



AMCHAM Update



AMCHAM - The Voice of American Business in India

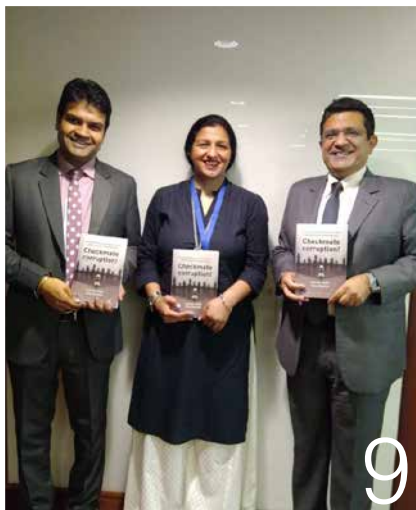
November 2018 | Vol VII | Issue 3



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- Interactive Session on U.S. Visas
- AMCHAM – U.S. Embassy – Invest India Roundtable with DIPP on ICT Sector
- Roundtable with Ambassador Robert Blake Jr., Senior Director, India & South Asia, McLarty Associates
- Interactive Discussion with Ms. Manisha Singh, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- Exclusive Closed Door Dialogue with Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster on U.S. – India Economic Relations
- Interactive Session on How Artificial Intelligence Will Push Business Further

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President and CEO
Wal-Mart India Pvt. Ltd.

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Ms. Kaku Nakhate
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Manager - India
Syniverse Technologies Services
India Pvt. Ltd.

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

Mr. Sanjay Koul
Chairman & Managing
Director
Timken India Limited

Mr. Rajan Aiyer
Managing Director - GM,
SAARC Region
Trimble Information
Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Palash Roy Chowdhury
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Whitney
Board of Director – UTCIPL
United Technologies
Corporation

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Science and Technology
Affairs
U.S. Embassy

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

Special Invitee

Mr. C. R. Dua
Chairman
Dua Associates



Chairperson's Message

It is such an honour for the country as Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi wins the Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth. Congratulations Modi ji. In another significant development, India rose five spots from 2017 position and got ranked as the 58th most competitive economy in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index, 2018. The report highlights market size, innovation, business dynamism and number of disruptive businesses as India's greatest competitive advantages.

We are glad to note that the U.S. has exempted India from imposition of certain sanctions for the development of Chabahar Port in Iran. According to the U.S. - India waiver agreement, India will limit its imports to 1.25 million metric tons per month through March 2019. However, this has helped by lowering cost of petrol and diesel prices in India. In fact, the value of the rupee has also been appreciated by over 3% against the U.S. dollar this month. These changes should contain India's increasing current account deficit (CAD).

In an interactive discussion with Assistant Secretary Manisha Singh, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, various ways were explored to promote partnership with the private sector in the U.S. especially in the development of countries in the Indo region, particularly with regard to infrastructure, energy, digital connectivity and cyber security.

Focusing on U.S. - India economic relations, AMCHAM organized an exclusive dialogue with Ambassador Kenneth Juster, in which he shared an update on the economic relations between the two countries. Ambassador Robert Blake Jr., Senior Director, India & South Asia, McLarty Associates met AMCHAM members for a roundtable discussion and shared his views on a number of issues including the importance of U.S. - India relationship, such as CATSAA, trade strategies, Indo - Pacific cooperation and tariffs on steel and aluminium, among others.

Meanwhile, the Western Region launched AMCHAM's Diversity & Inclusion Committee which was officially unveiled by Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai. Consul General Kagan brought forth the importance of fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace environment open to a broad mix of people. The Hyderabad chapter organized the 6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference in September on the changing landscape in healthcare, its challenges and opportunities. We had the privilege of having Consul General Katherine Hadda, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad as Guest of Honour.

In yet another update, AMCHAM India has been working closely with DIPP and Invest India to address specific concerns of member companies through the India - U.S. Fast Track Mechanism meetings. These meetings will continue regularly to make sure our members' issues and concerns are suitably addressed. Consequently, AMCHAM in partnership with Invest India and the U.S. Embassy, held a roundtable with IT and telecom companies with DIPP Joint Secretary, Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal. This initiative is extremely important to build strong businesses in India. Let's all support and work towards the socio-economic prosperity of the nation.

Krish Iyer
Chairperson, AMCHAM

DELHI

India – U.S. Fast Track Mechanism Meeting

Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIPP, called a meeting of U.S. companies having specific concerns or challenges in India on 11th September 2018 in New Delhi. AMCHAM forwarded specific issues received from its members. Officials from other Ministries such as

DoT, MeitY, Finance, Commerce, etc. were also present to respond to the issues raised by AMCHAM members. From AMCHAM, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, and Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General, along with a few members, participated in the meeting.

Agriculture & Food Processing Committee Meeting

On 20th September 2018, AMCHAM met with Mr. Pankaj Mahajan, Cargill from the Agriculture & Food Processing Committee to discuss the roadmap of the committee. The megatrends in food and food system transformations to

meet evolving consumer needs were discussed. The committee plans to take up certain sector specific issues to bring in a sustainable environment for trade and manufacturing.

Interactive Session on U.S. Visas

On 21st September 2018, AMCHAM members were briefed by the Consular section of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi on U.S. visas. The speakers from the Embassy were Mr. George H. Hogeman, Consul General and

Ms. Maribel Vasquez Molina, Vice Consul. The session was well attended by members and a number of visa-related issues were clarified with participants



AMCHAM members at an interactive session on U.S. visas with U.S. Embassy officials



Mr. George H. Hogeman, Consul General, U.S. Embassy



Ms. Maribel Vasquez Molina, Vice Consul, U.S. Embassy

Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee Meeting

AMCHAM members from the Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee met on 21st September, 2018 at UTC office in Gurgaon. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Arun Kumar Jain, Chairman – Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and MD, Fluor Daniel India and Mr. Samit Ray, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Director Government Affairs, UTC. The discussion focused on enhancing the committee's outreach in infrastructure programs, based on members feedback. Infrastructure would provide more opportunities for members and hence should be concentrated upon.

