

25 Years of India-U.S. Business Partnership

Annual Report 2016-2017



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Chairman's Message

2017 is an exciting and landmark year for AMCHAM as we celebrate its Silver Jubilee. What began as the American Business Council 25 years ago with a small number of business leaders representing American companies, has grown and was renamed the American Chamber of Commerce in India.

During this period, we saw India transform from a closed economy to an open economy. The journey of reforms, which started in 1991, is continuing at a much faster pace. Most of the Indian sectors are now open for foreign direct investment. Similarly, the environment for doing business in India has been considerably eased. The roll-out of GST expected in July will be one of the biggest tax reforms and a game changer. These measures have allowed India to grow in the range of 7-8 per cent during the last few years, amidst slowdown across the world.

During this period – last 25 years, U.S.-India relationship saw many ups and downs but the bumps have disappeared and now we are seeing a mature, stronger, deeper and strategic relationship. Even though both the countries have seen changes in leadership, we are confident that this relationship between the two countries will be a defining partnership.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit the U.S. soon for his first meeting with President Donald Trump. The U.S. industry is confident that both the leaders will engage with each other and take forward this strong relationship which spans strategic, economic, cultural and people-to-people ties. It is hoped that both sides will resolve issues relating to free movement of people and goods between the two countries.

India-U.S. trade has crossed U.S. \$110 billion and will continue to grow. U.S. cumulative investment to India since 1992 is estimated to be upward of \$50 billion. We are optimistic of further U.S. investments and a win-in-win situation in economic and business partnership, particularly in defence, energy, infrastructure, agriculture and food processing, IT and environment, to name a few. U.S. businesses support Prime Minister Modi's initiatives such as 'Make in India', Skill India, Digital India, Start-Up India and Smart Cities.

Since its establishment 25 years ago, AMCHAM has not only made important contributions to the U.S.-India relationship, but has represented the cause of American companies in India and provided an essential voice in shaping Indian policies both at the Centre and the States. Through its sectoral committees, AMCHAM has driven sector-specific industry agenda helping solve a few complex issues between the two countries. AMCHAM has also facilitated its members to expand their geographical interests by mounting business delegations of American companies to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka. During the Annual Door Knock delegation to Washington D.C., members met Congressmen and U.S. Government officials to discuss U.S.-India economic issues.

Reflecting on the work done by AMCHAM during the last year, we can point to continued success and growth of bi-lateral trade and deep engagement on industry issues. It has been a productive time for the Chamber. Some of the important events organized include meetings with visiting U.S. Government officials, meetings with Indian Government Ministers and officials and Chief Ministers and officials of various Indian States. We organized sessions on IPR, ICT, healthcare, taxation, cyber security, CSR, defence and aviation, HR, infrastructure and smart cities, agriculture and food processing, and supply chain to name a few.

While I lay down my office as Chairman of AMCHAM, I would like to convey my sincerest thanks and appreciation to the U.S. and Indian Governments, particularly, the U.S. Embassy and the Consulates in India for their support. I wish to thank both the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Richard Rekhy and Mr. Gulshan Kumar Sachdev and the entire National Executive Board for providing their time, knowledge and expertise in enabling me to carry out the responsibilities at AMCHAM. My special thanks to Mr. Atul Dhawan, Hony. Secretary and Treasurer, who guided the Chamber throughout the year in financial matters and to Mr. Ranji Dua for his continued good counsel. The Regional Chairmen actively participated and supported the activities of their regions successfully, our sincere gratitude and appreciation for their leadership and engagement.

The Chairmen and Co-Chairmen of AMCHAM's sectoral committees do most of the heavy lifting on industry issues and drive the agenda of the Chamber. We thank them for devoting their time and efforts in presenting industry specific agendas to take the India-U.S. relations forward. Finally, I would not have been able to carry out the duties as Chairman of AMCHAM without the able support of the entire secretariat led by Ms Ranjana Khanna, who joined the Chamber as the Director General a few months back and Ms Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director.

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, AMCHAM has brought out a special publication called "THE INDIA JOURNEY - AMCHAM India celebrates 25 years of American companies' contribution to India's economy, society and U.S.-India friendship". This publication shares the journey and success stories of some of the member- companies in India and reflections of the past Chairmen of AMCHAM and former U.S. Ambassadors. This book will be released at the Inaugural Session of the AGM.

Pratyush Kumar

Chairman



Director General CEO's Report 2016 – 17

AMCHAM India completes 25 years of facilitating the journey of U.S. companies in India. India's economic reforms initiated almost three decades ago, catalyzed increasing engagement of U.S. companies in India. The irreversible partnership has withstood successive changes of governments in both countries, growing stronger across sectors. AMCHAM has been the active industry partner, consistently providing inputs in over fifty bilateral G2G dialogues. Commercial and strategic ties between the United States and India have been reaffirmed with the new administration, and the recent visits of lawmakers and NSA from the U.S. and Indian ministers of Finance, Commerce, NSA and the Foreign Secretary visiting Washington during the last quarter. The U.S. President and the Indian Prime Minister are expected to meet shortly, further synergizing the partnership.

AMCHAM members have been active participants in India's Inclusive growth story. The CSR Committee launched a compendium titled Happily Going Miles for Their Smiles – CSR Activities of U.S. Companies in India at the AMCHAM AGM in April 2016. The compendium has showcased remarkable CSR activities that AMCHAM members are involved in across India.

A 19 member delegation of AMCHAM India Medical Devices Committee members visited Dhaka with a purpose to understand the ongoing development in the Healthcare Sector in Bangladesh and the impact on allied Industries. The delegation members met with the State Minister, Ministry of Health and several other officials in the Ministry of Health including officials from the DGDA (Regulatory Authority), DGHS and discussed challenges like counterfeit, spurious instruments and other regulatory concerns.

AMCHAM has been diligently advocating for policy issues and the regular interactions with decision makers in the center as well as the state are a testament to this effect. AMCHAM met with Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Shipping, Road, Transport and Highways, as well as Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis and his team of ministers and officials.

In June 2016, the annual door knock delegation went to Washington D.C. India's intellectual property laws were reviewed during an interactive session between AMCHAM and Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) in July. This was followed by the visit of the Medical Devices Committee members to Colombo, Sri Lanka, to explore business opportunities in the healthcare sector (with a special focus on medical devices sector) as well as promote U.S. - Sri Lanka trade in healthcare. The delegation met with officials from the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine including Deputy Minister, Mi, Secretary, Director General Health Services, Ministry of Health and Chairman and CEO of National Medicine Regulatory Authority (NMRA).

Ambassador Haverkamp, Special Representative for Environment and Water Resources, U.S. Department of State, met with AMCHAM's Aviation Committee to discuss a global market-based measure to address CO2 emissions from international aviation that was adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly (ICAO).

AMCHAM organized its 4th Annual Healthcare Conference in September which provided a platform to all stakeholders to discuss and deliberate the issues and challenges on the road to achieve "Healthcare for all." During the 2016 Healthcare Conference, AMCHAM members met with Mr. K. T. Rama Rao, Cabinet Minister for IT E&C, MAUD, Industries & Commerce, Mines & Geology, Public Enterprises and NRI Affairs just before the 4th AmCham Healthcare Conference. This was followed by a roundtable meeting with Mr. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh at Indore. Hyderabad also served as the venue for AMCHAM's Cyber Security Conclave 2016 in November and AMCHAM's Sports Event from September 2016 to January 2017.

In October, supporting the Indian government's focus on Make in India and ease of doing business, AMCHAM's Defense Committee members met with the Ms. Deborah Lee James, Secretary, U.S. Air Force, followed by a meeting with Ambassador Richard Verma, offering an overview of the opportunities and concerns for defense sector. Over the period of last year AMCHAM's Defense Committee also engaged with Under Secretary of Defense (AT&L) Mr. Frank Kendall and Keith Webster, Director, International Cooperation (AT&L). They also met Vice Admiral Rixey, Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

In November, AMCHAM met with the Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes before the Union Budget 2017-18. There was a meeting with the officials from the Department of Aviation, Government of Haryana, to discuss AMCHAM members support

in developing Hisar as an Aerotropolis. A photo exhibition on CSR titled, "American Business Making a Difference" was also launched. The AMCHAM Agriculture Committee met Minister Counselor, USDA, Mr. Scott Sindelar and Ms. Alexis Taylor, Acting Under Secretary/Deputy Under Secretary, U.S. department of Agriculture, to discuss opportunities in the agriculture and food processing. A white paper on capabilities of member companies in this sector has been prepared by the AMCHAM Agriculture and Food Processing Committee.

January 2017 started with the engagement of members with the Government of Gujarat, followed by a meeting with the Chief Minister Vijay Rupani accompanied by his official team, followed by active participation of members in the Bengal Global Business Summit 2017 in Kolkata.

In February 2017, AMCHAM was in full strength during the Aero India show meeting officials from the U.S. Department of Defense and also Mr. R. V. Deshpande, Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure for Karnataka. Mr. D.V. Prasad, I.A.S, Additional Chief Secretary to Karnataka (Commerce and Industry) and Mr. Gaurav Gupta, I.A.S., Commissioner (Industry). AMCHAM hosted the traditional U.S. Aerospace and Defense Industry Reception on the eve of Aero India 2017.

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. AMCHAM's Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee held an interactive session with Mr. Chandramauli Shukla, CEO, Bhopal Smart City Limited and their Strategic Adviser, Mr. Animesh Parihar.

During the U.S.-India ICT Dialogue AMCHAM's ICT Committee met with Ms. Angela Simpson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and briefed her on IoT, encryption, CRI, public procurement, BIS standards, labeling and import of refurbished products. These were also discussed with Dr. Aruna Sharma, Secretary, department of electronics and information technology, India.

AMCHAM also submitted its pre and post budget memorandum to the Ministry of Finance with the help of the Tax, Tariff and Regulatory Affairs Committee. AMCHAM also had a presence at the India-U.S. Smart Grid Workshop to discuss the state of smart grid technology, both U.S. and Indian.

AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee held a series of events on 'Technology and Innovation in Supply Chain: Featuring Best Practices at Instavans & BlackBuck (Logistics)', 'Leveraging on Innovation & Technology in Supply Chain', 'Demystifying GST' and 'Supply Chain in 2025 and ASRS Warehouse Design.

AMCHAM's Defense Committee members met with Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs (DNSA), Mr. Adewale "Wally" Adeyemo. AMCHAM members discussed the U.S.- India economic dialogue structure effectiveness in advancing U.S. industry priorities. The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs, Ms. Tina Kaidanow met AMCHAM's Defense Committee members to discuss offsets, Licensing issues and Challenges working in India.

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted an interactive session with Ambassador Robert Holleyman, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative; Dawn M. Shackleford, Deputy Assistant USTR; and Conor Harrington, IPR director, USTR. Members also got the opportunity to meet a high-level U.S. Congressional delegation of important U.S. lawmakers led by the Chairman of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, led by Representative Bob Goodlatte.

AMCHAM's Defense Committee called upon and met with Mr. A K Gupta, Secretary Defense Production, Mr. Vijayendra, Joint Secretary (DOMW) and Ms. Smita Nagaraj, Director General (Acquisition) to apprise them of the activities of the committee and suggested recommendations to the Indian Defense policies.

As we set this 25th milestone in place, we look back to historic events - the U.S. elections ushering in new rules, demonetization in India and the introduction of GST in India and look forward to enhancing the economic partnership further.

Our sincere thanks to our Honorary President, the U.S. Ambassador, the U.S. Embassy team, Chairman, National Executive Board Members, Committee Chairs and AMCHAM members for their support during these last 25 years. We greatly value your membership with AMCHAM and look forward to your continued support. We welcomed 52 new members who joined us this year. The substantive work above is possible only with complete dedication and diligence of the AMCHAM Secretariat team, pan India and their sustained efforts deserve sincere appreciation and grateful thanks.

Ranjana Khanna

Director General CEO

AMCHAM's National Executive Board 2016-17

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

- Nine members elected by the general body
- Six regional chapter chairmen
- Immediate past chairman

- Six members elected by regional chapters
- Two honorary members from U.S. Embassy
- One special invitee

Office Bearers

Honorary President – Ambassador of U.S.A. H.E. Mr. Richard R. Verma (Till Jan. 2017)

Chairman

Mr. Pratyush Kumar President, Boeing India Boeing International Corporation India Pvt. Ltd.

Vice-Chairman

Mr. Richard Rekhy Chief Executive Officer KPMG in India

Vice-Chairman

Mr. Gulshan Kumar Sachdev Managing Director Quaker Chemical India Limited

Hon. Secretary & Treasurer

Mr. Atul Dhawan Chief Strategy Officer Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP

Immediate Past Chairperson

Ms. Vanitha Narayanan Chairman IBM India Pvt. Ltd.

Executive Board Members 2016-2017

Mr. Krish lyer President & CEO Wal-Mart India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Arun Kumar Jain Managing Director Fluor Daniel India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Kaher Kazem President & Managing Director General Motors India Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Varun Khanna

Managing Director

Becton Dickinson India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Venkatesh Kini

President - India and South West Asia

Coca-Cola India Pvt. Ltd.

Ms. Rekha M. Menon

Chairman and Managing Director

Accenture in India

Accenture Services Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Nick Mitchell

Managing Director

Phenomenex India Pvt. Ltd.

Special Invitee

Mr. C. R. Dua

Chairman

Dua Associates

Honorary Members

Mr. George N. Sibley

Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs & Environment, Science and Technology

U.S. Embassy

Mr. John M. McCaslin *

Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs

U.S. Embassy

Mr. Patrick Santillo**

Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs

U.S. Embassy

Regional Chapters

Northern Region Council

Chairman

Mr. Rustom J. Desai***

Managing Director, Corning India & Optical Communications

Corning India

Hyderabad Chapter

Chairperson

Dr. Kiranmai Pendyala

CVP HR Greater Asia

AMD R&D Center India Pvt. Ltd.

Representative

Mr. Madan Mohan Rao Yalamanchili

Executive Chairman

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

Karnataka Chapter

Chairman

Dr. Pradip K. Dutta

Corporate VP & Managing Director

Synopsys (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Representative

Mr. Iqbal Sait

Head of Asia Operations

Saggezza Inc.

Eastern Region

Chairman

Mr. K.P. Sengupta

Chairman

Data Core (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Tamil Nadu Chapter

Chairman

Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy

Sr. VP - Marketing Corporate Affairs & Communications

Cognizant Technology Solutions

Representative

Mr. A. Viswanathan

Dy. Managing Director

BS&S Safety Systems India Limited

Western Region

Chairman ****

Mr. Sukanti Ghosh

Managing Director, India

APCO Worldwide India Pvt. Ltd.

Representative

Ms. Kaku Nakhate

President & Country Head (India)

Bank of America N.A.

****Till 28th Nov 2016

AMCHAM India Sectoral Committees 2016 –17

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

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

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

Committee	Chairman	Co – Chairman
Agriculture and Food Processing	Mr. Ram K. Mudholkar President, DuPont South Asia & Business Director DuPont Crop Protection E. I. DuPont India Pvt. Ltd.	Mr. Siraj Azmat Chaudhry Chairman Cargill India Pvt. Ltd.
Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance	Ms. Ritika Ratti Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer and Head of Anti–Corruption Walmart India Pvt. Ltd.	
Aviation	Mr. Palash Roy Chowdhury MD – India (Pratt & Whitney – CS&GS) United Technologies Corporation India Pvt. Ltd.	Mr. Amber Dubey Partner and Head – Aerospace and Defence KPMG in India
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	Mr. Harish Krishnan Executive Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC Cisco Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd.	_
Defense	Mr. Phil Shaw Chief Executive – India Lockheed Martin India Pvt. Ltd.	Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta Partner – Global International Corporate Tax KPMG in India Mr. Michael M. Koch Vice President – Defense, Space & Security Boeing India Defense Pvt. Ltd.
Economic Affairs	Mr. Sanjeev Gupta Country General Manager – Public Sector Microsoft Corporation (India) Pvt. Ltd.	

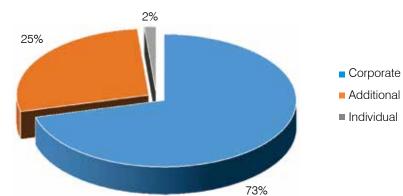
Committee	Chairman	Co – Chairman
HR Committee	Mr. D.P. Singh Vice President – Human Resources (India/South Asia) IBM India Pvt. Ltd.	Mr. Sameer Mathur Senior Vice President HR Citibank N.A.
Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	Mr. Amit Sharma Executive Vice President & President Asia ATC India	Mr. Vivek Vasishtha Country Leader – Govt. & Regulatory Affairs IBM India Pvt. Ltd.
		Mr. Naveen Tandon Director – IEA AT&T Communication Services India Pvt. Ltd.
Infrastructure and Smart Cities	Mr. Arun Kumar Jain Managing Director Fluor Daniel India Pvt. Ltd.	Dr. Jaijit Bhattacharya Partner, Govt. and Infrastructure Cities & Innovation KPMG Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd.
		Mr. Pawan Gupta Vice President (Water & Urban Development) AECOM India Pvt. Ltd.
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	Ms. Meenu Chandra Director – IPR, Legal and Corporate Affairs Microsoft Corporation India Pvt. Ltd.	Ms. Sanjit Kaur Batra Senior Legal Counsel E. I. DuPont India Pvt. Ltd.
Manufacturing	Mr. Rampraveen Swaminathan Chairman & Managing Director International Paper APPM Ltd.	Mr. Sanjay Koul Chairman & Managing Director Timken India Limited
Medical Devices	Mr. Prabal Chakraborty Vice President & Managing Director Boston Scientific India Pvt. Ltd.	_
Pharma	Mr. Sanjiv Navangul Managing Director – Janssen India Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd.	Mr. Nick Mitchell Managing Director Phenomenex India Pvt. Ltd.
Supply Chain and Logistics	Mr. Srini Sarangapani Director Operations Timken Engineering & Research India Pvt. Ltd.	Mr. Milind Tailor Head– Supply Chain Management Diebold Systems Pvt. Ltd.
Tax and Tariff	Mr. Amarjeet Singh Partner and Head of Tax – North India KPMG in India	Ms. Neeru Ahuja Partner, Global Business Tax Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP

AMCHAM Membership 2016 –17

AMCHAM Type of Membership

Table - I

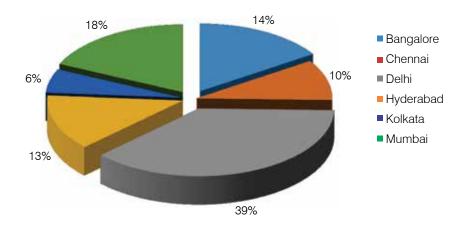
Type of Membership	Total
Corporate	342
Additional	131
Individual	6
Total Membership	479



AMCHAM Regions Wise Members

Table - II

Regions	Total
Bangalore	69
Chennai	49
Delhi	186
Hyderabad	61
Kolkata	28
Mumbai	86
Total Membership	479



Analysis of Events Organized by AMCHAM during 2016–2017

Table - I

Chapter	Number of Meetings
Bangalore	11
Chennai	18
Delhi	94
Hyderabad	23
Kolkata	35
Mumbai	31
Total Events	212

AMCHAM Meetings and Events Between Regions

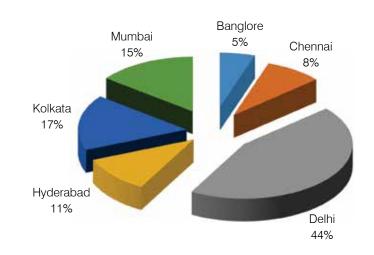
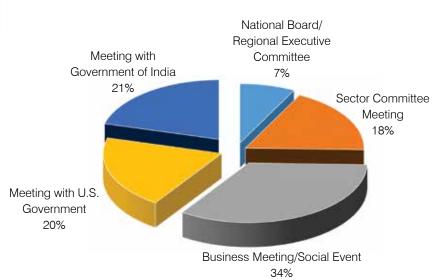


Table - II

Chapter	Number of Meetings
National Board/Regional Executive Committee	16
Sector Committee Meeting	38
Business Meeting/Social Event	72
Meeting with US Government	42
Meeting with Government of India	44
Total	212

AMCHAM Meetings and Events



AMCHAM New Members

List of New Members from 1st April, 2016 to till date

S.No.	Member's Name	Organization
DELHI		
1.	Ms. Neha Soni	American Airlines
2.	Mr. Michael Herbert	American Heart Association
3.	Mr. Arvind Agarwal	Amritt India Associates Pvt. Ltd.
4.	Mr. Abhishek Vats	Bank of America
5.	Ms. Neelam Makhijani	ChildFund India
6.	Mr. Gaurav Karnik	Ernst & Young LLP
7.	Mr. Srinivasan Rajagopalan	General Motors India Pvt. Ltd.
8.	Mr. Vikas Vasal	Grant Thornton India LLP
9.	Mr. Rajiv Srivastava	НР
10.	Mr. Ashwan Wadhwa	IOMEDIA India Pvt. Ltd.
11.	Mr. Ranjit Singh	Jarvis Equipment Pvt. Ltd
12.	Ms. Jyoti Bhasin	NSF Safety and Certification India Pvt. Ltd.
13.	Mr. B.B. Singh	NSF Safety and Certification India Pvt. Ltd.
14.	Mr. Deepak Maheshwari	Symantec Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
15.	Mr. Vivek Kumar Singh	Valvoline Lubricants & Solutions India Pvt. Ltd.
BANGA	LORE	
16.	Mr. Vinod Chandran	Brocade Communications Systems Pvt. Ltd.
17.	Mr. Gaurav Singh	Courtyard by Marriott and Fairfield by Marriott
18.	Mr. Ricardo Teague	iGate Global Solutions Limited
19.	Mr. Snehil Gambhir	J C Penney Services India Pvt. Ltd.
20.	Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Sawhney	KCI Medical India Pvt. Ltd.
21.	Mr. Rajeev Nagi	Teleflex Medical Pvt. Ltd.
22.	Mr. Joydeep Nag	TE Connectivity India Pvt. Ltd.

CHENN	CHENNAI			
23.	Mr. Raji Koshy	Cookson India Pvt. Ltd.		
24.	Mr. Kulvinder Singh Ratra	Dover India Pvt. Ltd.		
25.	Mr. Rohit Gambhir	ESAB India Limited		
26.	Mr. Amardeep Devadason	RR Donnelley India Outsource Pvt. Ltd.		
27.	Mr. Raman Padmanabhan	Thryve Digital Health LLP		
28.	Mr. Arun Devaraj	Visteon Technical and Services Centre Pvt. Ltd.		
29.	Mr. P. Kaniappan	WABCO India Limited		
HYDER	ABAD			
30.	Mr. Madhu Poomalil	Arcesium India Pvt. Ltd.		
31.	Mr. Ranvijay Lamba	Arcesium India Pvt. Ltd.		
32.	Mr. Naveen Kumar Reddy Munnangi	Belcan India Pvt. Ltd.		
33.	Mr. Ranjan Patnaik	E.I. DuPont India Pvt. Ltd.		
34.	Mr. Suman Reddy Eadunuri	Pegasystems Worldwide India Pvt. Ltd.		
35.	Mr. Praful Wairagade	Tower Automotive India Pvt. Ltd.		
36.	Mr. Madhu Krishnamoorthy	WaterHealth India		
KOLKA	ГА			
37.	Mr. Naishadha Upadhyay	Pepsico India Holdings Pvt. Ltd.		
MUMBA	Al			
38.	Mr. B. Raghavendran	Cisco Systems India Pvt. Ltd.		
39.	Mr. Ranjit Nambiar	Datacard India Pvt. Ltd.		
40.	Mr. Ron Reed	Jacobs Engineering India Pvt. Ltd.		
41.	Mr. Mukul Varshney	John Deere India Pvt. Ltd.		
42.	Mr. Suryakant Pandey	Kimberly Clark Lever Pvt. Ltd.		
43.	Mr. Rakesh Tripathi	MWV India PaperBoard Packaging Pvt. Ltd.		
44.	Mr. Sudipto Roy	Principal Retirement Advisors Pvt. Ltd.		
45.	Mr. Sachan Saini	Procter & Gamble Home Products Pvt. Ltd.		
46.	Mr. A.R. Shankar	Sterling Information Resources India Pvt. Ltd.		
47.	Mr. G.V. Prasad	Sterling Talent Solutions		

AMCHAM

Highlights of events held in 2016 –17



AMCHAM Bangalore

Dr. Pradip K. Dutta, Chairman, AMCHAM Karnataka Chapter and Corporate VP & MD Synopsys (India) presenting memento to Hon'ble Minister Mr. R.V. Deshpande, Minister for Large & Medium Scale Industries & Tourism, Govt. of Karnataka

Date

Meetings / Events

16th June 2016

Panel Discussion on Doing Business in Karnataka & U.S. - India Trade

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter organized a session on doing business in Karnataka and U.S. – India trade to coincide with the national executive board meeting. The chief guest and keynote speaker was Hon'ble Minister Mr. R.V. Deshpande, Minister for Large & Medium Scale Industries and Tourism, Government of Karnataka.

