



AMCHAM Update



AMCHAM - The Voice of American Business in India

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(L-R) Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, Ms. MaryKay L. Carlson, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Mr. Gouranglal Das, Joint Secretary (AMS), Ministry of External Affairs, at the Christmas Ball in New Delhi

HIGHLIGHTS

- India – U.S. Fast Track Mechanism Meeting
- Specialized Workshop on Authorized Economic Operator with Mr. Subhash Agrawal, Commissioner (NS-IV), JNCH
- Interactive Session on Industry Initiatives and Steps to Build a Stronger Indo-U.S. Relationship
- Breakfast Session with Ms. Susan Tuller, Deputy Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate Chennai
- Annual Christmas Ball



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Ms. Aileen Nandi

Acting Minister Counselor
for Commercial Affairs
U.S. Embassy

Special Invitee

Mr. C. R. Dua

Chairman
Dua Associates



Chairperson's Message

Wish you all a Very Happy New Year!

The past year has been very exciting for the U.S. – India relationship especially in strengthening strategic and defense ties. The first-ever 2+2 dialogue took place wherein the COMCASA agreement was signed, leading to sales of more sensitive U.S. military equipment to India. The energy sector also saw growth with the Strategic Energy Partnership launched and U.S.-sourced oil and liquefied natural gas landed on Indian shores. I am happy to note that in 2018, U.S. – India bilateral trade grew to USD 126 billion.

For this financial year, the gross domestic product (GDP) is set to grow at 7.2% which is an improvement from last year's 6.7%. In fact, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) latest data reflects a significant rise in investment and manufacturing activities too.*

AMCHAM has continued the India – U.S. Fast Track Mechanism with DIPP and Invest India. During these meetings, there were detailed discussions on company specific issues received from our members along with active participation from the U.S. Embassy. We have also been regularly conducting U.S. visa sessions to help members understand the processes.

Our National Executive Board met Mr. K.J. George, Minister of State for Industries and Minister of State for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, to discuss how U.S. companies could increase their presence in Karnataka. We sent recommendations on intermediary services in the ITeS sector under GST Act 2017 to Mr. John Joseph, Member (Budget), Ministry of Finance; suggestions for inclusions under Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013 – the 2% CSR spend to Mr. Injeti Srinivas, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs; a Pre-Budget Memorandum: 2019-2020 to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Mr. Arun Jaitley and inputs on GST Provisions, to the Commissioner – GST Policy Wing, CBDT, Mr. Upender Gupta.

Our Annual Golf Tournament in Bengaluru had a great turnout. The attendees comprised of CEOs of U.S. companies, senior state government bureaucrats, senior management of Indian companies and sponsors of the tournament. We bid farewell to 2018 by hosting the annual Christmas Ball in New Delhi which was attended by U.S. and Indian government officials along with AMCHAM members. Our sincere thanks to all members who supported this event through sponsorship. Our Hyderabad Chapter Sports events also concluded with 1606 participants from 31 member companies, and 2018 also saw an increased participation in football, mens' volleyball and throwball.

As you all know, India rose another 23 points in the World Bank's ease of doing business index to 77th place, becoming the top ranked country in South Asia for the first time.^ This shows that India offers great opportunity for manufacturing companies. So, we're now planning an interaction on 'Enhancing the U.S. - India Economic Partnership' with AMCHAM senior leaders on 15th February 2019.

We also look forward to AMCHAM's participation in Aero India 2019 in Bengaluru in February.

We greatly value your membership with AMCHAM and hope you will continue to actively participate in 2019.

Wishing you and your family a happy and prosperous 2019!

Krish Iyer
Chairperson, AMCHAM

*https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-pegs-fy19-gdp-growth-at-7-2-estimate-lower-than-rbi-prediction-119010701093_1.html

^ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/ease-of-doing-business-india-jumps-23-notches-now-at-rank-77/articleshow/66445814.cms>

DELHI

Pharmaceuticals Committee Meeting with Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies Delegation

AMCHAM's Pharmaceuticals Committee organized a meeting with a delegation of Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies (ASOP) on 1st November 2018 at the Leela Palace in New Delhi. The members of the ASOP delegation included Mr. Jeffrey Gren, ASOP Global Board Member, ASOP Global, Mr. Bejon Misra, Strategic Advisor, ASOP Global India Chapter, Mr. Chaitanya Kumar Koduri, Senior Manager, USP India Office, Mr. Alastair Jeffrey, Head of Enforcement, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) United Kingdom, Mr. Aaron Graham, Executive Director Safety and Security, Boehringer Ingelheim, Mr. Jim Fries, CEO of Rx-360 and Mr. Ron Guse, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), NABP Consultant and Former Manitoba Provincial Canada Regulator. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Jyotsna Ghoshal, Co-Chair – Pharmaceuticals Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director, Public Policy and Corporate Affairs, MSD. The following officials from the U.S. Embassy also joined the meeting: Mr. Dominic Keating and Ms. Komal Kalha,

USPTO, Mr. Darrel Ching, Principal Commercial Officer, Ms. Bhavna Vishwakarma, Senior Commercial Specialist and Dr. Vid Nukala, HHS. Other AMCHAM members included Ms. Lynn Cinelli and Ms. Nahid Zaman, MSD, Mr. Sarthak Ranade, Janssen, Mr. Kulveen Bali and Dr. Prabha Hegde, 3M, Ms. Sakshi Sethi and Ms. Nida Saher, BD. Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta represented AMCHAM in the meeting.

The objective of the meeting was to learn about ASOP Global's tools to protect patients such as consumer awareness, public service announcements and research, share updates of ASOP's meeting with the Government of India with AMCHAM members and explore the areas of collaboration with AMCHAM India. Mr. Jeffrey Gren, ASOP board member gave a presentation providing background on ASOP Global, its presence in India and information on the activities they plan to do. AMCHAM members were pleased to hear the updates from the ASOP delegation and found the meeting useful.



