliated Bodies, for sending from time to time to the office of the Chamber a large number of books, Journals and Periodicals which have proved very interesting and useful to the members of the Chamber.

Amit Sen
President
D.P. Nag
Secretary
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Rai Buddree Das</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Shri Chandi Lal Singh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Shri Jugger Nath Khunnum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Shri Chandi Lal Singh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Shri Dhanput Singh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Shri Joy Gobinda Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Shri Joy Gobinda Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Shri Joy Gobinda Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Shri Joy Gobinda Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Shri Sew Bux Bagla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Raja Reshecase Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Shri Nalini Ranjan Sarkar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>Shri Hari Sankar Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Dr. N. N. Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Shri A. C. Sen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Shri J. K. Mitler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Shri I. B. Sen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Dr. S. B. Dutt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Shri D. N. Sen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Shri K. Basu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Dr. N. N. Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Shri P. Mukherjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Shri G. Basu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Shri P. N. Talukdar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Shri S. P. Sen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Shri D. N. Bhattacharjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Shri S. C. Gupta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Shri K. N. Bhattacharjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Shri S. K. Gupta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Shri S. K. Mukherjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Shri S. K. Roy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Shri M. M. Sur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Shri S. C. Nawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Shri B. K. Dutt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Shri Asoke Kumar Sarkar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Dr. B. N. Ghose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Shri S. B. Dutt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Shri T. P. Chakravarti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Shri G. Saha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Shri Milan Sen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Shri T. D. Chatterjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Shri Amilava Pal Choudhuri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Dr. Somendri Chandra Nandy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Shri D. M. Somany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Shri H. N. Dutt Gupta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Shri P. C. Chanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Shri Amal P. Sur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Shri J. N. Biswas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Shri R. K. M. Aujumdar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Shri B. N. Bhattacharjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Shri Subimal Ghosh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Shri A. K. Chandra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Shri D. K. Roy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Shri Sukumar Bhattacharya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Shri H. Chakravarty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Shri S. K. Ghosh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Shri Deb Sandhan Bose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Shri Vikram Somany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Shri S. P. Sah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Shri Dipankar Dutta Gupta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Shri Bhaskar Sen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Shri S. K. Chakraborty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Shri S. N. Nundy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Since deceased