



AmCham Update



AmCham - The Voice of American Business in India

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Meeting with Mr. Scott Sindelar, Minister Counselor, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Embassy
- Meeting with Ms. MaryKay Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy
- Breakfast Interactive Session on "Ease of Doing Business in West Bengal" with Chief Guest Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary
- Annual Christmas Ball 2016
- Direct Line Webinar on Smart Cities Projects and Investments in Western India
- 'Ease of Doing Business In India': An Interactive Meeting with Mr. Sanjay Sethi, CEO, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC)
- Karnataka Chapter Members Dinner

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Chairman's Message

This year has been very eventful for U.S. – India relations with government to government meetings taking place regularly to discuss cooperation between both countries in agriculture, defense, energy, ICT and other trade matters. The U.S. - India Trade Policy Forum, CEO Forum and the 2nd U.S. – India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue, among others, also took place this year. More and more U.S. companies have opened offices in India or expanded their existing operations this year.

As we bid farewell to a monumental year, history has truly been made on many fronts --- the U.S. elections, demonization in India and the boldest tax reform in India, GST. The U.S. President elect Donald Trump has repeatedly mentioned his affection for India and AmCham looks forward to working with the incoming Trump Administration to enhance the strategic and trade partnership between the U.S. and India.

We applaud the bold move of Prime Minister Modi's demonetization scheme to end corruption and curb black money and look forward to a more cash-less society; our member companies are actively suggesting ways to alleviate and overcome teething challenges during the transition period. Another positive policy change by Prime Minister Modi has been the move towards GST.

I am happy to welcome our new Director General, CEO of AmCham, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, who joined AmCham in November. She comes with vast experience in the U.S. – India space.

Defense Committee members met with Ambassador Richard Verma to discuss the current issues faced by the defense industry. The focus for the coming months is going to be on "ease of doing business" and "Make in India" in defense. The committee also met VADM Rixey who shared a broad view of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency's six-year strategic plan – Vision 2020.

We met with Ms. MaryKay Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, to discuss the U.S. embassy's support to AmCham to further our efforts in expanding U.S. investment in India and bilateral trade. Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, has met with AmCham in various regions, not to mention our Medical Devices Committee in New Delhi.

AmCham met with Mr. Scott Sindelar, Minister Counselor, U.S. Department of Agriculture, to understand the USDA's agenda for the sector and how AmCham could align its committee objectives to further that agenda. We also had an opportunity to meet with Acting Under Secretary/Deputy Under Secretary, Ms. Alexis Taylor, U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provided a direct platform for our Agriculture and Food Processing Committee to highlight challenges while operating in India and emphasize the need for path breaking technologies for increasing productivity.



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The U.S. Trade and Development Agency, in partnership with the Government of India, the U.S.-India CEO Forum, U.S.-India Business Council, Confederation of Indian Industries, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and AmCham, completed the U.S.-India Smart Cities Technical Workshop. The workshop brought together over 150 U.S. and Indian business executives, Indian officials from federal, state and municipal levels, and officials from the U.S. government and the government of the District of Columbia.

AmCham, in partnership with the Consulate General of the United States, Mumbai, and USIBC, organized a roundtable interaction with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The roundtable was held on the occasion of 'Invest Madhya Pradesh – Global Investors Summit,' an initiative of the Government of Madhya Pradesh supported by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Government of India.

The AmCham Eastern Region organized a breakfast interactive session on West Bengal: A State Where Ease of Doing Business is a Reality with Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industries, and Public Enterprise & Industrial Reconstruction Department, Government of West Bengal.

Our regions in Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad continued to host events to interact with state governments and encourage reforms to attract U.S. investments.

Our CSR Committee hosted a session on understanding the companies act with Ms. Gayatri Subramaniam, Convener and Chief Programme Executive (CSR), National Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs.

AmCham, in association with the U.S. Embassy, celebrated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Week from 17th – 25th November 2016 with the first ever photo exhibition "American Businesses Making a Difference" at the American Center in New Delhi. The initiative of AmCham's CSR Committee aimed to generate a greater appreciation for the contribution and impact of American business to community development.

We are pleased to announce the release of our first ever AmCham calendar for 2017 themed "American Business Partnering for India's Inclusive Growth." U.S. companies have a rich history of investing in the communities they operate in and it's appropriate to present this important facet of U.S. business to collectively showcase the positive contribution made to India through countless CSR projects transcending sectors from aerospace to agriculture to education to rural development. Thank you to the 12 companies that supported this activity to make the calendar a success!

We bid farewell to 2016 by hosting the annual Christmas Ball in New Delhi which was attended by U.S. and Indian government officials and AmCham members. Our sincere thanks to all members who supported this event through sponsorship. We now prepare to participate in Vibrant Gujarat in Gandhinagar in January and Aero India in Bangalore in February 2017.

We greatly value your membership with AmCham and hope you will continue to actively participate in 2017.

Wishing you and your family a very happy New Year!

