



from the desk of the PRESIDENT

Dear Member,



18th April, 2021

#### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

At the outset, I would like to extend my greetings for the Bengali New Year "Subho Noboborsho" to all our members and stakeholders.

As this edition of the Newsletter gets published, all of us are overwhelmed by the 2nd wave of COVID-19. The Chamber is prepared to function in these challenging times, having gone through the first wave of Covid last year. It is important that all of you stay safe and in good health in these troubled times.

As a responsible Chamber, we have focused our attention on specific activities in response to the Covid crisis, namely, sanitization of the markets, as we had done earlier; facilitating the vaccination process for our members and sharing covid protocol related advisories amongst our members. I may share with you my recent interaction with the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, wherein I suggested for opening up vaccination for all and further managing the crisis through management of micro containment zones rather than any large

scale lockdown. The Hon'ble Minister appreciated both these suggestions.

Amongst other events held last month, mention may be made of two special programmes, first being an interaction with the Hon'ble Union Minister of Jalshakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Business dialogue in Bengal and the second being "Transforming North Bengal – An Industry Vision" which was graced by Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar.

In the coming months, post the State Legislative Assembly Elections mandate, your Chamber would be looking forward towards fresh dialogues and interactions with the Government with regard to the regeneration, development and growth of the state.

I take this opportunity to seek your support and advice for a productive fiscal ahead.

Sd/-**Deb A Mukherjee** President

### MEMBER'S NEWS CORNER



Welcome to the Bengal Chamber family! That's what we would like to convey to Electrosteel Castings Limited whose application for membership was tabled and approved by the Managing Committee at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021.





The Heritage Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) jointly with The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) organized a Book Launch titled "Burra Bunglows of North Bengal – Glimpses of Built Heritage and Lifestyle of Tea Estate in North Bengal" on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 4.30 p.m. at the Chamber premises.

The book was launched by our **Chief Guest**, **Smt. Nandini Chakraborty**, **IAS**, Principal Secretary, The Department of Tourism, Government of West Bengal.

The objective of the book launch was to showcase the Glimpses of Built Heritage of North Bengal and to project the Lifestyle of Tea Estate which also plays a significant role towards building the Heritage of North Bengal.

The book launch was moderated by Mr. G M Kapur, Chairperson, Heritage Committee and State Convenor, INTACH and the session comprised of very senior professionals like Smt. Nayantara Palchoudhuri, Chairperson, Socio Economic Committee, BCC&I and Vice Chairman, Indian Tea Association and Mr. Nikhil Kapur, Photographer of the book: 'Burra Bunglows of North Bengal – Glimpses of Built Heritage and Lifestyle of Tea Estate in North Bengal who deliberated on the Heritage of North Bengal.

The programme had an over-whelming response and the total number of participants comprising of dignitaries from industry, representatives from the academia, experts, etc. was 25 plus approximately.

The programme was an eye-opener for the industry fraternity as it created an awareness on the Rich Heritage of North Bengal and also on the lifestyle of Tea Estate which forms an important part of the Heritage of North Bengal.



Smt. Nandini Chakraborty, IAS launching the Book, "Burra Bunglows of North Bengal - Glimpses of Built Heritage and Lifestyle of Tea Estate in North Bengal"in the presence of dignitaries from Industry



Mr. G M Kapur, Chairperson, Heritage Committee and State Convenor, INTACH welcome Smt. Nandini Chakraborty, IAS, Principal Secretary, The Department of Tourism, Government of West Bengal at the Book Launch Ceremony titled "Burra Bunglows of North Bengal - Glimpses of Built Heritage and Lifestyle of Tea Estate in North Bengal" held on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 4.30 p.m. at the Chamber premises



Smt. Nayantara Palchoudhuri, Chairperson, Socio Economic Committee, BCC&I and Vice Chairman, Indian Tea Association addressing the gathering



Smt. Nandini Chakraborty, IAS, Principal Secretary, The Department of Tourism, Government of West Bengal addressing the gathering



Mr. Nikhil Kapur, Photographer of the book – "Burra Bunglows of North Bengal – Glimpses of Built Heritage and Lifestyle of Tea Estate in North Bengal" addressing the gathering



The Session in progress



Mr. Debjit Datta, Chairperson, Tourism Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Director & CEO, Impression Tourism Services (India) Pvt. Ltd. addressing the gathering



The Chamber Secretariat presenting a memento to Mr. Nikhil Kapur



Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, BCC&I presenting the formal Vote of Thanks of the Book Launch Ceremony



Post Programme Networking

# INDIA'S DATA PROTECTION LAW: A BOON OR BANE FOR BUSINESSES?

The Legal Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) organized a Panel Discussion on "India's Data Protection Law: A boon or bane for businesses" on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 5 p.m. on Virtual Platform.

The objective of the panel discussion was to discuss at length about India's Data Protection Law which entails to Data Protection/Data Privacy of an organization and/or of an individual in this On-line World.

The Panel Discussion was moderated by Ms. Sucharita Basu, Partner, AQUILAW and the session comprised of multidisciplinary, experienced and accomplished professionals like Prof. Rajesh Babu Ravindran, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Shri Kalyan Mukhapadhyay, IPS, DIG (Special), CID West Bengal, Ms. Yukti Sharma, Assistant Vice President Legal, Piramal Capital & Housing Finance, Smt. Reetwika Banerjee, Cyber Security Consultant, Accenture,

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Mr. Dip Narayan Mittra, Chairperson, Legal Committee of The Chamber and Senior Partner, Victor Moses & Company delivering Welcome address



Prof. Rajesh Babu Ravindran, Law and Policy ,Indian Institute of Management Calcutta addressing the Webinar

Mr. Bivas Chatterjee, Special Public Prosecutor and last but not the least, Mr. Joyjyoti Misra, Director and Head Legal - (South Asia & India), Uber who deliberated on whether India's data protection law is a boon or bane for businesses.

The Panel Discussion had an over-whelming response and the total number of participants comprising of Industry experts, legal professionals, representatives from academia, etc was 100 plus approximately.

