



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2018-2019

# index

1.	Chairperson Message	03
2.	Director General CEO's Report	04
3.	National Executive Board 2018 - 19	07
4.	Sectoral Committees 2018 - 19	10
5.	Membership 2018 - 19	12
6.	Analysis of Events Organized by AMCHAM during 2018 - 19	13
7.	New Members 2018 - 19	14
8.	Highlights of the Year 2018 - 19	16



## Chairperson's Message

In the past year, there has been a convergence of views between U.S. and India, not only on global issues but also in their financial vision as both the countries are natural allies and partners in progress. In 2018 the International Monetary Fund (IMF) affirmed that India's economy grew at the rate of 7.1 percent and that it will rise to 7.3 percent in 2019 reinforced by the constant recovery of investment and vigorous consumption, therefore, being the fastest growing major economy of the world. Following India's economic reforms, the FDI from U.S.-based companies have exceeded \$60 billion.

In 2018, India saw one of the biggest strategic developments in the U.S.-India defense relationship. The 2+2 Dialogue was held for the first time with the Foreign and Defence Ministers, with talks committing to "strengthen defence ties further and promote better defence and security coordination and cooperation." COMCASA, the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement, was finalized to enable greater interoperability between the two countries, thereby enhancing intelligence and information sharing. Both countries shared a vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific. The energy sector also saw growth with the launch of the Strategic Energy Partnership and U.S.-sourced oil and liquefied natural gas landed on Indian shores. I am happy to note that in 2018, U.S. – India bilateral trade grew to USD 126 billion.

In 2018 India rose five spots from the 2017 position and was ranked as the 58th most competitive economy in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index. The report highlighted market size, innovation, business dynamism and a number of disruptive businesses as India's greatest competitive advantages. India even jumped 23 positions in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index and is now ranked 77 out of 190 countries in 2018, becoming the top ranked country in South Asia for the first time portraying how India offers great opportunities for manufacturing companies.

This year, the fourth U.S.–India Commercial Dialogue, which took place in New Delhi, is a testimony to the progress in the U.S.–India relationship. There was a mutual commitment to fortify trade and commerce ties and both resolved to leverage on common ideas, values and democratic structures to expand the commercial partnership. As per a recent report from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S.–India bilateral trade has topped \$87 billion in 2018, up from \$73 billion in 2017. In fact, in 2018, Indian exports to the United States grew from \$48.6 billion, while India's imports from the U.S. increased from \$25.7 billion to \$33.1 billion.

As I lay down my office as Chairperson of AMCHAM, I would like to convey my sincerest 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 Chairpersons, Mr. Arun Kumar, Chairman and CEO, KPMG in India and Ms. Kaku Nakhate, President & Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A., along with 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, Chief Strategy Officer & National Leader, Brand and Communications, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, for being the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. He guided the Chamber throughout the year in financial matters and to Mr. C. R. Dua, Chairman, Dua Associates, for his continued good counsel. The Regional Chairpersons actively participated and supported the activities of their regions successfully. Our sincere gratitude and appreciation for their leadership and engagement. Last but not the least, I would like to thank Ranjana Khanna, Director General and CEO of AMCHAM and the entire secretariat for ably carrying out their responsibilities to make AMCHAM the most representative chamber for U.S. companies in India.

**Krish Iyer**  
Chairperson



## Director General CEO's Report 2018 - 19

This has been an eventful year in U.S.-India relations. The relationship has survived major challenges of possible sanctions – both Iran and CAATSA. The first 2+2 Dialogue was held on in September in New Delhi where the signing of the COMCASA agreement was announced.

Senior U.S. government delegations visited India and met with AMCHAM members: Congressional Delegation led by Mr. William “Mac” Thornberry (R-TX), Chairman, House Armed Services Committee, Ambassador Kaidanow, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Lieutenant General Charles Hooper, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Ms. Ellen Lord, Mr. Matthew Warren, Acting Director, International Cooperation, Mr. Mark Linscott, Assistant USTR for South and Central Asia, Mr. Gilbert Kaplan, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, U.S. Department of Commerce, Ms. Manisha Singh, Assistant Secretary Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Mr. Thomas L. Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, among others. The U.S. government delegation led by Ambassador Kenneth Juster comprising of Consul General Burgess, Mr. Alan Shaffer, DUSD for Acquisition and Sustainment, LTG Hooper, Director, DSCA, MG Fontes, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, BG Sean Farrell, Air Force Security Assistance Command met with the U.S. industry participants for a closed-door roundtable and an industry networking reception at Aero India 2019.

The annual door knock delegation to Washington took place in June, in which a record 21-member delegation from AMCHAM met with U.S. policy makers and government officials from various agencies, including USTR, USTDA, Department of Defense, The White House, and the Indian Embassy, among others. This year the delegation met with the Deputy Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, the highest-level meeting during any door knock to date.

Our interaction with the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi and the Consulates across India is ongoing. Consuls General have interacted with our members in all regions. We are indeed grateful to the U.S. Mission for their input, feedback, continuous support and effective partnership.

AMCHAM closely worked the Ministry of Commerce and Industry who created the U.S.-India Fast Track Mechanism for addressing challenges members faced. There were meetings with: Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, Mr. Apurva Chandra, Director General (Acquisition) and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Mr. Rajib Kumar Sen, Economic Advisor and In-Charge, DOMW, Mr. Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, among others. In Bengaluru an interaction was organized with Mr. K.J. George Minister of State for Industries for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka.

In partnership with Invest India, the Manufacturing Committee and the Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, organized a signature event ‘Enhancing the U.S. – India Economic Partnership’ which focused on manufacturing in 3 primary sectors --- future of mobility (heavy machinery and automotive), agriculture and food processing and electronic hardware and mobiles. The event also had a plenary session on supply chain and logistics. A white paper was prepared to take forward the agenda for these sectors with the GOI.

An MoU was signed between AMCHAM India and CHT, MoPNG on 8th May 2018 for U.S.-India collaboration in the refining and petrochemical industry which has created the foundation for various initiatives in this sector.

Members from the Medical Devices and Pharmaceutical Committees continued to engage with the Government of India on a

number of issues, like price controls, throughout the year and continued advocacy. Regarding Trade Margin Rationalization, which was proposed as an alternative to price controls by the government, has gained a lot of traction and they are considering implementing the same for medical devices after having started a pilot for oncology drugs. AMCHAM was invited to join the core committee formed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) working on setting the standards for commonly procured items by the government and has been actively involved in providing comments to the core committee.

The Supply Chain and Logistics Committee organized an industry visit to Dow India Technology Centre, an interactive session with experts from Invest India on 'The Growth of Transportation, Infrastructure And MMLP In India' in Gurgaon and a specialized workshop on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) with Mr. Subhash Agrawal, Commissioner (NS-IV), Jawaharlal Nehru Custom House in Mumbai.

AMCHAM's newest committee, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, was launched in October 2018 in Mumbai by Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai. The agenda of the committee focuses on gender diversity, supporting the differently abled and LGBTQ advocacy. In celebration of the week of International Women's Day, the committee organized 'Balance for Better - Driving Gender Balance at the Workplace.'

The HR Committee focussed on future of work, policy issues, women in leadership roles, upskilling, capacity building, inclusion and diversity, job satisfaction and the need to build on to the culture of giving back for employees. A webinar was organized on '21 More Jobs of the Future' and a best practice session was organized in Bengaluru.

The 5th Anti-Corruption Compliance and Risk Management Master Class was organized by the Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee with international speakers. The committee launched a book 'Understand, Outmanoeuvre and Win Against Unethical Practices in Corporate India: Checkmate! Corruption' in association with EY.

The Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, in association with U.S. Embassy, organized an interactive event with Invest India and DMICDC on Infrastructure Development Opportunities in India and also participated in a workshop organized by DMICDC showcasing investment and business opportunities in the DMIC project. AMCHAM members had the opportunity of one on one meetings with CEOs of a few SPVs of ongoing projects.

The Taxation Tariff and Regulatory Affairs Committee has been formulating a concept paper towards making suggestions for the government's tax reforms agenda to be presented to the functionaries of the newly elected government.

AMCHAM's CSR Committee organized 'Capacity Building in the CSR Ecosystem' that brought together policymakers, corporates, NGOs, social and developmental impact agencies, for cross-sectoral panel discussions that identified and addressed challenges and opportunities for capacity building in CSR. AMCHAM and USAID signed an MOU in 2018. The committee also held a roundtable interaction with the Mission Director for USAID/India to explore projects, synergies and collaboration.

AMCHAM's Western Region organized an exclusive closed-door dialogue with Ambassador Kenneth Juster in Pune. The region organized platforms of dialogue with senior leadership of the Indian government, Dr. P. Anbalagan, CEO, MIDC and with Mr. Vivek Johri, IRS, Chief Commissioner Customs, along with a tour of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Jawaharlal Nehru Customs House (JNCH). Platforms of learning and engagement included sessions on the Global Procurement Initiative, measuring the impact of CSR programs, global tax environment and cyber intelligence, among other topics.

The Karnataka Chapter interacted with the U.S. Consulate twice, hosted Ambassador Juster and the National Executive Board. In the winter, the chapter organized its signature golf tournament. Bengaluru members attended an interaction on renewable energy with representatives from BESCOM and KREDAI, a session on U.S. income compliance and reporting for U.S. citizens in India and various industry and education sector initiatives.

The Tamil Nadu Chapter organized breakfast meetings on subjects that included capacity building for CSR managers, changing

landscape on accounting for leases, Chennai's preparedness for monsoon season, ease of doing business, among others, and also organized several plant visits to member companies.

The Hyderabad Chapter held a session on business visas with the U.S. Consulate Hyderabad, sessions on block chain, transfer pricing, GST, anti-bribery and immigration. The 6th Healthcare Conference themed 'Changing Landscape in Healthcare: Challenges and Opportunities,' Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018 and Annual Day were the signature events in Hyderabad.

The Eastern Region covered a range of events on how AI will impact business, GST on credit concerns, business opportunities in West Bengal and a gender diversity event which has become the region's annual event. They supported the GOWB on the Bengal Global Summit 2019 and also met with the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Mr. Saehan Pande on the state's Direct Selling Policy.

During the year, representations on various issues impacting members were made to the concerned authorities. These included:

- National Digital Communications Policy 2018
- Amendment of clause 8 in MNRE's prototype installation guidelines,
- Proposed amendments in Goods and Services Tax (GST) Acts
- GST Returns Formats
- Tax Collected at Source: Industry Concerns
- Personal Data Protection Bill 2018
- Clarification on the term "intermediary" Under the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017
- Pre-Budget Memorandum 2019-20
- Inputs on GST provisions
- Consultation paper on Regulatory Framework for Over the Top (OTT) Communication Services
- Regulations in E-commerce Policy in India – Review
- Amendment to the Intermediary Guidelines
- Draft National e-Commerce Policy

I would like to thank the Honorary President of AMCHAM, the U.S. Ambassador, who has been generous with his time and interacted with members multiple times this year, officials of the U.S. Embassy and the Consulates, the Chairperson of AMCHAM, Mr. Krish Iyer and the two Vice Chairs, Mr. Arun M. Kumar and Ms. Kaku Nakhate, the Honorary Secretary & Treasurer, Mr. Atul Dhawan and members of the National Executive Board, for their support. My thanks are also due to the Regional Chairperson, Chairs and Vice Chairs of our sectoral committees who devoted time and energy to take AMCHAM agenda forward. Last but not the least, I would like to thank the secretariat team without whose support I would have not able to carry out my responsibilities.

**Ranjana Khanna**  
Director General CEO

# AMCHAM's National Executive Board 2018-19

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

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

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

## **Chairman**

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

## **Vice-Chairman**

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

## **Vice-Chairman**

Mr. Arun Kumar  
Chairman and CEO  
KPMG in India

## **Hon. Secretary & Treasurer**

Mr. Atul Dhawan  
Partner  
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP

## **Executive Board Members 2018 - 2019**

Mr. Karanjit Singh Bajwa  
Managing Director and Regional General Manager India & South Asia  
IBM India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Arijit Ghosh\*  
President & Managing Director  
Textron India Pvt. Ltd.

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

\* Till 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 \*\* Till 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Mr. Sanjay Koul  
Chairman & Managing Director  
Timken India Limited

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

Mr. Phil Shaw  
Chief Executive - India  
Lockheed Martin India Pvt. Ltd.

#### **Immediate Past Chair**

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

#### **Honorary Members**

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

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

#### **Special Invitee**

Mr. C. R. Dua  
Chairman  
Dua Associates

#### **Regional Chapters**

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

###### *Chairman*

Mr. Amit Sharma  
Executive Vice President & President Asia  
ATC India

###### *Representative*

Mr. Palash Roy Chowdhury  
MD - Pratt & Whitney, Board of director - UTCIPL  
United Technologies Corporation

##### **Eastern Region**

###### *Chairman*

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

###### *Representative*

Mr. Gulshan Kumar Sachdev  
Managing Director  
Quaker Chemical India Pvt. Ltd.

### Hyderabad Chapter

#### *Chairperson*

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

#### *Representative*

Mr. V. Laxmikanth  
Managing Director  
Broadridge Financial Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd.

### Karnataka Chapter

#### *Chairman*

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

#### *Representative*

Mr. Paresh Shah \*\*\*  
Sr. Vice President & General Manager  
Syniverse Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.

### Tamil Nadu Chapter

#### *Chairman*

Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy  
Executive Director, India  
Cognizant Technology Solutions

#### *Representative*

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

### Western Region

#### *Chairman*

Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti\*\*\*\*  
Managing Director  
Resources Global Professionals (I) Pvt. Ltd.

#### *Representative*

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

\*\*\* Till 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 \*\*\*\* Till 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019

# AMCHAM India

## Sectoral Committees 2018-19

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

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

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

Committee	Chairperson	Co-Chairperson
Agriculture and Food Processing	Mr. Simon George President Cargill India Pvt. Ltd.	Ms. Neelima Dwivedi Vice President – Public Policy, Govt. Affairs & Sustainability PepsiCo India Holdings
Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance	Ms. Ritika Ratti Sr. Director - Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer & Head of Anti-Corruption Walmart India	-----
Aviation	Mr. Palash Roychowdhury Managing Director - Pratt & Whitney Board of Director - UTCIPL United Technologies Corporation	Mr. Amber Dubey Partner & Head - Aerospace & Defense KPMG in India  Mr. Ankur Kanaglekar Director - Strategy & Business Development Boeing India Pvt. Ltd.
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	Mr. Harish Krishnan Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC Cisco Systems (India)	-----
Cyber Security	Mr. Rakesh Kharwal Country Lead - Security Software India & South Asia IBM India Pvt. Ltd.	
Defense	Mr. Michael M. Koch Vice President Boeing India Defense, Space & Security	Mr. Nikhil Khanna Managing Director BAE Systems India Service Pvt. Ltd.  Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta Partner - Tax & Regulatory, Aerospace & Defense KPMG in India

Committee	Chairperson	Co-Chairperson
Diversity & Inclusion (D&I)	Ms. Kaku Nakhate President & Country Head (India) Bank of America N.A.	-----
Economic Affairs	Mr. Nitin Atroley Office Managing Partner Delhi KPMG in India	-----
HR	Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy Executive Director - India Cognizant Technology Solutions	Mr. Chaitanya Sreenivas VP – HR (India/South Asia) IBM
Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	Mr. Amit Sharma Executive VP & President Asia ATC India	Mr. Vivek Vasishtha Executive Director & Country Leader – Government & 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.	Mr. Ambrish Bakaya Director, Corporate Affairs Hewlett Packard Enterprise  Mr. Samit Ray Director - Govt. Affairs & Public Policy United Technologies Corporation
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	Ms. Sanjit Kaur Batra Senior Legal Counsel E. I. DuPont India Pvt. Ltd.	Ms. Meenu Chandra Director - IPR, Legal and Corporate Affairs Microsoft Corporation India Pvt. Ltd.
Manufacturing	Mr. Sanjay Koul Chairman & Managing Director Timken India Limited	Mr. Amit Bansal Managing Director Corning India  Mr. Arijit Sen Sr. Director, Global Government Affairs Flex Limited
Medical Devices	Mr. Prabal Chakraborty Vice President & Managing Director Boston Scientific India Pvt. Ltd.	Mr. Madan Krishnan Managing Director India Medtronic Pvt. Ltd.
Pharmaceuticals	Mr. Sanjiv Navangul Managing Director – Janssen India Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd.	Ms. Jyotsna Ghoshal Executive Director MSD in India
Supply Chain and Logistics	Mr. Kumar Kandaswami Senior Director Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd.	Mr. Milind Tailor Head - Supply Chain Management Diebold Systems Pvt. Ltd.
Tax and Tariff	Ms. Garima Pande Partner - Tax & Regulatory Ernst & Young LLP	Mr. Sandeep Chaufla Partner - Corporate & International Tax PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.

# AMCHAM

## Membership 2018-19

Table – I

Type of Membership	Total
Corporate	318
Additional	113
Individual	5
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>436</b>

AMCHAM Type of Membership

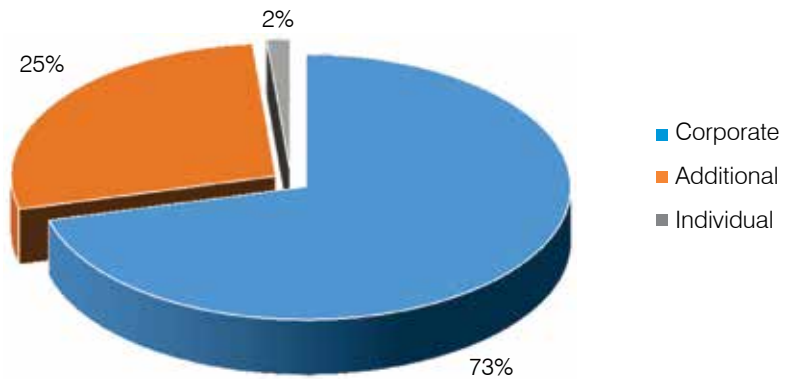
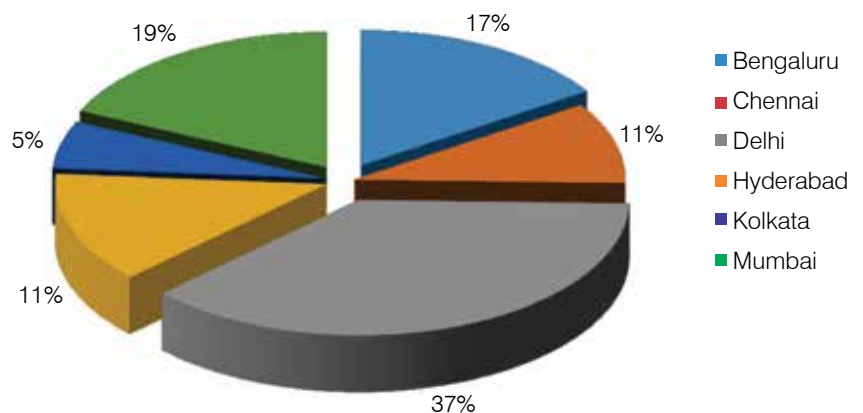


Table – II

Regions	Total
Bangalore	71
Chennai	47
Delhi	161
Hyderabad	50
Kolkata	23
Mumbai	84
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>436</b>

AMCHAM Regions Wise Members



# Analysis of Events Organized by AMCHAM during 2018-2019

Table – I

Chapter	Number of Meetings
Bangalore	18
Chennai	10
Delhi	83
Hyderabad	15
Kolkata	22
Mumbai	33
<b>Total Events</b>	<b>181</b>

AMCHAM Meetings and Events Between Regions

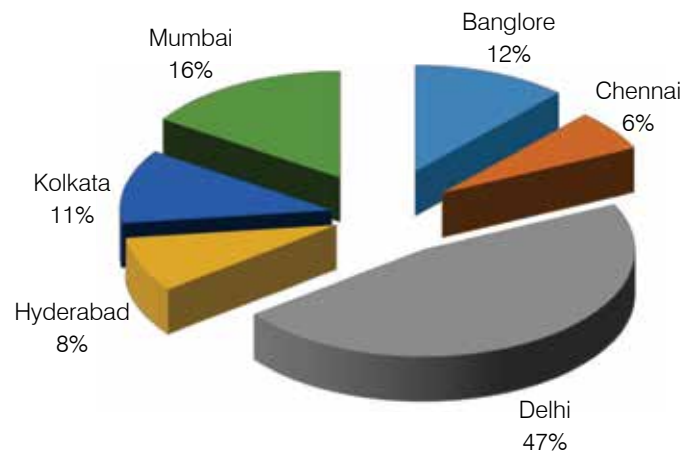


Table – II

Chapter	Number of Meetings
National Board/Regional Executive Committee	29
Sector Committee Meeting	37
Business Meeting/Social Event	60
Meeting with U.S. Government	36
Meeting with Government of India	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>

AMCHAM Meetings and Events



# AMCHAM

## New Members

### List of New Members from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

S.No.	Member's Name	Organization
<b>DELHI</b>		
1	Mr. Virat Bhatia	Apple India Pvt. Ltd.
2	Ms. Saloni Gupta	Apple India Pvt. Ltd.
3	Mr. Brijender Kumar	Bio-Rad Laboratories (India) Pvt. Ltd.
4	Mr. Vivek K. Kumar	Expeditors International (India) Pvt. Ltd.
5	Mr. Arijit Sen	Flextronics Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.
6	Mr. David Peterson	Nevada Division of Tourism / Travel Nevada
7	Mr. Vishal Seth	SpencerStuart India Pvt. Ltd.
8	Mr. Praveen Kumar Rawal	Steelcase Asia Pacific Holdings India Pvt. Ltd.
9	Mr. Ajay Gupta	Sunrider India Pvt. Ltd.
10	Mr. Sachin Golwalkar	United Way of Delhi
11	Mr. Kapil Behl	WM Logistics India Pvt. Ltd.
12	Mr. Deep Agarwal	Zebra Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.
<b>Bengaluru</b>		
13	Mr. Parag Kulkarni	A.O. Smith India Water Products Pvt. Ltd.
14	Mr. Joseph Freda	Flexera Software India LLP
15	Mr. Christopher Karachale	Hanson Bridgett LLP
16	Mr. N.V. Umesh	Otis Global Services Center Pvt. Ltd.
17	Mr. Hari Vasudev	WM Global Technology Services India Pvt. Ltd.
<b>CHENNAI</b>		
18	Mr. M.V. Rajasekhar	Reynolds Pens India Pvt. Ltd.
19	Mr. Halan Sivashankar	Sutherland Global Services Pvt. Ltd.
20	Mr. K.S.S. Panikar	Venture Lighting India Limited

**HYDERABAD**

21	Mr. Dasaradha R. Gude	INVECAS Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
22	Mr. K. Murali Krishna	Microsoft India (R&D) Pvt. Ltd.
23	Mr. Lakshman K Cheruvu	Quest Diagnostics HTAS India Pvt. Ltd.
24	Mr. Akhil Choudhary	VACO Binary Semantics LLP

**KOLKATA**

25	Mr. Christopher Hyland	Hyland Software Solutions India LLP
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**MUMBAI**

26	Mr. Punit Gupta	Ashwattha Advisors Pvt Ltd.
27	Mr. Milan Sheth	Automation Anywhere Software Pvt. Ltd.
28	Mr. Abhijit Yadav	BRG Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd.
29	Mr. Rajesh Harishchandra Gandhi	Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP
30	Mr. Vishal Tibrewal	Forever Living Imports India Pvt. Ltd.
31	Mr. Harshad Naik	Huntsman International India Pvt. Ltd.
32	Mr. Rohit Khatri	J.P. Morgan Chase Bank N.A.
33	Mr. Vilas Dhavale	Lord India Pvt. Ltd.
34	Ms. Shampa Dhali	Marriott Hotels India Pvt. Ltd.
35	Mr. Michael Harrington	Mintz Group
36	Ms. Navroze Dastur	NCR Corporation India Pvt. Ltd.

# AMCHAM

## Highlights of events held in 2018 - 19



## AMCHAM Bengaluru

Mr. K. J. George, Minister of State for Industries and Minister of State for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, giving the keynote address at the NEB dinner in Bengaluru

Date	Meetings / Events
27th April 2018	<p><b>Session on Best Practices in Change Management for 2018-2020 with Mr. Mark Dorsett, Vice President of Global Business &amp; Strategic Partnership, Prosci Inc. USA</b></p> <p>The Karnataka Chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce in India had a breakfast session on April 27th in Bengaluru with Mr. Mark Dorsett, Vice President, Global Operations and Strategic Partnership, Prosci Inc. and their Indian affiliate, Marg (training and business transformation firm), team in an open forum discussion on the best practices for change management – for changes that organizations are encountering or initiating. Mr. Dorsett talked about the importance of having a structured approach to change management, best practices in change management and the role of sponsor (business leaders) during a change scenario.</p>
4th May 2018	<p><b>Breakfast Meeting with Consular Chief, Mr. Kent May and Karnataka Member CEOs</b></p> <p>Consular Chief, Mr. Kent May, from the U.S. Consulate Chennai met an exclusive group of AMCHAM CEOs at a breakfast meeting on Friday, May 4, 2018 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Bengaluru. Among the attendees were Mr. Sameer Garde, President, India &amp; SAARC, Cisco Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Paresh Shah, Senior Vice President &amp; General Manager – India, Syniverse Technologies Services India Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard India Software Operation Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Amit Sharma, COO, IBM India Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Atul Ujagar, Country Manager India, Nike Sourcing India Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Ravi Krishnan, CAO, Goldman Sachs Services Private Ltd. and Mr. Saju James, Head, Fragomen Immigration Services India Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Kent May thanked all the CEOs for attending the meeting. Mr. May had reiterated that it would not be possible to have a consulate in Bengaluru but if a business case was made about the volume of travellers, VFS could have a fingerprinting facility there to reduce the number of days travellers needed to stay in Chennai.</p>

9th May 2018	<p><b>Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>The AMCHAM Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee met on May 9th, 2018 at the Syniverse India office. There was a discussion on the past events, i.e., the meeting with Consular Chief Kent May and AGM in Delhi. The committee then deliberated on inducting another member in place of Mr. Munesh Mahkhija. Future events like the golf tournament were discussed. It was also decided to make a business case to the Consulate (with help from KPMG) for having a fingerprinting facility in Bengaluru. It was also decided that data should be collected from U.S. companies in Karnataka to make a presentation readily available for when congressional delegations or officials visit.</p>
30th May 2018	<p><b>Meeting with Ambassador Kenneth Juster, U.S. Ambassador to India</b></p> <p>Ambassador Kenneth Juster met with the AMCHAM members on May 30th, 2018, at the J.W. Marriott. Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Head of EMEA Operations, Saggezza Inc., welcomed the Ambassador to Bengaluru and gave a brief introduction of the Karnataka Chapter. Consul General Robert Burgess of the U.S. Consulate Chennai introduced the Ambassador. On the occasion, Ambassador Juster spoke on the growing trade ties between India and the U.S. and a few challenges. He answered questions from the audience ranging from U.S. – India technology transfer, to visa challenges, to American Citizen Services. The session concluded with the Chief of the Consular Section, Mr. Kent May, conducting an interactive session with the audience.</p>
16th Aug 2018	<p><b>Breakfast Meeting with a Delegation from the House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Ms. Mary Martin, Chief Counsel, Mr. Brandon Mooney, Deputy Chief Counsel and Mr. Rick Kessler, Senior Advisor and Staff Director for Energy and Environment</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted members of the U.S. congressional staff delegation on August 16th, 2018 at a breakfast meeting in Bengaluru. The delegation included officials from the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ms. Mary Martin, Chief Counsel, Mr. Brandon Mooney, Deputy Chief Counsel and Mr. Rick Kessler, Senior Advisor and Staff Director for Energy and Environment. The broad areas of discussion were energy, advanced R&amp;D, manufacturing and data centers. Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard India Software Operation Pvt. Ltd. chaired the meeting on behalf of AMCHAM. The other AMCHAM attendees included Mr. Amit Sharma, COO, IBM India, Mr. Bala Bharadvaj, Managing Director, Boeing Research &amp; Technology – India, Mr. Mariasundaram Antony, General Manager, Engineering India Operations, GE Power, Mr. Sudhansu Panigrahi, Center Head, GM &amp; Center Head – Bangalore, UST Global and Mr. Sunil Manikath, Senior Vice President, Head – Technology Platform, Wells Fargo.</p>
5th Sept 2018	<p><b>Breakfast Session on Simplified GST Returns</b></p> <p>The GST Council, in its 28th meeting announced the introduction of a 'simplified GST return' which proposes to reduce the compliance burden by allowing all taxpayers to file one monthly return in place of the existing 3 returns, which would be effective from January 1, 2019. To ensure business readiness to deal with this change, AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter, along with PwC, held a breakfast session on simplified GST returns on September 5th, 2018, at the Conrad Bengaluru. CFOs and Tax Heads of leading U.S. companies participated. Mr. Kunal Wadhwa, Partner, PwC, conducted the informative session, which was followed by an interactive discussion where participants clarified any doubts they had on GST. PwC sponsored the event.</p>
9th Oct 2018	<p><b>Meeting with UPS Senior Leadership</b></p> <p>UPS senior leadership, on a visit to Bengaluru, met with members of AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter over a networking session and a panel discussion at the Shangri-La Bengaluru on 9th October 2018. One of the senior leadership team is posed to possibly be the future Global CEO of UPS. The UPS leaders present were Ms. Michelle Ho, Vice President Intra Asia Strategy - Singapore, Mr. Stuart Lund, Vice President Global Airfreight - USA, Ms. Penny Nas, Vice President and District Manager for International Public Affairs - Belgium, Mr. Peter Harld, President of UPS China - Shanghai, China, Ms. Shellie Shellabarger, Director of Operations Small Packages - USA, Mr. Joel Stenson, Vice President Plant Engineering - USA and Mr. Yuri Boshyk, Facilitator Global Executive Learning - Canada.</p>

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

23rd Oct 2018

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

A session was hosted in collaboration with AMCHAM Karnataka, Indo American Chamber of Commerce and Bangalore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, by Sannam S4 and JSA Advocates, on 'Nuances of Managing Foreign Subsidiaries in India: Key Tax, Regulatory and Labour Considerations' on Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018 at WeWork Galaxy, Bengaluru. The event was attended by representatives from HR, finance and legal departments of Bengaluru based MNCs and was led by Mr. Micheal Green, General Manager India, Sannam S4, Mr. Abhinav Sood, Head of Client Relations and International Projects, Financial Consulting, Sannam S4, and Mr. Sajai Singh, Partner, J. Sagar Associates. From AMCHAM, Ms. Payal Satish, Regional Director – Karnataka Chapter, attended the session.