Mr. Pratyush Kumar
Chairman, AmCham

DELHI

Meeting with U.S. Department of Agriculture Acting Under Secretary/Deputy Under Secretary Ms. Alexis Taylor

AmCham's Agriculture and Food Processing Committee members met with Acting Under Secretary/Deputy Under Secretary, Ms. Alexis Taylor, U.S. Department of Agriculture, on 19th October ahead of the Trade Policy Forum.

DUS Taylor was the third most senior level delegate from USDA to visit India within the last 11 months, having confirmed that the U.S. – India relationship in this sector is on a new pathway and headed in the right direction. DUS Taylor described the purpose of her visit and USDA's overall objectives with India including leveraging the Trade Policy Forum for increased market access and empowering women in agriculture.

The members briefly explained their areas of business, why their company was in India and what was successful for them. They mentioned the challenges being faced, the need for path breaking technologies for increasing productivity and the slow growth of the food processing industry. Other challenges included the counterfeit chemicals and seeds that illustrated the need for stricter IP enforcement. The members requested USDA's support for conveying to the GOI the need for sensitizing the government to IPR norms and holding up the sanctity of contracts. Support from USDA could help make a difference if this could be conveyed to the government during the G2G dialogues.



AmCham's Agriculture and Food Processing Committee members with Ms. Alexis Taylor from USDA

Defense Committee Meeting

On 28th October 2016 AmCham's Defense Committee members met to discuss the past activities of the committee. The members decided to nominate Michael Koch, Vice President, Boeing India as the new Co-Chairman of the committee for the position left vacant when Dennis Swanson moved to another role. Members were also informed of the upcoming U.S. government

delegations planned. They were advised about the AmCham/USIBC joint events to be hosted during Aero India 2017. The members decided to convene again during the first week of November to discuss how the committee could align its agenda with that of the Government of India. It was also decided to continue with the regular monthly meetings to refresh the agenda and action items on a consistent basis.

Defense Committee Interactive Session with Ambassador Richard Verma

On 28th October 2016, AmCham's Defense Committee members met with Ambassador Richard Verma to discuss current defense issues faced by industry. Members provided recommendations that the Ambassador could

share on behalf of industry during his G2G dialogues. AmCham also volunteered to provide a couple of white papers on the issues discussed during the interaction.



Defense Committee members with Ambassador Richard Verma and other U.S. embassy officials

Meeting with Scott Sindelar, Minister Counselor, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Embassy

On 3rd November, Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, AmCham, and Udaya Arun, Program Manager – Aerospace & Defense, AmCham, called upon Scott Sindelar, Minister Counselor, U.S. Department of Agriculture, to understand the USDA's agenda for the sector and how AmCham could align its committee objectives towards that end. During the course of discussions, he emphasized the need for AmCham to present a white paper on the current/pertinent issues in the sector. The Indian agri, food and beverages sector

is undergoing a transformation. It is rapidly moving from basic foods to processed and value-added foods. New companies in technology and technology-enabled supply chain and logistics, processing, distribution, processing etc. are creating innovative business models and new categories. Companies of American origin have been a frontrunner in this sector and it was deemed essential to collate a white paper to record their growth and achievements.

CSR Committee Session on Understanding the Companies Act with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

On 9th November, the AmCham CSR Committee hosted a session on understanding the companies act with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs at the Cisco office in Gurgaon. Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – CSR

Committee, AmCham and Executive Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC, Cisco Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd. made opening remarks.

Ms. Gayatri Subramaniam, Convener and Chief Programme Executive (CSR), National Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) made a presentation on Section 135 of the Companies Act and she explained the role of the NFCSR as the body in charge of implementing CSR in India. Gayatri mentioned that section 135 is applicable to 10,450 companies and from that, 3,000 foreign companies. Some of the topics covered in the interactive session included the rules and regulations around spending the 2% in CSR, schedule VII CSR thematic

areas and how companies may incur expenditure up to 5% of CSR budgets for building CSR capacity of their own personnel.

The NGO showcase presentation was made by Ms. Asmahan Pogal, Program Specialist, Global Give Back Circle (GGBC), who discussed the progress of the program that launched in India earlier this year. She explained how the GGBC, a mentorship based program, uses a holistic transformation process designed to help at-risk girls make that quantum leap to economic freedom.



(L-R) Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – CSR Committee, AmCham and Executive Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC, Cisco Systems, Ms. Gayatri Subramaniam, Convener and Chief Programme Executive (CSR), National Foundation for Corporate Social Responsibility, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs and Ms. Geetanjali Bhatia from Ingersoll Rand



CSR Committee members listening to Ms. Gayatri Subramaniam from IICA give a presentation on the Companies Act

Northern Region Council Executive Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Committee of AmCham's Northern Region Council, under the chairmanship of Mr. Rustom J. Desai, Managing Director, Corning India and Optical Communications, was held on 10th November 2016 in Gurgaon. The capability deck prepared, on the basis of 29 responses received from members of the Northern Region Council, was approved by the Executive Committee. It was hoped that other members would also

respond to make the document truly reflective. Mr. George N. Sibley, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, spoke on the U.S. Presidential elections. Mr. Rameesh Kailasam, Deputy Managing Director, APCO Worldwide India Pvt. Ltd. spoke about NITI Aayog and shared his experience of dealing with NITI Aayog and learning about NITI Aayog's priorities and challenges.

