



# ANNUAL REPORT



**2019-2020**

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प्रधान मंत्री  
Prime Minister  
**MESSAGE**

I am pleased to learn that the American Chamber of Commerce in India (AMCHAM-India) is holding its 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

Today, the world strives for a stronger and a healthier future. The world looks towards India with optimism and trust, particularly in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. It is in this context that the partnership between India and the USA, two dynamic democracies and vibrant economies assume a critical importance for the world economy and global markets. A robust, thriving partnership between our nations can help in guiding the world overcome this pandemic,. The need of the hour is to train our collective focus on holistic and inclusive development that accords the highest priority to human-centric growth.

During the last six years, our approach has been to make our economy more transparent and reform-driven. Economic reforms have enhanced our competitive spirit, optimised transparency and leveraged innovation. It is our firm belief that 'Ease of Living' and 'Ease of Business' must go hand-in-hand.

Our vision of '*Aatmanirbhar Bharat*' is of a self-reliant nation that is fully integrated with the world economy. India is being seen as one of the most attractive investment destinations in the spheres of finance, defence, space, infrastructure, civil aviation, energy and healthcare. As a nation, we are blessed with a huge market, immense trade opportunities and skilled manpower.

The 28<sup>th</sup> AGM of American Chamber of Commerce in India is being held at an opportunity, but critical moment for the world. I am sure that this meeting will play an important role in further strengthening the India-US partnership and make the world a better place.

I wish the deliberations at the AGM all success.

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi

श्रावण 06, शक संवत् 1942

28<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

**Ms. Ranjana Khanna**

Director General, CEO

American Chamber of Commerce in India

PHD House, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 4/2, Siri Institutional Area

August Kranti Marg

New Delhi- 110016



## Co-Chairperson's Message



The 28th AGM of AMCHAM rolls in the midst of a global pandemic with an enormous human toll. We earnestly hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy!

India-U.S. relations are thriving against the odds and remains critical for the shaping of world order in the 21st century. The India-U.S. relationship has proved resilient amid the immense changes underway in international politics. The United States and India have shared interests in promoting global security and defense, stability, economic prosperity through trade, investment, and coordination on infrastructure, maritime security, counterterrorism, and cyber security have all increased. The United States supports India's emergence as a leading global power and vital partner in efforts to ensure that the Indo-Pacific is a region of peace, stability and growing prosperity. Both U.S. investments in India and Indian investments in U.S. have seen dramatic increase in recent years.

In September 2019, Prime Minister Modi visited Houston and he addressed a large Indian American contingent in the Houston NRG stadium. Along with President Trump, at the event titled Howdy Modi, he reaffirmed Indian American ties, with an emphasis on increased military cooperation. In February 2020, President Trump visited Ahmedabad, Gujarat to address a large Indian crowd at the Motera stadium. The event, titled "Namaste Trump", was a response to the "Howdy Modi" event held in 2019. The event served as a platform for the U.S. president and the Indian prime minister to show off their friendly relationship.

A decade ago, the Indian military had virtually no American equipment in its inventory, but today India flies American aircrafts and helicopters, have American artillery, and have an American ship as well. The India-U.S. security partnership witnessed more arms purchase, bringing to seven the number of U.S. military platforms in India's arsenal, many with components manufactured or assembled in India. Additionally, the signing of three significant defence cooperation agreements; upgraded bilateral, trilateral, and quadrilateral dialogues; and regularised military exercises involving all three services have solidified the defence relationship.

On the economic side, two-way trade in goods and services has increased; India is now the U.S.'s eighth-largest trade partner. The U.S. remained India's top trading partner for the second consecutive fiscal in 2019-20, which shows increasing economic ties between the two countries. According to the data of the commerce ministry, in 2019-20, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at USD 149 billion and will continue growing as both the sides are engaged in further deepening the economic ties.

During the 2+2 Inter ministerial dialogue of 2019 late last year, both nations finalized signing of The Industrial Security Annex (ISA) to the India-U.S. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) to provide a framework for exchange and protection of classified military information between the U.S. and Indian defence industries. This will enable greater industry-to-industry collaboration for co-production and co-development in the defence sector. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the Defense Trade and Technology Initiative was also finalized. This supports the two side's processes for identification, development and execution of projects under the DTTI. The Industry-to-Industry Framework under DTTI is serving as a mechanism for dialogue and exchanges between the U.S. and Indian defence industries and their governments. The two sides also agreed to facilitate a MoA between the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, focussed on providing technical assistance to MoCA in developing, modernizing, operating, and maintaining civil aviation infrastructure in India. The two countries also decided to continue dialogue on Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), explore collaboration on MRO facilities in India, placement of Indian Liaison officers in key US Commands, Annual Tiger Triumph exercise and peacekeeping in the Indo-Pacific, Parliamentary exchange, Science & Technology agreement, and also signed a water MOU amongst other key agreements.

Early this year United States Trade Representative (USTR) took down India from the list of developing countries that are eligible to claim benefits for preferential treatment with respect to Countervailing duties (CVDs) investigations. This falls under the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) which is an umbrella that comprises the bulk of preferential schemes granted by industrialized nations to developing countries. India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the United States Trade Representative also reached an understanding on various bilateral trade issues raised by the two sides to facilitate trade, improve market access and address issues of interest to both sides.

Energy trade, in particular, has tremendously seen a high growth. During a virtual ministerial meeting of the U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) earlier this month, the United states and India are working together to modernize power grids in support of India's goal to provide reliable and affordable energy to its population; develop greater integration of modern energy sources into India's power systems; enhance energy security and increase the focus on energy efficiency and combatting air pollution. It emphasizes knowledge exchange for reform in electricity distribution as well as under the Flexible Resources Initiative under the U.S.-India Clean Energy Finance Task Force.

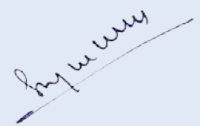
For most U.S. based tech giants, India is now one of their top three customer bases. Indian companies are also investing heavily in the U.S. and Indians have established the largest number of billion-dollar start-up companies in the U.S. founded by immigrants.

In the end, we would like to convey our honest gratitude to both the U.S. and Indian governments for their leadership. Our particular appreciations to all the senior U.S. Embassy representatives, and leaders of the Consulates in India for their unstinted and continuous support; and for their gracious acceptance to be representatives on board of various AMCHAM sectors including their initiatives and activities. We wish to thank the entire National Executive Board and Regional Chairpersons for providing their time, knowledge, expertise and leadership facilitating AMCHAM to carry out the responsibilities.

Last but not the least, we would like to acknowledge Ranjana Khanna, Director General and CEO of AMCHAM and the entire secretariat for competently carrying out their responsibilities to make AMCHAM the apex chamber for U.S. companies in India.



**Kaku Nakhate**  
Vice-Chair



**Sanjay Koul**  
Vice-Chair



## Director General CEO's Report 2019 - 20

I am to report to you an account of our activities during the last one year. It is indeed a tricky job because there is a possibility of my inflating the achievements or a danger of understating the credit side of the ledger in my effort to make an objective assessment. Nonetheless the responsibility of the office demands to make you acquaint with the efforts we made in our endeavour to enlarge the activities of AMCHAM and to work towards promoting the interests of our members, in particular and the U.S. industry in general.

During the year, AMCHAM organized 187 interactions pan India across sectors. These are all listed in the following pages in the Annual Report. However, I will highlight here only a few important major activities.

- Meetings with visiting U.S. Government officials:
  - Mr. Ian Steff, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce,
  - Mr. Thomas R. Hardy, Director (Acting), U.S. Trade and Development Agency,
  - Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX),
  - Ms. Ellen Lord, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), Department of Defense,
  - Ambassador Tina Kaidanow, Senior Advisor, International Cooperation, Office of Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense,
  - Mr. Michael Vaccaro, Director, International Armaments Cooperation, Department of Defense,
  - Mr. Scott Baum, Principal Director, Industrial Policy, Department of Defense,
  - Mr. Terrence Emmert, Advanced Capabilities, Office of Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense,
  - MG Daniel McDaniel, U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC),
  - Representative Ami Bera (D-CA),
  - Representative George Holding (R-NC),
  - Ms. Zeba Reyazuddin, Acting Assistant, U.S. Trade Representative, South and Central Asian Affairs
  - Mr. Philip Lovas, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism, U.S. Department of Commerce.
- Regularly interacted with officials in the U.S. Embassy and Consulates.
- Honorary National Executive Board Members of AMCHAM, Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor EEST, U.S. Embassy briefed members bimonthly on the current state of U.S.-India bilateral relations.
- The annual door knock delegation to Washington took place in June, in which a 17-member delegation from AMCHAM met with more than 30 U.S. policy makers, staffers and government officials from various agencies, including USTR,

USTDA, Department of Defense, The White House, and the Indian Embassy, among others. This year the delegation with 6 members of Congress, the most from any door knock to date: Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Representative Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), Representative Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Representative Steve Chabot (R-OH), Representative Brian Mast (R-FL) and Representative Ami Bera (D-CA).

- Continued interactions with policy-makers during the course of the year.
- Continued interactions were held with the Secretaries of concerned departments of Government of India along with their teams.
- At the State level, meetings were held with the senior officials.
- The Committees had had regular meetings and have been actively engaged with policy issues to be taken with the Government.
- Representations on various issues were made to the concerned government departments.
- Regional offices have been having continued interactions with the members.
- Focused interactions were organized across sectors during the year.
- The Manufacturing Committee organized a brainstorming session on 'Make in India – Exporting to Global Markets' which focused on accelerating electronics manufacturing in India and on exports for India's growth to a \$5 trillion economy.
- The committee's signature event was held in February 2020 in partnership with Invest India entitled 'Make in India – Manufacturing for the World' with a keynote address by Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Government of India.
- AMCHAM's Western Region Signature event under the overarching theme 'The India Opportunity: Accelerating Growth.'
- The Hyderabad Chapter had its 7th Healthcare Conference with the Theme: Evolving Models for Healthcare Delivery in the Digital Era.
- NextGen Leadership Program 2019-20

The first edition of AMCHAM India's NextGen Leadership Program 2019-20, launched in July 2019, has been successfully completed in May 2020. 71 participants from amongst 91 registrants have qualified to be awarded certificates. Feedback received from participants as well as some CEOs has been most encouraging.

- US–India Fast Track Mechanism
- 'India at \$5 Trillion: Strengthening Opportunities, Removing Hurdles'
- Additional networking programs:
  - Sports event in Hyderabad
  - Golf Tournament in Karnataka
  - Christmas Ball in Delhi

I would like to thank the Honorary President of AMCHAM, the U.S. Ambassador, who has been generous with his time and interacted with members multiple times this year, officials of the U.S. Embassy and the Consulates, particularly Mr. J. Robert Garverick, Minister-Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, and Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, the Chairpersons of AMCHAM, Mr. Phil Shaw (till 20th November 2019) and Mr. Karanjit Singh Bajwa (from 20th November 2019 to 8th January 2020) and the two Vice Chairs, Mr. Sanjay Koul and Ms. Kaku Nakhate, the Honorary Secretary & Treasurer, Mr. Atul Dhawan and members of the National Executive Board, for their support. My thanks are also due to the Regional Chairpersons, Chairs and Vice Chairs of our sectoral committees who devoted time and energy to take AMCHAM agenda forward. I would like to thank Mr. C.R. Dua, Chairman, Dua Associates, for providing considered legal opinion on all matters when AMCHAM needed it most and guiding me to take right decisions. Last but not the least, I would like to thank the secretariat team without whose support I would have not able to carry out my responsibilities.

**Ranjana Khanna**  
Director General CEO



# AMCHAM's National Executive Board 2019-20

The chamber is guided by a diverse and well - balanced board of directors elected by the membership.  
The board consists of:

- Nine members elected by the general body
- Six regional chapter chairpersons
- Immediate past chairperson
- Six members elected by regional chapters
- Two honorary members from the U.S. Embassy
- One special invitee

**Office Bearers**  
**Honorary President - U.S. Ambassador**  
**H.E. Mr. Kenneth I. Juster**

## **Chairman**

Mr. Phil Shaw\*  
Chief Executive  
Lockheed Martin India Pvt. Ltd.

## **Vice Chairperson**

Ms. Kaku Nakhate  
President & Country Head (India)  
Bank of America N.A.

## **Vice Chairman**

Mr. Sanjay Koul  
Chairman & Managing Director  
Timken India Limited

## **Hon. Secretary & Treasurer**

Mr. Atul Dhawan  
Partner  
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP

## **Immediate Past Chairman:**

Mr. Krish Iyer\*\*  
President and CEO  
Wal-Mart India Pvt. Ltd.

\* Till 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 \*\* Till 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

**Executive Board Members 2019 - 2020**

Mr. Rajan Aiyer  
Managing Director – Trimble India & SAARC Region  
Trimble Information Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Subrata Bagchi\*\*\*  
President  
TCG Digital Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Karan Bajwa\*\*\*\*  
MD and RGM India & South Asia  
IBM India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Sanjay Bhutani  
Managing Director - India & SAARC  
Bausch & Lomb India

Mr. Ravinder Dang  
Managing Director  
Baxter (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Salil Gupte  
President  
Boeing India

Mr. Rajesh Janey  
President & Managing Director - Enterprise India  
Dell EMC

Mr. Arun M. Kumar  
Chairman and CEO  
KPMG in India

Ms. Rekha M. Menon  
Chairman and Senior Managing Director  
Accenture in India

Kaku Nakhate  
President & Country Head, India  
Bank of America N.A.

\*\*\* Till 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 \*\*\*\* Till 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy\*\*\*\*\*  
Executive Director, India  
Cognizant Technology Solutions

Mr. Shashidhar Reddy  
Vice President - Engineering  
Qualcomm India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Gulshan Kumar Sachdev  
Managing Director  
Quaker Chemical India Limited

Mr. Iqbal Sait  
Head of EMEA Operations  
Saggezza India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Som Satsangi  
Managing Director  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise India

Mr. Ursula Thakkar\*\*\*\*\*  
Managing Director, South Asia  
Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Abhishek Tomar  
Managing Director  
S&P Capital IQ (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Luca Visini  
Managing Director  
Eli Lilly and Company Indian Sub-Continent

**Honorary Members:**

Mr. J. Robert Garverick  
Minister-Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs  
U.S. Embassy

Ms. Aileen Nandi  
Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs  
U.S. Embassy

**Special Invitee:**

Mr. C.R. Dua  
Chairman  
Dua Associates

# AMCHAM India

## Sectoral Committees 2019-20

Keeping the members' interest foremost, the committees focus on the following:

- Providing a platform to exchange information about government policies.
- Arranging meetings and seminars where various issues are discussed.
- Submitting AMCHAM's memoranda to the concerned authorities and following up on relevant issues.
- Organizing meetings where members can network and build a wide range of business and official contacts.

Each sectoral committee is headed by a chairperson (one of the AMCHAM members) appointed by the chairperson / national executive board. All members are invited to join the committees which fall under their respective industry.

Committee / Working Group	Industry Chair	Industry Co-Chair	Honorary USG Chair
<b>Agriculture &amp; Food Processing Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Simon George</b> President Cargill India Pvt. Ltd.		
<b>Anti-Corruption &amp; FCPA Compliance Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Gaurav Ajmani</b> Associate General Counsel: Business Conduct & Ethics Amazon Seller Services (P) Ltd.	<b>Ms. Bhawna A. Ranganadhan</b> Vice President, Legal and Compliance Genpact	
<b>Aviation Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Salil Gupte</b> President, Boeing India Boeing India Pvt. Ltd.	-----	
<b>Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Harish Krishnan</b> Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC Cisco Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd.	<b>Ms. Sangita Ghalay</b> Head – CSR Honeywell India  <b>Ms. Kshitija Krishnaswamy</b> Managing Director - Corporate Citizenship Accenture Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	
<b>Cyber Security Committee</b>		<b>Mr. Amrit Singh Deo Managing Director</b> FTI Consulting  <b>Mr. Kishore Balaji</b> Director - Corporate Affairs Intel Technology India Pvt. Ltd.	

Committee / Working Group	Industry Chair	Industry Co-Chair	Honorary USG Chair
		<p><b>Mr. Rajnish Gupta</b> Regional Director–India &amp; SAARC, RSA (A Dell Technologies company) Dell</p>	
<b>Defense Committee</b>	<p><b>Mr. Michael Koch</b> Vice President Boeing India Defense, Space &amp; Security</p>	<p><b>Mr. Nikhil Khanna</b> Managing Director, India BAE Systems</p> <p><b>Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta</b> Partner - International Tax &amp; Regulatory KPMG in India</p>	<p><b>CAPT Daniel Fillion</b> Chief Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) U.S. Embassy</p>
<b>Diversity &amp; Inclusion Committee</b>	<p><b>Ms. Kaku Nakhate</b> President &amp; Country Head (India) Bank of America N.A.</p>		<p><b>Mr. David J. Ranz</b> Consul General U.S. Consulate General Mumbai</p>
<b>Economic Affairs Committee</b>	<p><b>Mr. Nitin Atroley</b> Office Managing Partner – North KPMG in India</p>		
<b>Energy Committee</b>	<p><b>Ms. Preetha Nair</b> Head - Asia True North Venture Partners</p>		<p><b>Mr. Robert Garverick</b> Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs U.S. Embassy</p> <p><b>Ms. Dinah McDougall</b> Commercial Officer U.S. Embassy</p>
<b>HR Committee</b>	<p><b>Ms. Smriti Ahuja</b> Global Head - Organization Effectiveness Cognizant Technology Solutions</p>	<p><b>Ms. Kavita Mathur</b> People &amp; Culture Leader Grant Thornton Advisory Private Limited</p> <p><b>Ms. Rachna R. Kumar</b> Vice President Human Resources Whirlpool India</p>	
<b>Healthcare Services Committee</b>	<p><b>Mr. Madan R. Krishnan</b> Vice President and Managing Director - India Medtronic Pvt. Ltd.</p>		<p><b>Ms. Aileen Nandi</b> Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs U.S. Embassy</p>

Committee / Working Group	Industry Chair	Industry Co-Chair	Honorary USG Chair
<b>Medical Technology Working Group</b>	<b>Ms. Meenakshi Nevatia</b> Vice President & Managing Director Stryker India		
<b>Pharmaceuticals Working Group</b>	<b>Mr. Sarthak Ranade</b> Managing Director – Janssen India Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd.	<b>Ms. Jyotsna Ghoshal</b> Senior Director - Corporate Affairs MSD Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	
<b>Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Som Satsangi</b> Managing Director Hewlett Packard Enterprise India	<b>Mr. Naveen Tandon</b> Director - IEA AT&T Communication Services India Private Limited  <b>Mr. Vivek Vasishtha</b> Executive Director & Country Leader - IBM India, South Asia IBM India Pvt. Ltd.	<b>Mr. Robert Garverick</b> Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs U.S. Embassy
<b>Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Anand Chidambaram</b> Managing Director Progress Rail, India	<b>Mr. Ambrish Bakaya</b> Director Corporate Affairs Hewlett Packard Enterprise India Pvt. Ltd.	
<b>Manufacturing Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Sanjay Koul</b> Chairman & Managing Director Timken India Limited	<b>Mr. Arijit Sen</b> Senior Director, Global Government Affairs and Public Policy Flex Group  <b>Mr. Amit Bansal</b> Managing Director Corning India	
<b>Supply Chain and Logistics Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Kumar Kandaswami</b> Partner Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP	<b>Mr. Praveen Gosain</b> Director (Supply Chain India) Corning Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.	
<b>Tax, Tariff &amp; Regulatory Affairs Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Sandeep Chaufla</b> Partner - Corporate & International Tax PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.	<b>Mr. Naveen Aggarwal</b> Partner & Chief Operating Officer KPMG in India	

# AMCHAM Membership 2019-20

Table – I

Type of Membership	Total
Corporate	324
Additional	101
Individual	5
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>430</b>

AMCHAM Type of Membership

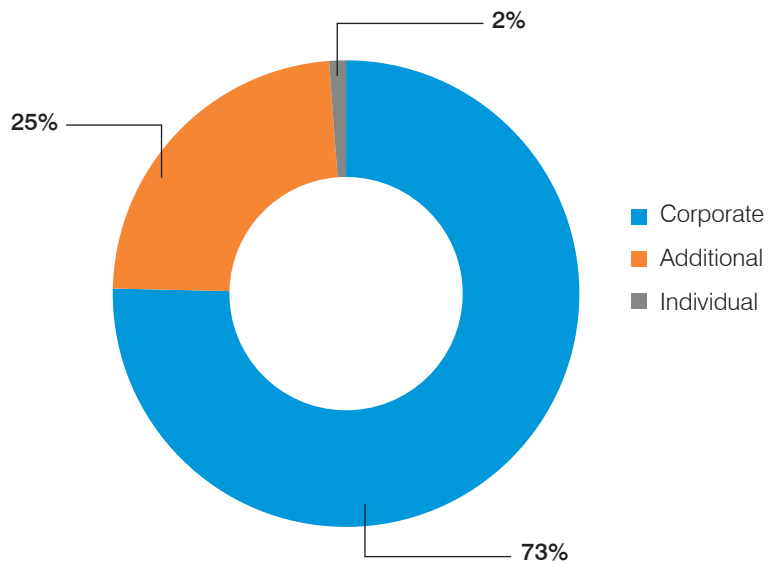
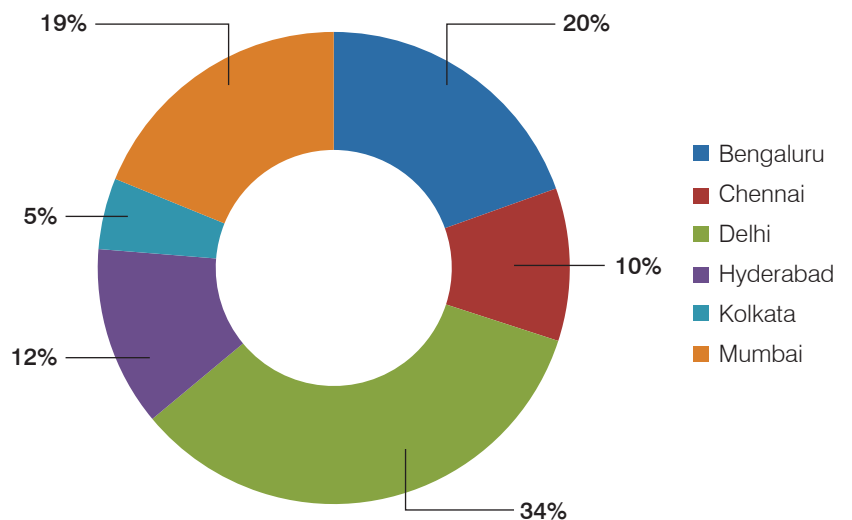


Table – II

Regions	Total
Bangalore	84
Chennai	45
Delhi	146
Hyderabad	53
Kolkata	21
Mumbai	81
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>430</b>

AMCHAM Regions Wise Members



# Analysis of Events Organized by AMCHAM during 2019-2020

Table – I

Chapter	Number of Meetings
Bangalore	36
Chennai	9
Delhi	85
Hyderabad	7
Kolkata	17
Mumbai	33
<b>Total Events</b>	<b>187</b>

AMCHAM Meetings and Events Between Regions

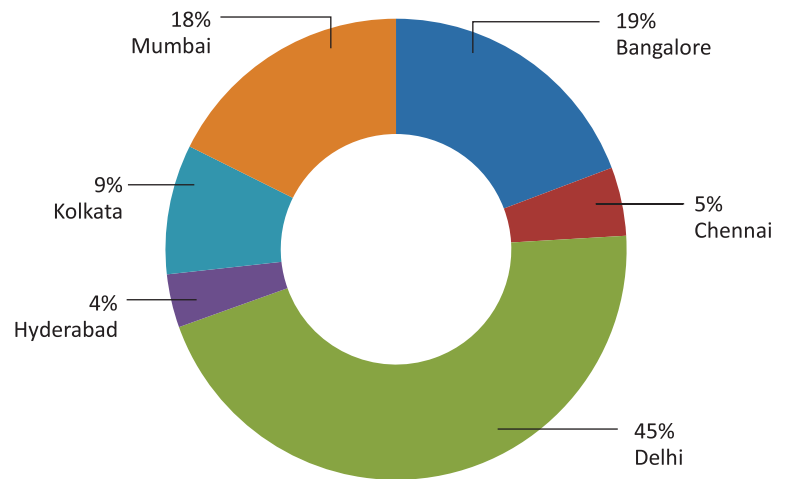
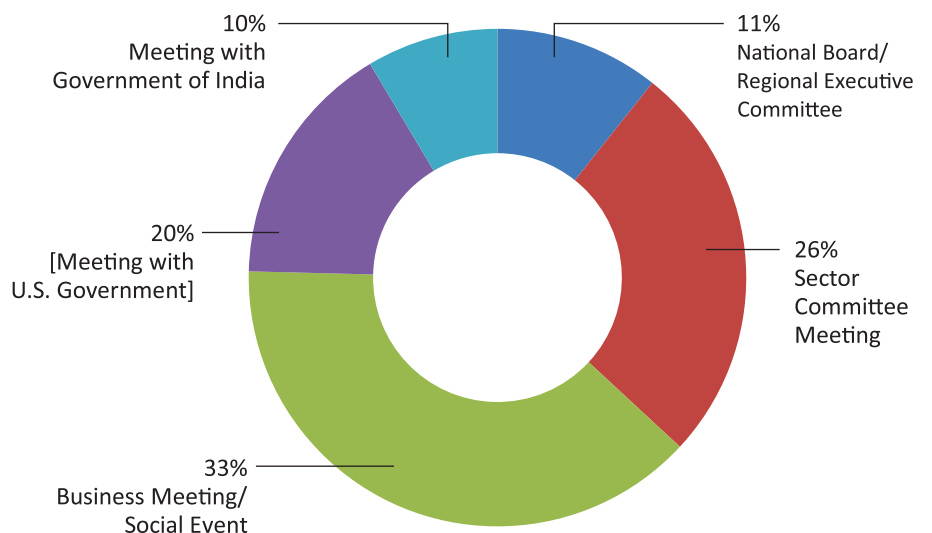


Table – II

Chapter	Number of Meetings
National Board/Regional Executive Committee	20
Sector Committee Meeting	49
Business Meeting/Social Event	72
Meeting with U.S. Government	30
Meeting with Government of India	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>

AMCHAM Meetings and Events





# AMCHAM

## New Members

### List of New Members from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

S.No.	Member's Name	Organization
<b>DELHI</b>		
1	Ms. Sonali Khan	Sesame Workshop Initiatives India Pvt. Ltd.
2	Ms. Preetha Nair	True North Venture Partners
3	Ms. Shraddha Malhotra	Avery Dennison (India) Pvt. Ltd.
4	Mr. Rakesh Mishra	Sate-Lite Technologies (P) Ltd.
5	Mr. Dinesh Kumar Kori	ChargePoint Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.
6	Mr. Aleksejs Histjajevs	Dyninno India LLP
7	Ms. Yvonne Uu	Maxar Technologies Holdings Inc
<b>BENGALURU</b>		
8	Mr. Sunil Thamaran	Enphase Solar Energy Pvt. Ltd.
9	Mr. Rajneesh Kumar	Flipkart Internet Pvt. Ltd.
10	Mr. Rajeev Khushu	Texas Instruments (India) Pvt. Ltd.
11	Mr. Sanjay Kataria	Inteva Products LLC
12	Mr. Suresh Sud	Swagelok Company, Bangalore
13	Ms. Lata Murli	Institute of Management Accountants
14	Mr. Prashanth Kiran Rao	XLHealth Corporation India Pvt. Ltd.
15	Mr. Ajit George	Shanti Bhavan Children's Project
16	Mr. Milind Palsule	Ametek Instruments India Pvt. Ltd.
17	Mr. Nikhil Agarwal	Ametek Instruments India Pvt. Ltd.
18	Mr. Ragendra Kumar Mishra	Micron Technology Operations India LLP
19	Mr. Poomkuzhimannil Zachariah John	Garrett Motion Engineering Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
20	Ms. Marielle Bostrom	Ralph Lauren Sourcing India LLP
21	Mr. Reuben Kataria	JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru

22	Mr. Shailendra Naidu	CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd.
23	Mr. Vish Ganti	Autogrid India Pvt. Ltd.
24	Mr. Shiju T. Verghese	VF Sourcing India Pvt. Ltd.
25	Mr. Nitin Prasad	PVH India Ltd
26	Mr. Simeon Duncan	Intuit India Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
27	Mr. Orville Jameson D'souza	XLHealth Corporation India Pvt. Ltd.
28	Mr. Arun Khattar	Stanley Black & Decker India Pvt. Ltd.

**CHENNAI**

29	Mr. Raja Narayana	Hubbell India Electrical Products LLP
30	Mr. N. Senthil Kumar	Revature Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd.

**HYDERABAD**

31	Mr. Venkat R Ramamoorthy	FactSet Systems India Pvt. Ltd.
32	Ms. Kiranmai Dutt Pendyala	ICE Data Services India Pvt. Ltd.
33	Mr. Harilal Neelakantan	US Technology International Pvt. Ltd.
34	Mr. Ramesh Kaza	State Street Corporate Services Mumbai Pvt. Ltd.
35	Mr. Ravindra Kasinadhuni	F5 Networks Innovation Pvt. Ltd.
36	Mr. Murali Krishna	Providence Global Center, LLP
37	Mr. Subhash Chintamaneni	Micron Technology Operations India LLP

**KOLKATA**

38	Ms. Rashmita Parija	Lexmark International India Pvt. Ltd.
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**MUMBAI**

39	Mr. Mukul Varshney	John Deere India Pvt. Ltd.
40	Mr. Ramana Gogula	Stanley Black & Decker India Pvt. Ltd.
41	Mr. Sujogya Kumar Dash	Xcoal Energy & Resources India Pvt. Ltd.
42	Mr. Puneet Gosain	Gerson Lehrman Group India Pvt. Ltd.
43	Mr. Vipin Goel	Grace Davison Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd.
44	Mr. Bhaskar Palit	Lions Clubs International Foundation India
45	Mr. John McGrory	Morgan Stanley Advantage Services Pvt. Ltd.
46	Mr. Herjit Singh Bhalla	Hershey India Pvt. Ltd.
47	Mr. Shishir Lagu	KNAV PA

# AMCHAM

## Highlights of events held in 2019 - 20



## AMCHAM Bengaluru

Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary, Government of Karnataka

Date	Meetings / Events
7th May 2019	<p><b>Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Series – Presentation on ‘Journey to Build a Best Place to Work’ with First American</b></p> <p>AMCHAM’s Karnataka Chapter hosted the second edition of the CEO Breakfast Series on 7th May 2019 in Bengaluru. The CEO Breakfast morning is a unique opportunity for AMCHAM member company leadership to come together on a monthly basis and share views, best practices on innovation within their companies. The speaker, Mr. Giridhar Rajagopal, Country Manager India, First American India, spoke about best practices in people management within his organization and how FAI has grown to be a Fortune 500 leader in ‘Best Places to Work.’ The event was hosted at the Hyatt Centric Bengaluru.</p> <p>Some of the participants at the event included: Mr. Atul Ujagar, Country Director India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, Nike India, Mr. Ajay Vij, Managing Director Geographic Services, Accenture in India, Mr. Pradip Dutta, Vice President, Synopsis Inc and Managing Director, Synopsis India, and Mr. Alok Nanda, CTO, GE South Asia, among others.</p>
21st May 2019	<p><b>Interactive Session with Mr. Austin T. Fragomen Jr. on ‘Immigration at a Cross Roads – Mobilizing Your Talent in an Evolving World’</b></p> <p>AMCHAM’s Karnataka Chapter was the official partner for the networking reception hosted on May 21st by Fragomen Immigration Services India on ‘Immigration at a Cross Roads – Mobilizing Your Talent in an Evolving World’ in Bengaluru. This was part of an annual symposium hosted for global immigration and mobility leaders. This year, Fragomen partnered with AMCHAM Karnataka to host a closed door reception for leadership of AMCHAM member companies to meet with Mr. Austin Fragomen Jr., Chairman of the global law firm Fragomen worldwide. This was an opportunity for American company leaders to hear from Mr. Fragomen and from Mr. Bo Cooper, Partner &amp; Lead on Government Strategies, Fragomen, about evolving policies in immigration and key insights that would benefit companies when planning their manpower strategy on international projects. The event was well attended with invitees from Hewlett Packard, IBM, Goldman Sachs, Inteva Products, and CGI, among others.</p>

4th June 2019

**Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Series – Sustainability Initiatives by Johnson Controls**

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted the third edition of the CEO Breakfast Series on June 4th, 2019. The CEO Breakfast Series is a unique opportunity leadership from AMCHAM member companies to come together on a monthly basis to share views and best practices on innovation within their companies. The speaker was Mr. Santhosh Muzumdar, Business Development & Government Affairs, Johnson Controls and Ms. Smedha Malaviya, Senior Project Associate, World Resources Institute, who spoke about corporate sustainability and reduction of carbon footprint. The talk was followed by an interactive discussion among participants. Some of the attendees to the event were from IBM, First American, ChildFund India, Mphasis, MOOG, Timken and more.

10th June 2019

**AMCHAM supported Altair Leadership Conclave on 'Artificial Intelligence & the Future of Product Life Cycle'**

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter was the official event partner for the Altair Leadership Conclave hosted at the Conrad Bengaluru on June 10th, 2019 on the topic of 'Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Product Life Cycle.' This year's event discussed how and why engineering applications are successfully employing the use of machine learning to give products a competitive edge. Industry leaders who formed the panel discussed the way products are being designed using AI/ML and how organizations are looking to leverage the transformative power of these technologies. Some of the speakers included Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee member Mr. Alok Nanda, CEO, GE India Technology Centre and CTO, GE South Asia, as well as Mr. James Scapa, Chairman & CEO, Altair, Mr. Jacob Peter K, Vice President, Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Pvt Ltd, Dr. Krishna Prasad, Director & Country Manager, Aptiv (AS & UX) India and Mr. Manu Saale, Managing Director & CEO, Mercedes Benz Research & Development India.

14th June 2019

**Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted an Executive Committee meeting on June 14th, 2019 at the Sageezza office in Bengaluru. The success of past events was reviewed and new events for calendar year 2019 were discussed, among other chapter priorities.

27th June 2019

**Breakfast Session on 'Doing Business in India' with Consul General Robert G. Burgess and Mr. Manoj Desai, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General Chennai**

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted a closed door interaction for members with Consul General Robert G. Burgess, U.S. Consulate, Chennai and Mr. Manoj Desai, Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Consulate Chennai on June 27th. The event was focused on meeting with American companies doing business in Karnataka and understanding how the Consulate and Commercial Services could help U.S. companies succeed. The event was attended by companies like 3M, Goldman Sachs, Sagezza, Inteva Products, Johnson Controls, Enphase Energy, Ernst & Young, Swagelok and Hewlett Packard, among others.

9th July 2019

**Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Session on 'Artificial Intelligence as an Enabler for Digital Transformation'**

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted the 4th edition of the monthly CEO breakfast morning on July 9th, 2019 which featured Dr. Jai Ganesh, Senior VP & Head of Next Labs, Mphasis, who spoke to the audience about artificial intelligence (AI) as one of the major pillars on which enterprise digital transformations were being built. By turning nearly every aspect of inferencing and decision making, AI is revolutionizing the competitive differentiation of enterprises. Dr. Ganesh spoke about how it can enhance customer experience, reduce operational bottlenecks and risks, enhance data analytics and drive revenue growth. The event was well attended with representation from companies like UST Global, 3M, Sagezza, MOOG, Ernst & Young, CBRE and others.

11th July 2019	<p><b>'Insights on Union Budget 2019 and the Way Forward' with knowledge partner Grant Thornton</b></p> <p>The Karnataka Chapter hosted an interactive session with knowledge partner Grant Thornton on July 11th, 2019. The session examined the highlights of the Union Budget presented in parliament on July 5th. Direct and indirect tax implications as well as salient features that impact the economy in general and the business of U.S. companies doing business in India were discussed. The speakers from Grant Thornton were Mr. Shashishekar Chaugule (Direct Tax), Ms. Fatema Hunaid (Transfer Pricing) and Mr. Madhur Harlalka (Indirect Tax). The session was very informative and interactive. The session was attended by senior finance professionals from companies like Swagelok, Timken, Intel, Inteva Products, XL Health and others.</p>
17th July 2019	<p><b>Interaction with Mr. Kent May, Consular Section Chief, U.S. Consulate Chennai</b></p> <p>The Karnataka Chapter hosted an interaction for AMCHAM members on July 17th over breakfast at the new Goldman Sachs office in Bengaluru with Mr. Kent May, Consular Section Chief, U.S. Consulate Chennai. Mr. Kent met with leaders, HR executives and mobility leads of member companies to discuss pertinent visa related issues faced by companies. The event was attended by companies like Walmart Labs, Aryaka Networks, Intuit, KPMG, Thomson Reuters, First American, Ernst &amp; Young, Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Shanti Bhavan, among others.</p>
13th Aug 2019	<p><b>CEO Breakfast Session: Trends in Cyber Security</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted the 5th edition of the monthly CEO breakfast mornings on August 13th in Bengaluru. The speaker was Mr. Yair Bar-Touv, Vice President of Business Development APAC, CyberProof, a global next generation MSSP owned by UST-Global. Mr. Touv is a former Director of Information Technology (CIO) for the Israeli Government Agency in the Israeli Prime Minister's office. With a growing focus on the importance of cyber security and the ever changing landscape of the technology landscape, the morning discussion comprised of topics like, the cyber security landscape, next generation MSSPs, SOAR (security orchestration, automation and response), platforms, capabilities and services that CISOs should be engaging in to reduce cyber risk. This was session was presented by UST Global. The event was well attended with representation from companies like KPMG, PwC, MOOG, IBM, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Synopsys, and others.</p>
27th Aug 2019	<p><b>Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter held a meeting of the Executive Committee on August 27th at the Goldman Sachs Office in Bengaluru. The success of past events was reviewed and new events for calendar year 2019 were discussed, among other chapter priorities.</p>
9th Sept 2019	<p><b>Interaction with Mr. Waller Leif, Chief of the Consular Information Unit, U.S. Consulate Chennai</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted an interaction for members on September 9th over breakfast in Bengaluru with Mr. Waller Leif, Chief of the Consular Information Unit, U.S. Consulate Chennai. Mr. Leif met with leaders, HR leads and mobility leads to discuss pertinent visa related issues faced by member companies. The event was attended by companies like Northern Trust, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Morgan Stanley, Fragomen, Ernst &amp; Young and others.</p>
10th Sept 2019	<p><b>Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Session: Inclusion and Diversity in the Workplace</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted the 6th edition of the monthly CEO breakfast mornings on September 10th in Bengaluru. There is undeniably an increasing focus today on understanding and valuing the difference between people in the workplace. Diverse teams are proven to score higher on creativity and innovation indices. The interactive session focused on an inclusive and collaborative environment to increase the participation and contribution of employees was hosted by Dr. Pradip K. Dutta, Group Vice President, Synopsys and Ms. Nithya Raghavan, Director of Engineering, Synopsys. The event was well attended with representation from companies like First American, Indeed, MOOG, IBM, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Walmart and others.</p>

21st Sept 2019

**IMA (Institute of Management Accountants) Regional Conference – Effective Finance Leadership in the Digital Age**

AMCHAM partnered with IMA (Institute of Management Accountants) for their 7th Middle East and India Regional conference on September 21st, in Bengaluru, where renowned speakers from top tier organizations like Mphasis, Wipro and Microsoft addressed the topic of digital transformation. There was a clear call to action for management accountants regarding effective finance leadership in the digital age, emerging trends of AI and ML in finance and much more. With AMCHAM as an Association Partner, representatives from member companies attended and benefited from the expertise at the conference.

