



Calcutta Chamber of Commerce

**A LOOK  
AT THE YEAR  
GONE BY  
2019-20**





Calcutta Chamber of Commerce





# President's Message

I am grateful to all of you for investing confidence in me and electing me as President of this oldest Chamber of Commerce. Leading the Chamber in its 189th year was something I had fervently looked forward to. It is indeed been a great honour and privilege serving the Chamber and for me, it is a journey full of challenges and opportunities.

The world is reeling under one of the worst devastation ever faced by it in its history – COVID 19 pandemic. As the health and human toll grows, the economic damage is already evident and represents the largest economic shock the world has experienced in decades. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the entire nation/world to a standstill. This has significantly hampered the GDP of the country, along with cash flow issues. Needless to say, the negative impact on businesses is leading to the closure of several businesses, leaving employments at stake. An unprecedented large-scale reverse migration of labour triggered by the nationwide lockdown has put some sectors in real trouble. The central bank indicated India could see its economy shrink for the first time in 40 years and the lockdown's damage was so deep that the country's potential output or GDP would take "years to repair". To help the economy recover, strengthen supply chains across industries, and promote domestic production, the "Self-Reliant India" package of Rs 20 lakh crore was announced. With already announced packages, and the liquidity that is available, the financial sector is in the strongest position to help the Economy restart.

The Chamber has had a thriving year, thanks to the support from members. The Chamber has organized a host of programs and value added activities, which were well attended by members and invitees. The pandemic

compelled to move from in-person to virtual meetings. We have promoted spirited debate on all topical issues - Agriculture, MSMEs, Tax Policies, Health & Wellness, and Impact of Covid in socio-economic & global perspective. Significant events organized by our Chamber were the convention on CSR and Infrastructure & Housing. Eminent panelists from Industries, NGOs & professionals spoke on different aspects of CSR. The Urban Thinkers were engaged in deliberations and discussions on topics of their domain expertise and provided food for thought on the challenges and issues concerning world class infrastructure. Hon'ble Union Minister Mr. Nitin Gadkari in a virtual Session with the Chamber said through the historical economic package the Government has fulfilled the expectations and aspirations of the MSME, village and cottage industry sector.

The time has come to bid adieu to all of you. I will always cherish the memories of leading this prestigious 189 years old institution. I have passed on the baton to Mr. Rajeev Maheshwari and his team, who are dynamic with a forward looking attitude. The Past Presidents, Office-bearers and entire Executive Committee members have been source of strength to me. I would like to convey my gratitude for the goodwill and affection extended to me by all of you which made it possible for me to match up to the aspirations and trust reposed in me for the conduct of activities of the Chamber. I would like to take this opportunity to strongly thank all the members, who are the back bone of the Chamber. I wish to express heartfelt thanks to IT Chairman Shri Amit Sharma & Team for successfully coordinating all the virtual meetings. I must also express my gratitude and thanks to the media for their co-operation. I also thank the Secretariat for their strong support. I once again want to thank each and everyone for giving me this opportunity.

I wish all the success to all of you and convey my greetings for the years to come!

**Madhav Prasad Sureka**  
President



## Standing Committees for 2019-20

<b>Name of the Standing Committees</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
9. Real Estate & Urban Development :	Mr H V Patodia
Co-Chairman :	Mr Bharat Bagla
Member :	Mr Surya Prakash Bagla
10. International Trade & Relation :	Mr Mahesh Saharia
Co-Chairman :	Mr Satish Jhunjunwala
Member :	Ms Shailja Mehta
11. Health, Hygiene & Public Affairs :	Mr Rajendra Khandelwal
Co-Chairman :	Mr Shyam Sunder Dey
Member :	Mr Ashok Agarwal
12. Trade & Commerce :	Mr R K Chhajer
Co-Chairman :	Ms Vinita Dutt
Member :	Mr Himanshu Mukundray
13. Seminar & Workshop :	Mr Manoj Mohanka
Co-Chairman :	Mr Bharat Kr. Bagla
Members :	Mr V S Singhee
14. Tourism and Delegation :	Mr Hemant Marda
Co-Chairman :	Mr B T Ramnani
15. Information Technology :	Mr Amit Sharma
Co-Chairman :	Mr Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury
Member :	Mr Sanjib Sanghee
16. Investors, Advisory :	Mr Dinesh Jain
Co-Chairman :	Mr Arun Laddha
Members :	Mr Rishi Khator
17. Press and Media :	Mr Manoj Mohanka
Co-Chairman :	Mr Hemant Marda
Members :	Mr Vineet Nahata
	Mr Rajeev Maheshwari



## Standing Committees for 2019-20

### Name of the Standing Committees

### Chairman

1. Banking, Finance & Economic Affairs	:	Mr Rishi Khator
Co-Chairman	:	Mr Amit Kothari
Members	:	Mr Ashok Pareek Mr Binit Kandoi
2. Taxation Direct, Indirect & State	:	Mr P D Rungta
Co-Chairman	:	Mr Anand Muskara
Members	:	Mr Rajat Agarwal Mr Jinesh Jain
3. Legal, Consumer Affairs & Member's Grievance	:	Mr Pradeep Sancheti
Co-Chairman	:	Mr Narayan Prasad Jain
Members	:	Ms Devyani Ashra Mr Ashok Chatterjee
4. Excellence & Award	:	Mr M K Saharia
Co-Chairman	:	Mr B K Nahata
Member	:	Mr Satish Jhunjunwala
5. Agriculture, Plantation & Rural Devp	:	Mr S P Saharia
Co-Chairman	:	Ms Shailja Mehta
Members	:	Mr Hari Ram Garg Mr K K Dalmia
6. Membership Development	:	Mr Dinesh Jain
Co-Chairman	:	Mr Aun Laddha
Members	:	Mr Rajeev Maheshwari Mr C S Sarda
7. Education & Skill Development	:	Mr Kishan Kr. Kejriwal
Co-Chairman	:	Ms Manoshi Roychowdhury
Members	:	Mr Hariram Garg Mr S L Gupta
8. Industry, MSME	:	Mr R K Chhajer
Co-Chairman	:	Mr S P Saharia
Members	:	Mr Rajeev Maheshwari Mr M P Sureka



## Executive Committee Members for 2019-20

### Office Bearers & Committee Members for 2019-20

1. Mr Madhav Prasad Sureka - President
2. Mr Rajeev Maheshwari - Sr. Vice President
3. Ms Shailja Mehta - Vice President

#### Elected Members

1. Mr Krishna Kr. Dalmia
2. Mr Vineet Nahata
3. Mr Brahmanand Agarwala
4. Mr Amit Sharma
5. Mr Vijay Singh Singhee
6. Mr Rajat Agrawal
7. Mr Kishan Kumar Kejriwal
8. Mr Hemant Tibrewalla
9. Mr Vijay Kumar Chandak
10. Mr Arun Laddha
11. Mr Hemant Marda
12. Mr Hari Shankar Halwasia

