Chief Patron
JIS GROUP
Educational Initiatives

bcci Newsletter

BCC&I
AIDING BUSINESS
SINCE 1833

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September - October 2026



from the desk of the PRESIDENT

Dear Member,

30th October, 2026

Subho Bijoya and warm Diwali greetings to all! As we immerse ourselves in the radiant spirit of this festive season, may the light of prosperity and unity guide our shared journey.

It is with deep humility, boundless gratitude, and an unwavering sense of duty that I address you for the first time as President of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I). To lead this storied institution — one that has woven a rich tapestry of legacy while boldly embracing the future — is an honour that inspires me to serve with vision and vigour. Together, we stand at the cusp of a transformative era, ready to shape a vibrant and interconnected future for our region and beyond.

This season has been a watershed moment in Bengal's industrialisation journey. On 14th October, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Suvendu Adhikari inaugurated the Phenol and Acetone Plant of AdPerMa, a wholly owned subsidiary of Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd (HPL). The ₹ 6,000-crore facility includes India's first on-purpose propylene plant using olefin conversion technology. The Chief Minister said Bengal would become the top destination for investment and employment generation within a year, while HPL Chairman Shri Purnendu Chatterjee said the plant would change the entire ecosystem, and MD & CEO Mr. Navanit Narayan said it would reach full capacity within the current Financial Year. This followed a September that moved investment from intent to action : on 23rd September, the State handed over about 580 acres to 33 industrial projects, with a combined investment of around ₹ 60,000 crore and nearly 62,000 jobs expected, spanning semiconductors, defence, solar power, electric vehicles, pharmaceuticals and MSMEs.

The months of September and October 2026 have been particularly significant for BCC&I, marked by a series of flagship initiatives and engagements across sectors. Our 19th Edition of the Environment & Energy Conclave in New Delhi continued BCC&I's longstanding engagement with sustainability, energy transition, and environmental priorities. The Financial Market Conclave in Mumbai provided a platform for discussions on developments in financial markets and the evolving economic landscape, while our Seminar on Biotech and Pharmaceuticals in Kolkata brought industry and other stakeholders together to explore emerging opportunities in these important sectors. The period culminated in our 172nd Annual General Meeting, held alongside the 4th Edition of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave in Kolkata, reaffirming BCC&I's commitment to strengthening industry engagement and fostering meaningful international economic cooperation.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to bring members an exciting calendar of programmes designed to address emerging industry priorities and create new avenues for engagement. These include the 2nd Edition of the National Health Insurance Summit in Kolkata, focusing on developments in healthcare financing and insurance; Campus Connect in Guwahati, aimed at strengthening engagement between industry and academic institutions; The Bengal Chamber Marketing and Brand Conclave 2026, bringing together perspectives on marketing, brand strategy, and changing consumer dynamics; and Nourish India – 2nd Edition 2026, which will continue the dialogue on the food and nutrition ecosystem. We will also host the 2nd Edition of Shiromoni – Entrepreneurship Excellence Awards in Kolkata, celebrating outstanding entrepreneurial journeys, visionary leadership, and contributions to India's business landscape. Through these initiatives, we aim to provide members with relevant platforms for knowledge exchange, networking, collaboration, and the development of new business opportunities.

As we embark on this new chapter, I humbly request all Expert Committee Mentors, Chairpersons, Co-Chairpersons, and Members to please continue contributing their expertise, time, and insights towards advancing the Chamber's objectives. Your active participation will remain central to strengthening our Committees, deepening policy engagement, expanding industry partnerships, and ensuring that BCC&I continues to respond effectively to the evolving needs of its members.

Together, we can build on our institutional legacy while embracing new ideas, emerging opportunities, and innovative approaches to economic development.

As we celebrate the festive season and look towards the months ahead, let us renew our collective commitment to excellence, collaboration, and service. May the spirit of Bijoya and the light of Diwali inspire us to build stronger partnerships, unlock new opportunities, and contribute meaningfully to the progress of Bengal, India, and the broader Indo-Pacific.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Sd/-
Abhijit Banerjee
President

MEMBER'S NEWS CORNER



Welcome to the Bengal Chamber family! That's what we would like to convey Himadri Speciality Chemicals Limited; Bureau Veritus India Pvt. Ltd.; Sahaj Retail Limited and Binjrajka Miniature Impex LLP whose applications for membership were tabled and approved on 25th September 2026.

BCC&I
AIDING BUSINESS
SINCE 1833

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN ASSOCIATION WITH JIS GROUP EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Chief Patron
JIS GROUP
Educational Initiatives

PROGRAMME

STRICTLY DELICIOUS BOOK RELEASE & ANNOUNCEMENT OF TASTEFULLY YOURS FOOD FESTIVAL 2026

28th August 2026
Taj Bengal, Kolkata

1. Release of Strictly Delicious – For the Love of Food

An Initiative of the Lifestyle Committee, Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The **Lifestyle Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I)** officially released ***Strictly Delicious – For the Love of Food*** on **28 August 2026 at Taj Bengal, Kolkata.**

Authored by entrepreneur, musician and storyteller and the Chairman of the Lifestyle Committee of BCC&I **Mr. Debaditya Chaudhury,** the coffee-table book celebrates the culinary heritage of Bengal by documenting the stories of historic eateries, bakeries, sweet shops, clubs and restaurants that have contributed to Kolkata's distinctive food culture across generations.

The book goes beyond documenting dishes and establishments, capturing the people, memories, traditions and stories behind some of the city's most enduring culinary institutions. It is a tribute to the unsung custodians of flavour and to the establishments that have preserved Kolkata's gastronomic legacy through changing times.

The launch was attended by prominent political, cultural and civic personalities, including **Smt. Agnimitra Paul, Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Department of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs; Smt. Purnima Chakraborty, Hon'ble Minister of State, Department of Tourism; Smt. Locket Chatterjee, State General Secretary, BJP West Bengal; Shri Ajay Kumar Nand, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Kolkata; Shri Barun Kumar Ray, IAS; actress Paoli Dam; and Shri Sankho Subhro Chakraborty, IPS,** among others.

The occasion also featured the recognition of several iconic culinary institutions for their enduring contribution to Kolkata's food heritage. **Mocambo,** established in 1956, was felicitated for its longstanding legacy, while **Trincas** received a Special Mention. Historic establishments including **Kapila Ashram (Rishi Babur Dokan)** and **Shiv Shakti Sharbat Shop** were also recognised for preserving distinctive culinary traditions.

Other prominent establishments associated with the book included **Eau Chew, Bombay Hotel, Imperial Bakery & Confectioners, Mahal Restaurant, Badshah, Shiraz Golden Restaurant and Lancha Kuthee,** along with prestigious institutions such as **Bengal Club** and **Royal Calcutta Golf Club.**

Through Strictly Delicious, the Lifestyle Committee of BCC&I seeks to document and celebrate the rich culinary stories that form an important part of Kolkata's cultural and social history.

2. Announcement of Tastefully Yours Food Festival 2026

An Initiative under Bengal Soulfully Yours, in collaboration with ITC Limited.

The second highlight of the evening was the announcement of **Tastefully Yours Food Festival 2026,** a separate initiative under **Bengal Soulfully Yours (BSY),** a joint initiative of **BCC&I and ITC Limited.**

Scheduled from **29 August to 30 September 2026,** Tastefully Yours is a **month-long, citywide food festival** designed to celebrate Kolkata's diverse culinary culture and promote the city as a destination for culinary tourism.

Unlike a conventional food festival centred around a single venue, Tastefully Yours transforms **Kolkata itself into the festival space,** encouraging residents and visitors to explore the city through its neighbourhoods, heritage establishments, iconic restaurants and contemporary dining destinations.

The festival brings together **40+ participating brands across 100+ outlets,** covering a wide range of culinary experiences across the city. Participating establishments include **Royal Indian Restaurant, Nizam's, Trincas, Mocambo, 6 Ballygunge Place, Chowman, K.C. Das, Campari, Balwant Singh Eating House, Ottimo at ITC Royal Bengal, Dum Pukht, Pan Asian, Kafulok and Wow! Momo,** among others.

As part of the festival, participating outlets will offer **special menus, exclusive offers and discounts,** along with digital storytelling and promotional activities that encourage audiences to discover Kolkata through its food. Select participating venues will also offer complimentary dishes.

The festival is supported by **NRAI Bengal Chapter as Ecosystem Partner, 91.9 Friends FM as In-Association Radio Partner, and Bonobithi as Eco Resort Partner.**

Through Tastefully Yours, Bengal Soulfully Yours aims to showcase the breadth of Kolkata's food ecosystem and highlight the connection between **food, culture, heritage, tourism and enterprise.**

Two Initiatives, One Celebration of Bengal

While the two initiatives were presented during the same evening, they represent **distinct BCC&I-led initiatives with different objectives.**

28th August 2026
Taj Bengal, Kolkata

STRICTLY DELICIOUS BOOK RELEASE & ANNOUNCEMENT OF TASTEFULLY YOURS FOOD FESTIVAL 2026

Strictly Delicious, led by the **Lifestyle Committee of BCC&I,** documents and celebrates the stories and heritage of Kolkata's iconic culinary institutions.



Chief Guest Smt. Agnimitra Paul, Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Department of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs; Government of West Bengal being felicitated by Ms. Sukanya Bose, Assistant Director General, BCC&I and Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Director, BCC&I



Representative from K. Ali Bakery receiving recognition from Ms. Smita Roy Chowdhury, Senior Associate Editor, The telegraph



Representative from Kafulok receiving recognition from Mr. Arindam Sil, Indian actor and film director

Tastefully Yours, under **Bengal Soulfully Yours in collaboration with ITC Limited,** takes that culinary heritage into the city through a month-long festival, inviting people to experience Kolkata's food culture across its many neighbourhoods and dining destinations.



(From L-R) Smt. Agnimitra Paul, Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Department of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs; Government of West Bengal, popular Indian actress Ms. Paoli Dam; Mr. Debaditya Chaudhury, Chairperson, Lifestyle Committee, BCC&I & Managing Director, Chowman Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.; Guest of Honour Shri Barun Kumar Ray, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal



Representative from TheKanchan receiving recognition from Ms. Tanusree Shankar, Indian dancer and choreographer



Mr. Nitin Kothari and Sidharth Kothari of Mocambo receiving recognition from Mr. Jayant Kripalani, Indian film actor and director

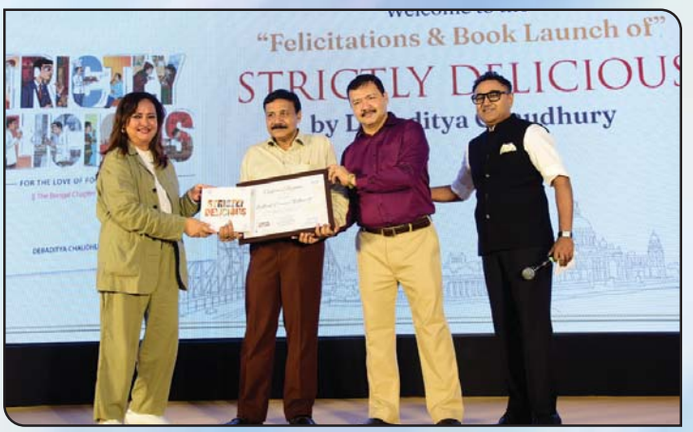
PROGRAMME

STRICTLY DELICIOUS BOOK RELEASE & ANNOUNCEMENT OF TASTEFULLY YOURS FOOD FESTIVAL 2026

28th August 2026
Taj Bengal, Kolkata



Mr. Anand Puri of Trincas receiving recognition from Smt. Agnimitra Paul, Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Department of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs; Government of West Bengal



Representative from National Economic Restaurant receiving recognition from Ms. Nilanjana Sengupta, Actress and producer



Representative from Kapila Ashram receiving recognition from popular Indian actress Ms. Paoli Dam



Chief Guest Smt. Purnima Chakraborty, Hon'ble Minister of State, Department of Tourism and Minister of State Information and Culture, Government of West Bengal being felicitated by Ms. Soma Mitra Mukherjee, Assistant Director General, BCC&I



Mr. Jahangir Alam, Director, Banabithi Resorts Pvt. Ltd. receiving recognition from Ms. Reshmi Chatterjee, Entrepreneur Curator, Halo Heritage



Section of audience of the launch of "Strictly Delicious : For the Love of Food (The Bengal Chapter)"

28th August 2026
Taj Bengal, Kolkata

STRICTLY DELICIOUS BOOK RELEASE & ANNOUNCEMENT OF TASTEFULLY YOURS FOOD FESTIVAL 2026





Section of audience of the launch of "Strictly Delicious : For the Love of Food (The Bengal Chapter)"

29th and 30th August 2026,
Sportsplex, Tangra

THE BENGAL CHAMBER CORPORATE FUTSAL GOLD CUP – 4th EDITION

The Sports Development Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce organised the 4th Edition of Corporate Futsal Gold Cup to promote good health and positive relationships amongst colleagues.

The two-day-long Tournament had all the renowned corporates playing. The tournament will be held on 29th & 30th of August 2026 at Sportsplex and followed all the rules & regulations of a 5-A–Side match.

The teams participated in the tournament

1. Code Clouds IT Solutions Pvt Ltd,
2. Webskitters Technology Solutions Pvt. Ltd,
3. PwC AC,
4. Haldia Petrochemicals Limited,
5. JIS Group,
6. Usha Martin Limited,
7. P S Group Realty Private Limited,
8. The Bhawanipur Education Society College,
9. Mind & Matter,
10. Berger Paints India Limited,
11. TM International Logistics Ltd,
12. MCPI Private Limited,
13. HDFC Bank Team 1,
14. HDFC Bank Team 2,
15. New India Assurance Co. Ltd,
16. Infosys Limited,
17. Exide Industries Ltd,
18. Genpact India,
19. LTM,
20. Nomura Research Institute Financial Technologies India Pvt. Ltd,
21. Tata Consultancy Services,
22. Tata Steel Limited,
23. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and
24. The Telegraph

Day 1 – 10 am to 7.30 pm (29th August 2026)
Day 2 – 12 Noon to 7 pm (30th August 2026)
The results from the tournament were;
Winner of the Tournament - Tata Consultancy Services
Second Placed Team - Infosys Limited
Third Placed Team - LTM





Inaugural Session

PROGRAMME

THE BENGAL CHAMBER CORPORATE FUTSAL GOLD CUP – 4th EDITION

29th and 30th August 2026, Sportsplex, Tangra



Team line up for a photograph



Teams in action



Man of the Match trophy being handed over by **Mr. Anirban Biswas, Director, Adwitiya Enterprise, Kolkata**



Team huddle



Teams in action



Referees explaining the rules to teams

29th and 30th August 2026,
Sportsplex, Tangra

THE BENGAL CHAMBER CORPORATE FUTSAL GOLD CUP – 4th EDITION



Teams in action



Man of the Match trophy being handed over by **Mr. Bikramjit Saha, Sr. Executive, BCC&I**



Man of the Match trophy being handed over by **Ms. Waindrilla Saha, Manager, BCC&I**



Man of the Match trophy being handed over by **Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Director, BCC&I, Kolkata**



Teams in action



Man of the Match trophy being handed over by **Ms. Aratrika Guha, Executive, BCC&I**



Man of the Match trophy being handed over by **Ms. Rajashree Mukherjee, Sr. Manager, BCC&I**



Toss in progress





Teams in action



Team line up for a photograph



Teams in action



Man of the Match trophy being handed over by **Ms. Soma Mitra Mukherjee, Assistant Director General, BCC&I**



Man of the Match trophy being handed over by **Mr. Subrata Dutta, Chairperson, Sports Development Committee, BCC&I and MD, The George Telegraph Group**



Man of the Match trophy being handed over by **Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I**



Team line up for a photograph





Teams in action

PROGRAMME

THE BENGAL CHAMBER CORPORATE FUTSAL GOLD CUP – 4th EDITION

29th and 30th August 2026, Sportsplex, Tangra



Teams in action



Fair Play Award - P S Group Realty Private Limited



Best Goalkeeper being awarded



Best Referee being awarded



Best Player of the Tournament being awarded



Man of the Match for the final being awarded



3rd Placed Team – LTM



2nd Placed team – Infosys Limited



Winner of the Tournament - Tata Consultancy Services





Teams in action

PROGRAMME

THE BENGAL CHAMBER CORPORATE FUTSAL GOLD CUP – 4th EDITION

29th and 30th August 2026, Sportsplex, Tangra





Teams in action

9th EDUCATION CONCLAVE

3rd September 2026, Taj Bengal, Kolkata

Theme : Human in the Loop : Shaping the Future of Education with Responsible AI

The **9th Annual Education Conclave 2026** was held on **3rd September 2026 at Taj Bengal, Kolkata,** bringing together thought leaders, academicians, industry experts and educationists to deliberate on the theme **"Human in the Loop: Shaping the Future of Education with Responsible AI."**

As Artificial Intelligence continues to redefine the way we learn, teach, assess and prepare for the future of work, the Conclave provides an important platform for meaningful deliberations on ensuring that technological advancement in education continues to be guided by human values, judgement, creativity and responsibility.

The Conclave commences with a Welcome Address by Mr. Abhijit Roy, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director & CEO, Berger Paints India Ltd., followed by the Context Setting by Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Chairperson, Education National Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Director, JIS Group. The Inaugural Session also features addresses Prof. Dr. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Pro-Chancellor, TIG Universities and Central Academic Leader, Techno India Group.

Prof. Bheemarjun Reddy Tamma, Dean – Digital Transformation, IIT Hyderabad, delivers the Opening Keynote Address, bringing an important perspective on the role of digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence in shaping the future of education.

Dr. Prithwis Mukerjee, Director, Praxis Business School, further enriches the deliberations with his keynote address on **"Human-in-the-Loop: AI in the Classroom."**

A significant panel discussion on "Reimagining Education: Responsible AI and the Role of Leadership" examines how educational leaders can navigate the opportunities and responsibilities created by Artificial Intelligence. Chaired by Dr. Madhupa Bakshi, Dean, Media Science, The Heritage Academy, the session brings together leading voices from the education sector, including Prof. Anupam Basu, Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University; Mr. Bidyut Majumdar, Deputy Director, JIS Group; Mr. Abhijit Chatterjee, Chairman & CEO, Ascensive Educare Ltd and Prof. (Dr.) Sabyasachi Dasgupta, HoD Marketing and Head, Globsyn Research Cell, Globsyn Business School.

The Conclave also explores the growing relationship between AI, education and the future economy through a keynote on "Preparing Young Minds for the AI-Powered World of Finance" by Mr. Ambarish Datta, Managing Director & CEO, NAL Academy.

Further perspectives on emerging technologies are brought to the forefront through an expert session on "Education at the Intersection of DeepTech and AI" by Mr. Malaya Khandelwal, Owner, ThinkC.

Addressing one of the most pressing questions facing educational institutions today, Mr. Sajid Hussain, Global Delivery Head, Supply Chain Practice & Center Head, Kolkata, Cognizant Technology Solutions Corporation, shares insights

on “Preparing Students and Educational Institutions for the Workplace in the Era of AI.”

The discussions extend beyond classrooms and campuses with a panel focused on “Industry-Leading the Workforce of Tomorrow: Responsible AI and Human Capital.” Chaired by Mr. Tanmoy Banerjee, Founder & Managing Director, R.T. Network Solutions Pvt. Ltd., the panel brings together industry experts to deliberate on the evolving relationship between technology, talent and the human workforce. The session features Mr. Sandeep Sengupta, Founder & Director, ISOAH Data Securities Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Anindya Sen, Co-founder, Purplesynapz Labs Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Anirban Dasgupta, Co-founder, Workmates Core2Cloud Solution Ltd and Mr. Kanchan Mallick, AI Security & Cyberpsychology Consultant, Head – National Cyber security Services (SAARC), Commercial Head, East India, TrendAI, TRENDMICRO.

The Conclave concludes with a summary of the key deliberations and a Vote of Thanks by Ms. Rupkatha Sarkar, Co-Chairperson, Education National Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Principal, La Martiniere for Girls.

The Conclave witnessed the enthusiastic participation of **more than 200 delegates.** Through engaging and insightful deliberations spanning education, technology, finance, deep tech and industry, the **9th Annual Education Conclave 2026** underscored the importance of keeping the **human in the loop** as Artificial Intelligence continues to become an integral part of the educational ecosystem.

The Conclave represents a collective step towards building an education system where technological advancement is guided by responsible leadership, ethical thinking and human values — preparing learners not merely to adapt to an AI-driven future, but to shape it responsibly.

Inaugural session



Inaugural session



Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Chairperson, National Education Committe, BCC&I and Director, **JIS GROUP**



Emcee of the Programme: **Ms. Swarnali Mukherjee Dhar, Director, BCC&I**



Emcee of the Programme: **Ms. Waindrilla Roy, Manager, BCC&I**



Prof. Dr. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay , Pro-Chancellor, Techno India Group Universities &Central Academic Leader



Mr. Abhijit Roy, President, BCC&I and Managing Director & CEO, **Berger Paints India Ltd**



Group Photo



Mr. Abhijit Roy, President, BCC&I and Managing Director & CEO, **Berger Paints India Ltd**



Prof. Dr. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay , Pro-Chancellor, Techno India Group Universities & Central Academic Leader



Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Chairperson, National Education Committe, BCC&I and Director, **JIS GROUP**

Opening Keynote Speaker Prof. Bheemarjun Reddy Tamma, Dean, Digital Transformation, IIT Hyderabad







Opening Keynote Speaker : Prof. Bheemarjun Reddy Tamma, Dean,
Digital Transformation, **IIT Hyderabad**

Expert Speaker on preparing Students and Educational Institutions for the Workplace in the Era of AI





Mr. Sajid Hussain, Global Delivery Head, Supply Chain Practice & Centre Head, Kolkata, Cognizant Solutions Corporation,
Expert Speaker on preparing Students and Educational Institutions for the Workplace in the Era of AI





Mr. Sajid Hussain, Global Delivery Head, Supply Chain Practice & Centre Head, Kolkata, Cognizant Solutions Corporation, Expert Speaker on preparing Students and Educational Institutions for the Workplace in the Era of AI

Keynote Speaker Dr. Prithwis Mukherjee, Director, Praxis Business School









Keynote Speaker : Dr. Prithwis Mukherjee, Director, **Praxis Business School**

Expert Speaker on Education at the intersection of deep tech and AI









Expert Speaker on Education at the intersection of deep tech and AI , Mr. Malaya Khandelwal, Founder - Bodha AI

Keynote Speaker on preparing young minds for the AI-Powered World of Finance





Keynote Speaker on preparing young minds for the AI-Powered World of Finance





Mr. Ambarish Datta, Managing Director & CEO, NAL Academy

Panel focus on Industry - Leading the Workforce of Tomorrow Responsible AI and Human Capital



Panel focus on Industry - Leading the Workforce of Tomorrow : Responsible AI and Human Capital



Session Chair : Mr. Tanmoy Banerjee, Founder & Managing Director
RT Network Solutions Pvt Ltd



Mr. Anindya Sen, Co-Founder, Purplesynapz Labs Pvt Ltd





Panelist : Mr. Sandeep Sengupta, Founder & Director, ISOAH Data Securities Pvt Ltd





Mr. Anirban Dasgupta, Co- Founder Workmates Core2cloud Solution Ltd



Mr. Kanchan Mallick, Al Security & Cyberpsychology Consultant, Head - National Cyber Security (SAARC), Commercial Head, East India, TrendAI, TRENDMICRO





Group Photo

Session on Reimagining Education Responsible AI and the Role of Leadership



Session on Reimagining Education: Responsible AI and the Role of Leadership





Session Chair : Dr. Madhupa Baksi, Dean, Media Science, The Heritage Academy





Panelist : Prof Anupam Basu, Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University





Panelists : Mr. Bidyut Majumdar, Deputy Director, JIS GROUP





Panelists : Mr. Abhijit Chatterjee, Chairman & CEO, Ascensive Educare

PROGRAMME

9th EDUCATION CONCLAVE

3rd September 2026,
Taj Bengal, Kolkata





Panelists : Prof. (Dr.) Sabyasachi Dasgupta, HoD, Marketing and Head Globsynn Research Cell, Globsyn Business School



Group Photo

Vote of Thanks





Vote of thanks and closure

3rd September 2026,
Taj Bengal, Kolkata

9th EDUCATION CONCLAVE





Vote of thanks and closure

7th September 2026,
W&M Hall, The Bengal Chamber Premises

BENGAL CHAMBER LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES : CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry hosted the **10th edition of its flagship Leadership Lecture Series,** continuing a decade-long journey of bringing together some of India's most distinguished leaders, thinkers and changemakers.

Over the years, the series has featured eminent personalities including Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Sourav Ganguly, Dr. R.S. Sodhi, Sanjeev Sanyal, Arundhati Bhattacharya, Dr. Purnendu Chatterjee, Gurdeep Singh and Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, among others. Each edition has offered valuable perspectives on leadership, resilience, innovation and nation-building.

The 10th edition featured **Padma Shri T. V. Mohandas Pai,** Chairman of 3one4 Capital and Co-Founder & Chairman of Aarin Capital. A respected business leader, investor and advocate for education and entrepreneurship, Mr. Pai brings decades of experience across technology, corporate leadership, investment and institution building.

The theme, **"India a Start-Up Nation,"** was particularly relevant to India's rapidly evolving entrepreneurial landscape. With entrepreneurship, technology-led businesses and young innovators increasingly contributing to the country's economic and social progress, the discussion explored what it takes to build an ecosystem where ideas can transform into enterprises and innovation can create sustainable impact.

The interaction also highlighted the importance of leadership in shaping this transformation through the ability to identify opportunities, take calculated risks, build strong teams and institutions and envision possibilities beyond the present. Mr. Pai's experience offered valuable insights into India's entrepreneurial journey and the opportunities ahead for the next generation of businesses.

As the Leadership Lecture Series enters its second decade, it continues to serve as a platform for **meaningful conversations, diverse perspectives and transformative ideas,** reaffirming The Bengal Chamber's commitment to fostering dialogue that inspires leadership and contributes to India's growth story.



Welcome Address by Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, BCC&I and Head of On-site, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited



Setting the Context by Mr.NavarunSen, Vice President – BCC&I, Co-Chairperson, Marketing and Brand Committee, BCC&I and COO, Century Ply

PROGRAMME

BENGAL CHAMBER LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES :
CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

7th September 2026,
W&M Hall, The Bengal Chamber Premises



Introduction by Ms. Vinita Bajoria, Chairperson, Nicco Cables



Emcee of the event Ms.Swarnali Dhar, Director, BCC&I





Leadership Lecture by Padma Shri T.V. Mohandas Pai on 'India - A Start-Up Nation'



A full house



Audience of the event

PROGRAMME

7th September 2026,
W&M Hall, The Bengal Chamber Premises

BENGAL CHAMBER LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES : CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



A portrait of Padma Shri T.V. Mohandas Pai - a gift from JIS Group, being handed over by Mr.Taranjit Singh, Managing Director, JIS Group and Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group and Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, BCC&I



A portrait of Padma Shri T.V. Mohandas Pai - a gift from JIS Group



Igniting Minds Award is conferred on Padma Shri T.V. Mohandas Pai by Mr. Taranjit Singh, Managing Director, JIS Group and Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group and Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, BCC&I



Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group



Mr.Taranjit Singh, Managing Director, JIS Group



Leadership Lecture by Padma Shri T.V. Mohandas Pai on 'India - A Start-Up Nation'

PROGRAMME

BENGAL CHAMBER LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES :
CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

7th September 2026,
W&M Hall, The Bengal Chamber Premises



Leadership Lecture by Padma Shri T.V. Mohandas Pai on 'India - A Start-Up Nation'



Audience Question and Answers, moderated by Mr. Gautam Ghosh, Managing Partner, Sand Box Global Advisory LLP



Mr. Gautam Ghosh, Managing Partner, Sand Box Global Advisory LLP



Leadership Lecture by Padma Shri T.V. Mohandas Pai



Q & A Session



A full house

7th September 2026,
W&M Hall, The Bengal Chamber Premises

BENGAL CHAMBER LEADERSHIP LECTURE SERIES : CELEBRATING A DECADE OF THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



Emcee of the event Ms.Swarnali Dhar, Director, BCC&I



Emcee of the event Ms.Swarnali Dhar, Director, BCC&I

10th September 2026,
Le Meridien, Delhi

BCC&I ORGANIZED THE 19th ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONCLAVE

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), organized the 19th Annual Environment and Energy Conclave on 10th September 2026 at Le Meridien, Delhi. The theme, this year was **'Energy Security for Atmanirbhar Bharat in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape.'**

The programme was presented with **Bihar as the State Partner. Shri Shailesh Kumar,** Hon'ble Energy Minister, Government of Bihar was the Chief Guest. The Hon'ble Minister highlighted **'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana'** and Bihar's rural electrification; he also highlighted the State's power sector and its vision on energy security and self-reliance. He pointed out that as the geopolitical landscape keeps shifting, a country's ability to secure its own energy becomes central to staying self-reliant. Conclaves like this one gave Bihar a chance to put its progress on record and show what dependable power can do for growth that reaches everyone.

Shri Krushna Chandra Panigrahy, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency was present in the programme. The programme had senior level participation from PSUs and corporates. Along with the Hon'ble Energy Minister, the other distinguished speakers in the inaugural session included **Dr. Ajay Mathur,** Former Director General, International Solar Alliance; **Shri Jayant Kumar Jha,** Director (Commercial), MECON Ltd.; **Dr. Manoj Kumar Jhawar,** Managing Director & CEO, PTC India Limited as well as **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee,** Chairperson, The Delhi Council, BCC&I and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited and **Mr. Gautam Ray** who were the former Presidents of the Chamber.

- 'Bihar's peak power demand has reached around 9.5 GW, and the government is continuing to gear up to meet future electricity needs'.

- 'Whether we talk about PM Surya Ghar Yojana, or we talk about PM Kusum Yojana... especially if I talk about Bihar, then through these schemes, the 1.5 lakh BPL families, the poor families in Bihar, on their homes, we have put up a 1 kilowatt solar plate for free to generate electricity. - **Shri Shailesh Kumar,** Hon'ble Energy Minister, Government of Bihar.

