# from the desk of the PRESIDENT

Dear Member,

11 June, 2013

As the June edition of the newsletter goes to Press, corporate India is abuzz with news! The growth rate is down to 5% (a decade-low rate), the Rupee has slid to below 58-mark (with the Government blaming the high CAD) and the iconic N. R. Narayana Murthy is back at the helm of Infosys being invited back by the current leadership of the company. All three news-items — the first two somewhat interrelated and the third being influenced by the economic conditions impacting business — indicate that the economy and the confidence on the business climate have probably reached a precipice.

On the State front, the Bengal Chamber is finalizing its recommendations on the draft Investment and Industrial Policy of West Bengal – 2013 and will submit the report within 30th June 2013. The Chamber feels that this is an ambitious and forward-looking policy; but it remains to be seen how far this Policy could be implemented in the coming years. Specific suggestions are being framed by the Economic Affairs Committee of the Chamber with inputs from Chamber members.

The Chamber's activities continued with their usual flair. Notably, we hosted the only business interaction in the city with Her Excellency Nancy Powell, US Ambassador to India (during her recent visit) and also held the annual Shipping Conclave, this time focusing on Waterways Development.

Sd/-**Kallol Datta** President

#### MEMBERS' NEWS CORNER

Welcome to the Bengal Chamber family! That's what we would like to convey to The Mission Hospital (a unit of Durgapur Medical Centre Pvt. Ltd.) whose application for membership was tabled and approved by the Managing Committee at its meeting on 23rd May 2013.

### **PROGRAMMES**

21ST MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HER
EXCELLENCY NANCY POWELL,
AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES IN
INDIA ON "STRENGTH TO STRENGTH BUILDING THE US INDIA ECONOMIC
RELATIONSHIP FOR THE NEXT CENTURY"

The Bengal Chamber organized an Interactive Session with Her Excellency Nancy Powell, US Ambassador to India, on 21st May 2013. The theme of the session was, "Strength to Strength – Building the US India Economic Relationship for the next Century". Her Excellency met the business leaders of this region to talk about business, and about economics. Confirming that her top priority as Ambassador remains improving the already vibrant U.S.-India economic and business relationship, she reiterated that India & US must continue to work together to overcome barriers to trade and investment.

She observed that while for some people, Bengal is not the first location that comes to mind for a speech about business and the national economy – (they would think Mumbai, Bangalore, or Tamil Nadu) - for her, Kolkata makes sense. For while the policy headlines may come out of New Delhi and the business headlines may come out of Mumbai, it is increasingly apparent that what actually happens in India happens outside of New Delhi and Mumbai. The deeper economic, political, and social movements – the ones that actually determine where this continental nation is heading – take place in Raipur, Ranchi, Patna, Durgapur, Siliguri, and Kolkata.

Kolkata, according to her, is special in its own right, and seems a particularly poignant place for a speech with this topic, because this is where Indo US economic relationship took its first halting steps, with blocks of ice from Walden Pond in Massachusetts that sailed around the world, from one of the world's newest countries to one of its oldest civilizations, as ballasts in trading ships.

According to Her Excellency, the benefits to India have been large – the U.S. is the second largest destination for Indian exports – and widespread. The openness of the U.S. economy has been the driving force behind some of the highest paid, most sought after jobs in India. According to her, one can see this in the gleaming office towers in Bangalore, Pune, and here in Kolkata, many of which depend on the United States for their business. It has created jobs and improved incomes in some of the oldest, hardest professions, like the foundries in Howrah that depend on the openness of the U.S. economy as a market for their cast iron products, or the thousands of potato farmers in West Bengal who have seen their incomes rise thanks to the infusion of American capital into this economy.

However, she also mentioned that the road to higher growth will require more economic opening and more foreign investment. Since GDP growth is not an end in its own right, since the ultimate goal is to raise standards of living and to eradicate poverty, opening the economy and bringing in more foreign investment take on a new urgency. One cannot defeat poverty without





INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HER EXCELLENCY NANCY POWELL, AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES IN INDIA ON "STRENGTH TO STRENGTH – BUILDING THE US INDIA ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP FOR THE NEXT CENTURY"



growth. One cannot have growth, certainly not enough growth to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, without an economy that is more open and that does more to encourage foreign investment. Further, by creating the kind of open economy that welcomes investment, India Inc will have the confidence to start pouring in the billions of rupees that are currently sidelined.