#### Nominated Members

1. Mr Anand Muskara
2. Mr Surendra Keyal
3. Mr Mahesh Dubey
4. Mr B T Ramnani
5. Mr Ashok Kumar Pareek
6. Mr Surendra Kumar Sharma

#### Immediate Past President

1. Mr Om Prakash Agarwal

#### Past Presidents

1. Mr Indra Chand Sancheti
2. Mr Hari Prasad Kanoria
3. Mr Basant Kumar Nahata
4. Mr Prabhat Kr Jalan
5. Mr Mahesh Kr Saharia
6. Mr Sushil Jhunjhunwala
7. Mr Hemant Kanoria
8. Mr Satish Jhunjhunwala
9. Mr Pradeep Sancheti
10. Mr Manoj Mohanka
11. Mr Harsh Vardhan Patodia
12. Mr Sushil Kr Agrawal
13. Mr Shyam Sunder Agarwal
14. Ms Alka Bangur
15. Mr Raj Kr. Chhajer
16. Mr Shree Prakash Saharia
17. Mr Dinesh Jain
18. Mr Rajendra Khandelwal

#### Special Invitees

1. Dr (Mrs) Alka Jayaswal
2. Mr Akhilesh Kumar Jain
3. Mr Anant Saharia
4. Ms Manjula Jain
5. Mr Dilip Bansal
6. Mr Vinod Dugar
7. Mr Amit Kothari
8. Mr Ashok Butta
9. Mr Pramod Dayal Rungta, CA
10. Mr Hariram Garg
11. Mr Rishi Khator, CA
12. Dr (Mr) Mahesh Kumar Maheshwari
13. Mr C S Sarda



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Members :	Mr Vineet Nahata Mr Rajeev Maheshwari



*H.E. Mr Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal enthraling the audiences by his key note address.*



*Mr Om Prakash Agarwal, President delivering his welcome address.*



*Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal Mr Jagdeep Dhankhar presenting plaque to Mr Kishore Nadhani, Father of recipient of Bhagirathi Yuba Samman 2019 Shri Pallav Nadhani.*



*Mr M P Sureka, Sr Vice President proposing vote of thanks.*



*Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal Mr Jagdeep Dhankhar felicitating Ms Swapna Barman, Indian Heptathlete with the presentation of J N Award 2019.*





# MAJOR EVENTS 2019-20





## November 23, 2019 Talk & Interactive Session on SABKA VISHWAS (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2019

The meeting was addressed by CA Tarun Gupta, Senior Indirect Tax Consultant.

While analyzing the scheme **CA Tarun Gupta** remarked that The Sabka Vishwas Scheme is a one-time initiative for the liquidation of the previous disputes of Service Tax and Central Excise as well as to make disclosure of the unpaid taxes. This is an opportunity being given to the assesseees for dispute resolution and amnesty. He added that the scheme comes into being with a validity of four months beginning from September 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019. It also offers some immunities such as interest, penalty or any other proceedings to those individuals who pay the declared tax dues.



*Mr Madhav P. Sureka, President delivering his welcome speech*



*CA Tarun Gupta, Eminent Indirect Tax Consultant making his points on Sabka Vishwas Scheme.*



## November 24, 2019 Special Session on Agricultural and Rural Development with Mr Parshottam Rupala, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare jointly organized by the Chamber & ACAE.

While addressing the members of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce and ACAE the Minister **Mr Parshottam Rupala** stated that the contribution of agriculture in India is around 60-70% of GDP. Now the farmers of our country are able to feed 130 crore people of India and not only that, our country also emerged as a major agricultural exporter of several key commodities, currently being the largest exporter of rice globally. The sector also diversified from grains towards pulses, fruit, vegetables and livestock products.

The Minister remarked that the Government is now making endeavour to double the farm income by 2022. The initiative has been made to bring in a large section of farming community under Crop Insurance Scheme to ensure them a sustained income. In order to provide remunerative prices to the farmers through marketing reforms, the government has also launched e-NAM, an electronic platform by unifying more than 400 Mandis across the country, whereby a buyer located anywhere in India would be able to place an order in any Mandis in India.



Mr Parshottam Rupala, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare spoke on the policies taken by the Government for farmer's development.



Mr Madhav P. Sureka, President delivering his welcome speech at the session.



Mr Rajeev Maheshwari, Sr. Vice President proposing vote of thanks



A section of the gathering at the session



## January 16, 2020 Special Interaction with Mr. Anurag Singh Thakur, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

The Session was organized jointly by Merchants' Chamber of Commerce, Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, Direct Taxes Professionals' Association and Association of Corporate Advisers & Executives

**Mr Anurag Singh Thakur**, the Minister of State for Finance, said the Centre is looking to carry out more judicial reforms to improve the ease of doing business in India - "The country has done so well in ease of doing business ranking that has gone up from 142 to 63. But as far as the arbitration and judicial system is concerned, our ranking is very poor. It is an area of concern." The Centre is taking several measures to boost consumption in a bid to put the country's economy on the growth path. India is said to be facing the dual problem of a growth slowdown and high inflation, driven primarily by higher food prices.

Industry is hoping Budget 2020 to announce measures to revive consumption and spur growth, particularly in manufacturing. The government is taking various steps to increase the demand and the growth of consumption. "With an aim to revive industrial growth and boost consumption, the Centre has taken various measures including reduction in the corporate tax rate, lowering of GST rates on select items and removing 'angel tax' for entities registered with DPIIT among others. However, all these measures have not yet translated into a higher demand."



*Mr Anurag Singh Thakur, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India making his points on fiscal issues.*



*Mr M P Sureka, President, delivering his speech.*



*Mr S P Saharia, Past President, asking a question*

## January 27, 2020 Corporate Social Responsibility - CSR~Strategic Link between People, Planet and Profit

Calcutta Chamber of Commerce in association with Seva Sutra Private Limited organized a seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility on 27th January 2020 and the theme of the seminar was - "CSR~Strategic Link Between People, Planet and Profit".

**Dr H P Kanoria, Chairman, Srei Foundation** was the Chief Guest on the occasion. CS Nagendra D Rao, Vice President, The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) & Mr. Nixon Joseph, President & Chief Operating Officer, SBI Foundation were Guests of Honour. The other dignitaries included Mr. Sunil Kumar Mehta, GM (Finance), Coal India Limited & CS Priyadarshi Nayak, Chairman, EIRC, The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) in the Inaugural Session.



*Dr H P Kanoria, Chairman, SREI Foundation and other dignitaries lighting the inaugural lamp.*

**Mr Madhav Sureka, President, Calcutta Chamber of Commerce** gave the welcome address and Shri Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, Central Council Member; The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) introduced the theme of the Seminar.

The **Chief Guest Dr H P Kanoria, Chairman, SREI Foundation** remarked that it is history that CSR is incorporated in the Companies Act. It covers Companies with a net worth of Rs 500 crore or more, or a turnover of over Rs 1,000 crore or a net profit exceeding Rs 5 crore in any financial year. But other companies could have been covered under the CSR voluntary scheme. Dr. Kanoria said that more than Rs.50,000 crores have been spent by the companies over the last 5 years towards CSR.