The Infrastructure Committee would constitute expert groups to drive projects in following areas:

- Smart Cities
- Airports
- Roads and Highways
- Railways
- Metro
- Ports

CSR Committee Concall on Relief Work in Kerala

AMCHAM's CSR Committee had a conference call under the chairmanship of Mr. Harish Krishnan, Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC, Cisco Systems (India) on 28th September 2018 to discuss the ongoing flood relief for Kerala. Mr. Krishnan had recently met with officials in the Chief Minister's office and updated participants on the work underway. With limited NGOs working on the

ground, members mentioned the following NGOs they have already partnered with: Oxfam, Akshaya Patra Foundation, Goonj, CAF and Habitat for Humanity. It was decided that AMCHAM would collect information about the contributions members have made to rebuild Kerala and solicit interest in having an umbrella AMCHAM project that many companies contribute to, such as, sponsoring the reconstruction of a tower or building.

Manufacturing Committee Conference Call for Make in India Event

AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee under the leadership of Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM And Chairman & Managing

Director, Timken India Limited and Mr. Amit Bansal, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Corning India, held a conference

call on October 3rd to plan a signature event for the committee. Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd., joined the discussion. The Manufacturing Committee and Supply Chain & Logistics Committee agreed to partner with Invest India for a half day 'Make in India' event on

February 8th, 2019 in New Delhi. It was decided to focus on the following sectors for roundtable discussions with industry and GOI: 1) mobile and electronic hardware 2) agriculture and food processing 3) automotive and machinery 4) fast moving consumer goods and 5) supply chain & logistics.

AMCHAM – U.S. Embassy – Invest India Roundtable with DIPP on ICT Sector

AMCHAM India, in partnership with Invest India and U.S. Embassy, held a roundtable with IT and telecom companies at Invest India with DIPP Joint Secretary, Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal. Members raised issues and concerns around data localization, CRO safety testing, public procurement, PMA, M2M/IoT and remote access, amongst

others. Representatives from the Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MeitY), Department of Telecom (DoT) and Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) were also present and made note of the issues raised. Members were assured of support from the government while the concerns were being addressed.



Members of AMCHAM's ICT and Cyber Security Committee with Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIPP and representatives from DoT, TEC, Invest India and the U.S. Embassy

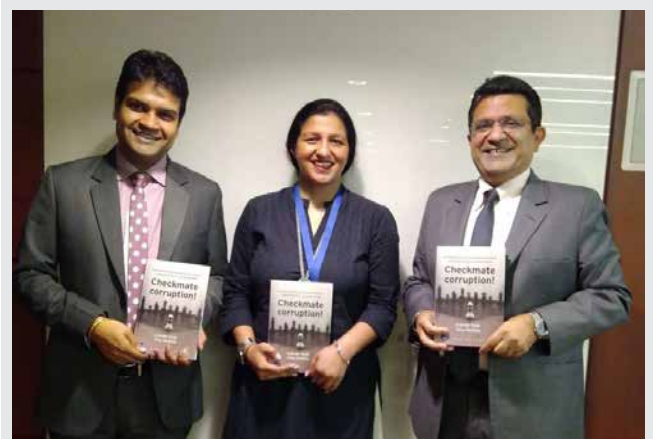


(L-R) Mr. Amrish Bakaya, HPE, Mr. Arijit Sen, Flex, Mr. Matt Ingeneri, Economic Growth Unit Chief, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General, AMCHAM, Mr. Erick Kish, Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy, in a roundtable discussion addressing issues in the ICT sector

Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee launched 'Understand, Outmanoeuvre and Win Against Unethical Practices in Corporate India: Checkmate! Corruption' with EY

The Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee held the book launch of *Understand, Outmanoeuvre and Win Against Unethical Practices in Corporate India: Checkmate! Corruption* in association with EY on 10th October 2018, at the EY office in Gurugram. The welcome address was given by Ms. Ritika Ratti, Chairperson – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer & Head of Anti-Corruption, Walmart India, followed by a keynote address on 'Corruption and the Integrity Agenda' by Mr. Arpinder Singh, Partner and Head – India and Emerging Markets, Forensic & Integrity Services, EY, the co-author of the book. Later Mr. Vinay Garodiya, Partner, Forensic & Integrity Services, EY, presented on 'Decoding the Corruption Conundrum.' He explained that the book contained interviews of senior officials from 35 AMCHAM member companies on their FCPA related challenges in India and how they successfully navigated through them. The in-depth analysis provided readers with insight on how to decode the problem of corruption and mitigate potential corruption risks. Thereafter, members

had an interactive roundtable discussion on 'Strategies to Accomplish the Checkmate Effect' and asked a few questions from the authors. The meeting ended with a networking luncheon.



(L-R) Mr. Vinay Garodiya, Partner, Forensic & Integrity Services, EY, Ms. Ritika Ratti, Chairperson – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer & Head of Anti-Corruption, Walmart India and Mr. Arpinder Singh, Partner and Head - India and Emerging Markets, Forensic & Integrity Services, EY

Defense Committee Meeting

On October 11th, 2018, AMCHAM's Defense Committee met in New Delhi for a focused briefing on the concluded U.S. – India 2+2 Dialogue and the one-on-one between the U.S. Defense Secretary and the Indian Defence Minister. The session also included a brief of DSCA LTG Charles Hooper's meeting with DG (Acq) Apurva Chandra. The USG views on the outcomes of the recently concluded

Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) and the current status of negotiations on the Industrial Security Annex and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) were also discussed, along with the upcoming mil-mil exercises. More than twenty four Defense Committee members participated in the interactive session.

Meeting with Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry

On 12th October 2018, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India met with Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and

Industry. The meeting led to a constructive discussion on enhancing U.S.-India economic partnership and the way forward.



Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu with Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM

Roundtable with Ambassador Robert Blake Jr., Senior Director, India & South Asia, McLarty Associates

On October 15th, 2018, AMCHAM organized a roundtable with Ambassador Robert Blake Jr., Senior Director, India & South Asia, McLarty Associates, in New Delhi. In his opening remarks, Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Boeing India Defense, Space & Security, gave an overview of the business environment in India. Ambassador Blake (previously Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia at the State Department and Ambassador to Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia) gave an insightful

and candid view from Washington DC on the upcoming U.S. elections and issues of importance in the U.S. – India relationship, such as CATSAA, trade strategies, Indo – Pacific cooperation and tariffs on steel and aluminium, among others. Ambassador Blake emphasized the goodwill that Indian American members of Congress have generated on Capitol Hill over the years. Closing remarks were made by Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM. The session was hosted at the Boeing office.