According to the Ambassador, currently, tariff and non-tariff barriers are too high, preventing India from obtaining the latest and best technology and the most advanced equipment it needs to meet its objectives. India loses because American companies do not get a chance to compete, because India does not receive the much-needed capital to grow, and because the best products, technology and prices that the world has to offer remain out of reach.

She also mentioned that strengthening regional connectivity with Bangladesh

Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber & CMD, Andrew Yule & Co Ltd, delivers the Welcome Address

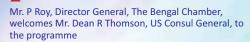
and Burma, such as building the infrastructure linkages that could open new markets for Indian goods and services eastward, could benefit from the simple legislative decision to allow foreign direct investment in the insurance sector. How? Because India's infrastructure is deeply in need of funds and allowing foreign investment would usher in global, long-term investments of equal duration to the infrastructure projects India so desperately needs and for which India's banking sector is limited in its ability to finance. Everyone wins – increased market access for producers in the region, increased employment as a result of more efficient spending and project investment, and improved prices, convenience, and choices for consumers.

The United States and India, according to her, share similar goals in that both countries want to encourage domestic manufacturing and industry. As India seeks to grow its manufacturing sector, developing manufacturing zones and clusters, providing incentives to manufacturers, and collaborating with industry and academic leaders are all approaches that India support and are looking at closely in the United States as well. She was of the opinion that the most effective way to grow India's manufacturing sector in both the short-term and the long-term was to make investment in India more attractive, both for domestic and foreign firms alike.

The Ambassador was hopeful that, as more and more Indians recognize the myriad ways that India – Indian companies and Indian citizens – have benefitted from the growing economic relationship with the United States, we will see more connectivity, more business, and more exchanges of ideas.

She hoped that The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Kolkata's other premier business chambers will look for ways to engage with the National and State Governments in India to help an economic environment that will provide the openness and attraction for foreign investment that India needs.







Her Excellency Nancy Powell, US Ambassador to India, delivers her speech



Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber & Chairman, Medica Superspecialty Hospital, welcoming Her Excellency Nancy Powell, US Ambassador to India



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#### 23RD MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

### INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH DR. KRISHNA GUPTA, IAS, MANAGING DIRECTOR, WEST BENGAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Managing Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited interacted with the Managing Committee Members of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 23rd May 2013 in the Chamber. The discussions focused on the draft Investment and Industrial Policy of West Bengal – 2013 released by the Government of West Bengal. Members brought up their queries which Dr. Gupta took note of. He also advised the Chamber to submit its comments to the State Government based on the feedback from the members.



In conversation: Mr. Kallol Datta (L) with Dr. Krishna Gupta



(L-R): Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber; Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Managing Director, WBIDC; Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber

#### 23RD MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

# FELICITATION OF PADMA SHREE DR. H P BAROOAH, CHAIRMAN, B & A GROUP OF COMPANIES AND PAST PRESIDENT, THE BENGAL CHAMBER

Dr. Hemendra Prasad Barooah, a legend and a pioneer of the Indian tea industry, an architect of the modern North East, an iconic business leader and philanthropist was felicitated by the Bengal Chamber on 23rd May following the meeting of the Managing Committee. Dr. Barooah, the first alumnus of Harvard University from North East India (following his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1949) has been conferred with the Padma Shree by the Government of India in 2013 in recognition of his distinguished

service in the fields of Trade and Industry, which is a matter of immense pride and happiness in all of us.

Commemorating this occasion, the President of the Chamber, Mr. Kallol Datta felicitated Dr. Barooah in the presence of Members of the Managing Committee and Past Presidents including Dr. Abhijit Sen, Mr. Sumit Mazumder, Mr. S B Ganguly and Mr. Sandipan Chakravortty.



Padma Shree Dr. H P Barooah, Chairman, B & A Group of Companies and Past President, The Bengal Chamber (L) greeting the Managing Committee Members with Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber (R).



