



Newsletter



Look East

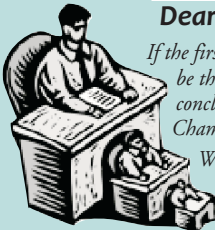
VOL 8 | No. 4

April, 2012

from the desk of the PRESIDENT

7 April 2012

Dear Member,



If the first month of the new Financial Year can be taken to be the harbinger for the rest of the year, then we can safely conclude that 2012-2013 would be as busy as ever for the Chamber.

We began the year on a very positive note with an interactive session with Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Finance Minister of India on 1st April 2012. The Hon'ble Finance Minister spent an hour in the

Chamber speaking about the economic logic, theory and compulsions behind the Union Budget and the overall economic scenario in the country. He also interacted with the 200 plus strong audience. It was indeed a very special programme for the Chamber more so since Shri Pranab Mukherjee not only spoke extempore, but also spoke in-depth and enlightened the Chamber's members and invitees with his vast knowledge on the subject while reacting to questions.

The Chamber has organized many other programmes during the course of the month and hosted meetings with overseas dignitaries as well as with an IFC team from Washington, D.C., all in keeping with our overall focus on promoting trade and investment in the State. The Chamber has also commented extensively on the Union and State Budgets, which were presented in March 2012 and our Post (Union) Budget Memorandum has also been presented to the Hon'ble Finance Minister during his session with us.

While on the subject of budgets, let me bring to you our observations on the first full-fledged Budget of the newly elected Government of West Bengal. The Bengal Chamber understands the huge financial constraints and the socio-economic compulsions of the State Government in the backdrop of which the Finance Minister of West Bengal presented the Budget. In this light, the Chamber lauds Shri Amit Mitra for presenting his maiden pragmatic Budget under challenging financial conditions. However, the Chamber expects he will be able to overcome the State's financial crisis by meeting FRBM targets while shoring up revenues by bringing in pending industrial investments worth Rs 81000 crore and find ways for capital expenditure.

Alongside increasing the Budget Estimate by 11.56 percent, he has also made efforts to perk up revenues through additional resource mobilization and yet not impact the common man. It would obviously help him on a fiscal consolidation by containing fiscal and revenue deficits. His efforts on financial inclusion supplementing development of agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, infrastructure, employment generation and skill and backward areas development are also noteworthy and deserve praise. Shri Mitra has also simplified tax procedures to a large extent by introducing e-Sahaj forms and for a better tax compliance from the trading and business community. Yet, there has been considerable debate over the inclusion of Entry Tax and the possible rise in prices. We fully appreciate the circumstances, which has prompted the Government to announce this tax. However, we must also air our apprehensions on the immense procedural delay this can bring about on goods movement across borders (with trucks being held up over days at times), which will result in prolonging the supply chain and ultimately result in cost and price increases. Moreover, previous experience suggests that the collection of such tax also breeds corruption and bribery. The procedure itself is cumbersome and complicated and the Government should ensure against such negativities.

The newsletter's Programmes section charts out the programmes held and those upcoming. A glance through this section would reveal our eclectic mix of events and that the coming month will present you with a wide variety of programmes and activities. We look forward to your active participation in these programmes.

Sd/-
HARSH K JHA
President

MEMBERS' NEWS CORNER

Welcome to the Bengal Chamber family! That's what we would like to convey to Infinity Knowledge Ventures Pvt. Ltd. and Structural Design Consortium whose applications for membership were tabled and approved by the Managing Committee at its meeting on 14th March 2012.

PROGRAMMES

7TH MARCH 2012,
TEA LAWN, THE TOLLYGUNGE CLUB,
KOLKATA

"NAHI SAMANNYA NARI": A MEMORABLE EVENING
IN AID OF SPECIAL GIRL CHILDREN ON
THE EVE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with Tollygunge Club and Maitrayee Ray Associates, organized "Nahi Samannya Nari" on the eve of International Women's Day, 7th March 2012 from 7.00 pm in Tollygunge Club. It was a musical evening in aid of special girl children. The programme was organized on the eve of International Women's Day to celebrate the achievements of women in the society. It was a unique endeavour of The Bengal Chamber, which felicitated specially-abled children for their achievements. They were extended scholarships to pursue their education and performing arts. The programme provided them the platform to showcase their talent along with other artists.

Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber gave his welcome speech encouraging the children to perform and thanked the sponsors and associates for their support. Mr. Harsh K Jha, President, The Bengal Chamber and MD, Tata Metaliks Ltd congratulated all the participants for their performance. Mr. P.S. Bhattacharyya, Sr. Vice President, The Bengal Chamber, and MD, Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd remarked that we should always try and help the person who needs it. Mr. Kallol Dutta, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber, Chairman and MD of Andrew Yule & Co Ltd, handed over the certificates to the performers from Mahaver Seva Sadan.

The event also witnessed the coming together of the Bengal Chamber and Anant Education Initiative, which intends to promote and reach higher education to deserving students by offering merit scholarships to a large number of students from the economically weaker sections of the society irrespective of any caste, creed or race. The Bengal Chamber proudly announces a joint collaboration with Anant Education Initiative. To start

Mr. Harsh K Jha, President, The Bengal Chamber handing over the certificate promising financial support till graduation to Barsha Bhattacharya of Cheshire Homes



Mr. P.Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber addressing the audience



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

PROGRAMMES

“NAHI SAMANNYA NARI”: A MEMORABLE EVENING IN AID OF SPECIAL GIRL CHILDREN ON THE EVE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

7TH MARCH 2012,
TEA LAWN, THE TOLLYGUNGE CLUB, KOLKATA

with, this year The Bengal Chamber Anant Education Initiative would provide scholarships to 10 meritorious and needy students.

Mr. S.R. Singhvi of Mahavir Seva Sadan announced the support for education as well as for performing arts to Barsha from Cheshire Home and a few children from Mahavir Seva Sadan.

Celebrity artistes who made the evening memorable with poems and songs – Rabindrasangeet and Hindustani classical – were, Smt Arpita Chatterjee, Smt Haimanti Sukla, Smt Jayati Chakroborty, Smt Chaitali Dasgupta and Shri Soumitra Chattopadhyay. The programme was compered by Mrs Subha Pal. Over 600 invitees attended the programme.



Mr. P.S. Bhattacharyya, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber handing over a certificate to a student from Mahavir Seva Sadan ▲



Mr. Kallol Dutta, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber sharing the stage with the children from Mahavir Seva Sadan ▲



Celebrity actor and dancer Smt. Arpita Chatterjee communicating with the audience along with few of her co-dancers ▲



Smt. Haimanti Sukla, Shri Soumitra Chattopadhyay, Smt Chaitali Dasgupta, Smt Jayati Chakroborty and others ▲



Mr. P. Roy handing over the Citation to Mr. S.R. Singhvi of Mahavir Seva Sadan ▲



▲ Mr. R. Chamaria, Chairman, Infinity Group speaks about The Bengal Chamber Anant Education Initiative



◀ The Audience

AN ALL INDIA SEMINAR ON “ISO 50001 FOR EFFICIENT ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN INDUSTRY” WAS ORGANIZED BY THE COMPUTER ENGINEERING DIVISION, THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (INDIA) JOINTLY WITH INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL WELFARE & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (IISWBM) IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BENGAL CHAMBER AND AEE INDIA CHAPTER

9TH & 10TH MARCH 2012,
IISWBM, KOLKATA

SEMINAR ON ROLE OF CONTRACTORS AND THEIR LABOUR AS STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE GROWTH OF THE ORGANIZATION

10TH MARCH 2012,
HALDIA (IOCL ACADEMY AUDITORIUM)

In the inaugural session Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Chairperson of the HR/IR Committee of the Bengal Chamber welcomed everyone present at the Seminar and thanked the speakers for their presence. The Hon’ble Minister for Labour, Government of West Bengal, Shri Purnendu Bose was present as Chief Guest and Smt. Dola Sen, President, INTTUC, West Bengal Branch was also present in the inaugural session.

During his speech, the Minister mentioned that the Labour and the Union should see that the industry does not suffer production loss because of labour problem and the employer should also understand the problem of the labour and try to address this at the earliest. He also mentioned that the Government feels that it should also be considered as a stakeholder for the growth of the industry. He further mentioned that the engagement of contractors and their labour would continue to increase in the industry in the near future. This reality

**10TH MARCH 2012,
HALDIA (IOCL ACADEMY AUDITORIUM)**

SEMINAR ON ROLE OF CONTRACTORS AND THEIR LABOUR AS STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE GROWTH OF THE ORGANIZATION

should be accepted by all stakeholders. Smt. Dola Sen agreed with the views of the Labour Minister. From the Employers' side Mr. Rabin Kr. Mukhopadhyay, Executive Vice President, Haldia

Petrochemicals Limited made a presentation on the theme of the seminar. Thereafter, there was a panel discussion where Employers, Contractors and Trade Union Representatives were present and they

discussed about the local IR and relevant issues. There were more than 200 delegates present.