20th Nov 2018

#### **National Executive Board Dinner**

The Karnataka Chapter of AMCHAM hosted the National Executive Board meeting led by its Chairperson, Mr. Krish Iyer, President & CEO, Walmart India, along with U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate officials and CEOs of U.S. companies on Tuesday, November 20, 2018, at the Conrad, Bengaluru. On the same evening of the board meeting, the dinner started with a key note address by Mr. K.J. George, Minister of State for Industries and Minister of State for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, followed by addresses from Consul General Robert Burgess, U.S. Consulate General Chennai, Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM and Mr. Ravi Venkatesan, UNICEF's Special Representative for Young People and Innovation. This was followed by an interesting panel discussion on 'e-Commerce and Digital Transformation' with Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary for Commerce and Industries and IT and BT, Government of Karnataka, Mr. Gunjan Samtani, Co-Head, Goldman Sachs, Mr. Vivek Sunder, COO, Swiggy and Mr. Atul Ujagar, Country Director, Nike Sourcing, South Asia. The event concluded with cocktails and dinner. The sponsors for the evening included: Indeed, Saggezza, Pernod Ricard, Institute of Management Accountants and Kafnu.

20th Nov 2018

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

The Chairperson of AMCHAM, Mr. Krish Iyer, President & CEO, Walmart India, Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Head of EMEA Operations, Saggezza Inc., Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited, Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, met with Mr. K.J. George, Minister of State for Industries and Minister of State for IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, at Vidhana Soudha on November 20th, 2018. The discussions centred around how U.S. companies could increase their presence in Karnataka, the business climate in the state, and how the government was focused on ensuring talent availability to industries.

26th Nov 2018

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

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted an interactive session with Ms. Susan Tuller, Deputy Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate Chennai on November 26th, 2018 at the Conrad, Bengaluru. The event was well attended by senior leadership from the HR departments of AMCHAM member companies like JC Penney, Mphasis, IBM, Hewlett Packard, Deloitte and more. The interaction comprised of Ms. Tuller talking about the requirements for companies to follow when submitting visa applications for the United States for employees travelling on business, followed by Q&A.

28th Nov 2008	<p><b>Participation in the 23rd Annual Global Forum on Strategic Change, Leadership &amp; Learning</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter participated in the 23rd Annual Global Forum on Strategic Change, Leadership and Learning hosted at the Shangri-La Bengaluru on November 28th, 2018. The Global Forum on Leadership, Learning and Strategic Change is a not-for-profit 'community of practice,' involving participants from major companies and organizations from around the world, who, in a collegial spirit, discuss strategic change, executive learning and organizational development. AMCHAM was represented by Mr. Amit Sharma, COO, IBM India and Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard India Software Operation, who participated in a panel discussion with several other eminent speakers on the topic of 'India's Transformation: Reality or Aspiration?'</p>
8th Dec 2018	<p><b>AMCHAM - HSBC 7th Annual Golf Tournament</b></p> <p>The AMCHAM-HSBC 7th Annual Golf Tournament was held on December 8th, 2018, at Prestige Golfshire. There was a great turnout with 110 participants. The attendees comprised of CEOs of U.S companies, senior state government bureaucrats, senior management of Indian companies and sponsors of the tournament. HSBC was the co-host and title sponsor of the event. Platinum sponsors were Saggezza, Singapore Airlines, CoWrks, Indeed and Marqland. Gold sponsors were Vistara, Simon Carter, William Penn and silver sponsors were JetSetGo SkyShuttle, Western Digital, Marriott and KTC India. Other sponsors were Truffitt &amp; Hill, Decathlon, Nafex, Evergreen, World Class Sports Training. Our event partner was Tiger Sports Management. The tournament was followed by a luncheon and prize distribution with a wonderful band 'Fernandes Fusion' to entertain the audience.</p> <p>Winners of the tournament included; Closest to the Pin: Mr. Rajendra Prasad; Longest Drive: Mr. Bharath Jalanatha; Straightest Drive : Mr. Lakshipathi K.</p> <p>Runner Up – (0-17 Category): Mr. B. Ashwin; Runner Up – (18 &amp; Above Category): Mr. Puttaraj;</p> <p>Winner – (0-17 Category): Mr. Gopi S; Winner – (18 &amp; Above Category): Mr. Anil Valluri; Winner – (0-17 Category) : AMCHAM Category: Mr. Anil Sama; Winner – (18 &amp; Above Category) : AMCHAM Category: Mr. Naresh Shah</p> <p>Blind Winning Team of 4 Member: Mr. Sanjay Goel, Mr. Arun Murugappan, Mr. Abdul Kareem Sait, Mr. M Muneer Sait</p>
18th Jan 2019	<p><b>Executive Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted the first executive committee meeting on 18th January 2019. The chapter bid farewell to Mr. Paresh Shah who has retired as Vice Chair of the Chapter and welcomed Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman &amp; Managing Director, Timken India, as Vice Chairman of the Karnataka Chapter. The success of past events was reviewed and new events for calendar year 2019 were discussed among other chapter priorities.</p>
30th Jan 2019	<p><b>U.S. Income Tax Compliance and Reporting: Addressing Tax Reporting Delinquencies and Considering U.S. Investments</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter hosted an event on 30th January 2019 focussed on U.S. income tax - compliance and reporting, addressing tax reporting delinquencies and considering U.S. investments. The session was targeted towards assisting U.S. citizens and green card holders in Bengaluru to come into compliance with U.S. tax reporting responsibilities. In addition to tax reporting responsibilities, the presentation and interaction discussed advantages and disadvantages of different entity structures foreign investors may consider for their U.S. investments. Guest speakers included Mr. Christopher A. Karachale, Partner, Hanson Bridgett LLP and Mr. Ray L. Leung, CPA, Leung Louie Ip &amp; Co LLP.</p>

12th Feb 2019

**Futuristic India, Deeper Applications of Renewable Energy Summit**

On 12th February 2019, AMCHAM's Karnataka chapter hosted its annual seminar focussed on renewable energy on the topic 'Futuristic India, Deeper Applications of Renewable Energy' at the Conrad, Bengaluru. The event was in participation with the Karnataka State Government where a speaker from BESCOM/KREDIL was present to speak about government initiatives in the renewable energy space. Mr. Shreenath, DGM Smart Grid & Electric Vehicles, joined the seminar. Topics included grid in the new energy landscape and energy conservation through effective air handling units followed by an interactive session with questions from the audience.

13th March 2019

**Interaction with Students of Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, Utah State University, on India's Technology Landscape**

AMCHAM's Karnataka Chapter, in association with Jon M Huntsman School of Business, Utah State University, organized an interaction for 18 undergraduate students and 2 visiting faculty members on 13th March 2019 in Bengaluru. The objective of the interaction was to give the students an understanding of the evolving tech landscape in India, specifically Karnataka. AMCHAM members Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Mr. Amit Sharma, Chief Operating Officer, IBM and Mr. Sethu Seetharaman, Senior Vice President and Chief Risk Officer, Mphasis, addressed the gathering.

This was followed by a site visit to Mphasis Bengaluru for a more in-depth understanding about their work in the innovations ecosystem, R&D and the applications of technology in CSR. The students interacted with Dr. Jai Ganesh, Head - Next Lab, Mphasis, Dr. Meenu Bhambhani, Head – CSR, Mphasis and Ms. Deepa Nagaraj, Head - Sparkle Innovation Ecosystem and Communications, Mphasis.

9th April 2019

**Karnataka Chapter Executive Committee Meeting**

The AMCHAM Karnataka Chapter hosted its second Executive Committee meeting for the year on 9th April 2019 at the Pricewaterhouse Coopers office in Bengaluru. Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Managing Director India and Head of EMEA, Saggezza, upon successful completion of a two year term handed over charge to Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited, who will take over as Chair for FY 2019-20. Mr. Ravi Krishnan, Chief Administration Officer, Goldman Sachs, took over charge as Vice Chairman for FY 2019-20. The success of past events was reviewed and new events for calendar year 2019 were discussed, among other chapter priorities.



Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Head of EMEA Operations for Saggezza Inc., felicitates Ambassador Kenneth Juster



(L-R) Ambassador Kenneth Juster, Consul General Robert Burgess, U.S. Consulate General Chennai and Mr. Kent May, Consular Section Chief, U.S. Consulate General Chennai



Karnataka Chapter Committee members with Mr. Kent May, Consular Section Chief, U.S. Consulate General Chennai in Bengaluru



Karnataka Chapter members at a breakfast meeting with a delegation from the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Ms. Mary Martin, Chief Counsel, Mr. Brandon Mooney, Deputy Chief Counsel and Mr. Rick Kessler, Senior Advisor and Staff Director for Energy and Environment



AMCHAM members in discussion with UPS senior leadership



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



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



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



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



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



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



Mr. Amit Sharma, Chief Operating Officer, IBM India, addressing participants at the 23rd Global Forum on Strategic Change, Leadership & Learning in Bengaluru



Mr. Rajagopalan, Head Branch Banking, HSBC, plays the inaugural shot at 7th AMCHAM India Invitational Golf Tournament 2018



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



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



7th AMCHAM India Invitational Golf Tournament 2018 prize winners



Participants at the 'Futuristic India, Deeper Applications of Renewable Energy Summit' in Bengaluru



Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, addressing Students of Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, Utah State University in Bengaluru



Students of Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, Utah State University at Mphasis in Bengaluru



(L-R) Ms. Manjushree Phookan, Sr. Commercial Specialist and Director, U.S. Commercial Service, Bengaluru, Mr. Ravi Gautham, Senior Vice President & Director of Risk Management, Northern Trust, Mr. Naresh Shah, President, Hewlett Packard India Software Enterprise, Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited, Mr. Indraneel Roy Chaudhury, Executive Director Tax & Regulatory Services, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Mr. Atul Ujagar, Country Director India Sri Lanka & Pakistan, Nike, Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Managing Director India and Head of EMEA, Saggezza , Mr. Pradip Dutta, Senior Vice President Synopsis and Managing Director, Synopsis India, Mr. Ravi Krishnan, Chief Administration Officer, Goldman Sachs and Ms. Payal Satish, Regional Director – Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM



## AMCHAM Chennai

Mr. R. Ramkumar, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM and Executive Director – India, Cognizant Technology Solutions and Dr. Satyagopal IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, addressing AMCHAM members on the state's preparedness to manage the monsoons

Date	Meetings / Events
25th May 2018	<p><b>Sharing Best Practices – Plant Visit to Dell, Modine, Borgwarner and Sanmina</b></p> <p>Plant visits are organized by AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter twice or thrice a year as part of the 'Sharing Best Practices by Practitioners' program. This plant visit was exclusively for employees of AMCHAM members and held on May 25th 2018 in Sriperumbudur and Oragadam SEZ, outside Chennai.</p> <p>Plant visits allow senior executives to build a better understanding of a site's performance potential, to rally the frontline workforce and to communicate the company's performance, strategy, and current challenges. Plant visits allow managers to review a supplier's qualifications, to share best practices with a partner, see innovation at work or to benchmark performance and practices. Shop-floor operators can assess another plant's operations and apply what they've learned to their own factories. Consultants benefit a great deal from these visits.</p> <p>For participants, the primary objective of plant tours is to learn. The first way to enhance learning is to focus on practices. AMCHAM's plant tours provide an opportunity to observe how work actually gets done. The visit had 38 participants whose work roles ranged from manufacturing, facilities management, business development, strategy and consulting. Of the four plants visited Dell and Sanmina are electronic hardware manufacturing companies, while Modine and BorgWarner are automotive component manufacturers.</p>
8th June 2018	<p><b>Breakfast Meeting on Capacity Building for CSR Managers</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter held a breakfast meeting focussed on capacity building for CSR Managers with guest speaker Mr. Sugata Roy, Communication Specialist, UNICEF, Chennai, on Friday, June 8, 2018 at Hotel Westin Velachery, Chennai. The meeting began with a welcome to participants by Mr. Aubrey Daniels, Regional Director – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM, who stressed the importance of CSR and stressed the enactment of the CSR component in the Indian Companies Act 2013 was path breaking. UNICEF has been partnering with the private sector entities in strengthening CSR interventions. UNICEF's partnership has been primarily in the areas of capacity development, innovations and knowledge management for achieving results for children. In Tamil Nadu, UNICEF has provided technical support to CSR interventions focusing on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), early childhood development, child nutrition and life skills development of adolescents. Apart from child centric CSR interventions, UNICEF has also engaged with private sectors in promoting child rights and business principles in improving the value chain and sustainable business practices.</p>

Mr. Sugata Roy made a presentation emphasizing the emerging areas for CSR interventions in early childhood development to give young children, especially the most deprived, the best start in life and to expand access to effective and essential development services. Mr. Roy said that CSR interventions could influence change at three different levels: policy level; institutional level and at the community level. He added that by providing an enabling environment for children, the 'rights of the child' such as right to survival; right to development and the right to participation can be ensured. According to UNICEF, despite being one of the five developed states of India, where the state had adopted progressive child and women policies, many children are deprived of basic services and lack protection from violence, exploitation and abuse.

Mr. Sugata Roy said that UNICEF would like to partner with corporate businesses and bring about a change in business practices to respect and support children, leverage resources for children, enable businesses to influence government on social policies, program innovation and public advocacy to bring results for development of the less fortunate children of society. Mr. Roy clarified that UNICEF was not vying to take a share of corporate CSR funds, but to be a change agent in ensuring that CSR funds are well spent by businesses with accountability and also proper acknowledgement for the company. The meeting came to an end with an interactive session with all participants.

24th July 2018

#### **Breakfast Meeting on the Changing Landscape on Accounting for Leases**

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter breakfast meeting for July was held on the 24th in Chennai on the 'Changing Landscape on Accounting for Leases' featuring guest speaker Mr. Sandip Khetan, Partner, Assurance - EY. Mr. Sandip Khetan set the context for the meeting by saying that the international statutory bodies responsible for financial accounting have decided to put the leash on leasing. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India recently issued a new accounting standard – IndAS 19 on leases. The EY presentation detailed the various challenges and solutions in the new accounting standards that must be followed. The new leasing standards will pose a number of challenges for businesses with a substantial number of operating leases even before the effective date.

IFRS 16 - leases (applicable from January 1st, 2019) will change the accounting treatment of leases significantly and will require lessees to recognize assets and liabilities for most leases on their balance sheet at present value of lease payments. This will result in higher EITDA as the lease expense will now be split as amortization and interest cost in the statement of profit and loss.

The key challenge for lessees will be identifying all the lease arrangements that exist and gathering all the required data to get the leases to the balance sheet. The new standard will affect many activities across the organization like procurement, IT, internal audit and finance functions. Since inventory of all leases has to be created on transition, significant changes to systems and processes may be required. There are some impacts which cannot be quantified yet like changes to the tax treatment of leases until the tax department comes up with regulatory guidance.

The new lease standard under US GAAP (ASC 842) is also applicable from January 1st, 2019 for public business entities (January 1st, 2020 for other entities). The 'Day 1' accounting for leases under US GAAP (ASC 842 – Leases) is similar to IFRS 16 where most of the leases are recognised in the balance sheet. However, there are significant differences in 'Day 2' accounting. The major difference is that under ASC 842, lessee is still required to classify the leases as either operating lease or finance lease and the operating leases expense will continue to be straight lined in the income statement.

In a nutshell, the above changes will pose a significant challenge for companies reporting under both IFRS and US GAAP. In summing up, it is important for all corporate business houses to first get an inventory of all leases that they have, both financial leases and operating leases. This would be the first step and this is the biggest challenge. The meeting came to an end with an interactive session with all the participants.

16th Aug 2018

**Breakfast Meeting - Protection of Life and Property in Chennai**

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter held a breakfast meeting on 'Protection of Life and Property in Chennai' on August 16th, 2018 at Hotel Westin Velachery. Mr. Rajan Aiyer, Vice Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Trimble Information Technologies, chaired the meeting which featured guest speaker Dr. A. K. Viswanathan IPS, Additional Director General of Police & Commissioner of Police, Chennai.

The meeting began by Mr. Rajan Aiyer welcoming participants and Commissioner Viswanathan, followed by members introducing themselves and their companies. At the outset, members were informed that the perception of the state of Tamil Nadu as a place where violence or emotional outbursts follow the death of a mass leader had to change. In the recent past, two political leaders both of whom served as Chief Minister and with mass following, had passed away. Though several lakhs of people from across the state descended on Chennai, there was no violence, no destruction of public or private property and no innocent life was lost. So, it has been well established that Chennai and the state of Tamil Nadu maintains peace and public order during any crisis.

The Commissioner began his address by thanking AMCHAM for inviting him to speak to members on policing in Chennai. He said that Chennai City Police jurisdiction spreads over 1,000 sq km with a population of 12 million and a police force of 22,500 officers, men and women. The Commissioner said that to maintain law and order and for crime prevention and detection, the city has 135 police stations and 35 all women police stations (AWPS). Officers at these stations are only allowed to respond to certain crimes, such as psychological violence, domestic violence, family violence, as well as specific types of threats and sexual violence. Besides that, the city has Special Armed Police units, white collar crime units, cyber-crime units, etc.

Dr. Viswanathan stated that in order to keep Chennai safe, there was constant patrolling of all areas by foot, motorcycle, jeeps and vans. The response time for distress calls is between 2-5 minutes. He said the focus was to reach out to the public and attend to complaints. Under his watch, all officers are available between 8:00 am and 11:00 pm. He also said that officers have a fixed time when they remain at their offices or police stations to meet with the public who seek police assistance.

The Commissioner was happy to state that there has been no labour related incidents in Chennai city, while there has been public agitations related to Jallikattu, NEET, Cauvery water etc, which was managed well. The major concern that the police have in the city was that of chain and mobile phone snatching by motorcycle borne robbers. Visible patrolling has been introduced as a preventive measure. The Commissioner said that the National Crime Records Bureau has ranked Chennai as the safest city for women in the country.

The other major problem on Chennai's roads is the menace of driving/riding under the influence of alcohol. To combat this, the Commissioner said that he has introduced a 2 shift night patrolling roster for officers and men who conduct vehicle checks, DUI tests and night patrolling. The Commissioner said that the city does not have a night life and most restaurants and shops down by 11:00 pm.

The Commissioner said that the city police were often accused of bribe taking and to reverse the trend, he has introduced a system of cashless spot fine payments, where a motorist who is caught breaking the law can pay on the spot using his credit card, debit card and obtain a receipt. Alternatively, the motorist can also pay at the post office or at court. The traffic police also counsel motorists on the adverse effects of DUI.

One of the major policy initiatives introduced by Commissioner Viswanathan was to bring the entire city under CCTV coverage. He said that close to 100,000 CCTV cameras have already been installed across the city. The Commissioner and his team of officers are appealing to all resident associations/societies, commercial establishments and business houses to install CCTV cameras in their premises with at least one camera focusing on the road. The Commissioners said that the government too will pitch in by installing CCTV cameras at road intersections and places where public movement is high. This drive is set to be accomplished soon making Chennai the first city in India to have 100% CCTV coverage.

In a bold move, the Commissioner announced his mobile phone number and said that the public can reach him 24x7 and it would be best to send him a WhatsApp message and expect a quick response from the top cop in the city. The Police Commissioner's mobile number is 9444000029.

While talking about how the police have to keep up with technology and clever modus operandi of the criminals, the Commissioner said that with cheap air fares, criminal gangs fly down to Chennai by an early morning flight, indulge in chain snatching at about 4 to 5 places and return by the evening/late night flight with a booty of over Rs. 10 lakh. The Commissioner also said that the police have been able to solve many crimes by analyzing the mobile phone records of criminals and victims and have successfully solved many crimes. Recent media reports state that the criminals have now resorted to using high end walkie-talkie phone sets to avoid detection. Yet another challenge the Chennai Police will soon find ways to beat.

A very useful interactive session followed the talk by the Commissioner and many AMCHAM members have committed to use their CSR funds to install CCTV cameras. The Commissioner responded that he would get his officers to contact the company and take this forward. The Commissioner said that it was left to the company to select the number of CCTV cameras, areas to be covered and the brand of the equipment to be procured by the company. The police would lend whatever assistance is required.

The meeting ended with Mr. Rajan Aiyer thanking the Commissioner for addressing AMCHAM members and highlighting the various nuances of policing in a metropolitan city.

27th Sept 2018

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

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

In his remarks, Principal Commercial Officer, Jim Fluker, said that there are about 1,900 U.S. companies operating in India. He added that India was the lead partner in Indo-Pacific cooperation and that Commerce Secretary will lead a delegation of 100 companies for the U.S. – India CEO Forum to India. He mentioned the next big initiative 'Trade Winds,' the largest annual U.S. government-led trade mission headed to India during May 6th – 8th, 2019. Trade Winds would facilitate networking sessions with key industry contacts, schedule individual meetings with U.S. economic diplomats, gain first-hand market insight and solidify Indo-Pacific business strategy during the visit to India.

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

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

10th Oct 2018

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

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

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

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

Dr. Satyagopal's presentation focussed on the impact of disasters, estimation of losses in various types of disasters, preventive measures without disturbing the environment, administrative infrastructure, readiness to handle disasters, compensation to be awarded, rebuilding post-disaster, how to plan developmental activities by taking into account of the disaster management plans and funds required for handling such catastrophes. He added that his office has prepared 'The Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Perspective Plan 2018 – 2030,' which conforms to the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction, United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goals of 2030, Paris Agreement on Climate Change and its goals, National Disaster Management Plan of 2016 and Prime Minister's 10-point agenda on disaster risk reduction, which formed the basis for preparing the futuristic plan.

Dr. Satyagopal said that there has been a paradigm shift in the focus of disaster management, from response-centric covering rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction to laying greater emphasis on the other elements of disaster management cycle – prevention, mitigation, and preparedness – as a means to avert or soften the impact of future emergencies. The Revenue Administration, Disaster Management and Mitigation Department (RADMMMD), is in the process of strengthening disaster management capacity in the state by providing access to essential facilities, creating support systems and building human capacities. To cope effectively with crisis and emergency situations, the department coordinates with the other state departments, policy makers and technical institutions to develop well-defined strategies to manage crises and also to mitigate the risks caused by the same. The Commissioner of Revenue Administration undertakes all activities relating to disaster management and mitigation besides managing relief and rehabilitation activities of any disaster in the state. He added that the Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Revenue Administration is also the Relief Commissioner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19th Dec 2018

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

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

Mr. Matt L. Blevins began by presenting salient features of the U.S. visa process. This was followed by an interactive session during which Mr. Blevins patiently addressed all the concerns of members present. He responded to all questions which related to the U.S. visa process. He stated that Visa Officers at the Consulate facilitate legitimate business travel to the U.S. and that the Consulate also processes the H and L categories of the petition based visas. He said that the burden of proof of the applicant's ties to the country has to be clearly articulated to enable the interviewing officer to adjudicate the application in a fair manner. The proof, he said could be social, professional, commercial or family ties to India. Mr. Blevins said that all applicants were interviewed with the objective of issuing them with a 10 year visa and hence it was up to the applicant to be able to clearly articulate his responses with respect to the purpose of travel and ties to the country. Mr. Blevins added that the L 1 A visa category was for the manager category and not for a line or operational manager, while the L1 B was for applicants with specialized knowledge and/or proprietary knowledge.

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

12th Jan 2019

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

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter Executive Committee met on January 12th hosted by Mr. R. Ramkumar, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM, at the Madras Club. The meeting began with a discussion on the Tamil Nadu Government's Global Investor Meet to be held in Chennai on January 23-24. With no big ticket investment from member companies, there may be a low key representation.

Mr. Ramkumar shared his thoughts on some of the B Schools in the states and that liberal arts education was gaining traction vis a vis STEM education. It was decided to invite Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy to address members on this subject at one of the forthcoming breakfast meetings. It was also decided to conduct an event on D&I to coincide with a meeting of the NEB in Chennai. The Tamil Nadu Chapter would hold an NEB meeting in Chennai prior to AGM. Nominations for the Executive Committee for the period 2019 - 2020 were invited.

With the nation going to the polls in 2019, it was decided to invite Dr. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar, Director of the Chennai Mathematical Institute, a well-respected psephologist, to address members on the election scenario. This event would be a dinner event and open to members and their senior colleagues. Given the recent incidents on the labour front at some of the industrial parks in the state, it has been decided to invite the Secretary for Labour to address members on the state government's efforts and initiatives to maintain good industrial relations.

With the TN government banning single-use plastics in the state w.e.f. January 1, Mr. Madhusudhan Reddy, I.A.S, Deputy Commissioner (Health), Greater Chennai Corporation would be invited to address members on the wider implications of this move with a focus on the manufacturing sector. The other topics that will be taken up for breakfast meetings this year included: 3D printing, robotics, upskilling, CSR and academia – industry partnerships. Plant visits to Caterpillar and Borg Warner as part of the 'Sharing Best Practices' platform were discussed.

7th Feb 2019

#### **Breakfast Meeting with Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy, Vice Chancellor, KREA University**

On February 7th, AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter held a breakfast meeting with guest speaker Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy, Vice Chancellor, KREA University, on the topic of the need for a liberal arts education. The meeting began with Mr. R. Ramkumar, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM, welcoming members and setting the tone. He said that during the past two years the focus of AMCHAM has been on the need for improving the 'infrastructure' – physical, health, education, logistics, legal, etc. making it conducive for socio economic growth and for the business environment to grow and create jobs and wealth for all stake holders. Mr. Ramkumar added that jobs of the future were leading towards liberal arts and the new private universities in India have begun the reform of India's education system, which bodes good for the country.

Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy began his address to members by saying that education is the cement to culture. He said that a recent survey revealed that there are only 82 institutions that have been created by man which are over 500 years old and in continuous operation, of which 71 of them are educational institutions. Dr. Ramaswamy said that the invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in 1439, led to the process of democratization of education and that presently we were in the midst of the 4th industrial revolution with machine learning, IoT, AI, amongst other technology advancements. He also said that, if the first Industrial Revolution brought about momentous changes in society as a result of steam induced mechanical power, and the discovery of electricity ushered in the second Industrial Revolution, the current industrial revolution's hallmark is "all things digital."

The key takeaways of Dr. Ramaswamy's address included 1) Human – machine interaction, where machines are cognitive and beginning to think. Machines not only substitute but take over human tasks. 2) Today, humans live longer, travel longer and build more communities, in addition to virtual travel and virtual communities. 3) There is more of human – human interaction and human – nature interaction and that the world is facing a resource crunch to sustain the 8 billion population. There are more people alive on the planet today than all the people who lived and died till about the 1950's and this is rising with better rates of life expectancy. The challenges and opportunities of this century are substantially different in scale, scope, and pace.

Dr. Ramaswamy said that in such a rapidly evolving world, liberal arts and sciences equips the youth of today with the tools and perspectives to continually adapt. The competencies that liberal arts and sciences majors emphasize – curiosity (about various disciplines), creativity, critical thinking, comprehension, collaboration, and communication (oral and written) are all talents and skills that are in ever increasing demand in today's market place.