Tax, Tariff and Regulatory Affairs Committee Meeting

A meeting of AmCham's Tax, Tariff and Regulatory Affairs Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Amarjeet Singh, Partner and Head of Tax – North India, KPMG, was held on 11th November 2016 in Gurgaon. Ms. Neeru Ahuja, Co-Chairperson of the Committee and Partner, Business Tax, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP, was also present.

Members discussed the main issues that should be covered by AmCham during their pre-budget meeting with the Chairman, CBDT, on 15th November. It was decided that AmCham would focus on issues such as reduction in corporate tax, postponement of GAAR, and tax policies should be such to ease doing business in India.

Pre-Budget Meeting for Union Budget 2017-18 with Chairman, CBDT

AmCham, along with the European Business Group (EBG) was invited for a pre-budget discussion with the Chairman, CBDT, on 15th November 2016. From AmCham, the delegation was led by Mr. Amarjeet Singh, Chairman, AmCham's Tax and Tariff Committee and Partner and Head of Tax – North India, KPMG, and was represented by Mr. Rohinton Sidhwa, Partner, International Taxation, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP, Mr. Amit Rana, Vice President – Taxes, GE Capital Services India, Mr. A.S. Narayan, Country Controller, Bechtel India, Mr. Rahul Goel, Manager, Tax and Regulatory Services, BSR & Co. LLP, and Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, American Chamber of Commerce in India.

Mr. Amarjeet Singh made a presentation on direct taxes and included issues such as reduction in corporate tax,

postponement of GAAR, and tax policies to ease doing business in India, APA's and advance ruling.

From the Ministry of Finance, besides Mr. Sushil Chandra, Chairman, CBDT, the other officials included Mr. Rasmi Ranjan Das, Joint Secretary (TPL-I), CBDT, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Bhoot, Joint Secretary (TPL-II), CBDT, Mr. Pravin Rawal, Director (TPL-II), CBDT, Mr. Abhishek Gautam, Under Secretary (TPL-II), CBDT, Mr. Alok Shukla, Joint Secretary (TRU-I), CBEC, Mr. Amitabh Kumar, Joint Secretary (TRU-II), CBEC, Dr. Abhishek Gupta, Joint Secretary (TRU-II), CBEC.

A presentation on indirect taxes was made by a representative of BMR on behalf of the EBG.

AmCham & U.S. Embassy CSR Photo Exhibition "American Business Making a Difference"

AmCham, in association with the U.S. Embassy, celebrated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Week from 17th – 25th November 2016 with the first ever photo exhibition "American Businesses Making a Difference" at the American Center in New Delhi. The initiative of AmCham's CSR Committee aimed to generate a greater appreciation for the contribution and impact of American business to community development. The exhibit highlighted CSR activities by AmCham member

companies and captured the attention of a larger audience including students, NGOs and industry representatives on social media.

The following companies participated in the exhibit: AMD R&D Centre, Azure Power, Cadence Design Systems, Cargill, Cisco, Coca-Cola, Corning, E.I. DuPont South Asia, Federal-Mogul, Griffith Foods Inc., Honeywell, IBM, Ingersoll Rand, International Paper, intelligence India

Software Solutions, Johnson & Johnson, Monsanto, Northern Operating Services, OnProcess Technology, Owens Corning, PwC India Foundation, Sealed Air,

Swagelok, Thomson Reuters, and United Technologies Corporation.



Ms. MaryKay Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, visiting the CSR photo exhibition



The CSR photo exhibition showcasing 25 American companies was open for public viewing at the American Center

Defense Committee Meeting

On 18th November 2016, AmCham Defense Committee members discussed the action items that emerged from the last interaction with Ambassador Verma and it was decided to take action immediately by providing a white

paper of the requested documents. The committee also decided to come up with focused agenda items for taking up with the Ministry of Defense officials and resume the interactions with the officials on a quarterly basis.

Defense Closed Door Interactive Session with VADM Joseph Rixey, Director, DSCA

On 18th November 2016, AmCham Defense Committee members met with VADM Joseph Rixey, Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency at New Delhi. VADM Rixey was in Delhi for the Defense Procurement and Production Group (DPPG) meetings with his counterpart Ms. Smita Nagaraj, Director General (Acquisitions), Ministry of Defense, Government of India. VADM Rixey shared some information regarding some of the main

points discussed at the DPPG to discuss DSCA's current initiative for FMS improvements, on how the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) system works and what could possibly be the inputs to a full spectrum capability. He also shared a broad view of the DSCA's six-year strategic plan – Vision 2020. Phil Shaw, Chairman of AmCham Defense Committee, chaired the interactive session.



Defense Committee members with VADM Joseph Rixey, Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency

Meeting with Mr. Bharat Lal, Resident Commissioner, Gujarat

Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General, AmCham and Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, AmCham, met with Mr. Bharat Lal, Resident Commissioner, Government of Gujarat, on 23rd November 2016, in his office, to

discuss AmCham's participation in Vibrant Gujarat. Mr. Bharat Lal gave the detailed program from 9th to 11th January 2017. He requested AmCham members to register on vibrantgujarat.com for participation.