The discussions in the inaugural sessions highlighted three key pillars of energy security: strengthening domestic resilience, reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels, and improving energy efficiency through both supply-side and demand-side measures. Speakers noted the challenges posed by geopolitical uncertainties, fuel import dependence, shipping chokepoints, renewable energy intermittency, storage requirements and limited strategic reserves.

'Three principal strands have emerged: one is domestic resilience, and that is fundamental, absolutely fundamental to energy security, second is reduced dependence on import of fossil fuels and the third is energy efficiency, both from the supply operational efficiency and from the demand-side conservation and demand-side management.' - Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Former President and Chairperson of The Delhi Council, BCC&I, and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited

'Energy is not only an index of growth; today, it is a much larger framework in the context of the security and self-reliance of the country.' - **Mr. Gautam Ray,** Former President, BCC&I

The session also emphasised the importance of accelerating renewable energy integration, electrification of transport and

industry, digitalisation and decentralisation of the power sector. Discussions stressed the need for innovative financing, stronger transmission infrastructure, efficient technologies, and collaboration among government, industry, academia and consumers.

'To electrify the transport sector as well as the industry sector, we will need land, transmission lines and money. I would suggest that government policies set the vision because through government policies, we understand what is important for the government. We can connect philanthropy, public finance and catalytic risk finance so that we can get loans that are cheaper than market loans. I believe that we will be able to achieve this at a state level, not at the federal level.' - **Dr. Ajay Mathur,** Mentor, The Delhi Council, BCC&I, and Former Director General, International Solar Alliance.

'Academia and industry have to work together to convert research into implementation, so that the benefits reach society and resources are managed effectively.' - **Shri Jayant Kumar Jha,** Director (Commercial), MECON LIMITED.

'If you are trying to replace fossil fuels, you cannot replace one kind of dependency with another. The solution lies in investing in the cutting-edge technologies of the future relating to energy. You have to invest in solar cells and battery cells.' - **Dr. Manoj Kumar Jhawar,** Managing Director & CEO, PTC India Limited.

The session further highlighted Bihar's progress in rural electrification, rooftop solar, agricultural feeder solarisation and renewable energy, while underscoring the role of energy security in advancing self-reliance and sustainable economic development.

'When we talk about energy security and energy transition, energy efficiency remains the fundamental foundation for all such initiatives.' - **Shri Krushna Chandra Panigrahy,** Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

Session 1 on 'Energy Security in New World Order' examined the evolving challenges to India's energy security in the context of geopolitical conflicts, supply chain disruptions and volatility in global energy markets. Chaired by **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Former President and Chairperson of The Delhi Council, BCC&I, and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited,** the session brought together perspectives from the energy industry and international diplomacy. **Mr. Asim Prasad, Executive Director (Corporate Strategy Planning, Advocacy & Corporate Affairs), GAIL (India) Limited, Ms. Preeti Rahman, Deputy High Commissioner, Bangladesh High Commission, Mr. Subhajit Sarkar, ED (Operations), RHQ, IOCL and Mr. Vijay Goel, Executive Director (Dispute Resolution Cell), NTPC Ltd joined** in the discussions.

The session explored the implications of global conflicts and disruptions across energy supply chains, highlighting the importance of strengthening domestic capabilities and building greater resilience against external shocks. Discussions also focused on **energy source diversification and the role of strategic petroleum reserves** in safeguarding continuity of supply and reducing vulnerability to market volatility. The speakers emphasised the importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation through **India's energy diplomacy,** while fostering reliable partnerships and diversified sources of energy. Overall, the session underscored the need for a resilient, diversified and strategically autonomous energy ecosystem to support India's long-term energy security and self-reliance.

Session 2 on 'Transition to Clean and Self-Reliant Energy' examined India's transition towards a clean, resilient and self-reliant energy ecosystem, with discussions centred on renewable energy expansion, green hydrogen, domestic manufacturing and evolving power markets. Chaired by **Mr. Gautam Ray, Former President, BCC&I,** the session brought together perspectives from **Mr. Abhishek Chatterjee, Vice President – Regulatory and Power Sale, JSW Energy,** and **Mr. Biswadeep Parida, Managing Director – Intelligent Business Transformation – Power, PwC India.** The speakers highlighted the importance of strengthening domestic capabilities, enabling effective policy and regulatory frameworks, and leveraging technology and innovation to reduce import dependence, enhance energy resilience and accelerate India's journey towards Atmanirbhar energy security.

Session 3 on 'Energy Security – Financial Models, Technology & Innovations' was chaired by **Mr. Subimal Bhattacharjee,** Mentor, The Delhi Council, BCC&I and Treasurer and Head – Critical and Emerging Technologies, Society for Harmonise Aspirations for Responsible Engagement (SHARE), emphasized the role of technology, digitalisation and innovation in advancing energy security and efficiency. Keynote Speaker **Shri Krushna Chandra Panigrahy,** Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, along with **Mr. Nikolai Walderhaug, First** Secretary (Economy and Environment Team), Royal Norwegian Embassy New Delhi, **Mr. Rasmus Wendt,** Energy Counsellor, Royal Embassy of Denmark in New Delhi; **Mr. Sachin Vermani,** Senior Vice President, Project Advisory & Structured Finance, SBICAPS and **Mr. Saurabh Kumar,** Co-Founder & CEO, Dhivegaa Energy, shared perspectives on energy efficiency, financing, smart grids, sector coupling, storage and demand-side management. Discussions highlighted energy efficiency as the foundation of the energy transition, with emphasis on financing and supporting MSMEs through government programmes.

10th September 2026,
Le Meridien, Delhi

BCC&I ORGANIZED THE 19th ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONCLAVE

Speakers from Norway and Denmark discussed **international cooperation, smart grids, sector coupling, storage** and **demand-side management. Financial perspectives** focused on the growing bankability of **smart metering, green hydrogen** and **emerging energy projects.** The session also explored industrial electrification, particularly low-grade heat, and the need for blended finance. The importance of grid digitisation and digital public infrastructure was emphasised to enable peer-to-peer energy trading, greater renewable integration and storage.

Country participation from Bangladesh, Denmark and Norway in the Conclave highlighted possible collaborations between the respective countries and India during the Conclave.

Speakers joined from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bhubaneshwar and other places. Around 200 delegates took part in the programme. The programme was widely covered by the national media.





Shri Shailesh Kumar, Hon'ble Energy Minister, Government of Bihar was the Chief Guest



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Former President and Chairperson of The Delhi Council, BCC&I, and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited



Mr. Gautam Ray, Former President, BCC&I



Dr. Ajay Mathur, Mentor, The Delhi Council, BCC&I, and Former Director General, International Solar Alliance

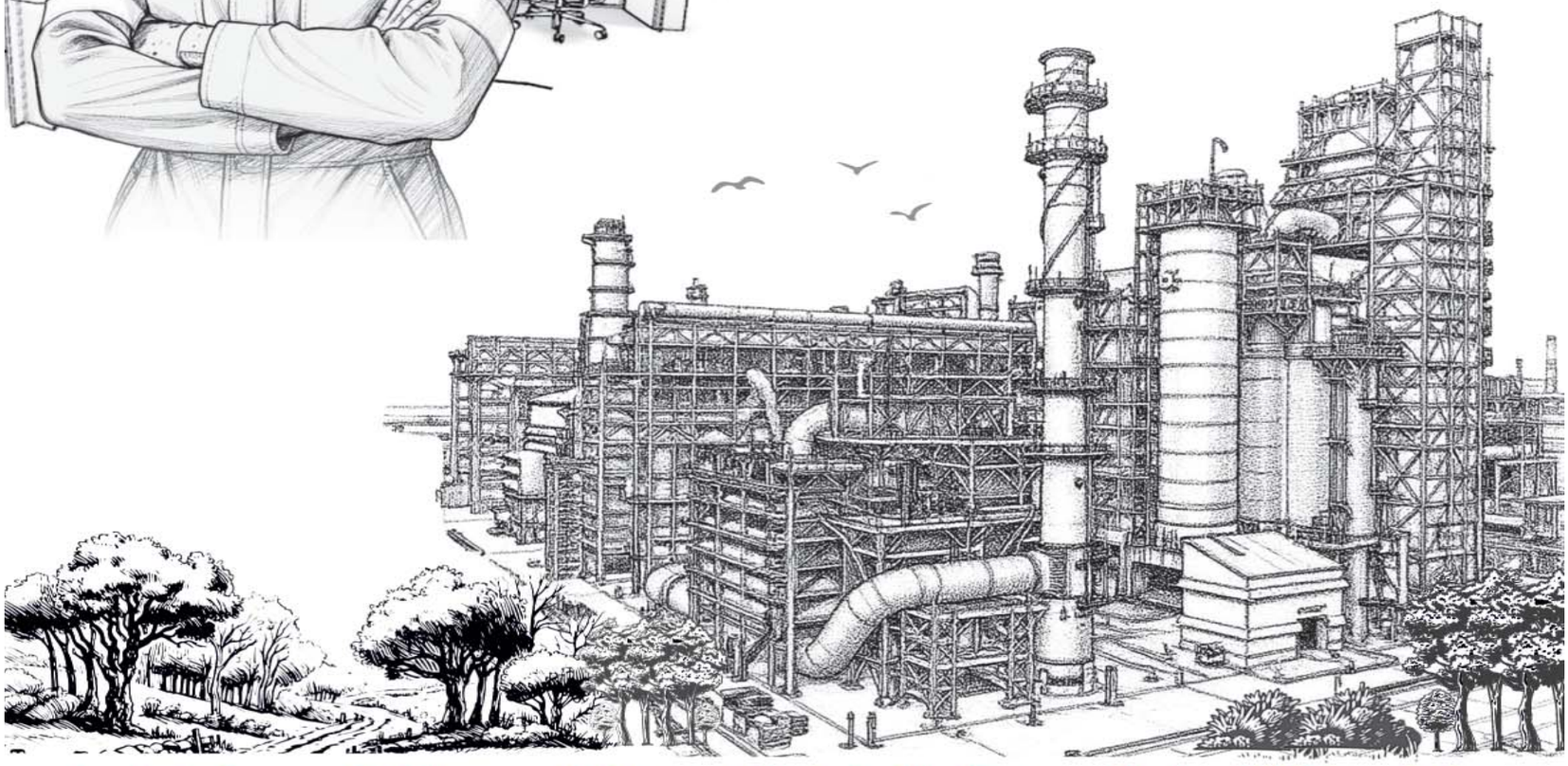


Shri Jayant Kumar Jha, Director (Commercial), Mecon Limited



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- Panipat Refinery has become the first refinery in India to be awarded the prestigious ISCC CORSIA Certification in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 international standards
- IndianOil is setting up India's first large-scale 10 Kilo Tonnes Per Annum Green Hydrogen Plant at Panipat Refinery & Petrochemical Complex through L&T Energy GreenTech Limited
- The First dispatch of Jet Propellant (JP-5) was flagged off from Gujarat Refinery, marking entry into the specialised defence-grade fuel segment

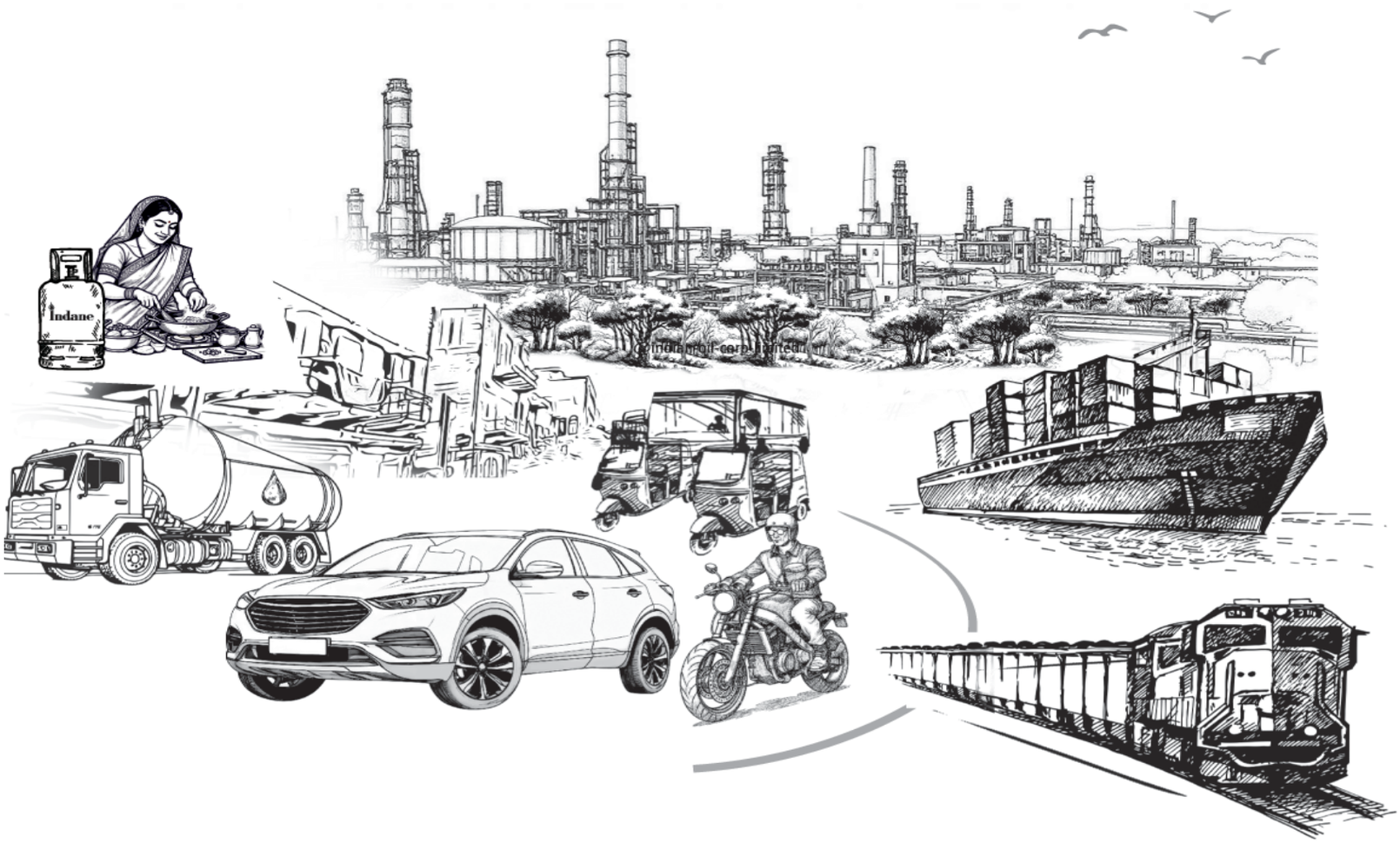


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PROGRAMME

BCC&I ORGANIZED THE 19th ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONCLAVE

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Dr. Manoj Kumar Jhawar, Managing Director & CEO, PTC India Limited



Mr. Asim Prasad, Executive Director, (Corporate Strategy Planning, Advocacy & Corporate Affairs), GAIL (India) Limited



L-R : **Mr. Jayant Kumar Jha,** Director (Commercial), Mecon Limited; **Dr. Manoj Kumar Jhawar,** Managing Director & CEO, PTC India Limited; **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee,** Former President and Chairperson of The Delhi Council, BCC&I and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited; **Shri Shailesh Kumar,** Hon'ble Energy Minister, Government of Bihar, **Dr. Ajay Mathur,** Mentor, The Delhi Council, BCC&I, and Former Director General, International Solar Alliance and **Mr. Gautam Ray,** Former President, BCC&I



Ms. Preeti Rahman, Deputy High Commissioner, Bangladesh High Commission



Mr. Subhajit Sarkar, ED(Operations), RHQ, IOCL

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Mr. Vijay Goel, Executive Director (Dispute Resolution Cell), NTPC Ltd



Mr. Abhishek Chatterjee, Vice President, Regulatory and Power Sale, JSW Energy



L-R : **Mr. Vijay Goel,** Executive Director (Dispute Resolution Cell), NTPC Ltd; **Mr. Subhajit Sarkar,** ED(Operations), RHQ, IOCL; **Mr. Deb A Mukherjee,** Former President and Chairperson of The Delhi Council, BCC&I, and Managing Director, Cenergist Energy Private Limited (moderated the session); **Ms. Preeti Rahman,** Deputy High Commissioner, Bangladesh High Commission; **Mr. Asim Prasad,** Executive Director, (Corporate Strategy Planning, Advocacy & Corporate Affairs), GAIL (India) Limited



Mr. Biswadeep Parida, Managing Director, Intelligent Business Transformation – Power, PwC India



L-R : **Mr. Biswadeep Parida,** Managing Director, Intelligent Business Transformation – Power, PwC Indiam; **Mr. Gautam Ray,** Former President, BCC&I (moderated the session) and **Mr. Abhishek Chatterjee,** Vice President, Regulatory and Power Sale, JSW Energy

PROGRAMME

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L-R : **Mr. Sachin Vermani,** Senior Vice President, Project Advisory & Structured Finance, SBICAPS; **Mr. Rasmus Wendt,** Energy Counsellor, Royal Embassy of Denmark in New Delhi; **Mr. Saurabh Kumar,** Co-Founder & CEO, Dhivegaa Energy; **Shri Krushna Chandra Panigrahy,** Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency; **Mr. Subimal Bhattacharjee,** Mentor, The Delhi Council, BCC&I and Treasurer and Head - Critical and Emerging Technologies, Society for Harmonise Aspirations for Responsible Engagement (SHARE) and **Mr. Nikolai Walderhaug,** First Secretary (Economy and EnvironmentTeam), Royal Norwegian Embassy New Delhi



Shri Krushna Chandra Panigrahy, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency



Mr. Nikolai Walderhaug, First Secretary (Economy and Environment Team), Royal Norwegian Embassy New Delhi



Mr. Rasmus Wendt, Energy Counsellor, Royal Embassy of Denmark in New Delhi



Mr. Saurabh Kumar, Co-Founder & CEO, Dhivegaa Energy

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BCC&I ORGANIZED THE 19th ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONCLAVE







Distinguished Guests during the Conclave



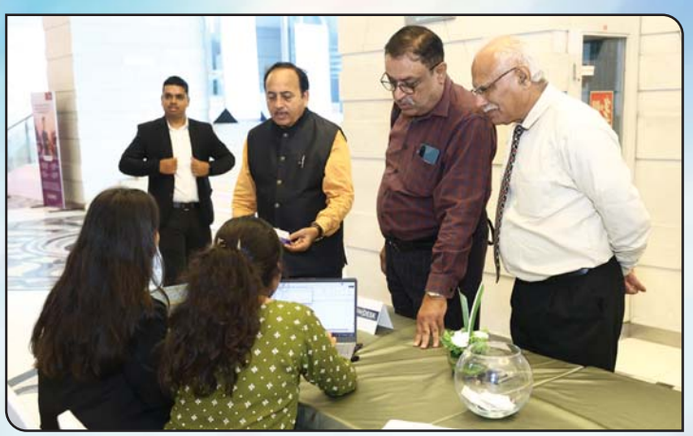
PROGRAMME

BCC&I ORGANIZED THE 19th ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONCLAVE

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Participants Engaged in Vibrant Networking Sessions during the Conclave



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PROGRAMME

11th September 2026, Willamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

3rd EDITION SEMINAR ON BIOTECH AND PHARMACEUTICALSTHEME : FUTURE OF INDIAN PHARMA AND BIOTECH INDUSTRY



The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry had organized the 3rd Edition of Seminar on Biotech and Pharmaceuticals, themed "Future of Indian Pharma and Biotech Industry" on 11th September, 2026 at Williamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Head of On-site, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited delivered the Welcome Address. Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Chairperson, Biotech and Pharma Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Pro-Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University delivered the Theme Address. The Opening Session saw the presence of Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary, Senior Economic Advisor, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India delivering the Keynote Address and in a Fire side Chat chaired by Mr. Probhas Bondhu Chakraborty Managing Director, Mendine Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.

Followed by the Opening Session, the first session, 'Artificial Intelligence in Biotechnology', was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Chairperson, Biotech and Pharma Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Pro-Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University. Dr. Raj Ray, Founder & CTO, Adyakshar Laboratories, Inc. (A-Labs) delivered on Applications of AI in Biotechnology: Focus on Healthcare, Life Sciences & Precision Agriculture. Dr. Prabuddha Kundu, Co-founder & Managing Director, Premas Biotech presented on AI in transforming Research and Development in Biotech Industry. Prof (Dr.) Subhrojyoti Bhowmick Vice President - Clinical Services & Quality, ILS Group of Hospitals joined to deliver on Ethical, Regulatory, and Security Challenges of use of AI in Biotech Industry. Mr. Supratim Chakraborty, Partner, Khaitan & Co. presented on Who Is Liable When AI Decides? Legal Governance for the Agentic Biotech Enterprise. The first session came to a conclusion by the presentation of Mr. Sumit Sinha, Founder, Omics Bank who delivered on How AI is changing the face of Bio Pharma in the next 5 years - A Silicon Valley Perspective.

The second session was on 'Pharmaceutical Regulations and Compliances in Practice: Next Gen Pharma' chaired by Mr. Debarshi Duttagupta, Co-Chairperson, Biotech and Pharma Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Managing Director, East India Pharmaceutical Works Limited. Mr. Probhas Bondhu Chakraborty Managing Director, Mendine Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. delivered on Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs in Innovation with Legal and Ethical Standards. Dr. Parama Dey, Manager – Product Development, Dey's Medical Stores (Manufacturing) Limited shared on the topic Quality Assurance and Regulatory Compliance : Challenges & Best Practices. Mr. Darpan Roy Chowdhury, Co-Founder, Erasa Vir & Business Head, Strassenburg Pharmaceuticals delivered on Digital Transformation in Pharmaceutical Regulations and Compliance. The second session came to a conclusion by the presentation of Dr. Nilanjan Sarkar, Professor & HOD Department of Pharmacy, Bhawanipur Global Campus who delivered on Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs in Innovation.

The final session was a Panel Discussion on 'Innovation: Building the Ideal Ecosystem for Pharma and Biotech Start-ups' moderated by Mr. Deepak Daftari, Chairperson, IT Entrepreneurs and Start Up National Committee and Mentor, Webel-BCC&I Tech Incubation Centre and Director & CEO, DD Web Vision Pvt. Ltd. Dr. Saptarshi Chatterjee, Associate Director, Incubation, Associate Professor, Microbiology, Chief Coordinator & Principal Investigator, E-Yuva Centre, Adamas University, Mr. Harshad Lalwani, Founder & CEO, Hummsa Biotech and Mr. Ayan Choudhury, Founder & CEO, Mynd Zeal joined as the distinguished Panelists.

Each session was followed by a Q&A Session with the audience. The Seminar was attended by close to 200 delegates.

PROGRAMME

3rd EDITION SEMINAR ON BIOTECH AND PHARMACEUTICALSTHEME : FUTURE OF INDIAN PHARMA AND BIOTECH INDUSTRY

11th September 2026, Willamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Opening Session in progress (L-R) Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Head of On-site, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited, ShriAwadhesh Kumar Choudhary, Senior Economic Advisor, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India; Mr. Probhas Bondhu Chakraborty Managing Director, Mendine Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.; Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Chairperson, Biotech and Pharma Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Pro Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University



Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Head of On-site, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited delivering the Welcome Address



Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Chairperson, Biotech and Pharma Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Pro Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University delivering the Theme Address



Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary, Senior Economic Advisor, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India delivering the Keynote Address



Fire side Chat with Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary, Senior Economic Advisor, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India moderated by Mr. Probhas Bondhu Chakraborty, Managing Director, Mendine Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd

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11th September 2026, Willamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

3rd EDITION SEMINAR ON BIOTECH AND PHARMACEUTICALSTHEME : FUTURE OF INDIAN PHARMA AND BIOTECH INDUSTRY



Felicitation of Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary, Senior Economic Advisor, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India by Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Head of On-site, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited



Felicitation of Shri Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary, Senior Economic Advisor, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India by Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Chairperson, Biotech and Pharma Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Pro Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University



Session I in progress : Dignitaries on the dais for the Session on 'Artificial Intelligence in Biotechnology' chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Chairperson, Biotech and Pharma Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Pro Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University



Dr. Raj Ray, Founder & CTO, Adyakshar Laboratories, Inc. (A-Labs) delivering on Applications of AI in Biotechnology : Focus on Healthcare, Life Sciences & Precision Agriculture



Dr. Prabuddha Kundu, Co-founder & Managing Director, Premas Biotech delivering on AI in transforming Research and Development in Biotech Industry



Prof (Dr.) Subhrojyoti Bhowmick, Vice President - Clinical Services & Quality, ILS Group of Hospitals at the podium delivering on Ethical, Regulatory, and Security Challenges of use of AI in Biotech Industry

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11th September 2026, Willamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. Supratim Chakraborty, Partner, Khaitan & Co. delivering on Who Is Liable When AI Decides? Legal Governance for the Agentic Biotech Enterprise



Mr. Sumit Sinha, Founder, Omics Bank at the podium delivering on How AI is changing the face of Bio Pharma in the next 5 years - A Silicon Valley Perspective



Dignitaries on the dais for the Session II on 'Pharmaceutical Regulations and Compliances in Practice : Next Gen Pharma' (L-R) : Mr. Probhas Bondhu Chakraborty Managing Director, Mendine Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.; Dr. Parama Dey, Manager – Product Development, Dey's Medical Stores (Manufacturing) Limited; Mr. Debarshi Duttagupta, Co-Chairperson, Biotech and Pharma Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Managing Director, East India Pharmaceutical Works Limited; Mr. Darpan Roy Chowdhury, Co-Founder, Erasa Vir & Business Head, Strassenburg Pharmaceuticals and Dr. Nilanjan Sarkar, Professor & HOD Department of Pharmacy, Bhawanipur Global Campus



Dignitaries on the dais for the Panel Discussion on 'Innovation : Building the Ideal Ecosystem for Pharma and Biotech Start- (L-R) : Dr. Saptarshi Chatterjee, Associate Director, Incubation, Associate Professor, Microbiology, Chief Coordinator & Principal Investigator, E-Yuva Centre, Adamas University; Mr. Ayan Choudhury, Founder & CEO, Mynd Zeal; Mr Deepak Daftari, Chairperson, IT Entrepreneurs and Start Up National Committee and Mentor, Webel-BCC&I Tech Incubation Centre and Director & CEO, DD Web Vision Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Harshad Lalwani, Founder & CEO, Hummsa Biotech

11th September 2026, Willamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

3rd EDITION SEMINAR ON BIOTECH AND PHARMACEUTICALSTHEME : FUTURE OF INDIAN PHARMA AND BIOTECH INDUSTRY





Q&A Session in progress



Audience at the venue





Brandings at the venue

PROGRAMME

WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM (NPS)

11th September 2026, Durgapur

As part of an ongoing drive to foster financial security and sustainable growth, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), in collaboration with the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA),** recently hosted an insightful workshop titled **"National Pension System (NPS)".** Held on 11th September 2026 at the Citi Residenci Hotel, Durgapur, the event centered around the overarching theme :

Key Highlights & Objectives

- **Target Audience :** Tailored specifically for MSMEs, local entrepreneurs, and employees-with a strong focus on enterprises employing 20 or more workers.
- **Strong Turnout :** Around **40 MSME representatives** from diverse sectors participated, highlighting a rising corporate interest in extending structured social security and retirement benefits to workforces.
- **Strategic Alignment :** The session seamlessly complemented broader discussions on financial inclusion held during the MSME Credit Linkage & Pension Awareness session.

What Was Covered?

- **Expert Insights :** Officials from PFRDA delivered comprehensive presentations detailing the NPS regulatory framework, eligibility criteria, flexible investment options, and long-term financial benefits.
- **Enrolment Ecosystem :** Attendees learned about the vital role played by **Points of Presence (PoPs)** in streamlining NPS enrolment and subscriber servicing.
- **Live Tech Demonstration :** A step-by-step walkthrough familiarized participants with digital onboarding, account management procedures, and online services.
- **Interactive Q&A :** MSME delegates actively engaged in discussions regarding contribution flexibility, account portability, withdrawal provisions, and associated tax benefits.

The event concluded with an exclusive **one-to-one advisory session,** allowing entrepreneurs and employees to receive personalized retirement planning and enrolment guidance directly from PFRDA experts.

This initiative marked another significant milestone in integrating long-term financial security into regional enterprise development, complementing broader discussions on financial inclusion and sustainable growth.







Glimpses of the Workshop

PROGRAMME

18th September 2026, Williamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Premises, Kolkata

CREATING EFFICIENCIES IN INDUSTRIAL B2B TRADE THROUGH A DIGITAL MARKETPLACE

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with L&T-SuFin, organised an interactive session on "Creating Efficiencies in Industrial B2B Trade through a Digital Marketplace" on 18th September 2026 at Williamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Premises, Kolkata. The session focused on how digital marketplaces, embedded finance, logistics and technology-enabled procurement can help businesses, particularly MSMEs, improve market access, working capital efficiency and supply-chain operations.

The session introduced participants to L&T-SuFin, an integrated B2B marketplace operated by SuFin Ltd., a subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro. The platform connects buyers and sellers of industrial and construction products and offers product and price discovery, transaction support, financing and logistics solutions. The platform currently covers 50+ product categories, 8 lakh+ SKUs and a network of 70,000+ buyers and sellers, providing businesses with a digital channel for sourcing and selling industrial products.

A key part of the session focused on the challenges faced by MSMEs in reaching wider markets, managing working capital and building trust with new buyers and suppliers. The L&T-SuFin team explained how the platform combines digital transactions with on-ground support to facilitate adoption among businesses. Its offerings include Request for Quotation, working capital solutions, invoice discounting, channel and dealer financing, logistics support and counterparty verification through its Trust Seal mechanism.

A significant focus of the session was the solar sector, with discussions covering the complete value chain involving Solar OEMs, Solar Products Distributors and Solar EPC Contractors. The L&T-SuFin team explained how the platform supports manufacturers, distributors and installers through product sourcing, financing, supplier discovery and availability management across residential, commercial and utility-scale solar projects.

For solar manufacturers, the discussion highlighted solutions such as channel financing and receivables financing that can strengthen dealer purchasing capacity and improve business expansion. For distributors, working capital support can enable higher inventory procurement, while for EPC contractors, the platform facilitates access to verified suppliers, competitive sourcing and financing options. The team also highlighted the importance of availability and faster access to materials, particularly when contractors are executing projects outside their usual geographic markets.