Students ought to learn 'how to learn' rather than simply 'what to learn' – as information is increasingly available to anyone with a smart phone and an internet connection; students should learn how to think through complex problems by looking for solutions from different perspectives; students ought to learn how to interact with different individuals regardless of their gender, caste, race, religion, or class; such students who possess and develop these talents and skills become valuable employees, citizens, and ultimately 'adaptively versatile' human beings. He added that the 3 R's have given way to the 6 C's.

In this increasingly connected and digital world, STEM skills will remain vital but as noted by many, we also need the expertise of those who are educated to the human, cultural, and social in addition to the computation aspects of living. The study of the 'human condition' in a sense becomes ever more crucial as machines become cognitively connected to humans. It is important to understand 'what it means to be 'human'; how to communicate with and interact with 'other' humans' and how to develop a sense of empathy. And for all of this, courses in the traditional humanities, literature, social sciences provide those foundations.

Liberal arts and sciences, Dr. Ramaswamy said, prepares students to work in a variety of sectors as it helps them achieve a strong foundation in different subjects and skills. Acting as a stepping stone to different careers, it also helps student manoeuvre out of one career to another. After all a student's first job is rarely their last—at such critical turning points in one's career, a person ought to be able to rely and reflect back on the foundational education and grounding received in College on how to cope with such changes. So, a true liberal arts and sciences education prepares you for life! Liberal arts he said gives the student the freedom to choose.

An interactive session was followed by Mr. Ramkumar thanking Dr. Ramaswamy for his insights and the participants for attending the meeting.

28th March 2019

**Breakfast Meeting on Making Sense of Opinion Polls with Dr. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar, Director, Chennai Mathematical Institute**

AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter held a breakfast meeting on March 28th, 2019 in Chennai, on the topic of 'Making Sense of Opinion Polls' with guest speaker Dr. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar, Director, Chennai Mathematical Institute. India is in the midst of the 2019 general election spread over 7 phases. To understand how opinion polls predict likely outcomes and to get a sense of the mood of the electorate, the Tamil Nadu Chapter Executive Committee invited Dr. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar, Director of the Chennai Mathematical Institute, one of India's best known psephologists, to give a presentation.

The meeting began with opening remarks by Mr. R. Ramkumar, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM and Mr. Rajan Aiyer, Vice Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM was present at the meeting. Dr. Rajeeva Karandikar began his presentation by asking how a sample size of 20,000 voters could give an idea about the mood of the national electorate. He said that the number of registered voters in India has been increasing with every election and it is close to 900 million today with a large percentage being first time voters. Dr. Karandikar wondered aloud if opinion polls have predictive power.

To demonstrate that it the quality of the data and not the sample size that is important in opinion polls, Dr. Karandikar conducted a small experiment to prove that the sample size does not matter in an opinion poll. He added that the objective in opinion polls was to predict the number of seats a political group would win. Dr. Karandikar said that opinion polls, including exit polls, can give accurate results provided the randomness and unbiased nature of the data can be ensured. The size of the 'sample' or the number of people surveyed did not matter as long as the quality of the 'sample' and of the data could be ensured, he said. Dr Karandikar explained how mathematical and statistical theories like probability coupled with scientific analysis of past electoral behaviour and specific conditions. He however added that opinion poll results were valid 'as of that date,' explaining why and how the final election results end up deviating from the psephologist's predictions for some constituencies or states, when the results are announced.

Predicting the election results is both an art and science, Dr. Karadikar said that random sample data will give the best results when applied over the pre-defined mathematical model, adding that dynamic factors and variables identified over a period of time also mattered. Ensuring the randomness of the 'sample', or the people chosen for 'opinion polls' and also that their responses were as genuine as they can come, the questions are 'open-ended', so as to derive their overall views over an impending election, issues and stake-holders.

With genuine data and domain knowledge over the history of voter-behaviour, in particular packets, mathematical models can help the psephologist arrive at his conclusions. However, the practical problem then arises in the conversion of 'votes to seats.' It is here greater domain-knowledge like grassroots-level cooperation between alliance partners, leadership relations at different levels and their personal/political acceptance-level between two elections and anti-incumbency, helps. Victory and defeat has been at times decided by 'swing voters', whose behaviour cannot be taken for granted. Post facto, one such error while was notice in the 2016 US presidential polls. The more the number of swing voters, newer parties and personalities, there is room for greater complexity, Dr. Karandikar said.

Some more highlights of the discussion included: pre-election opinion polls were less successful when compared to post – election surveys. On the other hand, pre-election poll results would have a feed-back effect and it has the ability to swing votes. At the same time, too many opinion poll results contradicting one another, their collective impact in influencing swing voters could become negligible on occasions. After the interactive session the meeting concluded with Mr R. Ramkumar thanking Dr. Karandikar for taking time off his schedule to share his thoughts with members on the election scene in India.



Participants at AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter plant visit to Sanmina on May 25th near Chennai



Participants at AMCHAM's Tamil Nadu Chapter plant visit to BorgWarner on May 25th near Chennai



Mr. Sugata Roy, Communications Specialist, UNICEF making a presentation on child related CSR interventions



CSR Managers at the meeting with UNICEF on capacity building



(L-R) Mr. Aubrey Daniels, Regional Director - Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM, Dr. A. K. Viswanathan IPS, Additional Director General of Police & Commissioner of Police, Chennai and Mr. Rajan Aiyer, Vice Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Trimble Information Technologies



Dr. A. K. Viswanathan IPS, Additional Director General of Police & Commissioner of Police, Chennai with AMCHAM members at a breakfast meeting on 'Protection of Life and Property in Chennai'



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



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



Participants at the breakfast meeting on how Chennai is prepared for the monsoon season



Members at a briefing on the U.S. visa process



Tamil Nadu Chapter participants at the July breakfast meeting on the changing landscape on accounting for leases



(L-R) Mr. R. Ramkumar, Chairman - Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM and Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy, Vice Chancellor - KREA University at the February breakfast meeting in Chennai



Participants with Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy at the Tamil Nadu Chapter breakfast meeting on the need for a liberal arts education



Dr. Rajeeva Karandikar, Director, Chennai Mathematical Institute and well known psephologist, addressing members during the March breakfast meeting



Participants at the March breakfast meeting – 'Making Sense of Opinion Polls'



## AMCHAM Delhi

Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, speaking at AGM

Date	Meetings / Events
26th April 2018	<p><b>26th Annual General Meeting</b></p> <p>The 26th Annual General Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in India was held on April 26th, 2018 at Hotel Lela Palace, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. The theme of the event was 'Accelerating U.S. – India Economic &amp; Strategic Partnership.' The meeting was chaired by Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM India and President, Boeing India.</p> <p>Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, welcomed participants and presented the Annual Report. She highlighted the important events organized by AMCHAM during the year. The Annual Report was unanimously adopted.</p> <p>Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM India, briefed participants about U.S. – India relations. He thanked Ms. Ranjana Khanna and the secretariat for organizing a wonderful AGM and for the efforts put in throughout the year. He also thanked all the board members for sharing his responsibility and he thanked Mr. Patrick Santillo and Mr. J. Robert Garverick for their great support.</p> <p>On behalf of Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Treasurer &amp; Secretary, AMCHAM India, Mr. Jitendra Agarwal, Partner, Deloitte, presented the audited accounts of AMCHAM for the year 2017-18 for adoption. He said that if any member had any query, he would be happy to respond. The accounts were approved unanimously.</p> <p>Ms. Ranjana Khanna placed the following resolution for appointment of M/s. Walker Chandio &amp; Co. LLP, Chartered Accountants as the Statutory and Tax Auditors of the American Chamber of Commerce in India for the financial year 2018-19, which was duly approved.</p> <p>Ms. Ranjana Khanna announced the composition of the National Executive Board of AMCHAM for 2018-19 and requested the members for ratification.</p> <p>The AGM concluded with the presentation of 10 years' service recognition awards to Mr. Yeshi Dorjee and Ms. Madhvi Kataria, thanking the supporting partners and acknowledging the excellent work done by the AMCHAM Secretariat.</p>

### Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of AMCHAM's AGM began with welcome remarks and an introduction of the esteemed speaker by Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM India, followed by opening remarks by Mr. Pratyush Kumar Chairman, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India. Mr. Kumar spoke of the U.S. – India relationship, the shared values between both countries, the people to people connect and over \$130 billion in trade. He expressed the opportunities in software, energy, agriculture, healthcare, aviation and defense and thanked AMCHAM's sector committees that do tireless work to advocate for ease of doing business in both countries. He mentioned that AMCHAM exists to grow trade and increase economic activity. Mr. Kumar acknowledged the work that the Ministry of External Affairs and the U.S. Embassy does daily to strengthen the U.S. – India partnership.

General (Dr.) V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, began his keynote address by acknowledging the pivotal role AMCHAM has played through creating enhanced business to business relations and enhanced relations between the U.S. and India. He mentioned how important it is to interact with captains of industry, because it is their feedback which ensures that implementation of governmental policies can be tweaked to gain maximum benefit for both the U.S. and India.

He said that as everyone is inquisitive about what the future holds but despite what has been written lot of times, relations between the U.S. and India have followed a stable trajectory, however, as always there are a few ups and downs between any relationship — be it wife and husband or between nations — but that does not mean that the trajectory lost steam. He said that despite changes of government, parties, the complexions of these, the relationship endured and in all things especially business. In both India and the U.S. there has been a great amount of effort on innovation and looking for solutions and cooperation. The Minister implied that maybe it is not so in many other countries and therefore the relations have endured right through.

General Singh mentioned that both Prime Minister Modi and President Trump have worked out things which are good for their own country and things they can share with friends so perhaps where visions were concerned they have laid out things which were beneficial to both countries. He spoke about the great many exchanges between both government's officials, cabinet ministers, and the various mechanisms which have been put in place to ensure that the relationship goes forward. He said it was heartening to note that since 2014, the visits and mechanisms have all contributed towards strengthening of relations whether they were diplomatic, strategic or business-related. He said this should be noted because even bilateral trade and investments have expanded between both countries.

General Singh described cooperation between both countries through oil and gas purchases by India from U.S., close cooperation on all issues related to travel and tourism, and even defense cooperation has expanded into more areas than ever before. He described that people to people relations have strengthened further and there was a convergence on a lot of issues, whether regarding the Indian Ocean or the Indo-Pacific.

The Minister outlined that India since 2014, has adopted a transformational approach and tried to shed what continued for a very long time, in terms of social reforms, political outreach, or in terms of how to conduct business. A very large section of the population was brought into the banking sector, and ensured that everybody had bank accounts. India tried to digitize things in a manner so the economy started becoming more transparent. Some of the woes were addressed and solved whether it was providing electricity to everybody and enhancing the production of power in India by taking initiative where the solar alliance was formed. General Singh emphasized that there was a transformation and that the hallmark would continue providing opportunities of cross sector collaboration for the U.S. He talked about how both countries need to look at what is going to be beneficial and mutually useful. He talked about how under President Trump, lots of things have been laid out like the "America First" policy but overall India has found opportunities. With India as a huge market which would continue to grow somebody must make use of this market to leverage this market for the economic gain that the U.S. wants. Since there would be many people trying to utilize this market it is appropriate to contemplate how the U.S. might gain and the only prescription would be how to jointly exploit this market.

The Minister described how the aviation sector has been opening up, infrastructure opportunities abound and how India plans to re-energize, re-innovate, re-furbish and set up new things so that they can get out of the older expensive technology and move toward better technology. The Minister said that the U.S. is

the center of technology, but can they step down and share it without fear. He assured everyone that India has a very strong commitment towards IPR and therefore there should be no fear in sharing technology, enhancing the capability so that on both continents there can be mutual benefits which result in the exploitation of this huge market. India's maritime sector has been expanding and even the modernization of the largest railway is happening, the defense sector, solar energy, among others. Digitization is another field rich with opportunities in terms of data protection, data mining, and issues can be addressed between both countries in a manner by which both benefit. He reiterated that India was ripe with opportunity.

General Singh concluded by explaining that a chamber has the opportunity to analyze, suggest and to have business to business interactions so that everyone could progress on cross sector collaboration beneficial to both economies and he thanked AMCHAM for the opportunity to speak.

Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, thanked the Minister and released AMCHAM's CSR book 'U.S. Companies Partnering in India Inclusive Growth.' She took the opportunity to celebrate the people to people connect between the two countries. She mentioned that U.S. business has fully integrated into every aspect of Indian society and they work hard to contribute in a positive way to the communities they work in. American companies have been operating in India since 1902 and have been actively engaged in India's inclusive growth story, creating gainful employment for more than 5 million people.

On April 2nd, 2018, AMCHAM, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy, launched the 2nd CSR photo exhibition at the American Center. That exhibition, along with all the entries we received, were the foundation of the commemorative book which featured 57 photo submissions from AMCHAM companies on their CSR activities. Ms. Ranjana Khanna recognized officials from the Indian government and U.S. Mission and thanked them for their support of AMCHAM.

#### **Fireside Chat with Ambassador Kenneth Juster**

The inaugural session was followed by a fireside chat between Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster, U.S. Ambassador to India and Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM and President Boeing India, in camera.

#### **E-Transformation of India**

The next session 'E-Transformation of India' featured a keynote address by Ms. Aruna Sundararajan, Secretary Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communication, on E-Transformation of India. Mr. Som Satsangi, VP & GM, Enterprise Group and Managing Director India, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, introduced all the panelists. He introduced and thanked Ms. Aruna Sundararajan for the initiatives taken on digital India. Mr. Satsangi expressed excitement of the ICT companies to take part in this transformation journey of cutting edge technology like big data, cloud, mobility and social.

Ms. Sundararajan was happy to note that the partnership with U.S. has seen a major contribution in India's digital growth and that American companies operating in India have made enormous transformation changes. The Government of India has been looking forward to inclusion, investments (domestic and international) and providing a more honest environment for international companies. The shift to digital payments and implementation of GST have been aimed at making it easier to do business in India. It was noted that India seems to be set to demonstrate to the world how it can be a test bed for e-transformation with an unprecedented base of digitization led by rapid pace of growth of digital platforms, startups, innovation, digital skills and competency. The Secretary DOT pointed out that India had been 155th in data consumption in the world but in the past one year it has become number one, with a growth of 600-80%. The cost of data in India is 40 cents/GB which is by far the lowest in the world. With the entry of Reliance Jio services, by the mid 2019 the whole country will be covered by 4G internet.

The Indian government has been working on the Bharat Net Rural Internet Project, which currently has provided broadband internet to a hundred thousand panchayats in India, with services to be started soon. By the end of 2018, this project aims at providing internet services to 250,000 of India's major rural clusters. By April 2019, the government will enable all the key drivers of economic and social development in rural areas including health care institutions and education institutions with broadband services.

Ms. Sundararajan mentioned that one of the biggest platforms for digitization is the Aadhar, as over 200 services are linked with it and twenty million Indians are already using its authenticating services. Another big platform that was talked was the United Payment Interface, which allows instant money transfer/banking. With the implementation of GST along with explosive growth of social media platforms, growth of digital wallet and growth e-commerce platforms, digitization is moving deep into the Indian society. Indian has now become the 3rd largest hub for startups with the growth in digitization. Today, 80% of Indians have access to internet services, whereas in 2013, only 43% Indians had access to internet.

Ms. Sundararajan spoke about the new telecom policy, which was likely to be launched on 1st May 2018, which would be reform oriented, investor friendly, will lower the cost of compliances, trigger innovation and promote 'Make in India.' The main agenda of the policy was focusing on internet for all, skill development, security of telecom networks, safe and secured use of next-generation technologies such as 5G, IoT and artificial intelligence.

Mr. Som Satsangi, VP & GM, Enterprise Group and Managing Director India, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, introduced Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary (AD & Cyber Diplomacy), Ministry of External Affairs and requested him to share his thoughts on the e-transformation of India in the context of cyber security. Ambassador Verma said that India's focus should be on security of the cyber space, as security of cyber space includes the financial system, legal system, manufacturing and capacity building. He suggested that educational institutions can build capacity in terms of human resources as India needs to secure its cyber space. India needs standards in the global manufacturing sector and can partner with the U.S. to invest in jointly marketing products, R&D and innovation on commercial basis. Partnership through commerce and sharing of new technologies like machine learning, AI and blockchain technology seems to be the most beneficial way to enhance India's e-transformation.

Mr. Som Satsangi moderated the session with panelists: Mr. Rajesh Janey, Senior Vice President, Dell EMC, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, NEB Member, AMCHAM and President & Country Head (India) Bank of America N.A., Mr. Meetul B. Patel, COO, Microsoft India, Mr. Amit Sharma, Chairman – ICT Committee, AMCHAM & Executive Vice President and President Asia, ATC India.

Ms. Kaku Nakhate said the government has already created a robust ecosystem over the last 3 years. Rural India is getting access to banking which has enabled the GDP to grow. Mobile phones have revolutionized the path to digital payments, an average user uses 7.5 GB data per month which is more than most developed countries. Seventy-nine percent of the Indian population now has a bank account, so the number of transactions have been phenomenal which has managed to curtail leakages. The number of transactions on e-governance projects which were not prevalent before significantly moved from 2.4 billion in 2013 to 30.81 billion in 2017.

Mr. Amit Sharma said that the kind of infrastructure needed to deliver on the aspirations on e-transformation is lacking even in the cities. India has set out very ambitious targets to provide internet with upcoming projects such as smart cities, smart villages, e-health, e-education and e-governance to all its citizens. It has taken more than 20 years for the U.S. to deliver such efforts. He suggested that policies need to more conducive to roll out a digital infrastructure. Current licensing doesn't allow companies to deliver the full range of services that digital India needs. The role out of digital infrastructure doesn't lie with a specific part of the government, so there needs to be a commonality and coordination at the federal, state and city level. This difficult task needs an unprecedented level of coordination from industry and tele communication companies.

Mr. Meetul B. Patel, COO, Microsoft India, expressed his views on how the world has shifted to large number of devices which would need humongous cloud computing services. Now a variety of solutions are available, for example, artificial intelligence can help patients needing healthcare or second opinions with an accuracy of 99 percent. Artificial intelligence can help supply chains become more efficient with analytics of machine parts which might fail and go down.

Mr. Rajesh Janey, agreed with the rest of the panelists that the digital infrastructure and platforms are already set. India needs to focus on delivering citizen services and education skilling leading to employment. The key is to building applications using IT infrastructure, to use to platforms and to secure data.

In closing Ambassador Verma said that India is creating a lot of data which is stored in few countries, a better understanding of their systems is needed to converge with our systems so that India can use the data whenever needed.

Mr. Som Satsangi concluded that the industry needs to work with the state and central governments more closely to bring innovative solutions at an affordable price point.

### **Make in India 2.0**

The 'Make in India 2.0' session began with an introduction of the moderator by Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General, CEO of AMCHAM, who mentioned the 'Make in India 2.0' photo exhibition in the pre-function area. Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman and CEO, KPMG in India, introduced the panelists and moderated the session. Mr. Kumar complimented the Government of India for the developmental policies, enormous improvements in the investment climate and push to make India a manufacturing hub through the 'Make in India' initiative.

In his keynote address, Mr. Suresh P. Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry & Civil Aviation, congratulated AMCHAM for playing a key role in promoting bilateral relationship between U.S. and India. He emphasized that the relationship between both countries was strong, enduring and forward looking with growth in exports for both countries. As the U.S. continued to speak of a trade deficit, Mr. Prabhu mentioned there is not friendship deficit between the two countries. He emphasized that making a relationship work not just bilaterally but multilaterally was important.

Mr. Prabhu emphasized that everyone should work together to create a global trading platform which would benefit all. He said the WTO was an important institution. The Minister mentioned the Aviation Summit in Mumbai next month where a U.S. – India only bilateral summit would take place with the idea that both parties benefit from each other's expertise and knowledge as well as the huge growing market in India. Last month Indian aviation grew by almost 10%, hence one can imagine the growth potential. In 7 years people would spend more on tourism and the aviation industry would grow. More goods will travel across the country, more export and import would happen with an estimated 40% of GDP which will come from global trade. Mr. Prabhu said that in next 10 years the economy would again double increasing the requirement of aviation in both cargo and passenger aircraft.

The Minister concluded that AMCHAM was playing an important role in promoting the bilateral relationship and the economic understanding of each other would go a long way to strengthen this relationship.

The panel discussion that followed was moderated by Mr. Arun M. Kumar with Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India, Mr. Amit Bansal, Managing Director, Corning Technologies India Private Limited, Mr. Palash Roychowdhury, Chairman, Aviation Committee, AMCHAM and MD – Pratt & Whitney, and Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman, Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited.

Mr. Arun Kumar moderated the session touching upon skill development and integration into the global supply chain. Mr. Amit Bansal talked about the National Skill Development Corporation's (NSDC) program to skill the youth of India. He mentioned that there is an emphasis in India on getting a degree but skills are often more important. Along with that the government, industry and academia must come together to create an environment to skill the youth of the country in faster and better ways.

The manufacturing plant that Corning set up in Pune had poor roads that led to their factory but the government helped them make a better road to increase the efficiency of the business. Mr. Palash Roychowdhury emphasized that for India to be part of the global supply chain, India needs to ensure global quality and global standards. Companies like UTC impart sector specific skills in the aviation sector so that employment opportunities can be created in this sector.

Mr. Pratyush Kumar talked about how manufacturing today is as much about design and software as it is about hardware. Software is used when designing and testing aircraft parts. India is competitive in the software and design market and Boeing has invested heavily. He also mentioned how the state governments have rolled out the red carpet to support investments.

Panelists agreed that the states all have various time frames for clearances and AMCHAM plays a role when there is a challenge. States vary greatly in the way they operate from wonderful to challenging. The policy framework over the last couple of years has been exceptionally good. When companies talk to decision makers, ministers, senior bureaucrats, diplomats and minister of states, they have been very business friendly, professional, doing the right things and there have been a number of positive changes.

In closing, Mr. Arun Kumar shared that India is overflowing with business opportunity and rich with demand, an exciting place to do business.

#### **Keynote Address by Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship & Petroleum and Natural Gas**

Ms. Ranjana Khanna introduced the keynote speaker Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship & Petroleum and Natural Gas and Mr. Pratyush Kumar made welcome remarks.

Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan thanked AMCHAM. He said the U.S. had the perfect synergy between industry, policy makers and academia. He encouraged companies to recreate the friendly business ecosystem with their presence, good practices, principle-based business model and work force.

The Minister was recently in Dabhol in Maharashtra to receive the first Cargo of LNG. There was a gas Enron project in Dabhol which was a gas based power plant with 2000 MW power generation and around 5 million metric ton capacity of regasification facility apart from its technology, apart from its profitability apart from its challenges. He realized the American vision to implement a project, the size, the value, the planning everything is impressive. Recently Texas Governor Greg Abbott and U.S. Department of Energy, Secretary Rick Perry, were in India and discussed how to engage with each other. Mr. Pradhan emphasized that energy can be a new bridge to new economic engagement between India and America. American companies have been working in India and Indian companies have been working in the American ecosystem. India's economy has benefitted, business value has increased for new India and new India is energy.

Last year in October America became an exporter of crude oil and India was the first country to bring American crude oil to sell it to Indian industries. PM Modi has put forth one proposition that India needs reasonable pricing. He quoted that if we get the reasonable pricing, India would like to deal in a long-term basis. With LNG engagement already on, the quantity of India's requirement will come from American LNG. India is a prime hot spot of energy business. Mr. Pradhan said that today India was the number three energy consumer in the world after U.S. and China but our per capita energy consumption was very low. The government has ambitious plans for the energy industry. He said India needs sustainable energy, more affordable energy and accessible energy.

Approximately 15-17 billion USD was being spent on all projects such as a gas pipeline and regasification capacity and by the end of 2018 India would be a hub for city gas distribution cluster. Six new fertilizer plants would be coming up which will be gas based. The Minister said that eastern India was eager to receive gas through Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga. Through that gas intervention India also plans to produce quality steel. For industrial investment its necessary to have quality raw material, quality manpower and a captive market.

Few days back Deloitte gave a presentation to Mr. Pradhan and he asked Deloitte to give an idea on 'Industrial Revolution 4.0.' To enhance oil production the two-way strategies include introducing new technology and the mega computing system with more accurate data. The Minister mentioned that companies like IBM can provide services on that. They might be providing such services somewhere else in the world. India could extract more oil from the existing oil fields. He said this was the kind of business partnership India expects from American companies.

Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte, in his closing remarks, emphasized that energy and skills were key areas. Responsible pricing for energy and need for technological upgradation was emphasized. He said skilling is not just about giving jobs and reiterated the Minister's point about collaboration of industries, government and academia, which is so critical to plan for tomorrow and not being static in terms of what can be achieved today. He said it is important to learn not only from U.S. but also from the world to make sure to create that environment. Mr. Dhawan said that U.S. companies

would continue to look for opportunities to enhance mutual interest which would include better business opportunities and skill development.

**Keynote Address by Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation**

The Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Mr. Nitin Gadkari, delivered the keynote address. Ms. Ranjana Khanna introduced the Minister. Welcome remarks were given by Mr. Pratyush Kumar.

Through his very insightful and informative address, Mr. Gadkari shed light on the government's priorities and projects with a special reference to creating ease of doing business in India. He stated that since India was the fastest growing economy in the world, it was the government's priority to focus on infrastructure and development.

The Minister explained, on the road transport front there has been good progress with the road length of the national highway increase from 96,000 kms to 1,76,000 kms. Road construction has increased from 2km/day to 28 kms/day. It was brought to fore that India's first smart and green express highways 'Eastern Peripheral Expressway' will be shortly inaugurated by the Hon'ble PM. The Minister spoke of the Delhi to Meerut Express Highway and the Delhi to Mumbai Express Highway, with both projects being underway. He said that the express highways initiative will be instrumental in connecting backward areas of various states generating employment and creating development opportunities. The highways will also impact key aspects of logistics and fuel costs resulting in reducing the same and increasing profitability. Logistics parks and roadside amenities were also being built which stand as a golden opportunity for investors as well as industry as a whole.

He mentioned that another high priority of the government was electric public transport for which tenders have been floated. Eleven factories were already operational towards this initiative. On another note railway construction of 20,000 crore is being developed along with opportunities for making cable car ropeways to connect places for which technology partners are being invited with a max of 49% equity. With regard to road construction, 9 projects have been monetized with another 105 are ready for monetization through various models. Of the 189 projects towards Ganga Rejuvenation about 10 projects have been rolled out as part of the hybrid annuity based PPP model to have a faster implementation and outcome. Mr. Gadkari shed light on the efforts towards solving the problem of water pollution not only in the Ganga but also for the Yamuna and all tributaries of the Ganga.

At present India has 12 major ports and 4 satellite ports with another 6 new ports planned. There are also 4 multimodal hubs. A decision to convert 111 rivers into waterways has also been taken by the government. The waterways and seafront will enable ship line services creating huge potential for tourism in the country. Work on cruise terminals across the country is being constructed in line with that.

The Minister mentioned there was also a huge potential of collaboration in the projects of solid and liquid waste management with opportunities for technology partnership. Hydropower and solar wind power projects were also another focus with the intent to give electricity at Rs. 3 per unit and in turn to decrease the capital cost. A policy for Ethanol has been under discussion. Mr. Gadkari concluded his address by requesting American companies to invest in India in view of the opportunities, transparency and ease of operation with a special reference to the ease created by e-governance and automatic approval in various areas.

Ms. Kaku Nakhate gave the vote of thanks. She expressed her admiration towards Mr. Gadkari's passion for his projects and flair for sharing numbers. She also expressed that it was indeed encouraging and impressive to learn of the government's progress as well as proactive approach and growth story!

In closing Ms. Ranjana Khanna gave the vote of thanks to all the supporting partners, participants, panelists and the AMCHAM secretariat for their support.

8th May 2018

**AMCHAM and Centre for High Technology, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Sign MoU**

On May 8, 2018, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Mr. Brijesh Kumar, Executive Director, Centre for High Technology, an NGO sponsored by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, signed an MoU for cooperation in areas of technology, operations and access, with AMCHAM. The MOU would entail working across the entire range of hydrocarbons, biofuels, refining sector, petrochemicals, as well as digital control, internet of things and AI in the petroleum sector. The event took place in the presence of Mr. Sandeep Poundrik, Joint Secretary (Refineries), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environmental, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Thomas Hardy, Director, Congressional Affairs and Public Relations, USTDA, Ms. Verinda Fike, Regional Director, South and Southeast Asia, USTDA, Mr. Todd Abrajano, Senior Advisor to the Director, USTDA, Ms. Aileen Nandi, Deputy Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Mehnaz Ansari, Representative, India, South and Southeast Asia, USTDA, Mr. Ray Sudweeks, First Secretary for Energy Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Pawan Kumar, Under Secretary, (Refineries), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mr. B.V. Rama Gopal, Director (Refineries), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General, AMCHAM and Mr. Debasish Roy, Program Director, AMCHAM.