(L-R): Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Padma Shree Dr. H P Barooah; Mr. Kallol Datta; Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Managing Director, WBIDC; Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Sandipan Chakravortty, Managing Director, Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Ltd and Past President, The Bengal Chamber



Mr. Sumit Mazumder, Managing Director, TIL Ltd and Past President, The Bengal Chamber (L) with Padma Shree Dr. H P Barooah (R)



Mr. S B Ganguly, Past President, The Bengal Chamber (middle) presenting a memento to Padma Shree Dr. H P Barooah (L). Mr. Kallol Datta is standing next to Mr. Ganguly

Mr. Kallol Datta (R) presenting an uttariya to

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Padma Shree Dr H P Barooah

Mr. Kallol Datta (R) presenting the Bengal Chamber citation to Padma Shree Dr H P Barooah



(L-R): Mr. Kattayil Rajinish Menon, Director App Ecosystems & Startup Strategy, Microsoft Corporation India Pvt. Ltd. presenting a memento to Dr. Suryanil Ghosh, Chairperson, Bengal Chamber Entrepreneurship Development Cell





Mr. Kattayil Rajinish Menon (L) presenting a memento to Mr. R N Lahiri, Chairperson, IT Committee, The Bengal Chamber

(L-R): Dr. Suryanil Ghosh; Mr. Gowtham Prasad K N, Business Development Manager, Developer and Platform Evangelism, Microsoft Corporation; Mr. R N Lahiri and Mr. Kattayil Rajinish Menon. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry partnered Microsoft BizSpark Challenge 2013 with TiE on 29th May 2013 in the Chamber.

Microsoft BizSpark India Startup Challenge 2013 is a unique platform to identify and promote upcoming startups with a promising product in the focus areas of connected devices and continuous services across India by submitting their business ideas on Cloud Computing and Mobility. Microsoft BizSpark India Startup Challenge 2013, for the first time, is being organized in 10 different cities with a national grand finale in Bangalore. The Kolkata edition was held in the Chamber.

From the city an online start-up launched by two city youths quitting their cushy private bank jobs has made it to the national finals. The company started operations in January through the website, www.little1.in. It made the cut from among 10 regional finalists. The team received a cheque of \$4,000 (Rs 2,20,000) for their idea. A three-year sustainable development programme with Microsoft awaits them if they clinch the national title.

Tookitaki, an advertisement optimization company, came second from eastern India and walked away with a prize of \$2,000 (Rs 1,10,000).

Mr. R N Lahiri, Chairperson, IT Committee of The Bengal Chamber and Dr. Suryanil Ghosh, Chairperson, Bengal Chamber Entrepreneurship Development Cell were present.

## SEMINAR ON "IMPORTANCE OF WATERWAYS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"

7TH JUNE 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized its annual event with the participation of senior representatives from Government, industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, etc for the year 2012-13. Titled, "Seminar on Importance of Waterways for Economic Development", the mega programme was held on Friday, 7th June 2013 at the Williamson Magor Hall in the Chamber premises. The objective was to address the impact of waterways in India on the economic development of our country, bring to board the bottlenecks, business opportunities, transportation, infrastructure and logistics issues.

Capt. S B Mazumder, Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed the inaugural speakers and Mr. Kallol

Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber opened the seminar by delivering the Welcome Speech during the Inaugural Session. Shri V. Trivedi, IAS, Chairperson, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Ministry of Shipping, Government of India and Shri R P S Kahlon, IAS, Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust were the Guest of Honours. Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber was also present during the inaugural session.

The other key speakers of the seminar were Mr. Arun Kumar Sinha, General Manager, Farakkha Barrage Project; Capt. L K Panda, Nautical Advisor, Government of India; Mr. Harrie de Leijer, Director Strategy, Panteia BV, Neitherlands; Mr. Syed Monowar Hussain, Former Director (Port and Traffic) and Secretary, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA);



Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber delivering his speech. Seated on the dais from (L-R): Capt S B Mazumder, Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber; Shri V. Trivedi, IAS, Chairperson, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Ministry of Shipping, Government of India; Shri R P S Kahlon, IAS, Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust and Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber

### SEMINAR ON "IMPORTANCE OF WATERWAYS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"

#### 7TH JUNE 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

Prof. Somenath Ghosh, Retd. Professor of Civil Engineering, IIT Kharagpur and Former-Chief Hydraulic Engineer, Kolkata Port Trust; Mr. Hendrik Geert Blaauw, Senior Advisor / Director, HBCB (Henk Blaauw Consultancy BV), Netherlands; Mr. Saibal De, Director and CEO, IL&FS Maritime Infrastructure Company Ltd and Capt. Rajesh Mehrotra, Chairman, Sula Logistics. The

focus of the presentations was the present situation of waterways / riverways in India and how these could be further developed and maintained for smooth flow of trade and commerce within India and between India and her neighbours.