HR Breakfast Meeting with Ms. Susan Schmitt, SVP HR, Rockwell Automation

AmCham organized a talk by Ms. Susan Schmitt, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Rockwell Automation, on 29th November 2016 in New Delhi. She made a presentation on 'Global Business Scenario and Emerging Role of HR' and covered global forces – long term disruptions like the age of urbanization, accelerating technological change, challenges of an aging world and greater global connections, and advocated for the role of HR leadership in reducing confusion, talent decisions

and doing things that make a difference. While scouting talent, a suitable model that comprised skills, knowledge, experience, education, information processing capacity, temperament and accepting role requirements, was the need of the hour.

The session was chaired by Mr. Vivek Vasishtha, Chairman, AmCham's Northern Region Council and Country Leader – Government and Regulatory Affairs, IBM India Pvt. Ltd.



(Second from the L-R) Mr. Vivek Vasishtha, Chairman - Northern Region Council, AmCham and Country Leader – Government and Regulatory Affairs, IBM India, Mr. Dilip Sawhney, Managing Director - India, Rockwell Automation, Ms. Susan Schmitt, SVP HR, Rockwell Automation, and Ms. Madhvi Kataria, AmCham, with other Rockwell representatives



Northern Region Council members at the HR breakfast meeting with Ms. Susan Schmitt, Senior Vice President, HR, Rockwell Automation

Meeting with Government of Haryana Aviation Officials

AmCham's Aviation Committee members met with officials from the Government of Haryana on 30th November. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Mahavir Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary, Haryana Aviation Government and Palash Roy Chowdhury, Country Manager Pratt & Whitney, UTC Company and Chairman of AmCham's Aviation Committee.

The principal secretary shared with members a presentation on the scope of development of the Hisar Aerocity and interacted with members on the thoughts/inputs/recommendations and requested members to consider the proposed development of the Aerocity and partner with the government where it seemed promising.



AmCham Aviation Committee members with Government of Haryana aviation officials

India Smart Cities Technical Workshop

On 8th December, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, in partnership with the Government of India, the U.S. - India CEO Forum, U.S. - India Business Council, Confederation of Indian Industries, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and AmCham, completed the U.S. - India Smart Cities Technical Workshop, fulfilling a commitment made during the U.S. - India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue in August 2016. The interactive workshop brought together over 150 U.S. and Indian business executives, Indian officials from federal, state and municipal levels, and officials from the U.S. government and the government of the District of Columbia. The day long program was held as a practical and technical

workshop that included content-rich plenary sessions and interactive discussions through six roundtable sessions.

Participants, including AmCham members such as 3M, Honeywell and Trimble, identified best practices for financing smart cities, along with integrated transportation, energy and communications solutions for smart urban planning. USTDA Regional Director Henry Steingass, during the inaugural of the workshop said, "This planning is designed to help our Indian partners attract and stimulate the smartest, most cost-efficient investments in infrastructure and services to help achieve their cities' growth visions."

Annual Christmas Ball 2016

AmCham organized its Annual Christmas Ball on 10th December 2016 in New Delhi. Ms. MaryKay L. Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, was the chief guest. The other senior Indian and U.S. Government officials who attended the Christmas Ball included Mr. Arun K. Singh, former Indian Ambassador to the U.S.,

Mr. Raghav Chandra, Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Mr. George Sibley, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial

Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Scott S. Sindelar, Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy. Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AmCham and President, Boeing India, welcomed the participants and wished

them Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. AmCham members, with their spouses, attended the fun filled evening. The Christmas Ball was sponsored by a large number of AmCham members.



(L-R) Mr. George Sibley, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Lee Alison Sibley, Ms. Gargy Kumar and Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AmCham



Mr. and Mrs. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion



(L-R) Ms. Gargy Kumar and Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AmCham and President, Boeing India



Mr. and Mrs. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AmCham, with the AmCham Secretariat



Rockin' around the Christmas tree!



AmCham is celebrating 25 years of U.S. – India business partnerships



Thank you to all the sponsors that made the evening memorable!



Ms. MaryKay Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, delivering remarks as the chief guest



Former Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Arun Singh, giving remarks



(L-R) Ms. Madhvi Kataria, AmCham, Mr. Arun Singh, former Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ms. MaryKay L. Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Mr. George Sibley, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Scott Sindelar, Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AmCham and President, Boeing India



Mr. Arun Singh presenting another lucky raffle winner with her gift



Ms. MaryKay Carlson, DCM, U.S. Embassy, presenting Ms. Lee Alison Sibley with the grand prize, an air conditioner from Carrier



Ms. Madhvi Kataria welcoming guests



Ms. MaryKay Carlson, DCM, U.S. Embassy with her husband, Mr. Aubrey Carlson



A feisty couples game



Participants and winners in the couples game



A round of applause is in order for the band, Black Slade, and their spectacular performance