25th Sept 2019

**Changing Labour Laws in India by Khaitan & Co**

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted a presentation and discussion over breakfast at Renaissance by Marriott in Bengaluru for member companies on 'Changing Labour Laws in India' with a focus on Karnataka. This session focussed on helping American company leaders by providing a brief overview on labour laws in India and its applicability to manufacturing sectors and IT/ITES establishments, proposed consolidation of laws, wage code and occupational safety, health and working conditions code and recent developments. The Supreme Court's judgement on provident fund and how it affects companies, as well as what data can be sought from employees and how to safeguard employee data, were also covered. This was followed by a Q&A session. The speakers from Khaitan & Co were Mr. Rajiv Khaitan, Partner - Bengaluru and Mr. Vinay Joy, HR Partner - Bengaluru.

17th Oct 2019

**Signature Lecture Series: Insights on Advance Pricing Agreement (APA) Programs in India and the U.S. with Mr. Steven Wrappe, National Technical Leader, Transfer Pricing, Grant Thornton and Ms. Fatima Hunaid, Partner – Tax, Grant Thornton India LLP**

Multinational companies doing business in India have for years faced extraordinary levels of transfer pricing litigation and controversies regarding cross border transactions between related parties. India's tax administration launched an APA program in 2012, which has till date concluded 297 APAs, including 32 bilateral APAs with taxpayers from multiple industries. AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter, in partnership with Grant Thornton, on October 17th, as part of AMCHAM's Signature Lecture Series, hosted guest speakers from Grant Thornton, Mr. Steve Wrappe, National Transfer Pricing Technical Leader and Ms. Fatima Junaid, Partner – Tax, to talk to AMCHAM member companies about the Advanced Pricing Agreement and how it impacts American companies doing business in India. Attendees were from MOOG, Synopsys, CBRE, Bank of America, High Peaks Software and others.

18th Oct 2019

**Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Series – New Business Models in Water as part of 'Water Matters'**

AMCHAM' Karnataka Chapter hosted the 7th edition of the monthly CEO breakfast mornings on October 18th, in partnership with the U.S. Consulate Chennai as part of the series titled 'Water Matters.' Water Matters is a collaborative project of the U.S. Consulate General Chennai, Care Earth Trust, the Smithsonian Institute and the Science Gallery, Bengaluru. The project aims to utilize different mediums to educate, advocate and support South India in addressing water challenges.

As part of the project, a session was held exclusively for AMCHAM member companies in Bengaluru where eminent speakers, Dr. Sudhir Murthy CEO, NewHub and Mr. Mehul Patel, Executive Director Operations, Orange County Water District, addressed the need for large corporations to develop fundamentally new approaches for transactions in water within operations, engineering and finance, thus meeting water quality targets. The session focussed on more intelligent approaches to directly connect water management practice to prosperity and was a futuristic view presented to businesses operating in Bengaluru. The event was well attended with representation from companies like U.S. Technology Solutions, IBM, Accenture, Nike, GE and others.

<p>18th Oct 2019</p>	<p><b>Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee Farewell for Mr. Naresh Shah and Mr. Paresh Shah</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee hosted a farewell dinner for Mr. Naresh Shah, Former President R&amp;D at Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Mr. Paresh Shah, Former Director at Syniverse Technologies, as they stepped down from their posts as Executive Committee members of the Karnataka Chapter. The dinner was hosted by venue partner Conrad Bengaluru on Oct 18th.</p>															
<p>15th Nov 2019</p>	<p><b>AMCHAM partnered at the 2nd Asian Women in Leadership Summit 2019</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter partnered with the 8th Edition of the Asian Women in Leadership Summit 2019, hosted at Shangri-La Bengaluru on November 15th, which aimed to discuss the barriers to women advancement in leadership roles and accelerating change in boardroom diversity and women in leadership positions. The event was well attended and speakers covered eminent leadership from Dell, Goldman Sachs, Britannia and other large multinationals in India.</p>															
<p>19th Nov 2019</p>	<p><b>Karnataka CEO Breakfast Morning – Risk Management &amp; Internal Controls with Ms. Doreen Remmen, Senior Vice President Operations &amp; CFO, IMA</b></p> <p>On November 19th, AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter, in partnership with IMA, hosted the monthly edition of the CEO breakfast morning with guest speaker Ms. Doreen Remmen, CMA, CSCA, CAE, Senior Vice President Operations &amp; Chief Financial Officer, IMA, on the topic of risk management and internal controls. The session focused on recognizing the importance of using a recognized control framework to assess the effectiveness of a company's control over financial reporting and defining the roles and responsibilities within an organization related to internal control and the importance of aligned accountability. The session was attended by companies like Accenture, Aryaka Networks, PwC, Swagelok, Hewlett Packard and others.</p>															
<p>23rd Nov 2019</p>	<p><b>Karnataka Chapter Annual Dinner 2019</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted the annual dinner on November 16th as an occasion to bring together members, potential new member companies, partners and supporters of the chapter. The event was sponsored by Indeed, Marqland and DBS Bank with Renaissance by Marriott Race Course Road as the venue partner and Pernod Ricard as the pouring partner. The event was attended by over a hundred guests with leadership from ChildFund, Accenture, Goldman Sachs, Saggezza, Hewlett Packard and more present. The event was an evening of networking along with a 45 minute session on tai chi and leadership by Mr. Soke Avinash followed by a performance by Fernandes Fusion.</p>															
<p>7th Dec 2019</p>	<p><b>AMCHAM - Saggezza 8th Annual Karnataka Chapter Golf Tournament</b></p> <p>The AMCHAM – Saggezza 8th Annual Karnataka Chapter Golf Tournament was held on December 7th, 2019, at Prestige Golfshire in Bengaluru. There was a great turnout with 109 participants. The attendees comprised of Country Heads of U.S. companies, senior state government bureaucrats, senior management of Indian companies and sponsors of the tournament. Saggezza was the co-host and title sponsor of the event. Other sponsors included Indeed, 3M, WeWork, Citibank, Netapp, Wissen Infotech, Dayanand Sagar University, IMA, MOOG, Rolex Rings, Harsha Engineers, Ballantines (Pernod Ricard), KHT Motors, Etihad Airways and Marriott. The event partner was Tiger Sports Management. The tournament was followed by a luncheon and prize distribution with a wonderful band 'Fernandes Fusion' to entertain the audience.</p> <p>Winners of the tournament included:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Straightest Drive</td> <td>:</td> <td>Mr. Jopinder Sherawat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Runner Up (0-12 Category)</td> <td>:</td> <td>Mr. Miles Jumburao</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Runner Up (12 &amp; Above Category)</td> <td>:</td> <td>Mr. Sumit Dhar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Winner (0-12 Category)</td> <td>:</td> <td>Mr. Amitabh Poddar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Winner (12 &amp; Above Category)</td> <td>:</td> <td>Mr. D G Raghavendra</td> </tr> </table>	Straightest Drive	:	Mr. Jopinder Sherawat	Runner Up (0-12 Category)	:	Mr. Miles Jumburao	Runner Up (12 & Above Category)	:	Mr. Sumit Dhar	Winner (0-12 Category)	:	Mr. Amitabh Poddar	Winner (12 & Above Category)	:	Mr. D G Raghavendra
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Winner (0-12 Category)	:	AMCHAM Category	:	Mr. Anil Sama
Winner (12 & Above Category)	:	AMCHAM Category	:	Mr. Ajay Vij
Overall Gross Winner	:	Mr. David D Souza		
Blind Winning Team of 4 Members	:	Mr. Arun Murugappan, Mr. Jagadeesha KG, Mr. Ajay Vij, Mr. Ravi Vishwanath		

10th Dec 2019

**Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Morning – SD WAN Security Options in a Multi Cloud Architecture**

AMCHAM’s Karnataka Chapter hosted the monthly edition of the CEO breakfast mornings where Mr. Deepak Kumar, Senior Vice President and Mr. Vidyaranya Maddi Vice President Service Delivery & Support, Aryaka Networks, spoke to the audience on the topic of ‘SD WAN Security Options in a Multi Cloud Architecture.’ The topic focussed on the enterprise WAN architecture that is undergoing a massive change driven by cloud and digital transformation. In the client-server era, it was easy to secure the network as the ingress and egress points were centralized at the data centre but with the increasing adoption of SaaS and IaaS, branch locations have direct connectivity. Securing these branches requires a new approach that combines SD-WAN functionality with robust security. The session was attended by companies like MOOG, Synopsys, Sprint, DELL, Grant Thornton, KPMG and others.

18th Dec 2019

**Meeting with Consul General Robert Burgess and Mr. Manoj Desai, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General Chennai**

AMCHAM’s Karnataka Chapter had a meeting with Consul General Robert Burgess and Mr. Manoj Desai, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General Chennai, on December 18th. The meeting covered the activities of the chapter in 2019 and potential areas of association in 2020. The meeting was attended by Mr. Iqbal Sait, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and Head EMEA & Managing Director, Saggezza India and Ms. Payal Satish, Regional Director – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM.

6th January 2020

**Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM’s Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee meeting was held on January 6th, 2020 at the Nike Office in Bengaluru. The success of past events was reviewed and new events for calendar year 2020 were discussed, among other chapter priorities.

28th Jan 2020

**Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Morning: Current State of CSR**

AMCHAM’s Karnataka Chapter hosted the monthly edition of the CEO breakfast mornings on the topic of ‘Current State of CSR.’ The focus of the breakfast morning was on CSR accounting, assessments and reporting as well as challenges faced by corporates in CSR. New opportunities in the CSR domain were shared with updates on the CSR policy and models for collaboration, impact and employee engagement. The session was moderated by Ms. Neelam Makhijani, Country Director & CEO, ChildFund India with Ms. Deepa Nagaraj, Global Head of Corporate Communications and Director Sparkle Innovation Ecosystem, Mphasis and Mr. Santhosh Jayaram, Partner and Head, Sustainability and CSR Advisory, KPMG in India. The event was attended by companies like IBM, First American, Shanti Bhavan, HPE, Christel House and others.

28th Jan 2020

**U.S.-India Travel & Tourism Working Group Meeting**

AMCHAM’s U.S.-India Travel & Tourism Working Group kicked off the year on January 28th in Bengaluru with an interaction on ‘Opportunities for BLeisure Tourism’ with members who have large numbers of outbound travel from India to the USA. The opportunities for incentive travel were also discussed. Attendees comprised of representatives from the U.S. Commercial Service, corporate members, tourism brands and travel services.



31st Jan 2020	<p><b>Interactive Session with Mr. Gaurav Ajmani, Chairman – Anti-Corruption &amp; FCPA Committee, AMCHAM and Associate General Counsel, Business Conduct &amp; Ethics, Amazon Seller Services</b></p> <p>The Karnataka Chapter hosted an interactive session with Mr. Gaurav Ajmani, Chairman – Anti-Corruption &amp; FCPA Committee, AMCHAM and Associate General Counsel, Business Conduct &amp; Ethics, Amazon Seller Services on January 31st at the Amazon office in Bengaluru. The session focussed on vendor compliance management and third party risks which were a common problem area in effective compliance programs across sectors. The event was attended by AMCHAM member companies like HPE, KPMG, Thomson Reuters, IMA, Goldman Sachs and VF Corporation.</p>
3rd Feb 2020	<p><b>Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Morning: Decoding the Union Budget 2020</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted a session on 'Decoding the Union Budget 2020' at Hyatt Centric MG Road, Bengaluru on February 3rd. Set in the background of India's vision to be a \$5 trillion economy, the session focussed on examining the highlights of the Union Budget 2020 presented by the Honourable Finance Minister of India on February 1st. The session covered direct and indirect tax proposals set forth as well as steps adopted by the government that impact the Indian economy in general. The session explored trends, challenges and opportunities that came out of the Union Budget 2020 and how these would impact the business environment. The speakers included Mr. E N Dwaraknath, Partner, PwC India, Mr. Rony Antony, Partner, PwC India and Mr. Keyur, Partner, PwC India.</p>
11th Feb 2020	<p><b>Interaction with Ms. Jatna Garcia, American Citizen Services, U.S. Consulate Chennai</b></p> <p>On February 11th, AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted an interaction for member companies with Ms. Jatna Garcia, American Citizen Services, U.S. Consulate Chennai, for a focussed session on voter registration, safety registration and services provided by the U.S. Consulate for American citizens visiting and residing in India. The interaction was attended by member companies like IBM, IMA, MOOG, Shanti Bhavan, Ametek, Altair and others.</p>
25th Feb 2020	<p><b>AMCHAM partnered with ChildFund on Khilta Bachpan 2020</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter partnered with member organization ChildFund India for a child led protection initiative under Khilta Bachpan campaign on Tuesday February 25th in Bengaluru. The child-led child protection initiative envisages empowering and educating children to keep themselves safe and defend their rights. CSR leads from member companies attended this event such as First American, Aryaka Networks and others</p>
26th Feb 2020	<p><b>Session on 'Introduction of E-Invoicing' in partnership with KPMG</b></p> <p>The Government has issued relevant notifications for the introduction of e-invoicing, which makes e-invoicing mandatory from April 1st, 2020 in respect of B2B transactions for any assessee whose turnover exceeds INR 100 crore and for B2C transactions for any assessee whose turnover exceeds INR 500 crore. This has a far-reaching impact for all businesses in excess of the turnover of INR 100 crore, irrespective of the sector in which the business operates. This session comprised of KPMG senior indirect tax specialists who shared their insights on the implications of e-invoicing requirements and what U.S. businesses need to do to comply with these requirements followed by a live demo of how IRN/QR code shall be generated. AMCHAM partnered with KPMG to organize a session for member companies at the KPMG office on February 26th in Bengaluru. The session was attended by companies like MOOG, Accenture, Swagelok, Grant Thornton, GE and others.</p>

26th Feb 2020

**Interaction with Mr. Philip Lovas, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism, U.S. Department of Commerce**

AMCHAM's U.S.-India Travel & Tourism Working Group hosted an interaction with Mr. Philip Lovas, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism, U.S. Department of Commerce, during his visit to Bengaluru on February 26th. The objective of the interaction was to have Mr. Lovas understand the Indian travel market for outbound travel to the U.S., consumer behaviour, issues and challenges faced by travel buyers and travellers from India to the U.S. Mr. Lovas also provided insights on the U.S. side of the travel and tourism partnership between the U.S. and India. The meeting was attended by companies like Hyatt, American Airlines, Fragomen, Marriott and others.

3rd Mar 2020

**Driving Impact in CSR Through Innovation & Talent**

AMCHAM's CSR Committee, organized a half day program on March 3rd in Bengaluru entitled 'Driving Impact in CSR Through Innovation & Talent.' Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM welcomed participants, gave an overview of the CSR Committee and encouraged companies to connect with USAID for the Corporate TB Pledge. Mr. Ajay Gopal, Community Impact Manager, Cisco Systems India, set the scene for the day, discussing the ways to leverage people and technology to solve social challenges and how to ensure programs can scale with government partnerships. Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India, discussed CSR trends in Karnataka in his opening remarks. He said Timken has built a school or hospital every year since 1990 and highlighted the fact that U.S. companies have always been giving back. The keynote address was given by Dr. Ashwath Narayan C.N., Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka. He emphasized the importance of quality education to achieve behavioral change and requested companies make nursery education their number one priority. He acknowledged the CSR work of American companies in the state. AMCHAM presented the Deputy Chief Minister with a memento and thanked him for his support.

'Panel 1: Impact of Social Start-ups on CSR' was moderated by Mr. Sunish Jauhari, India Leader, Ashoka with the following panelists: Prof. Bala Gurumoorthy, Chief Executive, Society for Innovation & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Ms. Sudha Srinivasan, CEO, N/Core and Mr. Ananth Aravamudan, Energy Sector Lead, Villgro Innovations Foundation. The session touched on the need to raise awareness that CSR funds can support incubators, adopting villages to test start-ups, examples of success for IoT based platforms, using knowledge for the public good and the immense effort it takes to get corporate on board to support start-ups.

Mr. Venkatesha Murthy (Venky), Managing Director, Vans Chemistry, gave an overview on how his company has an integrated, turnkey technology that adds value to the planet by transforming e-waste. The Singapore based company also offers IT asset protection, accountability and traceability and an enhanced CSR, EPR system to clients.

'Panel 2: Driving Value Through Employee Engagement' was moderated by Mr. Shalabh Sahai, Co-founder & Director, iVolunteer with panelists Ms. Sangita Ghalay, Co-Chairperson – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Head – CSR, Honeywell India, Mr. Deepak Prabhu Matti, Director – CSR, Global Head – Cognizant Outreach, Cognizant and Ms. Brinda Poornapragna, CEO, eVidyaloka Trust. This panel focused on employee volunteerism and how to encourage it in organizations so that people can find more purpose. Success stories of programs that use Skype to teach children remotely, initial pitfalls of volunteering, setting up volunteer councils in corporates and enabling people through their passions were just some of the topics discussed. Both panels were followed by an insightful Q&A session. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Valerie Swope, Program Coordinator, AMCHAM.

4th March 2020

**Empowering India's Human Capital for the Future**

AMCHAM's signature event for the Karnataka Chapter 'Empowering India's Human Capital for the Future' was held on March 4th in Bengaluru. Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM, welcomed participants and set the scene for the evening. He talked about the disruptions in the supply chain, the importance of skilling, digitalization and AI in manufacturing. In his special address, Consul General Robert Burgess, U.S. Consulate General Chennai, broadly summarized the recent visit of President Trump to India and said it was a testimony to the U.S.-India relationship through the people to people ties. The joint statement defines areas of future collaboration, especially in defense and homeland security.

Mr. Abhijit Bhaduri, digital transformation coach, speaker, author and columnist spoke on 'The Nature of Talent Demand and Supply in the Context of Future of Work.' Mr. Bhaduri while speaking on the future of work mentioned leadership, talent strategy and culture as the three main areas that have undergone tremendous changes. He said that unlike earlier times worker, work and workplace now overlap each other. He also stressed upon the importance of leveraging skills sets and the agility to make necessary transitions. Quoting the mayhem caused by corona virus outbreak, he highlighted the importance of social factors happening outside the gambit of a workplace yet directly or indirectly affecting decisions. While data management was imperative, dynamic leadership, boundaryless work environment and trust also affects decisions and course of actions. He touched upon being creative and combining experience, hobbies and skills to be more productive. The audience interacted with him on topics like – understanding individuals at workplace, talent retention, content creation, value of informal learning and rewards, amongst others.

In a fireside chat on 'Upcoming Labor Legislations that Impact the Talent Landscape and Cost of Delivery' Mr. Chaitanya N. Sreenivas, VP HR & HR Head India South Asia, IBM and Mr. Vinay Joy, Partner, Khaitan & Co were the speakers. They started with giving a background of the proposed labor reforms, and for ease of doing business and compliance the need of reducing or simplifying the existing 44 central labor laws into 4 codes – wage code, occupational safety, health and working conditions code, code on industrial relations and code on social security. They also touched upon the current trade unions scenario in India and other critical areas such as the Provident Fund and the Maternity Benefits Act. They drew a comparison between the practices being followed by countries other than India like USA, France, EU, etc. and the need for upgrading the Indian Labor Code. Mr. Joy advised HR professionals to familiarize themselves with the expected changes as the government of India was planning to implement all the 4 codes in a single shot.

In the spirit of disruption, Ms. Rekha M. Menon, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and Chairman and Senior Managing Director, Accenture in India and Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM, had a candid interactive discussion on 'People Imperatives for the Digital Age' covering a range of topics relating to managing people in uncertain times, skilling, AI and more.

Next on the program was an engaging session on 'Diversity and Inclusion at the Workplace' with an eminent panel of speakers that included Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Cognizant India, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Mr. Vihaan Peethambar, Diversity and Inclusion, Human Capital Management, Goldman Sachs and Ms. Shanti Raghavan, Founder and Managing Trustee, Enable India. The moderator of the session, Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and CEO, Dow Chemical International, set the scene. The engaging session had panelists sharing candid, hard hitting insights as well as best practices. Some of the key issues addressed included: the current situation and landscape of careers of persons with disabilities in corporations, why inclusion should be an imperative and the role of leaders, how to personally set the tone for inclusion at the workplace and major challenges faced as a transperson with The Transgender Protection of Rights Bill 2019. The session brought to fore an important dialogue in D&I.

Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary, Government of Karnataka, gave the keynote address highlighting the reasons that Karnataka is the fastest growing state in India and how its connected to the global community. He shared opportunities for U.S. companies in the state and drove home the point that a company can really do anything in Karnataka. He acknowledged the work of American companies and pledged his support for

industry. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM presented Mr. Gupta with a memento and thanked him for his support. She thanked the official partner, Accenture, platinum partner, Rossell Techsys and the venue partner, The Ritz Carlton Bangalore. The evening concluded with networking reception and dinner.

31st Mar 2020

**Karnataka Chapter Interaction with Consul General Robert G. Burgess and Mr. Manoj Desai, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General Chennai**

The Karnataka Chapter of AMCHAM hosted an interaction on March 31st with Consul General Robert G. Burgess and Mr. Manoj Desai, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate Chennai, on the recent COVID-19 crisis. Members were briefed on the steps taken by the U.S. Consulate during the lockdown period and members shared their challenges and concerns with the Consulate. Consul General Burgess talked about the initiatives being taken by the U.S. Consulate for U.S. citizens and for companies doing business in India by the Commercial Service. Company leaders from Timken, Saggezza, Collins Aerospace, PwC, Synopsys, GE and others shared their concerns with the Consulate.



Mr. Santhosh Muzumdar, Business Development & Government Affairs, Johnson Controls, speaking at the Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Series – Sustainability Initiatives, in Bengaluru



Mr. Austin Fragomen Jr., Chairman, Fragomen and Mr. Bo Cooper, Partner & Lead on Government Strategies, Fragomen, addressing members in Bengaluru



Participants at the 2nd edition of AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Series in Bengaluru



Altair Leadership Conclave on 'Artificial Intelligence & the Future of Product Life Cycle'



(L-R) Mr. Amit Sharma, COO, IBM, Mr. Ravi Krishnan, Chief Administration Officer, Golman Sachs, Dr. Pradip Dutta, Managing Director, Synopsys India, Mr. Indraneel Roy Choudhary, Partner/Principal, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Mr. Iqbal Sait, Head of EMEA and Managing Director, Saggezza India, Ms. Manjushree Phookan, Sr Commercial Specialist & Office Director, U.S. Commercial Service, Ms. Payal Satish, Regional Director - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM, Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard India Software Enterprise



(L-R) Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Mr. Manoj Desai, Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Consulate Chennai, Consul General Robert G. Burgess, U.S. Consulate Chennai, Mr. Ravi Krishnan, Chief Administration Officer, Goldman Sachs, Mr. Iqbal Sait, Head of EMEA and Managing Director Saggezza India and Ms. Manjushree Phookan, Director for U.S. Commercial Service



Members at a breakfast session on 'Doing Business in India' with Consul General Robert G. Burgess and Mr. Manoj Desai, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General Chennai, in Bengaluru



Participants in Bengaluru at 'Insights on Union Budget 2019 and the Way Forward' with knowledge partner Grant Thornton



Dr. Jai Ganesh, Senior VP & Head of Next Labs, Mphasis, speaking to Karnataka Chapter members about artificial intelligence in Bengalur





Karnataka Chapter members with Mr. Kent May, Consular Section Chief, U.S. Consulate Chennai, at a meeting in Bengaluru



CEO breakfast morning in Bengaluru presented by UST Global



Karnataka Chapter participants at the monthly CEO breakfast morning in Bengaluru presented by UST Global



(L-R) Mr. Ravi Krishnan, Chief Administration Officer, Golman Sachs, Ms. Payal Satish, Regional Director – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM, Mr. Ravi Gautham, Senior Vice President, Northern Trust, Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard India Software Enterprise, Ms. Manjushree Phookan, Sr. Commercial Specialist & Office Director, U.S. Commercial Service, Mr. Indraneel Roy Choudhary, Partner/ Principal, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Mr. Amit Sharma, COO, IBM and Mr. Iqbal Sait, Head of EMEA and Managing Director, Sagezza



Dr. Pradip K. Dutta, Group Vice President, Synopsys, addressing members at the Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Session: Inclusion and Diversity in the Workplace



Mr. Waller Leif, Chief of Consular Information Unit, U.S. Consulate Chennai, interacting with members



Mr. Waller Leif, Chief of Consular Information Unit, U.S. Consulate Chennai, addressing the audience



AMCHAM, association partner, for IMA (Institute of Management Accountants) Regional Conference in Bengaluru



Mr. Indraneel Roy Choudhary, Executive Director, PwC addressing members



Members at a session on 'Changing Labour Laws in India' in Bengaluru



Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee members at a farewell for Mr. Naresh Shah and Mr. Paresh Shah in Bengaluru



(L-R) Dr. Sudhir Murthy CEO, NewHub and Mr. Mehul Patel, Executive Director Operations, Orange County Water District, addressing members in Bengaluru



Members at the Karnataka Chapter CEO Breakfast Series – New Business Models in Water as part of ‘Water Matters’



AMCHAM partnered with the 8th Edition of the Asian Women in Leadership Summit 2019



Mr. Ravi Krishnan, Vice Chairman - Karnataka Chapter



Mr. Iqbal Sait, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and Head EMEA & Managing Director India, SaggiZZa



A captive audience at the Karnataka Chapter Annual Dinner listening to Mr. Soke Avinash



Ms. Doreen Remmen, Senior Vice President Operations & CFO, IMA, addressing members in Bengaluru





(L-R) Mr. Salil Murthy, Mr. Muthu Venkatachalam, Mr. Shriram Vijayaraghavan and Mr. Iqbal Sait before tee off of the Annual Karnataka, Chapter Golf Tournament



Mr. Iqbal Sait Managing Director India & Head EMEA, Saggezza, welcomes the participants to the AMCHAM – Saggezza 8th Annual Karnataka Chapter Golf Tournament



Mr. Ravi Krishnan, Chief Administrative Officer, Goldman Sachs, at the golf tournament



Mr. Ramesh Ramadurai, Managing Director India, 3M India addressing participants of the AMCHAM Sagezza Golf Tournament 2019



Participants at the AMCHAM Sagezza Golf Tournament 2019



(L-R) Mr. Deepak Kumar, Senior Vice President and Mr. Vidyaranya Maddi, Vice President Service Delivery & Support from Aryaka Networks addressing members in Bengaluru

Mr. Santhosh Jayaram, Partner and Head, Sustainability and CSR Advisory, KPMG in India and Ms. Deepa Nagaraj, Global Head of Corporate Communications and Director Sparkle Innovation Ecosystem, Mphasis



AMCHAM's U.S.-India Travel & Tourism Working Group meeting in Bengaluru



Mr. Gaurav Ajmani, Chairman – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Committee, AMCHAM and Associate General Counsel, Business Conduct & Ethics, Amazon Seller Services, with members in Bengaluru



Karnataka Chapter members at a budget session



Mr. Indraneel Roy Chaudhury, Tax Partner and a member of the Tax Leadership Team of PwC leading the South Indian Tax Practice, addressing members in Karnataka



AMCHAM partners with ChildFund for an event on Khilta Bachpan in Bengaluru



Session on E Invoicing by KPMG for members



U.S.-India Travel & Tourism Working Group with Mr. Philip Lovas, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism, U.S. Department of Commerce



Consul General Robert Burgess, U.S. Consulate General Chennai, addressing members in Bengaluru



Mr. Abhijit Bhaduri, Digital transformation coach, speaker, author and columnist speaking to participants at the AMCHAM Signature Event 2020



Panelists on the session 'Upcoming Labor Legislations that Impacts Talent Landscape and Cost of Delivery'



Ms. Rekha M. Menon, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and Chairman and Senior Managing Director, Accenture in India



D&I panel in Bengaluru (L-R) Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and CEO, Dow Chemical International, Ms. Shanti Raghavan, Founder and Managing Trustee, Enable India, Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Cognizant India, Cognizant Technology Solutions and Mr. Vihaan Peethambar, Diversity and Inclusion, Human Capital Management, Goldman Sachs



Members in Bengaluru with Ms. Jatna Garcia, American Citizen Services, U.S. Consulate Chennai



Mr. Sanjay Mujoo, Vice President, Pointnext Services Global Delivery Center – Hewlett Packard Enterprise, at an interaction in Bengaluru with students from Jon M. Huntsman School of Business





## AMCHAM Chennai

Consul General Robert Burgess giving members an update on the Tamil Nadu CM's visit to the USA and on the Howdy Modi event at Houston

Date	Meetings / Events
27th June 2019	<p><b>Breakfast Meeting on 'Global In-House Centres (GIC) – Emerging Trends and Increasing Relevance'</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter held a breakfast session on June 27th, 2019 on 'Global In-House Centres (GIC) – Emerging Trends and Increasing Relevance' with guest speaker Mr. Kamalanand Nithianandan, Partner, EY. The meeting commenced with a welcome by Mr. Rajan Aiyer, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM, who set the tone for the presentation.</p> <p>The summary of the presentation by Mr. Kamalanand Nithianandan is as follows: Many companies are building digital solutions that use proprietary data for their businesses in-house, unlike in the past where they traditionally outsourced applications to IT services companies. The oldest MNC captive in India is that of Texas Instruments which established its captive way back in Bangalore in 1984. Several MNC's are building captive centres in India to scale up operations and build newer products and solutions that they take to their customers globally. India is at the center of this action as the country is at the cusp of its democratic dividend, with over 2.6 million STEM graduates produced each year.</p> <p>Global in-house centres (GICs), or captives, of U.S. and European companies are seeing a strong revival in India, with the multinationals either setting up new units or expanding existing operations as they look to use technology to reinvent their businesses. Moreover, India is seen as a fantastic center for innovation. India has over 1,250 captive units, excluding IT/ITES service companies. Last year, these units hired more people than the IT firms, and are set to hire a further 1.5 lakh people over the next two years and this number keeps growing at a steady pace, attritions notwithstanding. The GICs employed nearly one million at the end of the just-concluded financial year.</p> <p>GIC's help businesses to meet the demand of new agile ways of working, where the role of GIC's is not just confined to systems integration but also to be an orchestrator of services, delivered by collaborating through a number of product and technology partners. The meet concluded with an insightful interactive session.</p>
25th July 2019	<p><b>Breakfast Meeting on 'Save Water - Innovation and Best Practices'</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter held a breakfast meeting on July 25th in Chennai. Mr. Vivek Vanmeeganathan, Executive Committee Member – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM chaired the meeting. The guest speakers included Mr. Arun Subramaniam, Founder, Earth Fokus, Mr. Beumer Rayen, General Manager, Ford India and Mr. Bijay Mukherjee, Head, Corporate Workplaces, Cognizant India.</p>

The meeting commenced with a welcome by Mr. Vivek Vanmeeganathan who also set the tone for the topic of the day's presentation. Chennai's water crisis has forced the city's ten million residents into survival mode and are forced to make do with what they have — a dwindling and limited supply of water. The city's average annual rainfall is 140 cm per year, but most of the rain water just drains into the sea. So, what caused this massive water crisis, in India's cities? One major reason is the supply of piped water. When people got water at their houses, why bother about the common lakes, tanks and ponds?

The first presentation was made by engineer-turned-entrepreneur Mr. Arun Subramanian who devised an innovative aerator to reduce water consumption and use it intelligently through a product called QuaMist and Ecomist. The nozzle-like structure converted the flow of water into mist and thereby reduced wastage and can save several kilo liters of water, in a large corporate IT facility. A tiny prism-shaped nozzle with three parts — a washer with filter, nozzle and a cap, can be fixed by anyone and turned clockwise for mist mode and anti-clockwise for flow mode. The whole concept revolves around atomization where water gets converted into sprinkles or droplets. When it comes with a certain force, water becomes mist. On an average, an individual wastes 150 liters of water but with mist, it is believed we can save 95% of water. This very small and inexpensive device has now been fitted to taps in corporate offices, factories, shopping malls and homes. The company hopes to contribute in saving millions of liters of water that is otherwise wasted.

The next presentation was made by Mr. Beumer Rayen, who explained how Ford's Chennai vehicle assembly and engine plant has for the past several years worked hard at minimizing the use of water in the manufacturing process. As a signatory to the UN Global Compact Water Mandate, Ford appreciates the need to manage water sustainably. The company has set long-term aspirational goals: to achieve zero water withdrawal in its manufacturing processes and to use freshwater only for human consumption. The Ford plant in Chennai has achieved zero liquid discharge and has also installed equipment to harvest rain water to further reduce the use of drinking water. Over 3,000 cubic meters of rainwater was harvested for use in 2016. The plant uses 100% treated water which is recycled and reused within the plant property. All water needs for the manufacturing processes, toilets, urinals and landscape are met through recycled water. The Ford Chennai plant uses the least amount of fresh water per car in its manufacturing process and is a world record.

Mr. Bijay Mukherjee of Cognizant shared the company's best practices and explained how it has adopted innovative water-saving methods by installing special nozzles into washbasin taps, which reduce the water flow to a mist by atomizing the water into fine droplets, bringing down water consumption by 80% and preventing wastage. It ensures that a lot of water is saved when a person uses the tap. The company has switched over to biodegradable plates in all its cafeterias, temporarily closed the shower facilities at its gyms and minimized the washing of utensils in campuses by cafeteria vendors. Even the water discharged by the air conditioning plant is collected and re-used in the facility. Due to these measures, the company has been able to further optimize water consumption. Cognizant has also created an online forum for employees to share ideas and best practices around water conservation.

The meet concluded with an insightful interactive session. AMCHAM requested all participants to take back the message of water conservation to their workplaces and homes. The combined effort of all is necessary to conserve this precious commodity.

29th Aug 2019

### **Breakfast Meeting on 'How Academia and Industry Can Collaborate to Make in India and to Skill India'**

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter held a breakfast meeting on 'How Academia and Industry Can Collaborate to Make in India and to Skill India' on August 29th in Chennai. Mr. Balasundaram Radhakrishnan, Executive Director (Manufacturing) Chennai Vehicle Assembly and Engine Plant, Ford Motor Company, chaired the session, which featured guest speaker Prof. Dr. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. The meeting commenced with a welcome by Mr. Balasundaram Radhakrishnan, who set the tone for the meeting.

After members had introduced themselves, Mr. Balasundaram Radhakrishnan said that university-industry collaboration required careful management and could bring many benefits. These include a two-way flow

of ideas: results can flow out to industry and they can also be in-bound to fuel research questions. For example, sometimes technical problems experienced at the cutting-edge of practice lead to new questions for science. He added that a combination of economic, business and technology factors have led to a steady rise in synergistic partnerships between industry and academia in India.

Dr. Bhaskar Ramamurthi began by responding to the comments made by members when they introduced their companies. He spoke of how the IIT's in India have spurred research in many disciplines and have many patents, most of which have been commercialized. Dr. Ramamurthi said that as an administrator he spends a considerable part of his work day interviewing potential faculty. He said that the faculty at IIT have been given the freedom to pursue research and work with students to nurture them in the area of their specialization. He added that the institute has sixteen academic departments and a few advanced research centres in various disciplines of engineering and pure sciences, with nearly 100 laboratories organized in a unique pattern of functioning. A faculty of international repute, a brilliant student community, excellent technical and supporting staff and an effective administration has all contributed to the pre-eminent status of IIT Madras.

In his presentation Dr. Ramamurthi said that the 3 focus areas of research were: academic research to produce research papers for publication; translational research in the area of industry, space, defense and incubation; and transformational research which had a direct societal impact, disruptive improvement in housing, water, education, healthcare and energy. IIT Madras has over 2,000 ongoing projects, working with 500+ Indian companies, 100+ MNC's and has filed over 195 patents. The Director said that IIT – Madras has established eight new centers of excellence, besides 15 such centers of excellence already functioning in the institute.

The Director also emphasized that IIT Madras is working with many leading companies and also has a research park to incubate startups working in diverse sectors such as auto and automotive energy, power, big data and analytics, mechanical engineering and design, telecom and networks, financial services, product engineering and design, ITES and consulting, bio medical devices, IP services, social enterprises, industry professional bodies, incubators, technology and policy, bio processes amongst others. He said that IIT Madras was open to collaborating with MNC's and that there is space available in the IIT – Madras Research park for American companies to establish research centers.

During the interactive session the Director remarked that the role of academia is to impart knowledge and instill the quest of creativity and questioning. He added that it was the responsibility of industry to train engineers for the role they have been selected.

In conclusion Mr. Radhakrishnan said that, its high time now to reboot the India education system and joint initiatives by industry and academia would play an important part in plugging the talent gap in the years to come. Training individuals for the jobs of the future and allowing them to visualize what is possible today will not only make a difference in their lives but will enrich our communities now and for the future. The meet concluded with an insightful interactive session followed by networking.

26th Sept 2019

### **Breakfast Meeting on Investing in Tamil Nadu – New Government Policy on Industry**

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter held a breakfast meeting on September 26th in Chennai with guest speaker Dr. K.P. Karthikeyan IAS, Executive Director, Guidance Bureau, Government of Tamil Nadu. Dr. Karthikeyan began his presentation by describing the state of Tamil Nadu – its strategic location and climate conducive to year-round port operations with three modern ports and 16 minor ports; two of those — Chennai and Thoothukudi which have container handling facilities. He said that the state was well connected with an extensive road and rail network, besides modern telecommunications infrastructure.