8th -11th May 2018

**U.S. – India Aviation Summit 2018**

AMCHAM was a supporting partner of the 6th edition of U.S. – India Aviation Summit held on May 8th-11th in Mumbai. The summit was jointly organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). The summit format had government-to-government meetings and topic-based specific sessions and seminars. Various announcements of U.S. – India partnerships were made including a contract signing between the Airports Authority of India and Harris Corporation worth INR 9.45 billion to assist in the modernization of India's communications infrastructure for air traffic management, a necessity to keep pace with growth. Another contract was signed between Smith Detection and Airports Authority of India for \$50 million, to install and integrate high-speed explosives detection systems for check-in luggage screening at eleven sites across nine airports.

Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Ms. Udaya Arun, Director - Aerospace & Defense, AMCHAM, met with the Chairman of Airports Authority of India, Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, for a one-on-one engagement to discuss collaborations with AMCHAM's Civil Aviation Committee in the coming months.

14th May 2018

**Agriculture and Food Processing Committee Chairs Meeting with Ms. Jeanne Bailey, Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy**

AMCHAM's Director General CEO, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, accompanied by the Chairs of the Agriculture and Food Processing Committee met the new Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Jeanne Bailey, and her team members, Mr. Mark Wallace, Mr. Santosh Singh and Ms. Tiffany Landry, on May 14th, 2018. Mr. Siraj Azmat Chaudhry, Chairman - Agriculture and Food Processing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman, Cargill India, outlined the view the Indian Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Food Processing held about U.S. companies in India. Mr. Raju Kapoor, Co-Chairman – Agriculture and Food Processing Committee, AMCHAM and Director, Corteva Agro Sciences, spoke about the need to protect IPR for U.S. companies and also the need to streamline regulations between Indian Union and state governments. Ms. Neelima Dwivedi, Co-Chairperson - Agriculture and Food Processing Committee, AMCHAM and Vice-President, Public Policy, Government Affairs and Sustainability, Pepsico, underlined the need to rationalize regulations on packaging and import duties for processed food raw material. AMCHAM re-iterated the need for a sustained communication campaign to highlight the good work that can be brought into India by U.S. companies for the benefit of Indian farmers. It was decided to invite the U.S. Embassy team to the next committee meeting.

15th May 2018

**ICT Committee Meeting**

A meeting of AMCHAM's ICT Committee was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Amit Sharma, EVP & President, Asia, American Tower Corporation, on May 15th, 2018 in the office of ATC India, New Delhi. Co-Chairmen, Mr. Naveen Tandon, Director – IEA, AT&T Communication Services India Private Limited and Mr. Vivek Vasishtha, Executive Director & Country Leader – IBM India, South Asia, IBM India Pvt. Ltd., along with other members of the ICT Committee participated. A number of issues such as National Digital Communications Policy 2018, CRO/safety testing, data privacy and protection, and public procurement, among others, were discussed.

21st May 2018

**Aviation Committee Meeting with Ms. Vandana Aggarwal, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Civil Aviation**

AMCHAM met with Ms. Vandana Aggarwal, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Mr. Angshumali Rastogi, Director, Ministry of Civil Aviation, in New Delhi on May 21st, 2018 at Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan. The topic of discussion inclusion and support of U.S. companies in skills development in the aviation sector. The core group led by the Chairman for the AMCHAM's Aviation Committee, Mr. Palash Roy Chowdhury, Pratt & Whitney, discussed proposals on American companies to upgrade the ecosystem at identified aerotropolis and adopting airports for development under RCS especially in north eastern states to ensure working cohesively towards building up the whole ecosystem.

24th May 2018

**Agriculture and Food Processing Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Agriculture and Food Processing Committee met on May 24th, 2018 at the Cargill office in Gurugram, under the chairmanship of Mr. Siraj Azmat Chaudhry, Chairman, Cargill. The committee discussed challenges to focus on. AMCAHM offered to interact with members and glean specific issues and make a white paper on the same. It was decided that the executive committee would prepare a social media campaign. The committee wanted to set up a fund for a focused and effective social media campaign through AMCHAM, possibly targeting one section of industry per quarter so that the activities of AMCHAM can be measurable. It was also decided to publish the knowledge paper being prepared with Grant Thornton for the benefit of government employees and interest groups in the agriculture domain. AMCHAM's secretariat represented by Debasish Roy requested that each member identify other U.S. companies in the agriculture and food domain to join AMCHAM to strengthen the committee.

25th May 2018

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

On 25th May 2018, the Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee meeting took place in the Deloitte office in Gurugram. Opening remarks were made by Ms. Ritika Ratti, Chairperson – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer & Head of Anti-Corruption, Walmart India. Mr. Sumit Makhija, Partner – Forensic and Mr. Jayant Saran, Partner – Forensic from Financial Advisory Services, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, gave a presentation on 'Use of Technology to Make FCPA Compliance Effective.' The presentation illustrated how ESI (electronically stored information), anti-bribery programs, accounting records and transactions and the role played by vendors and agents effect FCPA. Mr. Makhija stated that technology cannot be the guiding process of a company in fact it can only provide support and act as a back up to the existing systems in place. Usually companies use tracking and financial and document management systems to maintain the compliance standards, along with a check on the emails and communications, within and outside the company. This presentation was followed by a Q&A session with an open discussion among committee members.

27th May 2018

**U.S. Industry Roundtable with a Congressional Delegation led by William “Mac” Thornberry (R-TX), Chairman, House Armed Services Committee**

AMCHAM co-hosted a U.S. industry interactive roundtable with a Congressional Delegation led by William “Mac” Thornberry (R-TX), Chairman, House Armed Services Committee. Other delegates included Representative Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), Representative Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), HASC, Representative Henry Cuellar (D-TX), HAC-D and other officials, on May 27th in New Delhi. AMCHAM’s Defense Committee members met with the delegation ahead of their meeting with Government of India officials and briefed them on pertinent issues like policy gaps in the Indian DPP, difficulty in ease of doing business and offset challenges. These points were raised to update the delegation on the issues that they could discuss on behalf of U.S. industry.

Chairman Thornberry said in the Indo-Pacific region the U.S. faces a near-term, belligerent threat armed with nuclear weapons and also a longer-term strategic competitor especially in the PACOM area of responsibility. Meeting all these challenges in the region was possible only because of the relationship with allies with whom the U.S. share common interests. He noted that one of the provisions of National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2019 will be to rename the U.S.-Pacific Command to be renamed as Indo-Pacific Command.

30th May 2018

**U.S. Industry Roundtable with Ambassador Kaidanow, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State**

AMCHAM co-hosted a U.S. industry interactive roundtable with Ambassador Tina Kaidanow, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and other officials, on May 30th in New Delhi. AMCHAM’s Defense Committee members met with Ambassador Kaidanow for a candid conversation on the U.S. - India defense climate and how the two governments had invested a lot in this relationship. The discussions touched upon the recent status of CAATSA, pending issues in the COMCASA, FMS deals in the pipeline. Members requested her to meet with NSA counterparts in Delhi in addition to her ongoing dialogues with officials from the Ministry of External affairs and Ministry of Defence officials to advocate for U.S. industry views.

30th May 2018

**Defense Core Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM’s first Defense Core Committee meeting for year 2018-2019 was held on 30th May 2018. The committee meeting was chaired by Mr. Michael Koch, Vice President Defense & Space, Boeing India International Pvt. Ltd. and co-chaired by Mr. Nikhil Khanna, Managing Director, India, BAE systems and Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Partner – Tax & Regulatory, Aerospace & Defense, KPMG in India. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Ms. Udaya Arun, Director – Aerospace & Defense, AMCHAM were also present. The discussion focused on the work plan identified for 2018-2019 for the committee. The core group decided to convene the first larger defense committee meeting in June 2018.

4th June 2018

**Northern Region Council Executive Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of AMCHAM’s Northern Region Council (NRC) was held on 4th June 2018 in the office of ATC, Gurugram. Mr. Amit Sharma, Chairman – NRC, welcomed and requested members to give their suggestions regarding the focus of activities for NRC. Members suggested organizing training programs for various institutions on new technologies. Other topics of interest for discussion with states would be the role of FDI, AI, robotics and skill development. Mr. Vinay Pratap Singh, Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Gurugram, joined the meeting and heard from members the challenges they faced while doing business in Haryana. He was open to suggestions and said that the Haryana Government had a shelf of CSR projects which could be undertaken by U.S. companies. Mr. Vivek Atray, former IAS officer and Adviser to Vibrant Advisory Services, said that he could work with AMCHAM to enhance its visibility through social media; help organize events; and enroll U.S. companies that were not members of AMCHAM.

6th June 2018

### Medical Devices Core Committee Meeting

A small group of members from AMCHAM's Medical Devices Committee met on 6th June, 2018 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Prabal Chakraborty, Chairman - Medical Devices Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President and MD, Boston Scientific India. The group brainstormed on the agenda items which could be taken through AMCHAM platform in the coming year. Some of the agenda items discussed during the meeting included continued international outreach to neighboring countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, quarterly engagement with U.S. Embassy officials, reaching out to states, interactive sessions with key government departments, etc. The meeting was attended by members from Boston Scientific, India Medtronic, 3M India, BD India and ZimmerBiomet. From AMCHAM, Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General and Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta attended the meeting.

11th June 2018

### Defense Committee Meeting

AMCHAM's first Defense Committee meeting for year 2018-2019 was held on 11th June 2018 in New Delhi. The committee discussed and agreed upon the work plan identified by the core group for 2018-2019 for the committee. The upcoming Defense Committee meeting dates were also identified in addition to the short term and long term agendas to be taken up by the committee. The committee also had a long chat on upcoming USG defense visits and status of many USG defense policies.

12th June 2018

### Capacity Building for the CSR Ecosystem

AMCHAM's CSR Committee organized 'AMCHAM's Signature Series: Capacity Building in the CSR Ecosystem' that brought together key stakeholders of the Companies Act — policymakers, corporates, NGOs, social and developmental impact agencies, for cross-sectoral panel discussions that identified and addressed challenges, opportunities and avenues for capacity building in CSR. The day-long event was held on June 12th in New Delhi and supported by platinum sponsor Cisco, silver sponsor Coca-Cola India and knowledge partner Goodera.

Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM introduced the speakers in the inaugural session. Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC, Cisco Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd., in his opening remarks gave an overview of the CSR Committee initiatives and set the tone for the program. Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Chairman – Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM Executive Director – India, Cognizant, spoke about why companies exist and how to cultivate a culture of purpose and giving. Ms. MaryKay Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, in her keynote address, highlighted the ways U.S. industry partners with organizations and government on projects to provide sustainable solutions for health, sanitation, education, etc. Mr. Vinay Pratap Singh, Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Gurugram, outlined the opportunities for American companies to take up CSR projects in Gurugram. Dr. Sameer Sharma, Director General & CEO, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, in his special address, encouraged companies to avail the services offered by the IICA. Ms. Ranjana Khanna closed the session by presenting each speaker with the CSR commemorative book 'U.S. Companies Partners in India's Inclusive Growth.'

In session 1 'Fireside Chat on the CSR Landscape and Sectoral Opportunities,' Ms. Richa Bajpai, Founder and Co-CEO, Goodera and Mr. Murugan Vasudevan, Head, Social Innovation Group, Cisco – South Asia, discussed corporate CSR strategies, incubators and innovation and how companies need a CSR team to be effective.

Session 2 'Processes and Opportunities in Capacity Building: A Look at Challenges and Opportunities NGOs Can Harness' was moderated by Ms Richa Bajpai with panellists Ms. Neelam Makhijani, Country Director, ChildFund India, Ms. Pritha Venkatachalam, Partner, Bridgespan and Mr. Deepak Prabhu Matti, Global Head, Outreach (Employee Volunteering Program), Cognizant. The frank discussion brought to light many misconceptions in the CSR ecosystem by both corporates and NGOs.

Session 3 was a 'Masterclass Highlighting Capacity Building in the CSR Ecosystem.' Mr. Mark White, Mission Director, USAID/India, Ms. Shubha Sekhar, Director CSR & Sustainability India & South West Asia, The Coca-Cola Company and Mr. Narendranath Damodaran, Executive Director, Pradan. The speakers highlighted the way their organizations work in partnership with others, decide CSR strategy and even find the best talent available in the NGO sector.

The last session was themed 'Nurturing Meaningful and Scalable Partnerships for CSR' moderated by Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – CSR Committee, AMCHAM with a keynote address by Mr. Ramanan Ramanathan, Mission Director of the Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog. Panellists Ms. Joyeeta Das, Program Manager, Corporate Citizenship, IBM India, Mr. Nikhil Pant, Managing Partner, Shaktishi and Ms. Gouri Gupta, Associate Director, Central Square Foundation engaged in an interactive conversation with one another and the audience. The session focused on how to scale CSR projects and connect them to government initiatives. Mr. Harish Krishnan in his closing remarks, summed up the program and encouraged members to actively participate in the CSR Committee.

12th June 2018

#### **HR Committee Meeting**

The HR Core Committee Meeting was held on 12th June 2018 at the Leela Palace. Opening remarks were given by Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Chairman – HR Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director – India, Cognizant. He spoke about policy issues, future of work, women in leadership roles, upskilling, capacity building, inclusion and diversity, job satisfaction and the need to build on to the culture of giving back for employees. The discussion focused on potential topics for this year and the ideal work plan moving forward. It was decided to request committee members for their suggestions on topics that interest them and accordingly 2 or 3 workstreams will be chalked out. Consequently, there will be one annual signature event by the end of the year to showcase the committee's progress.

17th - 21st June  
2018

#### **Annual Door Knock to Washington DC 2018**

The annual AMCHAM India door knock delegation to Washington DC was led by AMCHAM's Chairman, Mr. Krish Iyer, President & CEO, Walmart India, from June 17th – 21st, 2018. The main purpose of the door knock was to inform and sensitize U.S. policy-makers and Law Makers on issues impacting operations of U.S. companies in India. The delegation interacted with many of the important players in the economic relationship and other key decision-makers.

This year, AMCHAM, with knowledge partner KPMG in India, published 'The U.S. – India Dynamic – Prospering Together,' a knowledge document to leave behind with U.S. government officials during the door knock. The document provided an industry perspective on India's economy, the U.S. – India dynamic and highlights some of the key industry related challenges faced by U.S. companies operating in India across sectors.

The topics of discussions with government officials included:

- U.S - India defense partnership
- Potential for a Congressional study group on India
- Recognition and appreciation for ease of doing business reforms in India
- GSP review process
- Threats to U.S. national security from the S-400 air defense system deal
- Potential ramifications of CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act)
- Data localization requirements
- Cloud Act
- Testing requirements on imported electronic products in India
- Balance of power concerning China
- How to decrease the trade deficit
- Tariffs on IT and price controls on medical devices
- U.S. - India ICT Dialogue

On Sunday evening, June 17th, the delegation met for an informal internal briefing and was joined by Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, who provided insights on the history of the U.S. - India economic relationship.

On Monday 18th June, the door knock officially began with an interactive session with Mr. Chris Padilla, Vice President, IBM Government and Regulatory Affairs, hosted at the IBM office. This was followed by an interaction with India experts from think tanks, in partnership with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Some of the participants in the discussion included Mr. Kartikeya Singh, Deputy Director & Fellow, Wadhwani Chair in U.S. – India Policy Studies, CSIS, Mr. Ray Vickery, Senior Associate, CSIS, Ms. Cara Abercrombie, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Mr. Sadanand Dhume, American Enterprise Institute, Mr. Sanjeev Joshipura, Indiaspora, Mr. Ramki Krishnan, India Rapid Reaction Cell, U.S. Department of Defense, Mr. Irfan Nooruddin, Georgetown University India Initiative, Mr. Travis Coberly, U.S. State Department, Ms. Noor Sclafani, U.S. Department of Commerce and Ms. Caitlin Brophy, East-West Center, among others.

The delegation met with Ambassador Jeff Gerrish, Deputy United States Trade Representative, who was joined by Ms. Rachel Morris, Senior Advisor to the Deputy United States Trade Representative, Mr. Mark Linscott, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for South and Central Asian Affairs, and Mr. Brendan Lynch, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for South and Central Asia. Next, the delegation met with Mr. Gilbert Kaplan, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, U.S. Department of Commerce and Ms. Diane Farrell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia, U.S. Department of Commerce. The day concluded with an interaction with Mr. Thomas Hardy, Director, USTDA, Ms. Verinda Fike, Regional Director for South and Southeast Asia, Global Aviation Sector Team Lead, USTDA and Ms. Dianne Quebral, Director of Public Engagement, USTDA.

On Tuesday June 19th the delegation went to the Pentagon for a meeting with Lt. Gen. Jerry Harris, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force. Later there was a meeting with Representative Ami Bera (D-CA). Then the delegates headed to the State Department for a meeting with Ambassador Tina Kaidanow, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, who was joined by Mr. Lee Litzenberger, Senior Advisor, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State and Ms. Laura Till, Asia Team Lead, Office of Regional Security and Arms Transfer. The next meeting was with Mr. Tom Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asia, U.S. Department of State and his colleagues. The delegation met with Mr. John Sullivan, Deputy Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State. The final meeting for the day was with the following officials from the State Department' Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs: Mr. Steve Lang, Deputy U.S. Coordinator for International Communications & Information Policy, Ms. Ruth Berry, Deputy Director for Bilateral & Regional Affairs, International Communications & Information Policy and Mr. Alex Greenstein, Senior Advisor, International Communications & Information Policy.

On the morning of Wednesday, June 20th, the delegation went to the Eisenhower Executive Office Building of the White House for a meeting with Mr. Vishal Amin, Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President. This was followed by another meeting at the Pentagon with Ms. Heidi Grant, Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, U.S. Air Force. Part of the delegation met with Representative Vicky Hartzler (R-MO). The day concluded with a meeting at the Embassy of India with Ambassador Santosh Jha, Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Puneet Kundal, Minister – Commerce, Mr. Arunish Chawla, Minister – Economic and Mr. Nilkanth Avhad, Counsellor – Economic.

The delegation met with Ms. Caroline Wadhams, Senior Policy Advisor, National Security and Veterans' Affairs from Senator Mark Warner's office, followed by a meeting with Mr. Larry Calhoun, Chief of Staff for Representative Ted Yoho and Mr. Hunter Strupp, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives. The delegation met with Representative Henry Cuellar (R-TX) and his staff. From the office of Representative George Holding (R-NC), Co-Chair, Congressional India Caucus, the delegation met with Mr. Curtis Rhyne, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director. Next the group met with Mr. Everett Eissenstat, Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs, The White House, who was joined by his colleagues Mr. Clete Willems, Special Assistant to the President for International Trade, Investment and Development and Mr. Andrew Rollo, Director for International Trade and Investment, National Security Council. The door knock officially concluded after a meeting with Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL).

22nd June 2018

**Pharmaceuticals Core Committee Meeting**

The core committee of AMCHAM's Pharmaceuticals Committee met on 22nd June 2018 in the Johnson and Johnson office in Mumbai. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Sanjiv Navangul, Chairman – Pharmaceuticals Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Janssen India. The meeting was attended by Ms. Jyotsna Ghoshal, Co-Chair – Pharmaceuticals Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director – Public Policy and Corporate Affairs, MSD and Ms. Priya Hingorani, Vice President, Janssen. The objective of the meeting was to brainstorm the issues/agenda to be taken up through AMCHAM in the coming year. The group deliberated the need to utilize the AMCHAM platform more effectively and discussed ways to make it more active. One of the primary action items was to work on increasing membership and participation in meetings. The committee would organize a brainstorming session with a larger group of members in July.

29th June 2018

**Farewell to Captain Ogden, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC), U.S. Embassy**

AMCHAM hosted a farewell get together for Captain Robert Ogden, Chief, Office of Defense Co-operation, U.S. Embassy and LCDR Jonathan Lohn, Office of Defense Co-operation, U.S. Embassy on 29th June 2018 in New Delhi. Many Defense Committee members were present to thank them for their support to AMCHAM during their posting in New Delhi and wish them the best for their future assignments.

2nd July 2018

**Medical Devices Committee Meeting with Mr. P Raghvendra Rao, Interim Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India**

A small group of AMCHAM members met with Mr. P Raghvendra Rao, Interim Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, on July 2nd. The objective of the meeting was to introduce AMCHAM and apprise him on the discussions AMCHAM has had with various government departments on topics related to the medical devices industry. The main topic discussed was trade margin rationalization for medical devices. Other topics discussed included the need for a separate Medical Devices Act and the need for incentivizing the sector by the government. The Secretary requested for a note on incentivizing the sector to be submitted to him. Meeting participants included Mr. Pavan Mocherla, Managing Director, BD India, Mr. Vibhav Garg, VP, GE, Ms. Shubhra Thakur, HEGA, Boston Scientific and Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Director - GA, India Medtronic. Mr. Navdeep Rinwa, Joint Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, also joined the meeting. AMCHAM was represented by Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta.

12th July 2018

**Defense Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's July Defense Committee meeting was held on 12th July 2018 in New Delhi. Guest speaker, Mr. Laxman Kumar Behera, Research Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), joined the meeting and discussed the MoD budget scenario at length with members. The committee also discussed the upcoming USG defense visits and status of USG defense policies.

18th July 2018

**Meeting with Dr. Ajay Kumar, Secretary Defence Production, Department of Defence**

AMCHAM's Defense Committee met with Dr. Ajay Kumar, Secretary Defence Production, Department of Defence, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, at his office. Dr. Kumar briefed the group about his dialogue with his U.S. counterpart Ms. Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (A&S), U.S. Department of Defense, during the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative dialogue. He conveyed his pleasure at the alignment and positive movement of the dialogue and informed the team of the progress being made in the ISA. The group also discussed the inputs AMCHAM had provided on the draft offset guidelines that were released and the clauses on the DPP 2018 policy and also discussed offsets.

18th July 2018

**Briefing Session for Medical Devices Committee with U.S. Embassy Officials**

A small group of AMCHAM members from the Medical Devices Committee met with U.S. Embassy officials under the Chairmanship of Mr. Prabal Chakraborty, Chairman – Medical Devices Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President and Managing Director, Boston Scientific India. The purpose of the meeting was to brief Embassy officials on key issues of the medical devices industry and seek their support for resolution of the same. AMCHAM also requested for a quarterly interaction between members and Embassy officials.

Key topics of discussion included trade margin rationalization, pricing and regulatory challenges. Other members present included Mr. Vibhav Garg, Vice President, GE, Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Director – Government Affairs, India Medtronic and Mr. Vivek Malhotra, Manager, Regulatory Affairs, Stryker. Officials from the Embassy included Ms. Aileen Nandi, Acting Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, Mr. Gregory Taevs, Commercial Consul, Mr. Chad Norberg, Trade and Technology Unit Chief, Mr. Darrel Ching, Principal Commercial Officer, Dr. Vid Nukala, Senior Advisor, Biomedical Science & Technology and Health, Ms. Shilpi Jha, USPTO, Ms. Bhavna Vishwakarma, Sr. Commercial Specialist and Ms. Parul Dedeja, Commercial Specialist. From AMCHAM, Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta joined the meeting.

18th July 2018

**Tax and Tariff Committee Meeting**

The first meeting of AMCHAM's Tax and Tariff Committee was held on 18th July 2018 in the EY office in Gurugram. Ms. Garima Pande, Chairperson of the Committee and Partner – Tax & Regulatory, EY, in her welcome observations said that GST will continue to be a subject of discussion for this Committee along with new direct tax code and global tax reforms.

During the meeting, three presentations were made as follows: 'Regulatory Updates - FEMA & SEZ' by Mr. Rajiv Chugh, Partner & Regulatory Practice Leader - India, Ernst & Young LLP, 'Impact of BEPS AP 5, 6 & 7 post signing of ML1' by Mr. Prashant Khatore, Partner, EY and 'Goods and Services Tax – AMCHAM Survey Findings & Latest GST Developments' by Mr. Kunal Chaudhary, Partner, EY.

Mr. Sandeep Chaufla, Co-Chairman of the Committee, and Partner - Corporate & International Tax, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd., in his closing remarks, said that the GST journey has been great, things were shaping up well although there was a long way to go.

19th July 2018

**U.S. Defense Industry Engagement with Ms. Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (A&S), U.S. Department of Defense**

AMCHAM hosted Ms. Ellen Lord, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment) and her delegation for a closed door interactive session with U.S. defense industry participation during her visit to India for the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative dialogue.

Ms. Lord and Mr. Matthew Warren, Acting Director, International Cooperation had candid conversations with the group on their engagement with her counterpart at the DTTI dialogue, about the restructuring of the DTTI Joint Working Groups into 5 groups down from previously 8 Joint Working Groups, namely Army Working Group, Navy Working Group, Airforce Working Group, Aircraft Working Group and Other Working Group, with specific leads to take up the discussions on behalf of the U.S. government. DTTI Joint Working Groups were earlier based on projects but with the restructuring they have been streamlined into domain working groups.

They also updated the group on the objectives of the National Defense Strategy, which amongst other items, focuses on strengthening alliances and partnership and formulating business cases. It was mentioned that the Indian Embassy in Washington was considering placing an individual in Washington D.C. to only focus on DTTI and enable facilitation.

They also urged industry to provide inputs on significant business cases that could be adopted and significant road blocks that companies were facing to take matters up for discussions. They also requested for proposals on inputs on behalf of industry that the U.S. government could provide to the Government of India for better Defence Technology and Trade Initiative dialogues in the future.

24th July 2018	<p><b>Cyber Security Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>AMCHAM India held its first Cyber Security Committee meeting for the year 2018-19 on 24th July under the Chairmanship of Mr. Rakesh Kharwal, Country Lead, IBM. Members discussed key issues around data localisation, U.S. Cloud Act, Preferential Market Access in cyber security products, skill set in cyber security and Artificial Intelligence. After consolidating inputs from members, the committee would raise concerns to the relevant stakeholders in the government.</p>
25th July 2018	<p><b>Pharmaceuticals Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>AMCHAM members of the Pharmaceuticals Committee met on 25th July, 2018 at the MSD office in Gurugram. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Sanjiv Navangul, Chairman – Pharmaceuticals Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Janssen and Ms. Jyotsna Ghoshal, Co-Chair – Pharmaceuticals Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director, Public Policy and Corporate Affairs, MSD. Other members present included Mr. Vivek Vasudev Kamath (via video conferencing), MD, MSD, Mr. Dibakar Bhattacharya, Director Corporate Affairs and PRA, Eli Lilly, Ms. Priya Hingorani, VP, Janssen, Mr. Sampathkumar, Director, Par Formulations, Mr. Balinder Singh, Dua Associates, Mr. Rajii Chibber, Associate Director, MSD, Ms. Nahid Zaman, Assistant Manager, MSD and Mr. Rajiv Arora, Senior Manager, MSD. Mr. Chad Norberg, Trade and Technology Unit Chief, U.S. Embassy, and Ms. Komal Kalha (via phone), USPTO from the U.S. Embassy joined the meeting. AMCHAM was represented by Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta.</p> <p>Members deliberated and suggested their ideas on reviving the committee, which has struggled to get participation from members in the past, and agreed to leverage the AMCHAM platform which enjoys a strong connection with the U.S. Embassy. It was also suggested to strengthen the engagement with the U.S. Embassy and increase the frequency of interactions of members and the Embassy. The committee decided to work on increasing the membership of the committee by reaching out to U.S. based companies not yet members of AMCHAM.</p> <p>Members also took the opportunity to highlight concerns regarding issues such as clinical trials and IPR related issues and it was decided that AMCHAM could focus on these two issues for advocacy with the government. It was also decided to create 3 sub-groups namely – clinical trials, IPR and pricing which will start to work on a position paper for each of the shortlisted areas. Mr. Chad Norberg shared an update on the ongoing bilateral talks between India and the U.S. as well as Embassy engagement on several issues with their Indian counterparts.</p>
26th July 2018	<p><b>Defense Committee Meeting with Mr. Rajib Kumar Sen, Economic Advisor and In-Charge, DOMW</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Defense Committee met with Mr. Rajib Kumar Sen, Economic Advisor and In-Charge, DOMW, on 26th July 2018, for further discussions on AMCHAM's recommendations submitted on the request for comments on the draft modifications to Defence Offset Guidelines on 15th May 2018.</p> <p>Mr. Sen clarified that the thrust of the new guidelines would be on investments as proposed in the draft circulated earlier with focus on special projects, joint ventures as well as funds. While updating the group on the key aspects of the new policy being structured, he assured that the suggestions sent in by AMCHAM were also considered while formulating the new policy. He also offered AMCHAM to come back with more observations and comments once the policy is rolled out preferably by next month. He agreed that there were functionality issues in the electronic submissions and these were being worked upon.</p>
3rd Aug 2018	<p><b>Pharmaceuticals Committee Meeting with U.S. Embassy Officials</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Pharmaceuticals Committee met with U.S. Embassy officials on 3rd August 2018 at the Leela Palace, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Sanjiv Navangul, Chairman – Pharma Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Janssen and Ms. Jyotsna Ghoshal, Co-Chair – Pharma Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director, Public Policy and Corporate Affairs, MSD. U.S. Embassy officials present included Mr. Darrel Ching, Deputy Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, Ms. Komal Kalha, Senior Counsel, US Patent &amp; Trademark Office, Dr. Vid Nukala, Senior Advisor – Biomedical Science &amp; Technology and Health, Office of Global Affairs (OGA), Health and Human Services (HHS), Ms. Bhavna Vishwakarma, Commercial Specialist and Ms. Shilpi Jha, US Patent &amp; Trademark Office.</p>

The objective of the meeting was to discuss continued collaboration between U.S. industry and the U.S. Embassy regarding pharma. Some of the topics discussed included DPCO guidelines, difference between scheduled formulations and non-scheduled formulations, IPR (notification, compulsory licensing and working of patents), clinical trials (strong regulations for effective CT environment meeting global standards), pricing and Aayushman Bharat, among others. The committee decided to prepare a paper on TICFA (Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement – an agreement between the U.S. and Bangladesh) to submit to USPTO.

