



**A LOOK AT
THE YEAR
GONE BY
2017-18**



Calcutta Chamber of Commerce

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Calcutta Chamber of Commerce



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



President's Message

I quote from Bhagabad Gita -

"कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन।

मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि" Unquote.

The meaning of the verse is — You have the right to work only but never to its fruits. Let not the fruits of action be your motive, nor let your attachment be to inaction.

Let me begin by saying how privileged I feel to have had the opportunity to serve this Chamber as President in its 187th year. The task of serving this institution has been undoubtedly a daunting task. I trust I have fulfilled the high confidence reposed in me for the collective interests of our Members. I truly feel that the last year here at the Chamber has been fulfilling and has given me the opportunity to gain valuable experience. Reverting to Chamber activities, I would like to share with you some of the major events organized by the Chamber. I mention with a sense of pride that the 187th Anniversary Celebration of the Chamber was inaugurated by Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India. We deliberated upon

issues with state as well as central focus pertaining to MSMEs, tax policies, industrial development, challenges of growth & inclusion, skill Development, women empowerment etc. We were fortunate to have Shri Yashwant Sinha, Hon'ble Former Union Minister of Finance & Shri Dinesh Trivedi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament for post budget interactive session. We had the privilege of hosting session with the urban thinkers who engaged in deliberations and discussions on topics of their domain expertise and provided food for thought on the challenges and issues of the City of Kolkata. The Chamber organized business meetings with the Ambassadors of Vietnam and Phillipines and also with Consul General of USA. It is a matter of pride for Calcutta Chamber of Commerce to sign MOU with Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology (MAKAUT) and Bombay Stock Exchange.

The economic outlook of the Indian economy looks positive with the country expected to grow at more than 7.5% in FY18 before moving past the 8% trajectory in FY19. Certain threats, however, prevail in terms of upside risk to inflation, increasing global commodity prices especially crude oil prices, slower growth in investment and credit, rising bad loans issue and uncertain trade prospects with appreciating rupee and uncertain global economic conditions. We need to focus more on higher investments in agriculture and rural infrastructure, education and skill development, better health services, scaling up infrastructure investments, irrigation, sanitation further by faster execution of projects and speedier delivery. For India to achieve equitable growth, one necessity is to enable the development of a workforce with employable skills and knowledge that can effectively contribute to and benefit from the nation's growth.

Finally, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all Committee members and members of the Chamber for giving me the opportunity to steer the affairs of the Chamber. I had the honour of working with a galaxy of past presidents whose association no doubt enriched my vision. It has been a memorable journey for me and one that I will cherish for a long time to come. However, I wish to assure that I will continue to play an active part in the activities of the Chamber. I must also express my gratitude and thanks to the media for their co-operation throughout the year. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the staff of the Chamber and the Secretariat for their commitment.

The future leadership under Mr. Om Prakash Agarwal has immense potential and my best wishes to them for all their endeavours. May I also convey the very best to you and your families for a great 2019.

RAJENDRA KHANDELWAL
PRESIDENT



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



Office Bearers & Committee Members for 2017-18

1. Shri Rajendra Khandelwal - President
2. Shri Om Prakash Agarwal - Sr. Vice President
3. Shri Madhav Prasad Sureka - Vice President
4. Shri Vineet Nahata - Vice President

Elected Members

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Krishna Kr. Dalmia | 7. Smt. Manjula Jain |
| 2. Shri Rajeev Maheshwari | 8. Shri Hemant Tibrewalla |
| 3. Shri Brahmanand Agarwal | 9. Shri Vinod Kumar Mimani |
| 4. Shri Krishna Kumar Mohta | 10. Smt. Shailja Mehta |
| 5. Shri Vijay Singh Singhee | 11. Shri Kishan Kumar Kejriwal |
| 6. Shri Akhilesh Kumar Jain | 12. Shri Vijay Kumar Chandak |

Nominated Members

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Arun Laddha | 4. Shri Ritwick Saharia |
| 2. Shri Anand Muskara | 5. Shri Ashok Kumar Pareek |
| 3. Shri Hemant Marda | 6. Shri Hari Shankar Halwasia |

Immediate Past President

Shri Dinesh Kumar Jain

Past Presidents

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Indra Chand Sancheti | 9. Shri Pradeep Sancheti |
| 2. Shri Hari Prasad Kanoria | 10. Shri Manoj Mohanka |
| 3. Shri Basant Kumar Nahata | 11. Shri Harsh Vardhan Patodia |
| 4. Shri Prabhat Kr Jalan | 12. Shri Sushil Kr Agrawal |
| 5. Shri Mahesh Kr Saharia | 13. Shri Shyam Sunder Agarwal |
| 6. Shri Sushil Jhunjunwala | 14. Smt. Alka Bangur |
| 7. Shri Hemant Kanoria | 15. Shri Raj Kr. Chhajer |
| 8. Shri Satish Jhunjunwala | 16. Shri Shree Prakash Saharia |

Invitees

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Dr.(Mrs.) Alka Jayaswal | 8. Shri Deepam Jain |
| 2. Shri Amit Sharma | 9. Shri Shambhu Nath Jajodia |
| 3. Shri Anant Saharia | 10. Shri Raj Kumar Agarwal |
| 4. Shri Asok Kumar Chatterjee | 11. Shri Jinesh Jain |
| 5. Shri Surendra Keyal | 12. Shri Joy Prakash Mehta |
| 6. Shri Dilip Bansal | 13. Shri Amit Kothari |
| 7. Shri Vinod Dugar | 14. Shri Subhash Saraogi |
| | 15. Shri Rajat Agrawal |



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



October 15, 2017 | Inaugural Session of 186th AGM of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce

Mr. C.R. Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Commerce & Industry addressed the Inaugural Session of the 186th AGM of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce.