The other points made in the presentation included: Tamil Nadu has the third largest economy among the Indian states. Currently, the state's official gross domestic product (GDP) exceeds US\$ 23 billion; the average growth rate in Tamil Nadu has remained around 6-7%, which is much higher than the average growth rate of Indian states.

In the 2018 NCAER (National Council of Applied Economic Research) – State Investment Potential Index Overall Rankings report, Tamil Nadu was ranked the second most attractive state in India for investments. Tamil Nadu has become a popular investment destination on the basis of its unique economic structure. The state is home to more than 100 industrial parks, including developed land, for those who want to start a new business. Unlike many other states in India, where all economic resources are concentrated in one or two regions, Tamil Nadu's economic resources are well distributed across the state.

The state has a large number of windmills that it relies on to generate electricity. It is one of the few states in India that sells electricity to others. Tamil Nadu generates more than half of India's wind energy. The state government operates many large public sector companies in diverse fields like watch-making and paper mills.

Tamil Nadu has a high per capita income and is one of the most stable and urbanized regions in the country. It is India's second largest software exporter, in terms of value. The state has the potential to become a preferred international destination for investments and manufacturing. Through a combination of talent, technology and incentives, the state has all the ingredients to achieve its global ambitions of delivering world class products and services. Tamil Nadu's growth is driven by the automotive, automotive components, textile, manufacturing, defense and aerospace, biotechnology, health, energy, pharmaceutical, animation and the visual effects industries, as well as other areas of IT.

Dr. Karthikeyan said that the Business Facilitation Act provides for an online single window clearances in a time bound manner, online tracking of approvals, deemed approvals for clearances upon reaching the given timelines, prompt grievance redressal mechanism, state level committee for large industries and district level committee for SME's and covers pre-establishment clearances, pre operational clearances, renewals and incentives. The presentation concluded with a very interesting interactive session.

Consul General Robert Burgess addressed members giving them an update on the visa application process and wait times, U.S. – India business relations, the Howdy Modi event and the visit to the U.S. of a Tamil Nadu government delegation led by the Chief Minister.

24th Oct 2019

#### **Breakfast Meeting on the 'State of the Economy: An Industry Perspective'**

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter organized a breakfast meeting on October 24th in Chennai with guest speaker Mr. A Viswanathan, President, Delphi TVS. The meeting commenced with a welcome by Mr. Rajan Aiyer, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM. Mr. Aiyer mentioned that there is something wrong with the economy and no one is coming up with the solutions to fix issues to set right matters. He mentioned that every sector of the economy feels the pinch and the ripple effect of government decisions and global affairs.

Mr. Viswanathan began his presentation by stating that today, when two or more people meet, the first thing discussed is no longer the weather but the economy. Everyone has an opinion of what's happening and how it affects them. Mr. Viswanathan made a very insightful presentation starting with decoding the macro elements and said the growth engines for the economy included: investment, net exports, private consumption. He said that due to lack of confidence the consumer was holding back, leading to a rapid fall in rural consumption. The other factors influencing it included: erosion of demand generated by unaccounted income as the economy moves into an era of higher formalization; issues with accessing funding; uncertainty due to job losses and future business incomes; deceleration in growth of income levels; wealth effect; H1B visa tightening; falling interest rates and lower inflation trends.

The government has begun a journey of fiscal inclusion by formalizing the economy through: direct benefit transfer; tackling corruption; transaction reporting; tax intelligence strengthening; tax linkage and demonetization. Examining the other factors affecting the slowing of credit, Mr. Viswanathan opined that this is due to: the collapse of the non-banking finance sector; PSU banks not well geared to accelerate retail credit; introduction of accountability in banks; introduction of credit scoring system; and reduction in unorganized credit.

Explaining what is needed in the short term, Mr. Viswanathan said that, individuals should have more disposable income; rural incomes should rise; GST rates to be lowered selectively; government to increase infrastructure spending; re-introduce investment incentives; aggressively drive exports and provide confidence on policy stability. While long term course corrections should focus on privatization; position India for a China plus one strategy; promote tourism aggressively; encourage labour intensive exports; revamp education and organize overseas placement to countries such as middle Europe, Japan and SE Asia.

While speaking on the recovery path, Mr. Viswanathan stated that social sector reforms in employment generation; health care delivery; quality of education and social security are of great importance and no economy can grow without attention to this sector. He said that the government has taken many measures in this connection, some of which include: pumping liquidity into the lending mechanism; bank weddings; rollback of FII surcharge; DA increase for government employees; release of government payments; implement major infrastructure projects and rate cuts. He added that the long term fundamentals remain intact and is an advantage that India has.

Dwelling on what companies should do, Mr. Viswanathan said that businesses should remind ourselves on the long term fundamentals and stay positive; manage cash well; cut back on working capital; cut back on discretionary spend; improve internal efficiencies; be lean and agile; continue to focus on growth strategies; negotiate for better rates; talent acquisition and development and that MNC units in India should promote India as the next manufacturing hub. More importantly, he added that companies should not: cut back on product development; allow talent drain; let short term setbacks derail long term thinking; freeze long term capex plans; lose connect with customer and market and not pull out of the country.

In conclusion, he said that this slowdown is different from the earlier ones and that it is a mix of cyclical, structural and episodic factors. The impact he said is widespread with many key industries contracting, some decelerating and few still doing better. He went on to say that the economy can get back to over 6% growth in the next two quarters, but that is not enough for India. A range of short term and long term measures are needed to put the economy into a higher trajectory as the long term fundamentals are intact. Giving the last punch Mr. Viswanathan said that as companies, "We need to think simultaneously about surviving in the short term and thriving in the long term." The meeting ended with a Q&A session and Mr. Rajan Aiyer thanking Mr. Viswanathan for this very detailed presentation on the state of the economy.

4th Jan 2020

#### **Tamil Nadu Executive Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter launched activities for the year 2020 with the first Executive Committee meeting in Chennai on January 4th to discuss key learnings of 2019 and activities for 2020. Key focus areas of the chapter included activities for member interaction and knowledge sharing with industry and government, new member induction into the chapter and other priorities.

4th Feb 2020

#### **Interaction with Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Managing Director & CEO, Tamil Nadu Guidance**

The Tamil Nadu Chapter hosted a breakfast for member companies on February 4th where Dr. Neeraj Mittal, MD & CEO, Tamil Nadu Guidance addressed the audience about the ease of doing business in Tamil Nadu and the launch of Biz Buddy, a business friendly grievance redressal portal for companies. The event was well attended with companies from Borg Warner, Deloitte, PSG Dover, Cognizant, Kemin and others.

4th Feb 2020

#### **Visit to the IIT Madras Research**

On February 4th, AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter visited the IIT Madras Research Park, which is India's first university based research park housing a community of scientists, innovators and engineers working on R&D and commercialization of deep tech innovation. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and understand areas of collaboration.

5th Feb 2020

**Decoding the Union Budget 2020 with PwC**

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter held 'Decoding the Union Budget 2020' with experts from PwC on February 5th in Chennai. Mr. Rajan Aiyer, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Trimble, addressed members. This session focussed on examining the highlights of the Union Budget presented in parliament on February 1st. Direct and indirect tax implications and salient features that impact the economy in general and business of U.S. companies were presented and discussed. The session explored trends envisaged based on extreme analysis of the budget and sought how the changes proposed would impact business. The speakers from PwC included Mr. Sriram Seshadri, Partner, Corporate & International Tax and Mr. Sivarajan K, Partner, Indirect Tax. The session was attended by companies like Trimble, Kemin, Dell, Astroved and others.



Participants at the meeting on 'Global In-House Centres (GIC) - Emerging Trends and Increasing Relevance'



Participants at a breakfast meeting on 'Save Water – Innovation and Best Practices' in Chennai



Participants at 'How Academia and Industry Can Collaborate to Make in India and to Skill India' in Chennai



Dr. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT Madras and Mr. Balasundaram Radhakrishnan, Executive Director, Manufacturing, Ford Motor Company at a breakfast meeting in Chennai



Participants at a breakfast meeting in Chennai with guest speaker Dr. K.P. Karthikeyan IAS, Executive Director, Guidance Bureau, Government of Tamil Nadu





Dr. K P Karthikeyan IAS, Executive Director, Guidance Bureau addressing members during the September breakfast meeting



The interactive session at the September breakfast meeting



Participants at the October breakfast meeting in Chennai



Tamil Nadu Chapter Executive Committee meeting in Chennai



Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Managing Director & CEO, Tamil Nadu Guidance addressing members in Chennai

(L-R) Ms. Arathy, Marketing Manager, IIT Madras, Mr. Aubrey Daniels, Regional Director – Tamil Nadu, AMCHAM and Ms. Anuradha, Chief Marketing Officer, IIT Madras



Mr. Rajan Aiyer, Chairman - Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM and Managing Director of Trimble, addressing members in Chennai



## AMCHAM Delhi

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Former President of India addressing AMCHAM members at the 27th Annual General Meeting

Date	Meetings / Events
26th April 2019	<p><b>27th Annual General Meeting</b></p> <p>The 27th Annual General Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in India was held on April 26th, 2019 at the Hotel Leela Palace, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. The theme of the event was 'AMCHAM India: Enhancing the U.S.-India Economic Partnership.' The meeting was chaired by Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM India and President &amp; CEO, Walmart India.</p> <p>Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, welcomed participants and presented the Annual Report. She highlighted the important events organized by AMCHAM during the year. The Annual Report was unanimously adopted.</p> <p>Mr. Krish Iyer, in his opening remarks, said that he it was an honour for him to be the chairperson for AMCHAM India for the past year and during his tenure he had seen the U.S.- India relationship strengthening of the strategic and defense ties and bilateral trade and the first U.S.-India 2+2 Dialogue, the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue and the reconstituted U.S.-India CEOs Forum.</p> <p>The Chairperson thanked Ms. Ranjana Khanna and the secretariat for organizing a wonderful AGM and for the efforts put in throughout the year. He also thanked all board members for sharing his responsibility and he thanked Mr. Robert Garverick and Ms. Aileen Nandi of the U.S. Embassy for their great support.</p> <p>Mr. Atul Dhawan Honorary Secretary and Treasurer presented the audited accounts of AMCHAM for the year 2018-19 for adoption and it was approved by Mr. Phil Shaw, Chief Executive – India, Lockheed Martin India and seconded by Sanjay Kaul, Chairman &amp; Managing Director, Timken India Limited. Ms. Ranjana Khanna placed the following resolution for appointment of M/s. Walker Chandiok &amp; Co. LLP, Chartered Accountants as the Statutory and Tax Auditors of the American Chamber of Commerce in India for the financial year 2019-20, which was duly approved by Mr. Atul Dhawan, Chief Strategy Officer, Deloitte India and seconded by Mr. Karan Bajwa, Managing Director, IBM India.</p> <p>Ms. Ranjana Khanna announced the composition of the National Executive Board of AMCHAM for 2019-20.</p> <p><b>Elected Members:</b></p> <p>Ms. Rekha M. Menon, Chairman and Senior Managing Director, Accenture in India Mr. Sanjay Bhutani, Managing Director – India &amp; SAARC, Bausch &amp; Lomb India</p>

Mr. Ravinder Dang, Managing Director., Baxter (India) Pvt. Ltd.  
Mr. Salil Gupte, President, Boeing India  
Mr. Rajesh Janey, President & Managing Director – Enterprise India, Dell EMC  
Mr. Atul Dhawan, Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP  
Mr. Som Satsangi, Managing Director, Hewlett Packard Enterprise India  
Arun M. Kumar, Chairman and CEO, KPMG in India  
Mt. Phil Shaw, Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin Pvt. Ltd.

***Nominees from the Regions:***

**Bengaluru**

Chairman

NEB Member

Mr. Sanjay Koul

Chairman & Managing Director

Timken India Limited

Mr. Iqbal Sait

Head of EMEA Operations

Saggezza India Pvt. Ltd.

**Chennai**

Mr. Rajan Aiyer

Managing Director – Trimble India & SAAARC Region

Trimble Information Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy

Executive Director, India

Cognizant Technology Solutions

**Delhi**

Mr. Karan Bajwa

MD and RGM India & South Asia

IBM India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Palash Roy Chowdhury

Managing Director – Pratt & Whitney

United Technologies Corporation India Pvt. Ltd.

**Hyderabad**

Mr. Shashidhar Reddy

Vice President – Engineering

Qualcomm India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Abhishek Tomar

Managing Director

S&P Capital IQ (India) Pvt. Ltd.

### **Kolkata**

Mr. Debdas Sen  
CEO  
TCG Digital Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Gulshan Kumar Sachdev  
Managing Director  
Quaker Chemical India Limited

### **Mumbai**

Ms. Ursula Thakkar  
Managing Director, South Asia  
Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd.

Ms. Kaku Nakhate  
President & Country Head, India  
Bank of America N.A.

### **Immediate Past Chairperson:**

Mr. Krish Iyer, President & CEO, Walmart India

### **Honorary Members:**

Mr. J. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs  
Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, are the Honorary Members

The statutory AGM concluded with the presentation of 10 years' service recognition awards to Mr. L.N. Agarwal and Mr. Chittaranjan Das by Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Vice Chair, AMCHAM and Chairman & CEO, KPMG in India.

### ***Inaugural Session***

The inaugural session of AMCHAM's AGM began with welcome remarks and an introduction of the esteemed speakers by Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM India, followed by opening remarks by Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India. In his remarks he touched upon the shared values and similar challenges that both countries faced and reaffirmed the strides in the U.S.-India partnership in defense. Mr. Iyer talked about how U.S. companies have made significant commitments in India through aerospace, defense, financial services, banking and e-commerce. He thanked the Embassy for all their efforts to support U.S. industry in India.

Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster, U.S. Ambassador to India delivered the keynote address, in which he recognized the hard work put in by the American business community to strengthen the U.S.-India economic partnership. He also talked about the importance for both countries to play a role in the Indo-Pacific.

Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar, former Foreign Secretary, GOI, in his address, explained the transformation of Indo American relations over the last twenty years and emphasized the change in mindset was visible on the economic side. In reflecting on the causes of the transformation of the relationship he outlined the end of the Cold War which expanded political and security partnerships. He also touched upon the removal of geo political differences and the larger societal feelings between countries, such as the Indian diaspora in the U.S., that has resulted in increasing appreciation. Ambassador Jaishankar discussed how digitization was central to India's growth process and how a new equilibrium would emerge in different sectors.

Ambassador Juster released AMCHAM's coffee table book 'Investing in People – Changing Lives: U.S. Companies in India' which showcased the stories of how our members impact people pan India, whether

through training, re-skilling, education, medical assistance, women's empowerment initiatives, encouraging entrepreneurship or CSR endeavours across multiple sectors. The photo exhibition of the same was displayed in the prefunction area.

Ambassador Juster, Ambassador Jaishankar and Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Vice Chair, AMCHAM and Chairman & CEO, KPMG in India, released the book which would be presented to the new government to showcase the good work done by U.S. companies.

Mr. Arun M. Kumar thanked both Ambassadors for their optimistic messages and emphasized that trade and investment was strong between both countries. He talked about how critical it was to integrate supply chains and participate in India's strategic infrastructure development.

#### ***Industry 4.0: Smart Manufacturing***

The next session 'Industry 4.0: Smart Manufacturing' featured a keynote address by Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. Mr. Som Satsangi, Managing Director, Hewlett Packard Enterprise India, introduced the Secretary and all the panellists. Mr. Satsangi pointed out how Industry 4.0 would humanize machines and usher in AI thus having the potential to change the way we live and work. He set the scene to focus on three themes, feasibility of smart manufacturing in India, developing smart manufacturing and the scalability of it.

In his keynote address, Mr. Ramesh Abhishek mentioned that the Government of India has worked hard to make India investor friendly and thanks U.S. companies for their support. He was hopeful that some of the challenges that remain could be faced with the latest technology and modernization. The manufacturing sector was 17% of the GDP. He talked about how industry 4.0 could benefit India and how larger companies could help smaller companies adapt technologies. He requested industry to provide inputs on skilling and reskilling.

Mr. Som Satsangi moderated the session with panellists: Mr. Salil Gupte, President, Boeing India, Mr. Amit Bansal, Co-Chair – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Corning India and Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, CEO, Dow Chemical International.

Mr. Sudhir Shenoy talked about the substantial progress that India has made in the past few years. He mentioned that standards and regulations were a challenge, that internal standards were compliant but often not in line with government standards. Now days everything can be done digitally making it is easy to detect violations, but it doesn't always work in the real world, hence, he noted, upgrading the acts and policies to make it 4.0 relevant was important. Mr. Shenoy said Dow has the world's largest engineering capability in India and applauded India's intellect and capabilities but the challenge with approvals for operation has persisted.

Mr. Amit Bansal pointed out that one of the challenges of industry 4.0 was data and how to convert data into insights. Some companies have decades of data that they struggle to make use of. He talked about how people would adapt and learn skills to do their job but also how to work with machines. With industry 4.0 some jobs would be lost, some jobs would need reskilling and encourage industry to work closely with academia to ensure classroom lessons were true to the reality of industry.

Mr. Salil Gupte discussed, from a security perspective, how each country varies on how to handle data. He emphasized that the closer partnership between U.S. and India was helpful in unlocking capabilities for smart solutions. He also talked about how smart solutions can help manage the production side to offer customized offerings to customers. He gave an example about how airplanes need individual parts and how smart solutions can the necessary parts at individual locations in the supply chain and provide customers better services without delay.

Secretary Ramesh Abhishek said the government understood the importance of data security and privacy and were working on data privacy laws. He also said that people were ready to adopt technologies and that not adopting technology was not an option. He discussed that reskilling by industries was important and that the government needed to also chip in. He said that investors should be able to know the speed at which approvals come in each state and the government was looking into a way to rank states.

**Trade Winds Indo Pacific 2019**

Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, gave an overview of Trade Winds Indo Pacific. The 2019 U.S. Commercial Service Trade Winds program would include an Indo-Pacific focused business forum in New Delhi, India consisting of regional and industry specific conference sessions as well as pre-arranged consultations with U.S. Diplomats representing commercial markets throughout the region. It would also feature individual matchmaking based on input from their Commercial Specialists throughout the region, and bring together potential buyers, agents, distributors and joint-venture partners in the following Indian cities on May 8-10: New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata.

**Reskilling for the Future**

The next session 'Reskilling for the Future' featured a keynote by Dr. Sunita Sanghi, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Skill and Entrepreneurship. She discussed the impact of technology in everyday life and how these can be addressed by the ever-changing ecosystem. There was a gap between what industries need and what education has been able to give. The current education system was producing people with very little industry connect. She emphasized the need of the hour was to have a strong industry institute where industry can shape curriculum or have an industrial partner in the form of an industrial training institute. Industry needs to provide work space to education institutes to have a hands-on understanding on how industries work. Unless and until there is industry linkage, there will always be a significant gap.

Mr. Karan Bajwa, Managing Director, IBM India, welcomed Dr. Sanghi and all other panellists. The other panellists were Ms. Rekha Menon, Chairman and Senior Managing Director, Accenture in India and Mr. Phil Shaw, Chief Executive – India, Lockheed Martin India.

Mr. Bajwa observed that skills were a top priority in the government and that technology was an enabler for industry while being seen as both a transformative tool and a disruption of employment at the same time. He said there was a huge opportunity to reskill the workforce and this could be ensured by imparting this early in the education system. He mentioned that close to 54% work population who are graduating were found to be unemployable due to skill mismatch and only 10% were certified as a match for the skills they possess. There was a need to put systems in place where people are trained for what they need to possess. Mr. Bajwa said, in the labour market, about 80% children drop out before the tenth standard and before completing their secondary education. While commenting on the labour market being dualistic in nature, he said, on one hand there was an organized centre, while on the other it was difficult to map the skill requirements. Apprenticeship programs by higher education centres to reskill graduates entering the labour market was a key for success in this direction.

Ms. Rekha Menon mentioned that soft skills were the most critical aspect of training as part of the reskilling process. Building and imparting new skills was hugely imperative and the need of the hour. She said that this was a huge business opportunity because a good share of talent lies in India. The key lies in finding a balance between reskilling and refreshing the workforce. Reskilling remains more important because only a skilled workforce can be refreshed. Though it largely depends on an individual's capabilities, there were areas that need to be automated which would lead to creation of new opportunities. The transition of skills in people shifts from how this could be viewed as an opportunity and not as a job loss with the advent of technology. Creating a platform where skills were needed which highlighted what was already available would be useful. Throwing away the old learning framework and drafting a new one in line with current requirements would be the key to success.

Mr. Phil Shaw felt that the government should incentivize industry for skilling yet on the other hand if this was an individual company's priority then how could it be institutionalized? The SHREYAS initiative by the government was a program conceived for students in degree courses, primarily non-technical, with a view to introduce employable skills into their learning, promote apprenticeship as integral to education and amalgamate employment facilitating efforts of the government into the education system so that clear pathways towards employment opportunities were available to students during and after their graduation. He said that colleges and higher education institutes should introduce apprenticeship programs and allow people to take courses according to this. When Lockheed Martin began operations in India there were no skilled staff in defense so they needed to train people who could do the job. As a result, Lockheed Martin



was successful in creating a skilled ecosystem within the last ten years. In India, the people were a lot younger, eager and created a dynamic workforce of high quality which turned out to be advantageous. Lockheed Martin also encouraged women to attend skills development programs and join industries and continues to work across the country to engage more women in aviation, work with women in villages and bring them into the main workforce.

Ms. Sanghi, in closing stated that there should be one central competency skill level across all states and for that a smart portal has been put in place. When the policy on skills development was drafted the focus was on inclusion. Policy since 2015 was not only on creating demand, but on continued lifelong learning, counselling and mobilizing the youth. Industry should work together with academia to skill labour as per what is needed and essential for their upliftment.

#### ***U.S.-India Partnership: The Road Ahead***

This session featured a candid conversation between Ms. Indrani Bagchi, Senior Diplomatic Editor, Times of India and former Indian Ambassadors to the U.S. — Ambassador Meera Shankar and Ambassador Arun Kumar Singh. While expressing her views, Ambassador Shankar shared that despite occasional surprises India has managed well with the Trump administration. She stated that the growing strategic partnership was propelled given the increasing converging interest in Asia particularly with how both countries manage the rise of an increasing assertive China. Another area of common concern was terrorism and the intent to reduce and eliminate terrorism.

Both Ambassador Arun Kumar Singh and Ambassador Shankar opined that there was a growing dissonance on the trade and economic front from both countries. On India's position on data localization and e-commerce and GSP, Ambassador Singh stated that similar dialogues were happening in some other countries too and the issue could be addressed keeping in view the interest of each side. On the e-commerce sector it was felt that given the deep base of people involved and the impact on jobs and livelihoods in India, feasible discussions should be sought.

On GSP the opinion was, giving preference to any one country was not recommended and an approach of common policy for trade relations across countries would be best suited. If India makes concessions it would expect concessions from the U.S. too. The view was the best way to work around any challenges was to look at synergies and economic and strategic convergence. On the issue of technology and its impact on strategic partnership between the U.S. and India the opinion was that India should take a strategic view of 5G and make choices accordingly since it would have an enormous footprint on a range of related activities. On security relations the view was that the relationship had come a long way but could be strengthened further. It was felt that in the Indo-Pacific area there was growing convergence given the impact of a rising China.

In closing Ms. Bagchi thanked the panelists and said that we were likely to see action in all these areas post the elections and the formation of the new government.

#### ***Vision for the Future of the U.S.-India Partnership***

For the final session, 'Vision for the Future of the U.S. – India Partnership,' Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Former President of India was the chief guest. At the onset Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM India and Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Secretary & Treasurer, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, warmly welcomed the hon'ble chief guest while expressing the honour and gratitude to him gracing AGM with his presence. Mr. Atul Dhawan spoke of the strategic U.S.-India with a special reference to the increasing bilateral trade and investments of the two countries across both nations. He also mentioned how the Indo-Pacific region has been playing an instrumental role in the much-valued relationship of India and the U.S.

Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM, briefly summarized the day's proceedings and put it in the right context for the benefit of Shri Mukherjee. The discussions through the day brought to light that there exists untold potential in the U.S.-India partnership given the growth in the relationship over the past two decades.

India has emerged as the most attractive and the sought-after destination with a lot in common between the largest and the oldest democracies especially the cultural values and transparency. The bilateral opportunities offer not just avenues for economic collaboration but also opportunities for partnering in India's inclusive growth and avenues to work on multilateral platforms.

The Hon'ble chief guest Shri Pranab Mukherjee started by sharing his wonderful journey that started 50 years ago when he entered the magnificent building of the Parliament House. He expressed gratitude to AMCHAM for inviting him to make an address at AGM. He made a special mention of the strong commonalities between the two countries with a few of them being ethics, systems, strong civil society, informative media and responsive citizens. He shared several anecdotes from history and politics which have laid the road map for echoing democratic values and growing relations between the two countries. He shared that since the day of India's independence, the U.S. was the largest investor and technical collaborator with India. There has been huge development since the last three and half decades particularly since there has been massive liberalization and deregulation in India. He spoke of how he steered the foreign regulation act in the 70's and how nineteen years later he strongly advocated for portfolio investment from foreign companies. He shared his interest to mention these milestones and perceptions with the distinguished members of AMCHAM who presently play an important role in building and fostering a closer relationship between India and the U.S. He also spoke of the specific areas where collaborations have been significant which included healthcare, technology, smart cities, agriculture, infrastructure and energy. He expressed that sustainable growth cannot take place in silos, it should be orderly and inclusive.

The Hon'ble Former President also shared his personal experience and involvement in the landmark signing of the Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement with the U.S. He shared another personal anecdote on how quick decision and personal responses took place during the signing of the Defense Framework Cooperation Agreement. In closing he urged the distinguished guests that we must build a positive and proactive cooperation between the two countries which can influence the international scenario to a considerable extent. With much gratitude Ms. Ranjana Khanna thanked the Hon'ble Former President for his valuable address and concluded AGM.

26th April 2019

#### **National Executive Board Meeting**

The first meeting of AMCHAM's National Executive Board for 2019-2020 was held on April 26th 2019 in New Delhi. The board thanked the outgoing Chairperson, Mr. Krish Iyer and elected as Chairman for AMCHAM this year, Mr. Phil Shaw, Chief Executive India, Lockheed Martin India. The board elected the following office bearers: Vice Chair, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, President & Country Head, India, Bank of America N.A., Vice Chair, Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited and Honorary Secretary & Treasurer, Mr. Atul Dhawan, Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP.

4th June 2019

#### **Tax, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee Meeting on Pre Budget with Chairman, CBDT**

AMCHAM's Taxation, Tariff and Regulatory Affairs Committee participated in a pre-budget meeting with the Chairman, CBDT on June 4th, 2019 at the Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Mr. P.C. Mody, Chairman, CBDT. Mr. Akhilesh Ranjan, Member, CBDT and other functionaries attended the meeting. AMCHAM was represented by Mr. Sandeep Chaufla, Chairman – Tax, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Mr. Naveen Agarwal, Co-Chairman – Tax, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Wg. Cdr. Rajiv Anand, Program Director, AMCHAM. AMCHAM made a presentation and highlighted issues that merit review of various aspects of taxation currently impacting U.S. companies in India.

Some of the issues discussed included: corporate tax rates – case for reduction, replacing DDT with TDS on dividends, digital taxation – SEP related issues, business reorganization – rationalization, Authority for Advance Rulings (AAR) – clarifications, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) – making it attractive for developers/units, among other topics. An exhaustive 'Pre-Budget Memorandum 2019-20 for Direct Taxes' was also handed over to the Gol.

7th June 2019

**Cyber Security Committee Meeting**

The Cyber Security Committee meeting was chaired by Mr. Deepak Maheshwari from Symantec and co-chaired by Mr. Kishore Balaji from Intel Technologies and Mr. Rajnish Gupta from RSA Technologies on 7th June 2019 at the Intel office in Nehru Place. Perspective from the U.S. Embassy was shared by Mr. Joshua Johnson, Trade Officer, Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs. It was decided that the committee would primarily focus upon (1) Personal Data Protection Bill and (2) Review of National Cyber Security Policy. State wise events across Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai would be planned keeping the above thematic areas in mind along with focus group discussion with MeITy and other ministries to deliberate and educate the GOI on global cyber security mandates. The U.S. Embassy has shown interest to support AMCHAM with their initiatives by inviting key government officials and experts from U.S. government to discuss and participate in focused roundtables and events.

9th - 13th June  
2019**Annual Door Knock to Washington DC 2019**

The annual AMCHAM India door knock delegation to Washington DC was led by AMCHAM's Chairman, Mr. Phil Shaw, Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin India, from June 9th – 13th, 2019. The main purpose of the door knock was to inform and sensitize U.S. policy-makers and lawmakers on issues impacting U.S. companies' operations in India. The delegation interacted with important players in the economic relationship and key decision-makers. A white paper highlighting opportunities and key issues for identified sectors was prepared with knowledge partner KPMG for presenting to influencers leading the U.S.-India Economic partnership. The document provided an industry perspective on India's economy while highlighting some of the key sectorwise industry related challenges faced by U.S. companies operating in India.

The main topics of discussions with government officials included:

- Data localization across sectors
- IP protection and lack of patent linkages
- Reactions to GSP withdrawal
- Copyright Bill – Form 27 issues in IT
- Banking industry – privacy, data, job creation
- E-commerce – policy and the negative trade impact
- Cyber security capability as an economic pillar in the Indo – Pacific strategy
- Smart manufacturing in 5G technology
- Pricing, trade margin rationalization
- CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) – awareness of the dynamics and possibility of waiver for India
- Potential for a Congressional study group on India
- Basic impediments to Investments
- Critical financing through EXIM bank
- USG's vision on the Indo-Pacific
- Growth opportunity in aviation in India
- Exploring space relationship and program between the two countries
- Reinitiate the U.S.-India higher education dialogue
- B2G interactions on the side lines of G2G dialogues across sectors

On Sunday evening, June 9th, the delegation met for an informal internal briefing and was joined by Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy.

On Monday June 10th, the door knock officially began with a meeting with Mr. Vishal Amin, Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President and other officials from IPEC, at the White House. This was followed by a meeting with Ambassador Robert Strayer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber and International Communications and Information Policy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State along with Mr. John Piletich, International Relations Officer, International Communications & Information Policy and Ms. Ruth Berry, Deputy Director for Bilateral & Regional Affairs, International Communications and Information Policy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. Next the delegation moved to Capitol Hill and met with Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) and Representative Vicky Hartzler (R-MO). The day concluded with a meeting with Mr. Clarke Cooper, Assistant Secretary, Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

On Tuesday June 11th, the delegation met with Ambassador Jeff Gerrish, Deputy United States Trade Representative, who was joined by Ms. Rachel Morris, Senior Advisor to the Deputy United States Trade Representative, Mr. Christopher Wilson, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for South and Central Asian Affairs, and Mr. Brendan Lynch, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for South and Central Asia, among others. The delegation met with Mr. Curtis Rhyne, Deputy Chief of Staff for Representative George Holding (R-NC) Co-Chair, Congressional India Caucus.

In the afternoon, the group went to the Pentagon to meet with Department of Defense officials from the Office of the Secretary of Defense: Ambassador Tina Kaidanow, Senior Advisor, International Cooperation, Acquisition & Sustainment, Dr. Joe Felter, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (South and Southeast Asia), Ms. Michelle Hizon, Principal Director, Security Assistance, Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), Mr. Mike Laychak, Deputy Director, Defense Technology Security Administration (DTSA) and Mr. Scott Baum, Principal Director, Industrial Policy. There was also a defense services meetings with the following officials: Mr. Michael Vaccaro, Director, International Armaments Cooperation, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (A&S), Ms. Ann Cataldo, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Defense Exports and Cooperation, Dr. Walter Jones, Deputy Director, Navy International Programs Office and Maj. Gen. Stephen W. Oliver Jr., Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs. The day concluded with a brief meeting with Representative Henry Cuellar (D-TX).

On Wednesday morning, June 12th, the delegation met with Mr. Thomas Hardy, Director (Acting), USTDA, Mr. Todd Abrajano, Deputy Director (Acting), Ms. Verinda Fike, Regional Director for South and Southeast Asia, Ms. Shannon M. Roe, Senior Country Manager, Indo-Pacific Region and Ms. Alissa Lee, Country Manager, Indo-Pacific Region. There was a meeting with Speaker Nancy Pelosi's staff, Ms. Katherine Monge, Senior Policy Advisor and Ms. Sarah Jackson, Policy Associate. The group met with Ms. Erica Riordan, Legislative Assistant from the office of Representative Dina Titus (D-NV). Aviation sector members met with Mr. David S. Burkholder, Deputy Executive Director, Office of International Affairs, Federal Aviation Administration. Next, the delegation went back to the State Department for a meeting with Ambassador Alice Wells, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs. Important interactions were held with Representative Steve Chabot (R-OH), Representative Brian Mast (R-FL) and Representative Ami Bera (D-CA).

June 13th began with a meeting with Mr. Michael Sobolik, Legislative Assistant for Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) followed by a meeting with staffers from the office of Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), Co Chair, Senate India Caucus, Mr. Don Bergin, Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant and Mr. Karthik Raja. The final trip to the State department was to meet with Mr. Peter Haas, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic Affairs, U.S. Department of State. The group proceeded to the Embassy of India to meet with Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Puneet Kundal, Minister – Commerce and Mr. Sanjiv Tandon, Counselor Commerce. The final meeting was with Mr. Dale Tasharski, Deputy Director General of Global Markets, U.S. Department of Commerce, Ms. Jennifer Wethey, Director for India and the Indian Ocean Region, National Security Council and Commerce Department officials.

## AMCHAM India Door Knock Delegation 2019

Phil Shaw, Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin India Pvt. Ltd. (Chairman, AMCHAM)

Kaku Nakhate, President & Country Head, India, Bank of America N.A. (Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and Chairperson – Diversity & Inclusion Committee, AMCHAM)

Salil Gupte, President, Boeing India (National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM)

Michael M. Koch, Vice President – India, Boeing Defense Space & Security, Boeing India Defense Pvt. Ltd. (Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM)

Puneet Kumar, Managing Director, Accenture Solutions India Pvt. Ltd.

Nikhil Khanna, Managing Director, India, BAE Systems India Pvt. Ltd. (Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM)

Naveen Munnangi, General Manager & Whole-time Director, Belcan India Pvt. Ltd.

Arijit Sen, Senior Director, Government Affairs, Flex Group (Co-Chairman - Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM)

Michael Harrington, Managing Director, Mintz Group

Vivek Vasishtha, Executive Director and Country Leader, IBM India (Co-Chairman - ICT Committee, AMCHAM)

Pradeep Udhas, Office Managing Partner – West, KPMG in India

Jyotsna Ghosal, Senior Director, Corporate Affairs, MSD Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. (Co-Chairperson – Pharma Committee, AMCHAM)

Michael Green, General Manager – India, Sannam S4

Samit Ray, Regional Director Government Affairs & Public Policy South East Asia, United Technologies Corporation (Co-Chairman – Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM)

Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM India

Valerie Swope, Program Coordinator, AMCHAM India

Udaya Arun, Director - Aerospace & Defense, AMCHAM India

25th June 2019

**USPTO Roundtable on Intellectual Property Concerns in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan with Ms. Zeba Reyazuddin, Acting Assistant, U.S. Trade Representative, South and Central Asian Affairs**

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) of South Asia hosted an intellectual property roundtable with Ms. Zeba Reyazuddin, Acting Assistant, U.S. Trade Representative, South and Central Asian Affairs, on June 25th, 2019 in New Delhi. AMCHAM members, along with participants from other companies, attended the roundtable. Ms. Zeba Reyazuddin welcomed participants and briefed everyone on her visit to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Maldives where she met with industry and government to address key commercial issues.

Intellectual property matters have long standing issues in the region so the roundtable discussion brought up thoughts on the IP landscape of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, along with industry concerns. During the course of the interaction, they also discussed issues relating to IP infrastructure, legislative reforms, IP enforcement and any other related issues and the way forward.

27th June 2019

**Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Core Committee Meeting**

On 27th June 2019, the Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Core Committee organized a meeting at the Genpact office in Gurugram. Ms. Tanya Paul, Communication Director, AMCHAM, welcomed participants and introduced the new Chairman and Co-Chairperson for 2019-20. Opening remarks were given by Mr. Gaurav Ajmani, Chairman – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Associate General Counsel, Business Conduct & Ethics, Amazon Seller Services (P) Ltd. The committee discussed focus areas for corporate anti-corruption programs, specifically on employee training (offline/online) and changes in policies and what drove these changes.

The committee also discussed a workplan for the upcoming months, including the draft agenda for the annual signature event – the Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Masterclass 2019, which is planned for August 2019. Members were requested to share their suggestions for topics for next month's proposed webinar. The closing remarks and vote of thanks were given by Ms. Bhawna A. Ranganadhan, Co-Chairperson – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Legal and Compliance, Genpact.

8th July 2019

**Tax, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee Webinar on Budget 2019 in partnership with PwC**

On Monday July 8th, AMCHAM's Tax, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee, in association with PwC, conducted a webinar on key aspects of Union Budget 2019. The webinar examined highlights of the Union Budget presented in Parliament on July 5th. Direct and indirect tax implications as well as salient features that impact the economy in general and business of U.S. companies were brought out by the speakers Mr. Sandeep Chaufla, Partner, Corporate and International Tax, PwC India and Ms. Anita Rastogi, Partner, Indirect Tax, PwC India. The webinar was attended by over 60 members.

10th July 2019

**U.S. Embassy Briefing Session on Secretary Pompeo's Visit**

On July 10th, Mr. Rob Garverick, Minister Counselor, Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, briefed AMCHAM members on Secretary of State Pompeo's recent trip to India and his meeting with Dr. Jaishanker, Minister of External Affairs. Mr. Garverick also shared details of key topics of the interaction between Prime Minister Modi and President Trump at the G20 Summit, Osaka.

The key topics that were addressed during the G2G discussions included: cyber security opportunities and threats, trade issues across sectors, digital issues, market surveillance, sanctions, data localization and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. During the bi-lateral and tri-lateral in Osaka, Prime Minister Modi and President Trump discussed issues concerning 5G and Iran.

Members raised concerns and asked for inputs on the following topics: ICT tariff on line items (specifically routers and categories of GPUs), 301 report on IPR, 'Data Free Flow With Trust' initiative, electric vehicles and the decrease of FDI in the pharma sector. Upcoming USG visits and other dialogues scheduled for the near future were shared with members.

