



Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry

CIN:U91110WB1940NPL010249

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DIRECTORS REPORT

For the year ended 31st March 2019

3rd December, 2020

Dear Sir(s)/Madam(s)

Your Directors have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report together with the Audited Statement of Accounts of your Chamber for the Year ended March 31, 2020.

1. FINANCIAL RESULTS:

The Chamber's financial performance, for the year ended March 31, 2020:

(Rs in Lacs)

Particulars	Year ended 31 st March 2020	Year ended 31 st March 2019
Gross Revenue from Operations	88.70	96.58
Other Income	63.09	86.45
Total Revenues	151.79	183.03
Total Expenditure	138.45	135.23
Depreciation	6.93	3.32
Surplus for the Year	6.41	44.48
Net Surplus for the Year	6.41	44.48

It is relevant to note here that because of covid lockdown the chamber could not raise subscription bills to its members for the financial year 2020-2021. The relevant amount will be collectable after bills will be raised in the current financial year. The amount receivable relating to same is approximately more than Rs 30.00 lakhs. Taking same into account the board of directors take pleasure in announcing that the healthy growth of chamber has been sustained in the current year also.

2. ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAMBER DURING THE YEAR :

Your Directors are attaching herewith the details of the activities undertaken by the chamber during the year Financial Year 2019-2020 , which is provided in Annexure – 1 to this report.

3. MEETINGS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sixteen Board Meetings were held during the Financial Year ended March 31, 2020

The names of members of the Board, their attendance at the Board Meetings are as under:

Name of Directors	Number of Meetings attended / Total Meetings held during the F.Y. 2019-2020
Dr. Arpan Mitra	13/16
Mr. Alope Sarkar	07/16
Mr. Amit Sarkar	06/16
Mr. Ananda Mohan Roy	16/16
Mr. Anup Saha	10/16
Mr. Ashok Kumar Banik	15/16
Mr. Balaram Kundu	10/16
Mr. Debajyoti Datta	07/16
Mr. Debarshi Duttagupta	01/16
Mr. Ashis Nundy	03/16
Mr. Madan Mohan Maity	11/16
Mr. Nil Ratan Datta	00/16
Mr. Niladri Bhattacharjee	01/16
Mr. Prithwish Biswas	07/16
Mr. Purnendu Roychowdhury	00/16
Mr. Rai Chand Surana	09/16
Mr. Rajendra Prasad Srivastava	13/16
Mr. Ranodip Dutt	16/16
Mr. Ritwik Das	16/16
Mr. Saikat Biswas	15/16
Mr. Satyam Roychowdhury	04/16
Mr. Somnath Bhar	15/16
Mr. Subhasis Das	07/16
Mr. Subrata De	11/16
Mr. Sujit Chakraborty	11/16
Mr. Suvro Chandra	02/16
Mr. Vidisha Basu	08/16
Ms. Raka Sen	00/16
Ms. Sharmistha Bhattacharjee	02/16

4. DETAILS OF FRAUD REPORT BY AUDITOR:

As per auditors' report, no fraud u/s 143(12) reported by the auditor.

5. AUDITOR

Statutory Auditors

The Auditors, M/s Gupta & Mitra, Chartered Accountants, (Firm Registration No. 301037E), hold office until the conclusion of the 133rd Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-appointment.

6. BOARD'S COMMENT ON THE AUDITORS' REPORT

The observations of the Statutory Auditors, when read together with the relevant notes to the accounts and accounting policies are self-explanatory and do not call for any further comment.

7. PARTICULARS OF LOANS, GUARANTEES OR INVESTMENTS UNDER SECTION 186 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013

The Chamber has no Loans, Guarantees or Investments that are covered by Section 186 of the Companies Act, 2013

8. CONTRACTS AND ARRANGEMENTS WITH RELATED PARTIES

- a. M/s Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry had placed an order for a work being the Interior Decoration Work of their lounge at the BNCCI premises situated at 23 R.N Mukherjee Road, Kolkata 700 001. The work was executed by one M/s Wellcraft Interiors, a partnership firm having PAN No - AACFW6338B at a value of Rs. 34,00,000/- Plus GST. The selection of the vendor was undertaken through a closed tender process. The said job was executed by the firm during the financial year 2019-20.
- b. However sometime in June'2020, the Board received some information regarding the firm M/s Wellcraft Interiors and a possible connection with two of its Directors and a member.
- c. Based on an internal verifications, the Board felt the need to investigate further into the matter of related party transactions vis-à-vis the firm M/s Wellcraft Interiors and 2 of its Directors and one ordinary member of the chamber.