Union Minister **Mr. C R Chaudhary** in his inaugural speech asked the chambers to act as facilitators to raise employability in the small scale sector. The minister said - "The government is working on three planks — maximum production with quality, maximum employment and maximum export, expressing his government's resolve to encourage small enterprises, including start-ups". He said the government is committed to promote start-ups and financial incentives are being given to them depending on the viability of the project. He added, there is no dearth of brain in the country but the employability of the present generation needs to be ensured. The minister felt demonetisation and GST, initiated by his government, will transform the economy.

The Minister said the central government is working on mechanisms to further speed up the GST refund process for exporters. In a relief to exporters, the government recently announced that it would immediately refund exporters for the month of July and August through cheques from October 10 and October 18, respectively. Mr. Chaudhary said large scale reforms like GST will often lead to hiccups and inconvenience during inception but it will be beneficial in the long run. "Rise in export data for September shows that initial hiccups of GST roll out is stabilizing," he added.



Hon'ble Minister Mr. C.R. Chaudhary addressing the Inaugural Session of the 186th AGM of the Chamber



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



Mr. Dinesh Jain, President delivering his welcome speech.



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, Sr. Vice President proposing vote of thanks



Mrs. Alka Bangur, Past President presenting memento to Hon'ble Minister Mr. C.R. Chaudhary.



A glimpse of the gathering.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18

Major Events 2017-18



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



October 24, 2017 | "Bengal – Accelerating Growth" Conclave organized by Chambers of Commerce in Kolkata

Dr. Amit Mitra, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Finance and Department of Industry Commerce & Enterprises, Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest and Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of School Education, Higher Education, Parliamentary Affairs, Biotechnology, Science and Technology and Shri Gautam Deb, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Government of West Bengal were Guests of Honour.

Dr Amit Mitra said that West Bengal was ranked number three in the country in terms of ease of doing business and is the fourth largest economy in the country. He said, "The GDP of Bengal, when we had assumed power, was 4.5 lakh crore and today, after six years, it is in excess of 10 lakh crore with a growth rate of 12.02 per cent. Bank lending is one of the important indicators of industrial growth. From 2011-12 to 2016-17, commercial banks of Bengal have lent Rs 1,82,026 crore to industries". He added that a major chunk of that amount was lent to micro and small industries.



Dr. Amit Mitra, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Dept. of Finance and Industry, Commerce & Enterprises, Govt. of West Bengal talking on the Ease of Doing Business.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



State education and biotechnology minister **Dr. Partha Chatterjee** said that in the last six years, there had been no militant trade unionism and not a single event of strike.

Tourism Minister **Mr. Gautam Deb** said the West Bengal government is creating infrastructure to bring remotest corners of the state onto the tourist map. He informed "We invite private parties to invest in tourism which also is a sector that has huge employment facilities".



Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister in Charge, School Education, Higher Education, Parliamentary Affairs, Biotechnology, Science and Technology, Govt. of West Bengal making his points.



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, President, Calcutta Chamber of Commerce delivering his welcome speech.



Mr. Gautam Deb, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of West Bengal elaborating on how tourism has made special place in West Bengal.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



December 22, 2017 | Panel Discussion on “MSMEs – The Engine of Growth” conducted jointly with Business Standard.

The panel discussion was addressed by Mr. Rajiva Sinha, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) and Textiles, Government of West Bengal and Mr. Dipankar Dasgupta, former Professor, Indian Statistical Institute.



Mr. Rajiva Sinha, Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of MSME & Textiles, Govt. of West Bengal making his remarks on the prospects of MSME in the State.

Mr. Rajiva Sinha, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) and Textiles, Government of West Bengal, said “In case of big industries like steel or cement, job created per crore is close to five, whereas in case of small units, job created per crore is about 50-60. So this is a wealth that we need to capitalize.



Mr. Dipankar Dasgupta, Former Professor, ISI describing the challenges faced by MSMEs in the State.

Mr. Dipankar Dasgupta, said “MSMEs have lower capital requirement than big industries. Keeping the problem of unemployment in mind, focusing on the MSME sector growth is the right way to go ahead for industrialization. Hence, for a state like West Bengal, where there are not many big industries, MSMEs can be an engine of growth.



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, President addressing the gathering.



Mr. Om Prakash Agarwal, Sr. Vice President proposing vote of thanks.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



December 30, 2017 | Inaugural Session of the Celebration of 187 years of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce and Seminar on “Revitalizing Parliamentary Democracy in India”



Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India lighting the inaugural lamp at the 187th Anniversary Celebration.

Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the meeting. Mr. Keshari Nath Tripathi, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Mr. Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble Minister, Dept of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Department, Govt. of West Bengal graced the occasion as Guests of Honour.

The Hon'ble Vice President of India, Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu said that the Parliament should not become a platform for scoring political brownie points. There is no other alternative but to ensure that Parliament functions in an effective and responsive manner to further peace, progress and prosperity in the country, he added.

The Vice President expressed concern over the functioning of Parliament in the backdrop of the severe criticism from various quarters, including the parliamentary fraternity itself. He added “This criticism may be due to a decline, in recent years, in both the quantity and quality of parliamentary work”. The Vice President said that over the years, Parliament’s legislative business and the number of hours it devotes to debate crucial issues of national importance have come down. Even, the relatively fewer days when the Parliament meets are often marked by pandemonium, resulting in frequent adjournments on trivial topics, he added.

The Vice President said that disruptions during parliament session are a matter of great concern as they have become the order of the day with the political parties failing to rein in their members. He further said that at present ‘healthy debate and discussions, the hallmark of Parliamentary democracy’ are overshadowed by disruption, confrontation, and forced adjournments of the house. There is a need for political parties to arrive at a consensus on this important issue so that the precious time of the Parliament and legislatures is not wasted on issues which can be best resolved through debates and dialogues.



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, President delivering his welcome speech



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18

December 30, 2017 | Inaugural Session of the Celebration of 187 years of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce and Seminar on “Revitalizing Parliamentary Democracy in India”



Hon'ble Vice President of India Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu making his key note address



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, President presenting memento to Hon'ble vice President of India.



Mr. O.P. Agarwal, Sr. Vice President presenting memento to Mr. Kesharinath Tripaathi, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal.



Mr. M.P. Sureka, Vice President presenting memento to Mr. Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Govt. of West Bengal.



Office Bearers and Past Presidents of the Chamber with Hon'ble Vice President of India.



A section of the gathering. (9183)



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18

February 06, 2018 | Panel Discussion & Interactive Session on Union Budget - 2018-19

Mr. Yashwant Sinha, Hon'ble Former Union Minister of Finance graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr. Dinesh Trivedi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament was the Guest of Honour. The Panelists were Mr. Pulak Saha, Partner - Indirect Tax, Price Waterhouse & CO. LLP and Mr. Narayan Jain, eminent tax consultant.



Mr. Yashwant Sinha, Hon'ble Former Union Minister of Finance and Sr. Leader of BJP remarking on the various measures of the Union Budget.

Mr. Yashwant Sinha said, “When the earlier central VAT had only three slabs namely merit, mean and demerit, so many slabs in GST defeats the very purpose of the new tax regime meant for simplification of tax structure”. He also said “We must deal with effectively the growing non-performing assets of the banks. If banks are not healthy then investments, especially private investments will suffer”.

Mr. Dinesh Trivedi remarked that “this is not a budget, this is an election manifesto. It is an appropriate opportunity for us in Parliament to move a Privilege Motion. Parliamentarian should move a Privilege Motion because the government is knowingly misleading the nation. They are not consulting the State and announcing a huge document on the floor of the house. This is immoral, it is not acceptable”.



Mr. Dinesh Trivedi, Hon'ble MP, Lok Sabha giving an overview of Union Budget 2018-19

Commenting on Cess, Mr. Narayan Jain said that the government was complicating the system by introducing one after another cess. Further, the move to impose Long Term Capital Gains and the decision to retain the STT will dampen the investor sentiments. The tax will adversely affect investors.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



February 06, 2018 | Panel Discussion & Interactive Session on Union Budget - 2018-19



Mr. Pulak Saha, Partner-Indirect Tax, Price Waterhouse & Co. LLP describing the finer points of indirect tax.

According to **Mr. Pulak Saha** anything relating to GST would be decided by the GST Council. If there would be any legal issue it would be sent to the Law Committee and based on that Law Committee recommendation the government will implement it. The government brought in couple of simplifications in customs legislation and advance ruling.



Mr. Yashwant Sinha, Hon'ble Former Union Minister of Finance interacting with the media.



A section of the gathering.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



February 28, 2018 | 187 years Celebration Lecture Series on "Prospects for Economic Growth and the Policy Imperatives for India"

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble former President of India was the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker.

Former President of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said that there was a need to have political stability in the country for its economic growth. Mr. Mukherjee said, "Between 1989 and 1999, the country witnessed five Lok Sabha polls instead of the usual two LS elections. People did not like this instability. These frequent changes were disliked by the voters as there was a weak government and for which a change was mandatory. In 2014, over 80 crore people voted for a stable government, when the parliamentary pundits were thinking about bringing amendments in the Constitution to bring in stability. I do not mind which party gained majority, but I am happy. It brought stability."



Hon'ble Former President of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee lighting the inaugural lamp.



Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Former President of India presenting an illuminating account of growth and development of the Indian economy.