*Mr M P Sureka, President delivering his welcome speech*



*Mr Sunil Kumar Mehta, GM (Finance), Coal India Ltd. is talking the role of CIL in CSR.*

**Mr Sunil Kumar Mehta, GM (Finance)**, Coal India Limited, the largest coal producing company in the world and which has its own CSR Policy, discussed the efforts of Coal India to promote social activities.



*Mr Nixon Joseph, President & Chief Operating Officer, SBI Foundation speaking at the session.*

Elaborating SBI's contribution to the CSR sector, **Mr Nixon Joseph, President & Chief Operating Officer, SBI Foundation** remarked that the Bank is also focusing more on people, planet & profit and sustainability is one of the key goals.



Oil India Limited carries out different CSR programmes and projects in areas such as Education, Healthcare and Sanitation, Skill Development, expansion of Rural Infrastructure, for improving the quality of life of the people and communities residing in its operational areas, said **Mr Tridiv Hazarika, Deputy General Manager (CSR & CC), Oil India Ltd** while speaking in the Seminar. He stated OIL has been doing a lot for the North East community despite turmoil owing to political, social and separatist movement.



*Mr Tridiv Hazarika, Manager (CSR & CC), Oil India Limited explaining the CSR activity undertaken by OIL.*

According to **Ms Yangzom Lama, Dy General Manager, National Insurance Co. Ltd.**, their focus is on selecting the right implementing partner with credentials, capable of fulfilling the company's policy objectives. Their pioneer project is with ALIMCO, the Artificial Limb Manufacturing Co. of India, followed by Ramakrishna Mission 'Gadadhar Abhyudaya Prakalpa' (GAP) for health and education apart from their contribution in numerous schemes like building dams, reservoirs, water harvesting and Swachh Bharat.



*Ms Yangzom Lama, Deputy General Manager, National Insurance Corporation Ltd. dwelling on the subject.*



*CS Nagendra D Rao, Vice President, The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) describing various facets of CSR.*

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) performs many CSR activities although the institute is not entitled to Section 135 of Companies Act 2013, said **CS Nagendra D Rao, Vice President.**

**Ms Divya Tandon**, Executive Director & Company Secretary, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited said that Power Grid spends Rs 200 crores on CSR in a year and they won an award in 2019 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the watershed programme in the Coornool district.



*Ms Divya Tandon, Executive Director & Company Secretary, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. speaking on their CSR activity.*

In the technical sessions, eminent panelists from Industries, NGOs & professionals spoke on different aspects of CSR. Over 250 delegates, invitees and guests from governments, industries, academia and NGOs attended the Seminar.

## February 07, 2020 Special Session on “Enhancing Trade and Business between India and Philippines”.

The Session was addressed by H E Ramon S Bagatsing Jr., Ambassador of Philippines to India and Mr Deepak Kumar Khemka, Hony. Consul General of The Philippines, Kolkata.



H E Ramon S Bagatsing Jr., Ambassador of Philippines to India speaking on the prospects of business between India and Philippines.

**H E Ramon S Bagatsing Jr.**, said, “Many Indian companies have established their bases in Vietnam and other countries, now it is time to take a second look at the Philippines. We have over a hundred thousand Indians living there for years; this is also an opportunity for those with the third or fourth generation Indians to connect with their distant relatives here.”



Mr MP Sureka, President delivering his welcome speeches.



Mr Rajeev Maheshwari, Sr Vice President moderating the session



Mr Deepak Khemka, Hony. Consul General of the Philippines, Kolkata dwelling on the areas where the trade between two countries can be expanded

The Honorary Consul General of the Philippines in Kolkata, **Mr Deepak Khemka**, said “tourism is growing by the year in both India and the Philippines but eastern India’s contribution has unfortunately been small.”

**Mr Eugenio C Elevado, Jr.** Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Philippines in India said that the Philippine economy is growing very rapidly and emphasized on the synergy between two countries.



Mr Eugenio C. Elevado, Jr. Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Philippines, India giving details of the economic, cultural and tourism opportunities in Philippines



Ms. Shailja Mehta, Vice President proposing vote of thanks



## February 20, 2020 Panel Discussion and Interactive Session on UNION BUDGET 2020-21 and its Impact on Economy

The Session was addressed by Mr. Sumit Dutt Majumder, Former Chairman, Central Board of Excise and Customs, Mr Gaurav Swarup, Managing Director, Paharpur Cooling Towers Ltd., CA Dipankar Chatterji, Senior Partner, L B Jha & Co. & Mr Saurabh Kedia, Partner, Tax & Regulatory Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd, India.

Mr Sumit Dutt Majumder, said that the FM highlighted three themes in this budget- Aspirational India, Economic Development and Caring Society. But there is a big gap between projected expenditure (Rs.30.42 lac crore) and the estimated receipts (Rs.22.46 lac crore) in the budget. He expressed concern that where from the huge amount of money will come to a halt



Mr Sumit Dutt Majumder, Former Chairman, Central Board of Excise and Customs describing the indirect tax proposals of the budget and current state of the economy



Mr Gaurav Swarup, Managing Director, Paharpur Cooling Towers Ltd. Explaining the various provisions of Union Budget impacting economy.

Mr Gaurav Swarup was of opinion that from industry perspective the cement and steel industry are going on smoothly. But there is slowdown in both housing and auto sectors.

CA Dipankar Chatterjee remarked that the lack of demand is spread across India. There is crisis in infrastructure where the amount of stalled infrastructure projects is valued at Rs.8-10 lac crores and the number of stalled housing projects is 1600. And for that reason the job is not done, the connectivity is not achieved, the NPA is rising, the banks get into troubles and the infrastructure comes to a halt..



CA Dipankar Chatterjee, Senior Partner, L B Jha & Co. speaking on the current state of the Indian economy.



Mr Saurabh Kedia, Partner, Tax & Regulatory Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd., India explaining the direct tax proposals of the budget. .

Mr Saurabh Kedia, applauded the decision of reduction in the corporate tax rate from 35% to 25%. With the Ordinance coming into new manufacturing entities that are having their set up post 2019 September and start their operation before 2023, they will get a concessional tax rate of 15% and that was a great move by the government.



## March 7 2020 Special Session on Settlement of Dispute Scheme, 2020

The meeting was addressed by Ms Nabanita Pal, Addl. Commissioner of Revenue & PRO and Ms Lovely Mukherjee, Senior Joint Commissioner of Revenue, Directorate of Commercial Taxes, West Bengal.



*Ms Lovely Mukherjee, Senior Joint Commissioner of Revenue giving her presentation*

**Ms Lovely Mukherjee** explained that SOD scheme is very flexible by nature. The payment has been slashed to 25% of the disputed tax. Whatever forms and certificates in hand till the date of application will be considered for SOD and they would have to pay only 25% of disputed tax and get it settled.