▲ Chairperson HR/IR Committee, Mr. Somesh Dasgupta delivering the Welcome Address

Shri Purnendu Bose, Hon'ble Labour Minister, Government of West Bengal addressing the programme ▼



◀ Panel Discussion in progress

▲ The delegates

**13TH MARCH 2012,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

MEETING WITH MR. CHIE-YIEN HUANG, DIRECTOR, TAIPEI WORLD TRADE CENTER KOLKATA TEMPORARY CORRESPONDENT OFFICE



In discussion: Mr. Chie-Yien Huang, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh and Mr. P Roy ▲



▲ (L-R): Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director, The Bengal Chamber; Mr Chie-Yien Huang, Director, Taipei World Trade Center Kolkata; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber

PROGRAMMES

MEETING WITH MR. CHIE-YIEN HUANG, DIRECTOR, TAIPEI WORLD TRADE CENTER KOLKATA TEMPORARY CORRESPONDENT OFFICE

13TH MARCH 2012,
CHAMBER PREMISES

Mr. Chie-Yien Huang, Director, Taipei World Trade Center Kolkata Temporary Correspondent Office met Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber to discuss how the Chamber and the Taipei World Trade Center can collaborate on creating business

opportunities for both West Bengal and Taiwan by bringing together businesses of both regions by promoting trade fairs, and trade delegations. Since the meeting, both organizations are interacting regularly and the Chamber is also helping the Taipei

World Trade Center in reaching out to the key State Government agencies responsible for development and business outreach activities.

LUNCHEON MEETING WITH HIS EXCELLENCY JOSE MARIA DE SILVA VIEIRA MORAIS, HIGH COMMISSIONER, HIGH COMMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE IN INDIA

15TH MARCH 2012,
THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE, KOLKATA

Mozambique is currently one of the rapidly growing economies in the world with an Average Annual Growth in GDP at 8.3%. Realizing the critical importance and huge potential of Mozambique's coal and mining sector, the Government has steadily unlocked this industry in order to promote greater private investment and the infusion of updated technologies and know-how. Inadequate infrastructure in many developing countries presents a serious constraint to economic development. The Government of Mozambique is, therefore, also interested in welcoming Indian companies in other sectors like Agriculture, Energy, Natural Gas, Transport, Tea Plantation and Infrastructure. These were the highlights of the address of H.E. Jose Maria De Silva Vieira Morais, High

Commissioner of the Republic of Mozambique at the Luncheon Meeting hosted by the Chamber.

The High Commissioner also requested the Bengal Chamber to organize a trade delegation to Mozambique from the Eastern Region of India. He assured the members that he would look into the possibility of implementation of easier visa norms for the Indian business travelers. Mr. Harsh K Jha, President, The Bengal Chamber, Mr. Kallol Datta, Vice President and Mr. P Roy, Director General of the Chamber were present at the meeting along with senior representatives from 10 Indian companies who had the opportunity to make an introduction with the High Commissioner of Mozambique and his team.



Standing (L-R): Mr. Joao Antonio Xerinda, Second Secretary, High Commission of Mozambique; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; His Excellency Jose Maria De Silva Vieira Morais, High Commissioner of the Republic of Mozambique in India; Mr. Harsh K Jha, President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Manish Chowdhary; Mr. Kallol Datta, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber ▲



The meeting in progress ▲

H.E. Jose Maria De Silva Vieira Morais with Mr. Harsh K Jha and Mr. P Roy



◀ H.E. Jose Maria De Silva Vieira Morais presenting his views



THE BENGAL CHAMBER UNION BUDGET VIEWING SESSION

16TH MARCH 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized the annual Union Budget (2012-13) Viewing Session on 16th March 2012 in the Williamson Magor Hall of the Chamber. The Session included analysis of the Budget and media interaction. Mr. Harsh K Jha, President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director, Tata Metaliks Ltd.; Mr. Partha S Bhattacharyya, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director, Haldia Petrochemicals Limited; Mr. Kallol Datta, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber and Chairman and Managing Director, Andrew Yule and Co. Ltd.; Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty,