Mr. Mukherjee further said - "We need to look at agriculture and there is no room for complacency. The country has 132 crore population and this population will have to be fed. India's 48 per cent population is now below 40 years (of age). So, we need to improve their skills into GDP growth". He pointed out, "But when we talk about agriculture, it is not just the production of the food grains alone. Rural infrastructure, irrigation, rural health, education, sanitation and housing should also be developed,".

Former President Pranab Mukherjee said the country has to overcome challenges in agriculture, employment and power to become a sustainable economy with a substantial growth rate. Claiming that the economy has the potential of growing at a rate of eight to nine percent every year, he urged the current government to work towards addressing not just the major challenges but also the related issues through "cooperative federalism".



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



February 28, 2018 | 187 years Celebration Lecture Series on “Prospects for Economic Growth and the Policy Imperatives for India”



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, President addressing the gathering.



Mr. Manoj Mohanka, Past President moderating the session.



Mr. O.P. Agarwal, Sr. Vice President proposing vote of thanks.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



April 04, 2018 | 187 years Celebration Lecture Series on “Special Session On “Promoting India - Vietnam Partnership”

H.E. Mr. Ton Sinh Thanh, Ambassador, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was the Chief Guest. Mr. Krishnan Srinivasan, Former Foreign Secretary of India and Mr. Geetesh Sharma, President, INDO-VIETNAM SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE” were the Guests of Honour.



H.E. Mr. Ton Sinh Thanh, Ambassador of Vietnam elaborating on Indo-Vietnam bilateral trade.

Mr. Krishnan Srinivasan said - “Vietnam has been India’s long standing friend in ASEAN. Vietnam supported every move by India, liked every move of India to upgrade its relationship with ASEAN,” he said. On India-Vietnam cultural ties, he referred to cultural events, people to people interactions and human capacity building. Srinivasan also referred to the joint restoration project of the UNESCO heritage site in Vietnam aimed at underlining the ancient Hindu civilisation linkage between the two countries.

Ambassador of Vietnam to India **Mr. Ton Sinh Thanh** said the trade between the two countries was not upto the expectation. Vietnam today sought more investment from India, as it felt there is scope for further improvement in trade volume between the two countries. Mr. Thanh said, “We are now a market of nearly 100 million people with quite a big number of bigger income bracket. There are lot of opportunities, very liberal investment regulations and lot of incentives”. He said the two nations have developed comprehensive strategic partnership based on strategic interest and very high level of mutual trust since the last visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Mr. Krishnan Srinivasan, Former Foreign Secretary of India speaking on strategic relation between India and Vietnam.



Mr. Geetesh Sharma, President, Indo-Vietnam Solidarity Committee describing long standing culture and trade relation between India and Vietnam.

Stressing the need to continue maintaining and promoting the friendship between the two countries, **Mr. Geetesh Sharma** said that there are lots of possibilities, lots of facilities. With proper market survey, we can export many things to Vietnam and vice versa.



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, President presenting memento to Hon'ble Ambassador of Vietnam.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



May 05, 2018 | 187 years Celebration Lecture Series on "Empowering Women from Inside. And Outside!"

Mr. Sujay Kr. Chanda, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Kolkata Police (Establishment), Ms. Alokanda Roy, Noted Danseuse & Reformist, Ms. Agnimitra Paul, Fashion Designer & Social Activist and Ms. Priyanka Deb, State Project Manager, Kanyashree Prakalpa, Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal were Guests of Honour.



Mr. Sujay Kumar Chanda, IPS, Jt. Commissioner of Police (Establishment), Kolkata Police elaborating on the various safe guards for women.

Joint CP, Kolkata Police (Establishment) **Mr. Sujoy Chanda**, said while there are various safeguards for women, the ground reality is still different. The young people of the society are drivers of change. "Women are offered low-skilled jobs with lower wage". According to him, Indians do not give enough importance to girl children. Mr Chanda said the country is in a sorry state with regard to women's empowerment. Till today, male literacy rate is higher than women and "Women are treated as second class citizens in India."

Ms. Priyanka Deb, State Project Manager for Kanyashree Prakalpa claimed "Kanyashree Prakalpa has reduced child marriage in West Bengal." Over 48 lakh girls in West Bengal have benefitted in the globally recognized 'Kanyashree' project in the state in the past four and half years. The 'Kanyashree' project is known world-wide as Bengal's flagship project aimed at empowerment of adolescent. There had been Rs.1.6 crore cash transactions for 48.37 lakh girls from 16,679 educational institutions across the state during that period.



Ms. Priyanka Deb, State Project Manager, Kanyashree Prakalpa, Dept. of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal making her presentation on Kanyashree Prakalpa.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



Ms. Alokanda Roy, Noted Danseuse & Reformist talking on ways to empower women.

Fashion Designer **Ms. Agnimitra Paul** also talked about ways to empower women at the discussion. She remarked that according to UNESCO report, 481 million women lack the basic literacy skill around the globe. She said that we need to empower women, especially the underprivileged girls and facilitate them to get the 21st Century skills. - knowledge, awareness and employability skills.

Ms Alokanda Roy, noted danseuse and reformist, was of the opinion that it is only gender equality which can stop all the evils befalling women in the society today. "Knowledge, awareness and employment skills are the things that a woman need to know to empower themselves," she said.