10th July 2019

**Meeting with Mr. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Railways and Commerce & Industry**

AMCHAM's secretariat, along with members of the medical devices industry attended a meeting with Mr. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Railways and Commerce & Industry, on July 10th in New Delhi. The meeting agenda was to discuss the resolution of the major stent and ortho industry issues. Members pointed out to the Minister the current situation of the MedTech industry with regard to the current price caps on stents and knee implants, how business is not viable and that many new technologies were not being introduced in India due to the price caps. Minister Goyal asked AMCHAM to send recommendations on issues discussed to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and Department of Pharmaceuticals and also mark a copy of the same to him. He asked members to finalize the suggestions and present a resolution to industry challenges.

11th July 2019	<p><b>Meeting with Ms. Shubra Singh, Chairman NPPA, Department of Pharmaceutical</b></p> <p>Ms. Meenakshi Nevatia, Chairperson – Medical Devices Committee, AMCHAM, along with members of AMCHAM’s secretariat, met with Ms. Shubra Singh, Chairman NPPA, Department of Pharmaceuticals on July 11th in New Delhi. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce AMCHAM. During the interactive discussion, AMCHAM members pointed out to the Chairman the current situation of the MedTech industry and the challenges faced. We had a positive engagement with Ms. Shubra Singh and she encouraged members to come up with innovative solutions to solve the challenges faced by industry.</p>
11th July 2019	<p><b>Meeting with Dr. Vinod Paul, Member, Niti Aayog</b></p> <p>Ms. Meenakshi Nevatia, Chairperson – Medical Devices Committee, AMCHAM, along with members of AMCHAM’s secretariat, met with Dr. Vinod Paul, Member, Niti Aayog on July 11th in New Delhi. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce AMCHAM. During the meeting, Dr. Vinod Paul mentioned the aim was to ensure access to devices that are safe and affordable which brings foreign investment, employment, reduces costs and increases export. He also said the draft medical devices bill would be out for comments within two weeks.</p>
16th July 2019	<p><b>U.S.-India Fast Track Mechanism Meeting</b></p> <p>A meeting of the U.S.-India Fast Track Mechanism was held at Invest India on July 16th. The meeting was Chaired by Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Representatives from various ministries and departments attended the meeting. Five AMCHAM member companies, Applied Materials, Edwards Life Sciences, Corning Technologies, Ingersoll Rand and CH Robinson, presented their issues for resolution. The discussions provided much needed opportunity to AMCHAM’s members to effectively put across their specific challenges. Some issues were resolved and others would be presented again with more data and additional information for consideration by the government. In addition to being very thankful for the opportunity, members conveyed their confidence in resolution of their issues based on the discussions.</p>
19th July 2019	<p><b>Defense Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>AMCHAM’s Defense Committee met on July 19th in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President – India, Boeing Defense, Space &amp; Security and co-chaired by Mr. Nik Khanna, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, India, BAE Systems and Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Partner and Head – North India, Corporate &amp; International Tax, KPMG. From the U.S. Embassy, Capt. Daniel Fillion, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, attended the meeting.</p> <p>AMCHAM welcomed members and kicked off discussions by giving a brief overview of the highly successful annual AMCHAM door knock. Members were updated of the perception of the defense officials at the Department of Defense, Capitol Hill lawmakers and other government agencies in the U.S. The team prioritized the agenda for meetings with the Ministry of Defence officials in the next quarter. CAATSA and its implications were also discussed at length under Chatham House rules. The upcoming DefExpo 2020 was discussed and potential industry engagements. A detailed analysis of upcoming G2G dialogues between the two countries was also conducted.</p>
19th July 2019	<p><b>Medical Devices Committee Meeting with Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs and Dr. Preetha Rajaraman, Health Attaché, U.S. Embassy</b></p> <p>AMCHAM’s Medical Devices Committee held a meeting on July 19th in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Ms. Meenakshi Nevatia, Chairperson – Medical Devices Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Stryker India. The meeting encompassed discussions on the positioning of AMCHAM with Government of</p>

India, U.S. government and industry along with an update on the advocacy and regulatory landscape for medical devices.

During the meeting members had an interactive session with Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs and Dr. Preetha Rajaraman, Health Attaché, U.S. Embassy, where members highlighted the current situation of the MedTech industry along with a few issues that were categorized as long, mid and short term.

Some of the key points that were discussed during the meeting included: MedTech value proposition, suggesting measures for ease of doing business for shaping policies, increasing AMCHAM membership and strategy to develop bilateral talks with neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The meeting concluded with closing remarks by Ms. Meenakshi Nevatia in which she thanked members for their valuable inputs.

24th July 2019

#### **HR Committee Meeting**

The HR Committee meeting took place on July 24th in Gurugram. The meeting commenced with a welcome and introduction of the new Chairperson and Co-Chairpersons by Ms. Tanya Paul, Communication Director, AMCHAM. The opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Smriti Ahuja, Chairperson – HR Committee, AMCHAM and Global Head Organization Effectiveness, Cognizant. She introduced Mr. Chaitanya Sreenivas, Vice President and HR Head, IBM India and South Asia. He gave a presentation and conducted an hour long session on 'Artificial Intelligence in HR.' He spoke about how to leverage the lifecycle of an employee by using technology and how using technology has proven to give massive returns in terms of finding appropriate skilled employees. His presentation detailed the steps IBM took to make use of AI effectively and efficiently in terms of human resource and finding talent. Committee members had a discussion and suggested focus areas for a work plan for 2019-20. Closing remarks were given by Ms. Rachna R. Kumar, Co-Chairperson – HR Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President Human Resources, Whirlpool India.

25th July 2019

#### **Energy Committee Meeting**

A meeting of AMCHAM's Energy Committee was held on July 25th at the AES India office in Gurugram and was chaired by Mr. Rajendra Shrivastav, President AES India. The committee deliberated on energy storage, renewables, energy transition, biofuels and current developments in refining and petrochemicals. The integration of renewables and battery energy storage (BES) for an uninterrupted supply to the grid was seen as the next big development on the horizon. While BES for electric vehicles also had significant potential, it was felt that charging infrastructure needed to be in place before the full potential of EVs could be realized. While lithium ion batteries for energy storage were seen as the leading technology offering the fastest response time, other technologies using nickel ion etc. were also good contenders. Lithium ion is not produced locally and is imported. Biofuel technologies converting waste to liquid fuels like ethanol, crude and furnace oil also offered a good business opportunity and some relief from hydrocarbon imports. The disruption in conventional transportation fuels has encouraged the integration of refining and petrochemicals. Technologies such as crude to chemicals were now on being considered seriously.

Members also discussed the above issues in the context of local manufacturing and integration into the global value chain. Challenges in each of these areas were discussed at length and the mobilization of members to address stakeholders. The challenge to contain a rise in global temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius was driving energy transition towards low carbon fuels. The themes that emerged for the next meeting were energy storage including renewables, petrochemicals and biofuels.



25th July 2019

**Agriculture & Food Processing Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Agriculture & Food Processing Committee organized its first meeting on July 25th at the Cargill Office in Gurugram. Mr. Simon George, Chairman – Agriculture & Food Processing Committee, AMCHAM and President, Cargill India welcomed participants. In his opening remarks, he spoke about the need of having a specific agenda for the committee and to focus on select activities. Ms. Tiffany Landry, Agricultural Attaché, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Embassy, gave an overview of her department and shared some specific initiatives for members undertaken by the U.S. Embassy. Mr. Shibu Mathews, Commercial Specialist, U.S. Commercial Service, U.S. Embassy, also shared how they assist American companies in extending their operations to India. The committee discussed a workplan for the upcoming months which included participation in World Food India 2019, creating awareness about water conservation in agriculture through integrated technology and focus on FPO's. The closing remarks and vote of thanks were given by Ms. Neelima Dwivedi, Co-Chairperson – Agriculture & Food Processing Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President – Corporate Affairs, PepsiCo India Holdings Pvt. Ltd.

25th July 2019

**First Stakeholders National Consultation meeting of SNCM (for revision of NLEM 2015) organized by Department of Health Research (DHR), Government of India**

The Standing National Committee on Medicine (SNCM) had its first stakeholders national consultation meeting for the revision of NLEM-2015 on 25th July 2019 at the Indian Red Cross Society Building, Department of Health Research (DHR), New Delhi. Ms. Jyotsna Ghoshal, Co-Chairperson – Pharma Committee, AMCHAM, and members of the Medical Devices Committee attended the meeting. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss any feedback on the previous NLEM-2015, get inputs/comments on oncology drugs and cardiology drugs, addition of penicillin preparations in NLEM and get information about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) consultation. During the meeting Dr. YK Gupta and Prof. Balram Bhargava – DG, ICMR, stated the objective of the consultation was to ensure absolute transparency. This would be standing committee and meetings would take place at regular intervals. Recommendations would be attempted at least once in six months and industry would be given adequate time to suggest/implement changes in NLEM.

26th July 2019

**Indian Council of Medical Research, Government of India, in association with Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) organized 'Consultative Meeting for Developing a Roadmap for Scaling-up of MedTech Innovations'**

AMCHAM members attended 'Consultative Meeting for Developing a Roadmap for Scaling-up of MedTech Innovations Striving for Quality, Safety and Affordable Access' organized by the Indian Council of Medical Research, in association with Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) on July 26th at the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi. Dr. Vinod Paul, Member, Niti Aayog, along with Dr. Balram Bhargava, DG, ICMR and Secretary, DHR, addressed participants, followed by a presentation on ICMR vision, role in diagnostic devices and scaling up the biodesign philosophy in India. This meeting brought together all key stakeholders and policy makers to deliberate on key issues/challenges faced by medical device start-ups and propose possible solutions to assist them in scaling-up and facilitating market access so that they can be used by the masses.

31st July 2019

**Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee met under the leadership of Mr. Anand Chidambaram, Chairman – Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Progressrail, Mr. Samit Ray, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Regional Director – Government Affairs & Public Policy South East Asia, UTC, and Mr. Amrisha Bakaya, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Director Corporate Affairs, HPE, in New Delhi on July 31st. The committee discussed avenues in infrastructure since the sector has now reflected marked activity post elections and budget. It was emphasized that the ongoing efforts on smart cities be kept up and efforts be made to identify ongoing projects vis a vis capabilities of members to pursue possibilities with MoHUA. A deep dive on smart cities was proposed and accepted for August 13th at the UTC Office, Gurugram. Other areas of concentration specific to the Infrastructure sector would be identified at the next meeting.

6th Aug 2019

**Cyber Security, 5G and Technological Innovation Roundtable with Mr. Harold Furchtgott-Roth, Hudson Institute**

A roundtable was organized by AMCHAM on August 6th on cyber security, 5G and technological innovation with Mr. Harold Furchtgott-Roth, Director, Center for the Economics of the Internet, Hudson Institute. He visited India and addressed AMCHAM's Cyber Security and ICT Committee members on topics such as technological innovation, 5G and different types of security risks posed by equipment from China, including possible industrial espionage, sabotage, and supply-chain dependency. The session was moderated by Mr. Deepak Maheshwari, Chairman – Cyber security Committee, AMCHAM.

13th Aug 2019

**Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee met under the leadership of Mr. Anand Chidambaram, Chairman – Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Progressrail, Mr. Samit Ray, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Regional Director – Government Affairs & Public Policy South East Asia, UTC and Mr. Ambrish Bakaya, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Director Corporate Affairs, HPE, in New Delhi on Aug 13th. Representatives from the Commercial Section of the U.S. Embassy were invited to the meeting. Highlighting the lack of transparency and insight into the government perspective with regard to the status of various projects in general and the program as a whole, the committee decided to seek assistance from the Embassy to consider G2G meetings at the level of Secretary MoUD, Chairman AAI, MD DMRC, Secretary MoRTH, and Chairman Railway Board. In addition, the Embassy was also requested to facilitate similar meetings with UNDP, ADB and World Bank to enable obtaining clarity of funding planned in these sectors in the country. The Commercial Section would also assist in seeking information from their counterparts in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka with regard to government plans in corresponding sectors. With the proposed G2G meetings and follow up round table meetings with functionaries for organized presentations detailing various aspects of projects, the committee would draw up a list of proposed projects to be funded between 2019-24, sectors being prioritized per state, timelines, DPR consultants, nodal points of contact and funds earmarked for these projects. The committee also envisaged to analyze opportunities thrown up in these deliberations and revert to the projects with specific collaborative, participative, tech supportive suggestions of AMCHAM members vis a vis their individual capability offerings.

19th Aug 2019

**Manufacturing Committee Meeting**

A meeting of AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee was held on August 19th in New Delhi under the leadership of Mr. Amit Bansal, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Corning India and Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Global Government Affairs and Public Policy, Flex Group. The committee discussed manufacturing in India for global markets, production-based incentives, manufacturing in ASEAN countries, corporate taxation, capacity utilization, MSIPs, inverted duty structure in the automotive sector, among other topics. The committee decided to organize an event focused on electronics manufacturing next month. The differentiated advantage that India could have over other countries, ease of doing business and the benefits U.S. companies bring to India when they invest, were also discussed. A core group of electronics manufacturing companies was formed to carry the momentum forward.

20th Aug 2019

**CSR Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's CSR Committee meeting met under the leadership of Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements, Cisco India & SAARC, Cisco Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd., Ms. Sangita Ghalay, Co-Chairperson – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Head – CSR, Honeywell India and Ms. Kshitija Krishnaswamy, Co-Chairperson – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Director, Corporate Citizenship, Accenture India, on August 20th in Gurugram at the Cisco office. The committee discussed planning for the full day CSR event and how to leverage the Self4Society platform. It was decided to conduct CSR best practice sharing project site visits this year and begin with a Honeywell project in east Delhi. Ongoing collaboration with USAID on the TB Pledge and health initiatives was also discussed.

Mr. Jay Badola, Partner, Dua Associates and Mr. Akash Nath, Partner, Dua Associates, prepared a note on the implications for corporates regarding CSR in the Companies (Amendment) Bill 2019 and were available for Q&A. Mr. Amit Kumar, Director, Chief Minister's Good Governance Associates (CMGGA) gave a presentation on the program, a unique collaboration of Ashoka University with the Government of Haryana to train youth to become leaders in the social sector and bring about social change. Mr. Amit Khatri, Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram, addressed participants and echoed the importance and success of the CMGGA program in Haryana. He listened to members elaborate on their CSR work in Gurugram and talked about the initiatives underway. He encouraged everyone to visit the Haryana CSR portal.

More than 25 companies attended the meeting along with Dr. Preetha Rajaraman, Health Attache, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Cynthia Gire, Program and Policy Advisor, Health Office, USAID and Mr. Arvind Kumar, Strategic Partnerships, USAID.

21st Aug 2019

### **6th Anti-Corruption Compliance and Risk Management Master Class**

The Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee organized its 6th Anti-Corruption Compliance and Risk Management Master Class in New Delhi on August 21st. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, welcomed participants. In her address she pointed out that despite a slight rise in India's rank to 78 in the Corruption Perception Index 2018 released by Transparency International, there was still a lot to be done in terms of fighting corruption in India. She expressed her gratitude to the U.S. Embassy, Kobre & Kim, Baker McKenzie, FTI Consulting and Genpact for supporting the event.

Mr. Gaurav Ajmani, Chairman – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Associate General Counsel, Business Conduct & Ethics, Amazon Seller Services, introduced the theme and provided an overview of sessions. He shared highlights of some of the recent happenings and also gave an overview of the progress made in fighting corruption in India. This was followed by a special address delivered by Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy.

The first session was a presentation on 'Top Trends in FCPA, UK Bribery Act & Recent Corruption Cases – Introduction of the Case Study' by Mr. Vasu Muthyala, White-Collar, Corporate & Individual Investigations, and Enforcement Partner, Kobre & Kim, Ms. Mini vandePol, Asia Pacific Head, Compliance and Investigations, Baker & McKenzie and Mr. Sunny Mann, Compliance and Investigations Partner, Baker & McKenzie. The second session featured a panel discussion on the 'Best Practices for Structuring the Right Anti-Corruption Program for Your Organization – What is Too Little or Too Much?' It was moderated by Ms. Bhawna A. Ranganadhan, Co-Chairperson – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Legal and Compliance, Genpact and the panellists included Ms. Shukla Wassan, Executive Director-Legal & Corporate Affairs, South Asia, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, Ms. Saloni Tuteja, Director – Legal, South Asia, Zimmer Biomet & Mr. Ambrish Bakaya, Director-Corporate Affairs, Hewlett Packard Enterprise.

In the third session, Mr. Gaganpreet Singh Puri, Partner and Leader, Forensic Services, PwC India, gave a comprehensive presentation on the 'Use of Technology in Investigations – AI and Machine Learning.' Thereafter, in session 4, Mr. Puneet Singh, FBI Attaché, U.S. Embassy, spoke about 'Cross Border Investigations' and also touched upon the rising cyber security threats in India and how FBI works with Indian authorities and society to combat it.

Prof (Dr.) Madhu Bhalla, Vice Chair, Transparency International India, in the next session spoke about the 'Fight Against Corruption.' While giving a brief about the recent work carried out by Transparency International, she shared some alarming illustrations of corruption in India, for example, as per a recent survey, bribery in India has increased by 46%.

To encompass recent trends, session 6 focussed on 'The New Risks & Best Practices in Global Investigations – Trade Sanctions, Data Privacy, MeToo, and Other Misconduct' which was presented by Mr. Vasu Muthyala, White-Collar, Corporate & Individual Investigations and Enforcement Partner, Kobre & Kim, Ms. Mini vandePol, Asia Pacific Head, Compliance and Investigations, Baker & McKenzie and Mr. Sunny Mann,

Compliance and Investigations Partner, Baker & McKenzie. This session covered sanctions and export controls, data protection, GDPR, MeToo and investigations.

In the next session Mr. Anuj Bugga, Senior Managing Director, FTI Consulting and Mr. Prasad Shetty, Managing Director, FTI Consulting, focussed on case studies 'M&A Red Flags and Bribery, Corruption and Investigations.' They explained the high-risk touchpoints in bribery and corruption risks in mergers and acquisitions that included geographical risks, government's touchpoints, third parties, corporate governance, management reputation and business partners. In the last session on 'POCA Guidelines and Enforcement,' Mr. Ashish Singh, Partner, Dua Associates drew a comparison between POCA and the FCPA explaining the details of the POCA Act that are applicable to business organizations. The last presentation was given by Ms. Deniz Muslu, Assistant Director – Office of Enforcement Analysis, Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce, who provided an introduction of the BIS. The master class concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Bhawna A. Ranganadhan, Co-Chairperson – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM.

21st Aug 2019

#### **Defense Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Defense Committee met on August 21st in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President – India, Boeing Defense, Space & Security and co-chaired by Mr. Nik Khanna, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, India, BAE Systems and Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM an Partner and Head – North India, Corporate & International Tax, KPMG India. From the U.S. Embassy, Capt. Daniel Fillion, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, attended the meeting. The team formally welcomed him as the USG chairman on the AMCHAM Defense Committee. AMCHAM welcomed members and kicked off discussions by receiving a read out of the recently concluded India-U.S. Defense Policy Group (DPG) in Washington D.C. The team finalized the agenda for upcoming meetings with the Ministry of Defence officials in the coming days. Details on future AMCHAM events in the defense space was shared with members for blocking their calendars. Upcoming industry engagements and events at DefExpo 2020 were also discussed.

21st Aug 2019

#### **Interaction with Mr. Thomas R. Hardy, Director (Acting), United States Trade and Development Agency**

AMCHAM hosted an interaction with Mr. Thomas R. Hardy, Director (Acting), United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) on August 21st in New Delhi for energy sector members. Mr. Hardy was accompanied by Mr. Jeffrey Phillips, Country Manager – Indo Pacific and Ms. Mehnaz Ansari, Representative, India, South and Southeast Asia. The USTDA leadership informed participants of its focus on the Indo-Pacific region and its catalytic role in the broad based economic development of the region under the leadership of American companies. Energy would be a priority sector for the agency and funding for the Indo-Pacific region was expected to increase by 50% in the future. India is currently their largest program for USTDA. Reverse trade missions, which showcase production facilities of American companies in the U.S. was an important service of the agency. Ms. Preetha Nair, Chairperson – Energy Committee, AMCHAM, provided a short context and background to the sub-sectors of energy covered in the agenda, this was followed by lively interaction on the opportunities, challenges and possible solutions covering bio-fuels, refining and petrochemicals, energy storage, renewables, EVs, digital solutions, water management, carbon capture, coal and LNG. Given the importance of energy to the agency in India, the interaction ended on a very positive note.

26th Aug 2019

#### **Northern Region Council Meeting**

AMCHAM's Northern Region Council met under the leadership of Mr. Karan Bajwa, Chairman – Northern Region Council, AMCHAM and MD and RGM India & South Asia IBM India, in New Delhi on August 26th. The meeting was attended by Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, representatives from the U.S. Embassy and members and representatives of the Northern Region Executive Council. The Chairman highlighted the fact of the Council's proximity to the country's seat of power and called upon members to

leverage it and enable AMCHAM to take up issues with functionaries at various levels of the government, in the larger interest of members. He also suggested compiling a compendium of investment in the Northern Region, divided primarily into key sections as per the priority geographies of Delhi/NCR, Haryana, Punjab and J&K, in the form of a handbook of information for all prospective U.S. investors in the region. The compendium will include all key information about ease of doing business as well as state government incentives offered to investors. AMCHAM's secretariat will work with members and leverage each of their strengths to bring out the compendium. The J&K Investor Summit on October 2019 was highlighted. The Council discussed the annual work plan, Signature Lecture Series with visiting global CEOs or domain experts and CSR activities of member companies, amongst other agenda points.

27th Aug 2019

**HR Committee Meeting**

The HR Committee meeting was held in the Cognizant office at Bengaluru on August 27th. Ms. Payal Satish, Regional Director – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM, welcomed participants which was followed by opening remarks by Ms. Smriti Ahuja, Chairperson – HR Committee, AMCHAM and Global Head Organization Effectiveness, Cognizant. There was a panel discussion on 'Provident Fund' with Mr. Akhil Chandna, Director, Tax, Grant Thornton India LLP and Ms. Saraswathi Kasturirangan, Partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP. This discussion was moderated by Ms. Kavita Mathur, Co-Chairperson – HR Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director, Operation, Grant Thornton Advisory. Various subtopics under the Provident Fund umbrella were discussed like the application of the employees' provident funds and miscellaneous provisions Act, 1952 (EPF Act), social security in India and international workers under the EPF Act. The issues and challenges faced by companies and individuals were discussed with numerous examples. The impact of the recent Supreme Court ruling on PF contribution were deliberated, focusing on Section 6 of the EPF Act and Section 2(b) of the EPF Act. The recent amendments and key issues in Employee Pension Scheme, 1995, was conferred along with the Change in Pension Contribution – Circular 2014. Both speakers also touched upon PF withdrawal glitches and issues relating to OCI cardholders. The closing remarks were given by Ms. Smriti Ahuja, Chairperson – HR Committee, AMCHAM and Global Head Organization Effectiveness, Cognizant and Ms. Kavita Mathur, Co-Chairperson – HR Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director, Operation, Grant Thornton Advisory.

29th Aug 2019

**National Executive Board Meeting**

The second meeting of AMCHAM's National Executive Board for 2019-2020 was held on August 29th, 2019 in Hyderabad. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Phil Shaw, Chairman, AMCHAM and Chief Executive India, Lockheed Martin India. The agenda was taken up for discussion with participation from all members present. Mr. Anand Chidambaram, Chairman – Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Progress Rail, (Caterpillar Company) India, gave a presentation on the Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee.

4th Sept 2019

**Interaction with AmCham Hong Kong Apparel and Textile Delegation to India**

AMCHAM hosted an interactive session with AmCham Hong Kong's apparel and textile delegation on September 4th in New Delhi. The delegation included representatives from many large U.S. brands in the apparel, footwear and logistics sector based in Hong Kong for the Asia Pacific region. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM India and Ms. Tara Joseph, President, AmCham Hong Kong, made opening remarks. The delegation included Carter's, Gap, PVH India Limited, Ralph Lauren and VF Asia Limited, among others. There was a lively discussion on export incentives, infrastructure challenges, ethical sourcing, perception of India from other countries and taxation.

From KPMG in India the following experts addressed the delegation: Mr. Naveen Aggarwal, Partner and COO –Tax, Partner in-charge, U.S – India Corridor, Mr. Nikhil Sethi, Partner, Management Consulting, Mr. Sameer Jain, Partner, Infrastructure, Government and Healthcare, Mr. Manpreet Singh, Partner – Climate Change and Sustainability and Mr. Harpreet Singh, Partner – Indirect Tax. Based on the discussion, AMCHAM India invited delegates to become members and start a working group on textiles and apparel which would have an industry chair driving the agenda and working with AMCHAM to create a knowledge paper going forward.

10th Sept 2019

**Interactive Session with Dr. Kevin Petty: Empowering Organizations with Deep Weather-based Intelligence for Better & Faster Decisions**

On September 10th, as part of AMCHAM India's Signature Lecture Series, the Agriculture and Food Processing Committee of AMCHAM India organized a session in New Delhi on 'Empowering Organizations with Deep Weather-based Intelligence for Better & Faster Decisions' with Dr. Kevin Petty, Director of Science and Forecasting and Head of Public-Private Partnerships at The Weather Company, an IBM Business. Mr. Himanshu Goyal, India Business Leader at The Weather Company, an IBM Business, welcomed participants and introduced Dr. Kevin Petty. Dr. Manish Modani, Senior Meteorologist & Technical Lead at The Weather Company, an IBM Business, gave a comprehensive presentation on the use of weather analytics across sectors, especially in agriculture. In his address, Dr. Petty spoke about the importance of differentiating the benefits of weather analytics to the end user, general population versus companies. He said that in a complicated business like agriculture the aim is to benefit the entire value chain. Dr. Petty also spoke about the increasing use of artificial intelligence in forecasting sciences that would help in delivering accurate and timely solutions in areas like crop stress, soil assessment and risk management. The session was followed by Q&A.

12th Sept 2019

**Meeting with Officials from Defence Offset Management Wing (DOMW), Department of Defence Production**

AMCHAM's Defense Committee called upon Dr. Md. Nazmuddin, Economic Advisor & Joint Secretary, Defence Offset Management Wing (DOMW), Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence and Mr. Praveen Kumar, DDG & OSD, DOMW on September 12th to appraise them of the current challenges faced by U.S. defense companies in doing business in India. Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President – India, Boeing Defense, Space & Security, Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM an Partner and Head – North India, Corporate & International Tax, KPMG India, Mr. Kamal Deep Sanan, Defense Offsets, BAE Systems and Ms. Udaya Arun, Director – Aerospace & Defense, AMCHAM India joined the discussions. The primary discussion revolved around offsets. The meeting concluded with the agreement reconvene soon.

13th Sept 2019

**Energy Committee Meeting**

A meeting of AMCHAM's Energy Committee was held on September 13th at the U.S. Embassy and was chaired by its new leadership, Honorary USG Chair, Mr. Robert Garverick – Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Preetha Nair – Head Asia, True North Venture Partners and Honorary USG Co-Chair, Ms. Dinah McDougall, Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy. The chairpersons gave their perspectives on the energy sector. The committee deliberated on opportunities and concerns of members in oil and gas, energy storage, renewables, etc. and decided to prioritize sub-sectors and programs with further inputs from members for the next 6 to 12 months. Some of the areas discussed were carbon to chemicals, bringing best practises in procurement, engagement with CHT and suggestions on how the secretariat could support the business interests of its members going forward.

17th Sept 2019

**Make in India – Exporting to Global Markets**

AMCHAM organized a brainstorming session on 'Make in India – Exporting to Global Markets' on September 17th in New Delhi. The first session was on 'Accelerating Electronics Manufacturing in India: U.S. Companies.' Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM made opening remarks and welcomed participants. Mr. Richard Hopkins, Global President, Flex Group, set the scene and theme for the deliberations. Mr. Amit Bansal, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Corning India, made remarks. Ms. Anubhuti Bhrary, Head – Government Relations, India, HP India, facilitated the conversation. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Rakesh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and Dr. Arabinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, joined the session.

The second session focused on 'Exports for India's Growth to a \$5 Trillion Economy.' Mr. Ashwini Aggarwal, Director – Government Affairs, Applied Materials India, set the scene and Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Global Government Affairs and Public Policy, Flex

Group, facilitated the conversation. Ms. Asha Nangia, Senior Director, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and Ms. Anna Roy, Sr. Adviser, NITI Aayog participated in the brainstorming session.

The conversation revolved around how the electronics manufacturing in the country could be given a boost through incentivizing exports and positioning India as part of the global value chain. Some topics that were touched upon included MEIS, enhancing the ecosystem of component manufacturing, vocational training, expansion of mega projects, utilization of SEZs, phased manufacturing program for select sectors, introduction of competitive benchmarking, R&D tax benefits, integrating into the global value chain and tax policy recommendations, among other topics.

AMCHAM would prepare a whitepaper to carry the discussions forward. The session was followed by networking over cocktails. The event was sponsored by Flex and Applied Materials.

18th Sept 2019

#### **Defense Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Defense Committee met on September 18th, 2019 in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President - India, Boeing Defense, Space & Security and co-chaired by Mr. Nik Khanna, Co-Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, India, BAE Systems and Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Partner and Head - North India, Corporate & International Tax, KPMG India. From the U.S. Embassy, CAPT Daniel Fillion, Honorary USG Chair - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy, chaired the meeting. AMCHAM welcomed new USG members, Ms. Ann Mason, Trade and Technology Unit Chief, U.S. Embassy and MAJ Matthew Murphy, Director, Air Force Programs, ODC, U.S. Embassy to the discussions. The deliberations began with brief readouts on recent AMCHAM member meetings with the Government of India, upcoming meetings with both governments and preparation of agenda for submissions to the government.

20th Sept 2019

#### **Healthcare Services Committee Meeting**

A meeting of AMCHAM's Healthcare Services Committee was held on September 20th in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Ms. Aileen Nandi, Honorary USG Chair - Healthcare Services Committee, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy. The meeting encompassed discussions on the positioning of AMCHAM with the Government of India, U.S. government and industry, along with an update on the key issues and priorities of the pharma sector by Mr. Sarthak Ranade, Chairman - Pharma Working Group, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Janssen India and Ms. Jyotsna Ghoshal, Co-Chairperson - Pharma Working Group, AMCHAM and Senior Director - Corporate Affairs, MSD Pharmaceuticals. This was followed by an overview of the advocacy and regulatory landscape for the medical technology sector by Ms. Meenakshi Nevatia, Chairperson - Medical Technology Working Group, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Stryker India.

During the meeting members had an interactive session with Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs and Dr. Preetha Rajaraman, Health Attaché, U.S. Embassy, where members pointed out the current situation of the pharma and MedTech industry along with a few issues that were categorized as long, mid and short term.

Some of the key points that were discussed included AMCHAM's pharma and MedTech value proposition, suggesting measures for ease of doing business for shaping policies, increasing AMCHAM's membership base and a proposed roundtable on healthcare. The meeting concluded with closing remarks and vote of thanks by Ms. Meenakshi Nevatia and Mr. Sarthak Ranade.

20th Sept 2019

#### **Cyber Security Committee Meeting**

The 2nd meeting of AMCHAM's Cyber Security Committee was held on September 20th, 2019 under the leadership of Mr. Deepak Maheshwari, Chairman - Cyber Security Committee, AMCHAM and Director - Government Affairs, India, ASEAN & China, Symantec Corporation and Mr. Kishore Balaji, Co-Chairman - Cyber Security Committee, AMCHAM and Director - Public Policy & Government Relations, Intel Technology India. Mr. Deepak Maheshwari, welcomed the new Honorary USG Chair, Mr. Rob Garverick, Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology and industry Co-Chair, Mr. Amrit Singh Deo,

MD, FTI Consulting. Mr. Garverick shared the U.S. government perspective on cyber security issues. Mr. Amrit Singh Deo, along with colleague, Mr. Prasanto Roy, presented the whitepaper to the committee which is being co-authored by AMCHAM and FTI Consulting. After a comprehensive deliberation, the committee requested members to share inputs to be incorporated in the report.

1st Oct 2019

#### **U.S.-India ICT Dialogue: B2G Interaction**

Supporting the G2G dialogue, AMCHAM organized an interaction on October 1st at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in New Delhi. The interaction was addressed by Mr. Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Mr. Rob Strayer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State. It was followed by a welcome address and vision statement by Mr. Som Satsangi, Chairman – ICT Committee, AMCHAM and MD, Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Ms. Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM. Participants deliberated across a range of issues over 3 thematic areas: a) India and U.S. in the IT sector: job creator and addressing the skills gap b) U.S.-India readiness and competitiveness to integrate with the global value chain c) Data: privacy, data flows, cloud policy, AI, digital economy, data strategy, regulatory issues with key AMCHAM speakers: Mr. Ambrish Bakaya, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM (HPE), Mr. Tabrez Ahmad (Dell), Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM (Flex Group), Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – CSR Committee, AMCHAM (Cisco), Ms. Anubhuti Kaul Bhrany (HP), Mr. Naveen Tandon, Co-Chairman – ICT Committee, AMCHAM (AT&T), Mr. Chetan Krishnaswamy (Google), Mr. Ashutosh Chadha (Mastercard) and Mr. S. Chandrasekhar (Microsoft) over a panel discussion moderated by Amrit Singh Deo, Co-Chairman – Cyber Security Committee, AMCHAM and MD, FTI Consulting and Ms. Valsa Williams, Advisor, AMCHAM.

3rd Oct 2019

#### **Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Core Committee Meeting**

On October 3rd, the Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Core Committee met at the Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages office in Gurugram. Ms. Komple Sharma, Manager, AMCHAM, welcomed participants and shared an overview of the recently conducted FCPA Masterclass 2019. Opening remarks were given by Ms. Bhawna A. Ranganadhan, Co-Chairperson – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Legal and Compliance, Genpact. The committee shared their feedback on the masterclass and suggested themes for the next edition. Members discussed their best practices in designing compliance programs with a focus on vendor compliance management, which is a common problem area across sectors. Members brainstormed on various possible topics for future webinars under the ambit of the committee. It was suggested to draft a paper on generic best practices followed by member companies. The closing remarks and vote of thanks were given by Ms. Bhawna A. Ranganadhan.

10th Oct 2019

#### **CSR Committee Best Practice Site Visit – Honeywell Safe Schools**

AMCHAM's CSR Committee organized a best practice site visit to a CSR project by Honeywell, with their NGO partner SEEDS India, on October 10th in New Delhi. CSR specialists from member companies attended the event to experience first-hand the success of this unique project. Members interacted with the principal and teachers of the school, Dr. Anshu Sharma, Co-Founder, SEEDS and Mr. Naveen Shukla, Program Manager, Honeywell Safe Schools. Ms. Sangita Ghalay, Co-Chairperson – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Head – CSR, Honeywell India, shared about Honeywell's pan India partnership with SEEDS.

Members interacted with incredibly bright students who have been putting their newfound safety knowledge into practice, not only at their school, but also at home and in their communities. The site visit included a school tour, demonstrations and drum circle with students.

Honeywell Safe Schools takes a comprehensive approach to school safety. It seeks to ensure that children go to school without fear, remain safe in school, and return home safely. This is a pioneering school safety program that brings a tailor-made approach to address the unique issues of each school or location involving structural assessment of each school by engineers and architects, evaluation of risk perception, and examination of preparedness in the face of any natural or manmade disaster. Between 2017 and 2022, the program will reach 83,000 children, 90,000 parents, and 2,900 teachers in 150 government schools across Delhi and Uttarakhand states.



11th Oct 2019	<p><b>Interaction with Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)</b></p> <p>AMCHAM organized an interaction with Senator Ted Cruz in New Delhi on October 11th. Senator Cruz was on a multi country tour in Asia to visit the friends and allies of the U.S. surrounding China. Mr. Matt Ingeneri, Economic Growth Unit Chief, U.S. Embassy, introduced the Senator and made opening remarks. Participants introduced themselves and their companies. Mr. Phil Shaw, Chairman, AMCHAM, gave an overview of the U.S.-India defense partnership and the significant gains over the years. The discussion touched on various aspects of the U.S.-India partnership including, defense, energy, ICT and cyber security. Data localization, fintech, renewable energy, tax and regulatory reforms, state government challenges and areas of concern in the partnership were discussed. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Ms. Ambika Sharma, Managing Director, India, USIBC, made closing remarks. The Senator was accompanied by his staff, Ms. Samantha Leahy, Senior Legislative Assistant, Mr. Garrett Exner, Military Legislative Assistant and Mr. David Engelman, Army Legislative Assistant.</p>
11th Oct 2019	<p><b>Taxation, Tariff &amp; Regulatory Affairs Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Taxation Tariff &amp; Regulatory Affairs Committee met under the leadership of Mr. Sandeep Chaufla, Chairman – Taxation Tariff &amp; Regulatory Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Corporate &amp; International Tax, PwC, in New Delhi on Oct 11th. Highlighting the many changes in taxation and regulations over the past few months, as well as the government's efforts in leapfrogging into a wider use of technology in taxation, the meeting discussed three important areas of interest that has been generated in the taxation domain. Broad contours of the 'Faceless Assessments Scheme,' updates and developments in the GST arena and major recent regulatory changes in Indi, were the main points of discussion at the meeting.</p>
11th Oct 2019	<p><b>Defense Committee Meeting with Dr. Ajay Kumar, Defence Secretary, Government of India</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Defense Committee called upon Dr. Ajay Kumar, Defence Secretary, Government of India on October 11th in New Delhi. Ms. Dipti Mohil Chawla, Joint Secretary and Acquisition Manager (LS) and Maj Gen HS Shanbhag, Technical Manager (LS), were also present in the discussions. Industry participants included Mr. Nik Khanna, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, India, BAE Systems, Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Partner and Head – North India, Corporate &amp; International Tax, KPMG India, Mr. William Blair, Vice President and Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin India Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Sanjeev Kakkar, Director – Business Development, GE Aviation. From the U.S. Embassy, Capt. Daniel Fillion, Honorary USG Chair – Defense Committee and Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy, joined the meeting. From the secretariat Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM India and Ms. Udaya Arun, Director – Aerospace &amp; Defense, AMCHAM were present. Ms. Ranjana Khanna opened the meeting by thanking Dr. Kumar for his leadership roles and steered the discussions towards aligning AMCHAM activities and submissions towards the government's vision. Dr. Kumar briefly discussed meetings between the U.S. Governemnt and Government of India and advised on preparation of agenda for submissions to the government.</p>
14th Oct 2019	<p><b>Signature Lecture Series: Insights on Advance Pricing Agreement (APA) Programs in India and the U.S. with Mr. Steven Wrappe, National Technical Leader, Transfer Pricing, Grant Thornton U.S.</b></p> <p>Multinational Companies doing business in India have, for years, faced extraordinary levels of transfer pricing litigation and controversies regarding cross border transactions between related parties. India's tax administration launched an APA program in 2012 which has till date concluded 297 APAs, including 32 bilateral APAs with taxpayers from multiple industries. AMCHAM India organized an interactive technical session on 'Insights on Advance Pricing Agreement (APA) programmes in India and the U.S.' under AMCHAM's Signature Lecture Series on October 14th in New Delhi. The guest speaker was Mr. Steven Wrappe, National Technical Head, Transfer Pricing, Grant Thornton U.S. The session was attended by 13 AMCHAM member companies.</p>
16th Oct 2019	<p><b>AMCHAM – ORF Roundtable on U.S.-India Defense Cooperation</b></p> <p>AMCHAM and ORF jointly organized a roundtable on U.S.-India defense cooperation. The aim of the interaction was candid sharing of information and thoughts amongst officials from the Indian government,</p>

U.S. government, representatives of the armed forces, AMCHAM members and academia. The discussion focused on the upcoming dialogue at the next Defense Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI) meeting to be held in the coming week. Roundtable participants discussed the bilateral defense trade relationship and deliberated how more opportunities for co-production and co-development of defense equipment could be created.