*Ms Nabanita Pal, Addl. Commissioner of Revenue & PRO elaborating the new SOD Scheme*

**Ms Nabanita Pal** said that the Settlement of Dispute Scheme (SOD), 2020 is more dealer-friendly and the Scheme is open till 31st March 2020. She mentioned as per definition of the SOD Act 2A introduced last year, it was case pending, which means the cases are at the provisional or the review stage, but now all sorts of demand have been incorporated and are eligible for the SOD scheme.

## March 13 2020 Special Session on World Class Infrastructure & Modern Housing

The meeting was addressed by Mr Debashish Sen, IAS, Hon'ble Chairman, West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation, Mr Onkar Singh Meena, IAS, Designated Authority and Secretary, West Bengal Housing Industry Regulatory Authority (HIRA), Mr Harsh Vardhan Patodia, President-Elect, CREDAI, Mr M C Agrawal, Executive Director (Sales & ITD), SAIL, Mr Harvinder Singh, President, Jindal Steel and Power Limited, Mr Nandu Belani, President, CREDAI Bengal, Dr Partha Pratim Biswas, Professor, Dept. of Construction Engineering, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, Mr Sankar Dutta, Superintendent Engineer, Public Works Department, Govt. of West Bengal.



*Mr Debashish Sen, IAS, Hon'ble Chairman, West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation speaking on the country's skill in world class infra and housing.*

**Mr Debashish Sen** remarked that the theory of globalization has gone; it is the era of localization. "This is an opportunity for India. Now we must really excel in what we have to do. This is an opportunity that we can prove to the world that we can rule the world in all fronts". He also said that everybody is building walls around their country, this is the new reality and we have to survive this.



Mr Onkar Singh Meena, IAS, Designated Authority and Secretary, West Bengal Housing Industry Regulatory Authority (HIRA) making his presentation on the role of HIRA.

**Mr Onkar Singh Meena** said that the biggest challenge is how to provide quality construction within the assured time limit. It is now mandatory to get registered under the new Housing Act for all kinds of housing whether it is residential, commercial or mix. The Act is applicable throughout the state. The purpose is mainly to ensure that all transactions, disclosures and products are transparently disclosed and the home buyers and end-users rely upon it. This is a balancing act.



Mr M C Agrawal, Executive Director (Sales & ITD), SAIL talked on importance of SAIL materials used in infrastructure.

**Mr M C Agrawal** explained that how SAIL is contributing towards infrastructure in the country. Any form of infrastructure whether it is railway bridges, railway lines, ports, highways, any monument, SAIL is there. SAIL is moving towards villages for the upliftment of rural areas in the form of building housing and roads. It is the need of the hour for developing smart housing, smart city away from urban areas using the best technology, best materials.



Mr M P Sureka, President delivering his welcome address.

**Dr Partha Pratim Biswas** remarked that urbanization is the major trend of world today and India is no exception. So far as the quality in the construction is concerned, the notion has to be changed and it is changing. The selection of appropriate material and appropriate methodology is important and the most important issue is post monitoring and supervision of the structure to ensure its durability and sustainability.



Dr Partha Pratim Biswas, Professor, Dept. of Construction Engineering, Jadavpur University, Kolkata critically explaining the need of quality control and standards in infrastructure



A section of audience



Talking about world class infrastructure **Mr Harvinder Singh**, President, Jindal Steel and Power Limited said that, the four things comes in our mind i.e. world class highways, railway network, ports and airports. Current roads are 59 lac km and out of this only 132 thousand km of roads are national highways which are going to be 200 thousand km by 2022. So, there is long way to go to match the world class infrastructure.



*Mr Harvinder Singh, President, Jindal Steel and Power Limited focusing on the usage of safe and strong construction materials in housing and infra.*

**Mr Harsh Vardhan Patodia**, President-Elect, CREDAI commented that infrastructure development is the key driver to any economy and basically for welfare of people and the major requirements are connectivity, transportation, logistics and now for telecommunications. Infrastructure is the only thing which can bring rural and urban economy closer.



*Mr H V Patodia, President-Elect, CREDAI speaking on the essence of safe housing and infrastructure.*



*Mr Nandu Belani, President, CREDAI Bengal emphasize on the quality of construction materials in real estate.*

**Mr Nandu Belani** said that in West Bengal HIRA regulates the real estate industry and one of the major aspects of HIRA is timely delivery and quality of construction. So quality has become a very important aspect of business. There are many standards that we need to follow in the construction industry. Another major component of modern housing is echo-friendly building.



## April 19, 2020 Special Session on the Key to Building Immunity



*Mr Karan Kakkad, Disease Reversal Expert*

The Session was addressed by Mr Karan Kakkad, Disease Reversal Expert

**Mr Karan Kakkad** was of opinion that there are five things that can weaken our immune system- stress, sedentary lifestyle, food and nutrition, lack of quality sleep and smoking and we should try to avoid all these things. He advised to perform Pranayam and Meditation on a regular basis. Mr Kakkad clarified that immune system helps us to fight from infection. Immune system is self defense mechanism and our body has the intelligence that identifies.

## April 20, 2020 Special Session on “Impact of Covid-19 on the economy – Outlook on equities – Investment opportunities.”

The Session was addressed by Mr Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co Ltd.

**Mr Nilesh Shah** remarked that Covid 19 is the most unprecedented crisis faced by the global and Indian economy. Globally, the economies are facing a medical crisis, economic crisis and financial crisis collectively. The extent of medical solution and the extent of monetary stimulus will determine what economic cost we have to bear. Government will also have to provide fiscal package to overcome the situation. These along with medical solutions will determine what will be the contour of our recovery. He however believed that India will gain significantly from low oil prices.



*Mr Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co Ltd*

## April 22, 2020 Special Session on “Right to Information.”



*Mr A N Tiwari, IAS (Retd), Ex Chief Information Commissioner of India*

The Session was addressed by Mr A N Tiwari, IAS (Retd), Ex Chief Information Commissioner of India, Ex Secretary of Personal and Training

While elaborating on the Right to Information (RTI) **Mr A N Tiwari** stated that RTI Act is predominantly about the demand side of information dissemination, i.e, demand for information disclosure by the citizen. But, there is also a supply-side to this Act, which relates to voluntary disclosure of information held by Public Authorities. Through RTI, massive information comes to the Public. He said, RTI must be given the credit for bringing revolutionary changes in the minds of Civil Services. The Act promotes transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government to promote participatory governance.



## April 23, 2020 Special Session on Impact of Covid-19 on the economy – Outlook on equities – Investment opportunities

The Session was addressed by Mr Mahendra Jajoo, Head - Fixed Income, Mirae Asset Management.

**Mr Mahendra Jajoo** was of opinion that to tide over the Covid-19 crisis, the government has to offer fiscal stimulus to industries and financial support to the public, especially the weaker sections of the society. He recommended that small investors can invest in small saving schemes and bank fixed deposits, while market-linked returns investors should opt for bond funds.