Ms. Agnimitra Paul, Fashion Designer & Social Activist making her points on women empowerment.



Mrs. Manjula Jain, Sr. Committee Member moderating the session.



Mr. Vineet Nahata, Vice President proposing vote of thanks.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



May 11 2018 | Strategizing Business Growth with Make in India & National MSMEs Excellence Awards jointly with ASSOCHAM

Dr. Mou Sen, Joint Director, Directorate of MSMEs, Ministry of MSME, West Bengal said in her speech that in order to streamline the process of grievance redressal of MSMEs in the state, the West Bengal Government has launched SWAS Mobile App where entrepreneurs can post their queries and get replies within five days. She said West Bengal has the largest number of MSMEs and the department was adopting digital technology to deal with issues in the sector, specially grievance redressal.



Dr. Mou Sen, Joint Director, Directorate of MSMEs, Govt. of West Bengal speaking on the steps taken by the Govt. of West Bengal in promoting MSMEs in the State.



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, President, Calcutta Chamber of Commerce delivering welcome speech.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



June 09, 2018 | Felicitation of Mr. Vasudev Devnani, Hon'ble Minister of State for Primary and Secondary Education, Government of Rajasthan jointly with Vipra Foundation

The Session was addressed by Mr. Vasudev Devnani, Hon'ble Minister of State for Primary and Secondary Education, Government of Rajasthan.



Mr. Vasudev Devnani, Minister of State for Primary and Secondary Education, Govt. of Rajasthan, elaborating on different aspects of education.

Hon'ble Minister Mr. Vasudev Devnani said that in a country where education is not in a proper way, no industry could be developed in a planned manner. So, quality education is essential for overall development. Hon'ble Minister said expenditure in education sector should be raised to move the country fast and forward. He said unless 10% of GDP expenditure is not spent in the education sector, the country will not move forward.



Mr. M.P. Sureka, Vice President moderating the session.



Mr. Vineet Nahata, Vice President offering vote of thanks.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



June 20, 2018 | 187 years Celebration Lecture on Human Resources Development for Socio-Economic Development

Mr. Ananta Kumar Hegde, Hon'ble Minister of State for skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India was Chief Guest & Keynote Speaker. Mr. Pradip Chopra, Chairman, lead- Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Development was Guest of Honour.



Mr. Ananta Kumar Hegde, Hon'ble Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India dwelling on the steps taken by the Government on skill development.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Skill Development **Mr. Ananta Kumar Hegde** said Sanskrit was going to be the coding language for future supercomputers. Referring to the skill development programme, Mr. Hegde said the Centre had already started the Indian Skill Development Service (ISDS) on the lines of the IAS and the IPS. He said Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of the first Indian Institute of Skill in Kanpur and each state was slated to have one such institute.

Mr. Pradip Chopra referred from Wealth of Nation where Mr. Adam Smith said that the future wealth of the country will not be the physical assets or the other assets, the real asset are the trained and educated manpower. Any country that can have the largest pool of trained and skilled manpower they would practically rule the world. Fortunately we have the largest pool of talent and all we need to do is to empower them with skill and education.



Mr. Pradip Chopra, Chairman, lead narrating on ways to build up the skills of the future generation.



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, President making his points on HRD.



Mr. M.P. Sureka, Vice President conducting the session.



Mr. O.P. Agarwal, Sr. Vice President proposing vote of thanks.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



June 21 2018 | 187 years Celebration Lecture on "Kolkata & its Challenges"

Janab Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest & keynote speaker. Mr. Subrata Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, Government of West Bengal, Mr. Jawhar Sircar (IAS Retd.), Former CEO, Prasar Bharati, Mr. Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya, Chairman, West Bengal Heritage Commission & Ms. Monideepa Banerjee, Executive Editor – East, NDTV, Kolkata were Guests of Honour.



Janab Firhad Hakim, Minister in Charge, Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Govt. of West Bengal making his remarks on the recent projects of the Government to enrich the urban life.

Highlighting the initiatives of the Government of West Bengal, Hon'ble Minister **Mr. Firhad Hakkim** informed that for solid waste management, plants for generation of power using waste in the city is being considered. He also said that the Government of West Bengal received the Skoch order of merit award this year for its seven flagship projects like floating market in Patuli, installation of solar high mast LED lights at Jaigaon in Alipurduar, green zone in Kolkata, online module for Municipal Property Tax payment 'Somobyathi' project payment gateway services by Asansol – Durgapur Development Authority and rejuvenation of eco-tourism complex at Sahebbandh in Purulia Town.

Mr. Subrata Gupta said that if we compare the population growth we see that Kolkata is growing @4.1% per year in terms of population. The State Government has taken up several policies, civic amenities have improved significantly, but we are still bit behind some of the big cities.



Mr. Subrata Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Govt. of West Bengal elaborating on the Green City programmes of the government.



Mr. Jawhar Sircar, Former CEO, Prasar Bharati talking on the rehabilitation of hawkers in Kolkata.