Immediate Past President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director, Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Ltd.; Mr. Alope Mookherjee, Past President, The Bengal Chamber, Honorary Consul for Sweden, Kolkata and Chairman, Flakt (India) Limited; Dr. Abhijit Sen, Past President, The Bengal Chamber, Mr. S B Ganguly, Past President, The Bengal Chamber and Chairman Emeritus, Exide Industries Ltd.; Mr Pallav Gupta, Chairman, Direct Taxes Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Head – Taxation, ITC Ltd. were present. Invitees included Mr. Kamal Parekh, Past President, The Calcutta Stock Exchange, Dr. Suman K

**16TH MARCH 2012,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

Mukerjee, Director, Calcutta Business School and others. Members from the Managing Committee and Direct Taxes Committee, Indirect Taxes Committee and Finance and Banking Committee also attended. The Chamber's reaction to the Budget was telecasted live in the electronic media.



▲ Union Budget Viewing Session 2012-13 in progress

◀ Union Budget Viewing – Seated (L-R): Mr. Kallol Datta, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber and Chairman and Managing Director, Andrew Yule and Co Ltd.; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Harsh K Jha, President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director, Tata Metaliks Ltd.; Mr. Partha S Bhattacharyya, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director, Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd.



◀ Media Meet in progress



▲ Mr. Hirak N Sengupta, Chairman, West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Ltd; Mr. Kallol Datta and Mr Aloke Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber during the Media Meet with Mr. P. Roy

**20TH MARCH 2012 AT 7.00 P.M.,
THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

On 20th March 2012, The Bengal Chamber supported a theatre organized by The Palladian Lounge on gender identity, girl trafficking, breast cancer awareness, dowry deaths, domestic violence, rape, HIV and female Infanticide. The programme was conceptualized and presented by Ms. Anindita

Sarbadhicari and Ms. Rijita Chatterjee. The programme went full house as it was attended by eminent personalities like Mrs. P. Narayanan, First Lady of West Bengal, Justice Indira Banerjee, Shri Bickram Ghosh with Smt. Jaya Seal Ghosh and many others. The programme was in keeping with the

**“MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL...”
A THEATRE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

Bengal Chamber's Serving Humanity Forum's objective of bringing to board socially relevant issues and drumming up a collective consciousness in addressing and fighting social evils.



▲ Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber congratulating Rijita and Anindita (L-R) for their performance



▲ A distinguished audience came forward to support the noble cause of Woman Empowerment

PROGRAMMES

THE BENGAL CHAMBER PRESENTED THE NEXT EDITION OF THE "THINK..." SERIES IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE TELEGRAPH: TALK BY DR. SHUBHADA RAO, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF ECONOMIST, YES BANK ON "SHORT & MEDIUM TERM PROSPECTS FOR THE INDIAN ECONOMY"

22ND MARCH 2012,
PALLADIAN LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

Shri Sunil Mitra, IAS (Retd.), Former Revenue Secretary, Government of India commenced the session following the Welcome Address by Mr. P Roy, Director General of The Bengal Chamber. Shri Mitra spoke briefly about the interest liability and public finances scenario of India and then requested Dr. (Mrs.) Rao to take over.

Dr. Rao began by thanking all present, and spoke about the state of the economy, what opportunities one could derive from it in the present scenario and the macro-economic takeaways. Taking the audience on a retrospective of the year, she highlighted the following:

1. Eurozone coming into negative stretch.
2. US recovering somehow in the last quarter.
3. Annual GDP in India came down to 6.7 percent triggering a downward spectrum.
4. The consumption story of India, saving the day.

Dr. Rao also made a brief expected

forecast of the coming year 2013:

1. The economy would improve due to liquidity injection in the Eurozone.
2. Japan and UK could show improvements as per IMF.
3. India and China would be key economic drivers.
4. Greece is to be watched out for, due to the socio-economic situation there.
5. Crude Oil prices could pose as economic threat and its impact would be on India and its trade deficit.