6th August 2018

#### **Aviation Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Aviation Committee convened at Gurugram on August 6th for the second quarter committee meeting for year 2018-2019 under the chairmanship of Mr. Palash Roy Chowdhury, Managing Director – Pratt & Whitney, UTC India and discussed planning AMCHAM events around the upcoming International Aviation Seminar in September 2018, prospective meetings with Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and officers at the Airport Authority of India (AAI). Members also discussed an update on the upcoming Aero India schedule and state engagements to be planned for AMCHAM's Aviation Committee.

10th Aug 2018

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

The second meeting of AMCHAM's National Executive Board was held on August 10th, 2018 in New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM India and President & CEO Walmart India. The Honorary President of AMCHAM, Ambassador Kenneth Juster, addressed the board on the current state of the U.S. - India relationship.

14th Aug 2018

#### **Meeting with Mr. Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission**

The core committee of the AMCHAM's Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, along with Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General, AMCHAM and Mr. Debasish Roy, Program Director, AMCHAM, met Mr. Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission on August 14th, 2018. The Mission Director kindly gave AMCHAM an hour to express four specific points that American companies were facing as hurdles in bidding for RFPs across the country. He was grateful that AMCHAM has brought forth these problems in detail so that his Ministry can address them as quickly as possible. He also agreed to attend a CEOs meet as the AMCHAM annual summit to understand capabilities of various companies in the Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee. He encouraged AMCHAM to send in writing all proposals envisaged to make the PM's Smart Cities Mission more successful in less time.

20th Aug 2018

#### **Meeting with Captain Daniel Fillion, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC), U.S. Embassy**

Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Ms. Udaya Arun, Director - Aerospace & Defense, AMCHAM, met with Captain Daniel Fillion, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation at his office on August 20th, 2018. Captain Fillion was briefed about AMCHAM and in particular the AMCHAM Defense Committee and its achievements. He was also requested to share his views on the U.S. - India defense partnership and upcoming USG delegation visits and meetings.

21st Aug 2018

#### **Defense Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Defense Committee met at the office of BAE Systems on August 21st, 2018 and discussed various issues ranging over the U.S. – India defense partnership. Captain Daniel Fillion, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC), U.S. Embassy, joined the meeting. Members introduced themselves and posed questions. The team deliberated upon the current status and implications of COMCASA, CAATSA, STA-1, 2+2 dialogue, Aero India and upcoming USG visits.

29th Aug 2018

**5th Anti-Corruption Compliance and Risk Management Master Class**

The 5th Anti-Corruption Compliance and Risk Management Master Class was organized by AMCHAM's Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee at Hotel Le-Meridien, New Delhi on August 29th, 2018. The welcome address was given by Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General, AMCHAM followed by Ms. Ritika Ratti, Chairperson – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer & Head of Anti-Corruption, Walmart India, who introduces the theme and gave an overview of the sessions. The special address was delivered by Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy.

In session 1, the panel discussion focused on 'Top Trends in FCPA, UK Bribery Act & Recent Indian Corruption Cases' including an introduction of a hypothetical case study by Mr. Vasu Muthyala, White-Collar, Corporate & Individual Investigations, and Enforcement Partner, Kobre & Kim, Ms. Mini vandePol, Partner and Head of Asia Pacific, Global Compliance and Investigations Group, Baker & McKenzie and Mr. Sunny Mann, Partner, Global Compliance and Investigations Group, Baker & McKenzie.

Since the Government of India has made amendments in the Prevention of Corruption Act, Mr. Balwinder Singh, Senior Advisor, KPMG in India, shared updates on the same in session 2. In session 3 industry experts including Mr. Gaurav Ajmani, Associate General Counsel, Amazon, Ms. Saloni Tuteja, Director – Legal & Compliance, South Asia, Zimmer Biomet and Ms. Bhawna A. Ranganadhan, Vice President, Legal and Compliance, Genpact, discussed 'Corruption Challenges Faced by Legal and Compliance Organizations in a Company and How Do They Mitigate These Risks?' with Ms. Ritika Ratti as the moderator.

Mr. Suhel Daud, Assistant Legal Attaché - FBI, U.S. Embassy, spoke about the 'Challenges Faced by Law Enforcement in the Digital Age' in session 4 followed by Prof (Dr.) Madhu Bhalla, Vice Chair of Transparency India, who shared her perspective on the fight against corruption. The last session was a panel discussion focused on 'Discovering Fraud (Best Practices for Investigations, Remediation, and Self-Disclosure or Not)' with Mr. Vasu Muthyala, Ms. Mini vandePol and Mr. Sunny Mann as panellists. Lastly, the concluding remarks were delivered by Ms. Ritika Ratti, Chairperson - Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM.

30th Aug 2018

**CSR Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's CSR Committee met under the chairmanship of Mr. Harish Krishnan, Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC, Cisco Systems (India) on 30th August 2018 at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. Ms. Ranjana Khanna welcomed participants and speakers. Mr. Harish Krishnan led a discussion on the CSR signature event in June, how to collaborate as a committee on a CSR project, strategies to drive impact and scale and CSR best practice sharing site visits.

Mr. Mark White, Mission Director, USAID/India and Ms. Cheryl Williams, Director - Program Support Office, USAID/India discussed the recently signed MOU between USAID and AMCHAM to collaborate in the areas of health, energy, environment, WASH, gender and women's empowerment and issues concerning youth. Mr. Pankaj Kamaliya, Chief Operations Officer, Gujarat CSR Authority – an initiative of the Government of Gujarat, who gave a presentation on the GCSRA, which was registered in 2015 to support industries taking up CSR in the state with proper needs assessments, connections to the local administration, project execution, create a reliable database of credible implementing agencies and set a standard for training, among other things. There was an interactive Q&A with both USAID and GCSRA followed by a vote of thanks from Mr. Harish Krishnan.

31st Aug 2018

**Discussion on the Draft Personal Data Protection Bill**

On August 31st, 2018 members of AMCHAM's ICT and Cyber Security Committees met at the IBM office to discuss the Draft Personal Data Protection Bill before sending recommendations to stakeholders. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Vivek Vasishtha, Co-Chairman – ICT Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director and Country Leader – Government and Regulatory Affairs, IBM India. Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General, AMCHAM, gave the welcome remarks. Members discussed the need for clarity on data localization, storage of data and data retention. The concerns were noted and would be incorporated in the submission to be made to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). KPMG agreed to be the knowledge partner for supporting AMCHAM's recommendations.

4th Sept 2018	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion on the U.S. - India 2+2 Dialogue on Diplomatic and Defense Cooperation</b></p> <p>On the sidelines of the first ever U.S. - India 2+2 Dialogue with a focus on diplomatic and defense cooperation, AMCHAM, along with Observer Research Foundation (ORF), organized a panel discussion on September 4th, 2018 in New Delhi. The discussion revolved around the likely and potential deliverables from the first 2+2 Dialogue happening between the United States and India. Mr. Harsh Pant, Director, Studies and Head Strategic Studies Programme, ORF, moderated a panel discussion with Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President &amp; CEO, Walmart India, Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Past Chairman, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India, Ms. Maya Mirchandani, Senior Fellow, ORF and Assistant Professor Broadcast Journalism, Ashoka University, and Lt. Gen. S. L. Narsimhan (Retd.), Member, National Security Advisory Board.</p>
7th Sept 2018	<p><b>Meeting with Lieutenant General Charles Hooper, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency</b></p> <p>On September 7th, 2018 Lieutenant General Charles Hooper, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, met with AMCHAM's Defense Committee members in his first industry engagement after the 1+1 and 2+2 U.S. - India Dialogues. He reiterated and highlighted the positive engagements between U.S. Secretary of Defense General Mattis and Raksha Mantri Nirmala Sitharaman during the 1+1 engagement. He affirmed continuity of dialogue for synergizing the generational opportunities.</p>
7th Sept 2018	<p><b>Interaction with Mr. Gilbert Kaplan, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, U.S. Department of Commerce</b></p> <p>On 7th September, AMCHAM hosted an interactive session with Mr. Gilbert Kaplan, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, U.S. Department of Commerce in New Delhi. Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President &amp; CEO, Walmart India, made opening remarks and welcomed the delegation. Under Secretary Kaplan gave brief remarks on the recent trade talks and mentioned that India was the 11th largest trade partner for the U.S. Members discussed trade related challenges across sectors, healthcare, Make in India, transfer of technology, exports, tariffs, medical devices, trade margin rationalization and standards, among other topics. AMCHAM offered to support the upcoming U.S. - India Commercial Dialogue and CEO Forum in any way possible. Under Secretary Kaplan was accompanied by Mr. John Cooney, Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary, Mr. Joseph Laroski, Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary, Ms. Diane Farrell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia, Ms. Noor Sclafani, International Trade Specialist, Ms. Aileen Nandi, Acting Senior Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy and Mr. Darrel Ching, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy.</p>
11th Sept 2018	<p><b>India - U.S. Fast Track Mechanism Meeting</b></p> <p>Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIPPI, called a meeting of U.S. companies having specific concerns or challenges in India on 11th September 2018 in New Delhi. AMCHAM forwarded specific issues received from its members. Officials from other Ministries such as DoT, MeitY, Finance, Commerce, etc. were also present to respond to the issues raised by AMCHAM members. From AMCHAM, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, and Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General, along with a few members, participated in the meeting.</p>
20th Sept 2018	<p><b>Agriculture &amp; Food Processing Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>On 20th September, 2018, AMCHAM met with Mr. Pankaj Mahajan, Cargill from the Agriculture &amp; Food Processing Committee to discuss the roadmap of the committee. The megatrends in food and food system transformations to meet evolving consumer needs were discussed. The committee planned to take up certain sector specific issues to bring in a sustainable environment for trade and manufacturing.</p>
21st Sept 2018	<p><b>Interactive Session on U.S. Visas</b></p> <p>On September 21st, 2018, AMCHAM members were briefed by the U.S. Consular section of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi on U.S. visas. The speakers from the Embassy were Mr. George H. Hogeman, Consul General and Ms. Maribel Vasquez Molina, Vice Consul. The session was well attended by members and a number of visa-related issues were clarified with participants.</p>

21st Sept 2018

### Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee Meeting

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

The Infrastructure Committee would constitute expert groups to drive projects in following areas: Smart Cities; Airports; Roads and Highways; Railways; Metro and Ports.

28th Sept 2018

### CSR Committee Concall on Relief Work in Kerala

AMCHAM's CSR Committee had a conference call under the chairmanship of Mr. Harish Krishnan, Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC, Cisco Systems (India) on September 28th 2018 to discuss the ongoing flood relief for Kerala. Mr. Krishnan had recently met with officials in the Chief Minister's office and updated participants on the work underway. With limited NGOs working on the ground, members mentioned the following NGOs they have already partnered with: Oxfam, Akshaya Patra Foundation, Goonj, CAF and Habitat for Humanity. It was decided that AMCHAM would collect information about the contributions members have made to rebuild Kerala and solicit interest in having an umbrella AMCHAM project that many companies contribute to, such as, sponsoring the reconstruction of a tower or building.

3rd Oct 2018

### Manufacturing Committee Conference Call for Make in India Event

AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee under the leadership of Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman & Managing Director, Timken India Limited and Mr. Amit Bansal, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Corning India, held a conference call on October 3rd to plan a signature event for the committee. Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd., joined the discussion. The Manufacturing Committee and Supply Chain & Logistics Committee agreed to partner with Invest India for a half day 'Make in India' event on February 8th, 2019 in New Delhi. It was decided to focus on the following sectors for roundtable discussions with industry and GOI: 1) mobile and electronic hardware 2) agriculture and food processing 3) automotive and machinery 4) fast moving consumer goods and 5) supply chain & logistics.

5th Oct 2018

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

AMCHAM India, in partnership with Invest India and the U.S. Embassy, held a roundtable with IT and telecom companies at Invest India with DIPP Joint Secretary, Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal. Members raised issues and concerns around data localization, CRO safety testing, public procurement, PMA, M2M/IoT and remote access, amongst others. Representatives from the Ministry of Electronics and Information technology (MeitY), Department of Telecom (DoT) and Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) were also present and made note of the issues raised. Members were assured of support from the government while the concerns were being addressed.

10th Oct 2018

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

The Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee held the book launch of 'Understand, Outmanoeuvre and Win Against Unethical Practices in Corporate India: Checkmate! Corruption' in association with EY on 10th October 2018, at the EY office in Gurugram. The welcome address was given by Ms. Ritika Ratti, Chairperson - Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer & Head of Anti-Corruption, Walmart India, followed by a keynote address on 'Corruption and the

Integrity Agenda' by Mr. Arpinder Singh, Partner and Head - India and Emerging Markets, Forensic & Integrity Services, EY, the co-author of the book. Later Mr. Vinay Garodiya, Partner, Forensic & Integrity Services, EY, presented on 'Decoding the Corruption Conundrum.' He explained that the book contained interviews of senior officials from 35 AMCHAM member companies on their FCPA related challenges in India and how they successfully navigated through them. The in-depth analysis provided readers with insight on how to decode the problem of corruption and mitigate potential corruption risks. Thereafter, members had an interactive roundtable discussion on 'Strategies to Accomplish the Checkmate Effect' and asked a few questions from the authors.

11th Oct 2018

### Defense Committee Meeting

On October 11th, 2018, AMCHAM's Defense Committee met in New Delhi for a focused briefing on the concluded U.S. - India 2+2 Dialogue and the one-on-one between the U.S. Defense Secretary and the Indian Defence Minister. The session also included a brief of DSCA LTG Charles Hooper's meeting with DG (Acq) Apurva Chandra. The USG views on the outcomes of the recently concluded Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) and the current status of negotiations on the Industrial Security Annex and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) were also discussed, along with the upcoming mil-mil exercises. More than twenty four Defense Committee members participated in the interactive session.

12th Oct 2018

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

On 12th October 2018, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM and Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India met with Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry. The meeting led to a constructive discussion on enhancing U.S.-India economic partnership and the way forward.

15th Oct 2018

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

On October 15th, 2018, AMCHAM organized a roundtable with Ambassador Robert Blake Jr., Senior Director, India & South Asia, McLarty Associates, in New Delhi. In his opening remarks, Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Boeing India Defense, Space & Security, gave an overview of the business environment in India. Ambassador Blake (previously Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia at the State Department and Ambassador to Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia) gave an insightful and candid view from Washington DC on the upcoming U.S. elections and issues of importance in the U.S. - India relationship, such as CATSAA, trade strategies, Indo - Pacific cooperation and tariffs on steel and aluminium, among others. Ambassador Blake emphasized the goodwill that Indian American members of Congress have generated on Capitol Hill over the years. Closing remarks were made by Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM. The session was hosted at the Boeing office.

30th Oct 2018

### Interaction with USTDA Officials

AMCHAM held a thought provoking interaction over breakfast, on the energy sector, with visiting USTDA officials led by Mr. Todd Abrajano, Senior Advisor to the Director, Mr. John Krotzer, Country Manager, South Asia and Ms. Mehnaz Ansari, Country Representative, South Asia, at the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi on 30th October 2018. Mr. Abrajano informed participants that 50% of USTDA activity was in the energy sector and its export multiplier (ROI) was the highest in USTDA history, returning \$104 for every dollar invested in USTDA activities. He highlighted the U.S. Natural Gas Export Initiative and support for related LNG import infrastructure. Ms. Ansari and Mr. Krotzer gave the background leading to the MoU between AMCHAM and CHT (MoPNG) in May '18 for U.S. - India collaboration in refining and petrochemicals. They informed members about the Global Procurement Initiative by USTDA in Houston, attended by RTM companies from India and their appreciation of the life cycle value addition concept as opposed to the lowest cost bidder criteria. In the open interaction that followed, participants shared their insights on bio-fuels, technology for conversion of biomass to bio-crude, operational risk solutions, local procurement practises, areas of business opportunity etc. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General, AMCHAM India.

1st Nov 2018

**Pharmaceuticals Committee Meeting with Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies Delegation**

AMCHAM's Pharmaceuticals Committee organized a meeting with a delegation of Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies (ASOP) on 1st November, 2018 at the Leela Palace in New Delhi. The members of the ASOP delegation included Mr. Jeffrey Gren, ASOP Global Board Member, ASOP Global, Mr. Bejon Misra, Strategic Advisor, ASOP Global India Chapter, Mr. Chaitanya Kumar Koduri, Senior Manager, USP India Office, Mr. Alastair Jeffrey, Head of Enforcement, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) United Kingdom, Mr. Aaron Graham, Executive Director Safety and Security, Boehringer Ingelheim, Mr. Jim Fries, CEO of Rx-360 and Mr. Ron Guse, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), NABP Consultant and Former Manitoba Provincial Canada Regulator. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Jyotsna Ghoshal, Co-Chair – Pharmaceuticals Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director, Public Policy and Corporate Affairs, MSD. The following officials from the U.S. Embassy also joined the meeting: Mr. Dominic Keating and Ms. Komal Kalha, USPTO, Mr. Darrel Ching, Principal Commercial Officer, Ms. Bhavna Vishwakarma, Senior Commercial Specialist and Dr. Vid Nukala, HHS. Other AMCHAM members included Ms. Lynn Cinelli and Ms. Nahid Zaman, MSD, Mr. Sarthak Ranade, Janssen, Mr. Kulveen Bali and Dr. Prabha Hegde, 3M, Ms. Sakshi Sethi and Ms. Nida Saher, BD. Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta represented AMCHAM in the meeting.

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

1st Nov 2018

**ICT Committee Meeting**

The ICT Committee of AMCHAM held its committee meeting on 1st November 2018 under the chairmanship of Mr. Amit Sharma, Executive Vice President and President Asia, ATC India. Members took stock of the activities during the last six months and discussed issues relating to the National Digital Communications Policy 2018, National Policy on Electronics and the draft Personal Data Protection Bill 2018. Members also discussed issues such as CRO, VNO double taxation, remote access and licensing.

13th Nov 2018

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

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

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

13th Nov 2018	<b>Securing Digital India</b> <p>On 13th November 2018, AMCHAM's Cyber Security Committee held its Securing Digital India series at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The discussion was led by Mr. Anand Rajan, Senior Director, Intel labs, on emerging technologies, Internet of Things, 5G, blockchain and quantum cryptography. The welcome address was given by Mr. Rakesh Maheshwari, Scientist G and Group Coordinator, MeitY, followed by an address by Mr. Rakesh Kharwal, Chairman – Cyber Security Committee, AMCHAM and Country Lead – Security Software India &amp; South Asia. The purpose of the series was to enhance capacity building in the cyber security space.</p>
15th Nov 2018	<b>Defense Committee Meeting</b> <p>AMCHAM's Defense Committee members convened on 15th November to discuss upcoming USG visits and GoI engagements. The group also discussed engagements and events at Aero India 2019 and shared the industry's discussions with Secretary Defence Production, Dr. Ajay Kumar, focused on Aero India.</p>
16th Nov 2018	<b>Tax and Tariff Committee Meeting</b> <p>A meeting of AMCHAM's Tax and Tariff Committee was held on 16th November 2018 in the office of Ernst &amp; Young, Mumbai. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Garima Pande, Chairperson - Tax And Tariff Committee, AMCHAM and Partner - Tax and Regulatory, Ernst &amp; Young LLP. Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General, AMCHAM, welcomed members and Ms. Garima Pande gave opening remarks. The following three presentations were made followed by an interactive session: 'Recent Developments in Transfer Pricing,' 'Fiscal Incentives Across India,' and 'Latest Update, Issues and Way Forward.'</p>
19th Nov 2018	<b>Manufacturing Committee Meeting</b> <p>A meeting of AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee was held on November 19th in Bengaluru at the Timken India office under the chairmanship of Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman &amp; Managing Director, Timken India Limited and co-chairmanship of Mr. Amit Bansal, Managing Director, Corning India. Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, welcomed members. Mr. Iqbal Sait, Chairman - Karnataka Chapter, AMCHAM and Head of EMEA Operations, Saggezza Inc., made opening remarks and gave a presentation on the activities of the Karnataka Chapter of AMCHAM. Mr. Sanjay Koul gave a presentation on the growth of the manufacturing sector despite the challenges related to skilled labor, lack of infrastructure and environmental obstacles. Mr. Amit Bansal, in his remarks, emphasized the need for India to create an ecosystem for electronics manufacturing and touched on the positive impact of GST for manufacturing. Guest speaker Mr. Sudhanshu Singh, SVP &amp; Business Leader, Analytics, Genpact, gave an insightful presentation on 'Transformation of Businesses Using AI - Becoming a Reality!!'</p> <p>The meeting focused on brainstorming for the Manufacturing Committee's signature event with AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, in partnership with Invest India, a cross-sector event that would broadly focus on 1) mobile and electronic hardware, 2) agriculture and food processing (cold chain), 3) automotive/machinery, 4) overall supply chain and logistics. This event is scheduled to be in New Delhi on February 8th, 2019. Lastly, the Manufacturing Committee planted a tree at the Timken facility to commemorate the day.</p>
20th Nov 2018	<b>National Executive Board Meeting</b> <p>A meeting of AMCHAM's National Executive Board was held on 20th November 2018 in Bengaluru. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President &amp; CEO, WalMart India. The agenda was taken up for discussion with participation from all members present. Other than the board members, officials from the U.S. Embassy along with the U.S. Consul General in Chennai participated. The meeting was followed by a meeting with Industry Minister of Karnataka, Mr. K.J. George, who was accompanied by Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary, Commerce &amp; Industries Department and Mr. Darpan Jain, Commissioner for Industrial Development &amp; Director of Industries &amp; Commerce. In the evening, the Karnataka Chapter organized an impressive program, including a panel discussion, followed by dinner and live music.</p>

21st Nov 2018

**HR Committee Best Practice Session**

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

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

After a short tea break, the third session was presented by Mr. Satish Jeyaraman, VP HR, Cognizant, on 'Repurposing HR Towards the Future of Work - One Step at a Time.' He explained that the whole paradigm of work is undergoing a change, with the skills required, work-home divide line, employment contracts, technology touch-points and employee demographics. The 5 focus areas for Cognizant include: redesign policies and processes to cater to the new workforce, use of technology as an ally to attenuate your effectiveness, tap in to the super power of data analytics, go beyond employee engagement to employee alignment, and retain the 'human' in the human resources function.

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

28th Nov 2018

**Interaction with Invest India and DMICDC**

On 28th November 2018, AMCHAM, in association with U.S. Embassy organized an interactive event with Invest India and DMICDC on 'Infrastructure Development Opportunities in India.' The event was held at Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi. Mr. Samit Ray, Co-Chairman – Infrastructure and Smart Cities Committee, AMCHAM and Director Government Affairs & Public Policy, UTC India, led the discussion. The U.S. Embassy was represented by Ms. Dinah McDougall, Commercial Officer, Mr. Matt Ingeneri, Economic Growth Unit Chief and Mr. James Gallimore, Economic Assistant, Economic Growth Unit.

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

On the concerns raised by U.S. companies regarding issues related to visibility of status of ongoing projects and of those on the anvil, Invest India introduced AMCHAM members to the recently launched India Investment Grid Portal which has been modelled to be a single window portal to search, identify, connect, track, promote and analyse projects. This portal is expected to facilitate much needed visibility to members and provide immense support in planning investment as well as to participate in them. An in-depth insight into planning and development of five Industrial corridors, six dedicated freight corridors, tens of cities along the routes, forty-four highways being developed as economic corridors and modernization of various ports with connectivity to economic zones were also shared.

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

6th Dec 2018

#### **India - U.S. Fast Track Mechanism Meeting**

A meeting under the India - U.S. Fast Track Mechanism was organized under the chairmanship of Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIPP on 6th December, 2018 at the Invest India office in New Delhi. The agenda of the meeting focused on resolving issues and specific challenges faced by U.S. companies in India. AMCHAM had forwarded specific issues received from its members to Invest India and some of them were shortlisted for detailed discussion. Officials from the U.S. Embassy also joined the meeting along with officials from other Ministries such as the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Ministry of Finance, Commerce, Law and Justice, etc. who were present to respond to the issues raised by AMCHAM members. From AMCHAM, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, and Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta, Director - Medical Devices, Pharmaceuticals and IPR, along with members, participated in the meeting.

8th Dec 2018

#### **Annual Christmas Ball**

AMCHAM's Annual Christmas Ball was held on December 8th, 2018 at the Hotel ITC Maurya, New Delhi. Ms. MaryKay L. Carlson, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy, was the Guest of Honor. Besides Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM India and President and CEO, Walmart India, there were a number of officials from the Indian and U.S. governments. Over 220 AMCHAM members and guests participated in the fun filled evening.

15th Dec 2018

#### **AMCHAM supported Investment Promotion Workshop by DMICDC**

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

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

25th Jan 2019

**Defense Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Defense Committee of AMCHAM convened on January 25th 2019. The principal discussion of the meeting was centered on the upcoming AERO India 2019 at Yelahanka, Bengaluru. Members were updated about the upcoming events being hosted by AMCHAM and were requested to plan their participation. The agenda for the committee for the first quarter of 2019 was discussed and the recent policy issues taken up by the committee were shared with the larger team. The upcoming USG high level delegation visits and AMCHAM traction with GoI officials were deliberated upon.

25th Jan 2019

**Fifth Meeting of the Core Group for Standardization of Commonly Procured Medical Devices**

The 5th meeting of the core group for standardization of commonly procured medical devices was organized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) at the National Institute for Training for Standardization (NITS), Noida, on January 25th, 2019. AMCHAM members were invited for this meeting which was chaired by Dr. SB Sinha, National Health Systems Resource Center (NHSRC), and other members included Mr. Prakash Bachani, Head -MHD, BIS, Mr. Deepak Aggarwal, Scientist E, BIS, Kalam Institute of Health Technology (KIHT), HLL Infratech Services Ltd. (HITES), industry associations and representatives from the medical devices Industry.

A list of commonly procured medical devices was shared in earlier meetings with the core group and each industry association was assigned the task to help BIS find reference to international standards (ISO/IEC) from the list. In the case no international standard reference was found, the core group would help BIS to formulate Indian standards. BIS updated core group members on the pending action items from the last meeting and went through the remaining list of devices for standardization. With inputs received from core group members, P-drafts have also been initiated by BIS which would be shared with the core group for comments by BIS.

31st Jan 2019

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

On 31st January 2019, the Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Core Committee organized a meeting in the Genpact office, Gurugram. The opening remarks were given by Ms. Ritika Ratti, Chairperson – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer & Head of Anti-Corruption, Walmart India. There was an interactive discussion on the focus areas for member companies' anti-corruption programs in 2019, usefulness of chat BOTs, processing payments for third parties, tracking for trainings – how is it maintained, and use of artificial intelligence by compliance teams and investigators. The meeting concluded with suggestions on topics of interest for upcoming meetings. It was decided that the next meeting would be held in March.

5th Feb 2019

**ICT Committee Meeting**

The ICT Committee of AMCHAM held a committee meeting on 5th February 2018 under the chairmanship of Mr. Amit Sharma, Executive Vice President and President Asia, ATC India. Members took stock of the activities during 2018 and planned activities for 2019. Issues such as intermediary guidelines, OTT regulations and data protection were brought up. The need for capacity building and skilling through technology transfer between members and the government led by AMCHAM was also proposed.

5th Feb 2019

**Medical Devices Committee Meeting with Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy**

AMCHAM organized a meeting of the Medical Devices Committee with Ms. Aileen Nandi, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, at the American Centre in New Delhi on February 5th. Other Embassy officials included Mr. Darrel Ching, Principal Commercial Officer, Mr. Gregory Taevs, Acting Deputy Senior Commercial Officer and Ms. Bhavna Vishwakarma, Senior Commercial Specialist. The purpose of the meeting was to brief Embassy officials on the key challenges faced by U.S. based medical devices companies in India before the visit of U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Wilbur Ross in February 2019. AMCHAM participants included Mr. Arnab Basumallik, Edwards Life Sciences, Ms. Shubhra Thakur, Boston Scientific, Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, India Medtronic and Ms. Tanu Arora, Stryker. From AMCHAM, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General and CEO and Ms. Tanya Paul, Communication Director, joined the meeting.