The Panel Discussion was an eye-opener for the industry fraternity as it created a platform to understand what are the various measures to be taken for maintaining the safety and security of various kinds of data which would really help a business rather an industry to operate seamlessly as well as efficiently.



Ms. Sucharita Basu, Member, Legal Committee of The Chamber and Partner, AQUILAW moderating the session



Mr. Bivas Chatterjee, Special Public Prosecutor addressing the Webinar



Ms. Yukti Sharma, Assistant Vice President Legal, Piramal Capital & Housing Finance addressing the Webinar



Smt. Reetwika Banerjee, Cyber Security Consultant, Accenture addressing the Webinar



Shri Kalyan Mukhapadhyay, IPS, DIG (Special), CID West Bengal addressing the Webinar



Mr. Joyjyoti Misra, Director and Head Legal - (South Asia & India), Uber addressing the Webinar

### 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Asansol Engineering College, Asansol

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB), organized the Fourth Edition of Discussion Forum on Ecological Sustainability in the Industrial Region-Durgapur/Asansol, on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at Asansol Engineering College. The Chamber organized the earlier editions of the Discussion Forum successfully in Haldia, Siliguri and Durgapur.

The objective of the Discussion Forum was to bring together the stakeholders of Asansol- Durgapur Industrial Belt, Policy Makers and Industry Leaders to brainstorm and share the best practices and cutting edge technologies to take forward the industrial development of the State with adequate fortification towards vulnerability of ecology.

Stakeholders and Industry Associations like India Power Corporation Limited, Eastern Coalfields Limited, NU Vista Limited, Crescent Power Limited Eastern, Shyam Sel and Power Ltd, Eastern Railway, Raniganj Chamber of Commerce and

### 4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF DISCUSSION FORUM ON ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE INDUSTRIAL REGION- ASANSOL/DURGAPUR

Refractory Manufacturer's Association were present to express their views of sustainable development of the city. Exide Industries limited also participated in the programme. This year, the Forum focused on:

- Air Pollution & Solid Waste Management
- Green Cargo Logistics
- Sustainable use of Land

Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Chairperson, People Management, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Whole Time Director, India Power Corporation Limited delivered the formal Welcome Address. The Inaugural Session was graced by College; Mr. B. Veera Reddy, Director (Technical) Operations, Eastern Coalfields Limited, Shri Sumit Sarkar, Divisional Railway Manager – Asansol, Eastern Railway,

Mr. Sandeep Bhalotia, President, Raniganj Chamber of Commerce, Dr. P P Bhattacharya, Principal, Asansol

Engineering and **Mr. Atin Chowdhury,** Advisor, Asansol Engineering College.

Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Chairperson, People Management, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Whole Time Director, India Power Corporation Limited mentioned "The Bengal Chamber takes great pleasure in coming back to Asansol after a year which has been a crucial period globally. As a responsible and responsive Chamber of Commerce, we find that it is our mandate to share with the industry the importance of green growth. During the pandemic, we have witnessed a dichotomy of industrial slow down and environmental up-gradation with better air quality and, in some cases, water quality. But safety measures for covid has also increased use of plastic and other wastes. However, the improved air quality index was also a temporary phase and we all have witnessed that with increased industrial activities and exit from lock down, the environment took back its former condition It is important that we focus on regeneration from the pandemic with considerations for environmental sustainability."

Mr. B. Veera Reddy, Director (Technical) Operations, Eastern Coalfields Limited, mentioned underground mining is the way forward towards sustainable mining. Eastern Coalfields Limited, among its other initiatives towards sustainability, is exploring effective technologies for implementing underground mining and mass production. Coal India Limited believes that land reclamation is the key to sustainable mining. It is all set to achieve the land degradation neutrality target of India set out in UNCCD COP-14. Coal India Limited has so far excavated 32,380 hectares of land out of which it has biologically reclaimed 18,890 hectares of land. It has created an additional carbon sink of 185,000 tons of CO2 per year helping country to achieve one of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.



Lamp lighting ceremony in presence of the dignitaries

Shri Sumit Sarkar, Divisional Railway Manager, Asansol, Eastern Railway mentioned Asansol Division is focusing on 3 MW of Solar Energy which would lead to 5-7% savings in electricity bill. Excess solar power may also be fed into the grid by switch over points. For around 5 KW of Solar project approx 5 lac would be required which will have a life expectancy of 25 years.

Mr. Sandeep Bhalotia, President, Raniganj Chamber of Commerce mentioned, considering the ecological condition of the region, consistent supply of clean energy like Coal Bed Methane is required for industrial development. Proper vigilance by policy makers would increase investors' confidence.

Mr. Atin Chowdhury, Advisor, Asansol Engineering College delivered the formal Vote of Thanks.

There was Discussion Forum focusing on Industry perspective and Air Pollution & Waste Management.

Mr. Subhajit Banerjee, AGM- Production & Quality, Emami Cement Ltd; Mr. Ujjwal Sur, Assistant Manager- Safety, Hygiene and Environment, Crescent Power Limited; Mr. Kaushik Banerjee, Jr. Officer, Crescent Power Limited and Mr. Ashok Chakraborty, General Secretary, Refractory Manufacturer's Association graced the forum on Air Pollution & Waste Management and Industry Perspective. The Session was chaired by Dr. G S Panda, Registrar, Asansol Engineering College.

The discussion forum was followed by vibrant interactions. The forum was attended by all the major industries of the Region. Senior functionaries of West Bengal Pollution Control Board were also present at the forum.



Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Chairperson, People Management, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Whole Time Director, India Power Corporation Limited delivering the formal Welcome Address



L-R: Dr. P P Bhattacharya, Principal, Asansol Engineering College; Mr. Sandeep Bhalotia, President, Raniganj Chamber of Commerce; Shri Sumit Sarkar, Divisional Railway Manager — Asansol, Eastern Railway; Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Chairperson, People Management, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Whole Time Director, India Power Corporation Limited; Mr. B. Veera Reddy, Director (Technical) Operations, Eastern Coalfields Limited and Mr. Atin Chowdhury, Advisor, Asansol Engineering College



Dr. P P Bhattacharya, Principal. Asansol Engineering College delivering the Opening Remarks



Mr. B. Veera Reddy, Director (Technical) Operations, Eastern Coalfields Limited delivering the Theme Address



Shri Sumit Sarkar, Divisional Railway Manager – Asansol, Eastern delivering the Railway Key note Address



Mr. Sandeep Bhalotia, President, Raniganj Chamber of Commerce addressing the audience



Mr. Atin Chowdhury, Advisor, Asansol Engineering College delivering the formal Vote of Thanks



Dr. G S Panda, Registrar, Asansol Engineering College chairing the session on Air Pollution & Waste Management



Session on Air Pollution & Waste Management (L-R): Dr. G S Panda, Registrar, Asansol Engineering College chairing the session on Air Pollution & Waste Management, Mr. Ujjwal Sur and Mr. Kaushik Banerjee, Environment Team, Crescent Power Limited, Mr. Ashok Chakraborty, General Secretary, Refractory Manufacturer's Association and Mr. Subhajit Banerjee, AGM- Production & Quality, NU Vista Limited



Distinguished audience

### **BUSINESS DIALOGUE IN BENGAL**

24<sup>th</sup> March 2021, JW Marriot, Kolkata

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with Digiboxx, organized an event Business Dialogue in Bengal, at JW Marriot on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, with the Hon'ble Minister of Jalshakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The President of the Bengal Chamber Mr. Deb A Mukherjee delivered the welcome address and Mr. Debkumar Basu, Chairperson, Manufacturing & MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber, set the context of the session. Shri Shekhawat addressed the esteemed guests present there. The primary need currently, for West Bengal, the Hon'ble Minister pointed out, was the need to build the right eco-system, develop infrastructure and boost consumption demand. He also spoke

about how the Government has handled the Covid situation in India and in comparison to other countries how well India has fought back. He spoke about the vaccine made in India and how we are exporting them to other countries after fulfilling the demand in the country. The Government has brought back 7500000 people to the country during Covid. 400000 students have been repatriated during such time. Shri Shikhawat shared with the audience how he has been working in this newly formed ministry to improve the water system in India, and also mentioned about the potential that is there in West Bengal.



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, The President of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry delivering his Welcome Address



The Hon'ble Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat



The Hon'ble Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat delivering his speech



Mr. Debkumar Basu, Chairperson, Manufacturing & MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber, setting the context



The set up



The question answer round moderated by Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, The President of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce



A token of appreciation being handed over to the The Hon'ble Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

### **BUSINESS DIALOGUE IN BENGAL**



The Hon'ble Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat answering the question



Mr. Arnab Mitra, Founder & CEO, Digiboxx, delivering the formal Vote of Thanks

# ONLINE SEMINAR ON TAIWAN'S ICT, SMART MEDICAL AND EV INDUSTRY

Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA), in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), organized an Online Seminar on Taiwan's ICT, Smart Medical and EV Industry on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (IST).

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry shares a deep connect with TAITRA. In this context, The Chamber was partnering with TAITRA in the aforementioned programme.

The Session focused on:

- > TAITRA's Online Trade service and Introduction
- > Taiwan's ICT Industry

### 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Virtual

- Taiwan's Smart Medical Industry
- Taiwan's EV Industry

Mr. Steven Liu, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata (TAITRA) delivered the formal Welcome Address. Ms. Ambalika Ganguli, TAITRA addressed on TAITRA's Service in Taiwan's Smart Medical Industry. Ms. Debalina Pramanik, Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA shared her perspectives on Taiwan's ICT Industry and Ms. Ritika Nandy, Trade Promotion Specialist, TAITRA addressed on Taiwan's EV Industry. The Session was followed by vibrant interactive session.





Meeting in progress

The People Management Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized 'The People Management Conclave – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition – Post Pandemic Priorities, Happy Days are here again' on March 26, 2021 via Digital Mode.

#### A Brief about the Conclave:

Celebrating the indomitable spirit of people to live to fight another day after the pandemic and emerge stronger was the key driver to this conclave. The conclave targeted to attain triple objective to include people in news, respond to the employability question and celebrate the best in people business.

This Conclave focuses on the following themes for an engaging panel discussion:

- Weaving of the two pillars professional and personal in the Next Normal
- Design for the Future and Learning's from Crisis South Asia Perspective
- Next Gen Employability
- Curtain Raiser for HR Brilliance Award on Best People practices

# Weaving of the two pillars – professional and personal in the Next Normal

Even before the pandemic, the distinctions between work and life were blurring. Many businesses and employers embraced flexibility to some extent, but that also meant that for staff/professionals work ceased to be 9-5 or even 9-7 proposition. We learned to weave in the two - our work, and life outside of it. All ostensibly, in the name of greater productivity for businesses/organization's and greater incomes and attendant benefits for individuals.

Then came the pandemic and the accompanying digital evolution. These brought more technology in our lives, and created even more enmeshing of the two - work and other, by bringing us WFH, SFH, and socialize from home. Through the pandemic, technology allowed us to connect even through isolation - it gave us our families, our friends, our networks, and for many, if not all, our livelihoods, and our education. It has changed the way we view and connect at work, in our relationships - both personal and professional.

# Design for the Future and Learning's from Crisis - South Asia Perspective

The broad aspects around which the discussions held were:

- How have these two important revelations of 2020 the pandemic and acceleration of the digital evolution, changed the way we connect?
- What has changed in the way you manage people at home, at work and in between?
- Is this new order working? What does it mean for individuals and organizations? Did we all start working smarter, or just more? Are we overconnecting?
- How are better connections to be fostered at work does technology necessarily foster better connections and communication?
- Generally speaking, has this been good for us? What are the benefits? What is the price we are paying as individuals, as enterprises and society? What needs to change?

### **Next Gen Employability**

Employability and employment have never been so relevant as today. Tens of thousands have lost jobs, dignity and money over the last year. Students were unable to pay college fees since their parents lost jobs. Colleges and Universities kept functioning in a semi-conscious state deferring and halving every cost burden including faculty salary.