Participants at AMCHAM's Pharmaceuticals Committee meeting with the Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies delegation

ICT Committee Meeting

The ICT Committee of AMCHAM held its committee meeting on 1st November 2018 under the chairmanship of Mr. Amit Sharma, Executive Vice President and President, Asia, ATC India. Members took stock of the activities during the last six months and discussed issues relating

to the National Digital Communications Policy 2018, National Policy on Electronics and the draft Personal Data Protection Bill 2018. Members also discussed issues such as CRO, VNO double taxation, remote access and licensing.

Securing Digital India

On 13th November 2018, AMCHAM's Cyber Security Committee held its 'Securing Digital India' series at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The discussion was led by Mr. Anand Rajan, Senior Director, Intel labs, on emerging technologies, Internet of Things, 5G, blockchain and quantum cryptography. The welcome address was given by Mr. Rakesh Maheshwari, Scientist G

and Group Coordinator, MeitY, followed by an address by Mr. Rakesh Kharwal, Chairman – Cyber Security Committee, AMCHAM and Country Lead – Security Software India & South Asia. The purpose of the series was to enhance capacity building in the cyber security space.



Representatives from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and its nodal departments and representatives from Department of Telecom at a roundtable



Mr. Anand Rajan, Senior Director of the Emerging Security Lab at Intel Labs presenting during a roundtable on 'Securing Digital India'

HR Committee Webinar on 21 More Jobs of the Future with Cognizant

On 13th November 2018, the HR Committee organized a webinar on a report published by Cognizant this year entitled *21 More Jobs of the Future*. This report is a sequel to Cognizant's last year's report *21 Jobs of the Future*. Mr. Manish Bahl, Senior Director – Center for the Future of Work, Cognizant, explained the objective of the report during the webinar. As technology advances and artificial intelligence begins to take over, a lot of people think that their jobs are in danger, however, this report explained the new skills and jobs that will be needed in the future to work in tandem with machines and AI. The three common themes from last year's report were coaching, connecting and caring. However, this year's report also included three new themes, like ethical behaviors, security and safety and dreams.

The *21 More Jobs of the Future* report mentions a variety of new skilled jobs like Financial Wellness Coach, Cyber Attack Agent, Virtual Identity Defender, Flying Car Developer, Machine Risk Officer, Smart Home Design Manager, Algorithm Bias Auditor, Voice UX Designer, Head of Business Behaviour, etc. Mr. Bahl explained the thought behind some of these new jobs that would become popular with examples explaining how company's needs would change in the future. The webinar concluded with Mr. Bahl emphasizing the need to re-learn and re-skill employees to be able to cope with the changes that will take place in the next couple of years.

Defense Committee Meeting

AMCHAM's Defense Committee members convened on 15th November to discuss upcoming USG visits and GoI engagements. The group also discussed engagements

and events at Aero India 2019 and shared the industry's discussions with Secretary Defence Production, Dr. Ajay Kumar, focused on Aero India.

Tax and Tariff Committee Meeting

A meeting of AMCHAM's Tax and Tariff Committee was held on 16th November 2018 in the office of Ernst & Young, Mumbai. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Garima Pande, Chairperson – Tax and Tariff Committee, AMCHAM and Partner – Tax and Regulatory, Ernst & Young LLP. Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director

General, AMCHAM, welcomed members and Ms. Garima Pande gave opening remarks. The following three presentations were made followed by an interactive session: 'Recent Developments in Transfer Pricing,' 'Fiscal Incentives Across India,' and 'Latest Update, Issues and Way Forward.'

Manufacturing Committee Meeting

A meeting of AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee was held on November 19th in Bengaluru at the Timken India office under the chairmanship of Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited and co-chairmanship of Mr. Amit Bansal, Managing Director, Corning India. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, welcomed members. Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Head of EMEA Operations, Saggezza Inc., made opening remarks and gave a presentation on the activities of the Karnataka Chapter of AMCHAM. Mr. Sanjay Koul gave a presentation

on the growth of the manufacturing sector despite the challenges related to skilled labor, lack of infrastructure and environmental obstacles. Mr. Amit Bansal, in his remarks, emphasized the need for India to create an ecosystem for electronics manufacturing and touched on the positive impact of GST for manufacturing. Guest speaker Mr. Sudhanshu Singh, SVP & Business Leader, Analytics, Genpact, gave an insightful presentation on 'Transformation of Businesses Using AI – Becoming a Reality!!'

The meeting focused on brainstorming for the Manufacturing Committee's signature event with AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, in partnership with Invest India, a cross-sector event that would broadly focus on 1) mobile and electronic hardware, 2) agriculture and food processing (cold chain),

3) automotive/machinery, 4) overall supply chain and logistics. This event is scheduled to be in New Delhi on February 8th, 2019. Lastly, the Manufacturing Committee planted a tree at the Timken facility to commemorate the day.



AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited and co-chairmanship of Mr. Amit Bansal, Managing Director, Corning India, after planting a tree at the Timken India office in Bengaluru

National Executive Board Meeting

A meeting of AMCHAM's National Executive Board was held on 20th November 2018 in Bengaluru. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India. The agenda was taken up for discussion with participation from all members present. Other than the board members, officials from the U.S. Embassy along with the U.S. Consul General in Chennai participated. The meeting was followed by

a meeting with Industry Minister of Karnataka, Mr. K.J. George, who was accompanied by Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department and Mr. Darpan Jain, Commissioner for Industrial Development & Director of Industries & Commerce. In the evening, the Karnataka Chapter organized an impressive program, including a panel discussion, followed by dinner and live music.



Ms. Aileen Nandi, Acting Senior Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy, speaking to the National Executive Board



(L-R) Consul General Robert Burgess, U.S. Consulate Chennai, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India

HR Committee Best Practice Session

On 21st November 2018, the HR Committee best practice session was held at the IBM office in Bengaluru. Opening remarks were given by Mr. Chaitanya Sreenivas, Co-Chairman – HR Committee, AMCHAM and VP – HR (India/South Asia), IBM. Mr. Kingshuk Banerjee, Director, Global Delivery, Cognitive Computing, GBS, IBM, presented the first session on the ‘Use of AI in Analytics of HR.’ Mr. Banerjee explained the difference and similarities in AI and humans. He questioned the audience on how an AI system manages to think and learn like a human and thereafter, explained differences in the modes of learning for an AI system versus humans. He also shed some light on IBM’s question-answering computer system, Watson, which is capable of answering questions posed in natural language.