Other eminent speakers for the evening were by Dr. Pradip K. Dutta, Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Corporate Vice President & Managing Director Synopsys (India) Private Limited, Mr. Pratyush Kumar Chairman, AMCHAM, and President, Boeing India, and Mr. John M. McCaslin, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy.

Mr. Phillip Fracassa, Executive Vice President & CFO Timken, spoke on American companies manufacturing in Karnataka and across India. Mr. Munesh Makhija, Vice President, GE India Technology Centre & CTO–GE South Asia, spoke about infrastructure innovation for India. The session ended with closing remarks by Mr. Phillip A. Min, U.S. Consul General in Chennai. The event was attended by NEB members, industry leaders, bureaucrats and members of the local chapter.

27th July 2016

Interactive Session with Ambassador Robert Holleyman, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative

AMCHAM hosted an interactive session over dinner with Ambassador Robert Holleyman, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, at the Oberoi Hotel in Bangalore. The USTR team also included Dawn M. Shackleford, Deputy Assistant USTR, and Conor Harrington, IPR Director, USTR, Ken W Mcbride, Political/Economic Officer from the American Consulate in Chennai and representatives from the U.S. Commercial Services.

29th July 2016

Deloitte Session on Understanding the 'Extended Enterprise' Managing Third Party Corruption Risks

AMCHAM Karnataka Chapter partnered with Deloitte for an interactive session on understanding the "extended enterprise." The speakers included Mr. Sumit Makhija, Partner – Forensic Financial Advisory, Deloitte India and Mr. Rama Prasad, VP & MD, Esterline India.

The discussion revolved around managing third party corruption risks and elaborated on the FCPA and Indian law. Case studies outlined the risk exposure due to third parties and the associated damages. The session also covered creating a framework for managing third party corruption risks.

6th Sept 2016

Interactive Session with Dr. Parthasarathi Shome on GST Roll Out

AMCHAM Karnataka Chapter, in association with PwC, organized an interactive session with Dr. Parthasarathi Shome on GST rollout – industry preparedness on 6th September 2016, in Orchid, The Oberoi, MG Road Bangalore.

Opening remarks were made by Mr. Pradip Dutta, Chairman, AMCHAM Karnataka Chapter. He introduced the well–known Dr. Parthasarathi Shome, Chairman, International Tax Research & Analysis Foundation (ITRAF).

Dr. Parthasarathi Shome spoke about tax revenue and administration indicators, GST countdown, ideal structure of GST, concerns with India's GST framework, GST concerns, GST council, why administrators like GST and its revenue productivity, and key changes proposed by the 2016 amendments to the constitution. The discussion continued with remarks by Kunal Wadhwa, Partner, PWC on the various impacts of GST on industry.

21st Sept 2016

The Changing Landscape of Global Immigration by Fragomen Worldwide and AMCHAM

AMCHAM India along with Fragomen Worldwide, organized a conference on "The Changing Landscape of Global Immigration." Mr. Saju James, Partner Fragomen India, welcomed the guests and briefly spoke on collaboration, talent management and global mobility. Mr. Austin T. Fragomen also spoke. The key note address was by Mr. Lance Kaplan, Partner, Fragomen Worldwide and focused on worldwide corporate immigration trends, significant shift in policies, and the importance of short term travel.

The panel discussion on U.S. immigration – enforcement trends and upcoming legislation featured speakers Ms. Cynthia J. Lange – Partner, Fragomen Worldwide, Ms. Carmita Alonso – Partner, Fragomen Worldwide, Mr. R. Blake Chisam – Partner, Fargomen Worldwide and Mr. Ravi K. Raghunathan – Global Immigration Leader, IBM. The session was moderated by Mr. Scott J. Fitzgerald, Partner, Fragomen Worldwide.

11th Dec 2016

Karnataka Chapter Members Dinner

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter celebrated the chamber's 25th anniversary with a dinner for CEOs of top U.S. companies 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.

13th Feb 2017

Roundtable with U.S. Government Defense Officials at Aero India 2017

AMCHAM India and USIBC co-hosted the U.S. Government Defense officials for a roundtable on the occasion of Aero India 2017 in Bangalore. Ms. Beth McCormick, Director, DTSA, was the leader of the delegation and was joined by Ms. Heidi H. Grant, Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, Mr. Keith Webster, Director, International Cooperation Office, OUSD, Mr. Robert L. Moore, Deputy to the Commanding General, USASAC, Ms. Karen Williams, Senior Advisor, Bureau of Political – Military Affairs, DoS, Mr. Patrick Santillo, Counselor for Commercial Affairs and Captain Robert Ogden, Chief of Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC). The U.S. industry leaders discussed the new administration's priorities, 'Major Defense Partner' status and U.S. industry participation in 'Make in India' programs.

13th Feb 2017

AMCHAM and USIBC Joint Reception for Defense and Aerospace Industry at Aero India 2017

AMCHAM India and USIBC co-hosted a U.S. defense and aerospace industry reception on 13th February on the occasion of Aero India 2017 in Bangalore. The event was supported by BAE Systems, Boeing, Honeywell International, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Pratt & Whitney, Raytheon, Rockwell Collins, Textron and Kallman Associates. Over 250 defense industry professionals participated and the Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy, Ms. MaryKay Carlson made brief remarks as the guest of honor.

15th Feb 2017

Meeting with Mr. R.V. Deshpande, Minister for Large & Medium Industries & Infrastructure Development

AMCHAM members met with Mr. R V Deshpande, Minister of Commerce & Industries, Mr. Gaurav Gupta, IAS, Commissioner for Industrial Development, GoK and Mr. D.V. Prasad, I.A.S, Additional Chief Secretary to Karnataka Govt. for Commerce & Industry, on the sidelines of Aero India 2017 at the Karnataka Udyoga Mitra Hall at Yelahanka air show grounds.

The Government of Karnataka officials highlighted the government's vision to achieve inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth and its ability to host a number of reforms and initiatives to speed up industry–led growth in the state. The state's industrial policy for 2014–19 aims for an annual growth rate of 12%. Members also requested for separate one–on–one engagements with the Additional CS and Industries Commissioner to discuss the issues at length, which AMCHAM helped to coordinate.

15th Feb 2017

Meeting with Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Secretary Defence Production, Ministry of Defence

AMCHAM's Defense Committee met with Secretary, Defence Production, Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, at the Ministry of Defence Chalet at Yelahanka Air Show Grounds at Aero India 2017. The committee shared AMCHAM's recommendations on the ease of doing business in defence and how it could be relaxed a bit for the benefit of OEM's. The secretary was very open to suggestions and after a lengthy discussion advised his team to continue this engagement with AMCHAM and take this forward.

23rd Feb 2017

Breakfast Meeting with U.S. Congressional Delegation led by Representative Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, U.S. House Judiciary Committee

A high-level U.S. Congressional delegation visiting Bangalore met up with the top management of U.S. companies at an exclusive breakfast meeting. This important group of U.S. lawmakers was led by the Chairman of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, Representative Bob Goodlatte. The other members of Congress present at the meeting were: Rep. George Holding, Rep. Jason Smith, Rep. Dave Trott, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Rep. Hank Johnson, Rep. David Cicilline, and Rep. Henry Cuellar.

The Chairman of AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter and Corporate VP & MD, Synopsys South Asia, Dr. Pradip Dutta, led the proceedings. Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman and Managing Director of Timken India, and a member of the Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee, AMCHAM, spoke on the manufacturing sector in India especially the prevalent labor laws. Ms. Debrati Sen, Managing Director, 3M India and 3M Sri Lanka, touched on IPR issues and Mr. Santhosh Kumar, Managing Director, Texas Instruments, spoke on how the IT sector had evolved in India, especially in Bangalore. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks from Mr. Iqbal Sait, Head of Asia Operations, Saggezza Inc. and Vice Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM.

6th March 2017

Session on "U.S. Immigration: Understanding Impact for India Outbound" in association with Deloitte

AMCHAM, in association with Deloitte, held a half-day seminar on "U.S. Immigration: Understanding the Impact for India Outbound" on 6th March 2017, at the Leela Palace in Bangalore. A presentation on immigration fundamentals, U.S. immigration overview and potential changes was made by Joel Guberman, Chair and Founding Partner, Guberman Garson LLP, an independent global immigration law firm allied with Deloitte LLP in Canada.

There was a panel discussion on "Is the Indian Technology and Services Industry Geared for the New Challenges Ahead?" The panellists were Mr. Anuj Sarin, Group Head Global Immigration Management

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Services, Wipro Limited, Phanindra Kuruganty, Head – Global Compensation & Compliance, Tech Mahindra, Nandakumar Kirupanandam, Director – International Assignment Services, CapGemini, and Divya Baweja, Partner, Deloitte India.

This was followed by an animated Q&A session. Alok Agrawal, Senior Director, Deloitte India, made a presentation on India inbound immigration. The seminar was attended by over 100 professionals in the global mobility and immigration space from the top U.S. companies in Bangalore.

14th April 2017 Visa Session with U.S. Consulate

An important visa session was conducted by Consular Officer Ms.Nurit Einik, from the U.S. Consulate, Chennai at the J.W. Marriott. Heads of Immigration/HR attended the session. There were many questions raised on the H1–B issues and other challenges faced by the U.S. companies.



Panelists for the session on "Doing Business in Karnataka & U.S. – India Trade" with Mr. R.V. Deshpande, Minister for Large & Medium Scale Industries & Tourism, Govt. of Karnataka



Dr. Pradip K. Dutta, Chairman, AMCHAM Karnataka Chapter addressing the audience during Panel Discussion on "Doing Business in Karnataka & U.S. – India Trade"

Members in conversation with Ambassador Robert Holleyman, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative



Dr. Parthasarathi Shome with Dr. Pradip Dutta, Chairman, AMCHAM Karnataka Chapter and other members of AMCHAM



Dr. Parthasarathi Shome, Chairman, International Tax Research & Analysis Foundation (ITRAF) speaking about the changes in GST

Mr. M.K. Rama Prasad, VP & MD, Esterline Technologies during session on Understanding the 'Extended Enterprise' Managing Third Party Corruption Risks



ExeComm members of the AMCHAM Karnataka Chapter with Mr. Sonam Wangchuk and Mr. Shashidharan, Deputy Director, Karnataka Udyog Mitra



Chairman of AMCHAM Karnataka Chapter, Dr. Pradip Dutta, felicitating Mr. Sonam Wangchuk, founding Director of the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL)

Attendees at the dinner enjoying the entertainment



U.S. Government delegation interacting with AMCHAM members at Aero India – 2017 for a closed door defense roundtable



Mr. Keith Webster, Director, International Cooperation Office interacting with the audience

Ms. Heidi H. Grant, Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, Ms. Beth McCormick, Director, DTSA, Mr. Keith Webster, Director, International Cooperation Office, Ms. Karen Williams, Sr. Advisor, Bureau of Political – Military Affairs, DoS



AMCHAM Defense Committee members at Aero India with Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM India and Chargé d'Affaires, Ms. MaryKay Carlson, U.S. Embassy



Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM welcoming participants at the Aero India reception

Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM India and President, Boeing India with Chargé d'Affaires, Ms. MaryKay Carlson, U.S. Embassy during Aero India – 2017



AMCHAM Chennai

Ms. Kimberly Jones, Regional Security Officer, U.S. Consulate General addressing security professionals during the AMCHAM meeting

Date	Meetings / Events
29th April 2016	Breakfast Meeting – Security Infrastructure
	AMCHAM Tamil Nadu Chapter organized a meeting of security managers, facilities managers and others responsible for the safety and security of people, property and information, from member companies. The objective of the meeting was to connect security managers with the Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Chennai and to identify emerging trends related to perceived security threats, management challenges and operational issues; and also to enable them to join OSAC (Overseas Security Advisory Council) where they can jointly define priorities and strategies, develop business plans, create budgets, and set management agendas. The meeting featured guest speakers Ms. Kimberly Jones, Regional Security Officer, U.S. Consulate General Mr. K. Sivanthu, Head of Security, DELL and Chairman, OSAC.
14th June 2016	Tamil Nadu Chapter Executive Committee Meeting with U.S. Consul General
	The U.S. Consul General, Mr. Philip Min, and Mr. John Fleming, Principal Commercial Officer, met with the Tamil Nadu Chapter Executive Committee at the residence of the Consul General. The U.S. Consulate decided to engage more closely with AMCHAM so that AMCHAM could be a strategic partner to access the state government and Chief Minister. It was decided that AMCHAM would identify key people that have access to the Chief Minister and invite them to AMCHAM events.
17th June 2016	Breakfast Meeting on Chennai Smart City Infrastructure
	Mr. Raj Cherubal, Chief resilience Officer, Chennai, made a presentation on the civic conditions prevalent in Chennai and compared it with that of several cities of similar area and demographics in Asia and Latin America. He stated that Clean Chennai is a Corporation of Chennai initiative to catalyze a city–wide shift in citizens' attitudes towards solid waste – ownership, treatment, and management.
23rd June 2016	Interactive Meeting with Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, Mr. Joseph M. Pomper, U.S. Embassy
	The main guest speakers were Mr. Joseph M. Pomper, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi and Mr. Charles E. Luoma–Overstreet, Chief of the Consular Section, U.S. Consulate, Chennai.
	Mr. Pomper began his address by saying that economic and people-to-people ties form a key pillar for the

growing U.S.-India strategic partnership. Two-way trade and investment between the nations have reached new heights. He said that the U.S. and India were working on several partnership programs, some of which include commercial, trade, and investment partnerships, infrastructure and smart cities collaboration, and smart city development in Ajmer, Allahabad, and Visakhapatnam. Science, technology and health cooperation have continued to strengthen also.

7th July 2016

Meeting on 'Make in India: CEOs Speak on the Business Environment in India'

Mr. Sivaram Yadavalli, Director – Strategy from PwC India made a presentation to members. The presentation was based on the PwC Survey Report – 'CEO Speak on Manufacturing in India and Business Sentiment.'

The PwC presentation of the Indian manufacturing sector stated that India seems to be emerging from an almost stagnant state in the recent past and heading towards a path of growth. This is exemplified by the significant growth of the sector from April to November 2015. This turnaround has been acknowledged by various multilateral organizations, including the International Monetary Fund, which recently described the Indian economy as one of the few 'bright spots' in the global economy.

28th July 2016

Meeting on Smart Business Infrastructure - The Legal Framework

AMCHAM organized a breakfast meeting focused on smart business infrastructure – the legal framework and invited Mr. P.H. Arvindh Pandian, Senior Advocate and Additional Advocate General, Tamil Nadu, to address members.

Mr. Pandian began his address to members by stating that the Indian legal system has been inherited from the British and has its own set of complex laws. This coupled with the huge backlog of cases in the courts is quite a deterrent to a business entity which needs speedy resolution to a contentious issue. Mr. Pandian said that to obtain speedy justice, alternate methods such as arbitration and mediation can be tried.

Mr. Pandian also spoke about arbitration to resolve disputes arising from international commercial agreements and other international relationships in the country. Arbitration is an option to providing an effective platform for resolution and reduce the burden of courts. Mr. Pandian added that the recent verdicts by the Supreme Court and high courts on the law of arbitration are in tune with international arbitration laws for disputes involving cross—border transactions.

19th Aug 2016

Breakfast Meeting: Smart Infrastructure - The Transport Network: Chennai Metro Rail

A breakfast meeting was held with Mr. Pankaj Kumar Bansal, IAS, Managing Director, Chennai Metro Rail, as the guest speaker. Mr. Bansal began his presentation by giving a geographical description and demographics of Chennai.

Mr. Bansal spoke in detail about the transportation studies carried out in Chennai which discussed the travel pattern, network characteristics and the degree of traffic saturation on the existing roads in the study area. The studies recommended transportation improvements have been reviewed during the preparation of second master plan. Accordingly a feasibility study was done in 2003 to select and prioritize the corridors for Chennai Metro Rail Network.

Mr. A. Viswanathan, Vice Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM thanked Mr. PK Bansal for his very detailed and interesting presentation and the meeting concluded.

7th Sept 2016

The Breakfast Meeting – Smart Business Infrastructure: Promise and Pitfalls of State – Led Economic Reform

This meeting featured guest speaker Dr. Sarah Watson, Associate Fellow, Wadhwani Chair in US India Policy Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington D.C. This meeting was held at Hotel Westin Velachery.

15th Sept 2016

Breakfast Meeting - Smart Business Infrastructure - Mergers, Acquisitions, Valuations & Other Business Services

A breakfast meeting was held in Chennai featuring guest speakers Mr. Piyush Patnaik, Vice President, Duff and Phelps and Mr. N. Santosh, Director, Duff and Phelps. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Aubrey Daniels, Regional Director – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM.

Mr. Piyush Patnaik described business valuation as both an art and a science. Mr. N. Santosh of the advisory team said that his team advises public corporations, financial sponsors, family–owned businesses and other private companies in middle–market buy side and sell side M&A transactions. He said that they provide services unencumbered by audit independence concerns and offer seamless analytical service throughout the deal continuum, from decision support at origination to deal closing and beyond.

29th Sept 2016

Smart Business Infrastructure - Make in India: Predix, the Engine of Modern Manufacturing

This breakfast meeting was held in Chennai, featuring guest speaker Mr. Vivek Mehrotra, Director, Regional Engagement – Predix & Apps (APAC), GE India and chaired by Mr. Ashwin Ravindranath, Partner EY India and Member of the Executive Committee.

Mr. Vivek Mehrotra, a member of the GE team that developed Predix, made a very passionate and powerful presentation on how Predix would change the way industry operates. Predix, is a powerful new software platform developed by GE specifically to connect people, data and machines over the industrial internet.

8th Nov 2016

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 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 concerns included: long pending disbursal of capital subsidy to a few manufacturing companies; delays in obtaining certification from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board; legacy issues of non–reimbursement of VAT dues as per MOU signed with state govt. etc. The Secretary has agreed to redress the concerns, but expressed that the finances of the state do not permit for any payments in the near future.

23rd Jan 2017

Transfer Pricing: Alternate Dispute Resolution Forums

The Transfer Pricing (TP) Alternative Dispute Resolution Forum was held in Chennai. The event brought together a forum of PwC tax partners and directors for sessions, dialogues and panel discussions to discuss TP disputes and various dispute resolution forums to share information/expertise with multinational companies in India. Mr. Madhan N, Partner in PwC Chennai's Tax practice, set the context for the event by discussing the recently concluded strenuous TP assessments and explained the need to be geared up to proactively prepare for putting in place an alternative dispute resolution mechanism.

8th Feb 2017

Breakfast Meeting on Impact of Union Budget on the Manufacturing and Technology Sectors

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter organized a breakfast meet, with the topic for discussion being the impact of the budget on manufacturing and technology for MNC's, at the Westin, Chennai. This event was facilitated and sponsored by Deloitte, Chennai.

Mr. Rajesh Srinivasan, Partner, Deloitte, opened the session with a general introduction to the economy and the expectations from the budget. He, then, gave a detailed overview on the direct tax provisions announced and shared some detailed information on the impact of these provisions.

To get an understanding of the impact from the industry perspective, Mr. David Schock, CFO, Ford Motor Company, shared his views. Ms. Schock said that the auto industry was hoping for some major reforms which could bolster the sector, however, no announcement was made to this effect. Mr. L. Sayee Mohan, Partner Indirect Taxation, Deloitte, gave an overview of the indirect tax provisions and its implications for corporates. He also shared some detailed information on goods and service tax (GST), its impact etc. In view of the implementation of GST, the budget made no radical changes to the indirect tax segment.

9th Feb 2017

Meeting with Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy

A meeting was held at the United States Consulate in Chennai to brief Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, on the business environment in Tamil Nadu. The participants were Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM, Mr. John Fleming, Principal Commercial Officer, South India and Mr. Aubrey Daniels, Regional Director – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM.

Mr. John Fleming introduced Mr. Patrick Santillo and Mr. Ramamoorthy began by stating that Tamil Nadu has a very positive business environment which has transitioned from the agrarian to manufacturing and now to the services sector, with the manufacturing and services sector progressing very well. Traditional manufacturing businesses are solid, in the sectors of their choosing, but not many of the family owned businesses have ventured out of the state.

Mr. Ramamoorthy added that despite natural calamities such as the floods, the city is very resilient and gets back to normal in the shortest possible time. The city has the advantage of good housing, plenty of schools, colleges, hospitals etc. to make the city an attractive investment destination.

Mr. Ramamoorthy spoke about the huge gap in availability of workers trained in the various trades required for the construction and services industry like masonry, plumbing, carpentry, basic skills in mechanical, electrical, air conditioning, refrigeration etc. He mentioned that the Government of India has a ministry dedicated to developing skills and capacity building. Mr. Patrick Santillo responded by saying that he saw an opportunity for community colleges to partner with institutions in India to build capacity in various skills. He offered to work with AMCHAM on this sector. Both Mr. Patrick Santillo and Mr. john Fleming appreciated the briefing and remarked that it was a very rewarding meeting.

23rd Feb 2017

Breakfast Meeting on Policy Initiatives by the Tamil Nadu Government to Promote Industrial Development

A breakfast meeting on the ease of doing business in Tamil Nadu was held on 23rd February in Chennai. The guest speaker was Mr. Vikram Kapur IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Industries Department.

Mr. Ramkumar, Chairman –Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM, welcomed members and set the tone for the meeting by stating that traditionally, Tamil Nadu has always been in the forefront of industrialization with a strong presence in the manufacturing of engineering and auto components, textiles, leather, sugar etc. Tamil Nadu is one state with a strong agricultural base and has transitioned from agriculture to manufacturing and now to IT and services.

Mr. Vikram Kapur began his address by stating that people in the audience are responsible for the India and Tamil Nadu growth story. He went on to say that during the post liberalization period since 1991, the private sector began to take over the lead in the industrial development of the country. States started taking the initiative in the new and competitive environment and Tamil Nadu was one of the earliest to seize the opportunity by playing a supportive role and announced its industrial policy in 1992 itself. This policy became the cornerstone and laid the foundation for the rapid growth of new industries in the state. This policy became the harbinger of growth that facilitated the electronics and automobile industry revolution in Tamil Nadu by attracting major projects from Industrial giants. Major projects triggered a multiplier effect by attracting a large number of auto and other ancillary industries.

On the e-governance front, Mr. Kapur stated that the public and businesses interface with 10 or 12 government departments, all of them are in a fairly advanced state of computerization.

To make life easier for businesses, some of the outcomes are the 'single window clearance' through the TN state Guidance Bureau which grants an in–principle approval after 30 days of submitting the complete proposal. Some of the challenges are in the CRZ clearance which is extremely strict; TNPCB which has strict norms and an online filing system; land clearances which many times get held up in litigation. The TN government, through its agencies like SIPCOT and TIDCO, have a large readily available land bank to cater to industry.

Mr. Kapur invited American businesses to invest in Tamil Nadu by stating that there are numerous opportunities for work in 'smart cities,' the aeronautical hub and manufacturing. In the recently held Global Investor Meet 2015, a total of 98 MOU's were signed with an investment of 242 lakh crore rupees over a period of 3 to 7 years. Of this, 62 projects have been implemented and 7 have already started commercial production.

He concluded by thanking the American companies for kick starting the industrial development in the state making a reference to Ford Motor Company which set up a manufacturing plant in Marai Malai Nagar near Chennai.

8th March 2016

Meeting with Mr. Joseph M. Pomper, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi

A select group of six AMCHAM members led by the Tamil Nadu Chapter Chairman, Mr. R. Ramkumar, met with Mr. Joseph Pomper, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Charles Louma D'Overstreet, Chief of Consular Services and Vice Consul Nathan Leonard at the Taj Coromandel, to exchange notes on the recent developments on the U.S. visa situation.

Mr. Pomper requested AMCHAM to send a message to all employees and families that there is no need to be overly concerned and sought AMCHAM assistance to allay fears of the Indians living there.

11th March 2017

Tamil Nadu Chapter Executive Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Tamil Nadu Chapter Executive Committee was held at the Madras Club, under the leadership of Mr. R. Ramkumar as the Chairman. Mr. Rajan Aiyer, the newly elected Vice Chairman was also present.

The discussion mainly focused on the forthcoming events that could be organized in Chennai. Members present agreed that disruptive technologies, artificial intelligence, automation etc. are some of the recent developments which will alter the way we do our work. Members also discussed the issue of cyber security and decided that AMCHAM Tamil Nadu can organize an event on topic.

30th March 2017

Meeting on Energy Neutral Buildings & Smart Corporate Offices

The meeting was chaired by Mr. R. Ramkumar, Chairman, AMCHAM Tamil Nadu Chapter and was held at Hotel Westin Velachery. Guest Speakers were Dr. Prof. Benny Raphael, IIT – Madras and Dr. Chidambaranathan Velan, CEO, Tata Realty Infrastructure Limited, moderated by Mr. Ravi Bhattaram, Director–Engineering, CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd.

The concept of a Net Zero Energy Building, one which produces as much energy as it uses over the course of a year, recently has been evolving from research to reality. Both speakers emphasized that regardless of the definition or metric used for a Net Zero Energy Building, minimizing the energy use through efficient building design should be a fundamental design criterion and the highest priority of all Net Zero Energy Building projects. Energy efficiency is generally the most cost–effective strategy with the highest return on investment, and maximizing efficiency opportunities before developing renewable energy plans will minimize the cost of the renewable energy projects needed. Using advanced energy analysis tools, design teams can optimize efficient designs and technologies.