Mr. Sanjay Jaju, Joint Secretary (DIP), Ministry of Defence, Government of India, RDML Eileen H. Laubacher, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, CAPT Daniel E. Fillion, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy, AVM Vikram Singh, Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Projects, Maj Gen A. K. Channan, ADG Army Design Bureau, Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, ACNS Perspective Planning, members of the National Security Council Secretariat and U.S. defense industry participants were present in the deliberations. Mr. Phil Shaw, Chairman, AMCHAM and Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Boeing Defense, Space and Security, made remarks on behalf of the U.S. defense industry and highlighted the OEM perspective recommending win-win proposals for the overall success of DTTI for both government and industry. Mr. Sunjoy Joshi, Chairman, ORF, initiated the discussions by briefly outlining the U.S.-India defense relationship and Dr. Raji Rajagopalan, Distinguished Fellow, ORF, moderated the discussions.

24th Oct 2019

#### **Interaction with Ms. Ellen Lord, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition & Sustainment), U.S. Department of Defense**

AMCHAM's Defense Committee members met with Ms. Ellen Lord, Under Secretary Defense, U.S. Department of Defense for an interaction on October 24th prior to the 9th U.S.-India Defence Technologies and Trade Initiative (DTTI) group meeting. It was encouraging to hear the commitment from the U.S. to strengthen its partnership with India while furthering military-to-military relationships and cooperation and the level of excitement on the prospects of the bilateral defense trade between the two countries expected to reach USD 18 billion by the year end from zero in 2008. The Strategic Trade Authority-1 status granted by the U.S. government helps U.S. companies to export a greater range of dual-use and high end technology items to India while providing India with greater supply chain efficiency leading to advancing the shared vision for the Indo-Pacific with defense rightfully becoming the most important segment of the U.S.-India business partnership. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, opened up the session followed by comments from Mr. Phil Shaw, Chairman, AMCHAM and National Executive, Lockheed Martin India. The opening remarks were given by Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President – India, Boeing Defense, Space and Security, followed by special remarks from USD Lord, while the summing up of the session and closing remarks were given by Mr. Nik Khanna, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director – India, BAE Systems.

30th Oct 2019

#### **Industry Briefing Post U.S.- India ICT Dialogue**

A briefing with AMCHAM members post the U.S.- India ICT Dialogue (held on October 1st) was organized on October 30th at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi with Mr. Rob Garverick, Honorary USG Co-Chair ICT and Cyber Security Committees, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy. Mr. Som Satsangi, Chairman – ICT Committee, AMCHAM and Mr. Deepak Maheshwari, Chairman – Cyber Security Committee, AMCHAM, were present.

Mr. Rob Garverick provided inputs from the G2G meeting between the U.S. and Indian government and mentioned thematic areas such as cyber security, implementation of the Cloud Act and MLATs. For ICT, issues such as data localization were discussed, the committee thereby suggested to reach out to the standing committee of Data Privacy and suggest to meet the industry representatives for their inputs. Other topics such as 5G, capacity building initiatives, H1B visas, implementation of AI and IoT in India, were discussed. Mr. Garverick also mentioned that the Indian government would promote local R&D to promote innovation and development in India, such as creation of domestic AI centres. Mr. Som Satsangi raised the point of IP in India and it was decided that the issue would be raised during the committee meeting and the U.S. government would take it up during their G2G meetings. Mr. Deepak Maheshwari spoke of India's stand at the UNGGE and other international forums for cyber security.

4th Nov 2019

**Indo-Pacific Business Forum 2019**

AMCHAM India supported the U.S. Ambassador's business delegation to the Indo-Pacific Business Forum 2019 led by U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross on November 4th in Bangkok, Thailand.

6th Nov 2019

**2nd CSR Conference: Capacity Building in the CSR Ecosystem**

AMCHAM's CSR Committee organized the 2nd CSR Conference: Capacity Building in the CSR Ecosystem that brought together key stakeholders in corporate social responsibility — policymakers, government, corporates, NGOs, social and developmental impact agencies, for cross-sectoral panel discussions that identified and addressed challenges, opportunities and avenues for capacity building in CSR. The day-long event was held on November 6th at Aloft in New Delhi.

The welcome address was given by Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC Cisco Systems India. While welcoming participants, he gave an overview of the CSR Committee and spoke of the commitment of AMCHAM supporting USAID's mission to eradicate TB by inviting American companies to sign the Corporate TB Pledge. In the special address delivered by Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Director General (Training), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, he informed participants that the three most important areas of focus for CSR included health, education and skilling. He also spoke about the importance of soft skills in today's corporate scenario. It was followed by the keynote address by Mr. Edgard Kagan, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, who spoke about the importance of all stakeholders working together in problem solving. He highlighted the CSR activities being done by American companies and encouraged AMCHAM and member to project them. Mr. Ramanathan Ramanan, Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, in his special address, spoke about the Mission's objectives of self-employment and talent utilization to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. The closing remarks of the session were given by Mr. Harish Krishnan who expressed his gratitude to the Co-Chairs of the CSR Committee and the AMCHAM secretariat for organizing the conference.

In 'Session 1: Collaborative Skilling Models,' Ms. Kshitija Krishnaswamy, Co-Chairperson – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Director, Corporate Citizenship, Accenture India moderated with panellists Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Director General (Training), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Ms. Rohini Kamath, Program Manager, Corporate affairs, Cisco India and Mr. Aakash Sethi, CEO, Quest Alliance. The panellists discussed the Skill India mission including short term, long-term trainings and digital skill training. The panellists enumerated some of the major challenges being faced in imparting skilling such as wage difference in cities and states, early girl marriages and heavy migration of skilled labours from different parts of India.

'Session 2: Best Practices in Monitoring and Evaluation' was moderated by Mr. Vikas Gambhir, Director, Grant Thornton with panellists Ms. Sangita Ghalay, Co-Chairperson – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Head – CSR, Honeywell India, Mr. Anuj Alphonson, Director – Livelihoods & Partnerships, Magic Bus India Foundation, Mr. Nitin Sharma, Legal Counsel, South Asia, Becton Dickinson and Ms. Sapna Moudgil, Director, NIIT Foundation. The discussion was focussed on the relevance of monitoring, evaluation with data, data analysis and action on the information received from data followed by the screening process and frequency of reports.

'Session 3: Innovating for Social Impact' was a plenary session with presentations by Ms. Ramona El Hamzaoui, Deputy Mission Director, USAID/India, Ms. Neelam Makhijani, Country Director, ChildFund India and Mr. Sanjay Podder, Managing Director, Accenture Labs – Asia Pacific, Accenture. While Ms. Ramona El Hamzaoui mentioned the positive demographic dividend available in India and how concerned Indian youth are more concerned than ever before about development. Ms. Makhijani discussed the feasibility of impact bonds for CSR and cited an example project through USAID. Mr. Sanjay Podder explained how Accenture has used technology as the innovating factor in creating a social impact.

'Session 4: Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Outcomes' was moderated by Colonel Ashwini Channan, Senior Director, Government Relations, Honeywell India, with panellists Mr. Keith Simmons, Acting Mission Director, USAID/India, Ms. Kritika Sangani, Senior Lead, Organizational Development, Indus Action and Dr. Ishaprasad Bhagwat, Program Manager for MIYCN Projects, Tata Trusts. The session focussed on the need for private financing as public initiatives alone are not viable enough. The session also brought out the importance of having an inclusive society.

The conference concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Kshitija Krishnaswamy, Co-Chairperson – CSR Committee, AMCHAM. Ms. Valerie Swope, Program Coordinator, AMCHAM, thanked the partners for this event – Accenture, Cisco and Honeywell.

8th Nov 2019

### **Agriculture & Food Processing Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Agriculture & Food Processing Committee organized its second meeting on November 8th at the Grant Thornton office in New Delhi. Mr. Simon George, Chairman – Agriculture & Food Processing Committee, AMCHAM and President, Cargill, welcomed participants. Mr. Chirag Jain, Associate Director, Grant Thornton, gave a synopsis of the report on 'Enhancing Rural Prosperity in India.' Members provided their feedback on the report and it was decided to have individual sessions with each of the member company to enable them to give focused insights to the report. The members also discussed to organize an event focusing on agri-technology under the aegis of the Agriculture & Food Processing Committee. It was discussed to prepare a paper on the scope of terminal markets in India and subsequently submit the same to the Ministry of Agriculture. A presentation on the recent FPO developments was given by the Grant Thornton team. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by AMCHAM India.

20th Nov 2019

### **National Executive Board Meeting**

The third meeting of AMCHAM's National Executive Board for 2019-2020 was held on November 20th, 2019 in Mumbai. Deputy Chief of Mission Edgard Kagan, U.S. Embassy and Consul General David J. Ranz, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai, addressed board members on the U.S-India partnership. With the elevation of the current Chairman and his moving back to the U.S., National Executive Board members elected Mr. Karan Bajwa, Managing Director and Regional General Manager India & South Asia, IBM India, as Chairman of AMCHAM. The agenda was taken up for discussion with participation from all members present.

2nd Dec 2019

### **U.S. Government Bimonthly Briefing**

On December 2nd, Honorary National Executive Board Members of AMCHAM, Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor EEST, U.S. Embassy, briefed members on the current state of U.S.-India bilateral relations. Members found the session and candid discussions very useful. Procurement related issues, labour reforms, Data Privacy Bill, price control issues of the medical devices sector, market access issues in agriculture, telecom testing and so forth, were topics discussed and members requested support from the U.S. Embassy on challenges. Going forward AMCHAM would organize similar bimonthly briefings with both Embassy officials and their respective sections.

6th Dec 2019

### **Pre-Budget Consultation Meeting with Mr. Pramod Chandra Mody, Chairman CBDT, Ministry of Finance**

AMCHAM's Taxation, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee consisting of a team from of PwC, KPMG and AMCHAM, attended a meeting chaired by Mr. Pramod Chandra Mody, Chairman CBDT, Ministry of Finance on December 6th to discuss suggestions for Budget 2020-21. A shortlisted set of points from the suggestions already forwarded to Gol were presented by AMCHAM and discussed at the meeting. The Gol has appreciated the suggestions made and will be looking into them.

7th Dec 2019

**Annual Christmas Ball**

AMCHAM's Annual Christmas Ball was held on December 7th, 2019 at the Hotel ITC Maurya, New Delhi. Honorary President of AMCHAM, Ambassador Kenneth Juster, U.S. Embassy, was the Guest of Honor. Mr. Karan Bajwa, Chairman, AMCHAM and MD & Regional General Manager India & South Asia, IBM India, Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited and Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Secretary & Treasurer and Chief Strategy Officer, Deloitte, attended the ball. There were a number of officials from the Indian and U.S. governments. Over 200 members and guests participated in the fun filled evening.

9th Dec 2019

**ICT Committee Meeting**

The 2nd meeting for AMCHAM's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Committee was commenced on December 9th in New Delhi. It was chaired by Mr. Rob Garverick, Honorary USG Chair - ICT Committee, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Naveen Tandon, Co-Chairman – ICT Committee, AMCHAM and Mr. Vivek Vasishtha, Co-Chair – ICT Committee, AMCHAM. Members unanimously decided to write a letter to the PMO for the upcoming Personal Data protection bill asking the government to make the draft available to industry and a stakeholder consultation. To get views on the same it was decided a letter to Additional Secretary of PMO, Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, be submitted. It was also decided that the Government of India meeting with Meity should be fast tracked for issues wrt National Digital Communications Policy, TRAI Guidelines, digital taxation, intermediary guidelines etc. AMCHAM's ICT Conclave scheduled for March was discussed where HPE showed keen interest to support AMCHAM. The secretariat would work, along with the members, to finalize topic and areas of deliberation.

10th Dec 2019

**Corporate TB Pledge Working Group Meeting**

On December 10th, AMCHAM organized a meeting for members that have signed the Corporate TB Pledge, an initiative of USAID and the Government of India, that promotes workplace programs to create awareness and align CSR for TB activities and to invest in TB workplace programs. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, made opening remarks and mentioned that 32 AMCHAM members had already signed pledge. Mr. Ambrish Bakaya, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Director Corporate Affairs, Hewlett Packard Enterprise India, spoke about why HPE decided to sign the pledge at the platinum tier and commit to screening 50,000 patients through their 130 e-health centers across 21 states.

Dr. Reuben Swamickan, Division Head of the Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases Team, USAID/India, said that TB is one of the top 10 causes of death globally and that India is a highest burden country. He emphasized that the TB Pledge was aligned with the GOI's national strategic plan and U.S. government's global TB strategy. Dr. Jamie Tonsing, Director-South East Asia, The Union (the organization that provides technical assistance for the TB Pledge) talked about the uniqueness of the pledge and how India is the first country to try something like it. In the seven months since the pledge was launched The Union has tracked that 100,000+ people have been reached every month with TB messages, around 15,000 symptomatic individuals have been referred for TB testing and more than 1,500 patients were diagnosed with TB referred for treatment.

Members were introduced to the resources and materials they would receive based on each tier of the pledge which included: email samples for HR to use while promoting the pledge, TB policy examples, posters, booklets, employee engagement ideas, a guide for CSR and a healthcare provider ready reckoner, among others. There was an interactive session in which companies shared about what their organizations were doing to carry out their pledge commitment and any challenges they faced. Ms. Kris Easter, USAID/India, gave the closing remarks and encouraged companies to discuss the pledge with other corporates. The meeting was hosted by Hewlett Packard Enterprise in Gurugram.

11th Dec 2019

**Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee Webinar on POCA (Prevention of Corruption Act) Guidelines and Enforcement**

AMCHAM's Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee organized a webinar on 'POCA (Prevention of Corruption Act) Guidelines and Enforcement' on December 11th, 2019. Mr. Ashish Singh, Partner, Dua Associates, was the expert speaker. Ms. Bhawna A. Ranganadhan, Co-Chairperson, Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee & Vice President, Legal and Compliance, Genpact, welcomed participants. The webinar was about the Prevention of Corruption Act, governing laws, recent amendments, its implications to MNC's and case studies. Mr. Ashish Singh explained the details about POCA that are applicable to business organizations. In his presentation, he covered the enforcement landscape, risks and preventions with the Act and instances of potential POCA cases faced by corporate houses. Around 75 participants attended the webinar. The webinar concluded with a vote of thanks by AMCHAM India.

12th Dec 2019

**Defense Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Defense Committee met on December 12th, 2019 in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President – India, Boeing Defense, Space & Security and co-chaired by Mr. Nik Khanna, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, India, BAE Systems and Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Partner and Head – North India, Corporate & International Tax, KPMG India. From the U.S. Embassy, CAPT Daniel Fillion, Honorary USG Chair – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy, chaired the meeting. AMCHAM welcomed new members, Mr. Guruprasad Mysore, President – India, Honeywell Aerospace and Mr. Monal Shesh, Senior Director – Business Development, GE Aviation. The deliberations began with a brief on recent AMCHAM submissions to the Government of India, upcoming meetings with both governments and future AMCHAM events at DefExpo 2020.

7th Jan 2020

**U.S. Government 2+2 Dialogue Debriefing**

On December 18, 2019, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met their American counterparts – Secretary of Defence Mark Esper and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, respectively, for the second U.S.-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue. On January 7th in New Delhi, Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor EEST, U.S. Embassy and RDML Eileen Laubacher, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, briefed AMCHAM members on the discussions and the current state of U.S.-India bilateral relations. Members found the session very useful.

Under defense cooperation, there was a commitment of the Ministers to expand military-to-military cooperation and improve the defense and security partnership in the coming year. The signing of another defense enabling agreement, Industrial Security Annex (ISA) to facilitate exchange of classified military information between Indian and U.S. defense industries was a high point and the agreement of an annual bi-lateral tri-service amphibious military exercise Tiger Triumph were the key features of the defense discussions. A Statement of Intent to co-develop several projects was also finalized under the Standard Operating Procedure for setting forth implementation guidelines for projects under DTTI and the Industry-to-Industry Framework, which will establish a standing mechanism for dialogue between Indian and U.S. defense companies and their governments on defense technology and industrial cooperation. Both countries have agreed to continue discussions on Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA).

Amongst strategic cooperation, the discussions covered a free and transparent Indo Pacific region, digital connectivity on energy, civil space, potable water and water in agriculture, earth sciences and human space. Enhanced cooperation under the space dialogue and interest for involvement in an U.S.-India Oceans dialogue was also proposed and is under consideration currently. Under the cyber security dialogue in ICT industry covering 5G, mobile technologies, cert responses and cyber practices were discussed. There is possibility of bilateral agreements concerning the U.S. Cloud Act as India expressed interest to be involved in that sphere. The next U.S. – India 2+2 dialogue was confirmed to be held in India in 2020.

13th Jan 2020	<p><b>Learning Opportunity for MBA Students from Montclair State University</b></p> <p>AMCHAM India, in association with KPMG in India, organized a learning opportunity for MBA students from Montclair State University, in Gurgaon on January 13th 2020. Mr. Anuj Vadhera and Mr. Debjit Ghosh of KPMG in India teamed up to conduct an exhilarating session. Participating students had a wonderful opportunity to learn from the speakers' insights and experience on the subject of 'International Business and Strategy in India,' as well as associated opportunities and challenges. Students participated in discussions and interacted with the speakers on a variety of questions which included challenges faced by U.S. investors in India.</p>
22nd Jan 2020	<p><b>Energy Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>A meeting of AMCHAM's Energy Committee was held on January 22nd at the U.S. Embassy and was chaired by Ms. Preetha Nair, Chairperson – Energy Committee, AMCHAM and Head Asia, True North Venture Partners, Mr. Robert Garverick, Honorary USG Chair – Energy Committee, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Dinah McDougall, Honorary USG Chair – Energy Cooperation Program, AMCHAM and Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy. The committee deliberated on the agenda and preparation for the upcoming CHT roundtable on February 4th, advocacy for the development of static energy storage, the promotion of energy efficiency through engagement with USAID, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, cooling as a service, etc. It was felt that individual issues of members can be taken up through the fast track mechanism with DPIIT. Best practices in procurement and digital transformation were key areas of common interest to plan future activities.</p>
30th Jan 2020	<p><b>HR Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's HR Committee met on January 30th in New Delhi with the Labour Code as the theme. Ms. Komple Sharma, Manager, AMCHAM, welcomed speakers and participants to the committee meeting. The opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Kavita Mathur, Co-Chairperson – HR Committee, AMCHAM and People &amp; Culture Leader, Grant Thornton Advisory. It was followed by an interactive session and panel discussion on the Labour Code. The panellists were Dr. Anoop K Satpathy, Senior Faculty, V. V. Giri National Labour Institute and Mr. K.C Pandey, Consultant, Grant Thornton India LLP. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Akhil Chandna, Director, Tax, Grant Thornton India LLP. Dr. Satpathy gave a detailed presentation on the key features of the Labour Code focusing on its background and key problem areas, wage policy reforms in wage code and its likely impact. He also touched upon the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, Code on Industrial Relations and Code on Social Security. It was followed by a discussion session. Ms. Kavita Mathur expressed her gratitude to the speakers and gave the closing remarks.</p>
30th Jan 2020	<p><b>U.S. Government Bimonthly Briefing</b></p> <p>On January 30th, at the American Center in New Delhi, Honorary National Executive Board Members of AMCHAM, Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor EEST, U.S. Embassy, briefed members on the current state of U.S.-India bilateral relations. Possible VIP visits, Indo-Pacific strategy, impact of GST on member companies, the regulatory environment, trade negotiations, data protection and IPR challenges were topics discussed. Members were updated on the recent opening of the Development Finance Corporation (DFC), an independent agency of the U.S. Government that provides financing for private development projects. Members found the candid session beneficial and the next briefing was scheduled for March 26th.</p>
3rd Feb 2020	<p><b>Taxation, Tariff &amp; Regulatory Affairs Committee's Webinar on Budget 2020</b></p> <p>On February 3rd, AMCHAM's Taxation, Tariff &amp; Regulatory Affairs Committee, in association with PwC, conducted a webinar on the key aspects of Union Budget 2020. This webinar examined highlights of the Union Budget presented in Parliament on February 1st. Direct and indirect tax implications, as well as salient features that impact the economy in general and business of U.S. companies were discussed. The trends envisaged based on extensive analysis of the budget were explored to see they would impact</p>

business. Approximately 40 participants logged into the webinar. A variety of queries posted during the webinar were answered on the spot. The speakers included: Mr. Sandeep Chaufla, Chairman – Taxation, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Partner – Corporate and International Tax, PwC India, Ms. Anita Rastogi, Partner – Indirect Tax and GST, PwC India and Mr. Manish Sabharwal, Partner – Transfer Pricing, PwC India.

4th Feb 2020

#### **Centre for High Technology (CHT) Roundtable on Energy & Petrochemicals**

AMCHAM organized a roundtable with the Centre for High Technology (CHT, MoP&NG) on energy and petrochemicals on February 4th in New Delhi under the leadership of Mr. Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary Refinery, MoP&NG and Mr. K.K Jain, Executive Director, CHT. The purpose of the meeting was to enhance U.S.-India trade and technology collaboration in the energy sector. The CHT graciously hosted the leadership of AMCHAM's Energy Committee: Ms. Preetha Nair, Chairperson – Energy Committee, AMCHAM and Head Asia, True North Venture Partners, Mr. Robert Garverick, Honorary USG Chair – Energy Committee, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Dinah McDougall, Honorary USG Chair – Energy Cooperation Program, AMCHAM and Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy, senior executives of American energy companies and senior U.S. government officials for a roundtable discussion with senior executives from National Oil Companies (NOCs). After the keynote address on priority areas and expectations by CHT, presentations were made by 11 U.S. companies on CO2 to chemicals/carbon capture and utilization, niche petrochemicals, refinery and petrochemical integration, bio-fuels, water management solutions, automation solutions, EPCM, etc. This was followed by Q&A where executives from NOCs sought clarifications from the presenters. The roundtable was concluded with a vote of thanks from the Joint Secretary and networking over light refreshments.

4th Feb 2020

#### **U.S. Industry Roundtable with U.S. Government Officials at DefExpo 2020**

On February 4th in Lucknow, a remarkable U.S. government delegation led by Ambassador Kenneth Juster comprising of Mr. Terence Emmert, Principal Deputy Director of Defense Research and Engineering for Advanced Capabilities (PD, DDRE (AC)), Department of Defense, MG Daniel McDaniel, Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Pacific (USARPAC), Australian Army and RDML Eileen Laubacher, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, interacted with the U.S. industry participants. The ongoing dialogue between the U.S. and India in aerospace and defense sectors would likely open up new business opportunities. The sharing of information to further strengthen partnerships in the areas of development and co-production of high-end defense technology and equipment was discussed. U.S. and Indian companies have been collaborating in the co-production of C-130 transport aircraft, F-16 fighter planes, and Apache helicopters at joint facilities in Hyderabad. Companies were happy to share information with the U.S. government principals and sought their support on many points in implementation with the Indian government processes.

4th Feb 2020

#### **Defense Industry Reception with U.S. Government Officials at DefExpo 2020**

U.S. industry participants joined other industry participants at a reception in honor of the exhibitors and participants at DefExpo 2020. The guest of honor was Ambassador Kenneth Juster, U.S. Embassy. The welcome remarks were given by Mr. Salil Gupte, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India followed by special remarks by RDML Eileen Laubacher, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, while Mr. Phil Shaw, Director Business Development, Lockheed Martin International, gave the vote of thanks and opened up the reception to all the participants. The event, held on February 4th in Lucknow, was jointly hosted with USISPF and USIBC with support from partners like BAE Systems, Boeing, Honeywell, L3Harris, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Textron and Kallman Worldwide.

6th Feb 2020

#### **Meeting with Dr. Ajay Kumar, Defence Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India at DefExpo 2020**

AMCHAM Defense Committee members called upon Dr. Ajay Kumar at the Ministry of Defence Pavilion at DefExpo 2020 on February 6th to understand his vision of "Make in India" and the defense corridors.



14th Feb 2020

**Make in India – Manufacturing for the World**

AMCHAM, in partnership with Invest India, held 'Make in India – Manufacturing for the World' on February 14th in New Delhi. It was the signature event of AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee. Chief guest, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Government of India, gave the keynote address, in which he gave an overview of the widening and deepening cooperation between the U.S. and India across a vast number of areas such as counter-terrorism, homeland security, cybersecurity, science and technology, health, agriculture, etc. Minister Puri talked about growing urbanisation and construction activity citing that 100 smart cities were under development which included 5,151 projects, thus demonstrating the fast pace of development in smart cities. He mentioned that integration into the global value chains would require strategic decisions to be made and the scaling up of manufacturing to meet global demand. Overall, he expressed optimism on the growth of U.S – India economic relationship and a willingness to resolve issues impacting bilateral business.

The inaugural session began with welcome remarks by Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, wherein she mentioned that exports would be a key driver for expansion in India's manufacturing as the world realizes that an alternate manufacturing hub was needed even more so in the current scenario with disruptions to the global supply chain. Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India, set the scene for the event and emphasized India's target to be a \$5 trillion economy in 5 years with a 25% share of manufacturing which would contribute \$1 trillion to the GDP.

In his special remarks and with KPMG as the knowledge partner for the event, Mr. Akhil Bansal, Deputy CEO, KPMG in India, said the foundation for a \$5 trillion economy included reviving consumption, creating jobs in labour intensive industries, moving towards tech certainty and improving competitiveness. In the vote of thanks, Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Global Government Affairs & Public Policy, Flex Group, thanked the government for its commitment to the Make in India program. AMCHAM presented a memento to Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

The participants proceeded to attend one of the parallel breakout sessions on I) smart infrastructure and electric vehicles, II) agriculture and food processing or III) electronic hardware and mobiles.

**Breakout Session I:*****Smart Infrastructure and Electric Vehicles***

In 'Breakout Session I: Smart Infrastructure and Electric Vehicles' Mr. Manuj Ohri, Partner, KPMG in India, set the scene emphasizing that infrastructure was the driving force behind business today and Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited was the conversation facilitator. Mr. Gaurav Daga, Vice President, Guidance Bureau, Government of Tamil Nadu and Ms. Shefali Rai, Policy Specialist, Tamil Nadu Guidance Bureau (TNGB) made a presentation on the Electric Vehicle Policy of the state as well as discussed at length their views on the initiatives offered, avenues available and challenges faced in the EV sector. From Invest India, Mr. Nehal Bajwa, Mr. Ayush Pagaria and Mr. Shivam Batham were present.

Industry speakers at the roundtable included Mr. Samit Ray, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Regional Director – Government Affairs & Public Policy South East Asia, United Technologies Corporation, Mr. Naveen Tandon, Co-Chairman – ICT Committee, AMCHAM and Director – International External Affairs, AT&T, Ms. Swati Sinha, General Manager – North India, C.H. Robinson Worldwide Freight India, Ms. Deepa Das, Lead Legal Counsel, Legal & Regulatory Affairs, FedEx Express Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and Africa, Mr. Debashish Dutta, Head Smart Cities, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Mr. Biswajit Bhattacharya, Partner & Automotive Industry Leader – India S/Asia, GBS, IBM India, Mr. Harish Sharma, Commercial Applied Stream, Marketing & Product Management Leader – India & SAARC Markets, Ingersoll Rand, Mr. Jon Pickford, Director Smart Buildings/Cities and Integrated Developments,

APAC, Johnson Controls, Ms. Geeta Poduval, Director – Corporate Affairs, Progress Rail India, Mr. Rakesh Mishra, Country Head & Director, Sate-Lite Technologies and Mr. Santhosh Muzumdar, Head Business Development Govt Affairs, Johnson Controls.

Deliberations focused on regional airports and connectivity, infrastructural requirements for smart cities, India as the world's 3rd largest auto market in 2021, innovating and implementing the future of mobility from/ in India and global best practices for adoption of new technologies. Other topics discussed included end to end policy for EVs, urban planning which includes last mile connectivity, infrastructure development around industrial units and IoT challenges around current requirements to get multiple approvals which slows the pace of adoption of such technologies.

### **Breakout Session II:**

#### ***Agriculture and Food Processing***

Ms. Komle Sharma, Manager, AMCHAM India welcomed participants to 'Breakout Session II: Agriculture and Food Processing.' Mr. Rajeev Ranjan, Director, KPMG in India was the conversation facilitator for the session. Mr. Srinivas Kuchibotla, Partner, KPMG in India set the scene and talked about the key role FPOs plays in the agricultural supply chain, post harvesting requirements like digitization, E-Nam, etc. He also touched upon the increasing thrust on attracting investments in the food processing sector.

In his special remarks, Dr. J.P. Mishra, ADG, ICAR, Govt. of India enumerated the initiatives taken by the Indian government in doubling the farmers income. He spoke about the cyber agro physical system that will help in AI based advisory to farmers. He also shared how water has taken a central stage in Indian context and agriculture being one of main users of fresh waters, hence the aim is to create an eco-system where water usage goes down by 75%. Dr. Mishra also spoke on the land tenancy problem where resource pooling and FPOs were emerging as the most feasible solution. The government is also promoting digital agriculture through its chain of Krishi Vigyan Kendras. He also pitched for greater collaboration between the government and the private players especially in the food processing sector. Mr. Sanjay Dave, Former Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission, stressed on the uniformity between global and Indian safety standards and advocated for its implementation from the farm fields itself. He discussed the advantages of adopting GAP (good agricultural practices), GMP, GPS, etc. especially in bringing more value to exports. He also asked for an upgradation in the current agri schemes and processes.

Industry speakers included: Mr. Pankaj Mahajan, Director-Indian Subcontinent, Corporate Affairs, Cargill India, Ms. Reena Bhattacharya, Communication Head, Cargill India, Mr. Rahul Kapoor, GM (Sales & Marketing), Carrier Airconditioning & Refrigeration Limited, Mr. Anaam Sharma, Senior Manager – Corporate Affairs, Coca-Cola India, Ms. Neeru Ahuja, Partner – Tax Business, Deloitte, Mr. Ankur Malhotra, Head, Government Relations, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Mr. Amit Mehta, Managing Director, McCormick India, Mr. Shashikanth Bhende, Country Agronomist and Product Manager, Mosaic, Mr. Vishal Dutta, Head of Research & Partnerships, Sannam S4, Mr. Subhash Pattnaik, Regional Head-Precision Agril, South Asia, Trimble, Mr. Anand Vijay Jha, Vice President and Head Corporate Affairs, Public Policy, Communications and Sustainability, Walmart India, Ms. Salonie Chawla, Consultant, APCO Worldwide India, Mr. Love Kumar, General Manager, Sales, Tecumseh Products India and Dr. Jasvir Singh, Regulatory, Scientific & Government Affairs Leader – South Asia, DuPont. Mr. Sarabpreet Singh Bedi, Executive Director from NAFED and Ms. Radha Mani, Agricultural Assistant from the U.S. Embassy in India were present. From Invest India, Vivek Sonny Abraham and Aayushi Bhatia attended.

The participants discussed five broad areas – AgriTech and its implications, the need for robust agricultural infrastructure, importance of global standards of quality, the growth of food processing industry and marketing and branding of agri produce in India. The key points discussed included the role of FPOs, convergence of all agriculture related schemes, need for greater interventions by the government in AgriTech, rationalization of certain custom duties on imported agri technology, digitization of agricultural land, standardization of agricultural infrastructure and the inherited demand – supply gap, absence of global standards of quality, obsolete schemes and the dire need to adopt sustainable practices. Industry felt

that any scheme, incentive or policy drafted should take into consideration the entire value chain i.e. from the farmers to the end consumers.

### **Breakout Session III:**

#### ***Electronic Hardware and Mobiles***

In 'Breakout Session III: Electronic Hardware and Mobiles' Mr. Dipayan Ghosh, Executive Director, KPMG in India, set the scene through discussing on export oriented growth for component manufacturing and the successes Vietnam in this regard. He touched on patents and the need for standards to be in line with the global system. Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Global Government Affairs & Public Policy, Flex Group was the conversation facilitator. Mr. S.K. Marwaha, Senior Director/Scientist 'G,' Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, discussed some of the ease of doing business challenges and policy updates on the horizon. From Invest India Mr. Shawn Bhalla and Mr. Ehtesham Khurshid talked about a study they conducted where they have found out that the disabilities in the electronic manufacturing sector was roughly about 8-10%. They encouraged American firms to share their investment plans in India for a manufacturing hub delivering to markets globally.

Industry speakers for the session included: Mr. Ambrish Bakaya, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure & Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Director Corporate Affairs, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Mr. Tabrez Ahmad, Group Director, Government Affairs & Public Policy, Dell, Mr. Sumeet Hemkar, Partner | Tax, Deloitte, Mr. Kapil Madhok, Country Manager – Air Services, India, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka, Expeditors International (India), Mr. Harjinder Singh, Country Manager – Customs Compliance & Services India, Bangladesh, Expeditors International (India), Ms. Anita Wadhwa Bhardwaj, Managing Director, Sales, FedEx Express Middle East Indian Subcontinent and Africa and Ms. Anubhuti Bhrary, Head Government Relations, India, HP India.

Some of the points of discussion included the possibility to extend the incentives under SEZs to provide a thrust to the sector, incentives for R&D facilities in India, potential for an industry led task force, strategy for export led growth of electronics, developments in the Phased Manufacturing Program, policy requirements for the growth of component ecosystem for electronics, skill development for high tech operations, time delays at customs for shipments and opportunities in fab labs.

#### **The Road Ahead**

Post the sector specific breakout sessions, all participants gathered back together for a plenary session on 'The Road Ahead' with opening remarks by Mr. Nitin Atroley, Chairman – Economic Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Office Managing Partner – North, KPMG in India. He emphasized the pertinent flagship programs of the government, Make in India and the Assemble in India, with the objective of increasing share in global trade to 3.5% and a target GDP of \$5 trillion. He talked about the need for improving competitiveness of Indian manufacturing, taking advantage of the geo-political situation and bold policy initiatives to catapult manufacturing.

The Breakout Session Takeaways were summarized by Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited for Smart Infrastructure and Electric Vehicles, Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Global Government Affairs & Public Policy, Flex Group for Electronic Hardware and Mobiles and Mr. Srinivas Kuchibotla, Partner, KPMG in India for Agriculture and Food Processing. KPMG have prepared a whitepaper on the deliberations and recommendations.

Mr. Deepak Bagla, Managing Director & CEO, Invest India, in his special address said 8 U.S. companies have been operating in India for over 100 years, the foundation of the oldest business relationship. Invest India is looking at 662 active business opportunities for U.S. investments into India with the number of sectors of interest has increased from 11 to 27 sectors. He said Jal Jeevan Mission offered a \$51 billion opportunity for U.S. companies and highlighted innovation and start-ups as pillars supporting the U.S.-India relationship.

In his special address, Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, mentioned that although the trade deal between both countries was still a work in progress, confidence was growing step by step. He said the Commerce & Industry Ministry was meeting regularly to address issues related to India's competitiveness in manufactured products and services. He emphasized that India was working on globalization index to support manufacturing, services, etc. towards meeting global acceptability through harmonization of standards. While discussing the global shortage of healthcare workers he said Ayushman Bharat offered a big investment opportunity across the healthcare sector in India. The session concluded with Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM presenting a memento to Mr. Pandey and thanking Flex for supporting the event.

18th Feb 2020

#### **Meeting with Congressman Ami Bera and Congressman George Holding**

On February 18th in New Delhi, Congressman Ami Bera, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and Non-Proliferation and Democratic Co-Chair of the India Caucus in the U.S. Congress and Congressman George Holding, the Republican Co-Chair of the India Caucus, met with AMCHAM members in the defense and healthcare sectors during an AMCHAM-USIBC joint closed door roundtable. Members shared with the Congressmen their growing concerns in the sectors and sought support in getting the concerns heard through the right channels. Both lawmakers promised bipartisan support to growing ties between India and the U.S. in diverse areas including trade and commerce, defense and strategic affairs. They also shared positivity in the hopes of India and the U.S. sealing the much anticipated trade deal soon.

20th Feb 2020

#### **Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Core Committee Meeting**

On February 20th, the Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Core Committee organized a meeting at the BAE Systems India (Services) Private Limited office in New Delhi. Ms. Komple Sharma, Manager, AMCHAM, welcomed participants. Opening remarks were given by Mr. Gaurav Ajmani, Chairman – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Associate General Counsel: Business Conduct & Ethics, Amazon Seller Services (P) Ltd. The committee deliberated upon the two most common pain areas for any compliance manager – vendor compliance management and third party risks. They shared their respective industry risks and the need for continuous monitoring of third parties. Members brainstormed on various possible topics for future discussions under the ambit of the committee. The closing remarks and vote of thanks were given by Mr. Gaurav Ajmani.

20th Feb 2020

#### **Release of 'India at \$5 Trillion: Strengthening Opportunities, Removing Hurdles'**

On February 20th, AMCHAM and Observer Research Foundation (ORF) released the first study on U.S. industry before President Trump's visit to India. The study 'India at \$5 Trillion: Strengthening Opportunities, Removing Hurdles' was based on interactions with AMCHAM members and has examined the investment potential and market opportunities that India's growth offers, opportunities for U.S. companies as a business partner in India's growth and hurdles U.S. companies face while doing business in India.

The study was officially released by Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Welcome remarks were made by Ms. Tanushree Chandra, Junior Fellow – Economy and Growth Programme, ORF. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, provided background to the study and highlighted how U.S. companies have partnered in India's growth story in her opening remarks. Mr. Gautam Chikermane, Vice President, ORF, in his remarks, outlined five key pillars to the U.S.-India partnership to be values, capitalism, markets, strategy and defense.