Members with Ambassador Robert Blake Jr., Senior Director, India & South Asia, McLarty Associates



Ambassador Robert Blake Jr., Senior Director, India & South Asia, McLarty Associates and Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Boeing India Defense, Space & Security

Interaction with USTDA Officials

AMCHAM held a thought provoking interaction over breakfast, on the energy sector, with visiting USTDA officials led by Mr. Todd Abrajano, Senior Advisor to the Director, Mr. John Krotzer, Country Manager, South Asia and Ms. Mehnaz Ansari, Country Representative, South Asia, at the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi on 30th October 2018. Mr. Abrajano informed participants that 50% of USTDA activity was in the energy sector and its export multiplier (ROI) was the highest in USTDA history, returning \$104 for every dollar invested in USTDA activities. He highlighted the U.S. Natural Gas Export Initiative and support for related LNG import infrastructure. Ms. Ansari and Mr. Krotzer gave the background leading to the MoU

between AMCHAM and CHT (MoPNG) in May '18 for U.S. India collaboration in refining and petrochemicals. They informed members about the Global Procurement Initiative by USTDA in Houston, attended by RTM companies from India and their appreciation of the life cycle value addition concept as opposed to the lowest cost bidder criteria. In the open interaction that followed, participants shared their insights on bio-fuels, technology for conversion of biomass to bio-crude, operational risk solutions, local procurement practises, areas of business opportunity etc. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General, AMCHAM India.



Participants at an interaction with USTDA officials



(L-R) Ms. Mehnaz Ansari, USTDA Representative, India, South and Southeast Asia, U.S. Embassy, Mr. John Krotzer, Country Manager, South Asia, USTDA, Mr. Todd Abrajano, Senior Advisor to the Director, USTDA, and Ms. Dinah McDougall, Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy

MUMBAI

Interactive Discussion with Ms. Manisha Singh, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State

On Tuesday, 4th September 2018, AMCHAM organized an interactive discussion with Ms. Manisha Singh, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, in Mumbai. The meeting began with welcome remarks by Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman and CEO, KPMG in India, who welcomed and introduced Assistant Secretary Manisha Singh. This was followed by a brief address by Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai. Through her keynote address Assistant Secretary Singh shared her perspectives of both the State and Economic Department on the Indo-Pacific strategy as an area of partnership between the U.S. and Asia with

special focus on India and China. She also highlighted the intent of the U.S. government to explore ways to promote partnership with U.S. private sector in the development of the countries in the Indo region, especially with regard to infrastructure, energy, digital connectivity and cyber security. She then ushered in an interactive discussion with AMCHAM members inviting them to share issues, feedback and discuss potential areas of economic and development partnerships. The meeting concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Amit Advani, Chairman & Managing Director, Swagelok Company, Mumbai.



U.S. Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, Ms. Manisha Singh, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman and CEO, KPMG in India with AMCHAM members



(L-R) U.S. Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, Ms. Manisha Singh, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman and CEO, KPMG in India, and Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM

Western Region Committee Meeting

A meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee (WRC) 2018-2019 was held on Thursday, 6th September 2018. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India and welcome address by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India. Committee members actively discussed agenda points which included updates and next steps towards the upcoming exclusive interactive discussion with Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster and senior

representatives of U.S. companies in India scheduled to be held on 26th Sept in Pune and AMCHAM's WR Signature Event 2018 – 'Opportunity in Volatility' which is scheduled to be held on 6th December in Mumbai. The meeting concluded with Mr. Hitesh Sharma, Vice Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Partner, National Head of Life Science Industry, Ernst & Young, thanking committee members present for their valuable input and support.

Site Visit and Tour of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Interactive Discussion with Senior Officials of JNPT

On Friday, 7th September 2018, AMCHAM India organized a site visit and tour of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) followed by an interactive discussion with senior officials of JNPT. The site visit commenced with a briefing on the history, functions and project 'Jawaharlal Nehru Port SEZ' by Mr. RR Gaikwad, DM-PPD. The participants then proceeded from the SEZ site to the model room of JNPT's administrative building where a 3D model showcased JNPT's capability and operations. An insightful presentation highlighted benefits of the state-of-the-art port.

This was followed by a roundtable meeting with senior officials of JNPT SEZ led by Mr. S. Sittarasu, CEO, JNPT. The meeting commenced with Mr. Sittarasu welcoming the AMCHAM delegation and thereafter addresses were made by Ms. Jennifer Larson, Deputy Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai and Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India respectively. A presentation on JNPT SEZ highlighted the role of the port in the Make In India initiative and Ministry of Shipping's Sagarmala Project. The participants were then taken on an exciting and informative tour to the port site.

Following the port visit, the AMCHAM delegation met with Mr. Vivek Johri, IRS, Chief Commissioner Customs and senior members of the Customs Department at the JNPT Customs House. The roundtable meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal and Ms. Jennifer Larson. Mr. Johri highlighted initiatives and schemes of the department in facilitating companies across services highlighting on release time, single window clearance and the AEO process. In the candid discussion that followed, members shared success stories, queries, issues and challenges. Mr. Johri and his team promptly responded to the issues and invited AMCHAM member companies present to send in their inputs to support a study group initiative started by the Customs Department.

The meeting and events of the day concluded with closing remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal who thanked Mr. Johri for the wonderful opportunity of interaction extended to AMCHAM and stated that the meeting and the site visit to JNPT was truly a reflection of ease of doing business.



Members during a site visit and tour of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mumbai



AMCHAM members in a candid discussion with Mr. Vivek Johri, Chief Commissioner Customs and Senior Customs officials at Jawaharlal Customs House

Breakfast Session on Safeguarding Company Assets: Data Theft and Management Misconduct

On Tuesday, 11th September 2018, AMCHAM India in partnership with BRG Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd. organized a breakfast session on 'Safeguarding Company Assets: Data Theft and Management Misconduct.' The event began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India. This was followed by welcome remarks and an introduction to the subject by Mr. Abhijit Yadav, Principal, BRG Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Sundarapariyurnan N, Associate Director, SKP Group.

In the first session of the morning Mr. Vishal Oza, Discovery and Technology Services, Berkeley Research Group, shared his expert insight on 'Employee Investigations in Data/IP Theft Situation – Do's and Don'ts in the Early Days of GDPR.' An open house discussion saw participants sharing their views and queries on the subject.