Overall, the seminar witnessed the participation of a large number of

delegates (exceeding 150) representing port users, trade representatives, barge owners/manufacturers, industry representatives, experts, policymakers, researchers and academicians. The full day seminar helped the Chamber to work out an action plan based on which further initiatives would be taken for bringing development and maintenance of the entire "Inland Waterways System" in India, especially National Waterways I (Ganga -Allahabad to Haldia), II (connecting North East via Bangladesh) & the proposed NW VI. The growth and development of these waterways would be immensely beneficial for the Shipping Industry and in-land industries and positively impact the movement of cargo as well as ease of logistics management.



▲ Shri V. Trivedi, IAS delivering his speech



Shri R P S Kahlon, IAS, Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust during his address. Seated (L-R): Mr. Arun Kumar Sinha, General Manager, Farakkha Barrage Project, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India; Shri V. Trivedi, IAS; Mr. Kallol Datta and Mr. P Roy



Importance of Waterways for Economic Development

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▲ Capt S B Mazumder during his speech

The delegates present in the seminar



Mr. P Roy presenting a memento to Shri V. Trivedi, IAS

Mr. P Roy presenting a memento to Shri R P S Kahlon, IAS.



### SEMINAR ON "IMPORTANCE OF WATERWAYS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"



A group photograph of the Inaugural

Capt S B Mazumder presenting a

memento to Mr. Kallol Datta

A group photograph of the Inaugural Speakers: L-R - Shri V. Trivedi, IAS; Shri R P S Kahlon, IAS; Mr. Kallol Datta and Mr. P Roy



Importance of Waterways for Economic Development

Mr. Harrie de Leijer, Director Strategy, Panteia BV, The Netherlands, Strategist on Inland Waterways delivering his speech. Seated (L-R): Capt. Rajesh Mehrotra, Chairman, Sula Logistics Inc, USA; Capt. L K Panda, Nautical Advisor to Government of India, Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping and Mr. Dibyendu Bose, Managing Director, TM International Logistics Ltd and Session Chairman

◀ L-R: Mr. Dibyendu Bose, Managing Director, TM International Logistics Ltd., Mr. P Roy; Shri V. Trivedi, IAS; Shri R P S Kahlon, IAS and Mr. Kallol Datta during the press conference



Mr. Dibyendu Bose presenting a memento to Capt. L K Panda

Capt. L K Panda delivering his speech in the seminar





Mr Syed Monowar Hussain delivering his speech



Mr. Hendrik Geert Blaauw, Senior Advisor / Director, HBCB (Henk Blaauw Consultancy BV), The Netherlands and expert on Barge Industry delivering his speech. Seated (L-R): Mr. Syed Monowar Hussain, Former Director (Port and Traffic) and Secretary, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA); Prof. Somenath Ghosh, Retd. Professor of Civil Engineering, IIT Kharagpur and Former-Chief Hydraulic Engineer, Kolkata Port Trust and Shri Praful Tayal, Former Chairman cum Managing Director, Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd (A Govt. of India Undertaking) and also Session Chairman



L-R: Capt S B Mazumder; Mr. Syed Monowar Hussain; Prof. Somenath Ghosh; Mr. Tapas Banerjee; Shri Praful Tayal and Mr. Hendrik Geert Blaauw

Mr. Saibal De, Director and CEO, IL&FS Maritime Infrastructure Company Ltd delivering his speech. Seated (L-R): Mr. Yaswant Singhee, Managing Director, Eastern Navigation, Capt. Vikas Vij, Managing Director, I Marine Infratech (India) Pvt. Ltd & Representative of Indian Coastal Conference and Shipping Association (ICCSA) and Mr. M V Nath, Chairman, Vivada Inland Waterways Ltd and Session Chairman