5th Feb 2019

**Northern Region Council Executive Committee Meeting**

The Northern Region Council of AMCHAM met on a concall on February 5th, 2019. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Amit Sharma, Chairman – Northern Region Council, AMCHAM and Executive Vice President and President Asia, ATC India. Members of the council expressed their thanks and gratitude to Mr. Amit Sharma for leading the activities of the Northern Region Council for 2018-19. The NRC Executive Committee elected the office bearers for 2019-20. The outgoing Chairman thanked committee members for their support and conveyed his best wishes to the new committee leadership, assuring them his full support.

15th Feb 2019

**Enhancing the U.S. - India Economic Partnership**

AMCHAM, in partnership with Invest India, held 'Enhancing the U.S. – India Economic Partnership' on February 15th, 2019 in New Delhi. It was the signature event of AMCHAM's Manufacturing Committee and Supply Chain and Logistics Committee. Chief guest, Mr. Suresh P. Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, gave the keynote address, in which he gave an overview of the U.S. – India Commercial Dialogue. Minister Prabhu emphasized the 'ease of investment' as the next important area and his ministry's commitment to considerably improve the policies and procedures for foreign investment into India.

The inaugural plenary session began with welcome remarks by Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, in which she thanked the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and Invest India for setting up the U.S. - India Fast Track Mechanism for which company specific challenges can be addressed.

Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman & CEO, KPMG in India, gave an optimistic industry perspective of the U.S. – India economic relationship. Through unleashing synergies and facilitating trade the relationship between both countries will increase in importance as India would soon be the 3rd largest economy in the world. He congratulated the central government for the significant improvement in ease of doing business.

A special address was given by Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy. He emphasized the importance of reconvening the U.S. – India CEO Forum. The government to government U.S. – India Commercial Dialogue discussed trade facilitation, standards, regulatory policies, market access and customs arrangements, among other topics. He touched upon America's trade deficit with India and talked about how India can find more ways to integrate into the global supply chain. Mr. Garverick also spoke on the Indo – Pacific engagement, opportunities for U.S. companies to expand the economic relationship and regional connectivity.

Mr. Deepak Bagla, Managing Director & CEO, Invest India, discussed the opportunities in the Indo – U.S. corridor. Invest India has responded to 557 business requests from the U.S. in the last 14 months, across 32 sectors, from food processing to renewable energy to textiles and garments to electric vehicles. Mr. Bagla spoke of the mutual dependence and common synergies between both democracies and encouraged AMCHAM to take forward the partnership.

Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, thanked Invest India for the phenomenal job they have done attracting investment to India. He congratulated the government for the initiatives taken and India's improved World Bank ease of doing business ranking from 142 to 77. Through transparent and candid dialogues both countries would be able to keep a wholistic view in mind. He emphasized that American companies were committed to India and discussed how the manufacturing industry would be a growth engine for India.

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

***Breakout Session I: Future of Mobility (Heavy Machinery & Automotive)***

In 'Breakout Session I: Future of Mobility (Heavy Machinery & Automotive)' Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM, welcomed participants and introduced the conversation facilitator Mr. Rohinton Sidhwa, Partner, Deloitte. In the keynote address, Mr. Pravin Agrawal, Joint Secretary, Department of Heavy Industries, expressed his honor to be a part of such a forum and acknowledged the role of U.S. companies towards development in the sector. He stated that he looked forward to learning of the success and challenges faced by U.S. companies and to work on prospective solutions to create an ease of doing business. From Invest India, Ms. Aditi Anand and Ms. Varda Taneja were present.

Industry speakers at the roundtable included Mr. Rohit Kataria, Commercial Director, Corning, Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Deloitte, Mr. Mahadevan Ramamurthy, Country Director, Ford Smart Mobility and Mr. Rajeev Anand, Chairman & Managing Director, Goodyear India.

The interaction focused on innovations and the implementation of the future of mobility in India, best practices in the adoption of new technologies, environment and emission norms for the sector, commercial vs. private vehicles, their utilization, etc. The need to review emission norms and policies with 60% of vehicles running being commercial was brought up. Japan's cutting edge technology that has reached advanced levels of point to point integrating supply chain, logistics and even personal travels was mentioned. The interactive discussion brought forth the emergent requirement to work towards enhancing last mile connectivity in cities while citing the example of the city of Gurugram. It was reiterated that U.S. companies were invested and committed to partner and work along with the government.

***Breakout Session II: Agriculture and Food Processing***

The conversation facilitator for 'Breakout Session II: Agriculture and Food Processing' was Mr. Siraj Chaudhry, Former Chairman and Sr Advisor, Cargill India, Independent Director. Mr. Rajeev Ranjan, Director, KPMG in India, set the scene. From the GOI, Mr. Vivek Sonny Abraham, Co-Head, Global Investor Outreach, Invest India, addressed participants and Mr. Gaurav Sishodia, Invest India, was also present. Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, gave special remarks.

Industry speakers in the roundtable included: Mr. Viney Khunger, Managing Director - Commercial Refrigeration, Carrier, Mr. Asim Parekh, Vice President Fruit Circular Economy, Coca-Cola India, Mr. Sandeep Mahajan, Vice President, Goodyear India, Mr. Himanshu Goyal, India Sales & Alliances Leader, IBM Watson Media and Weather, Ms. Neelima Dwivedi, Vice President, PepsiCo, Mr. Michael Green, General Manager - India, Sannam S4 Consulting. From AMCHAM, Ms. Udaya Arun and Wg Cdr Rajiv Anand, attended the session.

Discussions centered around transformation of the agriculture and the food processing supply chain using digital technologies, initiatives for sustainable farming practices to bring global standards to India, initiatives to make Indian agriculture and food processing units to become global supplier and maintaining standards of quality.

There were discussions on pre/post-harvest brought about the issue of lack of farmers' access to market, lack of his freedom in choice of market as well as inadequacy of cold chain and storage facilities. Speakers shared their opinion that although there was much ongoing government activity to benefit the farm sector, the sector was still to get its complete due. While the focus has been on improvement in productivity to enable higher income, there was a heightened need of reducing risk factors to farmers. Other topics included the importance of predicting yield based on historical data duly supplemented by weather information and data science, teaching farmers and reducing large scale wastage of produce.

It became clear that U.S. companies need to come forward as catalysts in promoting sustainability and creating a positive impact and develop collaborative farming models to benefit the sector. Invest India requested AMCHAM to identify the areas where the two organizations could partner and grow together in the interest of the farmer as well as the farming sector.

### ***Breakout Session III: Electronic Hardware and Mobiles***

The conversation facilitator for 'Breakout Session III: Electronic Hardware and Mobiles' was Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Global Government Affairs, Flex. Mr. Nikhil Patil, Director, KPMG in India, set the scene. From the GOI, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Rakesh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, addressed participants and Mr. Ravish Bhatia, Invest India, was present.

Industry speakers in the roundtable included Mr. Ashwini Aggarwal, Director – Government Affairs, Applied Materials India, Mr. Divyanshu Gautam, Commercial Manager – Gorilla Glass, Corning Technologies India, Ms. Dipakshi Mehandru, Senior Advisor – Government Affairs & Public Policy, Dell, Mr. Ambrish Bakaya, Director Corporate Affairs, Hewlett-Packard Enterprise Company, Cdr. Arun Jyoti, Director Government Affairs, Honeywell and Mr. Rajen Vagadia, Vice President & President, Qualcomm India & SAARC. From the U.S. Embassy, Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor, Economic, Environment, Science & Technology Affairs and Mr. Chad R. Norberg, Trade Unit Chief, participated. From AMCHAM, Ms. Valerie Swope and Mr. Amitabh Kumar attended.

The session was convened under Chatham House Rules. The conversation facilitator led the discussion, which to a large extent, revolved around the National Electronics Policy 2018. The policy has been in public domain inviting comments from stakeholders. Financial Incentive schemes to replace M-SIPS (Modified-Special Incentive Package Scheme) to compensate for the disability in cost of manufacturing, new schemes to be announced to cover MSME and large companies, incentives between DTA & SEZ areas to encourage localization, market access and exports, was discussed, among other topics.

The challenges relating to certification in India, security standards and testing facilities to ensure compliance, were discussed. Sustainable procurement, high logistics cost in India and skill development for ESDM were also mentioned.

### ***Plenary Session: Supply Chain & Logistics***

Post the sector specific breakout sessions, all participants gathered back together for a plenary session on 'Supply Chain & Logistics.' Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairperson – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Deloitte, set the stage with an overview of the future of supply chain and how AMCHAM's members keenly look at the prospect of collaborating with the Government of India to foster an environment of progress and growth. He ushered in the 3 key areas of focus – how AI was disrupting supply chain, how regulations were shaping up supply chain and logistics in India and the significance of building diversity, talent and skills in the domain.

Mr. N. Sivasailam, Special Secretary (Logistics), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, made the keynote address and shared how U.S. companies could support the government with its vision and mission in supply chain and logistics in the country. Mr. Sivasailam stated that given the immense importance of supply chain and logistics in India's growth story the Government of India has now appointed a Secretary specifically for this function. He also brought forth the crucial role of supply chain for businesses today, the inclination to make it more accessible and affordable and building a suitable ecosystem that facilitates transactions across various mediums.

Mr. Sarthak Ranade, Vice President – Commercial, Janssen – Pharmaceutical companies of Johnson & Johnson, spoke of the dynamically evolving technology and products of the healthcare industry and the need for supply chains to adapt therein. He cited the example of specialized needs to mobilize blood samples for the healthcare industry. He also brought to light an important facet of skilling in technology through reverse mentoring within organizations which encourages younger workforce to support industry veterans in keeping up with technological advancements.

Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson – AMCHAM Western Region and Managing Director – South Asia, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India, spoke on the significance of talent and diversity especially of women in the supply chain domain and the need to engage women in the core processes of supply chain and not just keep them confined to back office operations.

The session concluded with Mr. Kandaswami thanking Mr. Sivasailam and the panelists and expressed the keen interest of AMCHAM members to partner with the Government of India to support progressive initiatives in supply chain and logistics in India.

### ***Summing Up Session***

The final 'Summing Up Session' was facilitated by Mr. Vivek Sonny Abraham, Co-Head, Global Investor Outreach, Invest India, in which the following panelists highlighted the takeaways from the previous sessions: Mr. Rohinton Sidhwa, Partner, Deloitte, Mr. Siraj Chaudhry, Former Chairman and Sr Advisor, Cargill India, Independent Director, Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Global Government Affairs, Flex, Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairperson – Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Deloitte.

Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, made a special address. He emphasized that efforts in policy making should be directed towards industry needs and encouraged members to reach out to government authorities not only with issues and complexities, but also with suggestions for and possible solutions towards effective implementation of the policy changes.

Mr. Nitin Atroley, Chairman – Economic Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Office Managing Partner Delhi, KPMG in India, gave the closing remarks and thanked Secretary Abhishek and Invest India. AMCHAM would prepare a white paper on the proceedings of the day to share with the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade. He thanked Flex for sponsoring the event.

15th Feb 2019

### **National Executive Board Meeting**

A meeting of AMCHAM's National Executive Board was held on 15th February 2019 in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India. The agenda was taken up for discussion with participation from all members present. The honorary board members from the U.S. Embassy gave an overview of the recently concluded U.S. – India CEO Forum and U.S. – India Commercial Dialogue.

19th Feb 2019

### **U.S. Industry Roundtable at Aero India 2019**

The very impressive U.S. Government delegation led by Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster comprised of Consul General Robert Burgess, U.S. Consulate Chennai, Mr. Alan Shaffer, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (A&S), U.S. Department of Defense, Lieutenant General Charles Hooper, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, MG Fontes, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, and BG Sean Farrell, Air Force Security Assistance Command, met with U.S. industry participants.

India has become the third Asian country to get the Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1) status paving the way for high-technology product sales, particularly in civil space and defense sectors. The signing of Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) marked an important milestone in the strengthening of the U.S. – India partnership. Increasing bilateral, tri-service military exercises has been a welcome step in enhancing cooperation. Co-production and co-development linking Indian partners to the global suppliers has been a big boost towards employment in both the countries and needs to be accelerated. The roundtable gave industry players a wonderful opportunity to share with decision makers the challenges faced by industry in terms of expediting defense contract approvals, the updates to the offset policy and the standard contract terms. U.S. companies have been frequently at a disadvantage with non-U.S. competitors when selling defense equipment to India because of restrictive export control policy. The industry appealed to the U.S. government to emphasize the availability of defense technologies that are similar to the offerings of foreign manufactures and to advocate for expediting defense contract approvals.

19th Feb 2019

### **U.S. Industry Reception at Aero India 2019**

The U.S. industry participants attended a reception in honor of the exhibitors and participants at Aero India 2019. The guests of honor were Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster and Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, a young, dynamic and progressive leader from Karnataka who is also the National Spokesperson for Indian National Congress and member of the Parliament's standing committee on water resources, Government of India. The highlight of the evening was the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia led by Group Leader, Master Sergeant Christin Foley, Music Director, Staff Sergeant Shawn Hanlon on the keyboard, Staff Sergeant Andrew Clemenson on the drums, Staff Sergeant Nathan Martin, SrA Patti Perez and SrA Clifton Wright on vocals, bass and guitar respectively.

22nd Feb 2019

### **AMCHAM supported Deloitte's WorldClass Launch 2019**

On 22nd February 2019, AMCHAM supported Deloitte's 'WorldClass Launch,' a global initiative towards empowering 50 million lives around the world by 2030 – including 10 million women and girls in India. Mr. Punit Renjen, Global CEO, Deloitte, gave an introduction pointing out the importance of skilling India to meet future demands in the wake of the fourth industrial revolution. This was followed by a keynote address by Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India.

Dr. Vinita Aggarwal, Director General, National Skill Development Agency, spoke about the efforts made by the National Skill Development Agency to improve the current situation in India. She said that they recognize the need of skill training and short term programs, which can really help the youth of the country. She suggested apprenticeship/mentorship programs and local skill training initiatives should be taken up by the industry to help India grow.

Mr. N. Venkatram, Managing Partner & CEO, Deloitte India, gave an address on 'How India Prepares for the Future of Work.' The event concluded with a panel discussion on 'Creating the Right Skills and Aligning with Industry 4.0' with Mr. Punit Renjen, Global CEO, Deloitte, Ms. Roopa Purushothaman, Chief Economist and Head of Policy Advocacy, Tata Sons, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President and Country Head India, Bank of America, Ms. Rumjhum Chatterjee, Chairperson, CII North Region, Ms. Jyotsna Lall, Director Programmes, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, and moderated by Ms. Shereen Bhan, Managing Editor, CNBC.

4th - 5th March  
2019

### **APCAC Business Summit 2019**

The Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC) concluded its 2019 Business Summit, a two-day gathering of key American business leaders, diplomats, and American Chamber representatives from across the region, in Hong Kong on March 4th - 5th 2019. Critical conclusions reached at this year's summit underscore both the historic and current impact of American investment in the Asia-Pacific region, and the urgent need for increased engagement by companies and American Chambers to address the shifting and uncertain global trade landscape.

Specifically, a successful and timely resolution of the ongoing U.S.-China trade dispute should create stronger confidence by U.S. companies to deepen their investments and take further advantage of opportunities in this dynamic region. Also, the summit further highlighted, now more than ever before, the need for AmChams to play a vital role in facilitating a broad public discourse on the benefits of global trade and the need for American business to drive this growth. Indeed, AmChams are at the forefront at leading this change.

The impact of American business leadership in Asia has a proven track record of advancing innovation, sustainable growth, and social development. APCAC looks forward to the important work ahead and next year's Spring Business Summit, which will be held in Singapore in March 2020. For more information, please visit [www.apcac.org](http://www.apcac.org).

28th March 2019

**Defense Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Defense Committee held a meeting on March 28th in New Delhi. Members discussed best practices and successes from Aero India 2019. The committee discussed the upcoming USG visits and the Government of India meetings. There was a brief discussion on the recent Ministry of Defence issued guidelines. Members were also updated about the key upcoming AMCHAM events.

2nd April 2019

**Meeting with National War College Students**

On April 2nd AMCHAM's Defense Committee members from Boeing Defense India, BAE Systems India and Northrop Grumman India interacted with the students and faculty of the National War College during a visit to New Delhi. Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman – Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Boeing Defense India, initiated the discussions on behalf of industry. It was a profound session with discussion on U.S. – India relations with respect to defense partnerships. Mid-level and senior military officers who were likely to be promoted to the most senior ranks are selected to study at the War College in preparation for higher staff and command positions. The intense and engaging interaction with experienced members was much appreciated by the officers.



Releasing the CSR commemorative book 'U.S. Companies Partnering in India's Inclusive Growth' at AGM (L-R) Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India, General (Dr.) V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Ambassador Kenneth Juster and Mr. Arun Kumar, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman and CEO, KPMG in India



Fireside chat with Ambassador Kenneth Juster and Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM at AGM 2018



Panel on 'E-Transformation of India' (L-R) Mr. Rajesh Janey, Sr. VP, Dell EMC, Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary (AD & Cyber Diplomacy), Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Som Satsangi, VP & GM, Enterprise Group and MD India Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Ms. Aruna Sundararajan, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, President & Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A., Mr. Amit Sharma, Chairman, ICT Committee, AMCHAM and Executive VP and President Asia, ATC India and Mr. Meetul B. Patel, COO, Microsoft India



'Make in India 2.0' session at AGM (L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Sanjay Koul, Chairman, Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Chairman & MD, Timken India, Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman and CEO, KPMG in India, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry & Civil Aviation, Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Chairman, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India, Mr. Palash Roychowdhury, Chairman, Aviation Committee, AMCHAM and MD - Pratt & Whitney, and Mr. Amit Bansal, Co-Chairman - Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and MD, Corning India



Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Petroleum & Natural Gas, speaking at AGM



Ambassador Kenneth Juster perusing the 'Make in India 2.0' exhibition at AGM



(L-R) Representative Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Representative Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), Chairman Mac Thornberry, (R-TX), Chairman, House Armed Services Committee



Representative Henry Cuellar (D-TX) expressing his views



(L-R) Dr. Vivek Lall, Mr. Nikhil Khanna, Co-Chair - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, BAE Systems India (Services) and Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Immediate Past Chairman, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India



The inaugural session of AMCHAM's Signature Series: Capacity Building in the CSR Ecosystem (L-R) Mr. Vinay Pratap Singh, Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Gurugram, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Ms. MaryKay Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman - CSR Committee, AMCHAM and MD, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC, Cisco Systems (India), Dr. Sameer Sharma, Director General & CEO, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, and Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Chairman - Tamil Nadu Chapter, AMCHAM and Executive Director - India, Cognizant, with the CSR commemorative book 'U.S. Companies Partners in India's Inclusive Growth'



(L-R) Mr. Ramanan Ramanathan, Mission Director of the Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog, Mr. Nikhil Pant, Managing Partner, Shaktishi, Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman – CSR Committee, AMCHAM, Ms. Joyeeta Das, Program Manager, Corporate Citizenship, IBM India and Ms. Gouri Gupta, Associate Director, Central Square Foundation



Mr. Ramanan Ramanathan, Mission Director of the Atal Innovation Mission, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog, speaking at a CSR event in New Delhi

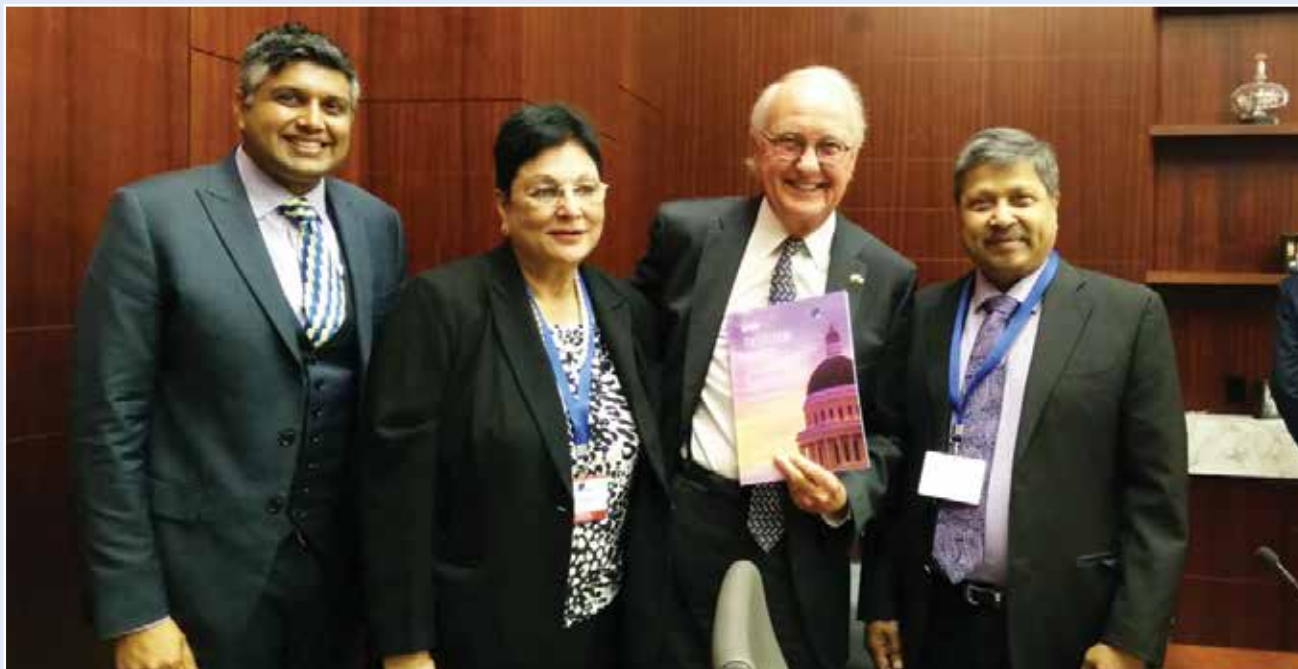
(L-R) Ms. Shubha Sekhar, Director CSR & Sustainability India & South West Asia, The Coca-Cola Company, Mr. Mark White, Mission Director, USAID/India and Mr. Narendranath Damodaran, Executive Director, Pradan



(L-R) Ms. Neelam Makhijani, Country Director, ChildFund India, Mr. Deepak Prabhu Matti, Global Head, Outreach (Employee Volunteering Program), Cognizant, Ms. Richa Bajpai and Ms. Pritha Venkatachalam, Partner, Bridgespan discussing challenges and opportunities for NGOs

Ms. Richa Bajpai, Founder and Co-CEO, Goodera and Mr. Murugan Vasudevan, Head, Social Innovation Group, Cisco - South Asia, discussing the CSR landscape in India





(L-R) Mr. Kartikeya Singh, Deputy Director & Fellow, Wadhvani Chair in U.S. – India Policy Studies, CSIS, Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Ray Vickery, Senior Associate, CSIS and Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, at an interaction with India experts from think tanks in Washington DC



AMCHAM's door knock delegation at the Pentagon with officials from the India Rapid Reaction Cell, U.S. Department of Defense



AMCHAM's door knock delegation with Representative Ami Bera (D-CA)



Ambassador Jeff Gerrish, Deputy United States Trade Representative and other USTR officials with the door knock delegation



The door knock delegation at the White House with Mr. Everett Eissenstat, Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs, The White House, and other officials



Representative Henry Cuellar and Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, in conversation



AMCHAM's door knock delegation with Representative Henry Cuellar (R-TX)



The door knock delegation during an interaction with Ambassador Santosh Jha, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, in Washington DC



(L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, Ms. Valerie Swope, AMCHAM and Ms. Tanya Paul, AMCHAM



AMCHAM's door knock delegation with Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Mr. Gilbert Kaplan and Ms. Diane Farrell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia, U.S. Department of Commerce



AMCHAM members at a farewell for Captain Robert Ogden, Office of Defense Co-operation, U.S. Embassy and LCDR Jonathan Lohn, Office of Defense Co-operation, U.S. Embassy



A meeting of AMCHAM's Tax and Tariff Committee in progress



AMCHAM members with Ms. Ellen Lord, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment) and Co-Chair DTTI Group, at a U.S. defense industry roundtable in New Delhi



(L-R) BG David Brigham, Senior Defense Official (SDO)/Defense Attaché (DATT), U.S. Embassy, Dr. Augustus Fountain, Deputy Chief Scientist, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research & Technology) and Co-Chair JWG OS, Mr. Matthew Warren (SES), Acting Director, International Cooperation and Co-Chair DTTI Interagency Task Force (DIATF), Ms. Ellen Lord, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment) and Co-Chair DTTI Group, Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and VP, Boeing Defense, India and Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Director General, AMCHAM



Ms. Ellen Lord, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment) and Co-Chair DTTI Group with Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Boeing Defense, India



Members of AMCHAM's Aviation Committee with Chairman, Mr. Palash Roy Chowdhury, Managing Director, Pratt & Whitney



AMCHAM's Pharma Committee meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Sanjiv Navangul, Chairman - Pharma Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Janssen and Ms. Jyotsna Ghoshal, Co-Chair - Pharma Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director, Public Policy and Corporate Affairs, MSD



At the National Executive Board meeting (L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, Ambassador Kenneth Juster, Honorary President of AMCHAM, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A. and Mr. Arun Kumar, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman & CEO, KPMG in India



During the NEB meeting (L-R) Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, Managing Director, Quaker Chemical India Limited, Mr. Atul Dhawan, Honorary Secretary & Treasurer, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte, Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Immediate Past Chairman, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India, Mr. Palash Roy Chowdhury, Managing Director – Pratt & Whitney and Mr. Phil Shaw, Chief Executive – India, Lockheed Martin India



(L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Captain Daniel Fillion, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy and Ms. Udaya Arun, Director – Aerospace & Defense, AMCHAM



AMCHAM's Defense Committee meeting in progress with Captain Daniel Fillion, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy, speaking to members



(L-R) Ms. Ritika Ratti, Chairperson – Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer & Head of Anti-Corruption, Walmart India, Mr. Gaurav Ajmani, Associate General Counsel, Amazon, Ms. Saloni Tuteja, Director – Legal & Compliance, South Asia, Zimmer Biomet and Ms. Bhawna A. Ranganadhan, Vice President, Legal and Compliance, Genpact



Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science and Technology, U.S. Embassy, delivering the special address at AMCHAM's Anti Corruption Compliance and Risk Management Masterclass in New Delhi



Mr. Suhel Daud, Assistant Legal Attaché – FBI, U.S. Embassy, spoke about the 'Challenges Faced by Law Enforcement in the Digital Age'



Professor (Dr.) Madhu Bhalla, Vice Chair of Transparency India, sharing her perspective on the fight against corruption



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



At a CSR Committee meeting in New Delhi (L-R) Mr. Mark White, Mission Director, USAID/India, Ms. Cheryl Williams, Director - Program Support Office, USAID/India, Mr. Harish Krishnan, Chairman - CSR Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagement, India & SAARC, Cisco Systems (India), Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, and Mr. Pankaj Kamaliya, Chief Operations Officer, Gujarat CSR Authority



(L-R) Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Past Chairman, AMCHAM and President, Boeing India, Ms. Maya Mirchandani, Senior Fellow, ORF and Assistant Professor Broadcast Journalism, Ashoka University, Mr. Harsh Pant, Director, Studies and Head Strategic Studies Programme, ORF, Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairman, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, Lt. Gen. S. L. Narsimhan (Retd.), Member, National Security Advisory Board and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM at a panel discussion on the first U.S. – India 2+2 Dialogue



Lieutenant General Charles Hooper, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, met with AMCHAM's Defense Committee members this morning in his first industry engagement after the 1+1 and 2+2 U.S. – India dialogues



AMCHAM members with Mr. Gilbert Kaplan, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, U.S. Department of Commerce



(L-R) Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, Mr. Gilbert Kaplan, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, U.S. Department of Commerce, Ms. Diane Farrell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia, U.S. Department of Commerce and Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM



During an interaction with Under Secretary Gilbert Kaplan (L-R) Mr. Nitin Atroley, Chairman - Economic Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Office Managing Partner Delhi, KPMG in India, Mr. Micahel Koch, Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Boeing India Defense, Space & Security, Mr. Jagmohan Singh, Regional Director - India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Lockheed Martin and Ms. Sheema Vohra, MD - India, Brand USA



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



Mr. George H. Hogeman, Consul General, U.S. Embassy during interactive session on U.S. visas