The second session of the morning was an engaging roundtable debate on 'Forensics to Prevent, Detect and Investigate Senior Management Misconduct.' The conversation was led by industry experts Mr. Nitesh Jain, Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, Mr. Praveen Thomas, Director – Senior Legal Counsel, SSG Capital Management, Mr. Abhijit Yadav, Principal, BRG Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Sundarapariyurnan N, Associate Director, SKP Group.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Stuart Witchell, Managing Director – Asia-Pacific, BRG, who thanked everyone present for a wonderful and insightful event.

Exclusive Closed Door Dialogue with Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster on U.S. – India Economic Relations

On 26th September 2018, AMCHAM India organized an exclusive closed door dialogue with Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster, U.S. Ambassador to India on 'U.S. – India Economic Relations' in Pune. Ambassador Juster shared an update on the U.S. – India 2+2 Dialogue and the economic relations between both countries.

The meeting commenced with welcome remarks by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India. Mr. Krishnamurti expressed that it was indeed a privilege for AMCHAM to have Ambassador Juster address captains of U.S. industries on the occasion. He shared the vision and overview of AMCHAM's initiatives and activities in the Western Region and thanked Consul General Edgard Kagan and team for the great partnership that AMCHAM shares with the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai. Through her address, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice

Chairperson, AMCHAM and President and Country Head, India, Bank of America N.A. highlighted the significant contributions being made by U.S. companies in CSR, the cutting edge leadership of companies in e-commerce as well as an overview of the U.S. – India growth story. Mr. Satish Nadiger, Managing Director and CEO, John Deere India Pvt. Ltd. shared a perspective of the role of U.S. companies in Pune and the growth of the city as a leading manufacturing and IT hub in India. He also spoke of the many initiatives of John Deere India Pvt. Ltd. including their technology centre and their partnership with the state government to create opportunities of employment and development for Indian farmers. The interactive discussion moderated by Ms. Kaku Nakhate brought forth issues of U.S. companies doing business in India. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Nakhate.



(L-R) Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM, Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman - Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India, Ambassador Kenneth Juster, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM, and President & Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A., Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai and Mr. Satish Nadiger, Managing Director and CEO, John Deere India Pvt. Ltd.



AMCHAM's exclusive closed door dialogue with Ambassador Kenneth Juster on 'U.S. - India Economic Relations' in Pune

Interactive Session with Experts from Invest India on 'The Growth of Transportation, Infrastructure and MMLP in India' with a Special Focus on Sagarmala, Bharatmala and FDI Investments in the Sector

On 12th October 2018, AMCHAM India's Supply Chain and Logistics (SCL) Committee organized an interactive session with experts from Invest India on 'The Growth of Transportation, Infrastructure and MMLP in India' as part of its Learning and Sharing initiative. The session began with welcome remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India and Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – SCL Committee, AMCHAM & Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Jasmine Singh, Senior Executive Director, CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd. thanked the speaker, Mr. Rahul Agarwal,

Principal Investment Specialist, Invest India and all the participants for joining on the occasion at the CBRE office and stated that he looked forward to an engaging and insightful session. Mr. Rahul Agarwal, Principal Investment Specialist, Invest India, shared a detailed presentation on infrastructure and logistics projects of the Government of India while focusing on Sagarmala, Bharatmala and FDI investments in the sector. An engaging and dynamic discussion followed. The event was well appreciated by all who participated.



(L-R) Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd; (2) Ms. Charu Aggarwal, Regional Supply Chain Manager – North, Kellogg India Private Limited, and Chairman - Supply Chain and Logistics (SCL) Committee, AMCHAM and Mr. Rahul Agarwal, Principal Investment Specialist, Invest India



Participants at the interactive session with experts from Invest India on 'The Growth Of Transportation, Infrastructure And MMLP In India'

Launch of Diversity & Inclusion Committee by Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai

On Wednesday, 17th October 2018, AMCHAM's Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee was launched by Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai at the Bank of America office in Mumbai. The event began with welcome remarks by Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, who warmly welcomed Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, his wife Ms. Cynthia Gire who was also present and the esteemed congregation of CEOs and senior D&I leaders of AMCHAM's membership. Through her address she highlighted AMCHAM's origin and history, the significant efforts and activities of the sectoral committees and the initiatives of AMCHAM's Western Region. The excitement was palpable as Consul General Edgard D. Kagan officially unveiled and launched the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. In his keynote address, he brought forth the importance of fostering a workplace environment open to a broad mix of people and for leaders to understand how to get the best out of their strengths. He spoke positively of the willingness of U.S. companies to actively incorporate D&I as part of its corporate DNA and stated that the process of achieving inclusion is as important as the end result.

Mr. Indranil Sen Gupta, Co-Head, India Research, Co-Chair, India Diversity & Inclusion Council, Bank of America, made an address and gave a presentation that highlighted how Bank of America is driving the D&I agenda with a focus on women at the workplace, supporting the differently abled and LGBT advocacy. He also spoke of D&I best practices and efforts especially in Asia. To conclude he stated that he was reminded of a quote by Helen Keller, "The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM, shared insight into the architecture, mission, scope, pillars of the committee (gender diversity – focus on advancing women, disability and LGBTQ) and the roadmap for the future. She further went on to invite the esteemed panel of speakers for the next segment of the evening – the fireside chat. The panel comprised of Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, Mr. Sanjiv Navangul, Chairman – Pharma Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director – Janssen India, Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Chairman – HR Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director –

India, Cognizant Technology Solutions with moderator Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India.

Mr. Krishnamurti ushered in the discussion by stating the need to nip micro regressions in the bud before they lead to macro regressions. During the fireside chat, Consul General Kagan spoke on his impression of how D&I is catching up in India compared to other APAC countries. Mr. Sanjiv Navangul spoke on the high value that Johnson & Johnson places on creating an inclusive workplace, their program on 'unconscious bias' to inculcate sensitivity among its employees, and the initiative of a daycare at the office to ensure women come back to work post child birth. Mr. Ramamoorthy spoke on the importance of integrating the strengths and capabilities of differently abled employees within the organization and the efforts therein undertaken at Cognizant Technology Solutions. He also spoke on the imperativeness of consciously involving employees across different age groups in the growth story of an organization. The interactive Q&A that followed brought forth a discussion on the need to succeed in creating not only a diverse demographic but to ensure that organizations have an inclusive mindset. The discussion also raised questions on measuring the success of D&I. Mr. Krishnamurti closed the fireside chat with a quote by Malcolm Forbes, "Diversity is the art of thinking independently together."

Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM, Chairperson – D&I Committee, AMCHAM, President & Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A., through her closing remarks once again highlighted the mission and the roadmap of AMCHAM's D&I Committee and urged CEOs and D&I leaders of member companies to actively participate and percolate the initiatives of the committee and to promote creative conversations within the corporate community. She shared that the committee plans to meet on a quarterly basis and aims to hold a national event on completion of the 1st year of committee. She concluded by thanking Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, the esteemed speakers and participants for joining on the occasion of the launch event.



Participants at the launch of AMCHAM's D&I Committee



(L-R) Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM, Chairperson - D&I Committee, AMCHAM and President and Country Head (India), Bank of America, Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India, Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, Mr. Sanjiv Navangul, Chairman – Pharma Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director – Janssen India, Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Chairman – HR Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director – India, Cognizant Technology Solutions



Mr. Indranil Sen Gupta, Co-Head, India Research, Co-Chair, India Diversity and Inclusion Council, Bank of America makes and address at the Launch of AMCHAM India's D&I Committee



Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai officially launches AMCHAM India's Diversity and Inclusion Committee

HYDERABAD

6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference: Changing Landscape in Healthcare – Challenges and Opportunities

AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter organized the 6th Healthcare Conference in Hyderabad on September 28th, 2018. Accessibility, quality, affordability and transparency are key tenets to strive for in healthcare. The ability to make each of these beliefs a reality lies not just with policy makers and physicians, but with investors, hospitals, insurance companies, researchers, pharmaceutical, medical devices, diagnostic and patient-care companies, all of whom make up the healthcare ecosystem. Given the context, the overall theme of the conference was "Changing Landscape in Healthcare: Challenges and Opportunities." A focus on different domains was important to generate the right perspective and hence the focus of the conference was not limited to healthcare delivery models in isolation.

The conference began with a welcome address by Mr. Shashidhar Reddy, Chairman – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM, followed by an address by Consul General Katherine Hadda, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad, who was the guest of honor. The inaugural address was given by Dr. Subhash Khuntia, Chairman, Insurance Regulatory Authority of India. Session 1 focused on 'Creating the Right Healthcare Delivery Modes: Services, Geographies and Quality.' Mr. Satya Gottumukkala was the moderator for this panel with Dr. GN Road, Founder & Chairman, LVPEI, Mr. Hari Thalapalli, CEO,

Call Health and Mr. Harish Krishnaswamy, COO, Tata Trust. Session 2 touched on 'Healthcare Innovation – Disrupting Conventional Business Models.' This was led by Mr. Ratan Jalan, Founder, Medium Consulting, along with Mr. Rajaram Sankaran, Director Strategy, Abbott, Mr. Rajendra Srivastava, Dean ISB and Mr. Manish Sharma, Senior Medical Director, PAREXEL and Mr. Hari Bhardwaj, Founder, eSahai. They shared diverse views on the disrupting conventional business models and how innovation is the door for newer solutions. Session 3 dealt on the subject of human resources – 'The Unfulfilled Gap: Role for Skill Development and Quality.' Led by Dr. Ambuj Chaturvedi a neuro surgeon from Medtronic along with Mr. Vaibhav Tewari, COO, Portea Medical, Mr. Srinivasa Rao, CEO, Apollo MedSkills and Mr. Satya Gottumukkala. The last session of the day concentrated on 'Balancing Profitability and Affordability: Role and Challenges for Different Stakeholders.' This was led by Mr. Ritesh Dogra, Partner, Medium Consulting, along with Mr. Manish Bajaj, VP, India Business, Dr. Reddy's, Mr. Divya Prakash, Site Director, Medtronic, Mr. Ram Rangarajan, Director, Stryker Global and Mr. Rahul Paith, COO/Director, DocOnline.

Delegates included entrepreneurs, start-ups, and mid to senior managers from different healthcare formats. Some of the delegates were quite senior and accomplished in their respective fields. There were around 150 participants.





A session on 'Profitability & Affordability' (L-R) Mr. Ritesh Dogra, Medium Consulting, Mr. Manish B., Dr. Reddy's, Mr. Divya Prakash, Medtronic, Mr. Ram Rangarajan, Stryker Global and Mr. Rahul Paith, DocOnline



Session on skill development (L-R) Mr. Vaibhav Tiwari, Portea, Dr. Ambuj Chaturvedi, Medtronic, Mr. P Srinivasa Rao, Apollo MedSkills and Mr. Satya Gottumukkala



Participants at the 6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference

Hyderabad Chapter Sports

AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018 began with cricket and basketball on September 29th and 30th. Cricket matches were played at Vijay Anand Grounds, Babukhan Cricket Grounds and VBCC II. The basketball

games were held at the premises of CA Technologies, a member of AMCHAM India. The weekend culminated with D.E. Shaw as the winner of basketball with Wells Fargo as the runners up.



CDK Global cricket team at Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018



Cricket match in progress at the Babukhan Cricket grounds



Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018 - winners and runners up of women's doubles tennis at the CA Technologies tennis ground