Minister Puri, in his address, gave an overview and history of the U.S.-India partnership. He said that the report was a testimony that the business environment in India is positive and was enthusiastic that India could be a \$10 trillion economy by 2030. He highlighted many government initiatives that illustrated India's growth at a rapid speed and touched upon challenges that affect the ease of doing business in India, as mentioned in the report.

20th Feb 2020

**Medical Technology Working Group Meeting**

AMCHAM's Medical Technology Working group meeting was held on February 20th at New Delhi under the chairmanship of Ms. Aileen Nandi, Honorary USG Chairperson – Healthcare Committee, AMHCAM and Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Ms. Meenakshi Nevatia, Chairperson – Healthcare Services Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Stryker India. The meeting encompassed discussions on pricing, standards, Make in India and data protection, along with an update on the advocacy and regulatory landscape for medical devices. Members pointed out the current situation of the medtech industry along with a few issues based on pricing frame work, standards, Make in India and regulatory challenges. Members enquired about opportunities to provide comments on Section 301 and whether the U.S. government plans to engage to seek comments from members. Based on the issues discussed during the meeting, members decided to meet Indian government officials in the coming month along with a position paper. The meeting concluded with closing remarks thanking the members for their valuable inputs.

21th Feb 2020

**Defense Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Defense Committee met on February 21st in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Nik Khanna, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, India, BAE Systems and Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Partner and Head – North India, Corporate & International Tax, KPMG India. From the U.S. Embassy, CAPT Daniel Fillion, Honorary USG Chair – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy, chaired the meeting. The deliberations began with a brief on the success of AMCHAM events at DefExpo 2020. Upcoming AMCHAM engagements and agendas with the Government of India, USG and other near term collaborations were also discussed.

25th Feb 2020

**AMCHAM – ICRIER Brainstorming Interaction: U.S.-India Economic Partnership**

To welcome U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to India, AMCHAM in association with Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) organized a brainstorming session on the U.S.-India economic partnership on February 25th in New Delhi. The panel included Mr. Sanjay Chadha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Secretary & Treasurer, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte, Prof. Anwarul Hoda, Chair Professor of ICRIER's Trade Policy and WTO Research Program, Dr. Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, ICRIER and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM. Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Director and Chief Executive, ICRIER was the moderator for the discussion.

Dr. Rajat Kathuria welcomed panelists and in his opening remarks highlighted that U.S.-India relations were at an all-time high and expressed desire that the visit by the U.S. President would lay a foundation for an FTA between India and the U.S. in the near future. Prof. Anwarul Hoda, in his remarks mentioned that the findings and recommendations by the Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) set up in 2007 to get industry feedback on the measures needed to improve bilateral trade and investment relations between the U.S. and India were never implemented in their full stride. Mr. Sanjay Chadha, in his remarks, pointed out that the trade deficit between India and the U.S. is gradually decreasing and also mentioned that the conventional calculation of bilateral trade excludes defense purchases, and when added, the deficit becomes narrower. He also told the participants that convergence towards issues have emerged but due to the interlinkages of the economies new issues crop up. The discussion saw wide ranging topics being discussed and questions asked. It included the reasons behind defense purchases being left out from the total trade calculations, Indo-Iran relations, requirements of the American companies to become a part of the supply chain, progress made in sectors like medical technology and agriculture and the role of MSMEs amongst others. Ms. Ranjana Khanna in her vote of thanks expressed gratitude towards the panelists and ICRIER.

25th Feb 2020

**AMCHAM – IDSA Brainstorming Interaction on the U.S.-India Defense Partnership**

AMCHAM and IDSA (Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses) conducted a brainstorming interaction on the U.S.-India defense partnership with defense experts and U.S. industry members on February 25th in New Delhi. The discussions were under Chatham House rules. Defense is the key driver of the U.S.-India bilateral partnership. India and the U.S. have made considerable progress to push forth the bilateral defense cooperation and continues to have a favorable future outlook. As a major supplier of defense and aerospace products to India, the U.S. is keen to look for a way forward in meeting India's needs and aspirations of achieving self-reliance. AMCHAM members participated and senior officials from the services were present during the much engaging and open discussion. Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Partner and Head – North India, Corporate and International Tax, KPMG, gave a brief presentation on the U.S. defense scenario. Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy, Director General, IDSA, co-chaired the proceedings with Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM.

26th Feb 2020

**Defense Committee Meeting with Mr. Raj Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Government of India**

AMCHAM's Defense Committee leadership and senior defense committee members called upon Secretary Defence Production, Mr. Raj Kumar, at his office on February 26th. The Secretary shared his vision with the team on issues ranging from offsets (credits and multipliers), procurement and banking. The team offered to submit detailed notes on our recommendations for the department's consideration.

4th Mar 2020

**National Executive Board Meeting**

The fourth meeting of AMCHAM's National Executive Board for 2019-2020 was held on March 4th, 2020 in Bengaluru. Consul General Robert Burgess, U.S. Consulate General Chennai, addressed board members on the U.S-India partnership and recent visit of President Trump. Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited, chaired the meeting. The agenda was taken up for discussion with participation from all members present.

5th Mar 2020

**Interaction with Jon M. Huntsman School of Business Students**

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter organized an interaction with the visiting business honors students from the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, Utah on March 5th. Mr. Sanjay Mujoo, Vice President, Pointnext Services Global Delivery Center – Hewlett Packard Enterprise, interacted with students and gave them a brief on how the tech sector in India has evolved especially in Karnataka, where Hewlett Packard is now in their contribution to technology development and where they are headed. The conversation touched upon some of the challenges faced by the society and how industry is able to generate demand for tech sector innovation and offerings. The event was very well received by the students, most of whom were in India for the first time.

20th Mar 2020

**CSR Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's CSR Committee held a committee meeting on March 20th through Webex. Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements, Cisco India & SAARC, Cisco Systems (India), welcomed participants and encouraged members during these abnormal times. He mentioned the Prime Minister's crowd sourcing for fixes regarding COVID-19 and asked companies to send in their suggestions. Ms. Kshitija Krishnaswamy, Co-Chairperson – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Director, Corporate Citizenship, Accenture India, emphasized that companies need to stay in communication with one another as CSR programs will get greatly affected during this time. Ms. Sangita Ghalay, Co-Chairperson – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Head – CSR, Honeywell India, asked members to send their inputs on the new CSR policy amendment rules so that AMCHAM can make a collective representation to the government.

The meeting explored how American companies can help with CSR initiatives to mitigate impact of COVID-19. USAID talked about the need to spread awareness on the virus at the workplace. The U.S. government has made the virus a priority and they would soon share specific ways that members can partner with civil society and government to combat COVID-19. It became evident that there are limited NGOs working specifically on COVID-19 and that AMCHAM would help gather info about it.

Mr. Jay Badola, Partner, Dua Associates and Mr. Akash Nath, Partner, Dua Associates, answered questions on the Draft Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Amendment Rules, 2020, which were open for comment through March 28th. Members recommended the reinstatement of trusts and societies for accepting CSR funds. The Q&A also addressed the disclosure of CSR policy and committee members on company websites, whether any long-term, multi-year program need to be truncated and the removal of "contribution to corpus," among other topics. Mr. Harish Krishnan, in his closing comments, thanked Dua Associates for their expert insights and mentioned, while the date for the annual CSR Conference was unknown, it would surely take place later in the year.

26th Mar 2020

### **U.S. Government Bimonthly Briefing**

On March 26th, AMCHAM's Honorary National Executive Board Members, Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor EEST, U.S. Embassy, briefed members amidst concerns arising out of the outbreak of COVID-19 and the ensuing governmental lockdown over a conference call. More than 40 members participated in call. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, introduced both speakers. Post their opening remarks, the participants raised issues and sought clarifications and interventions to their present challenges related to COVID-19 ranging from exemptions from lockdowns and temporary closures based on essential business services.

Ms. Aileen Nandi, in response to a question raised about employees being stranded in the U.S. with their visa/permits running out, encouraged them to check out U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for more details. Mr. Rob Garverick encouraged all U.S. citizens to sign up for Smart Traveler Enrolment Program (STEP), a free service that allows U.S. citizens traveling abroad to enroll with the local U.S. Embassy or Consulate to get regular security updates. The USG update on the COVID-19 situation and any impact they perceive from a trade perspective, with focus on overall economy, particularly life sciences, pharma sector, banking and financial services, supply chain and transportation, was also discussed. It was proposed to set up similar conference calls for all regions with the U.S. Consulates so that issues could be addressed locally quickly.

27th Mar 2020

### **COVID-19 in India – Updates and Strategies: An HR Perspective**

In the wake of COVID-19 and its massive impact on businesses, in particular HR aspects, AMCHAM's HR Committee, in collaboration with Sannam S4, organized an interactive webinar on 'COVID-19 in India – Updates and Strategies: An HR Perspective' on March 27th. The panelists included Ms. Susmita Sen, Head of HR Advisory, Sannam S4, Mr. Abhinav Sood, Head of Client Relations & International Projects-Financial Consulting, Sannam S4 and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM. The webinar focused on pertinent issues like retrenchment, appraisals, employee motivation and engagements, leadership and remote working situations, amongst others. The panelists touched upon important points needed in the prevailing challenging times. They informed participants about the three pillars as dictated by the International Labor Organization – protecting workforce, stimulating economy and supporting jobs. They also spoke about the importance of proper appraisals that should be done in isolation from the present timeframe and the importance of identifying key performers. The importance of proper documentation and compliance was also brought up during the discussion. The leaders were asked to show dynamism in this rapidly changing scenario. Issues and challenges in remote working were discussed along with some suggestive measures to overcome them. Around 80 participants attended the webinar. The webinar concluded with a vote of thanks by AMCHAM India and Sannam S4.

30th Mar 2020

**Taxation, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Taxation, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee met over a con-call on March 30th to discuss steps to be taken towards discussions with members and possible representation from AMCHAM on the new Equalisation Levy proposed in Finance Act 2020. The discussion was led by Mr. Naveen Agarwal, Designate Chairman – Taxation, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Partner International Tax and Partner in Charge U.S. Corridor, KPMG in India and Ms. Neeru Ahuja, Designate Co-Chairperson – Taxation, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Partner – Global Business Tax, Deloitte Haskins & Sells. The committee decided to make a representation to the Hon'ble Finance Minister bringing out concerns of AMCHAM members on the issue of Equalisation Levy. The committee also decided to host a webinar for members on this issue as well as other Finance Act 2020 points. Representation to the Finance Minister has since been made.

31st Mar 2020

**A Dialogue with Mr. Kamlesh Varshney, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and EY Tax Partners to Discuss the Recent Amendments in the Finance Bill 2020 w.r.t to 'Key Amendments in the Finance Bill 2020: Extension of Scope of Equalization Levy to Cover e-Commerce Supply or Services'**

On March 31st, AMCHAM India collaborated with EY India on a dialogue between Mr. Kamlesh Varshney, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and EY Tax partners to discuss the recent amendments in the Finance Bill 2020 w.r.t to 'Key Amendments in the Finance Bill 2020: Extension of Scope of Equalization Levy to Cover E-Commerce Supply or Services' (via concall). The session commenced with EY India welcoming participants on the call and setting the stage for the discussion. Through his remarks Mr. Kamlesh Varshney, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, shared insights on the scope of the Equalization Levy which will cover e-commerce supply or services w.e.f. 1st April 2020. The Q&A session addressed key concerns of companies with regards the Equalization Levy. In his final comments Mr. Varshney stated that further updates and clarifications on the Equalization Levy would be shared by the Government of India.





AMCHAM's 2019-2020 National Executive Board with Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Former President of India, the chief guest at AGM in New Delhi



Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster delivering the keynote speech during the inaugural session at AGM



Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, delivering the keynote speech during 'Industry 4.0: Smart Manufacturing'



(L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Ambassador Dr. S. Jaishankar, former Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster, Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India and Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Vice Chair, AMCHAM and Chairman & CEO, KPMG in India



(L-R) Mr. Phil Shaw, Chief Executive - India, Lockheed Martin India, Dr. Sunita Sanghi, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Skill and Entrepreneurship, Mr. Karan Bajwa, Managing Director, IBM India and Ms. Rekha M. Menon, Chairman and Senior Managing Director, Accenture in India



(L-R) Ambassador Meera Shankar, former Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Ms. Indrani Bagchi, Senior Diplomatic Editor, Times of India, Ambassador Arun Kumar Singh, former Indian Ambassador to the U.S.



Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Former President of India, with AMCHAM's Secretariat



Government officials and AMCHAM members at the 27th Annual General Meeting



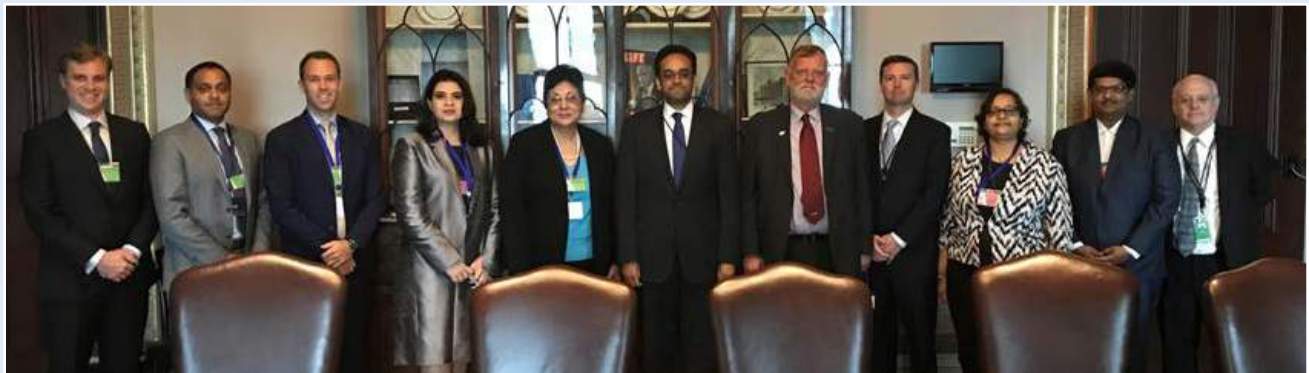
First National Executive Board meeting in progress



Cyber Security Committee at their first meeting of the year 2019-2020



Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, participated in the USAID hosted roundtable on corporate perspectives on partnerships to improve development outcomes with Mr. Paul Grove, the senior staff member on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs



Mr. Vishal Amin, Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President and other officials from IPEC, at the White House, with the door knock delegation



(Center) Ambassador Robert L. Strayer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber and International Communications and Information Policy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, with the door knock delegation



AMCHAM's door knock delegation with Representative Steve Chobot (R-OH)



The delegation with Ambassador Jeff Gerrish, Deputy United States Trade Representative



Representative Ami Bera (D-CA) with the door knock delegation in Washington DC



The door knock delegation with Representative Brian Mast (R-FL)





AMCHAM's door knock delegation with Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)



Door knock delegation at the USTDA office with Acting Director Tom Hardy



AMCHAM's door knock delegation with Mr. Clarke Cooper, Assistant Secretary, Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State



Members of the door knock delegation with Representative Vicky Hartzler (R-MO)



A few members of the delegation with Ambassador Alice Wells, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs



Part of the delegation with Department of Commerce officials led by Mr. Dale Tasharski, Deputy Director General of Global Markets, U.S. Department of Commerce



At the Indian Embassy in DC, with Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Indian Ambassador to the U.S.



AMCHAM's Anti-Corruption and FCPA Compliance Core Committee meeting in Gurugram



AMCHAM's secretariat with Ambassador Juster, Deputy Chief of Mission MaryKay Carlson and Brigadier General Robin Fontes at the Independence Day Celebration on June 6th



USPTO Roundtable on Intellectual Property Concerns in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan with Ms. Zeba Reyazuddin, Acting Assistant, U.S. Trade Representative, South and Central Asian Affairs



Mr. Rob Garverick, Minister Counselor, Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, briefing AMCHAM members on Secretary of State Pompeo's recent trip to India



Government officials and AMCHAM members at a U.S.-India Fast Track Mechanism meeting at Invest India



Discussions in progress at the U.S.-India Fast Track Mechanism Meeting



(L-R) Mr. Pawan Anand, Director, International Contracts & Strategic Partnerships, Boeing Defense Space & Security, Ms. Udaya Arun, Director - Aerospace & Defense, AMCHAM, Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President - India, Boeing Defense Space & Security, Cmde. Gyanendra Sharma, Country Head, Northrop Grumman International India, Mr. Samit Ray, Regional Director - Government Affairs South East Asia, United Technologies Corporation, Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Partner and Head - North India, Corporate & International Tax, KPMG, Mr. Nik Khanna, Co - Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, India, BAE Systems, Mr. Sanjeev Kakkar, Director - Business Development, GE Aviation, Capt. Daniel Fillion, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy and Col. KV Kuber, Director - Aerospace and Defence, Ernst & Young



(L-R) Bhavna Vishwakarma, Senior Commercial Specialist, U.S. Embassy, Dr. Preetha Rajaraman, Health Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Meenakshi Nevatia, Chairperson – Medical Devices Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Stryker India and Mr. Shanky Xavier, AMCHAM



Mr. Chaitanya Sreenivas, Vice President and HR Head, IBM India and South Asia, presenting to the HR Committee



Opening remarks by Ms. Smriti Ahuja, Chairperson – HR Committee and Global Head Organization Effectiveness, Cognizant



Energy Committee meeting in progress chaired by Mr. Rajendra Shrivastav, President, AES India





Agriculture and Food Processing Committee members at a meeting under the leadership of Mr. Simon George, Chairman – Agriculture & Food Processing Committee, AMCHAM and President, Cargill India and Ms. Neelima Dwivedi, Co-Chairperson – Agriculture & Food Processing Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President – Corporate Affairs, PepsiCo India Holdings Pvt. Ltd.



The Indian Council of Medical Research, Government of India, in association with Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) organized 'Consultative Meeting for Developing a Roadmap for Scaling-up of MedTech Innovations' that AMCHAM members attended



(L-R) Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman - CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements, Cisco India & SAARC, Cisco Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Amit Khatri, Deputy Commissioner, Gurugram, Ms. Sangita Ghalay, Co-Chairperson - CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Head – CSR, Honeywell India, Mr. Jay Badola, Partner, Dua Associates and Mr. Akash Nath, Partner, Dua Associates



Some of the participants at the CSR Committee meeting in Gurugram



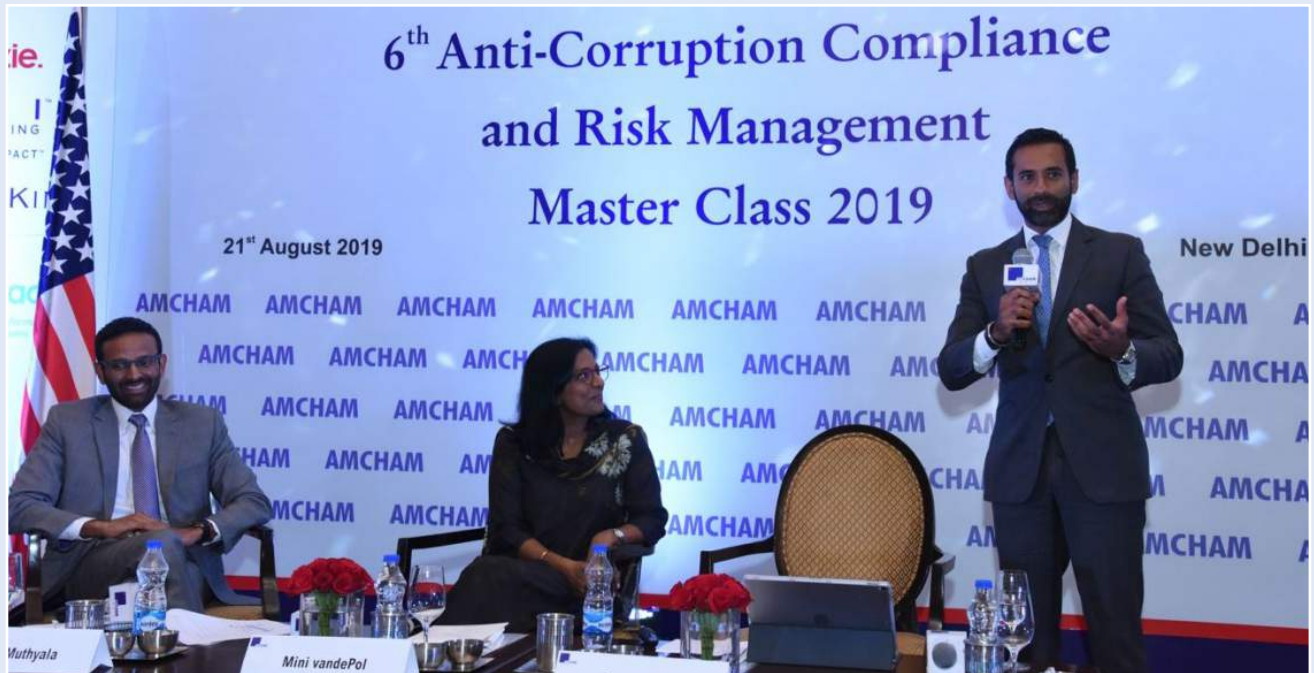
Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, welcoming participants



Special address delivered by Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy



Mr. Gaurav Ajmani, Chairman - Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Associate General Counsel, Business Conduct & Ethics, Amazon Seller Services, speaking at the master class



(L-R) Mr. Vasu Muthyala, White-Collar, Corporate & Individual Investigations and Enforcement Partner, Kobre & Kim, Ms. Mini vandePol, Asia Pacific Head, Compliance and Investigations, Baker & McKenzie and Mr. Sunny Mann, Compliance and Investigations Partner, Baker & McKenzie



(L-R) Ms. Shukla Wassan, Executive Director - Legal & Corporate Affairs, South Asia, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, Ms. Saloni Tuteja, Director – Legal, South Asia, Zimmer Biomet, Mr. Ambrish Bakaya, Director-Corporate Affairs, Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Ms. Bhawna A. Ranganadhan, Co-Chairperson – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Legal and Compliance, Genpact



Mr. Gaganpreet Singh Puri, Partner and Leader, Forensic Services, PwC India, giving a comprehensive presentation on the 'Use of Technology in Investigations – AI and Machine Learning'

Mr. Gaganpreet Singh Puri, Partner and Leader, Forensic Services, PwC India, giving a comprehensive presentation on the 'Use of Technology in Investigations – AI and Machine Learning'



Mr. Prasad Shetty, Managing Director, FTI Consulting and Mr. Anuj Bugga, Senior Managing Director, FTI Consulting, explaining case studies: M&A Red Flags and Bribery, Corruption and Investigations



POCA Guidelines and Enforcement' by Mr. Ashish Singh, Partner, Dua Associates

Ms. Deniz Muslu, Assistant Director - Office of Enforcement Analysis, Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce



Defense Committee members



(L-R) Ms. Mehnaz Ansari, Representative, India, South and Southeast Asia, USTDA, Mr. Thomas R. Hardy, Director (Acting), USTDA, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Mr. Gregory Taevs, Deputy Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy



Energy Committee members at an interaction with Mr. Thomas R. Hardy, Director (Acting), USTDA in New Delhi



(L-R) Mr. Darrel Ching, Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Matt Ingeneri, Economic Growth Unit Chief, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Mr. Karan Bajwa, Chairman – Northern Region Council, AMCHAM and MD and RGM India & South Asia IBM India



Participants of the HR Committee meeting in Bengaluru





National Executive Board members in Hyderabad



(L-R) Mr. Naveen Aggarwal, Partner and COO - Tax, Partner in-charge, U.S - India Corridor, KPMG in India, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM India, Ms. Tara Joseph, President, AmCham Hong Kong, Mr. Mark Green, Executive Vice President, Global Supply Chain, PVH Far East Limited and Mr. Gareth Brooks, Managing Director, VF Asia Pacific Sourcing, at an interaction with AmCham Hong Kong in New Delhi



AMCHAM's Signature Lecture Series on Empowering Organizations with Deep Weather-based Intelligence for Better & Faster Decisions



Members interacting with Dr. Kevin Petty, Director of Science and Forecasting and Head of Public - Private Partnerships at The Weather Company, an IBM Business, during Q&A



Energy Committee members in New Delhi



(L-R) Mr. Robert Garverick, Honorary USG Chair - Energy Committee, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Ms. Preetha Nair, Chairperson - Energy Committee, AMCHAM and Head Asia, True North Venture Partners and Ms. Dinah McDougall, Honorary USG Chair – Energy Cooperation Program, AMCHAM and Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy



(L-R) Dr. Arabinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Richard Hopkins, Global President, Flex Group, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Rakesh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Mr. Amit Bansal, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Corning India and Ms. Anubhuti Bhrary, Head Government Relations, India, HP India



Ms. Anubhuti Bhrany, Head Government Relations, India, HP India and Mr. Ashwini Aggarwal, Director - Government Affairs, Applied Materials India



Defense Committee members



(Center) Ms. Aileen Nandi, Honorary USG Chair - Healthcare Services Committee, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Dr. Preetha Rajaraman, Health Attaché, U.S. Embassy at a Healthcare Services Committee meeting



(L-R) Mr. Kishore Balaji, Co-Chairman - Cyber Security Committee, AMCHAM and Director – Public Policy & Government Relations, Intel Technology India, Ms. Ann Mason, Economic Unit Chief, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Rob Garverick, Honorary USG Chair - Cyber Security Committee, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Deepak Maheshwari, Chairman - Cyber Security Committee, AMCHAM and Director – Government Affairs, India, ASEAN & China, Symantec Corporation



Ambassador Robert Strayer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber and International Information Policy, U.S. Department of State, addressing participants at the U.S.-India ICT Dialogue: B2G Interaction in New Delhi



U.S.-India ICT Dialogue: B2G Interaction Mr. Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, MeitY and Ms. Debjani Ghosh, President, NASSCOM



U.S.-India ICT Dialogue: B2G Interaction (L-R) Mr. Som Satsangi, Chairman – ICT Committee, AMCHAM and MD, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Mr. Amrish Bakaya, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM (HPE) and Mr. Tarbez Ahmad (Dell)



(L-R) Ms. Valsa Williams, Advisor, AMCHAM, Ms. Anubhuti Kaul Bhrary (HP), Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM (Flex Group), Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – CSR Committee, AMCHAM (Cisco) and Mr. Naveen Tandon, Co-Chairman – ICT Committee, AMCHAM (AT&T)



Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Core Committee members at a meeting in Gurugram

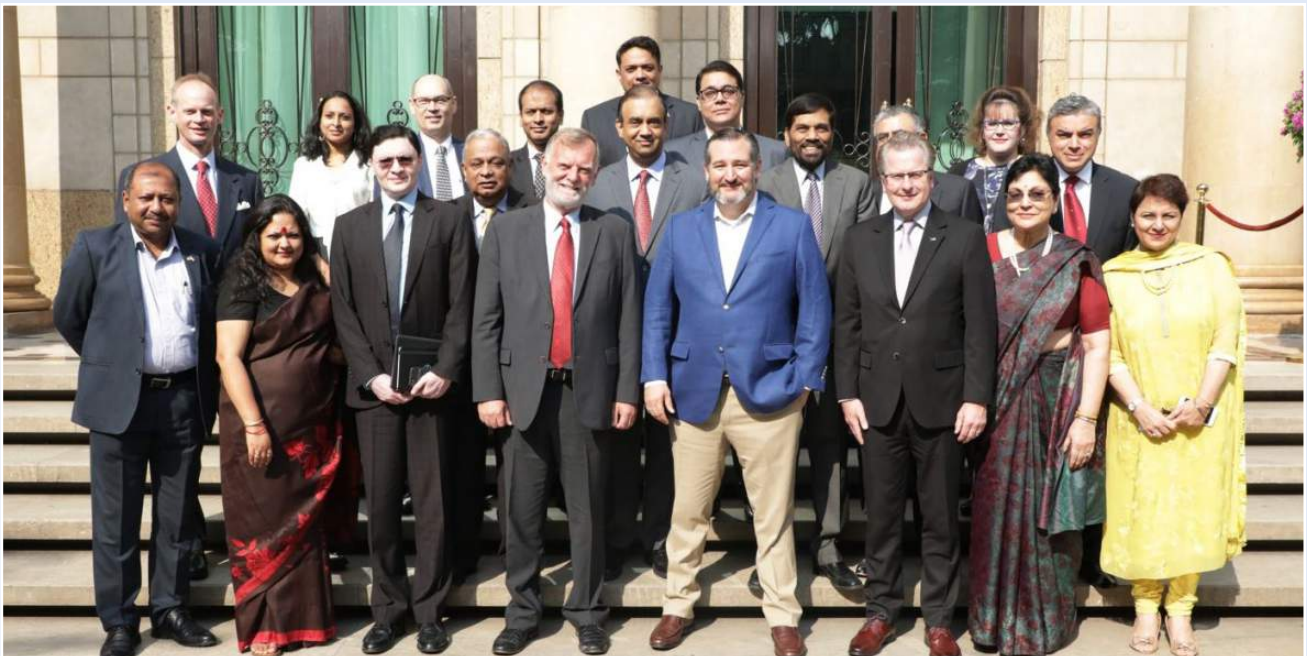


Members at the CSR Committee Best Practice Site Visit - Honeywell Safe Schools with representatives from SEEDS, school principal and teachers at Govt. Co-Ed Secondary School in Khichripur, New Delhi

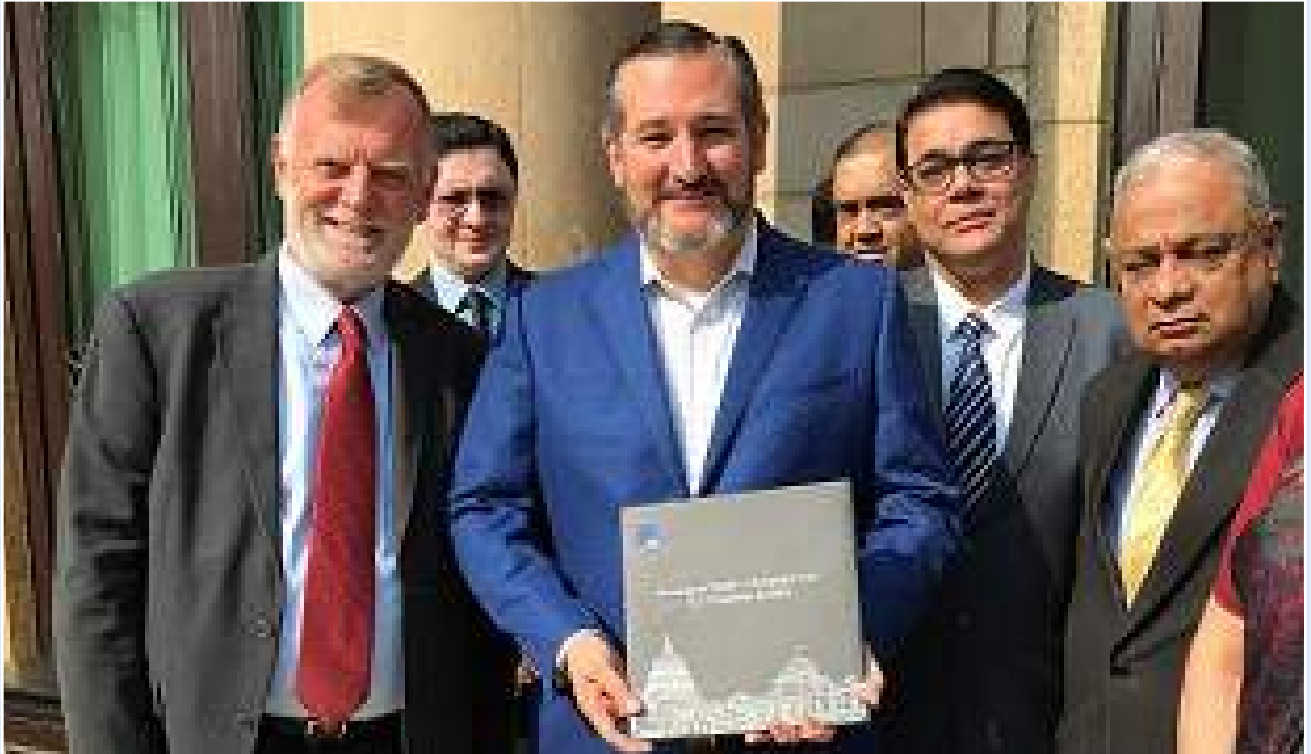




Dr. Anshu Sharma, Co-Founder, SEEDS, briefing CSR Committee members at a site visit to a Honeywell Safe Schools project



Participants at an interaction with Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) in New Delhi



Mr. Phil Shaw, Chairman, AMCHAM presenting a momento to Senator Cruz



Senator Cruz addressing AMCHAM leadership in New Delhi



(L-R) Mr. Sanjeev Kakkar, Director - Business Development, GE Aviation, Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Partner and Head – North India, Corporate & International Tax, KPMG, Ms. Udaya Arun, Director – Aerospace & Defense, AMCHAM, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, Mr. Nik Khanna, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, India, BAE Systems, Mr. William Blair, Vice President & Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin India and Ms. Deepti Mohil Chawla, Joint Secretary & Acquisition Manager (Land System), Ministry of Defence



Taxation, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee meeting in progress



Mr. Steven Wrappe, National Technical Head, Transfer Pricing, Grant Thornton U.S. addressing members in New Delhi



Members at the Signature Lecture Series on APA on October 14th in New Delhi



(L-R) Mr. Phil Shaw, Chairman, AMCHAM, RDML Eileen H. Laubacher, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, CAPT Daniel E. Fillion, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Boeing Defense, Space and Security



Mr. Sanjay Jaju, Joint Secretary (DIP), Ministry of Defence, Government of India (far right) at the AMCHAM – ORF Roundtable on U.S.-India Defense Cooperation



Members and USG representatives at an interaction with Ms. Ellen Lord, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), Department of Defense on October 24th in New Delhi



(L-R) Mr. Nik Khanna, Co-Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director – India, BAE Systems, Brig Gen Brian Bruckbauer, Director, Air Force Security Assistance and Cooperation Directorate, Mr. Michael Vaccaro, Director, International Armaments Cooperation, Mr. Phil Shaw, Chairman, AMCHAM and National Executive, Lockheed Martin India, Ms. Ellen Lord, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), Ambassador Tina Kaidanow, Senior Advisor, International Cooperation, Mr. Scott Baum, Principal Director, Industrial Policy, Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President - India, Boeing Defense, Space and Security and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM



Briefing post the U.S.- India ICT Dialogue with Mr. Rob Garverick, Honorary USG Chair - ICT and Cyber Security Committees, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy



(L-R) Mr. Deepak Maheshwari, Chairman - Cyber Security Committee, AMCHAM, Mr. Som Satsangi, Chairman – ICT Committee, AMCHAM, Mr. Rob Garverick, Honorary USG Chair - ICT and Cyber Security Committees, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM



AMCHAM members with U.S. Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster during Indo-Pacific Business Forum 2019 on November 4th in Bangkok, Thailand



AMCHAM supported the U.S. Ambassador's business delegation to the Indo-Pacific Business Forum 2019 led by U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross on November 4th in Bangkok, Thailand



Inaugural Session of the 2nd CSR Conference (L-R) Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Director General (Training), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, Mr. Edgard Kagan, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman - CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC Cisco Systems India and Mr. Ramanathan Ramanan, Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog





Collaborative Skilling Models (L-R) Ms. Kshitija Krishnaswamy, Co-Chairperson – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Director, Corporate Citizenship, Accenture India, Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Director General (Training), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Mr. Aakash Sethi, CEO, Quest Alliance and Ms. Rohini Kamath, Program Manager, Corporate Affairs, Cisco India



Innovating for Social Impact (L-R) Ms. Ramona El Hamzaoui, Deputy Mission Director, USAID/India, Ms. Neelam Makhijani, Country Director, ChildFund India and Mr. Sanjay Podder, Managing Director, Accenture Labs – Asia Pacific, Accenture



Best Practices in Monitoring and Evaluation (L-R) Mr. Vikas Gambhir, Director, Grant Thornton, Ms. Sangita Ghalay, Co-Chairperson – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Head – CSR, Honeywell India, Mr. Anuj Alphonson, Director - Livelihoods & Partnerships, Magic Bus India Foundation, Mr. Nitin Sharma, Legal Counsel, South Asia, Becton Dickinson and Ms. Sapna Moudgil, Director, NIIT Foundation



Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Outcomes (L-R) Colonel Ashwini Channan, Senior Director, Government Relations, Honeywell India, Ms. Kritika Sangani, Senior Lead, Organizational Development, Indus Action, Dr. Ishaprasad Bhagwat, Program Manager for MIYCN Projects, Tata Trusts and Mr. Keith Simmons, Acting Mission Director, USAID/India



Representatives of IPE Global and The Union with Mr. Keith Simmons, Acting Mission Director, USAID/India promoting the Corporate TB Pledge



AMCHAM's Agriculture & Food Processing Committee under the leadership of Mr. Simon George, Chairman - Agriculture & Food Processing Committee, AMCHAM and President, Cargill, at the Grant Thornton office in New Delhi



(L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Consul General David Ranz, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai, Mr. Karan Bajwa, Chairman, AMCHAM, Deputy Chief of Mission Edgard Kagan, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM



National Executive Board members in Mumbai with Deputy Chief of Mission Edgard Kagan, U.S. Embassy, Consul General David Ranz, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai and other U.S. Consulate officials



(L-R) Mr. Karan Bajwa, Chairman, AMCHAM and Managing Director and Regional General Manager India & South Asia, IBM India, Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India and Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, Chairman - Western Region, AMCHAM and CEO, Dow Chemical International



U.S. Government bimonthly briefing with Honorary National Executive Board Members of AMCHAM, Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor EEST, U.S. Embassy



Christmas Ball 2019 (L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Karan Bajwa, Chairman, AMCHAM, and MD & Regional General Manager India & South Asia, IBM India, Ambassador Kenneth Juster, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited, Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Secretary & Treasurer, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte



Ambassador Kenneth Juster, U.S. Embassy, delivering remarks as the chief guest during AMCHAM's Annual Christmas Ball

Mr. Karan Bajwa, Chairman, AMCHAM, and MD & Regional General Manager India & South Asia, IBM India, giving welcome remarks during AMCHAM's Annual Christmas Ball 2019





Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Karan Bajwa, Chairman, AMCHAM, and MD & Regional General Manager India & South Asia, IBM India, giving away memento to Ambassador Kenneth Juster, U.S. Embassy



Mr. Matt Ingeneri, U.S. Embassy and Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Special Secretary, GST Council, at the Christmas Ball