Mr. Tapas Banerjee, Co-Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber presenting a memento to Mr. Hendrik Geert Blaauw

### SEMINAR ON "IMPORTANCE OF WATERWAYS

FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"

#### 7TH JUNE 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES







L-R: Mr. Yaswant Singhee; Capt S B Mazumder; Capt. Vikas Vij; Mr. Arup Bandhu Guha; Mr. M V Nath, Chairman and Mr. Saibal De



Mr. Tapas Banerjee presenting a memento to Mr. Syed Monowar Hussain

### 10TH JUNE 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

A delegation from Myanmar visited the Chamber on 10th June 2013 to meet Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber and other Secretariat Members. Anchored by Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, President - Eastern Region and National Board Member, National HRD Network and Chairperson, Skill Development Task Force of The Bengal Chamber, the visit was a follow-up to the immensely successful Bengal Chamber delegation to Myanmar led by Mr. Daspatnaik earlier this year.

In the meeting, the Chamber was requested to take up the following matters with the Government and other relevant authorities:

- Border Trade Regulations
- Connectivity by land, water and air. To facilitate trade between Myanmar
  and this part of the country, frequent and low cost air connectivity is
  important. It was proposed that the Chamber could discuss the issue
  with SpiceJet and Indigo. The condition of the Trilateral Highway
  connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand has to be improved.

Meeting in progress with Myanmar delegation. Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, President - Eastern Region and National Board Member, National HRD Network and Chairperson, Skill Development Task Force of The Bengal Chamber and Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber are seen with the delegation and other Secretariat Members of the Chamber

### INTERACTION WITH BUSINESS DELEGATION FROM MYANMAR

The potential areas of bilateral trade were discussed. Healthcare and Education could be focus sectors. Medical Tourism from Myanmar and visit to Myanmar by teams of doctors and medical experts from Kolkata could be facilitated. Management Development Programmes between educational institutes in Myanmar and Kolkata were also being explored.



 The Chamber supporting Centre for Environment Education (CEE) under the MoEF on their Outreach meet for JSW-The Times of India Earth Care Awards, 14th June 2013, Chamber premises

- The Bengal Chamber presents its next "Think..." series lecture on "Civil Society and the Emerging Chaos" presented by Ballantines in association with Future Business School and The Telegraph. Lecture by (Retd.) Justice Asok K Ganguly, Chairman, West Bengal Human Rights Commission, 24th June 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- Interactive Session on Educating the Future Mind Celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sir Asutosh Mukhopadhyay, 27th June 2013, Chamber premises
- Seminar on Foreign Trade Policy, 28th June 2013, Chamber premises
- Ideal Earth Plants for our Future, programme for schoolchildren with Agri-Horticultural Society of India, 6th July 2013, HBK Hall, Agri-Horticultural Society of India, Alipore, Kolkata
- Partnering Narula Institute of Technology in their UGC sponsored National Conference on Energy Engineering, Analysis, Audit and Management", 8th to 10th July 2013
- Summit on Wealth and Risk Management, 10th July 2013, Chamber premises (tentative)
- The Bengal Chamber Business-IT Conclave 2013, 19th July 2013, The Park
- Eastern and North Eastern Regional Skill Development Summit, 19th-20th July 2013, Chamber premises
- Mindspark 2013 The Finance and Business Quiz, 26th July 2013, Chamber premises (tentative)
- The Bengal Chamber presents its next "Think..." series lecture by Mr. Vinod Mehta, Executive Editor, The Outlook, presented by Ballantines in association with Future Business School and The Telegraph, July 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- HR Excellence Awards to Young HR Professionals, 12th August 2013, The Palladian Lounge
- The Bengal Chamber presents its next "Think..." series lecture by economist Dr. Omkar Goswami presented by Ballantines in association with Future Business School and The Telegraph, 13th August 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- Supply Chain and Logistics Summit, 29th August 2013, Chamber premises
- Energy Sustainability Conclave 2013, 30th-31st August 2013, ITC Sonar

# NEWS FROM THE JIS GROUP



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