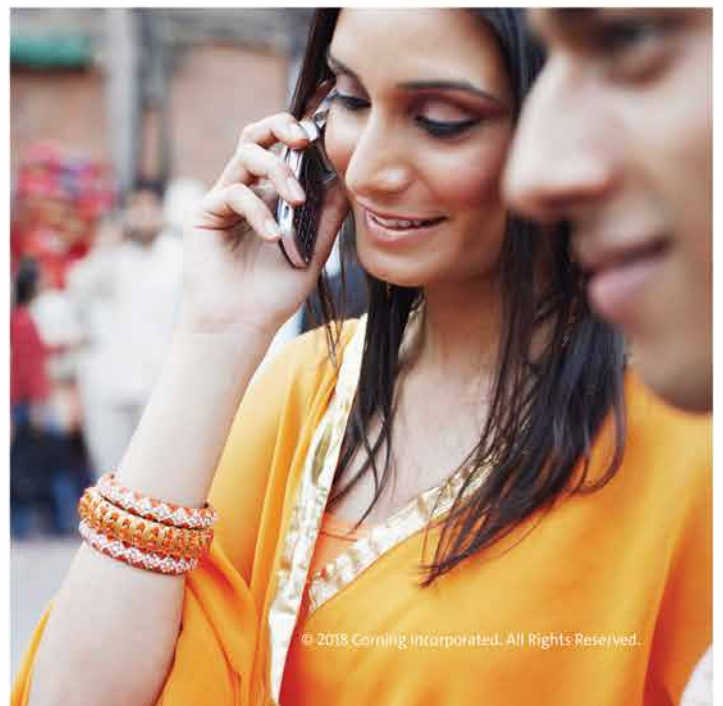
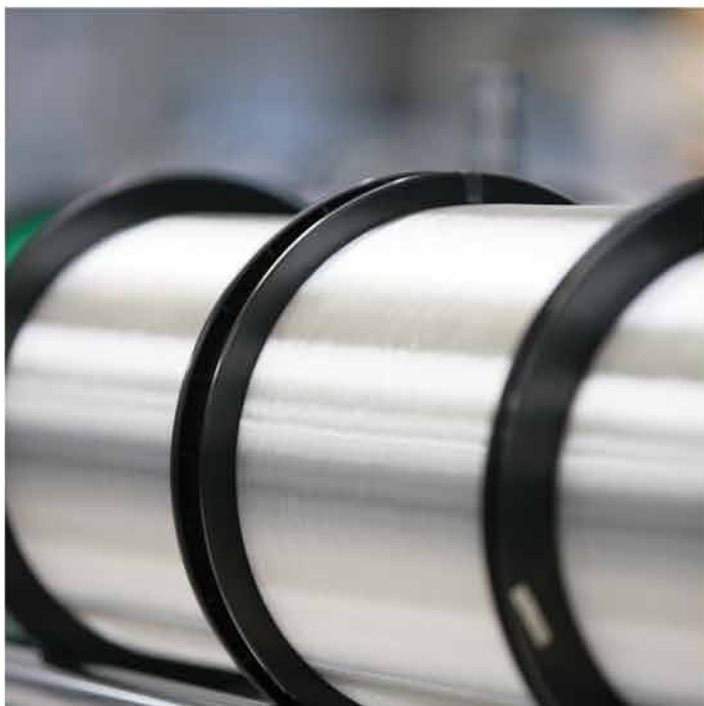
Synchrony doubles tennis match in progress at CA Technologies tennis court

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KOLKATA

Meeting with Ms. Vandana Yadav, Managing Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC)

On September 13th, 2018, Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM and Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, met with

Ms. Vandana Yadav, IAS, Managing Director, WBIDC. Ms. Yadav briefed Mr. Sen and Ms. Kidwai on the upcoming Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) 2019.

Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting

Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM hosted the Eastern Region Executive Committee meeting at the TCG Digital office on September 14th, 2018. He updated members on his meeting with Dr. Mitra, MIC in Charge of Finance and Commerce and Industry held in August, 2018 on the upcoming BGBS 2019. He also

updated members on his meeting with Ms. Vandana Yadav, IAS Managing Director, WBIDC. Mr. Sen mentioned that he would work on getting a business delegation to the BGBS event in 2019. He also discussed forthcoming meeting and the interactive session on 'How Artificial Intelligence Will Push Business Further' was finalized.

Interactive Session on How Artificial Intelligence Will Push Business Further

AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized an interactive session on 'How Artificial Intelligence Will Push Business Further' at the Hyatt Regency, Kolkata on September 24th, 2018. The panellists included Professor Sudeshna Sarkar, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence, IIT Khargapur, Mr. Arnab Basu, Partner, PwC, leading the Technology Consulting Practice for PwC in India and part of PwC Global Technology Leadership team, and Ms. Namrata Dubashi, Partner McKinsey & Company, who leads the Eastern Region operations. Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM and CEO, TCG Digital Solutions, moderated the session. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, made introductions, Mr. Surajit Banerjee, a former Chairman and Eastern Region Executive Committee member gave welcome remarks and Ms. Birgit Holms, Eastern Region Executive Committee member gave concluding remarks.

The panellists briefly covered the history of artificial intelligence, a term which was coined as early as 1956, and spoke about AI's popularity thanks to increased data volumes, advanced algorithms and improvements in computing power and storage. They spoke about early work which paved the way for automation and formal reasoning that we see in computers today, including

decision support systems and smart search systems that can be designed to complement and augment human abilities.

As one of the most popular technologies, AI has a growing impact on companies of all sizes. They spoke about the influence and applications of artificial intelligence in healthcare, mobility, and financial services. They spoke about companies advancing this technology into products used on a daily basis. Just in its nascent stage, AI is yet to showcase its most exceptional applications in the product and service industry. They touched upon how AI has recolonized the healthcare industry and is one of the most promising technologies in the sector. They touched upon AI in mobility mentioning that Uber has already invested in assisted driving and is currently testing autonomous cars, which is an exceptional side of AI.

They discussed how AI is growing, and service-sector companies, as well as their industrial counterparts, will move to integrate this technology into their mechanisms. The future for companies working with AI assistance is going to be a bright one. While some felt that AI would affect how humans reacted to making quick and difficult decisions which would in turn diminish their gut feeling in the decision-making process, the general consensus was that AI is not here to replace us, as it augments our abilities and makes us better at what we do. Because

AI algorithms learn differently than humans, they look at things differently. They can see relationships and patterns that escape us. This human/AI partnership offers many opportunities. It can bring analytics to industries and

domains where it is currently underutilized. It also means that humans have to keep upscaling their skills. As one panellist said, there would not be any end to learning!



▶ Panellists at an interactive session on 'How Artificial Intelligence Will Push Business Further' (L-R) Professor Sudeshna Sarkar, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence; IIT Khargapur, Mr. Arnab Basu, Partner, PwC, Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM and CEO, TCG Digital Solutions and Ms. Namrata Dubashi, Partner McKinsey & Company



▶ Ms. Birgit Holm, Eastern Region Executive Committee member, AMCHAM and General Manager, Hyatt Regency Kolkata



▶ Member posing a question to the panellists

Roundtable Discussion on GST, Credit Concerns, Advance Ruling and Audit – Latest Developments, Impact Areas and Way Forward

AMCHAM's Eastern Region, and its knowledge partner, EY, hosted a roundtable discussion on GST on 23rd October 2018 at TCG office in Kolkata. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, welcomed members and Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, former Chairman of the Eastern Region, ER Executive Committee member and Partner, EY Tax and Regulatory Service, gave opening remarks which was followed by a presentation on GST updates by Mr. Sidhartha Jain, Partner, EY and Mr. Vijay Chhangani, Director, EY.