The second session focused on the ‘Future of HR’ presented by Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, General Manager HR – India, Timken. Mr. Singh’s presentation explained Timken’s involvement in various sectors along with the number of employees gainfully engaged in each sector. He also presented specific examples of challenges faced by their HR department, being primarily in the manufacturing sector. He pointed out their especially high male employees versus the low female employee ratio.

After a short tea break, the third session was presented by Mr. Satish Jeyaraman, VP HR, Cognizant, on ‘Repurposing HR Towards the Future of Work – One Step

at a Time.’ He explained that the whole paradigm of work is undergoing a change, with the skills required, work-home divide line, employment contracts, technology touch-points and employee demographics. The 5 focus areas for Cognizant include: redesign policies and processes to cater to the new workforce, use of technology as an ally to attenuate your effectiveness, tap in to the super power of data analytics, go beyond employee engagement to employee alignment, and retain the ‘human’ in the human resources function.

The last session was presented by Ms. Kavita Mathur, People & Culture Leader, GT, on ‘Building a Strong Culture in the Age of Technology.’ She focused on how organizations were increasingly leveraging technology for gaining a competitive edge, instant access to information, streamlining operating cost, improved quality, process tracking and effective data flow. However, there are implications of technology too – social aspect would be primarily loss of human connect. To maintain a human interaction GT embarked on the culture journey through their SuperCoach platform which fosters a culture of collaboration, leadership, excellence, agility, respect, and responsibility. She further explained the aspects of the SuperCoach platform in detail. The meeting concluded with closing remarks by Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, followed by feedback from members and a discussion on ways to improve the functioning of the HR Committee.



The HR Committee meeting in progress

Interaction with Invest India and DMICDC

On 28th November 2018, AMCHAM, in association with U.S. Embassy, organized an interactive event with Invest India and DMICDC on ‘Infrastructure Development

Opportunities in India.’ The event was held at Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi. Mr. Samit Ray, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and

Director Government Affairs & Public Policy, UTC India, led the discussion. The U.S. Embassy was represented by Ms. Dinah McDougall, Commercial Officer, Mr. Matt Ingeneri, Economic Growth Unit Chief and Mr. James Gallimore, Economic Assistant, Economic Growth Unit.

Presentations were made by Mr. Abhishek Chaudhary, Vice President – Corporate Affairs and Company Secretary, DMICDC and Ms. Chandrima Sinha, Vice President, Invest India. The presentations collectively highlighted the range of opportunities that exist for investing in India's rapid infrastructural development through various flagship programs most of which are in advanced stages of development. The opportunities for investment and participation are constantly increasing with India being one of the largest economies with a projected GDP of \$5 trillion by 2025 and consequently being an attractive investment destination with \$1.5 – \$2 trillion infra investment demand by 2025 was highlighted in the presentations.

On the concerns raised by U.S. companies regarding issues related to visibility of status of ongoing projects and of those on the anvil, Invest India introduced AMCHAM

members to the recently launched India Investment Grid Portal which has been modelled to be a single window portal to search, identify, connect, track, promote and analyze projects. This portal is expected to facilitate much needed visibility to members and provide immense support in planning investment as well as to participate in them. An in-depth insight into planning and development of five Industrial corridors, six dedicated freight corridors, tens of cities along the routes, forty-four highways being developed as economic corridors and modernization of various ports with connectivity to economic zones were also shared.

Invest India and DMICDC extended an open invitation to AMCHAM member companies to visit smart cities under development as well as standalone logistics and connectivity projects and take stock of the on-ground construction activities. The agencies also welcomed the opinion of U.S. companies regarding pace of implementation and the standards which projects are set to achieve for future development. The event closed with all participants looking forward to materializing collaboration and having more such interactive sessions in the future.



(L-R) Ms. Chandrima Sinha, Vice President, Invest India, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Samit Ray, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Director Government Affairs & Public Policy, UTC India, and Ms. Dinah McDougall, Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy

India – U.S. Fast Track Mechanism Meeting

A meeting under the India – U.S. Fast Track Mechanism was organized under the chairmanship of Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIPP on 6th December 2018 at the Invest India office in New Delhi. The agenda of the meeting focused on resolving issues and specific challenges faced by U.S. companies in India. AMCHAM had forwarded specific issues received from its members to Invest India and some of them were shortlisted for detailed discussion. Officials from the U.S. Embassy

also joined the meeting along with officials from other Ministries such as the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Ministry of Finance, Commerce, Law and Justice, etc. who were present to respond to the issues raised by AMCHAM members. From AMCHAM, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, and Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta, Director – Medical Devices, Pharmaceuticals and IPR, along with members, participated in the meeting.



Participants at a meeting of the India - U.S. Fast Track Mechanism organized under the chairmanship of Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIPP



(L-R) Mr. Hari Krishna, Director, Ministry of Commerce, Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIPP, Mr. Sushil Satpute, Director, DIPP, Mr. Vivek Sonny Abraham, Co-Head Global Investor Outreach, Invest India and Dr. Sachin Mittal, Director, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Annual Christmas Ball

AMCHAM's Annual Christmas Ball was held on December 8th, 2018 at the Hotel ITC Maurya, New Delhi. Ms. MaryKay L. Carlson, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy, was the Guest of Honor. Besides Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman,

AMCHAM India and President and CEO, Walmart India, there were a number of officials from the Indian and U.S. governments. Over 220 AMCHAM members and guests participated in the fun filled evening.



Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India and Ms. MaryKay L. Carlson, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy, with the AMCHAM team



Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy and Ms. Beth Garverick, winners of a raffle prize from Travel Nevada, with Mr. Vidheesh Tyagi of Travel Nevada



Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India and Ms. MaryKay L. Carlson, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy, unveiling AMCHAM's 2019 calendar entitled 'Partners in Progress: U.S. Companies in India's Socio-Economic Development'



(L-R) Mr. Vivek Vasishtha, Co-Chairman - ICT Committee, AMCHAM (IBM), Mr. Chad Norberg, U.S. Embassy, Dr. Sanjay Bahl, Director General, CERT-In, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman - CSR Committee (Cisco), AMCHAM



AMCHAM members enjoying the entertainment



Guests at the Christmas Ball



The first couple on the dance floor



Members enjoying games

AMCHAM supported Investment Promotion Workshop by DMICDC

On December 15th, 2018, AMCHAM participated in a workshop organized by DMICDC showcasing investment and business opportunities in the DMIC project. The event was held at Hotel Ashok, New Delhi. AMCHAM representation at the meeting was from Trimble India, Hewlett Packard India, Bechtel India and CBRE India. Wg Cdr Rajiv Anand, Program Director, AMCHAM also attended. DMICDC was represented by Mr. Alkesh Sharma, IAS, CEO and MD, DMIC, Mr. Abhishek Chaudhry, VP, DMICDC and the respective CEOs Dholera, Greater Noida and Aurangabad/AURIC projects.

Presentations were made by Mr. Abhishek Chaudhary and the three CEOs of the represented projects. The presentations collectively highlighted the range of

opportunities that exist for investing in India's rapid infrastructural development through various flagship programs most of which are in advanced stages of development. After the presentations, a one-on-one session was organized for interaction with the CEOs of projects. Representatives of the four AMCHAM member companies had an opportunity to closely interact with the three CEOs, discuss their issues and make suggestions. The discussions have resulted in DMICDC looking forward to meeting with members on any specific issues that come up. The event closed with all participants looking forward to materializing collaboration and with an offer by DMIC to host a similar workshop exclusively for U.S. companies.



AMCHAM members at an Investment Promotion Workshop by DMICDC



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MUMBAI

Interactive Session with Ms. Kate Barton, Global Vice Chair – Tax, EY on ‘Global Tax Environment and How Technology is Disrupting Tax’

On Friday, 26th October, AMCHAM, in partnership with EY, organized an interactive session with Ms. Kate Barton, Global Vice Chair – Tax, EY on ‘Global Tax Environment and How Technology is Disrupting Tax’ in Mumbai. The session began with opening remarks by Mr. Sudhir Kapadia, Partner & National Tax Leader, EY India, who welcomed everyone and shared an introduction to the speaker, Ms. Kate Barton, Global Vice Chair – Tax, EY. Through an interactive session Ms. Kate Barton provided expert insight on U.S. tax reforms, current global environment and its effect on tax and business,

moving ahead from megatrends to Tax 2.0 and putting Tax 2.0 to work in a transformative age. In the engaging Q&A participants positioned queries on robotics and automation in tax, tax block chain trends and the effect of global tax scenarios on businesses. Ms. Barton aptly closed with a quote, “Do today what will take you to tomorrow.” The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Vilas Vaman Dhavale, Managing Director, LORD India Pvt. Ltd. who thanked Ms. Kate Barton, EY and AMCHAM for the insightful and engaging event.



Participants at an interactive tax session in Mumbai (L-R) Mr. Hitesh Sharma, Co-Chair - Western Region, AMCHAM and Tax Partner and National Leader, Life Science, EY India, Mr. Sudhir Kapadia, Partner & National Tax Leader, EY India, Ms. Kate Barton, Global Vice Chair – Tax, EY and Mr. Vilas Vaman Dhavale, Managing Director, LORD India Pvt. Ltd.

Specialized Workshop on Authorized Economic Operator with Mr. Subhash Agrawal, Commissioner (NS-IV), JNCH

AMCHAM organized a ‘Specialized Workshop on Authorized Economic Operator’ on Thursday, 1st November 2018 in Mumbai. The session began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India. This was followed by a keynote address by Mr. Subhash Agrawal, Commissioner

(NS-IV), Jawaharlal Nehru Custom House (JNCH) who was delighted to meet with AMCHAM members and shared an overview of the AEO scheme and its benefits. He also reiterated the keen support extended to the AEO program by the government and invited U.S. companies to actively benefit from the program.

Through a detailed presentation, Mr. Ravindra Kumar Singh, ADC, Nodal Officer (AEO), Zone – II, JNCH, shared crucial information on the benefits and application process, requirements and criteria to obtain the AEO accreditation. Participants engaged in the interactive Q&A that answered several queries on AEO. Member companies who have already acquired accreditations

shared their success stories. The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Milind Tailor, Co-Chairperson – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Head of Indirect Procurement & Electronic Security Asia Pacific, Diebold Nixdorf Private Limited, who thanked JNCH and AMCHAM for the insightful event that truly showcased the ease of doing business in India!



Participants at the specialized workshop on Authorized Economic Operator with Mr. Subhash Agrawal, Commissioner (NS-IV), JNCH

AMCHAM supported USTDA Workshop on India Energy Storage and Smart Grids

AMCHAM was a supporting partner for a 2 day workshop in Mumbai organized by USTDA on energy storage and smart grids on December 10th – 11th. Day one commenced with an inaugural and welcome session followed by sessions on 'Developing a Smart and Sustainable Grid for India' where senior power and sector stakeholders discussed challenges, opportunities and best practices to meet the changing needs of India's power sector. A session on 'Innovative U.S. Technologies to Power India Solutions' saw technology suppliers discuss solutions to modernize India's electric power grid. There were two roundtable sessions on 'Smart Grid Technologies and Energy Storage Applications' focused on 'Innovative Smart Grid Technologies to Drive Efficiencies' and 'Energy Storage Applications to Support Grid Reliability' respectively. The day also saw a conversation on 'Integrating Renewables into the Grid' regarding Telangana's work to integrate renewable energy onto the grid. The session on 'Microgrids and Distributed Energy Resources to Support the Modern Grid' discussed technologies, policies and best practices

to enable microgrids and distributed energy resources to support grid resiliency and reliability. The last session of the day was a look at case studies of 'U.S. – Indian Technology Partnerships for Demand Side Management.' It showcased how Indian utilities are collaborating with U.S. technology suppliers to address the challenges and opportunities of meeting the country's accelerating energy demands through the use of Demand Side Management (DSM) technologies. The two case studies were BRPL – Oracle Utilities Behavioral DSM Pilot Project and State of Andhra Pradesh – Agricultural, Industrial and Residential/Commercial DSM. The day concluded with a reception.