Mr. Jawhar Sircar remarked that one thing is to be looked into that there should be a demarcated hawker zones and that the hawker zone should be a better looking structure. He said that more than half of Kolkata eats on the footpath. The most dangerous thing is water in the footpath which is contaminated. So we should have fresh water tap with outlets. This will be a pro-people stand.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



June 21 2018 | 187 years Celebration Lecture on “Kolkata & its Challenges”



Mr. Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya, Eminent Painter & Artist focusing on the restoration of heritage of Kolkata.

Mr. Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya pointed out that West Bengal is rich with the heritage of old civilizations and being a colonial city, there exist a number of Heritage Buildings and Structures in the Urban areas of this State. The Government has already taken laudable steps to restore heritage in many instances.



Ms. Monideepa Banerjee, Executive Editor – East, NDTV, Kolkata making her programmes on improving the livelihood of slum dwellers.

Ms. Monideepa Banerjee said that the Government has announced Niloshree Prakalpa. Niloshree is housing for people with salary under 30,000 rupees. This is a very good thought because perhaps it will take care of Kolkatans who are living on the streets.



Mr. O.P. Agarwal, Sr. Vice President proposing vote of thanks.



A section of the audience.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



July 7, 2018 | Special Session on Furthering Trade Ties Between India and Philippines

The Session was addressed by H.E.(Mrs.) Maria Teresita C. Daza, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Philippines. She was the Chief Guest & Keynote Speaker.



H.E. (Mrs.) Maria Teresita C. Daza, Hon'ble Ambassador of Philippines speaking on the business opportunities in Philippines.

Mrs. Maria Teresita C Daza, the Ambassador of the Philippines said that India and Philippines are soon to be better connected by air as direct flights from Philippines to Delhi and Mumbai are soon to be introduced which will help both countries bridge the distance gap. Mrs Daza said : “We realise that though India and Philippines are working towards strengthening their bilateral ties, more needs to be done in increasing connectivity between the countries. At present, we do not have direct flights but I am glad to mention that soon direct flights are being started from Manila to Delhi and Mumbai while Kolkata is still on the cards”. She pointed out that it is now the best time for India to invest in their country as it registered a GDP of 6.7 per cent last year while it is expected to go up to 6.8 by the end of this financial year.



Mr. B.K. Nahata, Past President presenting bouquet to Hon'ble Consul General of Philippines in Kolkata Mr. Deepak Khemka.



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, President addressing the session.



Mrs. Alka Bangur, Past President presenting memento and bouquet to Hon'ble Ambassador.

July 10, 2018 | Special Session on Business Opportunities in Resurgent United States of America

The Session was addressed by Mr. Craig L Hall, Hon'ble Consul General of USA in Kolkata, as Chief Guest & Keynote Speaker.



Mr. Craig L Hall, Hon'ble Consul General of The United States of America in Kolkata making his points on the possibilities of improving Indo-US economic and strategic relations.

US Consul General Mr. Craig Hall, said initiatives such as 'Make in India' and 'Make in America' would not augur well for countries other than these two countries as bi-lateral trades with other countries will be adversely affected. "The trade relations between the two countries are growing in strength to strength. But after India started concentrating on Make in India products, there is a trade deficit of 29 billion dollar. This is not healthy. The US remains a top trading partner where opportunities are more than challenges," said Hall. He also said that the US is keen on more defence cooperation with India and doesn't want to see India merely as a buyer. He also added that there is ample scope for collaboration between India and US firms in small and medium enterprises (SME).



Mr. Jonathan Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, Consulate General of the United States of America in Kolkata making his points on Indo-US bilateral relation.



The session is in progress



Mr. O.P. Agarwal, Sr. Vice President offering vote of thanks.



A section of the gathering at the session.

August 18, 2018 | Special Session on "Equity Markets, Economy and Impact on Mutual Fund Industry"

The Session was addressed by Mr. Yogesh Bhatt, Senior Vice President-Investments, ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited.



Mr. Yogesh Bhatt, Sr. Vice President - Investments, ICICI Prudential Asset Management Co. Ltd. making his presentation on equity market.

Mr. Yogesh Bhatt said that 'after good returns last year, the markets are right now consolidating. There are a lot of worries in the market in terms of crude oil prices, US interest rates, likely elections in this coming year, as well as what is going to happen between US and China as far as trade is concerned. Volatility is there for all these reasons. There will be alternate bouts, which will come positive and negative, which will create volatility. Hence, we are recommending investors to practice and execute the 'asset allocation plan'. They should look at some defensive sectors right now which are IT, pharma, Power and some of these banking recovery stocks, plus the consumption sector'.



Mr. Arun Laddha, Director, J.R. Laddha Financial Services Pvt. Ltd. speaking at the session.



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, President addressing the gathering.



Mr. Vineet Nahata, Vice President proposing vote of thanks.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



August 21, 2018 | Special Session on “Indian Economy and its Challenges”

The Session was addressed by Mr. Shatrughan Prasad Sinha, Hon'ble M.P. (Loksabha), Mr. Pavan Kumar Varma, Hon'ble M.P. (Rajyasabha) & Mrs. Roopa Ganguly, Hon'ble M.P. (Rajyasabha). The Session was moderated by Mr. Sanjay Pugalia, President and Editorial Director, The Quintillion Media Pvt Ltd.