20th April 2017

AMCHAM Chennai Breakfast Meeting on Smart Business Infrastructure – Authorized Economic Operator, Customs & Central Excise

This meeting was held at Hotel Westin Velachery under the Chairmanship of Mr. Aubrey Daniels. The guest speakers included Mr. Santosh Dalvi, Partner – KPMG; Mr. Sunil Kumar Sinha IRS, Commissioner of Customs & AEO Program Manager and Dr. Anchita Pandoh IRS, Assistant Commissioner of Customs, AEO Program. The event was facilitated and sponsored by KPMG.



Mr. K. Sivanthu, Head of Security, DELL and Chairman, Overseas Security Advisory Council, Chennai Chapter speaking on secure work places



Mr. A. Viswanathan, Representative, AMCHAM Chennai, Dy. Managing Director BS&S Safety Systems India welcomes members to the August breakfast meeting



Mr. Pankaj Kumar Bansal IAS, Managing Director, Chennai Metro Rail making a presentation



Mr. Joseph Bernath, Political Economic Officer at the U.S. Consulate introducing himself to members

A cross section of participants during the meeting on "Smart Transport Infrastructure"



Mr. Vivek Mehrotra, Director, Regional Engagement – Predix & Apps (APAC), GE India making a presentation on Predix at the breakfast meeting chaired by Mr. Ashwin Ravindranath, Partner EY India and member of the Executive Committee



Mr. Piyush Patnaik, Vice President, Duff and Phelps and Mr. N. Santosh, Director, Duff and Phelps addressing members during the September breakfast meeting

Mr. L. Sayee Mohan, Partner, Deloitte, Chennai making a presentation on the impact of the Union Budget on indirect taxation



Mr. Aubrey Daniels, Regional Director, AMCHAM, Mr. R. Ramkumar, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM, Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi and Mr. John Fleming, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate, Chennai



Mr. R. Ramkumar, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM, setting the tone for the breakfast meeting on smart business infrastructure – 'Energy Neutral Buildings and Smart Corporate Offices'

Dr. Benny Raphael, Professor at IIT Madras with Ravi Bhattaram, Director, CBRE and Dr. C. Velan, CEO, Tata Realty – panelists at the meeting on "Energy Neutral Buildings & Smart Corporate Offices"



Mr. Leonard Nathan, Consul, U.S. Consulate General, giving members a status update on U.S. Visas



Mr. Santosh Dalvi, Partner, KPMG along with Mr. Sunil Kumar Sinha IRS, Commissioner of Customs and Dr. Anchita Pandoh IRS, Assistant Commissioner of Customs, discussing the Authorised Economic Operator Program – at a meeting held in Chennai

A cross section of participants at the AEO breakfast meeting



amcham Delhi

Ambassador Richard Verma giving his remarks on U.S. – India relations during AMCHAM's 24th Annual General Meeting

Date

Meetings / Events

22nd April 2016

24th Annual General Meeting of AMCHAM

The 24th Annual General Meeting of AMCHAM was held at the Hotel ITC Maurya in New Delhi. The theme of this event was "Smart Infrastructure and Ecosystems – Foundation for Sustainable Growth."

The statutory AGM was followed by a panel discussion on "Agriculture and Food Processing." The welcome and introduction of panelists was given by the moderator, Mr. Atul Dhawan, Hon. Treasurer & Secretary, AMCHAM and Regional Managing Partner, Deloitte. The keynote speaker was Dr. Ashok Gulati, Professor for Agriculture, ICRIER. He talked about the complimentary relationship between agriculture and the food processing sector. Mr. Gokul Patnaik, Chairman, Global Agri System Pvt. Ltd. spoke on opportunities and challenges in the food processing industry. Mr. Ashwani Sharma, Chief Merchandising Officer, Wal–Mart India Pvt. Ltd. spoke on farm to market and Mr. Scott S. Sindelar, Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, spoke on Indo–U.S. cooperation in agriculture and food processing.

The panel discussion on infrastructure was moderated by Mr. Richard Rekhy, Vice–Chairman, AMCHAM and CEO, KPMG in India. The keynote speaker for the panel was Mr. Raghav Chandra IAS, Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, spoke on opportunities in the infrastructure sector and expectations from U.S. companies. Mr. Rustom J. Desai, Managing Director, Corning India and Telecom Operations spoke on the communications sector. Mr. Arun Kumar Jain, Managing Director, Fluor Daniel India Pvt. Ltd., spoke on various aspects of infrastructure growth in India, particularly opportunities and challenges. Mr. John M. McCaslin, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, elaborated on the U.S. government's initiatives in the growth of smart cities in India.

Mr. Ajay Singha, Executive Director, AMCHAM, gave the opening remarks for the luncheon session. Welcome remarks were made by Ms. Vanitha Narayanan, Chairperson, AMCHAM and Managing Director – India / South Asia, IBM India Pvt. Ltd. The chief guests for this session were Mr. Richard R. Verma, U.S. Ambassador to India, and Mr. Amitabh Kant, Chief Executive Officer, Niti Aayog. On this occasion, the AMCHAM CSR Compendium **Happily Going Miles for Their Smiles**, a compendium of CSR Activities of U.S. companies in India 2015–2016, was released. The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Richard Rekhy, Vice–Chairman, AMCHAM and CEO, KPMG in India.

22nd April 2016 Pharma Committee Meeting

AMCHAM organized a meeting of the members of its Pharma Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sanjiv Navangul, Chairman, AMCHAM Pharma Committee and MD, Janssen Pharma. The meeting was Co-Chaired by Mr. Nick Mitchell, Board Member, AMCHAM, Co-Chairman, AMCHAM Pharma Committee and MD, Phenomenex. Other members included representatives from Baxter India.

The agenda for discussion in the meeting included the response to Government on Biosimilar Guidelines, increasing the membership base in the committee, discussions on FDC bans, Clinical Trials scenario and inclusion of pharma/biotech in the agenda for 4th National Healthcare Conference in Hyderabad.

27th April 2016 Northern Region Council Executive Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Committee of AMCHAM's Northern Region Council was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Rustom J. Desai, Managing Director, Corning India and Telecom Operations in Gurgaon. The members discussed the Agenda for the year including focus States in the Northern India and focus sectors.

27th April 2016 Defense Committee Meeting

AMCHAM Defense Committee members met to discuss the changes in DPP 2016 and shared information on the timing of the unfinished agenda. Members also discussed talking points to take up with Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Secretary Defense Production, for the meeting with core Defense Committee members.

28th April 2016 Meeting with Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Secretary Defense Production

Mr. Phil Shaw, Chairman, AMCHAM Defense Committee, and Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin, Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India, Mr. Nik Khanna, Country Director, Raytheon, Mr. Sanjeev Kakkar, Director, GE, Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Co-Chairman, AMCHAM Defense Committee and Partner, KPMG and Ms. Udaya Arun, Program Manager – Defense & Aerospace, AMCHAM, called upon Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Secretary, Defense Production, Mr. Harbans Lal Khera, Joint Secretary, and Mr. Sanjay Garg, Joint Secretary, and discussed the recent changes announced in DPP and suggested some points for consideration.

28th April 2016 Anti-Corruption Compliance and Risk Management Master Class 2016

AMCHAM partnered with BDO International for the Anti-Corruption Compliance and Risk Management Master Class 2016, which was in New Delhi. The event featured speakers from various parts of the world – U.S., Hong Kong, London, and India.

The first session, 'Top Trends in Governmental FCPA and Anti-Corruption Enforcement and In-House Corporate Trends to Address Them,' was moderated by Ms. Nidhi Rao, BDO, with speakers Mr. Vasu Muthyala, Principal, Kobre & Kim, Mr. Sunny Mann, Baker & McKenzie, and Ms. Mini VandePol, Principal, Baker & McKenzie.

The second session, 'Recent Cases Involving Third–Party Agents and Providing Due Diligence – Lessons Learned,' was moderated by Ms. Nidhi Rao with speakers Ms. Priyanka Sharma Goswami, Partner, Dua Associates, and Vasu Muthyala, who addressed potential risks associated with third parties, what it means to be deliberately ignorant and a failure to keep proper records.

In the third session, 'Governmental Guidance and Best Practices for Corporate Compliance Programs,' Anand Dayal, Partner, Koura & Co. and Ms. Mini VandePol discussed the statutory guidelines to effective compliance.

The fourth session was entitled, 'Leveraging Forensic Techniques and Data Analytics to Minimize Cost and Maximize Effectiveness,' was featured speakers Mr. Aashish Gupta, BDO India and Ms. Mansi Mehta, BDO India, who discussed various forensic techniques available to minimize risk.

The fifth session, 'Best Practices for Managing Gifts and Hospitalities to Better Comply with the FCPA and Other Anticorruption Laws,' was the most interesting session moderated by Mr. Aashish Gupta with speakers Ms. Priyanka Sharma Goswami and Mr. Sunny Mann.

5th May 2016 Tax, Tariff and Regulatory Affairs Committee Meeting

The first meeting of AMCHAM's Tax, Tariff and Regulatory Affairs Committee for the year 2016–17 under the chairmanship of Mr. Vikas Vasal, Partner, KPMG, was held at the office of KPMG, Gurgaon. Ms. Neeru Ahuja, Co-Chairperson, and Partner – Global Business Tax, Deloitte Haskins & Sells; and Mr. Indraneel R Chaudhury, immediate Past Chairman, and Partner and Leader, Tax Services – South India, PwC were also present.

The Committee, inter alia, discussed equalization levy; penalty provisions as proposed in the Finance Bill 2016; representations made to the Government in relation to Union Budget 2016; CBDT circular on clarification regarding AOP in EPC contracts and turnkey projects; and other issues.

9th May 2016 ICT Committee Meeting

The first meeting of AMCHAM's ICT Committee for the year 2016–17, under the chairmanship of Mr. Amit Sharma, Executive Vice President, President Asia, ATC Tower Company of India Pvt. Ltd., was held in the office of ATC Tower, Gurgaon. The Co-Chairmen, Mr. Naveen Tandon, Director – IEA, AT&T Communication Services India Private Limited, and Mr. Vivek Vasishtha, Country Leader – Government and Regulatory Affairs, IBM India Pvt. Ltd. also participated.

Issues relating to public procurement, safety testing, CRI, ease of doing business in India, CRO, import of used equipment, and PMA were discussed.

9th May 2016

Meeting with Dr. Manjit Singh, Principle Secretary & Chairman Smart Cities Mission, Rajasthan

AMCHAM's Smart City Program Director, Ms. Shivani Raina held a brief introductory meeting with Dr. Majit Singh, to inform him about AMCHAM's smart city group, capability deck and alignment with USTDA on Ajmer smart city development and the capabilities that the group can offer to support Jaipur and Ajmer on advancing in smart city projects.

9th May 2016

Meeting with Mr. Saravan Kumar, CEO, Jaipur Smart City Limited (JSCL) and Mr. Rakesh Sharma Commissioner, Jaipur Municipal Corporation

The CEO of JSCL informed member companies that the development work in the Pink City would be carried out in two different strategic components: area—based development and pan—city development. Under the area—based development, an area of 650 acres of the Walled City (or old city) between the Albert Hall and the Jorawar Singh Gate has been identified for retrofitting.

Under the pan-city development, the infrastructure outside the Walled City would be strengthened with improved facilities like solid-waste management and smart multi-modern mobility. Under the pan-city smart solution, a single problem for the whole city would be selected and smart solutions will be identified.

10th May 2016

Meeting with Mr. Shiv Shankar Heda, Chairman, Ajmer Development Authority and Mr. Priyavrat Pandya Commissioner, Ajmer Municipal Corporation

A presentation was given by AMCHAM's Infractructure and Smart Cities Committee led by Dr. Jaijit Bhattacharya, Partner, KPMG, based on the earlier interactions with Ajmer to help identify projects under their smart city proposal. USTDA's technical team was working with city stakeholders as a handholding agency on improving their smart city proposal for Round two.

It was felt that capacity and institutional framework for driving the program (for Ajmer) was not as robust but picking up gradually. KPMG, Trimble, UTC, Honeywell and Black and Veatch participated from the industry.

12th May 2016

Roundtable on How Iran Sanctions Do and Do Not Apply for Business with Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State

AMCHAM members met with Mr. Andrew Keller, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State to discuss the JCPOA plan and how U.S. sanctions on Iran do and do not apply for businesses.

Other present from the USG included: Ms. Amanda Miralrio, OFAC Compliance Officer, U.S. Department of Treasury; Ms. Cara Camacho, OFAC Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of Treasury; Mr. Jaime Moody, Desk Officer for Sanctions Policy & Implementation, U.S. Department of State; Mr. Daniel McIntosh, Office of Iranian Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Mr. George Sibley, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy; Mr. Ray Sudweeks, First Secretary for Energy Affairs, Economic, Environment, Science & Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy; Mr. Ravi Srivastava, First Secretary, Economic, Environment, Science & Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy; Mr. Sikander Shah, Economic Adviser, U.S. Embassy.

16th May 2016

Session on Corporate Governance: The Global Perspective

AMCHAM, along with Protiviti, organized a talk on 'Corporate Governance: The Global Perspective' by Mr. Joe Tarantino, Global President & CEO, Protiviti, in Gurgaon. This was followed by cocktails and dinner.

19th May 2016

Meeting with Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets & Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service

Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM, met with Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets & Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, and discussed U.S.–India trade priorities. The focus sectors for U.S. investments in India would be infrastructure, defense and agriculture.

19th May 2016

Infrastructure and Smart City Committee Interaction with U.S. Assistant Secretary, Commerce, Mr. Arun Kumar, DG-FCS

The Infrastructure and Smart City Committee had a detailed interaction with Mr. Arun Kumar, Assistant Secretary Commerce, at the office of Mr. Arun Jain, Chairman – AMCHAM Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee AMCHAM and Managing Director, Fluor Daniel India Pvt. Ltd. at Gurgaon.

The discussion centered on the upcoming U.S. – India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue and its main agenda point was US– India collaboration on infrastructure development programs. Under this, the need for having inclusive consortiums, policy advocacy issues, aggregating various funding fronts, outreach to sub–national leaders such as State Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries, standards, need for a central procurement reforms committee, handholding agencies for helping lagging cities enhance their smart city proposals, affordable innovation and demonstration of successful benchmark U.S. cities as examples, were discussed.

Participating companies included: Fluor Daniel, AECOM, IBM, United Technologies, Honeywell, HP, Ingersoll Rand, Protivity Consulting, Abott, Boston Scientific, BTI Consultants and Louis Berger.

20th May 2016

Meeting with Dr. Aruna Sharma, Secretary, DeitY, GOI

A few members of AMCHAM's ICT Committee led by its Chairman, Mr. Amit Sharma, Executive Vice President, President Asia, ATC Tower Company of India Pvt. Ltd., called on Dr. Aruna Sharma, Secretary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. They, inter alia, discussed issues relating to IoT, encryption, CRI, public procurement, BIS standards, labeling, ease of doing business, and import of refurbished products.

23rd May - 2nd Telangana Government Delegation to U.S. June 2016 The Telangana Government requested AMCHAM to organize a few meetings in the U.S. through the India offices of U.S. companies for the Telangana Government delegation. The Government of Telangana delegation was led by the Minister for Information Technology and Industries, Mr. K. T. Rama Rao. Mr. Rama Rao visited the U.S. from 23rd May to 2nd June 2016 and he was accompanied by a few senior officials. AMCHAM provided the necessary assistance by writing to a number of companies as requested by Mr. Rama Rao's office. 24th May 2016 Meeting with Ms. Rita Teaotia, Commerce Secretary, GOI Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM, called on Ms. Rita A. Teaotia, Commerce Secretary, Government of India. He discussed priorities for India-U.S. trade, ease of doing business, opportunities in the defense sector and defense offsets. 25th May 2016 **Defense Committee Meeting** The team was briefed with details of the meeting with Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Secretary Defence Production. Also issues on the tax and regulatory aspects raised with the Secretary were discussed. It was decided that members would present inputs to the newly appointed Vivek Rae Committee. 26th May 2016 Meeting with Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, DIPP, GOI Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM, accompanied by Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, called on Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India. They discussed ease of doing business, fast-tracking of U.S. investments in India, greater industry engagement, manufacturing in India, need for improvement in defense offsets, and IPR policy. 30th May 2016 Northern Region Council Executive Committee Meeting A meeting of the Executive Committee of AMCHAM's Northern Region Council was held in New Delhi. Mr. Vivek Vasishtha, Vice-Chairman of NRC and Country Leader - Government and Regulatory Affairs, IBM India Pvt. Ltd., welcomed the members. An interesting presentation on 'Workforce Reforms' was made my Ms. Seema Ajwani from IBM, which covered recent labour reforms, workforce dynamics in India, existing laws, etc. 30th - 31st May Medical Devices Committee Delegation to Dhaka, Bangladesh 2016 AMCHAM's Medical Devices Committee Chairman, Mr. Prabal Chakraborty, led a delegation of AMCHAM Medical Devices Committee members to Dhaka, Bangladesh. The main purpose of the delegation was to understand the ongoing development in the healthcare sector in Bangladesh and the impact on allied Industries like medical devices, pharmaceuticals, healthcare insurance policies. The delegation met with officials within the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare including the State Minister, DG-Directorate of Drug Administration, DGDA, DG- Health Economics Unit, DG-Central Medicine Stores Department (CMSD), DG-Procurement, Deputy Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary and many other government officials from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The group also met over dinner with the President and Executive Committee members of AMCHAM Bangladesh. The 19 member delegation comprised of participants from members of AMCHAM Medical Devices Committee like Boston Scientific, BD, Abbott, GE, Varian, Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic, Edwards Life Sciences and St. Jude Medical. Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta accompanied the delegation from the AMCHAM secretariat.

1st June 2016

Defense Committee meeting with Senator Ben Cardin, United States Senator, Maryland

AMCHAM defense committee members met with Senator Ben Cardin, Senator from Maryland and his team members and apprised him of overall business environment for U.S. defense companies in India and the current challenges they encounter. The Senator was also brought up to date on the suggested reforms that would be conducive for the companies to operate in India. The Senator was also informed of the projects that were being signed. The Senator also asked companies views on the better route for procurement Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) or Foreign Military Sales (FMS). Hon'ble Ambassador of USA to India Mr. Richard Verma also joined AMCHAM members for this discussion and shared his views.

1st June 2015

Conference Call on India-Mauritius Tax Treaty - Way Ahead

A conference call was organized by AMCHAM along with KPMG and Deloitte on India–Mauritius Tax Treaty – Way Ahead. Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, AMCHAM, welcomed participants.

To brief the participants about some of the key aspects that would impact foreign companies, presentations were made by Mr. Vikas Vasal, Chairman, AMCHAM's Tax and Tariff Committee and Partner, Head Deal Advisory, M&A Tax (North), KPMG in India, and Ms. Neeru Ahuja, Vice–Chairperson of the Tax & Tariff Committee, and Partner, Global Business Tax, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP.

Over 30 persons participated in the conference call.

2nd June 2016

Talk on Competition Law and Policy

AMCHAM organized an interactive session with Dr. Salinger, Ms. Jacqueline J. and Mr. Arthur S. Bahr, Professor of Management and Professor of Economics at the Boston University and a Senior Academic Adviser to Charles River Associates, and Mr. Dhanendra Kumar, former Chairman, Competition Commission of India, on Competition Law and Policy in New Delhi.

Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, AMCHAM, welcomed and introduced the speakers. Dr. Salinger and Mr. Dhanendra Kumar in their chat discussed the role of economics in competition, role of innovation, anti-trust laws, mergers and foreclosures. This was followed by Q&A session. Mr. C.R. Dua, Managing Partner, Dua Associates, proposed the vote of thanks.

6th June 2016

Medical Devices Committee Meeting

AMCHAM Medical Devices Committee met for its quarterly meeting under the Chairmanship of Mr. Prabal Chakraborty, Chairman, AMCHAM Medical Devices Committee and VP and Managing Director, BSCI at Boston Scientific Office in Gurgaon

Members from other companies who attended the meeting included participation of representatives from BD India, 3M, Abbott, GE, St. Jude Medical, CR Bard and Zimmer. From AMCHAM Secretariat, Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta joined the meeting.

The committee members discussed on the following agenda items during the meeting: Update from Bangladesh visit, planning of delegation to Sri Lanka, Updates from meeting with Dr. Reddy, CDSCO and drafting of proposal for LBS Academy.

5th –8th June 2016

Annual Door Knock Delegation to Washington DC - 2016

The annual AMCHAM India Door Knock Delegation to Washington DC was led by AMCHAM's Chairman, Mr. Pratyush Kumar, President, Boeing India, to coincide with Prime Minister Modi's visit to DC. The main purpose of the door knock was to inform and sensitize U.S. policy–makers on issues impacting U.S. investments in India. The delegation interacted with some of the important players in this economic relationship and other key decision–makers.

The door knock began with a welcome reception hosted at the Boeing office in Arlington. Ambassador Richard Verma, U.S. Ambassador to India, and Mr. Arun Kumar, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and Director General of the Foreign Commercial Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, attended. Colleagues from various organizations in the U.S. – India engagement were present such as AEI, Council on Foreign Relations, CSIS and FICCI.

On Monday, 6th June, the delegation met with Mr. Peter Lavoy, Senior Director for South Asian Affairs, National Security Council, at the White House. Mr. Adewale "Wally" Adeyemo, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs, also joined the meeting briefly. Immediately after the delegation went to the Indian Embassy and met with Ambassador Arun Singh, Indian Ambassador to the U.S.

The delegation met with Congressman Sander Levin (D–MI), followed by a meeting at the State Department with Mr. Manpreet Singh Anand, Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. The day concluded after a meeting with Ms. Elizabeth Littlefield, President and CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). Her team briefed the delegation on OPIC's vast India portfolio and outlined many of their financing policies.

Tuesday, 7th June began with a briefing by Ambassador Tim Roemer, Senior Director & Strategic Counselor, Global Political Strategies, APCO Worldwide (former US Ambassador to India). Next, the delegation met with Ms. Enoh Ebong, Deputy Director, USTDA and her team which included: Mr. Devin Hampton, Chief of Staff, Mr. Henry Steingass, Regional Director for South and Southeast Asia, Ms. Alissa Lee, Country Manager for South and Southeast Asia and Ms. Heather Lanigan, Country Manager for South and Southeast Asia

Later the delegation met with Ms. Dawn Shackleford, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and Mr. Brendan Lynch, Director – India. The delegation proceeded to Capitol Hill and met with staff for Congressman Scott DesJarlais (R–TN) and staff for Senator Mark Warner (D–VA) Co–Chair, Senate India Caucus. The delegation also met with Senator Maria Cantwell (D–WA) and Mr. Jonathan Hale, Senior Advisor to Senator Cantwell.

In the evening, the AMCHAM delegation participated in the USIBC 41st Anniversary Leadership Summit. Featured speakers included: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Jeff Bezos, Founder & CEO, Amazon and Mr. Dilip Shanghvi, Founder & Managing Director, Sun Pharmaceuticals

On Wednesday, 8th June, the delegation had a meeting at the Pentagon with Mr. Keith Webster, Director – International Cooperation, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. Immediately following, the delegation met with Mr. Brian Nilsson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense Trade Controls, Bureau of Political–Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

Post lunch, the group headed back to the Hill and met with Congressman Derek Kilmer (D–WA) and his staff. The delegation also met with Congressman Matt Salmon (R–AZ) Chairman, House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific (House Foreign Affairs Committee) along with staff members from the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The group proceeded on to meet with staff of Congressman George Holding (R–NC) Co–Chair, Congressional Caucus on India and staff of Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (D–HI).

The door knock delegation was also invited to a reception celebrating India on the Hill by Mr. Vinay Singh, Senior Advisor, Global Markets, U.S. Department of Commerce.

21st June 2016

Meeting with Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport and Highways

Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM, and President, Boeing India, accompanied by Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, AMCHAM, called on Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, in his office. Mr. Pratyush Kumar complimented the Minister for the ongoing reforms in various sectors of the economy and invited him to address the session on 'Ease of Doing Business' which was being planned by AMCHAM with World Bank and DIPP.

22nd June 2016

Meeting with World Bank

Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy ED, AMCHAM and Mr. Ankur Malhotra, Vice President – Government Relations and Public Policy, Accenture Services Pvt. Ltd., met with Mr. Sebastian Saez, Lead Economist, Trade & Competitiveness, and Mr. Shihab Ansari Azhar, Operations Officer, South Asia of World Bank, in their office to discuss a possible joint event on 'Ease of Doing Business' sometime in September 2016 with DIPP and World Bank.

28th June 2016

Smart City Core Committee Meeting

The Smart City Core Committee held a meeting at the UTC office in Gurgaon. The meeting was chaired by the committee chair Mr. Jaijit Bhattacharya, Partner, KPMG, Infrastructure & Government Advisory Services, to discuss the outcome of the Prime Minister's 25th June announcement of smart city mission implementation and launch of several smart city projects. Discussion points included the smart city visions shared via video link by the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan. A calendar of smart city engagements was finalized and circulated to all committee members.