Added to this was continuing operations via on one when many were not equipped to conduct Zoom, Google meet and WebEx suddenly became the new normal. Woes heaped on those who did not have good internet connectivity and puny mobiles as their only educational devise. Educational institutes were not prepared for such an eventuality.

Finally, industries closed down on recruitment going into a just about business continuity plan model. No frills, no nothing, just survive became the mantra for 2020. No recruitment, promotion, pay hike, no fresher hiring. Contactless delivery, building up of infra to enable on line working were key areas to focus.

So where do we go from here in 2021? The panel deliberated on the future of education business, and its stakeholders, namely administrators and academic professionals in colleges and universities, the student community and finally the industry and HR Fraternity on all facets that 2020 has unleashed.

# Curtain Raiser for HR Brilliance Award on Best People practices

Interesting times we live in. While many corporates floundered under the pandemic, others stood firm and afloat. The evening trike to unravel the secret sauce that made the latter tick and come out with best people management practices and

celebrated the actors who shone against all odds. It aimed to recognize the novelty and innovative HR practices, identify and bring to prominence these best practices and celebrate the very best so they can be benchmarks for others to emulate This forum is for those who bear the torch of HR Brilliance in the HR Landscape of India through its efficient People Practices.

### Speakers at this event were:

- Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Chairperson The People Management Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Whole Time Director, India Power Corporation Limited
- Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited and President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Ms. Radha Roy Biswas, Consultant Communications
   & Policy Advocacy
- Pandit Tejendranarayan Majumdar, Globally Acclaimed Musician
- Dr. Kunal Sarkar, Senior Vice Chairman & Senior Cardiac Surgeon, Medica Superspecialty Hospital
- Mr Jaidip Chatterjee, Chief of HR, SREI Group
- Dr. Ajantha Dharmasiri, Director and Chairman, Postgraduate Institute of Management, Sri Lanka
- Mr. Robert Mostert, Global Head Human Resources, Toll Holdings Limited, Singapore
- Dr. T V Rao, Chairman, T.V Rao Learning Systems Pvt Ltd, India
- Ms. Monzula Morshed, Chief Human Resources, Banglalink, Bangladesh
- The People

  Management Conclave
  Post Praderior Provides House flags and his signs

  MR. SOMESH DASGUPTA

  4.00 PM Onwards | Digital Mode
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Welcome Address by Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Chairperson – The People Management Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Whole Time Director, India Power Corporation Limited

- Mr. 'Paul Narula' Pornthep Sri Narula, Founder & CEO, Syncate Company Ltd., Thailand
- Mr. Rahul Bose, Co-Chairperson The People Management Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Ms. Radhika Jaggi, Business Head Eastern India & Neighboring Countries, Society for Human Resource Management (India)
- Ms. Shivani Chaturvedi, Chief People Officer, Mjunction Services Ltd
- Dr. Pawan Jain, Associate Professor, Institute of Management Technology
- Dr. Smita Ramakrishna, Faculty, K.J. Somaiya Institute of Management
- Prof. Dr. Tarun Kanti Jana, Dean School of Engineering, Haldia Institute of Technology
- Mr. Prakash Panda, Sr. Vice President HR, India Power Corporation Limited

Eminent Global HR heads were of opinion that organizations will transform the HR function to deliver employee experiences that are human-centered, leveraging the latest technologies to deliver personalized, compelling, and engaging experiences. Technology had significantly influenced the HR function. It had led to new business models coming into existence, allowing technology platform companies to make a significant impact. Competition had come not from within the known set of businesses but also from different industries by leveraging technology.

The Conclave was attended by Directors, Faculty and Administrative Officers of Engineering and Management Institutes and HR Leaders.



Keynote Address by Mr. Abraham George Stephanos, Managing Director, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited and President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

# 'THE PEOPLE MANAGEMENT CONCLAVE – 3RD EDITION – POST PANDEMIC PRIORITIES, HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN'



Ms. Radha Roy Biswas, Consultant – Communications & Policy Advocacy in conversation with Pandit Tejendranarayan Majumdar, Globally Acclaimed Musician at the panel on Weaving of two pillars – Professional & Personal in the Next Normal



Mr. Jaidip Chatterjee, Chief of HR, SREI Group in conversation with Ms. Monzula Morshed, Chief Human Resources, Banglalink, Bangladesh at the panel on Design for the Future and Learning's from Crisis – South Asia Perspective



Ms. Radha Roy Biswas, Consultant – Communications & Policy Advocacy in conversation with Dr. Kunal Sarkar, Senior Vice Chairman & Senior Cardiac Surgeon, Medica Superspecialty Hospital at the panel on Weaving of two pillars – Professional & Personal in the Next Normal



Mr. Jaidip Chatterjee, Chief of HR, SREI Group in conversation with Dr. T V Rao, Chairman, T.V Rao Learning Systems Pvt. Ltd., India at the panel on Design for the Future and Learning's from Crisis – South Asia Perspective



Mr. Jaidip Chatterjee, Chief of HR, SREI Group in conversation with Mr. Robert Mostert, Global Head Human Resources, Toll Holdings Limited, Singapore at the panel on Design for the Future and Learning's from Crisis – South Asia Perspective



Mr. Jaidip Chatterjee, Chief of HR, SREI Group in conversation with Mr. 'Paul Narula' Pornthep Sri Narula, Founder & CEO, Syncate Company Ltd., Thailand at the panel on Design for the Future and Learning's from Crisis – South Asia Perspective



Mr. Rahul Bose, Co-Chairperson – The People Management Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in conversation with Ms. Shivani Chaturvedi, Chief People Officer, Mjunction Services Ltd; Dr. Pawan Jain, Associate Professor, Institute of Management Technology; Dr. Smita Ramakrishna, Faculty, K.J. Somaiya Institute of Management; Ms. Radhika Jaggi, Business Head – Eastern India & Neighboring Countries, Society for Human Resource Management (India) and Prof. Dr. Tarun Kanti Jana, Dean School of Engineering, Haldia Institute of Technology at the panel on Next Gen Employability



Curtain Raiser for HR Brilliance Awards on Best People Practices by Mr. Prakash Panda, Sr. Vice President HR, India Power Corporation Limited

# TRANSFORMING NORTH BENGAL – AN INDUSTRY VISION

The North Bengal Committee of The Bengal Chamber works towards extending The Chamber's unstinted commitment, support and holistic development of North Bengal from the Industry and Socio Economic perspective. An earnest endeavour of the Committee is to work on preparing a comprehensive strategy for Industrial Development of the Region and implementation of same, with focus on revival of traditional Tea and Tourism Sectors with export maximization outlook.