The session also covered Fabrication-as-a-Service, through which L&T-SuFin connects businesses possessing available fabrication capacity with larger project requirements. Opportunities discussed included construction fabrication, electrical fabrication, solar mounting structures, barricades, cabins and other fabricated products.

An interactive Q&A session enabled participating businesses to raise practical questions related to financing, catalogue creation, solar procurement, availability, channel finance, EPC projects and access to lenders. The discussion provided participants with greater clarity on how L&T-SuFin's digital marketplace and associated services can support their procurement, sales, financing and supply-chain requirements.

The session concluded with an emphasis on building stronger connections between MSMEs, manufacturers, distributors, EPC contractors and financial institutions, demonstrating how digital platforms can combine technology with human support to create a more accessible and efficient B2B ecosystem.





Glimpses of The Session

PROGRAMME

CREATING EFFICIENCIES IN INDUSTRIAL B2B TRADE THROUGH A DIGITAL MARKETPLACE

18th September 2026, Williamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Premises, Kolkata



Glimpses of The Session

FINANCIAL MARKET CONCLAVE 2026 : INDIAN FINANCIAL MARKETS AT AN INFLECTION POINT : CAPITAL, CONFIDENCE & THE NEXT GROWTH CYCLE

18th September 2026, Four Seasons, Mumbai

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) organized the **Financial Market Conclave** on September 18, 2026, at the Four Seasons, Mumbai. The Conclave brought together financial-sector leaders, institutional investors, technology experts and industry practitioners to deliberate on the changing architecture of India's financial markets and the opportunities and challenges shaping the country's next phase of economic growth.

The central theme of the Conclave, **'Indian Financial Markets at an Inflection Point: Capital, Confidence & the Next Growth Cycle,'** reflected the evolving role of financial markets in supporting India's long-term investment requirements, deepening investor participation, strengthening financial resilience and harnessing technology for more efficient decision-making.

The conclave commenced with a welcome address by **Mr. Vivek Belgavi,** Partner and Leader, Financial Services Advisory, PwC India.

This was followed by a presentation by Mr. N S Venkatesh, CEO, Bharat InvITs Association, on "Building India's Capital Infrastructure : InvITs and the Next Wave of Long-Term Investment" and a presentation on **'AI Risk and Governance'** by **Mr. Rohit Valia,** CEO, Tumeryk, Inc.

The Inaugural Address was delivered by **Guest of Honour, Shri Ashwini Kumar Tewari,** Managing Director – Corporate Banking & Subsidiaries, State Bank of India. Mr. Tewari mentioned that cash-flow-based lending will play an increasingly important role in financing emerging industries including data centres, solar manufacturing and technology-driven businesses.

The Opening Roundtable, **'Reimagining India's Financial Architecture for the Next Growth Cycle,'** moderated by **Mr. Vivek Belgavi,** Partner and Leader, Financial Services Advisory, PwC India brought together perspectives from across the financial ecosystem. **Mr. Parthanil Ghosh,** MD & CEO, HDFC ERGO General Insurance; **Mr. Gopalan S Raghavan,** Executive Director-Regulatory Compliance Risk Management and Investor Grievances, BSE and **Mr. Abhishek Mehrotra,** Head-Equity & Investment Products, HDFC Securities participated in the discussion.

A key segment of the Conclave was a Fireside Chat Session where Chief Guest **Shri Shirish Chandra Murmu,** Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India was in conversation with **Mr. Tamal Bandyopadhyay,** Eminent Journalist and Writer and Mentor, Finance and Banking National Committee, BCC&I. The discussion provided an opportunity to examine the broader evolution of India's financial system and the role of financial institutions, markets and regulatory frameworks in supporting sustainable economic growth.

The Opening Session concluded with Remarks and a Vote of Thanks by **Mr. Vikas Bhutra,** Chairman, Finance and Banking National Committee, BCC&I and VP Finance and Head – Treasury, ITC Limited.

The Conclave then turned its focus to India's rapidly evolving investment landscape through the session **'The Great Indian Investment Story : Mutual Funds, Market Behaviour & the Battle for Investor Trust.'** Moderated by **Mr. Vikas Bhutra,** Chairman, Finance and Banking National Committee, BCC&I and VP Finance and Head – Treasury, ITC Limited, the Session was addressed by **Mr. Anand Vardarajan,** CEO & MD, Tata Mutual Fund; **Mr. Kailash Kulkarni,** CEO, HSBC Mutual Fund;

Mr. Navneet Munot, MD & CEO, HDFC Mutual Fund, and **Mr. Vishal Kapoor,** CEO, Bandhan Mutual Fund. The discussion examined changing investor behaviour, the expansion of market participation and the importance of transparency, investor education and trust in strengthening India's investment ecosystem.

The Insurance Sector was the focus in the next session titled **'Insurance Markets in Transition : Balancing Growth, Profitability & Protection,'** moderated by **Mr. Amit Roy,** Partner and Leader, Insurance & Allied Business, PwC India. The panel brought together **Mr. Kamlesh Rao,** MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance; **Mr. Mahesh Balasubramanian,** MD & CEO, Kotak Life Insurance; **Mr. Naveen Chandra Jha,** MD & CEO, SBI General Insurance' and **Mr. K.G. Krishnamoorthy Rao,** MD & CEO, Generali Central Insurance. The session explored the changing insurance landscape and the industry's continuing task of balancing growth with profitability while ensuring effective protection for policyholders.

Technology emerged as a recurring theme at the conclave. The Session on **"The Intelligent Market Infrastructure : AI, Data & the Future of Financial Decision-Making was moderated** by **Ms. Hetal Shah,** Partner, Technology Consulting, PwC India and addressed by **Mr. Aniruddha Chatterjee,** CEO, NSE Cogencis; **Mr. Jigar Shah,** CFO, NSDL; and **Mr. Rohit Valia,** CEO, Tumeryk, Inc. The discussion considered the growing role of artificial intelligence, data and digital infrastructure in financial markets. It also underscored the importance of responsible technology adoption, sound governance and robust infrastructure as financial institutions increasingly integrate advanced technologies into decision-making processes.

The session "Alpha in an Age of Uncertainty: Wealth Creation Strategies for the New Market Cycle" brought together perspectives from wealth management, investment management and private capital. The Session was moderated by **Mr. Rahul Banerjee,** Founder & MD, PGP Academy and Member, Finance and Banking National Committee, BCC&I, and addressed by **Mr. Pawan Kumar,** MD & CIO, Neo Wealth Management, **Mr. Sandeep Neema,** CIO, PL Capital, **Mr. Piyush Chande,** Senior Fund Manager-Private Capital, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund and **Mr. Stuart Erskine,** Co-Founder & CEO, Plan Prompt, UK. The discussion focused on navigating uncertainty, evolving investment opportunities and the strategies required for sustainable wealth creation amid changing market conditions.

The Conclave concluded with a Valedictory Session titled **'The Long Game : Pension Funds, Patient Capital & India's Growth Ambitions.'** The session was Chaired and Moderated by Guest of Honour, **Shri Ashok Kumar Soni, Executive Director, PFRDA** and brought together senior representatives including **Mr. Pranay Ranjan Dwivedi,** MD & CEO, SBI Pension Funds; **Mr. Ranbheer Singh Dhariwal,** Group Head – Social Security & Welfare, Protean eGov Technologies Ltd. and Board Member, Association of NPS Intermediaries (ANPI); **Ms. S. Geetha,** MD & CEO, LIC Pension Fund; and **Mr. Vineet Nahata,** Member, Central Board of Trustees, EPF, Ministry of Labour & Employment. The session highlighted the significance of patient, long-term capital in supporting India's growth ambitions and the important role of pension and retirement savings in deepening the country's capital markets.

The Financial Market Conclave brought together diverse perspectives from banking, capital markets, mutual funds, insurance, technology, wealth management and pensions. Across the sessions, a common focus emerged on strengthening India's financial architecture while fostering investor confidence, encouraging long-term capital formation and responsibly embracing technological transformation. With its emphasis on **capital, confidence and the next growth cycle,** the Conclave provided a comprehensive platform for both corporates and the BFSI sector stakeholders to exchange perspectives on the opportunities and structural changes shaping India's financial markets.

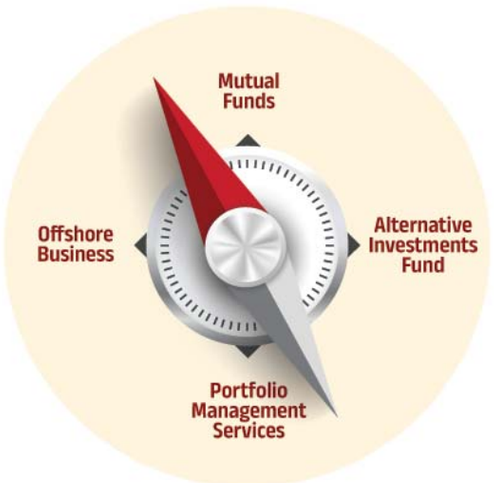


Mr. Arnab Chakraborty, Assistant Director General, BCC&I addressing the dignitaries

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18th September 2026,
Four Seasons, Mumbai

FINANCIAL MARKET CONCLAVE 2026 : INDIAN FINANCIAL MARKETS AT AN INFLECTION POINT : CAPITAL, CONFIDENCE & THE NEXT GROWTH CYCLE



Mr. Vivek Belgavi, Partner and Leader, Financial Services Advisory, PwC India delivering the Welcome Address



Mr. N S Venkatesh, CEO, Bharat InvITs Association delivering a presentation on 'Building India's Capital Infrastructure : InvITs and the Next Wave of Long-Term Investment'



Mr. Rohit Valia, CEO, Tumeryk, Inc. delivering a presentation on 'AI Risk and Governance'



Shri Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Managing Director-Corporate Banking & Subsidiaries, State Bank of India



PROGRAMME

FINANCIAL MARKET CONCLAVE 2026 :
INDIAN FINANCIAL MARKETS AT AN INFLECTION POINT :
CAPITAL, CONFIDENCE & THE NEXT GROWTH CYCLE

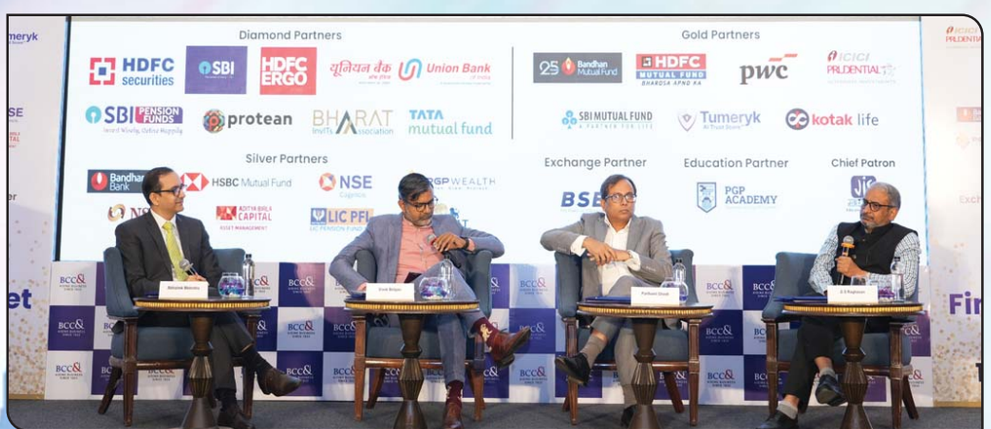
18th September 2026,
Four Seasons, Mumbai



(L-R) Shri Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Managing Director-Corporate Banking & Subsidiaries, State Bank of India; Mr. Rohit Valia, CEO, Tumeryk, Inc.; Mr. Vivek Belgavi, Partner and Leader, Financial Services Advisory, PwC India and Mr. N S Venkatesh, CEO, Bharat InvITs Association at the Opening Session



Mr. Vikas Bhutra, Chairman, Finance and Banking National Committee, BCC&I and VP Finance and Head - Treasury, ITC Limited presenting a memento to Shri Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Managing Director-Corporate Banking & Subsidiaries, State Bank of India



Experts Roundtable on “Reimagining India's Financial Architecture for the Next Growth Cycle” (L-R) Mr. Abhishek Mehrotra, Head- Equity & Investment Products, HDFC Securities; Mr. Vivek Belgavi, Partner and Leader, Financial Services Advisory, PwC India; Mr. Parthanil Ghosh, MD & CEO, HDFC ERGO General Insurance; Mr. Gopalan S Raghavan, Executive Director - Regulatory Compliance Risk Management and Investor Grievances, BSE



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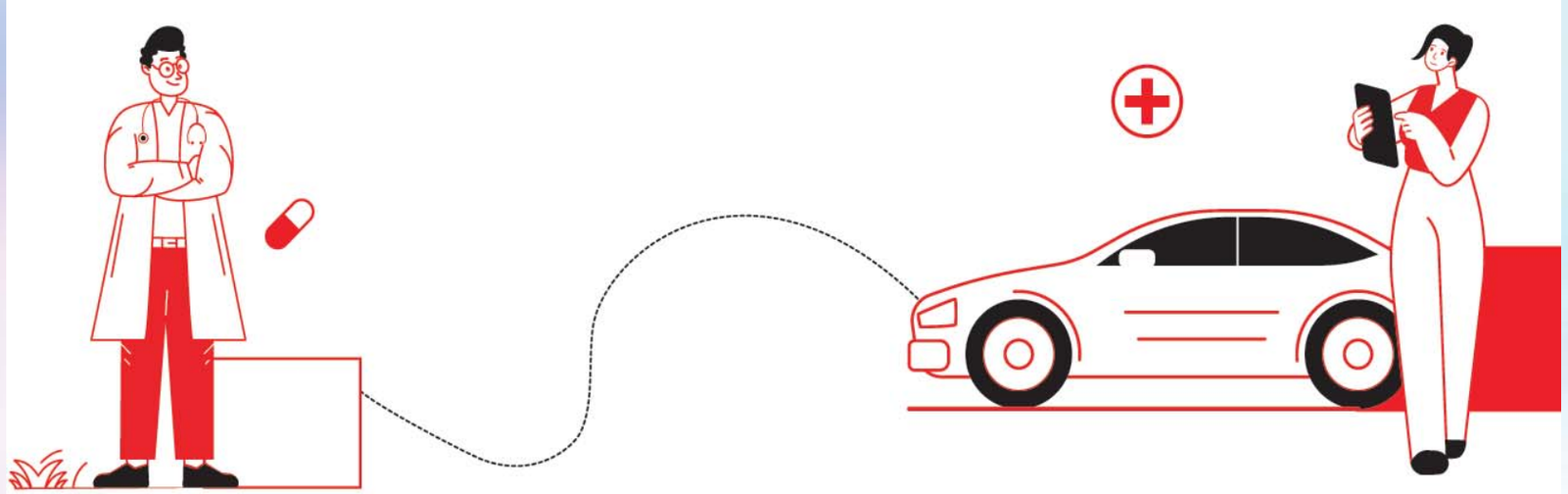




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PROGRAMME

FINANCIAL MARKET CONCLAVE 2026 :
INDIAN FINANCIAL MARKETS AT AN INFLECTION POINT :
CAPITAL, CONFIDENCE & THE NEXT GROWTH CYCLE

18th September 2026,
Four Seasons, Mumbai



Chief Guest, Shri Shirish Chandra Murmu, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India in Fireside Chat with Mr. Tamal Bandyopadhyay, Eminent Journalist and Writer and Mentor, Finance and Banking National Committee, BCC&I



Experts' Session on "The Great Indian Investment Story : Mutual Funds, Market Behaviour & the Battle for Investor Trust" (L-R) Mr. Vikas Bhutra, Chairman, Finance and Banking National Committee, BCC&I andVP Finance and Head - Treasury, ITC Limited; Mr. Navneet Munot, MD & CEO, HDFC Mutual Fund; Mr. Vishal Kapoor, CEO, Bandhan Mutual Fund; Mr. Anand Vardarajan, CEO & MD, Tata Mutual Fund; Mr. Kailash Kulkarni, CEO, HSBC Mutual Fund



**18th September 2026,
Four Seasons, Mumbai**

**FINANCIAL MARKET CONCLAVE 2026 :
INDIAN FINANCIAL MARKETS AT AN INFLECTION POINT :
CAPITAL, CONFIDENCE & THE NEXT GROWTH CYCLE**



Experts' Sessionon "Insurance Markets in Transition : Balancing Growth, Profitability & Protection" (L-R) Mr. Naveen Chandra Jha, MD & CEO, SBI General Insurance, Mr. Kamlesh Rao, MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance, Mr. Amit Roy, Partner and Leader, Insurance & Allied Business, PwC India, Mr. K.G Krishnamoorthy Rao, MD & CEO, Generali Central Insurance, Mr. Mahesh Balasubramanian, MD & CEO, Kotak Life Insurance



Mr. Vikas Bhutra, Chairman, Finance and Banking National Committee, BCC&I and VP Finance and Head - Treasury, ITC Limited presenting a memento to ShriShirish Chandra Murmu, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India



PROGRAMME

FINANCIAL MARKET CONCLAVE 2026 :
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Valedictory Sessionon "The Long Game : Pension Funds, Patient Capital & India's Growth Ambitions" (L-R) Mr. Ranbheer Singh Dhariwal, Group Head – Social Security & Welfare at Protean eGov Technologies Ltd. & Board Member at Association of NPS Intermediaries (ANPI); Mr. Pranay Ranjan Dwivedi, MD & CEO, SBI Pension Funds; Shri Ashok Kumar Soni, Executive Director, PFRDA; Ms. S. Geetha, MD & CEO, LIC Pension Fund; Mr. Vineet Nahata - Member CBT, EPF (Ministry of Labour & Employment)

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18th September 2026,
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FINANCIAL MARKET CONCLAVE 2026 : INDIAN FINANCIAL MARKETS AT AN INFLECTION POINT : CAPITAL, CONFIDENCE & THE NEXT GROWTH CYCLE



Valedictory Session









A cross section of the audience

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INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

28 SEBI-registered InvITs	**9** Publicly Listed InvITs	**₹7.3 lakh crore** Assets Under Management	**₹1.98 lakh crore** Equity Raised
₹97,000+ crore Distributions since listing	**₹2.97 lakh crore** Market Capitalisation	**6.53 lakh** Unitholders	**₹3.53 lakh crore** Gross Borrowings

Industry data as on 30 June 2026. Source: Bharat InvITs Association presentation.

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National Stock Exchange

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Returns from regular distributions

3–4%
Capital appreciation

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A broadening infrastructure footprint

Roads · Power transmission · Energy generation · Telecom towers · Optical fibre lines · Pipelines · Supply chain · Warehousing

The sector landscape continues to evolve, with potential opportunities in data centres, urban infrastructure, airports and ports, and logistics.

InvITs help India's infrastructure grow

₹7.3 lakh crore
AUM as on 30 June 2026

›

₹21 lakh crore
AUM expected by 2030

- **Monetise operational assets**
- **Recycle capital**
- **Bring in long-term investors**

Building the nation

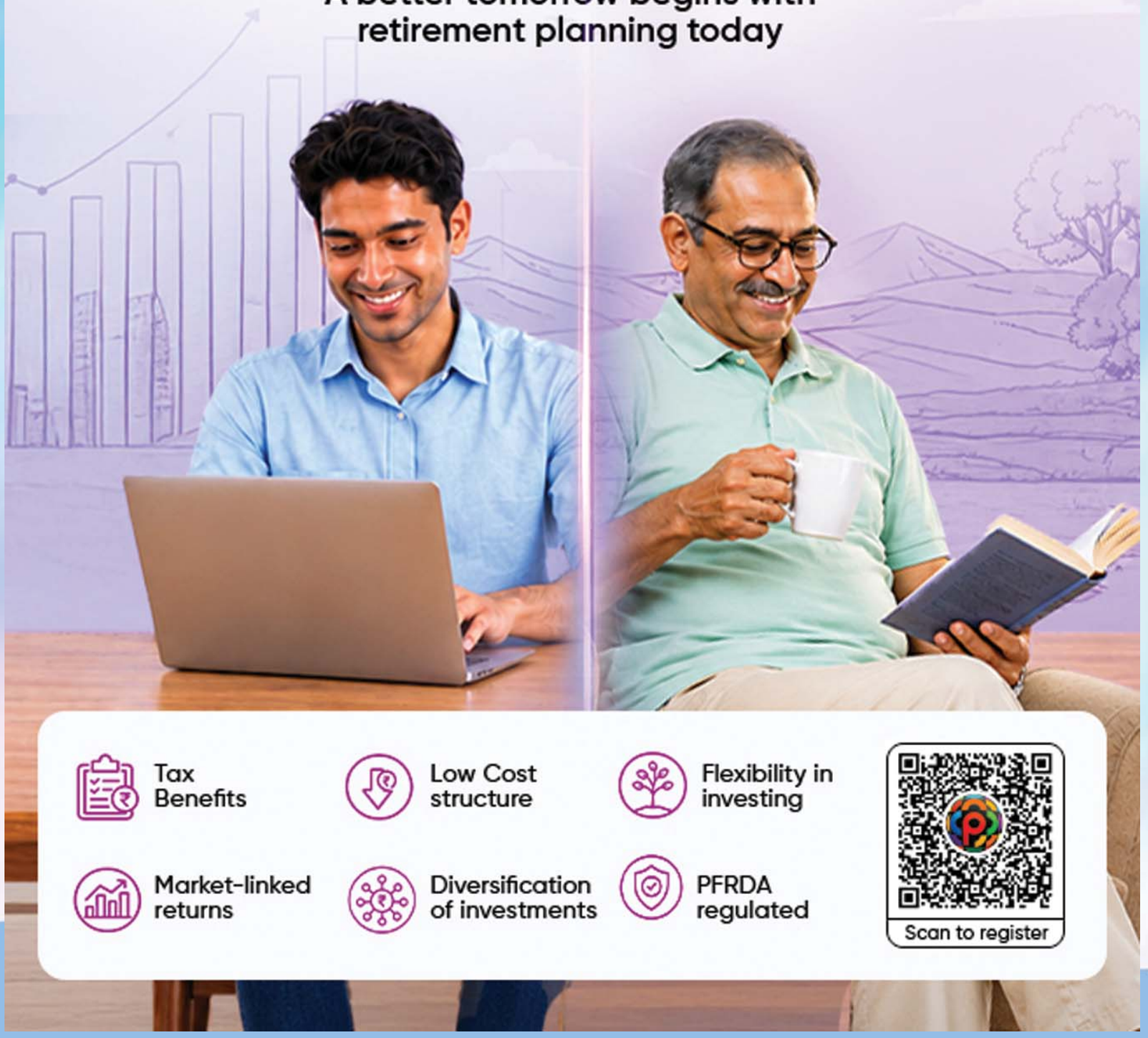
By unlocking capital for new infrastructure development, supporting economic growth and giving investors a way to take part in India's infrastructure journey, InvITs help build a stronger, more connected and sustainable nation.

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PROGRAMME

DISCUSSION ON ADVANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN MSMES

19th September 2026, Bengal Chamber premises

On 19th September 2026 The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) hosted a Discussion on Advancing Energy Efficiency in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) at ITC Room, The Bengal Chamber premises. Mr. Gautam Ray, Former President, BCC&I, joined the meeting to discuss with the MSME representatives how smaller industries can cut energy costs, adopt cleaner technologies and stay competitive. The session opened with a presentation on solar products, followed by a discussion with Mr. Ray and a Q&A.

Presentation on solar products

The session began with an introduction and context setting by Former President, Mr. Goutam Ray. It was followed by two presentations, by Prof. Binoy Krishna Choudhury, Professor and Head, Public Systems Management, IISWBM, Kolkata and by Professor Prasanta Dey, Aston Business School, Aston University, United Kingdom respectively on solar products and how they can help MSMEs lower their energy bills and reduce their reliance on conventional power.

Building capability from within

Mr. Gautam Ray urged MSMEs to face their challenges directly. Problems that are not solved today will continue to affect the business, and where one cost cannot be tackled immediately, savings can be found in another area. He stressed that enterprises must build their own capability for the market, since no one else will do it for them. He encouraged participants to share the real conditions of their industries so that solutions could start from there.

Voices from industry

MSME representatives said they are keen to adopt energy efficiency, which benefits the country as well as their own units, but they need support. They noted that micro, small and medium enterprises face very different challenges and cannot be treated as one group. Upfront investment remains the biggest hurdle. One participant shared that convincing his management to invest in a solar installation took a year and a half. Another said he had applied four times in six months for an energy audit without success. Participants agreed that if there were a clear assurance of support, such as reimbursement after an energy audit and registration on a government portal, most MSMEs would be ready to invest. Soft loans and hand-holding were also raised as key needs.

Learning from international experience

Representatives of a British Council-funded India–UK programme on sustainability shared their experience of working with industry. Of around 3,500 companies supported under a UK decarbonisation project, only about 10% received grants, yet evaluation showed that the energy audits proved more effective than the grants themselves. They emphasised that companies need hand-holding to begin decarbonising, and that industry must clearly state what policy changes it needs. They also noted that two BCC&I batches, totalling 40 representatives, have visited the UK, and invited more MSMEs to take part.

The way forward

The concluding remarks were delivered by Mr. Sudipta Kumar Mukherjee, Managing Partner, SGR Energy Consulting LLP. Participants agreed to continue the conversation through cluster-wise meetings, so that the specific needs of each sector can be identified and taken forward with the right support.



Presentation by Professor PrasantaDey, Aston Business School, Aston University, United Kingdom



The discussion in progress

PROGRAMME

19th September 2026, Bengal Chamber premises

DISCUSSION ON ADVANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN MSMES



The Q&A session in progress

21st September 2026, Asansol

WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM (NPS)

As part of an ongoing drive to foster financial security and sustainable growth, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), in collaboration with the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA),** recently hosted an insightful workshop titled **"National Pension System (NPS)".** Held on **21st September 2026** at the Citi Residenci Hotel, Asansol, the event centered around the overarching theme :

Key Highlights & Objectives

- **Target Audience :** Tailored specifically for MSMEs, local entrepreneurs, and employees-with a strong focus on enterprises employing 20 or more workers.
- **Strong Turnout :** Around **30 MSME representatives** from diverse sectors participated, highlighting a rising corporate interest in extending structured social security and retirement benefits to workforces.
- **Strategic Alignment :** The session seamlessly complemented broader discussions on financial inclusion held during the MSME Credit Linkage & Pension Awareness session.

What Was Covered?

- **Expert Insights :** Officials from PFRDA delivered comprehensive presentations detailing the NPS regulatory framework, eligibility criteria, flexible investment options, and long-term financial benefits.
- **Enrolment Ecosystem :** Attendees learned about the vital role played by **Points of Presence (PoPs)** in streamlining NPS enrolment and subscriber servicing.
- **Live Tech Demonstration :** A step-by-step walkthrough familiarized participants with digital onboarding, account management procedures, and online services.
- **Interactive Q&A :** MSME delegates actively engaged in discussions regarding contribution flexibility, account portability, withdrawal provisions, and associated tax benefits.

The event concluded with an exclusive **one-to-one advisory session,** allowing entrepreneurs and employees to receive personalized retirement planning and enrolment guidance directly from PFRDA experts.

This initiative marked another significant milestone in integrating long-term financial security into regional enterprise development, complementing broader discussions on financial inclusion and sustainable growth.



Glimpses of the Workshop

PROGRAMME

WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM (NPS)

21st September 2026, Asansol





AN INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH DR. GOUTAM CHATTOPADHYAY

22nd September 2026, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I)

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) hosted an engaging and insightful session with Dr. Goutam Chattopadhyay, Senior Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Visiting Professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of leading schools, including South Point School, La Martiniere and Delhi Public School (DPS), along with students and faculty members from Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, Guru Nanak Institute of Pharmaceutical Science and Technology, Haldia Institute of Technology, Sister Nivedita University, Jadavpur University and the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur (IIEST), among many other educational institutions and professionals.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome address by Mr. Gautam Ray, Former President of BCC&I, who welcomed the distinguished speaker and participants, setting the tone for an engaging and enriching session. Dr. Chattopadhyay delivered a fascinating and highly accessible presentation, taking the audience through critical issues such as global climate change and global warming to the exciting possibilities of exploration and discovery across the galaxy. His ability to explain complex scientific concepts in a clear, engaging and easy-to-understand manner made the session particularly enriching for the diverse audience.

The interactive question-and-answer session, moderated by Mr. Gautam Ray, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, further encouraged curiosity and scientific thinking among the participants. The programme was highly appreciated by everyone present and served as an inspiring platform for learning, knowledge-sharing and fostering a deeper interest in science and space exploration.



A full house



Dr. Goutam Chattopadhyay, Senior Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Visiting Professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and Mr. Gautam Ray, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry

22nd September 2026,
The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I)

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH DR. GOUTAM CHATTOPADHYAY



Mr. Gautam Ray, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Dr. Goutam Chattopadhyay, Senior Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Visiting Professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech)



Dr. Goutam Chattopadhyay, Senior Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Visiting Professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech)



Dr. Goutam Chattopadhyay, Senior Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Visiting Professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech)



Ms. Swarnali Dhar, Director, BCC&I emceeing the event



Q&A Session

PROGRAMME

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH DR. GOUTAM CHATTOPADHYAY

22nd September 2026,
The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I)





Q&A Session



Dr. Goutam Chattopadhyay, Senior Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Visiting Professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and Mr. Gautam Ray, Former President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Dr. Goutam Chattopadhyay, Senior Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Visiting Professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech)

AI TECHNOVATION 2026 : NAVIGATING THE ENTERPRISE AI JOURNEY

22nd September 2026,
The Bengal Chamber premises

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), in association with AMD and the Philanthropic Technical Association (PTA), organized **AI Technovation 2026 : Navigating the Enterprise AI Journey on 22nd September 2026, from 6:30 PM onwards, at the Bengal Chamber premises, Kolkata.** The programme brought together senior industry leaders, technology experts and Chief Information Officers (CIOs) to deliberate on the opportunities, challenges and strategic considerations shaping the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across enterprises.