She spoke about macroeconomic takeaways from the recent Union Budget and remarked that fiscal consolidation was taking place and that the Government's borrowing needs should come down. The Tax-GDP ratio was set to increase along with the fiscal deficit ratio. While service tax measures were likely to yield more revenues than budgeted, the infrastructure sector and industry and power sectors were expected to revive. Social sector spending was also focused on. Dr. Rao also commented on the reforms in cash transfers, Direct Tax Code and the introduction of the much delayed Goods and Service Tax. She spoke extensively on inflation affecting the food sector, and its ripple effects transmitted to other sectors. She also enlightened the audience on the demand side pressures seen to be coming off in the last few



Shri Sunil Mitra, IAS (Retd.), Former Revenue Secretary, Government of India and Member of The Chamber's Managing Committee, presents a Memento to Dr. (Mrs.) Subhada Rao on behalf of The Bengal Chamber



A section of the audience, during the Interactive session ▲



Shri Sunil Mitra addressing the programme ▲

months, sequential momentum in core inflation moderating in the last few months, and the performance of the Rupee. Her presentation was followed by a very lively Q/A session.

MEETING WITH IFC ON SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT (SARTI) PROGRAM

26TH MARCH 2012,
CHAMBER PREMISES

The team from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) comprised of Mr. Peter Kusek, Senior Investment Policy Officer, IFC (Washington, D.C.); Mr. Bertram Boie, Investment Climate, World Bank Group, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, IFC (Washington, D.C.); Ms Rakhi Basu, IFC; Mr. Sayef Tanzeem Qayyum, Associate Operations Officer, Advisory Services in South Asia, IFC, Kathmandu. They met Prof. (Dr.) Suman Mukerjee, Director, Calcutta Business School and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director, The Bengal Chamber.

The focus of discussions was the IFC's South Asia Regional Trade and Investment (SARTI) program to facilitate formal trade and investment in the East and North East sub-region of South Asia. With a specially designed fund, IFC has been



helping private sectors to access 'Regional Trade and Investment Feasibility Fund (RTIFF)' for increased cross border trade and investment. IFC was conducting a

▲ The team from IFC (L-R): Mr. Peter Kusek, Senior Investment Policy Officer, IFC (Washington, D.C.); Mr. Bertram Boie, Investment Climate, World Bank Group, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, IFC (Washington, D.C.); Ms Rakhi Basu, IFC; Mr. Sayef Tanzeem Qayyum, Associate Operations Officer, Advisory Services in South Asia, IFC, Kathmandu

wider range of consultation in the SAARC countries to get feedback from the market, private sector and policy makers on some of the key impediments to trade and investment in the region, which would allow IFC to address some of the key trade and investment barriers.



(l-R); Prof. (Dr.) Suman Mukerjee, Director, Calcutta Business School and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director, The Bengal Chamber interacting with the team from IFC ▲

The team from IFC interacted with the Chamber for the latter's views on such a programme, its ambit of operations in the realm of international trade and development and its role in promoting cross-border exchanges.

29TH MARCH 2012,
CHAMBER PREMISES

SEMINAR ON “FAST TRACK TO EXPAND BUSINESS WITH CHINA AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS VIA HONG KONG” CO-BRANDED WITH HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HKTDC)



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director, The Bengal Chamber welcoming the delegates ▲



Mr. Simon Lo, Marketing Manager, HKTDC Regional Office (Bangkok) addressing the audience ▲



Mr. Rajesh Bhagat, India Consultant, HKTDC addressing the audience ▲

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), organized a Business Seminar on “Fast track to expand business with China and international markets via Hong Kong” on Thursday, 29th March, 2012 in the Chamber.

Mr. Simon Lo, Marketing Manager, HKTDC Regional Office (Bangkok) and Mr. Rajesh Bhagat, India Consultant, HKTDC made presentations on international trade opportunities and the practical assistance that HKTDC can offer to assist Indian businessmen.

The programme was attended by around eighty delegates.

HKTDC is the only official trade promotion body in Hong Kong, organizing some thirty international trade fairs in Hong Kong annually. Hong Kong, the regional business city located at the southern tip of mainland China, is home for countless overseas companies to operate their regional business.

Built on a strong legal system and world-class financial infrastructure, Hong Kong is the ideal partner for Indian companies to explore partnership opportunities ranging from international trading, sourcing, manufacturing to fund-raising and accessing the China market.

This was another initiative of the Chamber in the realm of strengthening its overseas network.

▲ Mr. Subhodip Ghosh in conversation with Mr. Rampat Gupta, HKTDC; Mr. Simon Lo and Mr. Rajesh Bhagat (L-R)



The audience. ▲



1ST APRIL 2012,
CHAMBER PREMISES

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE, HON’BLE FINANCE MINISTER OF INDIA ON THE UNION BUDGET 2012-2013

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon’ble Finance Minister, Government of India on the Union Budget 2012-13 on 1st April 2012 in the Chamber.