Towards this end, The Bengal Chamber organized a conclave on March 31, 2021, titled "Transforming North Bengal – An Industry Vision". The Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Shri Tathagata Roy, Former Governor of Tripura graced the occasion.

There was a panel discussion on Transforming North Bengal, moderated by the Chairperson of North Bengal Committee Shri Biswajit Mohinta. The panellists were Mr. Yogdeep Gurung, Director of Glenmore International School, Mr Ashutosh Jaiswal, President of International Business, Shipping & Logistics Division of Century Plyboards Limited, Mr. Anoop Hoon, Chairperson of the Marketing & Brand Committee of The Bengal Chamber and Dr. Rabin Chakraborty, Chairperson of the Health Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Senior Vice Chairman - Cardiology Services & Senior Consultant Interventional, Cardiologist & Electrophysiologist, Medica Hospitals Pvt. Ltd.

### 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, Williamson Magor Hall, Bengal Chamber Premises

Mr. Gurung shared his thoughts on the tea industry. He mentioned that the problem is known to the industry tea captains. The problems plaguing the Tea sector were low yields, inferior quality of Tea and manpower crisis. The manpower crisis has made it difficult for the tea companies to sustain. He suggested various methods to improve the yield and quality. Due to the various financial conditions of the industry, the solutions, though known to all, could be difficult to be implemented.

**Dr. Rabin Chakraborty** spoke about the Healthcare of North Bengal. He said that despite the unique geography in North Bengal, it is very favourably connected. According to Dr. Chakraborty, when we talk about healthcare development and growth in North Bengal, we need to speak about the places from Murshidabad and not only about Siliguri. Dr Chakraborty pointed out that it is very unfortunate that the growth in healthcare system in North Bengal has been very slow and still does not have enough infrastructures. We need to focus on Medical Tourism and to do that we need to have a good infrastructure. There needs to be good hotels, schools connectivity in terms of roads etc. Dr. Chakraborty opined that India has a huge potential for medical tourism. We need to give serious thought on medical tourism in Bengal and North Bengal having a geo political advantage can be in focus. Mr. Ashutosh Jaiswal said that for any business to survive, logistics has to be cost effective. We do not have proper infra, proper load carrying policy. 3 to 4% of the GDP logistics cost is the inefficiency cost that we are paying, which is very alarming. The first mile and last mile connectivity needs to be very good but it is not there in our country. He spoke about the roads which are not proper and hence cost of transporting is very high and takes much longer time.

Mr. Anoop Hoon said that we need to have a platform which has a blue print with a 360 degrees solution for all stakeholders and an agency which works to achieve that goal. He felt that creation of change champions are required who would know how to implement the changes at the ground level. Once we have the product created by the appointed agency, we can think of the Marketing.

In the second session Shri Tathagata Roy spoke on The Importance of Integrating North Bengal with North East growth ecosystem. He spoke about the fact that there needs to be intent to make improvements in North Bengal. He said that North Bengal is one of those regions with 4 international borders within a close proximity. North Bengal needs a separate airport. There needs to be transport between NJP and the bus terminuses and the airport. The roads need major improvements as they are not properly planned. Shri Roy suggests that if we get into a treaty or paying royalty with Bangladesh by building a corridor via Tentulia (in Bangladesh), we can shorten the distance between Jalpaiguri and Islampur by approximately 80kms. He felt that the North Committee of The Chamber can take up with the external affairs ministry. He said that Bangladesh is extremely important strategically, and this importance needs to be understood. The Third Session was on The Emotional Quotient Factor towards revival of the past glory of Tea and Tourism in Darjeeling Hills. The session was addressed by Mr Ravi Thapa (Former VP, Manjushree Plantations). He mentioned how warm the people of Darjeeling were and how tourism flourished before there were various reasons which led to the

unrest in the hills, affecting industry there. Mr. Thapa spoke about "what goes down comes up". He spoke about people in Darjeeling conveying their interest in the endeavour of reviving the glorious past of Darjeeling to bring back its old glory. Tea Tourism, education and football need to be revived. Football is something which brings people together. The old and young mingle very freely which is an opportunity to exchange ideas. People from all walks of life come together and build the camaraderie. The worker in the tea estate needs recognition. Education is extremely important. If we can give them some direction and help them we will be able to revive the past glory of Darjeeling hills.

The Fourth and the last Session for the day was **Environment** and Sustainability - Himalayan North Bengal, the environmental challenge. The session was addressed by Prof. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, who is a visiting Distinguished Fellow of the Observer Research Foundation. The session was moderated by Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, The President, The Bengal Chamber. Prof.Bandyopadhyay said that the modern concept of industrial growth is based on flat planes. When we come to the industrialization or economic development in the mountain areas, we have to think differently. He spoke about alternative concept of economic activities in the mountains which we will have to identify to highlight the specific advantages that the mountain areas enjoy over the plains. While Tourism is one, it is very important that we have a very theoretical analysis of specific advantages of North Bengal with respect to the surrounding plains. A comprehensive analytical approach should be the backdrop. While we have tourism and bio diversity, the Himalayas can be a major producer of medicinal plants with an organized strategy for each of the Himalayan regions. These specific advantages can go a long way in forming the basis of the new concepts of economic advantages of the mountains.