EY updated the participants about the GST annual return, audit requirements and steps required to be followed for preparation of the annual return (GSTR 9) and GST audit (GSTR 9C), as the due date for these compliances is December 2018. Various GST challenges that members face and queries generated during interactive sessions were clarified by the EY team. In the very vibrant and conducive Q&A session, members shared their experience over the past one year on the GST implementation.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, who suggested members should start working on the annual return and audit requirements, as only two months were left and the same involves a

mammoth exercise of detailed state level bifurcation of financial statements and reconciliation of the same is GST returns filed so far.



Mr. Sidhartha Jain, Partner, EY, presenting to members on GST



Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, former Chairman of the Eastern Region, ER Executive Committee member, AMCHAM and Partner, EY Tax and Regulatory Service

BENGALURU

Breakfast Session on Simplified GST Returns

The GST Council, in its 28th meeting announced the introduction of a 'simplified GST return' which proposes to reduce the compliance burden by allowing all taxpayers to file one monthly return in place of the existing 3 returns, which would be effective from January 1, 2019. To ensure business readiness to deal with this change, AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter, along with PwC, held a breakfast

session on simplified GST returns on September 5th, 2018, at the Conrad Bengaluru. CFOs and Tax Heads of leading U.S. companies participated. Mr. Kunal Wadhwa, Partner, PwC, conducted the informative session, which was followed by an interactive discussion where participants clarified any doubts they had on GST. PwC sponsored the event.

Meeting with UPS Senior Leadership

UPS senior leadership, on a visit to Bengaluru, met with members of AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter over a networking session and a panel discussion at the Shangri-La Bengaluru on 9th October 2018. One of the senior leadership team is poised to possibly be the future Global CEO of UPS. The UPS leaders present were Ms. Michelle Ho, Vice President Intra Asia Strategy – Singapore, Mr. Stuart Lund, Vice President Global Airfreight – USA, Ms. Penny Nas, Vice President and District Manager for International Public Affairs – Belgium, Mr. Peter Harld, President of UPS China – Shanghai, China, Ms. Shellie Shellabarger, Director of Operations Small Packages – USA, Mr. Joel Stenson, Vice President Plant Engineering – USA and Mr. Yuri Boshyk, Facilitator Global Executive Learning – Canada.

The discussion was primarily focussed on the overview of the business climate in India, transformation of India, sustainability trends, major U.S. companies who play an important role in India, latest developments in technology and its implementation and best practices of doing business in India. The participants from AMCHAM Karnataka included Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Head of EMEA Operations Saggezza, Mr. Amit Sharma, COO IBM India and Mr. Pradip Dutta, Managing Director of Synopsis South Asia and Group Vice President of Synopsis Inc.



Karnataka Chapter members with UPS senior leadership on a visit to Bengaluru



AMCHAM members in discussion with UPS senior leadership

Session on Nuances of Managing Foreign Subsidiaries in India with Sannam S4 and JSA Advocates

A session was hosted in collaboration with AMCHAM Karnataka, Indo American Chamber of Commerce and Bengaluru Chamber of Commerce and Industry, by Sannam S4 and JSA Advocates, on 'Nuances of Managing Foreign Subsidiaries in India: Key Tax, Regulatory and Labour Considerations' on Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018 at WeWork Galaxy, Bengaluru. The event was attended by representatives from HR, finance and legal departments

of Bengaluru based MNCs and was led by Mr. Micheal Green, General Manager India, Sannam S4, Mr. Abhinav Sood, Head of Client Relations and International Projects, Financial Consulting, Sannam S4, and Mr. Sajai Singh, Partner, J. Sagar Associates. From AMCHAM, Ms. Payal Satish, Regional Director – Karnataka Chapter, attended the session.



CHENNAI

Breakfast Meeting with Key Officers of the U.S. Consulate General, Chennai

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter organized a meeting with key officials from the U.S. Consulate General in Chennai on September 27th, 2018. The guest speakers included Consul General Robert Burgess, Mr. James Fluker, Principal Commercial Officer and Mr. Kent May, Consular Chief. The meeting began with Mr. Aubrey Daniels, Regional Director – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM welcoming participants and officers from the Consulate. In his opening remarks Consul General Robert Burgess gave members a bird's eye view of the recent happenings in Indo – U.S. relations. He added that the other interesting developments are the strategic partnership on Afghanistan, economic development through regional stability in South Asia, cooperation in the Indo Pacific region, working with the United States in keeping the maritime trade routes open and the freedom for the navy to navigate the sea in the area. The other important developments have been the growing partnership in science, technology and education. He went on to state that economic and commercial ties have strengthened with trade at \$125 billion a year, two-way investment at \$45 billion. He briefed participants on the outcomes of the recently held U.S. – India 2 + 2 Dialogue and emphasized the strength of the people to people connection between both countries.

In his remarks, Principal Commercial Officer, Jim Fluker, said that there are about 1,900 U.S. companies operating in India. He added that India was the lead partner in Indo-Pacific cooperation and that Commerce Secretary will

lead a delegation of 100 companies for the U.S. – India CEO Forum to India. He mentioned the next big initiative 'Trade Winds,' the largest annual U.S. government-led trade mission headed to India during May 6th – 8th, 2019. Trade Winds would facilitate networking sessions with key industry contacts, schedule individual meetings with U.S. economic diplomats, gain first-hand market insight and solidify Indo-Pacific business strategy during the visit to India.

Chief of Consular Services, Kent May, in his address to members said that the mission post in Chennai was quite large with 45 U.S. citizens and over 200 Indian staff working at the Consulate. He requested members to inform all U.S. citizens working in their companies to register with the American Citizen Services section at the Consulate. Registrations could be done online at www.travel.state.gov. Mr. Kent May said that Chennai and India beat the trend of a downturn in visas issued globally. In Chennai the Consulate processed over 300,000 visa applications and the pan India figure was over 1.1. million. He also added that the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs will travel to India in October 2018 and will be visiting New Delhi and Chennai.