*Mr Mahendra Jajoo, Head - Fixed Income, Mirae Asset Management.*

## April 24, 2020 Special Session on “Business Strategy Post Covid”

The Session was addressed by Mr Hemant Kanoria, Chairman, SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited.

**Mr Hemant Kanoria** was of view that businesses will face difficult times in next 3/4 years. The focus at the moment should be on “survival and stability” and then they could look for expansion. During the current crisis, they need congenial atmosphere and constant support from the government like regulatory relaxations, liquidity support, so that they may continue to contribute towards employment generation, revenue and creation of national assets.

The current state of our economy might be termed as dismal as due to coronavirus there was instability, uncertainty, complexity everywhere. The growth could fall below Hindu rate of growth to 2.5 per cent. Moreover, since the work has stopped due to lockdown, there would be lot of disruption in the infrastructure projects, in construction and mining segments. As the migrant workers were going back or already went back, the resumption of full-fledged work would not be possible before September.



*Mr Hemant Kanoria, Chairman, SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited*



## April 28, 2020 Special Session on “Outlook & Developments in Fixed Income Market”

The Session was addressed by Mr Amit Joshi, CIO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance & Mr T A Ramalingam, CIO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.



Mr Amit Joshi, CIO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

**Mr Amit Joshi** said that the impact of the pandemic is multifold. The Government & the Banks have announced financial & fiscal measures and the medical fraternity is striving for solutions. Travel, tourism and industry will be paralyzed. To overcome the situation, more financial & fiscal support from the government and banks are necessary. One can invest in government bonds, life insurance portfolios etc, which are more regulated.

**Mr T A Ramalingam** emphasized on Insurance portfolios, especially on long term policy. Property insurance is very important and the Group Health Policy is good. We should do cyber insurance also so that we can stop lot of cyber attacks across the globe.



Mr T A Ramalingam, CIO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

## May 02, 2020 Special Session on “Health and Wellness in Lockdown”

The Session was addressed by Dr Ajay Agarwal, Neurosurgeon, CMRI (The Calcutta Medical Research Institute), Dr Shabnam Agarwal, PhD, Chief Physiotherapist, Belle Vue Clinic, Director-Education, Nopany Group of Institutions, Dr Pritee Ganatra, Leading Specialist in Alternative Medicine (Acupuncture & Sujok).



Dr Ajay Agarwal, Neurosurgeon, CMRI

**Dr Ajay Agarwal** said that in prevention is better than cure. Hydroxychloroquine may help us a little from Covid-19. Mask and social distancing may be the essential part in our life. We should build up our physical and mental health strongly. To increase immunity power, we should walk, do yoga and meditation regularly.

**Dr Shabnam Agarwal** said that Covid is one type of flu. To prevent Covid, Ministry of Ayush has given some guidelines to the people. They stressed on saline gargle, steam inhalation, having the antifungal property. She also advised yoga to build up cardiovascular system and respiratory system. Apart from these, Pranayam and general breathing exercise are best method to keep us healthy.



Dr Shabnam Agarwal, Chief Physiotherapist, Belle Vue Clinic



Dr Pritee Ganatra, Leading Specialist in Alternative Medicine

**Dr Pritee Ganatra** said that in current scenario, we need to strengthen our emotional health & calm our body & mind. Yoga, exercise & walking will reinforce immune level. She also indicated that the therapy like Acupuncture & Sujok can cure diseases like thyroid, hypertension, arthritis, asthma, cough and cold, diabetes, liver-related troubles, and more.

## May 12, 2020 Special Session on Impact of Covid 19 on Indian Economy & way forward



*Mr A Balasubramanian, MD & CEO  
Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited*

The Session was addressed by Mr A Balasubramanian, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited

**Mr A Balasubramanian** said that the world is facing extraordinary time. The lockdown has created huge impact on economic growth. In general, all the assumptions that were being made on various businesses are going to be changed. Industries should be given support & it is expected that in next few weeks, the government will extend fiscal stimulus to Industry. Equity market has been set volatile. The Pharma industry will do big in the Covid-19 situation. The telecom demand will go up and the employment will become critical.

## May 14, 2020 Special Session on to Fight the Economic Impact of the Pandemic

The Session was addressed by Mr Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament & India's Sherpa to the G20 & G7.

**Mr Suresh Prabhu** remarked that in the Covid 19 situation the most affected section in Indian industry were manufacturing, trade, services, mining, construction, which are hit in multiple ways. The revenue has stopped. But the industry has to incur expenses. In any business there are fixed cost and the variable cost and at least one can pause button on variable cost but fixed costs have to be incurred. Therefore it is not just a cash flow problem; if it is not addressed properly it could also become a solvency problem and good businesses can turn into a bad one if the solvency of businesses is not ensured. For this different kinds of intervention are called for. One is monetary policy, which normally is the role of Reserve Bank of India.

The second part of both liquidity and solvency will come from the fiscal policy. The fiscal policy has to add this issue in terms of providing taxation relieves, incentives to run the business properly. So overall the economy needs lot of supports from various quarters for industry to survive. Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced "Atma Nirvar Bharat" package which depends largely on the people. The people of India have to play a major role to implement the initiative.



*Mr Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament*



## May 25, 2020 Special Session on MSMEs: Key to A Self Reliant India

The Session was addressed by Mr Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

**Mr Nitin Gadkari** said that we are passing through a very critical situation due to Pandemic Covid 19. If we have positivity and self confidence in our mind, we will win the situation. For restructuring of MSME sector, the government has allotted Rs.20,000 crore. They have already restructured 6 lacs MSMEs and within December 2020 they are planning to restructure 25 lacs MSMEs. The department has allotted a fund of Rs.10,000 crore for MSMEs. The Minister hinted on further consideration in the revision of definition & sought suggestions from the Industry. He assured that Rs. 5 lac crore which is lying idle in PSUs and other large undertakings will be released within 45 days.

MSME Department is going to take many wonderful steps to upgrade the MSME sector. He said we should use new technology, new innovation and new research for MSMEs and the upgradation of technology is very important. He mentioned that the NBFCs are playing a great role. We are trying to bring more foreign investment in MSME sector. We should increase export and reduce import. The most important thing is that the contribution of MSMEs in our country's growth is 29%, we want to increase it up to 50%. Presently the export rate of MSME is 48% and we want it to 60%. The Minister said that 11 crore jobs has been created in the MSME sector so far and we want to create 5 crore more jobs in the coming five years.

The Minister also spoke about linking MSME liquidity to equity market. He said, the government will support those MSME units which have good rating by sharing 7.5 per cent in their stock market strength.