The evening included welcome addresses, an introduction to AMD, an interactive CXO session on sector-specific AI challenges, a presentation on AMD's readiness to address CIO priorities, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between PTA and the Computer Society of India (CSI), and a CIO roundtable on the practical realities of enterprise AI adoption. The programme also provided a platform for knowledge exchange and industry networking.

The programme commenced with welcome addresses jointly delivered by **Dr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I, and Director & CEO, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.; and Mr. Partha Sengupta, Senior Vice President (I3L) & Head of IT Shared Services, ITC Limited, and Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I.**

The opening remarks set the context for discussions on the evolving role of AI in business transformation, the importance of technology-led innovation, and the need for enterprises to approach AI adoption with a clear understanding of their operational requirements and long-term objectives.

Introduction to AMD : Advancing the AI Conversation

The PTA team introduced the AMD delegation, followed by an address by **Mr. Souvik Kar, Regional Manager – East, AMD.** The session provided an opportunity to understand AMD's role in the evolving technology landscape and set the stage

for subsequent discussions on enterprise computing and AI readiness.

The programme highlighted the importance of aligning technological capabilities with business priorities, ensuring that organisations can evaluate emerging AI solutions in the context of their operational needs, infrastructure and growth ambitions.

Interactive CXO Session : "Challenges to AI Journey in Various Domains"

Moderated by **Mr. Sourav Das, Group Chief of Digital & IT, Rupa & Co. Ltd.,** the interactive session brought together industry leaders to examine the practical challenges of implementing AI across diverse business functions.

The discussion highlighted that successful AI adoption begins with identifying clearly defined business problems and selecting use cases that can deliver measurable value. Participants explored the challenges of integrating AI with existing systems, ensuring data quality, managing cybersecurity risks and addressing sector-specific requirements.

Mr. Kaushik Chakravarty, GM IT, Rashmi Group emphasised the importance of clear problem statements and the ability to scale AI applications across business verticals. **Mr. Anirban Mukherjee, IT Head, Turtle** discussed the concept of an AI Club to encourage organisational engagement and experimentation. From a finance and reporting perspective, **Mr. Samir Kumar Mishra, Head of Information Technology, Khadim India** highlighted the complexities of integrating AI into established accounting and reporting processes.

The healthcare sector offered another perspective, with **Mr. Samrat Bhattacharya, Chief manager IT, Peerless Hospital** discussing the potential of AI to convert doctor – patient conversations into prescriptions. **Mr. Prakash Sharma, Group CIO, Kredent Group** highlighted concerns around data integrity and regulatory considerations, while **Mr. Rajib Ghosh, Additional General Manager – IT, Rahee Infratech** discussed the application of AI in proof-of-concept initiatives for contract management.

Further discussions addressed cybersecurity, automation and industrial data challenges. **Mr. Himanshu Kumar Gupta, Group Head - IT, Birla Corporation** raised concerns regarding cybersecurity and accountability in robotic process automation (RPA). **Mr. Prateek Agarwal, AGM- IT Infrastructure, Vikram Solar** highlighted difficulties in extracting data from Chinese programmable logic controllers (PLCs), while **Mr. Debashis Rakshit, Head IT Infra, Security and Modern Workspace, Exide Industries** emphasised the importance of secure internal AI environments.

The session underscored that AI implementation is not a one-size-fits-all exercise. Enterprises must consider the nature of their business, the reliability and accessibility of their data, integration with existing processes, regulatory requirements and the readiness of their workforce before scaling AI initiatives.

AMD Readiness to Address CIO Challenges

Building on the industry perspectives shared during the CXO interaction, **Mr. Tamal Acharyee, Country Head – Government Business & MII Strategy, AMD,** addressed the readiness of AMD's technology ecosystem to respond to the evolving requirements of CIOs.

His presentation examined the broader computing landscape, including CPUs, GPUs, servers and data-centre infrastructure, and highlighted the importance of matching computing resources to specific workloads and business objectives. A key consideration was that enterprises need not automatically default to large-scale GPU infrastructure for every AI application. Instead, infrastructure choices should be guided by workload requirements, dataset characteristics, performance expectations and cost considerations.

The discussion also highlighted the relevance of open architecture and AMD's ROCm software ecosystem, alongside the growing importance of India's supercomputing capabilities and domestic technology development. These considerations reinforced the need for flexible, scalable and economically viable computing strategies to support enterprise AI adoption.

MoU Signing : Philanthropic Technical Association and CSI Kolkata Chapter

A key milestone of the programme was the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding between the Philanthropic Technical Association (PTA) and the Computer Society of India (CSI), Kolkata Chapter.**

The MoU reflects a shared intent to strengthen industry – academia engagement through technical knowledge-sharing, training initiatives, workshops, seminars and other capacity-building activities. The collaboration seeks to encourage closer interaction between industry stakeholders and the academic community, helping bridge the gap between theoretical learning and practical industry requirements.

The initiative also highlights the importance of developing

industry-ready talent and building capabilities in emerging technologies, contributing to a stronger and more future-ready technology ecosystem.

CIO Roundtable : Translating AI Potential into Enterprise Value

The CIO roundtable brought together senior technology leaders for an in-depth discussion on the strategic, operational and organisational considerations involved in implementing AI at scale. The discussion featured **Mr. Partha Sengupta, Senior Vice President (I3L) & Head of IT Shared Services, ITC Limited, and Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I; Mr. Deepak Sengupta, Chief Technical Officer, Balasore Alloys Ltd.; Dr. Sriram Kumar Chavali, Chief Information Officer, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.; Mr. Prakash Mani Tripathi, CDO & Senior Vice President IT, Shyam Steel Industries Ltd.; and Mr. Sanjoy Sen, Advisor to BoDs, Saj Food Products.**

The conversation focused on how organisations can move beyond AI experimentation to meaningful business outcomes while balancing technological innovation with security, governance, workforce readiness and commercial considerations.

Measuring Value Beyond Deployment

Participants emphasised the importance of evaluating AI initiatives through measurable outcomes rather than deployment alone. Clear performance indicators, effective utilisation and demonstrable improvements in business processes are essential to determining whether AI investments are delivering meaningful value.

Open Architecture and Data Governance

The discussion highlighted the importance of flexibility in technology choices and the role of open architecture in enabling organisations to select solutions suited to their requirements. At the same time, data security, governance and appropriate technical capabilities remain central to building confidence in enterprise AI systems.

Workforce Readiness and Organisational Change

The roundtable acknowledged that employees may respond to AI with enthusiasm, curiosity or apprehension. Effective adoption therefore requires organisations to communicate the purpose of AI initiatives, encourage experimentation through manageable use cases and prepare employees for changing workflows and responsibilities. AI was viewed as a means of supporting human judgement and productivity, rather than simply introducing automation without a clear organisational plan.

Choosing the Right Computing Infrastructure

A recurring theme was the need to match computing resources to the specific workload, deployment environment and economic requirements of the organisation. Infrastructure decisions must balance performance, scalability, security and cost, rather than being driven solely by emerging technology trends.

Managing the Risks of Shadow AI

The discussion also addressed the growing concern around Shadow AI — the use of AI tools without appropriate organisational oversight. Risks relating to data security, reliability, continuity, deployment choices and cost reinforce the need for clear policies and governance frameworks. Enterprises must create an environment in which employees can benefit from AI while protecting sensitive information and maintaining operational accountability.

The roundtable reinforced a central message: sustainable AI adoption depends on the alignment of technology, business strategy, people, governance and economics.

Emceeing, Knowledge Engagement and Networking

The sessions were interspersed with emceeing and a quiz conducted by Mr. Abhishek Kar, Data Protection Officer & Deputy Head – Quality Management Group – Technology, mjunction Services Limited, adding an interactive element to the evening.

The formal programme concluded with networking cocktails and dinner from 8:30 PM onwards, providing participants with an opportunity to exchange perspectives, strengthen professional connections and continue discussions on emerging AI applications and enterprise technology priorities.

Looking Ahead : From AI Adoption to Meaningful Integration

BCC&I AI Technovation 2026 highlighted the need to approach enterprise AI with clarity of purpose, practical implementation strategies and a strong focus on measurable outcomes. The discussions demonstrated that realising AI's potential requires more than technological investment; it calls for reliable data, appropriate infrastructure, robust governance, workforce preparedness and a clear understanding of business needs.

The programme also reinforced the value of collaboration among industry leaders, technology providers and academic

institutions in building the knowledge, skills and capabilities required for responsible AI adoption.

Through this initiative, BCC&I continued to facilitate meaningful industry dialogue on emerging technologies, providing a platform for decision-makers to exchange insights and explore practical pathways towards a more resilient, innovative and AI-ready enterprise ecosystem.



Welcome address by Dr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Director & CEO, Wizertech Informatics Pvt Ltd



Welcome address by Mr. Partha Sengupta, Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Senior Vice President (I3L) & Head of IT Shared Services, ITC Limited



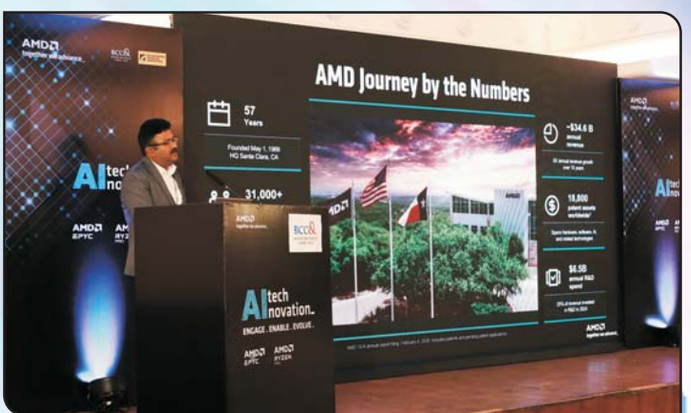
Left to Right: Mr. Partha Sengupta, Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Senior Vice President (I3L) & Head of IT Shared Services, ITC Limited; Dr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Director & CEO, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Sanjoy Sen Advisor to Boards of Directors, Saj Food Products; Mr. Souvik Kar, Regional Manager – East, AMD, on technology and innovation



Interactive Session between CXOs- “Challenges to AI Journey in various domains” moderated by Mr. Sourav Das, Group Chief of Digital & IT, Rupa & Co. Ltd



Address by Mr. Souvik Kar, Regional Manager - East, AMD



Presentation by Mr. Tamal Acharjee, Country Head- Govt Business & MII Strategy, AMD on AMD’s Journey and Milestones

PROGRAMME

AI TECHNOVATION 2026 :
NAVIGATING THE ENTERPRISE AI JOURNEY

22nd September 2026,
The Bengal Chamber premises





CIOs at the BCC&I 'AI Tech Innovation' to discuss the strategic future of AI









Interactive Session on Artificial Intelligence (AI), featuring active participation and the exchange of ideas among the CIOs





MoU Signing Ceremony between the Philanthropic Technical Association (PTA) and the Computer Society of India (CSI), marking a step towards strengthening collaboration and promoting technological advancement

22nd September 2026,
The Bengal Chamber premises

AI TECHNOVATION 2026 : NAVIGATING THE ENTERPRISE AI JOURNEY



CIO Roundtable featuring distinguished industry leaders sharing their perspectives on IT leadership, digital transformation, and technology-driven business innovation. (From Left to Right)

- Mr. Souvik Kar, Regional Manager – East, AMD, on technology and innovation
- Mr. Deepak Sengupta – Chief Technical Officer, Balasore Alloys Ltd
- Mr. Partha Sengupta – Senior Vice President (I3L) & Head of IT Shared Services, ITC Limited; Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I.
- Dr. Sriram Kumar Chavali – Chief Information Officer, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd
- Mr. Sanjoy Sen – Advisor to Boards of Directors, Saj Food Products
- Mr. Prakash Mani Tripathi – Chief Digital Officer (CDO) & Senior Vice President – IT, Shyam Steel Industries Ltd





Gift Handover to the Quiz Winners by Mr. Abhishek Kar, Data Protection Officer & Deputy Head – Quality Management Group – Technology, mjunction Services Limited



Quiz conducted by Mr. Abhishek Kar, Data Protection Officer & Deputy Head – Quality Management Group – Technology, mjunction Services Limited

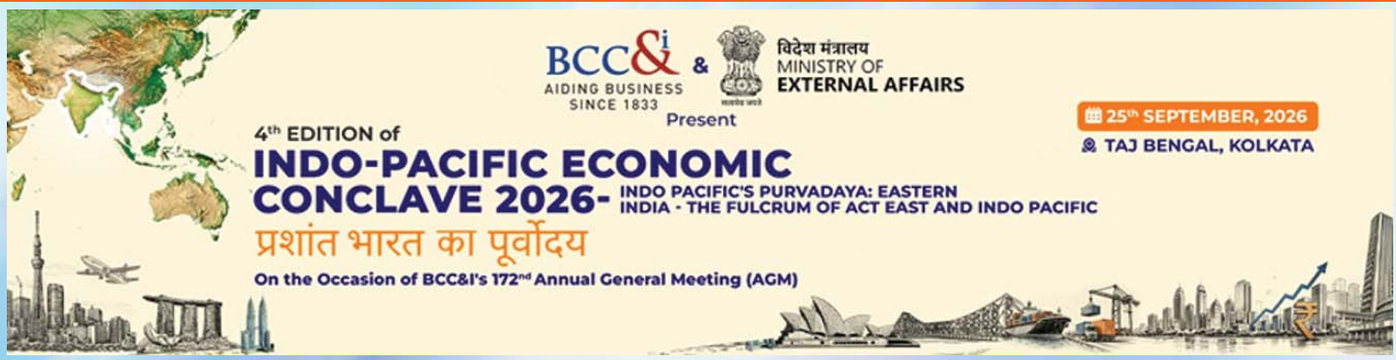


Group Photograph of the Delegates at the CXO Meet, organised by BCC&I in association with AMD and PTA.

PROGRAMME

4th EDITION OF INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE

25th September 2025,
Taj Bengal, Kolkata



The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) in association with **Ministry of External Affairs, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata** presented the **4th edition** of the **Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave** on the occasion of BCC&I's **172nd Annual General Meeting (AGM)** on **25th September 2026,** at the historic and heritage premises of **The Bengal Chamber.**

The 2026 edition of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave was themed **"Indo-Pacific's Purvodaya: Eastern India - The Fulcrum of Act East and Indo-Pacific."** The one-day Conclave, held on 25th September 2026, brought together policymakers, economists, bankers, industry leaders and representatives of multilateral institutions to deliberate on critical issues shaping the Indo-Pacific region. The sub-theme, **"India as the Custodian of the Indo-Pacific : Forging Resilient Pathways in Economy, Finance, Trade, Infrastructure, Supply Chain, Defence, Education, Innovation and People-to-People Partnerships"** focused on positioning eastern India as the gateway between India and the Indo-Pacific, bringing the Act East policy and Purvodaya together, and turning ideas into an execution plan.

The sessions highlighted the growing importance of Eastern India as India's gateway to the Indo-Pacific, with stronger ports, land ports, customs modernisation and shipbuilding seen as key to regional connectivity and trade, while also exploring how innovation, skills and sustainability can serve as the foundation for the region's long-term economic progress. From FTA utilisation, tariffs and rupee-based trade settlement to interoperable digital payments, climate finance, digital education and human-centred AI, the discussions highlighted the diverse opportunities and challenges that define the Indo-Pacific narrative today, along with the need for inclusive growth for MSMEs, women and artisans, and deeper partnerships with ASEAN, Japan and other regional economies.

The Conclave attracted a diverse and influential audience, with over 500 participants each day, comprising industry captains, CXO-level leaders, startup founders, representatives of think tanks and research institutions, members of diplomatic missions, and senior executives from technology, finance, and manufacturing sectors. Their insights enriched the deliberations with perspectives spanning policy, business, and global partnerships. The strong participation from across India and Indo-Pacific countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Australia, Cambodia, Japan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar further reflected the shared interest in building a more interconnected and sustainable regional future.

The 4th edition of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave was made possible with the support of several esteemed partners, including Bandhan Bank, Linde, and PwC; Berger, Cemindia, Haldia Petrochemicals, HCL, and SAIL; Exide, IEM, UEM, Indorama, JIS Group, SBI, and Tax Connect along with Fox Mandal, Bhoomi Industrial Park, Somnetics, Nepal India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI), Intueri Consulting, Selvelone, RT Network Solutions, Paperboat Holidays, Das Gupta Sports and Green Touch.

Plenary I : Inaugural Session

Session Moderator and Emceeing: Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, BCC&I and Head of On-site, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited with Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I

Esteemed Speakers :

- Dr. Shankar Ghosh, Hon'ble Minister, Department of Tourism and Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal
- Dr. Subrata Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Chief Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal
- Shri Ashish Middha, IFS, Regional Passport Officer and Head of Branch Secretariat, Ministry of External Affairs, Kolkata
- Mr. Prasoon Mukherjee, Chairman, Universal Success Enterprises Limited; Adviser for India and Latin America, Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF); Chairman, India Business Committee, Singapore Business Federation (SBF)
- Mr. Abhijit Roy, President, BCC&I and Managing Director & CEO, Berger Paints India Ltd.
- Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh, Chairperson, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and ED & COO, Bandhan Bank Limited

Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I
Mr. Subhodip Ghosh stated that the 4th Edition of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave had been organised by BCC&I in association with the Ministry of External Affairs on the occasion of the Chamber's 172nd Annual General Meeting. He noted that the Conclave had been held in Kolkata for four consecutive years and had received strong participation each year.

He explained that the theme of the Conclave, "Indo-Pacific's Purvodaya : Eastern India, the Fulcrum of Act East and Indo-Pacific," had sought to establish a convergence between the Government of India's Purvodaya initiative, the Act East Policy and the Indo-Pacific region. He highlighted that Purvodaya had aimed to enable the eastern states to contribute significantly towards achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat.

He emphasised that Bengal and Kolkata had remained central to this strategic vision since the Second World War, serving as important staging grounds for the movement of goods and commerce towards the east. He also highlighted the region's significance in maritime trade, noting that the quadrant handled approximately 85% of the seaborne trade route.

Referring to the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, he observed that India's diplomatic leadership had facilitated convergence on critical issues, including energy transition, climate finance, responses to tariffs and financial resilience.

He stated that the Conclave had focused on economy and finance, people-to-people connectivity, education and capacity building, and trade and infrastructure. He highlighted the importance of tourism in strengthening people-to-people partnerships, the overseas expansion of Indian educational institutions and India's trade agreements in improving market access for Indian exports.

He concluded by explaining that each theme had been allocated a dedicated session to facilitate meaningful discussion and dialogue. He added that position papers prepared by the knowledge partners for the respective sessions would be made available on the Chamber's website and shared with the speakers.

Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, BCC&I and Head of On-site, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited
Mr. Abhijit Banerjee took over the moderation of the inaugural session at the request of Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, who had sought his assistance in managing the session, given the presence of several senior speakers.

While introducing Mr. Prasoon Mukherjee, he described him as the Founder and Chairman of Universal Success Enterprises Limited and a first-generation entrepreneur whose business journey had begun in 1995. He highlighted Mr. Mukherjee's success in building a multinational enterprise headquartered in Singapore, with interests spanning infrastructure, townships, energy, mining and hospitality across South Asia and Southeast Asia. He also acknowledged his contributions as an investor and philanthropist.

Following Mr. Mukherjee's address, Mr. Banerjee noted that Mr. Mukherjee had assured him of his commitment to developing stronger institutional ties between the Singapore Business Federation and BCC&I. He expressed the Chamber's expectation of receiving support from its "Bengali brother in Singapore" in strengthening bilateral business relations.

He subsequently introduced Dr. Shankar Ghosh, explaining that the speaking order had been revised in view of the Minister's other engagement. He acknowledged the Minister's experience in public service and governance and referred to the promising initiatives undertaken in the tourism sector. He expressed the Chamber's willingness to collaborate with the state government in promoting tourism.

Following Dr. Subrata Gupta's address, Mr. Banerjee assured him, on behalf of the Chamber, that BCC&I would work with the government to ensure that Kolkata became an active participant in the evolving Indo-Pacific economic landscape. He concluded the inaugural session by thanking all the speakers for their insightful contributions.

Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh, Chairperson, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I; Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer, Bandhan Bank Limited.

Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh observed that conferences often generated extensive discussions but did not always translate into meaningful outcomes. He emphasised the need to move beyond generating ideas and instead focus on a limited number of practical, outcome-oriented initiatives supported by clear execution plans.

He noted that the new state government had demonstrated a willingness to deliver results and identified tourism as a potential driver of economic growth for eastern India, particularly West Bengal. He highlighted the significant role that the Indo-Pacific region could play in supporting this growth.

He stated that BCC&I's partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs had connected the Chamber's longstanding engagement with business and industry with India's broader diplomatic engagement on economic issues. The Conclave had

consequently provided a platform for policymakers, diplomats, international institutions and business representatives to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities shaping the Indo-Pacific.

He emphasised that the Indo-Pacific was not merely a geographical region but one of the world's most dynamic economic and strategic spaces, bringing together major centres of trade, finance, technology, manufacturing, innovation and human capital. He observed that engagement with the region was central to India's economic aspirations and its pursuit of deeper regional partnerships.

Referring to the theme, "India as the Custodian of the Indo-Pacific," he stated that India's role extended beyond participation and included contributing to a more connected, resilient and inclusive regional economic architecture, particularly amid an unpredictable geopolitical environment.

He highlighted the interdependence of trade, finance, infrastructure, technology and human capital. He explained that stronger trade required adequate infrastructure, infrastructure development depended on investment and financing, and investment relied on confidence and skilled human capital. He further noted that innovation and technology had become increasingly important across these interconnected areas. Platforms such as IPEC had enabled stakeholders to examine these issues as components of a broader economic ecosystem.

He emphasised the importance of trade diversification and resilient supply chains, noting that eastern India, particularly West Bengal, was well positioned to strengthen India's connections with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Southeast Asia. He highlighted the region's ports, logistics networks, industrial capabilities, knowledge institutions and emerging technology ecosystem as important assets in this regard.

He cautioned that geographical proximity alone could not guarantee connectivity. Converting proximity into economic opportunities required appropriate infrastructure, policy coordination, access to finance, efficient logistics and cross-border partnerships.

He also stressed that a resilient Indo-Pacific economy required a financial system capable of supporting infrastructure, enterprise development, innovation and inclusive growth. Banks, he noted, had an important role to play in financing these priorities.

Addressing technological transformation, he observed that artificial intelligence, digital platforms and advanced manufacturing were reshaping businesses, employment and economic relationships. He emphasised the need for continuous investment in skills and stated that economic competitiveness would depend not only on investment in physical infrastructure but also on the development of human capital.

He concluded by highlighting the need for sustained collaboration among governments, businesses, investors, financial institutions, academia and international partners. He emphasised that the key priorities were to contribute to a better-connected, economically resilient, technologically progressive and inclusive Indo-Pacific, while positioning eastern India as a stronger gateway between India and the wider region.

Shri Ashish Middha, IFS, Regional Passport Officer and Head of Branch Secretariat, Ministry of External Affairs, Kolkata.

Shri Ashish Middha stated that India's vision for the Indo-Pacific had evolved from the Look East Policy to the Act East Policy. He noted that this vision had also been shaped by MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), outlined by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Mauritius in March of the preceding year.

He emphasised that India had attached considerable importance to safeguarding the economic and security interests of all stakeholders with legitimate interests in the region. He also welcomed the growing understanding of the Indo-Pacific among like-minded countries.

He explained that the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) had been announced by the Prime Minister at the 14th East Asia Summit in Bangkok on 4 November 2019. The initiative had aimed to promote collaborative efforts to manage, conserve, sustain and secure the maritime domain while ensuring that it remained open and free.

He outlined the seven pillars of IPOI: maritime security, maritime ecology, marine resources, capacity building and resource sharing, disaster risk reduction and management, science, technology and academic cooperation, and trade connectivity and maritime transport. He described the initiative as an open framework for collective and coordinated action.

He noted that 21 countries and the European Union had joined IPOI. He further highlighted the convergence between IPOI and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which had been recognised by ASEAN. He referred to the joint statement issued by India and ASEAN at their 2021 summit to advance its implementation and identified Thailand, Indonesia,

Singapore and Vietnam as ASEAN members that had joined the initiative.

He observed that the Conclave had provided a platform for knowledge-sharing among stakeholders with expertise spanning economics, education, defence and diplomacy. It had also sought to strengthen economic, cultural and people-to-people connections by developing a shared understanding of trade barriers and the constraints faced by people, while exploring ways to address them.

He concluded by emphasising that deeper relations and cooperation among the peoples of the common neighbourhood would be essential for advancing economic, social and political development in the region.

Mr. Prasoon Mukherjee, Chairman, Universal Success Enterprises Limited; Adviser for India and Latin America, Singapore Manufacturing Federation; Chairman, India Business Committee, Singapore Business Federation; Vice-Chairman, SBF International Action Committee and SBF ASEAN Committee.

Mr. Prasoon Mukherjee outlined the roles of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) in strengthening business and industrial cooperation. He explained that SBF was an apex business chamber representing more than 34,000 companies alongside key local and foreign business chambers. He also noted that SMF, established in 1932, was the largest national organisation for manufacturing and related industries, with approximately 5,000 corporate members across ten industry groups.

He observed that the Indo-Pacific had evolved beyond a geographical concept to become one of the defining economic and strategic regions of the twenty-first century. The region encompassed dynamic economies, major manufacturing centres, critical maritime routes, expanding consumer markets, technological ecosystems and substantial pools of talent and capital.

He highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of ASEAN as a central pillar of India's Act East Policy and an important anchor for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. He noted that Singapore was scheduled to chair ASEAN in the following year and referred to the anticipated participation of Prime Minister Modi, US President Donald Trump, ASEAN leaders and several European heads of state at the summit.

He discussed the recurring institutional mechanisms established by the prime ministers of India and Singapore, including the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable, managed by the respective trade and industry ministries, and the Singapore Forum for Chief Ministers. He explained that the latter had been agreed upon during the Singapore Prime Minister's October visit to India, reflecting the importance of state-level engagement alongside federal cooperation. He also noted that the Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh and Haryana were expected to visit Singapore, with SBF hosting the visits.

Referring to India's regional engagement, he highlighted the outcomes of Prime Minister Modi's visit to Indonesia, particularly in defence cooperation and the securing of significant defence orders. He noted India's growing position as a defence supplier, including through private-sector participation and BrahMos missile sales to Indonesia and the Philippines. He also referred to the significant economic agenda associated with the Prime Minister's 2025 visit to Bangkok for the BIMSTEC summit.

He identified West Bengal as a potentially important partner for ASEAN countries, citing its GDP of over US$200 billion and its educated population. He expressed confidence in the state's potential to attract industries of different sizes, supported by the state government, cabinet and bureaucracy. He described West Bengal as a potential future engine of economic growth.

He concluded by inviting BCC&I members to visit ASEAN countries, particularly Singapore, to explore opportunities for collaboration and identify ways to contribute to West Bengal's economic development.

Mr. Abhijit Roy, President, BCC&I; Managing Director & CEO, Berger Paints India Limited.

Mr. Abhijit Roy welcomed the delegates to the fourth edition of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, organised on the occasion of BCC&I's 172nd Annual General Meeting. He highlighted the Chamber's contribution to trade, industry and public welfare over more than 150 years, noting that its guiding principle had been that commerce was most effective when it built bridges between people, markets and institutions.

He explained that the Conclave had been established four years earlier to ensure that Kolkata and eastern India received due consideration in discussions on the Indo-Pacific. He highlighted the region's strategic position between the Bay of Bengal and the Himalayas, as well as between South Asia and Southeast Asia. He observed that the Conclave had since expanded in ambition, reach and the quality of its discussions.

He thanked the Ministry of External Affairs for its association with the initiative and emphasised the complementary relationship between diplomacy and enterprise. He noted

that trade agreements created opportunities, while businesses of all sizes played the essential role of translating those opportunities into commercial outcomes.

He observed that the Government of India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific vision had provided Indian industry with direction and confidence. He described the Conclave as a platform where these strategic objectives could be connected with practical business considerations, including opportunities, risks and collective approaches to regional engagement.

He highlighted the Indo-Pacific's position as a major centre of global economic activity, characterised by rapidly growing markets, busy maritime routes and dynamic supply chains. At the same time, he noted that the region had been navigating changing trade patterns, technological disruption, climate pressures and geopolitical uncertainties, making resilient and trusted partnerships particularly important for India and eastern India.

He concluded by identifying three key questions for the Conclave: how road, rail, maritime, air and digital connectivity could bring neighbouring countries closer; how manufacturing, services and green technologies could be integrated into regional value chains; and how businesses ranging from micro, small and medium enterprises to multinational corporations could grow together.

Dr. Shankar Ghosh, Hon'ble Minister, Department of Tourism and Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal.

Dr. Shankar Ghosh emphasised that the true measure of progress lay not in the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) but in the implementation of its recommendations. He observed that ideas, historical information, geographical assessments and data could be compiled relatively quickly, but their real value depended on their practical implementation. He stated that the political change in the state also called for a corresponding change in mindset so that West Bengal could keep pace with India's economic growth. He noted that the new government had only recently begun its journey.

He stressed that the priority was to implement ideas rather than merely discuss them and urged that the Conclave's recommendations be presented in a concise and actionable manner.

Regarding the Indo-Pacific, he suggested that West Bengal should identify countries that were only marginally more developed than India and assess the areas in which the state could offer support and expand trade. He recommended identifying target countries first and then determining the sectors in which West Bengal could contribute, including technology and data. He also invited industry representatives to advise the government on how it could support and stabilise business and trade relations with those countries.

He highlighted West Bengal's diverse tourism assets, including its hills, coastline, forests, mangroves, culture and heritage, and observed that the state had not fully realised its tourism potential. He acknowledged the gap between aspirations and implementation and stated that the government was prepared to address it. He emphasised the need to move from potential to performance, with infrastructure and connectivity serving as critical priorities.

He noted that inadequate air and water connectivity had constrained the state's ability to attract foreign tourists. While the Asian Highway project had strengthened road connectivity between countries, he explained that the state intended to improve water and air links to promote cross-border tourism.

He referred to the Centre's "One State, One Global Destination" initiative and stated that Union Tourism Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat had agreed to support the promotion of Darjeeling and the Sundarbans as two global destinations for West Bengal. He also highlighted the state's long-standing lack of central assistance.