- d. It is also placed on record that in none of the Board Meetings held since April' 2019, the Board had received any information or notice from any of its Directors regarding any interest of any Director in any Contract to be entered/entered into by the Chamber.
- e. After initial deliberations , the Board had on 27th July 2020, appointed an independent firm of Chartered Accountants to look into the details of the contract entered into by the chamber with M/s Wellcraft Interiors with regard to the possible Related Party Interest between the firm and two of the Directors and one ordinary member of the Chamber.
- f. The Firm after communications and scrutiny of all available information specially those available in Public Domain and other areas submitted its report which noted the following:-
 - i. In terms of our scrutiny and investigation and as detailed in this report, it is reasonably established that M/s Wellcraft Interiors, the firm executing the contract is a Partnership Firm with three partners being Mrs. Runa Dutt, Mrs Paumilee Das and Mrs Payel Dutt.
 - ii. The Registered office of the Chamber is the same as the Residential address of one of the Directors of M/s. BNCCI - Mr. Ranodip Dutt.
 - iii. The individual partners of the Firm are the spouses of the Directors/Member of BNCCI, as stated below:-
 - Mrs Runa Dutt - Spouse of Mr. Ranodip Dutt (Director)
 - Mrs Paumilee Das - Spouse of Mr. Subhasis Das (Director)
 - Mrs Payel Dutt - Spouse of Mr. Chirodeep Dutt (Member)
 - iv. In terms of the Companies Act, 2013, such related party transactions required prior disclosures and have very detailed provisions regarding the same.
 - v. It has been observed that none of the concerned Directors, as above, have provided any disclosure as required by law, thereby contravening Sec 184 and Sec 188 of the Companies Act, 2013 and provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Chamber.
 - vi. The penalties arising out of the contravention of the provisions of Sec 184 & Sec188 have detailed earlier in this report and such consequences shall duly flow due to the violations that have been committed by the concerned persons.
- g. The Board has taken the above report on record in its Meeting and is exploring various legal options to take appropriate and corrective action for reporting

such violations to the appropriate statutory authorities and also ensure that all other statutory compliances in terms of the above defect is complied with.

The Board also notes that other than the above, there have been no other contracts or arrangements where any Director has disclosed any Interest.

9. MATERIAL CHANGES AND COMMITMENTS

- a. Impact of Covid 19 in respect of Chamber Operations: In the last month of FY 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic developed rapidly into a global crisis, forcing governments to enforce lock-downs of all economic activity. For the Chamber, the focus immediately shifted to ensuring the health and well-being of all employees, and on minimizing disruption to services for all our customers globally.

10. CONSERVATION OF ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY ABSORPTION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS & OUTGO:

A. Conservation of Energy, Technology Absorption

The particulars as required under the provisions of Section 134(3) (m) of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of conservation of energy and technology absorption have not been furnished considering the nature of activities undertaken by the Chamber during the year under review.

B. Foreign Exchange earnings and Outgo

Earnings	NIL
Outgo	NIL

11. RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The Chamber's Board of Directors are committed to the implementation and maintenance of a "Risk and Compliance Management System", which ensures compliance with all national and state legislation, regulations, Codes of Conduct and other Group Compliance Policies that are applicable to the operations and governance of Chamber and its activities. Towards this end it has devised a "Risk Management & Compliance Policy" which sets out the Compliance Framework required to achieve the highest standards of diligence in meeting its legal obligations and in the promotion of a "Compliance Culture".

12. DETAILS OF SIGNIFICANT AND MATERIAL ORDERS PASSED BY THE REGULATORS, COURTS AND TRIBUNALS

No significant and material order has been passed by the regulators, courts, tribunals impacting the going concern status and Chamber's operations in future.

13. DISCLOSURE UNDER THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) ACT, 2013

The Directors are in the process of putting in place the necessary sub-committee in relation to the SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) ACT, 2013. The Sub-Committee would also lay down the various rules and regulations and other applicable laws relating to the Guidelines and the manner of implementing the provisions of this Act.

14. DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to Section 134(3) (c) of the Companies Act, 2013 the Board of Directors of the Chamber confirms that-

- a. In the preparation of the annual accounts for the year ended March 31, 2020, the applicable accounting standards read with requirements set out under Schedule III to the Act, have been followed and there are no material departures from the same.
- b. The Directors have selected such accounting policies and applied them consistently and made judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Chamber as at March 31, 2020 and of the Surplus of the Chamber for the year ended on that date.
- c. The Directors have taken proper and sufficient care for the maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the Act for safeguarding the assets of the Chamber and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.
- d. The Directors have prepared the annual accounts on a 'going concern' basis.
- e. The Chamber being unlisted, sub clause (e) of section 134(3) of the Companies Act, 2013 pertaining to laying down internal financial controls is not applicable to the Chamber.

- f. The Directors have devised proper systems to ensure compliance with the provisions of all applicable laws and that such system are adequate and operating effectively

15. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Your Directors would like to express their sincere appreciation for the assistance and co-operation received from the banks, Government authorities, vendors and members during the year under review. Your Directors also wish to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the committed services by the Chamber's executives, staff and workers.