Chief Guest – The Honourable Governor of West Bengal Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar along with the President of The Bengal Chamber Mr. Deb A Mukherjee and The Chairperson of the North Bengal Committee Mr. Biswajit Mohinta



The President of The Bengal Chamber Mr. Deb A Mukherjee delivering the Welcome Address



The Chairperson of the North Bengal Committee setting the context of the event



The Honourable Governor of West Bengal Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar delivering his speech



The panel discussionTransforming North Bengal. L to R: Mr. Anoop Hoon, Mr. Ashutosh Jaiswal, Dr. Rabin Chakraborty, Mr. Yogdeep Gurung and the Moderator Mr. Biswajit Mohinta



Shri Tathagata Roy, Honorable Ex - Governor of Tripura in the session The Importance Of Integrating North Bengal with North East Growth Ecosystem, moderated by Shri Biswajit Mohinta



Shri Ravi Thapa in his session The Emotional Quotient Factor Towards Revival of The Past Glory of Tea and Tourism In Darjeeling Hills



Prof. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay in his session Environment and Sustainability – Himalayan North Bengal, the Environmental Challenge moderated by Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, The President, The Bengal Chamber



Prof. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay in his session

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Business Session with the Delegation from The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Friday at the Chamber.

The Delegation was led by His Excellency Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay, The Chargé d'affaires for The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India; Ms. Annie Yulianti, First Secretary (Economic), Delhi and Mr. Bona Kusuma, Trade Attache, The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi. Mr. Mahesh Saharia, Honorary Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Kolkata also graced the Session.

Senior Members and Stakeholders of the Chamber from various sectors-agriculture, energy, health, mining, textiles participated in the Session. (MC Members present) were present among others.

His Excellency Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay shared his objectives of visiting Kolkata. As stated by him, Indonesia has strong bilateral relationship with India. Indonesia has emerged as the second largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN. In 2018, the visit by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Jakarta marked the pinnacle of collaboration between the countries. India and Indonesia have elevated their bilateral ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. His Excellency emphasized that there is further room to strengthen the trade relationship between India and Indonesia. Trade relations with Indonesia have been driven largely due to its surplus endowment of natural resources. At present, India has \$20 billion total trade of Indonesia with \$10 billion of Trade Surplus in coal and palm. His Excellency stated that India and Indonesia have agreed to join the Trade Agreement after India pulling out from RCEP. Due to the pandemic, the process has been slowed down however, the preparations are in progress. The

L-R: Mr. Mahesh Saharia, Honorary Consul, Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Kolkata; His Excellency Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay, The Chargé d'affaires for The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India; Ms. Annie Yulianti, First Secretary (Economic), The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi; Mr. Bona Kusuma, Trade Attache, The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi

Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India would like to go extra miles to support the relationship between the two countries. Indonesia would like to diversify the business portfolios. In diversifying trade on the Indonesian side, a number of products have been given access to India- red meat, pharmaceuticals, dairy, rice, sugar etc. Energy Security is very important in Indonesia. Working Groups of various sectors would facilitate progress of trade. His Excellency mentioned about Indonesia's focus on increasing business with India not only by increasing the exports but also the imports by the way of channelizing its deficits with some other countries. The Session accentuated the importance of connectivity between the two countries. In terms of connectivity, more emphasis is being given to air connectivity. The number of flights from India to Indonesia and vice-versa needs to be increased. His Excellency is already in discussions with Port and Airport Authorities to increase the connectivity between India and Indonesia.

Mr. Mahesh Saharia stated that in ASEAN, Indonesia has 1/3<sup>rd</sup> weightage in GDP and population. In 15 years, the trade of Indonesia has grown to \$20 billion. India realizes the potential with Indonesia in bilateral agreement. Mr Saharia also mentioned that more progress has to be achieved in terms of air connectivity and maritime connectivity between India and Indonesia.

The Session was followed by the vibrant interactions with the members and stakeholders of the Chamber. The Chamber shall collate the inputs/queries of the members and shall share the same with the Embassy to seek their guidance based on various sectors which have opportunities of bilateral business between India and Indonesia. Director General proposed alliance of Chambers to facilitate more bilateral business.



Distinguished audience

### **PROGRAMME**

INTERACTIVE BUSINESS SESSION WITH THE DELEGATION FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA IN INDIA

9<sup>th</sup>April 2021, Williamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber Premises



Dr. Rabin Chakraborty, Chairperson – Health Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Senior Vice Chairman - Cardiology Services & Senior Consultant Interventional, Cardiologist, Medica Superspecialty Hospital presenting memento to His Excellency Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay, The Chargé d'affaires for The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India



His Excellency Ferdy Nico Yohannes Piay, The Chargé d'affaires for The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in India presenting memento to Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

### **HERITAGE QUIZ 2021**

The Heritage Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) had organized an Online Quiz Contest titled "Heritage Quiz 2021" on the eve of the World Heritage Day on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 on Virtual Platform with the support of the Lifestyle Committee of BCC&I and INTACH.

The objective of this initiative was to understand and gain knowledge about the Heritage of our City of Kolkata, our State as a whole, our Country as well as World Heritage which would not only nurture one's mind but also this programme would be an eye-opener for the quizzers, delegates, present to know about the presence of so many Heritage Properties in our City, in our State, in our Country and also across the globe.

We had around 140 participants from Corporates, Doctor, Academia, Experts, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO),



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, President, The Bengal Chamber, delivering Welcome address and putting forward the first question of the Guest Round to the finalists

17<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Virtual Platform

Industry Association, and Students etc. out of which 8 had been shortlisted from the preliminary round by our Quiz Master Mr. Arindam Bhattacharya, one of the leading Quiz Masters of the Indian Sub-Continent. The winner of the competition was Mr. Abhishek Paliwal from Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Naman Jain from Pune was the 1st Runner up and Mr. Amit Bajaj from Kolkata was the 2nd Runner up from the Final Round.

The online quiz contest helped the participants to learn about the Legacy as well as Heritage of a particular region which helped the stakeholders to get exposed towards many new things which were unique in nature for gaining knowledge as well as experience and provided real time benefit to the industry and society at large.