30th June 2016

Meeting with Visitors from the U.S. - China Economic and Security Review Commission

AMCHAM members met with delegates from the U.S. China Commission (USCC) in New Delhi. The delegation was led by Chairman, Dennis Shea (Sen. Mitch McConnell's representative) and Vice Chairman Carolyn Bartholomew (Rep. Nancy Pelosi's representative). Other delegates included Commissioner Peter Brookes, Commissioner Katherine Tobin, Policy Analyst Kristien Bergerson and Policy Analyst Katherine Koleski.

The commission heard from AMCHAM members about U.S. investments and the investment climate in India; the impact of economic reforms on U.S. companies; Indo-China competition for U.S. companies and the impact of China's slowdown on the Indian economy. They also discussed matters around the growing population in India and its effects on attaining a strong economy in the near future. It was also discussed how the current government and technology related policies (aadhar, PM insurance yojana and PM pension yojana, LPG subsidies) were playing a positive role in shaping the economy and propelling India to be the next major player in the world stage.

7th July 2016

AMCHAM and GIPC Interactive Session on India's National IPR Policy – A View From Global Innovators

A diverse group of industry, academic and government experts gathered to share their views on the prospects of the innovative environment in India in the wake of the National IPR Policy. The anelists highlighted the ability of strong IP protections to drive innovation and the need for an action–oriented approach towards the policy.

Ms. Meenu Chandra, Chair – AMCHAM IPR Committee and Senior Attorney, Corporate Legal and External Affairs, Microsoft, gave the opening remarks which were followed with the keynote address by Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIPP, Government of India.

There were two panel discussions. Panellists in the first session shared their views on the hits and misses from the National IPR policy. The panel was moderated by Ms. Kalpana Reddy, Senior Director, GIPC and other anelists included Ms. Lohita Sujith, Director – Corporate Communications, MPAA, Ms. Sheetal Chopra, India Lead – IPR Policy, Ericsson India Ltd., Mr. BK Sahu, Deputy Manager – IPR, National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India and Mr. Narendra Sabharwal, Chair, FICCI – IPR Committee, Ex. Convener Member, IPR Policy Think Tank, GOI, Former Deputy Director General, World Intellectual Property Organization.

In the second session, anelists shared their views on the effective implementation for a anelists ation between practice and policy. The session was moderated by Ms. Sanjit Kaur Batra, Co-Chair – AMCHAM IPR Committee and Legal Head – South Asia, E.I DuPont and the other anelists included Ms. Archana Shankar, Partner, Anand & Anand, Mr. Pulak Bagchi, SVP, Star India Pvt. Ltd., Ms. Komal Kalha, Senior Counsel, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and Dr. Brij Uberoi, CEO, CropLife.

15th July 2016

CSR Committee Meeting

AMCHAM's CSR Committee Meeting took place in Gurgaon on 15th July under the new leadership of Mr. Harish Krishnan, Executive Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements, India & SAARC, Cisco.

The meeting began with introductions by everyone present. Each person explained about the various projects they were engaged in. Potential partnership opportunities in each and every project were discussed in detail. An effort was put into understanding the project, challenges, logistics, location constraints and then connecting people there and then if required. It was decided to develop a communicative directory with such information for all AMCHAM members which will serve as an important toolkit for the industry.

During the NGO showcase, Magic Bus Foundation talked about their amazing project of steering children towards a better life with better awareness, better life skills, and better opportunities, in the journey from childhood to livelihood.

25th July 2016

Interactive Luncheon Session with Ambassador Robert Holleyman, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative

AMCHAM and USIBC co-hosted an interactive session with Ambassador Robert Holleyman, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, at ACSA, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi. The USTR team also included Dawn Shackleford, Deputy Assistant USTR, and Conor Harrington, IPR Director, USTR.

Ambassador Holleyman emphasized USTR's singular focus of creating a stronger, unified trade relationship between the U.S. and India. They continue to have regular dialogues with GOI. The upcoming 10th U.S. – India Trade Policy Forum (TPF) will take place in New Delhi in October. The team was in town to meet with their counterparts at the Department of Commerce and DIPP to prepare for the TPF. He mentioned, the new IT policy has been encouraging even though the pace of reform may be slower than desired. Some of the areas focused on for this visit included the digital economy, manufacturing and agriculture, to understand where there are points of friction and try to minimize it. They also mentioned patents, trade secrets, local sourcing requirements and trade facilitation. USTR has had positive engagement in the copyright sector as India has consolidated their copyright functions into the DIPP.

27th July 2016

Breakfast Session with Protiviti - FCPA Face Off

The AMCHAM FCPA breakfast session with Protiviti, took place in Gurgaon. The session began with a presentation entitled "Going Beyond the Headlines – Dissecting recent FCPA cases and learning from them" by Vikas Mehta, Senior Manager, Forensic Services, Protiviti India. The objective was to provoke a debate on how to be better equipped to handle such eventualities. Next, Suprabhat NM, Managing Director & Leader, Forensic Services, Protiviti India, spoke on "Wrestling with FCPA – Discussing the finer nuances through illustrative examples." An interactive discussion followed that highlighted the practical challenges around FCPA compliance. The session concluded with a call to action and discussion on the components of a local FCPA fitness program.

29th July 2016

Meeting with Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs, Mr. Adewale "Wally" Adeyemo

AMCHAM members met with the Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs (DNSA) and Deputy Assistant to President Barack Obama, Mr. Adewale "Wally" Adeyemo and the Special Assistant to the President on International Economic Affairs, Mr. Him Das and his team comprising of the Director, National Security Council and representatives from the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi

The members discussed the challenges being faced in doing business, key improvements in past year with the present government in defense, aviation, infrastructure, investment, smart cities etc. They also discussed current work force in the country and the effectiveness of U.S.– India economic dialogue structure and its impact in advancing U.S. industry priorities.

29th July 2016

HR Committee Meeting

The second meeting of AMCHAM's HR Committee was held in Gurgaon at the IBM office under the leadership of Mr. D.P. Singh, Chairman – HR Committee and VP – HR (India/South Asia), IBM India and Mr. Sameer Mathur, Co–Chair and SVP – HR, Citibank.

Ms. Seema Ajwani, ER/LR, Case Management & Appeals Leader, IBM, gave a very insightful presentation to the group on labor reforms. Mr. Sarthak Raychaudhuri, HR Leader, Whirlpool India, presented the future of work charter. There was a discussion within the committee on potential key interest areas, common issues and challenges which needed to be addressed by the charter.

3rd Aug 2016

Interactive Session on "Foreign Direct Investment - Taking the Agenda Forward"

An interactive session was organized on "Foreign Direct Investment – Taking the Agenda Forward" in association with BBG, EBG and knowledge partners Deloitte and KPMG. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, DIPP in the inaugural session, which also included a theme presentation by Mr. Richard Rekhy, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM India and CEO, KPMG. Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Treasurer, AMCHAM and Regional Managing Partner, Deloitte, in his welcome address, spoke about the significance of viable eco–systems that inspire investors' confidence and promote ease–of–doing–business for existing and potential foreign investors. Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Board Member, AMCHAM India and President & Country Head, Bank of America, contributed a presentation from a banker's perspective covering aspects of how the country is poised for milestone growth targets which will have to be propelled by huge spurts of investments across key priority sectors coming from within and outside of India.

Two panel discussions followed which covered the overall developments and recent relaxations in sectors of aviation, defense, retail and manufacturing. Companies such as KPMG, Deloitte, Boeing, Walmart, International Paper, Timken and Ikea were represented in these sectors. Mr. Ishtiyaque Ahmed, Director, DIPP, and Mr. Deepak Bagla, Managing Director & CEO, Invest India, talked about the government initiatives and policy changes, and also interacted with participants on the challenges and way forward.

3rd Aug 2016

Manufacturing Committee Meeting

The first meeting of AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee for the year 2016–17 under the chairmanship of Mr. Rampraveen Swaminathan, President & Managing Director, International Paper India Pvt. Ltd. and co-chairmanship of Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited, was held on 3rd August in New Delhi. The committee discussed the way forward, potential state-wise engagement, knowledge sharing for best practices, industry challenges (such as labor laws, supply chain, BIS, etc.) and how to best showcase American companies that "Make in India." It was also decided to reach out to all committee members to gather the most common industry issues.

5th Aug 2016

IPR Committee Members Meeting with Delegation of Senate Finance Committee Members from Washington D.C.

A small group of AMCHAM IPR Committee members met with the visiting members of the Senate Finance Committee from Washington. The delegation included Mr. Everett Eissenstat, Chief International Trade Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Mr. Jay Khosla, Chief Health Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance and Mr. Shane Warren, International Trade Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance. Mr. John McCaslin, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, and Mr. Christopher Elms, Economic Growth Unit Chief, U.S. Embassy New Delhi and Ms. Komal Kalha, USPTO also joined the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss intellectual property rights in India. The discussions were led by Ms. Meenu Chandra, Chair, AMCHAM IPR Committee and Senior Attorney, Intellectual Property Lead India Region, Corporate External & Legal Affairs (CELA), Microsoft, Mr. Tabrez Ahmad, Director–Public Policy, Mr. Srinjoy Banerjee, AVP (Intellectual Property & Data Privacy) & Legal Counsel, Genpact and Mr. Venkatesh Krishnamoorthy, Associate Director, APCO Worldwide. From AMCHAM secretariat Ms. Valerie Swope, Program Coordinator and Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta, Sector Manager, Pharma, Medical Devices and IPR joined the meeting.

5th Aug 2016

Meeting with Minister Counsellor (Commercial), High Commission of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

AMCHAM called on Mr. Sumedha Minister Counsellor (Commercial), High Commission of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to brief him on the upcoming AMCHAM delegation to Colombo taking place on August 29–30, 2016. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Vibhav Garg, Head–HEGA, Boston Scientific India Pvt. Ltd.

The purpose of the meeting was to brief the Sri Lankan High Commission about the delegation and seek their support in getting some of the requested meetings confirmed for the delegation.

10th Aug 2016

Smart City Overview of Madhya Pradesh (Conference Call)

A teleconference call was organized with Mr. NSN Murty, Executive Director & Smart Cities Leader at PwC, to discuss and understand the smart city programs for the state of Madhya Pradesh. The focus was on the three designated smart cities Bhopal, Indore and Jabalpur. Mr. Murty gave a detailed walk through of the smart city visions, the special purpose vehicle (SPVs), the funding mechanisms and private sector participation models for the three cities. He highlighted the priority developmental projects and proposed pan–city initiatives that are under various roll out stages. A larger outreach plan for AMCHAM member companies with each SPV was discussed as well. Companies that participated included Honeywell, 3M, UL, UTC, Trimble, OshKosh, Xylem, Ch2M, Louis Berger, HP, Motorola Solutions, Ingersoll Rand and IBM.

18th Aug 2016

Meeting with Mr. Munu Mahawar, Joint Secretary (Americas), Ministry of External Affairs

Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India, and Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, AMCHAM, called on Mr. Munu Mahawar, Joint Secretary (Americas), Ministry of External Affairs, on 18th August 2016 in his office and discussed U.S.–India relations ahead of U.S.–India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue to be held on 30th and 31st August in New Delhi.

22nd Aug 2016

Aviation Committee Meeting

AMCHAM's Aviation Committee met to discuss points that could be submitted to the ministry on the NCAP 2016. Since the topics require immense time and discussion, the committee decided to conduct a day long workshop at the UTC office. It would be beneficial to create working groups and brainstorm to develop recommendations for submission. An opportunity for an upcoming meeting with the policy officers of the Haryana government was also confirmed for the end of August.

23rd Aug 2016

AMCHAM - KPMG - Deloitte Conference Call on GST - Road Ahead for Industry

AMCHAM, along with KPMG and Deloitte, organized a conference call on "GST – Road Ahead for Industry". The speakers were: Mr. Vikas Vasal, Chairman AMCHAM's Tax, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee and Partner, Head Deal Advisory, M&A Tax (North), KPMG in India, Ms. Neeru Ahuja, Co–Chairperson AMCHAM's Tax, Tariff & Regulatory Affairs Committee and Partner, Business Tax, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP, Mr. Sachin Menon, Partner & Head of Indirect Tax, KPMG in India, Ms. Anjlika Chopra, Senior Director, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP and Mr. R. Sridhar, Vice President – Taxation, Hindustan Coca–Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd.

Subjects covered were the likely date of GST implementation, likely rate of GST, past credit, input credit, continuation of export and state incentives, valuation rules, etc. AMCHAM has already made one representation on GST to the Ministry of Finance. If more inputs are received from members, another representation would be made and presented to the Ministry of Finance and the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers.

26th Aug 2016

Meeting with U.S. Secretary of Air Force, Ms. Deborah Lee James

AMCHAM Defense Committee members met with the Hon'ble Deborah Lee James, Secretary, U.S. Air Force, on 26th August in New Delhi. The Secretary mentioned that the U.S. Air Force was optimistic about the future of co-developing and co-producing defence systems with India and excited about their part of the Defence Technology Trade Initiative (DTTI). The interaction was very timely as she met with Secretary of the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, immediately after this meeting and mentioned she would carry information from the interaction. She was accompanied by Heidi Grant, Deputy Under Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, International Affairs.

29th Aug 2016

Clean Energy Investment Roundtable with U.S. Deputy Secretary, Energy, Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood – Randall

AMCHAM organized clean energy investment roundtable with U.S. Deputy Secretary, Energy, Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood–Randall, who was part of the U.S. delegation led by Secretary of State, Mr. John Kerry, visiting India for the second U.S. – India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue. The roundtable discussion topics included mission innovation, which relates to work taking place at the U.S. Department of Energy on mission innovation, as well as activities at the DoE national laboratories, cross–border public private partnership models for innovation and investment in clean energy technologies. Lessons learned from successes and challenges faced by innovators and investors on cross–border opportunities to improve outcomes from future engagements by incorporating the extensive experience of innovators and investors engaged in U.S.–India joint clean energy projects, were also shared. Participants included a number of leading Indian and U.S. companies as well as representatives from PSUs and startups as well.

29th – 30th Aug 2016

AMCHAM India Medical Devices Committee Delegation to Colombo, Sri Lanka

Mr. Prabal Chakraborty, Chairman, AMCHAM Medical Devices Committee and VP & Managing Director, Boston Scientific led a delegation of AMCHAM Medical Devices Committee members to Colombo, Sri Lanka. The purpose of this delegation was to explore business opportunities in Healthcare Sector in Sri Lanka with a special focus on medical devices sector as well as promoting U.S. – Sri Lanka trade in area of healthcare.

The delegation met with officials within the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine including meeting with Mr. Cassim Faizal, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Mr. Anura Jayawickrema, Secretary, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Dr. Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala, Director General Health Services, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Prof. Asita De Silva, Chairman, NMRA and Dr. Kamal Jayasinghe, CEO, NMRA. The group also met with officials from the U.S. Embassy in Colombo over a briefing session on August 29, 2016 at AMCHAM Sri Lanka office.

The 12 membered delegation comprised of participants from members of AMCHAM Medical Devices Committee like Boston Scientific, Abbott, GE, Medtronic, CR Bard and St. Jude Medical. From AMCHAM secretariat, Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta accompanied the delegation.

31st Aug 2016

Meeting with Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs, Ms. Tina Kaidanow

The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Political–Military Affairs, Tina Kaidanow, met with key AMCHAM defense industry leaders New Delhi. Members discussed the revised Indian Defense Procurement Policy (DPP), issues on offsets and FDI policy, licensing issues and the challenges working in India. The PDAS was also informed of the recommendations that AMCHAM recently made to the ministry on defense aspects, including the DPP.

1st Sept 2016

Aviation Committee Meeting with U.S. Special Representative for Environment and Water Resources, Ambassador Jennifer A. Haverkamp

AMCHAM's Aviation Committee members met with Ambassador Haverkamp, Special Representative for Environment and Water Resources, U.S. Department of State in New Delhi, to discuss a global market-based measure (MBM) to address CO2 emissions from international aviation recently adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly (ICAO). Ambassador Haverkamp mentioned there is strong support from IATA for this MBM. The phases of the 15 year program, scheduled to start in 2021, were explained. The first 6 years of the program are voluntary but eventually all ICAO members would be required to participate. Ambassador Haverkamp addressed questions and comments from members and explored ways that the GOI can promote greater sustainability in civil aviation. Companies that participated in the interaction included APCO, Boeing, GE, Harris and Honeywell.

6th Sept 2016

Debriefing Session with U.S. Ambassador and Joint Secretary, MEA

AMCHAM organized a debriefing session post U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue with U.S. Ambassador Richard Verma and Joint Secretary, MEA, Mr. Munu Mahawar at ACSA, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi.

Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM, in his welcome address, said that the last few months witnessed a number of positive developments on the Indo–U.S. economic front strengthening Indo–U.S. strategic and commercial relations.

Ambassador Richard Verma said that in the last few weeks there have been intense engagements between India and the U.S. and there is strong momentum in the relationship. Mr. Modi after becoming the Prime Minister had eight meetings with President Obama. The two–way trade has increased to \$ 109 billion. During the U.S.–India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue, issues such as reforms, taxes, economic environment, energy and many more were discussed. U.S. was keen to sign a Bilateral Investment Treaty with India.

Mr. Munu Mahawar, in his remarks, said that every month a new subject was being included for discussion between the two governments. Clean energy was added last month. There was ongoing discussion in the defense sector. Both the countries were now discussing co-production. For cyber security, a framework has been prepared. He agreed that there remained few issues where progress was required. As far as bilateral trade was concerned, it was much below the potential. Once ease of doing business happens, trade would also improve.

This was followed by an interaction from the floor by the members. Members raised issues regarding education, health, digital India, solar power, clean energy, defense, cyber security, high technology transfer in the defense sector, procurement process, offsets, etc.

8th Sept 2016

Breakfast Roundtable with U.S. Ambassador to Nepal, Alaina Teplitz

AMCHAM met with Ambassador Alaina Teplitz, U.S. Ambassador to Nepal, in New Delhi. Ambassador Teplitz was accompanied by Ms. Andrea Goodman, Chief of Political and Economic Affairs, U.S Embassy, Kathmandu. The Ambassador gave an overview of the political and economic challenges in Nepal and highlighted areas of opportunity, which included a rich environment for research and a growing aviation sector. With the main goal of increasing Nepal's economic success, the Ambassador emphasized the need to get businesses in and create jobs. She also touched on the relationship Nepal has with surrounding countries.

The session was chaired by Mr. Sanjeev Gupta, Chairman – Economic Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Country General Manager – Public Sector, Microsoft Corporation India. Remarks were also made by Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM and President of Boeing India, and Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, AMCHAM.

Participants were able to ask specific questions and mentioned challenges pertaining to their operations in Nepal. Companies that participated in the session included Bell Helicopter, Boeing, Caterpillar, Coca Cola, Eli Lilly, Honeywell, Microsoft, Monsanto, Sikorsky, Symantec, Synergics Hydro and UTC.

8th Sept 2016

Agriculture and Food Processing Committee Meeting

AMCHAM hosted the first meeting of the Agriculture Committee at the office of E.I. DuPont in Gurgaon. The committee decided that since the main areas to focus on in the agriculture and food processing sector are – pre–harvest production/agriculture, post–harvest area, food processing and reaching out to consumers and agriculture and food infrastructure, the committee should align its Agenda on these lines. The committee decided that they had to also focus on brand improvement and policy advocacy issues and state–level engagements.

The committee is headed by Mr. Ram Mudholkar, President, E.I. DuPont India Pvt. Ltd. and Co-Chaired by Mr. Siraj Chaudhary, Chairman, Cargill India Pvt. Ltd.

13th Sept 2016

Farewell Reception for John McCaslin, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy

AMCHAM hosted a farewell reception for Mr. John McCaslin, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy and welcomed his successor Mr. Patrick Santillo in New Delhi. John has completed his 3—year post in New Delhi. Not only has John been a great friend to India, he has brought expertise, knowledge and support to AmCham and our member companies, always encouraging bilateral trade and investment between the U.S. and India.

Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director, AMCHAM India, welcomed attendees. Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India, in his opening remarks, expressed gratitude for John's support over the years and looked forward to working with Patrick. Ambassador Richard Verma spoke about the contribution the McCaslins have made to the community and strength of the Commercial Affairs team. John and Patrick also spoke.

This event was made possible by the following sponsors: Amway, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Monsanto.

22nd Sept 2016

Interactive Session with USTDA and FCS on Outcomes from the U.S.- India Strategic & Commercial Dialogue and Smart City Updates

AMCHAM's Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee held an interactive session with USTDA Country Representative, Ms. Mehnaz Ansari, in New Delhi. The interaction brought up significant outcomes from the recently held U.S. – India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue. Areas such as innovation, entrepreneurship, ease of doing business, commerce and economy and energy initiatives, such as the U.S.–India Clean Energy Finance Initiative, clean energy hub, the expansion of the utility support program of USAID and the U.S. India Catalytic Solar Energy Finance Program. The efforts under the Clean Energy Finance Task Force are being expanded to include new clean energy finance initiatives for joint collaborations. Ms. Ansari gave updates from USTDA's recent outreaches to the cities of Vizag, Ajmer and Allahabad and apprised committee members on the second phase of smart city expansion programs launched in Vizag, as well as the progress of the smart city master plan in Ajmer and Allahabad. She also informed the committee on the upcoming Smart City Stakeholders' workshop to be held in Vizag, the Reverse Trade Mission proposed for Ajmer and the Commerce Department's Conference on Smart Cities. Members were invited to share their views on possible candidates for the Reverse Trade Mission and inputs were sought for engaging with stakeholders in Vizag, Allahabad and Ajmer, during the upcoming outreach.

22nd Sept 2016

HR Committee Meeting

The third meeting of AMCHAM's HR Committee was held in Bangalore at the IBM office, under the leadership of Mr. DP Singh, Chairman – HR Committee and VP – HR (India/South Asia), IBM India and Mr. Sameer Mathur, Co–Chair and SVP – HR, Citibank. Ms. Mamta Uppal, Membership & Events Manager, AMCHAM, welcomed the committee members.

Mr. DP Singh in his opening observations apprised the participants about the sudden demise of Ms. Paridhi Goel Thakur, a young employee of AMCHAM, who was in charge of the HR Committee. A two-minute silence was also observed as a mark of respect to Paridhi. A condolence resolution was passed by the Chair, Co-Chair and committee members and "The Paridhi Excellence Award" was announced.

Going forward, for the remaining 2016 and first quarter of 2017, the HR Committee would be focusing on the following 3 charters: HR Digitization and Future of Work, Chair, Mr. Sarthak Ray Chaudhuri, Whirlpool of India Limited; Labor Reforms, Chair, Mr. Pramath Nath, KPMG; Employee Frauds, Chair, Ms. Kavita Mathur, GT

Presentations was made by Ms. Pavithra Sampath, HRTO Manager, IBM – made a presentation on fraud analytics; Neha Chakraborthy, Recruitment Leader, IBM – made a presentation on IBM's background checks for recruitments. In his concluding remarks, Mr. DP Singh thanked the committee members for their participation.

26th Sept 2016

ICT Committee Interaction with Ms. Angela Simpson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce

Members of AMCHAM's ICT Committee met with Ms. Angela Simpson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, in New Delhi, to brief her on the main issues/developments in the telecom and IT sectors.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Amit Sharma, Chairman, AMCHAM's ICT Committee and Executive Vice President and President Asia, ATC India. An update on the telecom issues was provided by Mr. Naveen Tandon, Co–Chairman, AMCHAM's ICT Committee and Director – IEA, AT&T Communication Services India Private Limited, and an update on IT issues was provided by Mr. Vivek Vasishtha, Co–Chairman, AMCHAM's ICT Committee and Country Leader – Government and Regulatory Affairs, IBM India Pvt. Ltd.

Ms. Angela Simpson was in India to participate in the U.S.-India ICT Dialogue. She informed members about some of the main issues that she was focusing on which included internet policy, IT, broadband, cross border data flow, encryption and security, internet of things, cyber security, etc.

3rd Oct 2016

Manufacturing Committee Meeting

The second meeting of AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee for the year 2016–17 under the chairmanship of Mr. Rampraveen Swaminathan, President & Managing Director, International Paper India Pvt. Ltd. and co-chairmanship of Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited, at the Timken office in Bangalore. Dr. Pradip Datta, Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Corporate Vice President & Managing Director, Synopsys (India) Pvt. Ltd. also joined the meeting and stressed the importance of manufacturing in India.

Members went on a tour of Timken's Technology Center and planted a tree to commemorate the day. The meeting focused on the results of the manufacturing questionnaire, challenges in specific states, the need to have single window approvals and the best way to get inputs across to the GOI. The committee also brainstormed on how to get more companies actively involved and the best way to showcase American companies in a manufacturing event to celebrate AMCHAM's silver jubilee year slated to take place in early 2017.

5th Oct 2016

Northern Region Council Executive Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Committee of AMCHAM's Northern Region Council, under the chairmanship of Mr. Rustom Desai, Managing Director, Corning India and Optical Communications, Corning India, in Gurgaon. Members reviewed the progress about the preparation of a capability deck of NRC members and discussed activities to be conducted. A presentation on "GST – Going Forward" was made by Mr. Atul Gupta, Senior Director – Indirect Tax, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP.