Mr. Pavan Kumar Varma, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha speaking on the challenges of economy.

Mr. Pavan Kumar Varma in his address commented that the state of our economy is something like Maya – “It is not as if nothing has been achieved in the last four years of the rule of the NDA. But what exactly has been achieved, and in what quantum, is a matter of debate, occupying a space somewhere between fact and illusion. For instance, the government claims, with statistics to back it, that India has become the fastest growing economy in the world, with the highest GDP growth rates. GDP growth is not above seven per cent as claimed, but at least two percentage points lower.



Mr. Shatrughan Sinha, Hon'ble MP, Lok Sabha describing the current state of the economy.

Questioning the prevailing democratic situation in the country, BJP MP Mr. Shatrughan Sinha, said democracy in India has "relapsed a lot". He said "Some of the incidents that we have noticed were not desirable. This (Supreme Court judges coming out in public) was first time it happened in the history of Indian democracy. I am not saying what's right or wrong. I am saying how the situation came to a pass where they had to come out and talk to media. Criticising the Centre on demonetisation and implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), he said a "complicated GST" was rolled out when the country had "not fully recovered from the note-ban shock".



Mrs. Roopa Ganguly, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha talking on the projects towards Acche Din.



Mr. Sanjay Pugalia, President & Editorial Director, Quintillion Media Pvt. Ltd. conducting the session.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



Indian Economy & its Challenges – 21.8.2018

Smt. Roopa Ganguly in her speech claimed that the Government performed well in the last four years and come up with various projects. Thinking in terms of Acche Din is itself a leap forward to Acche din. It is indeed a great achievement when a citizen of the country can write to the Prime Minister. She also indicated the significant measures taken by the government like Digital India, Demonetization, GST, a couple of Bills. On mission 2019, she remarked that the focus of the administration should not be on election but on socio economic activities of the country.



Mr. B.K. Nahata, Past President greeting Mr. Shatrughan Sinha.



Mr. R.K. Chhajjer, Past President presenting shawl to Mr. Pavan Varma.



Mr. Manoj Mohanka, Past President presenting bouquet to Mr. Sanjay Pugalia.



A section of the gathering.



A Look at the year gone by 2017-18



September 20, 2018 | Special Session on “MSMEs – The Growth Engine of Indian Economy”

The Session was addressed by Shri Alapan Bandyopadhyay, IAS, Hon'ble Additional Chief Secretary, Department of MSMEs & Textiles, Government of West Bengal.



Mr. Alapan Bandyopadhyay, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Deptt. of MSMEs & Textiles, Govt. of West Bengal highlighting the initiatives of the Govt. of West Bengal to promote MSME Sector.

Mr. Alapan Bandyopadhyay stated that MSME is a potential sector in creating opportunities for the youth and added that the "single window video conference" between a group of senior officials in Kolkata and representatives of business houses in the districts for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) entrepreneurs will begin before Durga Puja. He said that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had stressed up on the need for further intervention at the grass root level in the districts to ensure worldwide presence of Bengal's MSME sector and directed the officials of the MSME and Textiles Department to initiate "single window video conference" for any sort of issue cropping up at the grassroots level.



Mr. Rajendra Khandelwal, President speaking at the Session.



Mr. R.K. Chhajer, Past President conducting the Session.



Mr. O.P. Agarwal, Sr. Vice President offering vote of thanks.



CELEBRATION



January 06, 2018 | New Year Get Together

The Meeting was attended by the Members of the Chamber & their spouse. Principal Commercial Officer of Consulate General of USA was also present.



October 27, 2017 | Diwali Get Together

The Meeting was attended by the Members of the Chamber & their spouse.





PRESS CLIPPINGS



The Statesman

Naidu pitches for decorum in Parliament

MPs believe the expectations of the public Vice President

Madhya Pradesh Minister Naidu pitched for decorum in Parliament on Tuesday, saying that the representatives should be more responsible to the people and not just to their constituencies.

Naidu, who is a member of the opposition, said that the members of Parliament should be more responsible to the people and not just to their constituencies. He said that the members of Parliament should be more responsible to the people and not just to their constituencies.

বর্তমান

বিরুদ্ধ সমালোচনাও সহ্যে হবে, গণতন্ত্রে নাগ্যাই উপরাষ্ট্রপতির

গণতন্ত্রের অঙ্গ হিসেবে, সরকারের প্রতি সমালোচনাও সহ্য করা হবে। উপরাষ্ট্রপতি সি.বি. ভানুজিয়া বলেছেন।

গণতন্ত্রের অঙ্গ হিসেবে, সরকারের প্রতি সমালোচনাও সহ্য করা হবে। উপরাষ্ট্রপতি সি.বি. ভানুজিয়া বলেছেন।

सन्मार्ग

...तो देश की आर्थिक वृद्धि 8 प्रतिशत होगी: प्रधान मन्त्री

Primer Minister Narendra Modi said that the country's economic growth will reach 8 percent.

Primer Minister Narendra Modi said that the country's economic growth will reach 8 percent.