He observed that the substantial number of inbound tourists had not translated proportionately into revenue generation and employment. He stated that the Tourism Department had been preparing a paper on revenue generation and employment creation and that plans had been made to establish a high-quality institute to train skilled hotel personnel and tourist guides.

He explained that the state had been repositioning its tourism brand under the slogan "Where India Feels Different." He referred to the launch of a European tourism circuit targeting visitors from Europe, the proposed reconstruction of a French-era registry building to showcase French, Portuguese and Danish heritage, and the development of religious tourism circuits.

He further stated that the Tourism Department had received a ₹ 57 crore scheme from the Centre, marking its first such assistance in 15 years. He noted that the department had previously utilised only ₹ 20 out of every ₹ 100 allocated over the preceding 15 years and that efforts were underway to restructure its functioning. He also referred to discussions with the Consuls General of the United States, Australia and England on potential tourism cooperation.

He concluded by emphasising that the department had been working towards implementing ideas rather than merely generating them. He invited suggestions on connectivity, infrastructure and new destinations and expressed confidence that Bengal would regain its standing by drawing on its history, culture and heritage, describing the state as "born ready to rise."

Dr. Subrata Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal.

Dr. Subrata Gupta observed that the Conclave had been organised by one of India's oldest commercial institutions at a crucial turning point in Bengal's development. He emphasised that the objective was not merely to recall the state's past achievements but to draw on global developments, particularly the growing significance of the Indo-Pacific, a concept that had increasingly replaced Asia-Pacific in common usage over the preceding decades.

He outlined the evolution of India's strategic policies, noting that the Look East Policy had been initiated in 1991 under Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and had subsequently evolved into the Act East Policy in 2014. He explained that Purvodaya, which focused on the development of eastern India through skill development, manufacturing, mining, industrialisation and other sectors, needed to be considered alongside the Act East Policy and India's Indo-Pacific engagement.

He highlighted the Indo-Pacific's economic and strategic importance, stating that the region accounted for approximately 60% of global GDP and nearly half of international maritime traffic. He described it as an economic lifeline for India, given that around 90% of the country's foreign merchandise trade passed through these waters. He emphasised the importance of a rules-based trading system and the need to safeguard India's interests in the maritime domain.

He stated that the convergence of Act East and Purvodaya in the Indo-Pacific made the subject particularly relevant to Bengal and commended the Bengal Chamber for creating a platform for discussion and the exchange of ideas.

He described the Bay of Bengal as a strategic link between South Asia and Southeast Asia. He explained that the Asian Highway, the freight and industrial corridors developed by the Government of India, and the state government's proposed deep-sea port were aligned with the objectives of Purvodaya.

He highlighted Kolkata's role as a natural gateway for eastern India, the northeastern region, and the landlocked countries of Nepal and Bhutan. He noted that modernised operations at Kolkata Port and container movement at Haldia could help the city re-establish its historical position as a major logistics hub for the Bay of Bengal.

Referring to the COVID-19 pandemic, he observed that it had underscored the importance of resilient, diversified and trusted supply chains. He stressed the need to develop the eastern seaboard as a production base for essential supplies and highlighted the role of logistics parks, multimodal hubs and green shipping in strengthening the Indo-Pacific's supply-chain architecture.

He also identified the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), bilateral initiatives with Japan and other Asian countries, and BIMSTEC as important components of this broader regional engagement.

He explained that the state government had been recalibrating its industrial policy to attract investment. He stated that the government was willing to facilitate the establishment of a defence-related industrial park and referred to land parcels that had recently been handed over by the Chief Minister to several industrial units, including two manufacturers of detonators and shells for the armed forces and other security agencies. One of the units had been allocated a site of approximately 200 acres in Purulia.

He further stated that the state government was willing to make available suitable land parcels to chambers of commerce and industry associations for the development of product-specific industrial parks according to their requirements. Under this approach, industry associations would develop the parks, while the government would provide the necessary facilitation.

He concluded by describing Purvodaya as the industrial engine, Act East as the strategic direction and the Indo-Pacific as the broader horizon for growth. He urged Kolkata and West Bengal to become active architects and participants in the Indo-Pacific rather than passive observers. He also highlighted the Bengal Chamber's potential role in shaping the state's industrial landscape and invited it to contribute actively to the government's development initiatives.

Plenary II Theme : "Economy and Finance – Anchoring the Indo-Pacific : India's Financial and Economic Custodianship"

Points of Discussion :

- Mobilising Capital for Regional Growth – Expanding investment flows and financing opportunities across the Indo-Pacific.
- Green & Climate Finance – Scaling up sustainable

finance, green investments, and climate-focused funding.
- Advancing Financial Infrastructure – Strengthening payment systems, digital finance, and regional financial connectivity.
- Strengthening Economic Cooperation – Deepening regional economic frameworks, institutions, and financial partnerships.
- Building a Resilient & Inclusive Economy – Promoting financial inclusion, economic resilience, and sustainable growth across Indo-Pacific partners.

Session Moderator :

Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Former President, BCC&I and Senior Partner, Intueri Consulting LLP

Esteemed Speakers
- **Dr. Shankar Acharya,** Honorary Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and Former Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India
- **Mr. Abhijit Sen Gupta,** Senior Country Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- **Dr. Ranil Salgado,** Senior Resident Representative, International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- **Mr. Shourya Mandal,** Co-Managing Partner, Fox Mandal & Associates LLP
- **Mr. Ranen Banerjee,** Partner and Government Sector Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd. (PwC India)
- **Dr. Rouhin Deb,** Chief Economist, Chief Minister's Secretariat, Assam, Government of Assam
- **Shri R. Natarajan,** Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Kolkata Circle

Plenary II explored India's potential to act as a responsible economic and financial custodian of the Indo-Pacific by strengthening regional financial integration, trade, digital payments, infrastructure financing and climate resilience. The discussion highlighted the need to translate India's economic scale and strategic position into tangible regional benefits, with particular emphasis on eastern India and West Bengal as gateways to Southeast and South Asia.

The session began with Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Former President, BCC&I and Senior Partner, Intueri Consulting LLP, who emphasised that India's custodianship required more than economic growth and trade; it depended on trust in currency, legal systems, arbitration and financial stability. He highlighted the low credit-deposit ratio in eastern India, the underutilisation of Free Trade Agreement benefits by Indian exporters, and the challenges posed by carbon border adjustment mechanisms for regional MSMEs. He proposed opportunities for Kolkata to develop expertise in trade law, carbon certification, interoperable digital payments, maritime arbitration and regional infrastructure financing.

Mr. Shourya Mandal, Co-Managing Partner, Fox Mandal & Associates LLP, discussed the regulatory framework governing digital payments and cryptocurrency in India. He highlighted the rapid expansion of digital transactions and UPI's growing international reach, while outlining concerns relating to data sovereignty, financial regulation and consumer protection. He observed that India's approach to virtual digital assets remained uncertain and called for a clear, transparent regulatory framework that could balance financial stability, innovation and investor protection.

Dr. Shankar Acharya, Honorary Professor, ICRIER and Former Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India, stressed that India's growth needed to generate employment alongside higher GDP. He highlighted pressures on merchandise exports, declining net foreign direct investment and the need to improve India's integration with regional value chains. He advocated lower tariffs, stronger utilisation of free trade agreements, improved export logistics and greater participation in regional trade frameworks. He also emphasised fiscal consolidation and identified competitive, labour-intensive manufacturing and exports as essential to West Bengal's economic growth.

Mr. Abhijit Sengupta, Senior Country Economist, Asian Development Bank, explained that economic custodianship depended on providing regional stability, capital, knowledge and shared infrastructure rather than economic size alone. He highlighted opportunities in cross-border transport, energy connectivity, digital public infrastructure and climate finance. He emphasised the potential of eastern India to transition from raw-material exports towards manufacturing, supported by the Purvodaya initiative, logistics infrastructure and industrial corridors. He identified three priorities: incorporating cross-border outcomes into national programmes, improving regional interoperability in digital payments and trade, and mobilising blended finance and private capital for regional development.

Dr. Ranil Salgado, Senior Resident Representative, International Monetary Fund, outlined the importance of digital payment connectivity, sustainable infrastructure financing and stronger financial institutions for the Indo-Pacific. He observed that the region faced substantial investment requirements for the energy transition, climate adaptation and resilient infrastructure, while governments had limited fiscal resources. He emphasised the role of public and concessional financing in attracting private investment, alongside the need for financial institutions to assess and manage climate-related risks. He also highlighted the importance of sound monetary and fiscal

frameworks and closer cooperation among central banks, finance ministries and regulators. He concluded that India's regional leadership would depend on its ability to channel savings into productive investment, innovation, infrastructure and the green transition.

Mr. Ranen Banerjee, Partner and Government Sector Leader, PwC India, highlighted India's potential to serve as a trusted economic partner amid growing geopolitical and technological fragmentation. He emphasised the role of India's open-source digital public infrastructure and fintech ecosystem, particularly UPI, in providing scalable alternatives for regional digital connectivity. He proposed exploring an East India Infrastructure Fund with multilateral development partners and an international alliance focused on the blue economy. He also stressed the importance of inclusive growth, skills development, green livelihoods and climate finance, particularly for vulnerable and smaller economies.

Dr. Rouhin Deb, Chief Economist, Chief Minister's Secretariat, Government of Assam, emphasised that the Indo-Pacific represented a tangible geographical and economic opportunity for Assam and the Northeast. He highlighted the need to attract private and multilateral investment through stronger project preparation, risk-sharing mechanisms and bankable project pipelines. He stressed that climate adaptation, flood-resilient infrastructure and resilient agriculture were critical development priorities for vulnerable regions. He also advocated interoperable digital payments, improved trade facilitation and stronger regional value chains to ensure that connectivity generated investment, employment and opportunities for MSMEs. He concluded that custodianship should involve providing regional public goods and ensuring that smaller regions and enterprises benefited from economic integration.

Shri R. Natarajan, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Kolkata Circle, addressed the persistent credit-deposit ratio challenge in eastern India. He highlighted SBI's initiatives to expand lending through artificial intelligence, machine learning and technology-enabled credit assessment, which had accelerated decisions on business proposals. He emphasised that improving the regional credit-deposit ratio required a stronger industrial ecosystem, greater infrastructure investment and the creation of viable lending opportunities. He also underlined the importance of collaboration between banks, industry associations and the state government in facilitating investment and expanding credit to MSMEs and larger industrial projects.

Overall, the session underscored that India's economic custodianship of the Indo-Pacific would depend on translating economic growth into regional public goods through stronger financial systems, trade integration, digital connectivity, infrastructure investment and climate resilience. It highlighted eastern India and West Bengal's potential to emerge as important gateways for regional commerce, manufacturing and financial cooperation, provided that policy coordination, infrastructure development and institutional collaboration translated strategic opportunities into measurable economic outcomes.

Plenary III : Theme: "Trade and Infrastructure - Building the Corridors : Trade Diversification and Maritime Infrastructure for a Resilient Indo-Pacific"

Points of Discussion :

- Diversification of trade dependencies and widen market access.
- Deepening trade agreements across the Indo-Pacific zone.
- To strengthen regional connectivity corridors and reduce transactional frictions in trade.
- To build resilient and future-ready supply chains.
- To close the infrastructural gaps to foster smoother trade channels.

Session Moderator : Mr. Vivek Jalan, Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP

Panelists

- Mr. Shrawan Kumar – Principal Chief Commissioner, Kolkata Customs
- Mr. Anupam Misra – Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Hindustan Copper Limited
- Ms. Mitali Nikore – Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and Founder and CEO, Nikore Associates
- Commodore Sujeet Samaddar – Visiting Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi
- Mr. Jagadananda Kar – General Manager (Marketing), Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
- Mr. Anirudha Barooah – Deputy General Manager & Regional Head, Kolkata Regional Office, Exim Bank
- Mr. Jayant Singh – Chairman, Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), New Delhi

Plenary III examined how India could strengthen its trade competitiveness and expand its role in the Indo-Pacific through trade diversification, modern customs systems, resilient domestic supply chains, maritime infrastructure and improved cross-border connectivity. The discussion emphasised that

translating India's economic vision into tangible outcomes required effective execution, cost competitiveness, technology adoption, targeted financing and closer collaboration between the government and private sector. Particular attention was given to the opportunities available to eastern India and West Bengal in manufacturing, exports, logistics and regional trade.

Mr. Vivek Jalan, Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I, and Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP, highlighted the importance of managing costs to make MSMEs more competitive in international markets. Drawing on an example of a manufacturing enterprise preparing to enter export markets, he discussed how customs-duty relief schemes, GST input tax credits and appropriate tax planning could help reduce business costs. He emphasised that entrepreneurs and finance professionals needed to examine cost structures carefully to improve export competitiveness.

Mr. Shrawan Kumar, Principal Chief Commissioner, Kolkata Customs, outlined the department's efforts to modernise customs administration through technology, trust and greater predictability. He discussed the development of an integrated customs system covering ports, airports, land customs stations, foreign post offices and courier operations. He also highlighted plans for greater cargo scanning, risk-based assessment and the use of artificial intelligence to identify discrepancies, thereby reducing unnecessary physical examinations and facilitating smoother trade.

Mr. Anupam Misra, Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Copper Limited, discussed the strategic importance of strengthening India's domestic copper supply chain and expanding the eastern region's mineral-based industrial ecosystem. He highlighted the potential of West Bengal and neighbouring mineral-rich states to develop into manufacturing, technology and export hubs. He noted Hindustan Copper's plans to increase ore production capacity from 4.2 million tonnes to 12.2 million tonnes by 2029–30, while stressing the need for greater exploration and stronger domestic supply to meet India's growing requirements.

Ms. Mitali Nikore, Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I, and Founder and CEO, Nikore Associates, focused on making international trade more inclusive for women. She highlighted that fewer than 5% of women-led MSMEs directly participated in international trade and exports, identifying inadequate transport safety, insufficient sanitation facilities at ports and limited access to sector-specific skills as key barriers. She called for stronger implementation of gender-related provisions in free trade agreements, alongside improved infrastructure, access to finance, working capital, market information and industry-led initiatives to help women entrepreneurs participate more actively in global trade.

Commodore Sujeet Samaddar, Visiting Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), outlined the scale of investment required to realise India's maritime ambitions by 2047. He highlighted India's dependence on foreign vessels for cargo transportation and the substantial opportunities in shipbuilding, ship repair, inland waterways and maritime component manufacturing. He stressed the need to modernise shipyards, improve capacity utilisation, develop domestic manufacturing of engines and other components, and create specialised financing mechanisms. He also emphasised that public-private partnerships would be essential to mobilise the investment required to build a competitive maritime ecosystem.

Mr. Jagadananda Kar, General Manager (Marketing), Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), discussed the strong growth in India's steel demand, driven by domestic infrastructure development. He noted that India was working towards a steel capacity target of 300 million tonnes by 2030, compared with the approximately 220 million tonnes cited during the session. He emphasised that capacity expansion needed to be accompanied by product diversification and a stronger export orientation. However, he observed that international price pressures, particularly from Chinese steel, continued to challenge the competitiveness of Indian steel exports.

Mr. Anirudha Barooah, Deputy General Manager and Regional Head, Kolkata Regional Office, Exim Bank, explained the institution's role in financing and facilitating Indian exports. He outlined its support for greenfield and brownfield expansion, overseas investments, and pre-shipment and post-shipment working capital requirements of MSMEs. He also discussed Buyer's Credit for overseas importers purchasing Indian goods and equipment, as well as the Trade Assistance Programme, which helped exporters access markets where letters of credit were difficult to discount through existing banking channels. He stressed that Indian companies needed to establish a presence in partner markets to fully benefit from free trade agreements and comprehensive economic partnership agreements.

Mr. Jayant Singh, Chairman, Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), highlighted the untapped potential of land-based trade with India's neighbouring countries and the importance of developing integrated border infrastructure. He explained that effective trade facilitation required both physical connectivity and coordinated regulatory processes, supported by interoperable digital systems. He discussed plans to expand land-port infrastructure in West Bengal and other northeastern states, while noting the role of technology in reducing truck detention, improving cargo movement and addressing security concerns. He also proposed the development of Frontier Economic Zones along the India–Bangladesh border to leverage

regional advantages and promote cross-border trade. He indicated that the proposed new land ports in West Bengal could be operationalised by 2030, subject to land notifications, last-mile connectivity and the establishment of supporting facilities across the border.

Overall, Plenary III underscored that India's emergence as a competitive Indo-Pacific trade and infrastructure hub would depend on translating strategic ambitions into practical outcomes. The discussions highlighted the importance of reducing export costs for MSMEs, modernising customs and land-port systems, strengthening domestic mineral and steel supply chains, promoting gender-inclusive trade, expanding maritime infrastructure and improving access to export finance. The session also emphasised the need for public-private partnerships, digital interoperability and coordinated regional infrastructure planning. Eastern India and West Bengal were identified as having significant potential to become gateways for manufacturing, maritime development and cross-border commerce, provided that infrastructure investment and institutional reforms were pursued together.

Thought Leadership I : Theme: "Innovation, Education and Skill Development: Co-Creating the Future"

Points of Discussion :

- To internationalise and integrate the higher education system of the Indo-Pacific through educational partnerships, scholarships and exchange programmes. To assess the spillover effects of educational integration and innovation through technology cooperation, on cultural ties and other sectors.
- To understand the role of the "Arc of Trust" strategy and hardware co-development projects within the Indo-Pacific.
- To understand how cooperation in critical minerals and cleaner energy generation techniques will be beneficial.

Session Moderator : Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri - Chairperson Emeritus, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I; Distinguished Professor, Sister Nivedita University; Former Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University; Former Professor and HoD, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University

Panelists

- **Mr. Deepak Kumar** – Deputy Secretary (Services Division and Economic Intelligence Unit), NITI Aayog
- **Prof. SuthiphandChirathivat** – Chairman of the Board, Central Group, Bangkok, and Professor Emeritus, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- **Dr. Meera Mitra** – Mentor, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and Member, Governing Body, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB)
- **Dr. Tafeem Siddiqui** – Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Flipkart
- **Dr. Sivaji Chakravorti** – Professor of Electrical Engineering, Jadavpur University; Former Director, NIT Calicut; Vice-President, Indian National Academy of Engineering
- **Mr. Simarpreet Singh** – Director, JIS Group
- **Dr. Biswajoy Chatterjee** – Vice-Chancellor, University of Engineering and Management

The session explored the role of innovation, education and skill development in strengthening Indo-Pacific cooperation and preparing the workforce for emerging economic opportunities. Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri highlighted three key areas for collaboration: human resource development, natural resources and artificial intelligence (AI). He emphasised the need to transform India's demographic dividend into a productive asset through effective skilling and to ensure that AI was used responsibly for the benefit of society.

Dr. Tafeem Siddiqui highlighted how digital commerce had enabled small manufacturers, artisans, weavers, women entrepreneurs and farmer producer organisations to access national and international markets. Citing the example of Shantipur's weavers, he underscored the importance of empowering MSMEs, which played a significant role in India's manufacturing and exports. Prof. SuthiphandChirathivat emphasised moving beyond conventional trade and physical connectivity towards knowledge connectivity through collaboration among universities, industries and innovation ecosystems. He proposed an ASEAN–India Knowledge and Innovation Network to promote cooperation in AI, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, logistics and other emerging sectors.

Dr. Sivaji Chakravorti discussed India's National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) as a potential digital public infrastructure model for the Indo-Pacific, enabling countries to develop customised education systems while retaining digital sovereignty. Dr. Meera Mitra stressed the importance of aligning education and vocational training with industry requirements, international standards and emerging technologies, advocating a human-centred approach to AI.

Mr. Deepak Kumar highlighted the need to integrate technology, critical thinking, communication, collaboration and continuous learning into skill development, emphasising stronger partnerships between industry, academia and government. Dr. Biswajoy Chatterjee showcased India's

achievements in digital public infrastructure, software development, semiconductor manufacturing and cybersecurity, identifying people, platforms, policies and partnerships as key pillars of cooperation. Mr. Simarpreet Singh emphasised the growing potential of educational partnerships between Eastern India and Southeast Asia, calling for greater industry-oriented education, technological adaptability and the development of future-ready leaders.

Overall, the session underscored that education and skill development must be treated as strategic economic infrastructure. It highlighted the need for deeper India–ASEAN collaboration, industry-linked curricula, inclusive digital innovation and responsible AI adoption to strengthen human capital and position Eastern India as a key contributor to the Indo-Pacific knowledge and innovation ecosystem.

Thought Leadership II : Theme: "India and Its Indo-Pacific Partners: Deepening Economic Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships"

Points of Discussion :

- To humanise policy by translating bureaucracy into local action, and to anchor practice by building trust for business leadership.
- Move Indo-Pacific partnerships from formal pacts to lived realities, including cross-border cultural conservation partnerships.
- Formulate public policies and state-led cultural initiatives that leverage heritage to create peaceful, well-integrated and highly inclusive Indian diaspora communities and to support, facilitate and maximise exports of goods and services from India to Indo-Pacific markets.

Session Moderator :

Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee – Chief Economic Advisor, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I; Former Member, Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Asian Development Bank (ADB); Adviser, Centre for Sustainable Development Goals, Government of Assam

Panelists :

- **Mr. Yoshihisa Ishikawa** – Consul General, Consulate of Japan, Kolkata
- **Ms. Sani Tamwoy** – Deputy Consul-General, Consulate of Australia, Kolkata
- **Mr. Sabrin Chowdhury** – First Secretary (Commercial), Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Kolkata
- **Mr. Aung Aung Myo Thein** – Consul General, Consulate of Myanmar, Kolkata
- **Mr. Sunil KC** – President, Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI) (joined virtually)
- **Mr. Indronil Sengupta** – Chairperson, ASEAN India Economic Council (AIEC)
- **Mr. Krishan Kumar Mishra** – Head-Exports (Traction & Standby), International Business, Exide Industries Limited

The session examined opportunities to strengthen economic cooperation between India and its Indo-Pacific partners, with particular emphasis on trade diversification, investment, regional connectivity, resilient supply chains and business-to-business partnerships. Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee highlighted the importance of understanding partner countries' perspectives and learning from their experiences to develop practical avenues for collaboration.

Mr. Yoshihisa Ishikawa emphasised the strategic importance of India–Japan cooperation, identifying investment, advanced manufacturing, robotics, AI, clean energy, cybersecurity and skilled workforce mobility as priority areas. Ms. Sani Tamwoy highlighted the growing Australia–India partnership in trade, education, skills, research and innovation, noting Eastern India's potential as a gateway to Southeast Asia. Ms. Sabrin Chowdhury underscored Bangladesh's strategic position in the Bay of Bengal and called for greater bilateral trade, investment, joint ventures, technology transfer and regional value-chain integration. Mr. Aung Aung Myo Thein stressed Myanmar's role as a bridge between India and ASEAN, advocating stronger institutional, business and people-to-people ties, alongside improved physical, digital and financial connectivity.

Mr. Sunil KC highlighted the importance of integrating climate resilience into Nepal–India economic cooperation through early-warning systems, disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure and private-sector investment. He also identified cross-border energy cooperation, including Nepal's electricity exports to India and Bangladesh, as an opportunity for deeper regional integration. Mr. Indronil Sengupta presented Vietnam's manufacturing-led development as a model for India, emphasising export-oriented industrialisation, MSME development, foreign investment and the strategic use of free trade agreements. He stressed that imports could strengthen domestic manufacturing competitiveness when incorporated into value-added production for export markets.

Drawing on Exide Industries' international business experience, Mr. Krishan Kumar Mishra emphasised that successful exports depended not merely on selling products but on building long-term, trust-based relationships with reliable overseas distributors and business partners. He highlighted the importance of understanding individual markets, developing local partnerships and creating value beyond individual transactions.

Overall, the session reinforced the need to transform diplomatic relationships into practical economic partnerships through trade diversification, investment, regional value-chain integration, technology transfer and sustained business engagement. It highlighted Eastern India's strategic position in connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia and the wider Indo-Pacific, while underscoring the importance of mutual trust, policy facilitation and private-sector collaboration in advancing shared prosperity.

Following the Conclave, The Global Diplomacy Quiz 2026 was held on 25 September 2026, from 5:00 PM onwards at Taj Bengal, Kolkata, as part of the 4th Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, organised on the occasion of BCC&I's 172nd Annual General Meeting.

Conducted as an open quiz, the event witnessed participation from 65 teams, bringing together a diverse mix of industry professionals, students and representatives from consulates. The quiz provided an engaging platform for participants to test their knowledge and perspectives across a wide spectrum of subjects, including diplomacy, geopolitics, international relations, the Indo-Pacific, global institutions, history, culture and current affairs.

The engaging session was led by quizmasters Mr. Arijit Sen and Mr. Auritro Chowdhury, whose thought-provoking questions and dynamic format added to the excitement and intellectual character of the evening.

The winners of the quiz :

Winner : Dr. Soubhadra Chakraborty &Shouvic Guha,
1st Runner-Up : Samanway Banerjee & Saswata Acharya,
2nd Runner-Up : Gautam Ghosh & Alok Mohan

The Global Diplomacy Quiz 2026 was supported by Somnetics as the Prize Partner, contributing to the recognition and celebration of the winning teams.

Marking BCC&I's first-ever National Global Diplomacy Quiz, the evening concluded on an inspiring note, celebrating knowledge, curiosity and global awareness .

Conclusion :

The 4th Edition of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave (IPEC) 2026, held on 25th September 2026 on the occasion of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (BCC&I) 172nd Annual General Meeting, reaffirmed Eastern India's strategic importance in shaping the evolving Indo-Pacific economic landscape. Organised in association with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the Conclave brought together policymakers, diplomatic representatives, international chambers of commerce, industry leaders, economists and institutional stakeholders to deliberate on the opportunities and challenges shaping regional economic cooperation. Anchored in the vision of "Indo-Pacific's Purvodaya: Eastern India – The Fulcrum of Act East and Indo-Pacific," IPEC 2026 underscored India's role as a key facilitator of economic partnerships, regional integration and shared prosperity, while positioning Eastern India as a vital link between South Asia and Southeast Asia.

A key outcome of IPEC 2026 was the emphasis on deepening economic cooperation through strategic partnerships, trade diversification and investment facilitation. Discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening bilateral and multilateral engagement with Japan, Australia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and ASEAN economies, while translating diplomatic goodwill into tangible business opportunities. Participants emphasised the need to expand cross-border trade, encourage foreign direct investment, develop joint ventures, facilitate technology transfer and strengthen regional value chains. Experiences from Japan's advanced manufacturing ecosystem and Vietnam's export-oriented industrialisation offered valuable lessons for enhancing India's manufacturing competitiveness, empowering MSMEs and integrating domestic enterprises into global supply chains.

The Conclave also underscored the importance of innovation, education and skill development as foundations of long-term economic growth. Deliberations highlighted the need to align education and vocational training with evolving industry requirements, emerging technologies and changing labour-market demands. Digital commerce, artificial intelligence, digital public infrastructure and technology-enabled education were identified as significant areas for cooperation across the Indo-Pacific. Participants called for stronger partnerships among governments, educational institutions, industry and research organisations to build a future-ready workforce, promote entrepreneurship and ensure that the benefits of technological advancement reach smaller enterprises and emerging economic centres. The discussions reinforced the importance of human capital as a strategic asset in realising India's aspiration of becoming a developed economy by 2047.

Regional connectivity and economic resilience emerged as other central priorities. Participants highlighted the strategic significance of the Bay of Bengal as a maritime and economic interface connecting South Asia with Southeast Asia and the wider Indo-Pacific. Improved physical infrastructure, digital and financial connectivity, trade facilitation and cross-border energy cooperation were recognised as essential to unlocking

the region's economic potential. The discussions also emphasised the need to strengthen resilient supply chains, deepen regional value-chain integration and enhance cooperation in climate-resilient infrastructure and disaster preparedness. Nepal–India energy cooperation, including the potential for trilateral electricity trade involving Bangladesh, illustrated how regional partnerships could generate shared economic and developmental benefits.

A further takeaway was the need to translate regional dialogue into sustained institutional cooperation and measurable business outcomes. The Conclave highlighted the complementary strengths of Indo-Pacific economies in manufacturing, technology, services, energy, logistics and human capital. Participants stressed that chambers of commerce, industry associations and other institutional partners could play a critical role in connecting businesses, facilitating market access and converting policy discussions into practical collaborations. The importance of long-term, trust-based business relationships, a deeper understanding of individual markets and partnerships extending beyond conventional buyer–seller transactions was also emphasised as essential to sustainable international trade.

The discussions reaffirmed Eastern India's potential to emerge as a prominent gateway for Indo-Pacific economic engagement. West Bengal's geographical proximity to Southeast Asia, established industrial base, educational institutions, entrepreneurial capabilities and connectivity with neighbouring economies offer significant opportunities to strengthen trade, investment and knowledge partnerships. Realising this potential will require continued collaboration between government and industry, improved trade infrastructure, greater international engagement and a concerted effort to integrate regional enterprises into emerging global value chains. The Purvodaya vision therefore emerged not merely as a regional development aspiration, but as an opportunity to position Eastern India at the centre of India's broader economic engagement with the Indo-Pacific.

To strengthen public awareness and enhance the visibility of the Conclave across Kolkata, outdoor promotional activities complemented the event's wider communication and outreach efforts. These promotional initiatives helped bring IPEC 2026 into the public domain, reinforcing awareness of the Conclave and its significance as a platform for international economic dialogue. Together with media coverage and digital communication, the outdoor promotions contributed to a broader visibility strategy, extending the event's presence beyond the conference venue and reaching audiences across the city.

The Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave 2026 received coverage across print and digital media, helping amplify its key deliberations and outcomes among a wider audience. Leading newspapers, including The Times of India, The Telegraph, The Indian Express, Millennium Post, The Economic Times, and Anandabazar Patrika, provided coverage of the Conclave and its focus on Indo-Pacific economic cooperation, regional partnerships, trade and investment opportunities, and Eastern India's strategic role. Social media platforms, including X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn and Instagram, further extended the Conclave's visibility through updates, photographs, videos and key highlights. IPEC 2026 achieved a total social media reach of 7.67 million, with total engagement of 6.57 million, reflecting the extensive digital visibility and audience interaction generated by the Conclave.