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

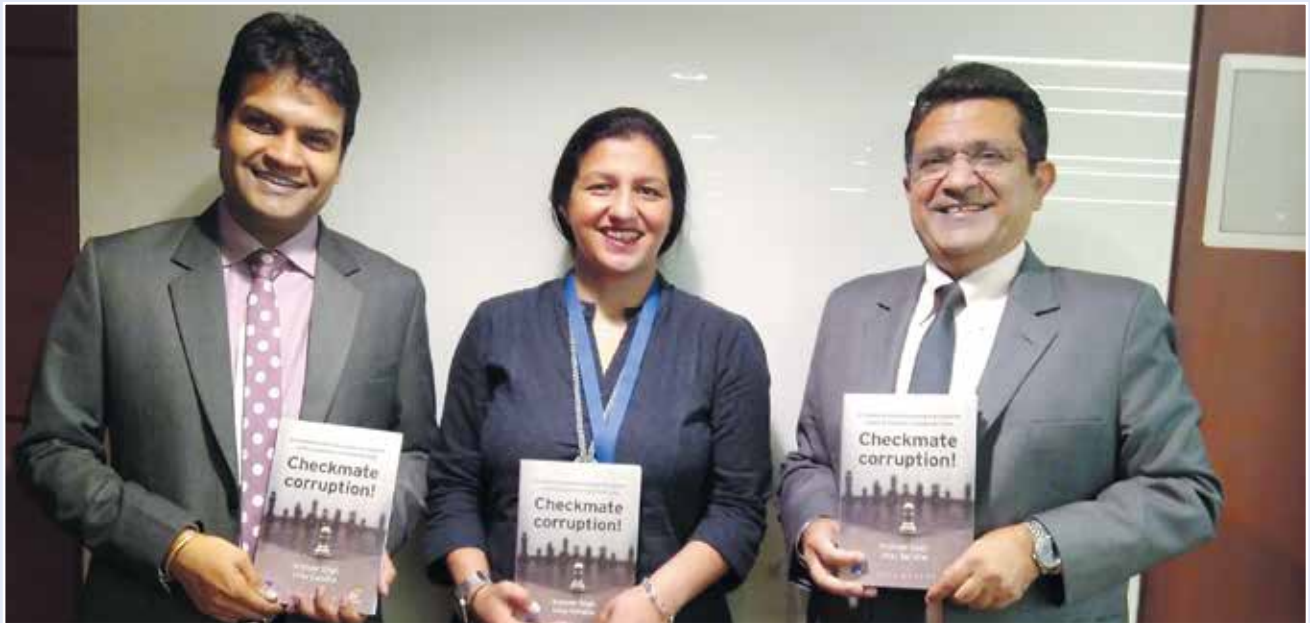




Members of AMCHAM's ICT and Cyber Security Committee with Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, DIPP and representatives from DoT, TEC, Invest India and the U.S. Embassy



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



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



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



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



AMCHAM members at an interaction with USTDA officials in New Delhi



Members at a Pharmaceuticals Committee meeting with Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies Delegation in New Delhi



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



Representatives from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and its nodal departments and representatives from Department of Telecom at a roundtable on 'Securing Digital India'



AMCHAM's Defense Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Michael Koch, Vice President, Boeing India Defense, Space & Security and Co-Chairmanship of Mr. Nikhil Khanna, Managing Director, BAE Systems India Services Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Gaurav Mehndiratta, Partner – Tax & Regulatory, Aerospace & Defense, KPMG in India



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



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



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



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



Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, giving welcome remarks during AMCHAM's Annual Christmas Ball 2018



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



Ms. MaryKay Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, delivering remarks as the chief guest during AMCHAM's Annual Christmas Ball 2018



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



The first couple on the dance floor, Ms. Dinah McDougall, Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy and spouse



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



Members enjoying a game during the Christmas Ball



Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM giving the vote of thanks during the Christmas Ball



AMCHAM members on the dance floor during the Annual Christmas Ball



AMCHAM's Defense Committee at the January committee meeting



AMCHAM's Anti-Corruption & FCPA Committee at a recent meeting in Gurugram



(L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, Mr. Suresh P. Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A. and Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman & CEO, KPMG in India



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



(Center) Mr. Sanjay Kumar Rakesh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman - Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Global Government Affairs, Flex, at a breakout session on electronic hardware and mobiles



(L-R) Mr. N. Sivasailam, Special Secretary (Logistics), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson – AMCHAM Western Region and Managing Director – South Asia, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India, Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairperson – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Senior Director, Deloitte and Mr. Sarthak Ranade, Vice President – Commercial, Janssen – Pharmaceutical companies of Johnson & Johnson



Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, addressing AMCHAM members in New Delhi



(L-R) Ms. Ranjana Khanna, Director General CEO, AMCHAM, Mr. Rohinton Sidhwa, Partner, Deloitte, Mr. Siraj Chaudhry, Former Chairman and Sr. Advisor, Cargill India, Independent Director, Mr. Krish Iyer, Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & CEO, Walmart India, Mr. Arijit Sen, Co-Chairman – Manufacturing Committee, AMCHAM and Sr. Director, Global Govt. Affairs, Flex, Mr. Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Mr. Vivek Sonny Abraham, Co-Head, Global Investor Outreach, Invest India, Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairperson – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Sr. Director, Deloitte, Mr. Nitin Atroley, Chairman – Economic Affairs Committee, AMCHAM and Office Managing Partner Delhi, KPMG, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President and Country Head India, Bank of America and Mr. Arun M. Kumar, Vice Chairman, AMCHAM and Chairman & CEO, KPMG in India



At the U.S. industry roundtable at Aero India (L-R) Consul General Robert Burgess, U.S. Consulate Chennai, Lieutenant General Charles Hooper, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster, Mr. Alan Shaffer, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (A&S), U.S. Department of Defense and MG Fontes, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy



Mr. Michael Koch, Chairman - Defense Committee, AMCHAM and Vice President, Boeing India Defense, Space & Security and Dr. Vivek Lall, Vice President, Lockheed Martin, at the U.S. industry roundtable at Aero India in Bengaluru



Guests of honor at the U.S. industry reception at Aero India 2019, Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha



U.S. Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster at the U.S. industry reception at Aero India 2019



Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC) Executive Directors and Presidents at the APCAC Business Summit in Hong Kong



APCAC Presidents and Executive Directors at the Government House



## AMCHAM Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Chapter farewell to a few Executive Committee members heading back to the U.S.

Date	Meetings / Events
21st June 2018	<p><b>Farewell for Hyderabad Chapter Executive Committee Members</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter had a farewell for a few of its committee members who were leaving back to the U.S. Mr. Shashi Reddy, Chairman – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM, from Qualcomm, hosted the luncheon farewell.</p>
27th June 2018	<p><b>Session on Immigration Laws with Deloitte</b></p> <p>The Hyderabad Chapter organized a session on immigration law with Deloitte at Westin Hyderabad on June 27th, 2018. Mr. Prakash Bodla, Vice Chairman – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM, from UTC, welcomed the gathering and thanked Deloitte for hosting. Mr. Sethuraman Sudhakar of Deloitte Chennai, kicked off the session by running through the inbound Immigration laws, taxation, PF and the FRRO formalities. Later, Ratna and Ali touched on per diem and the taxation on the same for employees on outbound travel and what expenses can be claimed. The session concluded with a time of networking over high tea.</p>
27th June 2018	<p><b>6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>The committee meeting was held at the office of West Pharma in Begumpet. The group discussed at length the panelists and key speakers. The theme of the conference would be 'Changing Landscape in Healthcare: Challenges and Opportunities.' The conference would be held on September 28th, 2018 at Ballroom, Westin Hyderabad.</p>
18th July 2018	<p><b>Sports Coordinators Meeting</b></p> <p>A meeting of all the Sports Coordinators from the various member companies participating in Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018 was held at the office of Wells Fargo on July 18th, 2018. At this meeting the draws for cricket were done and teams were updated about the rules and regulations for the 12 events being conducted. The Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018 would begin with cricket on September 16th or 22nd depending on the availability of the grounds and would be conducted every Saturday and Sunday. A total of 31 companies confirmed their participation.</p>

30th July 2018	<p><b>6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference – Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>The committee meeting for the 6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference was held on July 30th, 2018 at the office of Medtronic in DLF Gachibowli. The members present finalized the agenda and Ms. Sandya Rodrigues, Regional Director – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM, informed members that the need to raise sponsorship towards this to make it self-sufficient. It was decided to get a convenient date and time for all the panellists to connect. The next meeting was slated for August 20th, 2018 at the office of Medium Consulting.</p>
14th Aug 2018	<p><b>Hyderabad Chapter Executive Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter Executive Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Shashidhar Reddy, Chairman – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM, met at the office of UTC on August 14th, 2018. The programs for August to December were discussed and Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018 entries received along with the sports budget were also discussed. The committee was updated on the progress of the Healthcare Conference slated to be held on September 28th.</p>
20th Aug 2018	<p><b>6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>A meeting of the 6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference Committee was held at the office of Medium Consulting, knowledge partner for the event, on August 20th, 2018. The panellists and keynote speakers for the event were finalized. The theme of the conference is 'Changing Landscape in Healthcare: Challenges &amp; Opportunities.' The conference is slated to be held on September 28th, 2018 at the Westin Hyderabad. It is a full day conference covering the aspects of 1) delivery - creating right healthcare delivery models, 2) innovation - disrupting conventional business models, 3) investments – balancing profitability and affordability and 4) skilling – human resources the unfulfilled gap.</p>
28th Aug 2018	<p><b>Session on Transfer Pricing and GST</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter organized a session on 'Transfer Pricing and GST' with Deloitte at the Westin Hyderabad on August 28th, 2018. The session commenced with GST wherein Mr. Amit from Deloitte spoke on the credit concerns and advance ruling and audit under GST. He touched upon the input tax credit – latest amendment in law, conditions for availing credit and other conflicting issues. He also spoke on the impact of GST on common functions performed at HO. On the topic of GST audit, he spoke on the reporting requirements and the various forms. This was an interactive session where queries by the audience were answered. The next session was on transfer pricing which was led by Mr. Rajeshwar from Deloitte. He spoke on the recent development in transfer pricing including MAP and APA and impact of Ind-AS on transfer pricing. The session concluded with a time of networking over high tea.</p>
6th Sept 2018	<p><b>6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>A committee meeting for the 6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference was held on September 6th, 2018 at the office of West Pharma in Begumpet. Members present finalized the agenda and made minor changes and Ms. Sandya Rodrigues, Regional Director – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM requested members to support the event with sponsorship. It was decided that the webpage would be uploaded on the AMCHAM website to market the conference so that people could register for the event. Creatives to be shared on social media to promote the event were discussed. The full day conference is scheduled to be held on September 28th, 2018 at Westin Hyderabad.</p>
28th Sept 2018	<p><b>6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference: Changing Landscape in Healthcare - Challenges and Opportunities</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter organized the 6th Healthcare Conference in Hyderabad on September 28th, 2018. Accessibility, quality, affordability and transparency are key tenets to strive for in healthcare. The ability to make each of these beliefs a reality lies not just with policy makers and physicians, but with investors, hospitals, insurance companies, researchers, pharmaceutical, medical devices, diagnostic and</p>

patient-care companies, all of whom make up the healthcare ecosystem. Given the context, the overall theme of the conference was “Changing Landscape in Healthcare: Challenges and Opportunities.” A focus on different domains was important to generate the right perspective and hence the focus of the conference was not limited to healthcare delivery models in isolation.

The conference began with a welcome address by Mr. Shashidhar Reddy, Chairman – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM, followed by an address by Consul General Katherine Hadda, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad, who was the guest of honor. The inaugural address was given by Dr. Subhash Khuntia, Chairman, Insurance Regulatory Authority of India. Session I focused on ‘Creating the Right Healthcare Delivery Modes: Services, Geographies and Quality.’ Mr. Satya Gottumukkala was the moderator for this panel with Dr. GN Road, Founder & Chairman, LVPEI, Mr. Hari Thalapalli, CEO, Call Health and Mr. Harish Krishnaswamy, COO, Tata Trust. Session 2 touched on ‘Healthcare Innovation - Disrupting Conventional Business Models.’ This was led by Mr. Ratan Jalan, Founder, Medium Consulting, along with Mr. Rajaram Sankaran, Director Strategy, Abbott, Mr. Rajendra Srivastava, Dean ISB and Mr. Manish Sharma, Senior Medical Director, PAREXEL and Mr. Hari Bhardwaj, Founder, eSahai. They shared diverse views on the disrupting conventional business models and how innovation is the door for newer solutions. Session 3 dwelt on the subject of human resources – ‘The Unfulfilled Gap: Role for Skill Development and Quality,’ led by Dr. Ambuj Chaturvedi a neuro surgeon from Medtronic along with Mr. Vaibhav Tewari, COO, Portea Medical, Mr. Srinivasa Rao, CEO, Apollo MedSkills and Mr. Satya Gottumukkala. The last session of the day concentrated on ‘Balancing Profitability and Affordability: Role and Challenges for Different Stakeholders.’ This was led by Mr. Ritesh Dogra, Partner, Medium Consulting, along with Mr. Manish Bajaj, VP, India Business, Dr. Reddy’s, Mr. Divya Prakash, Site Director, Medtronic, Mr. Ram Rangarajan, Director, Stryker Global and Mr. Rahul Paith, COO/ Director, DocOnline.

Delegates included entrepreneurs, start-ups, and mid to senior managers from different healthcare formats. Some of the delegates were quite senior and accomplished in their respective fields. There were around 150 participants. The takeaways of the conference would be summarized in the form of a white paper which would be circulated shortly.

29th Sept 2018

### Hyderabad Chapter Sports

AMCHAM’ Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018 began with cricket and basketball on September 29th and 30th. Cricket matches were played at Vijay Anand Grounds, Babukhan Cricket Grounds and VBCC II. The basketball games were held at the premises of CA Technologies, a member of AMCHAM India. The weekend culminated with D.E. Shaw as the winner of basketball with Wells Fargo as the runners up.

29th Nov 2018

### Session on Business Visas with U.S. Consulate Hyderabad

AMCHAM’s Hyderabad Chapter organized a session on U.S. business visas for its members on November 29th, 2018. The session was led by Mr. Eric Alexander, Visa Consul Chief, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad. It was an interactive session attended by about 30 members. A lot of concerns were raised from both sides and questions were answered. Overall it was a very beneficial session where both sides shared great insights into the process – how employees are selected by the companies, the best practices followed and the struggles faced by the Consular officers when an employee comes for the interview. Mr. Eric Alexander thanked AMCHAM for organizing this program. Ms. Sandya Rodrigues, Regional Director - Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM, thanked all the Consular officers for a wonderful session.

16th Dec 2018

### Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018

AMCHAM’s Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018 began with cricket on September 29th at various grounds and basketball on the premises of CA Technologies. A total of 31 companies participated in Hyderabad Sports 2018 which ended on December 16th, 2018 with athletics at the Gachibowli Athletic Stadium. A total of 1,476 players participated in the event which was played on weekends from September thru December 2018.

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

18th Jan 2019

#### **Hyderabad Chapter Executive Committee Meeting**

AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter Executive Committee met at the Office of Qualcomm on January 18th, 2019, over breakfast. Members discussed the plans for Annual Day and its related activities. Various other topics on the agenda pertaining to the Hyderabad Chapter were discussed at length.

25th March 2019

#### **Hyderabad Chapter Annual Day 2019**

AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter Annual Day 2019 was held on March 25th, 2019 at the Ballroom Westin Mindspace. The event began with the lighting of the lamp by Mr. Shashidhar Reddy, Chairman - Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM and VP Engineering Qualcomm, Ms. Swati Lakra IPS, IG Law and Order & I/C Women Safety, Government of Telangana, Mr. Eric Alexander, Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad and Mr. Rakesh Singhanian, CFO, Wells Fargo. A classical dance performance by CDK Global set the tone for the commencement of the cultural program.

Mr. Shashi Reddy addressed the gathering and gave a brief of AMCHAM's activities in Hyderabad. Ms. Swati Lakra IPS, chief guest of the day, spoke on women's safety in Telangana and the SHE teams who work behind the scenes to ensure safety of women and that anyone found abusing women are apprehended. She shared her vision to see a world where women would be safe. She was given the task of women's safety by Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao and they have built up the SHE teams, which also provides free shuttle buses for women in the Hi-Tech city area.

Mr. Eric Alexander, Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad, spoke on AMCHAM being active in everything from bilateral trade promotion to sports and cultural events. He said that the sporting events were a great example of the strong community leadership and team spirit that AMCHAM demonstrates in Hyderabad. He also spoke on how U.S. and India have made huge strides in economic diplomacy. He thanked the members for their work in building bridges and strengthening ties between both countries.

The prize distribution was divided into three sets. The first set of prize distribution for all the sponsoring companies, winners and runners was given by Ms. Swati Lakra IPS. This was followed by a medley of songs by Rajasekhar from Cognizant. The second set of prize distribution was done by Mr. Eric Alexander of the U.S. Consulate. This was followed by a Metro Group Dance by employees of CDK Global. The final set of prize distribution was done by Mr. Rakesh Singhanian of Wells Fargo and was followed by a presentation of gift vouchers to cultural performances by Mr. Abhishek Tomar of S&P Global. The gift vouchers were sponsored by Westin. Mr. Prakash Bodla, Vice Chairman – Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM and Head of UTC HRDC, gave the vote of thanks and thanked all the sponsors for the year. The event culminated with dinner and networking.



Mr. Amit Kumar, Director GST - Indirect Tax, Deloitte, sharing his presentation on GST



Participants at a session on transfer pricing and GST



The audience at a session on immigration laws in Hyderabad



Consul General Katherine Hadda, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad addressing participants during the 6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference



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



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



Participants at the 6th AMCHAM Healthcare Conference



Hyderabad Chapter members with Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy



CDK Global cricket team at Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018



Cricket match in progress at the Babukhan Cricket grounds



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



Synchrony doubles tennis match in progress at CA Technologies tennis court



At AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter Sports - Men's 100 Meters



Women's 100 meters race in progress



Men's shotput games at Hyderabad Chapter Sports 2018



Women's shotput game in progress



AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter Sports cricket finals - Qualcomm vs Wells Fargo at Vijay Anand Cricket Grounds, Shivrampally



Members of AMCHAM's Hyderabad Chapter at a session on U.S. business visas



Consul General Katherine Hadda, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad, with Executive Committee Members



Mr. Eric Alexander, Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad



Ms. Swati Lakra IPS, IGP Law & Order; IC Women Safety Govt of Telangana, addressing members during AMCHAM Hyderabad Annual Day - 2019



Mr. Prakash Bodla, Vice - Chairman AMCHAM Hyderabad Chapter, giving closing remarks during the Annual Day - 2019



Classical Dance performance by CDK Global (India) employees



(L-R) Mr. Shashi Reddy, Chairman - Hyderabad Chapter, AMCHAM, Ms. Swati Lakra IPS, IGP Law & Order and IC Women Safety Govt of Telangana and Mr. Eric Alexander, Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate Hyderabad



Mr. Abhishek Tomar, Managing Director, S&P Capital IQ (India) giving away gift vouchers to cultural performers



D. E. Shaw team receiving sports awards from Mr. Eric Alexander, Consular Chief, U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad



Team Deloitte receiving their sports awards



Qualcomm team receiving sports awards from Ms. Swati Lakra IPS, IGP Law & Order; IC Women Safety Govt of Telangana



Team Wells Fargo receiving sports awards from Ms. Swati Lakra IPS



## AMCHAM Kolkata

A fireside chat with Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM and Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata

Date	Meetings / Events
3rd May 2018	<p><b>Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, chaired the EC meeting on May 3rd, 2018. He updated members on the AGM which was held on April 26th, 2018. The focus of the meeting was a membership drive and upcoming events. He requested members to assist in the membership drive for the Eastern Region. The meeting was hosted by TCG Digital Solutions.</p>
23rd May 2018	<p><b>Meeting with the Minister for Consumer Affairs Mr. Saehan Pande and Mr. Sandip Mukherjee, Corporate Head for East India, Amway on the Direct Selling Policy for West Bengal</b></p> <p>AMCHAM Regional Director Ms. Amada Kidwai and Mr. Sandip Mukherjee, the Corporate Head for East India, Amway, met with the Minister for Consumer Affairs Mr. Saehan Pande to discuss the direct selling policy for West Bengal. The discussions centred on the draft which was ready and had been approved by the law board of the GOWB. The Minister suggested that AMCHAM go thru the draft and let him if any changes were required. After discussion it was decided that the Minister sign off as any changes would mean further delay and amendments could be made after notification. AMCHAM Eastern Region were pleased to report that AMCHAM's advocacy was successful as this policy had been pending for a very long time.</p>
7th June 2018	<p><b>Meeting with Additional Chief Secretary &amp; Principal Secretary MSME, Mr. Alpana Bandhoyay</b></p> <p>Mr. Alpana Bandhoyay, who had recently taken over this very important ministry, updated members present on the State MSME Conclave (SYNERGY MSME 2018). He said the dates of the event had been fixed from 13-15 September 2018. The venue would be the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Rajarhat. The theme of this 3 day event would be 'Taking Bengal MSMEs to the next level' and therefore the areas of focus would be to create large scale enterprises in rural and semi-urban areas of the state on one hand and helping the existing MSMEs to adopt smart manufacturing and business practices on the other to scale up and grow further.</p> <p>Cluster development and export in various sectors of MSMEs including handloom and handicraft being priority strategies of the state government, this conclave would also deliberate on these critical issues. He requested AMCHAM for inputs and to help in identifying any potential American companies would like to participate.</p>

26th June 2018	<p><b>Farewell Breakfast and Interactive Session with U.S. Consul General Craig Hall</b></p> <p>On June 26th, AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized a farewell breakfast and interactive session followed by a fireside chat with the U.S. Consul General Craig Hall and Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Mr. Debdas Sen, on 'U.S. - India Relations.' Mr. Debdas Sen opened the session by speaking about the Consul General's tenure in Kolkata and the region and asked him about his first impressions of Kolkata, his involvement with the city and its culture, and the CSR activity of the U.S. Consulate. Consul General Hall mentioned that the city and its people was one of the culturally richest and most diverse place he had been assigned to, that the warmth and affection he and his family received was unparalleled to any place he had served in. He mentioned his interaction with the West Bengal Government was very good and always found them very helpful to work with. Apart from working with American business community he praised the work AMCHAM members were doing, not only in the region, but also pan India. He highlighted the work that the Consulate did touching upon the human rights and human trafficking that so many NGOs were working on within the city. He spoke about the awareness programs with the LGBT community, amongst other programs, and cultural events that the U.S. Consulate was involved with. During the Q&amp;A session he touched upon the much debated U.S. administration's trade policy, regional conflicts and a host of varied questions.</p> <p>Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, welcomed members and invited Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, NEB Member, AMCHAM, to give the welcome remarks. Mr. Surajit Banerjee, Mr. K.P. Sengupta and Mr. Dinesh Agarwal former Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, shared their experience of interaction with Consul General Hall. Mr. Ranjan Nandi, Executive Member - Eastern Region, gave the concluding remarks and thanked the Consul General for his support by participating in all AMCHAM's initiatives and events in Kolkata.</p>
27th June 2018	<p><b>Meeting with Mr. Rajiva Sinha, Additional Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary MSME</b></p> <p>Mr. Sinha requested AMCHAM to identify potential American buyers for the products of the MSME department who have been working with artisans in West Bengal. The department was planning on a State MSME Conclave in September and they would like to invite buyers to this event.</p>
29th June 2018	<p><b>Meeting with Mr. Debashish Sen, Additional Chief Secretary and Secretary IT Department</b></p> <p>A meeting with Additional Chief Secretary and Secretary IT Department, Mr. Debashish Sen, was held to identify American companies in the U.S. who could be invited to meet him during his U.S. visit and also to meet with Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee</p>
2nd July 2018	<p><b>Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, chaired the Executive Committee meeting on July 2nd. The focus of the meeting was scheduled events, mega event and budget. The meeting was hosted by Quaker Chemicals.</p>
11th July 2018	<p><b>AMCHAM supported U.S. - India Commercial State Spotlight Webinar Series on 'Doing Business in the State of West Bengal'</b></p> <p>AMCHAM's Eastern Region was invited by WBIDC to participate in the U.S. – India Commercial State Spotlight Webinar Series on 'Doing Business in the State of West Bengal' on July 11th. The webinar was the fifth webinar to be held under the U.S. – India State Spotlight Series as part of the U.S. – India Commercial Dialogue, with the objective of highlighting business opportunities in U.S. and Indian states and promoting cross-border trade and investment. This was expected to lead to mutual trade and investment opportunities and explore ways to better integrate businesses from India and the United States into global supply chains. The session was coordinated by the U.S. Commercial Service and Select USA in collaboration with Invest India, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India.</p>

The participants from the Eastern Region were Mr. Craig Hall, U.S. Consul General, Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM and CEO of TCG Digital Solutions, Mr. Harish Agarwal, Managing Partner – Kolkata, Ernst & Young LLP; Mr. Dr. S Kishore, IAS Principal Secretary, Dept. of Industry Commerce and Enterprises, Govt of West Bengal, and Ms. Vandana Yadav, IAS Managing Director, WBIDC and Export Commissioner. The participants gave an overview of West Bengal's business climate, the direct access to government agencies making working with government on various issues and sanctions workable promising industry sectors where the Government of West Bengal welcomes U.S. company engagement. They spoke of their own company experiences in the state and answered questions that were fielded to them on the various issues raised by U.S. participants.

13th Aug 2018

### **Inauguration of Bengal Silicon Valley Hub**

The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. Mamta Banerjee, laid the foundation stone at the Bengal Silicon Valley IT Hub on August 13th in Kolkata. The strategy of the Information Technology and Electronics Department of the state government is to create a futuristic test-bed for South Asia's unique needs while building a solid R&D capacity aimed at ensuring competition and a talent center in the near future. In a recent initiative, the Government of West Bengal has decided to set up an exclusive Bengal Silicon Valley Hub, a technology hub in the technology-rich Sector-5 and Rajarhat ecosystem of Kolkata, resembling Silicon Valley in California. The Bengal Silicon Valley Hub will be spread over 100 acres of land at the center of technology Rajarhat – Sector 5, Kolkata and is proposed to provide Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) in a unique setting that will provide co-working spaces, innovation lab, R&D centre and a creative environment that will be at par with any global set up. Members of the IT community, including AMCHAM members, were invited to attend this prestigious event. Amazon Internet Services, Genpact, Accenture and Cognizant were amongst some of the companies who have committed to increasing their foot print in the state.

13th Sept 2018

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

On September 13th, Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM and Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, met with Ms. Vandana Yadav, IAS, Managing Director, WBIDC. Ms. Yadav briefed Mr. Sen and Ms. Kidwai on the upcoming Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) 2019.

14th Sept 2018

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

Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM hosted the Eastern Region Executive Committee meeting at the TCG Digital office on September 14th. He updated members on his meeting with Dr. Mitra, MIC in Charge of Finance and Commerce and Industry held in August on the upcoming BGBS 2019. He also updated members on his meeting with Ms. Vandana Yadav, IAS Managing Director, WBIDC. Mr. Sen mentioned that he would work on getting a business delegation to the BGBS event in 2019. He also discussed forthcoming meeting and the interactive session on 'How Artificial Intelligence Will Push Business Further' was finalized.

24th Sep 2018

### **Interactive Session on How Artificial Intelligence Will Push Business Further**

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

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

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

They discussed how AI is growing, and service-sector companies, as well as their industrial counterparts, will move to integrate this technology into their mechanisms. The future for companies working with AI assistance is going to be a bright one. While some felt that AI would affect how humans reacted to making quick and difficult decisions which would in turn diminish their gut feeling in the decision-making process, the general consensus was that AI is not here to replace us, as it augments our abilities and makes us better at what we do. Because AI algorithms learn differently than humans, they look at things differently. They can see relationships and patterns that escape us. This human/AI partnership offers many opportunities. It can bring analytics to industries and domains where it is currently underutilized. It also means that humans have to keep upscaling their skills. As one panellist said, there would not be any end to learning!

23rd Oct 2018

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

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

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

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, who suggested members should start working on the annual return and audit requirements, as only two months were left and the same involves a mammoth exercise of detailed state level bifurcation of financial statements and reconciliation of the same GST returns filed so far.

1st Nov 2018

#### **Eastern Region Members Meet**

AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized a members meet on November 1st, 2018. The meeting was to enable members to interact with each other in an informal setting and to discuss any issues they may be facing. Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, spoke about the structure of AMCHAM and discussed the value proposition that AMCHAM brings to its members with special reference to the east and Kolkata. He updated members on the various events held and the upcoming events. He also invited members to come forward to participate actively. He invited some of the past Presidents to speak about their views and discuss challenges faced, if any, by their organizations and the way forward. Mr. Gulshan Sachdev spoke about his organization's experience and the value he received from AMCHAM. He also invited members to actively participate in AMCHAM events. Mr. Dinesh Agarwal and Mr. K.P. Sengupta also spoke on the value of the chamber. Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Political & Economic Officer of the U.S. Consulate attended the meeting along with Mr. Jonathan Ward, Principal Commercial Officer at the U.S. Consulate. Mr. Ward updated members on some of the U.S. government policies and mentioned that he would be departing India for his onward assignment shortly.