The Statesman

Firhad Hakim slams BJP, says focus of govt should be on progress & not on yoga

BJP is focusing on yoga and not on progress, says Firhad Hakim.

BJP is focusing on yoga and not on progress, says Firhad Hakim.

The Statesman

Kanyashree Prakalpa, symbol of change in state: Priyanka Deb

Kanyashree Prakalpa is a symbol of change in West Bengal, says Priyanka Deb.

Kanyashree Prakalpa is a symbol of change in West Bengal, says Priyanka Deb.

বর্তমান

ত্রিহাবাহী বাড়ি অক্ষুণ্ণ রেখেই কলকাতার উন্নতি করবে রাজ্য

West Bengal will progress by keeping the three rivers intact, says a minister.

West Bengal will progress by keeping the three rivers intact, says a minister.

The Statesman

Pranab praises Narasimha, Manmohan

Former President speaks on country's growth, economy at a lecture organised by Calcutta Chamber of Commerce.

Former President Pranab Mukherjee praised the leadership of Narasimha and Manmohan.

বর্তমান

ভোট-ইস্তাহার নয় বাজেট: সিন্হা

Minister Sinha says budget is not a vote-buying exercise.

Minister Sinha says budget is not a vote-buying exercise.

सन्मार्ग

महंगाई बढ़ रही है और केंद्र सरकार योग में व्यस्त है: फिरहाद हकीम

Cost of living is rising and the central government is busy in yoga, says Firhad Hakim.

Cost of living is rising and the central government is busy in yoga, says Firhad Hakim.

The Indian Express

WEST BENGAL

Exercise done without application of mind... eyewash

Criticism of government's actions in West Bengal.

Criticism of government's actions in West Bengal.

प्रभात खबर

ब्रीच न्यूज

Local news and updates from the region.

Local news and updates from the region.

आनन्दबाजार पत्रिका

सुपार कम्पिउटार बानाते चाई संस्कृत!

Advocating for the use of computers in education and culture.

Advocating for the use of computers in education and culture.

प्रभात खबर

धर्म उपासना का माध्यम, उसका सम्मान हो

Religion is a medium of worship and should be respected.

Religion is a medium of worship and should be respected.

दैनिक विश्वमित्र

ग्रामीण भारत में भारी असंतोष

Discontent in rural India over economic issues.

Discontent in rural India over economic issues.

Times Nation

Global, rural distress not in FM speech: Sinha

Minister Sinha says global and rural distress were not mentioned in the FM's speech.

Minister Sinha says global and rural distress were not mentioned in the FM's speech.

प्रभात खबर

दशता विकास से ही तयचकी: हेगड़े

Development in ten years is the key to stability, says Hegde.

Development in ten years is the key to stability, says Hegde.

विवतनाम से व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने पर जोर

Focus on trade expansion through Vityanam.

Focus on trade expansion through Vityanam.

विवतनाम से व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने पर जोर

Focus on trade expansion through Vityanam.

Focus on trade expansion through Vityanam.



PRESS CLIPPINGS



सन्मार्ग

कलकत्ता चैंबर का विवि से करार



कलकत्ता: कलकत्ता चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स और मील्सना अयुक्त कस्टम आवाज यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ वेस्ट बंगाल ने मुम्बई के एक समझौता पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर किए। चैंबर अध्यक्ष राजीव खंडेलवाल ने बताया कि इस करार के तहत यूनिवर्सिटी में उद्योग जगत के अनुकूल तकनीकी कोर्सों को प्रमोट किया जाएगा। विश्वविद्यालय, परिसर में किए गए इस करार के दौरान यूनिवर्सिटी के वाइस चांसलर प्रो. वीकल मैत्र, आईटीआई के चेयरमैन प्रदीप घोषड़ा भी मौजूद रहे।

राजस्थान पत्रिका

पैतुक गांव आकर स्कूल गोद लें प्रवासी



कोलकाता पैतुक गांव और रीवा पटौलिया के पर्यटकों ने लोहे टाकान के शिक्षक द्वारा गांव में पैतुक गांव आकर स्कूल गोद लें प्रवासी।

सन्मार्ग

तैयार करेंगे 5 लाख नैनो इंटरप्रिन्टोर: हेगड़े



कोलकाता: कोलकाता चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स और मील्सना अयुक्त कस्टम आवाज यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ वेस्ट बंगाल ने मुम्बई के एक समझौता पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

सन्मार्ग

बदलाव के लिए देश की जीडीपी का 10% हो शिक्षा पर खर्च: देवनायी



कोलकाता: शिक्षा और जीविक धन को अर्थिक, सामाजिक स्थिति को ठीक नहीं करके अर्थिक स्थिति को सुधारा नहीं दे सकता है। जीविक धन को बढ़ाने के लिए शिक्षा को प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए।

बर्तमान

Empowering Women from Inside. And Outside!



05, 2018, Kolkata

दैनिक जागरण

प्रवासी राजस्थानी मातृभूमि को शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में बनाएं अग्रणी



कोलकाता: राजस्थानी मातृभूमि को शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में बनाएं अग्रणी।



Calcutta Chamber of Commerce