*Mr Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways & MSME*



## July 07, 2020 Special Session on Resurrection of Indian Economy amidst Global Trade Policies

The Session was addressed by Mr. Sunil Bhargava, FCA, LLB, PGDT, Country Managing Partner, S Bhargava Associates, Mr Arpit Bhargava, FCA, DIRM, ISA, LLM (IELPO) – Intl Trade, Partner, SBA Strategy Consulting LLP, Mr Rishabh Jain, ACA and CFA (USA), Trade Remedy Specialist, Partner, J Jain & Associates.



Mr Sunil Bhargava, FCA, LLB, PGDT,  
C M P, S Bhargava Associates

**Mr Sunil Bhargava** said that the real estate is in a bad shape in last 2-3 years, transport business suffered a lot, banking and finance is suffering for the last 3-4 years due to NPA problem, startups are in a very vulnerable shape, almost 12% have closed in the last six months, the GDP is expected to be 4-5% lower because of the pandemic.

**Mr Rishabh Jain** said that dumping is nothing but an unfair trade practice wherein an exporter discriminates the foreign country by selling its goods at a lower price than the price in the domestic market.



Mr Rishabh Jain, ACA and CFA (USA),  
Trade Remedy Specialist, Partner, J Jain & Associates.



Mr Arpit Bhargava, FCA, DIRM, ISA, LLM (IELPO) –  
Intl Trade, Partner, SBA Strategy Consulting LLP,

**Mr Arpit Bhargava** remarked that during this pandemic period, the trade has been disrupted and many businesses are not able to import parts for their products because there are certain restrictions. There is a possibility of trade barriers like antidumping duty, countervailing duty to promote the Make in India idea.

## July 10, 2020 Session on Nyay aur Swadharam Se Rashtha Nirman

The Session was addressed by Mr Raghu Hari Dalmia, Philanthropist & Nationalist & Ex-President, Dalmia Cement Bharat Ltd.



Mr Raghu Hari Dalmia, Philanthropist & Nationalist  
& Ex-President, Dalmia Cement Bharat Ltd.

**Mr Raghu Hari Dalmia** is of opinion that the slogan should be “Mera Desh Meri Jimmedari”. There are three entities of building nation-

i) economic, ii) cultural, spiritual and scientific and iii) social. Every citizen feels proud for the country. We should be very conscious about our country not in words but in deeds. We are talking about Europe, Japan, Singapore and all other countries and we want our country to be like them but we don't see the attitude and character of those countries citizens and don't see the attitude and character of us. The whole actions of Indians go to their benefit first but their actions should go to their responsibility. So we should build up our attitude first. He also said that life is a manifestation of our thoughts. Citizens and society are more important than making profits.



## July 13, 2020 Special Session on Online Learning – Impact And Opportunities



Mr Leslie D'Gama

The Session was addressed by Ms Sharmila Bose, Principal, Sushila Birla Girls' School, Ms Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School, Ms Salony Priya, Director, Ummeed Counselling & Consulting Services, Counselling Psychologist & Mr Leslie D'Gama, Learning and Development Consultant.



Ms Salony Priya, Director, Ummeed Counselling & Consulting Services Counselling Psychologist

**Ms Salony Priya** said that for the pre-primary students the online learning is a lot of fun. At the schools, the teachers are doing a fantastic job. The children of top schools of any city are quite well equipped with all kinds of infrastructure for digital world. But now the 'B' category of schools too is also the part of global community.



Ms Sharmila Bose, Principal, Sushila Birla Girls' School

**Ms Sharmila Bose** said that students have learnt to be self-reliant, confident and independent in this pandemic situation. There is surely a difference between physical classroom teaching and online teaching. Most of the Indian students are dependent on others like teachers, parents and other students; this has changed drastically.



Ms Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School

**Ms Seema Sapru** said that the classrooms are at home now. The students have learnt how to survive this time. The students have to take care of themselves. She said that there are two things in the online learning, one is synchronous learning and the other one is asynchronous learning.

## July 18, 2020 Mental Health during Covid Times

The Guests of Honour are Dr Sabyasachi Mitra, Consultant Neuro-Psychiatrist & Ms. Paromita Mitra Bhaumik, Consultant Psychologist and Learning and Development Coach.



Dr Sabyasachi Mitra, Consultant Neuro-Psychiatrist

**Ms Paromita Mitra Bhaumik** said that there are three main factors in the stress i.e. uncertainty, the fear of the disease and third one is economic crisis. In this Covid situation stress is very normal. Always remember that we are not defeated by the adversity but we are defeated by the loss of the will to fight the adversity. In the morning we can listen to music which can put us in the positive mode, after music it is movement and the third one is meditation or prayer.

**Dr Sabyasachi** Mitra said that this Pandemic will immediately be followed by Tsunami of mental health problem and we have to be prepared for the art of coping. Brain develops catastrophic thinking when it is not functioning at its best. Anxiety in human beings comes from the fear. There are various types of therapies which help mild to moderate depression and anxiety. We have to adopt the new situation. Importantly, we have seen that after any endemic, human beings are being the winner.



Ms Paromita Mitra Bhaumik Consultant Psychologist and Learning and Development Coach



## July 20, 2020 Role of Banks in Making India Self-reliant

The Guest of Honour is Mr Arijit Basu, Managing Director (CCG & IT), State Bank of India. The meeting was moderated by Mr Bijay Murmura, CA, Director, Sumedha Fiscal Services Limited

**Mr Arijit Basu** said that the economic activity of the world has come to a standstill due to ever seen Pandemic. Under this situation the Govt. of India and Reserve Bank of India has been very prompt offering assistance to both MSMEs and the corporate. Within one week of lockdown, the RBI has announced moratorium and additional liquidity in the system which helps ease down the interest rate significantly and all measures have been taken. The Government of India also announced the economic measures for the MSME sector because they are vulnerably impacted in this situation.



*Mr Arijit Basu, Managing Director (CCG & IT), State Bank of India*

## July 24, 2020 Making India Self-reliant

The Guest of Honour is Mr V K Saraswat, Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog



*Mr V K Saraswat, Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog*

**Mr V K Saraswat**, Member of the Niti Aayog feels that countries like India should be better prepared to combat situations, including threats of biological warfare. Bio-medical research and bio-medical engineering in India should get more priority amid the Covid-19 pandemic. He said, "India has advanced in the field of bio-medical research. Focus in R&D is an investment and it should increase in fields like bio-science, bio-technology and bio-medical engineering."

Mr. Saraswat said India spends only 0.7% of its GDP for R&D, whereas the developed countries are spending nearly 2% of their GDP for that. "The 0.7% spending is inadequate and it will gradually increase in the next five-six years. We need to create R&D clusters," said the Niti Aayog member. According to him, dependence on the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) imported from China has to be done away with gradually.