Ultimately, IPEC 2026 reaffirmed BCC&I's commitment to positioning Eastern India as an active participant in the Indo-Pacific's economic transformation. Building on four editions of sustained engagement, the Conclave reinforced the importance of converting dialogue into actionable partnerships through sectoral business delegations, institutional collaborations, international knowledge exchange and focused business-to-business engagement. Its deliberations pointed towards a future in which regional cooperation would be driven by mutual trust, complementary economic strengths, innovation and shared developmental priorities.

By strengthening these connections, IPEC seeks to advance the vision of Purvodaya and contribute to a more connected, resilient and prosperous Indo-Pacific, with Eastern India serving as a catalyst for inclusive growth and international economic cooperation. The Conclave's continuing emphasis on policy dialogue, international partnerships and tangible business outcomes establishes a foundation for sustained engagement among governments, industry and institutions, advancing BCC&I's vision of making Eastern India a leading gateway for India's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region.



Address by Mr. Abhijit Roy, President, BCC&I and Managing Director & CEO, Berger Paints India Ltd

25th September 2025,
Taj Bengal, Kolkata

4th EDITION OF INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE



Address by Shri Ashish Middha, IFS, Regional Passport Office and Head of Branch Secretariat, Ministry of External Affairs, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata



Address by Dr. Subrata Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal



Inaugural Plenary Session Emceeing and Moderation by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I



Address by Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh, Chairperson, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and ED & COO, Bandhan Bank Limited



Inaugural Plenary Session Emceeing and Moderation by Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, BCC&I and Head of On-site, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited



Address by Mr. Prasoon Mukherjee, Chairman of Universal Success Enterprises Limited; Adviser for India and Latin America to the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF); Chairman of the India Business Committee of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF); Vice-Chairman SBF's International Action Committee and Vice-Chairman of the SBF ASEAN Committee



Address by Guest of Honor Dr. Shankar Ghosh, Hon'ble Minister Department of Tourism and Department of Parliamentary Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal

PROGRAMME

4th EDITION OF INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE

25th September 2025,
Taj Bengal, Kolkata



Left to Right : Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I; Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh, Chairperson, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and ED & COO, Bandhan Bank Limited; Dr. Subrata Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of West Bengal; Dr. Shankar Ghosh, Hon'ble Minister Department of Tourism and Department of Parliamentary Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal; Mr. Abhijit Roy, President, BCC&I and Managing Director & CEO, Berger Paints India Ltd; Shri Ashish Middha, IFS, Regional Passport Office and Head of Branch Secretariat, Ministry of External Affairs, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata; Mr. Prasoon Mukherjee, Chairman of Universal Success Enterprises Limited; Adviser for India and Latin America to the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF); Chairman of the India Business Committee of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF); Vice-Chairman SBF's International Action Committee and Vice-Chairman of the SBF ASEAN Committee; Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, BCC&I and Head of On-site, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited



Delegates



Plenary II Session on Economy and Finance- Anchoring the Indo-Pacific: India's Financial and Economic Custodianship moderated by Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Former President, BCC&I and Senior Partner, Intueri Consulting LLP



Dr. Shankar Acharya, Honorary Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and Former Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India



Mr. Abhijit Sen Gupta, Senior Country Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)



Dr. Ranil Salgado, Senior Resident Representative, International Monetary Fund (IMF)



Mr. Shourya Mandal, Co-Managing Partner, Fox Mandal & Associates LLP



Shri R. Natarajan, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Kolkata Circle



Dr. Rouhin Deb, Chief Economist, Chief Minister's Secretariat, Assam, Government of Assam



Mr. Ranen Banerjee, Partner and Government Sector Leader, Pricewaterhouse Coopers Pvt. Ltd. (PwC India)



Left to Right : Plenary II Session Speakers: Mr. Ranen Banerjee, Partner and Government Sector Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd. (PwC India), Mr. Abhijit Sen Gupta, Senior Country Economist, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Dr. Shankar Acharya, Honorary Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and Former Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India, Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Former President, BCC&I and Senior Partner, Intueri Consulting LLP, Shri R. Natarajan, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Kolkata Circle, Mr. Shourya Mandal, Co-Managing Partner, Fox Mandal & Associates LLP, Dr. Rouhin Deb, Chief Economist, Chief Minister's Secretariat, Assam, Government of Assam, Dr. Ranil Salgado, Senior Resident Representative, International Monetary Fund (IMF)



Mr. Shrawan Kumar, Principal Chief Commissioner, Kolkata Customs



Mr. Anupam Misra, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Hindustan Copper Limited



Mr. Jagadananda Kar, GM (Marketing), Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)



Ms. Mitali Nikore, Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and Founder and CEO, Nikore Associates



Commodore Sujeet Samaddar, Visiting Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi



Mr. Anirudha Barooah, Deputy General Manager & Regional Head, Kolkata Regional Office, Exim Bank



Plenary III Session on Trade and Infrastructure - Building the Corridors: Trade Diversification and Maritime Infrastructure for a Resilient Indo-Pacific moderated by Mr. Vivek Jalan, Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP



Left to Right: Plenary III Session Speakers : Mr. Anirudha Barooah, Deputy General Manager & Regional Head, Kolkata Regional Office, Exim Bank, Mr. Shrawan Kumar, Principal Chief Commissioner, Kolkata Customs, Mr. Anupam Misra, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Hindustan Copper Limited, Mr. Vivek Jalan, Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP, Mr. Jagadananda Kar, GM (Marketing), Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), Ms. Mitali Nikore, Member, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and Founder and CEO, Nikore Associates, Commodore Sujeet Samaddar, Visiting Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi



Mr. Jayant Singh, Chairman, Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), New Delhi



Thought Leadership I Session on Innovation, Education and skill development: Co-Creating the Future moderated by Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri, Chairperson Emeritus, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I, Distinguished Professor, Sister Nivedita University, Former Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Former professor and HoD, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University



Mr. Deepak Kumar, Deputy Secretary (Services Division and Economic Intelligence Unit), NITI Aayog

PROGRAMME

4th EDITION OF INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE

25th September 2025,
Taj Bengal, Kolkata



Virtual Address by Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chairman of the Board, Central Group, Bangkok, and Professor Emeritus, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok



Dr. Meera Mitra, Mentor, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and Member, Governing Body, Centre for Responsible Business, CRB



Dr. Tafeem Siddiqui, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Flipkart



Dr. Sivaji Chakravorti, Professor of Electrical Engineering, Jadavpur University, Former Director, NIT Calicut, Vice-President, Indian National Academy of Engineering

25th September 2025,
Taj Bengal, Kolkata

4th EDITION OF INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE



Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group



Dr. Biswajoy Chatterjee, Vice-Chancellor, University of Engineering and Management



Mr. Yoshihisa Ishikawa, Consul General, Consulate of Japan, Kolkata



Left to Right : Mr. Tridib Das, Director, Bhoomi Industrial Park; Dr. Tafeem Siddiqui, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Flipkart; Dr. Biswajoy Chatterjee, Vice-Chancellor, University of Engineering and Management; Dr. Meera Mitra, Mentor, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I and Member, Governing Body, Centre for Responsible Business, CRB; Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri, Chairperson Emeritus, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I, Distinguished Professor, Sister Nivedita University, Former Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Former professor and HoD, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University; Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group, Dr. Sivaji Chakravorti, Professor of Electrical Engineering, Jadavpur University, Former Director, NIT Calicut, Vice-President, Indian National Academy of Engineering; Ravi Choudhury, C0-Founder & CEO, Bhoomi Industrial Park; Mr. Deepak Kumar, Deputy Secretary (Services Division and Economic Intelligence Unit), NITI Aayog



Thought Leadership II Session on India and Its Indo-Pacific Partners: Deepening Economic Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships moderated by Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Chief Economic Advisor, Economic Affairs National Committee, BCC&I, Former Member Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Adviser, Centre for Sustainable Development Goals, Government of Assam



Ms. Sani Tamwoy, Deputy Consul-General, Consulate of Australia, Kolkata



Mr. Indronil Sengupta, Chairperson, ASEAN India Economic Council (AIEC), Vietnam



Ms. Sabrin Chowdhury, First Secretary (Commercial), Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata



Mr. Aung Aung Myo Thein, Consul General, Consulate of Myanmar, Kolkata



Virtual Address by Mr. Sunil KC, President, Nepal - India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI)



Mr. Krishan Kumar Mishra, Head-Exports (Traction & Standby), International Business, Exide Industries



Mr. Aurito Chowdhury, Quizmaster of The Global Diplomacy Quiz



Mr. Arijit Sen, Quizmaster of The Global Diplomacy Quiz



Participants of The Global Diplomacy Quiz

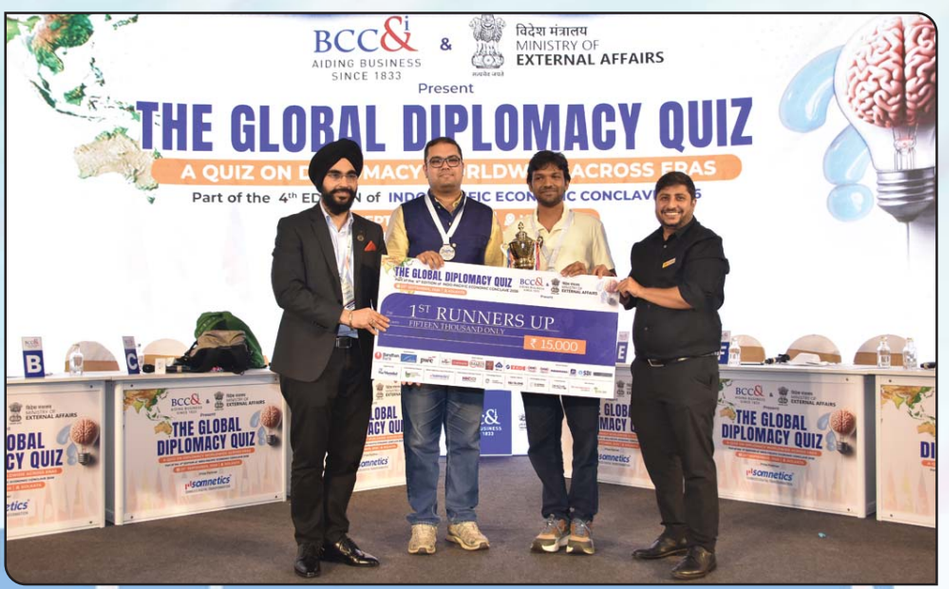




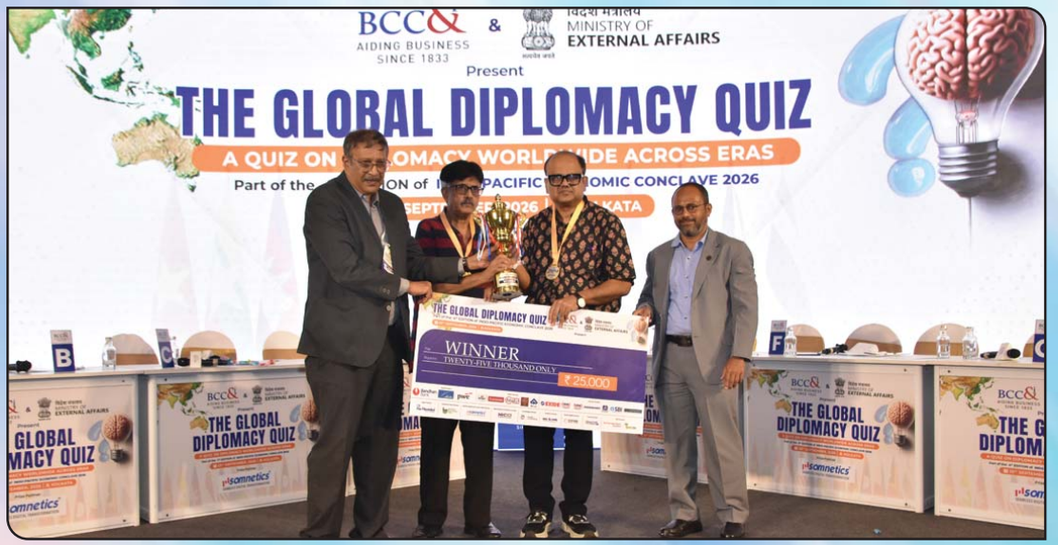
Top 8 Finalists of The Global Diplomacy Quiz



Trophy, Medal and Winning cheque handed over to 2nd Runners up of The Global Diplomacy Quiz Mr. Alok Mohan and Mr. Gautam Ghosh by Mr. Kalyan Kar, Managing Director, Rezolve Ai India and Ms. Tandra Dey, Director- Finance, Somnetics



Trophy, Medal and Winning cheque handed over to 1st Runners up of The Global Diplomacy Quiz Mr. Samanway Banerjee and Mr. Saswata Acharya by Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group and Mr. Binod Kumar Homagai, Co-Founder & COO, Wow Momo



Trophy, Medal and Winning cheque handed over to Winners of The Global Diplomacy Quiz Mr. Shouvic Guha and Mr. Soubhadra Chakrabarty by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I and Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President Designate, BCC&I and Head of On-site, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited







Esteemed Delegates of IPEC 2026

4th EDITION OF INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE

25th September 2025,
Taj Bengal, Kolkata



Registration at IPEC 2026

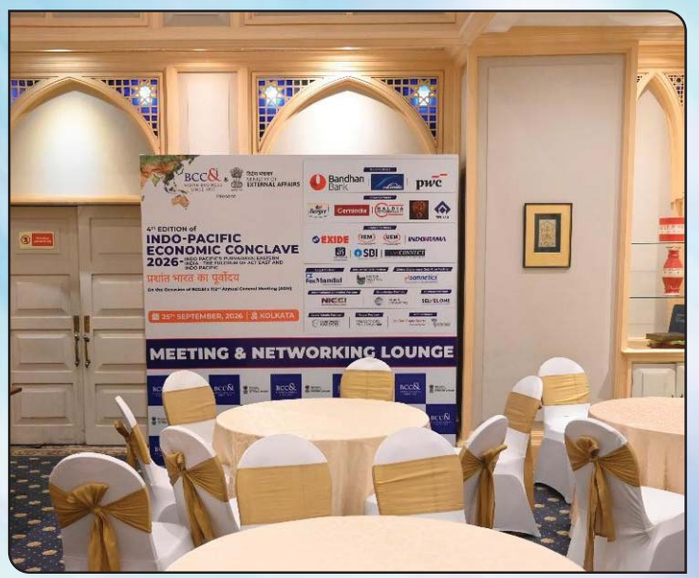


Branding of Partners at the Venue







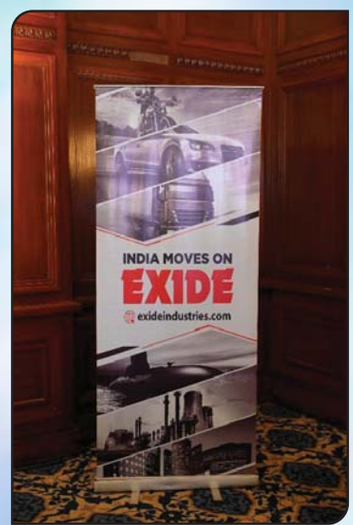




Branding of Partners at the Venue





















Branding of Partners at the Venue







Branding of Partners at the Venue





Branding at the Venue - AV display of Partners



















Branding at the Venue - AV display of Partners

25th September 2025,
Taj Bengal, Kolkata

4th EDITION OF INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE



Exhibition booth by our esteemed partner JIS group



Exhibition booth by our esteemed partner SAIL



Exhibition booth by our esteemed partner SBI



Exhibition booth by our esteemed partner Bandhan Bank

Land ceiling set to stay, govt mulls relaxation for industry

'Repeal Will Lead To Land Hoarding'

Uditprasanna.Mukherjee
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: The Suvendu Adhikari govt may not repeal the land ceiling law, as was reportedly being considered to facilitate industrialisation, and may instead opt for a "time-bound" relaxation of the norm for industrial and other critical projects.

The govt's change of stand was articulated by Subrata Gupta, adviser to CM Adhikari, on the sidelines of Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave organised by Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Friday.

"It (the provision on land ceiling) cannot be removed altogether. Rather, a time-bound approach can be taken for relaxation of Section 14Y (of West Bengal Land Reforms Act)," Gupta told **TOI**. Under the section, no family can own more than 24 acres of land in rural areas.

'TIMELY NOD'

- **A family** in a **rural area** can't own more than **24 acres** under West Bengal Land Reforms Act
- **A family** in an **urban area** can't own more than **7.5 cottahs** under Urban Land Ceiling Act
- **Industry** has been demanding **repeal of land ceiling provision**
- **TMC regime relaxed norms** for some projects, but **process was lengthy**

A special approval is required if someone wants to possess land in excess of the ceiling.

Gupta said the removal of Section 14Y may lead to rampant land hoarding. Flagging Bengal's high population per square feet land, 1,100 compared with the national average of 430, he said, "Our land-to-population is three times the national average and 5-6 times the ratio in some states. Most of the land here is fertile. So we have to be cautious."

The adviser also stressed the need to include compensation norms for 'bargadars' and 'pattadars' (landless peasants hired by absentee landlords) in the new land policy to be adopted by the Bengal govt.

On the land-pooling policy the BJP govt is set to adopt, Gupta said, "The policy has been very successful in Haryana and Gujarat. We have to see how it works here." Land-pooling is a voluntary industrial development model where private landowners contribute a portion of their land for infrastructure development and, in return, receive smaller, fully serviced plots of significantly higher market value elsewhere.

At the economic conclave, Gupta said, "We want chambers and industry bodies to develop industrial parks. The govt will facilitate the process." The state has identified 3-4 land parcels, which will be auctioned to industry bodies and chambers for setting up industrial parks. "In industrial parks, one should look for vertical development as Bengal is a land-scarce state," he said.

SBF, BCC&I explore tie-up for Asean defence export push

Uditprasanna.Mukherjee
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Singapore Business Federation (SBF), Singapore's apex business chamber, is exploring a partnership with Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) to promote defence exports from Bengal to Asean markets.

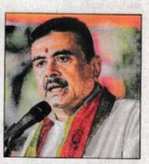
Prasoon Mukherjee, chairperson of SBF's India Business Committee, said there was significant scope to expand defence exports to Asean countries, citing India's exports of BrahMos missiles to the Philippines and Indonesia. He was speaking at Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave organised by BCC&I on Friday.

Mukherjee said Bengal had a locational advantage in accessing Asean markets and a growing base of MSMEs supplying defence components to the armed paramilitary forces.

Bengal chief minister's adviser Subrata Gupta said the govt was also planning a defence park at Raghunathpur. BCC&I director general Subhodip Ghosh said the chamber had initially identified 139 MSMEs involved in defence manufacturing. Following field surveys , 118 were shortlisted.

Land parcel plan for industry: CM adviser

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Suvendu Adhikari

Calcutta: Bengal is considering handing over government land parcels to industry associations and chambers of commerce to develop product-specific or sector-specific industrial parks, looking for investments without having to develop such parks itself.

"We are open to the idea and are considering the possibility that whatever land parcels we have in our hand, we would like to offer to industry associations and chambers of commerce for setting up specific product-based industrial parks, instead of the government trying to develop them," Subrata Gupta, adviser to chief minister Suvendu Adhikari, said at the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave on Friday.

Industrial infrastructure in Bengal is now anchored largely by state-run nodal agencies: the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation, West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation, West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation and various departments such as food processing, IT, and MSME and textiles, covering over 100 industrial zones.

The sectors range from textiles, manufacturing, food processing, and information technology to gems and jewellery, chemicals, iron and steel, and plastics.

Private developers too have established a footprint in the state, particularly in logistics, warehousing and light engineering clusters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 ▶

Print Media and E-Media Coverage of IPEC 2026

Land parcel plan for Bengal industry

▶ FROM PAGE 1

Schemes such as the Scheme for Approved Industrial Parks, introduced to encourage private developers to set up parks on private land, have already yielded interest with around a dozen proposals being approved and more projects under various stages of approval.

The state is also open to developing a defence-focused industrial park, Gupta said at the meeting.

"Only two days back, the chief minister handed over land parcels to different units and there were at least two units involved in manufacturing detonators and shells. One of them is in Purulia over a 200-acre area," he said.

The Bengal government is working on changing its land framework, exploring options such as land pooling and time-bound clearances for individuals and companies seeking to hold land beyond the existing ceilings.

INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE

Bengal plans to relax land-holding rules to boost business

OUR CORRESPONDENT
Kolkata, September 25

West Bengal is set to retain the land-ceiling provisions under Section 14Y of the West Bengal Land Reforms Act, but may adopt a case-by-case approach to allowing land for industrial and other projects under a new land policy likely to be unveiled in October.

Chief advisor to the Chief Minister, Subrata Gupta said on Thursday that the government was not planning to do away with Section 14Y altogether. Decisions on land use, he said, would be guided by the requirement and proposed use of individual parcels.

Speaking at the fourth edition of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave organised by BCC&I's and the Ministry of External Affairs, Gupta said the state had identified three-four land parcels that could be offered to chambers of commerce and industry associations through a limited auction process for developing product-specific industrial parks.

CLOSER LOOK

- Gupta said the state had identified three-four land parcels that could be offered to chambers of commerce and industry associations through a limited auction process for developing product-specific industrial parks
- Instead of the government trying to develop these parks, we would like the industry associations to develop them, and we will facilitate them," Gupta said

"Instead of the government trying to develop these parks, we would like the industry associations to develop them, and we will facilitate them," Gupta said.

The state, he added, was also willing to facilitate an industrial park dedicated to defence production.

The proposed land policy is also likely to incorporate land pooling, with Gupta citing the models followed in Haryana and Gujarat.

"In states like Haryana and Gujarat, land pooling policy is very much successful, so we will be following the model," he said.

The state government's approach comes days after it allotted around 256 acres in Purulia to Jupiter Wagons for a large integrated defence manufacturing facility.

Land Port Authority of India chairman Jayant Singh said land acquisition for projects would become easier with the same political dispensation at the Centre and state, and expressed confidence that pending works at land ports would be completed by 2030.

Regional Passport Officer Ashish Middha highlighted the conclave's role in promoting economic, diplomatic and strategic engagement across the Indo-Pacific. BCC&I president Abhijit Roy, Ambarish Dasgupta and advocate Sourya Mondal also spoke at the programme.

শিল্পতালুক গড়তে বণিকসভাকে জমি দিতে পারে রাজ্য

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা

রাজ্য সরকার শিল্পতালুক গড়তে চায় না। বরং এই কাজের ভার শিল্প সংস্থাকে দিতে চায়। তবে তালুক গড়তে বণিকসভাগুলিকে জমি দিতে পারে তারা, শুক্রবার জানালেন মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর মুখ্য উপদেষ্টা সুব্রত গুপ্ত। তাঁর বার্তা, বণিকসভার তরফে নির্দিষ্ট কোনও প্রস্তাব এলে তা খতিয়ে দেখে জমি দেওয়ার সিদ্ধান্ত নিতে পারে রাজ্য। সংশ্লিষ্ট মহলের মতে, এই ধরনের উদ্যোগ আগে কখনও দেখা যায়নি। সে দিক থেকে এটি নতুন ভাবনা।

এত দিন শিল্পতালুক হয় সরকার কিংবা বেসরকারি সংস্থা তৈরি করত। সুব্রত জানান, বণিকসভার সদস্য হিসেবে একই শিল্পের অনেকে থাকেন। ফলে তারা ভাল বুঝবেন কী কী পরিকাঠামো প্রয়োজন। এ দিন বণিকসভা বেঙ্গল চেম্বারের অনুষ্ঠানে তিনি বলেন, "দিন দু'এক আগেই রাজ্য বহু সংস্থাকে জমি দিয়েছে। তার মধ্যে প্রতিরক্ষা ক্ষেত্রের সংস্থাও রয়েছে। সেই প্রকল্প পুরুলিয়ায় ২৫৬ একর জমিতে গড়ে উঠবে। এমন পরিকল্পনাকে আমরা বেশি করে উৎসাহ দিচ্ছি। তাই কোনও বণিকসভা তালুক গড়তে জমি চাইলে, তা খতিয়ে দেখে সিদ্ধান্ত নেবে রাজ্য।"

সুব্রতের বার্তাকে স্বাগত জানিয়েছে বণিকসভাগুলি। কয়েকটির দাবি, একাধিক ক্ষেত্রে তালুক তৈরির পরিকল্পনা রয়েছে। জমির জন্য রাজ্যের কাছে আবেদন করা যাবে।

The Telegraph online

4th EDITION of
INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE 2026

Land parcel plan for sector-specific industrial parks in Bengal: CM adviser

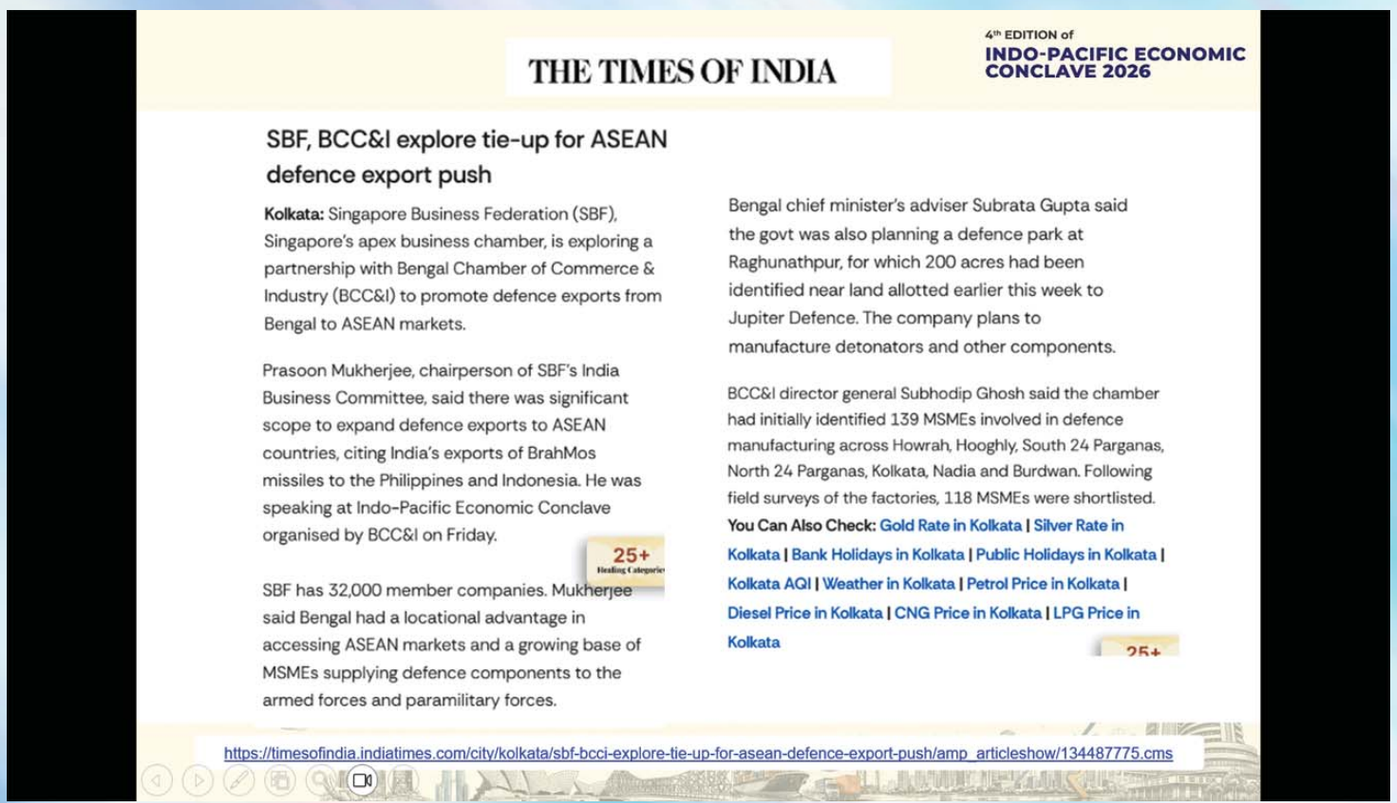
The Bengal government is working on changing its land framework, exploring options such as land pooling and time-bound clearances for individuals and companies seeking to hold land beyond the existing ceilings



Bengal is considering handing over government land parcels to industry associations and chambers of commerce to develop product-specific or sector-specific industrial parks, looking for investments without having to develop such parks itself.

"We are open to the idea and are considering the possibility that whatever land parcels we have in our hand, we would like to offer to industry associations and chambers of commerce for setting up specific product-based industrial parks, instead of the government trying to develop them," Subrata Gupta, adviser to chief minister Suvendu Adhikari, said at the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave on Friday.

https://www.telegraphindia.com/amp/west-bengal/land-parcel-plan-for-sector-specific-industrial-parks-in-bengal-cm-adviser-subrata-gupta-prnt/cid/2181723



THE TIMES OF INDIA

4th EDITION of
INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE 2026

SBF, BCC&I explore tie-up for ASEAN defence export push

Kolkata: Singapore Business Federation (SBF), Singapore's apex business chamber, is exploring a partnership with Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) to promote defence exports from Bengal to ASEAN markets.

Prasoon Mukherjee, chairperson of SBF's India Business Committee, said there was significant scope to expand defence exports to ASEAN countries, citing India's exports of BrahMos missiles to the Philippines and Indonesia. He was speaking at Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave organised by BCC&I on Friday.