Guests at the Christmas Ball



Members in a festive mood





Participants of a couples game at the Annual Christmas Ball in New Delhi



AMCHAM team during the Christmas Ball



ICT Committee members and U.S. Embassy officials



(L-R) Ms. Valerie Swope, Program Coordinator, AMCHAM India, Mr. Amrish Bakaya, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Director Corporate Affairs, HPE, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Dr. Reuben Swamickan, Division Head of the Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases Team, USAID/India and Dr. Jamie Tonsing, Director-South East Asia, The Union during the Corporate TB Pledge Working Group meeting



AMCHAM's Defense Committee members



Defense Committee interaction with U.S. Embassy officials



MBA students from Montclair State University at a session with KPMG in India in Gurugram



AMCHAM's Energy Committee with leadership Ms. Preetha Nair, Chairperson – Energy Committee, AMCHAM and Head Asia, True North Venture Partners, Mr. Robert Garverick, Honorary USG Chair – Energy Committee, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Dinah McDougall, Honorary USG Chair – Energy Cooperation Program, AMCHAM and Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy



AMCHAM's HR Committee at a meeting on the Labour Code in New Delhi



Honorary National Executive Board Members of AMCHAM, Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor EEST, U.S. Embassy, briefing members



Mr. Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary Refinery, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Mr. K.K Jain, Executive Director, Centre for High Technology



Members and U.S. Embassy officials at a roundtable with the Centre for High Technology



(L-R) CAPT Daniel Fillion, Honorary USG Chair - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy, RDML Eileen Laubacher, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Ambassador Kenneth Juster, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Ms. Udaya Arun, Director - Aerospace & Defense, AMCHAM



RDML Eileen Laubacher, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy addressing the U.S. Industry Reception at DefExpo

(L-R) RDML Eileen Laubacher, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Terence Emmert, Principal Deputy Director of Defense Research and Engineering for Advanced Capabilities, Department of Defense, Ambassador Kenneth Juster, MG Daniel McDaniel, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC), Australian Army, CAPT Daniel Fillion, Honorary USG Chair - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Erick Kish, Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy





(L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Dave Sutton, Director - Asia, Lockheed Martin, Mr. John Bottimore, Vice President, International Business Development, BAE Systems, Mr. Salil Gupte, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India and Mr. Chris Rao, Managing Director, Collins Aerospace-India



(L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman and Managing Director, Timken India, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Global Government Affairs & Public Policy, Flex Group and Mr. Akhil Bansal, Deputy CEO, KPMG in India





(L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Nitin Atroley, Chairman – Economic Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Office Managing Partner – North, KPMG in India, Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman and Managing Director, Timken India, Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Deepak Bagla, Managing Director & CEO, Invest India, Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Global Government Affairs & Pubic Policy, Flex Group and Mr. Srinivas Kuchibotla, Partner, KPMG in India



Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry



(L-R) Congressman George Holding, Congressman Ami Bera and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM at an interaction on defense and healthcare in New Delhi



Members with Congressman George Holding and Congressman Ami Bera



Anti-Corruption and FCPA Compliance Core Committee



(L-R) Mr. Gautam Chikermame, Vice President, ORF, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM



Ms. Aileen Nandi, Honorary USG Chair - Healthcare Services Committee, AMCHAM and Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy interacting with members of AMCHAM's Medical Technology Working Group



Defense Committee members at a meeting in New Delhi hosted by BAE Systems India



(L-R) Dr. Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, ICRIER, Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Director and Chief Executive, ICRIER, Mr. Sanjay Chadha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, Prof. Anwarul Hoda, Chair Professor of ICRIER's Trade Policy and WTO Research Program, Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Secretary & Treasurer, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM



Mr. Sanjay Chadha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, addressing members during AMCHAM – ICRIER Brainstorming Interaction: U.S.-India Economic Partnership



Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Secretary & Treasurer, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM presenting a memento to Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Director and Chief Executive, ICRIER



Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Partner and Head – North India, Corporate and International Tax, KPMG, giving a presentation on the U.S. defense scenario at a brainstorming interaction with IDSA



Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM presenting a memento to Mr. Sujan R. Chinoy, Director General, IDSA



AMCHAM - IDSA Brainstorming Interaction on the U.S.-India Defense Partnership



(L-R) Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Partner and Head – North India, Corporate & Intl. Tax, KPMG, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Raj Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Boeing Defense, Space & Security, Mr. William Blair, Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin India, CAPT Daniel Fillion, Honorary USG Chair - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Kamal Deep Sanan, Head – Business Development Offsets, BAE Systems India and Cdr Arun Jyoti, Director GR India, Honeywell Aerospace India



Driving Impact in CSR Through Innovation & Talent (L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Dr. Ashwath Narayan C.N., Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka, Mr. Sanjay Koul, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM, Chairman - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India and Mr. Ajay Gopal, Community Impact Manager, Cisco Systems India





(L-R) Mr. Guruprasad Mysore, President, Honeywell Aerospace India, Mr. Nik Khanna, Co-Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director - India, BAE Systems, Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Boeing Defense, Space & Security, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Defence Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. David Sutton, Director for Asia, Lockheed Martin, Mr. Ravindra Nirgudkar, President – India, Raytheon Technologies and Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Partner and Head – North India, Corporate & Intl. Tax, KPMG



## AMCHAM Hyderabad

Consul General Joel Reifman, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad addressing members at Annual Day 2020

Date	Meetings / Events
24th July 2019	<p><b>Farewell for Consul General Katherine Hadda, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad</b></p> <p>The Hyderabad Chapter organized a farewell for Consul General Katherine Hadda, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad on July 24th at the Westin Mindspace in Hyderabad. Mr. Shashidhar Reddy, Chairman – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM thanked the Consul General for her support of AMCHAM during her tenure. Her humility and accessibility were appreciated by all. Consul General Hadda's interest, not only in U.S.-India ties, but also in social causes was highlighted.</p>
29th Aug 2019	<p><b>AMCHAM Leadership Interaction at Hyderabad</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's National Executive Board welcomed new U.S. Mission officials, Mr. Edgard Kagan, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Joel Reifman, Consul General, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad, and interacted with Hyderabad Chapter members on August 29th. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM welcomed participants and Mr. Phil Shaw, Chairman, AMCHAM and Chief Executive India, Lockheed Martin India, made opening remarks and introduced Mr. Jayesh Ranjan (IAS), Principal Secretary – IT, Industries &amp; Commerce, Textiles, Government of Telangana. Mr. Ranjan invited more investment from U.S. companies in Telangana and shared several success stories and opportunities.</p> <p>Mr. Som Satsangi, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Hewlett Packard Enterprise gave an overview of HPE's digital village project in Telangana which focused on three key areas: education, health and e-governance. Mr. Jayesh Ranjan virtually launched HPE's 3rd digital village in Jillela (situated at 130 kms from Hyderabad with population of approximately 3,400 people) and interacted with beneficiaries of the project through video conferencing.</p> <p>Mr. Edgard Kagan, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, in his remarks, emphasized the need for companies to come to the Embassy and Consulate early when they face challenges at a state level. He talked about some of the economic reforms and the U.S.'s continued optimism for India. He encouraged the chamber and companies to highlight their CSR activities. Mr. Shashidhar Reddy, Chairman - Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM and Vice President, Qualcomm India, gave an overview of AMCHAM's activities in the Hyderabad Chapter and welcomed Mr. Joel Reifman, Consul General, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad. Consul General Reifman, in his remarks, expressed his enthusiasm to be in Hyderabad. He touched upon Indo-Pacific strategy and the investment that American companies have already made in the region. Participants introduced themselves and interacted with officials. The event was sponsored by Arcesium.</p>

20th Sept 2019

**7th Annual Healthcare Conference**

AMCHAM's 7th Annual Healthcare Conference with the theme 'Evolving Models of Healthcare Delivery in the Digital Era' was held on September 20th, 2019 at Westin Mindspace in Hyderabad.

The Inaugural session began with Mr. Shashi Reddy, Chairman – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM giving an overview on the day's program. Consul General Joel Reifman was the guest of honor and he said the theme of the conference was in line with the U.S-India partnership of providing accessibility and affordability healthcare both in the urban and rural areas. Mr. Kaivaan Movdawalla of Ernst & Young showcased the healthcare delivery landscape in India and the three key imperatives to provide universal healthcare to all. He spoke on the rising dual disease burden – communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases.

The first panel 'Sustainable Healthcare Delivery Models to Ensure Inclusiveness' had panellists from various walks of life with Mr. Movdawalla of EY as the moderator. The panellists were Mr. Sarang Deo, ISB, Mr. NS Vishwanath, Mfine, Mr. Hari Thalapalli, Call Health and Mr. Ambuj Chaturvedi, Medtronic. They discussed how technology would give more options and the qualitative factor was more important than the quantitative factor. It is not about price control only but also about process and quality control. Challenges include information asymmetry, quality of care and customer behaviour. Medical support and capability can be achieved only through technology. Technology is an important way to bridge access to rural areas and help in continuity of care.

In the second session 'Patient Centric Models,' Mr. Srikanth Potturi, EY, moderated. The panellists were Dr. Pramod Gaddam, Fernandez Foundation (dealt with challenges), Mr. Matruprasad P, Medtronic (dealt with the technology aspect) and Mr. Murali Rao, EY (dealt with privacy issues in a patient centric model). A patient centric model is about keeping the patient in the centre, lowering costs and getting the best medical outcomes. Technology enables us to connect all stakeholders. Technology has been an enabler but patient privacy is important. Empathy for the patients was stressed.

In the third panel 'Make in India – A Case for Frugal Innovation,' Dr. Ambuj Chaturvedi was the moderator with panellists Ms. Nita Sachan, Cyient, Mr. Arun Shankar, PAREXEL, Mr. Renu John, IIT Hyderabad and Mr. Kartikeya Misra, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The panel discussed how technology plays a role from a standpoint of Make in India. Technology should be made simple so that the last mile person could use it. The panel discussed how academia should come to the forefront to support technologies for medical innovations. Train the human resource base on the what industry requires so that talent for AI, ML would bring healthcare to a really different level. Government and industry could work together to bridge gap.

11th Oct 2019

**Session on D&I – Demographic, Cultural & Generational Challenges**

AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter organized a session on 'D&I – Demographic, Cultural & Generational Challenges' on October 11th in Hyderabad. The meeting began with Mr. Prakash Bodla, Executive Director, Carrier HRDC, the moderator for the session, introducing panellists. The session began with Ms. Rajita Singh, Head HR, Broadridge, speaking on the demographic challenges followed by Mr. Tanay Kediya, VP, Wells Fargo, speaking on cultural challenges while Ms. Kiranmai Pendyala, Site Director, ICE, touched on generational challenges. Though D&I commonly refers to the gender perspective, with the expanding workforce bringing in diverse groups, cultures and people of various ages, there is a generational gap that exists between the newer entrants and the existing ones. The panel discussed how policy making is not enough. The panel discussion was followed by Q&A with the audience.

Sept - Dec 2019

**Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2019**

AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2019 began on September 21st with cricket, followed by basketball. This is an opportunity for the employees of member companies to have some healthy competition. Badminton was held in on November 2nd and 3rd and table tennis on November 9th and 10th. Volleyball was scheduled for October but has been postponed to December due to ground conditions. This year a total of 28 companies have participated in this sports edition.

12th Feb 2020

**Hyderabad Chapter Annual Day**

The Annual Day of the Hyderabad Chapter was held on February 12th at the Westin Mindspace, Hyderabad. The guest of honor was Consul General Joel Reifman, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad. The program began with lighting of the lamp by all the past Chairpersons of AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter and the Consul General. Annual Day celebrated the companies that participated in Hyderabad Chapter Sports from September – December 2019. In between the prize distribution, employees of member companies performed for the gathering. A total of 17 companies received prizes for emerging as winners and runners in the 12 events at Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2019.

27th Mar 2020

**Hyderabad Chapter supported TiE Talks: Complete Lockdown – All You Need to Know**

AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter supported a webinar by TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) Hyderabad on 'TiE Talks: Complete Lockdown – All You Need to Know' on March 27th. The webinar featured the following speakers: Mr. Jayesh Ranjan IAS, (IT & Industries), Mr. VC Sajjanar IPS, (Cyberabad Commissioner of Police) and Dr. G Srinivasa Rao (Public Health Dept.) in conversation with Mr. Viiveck Verma, Board Member of TiE Hyderabad. The webinar was held on March 27th from 3:00 p.m. onwards. The webinar started off with Mr. Viiveck Verma introducing the panelists. Dr. G Srinivasa Rao, Director, Public Health Dept, Govt of Telangana, said that of the 47 cases 35 were cured. There were about 1,600 foreign returnees and the lockdown has been initiated to break the chain of transmission. He said that things were under control now and being closely monitored.

Mr. Jayesh Ranjan said that 95% of the IT workforce was working from home and the remaining 5% were given passes for the critical resources they handle. The SCSC could be contacted for passes and after due verification, the passes would be issued by the concerned officer. Broadband uptake has gone up by at least 30%. All four carriers have identified high demand areas and willing to work with the neighborhoods to get the additional infrastructure up and running. There seems no major complaints about broadband speeds. DSCI cybersecurity would be working on strengthening security.

Mr. V C Sajjanar requested members to abide by the rules and ensure that public do their shopping for groceries etc. only within the 3 km range of their residence, that was specified. He also requested that others stay at home and stay safe. A COVID-19 control room has been set up and public could contact them for anything. He request the public not to panic but follow the instructions of the Healthcare Department and take whatever precautions needed.



Members at the farewell for Consul General Katherine Hadda, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad, in Hyderabad



(L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Joel Reifman, Consul General, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad, Mr. Phil Shaw, Chairman, AMCHAM and Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin India, Mr. Edgard Kagan, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Jayesh Ranjan (IAS), Principal Secretary - IT, Industries & Commerce, Textiles, Government of Telangana, Mr. Shashidhar Reddy, Chairman - Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM and Vice President, Qualcomm India and Mr. Som Satsangi, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Hewlett Packard Enterprise



Mr. Jayesh Ranjan virtually launching HPE's 3rd digital village in Jillela and interacted with beneficiaries of the project through video conferencing



Mr. Joel Reifman, Consul General, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad addressing leaders of AMCHAM



Hyderabad Chapter Executive Committee members with (center) Consul General Joel Reifman, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad



Inaugural session of the 7th Annual Healthcare Conference in Hyderabad (L-R) Mr. Shashi Reddy, Chairman - Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM, Consul General Joel Riefmann, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad and Mr. Kaivaan Movdawalla, EY



Sustainable Healthcare Delivery Models to Ensure Inclusiveness (L-R) Mr. Kaivaan Movdawalla, EY, Mr. Sarang Deo, ISB, Mr. NS Vishwanathan, Mfine, Mr. Hari Thalapalli, Call Health and Mr. Ambuj Chaturvedi, Medtronic



Patient Centric Models (L-R) Mr. Srikanth Potturi, EY, Dr. Pramod Gaddam, Fernandez Foundation, Mr. Matruprasad P, Medtronic and Mr. Murali Rao, EY





Make in India – A Case for Frugal Innovation (L-R) Mr. Ambuj Chaturvedi, Medtronic, Ms. Nita Sachan, Cyient, Mr. Arun Shankar, PAREXEL, Mr. Renu John, IIT Hyderabad and Mr. Kartikeya Misra, Government of Andhra Pradesh



At a D&I session in Hyderabad (L-R) Ms. Rajita Singh, Head HR, Broadridge, Mr. Tanay Kediya, VP, Wells Fargo, Ms. Kiranmai Pendyala, Site Director, ICE and Mr. Prakash Bodla, Executive Director, Carrier HRDC



Badminton matches in progress at Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2019

Badminton matches in progress



Mr. Hari Kiran of IBM 40+ men's singles in action

A heated match of table tennis men's doubles





A strategic game of chess in progress



A strategic game of chess in progress



Employees of members companies playing chess at Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2019

Participants in chess at AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2019





Time for some basketball

Basketball game in progress



More basketball

Employees of members companies playing carrom at Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2019





A cricket match

Another cricket match



Men's volleyball match at Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2019

Women's throwball match in progress in Hyderabad





Mr. Shashidhar Reddy, Chairman - Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM and Vice President, Qualcomm India, speaking at Annual Day 2020



Dance performance by State Street employees at Annual Day 2020 in Hyderabad



CDK Global employees performing at Hyderabad Chapter Annual Day



Consul General Joel Reifman, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad, distributing prizes at Annual Day 2020 in Hyderabad



## AMCHAM Kolkata

Assistant Secretary Ian Steff, U.S. Department of Commerce, addressing members in Kolkata

Date	Meetings / Events
10th May 2019	<p><b>Networking Reception with Trade Winds Delegation headed by Assistant Secretary, Mr. Ian Steff, U.S. Department of Commerce</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Eastern Region hosted a networking reception for the Trade Winds 2019 delegation on May 10th, 2019 at the Bengal Club in Kolkata. The delegation was led by Mr. Ian Steff, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing, Performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Global Markets, and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, gave the keynote address. The other members of the delegation included Mr. Jim Golsen, Executive Director for Asia, Mr. Greg Taevs, Deputy Senior Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy in India and Mr. Jonathan Goldberg, India Desk Officer and Mr. Bradley McKinney, Chief of Staff. Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata, accompanied the delegation. Representatives of American companies who were part of the delegation were also present.</p> <p>In his address, Assistant Secretary Steff said Indian and American industry leaders have a rich history of successful collaboration when it comes to innovation, manufacturing, services and investment. He talked about taking the bilateral relationship to the next level at the Select USA investment summit and welcomed current and future investors from Kolkata and east India to take part at the event in Washington DC. He mentioned that he was very pleased to meet and interact with members of AMCHAM's Eastern Region covering a diverse range of issues.</p> <p>Consul General Hoffman said this was a very special week for the U.S.-India bilateral trade relationship. The U.S. Consulate General welcomed representatives from six U.S. companies to Kolkata to explore business opportunities in east India. She mentioned various sessions that the Trade Winds delegation attended.</p> <p>Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM, in his welcome remarks, said Trade Winds was the largest annual U.S. government-led trade mission in 2019 to India and in its 11th edition to discover business opportunities in the Indo-Pacific region. The Trade Winds program was an Indo-Pacific focused business forum consisting of regional and industry specific conference sessions as well as pre-arranged consultations with U.S. Diplomats representing commercial markets throughout the region. He said that this would help investors customize an optimum business matching schedule throughout the region. He highlighted AMCHAM India's goals and objectives in India and the Eastern Region. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, introduced the delegation to members, gave the vote of thanks and opened the floor for a Q&amp;A session.</p>



17th May 2019	<p><b>Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Eastern Region had its first Executive Committee meeting on May 17th. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman, Eastern Region, AMCHAM, at the TCG Digital office in Kolkata. The minutes of the meeting of April 3rd, the last EC meeting for 2018-19 were ratified. Membership renewal was discussed and dates of upcoming events for June and July were formalized. The proposed NextGen Leaders Program was also discussed.</p>
7th June 2019	<p><b>Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>On June 7th, Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman Eastern Region, AMCHAM, hosted the Executive Committee meeting at his office. He formalized his transfer to the U.S. and said he would be departing Indian mid-July. He also said that Mr. Subrata Bagchi, President TCG Digital would replace him on the committee. Mr. Gulshan Sachdev and Mr. K.P. Sengupta suggested that Mr. Bagchi also take over as the Chairman of the Eastern Region. This was agreed by Executive Committee members. Upcoming events in July/August were discussed. Membership drive and the NextGen Global Leadership training was also discussed. The meeting was hosted by TCG Digital.</p>
24th June 2019	<p><b>Meeting with Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate Kolkata</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized a meeting with Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate Kolkata on June 24th. The meeting was to introduce Mr. Subrata Bagchi, who had taken over as Chairman of the Eastern Region from Mr. Debdas Sen, who would be relocating to the U.S. Mr. Sen updated Consul General Hoffman on various initiatives taken up by the region and the value of the partnership between the U.S. Consulate and AMCHAM members. Mr. Bagchi also gave his views on taking AMCHAM forward and discussed some of the events that were being planned. The Indo-Pacific strategy, among other issues, was discussed. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, was also present at the meeting and highlighted some of the forthcoming events.</p>
5th July 2019	<p><b>Eastern Region's Webcast on 'NDA 2.0 Budget – A First Hand Account on the Fiscal Budget Announcement' with EY</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Eastern Region joined the EY webcast 'NDA 2.0 Budget – A First Hand Account on the Fiscal Budget Announcement' on July 5th. Panellists shared their interpretation of the budget announcement viz-a-via its expectations, the finer details of the finance bill and how it impacts business. The panellists were: Mr. Sudhir Kapadia, Partner &amp; National Tax Leader, EY India, Mr. Ganesh Raj, Partner &amp; National Leader, Business Tax Services, EY India, Mr. Uday Pimprikar, Partner &amp; National Leader, Indirect Tax Services, EY India.</p> <p>Mr. Kapadia highlighted that the announcement for further infusion in Public Sector Banks and partial credit guaranteed by the Government of India for purchase of high rated pooled assets of financially sound NBFCs by PSBs for well-run NBFCs are attempts to address some of the financial stress of the economy which has led to less private sector investment. Mr. Raj said that the coverage of 99.3% of the companies under the reduced tax regime is a welcome move and will benefit a larger part of corporate India. The incentive of opting for digital payments and emphasis on technology backed procedures are steps in the right direction to move the economy into the digital mode. Mr. Uday Pimprikar mentioned that industry and Government need to actively collaborate, as the GST law would act as a catalyst for attracting investment, driving employment and prosperity.</p>
2nd Aug 2019	<p><b>Breakfast Interactive Session on 'Evolving Nature of Cyber Attacks – Incidence, Impact and Response'</b></p> <p>On August 2nd, AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized a breakfast interactive session on 'Evolving Nature of Cyber Attacks – Incidence, Impact and Response' in Kolkata. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave the introductions. Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave the welcome address. Mr. Shyamal Datta former Government of Nagaland and Former Director Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, was the chief guest.</p>

In his opening remarks Mr. Datta said that information technology has been one of the finest creations of the human mind. Stakeholders, in government, corporates, science and technology, consider it their responsibility to guard against it being hijacked by adversaries with their devious and clandestine designs of physical, biological and cyber-attacks. Mr. Datta said cyber security has emerged as the fifth most important domain of strategic importance after land, air, sea and space. The internet has become the backbone of commerce and communication which constitute the very lifeline of human existence. This has brought into play an intense competition to innovate and acquire technologies superior to those in existence. In the process, the technologies have become outdated and also proliferated faster, much to the detriment of interests of regulatory bodies. The newer acquisitions have replenished the armory. Both have compounded challenges for the security management. Besides supervision and monitoring, the task of ensuring safety and security of infrastructures and networks on land and hallow international waters has become indeed very challenging. Retaining an edge and remaining on top in order to keep the adversaries at bay, has become formidable. Mr. Datta emphasized a bloodless and silent war is, therefore, on round the clock to cause sleepless nights for the management of security. Those who master the technology and the security know-how and skills are considered better equipped.

Mr. Koushik Nath, Sr. Security Architect, Cisco, in his overview of the topic said that we are passing through a time when radical business transformations are inevitable due to disruptions triggered by technology evolutions. As industry is embracing 4.0, the digitization wave is also bringing challenges which were never anticipated! Today, virtually anyone can use malicious programs to attack without even knowing how to write a software program! Over the years, computer attacks have become economically profitable for a large segment of smart people who can penetrate any systems and hack data. The market of cybercrime business is well over several trillion USD and that's an attracting proposition. Mr. Nath talked about threats like crypto mining, and emotet which follows the money and mostly bypasses the user/security tool's attention. In the coming years as more and more things are getting connected to internet, the threat landscape would increase and malicious players will certainly gain grounds. In this increasingly challenging situation, organizations need to work closely with security service providers and build a trusted ecosystem which can work hand-in-hand to reasonably minimize the business risk. Security should be integrated into the organization's DNA and this can be achieved only when people, process and technology come together.

Mr. Abhirup Guha gave a detailed presentation covering a wide range of incidences and scenarios which could take place and why it was important for a safety net to be in place. He concluded by saying that the cyber threat landscape is ever changing thus making conventional information security mechanisms less impactful each day. New threats like cloud compromise, deep web data breach, easy identity impersonation, and new threat vectors like polycryptominers, hybrid APT with a capability of changing itself from trojan to ransomware based on AI and devices capable to automatically write and execute malware without any user intervention by bypassing DLP are some of the latest threats. The attackers never rest and always pioneer and exploit new technologies, so its crucial to be aware about the latest test threats first, to stay a step ahead of the adversaries. Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Member - Eastern Region Executive Committee, AMCHAM, gave the concluding remarks.

23rd Aug 2019

#### **Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting**

Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM hosted the Executive Committee meeting at his office in Kolkata on August 23rd. He updated members on the recently held interaction session on 'Evolving Nature of Cyber Security – Attacks, Incidence, Impact and Response.' He said that the demonstration done was an eye opener for members. Mr. Shobhan Kumar, Executive Committee member also said that his IT team benefited immensely from the session. Upcoming sessions were discussed and the NextGen Leadership Program was also tabled. It was decided that the Eastern Region would roll out its inaugural session on September 6th. Membership issues were also discussed. The meeting concluded with a cake cutting ceremony and thanks to the Chair and TCG Digital Solutions for hosting the meeting.

29th Aug 2019

**Meeting with Mr. Joseph M. Pomper, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, U.S. Embassy on the New Interview Waiver Scheduling System**

On August 29th AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized an interactive session over high tea at the Hyatt Regency Kolkata, with Mr. Joseph Pomper, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, Ms. Amy Gradin, Vice Counsel, U.S. Consulate Kolkata and the Consular team. This was Mr. Pomper's farewell visit to Kolkata before he departed India.

Mr. Pomper said that the U.S.-India trade relationship has been growing exponentially in recent years; two-way trade between the United States and India in 2017 increased by \$12 billion to \$126 billion and the United States is India's number one export destination. He said more than a million people travel between the countries annually. In FY 2018, over 1.2 million visas were adjudicated in the five consular sections across India. In FY 2018, over 235,000 people in India applied for U.S. visas via the interview waiver program.

Beginning September 1st, 2019, the U.S. Mission to India would begin to schedule interview waiver passport drop-off. Previously, applicants did not need to schedule an appointment to drop off their passports. This procedure applies to individuals renewing U.S. visas that have expired less than one year before and to applicants under age 14 or over age 79. He said the goal in implementing an appointment scheduling system for applicants dropping off passports for visa renewal was to improve customer service and reduce overall processing times. As a result of this change, the Embassy and Consulates anticipate being able to reduce the processing times from three weeks to 7-10 business days.

From September 1st, applicants eligible for interview waiver processing can schedule an appointment date via on the website, [www.ustraveldocs.com](http://www.ustraveldocs.com) and drop off their passport and visa application materials at one of the eleven Visa Application Center locations across India. He said that FAQs on the new Interview Waiver scheduling which was distributed at the meet could be shared amongst members.

Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director, gave introductions, Mr. Shobhan Kumar, Member - Eastern Region Executive Committee, AMCHAM, gave the welcome address and Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Member - Eastern Region Executive Committee member of AMCHAM, gave the concluding remarks and vote of thanks.

2nd Oct 2019

**AMCHAM's Eastern Region supported United Way Plog Run**

On October 2nd, United Way Eastern Region organized a Plog Run to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. AMCHAM's Eastern Region supported the event with member companies participating. Around 350 people participated in fluorescent orange and green aprons. The ploggers were split into three groups covering 3 different locations in the city, each running approximately 3 km picking up trash along the way. The run was organized to create awareness about the dangers of plastic to the environment.

30th Oct 2019

**Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting**

Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM hosted the Executive Committee meeting at his office. An update on the NextGen Leadership Program and future sessions were discussed. A membership drive with the focus on startups was tabled. Meetings with the state government were taken up and it was decided that the Eastern Region of AMCHAM would be represented at all meetings when invited.

1st Nov 2019

**Signature Lecture Series: Open Data, Cross Border Privacy Rights with Mr. Daniel David Castro, Vice President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) and Director of ITIF's Center for Data Innovation, USA**

The U.S. Consulate Kolkata, in collaboration with AMCHAM's Eastern Region hosted open data and privacy rights expert, Mr. Daniel Castro, Vice President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) and director of ITIF's Center for Data Innovation, in Kolkata on November 1st. Mr. Daniel Castro addressed members on 'Open Data, Cross Border Privacy Rights' under the U.S. government's Indo-Pacific strategy

theme. He widely discussed India's privacy policies, the digital India program, and data integration policies in smart cities while assessing open data policies globally. He also spoke on the risks and opportunities of open data and cloud computing versus data localization in the global scenario. Mr. Kris Das, Deputy Director American Center and Public Affairs Officer attended the session and addressed members on the role of the American Center in Eastern India and its programs. Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave the welcome address, Mr. K.P. Sengupta gave the concluding remarks and vote of thanks and Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, did the introductions.

14th Jan 2020

#### **Delegation to Jamshedpur for Interaction with Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate Kolkata**

AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized a meeting with U.S. Consul General Patti Hoffman in Jamshedpur at the Timken India facility on January 14th to understand investment opportunities in Jharkhand and the eastern region. The meeting was attended by AMCHAM member companies including: Deloitte, Houghton, HP, Hyatt, PwC, Quaker and Timken. Jharkhand's economic environment with regards to steel, manufacturing, minerals, metals, IT and services industries were discussed. Members shared their plans and interactions with the Jharkhand government. The new state government's initiatives regarding ease of doing business in Jharkhand were deliberated. Consul General Patti Hoffman was keen to understand how the Consulate can help industries to hold bilateral dialogues and any concerns that needed to be flagged to the state government. Investment opportunities in West Bengal and the north eastern belt of India were discussed.

27th Jan 2020

#### **Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Subrata Bagchi who updated members on events held since he took over as Chairman in July 2019 including the NextGen Leadership sessions after the departure of Mr. Debdas Sen. A list of events/meetings that had taken place were circulated to all EC members. He also mentioned that he was stepping down as President TCG Digital Solutions and was working out his notice period which will end by mid-May 2020. He would continue to lead AMCHAM till the committee 2020 would take over in May 2020. Meeting was hosted by Hyatt Regency

3rd Feb 2020

#### **Union Budget Session with PwC**

PricewaterhouseCoopers Kolkata hosted a seminar on the Union Budget 2020/21 at the Taj Bengal on February 3rd. Members of AMCHAM's Eastern Region were invited to this session. The panelists at the inaugural session were Mr. Sanjay Budhia, Industrialist, Managing Director, Patton India, Mr. Arnab Basu, Managing Partner East & Technology Consulting Leader, PwC India, Prof. Mrutyunjay Mohanty, IIM Kolkata, Mr. Bishwanath Jha, IRS Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Kolkata and Mr. Kaushik Mukherjee, Tax Partner, PwC and Executive Committee Member – Eastern Region, AMCHAM. The panelists gave their interpretation of the budget announcement viz-a-via its expectations, the finer details of the finance bill and how it impacts business.

The technical session was on direct and indirect tax analysis and the speakers were Ms. Susmita Basu, Partner, PwC and Mr. Pulak Saha, Partner PwC. This was followed by a panel discussion where leaders of industries gave their take on the budget. The moderator was Mr. Kaushik Mukherjee with panelists Mr. Pallav Gupta, Head, Taxation, ITC Ltd., Mr. Naresh Pachisia, Chairman, SKP Securities, Mr. Bhaskar Banerjee, Chairman Calcutta Stock Exchange and Mr. Pradeep Sureka, Chairman, Sureka Properties. The session covered impact on individuals – whether using tax exemptions or under the old regime and how much the individual would actually save, crack down on NRI's who don't pay tax and the FM's use of fiscal space to spur the economy. Most of the speakers felt that efforts to address the slow-down would need to be supplemented by other measures.

4th Feb 2020

#### **Interactive Session: CSR Impact on Communities**

The Eastern Region hosted an interactive session on 'CSR Impact on Communities' on February 4th. The speakers were Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Sr. Partner, Intueri Consulting, Mr. Subhasis Majumdar, Risk & Quality, Ethics, Information Protection and Digital Leader, PwC SDC, Mr. Jayant Kataria, HR Manager, Hyatt Regency Kolkata. Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM and President, TCG Digital

Solutions, in his welcome address said the CSR business approach contributes to sustainable development by delivering economic, social and environmental benefits for all stakeholders. It is how companies manage their business processes to produce an overall positive impact on society. It covers sustainability, social impact and ethics, and done correctly, should be about core business – how companies make their money – not just add-on extras such as philanthropy.

Mr. Majumdar said that personal social responsibility was equally important as corporate social responsibility because corporates are run by individuals who in turn touch the lives of greater number of individuals. Therefore, in order to really make a difference in society, the corporate world should encourage and support volunteering initiatives of their employees in discharging corporate social responsibility in a comprehensive manner. Such efforts to enable employees to participate in community services would also drive higher employee engagement and would result in multiplier effect in supporting the causes which the corporates want to advance.

Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta said that at the Davos Summit this year, the very important issues discussed at great length and virtually dominating the sessions, were CSR and environment. He said that leaders around the world agreed that these two are linked to the future of the new millennium. He said that corporate social responsibility as “a business approach that contributes to sustainable development by delivering economic, social and environmental benefits for all stakeholders” with the key point being “sustainable development.”

Mr. Jayant Kataria spoke about the Hyatt’s global CSR programs and how it worked around the world with local players. He also highlighted their supporting partners in Kolkata and spoke about the skill development program that Hyatt Kolkata was doing which gives students with financial challenges an opportunity for employment. Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Partner, Deloitte Touché Tohmatsu India and Eastern Region Executive Committee Member, AMCHAM, moderated the session and spoke about the Deloitte CSR program. Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Co-Chairman Data Core Systems gave the concluding remarks and vote of thanks. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave introductions and also introduced the NGOs invited to attend the session.

28th Feb 2020

### **Interactive Breakfast Session on U.S. Department of State Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) and the Future of AI**

On February 28th, AMCHAM’s Eastern Region hosted two sessions in Kolkata. In session 1 on the U.S. Department of State Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), U.S. Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate Kolkata was the chief guest. CG Hoffman, in her opening remarks spoke about the value of OSAC to American business overseas highlighting its global reach for security professionals worldwide. She encouraged American businesses in Kolkata to become members of OSAC so that they could get the benefits of membership and receive the security updates issued by the U.S. government. The Regional Security Officer, Mr. Patrick Bashor, gave a presentation on OSCA. He mentioned that the U.S. Consulate was setting up a regional council in eastern India to service American business in the region and emphasized the need for companies to register. Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM and President, TCG Digital, gave the welcome address and Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Ms. Amada Director did the introductions.

Session 2 was themed ‘The Future of AI’ being such a pertinent topic in today’s world when man and machine confluence is no longer an imagination but a reality. Some of the eminent researchers and practitioners in the field of AI participated in the discussion: Dr. Sandipan Sarkar, Distinguished Engineer, IBM, Dr. Arpan Pal, Chief Scientist, TCS, Dr. Utpal Garain, Prof., Indian Statistical Institute, and Mr. Prasun Nandy, Partner and AI Leader, PwC. The speakers debated on the mindset of the organizations in India towards AI from the perspective of adoption, performance and risks. The discussions dove into the details of the current areas of AI application, the need for integration of machines/IoT to feed data, the necessity to develop technologies becoming less hungry for data and resources and finally a reality check on the journey of AI to its nirvana stage of ‘General Intelligence.’

During the Q&A session, some of the following questions were discussed: What drives us towards AI? Is it the pursuit of happiness? Is it the quest for immortality? How our relationship will change with machines as they become more intelligent? Would they ever be true sentient beings? Overall, the session had a great take away for all attendees in the field of AI, with a request from members to do a full day session on AI. Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Executive Committee Member – Eastern Region, AMCHAM and Co-Chairman, Data Core Systems, gave the concluding remarks and vote of thanks.

11th Mar 2020

**Panel Discussion on #EachforEqual – An Equal World for an Enabled World**

In Kolkata on March 11th, AMCHAM's Eastern Region, in partnership with the Hyatt Regency, organized a panel discussion on #EachforEqual – An Equal World for an Enabled World, which included diversity and inclusiveness. The event was graced by eminent personalities from all walks of life who shared their experience in their journey to success.

Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern India, AMCHAM, did the introductions. Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM and President, TCG Digital, gave the opening remarks. Ms. Monica Shie, Director, American Center of U.S. Consul General in Kolkata, was the chief guest. Ms. Ondrilla Dutt, CEO, Open Doors, moderated the session. Ms. Usha Uthup, performer and Padma Shree awardee in 2011 was the guest of honor. The panelists were Mr. Shobhan Kumar, General Manager, Hyatt and member of AMCHAM's Eastern Region Executive Committee, Ms. Alokandanda Roy, internationally acclaimed exponent of Indian classical dance who works with rehabilitation of women and child prisoners through dance therapy, Ms. Richa Sharma, an actress who also works with women who have suffered domestic violence and Mr. Nil, fashion designer and gay rights activist who is very involved in the LBGT movement in Kolkata.

Mr. Bagchi, in his welcome address spoke about Gloria Steinem, world-renowned feminist, journalist and activist who said the story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single person nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights" and said that collectively we can all play a part and take on the shared responsibility for driving a gender equal world. He said that though the median number of women on Indian boards had doubled in the past five years, they still form a small proportion of the total board members. He spoke about the February 2020 Supreme Court of India ruling that women officers in the Indian army can get command positions at par with male officers. The court also said that permanent commission should be available to all women, regardless of years of service, and order must be implemented in 3 months. This he said was a milestone for women officers in the Armed forces.

Ms. Monica Shie spoke about her own personal journey and highlighted the U.S. government's objectives. She said that when women were economically empowered, they re-invest in their families and communities, producing a multiplier effect that spurs economic growth and contributes to global peace and stability. Women use their earnings to buy food, pay school fees, purchase medicine, that's why women must be enabled. To that end, the U.S. government funds a number of programs aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, particularly among women. The U.S. Consulate Kolkata recently funded a program called "Breaking the Glass Ceiling," which pays for selected women entrepreneurs to participate in online trainings, a boot camp, and pitch sessions to enable them to build partnerships, secure funding, and create innovate goods and services. They also support the Global Links India Alumni Connect Program, which pairs business school students with women entrepreneurs in eastern India to grow their small businesses. The entrepreneurs receive structured training provided by the business students, while students gain hands-on experience with how businesses operate in the real world.

Last year, the U.S. Department of State and USAID signed the U.S. Alliance for Women's Economic Empowerment in partnership with Georgetown University, George Washington University and USISPF. The Alliance enables the private sector, academia, and civil society in the United States and India to collaborate in accelerating the growth of women-owned businesses and women's workforce participation by increasing access to finance, mentoring, and technical assistance. The U.S. has also been partnering with India for three years now on the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), which highlights existing Government of India programs for women entrepreneurs and assists them in identifying future partners, including American companies such as Google and Facebook.