## July 31, 2020 Foreign Policy Under Current Scenario

The Guest of Honour is Mr Rahul Chhabra, IFS, Hon'ble Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



*Mr Rahul Chhabra, IFS Hon'ble Secretary (Economic Relations)  
Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India*

**Mr Rahul Chhabra** said that the COVID-19 pandemic is like a "black swan" event which has caused the fastest decline in global output in history. The government has responded to this by launching the "Atmanirbhar" (self-reliant) programme to make India a nerve centre of global supply chain. "Atmanirbhar" programme is not inward looking. The Government's commitment of Public Private Partnership is the best way forward. The programme also underscores the government's faith in the private sector to deliver. Mr. Chhabra said "The world has seen the danger of relying on one country. Messages have also been sent to Indian missions abroad to promote the country as an alternative low-cost sourcing destination". India has proved that it is the pharmacy of the world as drugs were supplied to 125 countries for battling the COVID-19 crisis and 80 countries received the drugs as grants. India has also been providing lines of credit to many countries across the world to build infrastructure projects, he said. The goal of commercial diplomacy is based on the benchmarks of transparency, fair and equitable justice, Chhabra added.

The Government of India has set up a Satellite Network in the education field called E-Vidyabharti. The Indian educational institutions will be imparting education to African students via satellite link, so there is huge transformation happening in that sense. Similarly the same satellite link is going to be used in the medical space also called E-Arogyabharti and these are the opportunities that are coming in the long term.

## August 08, 2020 Value Investing in Volatile Times

The Guest of Honour is Mr Rajeev Thakkar, CIO, Parag Parikh Mutual Fund

**Mr Rajeev Thakkar** said that we are passing through very volatile times. The equity and global GDP both are very volatile in most of the times. Equity market will have ups and down. From the investing point of view the real benefit from equity market comes only after 10-15 years. So investment in equity market is not a short term investment. He suggested to buy a quality company shares at a reasonable price rather than to buy a bad quality company at a cheap price.



*Mr Rajeev Thakkar, CIO, Parag Parikh Mutual Fund*

## September 07, 2020 Managing fear and anxiety during Covid times

The Guests of Honour are H H Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President and Spiritual Head, Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh & Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, President, Divine Shakti Foundation, Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance.

**Swami Chidanandji** said that now we are thinking together during this Pandemic situation and this is the need of the hour. Swamiji explained why the problems come in our life. He enlightened that we are the problems and we are the solutions. He elaborated on how we can overcome the pandemic situation and how to maintain the fear, stress and anxiety. There are three tools to handle the situation, i.e. meditation, no reaction and introspection. We have to stop worry and start working. Meditation is the best medication for all of our lives and through meditation we can come out from the problems and anxiety. In the present Covid situation we should maintain the social distancing but not mental distancing. Our relation, our bonding should be tighter. He advised to live with compassion and distribute love to everybody.



*H H Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President and Spiritual Head, Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh*



*Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswatiji, President, Divine Shakti Foundation, Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance.*

**Sadhvi Bhagwatiji** said that this Corona Virus has given us a lot of time and wonderful moment to everybody. She said that we have to realize what actually the God has given to us. We should realize our movement of mind, movement of our heart. Anxiety, fear, stress, negative thinking are rampant during this situation. We just have to keep our stress far away. Then again, stress is our friend and it has taught us how to survive. Covid has actually given us something new, we have no control over it and only thing is in our hand that we can control our own action and reaction.



## September 19, 2020 Meeting on Attaining Optimal Health through Lifestyle Modification and Food Management

The Guest of Honour is Ms Hemlata Rathi, Nutrition & Wellness Consultant

**Ms Hemlata Rathi** began with a cue that Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has declared the month of September as the nutrition month. She reminded that health is wealth. We have seen that those who are suffering from lifestyle disorder, their recovery rate is very less in this Covid 19 situation and they are more prone to infection by this kind of viruses. Therefore we should not depend on medicine to boost the immunity but to depend on our own immunity, optimize our health so that we are ready to fight any kind of viruses and diseases. We should be taking care of three parameters- physical health, mental health and emotional health. When we attain the best in all these spheres, we will have the perfect optimal health.



*Ms Hemlata Rathi, Nutrition & Wellness Consultant*

## September 26, 2020 Meeting on Cyber Crime – Awareness and Cautions

The Guest of Honour are Mr Akash Jain, IRS, Deputy Director, Enforcement Directorate - Eastern Region, Kolkata & Dr Arif Ahmed, Professor and Director, South Asian Management Technologies Foundation, Kolkata.

**Mr Akash Jain** stated that the cyber crime is mostly related to financial crimes in India like bank fraud and frauds undertaken over the computers. As the literacy rate in India is very less and to think of a cyber secured environment in India is like a myth right now. The hackers mostly target people those who are not literate and technologically-oriented and therefore the problems and threats in India is very high. The government has recognized these problems and amended the IPC Act and other criminal Acts. They have been incorporating the cyber crime as one of the major crime and tries to institutionalize and modify those according to act.



*Mr Akash Jain, IRS, Deputy Director, Enforcement Directorate - Eastern Region, Kolkata*

**Dr Arif Ahmed** remarked that a society needs a set of law and set of standards. The objective of the cyber security is to discourage wrong doing. But any law anywhere in the world has not been able to prevent this wrong doing. But there are some remarkable penal measures. Any attack, anything that compromises confidentiality, availability, integrity and authenticity is the cyber crime.



*Dr Arif Ahmed, Professor and Director, South Asian Management Technologies Foundation, Kolkata*



## October 07, 2020 Meeting on Faceless, Seamless Assessments under Direct Tax

The Guest of Honour is Mr Bishwanath Jha, IRS, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, West Bengal & Sikkim



*Mr Bishwanath Jha, IRS, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, West Bengal & Sikkim*

**Mr Bishwanath Jha** apprised the members present that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India inaugurated the new Faceless Scheme on 13th of August 2020 in respect of assessment by assessing officer and that has become effective from the very first day. All assessment works now become faceless. From 25th of September 2020 the scheme has now been extended to the 1st level of appeal also, all 1st appellate proceedings except Central and International and all appellate proceedings without any exception are now under the faceless mode. He explained the necessity of this radical change and what was wrong in earlier system which is being corrected by the new system. In any tax system, there are two issues which create some difficulty for the taxpayers. One is tax rate and the other is tax process. The rate may be very high and process may be very cumbersome and it causes undue harassment to the taxpayers. There was some kind of trust deficit to the tax administrator and the taxpayer. This new assessment scheme addresses those issues. The primary aim of this new scheme is transparent tax administration; the second is accountability and third is efficiency. The other important aspect of the new scheme is that it is a team-based assessment for which the efficiency goes up. Therefore the chance of absurd figure getting assessed is almost gone. The Department is using the State of Art Technology. All the information of taxpayers are now available under Annual Information System (AIS), everything will be visible from AIS.



## October 12, 2020 Meeting on Faceless E-Assessment in Customs

The Guest of Honour is Mr Pramod Kumar Agrawal, IRS, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata

At the outset **Mr Pramod Kumar Agrawal** mentioned about “Atmanirbhar Bharat” declared by Hon’ble Prime Minister of India which would make our market from local to global and global to local. This is completely related to the service of customs department. We want clearance should be faster through e-customs through faceless. The new system should be paperless, contactless and faceless and the digitization of all documents, automated clearance and ease of doing business- these are the three pillars of Turant Customs. He said the department wants to introduce the robust, professional and most efficient customs service. He mentioned 2 ‘Os’ i.e. openness and opportunity and this is the time to adopt 2 ‘Os’. We have to collect revenue, we have to safeguard our national boundary and then we have to provide the best service and there is no compromise, this is the motto of the Customs department.