For and on the behalf of the Executive Committee

Aspan Mitra

President



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Honorary Treasurer

ANNEXURE – 1

Activities of the Chamber during the Financial Year 2019-20

Your Directors are giving below the various celebrations /programmes organised and initiatives taken by the Committee during this period are chronologically mentioned :

1. The Chamber in association with Times of India organized the **32nd Industrial India Trade Fair (IITF)** during 21st December 2019 to 1st January 2020 at Park Circus Maidan, Kolkata. The event was well received by all participants. The **Inauguration** was held on 21st December 2019 at Park Circus Maidan, Kolkata in the gracious presence of **Shri Subrata Mukherjee**, Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Departments of Panchayat & Rural Development and Public Health Engineering, Government of West Bengal; **Shri Goutam Deb**, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Tourism, Government of West Bengal; **H.E. Ms. Stella Budiriganya**, Ambassador, Burundian Embassy in New Delhi, India; **Mr. Masayuki Taga**, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata; **Shri Debasish Kumar**, MMIC, Parks & Gardens, The Kolkata Municipal Corporation; **Mr. Zha Liyou**, Consul General, Chinese Consulate-General in Kolkata (India) and **Miss Venus Asawapoom**, Consul-Economic Affairs, The Royal Thai Consulate General and others.
2. The Committee celebrated the **133** year of **Foundation of the Chamber** on **2nd February 2020** in the presence of **Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal** as the **Chief Guest** and a special cover from the Department of Posts was released on this occasion followed by a sit down dinner with the Highness.
3. The 73rd Independence Day was celebrated with usual grandeur.
4. In addition the Chamber organised various **Seminars/Workshops/ Sessions with Dignitaries** which is given below in chronological order:-
 - a. Interactive Session on 'Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere' on 26th April 2019
 - b. Interactive Meeting on 'Ease of doing Business with latest Amendments in Companies Act' on 29th April 2019
 - c. Events on Energy and Solar Rooftop on 11th May 2019
 - d. One-day session on 'Thailand –India Business Matching and Networking' organized jointly with Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy, New Delhi and Department of International Trade Promotions, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand on 14th May 2019
 - e. Seminar on 'Foreign Exchange Risk Management using Real Time Information Terminal' on 29th May 2019
 - f. Seminar on 'Air Pollution on World Environment Day' on 5th June 2019
 - g. Central Budget Symposium on 6th July 2019
 - h. Education & Skill Conclave: Theme 'Technological transformation – Changing Road-map for Higher Education & Skill organized in association with Sister Nivedita University on 25th July 2019
 - i. Meeting on 'Unleashing Potential of Food Processing and Dairy Sectors in West Bengal' on 30th July 2019
 - j. Session on 'ESIC Its benefit and advantages' on 27th August, 2019

- k. Awareness Programme on 'Support for Entrepreneurial & Managerial Development of SMEs' organised by MSME Development Institute in association with BNCCI
 - l. Session on 'Boosting up the Economy -Recent Initiatives Taken by the Government' on 9th September 2019
 - m. Meeting with ICCEM St. Xavier's College, Kolkata on 13th September, 2019
 - n. Session on 'Experience Bengal -the Sweetest Part of India' on 19th September 2019
 - o. 'Legal and MSME Awareness Camp' on 21st September, 2019
 - p. 'Meet and Greet' Event with Media on 27th September 2019
 - q. Interactive session on 'Trade and Tourism with Japan' on 18th October 2019
 - r. Special Vendors Development Program with SC-ST Entrepreneurs organised by NSIC in association with BNCCI on 19th November, 2019
 - s. Introductory Session with the Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Honourable Governor of West Bengal on 7th December, 2019
5. The Committee had meetings with different Ministers and High Officials of the Government including:
- 1. Union Sports Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju on 5th September, 2019
 - 2. Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman on 6th September, 2019
6. The Committee of the Chamber visited the foreign counterparts to enhance bilateral ties and to expand business opportunities of the members.
- a. BNCCI Delegation to Second China South Asia Cooperation Forum at Kunming, China during 10th and 11th June 2019.
 - b. 18 Members BNCCI Business Delegation participated 'Business Opportunities and Trade Exchange between Bengal and Thailand' Summit at Bangkok, Thailand on 9th August 2019
7. The Skill Development Initiation Meetings conducted by the Committee jointly with National Skill Development Corporation in different district chambers of commerce for skilling the local youths in different districts of the State
- a. Bengal Suburban Chamber of Commerce & Industry and local trade bodies on 10th June 2019
 - b. Bankura Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, 15th June 2019 at Barjora Industrial Area, Bankura
 - c. Bengal Suburban Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Ankit Educational & Social Welfare Society on 27th June 2019 at Bidhannagar, Durgapur-713212
 - d. Mallarpur Noisuva, Birbhum on 19th July 2019
 - e. Nanoor Babosayee Kalyan Samity, Birbhum on 20th July 2019

8. Pragati

During the year under review, Pragati, Ladies Wing of the Chamber organized several seminars, workshops and programmes for the welfare of women as well as physically challenged people. The Executive Committee of Pragati conducted 13 Committee Meetings. Some of programmes during this period were interactive session on 'Generation Equality' on the occasion of the International Women's Day; a six months 'Tailoring Course' at Nabanir, the Vocational Training Centre of Pragati with 12 women from underprivileged section of the society as trainees; an 'Ananda Sandya' to celebrate Rabindra Jayanti