The Session was attended by over 200 invitees. The Hon’ble Finance Minister mentioned that growth was not enough by itself if its impact did not reach the people at the lowest strata of the socio-economic order. In his speech, Shri Pranab Mukherjee re-emphasized the need to bring down the subsidies to 1.75% of GDP (except

▶ Mr. Harsh K Jha, President, The Bengal Chamber greeting Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon’ble Finance Minister of India



▶ Shri Pranab Mukherjee addressing.



▲ On the dais: Shri Sunil Mitra, IAS (Retd.), Former Revenue Secretary, Government of India; Mr. Harsh K Jha, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Dr. Manas Ranjan Bhunia, Hon’ble Minister-in-Charge, Irrigation and Waterways and Micro and Small Scale Enterprises and Textiles, Government of West Bengal; Mr Kallol Datta, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber.



▲ The packed audience – First row (L-R): Mr. Pallav Gupta, Chairman, Direct Taxes Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Head-Taxation-ITC; Mr Indrajit Sen, Managing Director, International Combustion (I) Ltd; Mr. S Radhakrishnan, Past President, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director, Descon Ltd; Mr. Taranjit Singh, Chief Patron, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director, JIS Group are seated.

PROGRAMMES

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE, HON'BLE FINANCE MINISTER OF INDIA ON THE UNION BUDGET 2012-2013

1ST APRIL 2012,
CHAMBER PREMISES

food subsidies) in the next three years. According to him, people should invest in equity as there was not much difference in prices of gold in the international market. The Hon'ble Finance Minister spent an hour in the Chamber speaking about the economic logic, theory and compulsions behind the Union Budget and the overall

economic scenario in the country.

The Chamber's Post Budget Memorandum on Direct Taxes was presented to him by Mr. Harsh K Jha, President, The Bengal Chamber. The Hon'ble Finance Minister observed that he would refer to the memorandum in due course. The programme concluded with a very lively Open House Session,

which was moderated by Shri Sunil Mitra, IAS (Retd.), Former Revenue Secretary, Government of India and Member of the Managing Committee of the Chamber. Mr. Kallol Datta, Vice President of the Chamber presented the formal Vote of Thanks.

EVENTS AT

THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE



5th March 2012 ▲

Holi eve musical evening for the members. Old Hindi numbers & Gazal performed by Shri B.D. Sharma

30th March 2012 ▶

Jazz Jamming in association with Open Doors. Performed by Carlton Kitto ensemble.



UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

- ▶ Discussion Forum on "West Bengal – Towards Sustainable Growth: Perspectives on Energy Policy and Environmental Realities – A Balanced Approach", **12th April 2012, Chamber premises**
- ▶ Seminar on Pathways to Excellence in Employee Relations (with EFI), **18th April 2012, Chamber premises**
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber and Black Dog presents, in association with The Telegraph, the next edition of the "Think..." Series: Professor (Dr.) Andre Beteille, Professor of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, **27th April 2012, Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises**
- ▶ International Workshop on "Organizational Strategy – Towards Excellence", **27th – 28th April 2012, Chamber premises**
- ▶ Workshop on Managing School Stress – Creating a Mind Without Fear and a Head Held High, **28th April 2012, South City International School Auditorium**
- ▶ The Telegraph Bengal Chamber National Health Debate, **28th April 2012, St. Xavier's College Auditorium, Kolkata**
- ▶ Workshop on Total Quality Management with IIT (Kharagpur), **3rd-4th May 2012, Chamber premises**
- ▶ Seminar on Managing in Uncertain Times, **3rd May 2012, Chamber premises**
- ▶ The Fourth Sunfeast Health and Lifestyle Quiz, **4th May 2012, Chamber premises**
- ▶ Executive Development Programme: Training and Developing New Generation Leaders in CSR, **5th May 2012, Chamber premises**
- ▶ Seminar on Strengthening the Roadways in West Bengal, **11th May 2012, Chamber premises**
- ▶ Lecture on Cloud Computing by Microsoft India, **11th May 2012, Chamber premises (Tentative)**
- ▶ Summit on "Preparing for Turbulent Times – The Role of HR" in association with NIPM, **12th May 2012, The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata**
- ▶ Workshop on Kolkata – Risks and Readiness to Mitigate Urban Disaster, **19th May 2012, Chamber premises**