7th Oct 2016

Smart City Group Interaction with Bhopal Smart City Limited (BSCL)

AMCHAM's Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee made an outreach visit to Bhopal and met Mr. Chandramauli Shukla, CEO, Bhopal Smart City Limited and their Strategic Adviser, Mr. Animesh Parihar, to discuss and evaluate the progress of Bhopal smart city master plan. During the open interaction, many suggestions were exchanged on the upcoming projects under various smart city heads such as the ICT

initiatives, retro and redevelopment projects (for which government acquired land was available), water and waste management, private sector partnerships, procurement, current and upcoming RFPs and the concept master plan models. A presentation on the Bhopal concept master plan was delivered by the CEO, BSCL. The group looked forward to taking up these points and engaging with the appropriate officials leading these efforts in Bhopal working towards the outcomes that were discussed. Companies such as Honeywell, PwC, 3M, United Technologies and HPE participated.

19th Oct 2016

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

AMCHAMN's Agriculture and Food Processing Committee members met with Acting Under Secretary/ Deputy Under Secretary, Ms. Alexis Taylor, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 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.

28th Oct 2016

Defense Committee Meeting

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.

28th Oct 2016

Defense Committee Interactive session with Ambassador Richard Verma

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.

3rd Nov 2016

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

Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, AMCHAM India, and Ms. Udaya Arun, Program Manager – Aerospace & Defense, AMCHAM India, called upon 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 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.

9th Nov 2016

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

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.

10th Nov 2016

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 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.

11th Nov 2016

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 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.

15th Nov 2016

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. 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, AMCHAM.

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-II), 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.

17th – 25th Nov 2016

AMCHAM and U.S. Embassy CSR Photo Exhibition "American Business Making a Difference"

AMCHAM, in association with the U.S. Embassy, celebrated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) 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, itelligence 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.

18th Nov 2016

Defense Committee Meeting

AMCHAM Defense Committee members discussed the action items that emerged from the last interaction with Ambassador Verma two weeks ago 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.

18th Nov 2016

Defense Committee Interactive session with VADM Joseph Rixey, Director, DSCA

AMCHAM Defense Committee members met with VADM Joseph Rixey, Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency in 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. Mr. Phil Shaw, Chairman of AMCHAM's Defense Committee chaired the interactive session.

23rd Nov 2016

Meeting with Ms. MaryKay Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy

Ms. Ranjana Khanna and Ms. Madhvi Kataria called on Ms. MaryKay Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, in her office. Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs and Mr. Robert Kemp, Deputy Minister Counselor, Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, were also present.

Ms. MaryKay Carlson was confident that the trajectory of the U.S. – India relationship would remain positive as India and the U.S. shared many opportunities. The momentum in U.S. – India trade was also expected to be maintained under the new leadership. AMCHAM requested if a CODEL or Commerce/State Secretary could visit India to participate in AMCHAM's 25th AGM to be held in New Delhi on 21st April 2017.

AMCHAM's participation in the event on Indo-Asia Connectivity for Shared Prosperity to be organized by U.S. in Kolkata on 14th – 15th December and Vibrant Gujarat were also discussed.

29th Nov 2016

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

AMCHAM organized a talk by Ms. Susan Schmitt, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Rockwell Automation, 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 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.

30th Nov 2016

Meeting with Government of Haryana Aviation Officials

AMCHAM's Aviation Committee members met with officials from the Government of Haryana. 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.

9th Dec 2016

Briefing Session of AMCHAM – AdvaMed Members with Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy

A group of members from AMCHAM Medical Devices Committee and the AdvaMed India Working Group met with Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy and his staff. Industry briefed him on the regulatory environment for medical devices in India and the challenges faced by the industry. Members also took the opportunity to highlight some of the other broad issues of the industry like pricing, protectionist policy and increase of import duty to Mr. Santillo.

Mr. Santillo informed everyone that the embassy was expecting a change in administration and also trying to integrate its regional offices into various policy discussions. He also assured that the healthcare sector was a priority sector for the embassy in 2017. He found the briefing session very helpful and suggested industry to formulate a strategy map and meet again in January 2017.

The following members represented in the meeting – Mr. Vibhav Garg, Boston Scientific, Ms. Sumati Randeo, Abbott, Mr. Sudhakar Mairpady, Philips, Mr. Nishith Desai, Medtronic, Ms. Latika Vats, Terumo, and Mr. Sharad Shukla, Johnson & Johnson. From AMCHAM, Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta attended the meeting.

8th Dec 2016

India Smart Cities Technical Workshop

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, Mr. 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."

10th Dec 2016 Annua

Annual Christmas Ball 2016

AMCHAM India organized its Annual Christmas Ball 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.

16th Dec 2016

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.

20th Jan 2017

Meeting with Office of Defense Cooperation Officials

AMCHAM's Defense Committee hosted a meeting with the newly commissioned officers at the Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC), U.S. Embassy – Major Neil S Prakash (Army Programs) and Captain Vinamra Pandey (Air Force Programs). The AMCHAM team briefed the officers on the Defense Committee achievements and plan of action for the current year while the ODC briefed AMCHAM about the vision and goals for 2017. Some information on Aero India 2017 was also shared.

23rd Jan 2017

HR Committee Meeting

The fourth meeting of the HR Committee was held in New Delhi under the leadership of Mr. D.P. Singh, Chairman – HR Committee and VP – HR (India/South Asia), IBM India and Mr. Sameer Mathur, Co–Chair and Senior VP – HR, Citibank India. The committee deliberated on possible topics of interest and events for the next quarter. Mr. Sameer Mathur presented the HR charters for the sub–committees and possible events for 2017.

Mr. Sarthak Raychauduri, Whirlpool, spoke about the future of work. He focused on various practices that are currently being adopted by organizations related to future work practices. He proposed that the perspective of millennials should be taken in consideration as they represent the future. It was thereby finalized by the committee to have a paper competition on the "Future of Work."

A presentation on 'Understanding Millennial' was given by Ms. Kristina Deighan, Citibank, which highlighted the generational differences and values of millennials. She explained the biggest shift in India's workforce is represented by millennials and how it is important to understand their values, preferences and mobility for human resource departments.

Ms. Kavita Mathur, Grant Thornton, also gave a presentation on 'Employee Frauds' elucidating on how fraud is attempted in India. She also suggested a few measures for companies to prepare themselves to handle such situations. She advised that a repository should be created of all identified frauds, their source of occurrence, detection/prevention method as prevalent in organizations. She also discussed what types of fraud typically happen in organizations.

24th Jan 2017

Defense Committee Meeting

In AMCHAM's monthly Defense Committee meeting members had great deliberations over the existing and projected defense projects "Make in India" programs. The team also discussed recommendations on "Make in India," ease of doing business and related tax aspects. The team is working on finalizing the recommendations to be submitted to government officials.

9th Feb 2017

CSR Roundtable Session on Child Protection in India with ChildFund International's Global Leadership

The AMCHAM CSR Committee had a session with ChildFund International's global leadership, hosted at the Fluor Daniel office in Gurgaon. Mr. Arun Kumar Jain, Managing Director, Fluor Daniel India Pvt. Ltd. and National Executive Board Member of AMCHAM, made opening remarks about Fluor's CSR activities and emphasis on employee volunteerism. Ms. Anne Lynam Goddard, Global President and CEO, ChildFund International spoke about the commitment that ChildFund has to children and their efforts in more than 50 countries worldwide. Mr. Geoffrey Petkovich, Regional Director – Asia, ChildFund International, spoke on monitoring the balance between the financial bottom line of a CSR project and the social impact.

Ms. Neelam Makhijani, CEO, ChildFund India, spoke passionately about the work that ChildFund has in India from skill development to WASH to training tribal women to adolescent education and advocacy to end child labor. She explained that ChildFund India is a child development organization representing the voice of deprived, excluded and vulnerable children in India regardless of their race, creed and gender, since 1951. Presently, they are assisting more than 1.73 million children and families across the country with unique child–centric intervention programs.

10th Feb 2017

ICT Committee Meeting

A meeting of AMCHAM's ICT Committee was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Amit Sharma, Executive Vice President and President Asia, ATC India, in New Delhi. The Co-Chairmen, Mr. Naveen Tandon, Director – IEA, AT&T Communication Services India Private Limited, and Mr. Vivek Vasishtha, Country Leader – Government and Regulatory Affairs, IBM India Pvt. Ltd. were also present.

The committee, inter alia, discussed issues such as PMA, security testing, Google tax, computer related inventions, public procurement, internet of things, M2M, net neutrality, cyber security, etc.

10th Feb 2017

Future of Work Webinar in association with IBM

The HR Committee hosted a webinar in association with IBM on the future of work. The webinar began with Mr. D. P. Singh, Chairman – HR Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President and Head, HR, IBM India, as the keynote speaker. He welcomed the other three speakers, Mr. Sarthak Raychaudhuri, VP – HR, Whirlpool of India Limited, Mr. Suman Akkiraju, AVP, HCL Technologies and Mr. Ritesh Verma, Head IT and Systems, IOT Infrastructure. They gave presentations along with their perspectives on the future of work.

The webinar encompassed discussions on the innovation in technology and how it is continuing to transform the world of work faster than ever before. It is fueling disruptive innovations and is re–writing traditional business strategies and decision making which is going to revolutionize industries and job professions–new technology is opening the door to possibilities across every enterprise domain.

Various practices that are currently being adopted by organizations were also discussed. It was deliberated that changes will occur in the years to come and speakers anticipated how interaction, communication and processes will change the workplace. Repetitive tasks will become automated through machines and technology. Virtual relationships will flourish and there will be a rise of a white collar contractual workforce. The webinar concluded with a Q&A session.

9th March 2017

Interactive Session on 'Impact of GST on e-Commerce and Services Sector'

AMCHAM and KPMG organized an interactive session on 'Impact of GST on e-Commerce and Services Sector' at the KPMG office in Gurgaon. Mr. Amarjeet Singh, Chairman –Tax and Tariff Committee, AMCHAM, and Partner, KPMG welcomed the members. Mr. Priyajit Ghosh, Partner, Indirect Tax – KPMG; and Mr. Sudipta Bhattacharjee, Partner, Indirect Tax – Litigations, Advaita Legal, made presentations on the impact of GST on e-commerce and services sector.

11th March 2017

Meeting with DG (Acq), Ministry of Defense

AMCHAM Defense Core team members engaged with DG (Acquisition) Ms. Smita Nagaraj at New Delhi. Discussion points revolved around strategic partners, DDP issues, offset issues and others. The team is would be preparing recommendations for submission to her office.

15th March 2017

AMCHAM and USIBC Roundtable with Senior Executives from the Business Executives for National Security (BENS) Delegation

AMCHAM hosted the delegation from Business Executives for National Security (BENS) jointly with USIBC for a roundtable. BENS is an impactful group of C Suite executives who have a strong interest in U.S. National Security and who can provide government leaders within the U.S. National Security Enterprise their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities inherent in the key strategic relationships of the United States and associated international partners. They aimed to gain an understanding of India's business environment and perspectives on the security issues shaping US–India relations. Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM led the discussions and invited fellow AMCHAM members to participate and share comments on India's counter–terrorism initiatives, impact of India being designated as America's Major Defense Partner, government policies (tax and investment regulations, 'ease of doing business', etc.) that promote / hinder economic development and FDI in the defense sector.

16th March 2017

Interaction with Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, GOI, on Manufacturing

AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee met with Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, GOI,. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, welcomed members. The Secretary acceded to AMCHAM's request to make ongoing interactions on a quarterly basis. Secretary Abhishek was accompanied by Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIPP and Invest India.

Mr. Rampraveen Swaminathan, Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, International Paper India, made opening remarks on the overall challenges to the manufacturing industry in India, such as, the need to have a modernized integrated port system, lack of GST clarity, consistent government polices without retrospective changes, delays caused by multiplicity of government agencies, labor laws, and the manufacturing skills gap, among others.

Mr. Rampraveen Swaminathan also moderated a sector—wise dialogue that covered manufacturing challenges in agriculture and food processing, automotive, defense, electronics and ICT and forest—based industries. Some of the companies represented at the meeting included BAE Sytems, Boeing, Carrier Midea, Corning Technologies, Deloitte, Dow Chemical, Edgewood Networks, Emerson Electric, Ford, HP, IBM, International Paper, IPM India Wholesale Trading, John Deere, KPMG, Lockheed Martin, PepsiCo and UTC. AMCHAM submitted a detailed document with company specific challenges and proposed solutions.

24th March 2017

Defence Committee Meeting

The members discussed recommendations that the group could submit to DIPP on ease of doing business and the challenges being faced. Also discussed were the future engagements planned with the Ministry of Defence officials.

29th March 2017	Agriculture and Food Processing Committee Meeting
	Discussion on the AMCHAM sector document and expanding the scope to make it more inclusive.
29th March 2017	Aviation Core Group Meeting
	The core group decided to map the member capabilities into the top 7 priority issues that needed to be taken up for discussion and the top priority states that could be engaged with to take forward the committee's agenda.
11th April 2017	Meeting with Director General (Acquisition) Ms. Smita Nagaraj, Ministry of Defence
	AMCHAM defense core team members engaged with DG (Acquisition) Ms. Smita Nagaraj to discussion points revolved around strategic partners, DDP issues, offset issues and others. The team is currently preparing recommendations for submission to her office.
18th April 2017	Meeting with Senator Coons (D-DE) and Senator Merkley (D-OR)
	AMCHAM members met with for a closed door roundtable with Senator Christopher Andrew "Chris" Coons, United States Senator from Delaware (Democrat) and Senator Jeffrey Alan "Jeff" Merkley, United States Senator from Oregon (Democrat) at the U.S. Embassy. The members discussed the U.S. – India business climate and challenges and opportunities with a focus on the ease of doing business in India.
19th April 2017	Roundtable with Assistant USTR for South and Central Asia, Mr. Mark Linscott
	AMCHAM hosted a breakfast roundtable for Mr. Mark Linscott, Assistant USTR for South and Central Asia, U.S. Trade Representative, during his inaugural trip to India on 19th April at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. The meeting was focussed on the U.S. – India economic relationship and future engagement on bilateral and multilateral trade policy.
	Ms. Valerie Swope, Program Coordinator, AMCHAM made welcome remarks and introduced the USG officials. Mr. George Sibley made remarks and then turned it over to Mr. Prabal Chakraborty, Chairman – Medical Devices Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President and Managing Director, Boston Scientific India, who chaired the meeting from AMCHAM. Mr. Chakraborty gave an overview of the progress on some of the flourishing sectors and emphasized that the medical devices sector still faces price control challenges.
	Mr. Linscott, in his opening remarks, mentioned that India is one of the countries that the U.S. has a trade deficit with in goods and agriculture goods. He explained that a trade report will be made on the countries with a trade deficit to determine the reasons and circumstances that led to the deficit. His visit to India was basically to understand and identify tariff and non–tariff barriers such as dumping practices, IPR challenges, etc. so that the necessary assessments could be made.
	AMCHAM members introduced themselves and talked about specific trade barriers their companies face. Some of the challenges included high import duties on raw materials, standards and regulations, in country testing requirements, arduous tax laws, offsets challenges, export potential across sectors, product categorization inconsistencies and interpretations from port to port, etc. Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta, Sector Manager – Medical Devices, AMCHAM, gave the vote of thanks.



(L - R): Mr. Richard Rekhy, CEO, KPMG in India, Mr. Rustom J. Desai, MD, Corning India and Telecom Operations, Mr. Raghav Chandra, Chairman, NHAI, Mr. Arun Kumar Jain, MD, Fluor Daniel India and Mr. John M. McCaslin, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, during the panel discussion on infrastructure



(L - R): Mr. Ajay Singha, Former Executive Director, AMCHAM India, Mr. Richard Verma, U.S. Ambassador to India, Ms. Vanitha Narayanan, MD, IBM India, Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog and Mr. Richard Rekhy, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM India and CEO, KPMG in India, releasing the AMCHAM CSR compendium

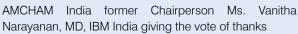


Panel discussion on agriculture and food processing. (L to R) Mr. Atul Dhawan, Regional Managing Partner, Deloitte, Dr. Ashok Gulati, Professor for Agriculture, ICRIER, Mr. Scott Sindelar, Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Gokul Patnaik, Chairman, Global AgriSystem and Mr. Ashwani Sharma, Chief Merchandising Officer, Wal-Mart India

MORING



Mr. Raghav Chandra, Chairman, NHAI delivering keynote address at AMCHAM's 24th Annual General Meeting





AMCHAM National Executive Board meeting in progress under the chairmanship of Mr. Pratyush Kumar, President, Boeing India



Mr. Anand S. Dayal, Partner, Koura & Company, during the Anti-Corruption Compliance and Risk Management Master Class 2016



Ms. Ritika Ratti, Chairperson-Anti Corruption and FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Sr. Director, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer & Head of Anti-Corruption, Walmart India



(L - R): Ms. Nidhi Rao, BDO, Mr. Vasu Muthyala, Kobre & Kim, Ms. Mini VandePol, Baker & McKenzie and Mr. Sunny Mann, Baker & McKenzie



Mr. Vasu Muthyala, Kobre & Kim, addressing the potential risks associated with third parties



AMCHAM smart city group interacts with Mr. Shiv Shankar Heda, Chairman, Ajmer Development Authority



Mr. Andrew Keller, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Counter Threat Finance Sanctions, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, in discussion with AMCHAM members on Iran Sanctions



AMCHAM India Delegation to Bangladesh with Mr. Ashadul Islam, Director General – Health Economics Unit, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



AMCHAM India delegation members interacting with Mr. Zahid Maleque, State Minister, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Members of AMCHAM India delegation to Bangladesh with President, AMCHAM Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Nurul Islam



Dr. Michael A. Salinger, Senior Academic Adviser, Charles River Associates talking about the role of economics in competition



Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, AMCHAM India welcoming the guests during a talk on "Competition Law and Policy"

Mr. C.R. Dua, Managing Partner, Dua Associates, giving the vote of thanks during a talk on "Competition Law and Policy"





The delegation with Congressman Derek Kilmer (D–WA) in Washington



AMCHAM members during annual door knock delegation to Washington D.C. with USTDA officials



The door knock delegation with Congressman Matt Salmon (R-AZ) and Chairman, House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific



Ms. Elizabeth Littlefield, President & CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) briefing the delegation at the OPIC office



(L - R): Mr. Brian Chase, Bell Helicopter, Mr. Swami Iyer, Honeywell Aerospace, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Bank of America, Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman AMCHAM India, President, Boeing India, Ms. Abby Pratt, AdvaMed, and Mr. Samit Ray, UTC



AMCHAM door knock delegation to Washington D.C. with Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI)



Special session with Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIPP, Govt. of India



Ms. Meenu Chandra, Chair, AMCHAM IPR Committee and Sr. Attorney, Corporate Legal & External Affairs, Microsoft, giving welcome speech during the Interactive Session on India's National IPR Policy – A View from Global Innovators

India's National-IPR Strategy: A View from Global Innovators

(L - R): Dr. Brij Uberoi, CEO, CropLife, Ms. Komal Kalha, Sr. Counsel, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Ms. Sanjit Kaur Batra, Co-Chair -AMCHAM IPR Committee and Legal Head - South Asia, E.I DuPont, Ms. Archana Shankar, Partner, Anand & Anand and Mr. Pulak Bagchi, SVP, Star India



(L - R): Ms. Lohita Sujith, Director – Corporate Communications, MPAA, Mr. Narendra Sabharwal, Chair, FICCI – IPR Committee, Ms. Kalpana Reddy, Senior Director, GIPC, Ms. Sheetal Chopra, India Lead – IPR Policy, Ericsson India Ltd. and Mr. BK Sahu, Dy. Manager – IPR, NRDC, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India



CSR Committee members with Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman CSR Committee and Executive Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements, India & SAARC, Cisco



Participants at an engaging session on FCPA Trends by Protiviti



HR Committee Chairman, Mr. D.P. Singh, VP – HR (India/South Asia), IBM and Co–Chairman, Mr. Sameer Mathur, Sr. VP – HR, Citibank with AMCHAM HR Committee members



AMCHAM members and U.S. Embassy officials with the Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs (DNSA) and Deputy Assistant to President Barack Obama, Mr. Adewale "Wally" Adeyemo



AMCHAM Manufacturing Committee members



Keynote address being delivered by Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, DIPP during an interactive session on "Foreign Direct Investment –Taking the Agenda Forward"



(L - R): Mr. Amarjeet Singh, Partner, KPMG, Mr. Ishtiyaque Ahmed, Director, DIPP, Mr. Deepak Bagla, MD & CEO, Invest India, Mr. Krish Iyer, Member, AMCHAM NEB; and President & CEO, Walmart India, Mr. Rampraveen Swaminathan Chairman, AMCHAM Manufacturing Committee; and President, International Paper and Mr. Robert Kemp, Acting Minister–Counselor, EEST (Economic, Environment, Science, & Technology Affairs) U.S. Embassy



(L - R): Mr. Atul Dhawan, Hon. Secretary & Treasurer, AMCHAM India, Chief Strategy Officer, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP; Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, DIPP; Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Board Member, AMCHAM India, President & Country Head (India) Bank of America N.A. India and Mr. Mr. Richard Rekhy, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM India, Chief Executive Officer, KPMG in India



(L - R): Mr. Rohinton Sidhwa, Partner, International Taxation, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP., Mr. Sanjay Koul, Co-Chairman, AMCHAM Manufacturing Committee; and Chairman & MD, Timken India, Mr. Michael Koch, VP, Boeing India Defense, Space & Security, Mr. Amber Dubey, Co-Chairman, AMCHAM Aviation Committee; and Partner and Head – Aerospace and Defence, KPMG, Ms. Preet Dhupar, CFO, IKEA Group India and Mr. Anil Talreja, Partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP



(L - R): Mr. Kuljit Singh Popli, Chairman & MD, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd., Dr. Sanjiv Malhotra, Director, Clean Energy investment Centre, DoE, Dr. Sherwood–Randall, Deputy Secretary, Ambassador Richard Verma and Mr. Steven Gimri, MD, UOP– Honeywell



AMCHAM Defense Committee members meeting with the Ms. Deborah Lee James, Secretary, U.S. Air Force



Mr. Cassim Faizal, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, with the members of the AMCHAM delegation



Delegation of AMCHAM Medical Devices Committee participants in conversation with Mr. Cassim Faizal, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka



Ambassador Jennifer A. Haverkamp with AMCHAM Aviation Committee members



Debriefing by U.S. Ambassador Richard Verma and Mr. Munu Mahawar, Joint Secretary, MEA post the U.S. – India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue



(L - R): Mr. Banmali Agrawala, President & CEO, GE South Asia, GE India Industrial; U.S. Ambassador Richard Verma; Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM India, President, Boeing India and Mr. Munu Mahawar, Joint Secretary, MEA



(L - R): Ambassador Alaina Teplitz and Mr. Robert Kemp, Deputy Minister Counselor, Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy and Mr. John Armiger, Political Officer, U.S. Embassy



Members and U.S. Embassy officials at the AMCHAM farewell and welcome reception for the Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy.