During the interactive session, Mr. Kent May addressed various visa questions. The meeting concluded with thanks by the Regional Director Mr. Aubrey Daniels to the officers of the Consulate and to the members who participated at this meeting.



From the U.S. Consulate General Chennai (L-R) Mr. James Fluker, Principal Commercial Officer, Consul General Robert Burgess and Mr. Kent May, Consular Chief



AMCHAM members at a breakfast meeting with key officials of the U.S. Consulate General, Chennai

Breakfast Meeting on 'How Chennai is Gearing up to Meet the Challenges of Monsoon Season'

On October 10th, 2018 AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter held a breakfast meeting on how Chennai is gearing up to meet the challenges of monsoon season. The meeting was chaired by Mr. R. Ramkumar, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM and Executive Director – India, Cognizant Technology Solutions. The guest speaker was Dr. K. Satyagopal IAS, Additional Chief Secretary & Commissioner, Revenue Administration, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The tone for the meeting was set by Mr. Ramkumar who welcomed the participants and the guest speaker. Mr. Ramkumar said that the Executive Committee had decided on this topic as the monsoon season predicted by the Indian Meteorological Departments was set to bring heavy rains in Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Satyagopal started off his presentation by saying that preparedness leads to safety and that the Tamil Nadu government and the State Disaster Management Authority follow a culture of safety. He quoted Benjamin Franklin who said, "by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

Dr. Satyagopal's presentation focussed on the impact of disasters, estimation of losses in various types of disasters, preventive measures without disturbing the

environment, administrative infrastructure, readiness to handle disasters, compensation to be awarded, rebuilding post-disaster, how to plan developmental activities by taking into account of the disaster management plans and funds required for handling such catastrophes. He added that his office has prepared 'The Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Perspective Plan 2018 – 2030,' which conforms to the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction, United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goals of 2030, Paris Agreement on Climate Change and its goals, National Disaster Management Plan of 2016 and Prime Minister's 10-point agenda on disaster risk reduction, which formed the basis for preparing the futuristic plan.

Dr. Satyagopal said that there has been a paradigm shift in the focus of disaster management, from response-centric covering rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction to laying greater emphasis on the other elements of disaster management cycle – prevention, mitigation, and preparedness – as a means to avert or soften the impact of future emergencies. The Revenue Administration, Disaster Management and Mitigation Department (RADMMD), is in the process of strengthening disaster management capacity in the state by providing access

to essential facilities, creating support systems and building human capacities. To cope effectively with crisis and emergency situations, the department coordinates with the other state departments, policy makers and technical institutions to develop well-defined strategies to manage crises and also to mitigate the risks caused by the same. The Commissioner of Revenue Administration undertakes all activities relating to disaster management and mitigation besides managing relief and rehabilitation activities of any disaster in the state. He added that the Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Revenue Administration is also the Relief Commissioner.

Explaining the working of the Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Authority, Dr. Satyagopal said that the Revenue Administration Department places equal importance on preparedness, response and mitigation to develop a robust disaster management unit in the state. Information on state-of-the-art technology and equipment to be used during emergencies were collated and necessary actions were being taken to strengthen the control rooms in the state and districts. Efforts are also on to strengthen emergency management systems at the taluk and sub-divisional levels.

Dr. Satyagopal stressed on the fact that procedures and systems pertaining to preparedness and relief were periodically reviewed and necessary improvements made. Efforts were also being taken to train the personnel in revenue administration to handle complex disaster situations to bring down its impact on human life or property. Further the department also reiterates the necessity to continuously undertake measures to build capacity among all the disaster management stakeholders and to create awareness among the community members. To give high importance to this task, the State Relief Commissioner is a member of the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), with the Chief Minister as its Chairperson.

At the district level, the District Collector has the responsibility for the overall management of disasters. He has the authority to mobilize the response machinery and has been given financial powers to draw money under the provisions of the General Financial Rules/Treasury

Codes. All departments of the state government including the Police, Fire Services, Public Works, Irrigation etc., work in a coordinated manner under the leadership of the District Collector during disasters, except in metropolitan areas where the municipal body plays a major role. NGOs have also participated in providing relief, rescue and rehabilitation in recent times. Dr. Satyagopal added that 'Standard Operating Procedures' have been prepared for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear disasters.

In conclusion Dr. Satyagopal said that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction has 4 priority areas, which are: understanding disaster risks; strengthening disaster risk governance; investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness through effective response, building better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Dr. Satyagopal invited all corporate businesses in the state to partner with the government in this task by investing some of their CSR funds in projects identified by the state administration. He said that there was no need to transfer funds to the government. The corporate businesses could undertake work identified by the government and the district administration and government departments would support any such initiative undertaken as a CSR project.

An interesting interactive session followed and the meeting concluded by Mr. Ramkumar thanking Dr. Satyagopal for making a very detailed presentation on the state government's preparedness to manage the monsoon and other natural calamities in Tamil Nadu.



Dr. Satyagopal IAS, Additional Chief Secretary addressing AMCHAM members on the state's preparedness to manage the monsoons



Participants at the breakfast meeting

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AMCHAM Welcomes New Members

Corporate Members



Mr. Vishal Seth
Consultant
SpencerStuart India Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. David Peterson
Interim Director, Nevada Department of Tourism
and Cultural Affairs
Nevada Division of Tourism / Travel Nevada



Mr. Virat Bhatia
Managing Director – Strategy & Policy
Apple India Pvt. Ltd.

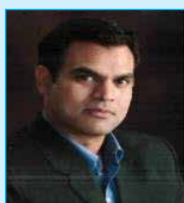


Mr. Lakshman K Cheruvu
Senior Director
Quest Diagnostics HTAS India Private Limited



Mr. Praveen Kumar Rawal
Managing Director, India & South East Asia
Steelcase Asia Pacific Holdings India Pvt. Ltd.

Additional Members



Mr. K. Murali Krishna
Principal Group Manager
Microsoft India (R&D) Pvt. Ltd.



Ms. Saloni Gupta
Head – External Affairs
Apple India Pvt. Ltd.

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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 :

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- Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC)
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Published by: American Chamber of Commerce in India

Address: PHD House, 4th Floor, 4/2, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi - 110 016

Printed at Multiplexus (India), C-440, Narela Industrial Park, DSIIDC, Narela, Delhi - 110040

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