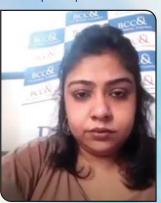


Mr. G M Kapur, Chairperson, Heritage Committee, The Bengal Chamber, delivering the Theme address and putting forward the second question of the Guest Round to the finalists

Dr Rupali Basu, Chairperson, Lifestyle Committee, The Bengal Chamber, sharing her views on the collaboration with Heritage Committee and wishing Good Luck to all the participants



Mr Arindam Bhattacharya, Quiz Master conducting the Quiz



Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, BCC&I delivering the formal Vote of Thanks of the Quiz programme



Ms Reshmi Chatterjee, Co Chairperson, Heritage Committee, The Bengal Chamber, putting forward a question of the Guest Round to the finalists



(From L-R) Winner : Mr. Abhishek Paliwal from Madhya Pradesh ,  $1^{\rm st}$  Runner up - Mr. Naman Jain from Pune and  $2^{\rm nd}$  Runner up - Mr. Amit Bajaj from Kolkata

# Onlin

Building the Entrepreneurial Mind, 19th April, 2021, Virtual Platform

Online B2B Meeting with Taiwanese Companies, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021, Virtual Platform

An In-depth Understanding of FTAs & Customs Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements Rules, 2020 (CAROTAR) and Manufacturing in Bond, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021, Virtual Platform

Workshop on Electrical and Fire Safety for Manufacturing Industry, 30th April, 2021, Virtual Platform

Online Session on 'Implementation of New Labour Codes : 2021 & Its Impact', 7th May, 2021, Virtual Platform

A Workshop on Fundamentals of Lean Management, 7th May, 2021, Hotel IBIS, Rajarhat , Kolkata

Short term online certificate course on Business Communications in Japanese Language, 15th May 2021 onwards, Virtual Platform

Celebration of 225<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021, Virtual Platform

Online Session on GST Using 6 digit HSN code for GST compliance, Advance Ruling on GST, Faceless Assessment for Custom, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, Virtual Platform

'Financial Awareness E-Conclave' - Save-Protect-Invest: Revisiting the Budget of a Common Man, 4th June, 2021, Virtual Platform

### INCOME TAX RETURN FOR THE F.Y 2020-21, A.Y 2021-22-DO'S AND DONT'S AND FEW IMPORTANT TIPS FOR INDIVIDUALS



The financial year 20-21 has just been completed on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 and now individuals and other assesses will be required to file their Income Tax Return for the Financial Year 2020-21 relevant to Assessment Year 2021-22.

Today, in this Article we will discuss few technical issues and important tips pertaing to ITR.

### ITR for F.Y 20-21

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified new income tax return (ITR) forms for assessment year 2021-22 on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021. The apex direct tax authority in the country stated that no significant changes have been made to ITR forms in comparison to last year to help the taxpayers in view of the ongoing crisis due to COVID pandemic.

Only the bare minimum changes necessitated due to amendments in the Income-tax Act, 1961 have been incorporated in the forms

### Pick the correct ITR form

The Income Tax department has seven ITR forms in the current assessment year, so make sure you don't fill the wrong form in your haste to beat the deadline. If you fill the wrong ITR form, your filing will be rejected and you may even get a notice regarding the same from the tax department. Let us see which are the forms as applicable to Individuals.

ITR-1 or Sahaj can be used by below category of resident Indians:

- Income earned from other sources such as lottery, horse race etc.
- Agricultural income less than Rs 5000

Prof. Timir Baran Chatterjee- M.Com, FCS, ACMA, MBA (International Business) IIFT, MIIA(USA), Arbitrator(ICA, New Delhi)



- Salary/pension income
- Payment received for a single house property with certain exclusions.

There are limitations to who can and cannot opt for this form. For example, individuals with income from foreign assets cannot file ITR 1 form.

ITR-2

Individuals and HUF with below criteria can file ITR 2 form:

- · Income greater than Rs 50 lakh
- Income received through salary/pension/house property/lottery/horse race/capital gains/foreign assets/foreign income
- If an individual is the director of a company
- Agricultural income of more than Rs 5000
- Individuals who do not earn money from business ventures.

### INCOME TAX RETURN FOR THE F.Y 2020-21, A.Y 2021-22-DO'S AND DONT'S AND FEW IMPORTANT TIPS FOR INDIVIDUALS

#### ITR-3

Individuals or HUF with income from below sources can file ITR 3 form

- A business or profession
- If you are an individual director in a company
- Income received as a partner in a firm
- Investments in unlisted equity shares
- Income from salary/pension/house property/other sources

#### ITR-4

Individuals, HUFs, Partnership firms having income from business and profession can opt for ITR 4 form. Moreover, those who have chosen for, Section 44ADA and Section 44AE of the Income Tax Act can also file using ITR 4 form. Turnover exceeding Rs 2 crore will have to be filed under ITR 3 form.

#### Few important tips to file the Return

Filing income tax returns could be a cumbersome affair, especially for the newly-added 1.10 crore tax filers this year. If you have a total income of over Rs 2.5 lakh before permissible deductions under Sections 80C to 80U, you must file your income tax returns. Even if you do not fall in the tax net you may consider filing a 'Nil Return' just for the record.

### **Mandatory e-filing**

All individual taxpayers are now required to file income tax returns electronically - the sole exception being super senior citizens, who can choose to file ITR-1 or ITR-4 in paper form. This means, unlike the previous year, individuals having income below Rs 5 lakh with no refund will also have to file online if their income is above the basic exemption limit.

In order to make the tax filing process less cumbersome, the Income Tax Department will now provide pre-filled ITR-1 forms carrying your salary, FD interest income and TDS details. So far, these details had to be manually filled by the taxpayer. However, one must keep in mind that this facility for ITR filing is available for the ITR-1 form filed online on the department's e-filing website (incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in).

A 'lite' e-filing facility was launched by the Income Tax Department to facilitate the easy and quick filing of returns by taxpayers. The same can be accessed by clicking 'e-Filing Lite' button on the home page of the department's dedicated website (incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in).