*Mr Pramod Kumar Agrawal, IRS, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata*

## October 14, 2020 Meeting on Focused Investment – Minimised Risk

The Guest of The Guest of Honour is Mr Kirtan Shah, CFP, Sykes & Ray Equities



*Mr Kirtan Shah, CFP, Sykes & Ray Equities*

Regarding investment in US Stock Market, **Mr Kirtan Shah** mentioned that the US market is very technology-driven set up. US are less volatile than most of the other economies and stock market but it also performs better in terms of return than most developing economies. Investing in the US adds a lot of value to us because it is not just a return but we also make lot of money on currency depreciation. He sincerely requested the investment community to go for mutual fund because it is a far safer and far better option. For Senior Citizens he advised to invest in the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme which is giving 7.4%, LIC product available like Pradhan Mantri Vandana Yojana which is also giving 7.4% .



## November 06, 2019 Diwali Get Together



## January 04, 2020 New Year Get Together





**WB farmers not benefiting from Centre's schemes**

**U**nlike other states, West Bengal farmers are not getting any benefit from the Centre's schemes. This is the view of the Union Minister for Agriculture, Anurag Thakur, who said that the government has not been able to reach the farmers in West Bengal.

Thakur said that the government has been trying to reach the farmers in West Bengal through various schemes, but it has not been able to do so. He said that the government has been trying to reach the farmers in West Bengal through various schemes, but it has not been able to do so.

**কিছান চম্পান নিধি'র বঙ্গের কী মাথাবানি নাই: কথবলে**

কেন্দ্রের কৃষি মন্ত্রী অনুরাগ তাকুর বলেছেন, উত্তরবঙ্গের কৃষকরা কেন্দ্রের বিভিন্ন স্কিমের সুবিধা পাননি। তিনি বলেন, কেন্দ্রের বিভিন্ন স্কিমের সুবিধা পাননি। তিনি বলেন, কেন্দ্রের বিভিন্ন স্কিমের সুবিধা পাননি।

**বর্তমান**

**প্রধানমন্ত্রী কিষাণ সম্মান নিধি যোজনা নিয়ে কেন্দ্র ও রাজ্যের চাপানডোতার**

প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কৃষি সম্মান নিধি যোজনা নিয়ে কেন্দ্র ও রাজ্যের চাপানডোতার। প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কৃষি সম্মান নিধি যোজনা নিয়ে কেন্দ্র ও রাজ্যের চাপানডোতার।

**The Telegraph**  
CALCUTTA FRIDAY 17 JANUARY 2020

**Judicial reforms on the anvil**

**OUR BUREAU**

Calcutta: The Centre is looking to carry out more judicial reforms to improve the ease of doing business in India. Anurag Singh Thakur, the minister of state for finance, said in Calcutta on Thursday.

At a joint forum of the chamber of commerce and two bodies of professional association in the run-up to the Union Budget, Thakur said: "The country has done so well in ease of doing business ranking that has gone up from 142 to 68. So far as the arbitration and judicial system is concerned, our ranking is very poor. It is an area of concern."

The World Bank comes out with a ranking for countries on doing business on 11 parameters. While India has done well in bankruptcy, it has done poorly in "enforcing contracts."

Thakur, however, said the government would beef up the bankruptcy process with more benches at NCLT and branches of NCLAT in several states, including Calcutta.

The minister also held out hope for Bengal's beleaguered real estate sector which is worried about not benefiting from a central scheme for completing unfinished projects because of a legal quagmire.

**THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020**

**Amurag Thakur in Kolkata on Thursday**

**'Mamata govt turning non-issue into political row'**

Indian Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur on Thursday dismissed the Opposition parties for protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and said the present row was not about hiding their failures.

The Union minister, who was in Kolkata to attend an inter-state session organised by various chambers of commerce, also questioned Congress president Sonia Gandhi for opposing the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which was introduced by her husband and then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in the Assam Act in 1985.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, Thakur said, "We have to decide if NRC (National Population Register) was held earlier in the country, then why did the government hold it only in Assam? The Mamata Banerjee government could not come out of the corruption charges against it and trying to politicise a political issue."

He said, "I want to ask the chief minister (Mamata Banerjee) and other ministers - whether they can show a seed in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which says citizenship will be taken away?"

The minister said out of the 325 amendments in the country, 290 were held up by a handful of them.

**The Telegraph**  
CALCUTTA SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020

**BUSINESS**

**Steelmakers raise prices**

Steel prices in India have risen for a second day, as steelmakers raise prices. The prices of various grades of steel have risen by 10-15%.

**প্রধানমন্ত্রীর**

প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কৃষি সম্মান নিধি যোজনা নিয়ে কেন্দ্র ও রাজ্যের চাপানডোতার। প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কৃষি সম্মান নিধি যোজনা নিয়ে কেন্দ্র ও রাজ্যের চাপানডোতার।

**समाचार**

**विद्यार्थियों को भड़का रही है जनाधार खोती पार्टियां : अनुराग ठाकुर**

**2010 में जब काउंसिल लाया था एनपीआर, तब क्यों नहीं किया था विरोध**

अनुराग ठाकुर ने कहा कि 2010 में जब एनपीआर (NPR) लागू किया गया था, तब भी विरोध नहीं हुआ था। उन्होंने कहा कि जनाधार खोती पार्टियां विद्यार्थियों को भड़का रही हैं।



**TIMES BUSINESS**

**Niti Aayog member bats for bio-medical push**

Kolkata: Bio-medical research and bio-medical engineering in India should get more priority amid the Covid-19 pandemic, said V. R. Saravanan, member of the Niti Aayog, a strategic advisory body to the Government of India.

Saravanan said India spends only 0.7% of its GDP on R&D, whereas the developed countries spend around 3% of their GDP on R&D. "The 0.7% spending is inadequate and will gradually increase in the next five to six years. We need to create R&D centres," said the Niti Aayog member.

According to him, dependence on the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) imported from China has to be done away with gradually.

**ব্যবসায় সমস্যা লাল ফিতের ফাঁস, মানছেন নীতি সদস্য**

কলকাতা: কোভিড-১৯ মহামারীর কারণে ভারতের জীবনোপযোগী গবেষণা এবং জীবনোপযোগী প্রকৌশল ক্ষেত্রে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া উচিত।

নীতি আয়োগের সদস্য বি. আর. সারবানান বলেছেন, ভারতের জিডিপি-এর মাত্র ০.৭% গবেষণা ও উদ্ভাবন (R&D) খরচ করা হয়, যেখানে উন্নত দেশগুলি ৩% খরচ করে।





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