Day two of the workshop began with a review of key takeaways from the previous day. This was followed by an industry perspective on energy storage, a conversation on Maharashtra's power sector initiatives and financing strategies for the India power sector. An insightful session on 'Hybrid Renewable Energy Power Parks (Wind, Solar, Battery Storage)' witnessed a discussion on solutions

to issues presented by large scale renewable energy integration. A session on 'E-Mobility Technologies for India's Transportation Systems' highlighted the technologies that will play into India's transition to

e-mobility with an emphasis on electric vehicles (EVs) and the integration of EVs into the grid. The day concluded with a report on key takeaways from the workshop and brief closing remarks.



Panel discussion on 'Developing a Smart and Sustainable Grid for India' in Mumbai (L-R) Mr. Richard M. Rossow, Senior Advisor, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Mr. P.K. Pujari, Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor, Economic Affairs, Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Anand Kumar, Chairperson, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission and Mr. Takamasa Murakami, Chief Representative, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization

Interaction with Experts from Central Warehousing Corporation on 'The Trends in Warehousing and its Value' – an Initiative of the Supply Chain & Logistics Committee

On 17th December 2018, AMCHAM India's Supply Chain and Logistics (SCL) Committee organized an interactive session with the Central Warehousing Corporation on 'The Trends in Warehousing and its Value' as part of its Learning and Sharing initiative. The session began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM and welcome remarks by Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP. Mr. Kandaswami thanked the speaker, Mr. Shrinivas Mudgerikar and all the participants for joining in and stated that he looked forward to an engaging and insightful session.

Through his address Mr. Shrinivas Mudgerikar, Director Marketing & Corporate Planning, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) shared his expert insight on the framework of CWC, the value of CWC and its vast array of services, the trends in warehousing post the implementation of GST, technology changes in warehousing and how the private sector can make the best of CWC's infrastructure. An engaging and dynamic discussion followed. The event concluded with closing remarks and vote of thanks by Mr. Milind Tailor, Co-Chairman – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Head of Indirect Procurement & Electronic Security Asia Pacific, Diebold Nixdorf Private Limited.

Western Region Committee Concall

On 19th December 2018, AMCHAM's Western Region Committee held a concall meeting to discuss the initiatives of the Western Region. The discussion included updates and action points on the interactive session with the Honb'le Chief Minister of Gujarat Mr. Vijay Rupani, the next steps towards the proposed interactive discussion

with Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, Trade Winds Indo-Pacific Forum & Mission 2019, and updates and actions towards AMCHAM's WR signature event. An overview of the WR activities in 2018 were also highlighted while the committee members looked forward to a great partnership in 2019!

HYDERABAD

Session on Business Visas with U.S. Consulate Hyderabad

AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter organized a session on U.S. business visas for its members on November 29th, 2018. The session was led by Mr. Eric Alexander, Visa Consul Chief, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad. It was an interactive session attended by about 30 members. A lot of concerns were raised from both sides and questions were answered. Overall it was a very beneficial session where both sides shared great insights into the process –

how employees are selected by the companies, the best practices followed and the struggles faced by the Consular officers when an employee comes for the interview. Mr. Eric Alexander thanked AMCHAM for organizing this program. Ms. Sandya Rodrigues, Regional Director – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM, thanked all the Consular officers for a wonderful session.



Members at a session on U.S. business visas

Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018

AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018 began with cricket on September 29th at various grounds and basketball on the premises of CA Technologies. A total of 31 companies participated in Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018 which ended on December 16th, 2018 with athletics at the Gachibowli Athletic Stadium. A total of 1,606 players participated in the event which was played on weekends from September thru December 2018.

This year saw an increase in participation in football, men's volleyball and throwball. 261 players were declared winners and runners in the 12 categories that were held namely – cricket, basketball, throwball, football, men's volleyball, women's volleyball, tennis, badminton, table tennis, carom, chess and athletics. This year Wells Fargo were the cricket champions ousting the previous year's champions, Qualcomm, in the finals.



Men's 100 meters race



Women's 100 meters race



Short Put game in progress



Cricket Finals – Qualcomm vs Wells Fargo at Vijay Anand Cricket Grounds, Shivrampally

KOLKATA

Eastern Region Members Meet

AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized a members meet on November 1st, 2018. The meeting was to enable members to interact with each other in an informal setting and to discuss any issues they may be facing. Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, spoke about the structure of AMCHAM and discussed the value proposition that AMCHAM brings to its members with special reference to the east and Kolkata. He updated members on the various events held and the upcoming events. He also invited members to come forward to participate actively. He invited some of the past Presidents to speak about their views and

discuss challenges faced, if any, by their organizations and the way forward. Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, spoke about his organization's experience and the value he received from AMCHAM. He also invited members to actively participate in AMCHAM events. Mr. Dinesh Agarwal and Mr. K.P. Sengupta also spoke on the value of the chamber. Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Political & Economic Officer of the U.S. Consulate attended the meeting along with Mr. Jonathan Ward, Principal Commercial Officer at the U.S. Consulate. Mr. Ward updated members on some of the U.S. government policies and mentioned that he would be departing India for his onward assignment shortly.



(L-R) Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Mr. Jonathan Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate Kolkata, and former Chairmen of AMCHAM's Eastern Region, Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, Mr. K.P. Sengupta and Mr. Suranjan Bhanja

Interactive Session on Industry Initiatives and Steps to Build a Stronger Indo-U.S. Relationship

On November 23rd, 2018 AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized an interactive session on industry initiatives and steps to build a stronger Indo-U.S. relationship at the Hyatt Regency, Kolkata. Ms. Vandana Yadav, IAS Managing Director of West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation was the guest speaker. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave

the introduction, Mr. Joydeep Dutta Gupta, Executive Committee Member, AMCHAM, gave the welcome address and Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Past Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave the concluding remarks and vote of thanks. The session concluded with a lively and interactive Q&A session.