Ms. MaryKay Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy and Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director AmCham



AmCham members and embassy officials in a festive mood



(L-R) Ms. Lee Alison Sibley, Mr. George Sibley and Ms. Jo Sindelar from the U.S. Embassy, practicing their dance moves



(L-R) Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Nikhil Khanna from Raytheon and Ms. Kathy Santillo



More members enjoying the Christmas Ball



Participants ready to answer Christmas questions to win prizes



Ms. MaryKay Carlson dancing the night away with AmCham staff, Udaya Arun and Mamta Uppal



Mr. Patrick Santillo leading his team during the game show inspired -- AmCham Christmas Feud

Defense Committee Meeting

AmCham's Defense Committee members met on 16th December in New Delhi to finalize the documents on the "ease of doing business" in defense and "Make in India" in defense. The committee decided to quickly submit to the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Ministry of Defence, its

recommendations on the strategic partner chapter of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). The committee also felt that it should leverage the very active AmCham Tax & Tariff Committee platform to submit issues relating to GST and customs to the Ministry of Finance.

MUMBAI

Roundtable with Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Shivraj Singh Chouhan

AmCham, in partnership with the Consulate General of the United States, Mumbai, and USIBC, organized a roundtable interaction with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, 22nd October 2016. The roundtable was held on the occasion of 'Invest Madhya Pradesh – Global Investors Summit,' an initiative of the Government of Madhya Pradesh supported by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Government of India.

The meeting commenced with the U.S. Consul General (Mumbai) Mr. Tom Vajda's opening remarks. Through a brief address the Hon'ble Chief Minister welcomed all participants and invited suggestions and comments encouraging investment in the state. The CM was

accompanied by Mr. Mohammed Suleman, Principal Secretary – Department of Commerce, Industry and Employment, GoMP.

The roundtable was represented by senior leaders of 10 U.S. companies which included P&G, John Deere, AES (India), APCO Worldwide, KPMG, KSS Abhishek Safety Systems, and United Technologies, among others. John Deere India, P&G and Cummins India shared their positive experience of investment and operations in Madhya Pradesh. The interaction between industry and the GoMP focused on the vision for Madhya Pradesh, the development of infrastructure, railways, warehousing and the development of smart cities in the state – thus making MP the central business hub of the country.

Ease of Doing Business In India': An Interactive Meeting with Mr. Sanjay Sethi, CEO, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC)

Under the overarching theme of ease of doing business in India, AmCham India, in partnership with the Consulate General of the United States, Mumbai, organized a session on "Ease of Doing Business in India," an interactive session with Mr. Sanjay Sethi, CEO, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) on Tuesday, 15th November 2016 at the U.S. Consulate, Mumbai.

The meeting commenced with opening remarks and welcome address by U.S. Consul General Mr. Thomas Vajda and Mr. Sukanti Ghosh, Chairperson, AmCham Western Region & Managing Director, APCO Worldwide India Pvt. Ltd. respectively.

Mr. Sanjay Sethi began by appreciating the interaction opportunities that AmCham's Western Region and the U.S. Consulate have been creating between American companies and the Government of Maharashtra. Through his address he elaborated on the latest initiatives of the MIDC and the state government that are aimed at creating an environment of ease of doing business such as online applications for SMEs, brownfield and greenfield areas, upgradation of CETPs, solid waste management plans, warehousing and logistics, metro line projects,

the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link and the scientifically optimization of industrial land.

The interactive session that followed saw leaders of American companies present their issues, suggestions and share business experiences with Mr. Sethi on infrastructure, warehousing, land requirements at MIDC



(L-R) Gregory Taevs, Commercial Consul, U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai, U.S. Consul General Thomas Vajda, Sanjay Sethi, CEO, MIDC and Sukanti Ghosh, Chairperson, AmCham Western Region & Managing Director, APCO Worldwide India Pvt. Ltd. at an event in Mumbai

sites and local governance in MIDC areas in Maharashtra. The session was moderated by Mr. Gregory Taevs, Commercial Consul, U.S. Commercial Service.

Western Region Committee Meeting

AmCham's Western Region Committee Concall Meeting was held on Wednesday, 23rd November. The meeting commenced with a welcome by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Co-Chair AmCham WRC and Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AmCham India.

As part of the agenda, committee members discussed and reported on (1) review of recently concluded events in

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Consul General Vajda.

the WR (2) scheduled and proposed forthcoming events (3) ideating on topical/industry focussed events for the year 2016-2017 (4) leveraging on membership network to have a larger outreach and footprint in the WR.

Surabhi concluded the concall meeting with closing remarks and thanked all members for their active participation as well as their valuable contributions.

Partnering For Change: Gender Equality & Technology

On the occasion of International Women's Human Rights Day on 29th November and the "16 Days of Global Activism Against GBV," AmCham India, in partnership with USAID organized an event on 'Partnering for Change: Gender Equality & Technology' on Tuesday, 29th November 2016 in Mumbai. The event was a part of an ongoing series of events being organized by AmCham India with an overarching theme of 'CSR in India.' The event was well attended by leading NGOs and AmCham member companies and was sponsored by Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd.