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Ambassador Richard Verma addressing the farewell reception for Mr. John McCaslin

Jarewell John McCaslin

Minister Counselor for Com

Mr. Patrick Santillo, the new Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, honoring the outgoing Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, Mr. John McCaslin



(L - R): Dr. Kiranmai Pendyala, Chairperson, AMCHAM Hyderabad Chapter and CVP HR Greater Asia, AMD R&D Center India, Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM India and President, Boeing India with Mr. K.T. Rama Rao, Minister for IT, Municipal Administration & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce, Public Enterprises, Sugar, Mines & Geology, NRI Affairs, Govt. of Telangana



Minister K.T. Rama Rao, addressing the AMCHAM National Executive Board



Members of AMCHAM's ICT Committee with Ms. Angela Simpson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce



Mr. Chandramauli Shukla, CEO, Bhopal Smart City Limited, discussing the progress of the Bhopal smart city master plan with AMCHAM's Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee



AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee planting a tree at the Timken Technology Center in Bangalore (L-R planting the tree) Dr. Pradip Datta, Chairman – AMCHAM Karnataka Chapter, and Corporate VP & MD, Synopsys (India), Mr. Rampraveen Swaminathan, Chairman – AMCHAM Manufacturing Committee, and President & MD, International Paper India, and Mr. Sanjay Koul, Co-Chair – AMCHAM Manufacturing Committee, and Chairman & MD, Timken India



AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee members with Timken colleagues



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



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



(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



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



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



AMCHAM Aviation Committee members with Government of Haryana aviation officials



Former Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Arun Singh, giving remarks during AMCHAM's Annual Christmas Ball 2016



Ms. MaryKay Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, delivering remarks as the chief guest during AMCHAM's Annual Christmas Ball 2016



(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 a 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



Participants and winners in the couples game



AMCHAM team during the Annual Christmas Ball 2016 with Chairman AMCHAM India, Mr. Pratyush Kumar



National Executive Board with Ambassador Verma and other senior U.S. Embassy officials



AMCHAM's HR Committee with Chairman, Mr. D.P. Singh from IBM India



The CSR Committee with ChildFund International's global leadership



Mr. Geoffrey Petkovich, Regional Director – Asia, ChildFund International in discussion with AMCHAM's CSR Committee



AMCHAM members during an interaction on manufacturing with Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, GOI in New Delhi



(L - R): Ambasdor Richard Verma, Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman AMCHAM and President, Boeing India and Mr. Manu Mahawar, Joint Secretary, MEA



Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, giving a welcome speech during the HR Committee's Future of Work Conference



Mr. George N. Sibley, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science & Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, giving the inaugural address at the Future of Work Conference



(L - R): Mr. D.P. Singh, Chairman AMCHAM HR Committee & VP – HR (India/South Asia), IBM, Ms. Vishpala Reddy, VP & Head HR, American Express, Mr. Pritpal Kular, VP – HR, General Motors, Mr. Shaswat Kumar, HR Effectiveness, Aon Hewitt and Ms. Ira Gupta, HR Head, Microsoft at the Future of Work Conference in New Delhi



(L - R): Mr. Shankar Radhakrishan, Director, Bank of America, Ms. Supriya Sharma, Associate Manager – Govt. Relations, P&G, Mr. Prabal Chakraborty, VP and MD, Boston Scientific, India, Mr. Phil Shaw, Chief Executive – India, Lockheed Martin and Mr. Giovanni Zullo, President – India, Middle East and Africa, Emerson Electric at a roundtable session with USTR in New Delhi



AMCHAM Members with Senator Merkley, Senator Coons and senior officials from U.S. Embassy, New Delhi



AMCHAM Hyderabad

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

ession on U.S. Visas and Immigration with U.S. Consulate Hyderabad
MCHAM organized a session with the U.S. Consulate at Westin Mindspace. This meeting was a run through in the visa process and the do's and don'ts. Consul Chief Jamie Fouss gave an introduction of the trade lations between India and the U.S. and the increase in visa applications from India. He thanked AMCHAM is organizing this event. NIV Chief – Mr. Brian Salverson took the audience through the visa process via a resentation and encouraged those eligible to the use the 'Interview Waiver Program'. The floor was opened in Q&A for the members present.
h AMCHAM Healthcare Conference Steering Committee Meeting
ne committee met at the office of St. Jude Medical to discuss and deliberate on the topics/subjects to be uched on at the 4th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference to be held at Hyderabad on 16th September 2016. Iter much discussion, the ideas were put on paper and it was decided that we would continue to think on ese and firm them up at the next meeting.
MCHAM Hyderabad Executive Committee Meeting
ne AMCHAM Hyderabad Executive Committee met at the office of AMD. Ms. Sandya Rodrigues, Regional frector – Hyderrabad Chapter, AMCHAM updated the excom on the events for the year that have been anned so far. The members suggested some of the topics that we could consider viz FDI etc. The sports went was discussed at length and will be conducted from September to December this year.
h AMCHAM Healthcare Conference Steering Committee Meeting
ne committee met at the office of Phenomenex India and finalized the sessions and the panellists for the onference. After a lot of brainstorming, it was decided that the three sessions being looked into should be obal harmonization, innovation and technology and skill development. These sessions will work around e main theme of "Harmonization of Healthcare within the Ecosystem."
CPA Meeting with Ernst & Young
MCHAM organized a session on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) with Ernst & Young. The session as held at the office of Ernst & Young in iLabs, Hitech City, Hyderabad.
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Mr. Sandeep Baldava, Partner – Fraud Investigation & Dispute Services, conducted an awareness session for AMCHAM Hyderabad members. He has led many FCPA investigations/reviews for several multinational companies in multiple business sectors, including technology, telecommunications, infrastructure, retail, financial services, and life sciences. He is visiting faculty on the subject of white collar crimes for various federal and state enforcement agencies in India.

The interactive session focused on recent developments pertaining to FCPA and key case studies in these areas and what leading multinational organizations are doing in India to address the additional risks posed on account of these recent developments. Members had an opportunity to interact and learn about some leading practices in this area.

14th July 2016

4th AMCHAM Healthcare Steering Committee Meetings

The committee members met twice, once at the office of Eli Global India and then at the office of Medium Consulting in August to discuss and chart out the final course of action for the conference.

The members were informed that the website would be up and running for registrations. The day-long event with the theme "Harmonization of Indian Healthcare Within the Global Ecosystem" will be broken down into 3 sessions namely: global harmonization; innovation and technology and skills and development

18th July 2016

Farewell for U.S. Consul General Michael Mullins

AMCHAM Hyderabad organized a farewell for Mr. Michael Mullins, Consul General, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad at Westin Mindspace, Hyderabad. Members thanked Mr. Michael for his commitment to the upliftment of society and the strong relationship with AMCHAM. Dr. Kiranmai Pendyala, Chairperson – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM, commenced the session by thanking Michael for always being available and interested in what AMCHAM was doing. The past Chairpersons of AMCHAM Hyderabad, who were present at this meeting, also spoke.

Mr. Mullins thanked the Hyderabad Chapter for the commendable work they were doing. He mentioned that his first ever public event on assumption of office in Hyderabad was the AMCHAM Healthcare Conference and he really appreciated the conference. He was also thankful to the members for their support in strengthening the bilateral ties between the U.S. and India and the relationship shared with the Industry partners. He was appreciative of the AMCHAM Hyderabad leadership and what they were doing for the enhancement of trade in India.

16th Sept 2016

4th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference

The 4th annual AMCHAM Healthcare Conference was held in Hyderabad. The overall objective of the conference, as outlined by one of the key speakers, was to be a catalyst for change in the Indian healthcare ecosystem. In the same context, the theme of conference was 'Harmonization of Indian Healthcare Within the Global Ecosystem.' There were three panels, global harmonization, healthcare innovation and technology and skill development. To set the stage, the keynote speakers addressed the gaps and opportunities in Indian healthcare; each one of them highlighting the problems of access, affordability and quality and proposed solutions around the same; including existing solutions. It also highlighted some of the key learnings, not only from the West but from some of the lesser developed nations.

16th Sept 2016

National Executive Board Meeting

The third meeting of the National Executive Board of AMCHAM for the year 2016–17, under the chairmanship of Mr. Pratyush Kumar, President, Boeing India, was held in Hyderabad.

Mr. John McCaslin, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs and Mr. George Sibley, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy briefed members post U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue held in New Delhi.

Mr. Rampraveen Swaminathan, Chairman, AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee, and Chairman &

Managing Director, International Paper APPM Ltd., made a presentation highlighting the Committee's vision and objectives, broad focus areas / themes, and work plan for 2016–17, etc.

Mr. Sanjiv Navangul, Chairman, AMCHAM's Pharma Committee, and Managing Director – Janssen India, Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd., also made a presentation highlighting market landscape characterized by challenges around government investments, regulatory, pricing and intellectual property; government's multi–pronged approach to propel pharma sector growth; committee's focus areas and key activities; issues faced and possible solutions, etc.

15th Sept 2016

Meeting with Mr. K.T. Rama Rao, Minister, Telangana Government

On the eve of AMCHAM's National Executive Board meeting, members of the board and members of the Hyderabad Executive Committee met with Mr. K.T. Rama Rao, Minister for IT, Municipal Administration & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce, Public Enterprises, Sugar, Mines & Geology, NRI Affairs of Telangana Government and his team for an interactive session at T–Hub, Hyderabad.

Mr. K.T. Rama Rao explained the reforms introduced by the Government of Telangana to attract foreign direct investment and for 'ease of doing business.' He also spoke about his visit to the U.S. and the interest American companies have for investing in Telangana.

24th Sept 2016 – Jan 2017

AMCHAM Hyderabad Sports 2016

AMCHAM Hyderabad Sports 2016 began in September with cricket and basketball. There were a total of 12 disciplines which were conducted over the weekends from September through January. There were a total of 1400 participants representing 29 member companies who participated at this event.

6th Oct 2016

Meeting with Mr. Atul Keshup, U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka

AMCHAM Hyderabad Excom members met with Mr. Atul Keshup, the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka at Westin. Discussed issues and the opportunities for U.S. companies to expand in Sri Lanka and how AMCHAM could collaborate with AMCHAM Sri Lanka through exchange programs

25th Oct 2016

Meeting with Minister for Industries - Government of Odisha

AMCHAM members met with the Minister of Industries – Government of Odisha to discuss the `ease of doing business' in Odisha and opportunities and benefits for US companies in making their presence known in Odisha.

27th Oct 2016

Welcome for U.S. Consul General Hadda

AMCHAM Hyderabad organized a welcome breakfast for Consul General Katherine Hadda, who replaced Consul General Michael Mullins.

Ms. Hadda, Senior Economic Officer with 28 years of experience in the Foreign Service recently served as Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy Rome, advocating U.S. economic interests on issues including sanctions, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations, cybersecurity, and barriers to U.S. investment.

Chairperson Dr. Kiranmai Pendyala of AMD spoke on the strong relationships between AMCHAM and the U.S. Consulate and briefed Ms. Hadda on the activities of AMCHAM.

22nd –23rd Nov 2016

Cyber Security Conclave 2016

The second edition of the Cyber Security Conclave 2016 was successfully hosted by Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) 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. 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, have been identified.

5th Dec 2016

Hyderabad Chapter Executive Committee Meeting

The Hyderabad Chapter Executive Committee met 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.

24th Jan 2017

Session on GST with Ernst & Young

AMCHAM Hyderabad organized a session on GST at Westin Mindspace. Mr. Siddhartha Jain from Ernst & Young led the session and encouraged the participants to make it as interactive as possible. Mr. Jain gave an overview of GST and mentioned it would, in all probability, be effective from 1st July 2017. He explained to the audience what GST meant to manufacturing, services and the hospitality industry and the implications of the same on these sectors. He also discussed the increase in compliances and the impact of GST on not just the tax part but the value chain as a whole. Preparing for GST would be three fold – understanding the impact on business as a whole, implementation and transition planning.

2nd Feb 2017

Implication of Union Budget 2017–2018

In partnership with Ernst & Young, AMCHAM conducted a session on the "Implication of Union Budget 2017–2018" at the office of Inside view.

17th Feb 2017

Executive Committee Meeting

On the occasion of the visit of Ms. Ranjana Khanna, DG–CEO of AMCHAM India, the Executive Committee members met at the office of Broadridge Financial Solutions Inc. They were updated about the recently concluded sports event and also discussed the coming Annual Day and plans for the coming months.

23rd Feb 2017

AMCHAM Hyderabad Annual Day

The Annual Day of the Hyderabad Chapter was held at the Westin Lawns. The Consul General of the U.S. Consulate Hyderabad was the Guest of the Honor at the event.

Dr. Kiranmai Pendyala, Chair – AMCHAM Hyderabad gave a brief on the activities of the Hyderabad Chapter. She gave brief details on the flagship event of the Hyderabad Chapter, the sports event. She spoke about the strong relationship of AMCHAM India with the U.S. consulate.

Ms. Katherine Hadda, Consul General of the U.S. Consulate Hyderabad, mentioned that AMCHAM is an incredible organization active in everything from social responsibility initiative to sports and cultural events. A great partner to the Consulate and great friends. These events are great examples of the strong community of leadership AMCHAM demonstrates in Hyderabad.

Mr. B V Mohan Reddy, Chairman of Cyient, a Padmashri Awardee, was felicitated on this occasion.

261 participants received awards as winners and runners of the just concluded Sports event in Hyderabad where 1400 participants representing 29 American companies participated. The event closed with vote of thanks by Mr. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chair of AMCHAM Hyderabad Chapter

1st March 2017 5th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference - Committee Meeting The first committee meeting for the 5th AMCHAM HCC was held at the office of Phenomenex. The committee deliberated on what we need to touch upon this year and how we want the conference to shape up and what difference we would like to see. After much brainstorming a tentative theme was decided upon impact of current geo political situation on healthcare. The day's event would be split into three sessions - innovation, investment and values and outcomes. 7th March 2017 **Hyderabad Executive Committee Meeting** AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter Executive Committee met at the office of Invesco to bid farewell for some of the board members who are moving on or have stepped down from their current positions. Wonderful experiences and memories with AMCHAM were shared. There was also a brainstorming session for board meetings, the annual event – AMCHAM Sports, Annual Day and the interaction they shared with members. 16th March 2017 Meeting with Mr. James Schillenger, Secretary of Commerce, State of Indiana, U.S. Mr. James Schillenger, Secretary of Commerce, State of Indiana, U.S. and his team met with the AMCHAM members in Hyderabad at The Westin, over breakfast. Mr. Schillenger shared the opportunities available for businesses in Indiana and mentioned that Governor Holcomb's 5 pillars of "Indiana a State that Works" are cultivate, fund, develop, attack (drug epidemic) and provide. He also mentioned that Indiana has a balanced state budget. Mr. Schillenger answered questions from members and informed members of the upcoming visit of the Governor of Indiana in September 2017. 30th March 2017 5th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference - Committee Meeting The committee members met at the office of Abbott (St. Jude Medical) and discussed on what we would like to see happen and how we could expand the committee to include other stake holders in healthcare. It was decided that each of the sessions would have panellist who would be: policy makers, insurance, medical devices / technology, pharma / biotech, service providers and moderator. We have requested Frost & Sullivan to be the knowledge partners pro-bono and their response is awaited.



Consul Chief, Mr. Jamie Fouss giving a presentation on the trade relations between India and the U.S.



Section of the audience during a session on U.S. visas and immigration at U.S. Consulate, Hyderabad

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{NIV}}$ Chief – Mr. Brian Salverson guided the audience through the visa process



Dr. Kiranmai Pendyala, Chairperson, AMCHAM Hyderabad Chapter and CVP HR Greater Asia & EMEA Board Member, AMD India giving a welcome speech



Consul General, Mr. Michael Mullins addressing AMCHAM members

Mr. Madan Mohan Rao Yalamanchili, Representative, AMCHAM Hyderabad Chapter, Executive Chairman, S&P Capital IQ (India) giving a farewell speech for Consul General Michael Mullins



Mr. Michael Mullins, Consul General, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad with AMCHAM members



Dr. Kiranmai Pendyala, Chairperson, AMCHAM Hyderabad Chapter welcoming Mr. Ratan Jalan, Medium Consulting (knowledge partner) for the 4th AmCham Healthcare Conference



Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM India and President, Boeing India, speaking in the inaugural session of the Hyderabad Healthcare Conference 2016

AM CHAM



Mr. Ratan Jalan, Medium Consulting giving a landscape overview of the healthcare sector

4th Healthcare Conference

Theme: Harmonization of India

within the

Session on Global Harmonization – (L-R): (Moderator) Mr. Joseph Nicholas, CEO/President, American Oncology, Dr. Balaji Utla, CEO Kriya Health, Mr. Satya Gottumukkala, President Eli Global, Dr. Padmanabh, Founder –Nice Foundation, Mr. Arif Fahim, Therapy Development, Reimbursement and Healthcare Economics, St. Jude Medical in South Asia, South East Asia, Hong Kong and Taiwan



Session on Skills & Development – (L - R): (Moderator) Mr. Nick Mitchell, MD – Phenomenex, Dr. Sanjiv Navangul, MD – Janssen India, Dr. Evita Fernandez, Founder/Director, Fernandez and Mr. Marut Setia, Head Education & Skill Development – G E Healthcare



Participants at the summing up session of the 4th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference

Mr. Siddhartha Jain of EY giving an overview of GST to members at Westin Hotel, Hyderabad



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



AMCHAM Hyderabad Chapter bids farewell to some of the board members who are moving on or have stepped down from their respective current positions

Members of AMCHAM Hyderabad Chapter with Mr. James Schillenger, Secretary of Commerce, State of Indiana, U.S.



A glimpse of the badminton competition during AMCHAM sport 2016



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



A tennis match in progress



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



An interesting chess match in progress

Football players at AMCHAM Sports 2016



A basketball game in progress



Women's throwball match in progress



AMCHAM Kolkata

Mr. Rajiv Sinha, Principal Secretary Commerce and Industry & Additional Chief Secretary, Dr. Amit Mitra, Minister in Charge of Departments of Finance and Industry, Commerce and Enterprise, Government of West Bengal and Mr. Pratyush, Chairman, AMCHAM India

Date Meetings / Events May 5, 2016 **Eastern Region Members Meeting** Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman ER 2016-17 chaired the meeting. He updated members on the AGM and the first NEB meeting that followed. He mentioned that he had seen the Kolkata accounts and that after all expenses were covered the region had a small surplus. He also mentioned that the ER budget was presented. He asked all EC members to try and bring in at least one member in the current year. 10th June 2016 Interactive Session with Mr. Talleen Kumar, Principal Secretary IT and Electronics on "The Future of IT in West Bengal" AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized a breakfast interactive session on "Future of IT in West Bengal." Mr. Talleen Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal, was the chief guest. Mr. Craig Hall, U.S. Consul General in Kolkata was the guest of honor. Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman, AMCHAM Eastern Region give the welcome remarks. The chief guest, Mr. Kumar, gave a detailed presentation of all proposed innovative projects of the West Bengal government in the coming years, some of which are in the implementation stage while some are at the proposed stage awaiting approval from the Ministry. His talk covered a wide area of IT strategy for the state that included, inter alia, smart town and going a step ahead smart villages as well. He emphasized the need for digital depository on higher education, research and development to create a central data base system for analyzing huge numbers of data. He also touched on the subjects of digitization and paperless office with a major focus on IOE (internet of everything). He also mentioned that West Bengal was the third largest IT provider in India and he hoped that it would become the largest. Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta moderated the session, Mr. Gulshan Sachdev the Vice Chairman AmCham NEB made concluding remarks. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave the vote of thanks. 24th June 2016 **Executive Committee Meeting** Mr. K.P. Sengupta chaired the meeting and it was hosted by CISCO. He informed the EC that Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, immediate past chairman, and Mr. Joydeep Dutta Gupta were invited to join the Executive

Committee and they had accepted. He also mentioned that since Ms. Britta Leick-Milde, Vice Chairwoman was expecting to be transferred. He invited Mr. Debdas Sen to be Co-Vice Chairman, Mr. Dinesh Agarwal seconded this and Mr. Sen accepted. He updated members on the NEB meeting held in Bangalore on June

17, 2017. He mentioned that AMCHAM was celebrating its 25th year of operations in India.

30th June 2016

Meeting with Mr. Bratya Basu, Hon'ble Minister in Charge of Information & Technology & Electronic Department, Government West Bengal

Mr. Bratya Basu, Hon'ble Minister in charge of Information & Technology & Electronic Department, Government West Bengal, had a meeting with AMCHAM Eastern Region members. The purpose of the meeting was for the Minister to understand from the American IT companies what was required to make West Bengal a leading investment destination and if the organizations were facing any difficulty working in the state. AMCHAM Eastern Region reiterated that it would be happy to work with the Government of West Bengal on the suggestions above and look forward to being a meaningful partner of the West Bengal Government in developing the IT/ITES industry in the state.

8th July 2016

Eastern Region Members Meeting

AMCHAM Eastern Region organized an Eastern Region members meeting hosted by Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman ER. The purpose of the meeting was to explain to members the role of AMCHAM both in the Eastern Region, the national level, including the secretariat, and the benefits that are derived from membership and to get members views and opinions on the road map that should be followed by the ER which would be in line with the national agenda.

The meeting was opened by Mr. K.P. Sengupta who explained to members the national agenda and this was followed by a power point presentation by the Regional Director, Ms. Amada Kidwai, on the various aspects of membership. Mr. Amit Mallik, a member of the executive committee, walked members through all the benefits and highlighted AMCHAM's ER role in trying to get investments into West Bengal by organizing road shows at the request of the West Bengal Government both in Delhi and Bangalore.

15th July 2016

Interactive Breakfast Session on The West Bengal Transport Policy and Investment Opportunity

Mr. Alapan Bandyopadhyay; IAS; Principal Secretary, Department of Transport; Vice Chairman, Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority & Managing Director, West Bengal Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation addressed AMCHAM Eastern Region members as Chief Guest, at an interactive breakfast session on "The West Bengal transport policy and investment opportunity." In his opening remarks Mr. Bandyopadhyay outlined the strategic importance of the State of West Bengal and the city of Kolkata in the context of opportunities for the Indian economy as a whole. He pointed out that Kolkata is the gateway to the East and is the largest city in many hundred kilometers in any direction.

The introduction to the session was done by Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – ER AMCHAM, Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, AMCHAM EC Member made the welcome remarks, Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, Vice Chairman NEB, gave the concluding remarks and Ms. Britta Leick–Milde gave the vote of thanks.

4th Aug 2016

Session on Business Opportunities and Investment Climate with U.S. Speaker Juan Sabater

U.S. entrepreneurship speaker Mr. Juan Sabater spoke on business opportunities and investment climate in the Eastern Region, the role of AMCHAM in fostering start-ups and boosting investments for U.S. companies. This session was hosted by TCG Digital.

6 Aug 2016

H4/L2 visa issuance

The U.S. Consulate, Consular Section is organizing a briefing on H4/L2 visa issuance and have invited AMCHAM members to participate. Host: U.S. Consulate

26th Aug 2016

AMCHAM hosted meeting with Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President BCCI

Meeting with Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President BCCI on Partnership of events between BCCI and AMCHAM.

5th Sept 2016 Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman AMCHAM ER at the EC meeting held to updated members on the meeting he had with the Cmde of Jharkhand at the Jharkhand investors meeting held in Kolkata. Forthcoming events were discussed. He emphasized on the importance of membership drive and asked members to assist in this important drive. 9th Sept 2016 Interactive Session On the Concept of Green Cities and their Economic Impact in West Bengal. AMCHAM Eastern Region organized a breakfast interactive session on the "Concept of Green Cities and their Economic Impact in West Bengal." The Chief Guest was Mr. Debashis Sen, IAS, Principal Secretary Urban Development, GOWB and Chairman WBHIDCO Ltd. Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman AMCHAM Eastern Region gave the opening remarks and requested the principal Secretary to explain the difference between Smart City and its social and economic impact in the state. The Chief Guest, Mr. Sen gave a detailed talk on why the West Bengal Government decided to develop its own 'Green City Project'. The Concept of a green city is a new one globally. Like the smart city, the focus is on the creation of sufficient eco-space, a sustainable water reservoir system and modern transport with low emission. He spoke about rooftop farming, vertical gardens, solar power, pocket forest – he said that lakhs of trees were being planted, rainwater harvesting and a host of other innovated pillars related to greening of New Town the first green city project that the GOWB is undertaking. Amada Kidwai Regional Director AMCHAM Eastern India did the introduction, EC members Mr. Amit Malik moderated the lively interactive session and the concluding remarks and vote of thanks was given by Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta. 20th Sept 2016 Invitation to a Meeting with Mr. Talleen Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary Departments of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal Mr. Thaleem Kumar, IAS Principal Secretary IT Government of West Bengal invited AMCHAM to attend a meeting. Representatives from IT/Industry and Chamber Sector IT Committees of the different Chambers in the city attended. The purpose of the meeting was to update those present on the work in progress on upcoming BGBS 2017 and the role that the IT Department would be playing. He requested those present on suggestions on how to attract IT Companies to invest in the State. AMCHAM was represented by Regional Director Amada Kidwai. 22nd Sept 2016 Meeting with Dr. Krishan Gupta IAS, Dr Krishna Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary Commerce & Industry Department and Public Enterprise & Industrial Reconstruction Department, Government of West Bengal Mr. K.P. Sengupta, AMCHAM Chairman Eastern Region and Amada Kidwai, AMCHAM Regional Director, ER met Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary Commerce & Industry Department and Public Enterprise & Industrial Reconstruction Department, Government of West Bengal. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Chairman Eastern Region and to invite the Principal Secretary to interact with members of AMCHAM ER on Ease of Doing Business in West Bengal. Dr. Gupta also highlight the upcoming Bengal Global Business Summit which will be held on 20/21 January 2016. He requested AMCHAM to bring a US delegation to the session.

as a business body, plays in attracting American business to the region. Mr. Santillo said that he was happy

Interactive session with Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Patrick Santillo

Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Delhi had an interactive session with members of AMCHAM's Eastern Region. Mr. Craig Hall, the U.S. Consul General in Kolkata, and Mr. Jonathan Ward, Principle Commercial Service Officer, accompanied him. The purpose of the session was for Mr. Santillo to understand the commercial aspects of eastern India and the role AMCHAM,

4th Oct 2016

to be in Kolkata so early in his arrival to India. He mentioned that India was very different from other countries where he served. He also mentioned that his office is very grateful that AmCham had given a seat to the consulate on its executive committee and that this is not taken for granted. He said that this was a year of partnership between the Government of India and the USA on tourism and that both governments were working closely on the development of tourism. Mr. Craig Hall said that America has a great vision of the U.S.–India economic relationship and that priority was being given to eastern India.

Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman – AMCHAM Eastern Region, gave the welcome address. Mr. Amit Malik, AMCHAM Eastern Region Executive Committee member, moderated the session and gave the concluding remarks and Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, did the introductions.

13th Oct 2016

Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting

Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman, ER, AMCHAM 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.