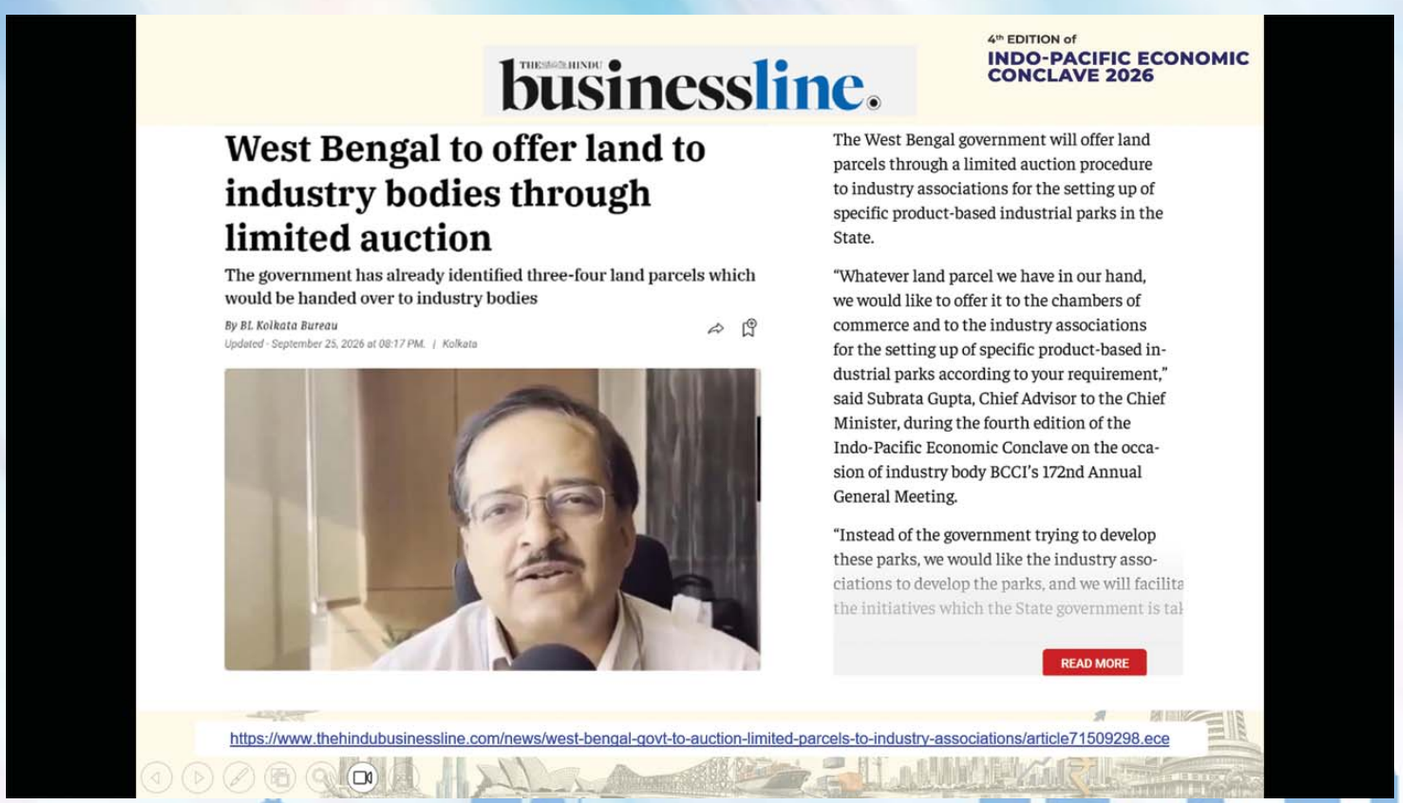
SBF has 32,000 member companies. Mukherjee said Bengal had a locational advantage in accessing ASEAN markets and a growing base of MSMEs supplying defence components to the armed forces and paramilitary forces.

Bengal chief minister's adviser Subrata Gupta said the govt was also planning a defence park at Raghunathpur, for which 200 acres had been identified near land allotted earlier this week to Jupiter Defence. The company plans to manufacture detonators and other components.

BCC&I director general Subhodip Ghosh said the chamber had initially identified 139 MSMEs involved in defence manufacturing across Howrah, Hooghly, South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Kolkata, Nadia and Burdwan. Following field surveys of the factories, 118 MSMEs were shortlisted.

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https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/sbf-bcci-explore-tie-up-for-asean-defence-export-push/amp_articleshow/134487775.cms



THE HINDU businessline.

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INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE 2026

West Bengal to offer land to industry bodies through limited auction

The government has already identified three-four land parcels which would be handed over to industry bodies

By BL Kolkata Bureau
Updated - September 25, 2026 at 08:17 PM. | Kolkata

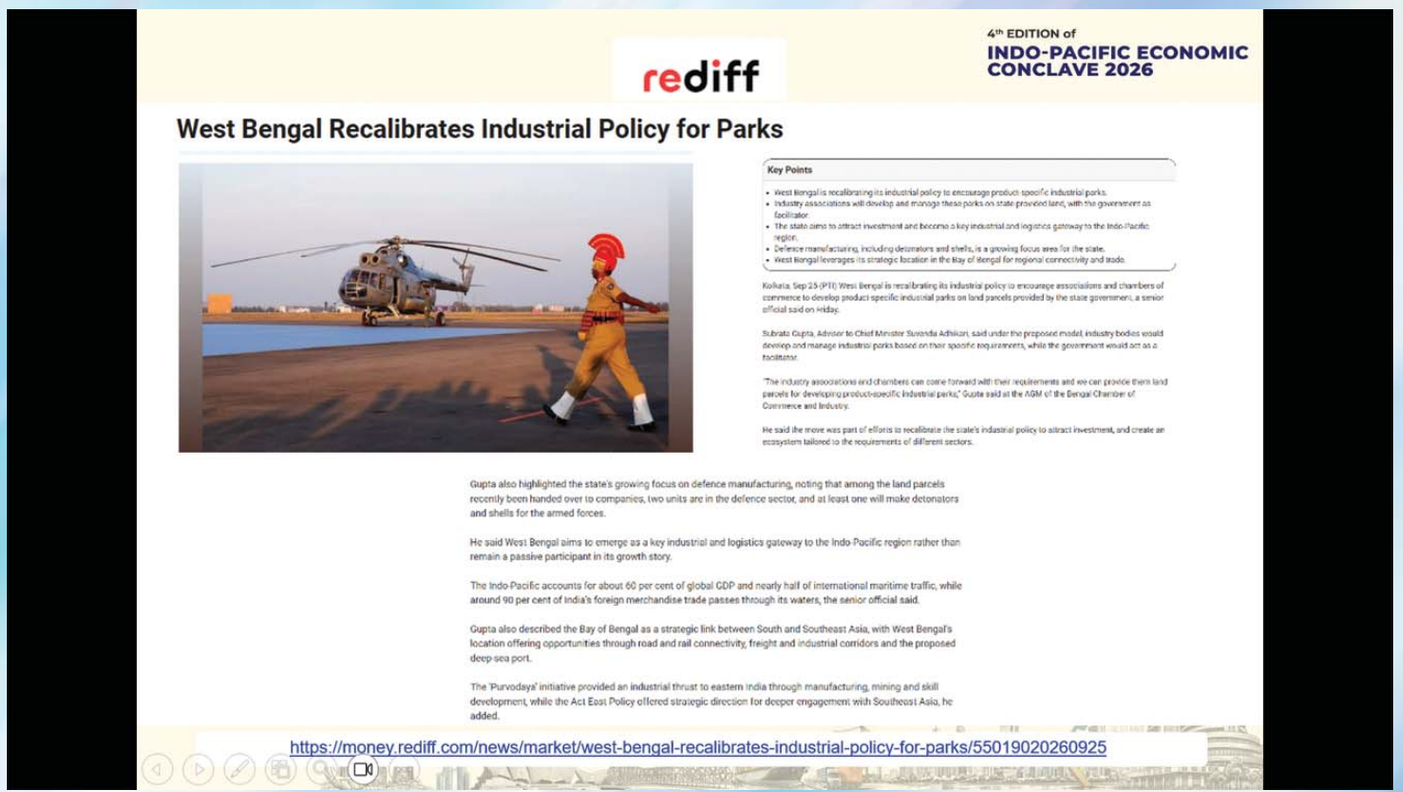
The West Bengal government will offer land parcels through a limited auction procedure to industry associations for the setting up of specific product-based industrial parks in the State.

"Whatever land parcel we have in our hand, we would like to offer it to the chambers of commerce and to the industry associations for the setting up of specific product-based industrial parks according to your requirement," said Subrata Gupta, Chief Advisor to the Chief Minister, during the fourth edition of the Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave on the occasion of industry body BCCI's 172nd Annual General Meeting.

"Instead of the government trying to develop these parks, we would like the industry associations to develop the parks, and we will facilita the initiatives which the State government is tal

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https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/west-bengal-govt-to-auction-limited-parcels-to-industry-associations/article71509298.ece



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INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CONCLAVE 2026

West Bengal Recalibrates Industrial Policy for Parks

Key Points

- West Bengal is recalibrating its industrial policy to encourage product-specific industrial parks.
- Industry associations will develop and manage these parks on state-provided land, with the government as facilitator.
- The state aims to attract investment and become a key industrial and logistics gateway to the Indo-Pacific region.
- Defence manufacturing, including detonators and shells, is a growing focus area for the state.
- West Bengal leverages its strategic location in the Bay of Bengal for regional connectivity and trade.

Kolkata, Sep 25 (PTI) West Bengal is recalibrating its industrial policy to encourage associations and chambers of commerce to develop product specific industrial parks on land parcels provided by the state government, a senior official said on Friday.

Subrata Gupta, Advisor to Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, said under the proposed model, industry bodies would develop and manage industrial parks based on their specific requirements, while the government would act as a facilitator.

"The industry associations and chambers can come forward with their requirements and we can provide them land parcels for developing product-specific industrial parks," Gupta said at the AGM of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He said the move was part of efforts to recalibrate the state's industrial policy to attract investment, and create an ecosystem tailored to the requirements of different sectors.

Gupta also highlighted the state's growing focus on defence manufacturing, noting that among the land parcels recently been handed over to companies, two units are in the defence sector, and at least one will make detonators and shells for the armed forces.

He said West Bengal aims to emerge as a key industrial and logistics gateway to the Indo-Pacific region rather than remain a passive participant in its growth story.

The Indo-Pacific accounts for about 60 per cent of global GDP and nearly half of international maritime traffic, while around 90 per cent of India's foreign merchandise trade passes through its waters, the senior official said.

Gupta also described the Bay of Bengal as a strategic link between South and Southeast Asia, with West Bengal's location offering opportunities through road and rail connectivity, freight and industrial corridors and the proposed deep sea port.

The 'Purvodaya' initiative provided an industrial thrust to eastern India through manufacturing, mining and skill development, while the Act East Policy offered strategic direction for deeper engagement with Southeast Asia, he added.

https://money.rediff.com/news/market/west-bengal-recalibrates-industrial-policy-for-parks/55019020260925



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Bengal recalibrating policy to facilitate product-specific industrial parks: Official File Photo

News Updates

Bengal recalibrating policy to facilitate product-specific industrial parks: Official

Advisor to CM of West Bengal Subrata Gupta said under the proposed model, industry bodies would develop and manage industrial parks based on their specific requirements

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Also read: Japan delegation explores Bengal investment, Kolkata air links

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https://psuwatch.com/amp/story/newsupdates/bengal-recalibrating-policy-to-facilitate-product-specific-industrial-parks-official





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INDIA MOVES ON

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BCC&I brought Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), rural entrepreneurs, financial institutions, technical experts and buyers together on one platform for Samriddhi. The programme focused on three linked priorities: strengthening market linkages, facilitating access to finance, and improving packaging and value addition. Opening the event, Mr. Jayanta Chakraborty, Mentor, Agri-Horti-Food Processing & Rural Development National Committee, BCC&I, noted that production alone is not enough to build a business. Limited market access, scarce affordable finance, insufficient value addition and weak packaging and branding continue to hold FPOs back.

Packaging, the "silent salesman"

Guest of honour Dr. AmitSingla, Joint Director, Indian Institute of Packaging, Kolkata, described packaging as a "silent salesman" that protects a product and communicates its value. Good packaging reduces spoilage, extends shelf life and builds consumer confidence. He urged FPOs to choose packaging that suits their product, customers, budget and regulatory requirements, and outlined the Institute's technical and capacity-building support.

Getting bank-ready

Smt. Meena Agarwal of the State Bank of India explained term loans for assets such as godowns, processing units and machinery, and cash credit for working capital. Banks look for proper registration, members' contributions, a track record and buyer linkages. She covered schemes including the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, PMFME and Mudra, and SBI's Agri Enterprise and Kisan Samriddhi products. Her key message : applying on a government scheme portal is not enough. The project report and documents must also be submitted to the chosen bank branch and followed up.



Welcome address by Mr. Jayanta Chakraborty, Mentor, Agri-Horti-Food Processing & Rural Development National Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I)

Questions from the floor

In an interactive Q&A session, participants raised practical concerns on packaging materials and shelf life, loan proposals, land and lease requirements, subsidies, collateral and market access. They also called for district-level outreach and training for FPO boards.

Buyers meet producers

The event closed with a B2B session in which five buyers (Millets and More, Nani's Garden, Reliance, Gigi's Solutex Corporation and Natureway Organic Fresh) met FPOs and FPCs from across West Bengal. Discussions covered rice, pulses, honey, vegetables, edible oils, oilseeds, spices and more, with one lead alone running to 80,000 kg of rice a month.

Key takeaway

FPOs grow when market-ready products, financial preparedness and lasting buyer relationships come together. Structured follow-up of the B2B leads will be key to turning these conversations into business.



Guest of Honour, Mr. Amit Singla, delivering his speech on packaging



The interactive Q&A session in progress

PROGRAMME

SAMRIDDHI : FOSTERING FPO GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

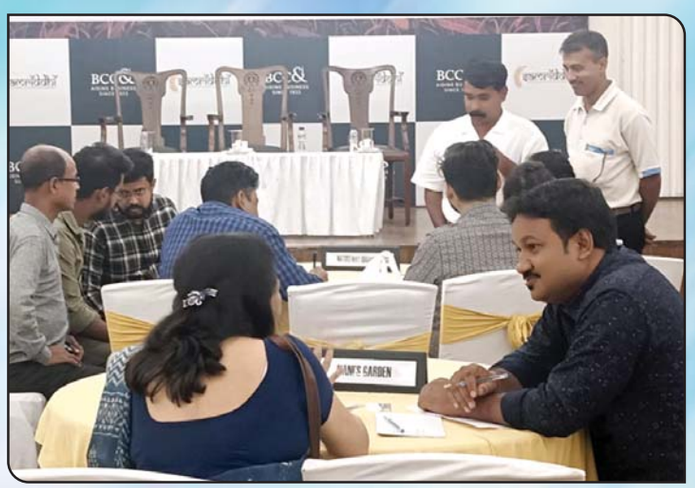
29th September 2026,
The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I)



Natureway Organic Fresh



Millets and More



Nani's Garden



Gigi's Solutex Corporation



Reliance Retail



Discussion with Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

30th September 2026,
The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I)

GREEN VOLT 2 : SOLAR AWARENESS PROGRAMME FOR INDUSTRIESON

On 30th September, 2026 The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I) organised Green Volt 2, a solar awareness programme for foundries, iron and steel units, engineering and fabrication companies, industrial manufacturers, MSMEs and large manufacturing enterprises at ITC Room, The Bengal Chamber premises. With electricity a major cost for manufacturers, the programme looked at how rooftop solar can cut power bills, make energy costs more predictable, strengthen sustainability credentials and improve long-term competitiveness. Experts from Tata Power Solar Rooftop gave a presentation, followed by a Q&A session.

Tata Power's solar journey

The speakers introduced Tata Power as India's largest integrated power company, guided by the aim of providing clean, cheap and abundant power. Of its 25.6 GW generation capacity, 16.8 GW comes from clean energy. Tata Power began module manufacturing in India in 1991, now has about 4.9 GW of module manufacturing capacity, and executes around 2 GW of solar projects a year. Tata Power Solar Roof has been India's leading rooftop solar brand for nearly a decade.

The business case for industry

For manufacturing units, rooftop solar can save up to about 80% on electricity costs, with a payback period of 3 to 4 years and returns of over 20%. Manufacturers can also claim a depreciation benefit of up to 40% for income tax. Modules carry a 35-year linear performance warranty and are IEC and BIS approved. For projects above 200 kW, dedicated quality and execution teams visit the site.

Industries can choose from onsite options (rooftop, carport, floating and ground-mounted solar) or offsite options such as open access, third-party and captive models. Floating solar also reduces water evaporation from reservoirs and ponds. Tata Power offers a complete service covering design, installation, safety and after-sales support.

Financing and incentives

Solar loans are available at around 8% interest, with a 20–25% down payment and the rest financed. Insurance can cover damage from cyclones and other events. The speakers also outlined central government subsidies for residential and housing-society rooftop systems.

Questions from the floor

Participants asked about component quality, warranties and newer technologies. Tata Power explained that it takes full responsibility for every component it supplies, including non-Tata-branded inverters, distribution boards and cables, and guarantees the workmanship. On advanced TOPCon modules, the speakers said these are already being supplied, but new technologies are launched only after rigorous testing. They also discussed the capex model, under which a plant typically recovers its cost within about five years and then runs for 25 years, giving the remaining years of power almost free. Lithium-ion battery storage, launched about a year ago, can extend solar power into the night for round-the-clock supply.

The way forward

Green Volt 2 showed that rooftop solar is a practical, bankable investment for industry. With lower energy costs, flexible financing and long-term reliability, solar can help manufacturers become both greener and more competitive.



The Discussion in progress



The presentation by representative of Tata Power Solar Rooftop

PROGRAMME

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION ON : THE AI ERA : FROM INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION TO THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

7th October 2026, Infinity Think Tank, Kolkata

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), in association with Infinity, hosted an engaging session on "The AI Era: From Investment and Innovation to the Future of Humanity" on 7th October 2026 at Infinity Think Tank, Kolkata. The session brought together industry leaders and technology practitioners to examine how Artificial Intelligence is reshaping businesses, investments, employment and the broader economic landscape.

The programme commenced with opening remarks by Dr. Chiranjib Bhattacharyya, Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and CEO & Director, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd., followed by contextual remarks from Mr. Gautam Ghosh, Founding Board Member, Zdvisor. The session also featured welcome remarks by Mr. Ravindra Chamaria, Group Chairman, Infinity Infotech Parks Limited, and Mr. S. Radhakrishnan, Director, Infinity Group and Founder & Director, BDSCube Technology Pvt. Ltd.

AI and the Changing Economics of Technology

Mr. Umakant Soni, Co-Founder, ARTPARK, offered a wide-ranging perspective on the economics of AI and its implications for businesses and the workforce. He highlighted how AI is moving beyond experimentation to create measurable economic impact, with automation increasingly influencing productivity, organisational structures and middle-skilled jobs.

A key point of discussion was the changing nature of the IT services industry. While established technology companies continue to possess strong customer relationships, distribution networks and institutional knowledge, Mr. Soniemphasised that AI-era competitiveness will increasingly depend on context and domain expertise. Companies will need to move beyond simply deploying AI tools and develop a deeper understanding of the industries and business problems they serve.

He also touched upon the evolving investment landscape, the growing concentration of capital around AI opportunities, and the importance of distinguishing genuine technology-led value creation from excessive market expectations. Drawing attention to infrastructure and data-centre investments, he underscored the need for disciplined capital allocation and a clear understanding of demand.

The discussion further explored the future of employment and the broader social implications of AI, including the possibility of widening inequality if technological gains are not accompanied by effective skilling and social adaptation. The larger question, he noted, is not simply what AI can automate, but how society chooses to adapt to a world in which machines increasingly augment human capabilities.

India's AI Opportunity and the Strategic Importance of Bengal

Building on this perspective, **Mr. Subhashis Banerjee, Co-Founder, AI Foundry,** spoke about India's opportunity to build and scale its own capabilities in AI. He emphasised the need for India to "back itself" by investing in talent, technology, research and institutions capable of translating AI capabilities into economic value.

A significant part of the discussion focused on Eastern India and Kolkata as an emerging strategic opportunity. With its historical industrial base, strong educational and intellectual capital, existing IT ecosystem, access to ports and connectivity with the eastern and northeastern regions, Bengal possesses several foundational advantages that can be leveraged for the next phase of technology-led growth.

Mr. Banerjee also highlighted the importance of preparing for a rapidly changing global technology and geopolitical environment. With AI becoming increasingly intertwined with economic competitiveness, infrastructure and national strategic interests, India will need to build resilient capabilities while remaining globally connected.

The discussion therefore moved beyond AI as a software phenomenon towards a broader ecosystem comprising research, computing infrastructure, robotics, startups, investment, human capital and real-world deployment. The coming few years were identified as a critical window for India—and particularly for regions such as Bengal—to build meaningful capabilities and establish a stronger position in the global AI landscape.

From Discussion to Action : A $500 Billion Bengal Economy

A key outcome of the session was the announcement of the Task Force under BCC&I for the $500 Billion Bengal Economy, which will work through dedicated verticals addressing key areas of economic development.

Human Capital will be one of the key focus areas, with the objective of bringing universities and industry closer together, aligning education with evolving industry requirements and addressing the growing gap between academic qualifications and employability.

The Task Force will be mentored by **Mr. T.V. Mohandas Pai, Chairman, 3Zone4 Capital, Co-Founder & Chairman, Aarin Capital and Mr. Ravindra Chamaria, Group Chairman, Infinity Infotech Parks Limited,** with Mr. Arnab as Chair, and will follow an explicitly outcome-oriented approach, with initiatives assessed through tangible outputs and measurable impact.

7th October 2026,
Infinity Think Tank, Kolkata

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION ON : THE AI ERA : FROM INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION TO THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

The broader roadmap also includes initiatives around a Centre of Excellence in AI & Robotics, Bengal Combinator, mobilisation of investors and HNIs, and engagement with the Probashi Bengali community.

Distinguished Delegates

The session brought together distinguished representatives from the technology, corporate, investment and public-sector ecosystems, including :

1. **Dr.Chiranjib Bhattacharya, and Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I and Chief Executive Officer & Director, Wizertech Informatics Pvt Ltd**
2. **Mr. Ravindra Chamaria, Group Chairman, Infinity Infotech Parks Limited**
3. **Mr. S. Radhakrishnan, Director, Infinity Group and Founder & Director**
4. **Mr. Debasish Sen, Ex. CMD, HIDCO, Govt. of West Bengal**
5. **Mr. Goutam Ghosh, Founding Board Member, Zdvisor**
6. **Ms. Shobha Mishra Ghosh, Principal Partner, InSigh8 Collective**
7. **Mr. Saumen Chakraborty, Global Founder, Good Human Being Index and Founder & MD, Elysium Ventures**
8. **Mr. Aninda Das, VP Marketing, Infinity Infotech Parks Limited**
9. **Mr. N.K Chandra, CFO & Company Secretary, Infinity Infotech Parks Limited**
10. **Mr. Kalyan Kar, Co-Founder, Prediqt Business Solutions Private Limited**
11. **Mr. Shantanu Som, Founder and CEO, Somnetics**
12. **Mr. Manojit Sengupta, Delivery Centre Head - Eastern Region, TCS**
13. **Mr. Sanjoy Sen, Former Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I)**
14. **Mr. Aninda Chatterjee, Ex VP and CFO, Mjunction**
15. **Mr. Indrajit Sanyal, Head of Service Delivery Unit Network Management, Ericsson**
16. **Mr. Meghdut Roy Chowdhury, Executive Director & Chief Innovation Officer, Techno India Group**
17. **Mr. Raja Chajjer, Chairman, Arc Vac Forgecast Private Limited**
18. **Mr. Dipankar Chakravati, Director, BDS Cube Technology Pvt Ltd**
19. **Mr. Shailendra Rakhecha, Founder, Tavaka Innovations Pvt Ltd**
20. **Ms. Munmun Saha Podder, Founder, Booncompanion Sociotech Pvt Ltd**
21. **Mr. Sandip Boral, Founder & CEO, Calnestor Intellitech Solutions Pvt Ltd**
22. **Mr. Sandipan Chakrabarty, CEO and founder, Krishiesetu LLP**

Looking Ahead

The session underscored that the AI transformation is no longer confined to technology companies. It is rapidly becoming an economic, industrial and societal transformation. For Bengal, the opportunity lies in bringing together its human capital, institutions, entrepreneurs, investors and industry to build an ecosystem capable not only of adopting AI, but of creating, deploying and scaling the technologies that will shape the next decade.



Opening remarks by Dr. Chiranjib Bhattacharyya, Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I, Chief Executive Officer & Director, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd. marking the beginning of an insightful session on AI innovation, technology and growth



Context setting by Mr. Goutam Ghosh, Founding Board Member, Zdvisor

PROGRAMME

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION ON : THE AI ERA : FROM INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION TO THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

7th October 2026, Infinity Think Tank, Kolkata



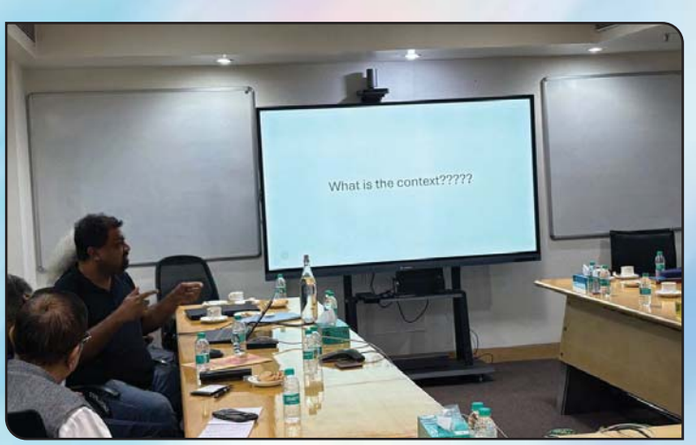
Mr. S. Radhakrishnan, Director, Infinity Group and Founder & Director, BDSCube Technology Pvt. Ltd. addressing the esteemed delegates, sharing his valuable insights and perspectives on the subject



Esteemed Delegates



Mr. Umakant Soni, Co-Founder, ARTPARK, sharing his valuable perspectives on the evolving AI landscape, highlighting emerging opportunities, transformative possibilities, and the road ahead in the age of Artificial Intelligence



Mr. Subhashis Banerjee, Co-Founder, AI Foundry, sharing his insights on the evolving AI landscape, highlighting key considerations around AI adoption, its broader implications, and the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of the technology ecosystem.



Esteemed delegates engaging in an interactive session, fostering a meaningful exchange of ideas and perspectives



Networking over hi-tea

29th August – 30th September 2026, Kolkata

TASTEFULLY YOURS FOOD FESTIVAL 2026

An Initiative under Bengal Soulfully Yours, in Collaboration with ITC Limited.

The **Tastefully Yours Food Festival 2026,** an initiative under **Bengal Soulfully Yours (BSY),** a joint initiative of **The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCC&I)** and ITC Limited, was announced on **28th August 2026 at Taj Bengal, Kolkata.** The month-long, citywide festival celebrates Kolkata's rich and diverse culinary heritage while promoting the city as a destination for culinary tourism.

Unlike conventional food festivals centred around a single venue, Tastefully Yours transforms **Kolkata itself into a festival space,** inviting residents and visitors to explore the city's distinctive food culture through its neighbourhoods, heritage establishments, iconic restaurants and contemporary dining destinations.

Bringing together **45+ participating brands across 180+ outlets in Kolkata,** the festival showcases the breadth of the city's culinary landscape, spanning traditional Bengali delicacies, regional Indian cuisines, iconic restaurants, historic eateries, celebrated sweet shops and contemporary dining experiences.

Participating establishments include **Royal Indian Restaurant, Trincas, Mocambo, 6 Ballygunge Place, Chowman, K.C. Das, Campari, Balwant Singh Eating House, Ottimo at ITC Royal Bengal, Dum Pukht, Pan Asian, Kafulok and Wow! Momo,** among others.

As part of the festival, participating outlets offer special menus, exclusive offers and discounts, alongside digital storytelling and promotional activities designed to encourage audiences to discover Kolkata through its food. Select participating venues also offer complimentary dishes, adding to the festival's appeal and encouraging culinary exploration across the city.

The festival is supported by **NRAI Bengal Chapter as Ecosystem Partner, 91.9 Friends FM as In-Association Radio Partner, and Bonobithi as Eco Resort Partner.**

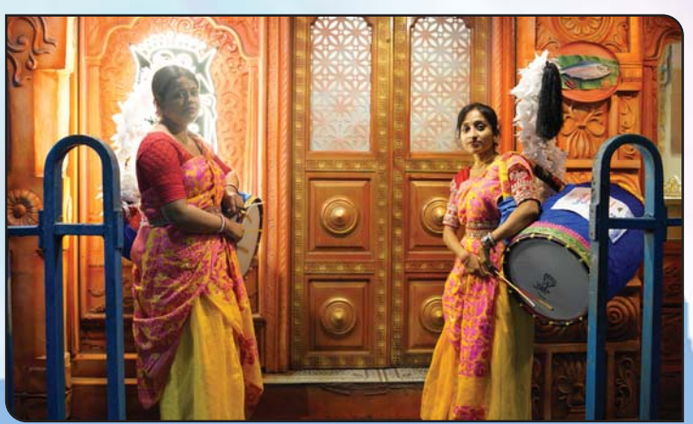
Through *Tastefully Yours*, Bengal Soulfully Yours seeks to strengthen Kolkata's identity as a vibrant culinary destination by highlighting the close relationship between f**ood, culture, heritage, tourism and enterprise.** The initiative also provides a platform for participating food businesses to showcase their offerings, reach wider audiences and contribute to the city's growing culinary tourism ecosystem.

By bringing together the city's diverse food establishments under one collective initiative, Tastefully Yours Food Festival 2026 celebrates Kolkata's enduring love for food while positioning its culinary heritage as an integral part of Bengal's cultural identity and tourism potential.