The morning commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Imrana Khera, Innovation and Partnership – Mumbai Lead, USAID India followed with welcome remarks by U.S. Consul General Mr. Thomas Vajda, U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai.

The session began with voices from the field with experiences of 3 young women from Dharavi Diary and Swasth on the impact of technology on their lives. A session on innovation and showcase featured presentations by Science for Society, Dharavi Diary, Sneha, Iesha Learning, Swayam Shikshan Prayog, Impact Guru, Mann Deshi Bank and Saathipads, which illustrated the theme of women empowerment, closing the digital divide and imbibing awareness of gender equality from the root.

There were insightful presentations by Samhita and Dasra which focused on leveraging technology for collaborative platforms. A panel discussion on CSR perspectives and lessons learned was moderated by Ms. Imrana Khera.

The panel included Mr. Mahesh Shetty, Manager, Tech Mahindra Foundation and leaders of AmCham member companies, Mr. Deepak Jolly, Vice – President, Venturing and Emerging Brands (VEB) at Coca-Cola India and South West Asia, Coca-Cola India Pvt. Ltd and Ms. Neha Kapoor-Bharadwaj, Vice President India Lead Global Environment, Social and Governance, Bank of America, N.A.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Anant Pant, Associate Head Supply Chain – South Asia, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd.



(L-R) Deepak Jolly, Vice-President, Venturing and Emerging Brands (VEB) at Coca-Cola India and South West Asia, Coca-Cola India, Imrana Khera, Innovation and Partnership - Mumbai Lead, USAID/India, Mahesh Shetty, Manager, Tech Mahindra Foundation and Neha Kapoor-Bharadwaj, Vice President India Lead Global Environment, Social & Governance, Bank of America, N.A.

Direct Line Webinar on Smart Cities Projects and Investments in Western India

The Direct Line Webinar on 'Smart Cities Projects and Investments in Western India,' an initiative of the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai, was supported by AmCham India and saw an interesting attendance of company representatives from India as well as the U.S. on Tuesday, 29th November 2016.

The webinar commenced with welcome remarks by Mr. Thomas Vajda, Consul General, U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai, followed by brief remarks by Mr. Gregory Taevs, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate, who shared information on the mission of the Foreign Commercial Services as well their initiatives and programs to support U.S. companies.

The session proceeded with a presentation on smart cities by Mr. Pratap Padode, Founder and Director, Smart Cities

Council India, as well as a talk by Mr. Lakshmi Narayan Rao, Digital Transformation Officer, Cisco Systems India Pvt. Ltd. who shared experiences of Cisco's successes and challenges in smart cities projects. The discussion also addressed how companies can approach navigating the commercial landscape and what strategies can help win projects supporting Western India's rapid economic development.

The Q&A session that followed was moderated by Mr. David Moo, Vice Consul for Economics, and addressed queries on solar, waste management, energy projects, energy efficiency, electricity distribution, safe city initiatives and institutional partnerships. The webinar concluded with concluding remarks by U.S. Consul General Mr. Thomas Vajda.

Roundtable Breakfast Session on 'GST Implementation – Understanding Its Impact On Business'

AmCham India, in partnership with Deloitte, organised a roundtable breakfast session on 'GST Implementation – Understanding Its Impact On Business' on Wednesday, 7th December 2016 in Mumbai. The session's objective was to provide an insight into the recent developments on GST in India, their expected impact on industry and the need to encourage readiness by organisations to align with the expected changes.

The programme began with a welcome and opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director- Western Region, AmCham India, and Mr. Alok Agrawal, Senior Director, Deloitte India. Tax experts Mr. Prashant Deshpande, Indirect Tax Leader, Deloitte India and Mr. M.S. Mani, Senior Director, Indirect Tax, Deloitte India, led the presentations and interactive discussion. With insightful detail the speakers shared their expertise and perspectives on critical components and transition of GST and the impact of GST on business.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Amit Raheja, Director – Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Care Companies, Johnson & Johnson Medical India.



GST Implementation – Understanding Its Impact On Business held on 7th December 2016 in Mumbai

KOLKATA

Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting

AmCham's Eastern Region Executive Committee meeting was held on 13th October 2016. Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman, updated members on the NEB meeting held in Hyderabad in September. Mr. Debdas Sen, Vice

Chairman, updated members on the meeting held with the Principal Secretary, IT Mr. Talleen Kumar. Forthcoming events and the membership drive were also discussed.

Breakfast Interactive Session on “Ease of Doing Business in West Bengal” with Chief Guest Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary

On 28th October 2016, AmCham's Eastern Region organized a breakfast interactive session on *West Bengal: A State Where “Ease of Doing Business” is a Reality*. The chief guest was Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industries, and Public Enterprise & Industrial Reconstruction Department, Government of West Bengal, who was accompanied by his commerce team comprising of Mr. Surendra Gupta, IAS, Managing Director WBIDC and Mr. Kaushik Basu, Executive Director WBIDC.