24th Oct 2016

Meeting with Mr. Talleen Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, IT/ITes

IT/ITes Principal Secretary Mr. Talleen Kumar, IAS held a meeting with representatives of NASCOM, ASCHOM, CII, AMCHAM, representatives of some IT companies, members of his secretariat and KPMG, their knowledge partners.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the BGBS 2017. Mr. Kumar requested those present to give him some ideas on what should be the model for the IT session for January 21. He requested assistance from AMCHAM in identifying IT companies that could be interested in investing in the state. AMCHAM was represented by Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – ER.

25th Oct 2016

Meeting with Urban Development Secretary, Debashis Sen

Mr. Debashis Sen, IAS Additional Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary of Urban Infrastructure and Urban Development invited chamber representatives from AmCham, ICC, CII, Ficci, ASSOCHAM Nasscom Bengal Chamber, members of Industry and KPMG.

Purpose of the meeting was again to ask representatives to come up with idea's and format for the BGBS 2017 summit. The focus areas are urban development, urban infrastructure, hospitality, tourism, business of entertainment, and financial services. Mr. Sen specifically asked AMCHAM to arrange for speakers to speak on their Green City project, and try and identify companies who would be willing to invest.

28th Oct 2016

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

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. 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 Bhor 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 to set to project its business–readiness to the global investor community. The guest of honor was Mr. Craig Hall, U.S. Consul General. Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman Eastern Region, AMCHAM 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.
	5th Nov 2016	Meeting with Mr. Basudeb Banerjee, IAS, Chief Secretary Government of West Bengal
		Mr. Basudeb Banerjee, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal called a meeting with all the Principal Secretaries Additional Chief Secretaries and select chambers which included AMCHAM to discuss the forthcoming BGBS 2017 to be held in January. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from all the departments the preparations that were work in progress. Chamber representatives were those that have been requested to help with the BGBS 2017. Finance Minister Dr. Amit Mitra chaired the meeting.
	8th Nov 2016	Meeting with Mr. Debashis Sen, IAS Additional Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary of Urban Infrastructure and Urban Development
		Mr. Debashis Sen, IAS Additional Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary of Urban Infrastructure and Urban Development invited chamber representatives from AMCHAM, ICC, CII, Ficci, ASSOCHAM Nasscom Bengal Chamber, members of Industry and KPMG.
		Purpose of the meeting was to update the departments on confirmation Plenary Panel session to be held on Jan 21.
		The focus areas are urban development, urban infrastructure, hospitality, tourism, business of entertainment, and financial services. Mr. Sen specifically asked AMCHAM to arrange for speakers to speak on their Green City project, and try and identify companies who would be willing to invest.
	11th Nov 2016	Meeting with Mr. Aditya Agarwal, ICC President and Dr. Rajiv Sinha, Secretary General Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
		AMCHAM met with Mr. Aditya Agarwal, ICC President and Dr. Rajiv Sinha, Secretary General Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss mutual partnership of events between ICC and AMCHAM. AMCHAM was represented by Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Regional Chairman and Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director
	25th Nov 2016	Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting
		AMCHAM's Eastern Region held an executive committee meeting chaired by Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM. Mr. Sengupta informed the EC that he would be seeking clarification on points related to the process of election for EC membership from the Delhi Secretariat. He informed members that the date for the NEB meeting had not been finalized. He would also be speaking to the Delhi Secretariat for clarification on meetings to be scheduled.
		Mr. Debdas Sen, Vice Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, updated members on the USIBC delegation to Kolkata for the BGBS 2017 meet. Forthcoming events were discussed and finalized. Mr. Ranjan Nandi, Vice President and Managing Director India Operation Richard Design Services, Inc. (RDS) was inducted to the executive committee as there was a vacancy due to the departure of Ms. Britta Lieck–Milde.
	9th Dec 2016	Panel Discussion on the Impact of Demonetization on U.S. Investment
		A panel discussion on the impact of demonetization on U.S. investment was held in Kolkata. The panelists were Mr. Roopen Roy, Ex – MD, Deloitte Touché, Dr. Bhaskar Banerjee, Ex – Senior MD, Duncan Group, Mr. Pallab Gupta, Head Taxation, ITC and Professor Alok Ray of IIM Kolkata. The panelists discussed various issues that have arisen from demonetization and the impact on the economy, the benefits of the country moving towards a "less cash" economy, the short and long term impact on growth and taxation. Mr. Joydeep Dutta Gupta acted as the moderator.

16th Dec 2016

Interactive Session with Mr. Richard Pearson, Business Development Officer for Asia at the Export-Import Bank of the United States

An interactive session was hosted by AMCHAM's Eastern Region with Mr. Richard Pearson, Asia Officer for the Export Import Bank. Mr. Pearson explained in detail the functioning of the Bank and said that the Bank stands as a guarantor for lenders who take an exposure on the borrower. There was a lively question and answer session and Mr. Pearson very clearly answered the questions raised.

19th Dec 2016

Navigation into the GST Regime

The AMCHAM Eastern Region and their knowledge partner, EY, hosted a roundtable discussion on at the TCG office in Kolkata. Mr. Dinesh Agarwal and Mr. Sidhartha Jain, Partners and Mr. Vijay Changani, Sr. Manager, attended the event from EY. Partners from EY updated the participants about the recent developments on GST front and further steps for introduction of GST in India, which is expected to go live in second/third quarter of the coming year 2017. Various provisions of the revised model GST law, which has been issued by the Government in the month of November'16, the proposed mechanism of tax credit ailment under the GST regime was also discussed along with implications of the same on industry. The interactive session generated a lot of queries which were explained in detail by the EY team. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Joydeep Bhattacharya, COO, TCG Digital, who suggested that as the law is evolving and GST is going to be a reality in the coming year 2017, more interactions on GST would be important and helpful for members to understand the implications and impact of the same on their respective businesses.

13th Jan 2017

Interactive Panel Discussion on Digital Transformation

AMCHAM Eastern Region organized a panel discussion on digital transformation at the Hyatt Regency Kolkata. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM introduced the panelists. Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman AMCHAM ER, gave the welcome address. Mr. Amit Malik, AMCHAM Executive Committee (EC) member gave the key note address and moderated the session. Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, AMCHAM EC member gave the concluding remarks and vote of thanks.

The keynote address was given by Mr. Amit Malik. He said that the future is here and the future is digital. The future is already disrupting the present and anything and everything today is digital. From the clothes we wear to the shoes and even a tennis racquet today comes with a sensor. Digitization is fundamentally transforming businesses in every industry. Digital advances are often causing new creative product and service opportunities and more efficient ways of doing business, the likes of which have never been seen before.

Dr. Prithwas Mukherjee, spoke about digital transformation in terms of e-commerce, e-wallets or even robots. He said the internet of things could be a little dated, if not actually naive! What awaits is a tidal wave, a veritable tsunami, of artificial intelligence – forged on the anvil of machine learning algorithms and then polished by training on terrabytes, actually zetta and yottabytes, of digital data – this he said will propel society through a technological singularity where biological intelligence will become secondary to the non-biological, or digital variety.

Mr. Arindam Guha said that India has taken significant strides in digital transformation in the recent past. Currently, over 900 million Indians have an Aadhar based digital identification number and the mobile phone penetration in the country is over 75%. The government has also taken up a number of initiatives like providing broadband connectivity to over 2 lakh panchayats in the country, online delivery of key public services etc., under its flagship Digital India program.

Mr. W Rajasekhar Chief Information Officer ITC, covered the corporate aspect of digitization and its impact on industry. Mr. Jonathan Ward Principal Commercial Officer, Department of Commerce, U.S. Consulate Kolkata updated members on the new U.S. Department of Commerce digital trade initiative.

The concluding remarks, and vote of thanks were given by Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta.

19th Jan 2017

Eastern Region Members Meeting and Election Meeting

A meeting of AMCHAM's Eastern Region Committee (ER) and members was held at the Data Core Systems office. The meeting was primarily held to nominate the ER Chairman, Vice Chairman and nominee to the National Executive Board. AMCHAM's Director General CEO, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, during her visit to Kolkata to attend the Bengal Global Business Summit 2017, attended the meeting to meet members and understand the workings of the ER. Mr. Debdas Sen was elected as the incoming Chairman; Mr. Amit Malik was elected as Vice Chairman; and Mr. Gulshan Sachdev was elected as the nominee to the NEB.

Key points of discussions included budgets, sponsorship, membership drive, engaging with state governments that the ER covers and forthcoming events. Members suggested that additional members could be nominated to become Regional Chairman. Ms. Khanna shared her vision and goals for AMCHAM India. The meeting was concluded with thanks to the Chairman, Mr. K.P. Sengupta, for hosting the meeting.

19th –21st Jan 2017

Bengal Global Business Summit 2017

AMCHAM India and its Eastern Region supported the Government of West Bengal to attract U.S. investors to do business in the state. As a prelude, AMCHAM had jointly organized a road show for the West Bengal government in New Delhi.

On 19th January, the Honorable Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee hosted a dinner for delegates, chambers of commerce, industry, diplomats and government at Eco Park. This gave the guests the opportunity for networking and to have informal discussions.

On 20th January, at the inaugural session the President of India, the Honorable Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, was the Chief Guest. In his inaugural address, the President said that the strength of India lies in its cooperative federalism. India is a conglomeration of states and initiatives like the Global Business Summit aimed at achieving growth and prosperity.

On 21st January, the final day of the summit, some of the biggest investment proposals were made. A total of 2.35 lakhs was announced.

1st Feb 2017

On the Spot Analysis of the Union Budget

AMCHAM Eastern Region organized its annual 'On the Spot Analysis of the Union Budget'— a live viewing of the budget, in association with EY as a knowledge partner, at the Cisco Systems office in Kolkata. The session started with inaugural remarks on the expected budget proposals given by Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman — Eastern Region, AMCHAM and Co—Chairman of Data Core Systems, and Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, Partner, Tax & Regulatory Services, EY. This was followed by live viewing of the budget 2017 speech delivered by Hon'ble Finance Minister, Mr. Arun Jaitley.

Mr. Dinesh Agarwal and other representatives of EY analyzed the various tax proposals and its relevance in achieving the Modi government's agenda for this year of "transform, energize and clean India," encouraging a "digital" economy to promote transparency in all the transactions, promote affordable housing and fostering ease of doing business in India. Mr. Dinesh Agarwal specifically highlighted the following inter–alia key points:

Reduction of tax rate for individuals from 10% to 5% at the lowest income slab between Rs.2.50 lakhs to Rs.5 lakhs. Levy of surcharge of 10% on income tax for individuals having total income exceeding fifty lakh rupees but not exceeding one crore rupees; Restrictions in the limit of cash donations to Rs 2,000 for political parties to bring in transparency in the source of political funding.

23rd Feb 2017

Briefing by WBIDC and follow up on BGBS 2017 at WBIDC Office

WBIDC Managing Director invited select heads of chambers to an update and follow up of the BGBS 2017. AMCHAM was invited to attend the briefing. AMCHAM ER was represented by Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director.

25th Feb 2017

Debriefing Session on BGBS-2017 by Dr. Amit Mitra at the Town Hall

Dr. Amit Mitra held a debriefing meeting at the Town Hall to update the chambers who had been invited to participate and support the GoWB in the BGBS 2017 event and invited the chambers to give their feedback. AMCHAM ER was represented by Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman and Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director.

14th March 2017

Review on the L1 Blanket Visa Procedures with Mr. Peter Theis, U.S. Consular Officer

U.S. Consulate, Consular Section hosted a review of L1 Blanket Visa procedures at the American Center in Kolkata. Members of AMCHAM Eastern Region were invited to attend this session. Consular Officer, Mr. Peter Theis, visiting from Chennai, briefed the participants on procedures and Consular Chief, Ms. Shelly Dittmar explained the interview process. The participating members were able to get a good understanding of the personal interview on what the full process entailed. The event was very well organized by the Consular Section.

15th March 2017

Panel Discussion on Breaking the Glass Ceiling with Chief Guest, Ms. Usha Uthap, in honor of International Women's Day

AMCHAM's Eastern Region, in association with Hyatt Regency Kolkata, organized a session on gender diversity for members and guests to celebrate Women's Day. The event was graced by eminent personalities from all walks of life who shared their experience in their journey to success through a panel discussion. The event was themed "Breaking the Glass Ceiling." Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM opened the session by welcoming the audience and panelists and mentioned that International Women's Day 2017 was celebrated on 8th March with the slogan "Be Bold for Change" and called for a more gender inclusive world.

Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, in his opening address said, "Although we have progressed much in terms of women's rights from what it used to be earlier, much remains to be covered".

Ms. Brigit Holms, General Manager, Hyatt Regency, in her welcome address spoke about her journey in the professional world of the hotel industry. The baton was passed on to moderator Ms. Ondrilla Dutt, CEO, Open Doors. The panelists were Ms. Brigit Holm, General Manager Hyatt Regency Kolkata, Ms. Usha Uthup, Chief Guest, Singer/Performer, and recipient of the Padma Shree Award in 2011 and Sister Cyril, an internationally recognized educational innovator and recipient of the Padma Shri in 2007. Sister Cyril also started the Rainbow School where underprivileged children and street children are given free education. The remaining panelists included Ms. Shyamashree Sen, District Governor Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City, Ms. Lovey Kapur, baker, chef and entrepreneur of Kookie Jar, the best bakery in the city and Dr. Mitul Sengupta, a jazz, tap and Katha dancer, also known for her contribution in the field of movement therapy in Kolkata, having worked with Autism for more than 10 years to find the impact of movement in healing the problem areas related to autism.

22nd March 2017

National Executive Board Meeting

A meeting of AMCHAM's National Executive Board was held in Kolkata under the chairmanship of Mr. Pratyush Kumar, President, and Boeing India. The meeting was hosted by Mr. K. P. Sengupta, Chairman, AMCHAM Eastern Region, and Chairman, Data Core (India) Pvt. Ltd.

This was followed by a closed door meeting with Dr. Amit Mitra, Minister for Departments of Finance and Industry, Commerce and Enterprises, Government of West Bengal, followed by a networking reception hosted by U.S. Consul General, Mr. Craig Hall, for AMCHAM members as well as other American companies.

22nd March 2017

Meeting with Dr. Amit Mitra, Minister for Departments of Finance and Industry, Commerce and Enterprises, Government of West Bengal

AMCHAM's National Executive Board, led by Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM, had a closed-door meeting with Dr. Amit Mitra, Minister for Departments of Finance and Industry, Commerce and Enterprises,

Government of West Bengal on 22nd March in Kolkata. Mr. Rajiva Sinha IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Industry, Commerce and Enterprises, GoWB and Mr. Surendra Gupta IAS, Managing Director, WBIDC were also present. The AMCHAM delegation also included Mr. George Sibley, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology and Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Craig Hall, Consul General, U.S. Consulate, Kolkata, along with members of AMCHAM's secretariat.

The Minister spoke about investment opportunities in the state, he discussed the different verticals where the state would like to have further investments in partnership with U.S. companies. He said that the government was very keen to work with a business body like AMCHAM and appreciated the work that was being done by the chamber. U.S. companies present who had concerns/problems/suggestions or were looking at expanding their foot print in the state were given a hearing and Dr. Mitra addressed some of their queries. He requested companies send their concerns officially to the Additional Chief Secretary through the AMCHAM Secretariat to enable getting issues resolved in a timely manner. He also said that he was looking forward to having AMCHM lead a global delegation for the next West Bengal Global summit salted for 17-18 January, 2018.

22nd March 2017

Networking Session with U.S. Consul General to Kolkata, Mr. Craig Hall

The U.S. Consul General to Kolkata, Mr. Craig Hall hosted a networking session which included a reception and dinner for members of the AMCHAM National Executive Board (NEB) who were in Kolkata for its NEB meeting; members of AMCHAM Eastern Region and representatives of American companies who were not AMCHAM members. This gave members of AMCHAM Eastern Region the opportunity to interact and highlight the advantages of being a member of AMCHAM.

3rd April 2017

Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting

The AMCHAM ER held their EC meeting at the Data Core Systems office. Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman ER, updated members present on the NEB meeting held on March 22, 2017. He informed the EC that he had requested for clarification on points related to the process of election for EC membership from the Delhi Secretariat and from Mr. Dua of Dua Associates. Forthcoming events were discussed and a review of the events/meetings held in 2016–17 was done. The review highlighted that though the ER had a small membership base 20 events were held apart from various meetings with the GoWB. The members present thanked Mr. Sengupta for his leadership during the 2016.

19th April 2017

Visa Meeting with Ms. Shelly Dittmer Consular Section Chief at the American Consulate Kolkata, and Ms. Shoshauna Clark, Visa Chief/Non-Immigrant Visas

Ms. Shelly Dittmer Consular Section Chief at the American Consulate Kolkata, and Ms. Shoshauna Clark, Visa Chief/Non–Immigrant Visas, had an interactive session with members of AMCHAM Eastern Region on the recent trends in the U.S. visa processing system. They explained to members the different types of visa that were issued on a daily basis and the importance of the applicants matching the fit. This interactive session helped member companies understand the processing system and also gave them the opportunity to interact at the networking session on issues pertaining to their organizations. Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman AMCHAM Eastern Region gave the opening remarks and introduced the members to the Consulate team and Ms. Amada Kidwai Regional Director of AMCHAM ER, gave the vote of thanks.

23rd April 2017

Meeting with Mr. Surendra Gupta, IAS Managing Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation

Mr. Surendra Gupta, IAS Managing Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation invited industry heads and chamber heads to a preparatory meeting on BGBS 2018. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary Commerce and Industry Mr. Rajiv Sinha, who also chaired the meeting. The meeting was to discuss and evolve a stakeholder partnership for Investment opportunites in West Bengal. AMACHM ER was represented by Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, immediate Past President of AMCHAM ER; Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, EC member and Ms. Amada Kidwai Regional Director, AMCHAM ER.



Chief Guest Mr. Talleen Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Dept. of IT & Electronics, Govt. of West Bengal, addressing the audience during interactive session on the "Future of IT in West Bengal"



Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM India during an interactive session on the "Future of IT in West Bengal"

Mr. K. P. Sengupta, Chairman – AMCHAM Eastern Region, giving welcome remarks



"Future of IT in West Bengal" panel: Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Mr. Talleen Kumar, Mr. Craig Hall, and Mr. Gulshan Sachdev



Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director, AMCAHM Eastern Region, giving welcome remarks

Mr. Alapan Bandyopadhyay, IAS, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Transport, Vice Chairman, Nabadiganta Industrial Township Authority & MD, West Bengal Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation, addressing AMCHAM members



Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary, Commerce & Industry and Public Enterprise & Industrial Reconstruction, GoWB, talking about the surplus power in West Bengal



(L - R): Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, AMCHAM India, Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary, Commerce & Industry and Public Enterprise & Industrial Reconstruction, Mr. Amrit Kiran Singh, Mr. Debdas Sen, AMCHAM Eastern Region Co–Vice Chairman and CEO TCG Digital



Mr. Juan Sabater (far left), entrepreneurship speaker from the U.S., addressing members in Kolkata at the TCG-Digital office



Mr. Debashis Sen, IAS, Principal Secretary Urban Development, GoWB and Chairman, WBHIDCO addressing Eastern Region members during session on the concept of Green Cities and their economic impact in West Bengal

(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



AMCHAM Eastern Region's roundtable on GST at the TCG office in Kolkata



A panel discussion on "Digital Transformation". (L - R): Mr. Jonathan Ward Principal Commercial Officer, Department of Commerce, U.S. Consulate, Kolkata, Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Ms. Amada Kidwai, Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Dr. Prithwis Mukerjee, Ph. D Program Director of the Business Analytics Program at the Praxis Business School, Kolkata, Mr. Debdas Sen, Mr. Arindam Guha, Partner, Deloitte, Mr. Amit Malik and Mr. V.V. Rajasekhar, Chief Information Officer ITC



(L - R): Mr. Amit Malik, EC Member and Director & Head Services Sales – India & SAARC, Cisco, Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman – ER, AMCHAM and Co-Chairman Data Core Systems, and Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, EC Member and Partner – Tax & Regulatory Services, Ernst & Young LLP



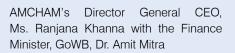
Mr. Peter Theis, Consular Officer, Chennai briefing the participants on procedures and Consular Chief, Ms. Shelly Dittmar explaining the interview process



(L - W): Ms. Usha Uthup; Padma Shree recipient 2011, Sister Cyril Padma Shree recipient, 2007; Ms. Ondrilla Dutt, CEO Open Doors; Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Chairman AMCHAM ER; Ms. Brigit Holms; General Manager Hyatt; Ms. Lovey Burman; CEO Kookie Jar; Dr. Mitul Sengupta, Jazz, Tap and Kathak dancer; Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director AMCHAM ER



(L - W): Ms. Lovey Kapur; Ms. Brigit Holms; Sister Cyril; Ms. Ondrilla Dutta; Ms. Shyamashree Sen and dancer Dr. Mitul Sengupta





AMCHAM NEB with Dr. Amit Mitra, Minister for Departments of Finance and Industry, Commerce and Enterprise, Government of West Bengal



AMCHAM National Executive Board meeting in progress



AMCHAM National Executive Board Members with U.S. Consul General to Kolkata Mr. Craig Hall



An interactive session with Ms. Shelly Dittmer, Consular Section Chief at the American Consulate Kolkata, and Ms. Shoshauna Clark, Visa Chief/Non-Immigrant Visas



AMCHAM Mumbai

AMCHAM roundtable with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis

Date	Meetings / Events
18th May 2016	WRC Committee Meeting
	The first meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee was held. A report of events and achievements of the Western Region in 2015–2016 was presented .The Work Plan for 2016–17 was then discussed inviting ideas to create value and interest amongst the regional membership. In addition to the Work Plan some other key points of discussion were on increased member engagement, outreach in Pune, G2G & B2G initiatives, Topical events. The meeting concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Sukanti Ghosh.
18th May 2016	Town Hall Meeting – Working with and through the U.S. Agencies & Departments of the U.S. Consulate
	AMCHAM India, in co-operation with the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai organised a Town Hall Meeting – Working with and through the U.S. Agencies & Departments of the U.S. Consulate.
	U.S. Consul General Thomas Vajda extended a warm welcome to the participants. Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India and Mr. Sukanti Ghosh, Managing Director, APCO Worldwide India Pvt. Ltd. made the opening remarks. The U.S. Government Panel – 'An Introduction to U.S. Agencies & Programs Supporting U.S. Business Interests in India' brought to fore the mission, functions and projects of the missions. The discussion provided a platform for information outreach, purposeful dialogue and exchange that aimed to promote U.S.–India relations and progress towards common goals.
	The Q&A session that followed addressed several queries on reverse trade missions, policy dialogue and cyber security. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Consul General Thomas Vajda.
9th June 2016	Roundtable on 'Investing Into India – What's In Store After The Mauritius'
	AMCHAM, in association with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, organized a roundtable on 'Investing Into India – What's In Store After The Mauritius Treaty Change'.
	The Roundtable began with Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India shared the opening remarks. It was followed by Mr. Alok Agrawal, Senior Director, Deloitte setting the stage to this recent and important topic.
	An informative and interactive presentation by Mr. Rajesh Gandhi, Partner, Deloitte and Mr. Karamjeet Singh, Senior Manager, Deloitte brought forth the impact of the Mauritius Treaty on investment in shares and other securities, the key provisions of the amendments to the treaty, the spill over effect on India's treaties with Singapore and other countries and the effect of GAAR on investments going forward.

The engaging session brought in perspectives as well as experiences of the participants. The Roundtable concluded with a Vote of Thanks and closing remarks by Mr. Alok Gupta, Managing Director, Reichhold India Pvt. Ltd.

14th June 2016

The Progress of Pride – Film Screening of "Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine" and an evening of Interaction with Advocates of LGBT Rights

AMCHAM, as supporting partner to the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai, hosted members to an event on The Progress of Pride – Film Screening of "Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine" and an evening of interaction with advocates of LGBT rights at the U.S. Consulate, Mumbai.

Ms. Anamika Chakravorty, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai extended a warm welcome to the participants. A minute of silence was held in tribute and honor for the victims of the Orlando shooting. The evening then began with the screening of the award–winning documentary "Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine" that revisits a crime that sparked national reckoning with the reality of homophobia, and that eventually led to the creation of The Matthew Shepard Foundation and the passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

The event mapped 50 locations from across the globe via social media. The U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai was the only location to go live for the event. The participants from Mumbai, including representatives of various NGOs, foundations and independent advocates of LGBT rights, senior representatives of the U.S. Consulate as well as AMCHAM members actively participated in the session.

The evening concluded with remarks by Consulate General Tom Vajda.

22nd June 2016

Roundtable with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis, and Senior Represantative of the Government of Maharashtra

To promote U.S. investment in the state in line with Chief Minister's Make in Maharashtra initiative, AMCHAM India in partnership with the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai, hosted an exclusive roundtable with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Devendra Fadnavis, key officials of the Government of Maharashtra (GOM) & senior representatives of the U.S. government in Chakan, Pune. The event largely focused on the theme of 'Make in Maharashtra- Business Opportunities and State Government Support in Maharashtra.'