Ms. Yadav spoke about the ease of doing business in West Bengal with a focus on the forth coming BGBS 2019 scheduled for February 7-8th, 2019, and invited American companies to participate. She spoke about Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, known as the 'Cultural Capital' and 'City of Joy.' With an area of 88,752 km; population of 91.3 million, literacy of 77.08%; language spoken – Bengali, English, Hindi, Urdu and Nepali; and 23 districts in the state. West Bengal shared international borders with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan and the fourth largest economy in India, it is strategically located on the east coast making it the 'Gateway to SE Asia and NE India' to 300 million people of the region. She said it was the principal commercial, cultural and educational center of East India, the 3rd most populous metropolitan area and skilled manpower in virtually all sectors. She mentioned that Kolkata had the oldest port in India and an airport that was the largest hub for air traffic in the eastern region. She spoke about the investment opportunities in the state touching upon:

- Agri Business: Agriculture, food processing, fisheries, horticulture, ARD and ari marketing
- Infrastructure: Transport, logistics, power, urban development, manufacturing
- Services: IT and ITES, tourism, health, education and skill development

Some of the statistics mentioned included:

- Largest in number of MSMEs and third largest in number of people employed in MSMEs
- Workforce close to 4 crore, third largest in the country
- Leading state in terms of power distribution, quality and availability
- Two large container and bulk handling ports at Kolkata and Haldia
- Two international airports at Kolkata and Bagdogra
- Leading in the country in terms of spread, density and reach of inland waterways
- Among leading exporters with 12% of country's leather & 10% of iron and steel exports
- In ease of doing business, West Bengal has scored 99.46% in reforms compliance
- e-services and web-supported systems

- State-of-the-art single window system developed for online application

Ms. Yadav spoke about the WB – U.S. relationship that had a long thriving history earmarked by the visionary speech given by Swami Vivekananda in Chicago at the first 'World's Parliament of Religions' in 1893 as well as the fact that Kolkata, then Calcutta, was an important military hub during World War II for American soldiers. Rabindranath Tagore, the famous poet and Nobel Laureate, visited the United States five times between 1912 and 1930, receiving a warm welcome everywhere. Nobel Laureate Mother Teresa was given honorary citizenship of Chicago. She said that the United States had the second-largest population of Bengali people, outside of Asia after the UK, mainly in New York, California, New Jersey etc. She mentioned that the 2017-18 exports from West Bengal to the U.S. were 6.88% (629.59 USD million) and was the 3rd top most export destination.

She mentioned that the 2017-18 top export commodities from west Bengal were:

- Production of Iron and Steel – 27.30 %
- Leather Goods – 13.99 %
- Marine Products – 12.98 %
- Jute Hessian – 4.2 %
- Petroleum Products – 3.64 %



Ms. Vandana Yadav, IAS, Managing Director WBIDC, addressing AMCHAM's Eastern Region members in Kolkata



(L-R) Mr. Joydeep Dutta Gupta, Eastern Region Executive Committee Member, AMCHAM, Ms. Vandana Yadav, IAS, Managing Director WBIDC and Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Past Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM

Visa Session with Mr. Joseph Pomper, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, U.S. Embassy

AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized an interactive session at the Hyatt on December 11th, 2018 in Kolkata, with Mr. Joseph Pomper, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, Mr. Dan Wilson, Vice Counsel, U.S. Consulate Kolkata and the Consular team. Mr. Pomper discussed a wide range of topics from U.S. – India economic cooperation, including U.S. visa updates. Introductions were made by Regional Director – Eastern Region, Ms. Amada Kidwai. Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, in his welcome address, spoke about the mobility of free trade, people to people cooperation and HR mobility. This he said, helped in expanding business not only from the U.S., but also into the U.S., and that ease of travel was essential. He said that this would help strengthen the Indo – U.S. relationship and have stronger business ties. Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM, in his remarks mentioned that the 21st century looked at a boundary-less economy, free flow of transactions, hassle free movement, an environment of cooperation and collaboration. He said that that as we live up to the challenges of the current dynamic world, and the very eco system that we are a part of, we can only hope that such a scenario becomes a reality sooner than later. He

said that every platform of such nature will give us the confidence to interact and agree on the common working grounds that we aspire to have in the future.

Mr. Pomper walked the members through the various visa requirements. He mentioned that the purpose of intended travel to the U.S. will determine the type of visa required under U.S. immigration law, and that the applicant will need to establish that all requirements are met to receive the category of visa applied for. He explained that when the applicant applies at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate, a consular officer will determine, based on laws on the eligibility of granting the appropriate category of visa. He mentioned that the U.S. government is now giving priority to those applicants with a Master's degree and this was on a case by case basis. He said that India represents 70% of the H1 B visa and 30% of the L1 visa amongst the workers category worldwide. He requested members to send in their queries or concerns on the Consulate/Embassy websites/Facebook and to check these sites for latest trends and updates. The session concluded after a very interactive Q&A session and a vote of thanks by the Chairman, Mr. Sen.



(L-R sitting) Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, NEB Member, AMCHAM, Mr. Joseph Pomper, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Dan Wilson, Vice Counsel, U.S. Consulate Kolkata (L-R standing) Mr. Surajit Banerjee, Past Chairman - ER, and EC Member, AMCHAM, Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - ER, AMCHAM, Mr. Rudra Mitra, Consular Assistant, U.S. Consulate Kolkata and Ms. Bemvinda Pereira, Visa Assistant, U.S. Consulate Kolkata

Eastern Region Annual Get-Together

AMCHAM's Eastern Region had its annual get-together over cocktails and dinner at the Tollygunge Club on December 7th, 2018. The evening brought together members, friends and supporters of the Eastern Region. Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave the opening remarks, Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, Eastern Region Executive Committee Member and National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM, spoke about the journey of the ER and its support to the American business

community. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, did the introductions. The U.S. Consulate was represented by Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Consul, Pol/Econ Officer and Mr. Lee Calkins, Consular Section Chief, who gave brief remarks on the U.S. – India trade ties. Members, guests and Consulate officials had an opportunity to network with each other in an informal gathering.