PROGRAMME

TASTEFULLY YOURS FOOD FESTIVAL 2026

29th August – 30th September 2026, Kolkata








17th, 18th, 24th & 25th September 2026 ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT (ERM) ONLINE WORKSHOP

In an era of AI disruption, geopolitical volatility and accelerating regulatory change, risk leadership is a boardroom imperative. This intensive two-day workshop equips mid to senior executives with the frameworks, tools and strategic mindset to transform risk management from a compliance exercise into a source of competitive advantage. Through interactive simulations, real world case studies and AI-powered analytics, participants leave ready to lead enterprise risk with confidence. The objective of this training program is to help participants understand the Foundations of Risk Management, Risk Identification & Assessment, Mitigation, Monitoring & Frameworks, Governance, AI & Strategic ERM. **"From Risk Awareness to Strategic Risk Leadership".**

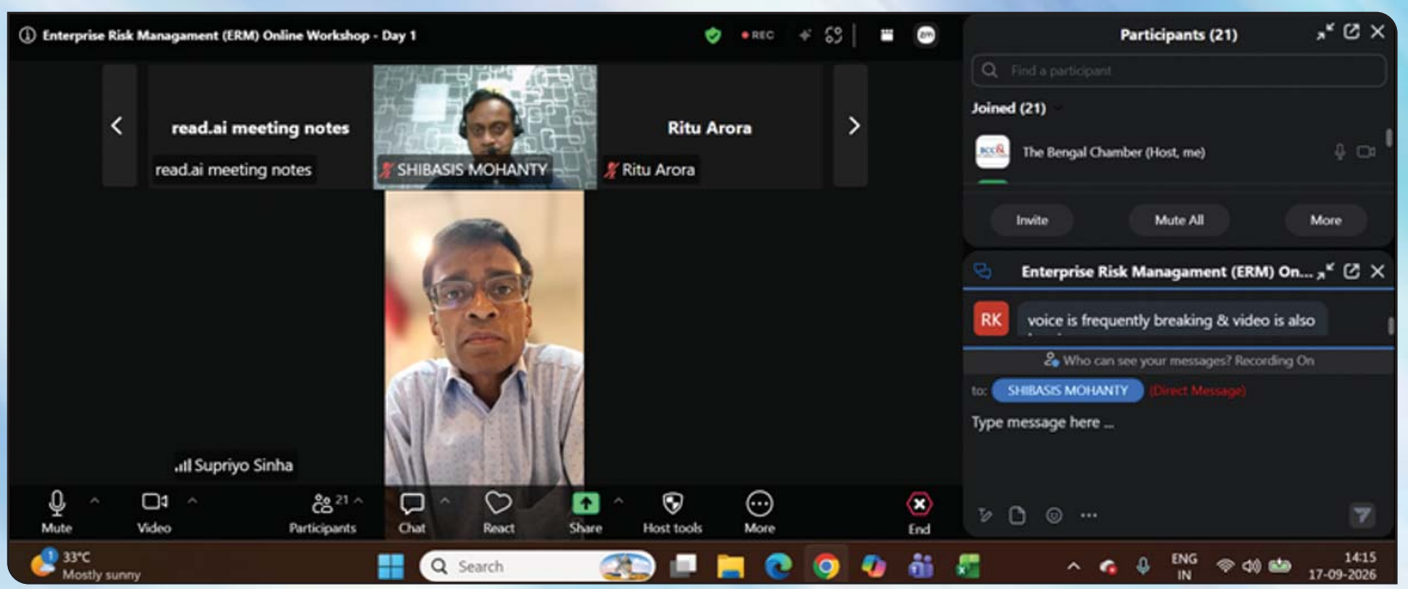
By this workshop, participants will be able to integrate AI-Powered Risk Intelligence, Cutting-Edge Technology Integration, executive strategic focus, interactive simulations & cases and forward thinking approaches.

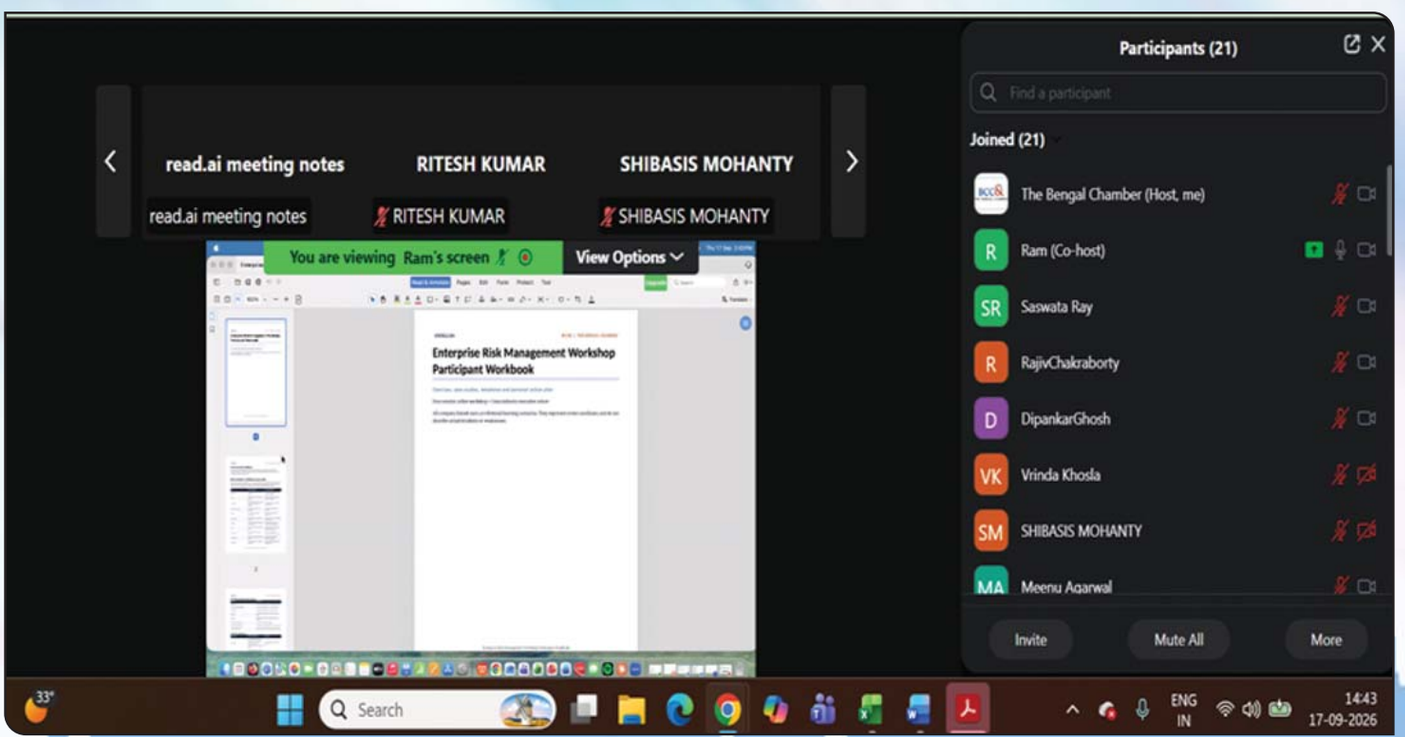
More than **20 participants** joined from various organizations like **Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL), NTPC Noida, Peerless Hotels, Peerless Hospital, HCG KOLKATA CANCER CARE LLP, Peerless General Life Insurance, AECOM India Pvt Ltd, National Insurance Company Limited, Oroprise Solutions Pvt. Ltd, Eveready, Hindalco, Primetals Technologies India Pvt Ltd, are among them.**

PAN India participation from **7 States and Union Territories like, National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, Kolkata- West Bengal, Renukoot – Uttar Pradesh, Singrauli – Madhya Pradesh, Dahej – Gujarat, Hirakud – Odisha, Noida – Uttar Pradesh, Rayagada – Odisha, Ranchi – Jharkhand.**

The Training Session was facilitated by Rama Mohan Venkata Kadayinti, Trainer and Subject Matter Expert. He has held leadership positions across the Manufacturing, IT, ITeS and Start-ups. With total experience of 30 years, he is one of the Director of Entellus Consulting India Private Limited, Hyderabad.

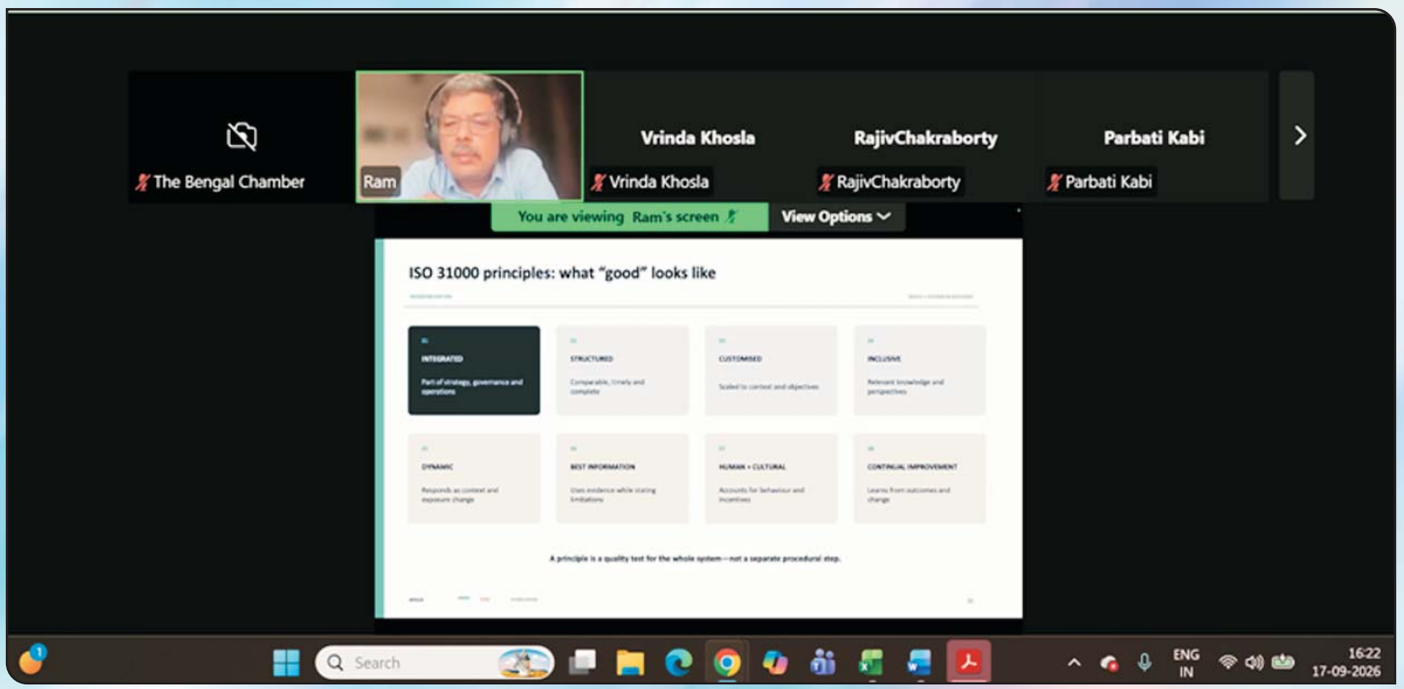
BLI partnered with Entellus to architect the journey of creating Leadership excellence and transformation.

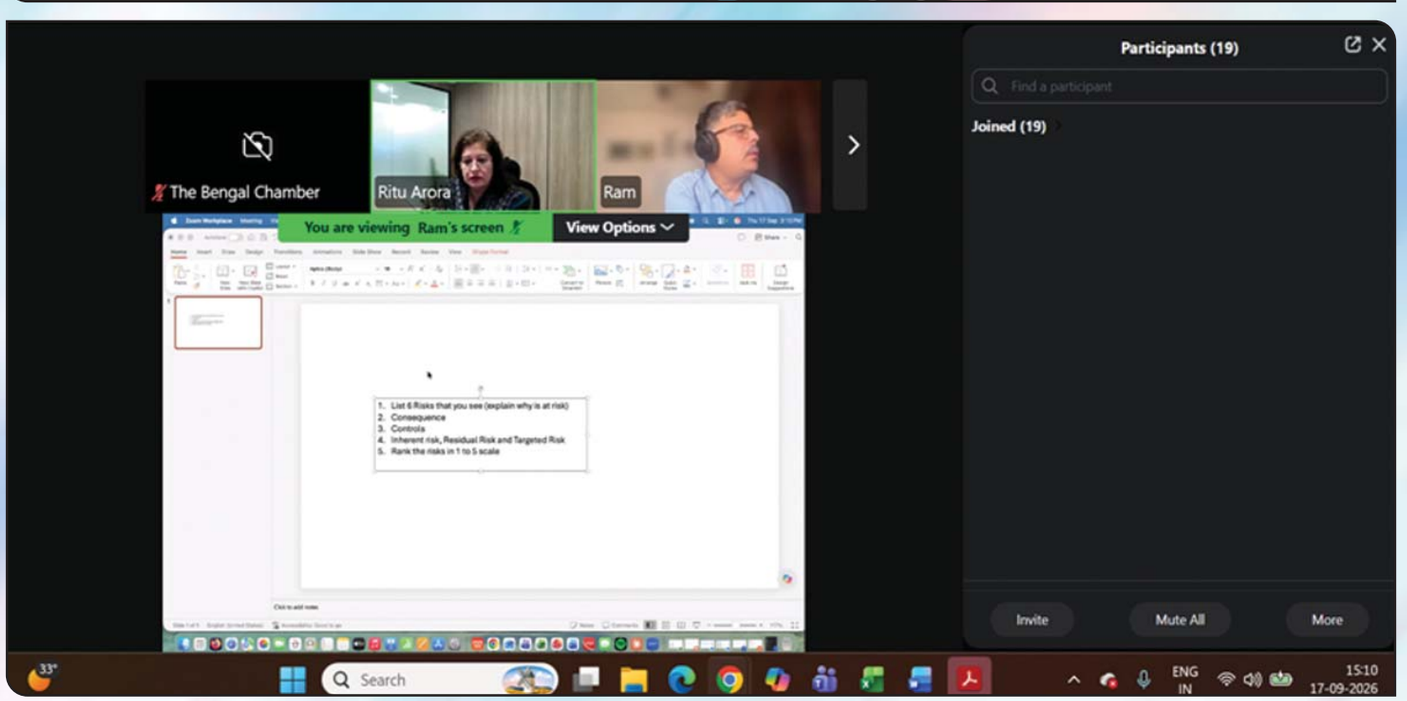




PROGRAMME

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT (ERM) ONLINE WORKSHOP 17th, 18th, 24th & 25th September 2026,





ANNUAL NIGHT 2026

9th October 2026,
The Meadows, PC Chandra Garden, Kolkata

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) hosted its Annual Night at The Meadows, PC Chandra Garden, Kolkata, on Friday, October 9, 2026. The evening brought together members, industry leaders and distinguished guests for a vibrant celebration of leadership, culture and camaraderie.

The programme commenced with a warm Welcome Address by **Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President, BCC&I and Head of Onsite, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited,** setting an inspiring tone for the night.

The highlight of the evening was a captivating live musical performance by legendary Bengali rock band Lakkhichhara, featuring Raju Das Baul. The special collaboration blended powerful rock rhythms with soulful Baul and folk notes, captivating the audience and setting an energetic mood for the night.

9th October 2026,
The Meadows, PC Chandra Garden, Kolkata

ANNUAL NIGHT 2026

The performance was followed by the Networking Dinner and Cocktails, providing a pleasant evening of interaction and celebration among the business fraternity.

The Annual Night was graced by the presence of Industry Leaders, Policymakers and Thought Leaders. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening, making the event a resounding success.



Welcome Address by Mr. Abhijit Banerjee, President, BCC&I and Head of On-site, ASEAN & South Asia, Linde India Limited at BCC&I's Annual Night '26 on 9th of September 2026 at The Meadows, PC Chandra Garden, Kolkata



Vibrant live musical performance by renowned rock band Lakkhichhara. (From L-R) Mr. Bodhisattwa Ghosh, Mr. Gaurab Chatterjee, Mr. Rajiv Mitra, Mr. Debaditya Chaudhury, Mr. Sanket Bhattacharya



Soulful folk rhythms by the renowned Raju Das Baul from Santiniketan



Esteemed Guests at the BCC&I Annual Night '26 at The Meadows, PC Chandra Garden, Kolkata

UPCOMING PROGRAMME

- 2nd Edition National Health Insurance Summit, 13th November 2026, Taj Bengal, Kolkata
- Campus connect, 18th November 2026, Taj Vivanta, Guwahati
- The Bengal Chamber Marketing and Brand Conclave 2026, 18th December 2026, Taj Taal Kutir, Kolkata
- Nourish India 2nd Edition 2026, Kolkata
- 2nd Edition of Shiromoni- Entrepreneurship Excellence Award, 27th February 2027, Taj City Centre

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ABACUS INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT

Smart India Hackathon (SIH) Internal Round : 11.09.26

Smart India Hackathon (SIH) Internal Round: 11.09.26 Abacus Institute of Engineering and Management (AIEM) has organized the Internal Institutional level of Smart India Hackathon (SIH), 2026 in the college premises. The Smart India Hackathon (SIH) event was arranged by a college formed committee, solely meant for this event and to ensure a smooth functioning of it. The event began with the illumination of the lamp by the Principal Prof. Jinia Datta, SPOC for the event, Mr. Shounak Bandopadhyay and the Heads of each of the Departments, Convener of IIC Cell, Dr. Bikash Banerjee. The event was then inaugurated by our Assistant Registrar, SPOC SIH2026, Mr. Shounak Bandopadhyay followed by the opening speech of the Convener SIH2026, Dr. Sourav Das and then it proceeded directly to the Idea presentations by the students. A total of 45 groups of students who participated in SIH were thoroughly trained to equip themselves with the necessary skills, knowledge, and tools to maximize their effectiveness during the hackathon. These 45 groups were judged by an eminent Judge's panel.

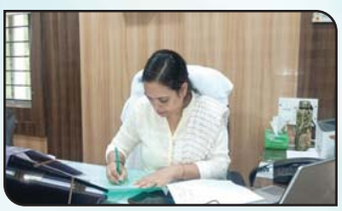






MoU with Techno Exponent/ T-Web Exponent, Salt Lake : 12.09.26

Abacus Institute of Engineering and Management (AIEM), Natungram, Mogra. On 12th of September, 2026, AIEM formally signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Techno Exponent/ T-Web Exponent, Salt Lake. This MoU, valid for a period of Five years, aims to establish a collaborative framework to promote industry-academia synergy. The agreement focuses on enhancing student exposure to industrial practices, innovation, and real-world applications through the following initiatives : 1. Industry Visits – Facilitating practical exposure to industrial environments. 2. Seminars & Workshops – Organizing expert-led sessions to bridge knowledge gaps. 3. Internship & Placement – Creating opportunities for student internships and job placements. 4. Mentored Student Projects – Guiding students in industry-relevant project work. The MoU was signed between: Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, CEO, Techno Exponent/ T-Web







Organizes the 7th Blood Donation Drive: 16.09.26

Abacus Institute of Engineering and Management (AIEM), Natungram, Magra, proudly organized its 7th Blood Donation Drive on 16 September 2026, reaffirming its commitment to community service and humanitarian values. The programme was jointly conducted by the Blood Donation Committee and the NSS Unit in collaboration with Imambara Sadar Hospital. The drive received an inspiring response from the AIEM community, with 103 voluntary donors including students, faculty members, and administrative staff coming forward to donate blood. As a token of gratitude, every donor was presented with a rose and a nutritional refreshment kit to support post-donation recovery and acknowledge their invaluable contribution.







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Vishwakarma Puja Celebration : 18.09.26

The auspicious occasion of Vishwakarma Puja 2026 was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at the college volleyball ground on 18th September 2026. A beautifully decorated pandal was erected on the campus, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere that warmly welcomed students, faculty, staff, and guests. An organizing committee was constituted to ensure the smooth conduct of the event, and preparations commenced a day in advance. The puja began at 10:30 a.m. with the active participation of students, teaching and non-teaching staff, while the presence of family members of several staff members added a warm and personal touch to the celebration. After the completion of the religious rituals, Prasad was distributed among all students, faculty, and staff members. A traditional Bhog was also served to everyone at the college canteen, fostering a spirit of togetherness and community bonding. On 19th September 2026, the observance concluded with Dadhikarma followed by the immersion of the Vishwakarma idol, marking the ceremonial end of the festivities.





Report on Certificate Giving Ceremony & Alumni Meet : 19.09.26

Abacus Institute of Engineering and Management (AIEM), Natungram, Mogra, Hooghly successfully organized the Certificate Giving Ceremony & Alumni Meet on 19th September, 2026.

The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of Prof. Tapas Chakraborty, Vice Chancellor, MAKAUT, West Bengal, who adorned the ceremony as the 'Chief Guest' and Prof. Partha Sarkar, Vice Chancellor, JISU, who adorned the ceremony as the 'Guest of Honour' at the Certificate Giving Ceremony. The occasion was further graced by the esteemed presence of Mr. Debasish Shanki, Registrar, JISCE, Kalyani who adorned the ceremony as the ' Guest'.

The Inaugural session of the program commenced with a ceremonial Lamp Lighting by the Vice Chancellor- MAKAUT, Vice Chancellor-JISU, Registrar-JISCE, Principal, Registrar and all departmental HoDs of AIEM, Guest Felicitation, Inaugural Dance and song by the students of AIEM.

The ceremony was a truly memorable celebration of achievement, perseverance, and the dreams of young graduates. Certificates were ceremoniously presented to the graduating students of '2023, 2024, and 2025', marking an important milestone in their academic journey. Witnessing the radiant faces, heartfelt smiles, and palpable excitement of the graduates was both inspiring and deeply touching. Finally, Dr. Goutam Kumar Das, HoD-ECE-AIEM ended the program by giving Vote-of Thanks.







Seminar on "Generative AI : Transforming the Digital World" : 21.09.26

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering, in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence AI and Digital Transformation, successfully organized a seminar titled "Generative AI: Transforming the Digital World" on 21st September 2026 (Monday) from 2:30 PM onwards. The seminar was conducted in offline mode at the Seminar Hall of Abacus Institute of Engineering and Management.

The primary objective of the seminar was to create awareness among students and faculty members about the rapidly evolving field of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI) and its transformative impact on the digital world. The session aimed to provide participants with an understanding of the emerging opportunities associated with Generative AI and its relevance in the present technological landscape.

The seminar was delivered by Mr. Sayantan Chakraborty, Director, Indian Institute of Internship, a university-empaneled internship-providing organization. He shared valuable insights into the emerging field of Generative AI and discussed its growing significance in the digital era.





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Technical session on "Ground Improvement Techniques for Infrastructure Development with Nature-Based Solutions" : 29.09.26

A technical session on "Ground Improvement Techniques for Infrastructure Development with Nature-Based Solutions" was organized by the Civil Engineering Department, AIEM.

The session was delivered by Er. Pradip Kumar Choudhury, a distinguished technologist and pioneer in Jute Geotextiles (JGT) and Jute Agro-textiles (JAT). He is a postgraduate in Jute Technology from the University of Calcutta and has more than four decades of experience in research, innovation, field implementation, standardization, and technical consultancy. He served at IJIRA for over 35 years and later as Technical Advisor to the National Jute Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India (2016–2022). He is currently associated with SAIARD as a Nature-Based Solution Expert.





During the session, the resource person discussed the importance of ground improvement for weak soils, slopes, embankments, roads, and erosion-prone areas. Special emphasis was given to the application of Jute Geotextiles for soil erosion control, slope stabilization, road construction, embankment protection, and riverbank protection. The use of biodegradable jute-based materials was highlighted as an eco-friendly approach that can work in combination with natural vegetation and ecological processes. The session also introduced participants to the concept of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and their role in developing resilient.

PTM organized by the Mechanical Engineering Dept. : 30.09.2026

The Department of Mechanical Engineering of Abacus Institute of Engineering & Management, Natungram, Mogra organized an offline Parent-Teacher Meeting on 30th September 2026 for the 2nd year and 3rd year Diploma students. The session conducted at the Seminar Hall of AIEM, Mogra from 2:30 pm.

The session was graced by the Head of the Department, Dr. Bikash Banerjee, along with all faculty members of the department. The meeting witnessed the active participation of 35 parents and guardians, reflecting a strong commitment to the academic growth and well-being of the students.

Key Points of Deliberation :
1. Student Attendance :
2. Internal Examination Performance :
3. Student Participation in Development Programs :
4. Pre-placement training and internships :





Industry Visit at Balagarh Surface Water Treatment Plant: 01.10.26

The Department of Civil Engineering, Abacus Institute of Engineering and Management (AIEM), organized an industrial visit to the Balagarh Surface Water Treatment Plant on 01 October 2026. The visit was arranged to provide students with practical exposure to the various stages involved in the construction of the treatment plant to treat raw surface water and its conversion into water suitable for public supply.

During the visit, the students were introduced to the overall functioning of the Balagarh Surface Water Treatment Plant. The plant personnel explained the general sequence through which raw surface water will be passed before being supplied for public use. The students were first introduced to the structure of raw-water intake system, through which water will be collected from the surface-water source. The importance of proper intake arrangements and preliminary screening was explained. Screening helps remove relatively large floating and suspended materials that may interfere with subsequent treatment processes.

The students were then familiarized with the structural assembly where the coagulation and flocculation will be processed.







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Seminar on "Advancement in Nature Robotics": 07.10.26

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, Abacus Institute of Engineering and Management (AIEM), in collaboration with the Robotics Club, AIEM, successfully organized a seminar titled "Advancement in Nature Robotics" on 7th October 2026 (Wednesday) at 2:00 PM. The seminar was conducted in offline mode at the Seminar Hall of Abacus Institute of Engineering and Management.

The seminar was delivered by Mr. Rajesh Patanaik, Founder & CEO, Nature Robotics; Divisional Chair, ITSL; and Head, BiSyHUB. He shared valuable insights into the advancements in nature robotics and explained how biological forms and natural mechanisms can be translated into practical mechanical functions. The session highlighted the growing significance of biomimicry in robotics and its potential to shape the next generation of robotic systems.

The seminar was attended by 100 students across the departments of AIEM and it provided students with an opportunity to understand the interdisciplinary relationship between mechanical engineering, biology, and robotics.





Wall Magazine Competition on "AI in Civil Engineering- The Future of Smart Construction"

The Civil Engineering Department of AIEM organized a Wall Magazine Competition on "AI in Civil Engineering – The Future of Smart Construction" on 8 October 2026. The competition gave students an opportunity to explore the role of artificial intelligence in civil engineering and present their ideas through entirely hand-written and hand-drawn posters.

Students showed creativity in the way they planned and illustrated their wall magazines. Using their own drawings, lettering, diagrams, colours and written explanations, they presented ideas about how AI could support the future of construction. The displays reflected students' effort to turn a modern, technology-based subject into clear and engaging visual presentations.

The posters highlighted themes such as smart construction sites, AI-assisted building design, construction robots, drones, worker safety, infrastructure monitoring and smart cities. Through sketches and short notes, students illustrated how technology could help civil engineers plan, construct and maintain infrastructure. The hand-drawn format encouraged participants to develop their ideas themselves and communicate them without relying on printed or digitally produced poster content.





Agomoni organised by cultural committee : 09.10.26

The Cultural Committee of Abacus Institute of Engineering and Management (AIEM) organised an Agomoni celebration on 9 October 2026, commencing at 10:30 AM at the college volleyball ground with beautiful Pandal decoration. The event was organised to welcome Goddess Durga and celebrate the spirit of Durga Puja, one of the most cherished festivals of Bengal.

The cultural programme began with Ganesh Vandana, seeking the blessings of Lord Ganesha for an auspicious beginning. This was followed by a series of cultural performances presented by the students, showcasing their talents and enthusiasm.

One of the major highlights of the event was a dramatic presentation based on Mahalaya and Mahishasura Mardini. The drama depicted the mythological story of Goddess Durga's battle against the demon Mahishasura, symbolising the triumph of good over evil. Through expressive performances and engaging storytelling, the participants brought the legendary tale to life and conveyed the message of courage, righteousness, and the ultimate victory of divine power over evil.







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Organised Fresher's welcome : 09.10.26

The third-year students of Abacus Institute of Engineering and Management (AIEM) organised a Freshers' Welcome Programme 'Shubharambh2K26' on 9 October 2026, commencing at 12:30 PM. The programme was arranged to warmly welcome the newly admitted students and make them feel comfortable and connected with the college community.

The event was filled with excitement, enthusiasm, and a spirit of togetherness. The senior students took the initiative to organise the programme and create a friendly atmosphere for the newcomers. The celebration provided an opportunity for the freshers to interact with their seniors, build new friendships, and become familiar with the vibrant campus culture.

The programme featured a variety of cultural activities and entertaining performances, allowing students to showcase their talents and creativity.





NARULA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

MoU Signing Ceremony

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science), Computer Science and Technology (CST) of Narula Institute of Technology, signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Euphoria GenX Pvt. Ltd. on 6th August 2026 at the Institute campus.









Industrial visit organized by CA Department

The Department of Computer Application (CA), Narula Institute of Technology, organized an industrial visit to Cronus Consultant, Sector V, Salt Lake, on 26th August 2026. The visit was attended by 25 first-year BCA students with the objective of providing them with valuable exposure to the professional environment and contemporary industry practices.

Inauguration of ACM Narula Institute of Technology Student Chapter

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Narula Institute of Technology proudly inaugurated the ACM Narula Institute of Technology Student Chapter on 26th August 2026. The programme marked an important milestone in the institution's efforts towards fostering innovation, research, professional development, and collaboration among students and faculty.





Mentoring : Demo Day/ Exhibition/ Poster Presentation of StartUps & Linkage with Mentors/Experts

The Department of Electronics and Computer Science has organized a program on "Mentoring: Demo Day/ Exhibition/ Poster Presentation of StartUps & Linkage with Mentors/Experts" on 28th & 31st August under the IIC activities of Narula Institute of Technology. In this two days program, a platform has been provided for the student startups to showcase their ideas, prototypes and business strategies.





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ROBO QUEST 2026, A Robotics Competition

A Robotics Competition was organized by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IEEE Student Branch, Narula Institute of Technology, and IEEE Kolkata Section, in association with IIC and technical collaboration with IEEE CS, CIS, ComSoc, ComSoc Spain, and the Signal Processing Student Chapter, Kolkata Section. The event was held on 11th September 2026 at Narula Institute of Technology, with 172 participants.





Engineering Solutions Through Data-Driven Decision Making





The Department of Information Technology, Narula Institute of Technology, in collaboration with the IETE Student Chapter, organized an insightful seminar on “Engineering Solutions Through Data Driven Decision Making” on 22nd September 2026. The seminar also encouraged students to develop analytical thinking, research aptitude, problem-solving skills, and an interest in data science and machine learning.

Awareness Session on MATLAB and Simulink for Engineers and Research

The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, in collaboration with the IEEE Signal Processing Society Student Branch Chapter, organized an awareness session on MATLAB and Simulink for Engineers and Research on 9th October 2026. The resource person was Dr. Anand Mukhopadhyay, Senior Engineer, Education, MathWorks. He introduced the MATLAB and Simulink environment and explained how these tools are used in modern engineering practice and research.





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