The roundtable began with opening remarks and welcome address by Ms. Deanna Abdeen, Acting Consul General, Consulate General of the United States in Mumbai and Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director—Western Region, AMCHAM India. Mr. Sukanti Ghosh, Chairperson — AMCHAM Western Region and Managing Director—India, APCO Worldwide India Pvt. Ltd set the stage by bringing forth the interest of the U.S. companies in the state as well as the governments proactive approach and engagement with the industry.

Through an insightful keynote address, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra Mr. Devendra Fadnavis presented an overview on the government's focus areas and projects in the region. With the State being a powerful culmination of various industries as well as its greatest asset – human resource, the Chief Minister stated the need to develop an ecosystem that benefits in the overall progress of the state.

The panel of the Government of Maharashtra was represented by Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, P.S. to the CM; Mr. Girish Bapat, Minister of Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Protection, Food and Drug Admin and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Sanjay Sethi, CEO MIDC; Mr. P. Anbalagan, Member Secretary; Mr. Vikas Jain, Additional Director—Industries, Mumbai; Mr. S. Choklingam, IAS Pune Divisional Commissioner; Mr. Saurabh Rao, Collector Pune and Mr. Vivek Bhimanwar, Personal Secretary to the CM.

The roundtable concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Co–Chair – AMCHAM Western Region and Managing Director, Resources Global Professionals (I) Pvt. Ltd.

29th June 2016 The FLIPKART STORY – Leveraging on Innovation & Technology In Supply Chain

AMCHAM's Supply Chain & Logistics Committee organised a concall learning session on 'The FLIPKART STORY – Leveraging on Innovation & Technology in Supply Chain.' The call began with the opening and welcome remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India and Mr. Srini Sarangapani, Chairperson, Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM India & Director Operations, Timken Engineering and Research India Pvt. Ltd.

With the committee's theme for the year – technology and innovation in supply chain, an insightful and detailed talk by guest speaker – Mr. Prabhu Balasrinivasan, Sr. Director – Procurement, Flipkart, focused on technology adoption in procurement at Flipkart and the effectiveness of ease of use to the customer – TCO analysis of e-commerce in 2020.

The engaging Q&A that followed brought to fore innovative ideas and experiences in technology in software, advanced automation and robotic systems in supply chain, distribution footprints and delivery models, e-commerce, talent sourcing and work environments. The concall concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Milind Tailor, Co– Chair, Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM India & Head Supply Chain Management, Diebold Systems Pvt. Ltd.

29th June 2016 SCL Committee Meeting

The concall meeting of AMCHAM's Supply Chain & Logistics Committee was held to set the road ahead for the forthcoming SCL Committee events and activities. The meeting began with opening remarks by Mr. Srini Sarangapani, Chairperson, Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM India & Director Operations, Timken Engineering and Research India Pvt. Ltd.

Members discussed proposals for an industry visit, the next meeting and the Annual event. The meeting concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Milind Tailor, Co- Chair, Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AmCham India & Head Supply Chain Management, Diebold Systems Pvt. Ltd.

12th July 2016 Western Region Committee Meeting

The second meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee for the year 2016–17 was held via a concall. The meeting which was well attended commenced with a welcome by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Co–Chair AmCham WRC and Ms. Surabhi Wahal.

The meeting was held to share key updates on the AMCHAM NEB that was held in June, make a review of past events in the WR and to ideate on forthcoming events and activities for the WR. The WRC meeting closed with Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti thanking the committee members for their active participation.

31st Aug 2016 Breakfast Session on 'Demystifying GST'

AMCHAM India's Supply Chain & Logistics Committee in association with knowledge partner EY India organized a breakfast session on 'Demystifying GST' in Mumbai.

The session began with the opening remarks by Mr. Milind Tailor, Co-Chair, AMCHAM Supply Chain & Logistics Committee & Head- Supply Chain Management, Diebold Systems Private Limited. This was followed by Mr. Hitesh Sharma, Partner, National Head of Life Science Industry, EY India sharing an overview on demystifying GST. An insightful and interactive session that followed shed light on the Model GST Law and GSTN – The IT Backbone for GST.

The presentations and discussions were led by EY India's Tax experts – Mr. Utkarsh Sanghvi, Partner Indirect Tax Services, Mr. Suresh Nair, Partner Indirect Tax Services, Mr. Prakash Jayaram, Partner, EY India. The session concluded with Mr. Milind Tailor sharing the closing remarks while thanking AMCHAM India and EY India for creating this platform that helped demystify GST.

2nd Sept 2016

AMCHAM supports the 8th edition of the CLO Chief Learning Officers Summit

The 8th edition of the CLO Chief Learning Officers Summit India, an initiative supported by AMCHAM India was held in Mumbai. The Summit with its overarching multiyear theme "Organizational Learning: Impacting Business. Changing the Game" was a premier platform for aspiring young leaders and entrepreneurs to not only sharpen their skills but was also an opportunity to learn from some of the luminaries in the industry today.

The 21 intensive sessions over a period of 2 days focused on the key broad topics of leadership development, coaching and development of a learning culture. The interactive session further delved into adaptive learning, transitioning leadership and succession planning, learning from an agile workforce, the right learning mix with speakers from Forbes Asia, BBC, NIIT, Reliance Industries, Aditya Birla Finance, PepsiCo, Google among other notable organizations and international corporations. The 1st day of the Summit concluded with the TISS LeapVault CLO Awards Ceremony. Day 2 of the Summit closed with the Universum Awards and Employers Branding Session.

7th Sept 2016

Plant Visit to Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. Facility

Under the overarching theme of technology and innovation, the Supply Chain & Logistics (SCL) Committee organized its pilot project of a plant visit to the Hindustan Coca–Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. facility at Wada in Maharashtra.

Supply chain professionals from several AMCHAM member companies arrived at the Wada Plant. The day commenced with the opening remarks and a welcome address by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director–Western Region, AMCHAM India and Mr. Srinivasan Sarangapani, Chairperson, AMCHAM Supply Chain & Logistics Committee & Director Operations, Timken Engineering and Research India Pvt. Ltd. respectively. Mr. Umesh Madhyan, National Head Infrastructure and Logistics Hindustan Coca–Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. set the stage for the day's event with his introductory remarks to all who were present.

Before embarking on a tour of the plant, Mr. Gajanan Patil, National Head–Factory Manager, Hindustan Coca–Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. shared a presentation that highlighted the many facets of the plant– the factory structure, business profile, the companies focus on TPM (total progress of mankind for business excellence), its journey towards growth and its supply chain strategic road map.

28th Sept 2016

Supply Chain & Logistics Committee Meeting

Immediately following the Plant Visit to the Hindustan Coca – Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. facility at Wada, Maharashtra, the SCL Committee members present sat down for a face to face committee meeting at the site. The meeting was held to discuss forthcoming committee events, meetings, plant visits, the SCL Committee annual event and proposal for a white paper document highlighting supply chain issues and priorities that need to be addressed by the Government. The committee meeting concluded with a consensual affirmation and a drive to bring its plans to fruit.

28th Sept 2016

Western Region Committee Meeting

AMCHAM's Western Region Committee Meeting was held at the EY India office in Mumbai. The meeting which was well attended 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:

- Updates from the AMCHAM National Executive Board Meeting held in September '16
- An overview of all past events organized by the WR along with the reports was shared with all present.
- Ideating on topical / industry focused events for the year 2016 2017
- Proposed NEB in January during Vibrant Gujarat
- Meeting with Mr. Sanjay Sethi, CEO, MIDC
- Ideating and leveraging on membership network to have a larger outreach and footprint in the WR
- Discussion on AMCHAM WR Annual Event 2016–2017 theme, date, venue

29th Sept 2016

CSR in India: Working Toward Fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals in India – Moving the Agenda from the Global to National and Local Level

AMCHAM India in partnership with the Consulate General of the United States, Mumbai organized 'CSR in India: Working Toward Fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals in India – Moving the Agenda from the Global to National and Local Level' in Mumbai. The event was sponsored by Bank of America and Johnson and Johnson Medical India. The convergence of key stakeholders in the CSR domain –Corporates, NGOs and the Government culminated in a deeper understanding of significant perspectives to the subject.

The event began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director Western Region, AMCHAM India followed by a welcome address by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Co–Chair– AMCHAM Western Region Committee & Managing Director, Resources Global Professionals (I) Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Kavish Arora, India Head – Corporate Banking & Financial Institutions, Bank of America respectively.

The keynote speaker at the event, Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra shared an insight into the priorities and projects of the Government of Maharashtra. Consul General Thomas Vajda followed suit with an address to all who were present.

Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – AMCHAM CSR Committee and Executive Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC Cisco Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd shared a vote of thanks concluding the plenary session. Following a short networking tea break, the morning's session proceeded with the first panel discussion— the industry panel. The speakers shared the CSR initiatives, priority areas and best practices followed by their organizations. The session moderated by Mr. Kavish Arora discussed various initiatives and best practices.

An esteemed set of NGO leaders engaged in path breaking work for our society represented the NGO panel. Mr. Amit Raheja moderated the session interestingly touching upon the USP's of each agency. The Q&A session brought out interesting insights and experiences of CSR best practices by both industry and NGO representatives.

22nd Oct 2016

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 Honb'le 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 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. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks on behalf of AMCHAM, the U.S. Consulate and USIBC.

15th Nov 2016

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 Meeting with Mr. Sanjay Sethi, CEO, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC)'.

The meeting commenced with the 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 scientifical 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 sites and local governance in MIDC areas in Maharashtra. The session was moderated by Mr. Gregory Taevs, Commercial Officer, U.S. Commercial Service. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Consul General Vajda.

23rd Nov 2016

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 WR (2) scheduled & 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.

29th Nov 2016

Direct Line Webinar on SmartCities Projects and Investments in Western India

The Direct Line Webinar on 'SmartCities Projects and Investments in Western India' an initiative of the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai was supported by AMCHAM India.

The webinar commenced with welcome remarks by Mr. Thomas Vajda, Consul General, U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai which was followed by brief remarks by Mr. Gregory Taevs, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate sharing information on the Mission of the Foreign Commercial Services as well their initiatives and programmes 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.

29th Nov 2016 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 organised an event on 'Partnering for Change: Gender Equality & Technology' 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 which was well attended by leading NGOs and AMCHAM member companies 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 by 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 presentations by Science for Society, Dharavi Diary Sneha, Iesha Learning, Swayam Shikshan Prayog, Impact Guru, Mann Deshi Bank and Saathipads brought forth the theme of women empowerment, closing the digital divide and imbibing awareness of gender equality from the root.

After a short tea break the morning resumed with 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 & 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.

7th Dec 2016 Breakfast Session on 'GST Implementation - Understanding Its Impact On Business'

AMCHAM, in partnership with Deloitte, organized a roundtable breakfast session on 'GST Implementation – Understanding Its Impact On Business' in Mumbai. The session was held with the objective of providing an insight into the recent developments on the introduction of GST in India and their potential impact on industry.

The morning began with a warm welcome and opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director—Western Region, AMCHAM 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.

11th Jan 2017 Roundtable with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Vijay Rupani and Senior officials of the Government of Gujarat on the Occasion of Vibrant Gujarat

On the occasion of Vibrant Gujarat 2017 AMCHAM India in partnership with the U.S. Consulate, Mumbai and U.S. India Business Council met with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Vijay Rupani and key officials of the State Government of Gujarat at Mahatma Mandir. The roundtable meeting saw a sizeable and diverse representation from captains of the U.S. industry. The interaction focused on business opportunities & challenges pertaining to investment and operations in the vibrant and progressive state.

The roundtable interaction began with opening remarks by Mr. John Chambers, Chairman, USIBC followed by remarks by Dr. Mukesh Aghi, President, USIBC thanking the Hon'ble CM for the opportunity to AMCHAM and USIBC delegates to learn of his vision and priorities for the state.

U.S. Consul General Tom Vajda congratulated the Hon'ble CM on behalf of the US Government on a successful Vibrant Gujarat sharing the interest of U.S. companies in the state. He appreciated the access and support received from the CM and his team to the American companies the roundtable concluded with a vote of thanks on behalf of AMCHAM India and USIBC.

13th Jan 2017

Western Region Committee (WRC) Meeting

A meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee (WRC) was held at the Bank of America office in Mumbai.

Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Co-Chair, AMCHAM WRC welcomed the members on the occasion. This was followed by an update on the regional initiatives in the year 2016.

Key points of discussion included an update from the recently concluded National Executive Board meeting held in Ahmedabad, brainstorming on the Western region signature event, ideation and next steps on forthcoming events in Q1, membership outreach to potential members in the region, engagement and strategy for outreach in 2 tier cities (Western Region) as well as a discussion on the mandate and process for formation of the Western Region Committee 2017–18.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Ms. Kaku Nakhate for hosting the event.

24th Jan 2017

Supply Chain & Logistic Committee Meeting

The SCL Committee meeting commenced with a warm welcome by Mr. Srinivasan Sarangapani, Chairperson, AMCHAM Supply Chain & Logistics Committee and Director Operations, Timken Engineering and Research India Pvt. Ltd. The meeting was held to discuss the forthcoming SCL Committee Annual event, events in Q1 before the close of the year 2016–2017. As part of a sharing and learning initiative Mr. Umesh Madhyan, National Head Infrastructure and Logistics Hindustan Coca–Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd shared an insightful video presentation on supply chain in 2025 and ASRS warehouse design at Hindustan Coca–Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd.

The committee meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. Milind Tailor, Co-Chair, AMCHAM SCL Committee & Head- Supply Chain Management, and Diebold Systems Pvt. Ltd. for hosting.

2nd Feb 2017

Roundtable on 'Budget 2017- Impact Analysis'

AMCHAM in partnership with knowledge partner EY organized a roundtable on 'Budget 2017– Impact Analysis' in Mumbai. The session was held with the objective of decoding the proposals made in Budget 2017.

The morning began with a welcome and opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM. Mr. Sudhir Kapadia, National Tax Leader, EY India shared lucid and detailed inputs from the year's budget, its implications on Indian tax policies as well as features of the emerging U.S. tax policies. Tax experts Mr. Hitesh Sharma, Tax Partner & National Leader – Lifesciences, EY India and Mr. Divyesh Lapsiwala, Tax Partner– Indirect Tax Services, EY India shared insightful details and analysis on Direct Tax and Indirect Tax Proposals. This was followed by an engaging Q&A session.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Gopalakrishnan Iyer, Managing Director, J.M. Huber India Pvt. Ltd

15th Feb 2017

Breakfast Session on 'The Dynamics Of The Global Tax Environment'

AMCHAM, in partnership with knowledge partner EY, organised a breakfast session on 'The Dynamics of the Global Tax Environment' in Mumbai. The world tax scenario has witnessing a sea change, with countries striving for tax transparency, exchange of information, treaties being revisited and technology taking a lead. The session was held with the objective of providing tax professionals with a global perspective to revisit their strategies and functioning towards tax planning.

Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director– Western Region, AMCHAM began with opening remarks and introduced the speakers for the session. Mr. Sudhir Kapadia, National Tax Leader, EY India shared an introductory note ushering in the topic. Mr. Jay Nibbe, Global Vice Chair – Tax, EY shared valuable insights on the dynamics of the global tax environment with a detailed focus on the Trump / Republican tax priorities 2017. This was followed by an engaging Q&A session. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Millind Pradhan, Director – Corporate Finance and Taxation, Johnson & Johnson Medical India.

15th Feb 2017

AMCHAM Western Region Committee (WRC) Meeting

A meeting by concall of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee (WRC) was held. Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Co–Chair, AMCHAM WRC welcomed members. This was followed by an update on the recently concluded events since the last WRC meeting held in January 2017.

Key points of discussion included brainstorming on the Western region signature event, ideation and next steps on forthcoming events in Q1, updates on criteria for the election of WRC leadership positions 2017–18, membership outreach to potential members in the region, engagement and strategy for outreach in 2 tier cities (Western Region). The meeting concluded with closing remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal.

22nd Feb 2017

Global Procurement Initiative: Understanding Best Value

The U.S. Trade Development Agency (USTDA) plans to launch their Global Procurement Initiative (GPI) in India shortly. As a precursor to this launch, AMCHAM, in partnership with the Consulate General of the United States, Mumbai, organized a presentation on Global Procurement Initiative: Understanding Best Value.

The morning began with a welcome address and an introductory note by Mr. Chris Grossman, Chief Economic & Political Affairs, U.S. Consulate, Mumbai. Ms. Mehnaz Ansari, USTDA Country Representative – South Asia made an insightful presentation on USTDA, its presence, projects, priority sectors, partnerships, and its initiatives in India. Ms. Lauren Zeigler, Manager Global Procurement Initiative, USTDA, shared insightful information on the Global Procurement Initiative.

An interactive Q&A session answered several queries on challenges and opportunities in the Indian procurement scenario. The roundtable event concluded with closing remarks and vote of thanks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region.

21st March 2017

Exclusive Site Visit to JNPT Followed by Interactive Sessions with Chairman JNPT & Chief Commissioner of Customs JNPT

AMCHAM, in partnership with the Consulate General of the United States, Mumbai, organized a 'Site Visit of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Followed by Interactive Sessions with Chairman JNPT & Commissioners of Customs JNPT.'

The site visit commenced with a briefing on the history and functions of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port & SEZ by Mr. Sittarasu, CEO–JNPT SEZ. The briefing was followed by a roundtable meeting with Mr. Anil Diggikar (IAS), Chairman, JNPT and senior members of JNPT SEZ. Excitement buzzed on a breezy ferry ride showcasing a sea side view of JNPT.

The delegation went on to meet with senior members of the Customs Department at the JNPT Custom House. The roundtable meeting with Mr. Subhash Agarwal (Commissioner of Customs – General), Mr. Mohanty (Commissioner of Customs – NS II), Mr. Shrawan Kumar (Commissioner of Customs – NS III) along with senior members of the department, had members sharing challenges as well as benefits of ease of doing business at the JNPT port over a candid interaction.

The meeting and events of the day concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Gregory Taevs and Ms. Surabhi Wahal who urged AMCHAM members to reach out to the U.S. Consulate and AMCHAM India as a platform for support on the ease of doing business in India.

22nd March 2017

ImPact 50-50 India: CSR Enabling Socio-Economic Transformation in 100 Districts in India

AMCHAM India in partnership with Habitat For Humanity India organized 'ImPact 50–50 India: CSR Enabling Socio–Economic Transformation in 100 Districts in India' in Mumbai.

The event began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India followed by a special address by Consul General Thomas Vajda, U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai. A short audio-visual film sharing an overview on the journey and milestones of Habitat For Humanity was played.

Mr. Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India shared an insight into CSR Impact in housing and sanitation while focussing on Strategy Impact 50–50: multi–sector, multi–year and multi–donor approach to make housing for all and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan a reality, district by district in India. Mr. Rick Hathaway, Area Vice – President, Habitat for Humanity International, Asia–Pac made the keynote address on 'Impact Asia' Habitat's Strategic direction in the Asia–Pac Region.

A photo essay on beneficiary testimonials and impact achieved was highlighted upon by Ms. Lara Shankar, Director, Strategic Management Unit, Habitat for Humanity India. This was immediately followed by an interactive session with donors and partners of Habitat for Humanity India moderated by Mr. Sanjay Daswani, Sr. Director, Resource Development & Communications, Habitat for Humanity India. An engaging Q&A session answered several gueries that were posed by the participants.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Sanjay Daswani and a vote of thanks by Ms. Shalini Raizada, HR Leader – Shared Services, Dow Chemical International Pvt. Ltd.

29th March 2017

Western Region Committee Meeting

AMCHAM's Western Region Committee Meeting was held at the Bank of America office in Mumbai. The meeting which was well attended commenced with welcome remarks by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Co-Chair AMCHAM WRC and opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India.

As part of the agenda a presentation of AMCHAM's Supply Chain & Logistics Committee (SCL) was made Mr. Milind Tailor, Co–Chair, AMCHAM SCL Committee & Head of Indirect Procurement & Electronic Security Asia Pacific, Diebold Systems Pvt. Ltd. The main focus of the WRC meeting was to discuss the forthcoming AMCHAM Open House and the Western Region Signature Event 'India: 2017 and Beyond.' Members were updated on the newly elected WRC Committee members w.e.f. 4th May 2017 (Post AMCHAM India's 25th AGM).

The WRC meeting concluded with brief remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal.

7th April 2017

An Interactive Evening with Mr. Subhash R. Desai, Minister – Industries & Mining, Government of Maharashtra & Mr. Apurva Chandra, Principal Secretary – Industries, Government of Maharashtra

The U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai, in partnership with AMCHAM, organized an 'Open House: An Interactive Evening with Mr. Subhash R. Desai, Minister Industries & Mining, Government of Maharashtra and Mr. Apurva Chandra, Principal Secretary – Industries, Government of Maharashtra' at the U.S. Consulate General, followed by networking over cocktails.



U.S. Consul General Thomas Vajda interacting with AMCHAM members



Mr. Thomas Vajda extending a warm welcome to participants during the Town Hall Meeting – Working With and Through the U.S. Agencies & Departments of the U.S. Consulate



The audience during the Progress of Pride - Film Screening of "Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine" and an evening of interaction with advocates of LGBT rights at the U.S. Consulate, Mumbai.rd is a Friend of Mine" and an evening of interaction with advocates of LGBT rights at the U.S. Consulate, Mumbai



CEOs of American companies with the Honorable Chief Minister of Maharashtra Mr. Devendra Fadnavis



Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr. Devendra Fadnavis visits the Corning India site



Mr. Sukanti Ghosh, MD, APCO Worldwide asking a question during the discussion

AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee Plant Visit to the Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages in Wada, Maharashtra



Keynote speaker at the CSR Event – Mr. Praven Pardeshi, Prinicipal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra makes a presentation. The panel (L - R): U.S. Consul General, Mr. Tom Vajda; Mr. Kavish Arora, India Head – Corporate Banking & Financial Institutions, Bank of America; Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Co–Chair – AMCHAM Western Region & MD, Resources Global Professionals (I). and Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – AMCHAM CSR Committee & Executive Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC Cisco Systems (India)



(L - R): Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Co-Chair - AMCHAM Western Region & MD, Resources Global Professionals, Mr. Amit Raheja, Director - J&J Diabetes Care Companies, J&J Medical India, Ms. Shubha Srinivasan, Director - Social Impact, Deloitte, Dr. Anand Bang, Health Advisor, Tata Trust, Ms. Harpreet Bagga, Manager - Capacity Building, Dasra, Ms. Safeena Hussain, Founder & Executive Director, Educate Girls, Mr. Nehal Sanghavi, Sr. Advisor for Innovation & Partnership, USAID, Ms. Zarina Screwvala, Founder & Managing Trustee, Swades Foundation and Ms. Surabhi Wahal, AMCHAM



(L - R): Ms. Surabhi Wahal, AMCHAM, Mr. Kavish Arora, India Head – Corpt. Banking & Financial Institutions, Bank of America, Mr. Amit Raheja, Director – J&J Diabetes Care Companies, J&J Medical India, Ms. Yoylnd Lobo, Director – Govt. Relations, Honeywell India, Mr. Ashutosh Singh, VP Public Affairs, Hindustan Coca–Cola Beverages, Mr. Vikas Shah, COO, WaterHealth India and Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Co–Chair, Western Region, AMCHAM & MD, Resources Global Professionals



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

Session on 'GST Implementation – Understanding Its Impact on Business' in Mumbai



Keynote address by Mr. Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India during CSR Event on IMPACT 50:50



Consul General Tom Vajda delivering the special address at the CSR Event on IMPACT 50:50

Participants at the AMCHAM and Habitiat for Humanity CSR event on IMPACT 50:50



The U.S. delegation from AMCHAM and USIBC with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Vijay Rupani at Vibrant Gujarat 2017



Mr. John Chambers, Chairman, USIBC, in conversation with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Vijay Rupani

Mr. Richard Rekhy, CEO, KPMG in India, Ms. Ranjana Kahanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Ms. Kaku Nakhate, President & Country Head (India), Bank of America during the roundtable with CM of Gujarat



AMCHAM, India in partnership with the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai, organized a 'Site Visit of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust'



Mr. Jay Nibbe, Global Vice Chair – Tax, EY in an engaged discussion on the dynamics of the global tax environment

A roundtable on "Budget 2017 - Impact Analysis' in Mumbai

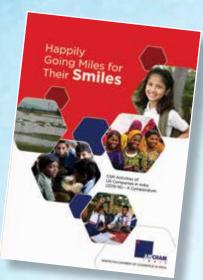


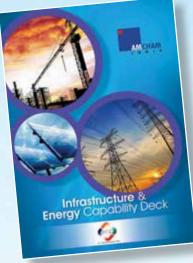
Open House: An Interactive Evening with Mr. Subhash Desai, Minister Industries & Mining and Mr. Apurva Chandra, Principal Secretary – Industries, Govt. of Maharashtra



Consul General, Mr. Tom Vajda, U.S. Consulate General during interactive session with Mr. Subhash Desai and Mr. Apurva Chandra

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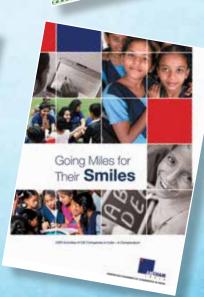














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