At the Eastern Region Annual Get-Together in Kolkata (L-R) Mr. Lee Calkins, Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate Kolkata, Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Mr. Surajit Banerjee, Former Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, Former Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Pol/Econ Officer U.S. Consulate Kolkata and Mr. Abir Chattaraj, Eastern Region EC Member, AMCHAM



Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, addressing members at the annual get-together



Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Pol/Econ Officer U.S. Consulate Kolkata

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BENGALURU

Meeting with Mr. K.J. George, Minister of State for Industries and Minister of State for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka

The Chairman of AMCHAM, Mr. Krish Iyer, President & CEO, Walmart India, Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Head of EMEA Operations, Saggezza Inc., Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited, Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, and Ms. Ranjana

Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, met with Mr. K.J. George, Minister of State for Industries and Minister of State for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, at Vidhana Soudha on November 20th, 2018. The discussions centred around how U.S. companies could increase their presence in Karnataka, the business climate in the state, and how the government was focused on ensuring talent availability to industries.



NEB members in a meeting with Mr. K. J. George, Minister of State for Industries and Minister of State for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka in Bengaluru

National Executive Board Dinner

The Karnataka Chapter of AMCHAM hosted the National Executive Board meeting led by its Chairman, Mr. Krish Iyer, President & CEO, Walmart India, along with U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate officials and CEOs of U.S. companies on Tuesday, November 20, 2018, at the Conrad, Bengaluru. On the same evening of the board meeting, the dinner started with a key note address by Mr. K.J. George, Minister of State for Industries and Minister of State for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, followed by addresses from Consul General Robert Burgess, U.S. Consulate General Chennai, Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and Mr. Ravi Venkatesan, UNICEF's

Special Representative for Young People and Innovation. This was followed by an interesting panel discussion on 'e-Commerce and Digital Transformation' with Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary for Commerce and Industries and IT and BT, Government of Karnataka, Mr. Gunjan Samtani, Co-Head, Goldman Sachs, Mr. Vivek Sunder, COO, Swiggy and Mr. Atul Ujagar, Country Director, Nike Sourcing, South Asia. The event concluded with cocktails and dinner. The sponsors for the evening included: Indeed, Saggezza, Pernod Ricard, Institute of Management Accountants and Kafnu.



(R-L) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. K.J. George, Minister of State for Industries and Minister of State for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM, President & CEO, Walmart India and Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Head of EMEA Operations, Saggezza Inc.,



Mr. K. J. George, Minister of State for Industries and Minister of State for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, giving the keynote address at the NEB dinner in Bengaluru with (L-R on the dais) Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Head of EMEA Operations, Saggezza Inc., Consul General Robert Burgess, U.S. Consulate General Chennai, Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, Mr. Ravi Venkatesan, Special Representative for Young People & Innovation, UNICEF and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM



Panel discussion on 'e-Commerce and Digital Transformation' (L-R) Mr. Gunjan Samtani, Co-Head, Goldman Sachs, Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary for Commerce and Industries and IT and BT, Government of Karnataka, Mr. Atul Ujagar, Country Director, Nike Sourcing, South Asia and Mr. Vivek Sunder, COO, Swiggy

Breakfast Session with Ms. Susan Tuller, Deputy Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate Chennai

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted an interactive session with Ms. Susan Tuller, Deputy Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate Chennai on November 26th, 2018 at the Conrad, Bengaluru. The event was well attended by senior leadership from the HR departments of AMCHAM member companies like JC Penney, Mphasis, IBM,

Hewlett Packard, Deloitte and more. The interaction comprised of Ms. Tuller talking about the requirements for companies to follow when submitting visa applications for the United States for employees travelling on business, followed by Q&A.



(L-R) Mr. Sreekanth Velagapudi, Sr. Director – Human Resources, Aryaka Networks, Ms. Ines Miranda, (Outgoing) Regional Director - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM, Ms. Vidya Selvam, Consular Section, U.S. Consulate Chennai, Ms. Susan Tuller, Deputy Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate Chennai, Mr. Paresh Shah, Vice Chairman - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Senior Vice President, Syniverse, Ms. Payal Satish, (Incoming) Regional Director - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM, Mr. Gaurav Vir, Director of Legal Affairs, JC Penney and Mr. Jim Favors, Managing Director, JC Penney India

Participation in the 23rd Annual Global Forum on Strategic Change, Leadership & Learning

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter participated in the 23rd Annual Global Forum on Strategic Change, Leadership and Learning hosted at the Shangri-La Bengaluru on November 28th, 2018. The Global Forum on Leadership, Learning and Strategic Change is a not-for-profit 'community of practice,' involving participants from major companies and organizations from around the world, who,

in a collegial spirit, discuss strategic change, executive learning and organizational development. AMCHAM was represented by Mr. Amit Sharma, COO, IBM India and Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard India Software Operation, who participated in a panel discussion with several other eminent speakers on the topic of 'India's Transformation: Reality or Aspiration?'



Mr. R V Deshpande, Minister of Revenue and Skill Development for Karnataka State addressing participants



Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard India Software Operation, speaking at the 23rd Global Forum on Strategic Change, Leadership & Learning

AMCHAM – HSBC 7th Annual Golf Tournament

The AMCHAM - HSBC 7th Annual Golf Tournament was held on December 8th, 2018, at Prestige Golfshire. There was a great turnout with 110 participants. The attendees comprised of CEOs of U.S companies, senior state government bureaucrats, senior management of Indian companies and sponsors of the tournament. HSBC was the co-host and title sponsor of the event. Platinum sponsors were Saggezza, Singapore Airlines, CoWrks, Indeed and Marqland. Gold sponsors were Vistara, Simon Carter, William Penn and silver sponsors were JetSetGo SkyShuttle, Western Digital, Marriott and KTC India. Other sponsors were Trufitt & Hill, Decathlon, Nafex, Evergreen, World Class Sports Training. 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.

Winners of the tournament included:

Closest to the Pin: Mr. Rajendra Prasad

Longest Drive: Mr. Bharath Jalanatha

Straightest Drive: Mr. Lakshipathi K.