Dr. Gupta spoke about the improved governance and ease of doing business in the state, showcasing the state government's commitment towards inclusive and sustainable development, providing increasing employment opportunities and building West Bengal into a manufacturing hub. He said West Bengal recorded a 12.02% real growth in terms of GVA in 2015-16 (A) and the industry sector of the state observed a growth rate of 10.59% in 2015-16 (A). He highlighted the state's effort in ease of doing business and concerted effort to project West Bengal as the preferred investment destination through a plethora of industry friendly policies. He mentioned that new territories were being chartered with Bhore Sagar Deep Sea Port coming up at Sagar Island. The Amritsar-Delhi-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (ADKIC) promises to open up new vistas of investment opportunities. Energy sector projects (solar and CGD) and green cities/theme townships are attracting investor attention. With over 3.7 million enterprises, the state has a potential to become a leader in MSME development in

the country. He said that armed with new opportunities, West Bengal is all set to project its business-readiness to the global investor community. He also mentioned that the 2-day long Bengal Global Business Summit 2017, scheduled for January 19-20, would bring together policy makers, corporate leaders from around the globe, delegations, academia, and opinion makers to explore business opportunities, forge partnerships and collaborations.

The guest of honor was Mr. Craig Hall, U.S. Consul General. Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman AmCham Eastern Region, did the welcome address, Mr. Amit Malik, AmCham Executive Committee member moderated the Q&A session and Mr. Debdas Sen, Vice Chairman AmCham ER, gave the vote of thanks.



Mr. Craig Hall, U.S. Consul General and Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industries, and Public Enterprise & Industrial Reconstruction



Mr. Craig Hall, Dr. Krishna Gupta and Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman, AmCham Eastern Region



(L-R) Mr. Debdas Sen, Co-Chairman, AmCham Eastern Region, Mr. Craig Hall, Dr. Krishna Gupta, Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Mr. Surendra Gupta, WBIDC Chairman, and Mr. Amit Malik

HYDERABAD

Welcome for U.S. Consul General Hadda

AmCham Hyderabad organized a welcome breakfast on 27th October for Consul General Katherine Hadda, who replaced Consul General Michael Mullins.

Ms. Hadda is a Senior Economic Officer with 28 years of experience in the Foreign Service. Ms. Hadda recently served as Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Rome, advocating U.S. economic interests on issues including sanctions, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations, cybersecurity, and barriers to U.S. investment. Originally from New York City, Ms. Hadda received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Smith College, and

her Master of Arts degree in International Affairs from Columbia University. Her husband, Michael Andrews, is an Information Technology consultant specializing in content strategy.

The members of AmCham Hyderabad Chapter welcomed her over breakfast. Each member introduced themselves and gave a brief of their companies. Hyderabad Chairperson Dr. Kiranmai Pendyala of AMD spoke on the strong relationship between AmCham and the U.S. Consulate and briefed Ms. Hadda on the AmCham activities.



Hyderabad Chairperson, Dr. Kiranmai Pendyala of AMD presenting Consul General Hadda with a bouquet



U.S. Consul General Katherine Hadda speaking to Hyderabad members at her welcome breakfast



National Executive Board Member, Mr. Nick Mitchell of Phenomenex addressing CG Hadda



Hyderabad members at the welcome breakfast

Cyber Security Conclave 2016

The second edition of the Cyber Security Conclave 2016 was successfully hosted by Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) on 22nd and 23rd November at HICC, Hyderabad, in partnership with Kennes Exhibitions and supported by AmCham. There was a great response from industry, excellent feedback on the sessions, eminent speakers from all over India, Israel and Netherlands, and even simulation of real-time hacking.

SCSC undoubtedly and consistently proved that it is making a big impact on the cyber security eco system, not only in Hyderabad, but all over India, carving its own niche space in cyber security. We have identified certain important areas like CyberTel emergency response management and malware research to support the Telangana government under the dynamic leadership of IT Minister, Mr. KT Rama Rao.



Eminent speakers with Mr. KT Rama Rao, IT Minister, Government of Telegana, at the Cyber Security Conclave in Hyderabad

Hyderabad Chapter Executive Committee Meeting

The Hyderabad Chapter Executive Committee met on 5th December at the office of the Chairperson of the Hyderabad Chapter, Dr. Kiranmai Pendyala, Corp VP HR,

AMD. The board discussed and planned for AmCham Annual Day 2017 to be held in February as well as the events to be held from January to March 2016.

AmCham Hyderabad Sports 2016



A glimpse of the badminton competition



A tennis match in progress



An employee from CA Technologies playing an intense game of table tennis at AmCham Hyderabad Sports 2016



S&P Capital IQ participating in men's volleyball during AmCham Hyderabad Sports 2016



The women's throwball team from Wells Fargo

BANGALORE

Karnataka Chapter Members Dinner

AmCham's Karnataka Chapter celebrated the chamber's 25th anniversary with a dinner for CEOs of top U.S. companies on 11th December at the Ritz Carlton Ballroom. Heads of GE, Northern Trust, 3M, Saggezza, PwC, IBM, Adobe, Nike, HP, Goldman Sachs, Novell, UTC, Tyco, and EY were present on the occasion.