Ms. Ondrilla Dutt, CEO, Open Doors, moderated the session and introduced the panellists to the audience and invited the panellists to share their own special journey. Ms. Usha Uthup shared her own journey and spoke about her conservative family upbringing and how she was thrown out of music class in school because she didn't fit in with a voice like hers. Even though she was not formally trained in music, she grew up in an atmosphere of music. She spoke about how she has spread the message of love and unity and harmony, tolerance integrity, happiness peace for over 44 years and through music from discotheques to concerts, across Lndia and the Wwrld, she has addressed the youth about the values of music that makes us human. She has sung in 15 Indian languages and several foreign languages also.

Ms. Alokandanda Roy, an internationally acclaimed exponent of Indian classical dance, spoke about her reforms for jail inmates, especially for convicts under-trials through her art and love-therapy which has

provided new life to hardened criminals. She said that while her love is in surfeit, she is not the one to pull punches while addressing societal injustice. She refuses to espouse stale political pronouncements and never lacks the inner strength to face injustice, whoever be her opponent. She has lived up to her guru Rishi Aurobindo's words, "The great are strongest when they stand alone, a God-given might of being is their force." Ms. Richa Sharma said that being an Indian woman has neither been a privilege nor a hurdle for her. An Indian actress for Bollywood and Tollywood films, a fashion icon, the brand ambassador for an Italian wine, olives and olive oil company, and by taking her coveted position to become a role model to motivate and encourage other women to reach newer heights. She spoke about her work with a number of NGOs towards the development of less privileged women and children in and around Kolkata. The audience were also shown clips of her latest movie "Every 68 Minutes" which takes a hard hitting look at the social imbalance and the horrors associated with it.

Mr. Kumar Shobhan, General Manager of Hyatt Regency Kolkata, has spent 21 years in the hospitality industry in a number of remarkable roles. As a people centric professional he spoke about the initiatives Hyatt has put in place. He has been critical in acknowledging the importance of playing his part to make gender equality a reality with increase in ratio of women work force at Hyatt Regency Kolkata. Mr. Nil spoke about his own upbringing from a very conservative family discussed his struggles particularly about wanting a career in fashion design rather than the norm of what family and society wanted from him. He discussed his mother's support and encouragement which allowed him to make his own path. He spoke about his active support in gay pride which is the promotion of self-affirmation, dignity, equality, which works towards opposing the shame and social stigma, which is the predominant outlook that bolsters most LGBT rights.

Eastern Region Executive Committee members Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Co-Chairman, Data Core Systems, took a minute to speak about the company policy of his own organization highlighting the work women do and Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Partner, Deloitte, gave the concluding remarks and vote of thanks and spoke about the initiatives taken by Deloitte. The session ended with Ms. Usha Uthup, enthralling the audience with some songs and Mr. Francis Lepcher, performer and singer, entertaining members with songs dedicated to the theme of the session.



(L-R) Assistant Secretary Ian Steff, U.S. Department of Commerce, Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate Kolkata, Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, NEB Member, AMCHAM and MD, Quaker Chemical, Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM and Mr. Abir Chattraj, Legal Head, ARC



Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate Kolkata, addressing members in Kolkata





Participants at a reception for the Trade Winds delegation led by Assistant Secretary Ian Steff, U.S. Department of Commerce, along with Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate Kolkata



(L-R) Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Mr. Shayamal Datta, former Government of Nagaland and Former Director Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, Mr. Koushik Nath, Cicso, Mr. Abhirup Guha, TCG Digital Solutions, Mr. Joydeep Dutta, Eastern Region Executive Member, AMCHAM and Ms. Amada Kidwai, AMCHAM



Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM addressing members



(L-R) Mr. Shobhan Kumar, Member - Eastern Region Executive Committee, AMCHAM, Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Eastern Region Executive Committee member of AMCHAM, Mr. Joseph Pomper, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Amy Gradin, Vice Counsel, U.S. Consulate Kolkata and Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM



Mr. Joseph Pomper, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, U.S. Embassy addressing members in Kolkata



Interaction session in progress with Mr. Joseph Pomper, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, U.S. Embassy



AMCHAM partnering with United Way on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan - Plog Run in Kolkata



United Way Eastern Region participating in the Plogger Runs



(L-R) Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - AMCHAM, Mr. Daniel Castro, Vice President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) and Director of ITIF's Center for Data Innovation, Mr. Krish Das, Deputy Director, American Center and Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Eastern Region Executive Committee Member, AMCHAM



Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM



Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate Kolkata with members in Jamshedpur



Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate Kolkata, interacting with members in Jamshedpur



Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM giving welcome remarks during the interactive breakfast session on U.S. Department of State Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) and the future of AI



Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM giving closing remarks



Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate Kolkata, with speakers at the interactive breakfast session on U.S. Department of State Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) and the future of AI



Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate Kolkata and Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM and President, TCG Digital



Mr. Subrata Bagchi, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM and President, TCG Digital, giving the welcome address



#EachForEqual in Kolkata (L-R) Mr. Shobhan Kumar, Eastern Region Executive Committee Member, AMCHAM and GM, Hyatt Regency, Ms. Monica Shie, Director American Center, U.S. Consulate Kolkata, Ms. Usha Uthup, performer and Padma Shree awardee 2011, Ms. Ondrilla Dutt (moderator), CEO, Open Doors, Ms. Alokanda Roy, an internationally acclaimed exponent of Indian classical dance, Mr. Nil, fashion designer and Ms. Richa Sharma, actress and activist





#EachForEqual panelists and AMCHAM's Eastern Region Executive Committee members in Kolkata



# AMCHAM Mumbai

Deputy Chief of Mission Edgard Kagan, U.S. Embassy, delivering the keynote address at the Western Region's signature event in Mumbai

Date	Meetings / Events
3rd June 2019	<p><b>Meet and Greet Reception in Honour of Consul General Edgard D. Kagan &amp; Perspectives on LGBTQ Workplace Equality in India, Official Launch of AMCHAM India's LGBTQ+ Chapter under the D&amp;I Committee</b></p> <p>On 3rd June 2019, in celebration of Pride Month, AMCHAM's Diversity and Inclusion Committee officially launched the LGBTQ chapter of AMCHAM's Diversity and Inclusion Committee with a panel session on 'Perspectives on LGBTQ Workplace Equality in India.' The event was a momentous occasion as it was a meet and greet reception in honour of Consul General Edgard D. Kagan as members of AMCHAM's Western Region wished him the very best as he continues on in his bigger role as Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, in New Delhi.</p> <p>The event began with a welcome address by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM. This was followed by an introduction to AMCHAM's D&amp;I Committee and LGBTQ Chapter by Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM &amp; Managing Director, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Private Limited. Through a presentation Ms. Thakkar shared the motto, mission, scope and architecture of AMCHAM's D&amp;I Committee. She then shared a glimpse of the past initiatives of the committee as well as shed light on the roadmap for the committee going forward.</p> <p>The panel session on 'Perspectives on LGBTQ Workplace Equality in India' was represented by an eminent panel of speakers which included Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM, Chairperson – Diversity &amp; Inclusion Committee, AMCHAM and President &amp; Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A., Ms. Neelam Jain, CEO, PeriFerry and Mr. Parmesh Shahani, Founder, Godrej India Culture Lab. The session was moderated by Mr. Sudhir Jain, Managing Director, Chief Risk Officer, Bank of America N.A. The panel discussed overcoming challenges, recognizing biases and creating an inclusive workplace to welcome the rainbow into the corporate world. The Q&amp;A saw participants discuss the economic, as well as social impact, of hiring LGBTQ individuals and the need for corporates to be authentically inclusive by deeds and not just words.</p> <p>The panel session was followed by an appreciation address in honour of Consul General Edgard D. Kagan by Ms. Kaku Nakhate. Through her address she thanked Consul General Kagan for his support and guidance extended to AMCHAM especially towards initiatives in the Western Region during his tenure. She also acknowledged and thanked CG Kagan and his wife Ms. Cynthia Gire for their deep personal involvement and support to social causes and their keen interest in furthering the D&amp;I agenda.</p>

Consul General Edgard D. Kagan began his remarks by thanking everyone for their cooperation and support during his tenure in Mumbai. He spoke positively of the willingness of U.S. companies to actively incorporate D&I with respect to inclusion of the LGBTQ community into the workplace. He closed by stating that although he will miss the city of Mumbai he looks forward to still having more time to spend in India as part of his next position in New Delhi. The event was hosted by Bank of America N.A.

19th June 2019 **Supply Chain & Logistics Committee Meeting**

On 19th June 2019, the first meeting of AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee for the year was held via concall. Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman - Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, warmly welcomed all committee members. This was followed by a round of introductions. Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM, shared an overview of the activities and initiatives of the committee in the year 2018-19 followed by the business plan for 2019-20. As part of the discussions and agenda, members ideated and shared their thoughts on the key areas of value that the committee should focus us in 2019-20, the role and commitment of committee members, frequency of meetings and other important agenda points. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Praveen Gosain, Co-Chairman – Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Director Supply Chain India, Corning Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.

19th June 2019 **Learning and Sharing Session on 'Supply Chains for a Digital World'**

On 19th June 2019, a learning and sharing session on 'Supply Chains for a Digital World' was organized by AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee. The session began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India followed by the welcome address by Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP.

Industry expert Mr. Jaideep Ghosh, Partner & National Head of Transport & Logistics Sector, KPMG in India and Mr. Neeraj Verma, Partner, KPMG in India, shared a very insightful and interesting presentation bringing to fore how digital disruption was changing the world in which we live and work, in turn causing increased expectations of customers. The experts shared the importance and significance of the 5 key building blocks to a digital supply chain - 1. define digital 2. start with performance 3. focus on ROI 4. develop your people 5. partner for success. Case studies brought in further understanding of how these developments have been catalysts to improving changing forecasts and accuracy as well how companies could save revenue. The presentation was followed by an engaging Q&A session. The session ended with Mr. Prasad Shidaye, Director - CLS, Johnson & Johnson Medical India, thanking the esteemed speakers for an informative presentation while also thanking the participants for their active participation.

3rd July 2019 **Western Region Committee Meeting**

The 1st meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee 2019-2020 was held on July 3rd, 2019 in Mumbai. The meeting commenced with an opening address by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM and welcome addresses by Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, Vice Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM and CEO, Dow Chemical International Pvt. Ltd. Post a brief round of introductions, a showcase of AMCHAM's Western Region member profile, footprint, initiatives and achievements during the year 2018-2019 was shared. The discussion that followed focussed on the role of committee members, updates on AMCHAM's NextGen Global Leadership Program, Western Region signature event, Western Region business plan 2019-2020 and membership drive.

12th July 2019 **Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee LGBTQ Chapter Meeting**

The first meeting of the LGBTQ Chapter of AMCHAM's Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee was held on July 12th in Mumbai. The meeting commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Sudhir Jain, Chapter Leader – D&I Committee LGBTQ Chapter, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Chief Risk Officer, Bank of America N.A. A round of introductions followed where members shared an overview of the LGBTQ journey

of their respective organizations and their involvements in LGBTQ supporting events. As part of the agenda, members ideated on the focus areas for the LGBTQ Chapter, defined a roadmap for forthcoming chapter initiatives and decided on the frequency of chapter meetings. The meeting concluded with closing remarks and vote of thanks by Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Co-Chairperson – D&I Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd. who thanked participants for their valuable inputs, Bank of America for hosting the meeting and AMCHAM for the platform to drive this significant agenda.

6th Aug 2019

#### **Western Region Committee Concall**

The 2nd meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee 2019-2020 was held on August 6th via a concall. The meeting commenced with opening remark by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM and brief welcome addresses by Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, Vice Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM and CEO, Dow Chemical International Pvt. Ltd. The discussion included updates on western region initiatives since the last committee meeting as well as an overview on forthcoming events in the region. Members discussed the next steps towards the proposed welcome reception in honor of the incoming U.S. Consul General Mumbai, ideation on the Western Region signature event, proposed interactions with state governments and membership drive in the region.

8th August 2019

#### **Out & Equal LGBTQ+ India Forum – AMCHAM India & Bank of America: Road to LGBTQ + Workplace Inclusive**

AMCHAM's Diversity & Inclusion Committee recently launched the LGBTQ Chapter that actively engages with its members for sharing of best practices and driving significant initiatives through appropriate forums. On August 8th AMCHAM partnered with Bank of America during the 2019 Out & Equal LGBTQ+ India Forum where leaders from AMCHAM and Bank of America spoke to the audience about what they have been working on as industry to make workplaces more inclusive and what the future holds for companies and organizations looking to be more engaging and collaborative to advance workplace inclusion. Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM, Chairperson – D&I Committee, AMCHAM and President & Country Head, India, Bank of America and Mr. Iqbal Sait, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and Head of EMEA, Saggiessa, addressed the audience. Attendees from AMCHAM member companies included representatives from Thomson Reuters, MOOG, Cognizant, Synopsys and others.

20th August 2019

#### **Interactive Learning and Sharing Session on 'Digital Supply Chain - A Force Multiplier' - An Initiative of the Supply Chain & Logistics Committee**

On August 20th, AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee organized a learning and sharing session on 'Digital Supply Chain – A Force Multiplier.' The session began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India. Through his welcome address, Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, introduced the session's subject and speakers. Through an insightful and informative presentation supported by case studies the expert speakers for the session, Mr. Guruprasad Math, Portfolio Development – Process Industries, Siemens Industry Software (India) Private Limited and Mr. Rakesh Pandey, Industry Product Portfolio Development & Digital Strategy Leader, Siemens Industry Software (India) Private Limited, highlighted market trends, changing supply chain dynamics, key pillars of digitalization in manufacturing and Siemens' solutions to realize the full value for digitalization. The presentation was followed by an engaging Q&A session. The session ended with concluding remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Praveen Gosain, Co-Chairman - Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Director (Supply Chain India), Corning Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.

30th Aug 2019

#### **Signature Lecture Series – Roundtable Interactive Session with Mr. William Warshauer, President and CEO, TechnoServe on 'Youth Employability Challenge in India & a Global Perspective on Solutions'**

On August 30th, 2019, as part of its Signature Lecture Series, AMCHAM India organized a roundtable interactive session with Mr. William Warshauer, President and CEO, TechnoServe on 'Youth Employability

Challenge in India and a Global Perspective on Solutions.’ The session began with a welcome address by Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd. Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM, introduced the speakers for the session and invited them to share their experiences and expertise on the topic.

The keynote speaker, Mr. William Warshauer, President and CEO, TechnoServe, began his address by sharing an overview of TechnoServe’s history and focus areas and spoke of the efforts by various agencies to address the challenge of youth unemployment. Through a presentation and supporting statistics, Mr. Punit Gupta, Country Director, TechnoServe India, highlighted TechnoServe’s blended delivery models to approach youth unemployment and their innovation framework that has helped make a catalytic impact.

This was followed by Mr. Gokul Venkataraman, Marketing Director, Diversey India Hygiene Pvt. Ltd. who, through his remarks, spoke of their resource management and skilling program called Garima. In the interactive Q&A session that followed participants discussed solutions to empower youth to aspire and grow in the formal workplace. In closing, Mr. Debasis Ghosh, Director, Citibank N.A. stated that there was no one solution to the youth employability challenge but instead there should be several interventions. The event concluded with closing remarks and vote of thanks by Mr. Arnab Basumallik, Director – Pricing & Government Affairs, Edwards Lifesciences India Pvt. Ltd.

4th Sept 2019

**Western Region Committee Meeting**

The 3rd meeting of AMCHAM’s Western Region Committee 2019-2020 was held on September 4th in Mumbai. The meeting began with a welcome address by Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd. She shared a brief update with the committee members on the recently concluded board meeting which was held in Hyderabad. Members further ideated on the WR signature event.

17th Sept 2019

**Diversity and Inclusion Committee’s Differently Abled Chapter Meeting**

The first meeting of the Differently Abled Chapter of AMCHAM’s Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee was held on September 17th in Mumbai. The meeting commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Co-Chairperson - D&I Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India. This was followed by an address by Ms. Vandita Gupta, Chapter Leader – D&I Committee Differently Abled Chapter, AMCHAM and Franchise Head, Global Public Health, Janssen India, Johnson & Johnson Private Limited. A round of self-introductions followed where members shared an overview of the D&I journey of their respective organizations. As part of the agenda, members ideated on the key areas of focus for the chapter, defined a roadmap for forthcoming chapter initiatives and decided on the frequency of chapter meetings. The meeting concluded with closing remarks and vote of thanks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM who thanked participants for their valuable inputs and thanked Johnson & Johnson Private Limited for hosting the meeting.

30th Sept 2019

**Welcome Reception in Honour of Consul General David J. Ranz, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai**

On September 30th, AMCHAM’s Western Region welcomed the new U.S. Consul General to Mumbai, Mr. David J. Ranz, at a roundtable with distinguished members of the region. The event commenced with a round of introductions by all participants showcasing the wide array of industry representation. This was immediately followed by welcome remarks and a presentation showcasing AMCHAM India and Western Region membership, objectives, vision, past present and future roadmap by Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India. Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & Country Head, India, Bank of America N.A., made an address and introduced Consul General Ranz.

Consul General Ranz began his remarks by stating the critical importance of partnership between AMCHAM India and the U.S. Consulate. He briefly shared his experiences from his previous postings and the perspectives he brings vis-a-vis U.S.-India trade relations because of them. He also stated that he is optimistic about the U.S.-India relationship without brushing under the rug the real challenges in the system. Through his address he touched upon the effects of volatile tariff rates and tax structures, liberalization of

economic policies and the need for better consultation between the government and the private sector. The Consul General expressed his strong advocacy for diversity and inclusion and stated his intent to support and partner with AMCHAM's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He also highlighted that one of his main focus points during his tenure, apart from building U.S.-India trade relations, is to promote education and women empowerment at the workplace.

In the interactive discussion with Consul General Ranz, members shared their organization's efforts in encouraging gender diversity at technology centres and in manufacturing units. Members also shared an overview of successes and challenges with regard to reforms by the state government. The welcome reception concluded with a vote of thanks and concluding remarks by Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, Co-Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and CEO, Dow Chemical International.

1st Oct 2019

#### **Western Region Committee Meeting**

A meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee 2019-2020 was held on October 1st via concall. As per the agenda of the meeting, members ideated and discussed the next steps for the Western Region signature event to be held on November 20th in Mumbai. Members discussed the theme, venue, format, speakers etc.

15th Oct 2019

#### **Supply Chain & Logistics Committee Meeting**

A meeting of AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee was held on October 15th in Mumbai. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM, followed by a brief welcome address by Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP. As part of the agenda, members planned the course of action for forthcoming events, set timelines and brainstormed on topics and initiatives of the committee

16th Oct 2019

#### **Signature Lecture Series: Insights from the Prism of Global Tax Arena with Ms. Kate Barton, Global Vice Chair - Tax, EY**

On October 16th, as part of its Signature Lecture Series, AMCHAM organized a roundtable interaction on 'Insights From the Prism of Global Tax Arena' with Ms. Kate Barton, Global Vice Chair – Tax, EY. The session began with a warm welcome by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM, followed by remarks by Mr. Viral Damania, CFO, Bank of America N.A. Through an insightful dialogue and a presentation, the keynote speaker Ms. Kate Barton shed light on U.S. tax reforms with a focus on key global tax developments. She highlighted the changing U.S. tax regime and the global impact on businesses, BEPS 2.0 and putting Tax 2.0 to work in a transformative age. This was followed by session on potential opportunities and implications of the corporate tax reduction in India by Mr. Sudhir Kapadia, Partner & National Tax Leader, EY India. Mr. Kapadia shared a brief overview of the economic landscape – globally as well as of India and the impact on investments post the tax rate cut. An engaging Q&A followed. The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Srinivas Krishnan, Managing Director – South Asia, Crown Worldwide Pvt. Ltd.

8th Nov 2019

#### **Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee's LGBTQ Chapter Meeting**

A meeting of the LGBTQ Chapter of AMCHAM's Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee was held on 8th November 2019 in Mumbai. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM, followed by a welcome address by Mr. Sudhir Jain, Chapter Leader – LGBTQ Chapter of the D&I Committee and Managing Director, Chief Risk Officer, Bank of America N.A. As part of the agenda, members planned the course of action and created working groups for forthcoming events and initiatives of the chapter. Members present also shared success stories of LGBTQ inclusion and sensitization initiatives undertaken at their respective organizations.

20th Nov 2019

**Western Region Signature Event – The India Opportunity: Accelerating Growth**

On 20th November 2019, AMCHAM's Western Region organized its signature event under the overarching theme 'The India Opportunity: Accelerating Growth.' Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, welcomed the august gathering of industry leaders, AMCHAM's National Executive Board members and representatives of the U.S. Mission and set the tone for the evening through her opening remarks. This was followed by a welcome address by the newly appointed Chairman of AMCHAM Mr. Karan Bajwa, Managing Director and Regional General Manager India & South Asia, IBM India. Through his keynote address Deputy Chief of Mission Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Embassy, touched upon the U.S.-India trade relationship and the importance of working together as American businesses in India to build better U.S.-India ties. He also stated his pride in knowing that CSR is in the DNA of American companies and specially thanked AMCHAM member companies that participated in the Corporate TB Pledge.

The evening then moved on to its first panel with a distinguished set of industry stalwarts who shared their expert insights on 'India Capturing Opportunities in Global Uncertainties.' The panellists included Mr. Thomas K. Montag, Chief Operating Officer and Member of Executive Management Team, Bank of America, Mr. Sanjay Nayar, CEO, KKR India and Mr. Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management. The session was moderated by Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & Country Head, India, Bank of America N.A.

The next panel discussion was on 'Diversity & Inclusion.' The panel was represented by Consul General David J. Ranz, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai, Ms. Zainab Patel, Director Diversity & Inclusion, KPMG in India and Mr. Divyanshu Ganatra, Founder, Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation. The session was moderated by Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and CEO, Dow Chemical International. The discussion was a deep and sobering realization of the need for corporates to build an inclusive workplace and provide equal opportunities for women, LGBTQ and differently abled individuals. The session was followed by a Q&A interaction.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and closing remarks by Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM. The event was supported by gold sponsors: Dow Chemical International and Johnson & Johnson and bronze sponsors: Bank of America, N.A., Ernst & Young LLP, KPMG in India, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India, Resources Global Professionals (India) and UPS Express. The signature event concluded with networking and conversations over cocktails and dinner.

27th Nov 2019

**Knowledge Sharing Session on Government e-Market Place (GeM) with Mr. Bhaskar Choradia, DCEO, Government e-Market Place, Government of India – An Initiative of the Supply Chain & Logistics Committee**

On 27th November, AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee organized a knowledge sharing session on Government e-Market Place (GeM). The session began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India who also introduced the session speaker Mr. Bhaskar Choradia, DCEO, Government e-Market Place, Government of India. Through his welcome address, Mr. Praveen Gosain, Co-Chairman – Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Director (Supply Chain India), Corning Technologies India Private Limited, set the tone for the session and stated the need to partner with initiatives such as GeM for the growth of respective organizations and the country. Through an insightful and detailed presentation Mr. Choradia highlighted the efficient, transparent and inclusive GeM business model. He further elaborated on the evolution and key stakeholders of GeM, advantages for buyers and sellers, its category driven catalogue system and tools and the multiple modes of learning to master the usage of GeM. The presentation was followed by an engaging Q&A session. The session ended with concluding remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Srinivasan Sarangapani, Director – Supply Chain, Timken India Limited.

3rd Dec 2019

**Western Region Committee Meeting**

A meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee 2019-2020 was held on December 3rd, 2019 via concall. Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and CEO, Dow Chemical International, welcomed members present and shared a brief update from AMCHAM's National Executive Board meeting held on November 20th. This was followed by remarks by Mr. Sarthak Ranade, Vice Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director – Janssen India, Johnson & Johnson. As part of the agenda, members shared their thoughts on the recently concluded Western Region signature event 'The India Opportunity: Accelerating Growth' and discussed the way forward on the Western Region roadmap for 2020.

14th Jan 2020

**Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee's LGBTQ Chapter Meeting**

A meeting of the LGBTQ Chapter of AMCHAM's Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee was held on January 14th, 2020 in Mumbai. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM, followed by a welcome address by Mr. Sudhir Jain, Chapter Leader – LGBTQ Chapter, D&I Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Chief Risk Officer, Bank of America N.A. As part of the agenda members actively ideated on the forthcoming initiatives and participation at events (Queer Azadi Pride March, Out & Equal India Forum).

17th Jan 2020

**Supply Chain & Logistics Committee's Knowledge Sharing Session on 'Maximizing RoI From Your IoT Investment – A Proven Approach' with Mr. Veeresh Dharappanavar, Sr. Director Sales, Altizon Inc.**

On January 17th, AMCHAM's Supply Chain & Logistics Committee organized a knowledge sharing session on 'Maximizing RoI From Your IoT Investment – A Proven Approach' via Webex. The session began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM, who also shared an introduction to the session speaker, Mr. Veeresh Dharappanavar, Sr. Director Sales, Altizon Inc. Through his welcome address Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, set the tone for the session.

Mr. Dharappanavar began by sharing an overview on Altizon – the industrial IoT company, its focus areas, products and verticals. Through an insightful and detailed presentation he went on to highlight the Datonis manufacturing intelligence platform, digital transformation among companies with case studies on the improvement in productivity, limitations of current technology and characterization for successful IIoT implementation for quick ROI. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session. The session closed with concluding remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Praveen Gosain, Co-Chairman – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Director (Supply Chain India), Corning Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.

29th Jan 2020

**Signature Lecture Series: A Breakfast Session on 'Leadership Engagement at the Time of Unexpected Challenges' with Mr. Brad Staples, Global CEO, APCO Worldwide**

On 29th January, as part of the Signature Lecture Series, AMCHAM organized a breakfast session on 'Leadership Engagement at the Time of Unexpected Challenges' with Mr. Brad Staples, Global CEO, APCO Worldwide. The session began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India. This was followed by Mr. Sarthak Ranade, Vice Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director – Janssen India, Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd., who through his welcome address, set the stage and introduced the keynote speaker.

Through his keynote address Mr. Brad Staples, Global CEO, APCO Worldwide, highlighted several facets to leadership engagement at the time of unexpected challenges. He shed his expert insight on the social and geopolitical complexities of today and the need for CEOs to be equipped to respond to changes and challenges. He concluded his address by highlighting the following leadership essentials – self-awareness, confidence, an unending curiosity, emotional stability and a strong moral core. An engaging and interactive Q&A followed. The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Ms. Jane Ann Conway, Country Head – India, Principal Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd.



3rd Feb 2020	<p><b>Interactive Session on Decoding the Union Budget 2020-21 – Impact and Way Forward</b></p> <p>On February 3rd, AMCHAM organized an interactive session on ‘Decoding the Union Budget 2020-21 – Impact and Way Forward.’ The session commenced with Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM welcoming participants and introducing the expert speakers for the day. Mr. Ravi Mahajan, Partner, EY India followed by setting a backdrop on the implication of the Budget 2020 through his remarks. Through an interactive discussion supported by a presentation, the speakers Mr. Sudhir Kapadia, National Tax Leader, EY India, Mr. Hitesh Sharma, Partner, International Tax and Tax Leader for Life Sciences, EY India and Mr. Divyesh Lapsiwala, Partner, Indirect Tax Services, EY India shed their expert insight on the impact of the Union Budget 2020-2021 with a focus on direct tax proposals – measures to stimulate growth, rationalisation measures, ease of compliance, transfer pricing and the indirect tax proposals – customs and GST proposals. An engaging and interactive Q&amp;A followed. The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Sampathkumar Chittibabu, Director, Par Formulations.</p>
6th Feb 2020	<p><b>Western Region Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>A meeting of AMCHAM’s Western Region Committee 2019-2020 was held on February 6th in Mumbai. As part of the agenda, members appointed AMCHAM’s Western Region office bearers 2020-2021 through consultation and consensus. Members also actively discussed the roadmap for 2020 with a focus on building traction and increased participation among the Western Region membership.</p>
11th Feb 2020	<p><b>Supply Chain and Logistics Committee’s Knowledge Sharing Session on ‘Overview and Insights – GST – Recent Amendments’</b></p> <p>On February 11th, AMCHAM’s Supply Chain &amp; Logistics Committee organized a knowledge sharing session on ‘Overview and Insights – GST – Recent Amendments.’ The session commenced with Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM, welcoming speakers and participants and introducing the expert speakers for the day. Through a brief address Mr. Jaideep Ghosh, Partner, KPMG in India, set the stage by sharing a glimpse of Budget 2020-2021 and its implications on the transport and logistics sector. Through a presentation made by expert speaker Mr. Koshal Agarwal, Chartered Accountant, insights were shared on the recent amendments in GST. Mr. Agarwal focussed on the highlights from the Budget 2020-2021, new simplified returns, an overview of the proposed GST returns, key impact on outward supplies, key changes in inward supplies, e-invoicing and key IRN guidelines. An interactive Q&amp;A followed. The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Praveen Gosain, Co-Chairperson – Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Director (Supply Chain India), Corning Technologies India.</p>
11th Feb 2020	<p><b>Supply Chain and Logistics Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>A meeting of AMCHAM’s Supply Chain and Logistics Committee 2019-2020 was held on February 11th in Mumbai. As part of the agenda, members appointed the committee’s office bearers 2020-2021 through consultation and consensus. Members also actively discussed the roadmap for the committee with a focus on activities and current subjects of interest to create engaging platforms of interaction during the next few months.</p>
18th Feb 2020	<p><b>Diversity &amp; Inclusion Committee’s Interactive Session on ‘Enabling Differently Abled Inclusion at Workplace’</b></p> <p>On February 18th, AMCHAM organized an interactive session on ‘Enabling Differently Abled Inclusion at Workplace.’ The event was an initiative of the Differently Abled Chapter of AMCHAM’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The session commenced with Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM welcoming the panel speakers and participants. Mr. Ajay Maddali, Chapter Co-Leader, Differently Abled Chapter, D&amp;I Committee, AMCHAM and Head of HR, Member of Diversity and Inclusion Council of Franklin Templeton, Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Pvt. Ltd. set the stage through his address.</p> <p>Through an insightful presentation Mr. P. Rajasekharan, Co – Founder, v-shesh, addressed realistic and progressive actions on ‘Pathway to Disability Confident Organization.’ This was followed by a presentation</p>

by Ms. Meera Shenoy, Founder Member, Youth4Jobs who shared her views on the 'Journey on Changing Mindset.' Through a candid narration of his life experiences as a visually challenged individual Mr. Jatin Shah, Talent Business Advisor, Deloitte, spoke on 'Bridging the Diversity Gap – 360 Degree Approach.' A panel session and interactive Q&A brought to fore key issues and actions essential to being a truly diverse organization. The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Ms. Vandita Gupta, Chapter Leader – Differently Abled Chapter, D&I Committee, AMCHAM and Franchise Head, Global Public Health, Janssen India, Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd.

18th Mar 2020

**Overview and Highlights from the Meeting of the Maharashtra Health Secretary with Corporates and Healthcare Sector by Mr. Sarthak Ranade, Vice Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director – Janssen India, Johnson & Johnson**

On March 18th, a concall was held with Mr. Sarthak Ranade, Vice Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director – Janssen India, Johnson & Johnson to share an overview and of the meeting of the Maharashtra Health Secretary with corporates and healthcare sector that took place on March 17th. The session was attended by members of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee and their teams. The call began with brief welcome remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM. Through his address, Mr. Sarthak Ranade shared important excerpts from the meeting with the Mr. Rajesh Tope, Health Secretary, Government of Maharashtra and other senior industry leaders. He spoke of the impact that the virus can have on the functioning of industries, corporates and communities at large. He also shared insights on the measures being undertaken by the state government to contain the spread of the virus, the status of medical aid and quarantine centres in the state and the government's suggested cautionary actions that corporates can take to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. This was followed by WRC members sharing best practices undertaken by their respective organizations. The meeting concluded with Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and CEO, Dow Chemical International thanking members present for taking the time to join the call and for sharing their best practices.

20th Mar 2020

**Supply Chain & Logistics Committee Session on SC&L Best Practices Relating to COVID-19 Response**

On 20th March, AMCHAM's Supply Chain & Logistics Committee organized a session on 'SC&L Best Practices Relating to COVID-19 Response' via concall. The call began with brief opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM. Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, set the tone for the discussion through his welcome address. In the open discussion that followed, members shared best practices undertaken by their respective organizations amidst the growing business concerns owing to COVID-19. A few points of discussion included challenges that have arisen, measures taken for efficient supply chain planning, understanding risks, preparing mitigation strategies and backup plans to ensure business continuity. Ms. Wahal shared with members that AMCHAM was collating concerns on supply chain disruptions from COVID-19 to send to the U.S. Embassy. She encouraged members to send in their challenges and concerns asap for inclusion. The session concluded with Mr. Praveen Gosain, Co-Chairman – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Director (Supply Chain India), Corning Technologies India, thanking members for sharing their ideas and best practices. He encouraged members to leverage from the strength and knowledge of the SCL Committee and concluded on a hopeful note saying, 'This too shall pass.'

23rd March 2020

**Western Region Committee Meeting**

A meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee 2019-2020 was held on 23rd March 2020 via concall. As part of the agenda, members discussed the revised western region roadmap in view of COVID-19. Members suggested organising concall sessions as a platform for western region member companies to discuss best practices and business challenges which will enable AMCHAM to present key concerns faced by its members to the Government of Maharashtra, apart from also partnering at the national level with the U.S. Embassy in India and Invest India. Members present also proposed an advocacy and position paper on the subject of '80% Jobs for Locals Compulsory in Maharashtra' which will be taken up at a later date.

26th Mar 2020

### **Discussion on Business Challenges and Best Practices of Western Region Companies in the Times of COVID-19**

On March 26th, AMCHAM organized a discussion on business challenges and best practices of Western Region member Companies in the times of COVID-19 via concall. The session was well attended by regional members. The call began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM. This was followed by a welcome address and setting the scene by Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and CEO, Dow Chemical International. Mr. Shenoy stated that during this time of adversity U.S. companies should collaborate together as a fraternity to support each other, learn from each other's experiences, best practices and also find ways to support and give back to society.

Through their remarks, Ms. Brenda VanHorn, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai and Mr. Christopher Grossman, Chief Economic & Political Affairs, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai, shared the commitment of the U.S. Consulate General Mumbai in providing support to U.S. companies in India on their concerns and challenges. They also shared that in the present situation essential services – medical, IT, transportation, supply chain and financial service sectors were of top priority for both governments. In the open discussion that followed, members discussed key challenges, experiences, success stories, updates on notifications, etc. Members were encouraged to share a note on challenges/concerns with AMCHAM for suitable representations with the state and central government. The session concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Sarthak Ranade, Vice Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director – Janssen India, Johnson & Johnson. Mr. Ranade concluded by emphasizing that member companies should come together to support the government through these unprecedented and challenging times through their CSR initiatives.

31st March 2020

### **A Dialogue between Shri Kamlesh Varshney, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and EY Tax Partners to Discuss the Recent Amendments in the Finance Bill 2020 w.r.t to 'Key Amendments in the Finance Bill 2020: Extension of Scope of Equalisation Levy to Cover E-Commerce Supply or Services**

On 31st March 2020, AMCHAM India collaborated with EY India on a Dialogue between Shri Kamlesh Varshney, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and EY Tax Partners to discuss the recent amendments in the Finance Bill 2020 w.r.t to 'Key Amendments in the Finance Bill 2020: Extension of Scope of Equalisation Levy to Cover E-Commerce Supply or Services' (via concall). The session commenced with EY India welcoming participants on call and setting the stage for the discussion. Through his remarks Shri Kamlesh Varshney, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India shared insights on the scope of the Equalisation Levy which will cover E-Commerce supply or services w.e.f. 1st April 2020. The Q&A session addressed key concerns of companies with regards the Equalisation Levy. In his final comments Shri Varshney stated that further updates and clarifications on the Equalisation Levy would be shared by the Government of India.



Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate Mumbai, addresses members at the meet and greet reception in his honour



Participants at the meet and greet reception in honour of Consul General Edgard D. Kagan and 'Perspectives on LGBTQ Workplace Equality in India'



Members of the LGBTQ Chapter of the Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee



Supply Chain & Logistics Committee meeting in Mumbai



Members of the LGBTQ Chapter of the Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee



AMCHAM's D&I Committee - LGBTQ Chapter members in discussion



Participants at Out & Equal LGBTQ+ India Forum – AMCHAM India & Bank of America: Road to LGBTQ+ Workplace Inclusive with Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM, Chairperson – D&I Committee, AMCHAM and President & Country Head, India, Bank of America and Mr. Iqbal Sait, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM and Head of EMEA, Saggezza



Keynote speaker Mr. William Warshauer, President and CEO, TechnoServe speaks at the roundtable interactive session on 'Youth Employability Challenge in India & a Global Perspective on Solutions' in Mumbai



Signature Lecture Series interactive session on 'Youth Employability Challenge in India & a Global Perspective on Solutions' in Mumbai



Members of the Differently Abled Chapter of the Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee



Consul General David J. Ranz addresses members of the Western Region





Mr. Srinivas Krishnan, Managing Director – South Asia, Crown Worldwide Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Viral Damania CFO, Bank of America N.A, Ms. Kate Barton, Global Vice Chair - Tax, EY, Mr. Sudhir Kapadia, Partner & National Tax Leader, EY India, Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India and Mr. Hitesh Sharma, Partner, International Tax and Transaction Services, EY India



Members of the LGBTQ Chapter of the Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee in discussion at the chapter meeting held on 8th November 2019 in Mumbai



'India Capturing Opportunities in Global Uncertainties' (L-R) Mr. Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & Country Head, India, Bank of America N.A., Mr. Thomas K. Montag, Chief Operating Officer & Member of Executive Management Team, Bank of America and Mr. Sanjay Nayar, CEO, KKR India



'Diversity & Inclusion' panel (L-R) Mr. Sudhir Shenoy, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and CEO, Dow Chemical International, Consul General David J. Ranz, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai, Ms. Zainab Patel, Director Diversity & Inclusion, KPMG in India and Mr. Divyanshu Ganatra, Founder, Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation



The Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee's LGBTQ Chapter members in Mumbai



Signature Lecture Series session with Mr. Brad Staples, Global CEO, APCO Worldwide, in Mumbai



Members in Mumbai at a budget session with EY



Western Region Committee members



Participants at the Diversity & Inclusion Committee's interactive session on 'Enabling Differently Able Inclusion at Workplace' in Mumbai



Western Region Committee members in discussion

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