Runner Up – (0-17 Category): Mr. B. Ashwin

Runner Up – (18 & Above Category): Mr. Puttaraj

Winner – (0-17 Category): Mr. Gopi S

Winner – (18 & Above Category): Mr. Anil Valluri

Winner – (0-17 Category): AMCHAM Category:
Mr. Anil Sama

Winner – (18 & Above Category): AMCHAM Category:
Mr. Naresh Shah

Blind Winning Team of 4 Member: Mr. Sanjay Goel,
Mr. Arun Murugappan, Mr. Abdul Kareem Sait,
Mr. M Muneer Sait



(L-R) Mr. Rajagopalan, Head Branch Banking, HSBC with Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee members Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Head EMEA Operations, Saggezza India, Mr. Amit Sharma, COO, IBM India, Mr. Atul Ujagar, Country Director - South Asia, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, Nike, Mr. Paresh Shah, Vice Chairman - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Senior Vice President & General Manager, Syniverse Technologies and Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard India Software Operation



Golf tournament prize winners



Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard India Software Operation, winner of the 18 & above handicap AMCHAM member category accepting a prize from platinum sponsor Singapore Airlines representatives, Mr. Jeremy Chua, Station Manager Bangalore and Ms. Kanchan Pai, Sales Manager National Corporate

CHENNAI

Visa Workshop: A Briefing on the U.S. Visa Process

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter organized a visa workshop on December 19th, 2018 in Chennai with guest speaker Mr. Matt L. Blevins, Vice Consul, U.S. Consulate General Chennai. This visa workshop was the outcome of a need felt by travel managers and immigration specialists at member companies to fully comprehend the U.S. visa process. The meeting began with opening remarks by Mr. Aubrey Daniels, Regional Director - Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM.

Mr. Matt L. Blevins began by presenting salient features of the U.S. visa process. This was followed by an interactive session during which Mr. Blevins patiently addressed all the concerns of members present. He responded to all questions which related to the U.S. visa process. He stated that Visa Officers at the Consulate facilitate legitimate business travel to the U.S. and that the Consulate also processes the H and L categories of

the petition based visas. He said that the burden of proof of the applicant's ties to the country has to be clearly articulated to enable the interviewing officer to adjudicate the application in a fair manner. The proof, he said could be social, professional, commercial or family ties to India. Mr. Blevins said that all applicants were interviewed with the objective of issuing them with a 10 year visa and hence it was up to the applicant to be able to clearly articulate his responses with respect to the purpose of travel and ties to the country. Mr. Blevins added that the L 1 A visa category was for the manager category and not for a line or operational manager, while the L1 B was for applicants with specialized knowledge and/or proprietary knowledge.

After the interactive session the meeting concluded with thanks by the Regional Director, Mr. Aubrey Daniels, to Mr. Matt Blevins and to all the participants at the meeting.



▶ Participants at the U.S. visa briefing session

AMCHAM Welcomes New Members

Corporate Members



Mr. Halan Sivashankar
Director – HR
Sutherland Global Services Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Kapil Behl
Managing Director & Head, India
WM Logistics India Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Brijender Kumar
Commercial Director – India
Bio-Rad Laboratories India Pvt. Ltd.

Additional Members



Mr. Deep Agarwal
Sales Director – India & Subcontinent
Zebra Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.



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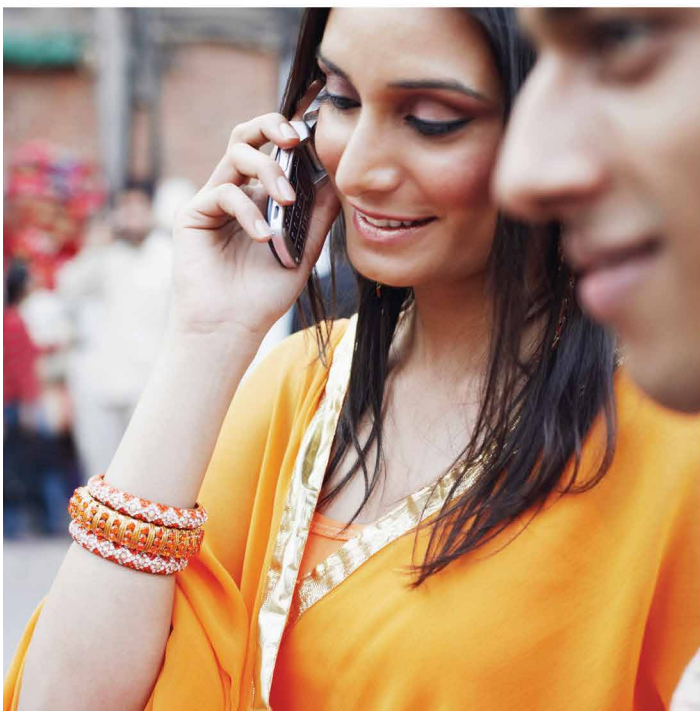




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Corning Incorporated is one of the world's leading innovators in materials science with a 167-year track record of life-changing inventions. In 2012, Corning established a state-of-the-art optical fibre manufacturing facility in Pune. Today, Corning contributes to the Digital India vision by enabling "information highways" for the region.



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AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN INDIA

Established in 1992, the American Chamber of Commerce in India (AMCHAM India) is an association of American business organizations operating in the country.

AMCHAM India has around 500 members, spread across the nation. The Chamber enjoys a close relationship with the U.S. Embassy, which supports its objectives and helps in fulfilling them. The incumbent U.S. Ambassador to India is the Honorary President of AMCHAM.

Mission

AMCHAM's principal objectives are to:

- Promote activities that encourage and stimulate investment by U.S. companies in the country.

- Support the business operations of its members.

- Encourage bilateral trade between India and the U.S.

These primary objectives are fulfilled by:

- Providing a forum for U.S. - based business organizations to discuss and identify common issues, economic and commercial interests in India and /or the U.S.
- Instituting Sectoral Committees which implement the primary objectives in their respective sectors.
- Reviewing policies and procedures in various sectors that affect the members as well as growth of foreign direct investment.

Affiliations

AMCHAM is affiliated to the following Chambers :

- Chamber of Commerce of U.S.A in Washington, D.C.
- Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC)
- AMCHAM's in other countries.

Regional Chapters

AMCHAM's National Secretariat is based in New Delhi with six Regional Chapters in Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.

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