The Chairman of AmCham's Karnataka Chapter and Managing Director of Synopsis India, Dr. Pradip Dutta, welcomed the attendees. Mr. Sonam Wangchuk

(inspiration for the movie 3 Idiots) gave a speech on his work in the remote hill region of Laddakh. He talked on out-of-box CSR where money is not important. Vice Chairman of the Chapter and Managing Director of Saggezza India, Mr. Iqbal Sait, concluded with a vote of thanks.

The evening was sponsored by Saggezza India, Emirates, Paul John Whiskies and Big Banyan Wines. There were a host of games and prizes distributed. The highlight was a draw for an Emirates business class ticket to Dubai.



Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee Members with Mr. Sonam Wangchuk and Mr. Shashidharan, Deputy Director, Karnataka Udyog Mitra



Chairman of AmCham's Karnataka Chapter, Dr. Pradip Dutta, felicitating Mr. Sonam Wangchuk



Attendees at the dinner enjoying the entertainment

CHENNAI

Meeting with Industries Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu

An AmCham team led by Mr. R. Ramkumar, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AmCham, Mr. A. Viswanathan, Vice Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AmCham and Aubrey Daniels, Regional Director – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AmCham, met with Mr. Vikram Kapur, Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Industries Department on Tuesday, 8th November at the TN Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai.

The meeting was to engage with the state government and to apprise the Secretary on some of the key issues that required intervention and closure. Some of the key issues discussed were:

1) Renewal of consent to operate establish to be granted by the Pollution Control Board

Our member companies on the manufacturing side have been filing applications for renewal of consent to operate on an annual basis. Some members have raised concerns that even though they have complied with all the conditions and have filed the applications on time, the renewal of the consent to operate is still pending – in some cases, even more than two years. For multinational companies, non-receipt of such statutory approvals on time is considered a serious issue and it is very difficult for the Indian subsidiaries to explain to their global headquarters why the approval is pending for such a long time.

Recently, the state government has announced that renewal of the consent to operate can be applied at one time for a period of five to fourteen years (depending on the category of the industry) which is a welcome move. To further enhance the ease of doing business, we suggest that when an application is filed for renewal of consent to operate, there should be a time limit fixed for grant of the renewal of the consent to operate if all conditions are complied with, so that the companies do not have to wait endlessly for the renewal and there is no uncertainty.

2) Industrial incentive for mega/large scale industries – capital subsidy

As per the state government's industrial policy, companies investing above a specified limit in a new plant, are eligible for capital subsidy from the state government. Our member companies have filed applications with SIPCOT and have been following up for a long time, but this remains a long

pending issue with SIPCOT.

3) Setting up a food court in SIPCOT Industrial Estates

In many of the SIPCOT Industrial Estates, there are several workers in small units that do not have a cafeteria/canteen. In addition, there are visitors, truck drivers and other logistics providers who look for a common canteen facility. It will be helpful if a food court can be set up in SIPCOT Industrial Estate and this can be tendered out to some contractors.

4) Reimbursement of VAT under MoUs with MNCs

Some of our members have set up their plants in the state in line with MOUs they have signed with the state government under which they have been granted VAT incentives. They would like to know how the state government proposes to transition these VAT incentives into the GST regime.

5) Proposed cap on the total number of non-permanent workmen (apprentices plus contract)

In some of the engineering industries, especially automotive sector and capital goods sector, the nature of the business requires flexibility in the number of workmen to address fluctuations in demand on account of market volatility as well as seasonal requirements. To address this, companies have been employing a mix of permanent workmen, apprentices and contract workmen (especially in some non-core areas) to cater to fluctuations in demand without being burdened by excess labor force.

Recently, there was an amendment proposed by the state government to the Industrial Employment Standing Orders Act, whereby a ceiling is sought to be specified on the total number of non-permanent workmen as a percentage of the total permanent workmen in the factory. Our members feel this would adversely impact their flexibility to meet the ever changing market requirements and hamper the ease of doing business. Considering that such a proposal could affect the state's ability to attract and retain industries, our members are requesting that the state government reconsider this proposal.

Mr. Ramkumar invited Mr. Vikram Kapur to address AmCham members at the December breakfast meeting to which the Secretary agreed.

AmCham Welcomes New Members

Corporate Members



Mr. Raman Padmanabhan
President & CEO
Thryve Digital Health LLP



Mr. Tabrez Ahmad
Director Corporate Affairs
eBay India



Mr. Suman Reddy Eadunuri
Vice President & Managing Director, Pegasystems India
Pegasystems Worldwide India Pvt. Ltd.



We Should ALL BE
PICKY
EATERS

We never really outgrow being picky. It's only natural to ask questions. One of the biggest questions before nations, and indeed the world is: "How do we feed a growing population?"

Every day, we work with NGOs, farmers, mothers, scientists and others to answer questions and bring about a sustainable future where wholesome nutrition and clothing is accessible to one and all. It's time for an even bigger discussion about food.

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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 Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.

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