#### Verify pre-filled details

The pre-filled ITR-1 forms will list data collected from multiple sources such as banks, your Form 26AS, the TDS return filed by your employer, your previous year's ITR, stock exchanges, mutual funds, EPFO, State Registration Departments, etc. Verify the pre-filled data instead of blindly trusting it - when it comes to tax compliance, accuracy matters most. Doing it right in the first place means you need not do multiple revisions. It will also minimise scrutiny, help you avoid tax penalties and ensure quick refunds.

To ensure that there is no discrepancy in the information that the IT department has in its possession and what you are providing through ITR filing, check your Form 26AS as it lists all incomes and TDS paid. Form 26AS can be downloaded either on the TRACES website - an undertaking of the Income Tax Department for easy filing of TDS/TCS correction statements by deductors - or through the net-banking facility of authorised banks.

If you notice any discrepancies in the two forms, approach your employer/deductor and point out the same. The deductor can then file a TDS/TCS correction statement.

### Keep your investment details handy

This year onwards, taxpayers have to furnish far more details than ever before. Apart from giving a detailed break-up of interest earned from savings bank accounts, fixed deposits and income tax refunds, you will have to share greater details of capital gains from selling equity shares, equity mutual funds or property. In case of sale of property, you will have to furnish complete details of the buyer.

Moreover, taxpayers with overseas earnings and foreign assets will have to provide full details of the same. For 'resident and ordinarily resident' (ROR), the foreign bank account details have been re-framed to include information about foreign custodian, depository, equity and debt interest accounts. The aim of these measures is to minimise tax evasion.

So before you start e-filing your income tax returns, keep your investment proofs handy along with your Form 16, Form 26AS, PAN and Aadhaar cards, and bank statements. Keep in mind that if you have not shared your investment details with your employer beforehand, your Form 16 will not carry all the tax benefits you may be entitled to.

### INCOME TAX RETURN FOR THE F.Y 2020-21, A.Y 2021-22-DO'S AND DONT'S AND FEW IMPORTANT TIPS FOR INDIVIDUALS

#### **Check the Mismatches**

Make sure that the details mentioned in this form tally with your ITR not only in terms of TDS amount but also regarding income figures as disclosed by the deductor. It may happen that the actual amount of TDS and TDS credit as appearing in Form 26AS may differ or the TDS credit appearing in Form 26AS may be less as compared to the taxpayer's actual TDS.

Here are the most common reasons for data mismatches between TDS statement and Form 26AS:

- Non-furnishing of TDS details to the Income Tax Department by the deductor or failure of the deductor to deposit TDS on time
- Quoting incorrect PAN details in the TDS return
- Providing incorrect challan details or making a mistake in the Challan identification number (CIN)
- Wrongly entering the deductor's PAN/TAN
- · Choosing the incorrect assessment year
- Omissions in the TDS return or entering incorrect amounts
- Incomplete details of the assessee in the TDS return

### How to rectify errors in Form 26AS?

If you notice any discrepancies in your form, approach your employer/deductor and point out the same. The deductor can then file a TDS/TCS correction statement. "The Income Tax department allows the assessee to mention the reason for mismatch in the online portal in answer to a Notice sent by the department.

It is important to do this because in case of any mismatch, there will not only be a delay in processing your income tax return, but may also push up your tax outgo if you not getting credit for taxes actually deducted. Alternatively, if you are paying less tax than you are supposed to, the taxman is sure to come calling. Computerised ITR processing has made it easier to identify matches in Form 26AS and TDS statements.

## NEWS FROM THE JIS GROUP

# UNIVERSITY

### **IISU First Convocation**

JIS University celebrated its 1st convocation on 25th March 2021 at Agarpara campus. The Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar along with the First Lady Smt. Sudesh Dhankhar attended this first ever convocation of the University. The Chief Guest of the occasion was Prof. K. K. Agarwal, Chairman, National Board of Accreditation. The Guest of Honor Prof. Sabu Thomas, Honorable Vice Chancellor, M.G. University also graced the convocation.

The convocation was initiated with an academic procession in the campus. Various acclaimed academicians including His Excellency, Prof. K. K. Agarwal, Prof Sabu Thomas, congratulated the students for their achievements and expressed sincere hope that they will continue in the path of progress in their professional and personal lives. In addition to this, Hon'ble Chancellor of JIS University, Sardar Taranjit Singh and Vice Chancellor Prof. Indranil Sengupta also addressed the attendees.

More than 1000 students of JIS University received merit medals and final degrees from His Excellency for extraordinary performance. Ms. Sarani Chowdhury, M.Sc. (Biotechnology) 2018 batch, Ms. Priya Mondal, M.Sc. (Biotechnology) 2018 batch, Ms. Tanaya Das, MBA (Management) 2019 batch, Ms. Beneeta Nag, M.Sc. (Physics) 2020 batch, Ms. Barnali Ghosh, B.Sc. (Biotechnology) 2020 batch, Ms. Kiran Kaur, B.Ed. (Education) 2020 batch were awarded gold medals for securing the highest marks in various streams.

Speaking on this convocation, The Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar added that,"My heartfelt congratulations to all the wonderful talents who shall be graduating today in different faculties. I also congratulate this for being a part of Eastern India's largest, most trusted multi-

disciplinary and unitary University. I am also happy to hear that JIS University has tied up with different organizations, foreign Universities, various Chamber of Commerce and Trade bodies for a harmonious and holistic growth."

Speaking on this occasion, Sardar Taranjit Singh, Chancellor, JIS University added that, "On this momentous occasion, I would like to congratulate all the graduating students, their parents, faculty members of the institute and administrative staffs. In addition to this, I want to mention that the year 2020 has been a difficult year for all. The strength and resilience shown by the faculty members, students and administrative staff during the tough times of the pandemic were commendable."

The Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Indranil Sengupta added that, "It is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to be a part of the First Convocation of JIS University. The JIS University is a proud part of JIS Group Educational Conglomerate, which is one of the largest educational group in India and has been relentless in its mission towards providing quality education and knowledge to students from all sections of the society. We believe that our students and their professional growth will help JIS University emerge as a world-class University."











# NEWS FROM THE JIS GROUP