23rd Nov 2018

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

On November 23rd, 2018 AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized an interactive session on industry initiatives and steps to build a stronger Indo-U.S. relationship at the Hyatt Regency, Kolkata. Ms. Vandana Yadav, IAS Managing Director of West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation was the guest speaker. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCAHM, gave the introduction, Mr. Joydeep Dutta Gupta, Executive Committee Member, AMCHAM, gave the welcome address and Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Past Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave the concluding remarks and vote of thanks. The session concluded with a lively and interactive Q&A session.

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

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

Some of the statics mentioned included:

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

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

She mentioned that the 2017-18 top export commodities from West Bengal were; Production of Iron and Steel – 27.30 %; Leather Goods – 13.99 %; Marine Products – 12.98 %; Jute Hessian – 4.2 %; Petroleum Products – 3.64 %

7th Dec 2018

**Eastern Region Annual Get-Together**

AMCHAM's Eastern Region had its annual get-together over cocktails and dinner at the Tollygunge Club on December 7th, 2018. The evening brought together members, friends and supporters of the Eastern Region. Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave the opening remarks, Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, Eastern Region Executive Committee Member and National Executive Board Member, AMCHAM, spoke about the journey of the ER and its support to the American business community. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, did the introductions. The U.S. Consulate was represented by Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Consul, Pol/Econ Officer and Mr. Lee Calkins, Consular Section Chief, who gave brief remarks on the U.S. - India trade ties. Members, guests and Consulate officials had an opportunity to network with each other in an informal gathering.

11th Dec 2018

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

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

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

7th - 8th Feb 2019

**Eastern Region support for BGBS 2019**

On the request from the Honourable Dr. Amit Mitra, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Finance and Information and Technology, to bring a delegation from the United States to the Bengal Business Global Summit 2019, AMCHAM Eastern Region supported the Government of West Bengal to attract U.S. investors to do business in the state. AMCHAM Eastern Region Chairman, Mr. Debdas Sen, and CEO, TCG Digital, in partnership with Mr. Swadesh Mukherjee, Padma Bhusan recipient in 2001 from the Government of India for extraordinary efforts in improving U.S.- India relations, with particular note of his work with the then U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, organized a 15 member delegation from the State of North Carolina.

The delegation was led by Ms. Elaine Marshall, Secretary of State, State of North Carolina and with members of American business organizations, government officials and leaders from the educational sector to participate in the Bengal Global Business Summit 2019. As a prelude to the event on February 6, 2019 the Honourable Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee hosted a dinner for delegates, chambers of commerce, industry, diplomats and government at the Eco Park.

At the inaugural session at the Convention Centre at Rajarhat, Mr. Mukesh Ambani praised the leadership of the Honourable Chief Minister and said that West Bengal was now Best Bengal. He said West Bengal was one of the states for which ease of doing business was a reality and considered West Bengal to be among the best. All the delegates on the podium praised the Chief Minister and her government on the ease of doing business in the state. Ms. Elaine Marshall thanked Dr. Chatterjee and Dr. Mitra for inviting her and said that she and her delegation were looking at various aspects to collaborate with the state. There was also a panel discussion on the 'Future of U.S. India Commercial Partnership: A Focus on City and State-Level Engagement.' The panellists were; Mr. T. J. Cawley, Mayor, Town of Morrisville; Mr. Steve Rao, Senior Council Member, Town of Morrisville, North Carolina; Ms. Anusha Chari, Professor, Economics and Finance, University of North Carolina; Mr. Rakesh Bakshi, Chairman and Managing Director, RRB Energy; Mr. Prabal Chakrabarty, Managing Director, Boston Scientific. The session was moderated by Mr. Manoj Pant, Principal Secretary and Land Reforms Commissioner, West Bengal at Government of West Bengal. The government of West Bengal organized B2B discussions with the investors amongst other sessions.

#### 22nd Feb 2019 **Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting**

Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, chaired the Eastern Region Executive Committee Meeting on February 22nd, 2019, in Kolkata. Mr. Sen updated members on the recently held National Executive Board meeting on February 15th in New Delhi. He also updated members on the 2019 Bengal Global Business Summit where a 15 member delegation from North Carolina attended under the partnership of Mr. Swadesh Chatterjee, Padma Bhushan awardee and himself. Forthcoming events for March and April were discussed and finalized.

#### 15th March 2019 **Celebrating International Women's Week #BalanceforBetter Gender Equality for a Better World**

On March 15th, 2019, AMCHAM's Eastern Region, in association with Hyatt Regency, Kolkata, organized an event for members and guests to celebrate international Women's Day, which was celebrated on March 8th worldwide. The theme was #BalanceforBetter with panel discussion topic 'Breaking Stereotypes in the Work Place.'

The event was graced by eminent personalities from various walks of life who shared their experience, highlighting various roles played in balancing the work place. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave the introductions and vote of thanks. Ms. Brigit Holms, General Manager, Hyatt Regency and Executive Committee Member – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, gave the welcome address. The baton was passed on to moderator Ms. Oindrilla Dutt, CEO, Open Doors. She began by talking about the how far society has come in balancing gender, highlighting that balance is not a women's issue, it's a business issue. The race is on for the gender-balanced boardroom, a gender-balanced government, gender-balanced media coverage, a gender-balance of employees, more gender-balance in wealth, gender-balanced sports coverage and much more.

The panellists included Ms. Brigit Holm, General Manager, Hyatt Regency Kolkata, chief guest Ms. Usha Uthup, singer/performer and recipient of the Padma Shree Award in 2011, Mr. Bhaskar Banerjee, Chairman, Calcutta Stock Exchange, Ms. Sheena Hall, Vice Consul, U.S. Consulate Kolkata, Ms. Sonali Bhattacharya, Sr. Director Enterprise IT Automation, Cognizant and Mr. Suborno Bose, Founder and Chief Mentor of Indimart Group and MD IIHM. The panellists spoke about their own experience covering their areas of expertise. The interactive session was both lively and thought provoking, wherein the panellists and audience had a very interesting dialogue. The session concluded with Ms. Usha Uthup and Ms. Francis Lepcha enthraling the audience with their singing performance.

20th March 2019

**Meeting with Mr. Debashis Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, IT&E Department and CMD of WBHIDCO**

Mr. Debashis Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, IT&E Department and CMD of WBHIDCO, chaired a meeting to discuss the 3rd Phase Allotment of Bengal Silicon Valley on March 20th, 2019. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM was invited to the meeting. Mr. Sen gave a detailed view of the government's position, the bidding process and explained the different pricing policy. He spoke about the different size plots and said that the government was committed to encourage young entrepreneurs. He said that the 3rd phase of bidding would commence from June 3rd, 2019. Some of the giveaways and objectives include:

- Bengal Silicon IT Hub - set up on 200 acres of land
- Location - New Town, Kolkata near Eco Park in AA-II close to airport
- Proposed in the style of 'Silicon Valley' of USA
- Target Group - technology based enterprises working in the domains of IT/ITeS/ITeS enabled telecom services
- To create and nurture talent
- To promote a culture of innovation and research on emerging technology
- To invite large investments
- Economic growth of the state - higher industrial growth
- Tech-led employment generation and state GDP boost
- Branding the state of West Bengal and city of Kolkata a tech-savvy and friendly city

3rd April 2019

**Interactive Session with Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata**

On April 3, 2019 AMCHAM's Eastern Region organized an interactive session on Indo-Pacific strategy with U.S. Consul General Ms. Patti Hoffman at the Hyatt Regency in Kolkata. Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director – Eastern Region, AMCHAM gave the introductions. Mr. Gulshan Kumar Sachdev, NEB Member, AMCHAM, gave the welcome address which was followed by Consul General Hoffman's address on Indo-Pacific Strategy and a fireside chat with Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM.

CG Hoffman in her opening address, thanked AMCHAM Kolkata for all they do to strengthen and deepen the U.S.-India economic relations in eastern India. The United States, she said, was committed to working with India and other partners and allies in the region to foster a free and open Indo-Pacific. The U.S. government's vision for the Indo-Pacific region has three pillars: economics, security, and governance. Economics is at the forefront of the vision. Private investment is the only sustainable solution to the Indo-Pacific's economic and infrastructure needs, and greater private-sector engagement in the region requires open and transparent investment environments.

Last July, Secretary of State Pompeo, addressing the Indo-Pacific Business Forum in Washington D.C., launched the economic and commercial pillars of the Indo-Pacific strategy. He announced \$113.5 million in new initiatives to accelerate U.S. private investment and support job-creating U.S. export opportunities. These new strategic initiatives would focus on digital economy, energy, and infrastructure.

In the coming months, the U.S. government departments and agencies would begin implementing these initiatives in close consultation on program design with partner governments and private sector players. The CG welcomed industry views, ideas, and suggestions for partnerships among both governments and private sectors to pursue mutually beneficial and high-quality economic and commercial engagement in the Indo-Pacific region that conforms to best practices for transparency, governance, economic growth, and debt-sustainability.

To promote commercial and trade partnerships, particularly among SMEs, the United States Department of Commerce would be organizing a trade mission to India to participate in the Indo-Pacific focused business forum in New Delhi from May 6th-10th. Delegates of the trade mission would then travel to any one or two of the six U.S. Commercial Service office locations in India, where they will have one-on-one business appointments with pre-screened potential buyers, agents, distributors and joint-venture partners. Over 110 companies have expressed interest in Trade Winds. Kolkata has received interest from around 5 companies.

Consul General Hoffman also spoke about Select USA, which is the only national-level investment promotion program in the United States that promotes and facilitates business investment to advance U.S. economic growth, job creation, and innovation. The Select USA Summit is the biggest event organized by the SelectUSA Team in support of its objectives. The 2019 Summit is scheduled from June 10th-12th in Washington D.C. This year, the U.S. Commercial Service is also welcoming American companies based in India who may be considering re-investment in America as an option.

Mr. Sen moderated the Q&A and gave the concluding remarks and vote of thanks.

3rd April 2019

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

AMCHAM's Eastern Region had its last Executive Committee meeting for FY-18/19 on April 3, 2019 in Kolkata. The meeting was hosted by Executive Committee member, Ms. Brigit Holms, at the Hyatt Regency. Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, highlighted the past year's events and the way forward for the incoming committee. He said that all the events held were well attended mentioning the gender diversity event which has become an annual feature of the Eastern Region and one of the highlights of the year. Members discussed how to get the regional members further involved and the incoming committee would look at adding further value to members in the region. The meeting was concluded with thanks to the Chairman.



A fireside chat with the U.S. Consul General Craig Hall and Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, on 'U.S. - India Relations' in Kolkata



Consul General Craig Hall with Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM and Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, NEB Member, AMCHAM



AMCHAM's Eastern Region Executive Committee members with Consul General Craig Hall in Kolkata



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



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



Member posing a question to the panelists



Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, former Chairman of the Eastern Region, ER Executive Committee member, AMCHAM and Partner, EY Tax and Regulatory Service, at a roundtable discussion on GST in Kolkata

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



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



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



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



Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM speaking at a visa session in Kolkata



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



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



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



Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Pol/Econ Officer U.S. Consulate Kolkata, speaking at the annual get-together in Kolkata



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



Members during the Annual Get-Together in Kolkata

Ms. Usha Uthup, Padma Shree awardee, 2011 and singer/performer, performing at #BalanceforBetter Gender Equality for a Better World





(L-R) Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Dr. Bhaskar Banerjee, Chairman, Calcutta Stock Exchange, Ms. Birgit Holm, Eastern Region Executive Committee Member, AMCHAM and GM Hyatt Regency, Ms. Usha Uthup, Padma Shree awardee, 2011 and singer/performer, Ms. Oindrilla Dutta, CEO, Open Doors, Ms. Sheena Hall, Vice Counsel, U.S. Consulate Kolkata and Dr. Suborno Bose, Founder and Chief Mentor of Indimart Group and MD IIM Kolkata



AMCHAM members during an event celebrating International Women's Day #BalanceforBetter Gender Equality for a Better World



Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata, addressing AMCHAM's Eastern Region



(L-R) Ms. Birgit Holms, Eastern Region Executive Committee Member, AMCHAM and GM, Hyatt Regency, Mr. Gulshan Sachdev, NEB Member, AMCHAM and MD, Quaker Chemical, Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director - Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Consul General Patti Hoffman, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata, Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, Eastern Region Executive Committee Member, AMCHAM and former Chairman – Eastern Region, AMCHAM, Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman - Eastern Region, AMCHAM and CEO, TCG Digital, Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Consul, U.S. Consulate Kolkata



## AMCHAM Mumbai

Ms. MaryKay L. Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, giving the keynote address during 'Balance For Better - Driving Gender Balance at the Workplace' – an initiative of the D&I Committee

Date	Meetings / Events
1st June 2018	<p><b>Supply Chain and Logistics Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>The first meeting of AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee for the year 2018-19 was held on Friday, 1st June 2018. The meeting commenced with welcome remarks by Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairperson - Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Milind Tailor, Co-Chairperson – Supply Chain and Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Head of Indirect Procurement &amp; Electronic Security Asia Pacific, Diebold Nixdorf Private Limited. Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India, shared an overview of achievements during the year 2017-2018 and thanked members for their valuable and active participation through the year. Members discussed and ideated on topics and initiatives for the year, inclusive of best practice sharing forums, white papers, industry visits, GST sessions, etc. The overarching theme for the year 2018-2019 was mutually identified as 'Technology and Innovation in Supply Chain.' The meeting was instrumental towards crafting the architecture of the business plan and creating value to supply chain and logistics industry professionals.</p>
7th June 2018	<p><b>Western Region Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>The first meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee (WRC) 2018 - 2019 was held on Thursday, 7th June 2018 at the EY office in Mumbai. The meeting commenced with an opening address by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India and a welcome address by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India and Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and Country Head, Bank of America N.A. Post a brief round of introductions a showcase of AMCHAM India and its principles, WR member profiles, footprint, events, communication platforms, activities and publications was presented. A flash back of events in 2017 - 2018 reiterated the accomplishment of the business plan for the past year. The discussions further focused on the road map for 2018 - 2019, membership outreach and expansion, state government engagement, WR business plan and budget, and other items on the agenda. The meeting concluded with an encouraging vision for the year!</p>

12th July 2018

**Western Region Committee Meeting**

The 2nd meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee (WRC) 2018-2019 was held on Thursday, 12th July 2018. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India and welcome addresses by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman - Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India. Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and Country Head, Bank of America N.A. shared an insightful update of the successful annual door knock to Washington DC. Committee members actively discussed agenda points including forthcoming initiatives. Some of the key points of discussions were the visits to Dow India Technology Center, CSR event on 'Monitoring & Measuring Impact of CSR Programs,' tour of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, a high profile roundtable meeting in Pune in partnership with the U.S. Consulate in Mumbai, and last but not least, AMCHAM's Western Region signature event.

18th July 2018

**Supply Chain and Logistics Committee Meeting and Presentation on Authorized Economic Operator**

On 18th July 2018, AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee organised a Learning & Sharing (L&S) Session on 'Authorized Economic Operator' followed by a committee meeting. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM, followed by welcome remarks by Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – Supply Chain and Logistics Committee and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd. As part of the committee's L&S initiative a presentation on 'Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) - A Tool For Efficiency In International Trade' was made by Mr. Prashant Deshpande, Partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP and Mr. Himanshu Tewari, Partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP. The presentation highlights included benefits and features of the AEO program, stakeholders interests and AEO – readiness assessment framework. The presentation was followed by an active discussion by members on the SCL survey, visit to the Dow India Technology Centre and ideation on forthcoming events. The meeting concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Kandaswami.

31st July 2018

**Interactive Session on Monitoring and Measuring the Impact of CSR Programs: The Concept and Application of Social Return on Investment (SROI)**

On 31st July, AMCHAM India in partnership with TechnoServe India, organized an interactive session 'Monitoring and Measuring the Impact of CSR Programs: The Concept and Application of Social Return on Investment (SROI).' The initiative which was part of 'AMCHAM's Western Region - CSR Series' was an engaging platform of experience sharing and learning with experts. The meeting began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India, followed by a welcome address and setting of the stage by Mr. Punit Gupta, Country Director, TechnoServe India. Mr. Tim McLellan, COO, TechnoServe Inc. made the keynote address which entailed a detailed insight into TechnoServe's model of measuring impact, the needs and challenges faced, the concept of ROTI, SROI and TechnoServe's Corporate Measurement Approach. Mr. Punit Gupta further shed light on the subject with examples of TechnoServe's projects in India.

Mr. Saleem Khan, CEO, United Way of India, through his presentation spoke about the approach to calculating SROI practiced by United Way and highlighted the initiative of Generation United which offers programs for disconnected Indian youth who face a range of challenges. The project aims at engaging with youth in turn skilling them and providing employment opportunities. He also highlighted the challenges faced in calculating SROI as well as innovative solutions to address gaps across the skilling value chain to improve outcomes.

As part of experience sharing Ms. Imrana Khera and Dr. Neeta Rao from USAID shared best practices and challenges of CSR projects. The forum saw active discussions by participants. The session concluded with a vote of thanks and concluding remarks by Mr. Abhijit Yadav, Director, BRG Consulting (India) Pvt. Ltd.

3rd Aug 2018

### **Exclusive Meeting of the Western Region Committee with U.S. Consul General Edgard Kagan**

On 3rd August 2018, an exclusive meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee (WRC) 2018-2019 with U.S. Consul General Mumbai, Mr. Edgard Kagan, was held at the Bank of America office in Mumbai.

Through their opening remarks Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson AMCHAM and President & Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A and Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman - Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India shared with CG Edgard Kagan the keen interest of AMCHAM's Western Region in increasing collaboration and aligning with the common objectives of the U.S. Consulate in Mumbai.

Consul General Kagan began his address by reiterating the wonderful partnership between AMCHAM India and the U.S. Consulate Mumbai. He went on to share updates from his recent meeting with Ambassador Kenneth Juster and his visit to Washington DC. He also shared his views on the GSP scheme review as well as gave members a sense of the U.S. - India trade environment. He urged AMCHAM's Western Region members to approach the U.S. Consulate with issues and challenges that they face with regard to ease of doing business in India. With the aim of improving communication between AMCHAM and the U.S. Consulate it was decided to organize regular bi-monthly meeting between CG Kagan and the WRC. To give Western Region members a platform for sharing their concerns industry specific meetings were proposed.

CG Kagan and his team shared updates on the forthcoming National Day event scheduled to be held on 26th September in Pune which would be attended by Ambassador Kenneth Juster. The WRC also discussed the forthcoming AMCHAM Western Region signature event and invited the CG's inputs. Ms. Kaku Nakhate invited the U.S. Consulate's partnership and support to AMCHAM's newly formed Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee being steered from AMCHAM's Western Region. Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India handed over a document of an issue faced by a Western Region member company in ease of doing business in Maharashtra requesting the support of the U.S. Consulate in reaching out to the state government.

The meeting concluded with Consul General Edgard Kagan thanking the WRC for the insightful meeting as well as Ms. Kaku Nakhate for the kind hospitality in hosting the meeting.

20th Aug 2018

### **Western Region Committee Meeting**

The 4th meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee (WRC) 2018 - 2019 was held on Monday, 20th August 2018. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India and welcome address by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman - Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India. Committee members actively discussed agenda points which included updates and next steps towards the upcoming exclusive interactive discussion with Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster and senior representatives of U.S. companies in India scheduled to be held on 26th September in Pune and AMCHAM's WR signature event 2018 - 'Opportunity in Volatility' which is scheduled to be held on 6th December in Mumbai. The meeting concluded with Mr. Krishnamurti thanking committee members present for their participation and support.

23rd Aug 2018

### **Industry Visit to Dow India Technology Centre – An Initiative of the Supply Chain & Logistics Committee**

On 23rd August 2018 AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics Committee organized an industry visit to Dow India Technology Centre in Navi Mumbai as part of it's Sharing and Learning Initiative. The day began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM, followed by welcome remarks by Mr. Milind Tailor, Co-Chairperson – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM, and Head of Indirect Procurement & Electronic Security Asia Pacific, Diebold Nixdorf Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Alok Gautam, Country Logistics Leader – Supply Chain Operations, Dow Chemical International Pvt. Ltd., through a brief address, set the stage for the presentation, showcase and tour of Dow India's state-of-the-art technology centre.

Before embarking on a tour of the centre, Mr. Padmadas Nair, R&D TSND Leader, Dow Chemical International Pvt. Ltd. shared a presentation that highlighted the various capabilities of the facility that encompassed the various businesses of Dow – industrial solutions, consumer solutions, coating materials, packaging and speciality plastics, polyurethanes and core R&D groups like materials engineering centre, engineering and process science and analytical science. Mr. Nair shed detailed insight into the queries that participants had during the interactive Q&A session.

With protective gear on, the participants were then ushered on a visit to the various laboratories within the facility. With highly skilled R&D professionals at the centre, the Dow India Technology Centre was indeed a world class facility providing cross industry solutions and offers. The event was well attended.

30th Aug 2018

#### **An Informal Discussion on Regulatory Policy and Economic Risks Ahead**

On Thursday, 30th August 2018, AMCHAM India in partnership with FTI Consulting, organized an informal discussion on 'Regional Policy and Economic Risks Ahead.' The event began with a welcome by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India. Mr. Amrit Singh Deo, Managing Director, Strategic Communications, FTI Consulting, through his introductory remarks set the context of geo-political and economic realities, the effects of which India will soon begin to face. In the interactive session that followed Mr. Paul Downie, Chairman, Asia Pacific Strategic Communications, FTI Consulting, touched upon global trade wars, protectionism, economic sustainability, migration and economic slowdown in large developed countries and the effect that it has on emerging economies. As part of the discussion, participants also shared their views and queries. The event concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Rachid Fergati, Managing Director - Indian Sub-Continent, UPS, who thanked FTI Consulting, AMCHAM and the participants for a wonderful discussion.

30th Aug 2018

#### **Launch of the 2nd Annual Passage to Prosperity: India - Afghanistan International Trade and Investment Show**

On 30th August 2018 AMCHAM India as supporting partner to USAID launched the 2nd annual Passage to Prosperity: India – Afghanistan International Trade and Investment Show. Ms. Ramona El Hamzaoui, Deputy Mission Director, USAID/India welcomed partners and media representatives on the occasion which was followed by an informative video showcasing trade and business opportunities with Afghanistan. Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai, highlighted the significance of the trilateral initiative of the U.S., India and Afghanistan. The first session at the event saw a high profile representation and addresses by Dr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali, Ambassador to India, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Ms. Swati Kulkarni, Chief Passport Officer and Senior Joint-Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The next segment saw an engaging and interesting conversation moderated by CG Edgard Kagan with private sector representatives of the 3 partnering chambers which included Mr. Ishmeet Singh, Western Region Committee Member, AMCHAM and Country Manager, India Mattel Inc., Mr. Atul Joshi, CEO, Oyster Capital Management & Advisory and Chairman, IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Expert Committee on Economic Policy and Mr. Kannan, Western Region Representative, Confederation of Indian Industry. The program concluded with closing remarks by Ms. Ramona El Hamzaoui. The 2nd Annual Passage to Prosperity: India – Afghanistan International Trade and Investment Show would be held at the JW Marriott Hotel, Sahar in Mumbai from 12th -15th September 2018.

4th Sept 2018

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

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

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

6th Sept 2018

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

A meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee (WRC) 2018-2019 was held on Thursday, 6th September 2018. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India and welcome address by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman - Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India. Committee members actively discussed agenda points which included updates and next steps towards the upcoming exclusive interactive discussion with Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster and senior representatives of U.S. companies in India scheduled to be held on 26th Sept in Pune and AMCHAM's WR signature event 2018 - 'Opportunity in Volatility' which was scheduled to be held on 6th December in Mumbai. The meeting concluded with Mr. Hitesh Sharma, Vice Chairman - Western Region, AMCHAM and Partner, National Head of Life Science Industry, Ernst & Young, thanking committee members present for their valuable input and support.

7th Sept 2018

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

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

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

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

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

11th Sept 2018

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

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

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

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

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

26th Sept 2018

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

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

The meeting commenced with welcome remarks by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India. Mr. Krishnamurti expressed that it was indeed a privilege for AMCHAM to have Ambassador Juster address captains of U.S. industries on the occasion. He shared the vision and overview of AMCHAM's initiatives and activities in the Western Region and thanked Consul General Edgard Kagan and team for the great partnership that AMCHAM shares with the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai. Through her address, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President and Country Head, India, Bank of America N.A. highlighted the significant contributions being made by U.S. companies in CSR, the cutting edge leadership of companies in e-commerce as well as an overview of the U.S. – India growth story. Mr. Satish Nadiger, Managing Director and CEO, John Deere India Pvt. Ltd. shared a perspective of the role of U.S. companies in Pune and the growth of the city as a leading manufacturing and IT hub in India. He also spoke of the many initiatives of John Deere India Pvt. Ltd. including their technology centre and their partnership with the state government to create opportunities of employment and development for Indian farmers. The interactive discussion moderated by Ms. Kaku Nakhate brought forth issues of U.S. companies doing business in India. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Nakhate.

9th Oct 2018

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

A meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee (WRC) 2018-2019 was held on Tuesday, 9th October 2018. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India and welcome addresses by Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman - Western Region AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India. Committee members actively discussed agenda points which included updates and next steps towards the roundtable interactive discussion with Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai and the official launch of AMCHAM India's Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee and the WR Signature Event 2018 - 'Opportunity in Volatility' scheduled to be held on 6th December in Mumbai. The meeting concluded with Ms. Wahal thanking the Committee for their support in making the region's events a success.

12th Oct 2018

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

The 3rd meeting of AMCHAM's Supply Chain and Logistics (SCL) Committee for the year 2018-2019 was held on Friday, 12th October 2018 in Gurugram. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India. Through his welcome remarks Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman - Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd. shared an update on recently concluded events and initiatives of the SCL Committee.

Members discussed the AMCHAM SCL Survey – ‘Impact of GST’, recently concluded events of the SCL Committee and proposed activities and events for the year. The meeting was followed by an informative and engaging interaction with Invest India.

12th Oct 2018

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

On 12th October, 2018, AMCHAM India’s Supply Chain and Logistics (SCL) Committee organized an interactive session with experts from Invest India on ‘The Growth of Transportation, Infrastructure and MMLP in India’ as part of its Learning and Sharing initiative. The session began with welcome remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India and Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – SCL Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Jasmine Singh, Senior Executive Director, CBRE South Asia Pvt. Ltd. thanked the speaker, Mr. Rahul Agarwal, Principal Investment Specialist, Invest India and all the participants for joining on the occasion at the CBRE office and stated that he looked forward to an engaging and insightful session. Mr. Rahul Agarwal, Principal Investment Specialist, Invest India, shared a detailed presentation on infrastructure and logistics projects of the Government of India while focusing on Sagarmala, Bharatmala and FDI investments in the sector. An engaging and dynamic discussion followed. The event was well appreciated by all who participated.

17th Oct 2018

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

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

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

Mr. Krishnamurti ushered in the discussion by stating the need to nip micro regressions in the bud before they lead to macro regressions. During the fireside chat, Consul General Kagan spoke on his impression of how D&I is catching up in India compared to other APAC countries. Mr. Sanjiv Navangul spoke on the high value that Johnson & Johnson places on creating an inclusive workplace, their program on ‘unconscious bias’

to inculcate sensitivity among its employees, and the initiative of a daycare at the office to ensure women come back to work post child birth. Mr. Ramamoorthy spoke on the importance of integrating the strengths and capabilities of differently abled employees within the organization and the efforts therein undertaken at Cognizant Technology Solutions. He also spoke on the imperativeness of consciously involving employees across different age groups in the growth story of an organization. The interactive Q&A that followed brought forth a discussion on the need to succeed in creating not only a diverse demographic but to ensure that organizations have an inclusive mindset. The discussion also raised questions on measuring the success of D&I. Mr. Krishnamurti closed the fireside chat with a quote by Malcolm Forbes, "Diversity is the art of thinking independently together."

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

26th Oct 2018

**Interactive Session with Ms. Kate Barton, Global Vice Chair - Tax, EY on 'Global Tax Environment and How Technology is Disrupting Tax'**

On Friday, 26th October, AMCHAM, in partnership with EY, organized an interactive session with Ms. Kate Barton, Global Vice Chair - Tax, EY on 'Global Tax Environment and How Technology is Disrupting Tax' in Mumbai. The session began with opening remarks by Mr. Sudhir Kapadia, Partner & National Tax Leader, EY India, who welcomed everyone and shared an introduction to the speaker, Ms. Kate Barton, Global Vice Chair – Tax, EY. Through an interactive session Ms. Kate Barton provided expert insight on U.S. tax reforms, current global environment and its effect on tax and business, moving ahead from megatrends to Tax 2.0 and putting Tax 2.0 to work in a transformative age. In the engaging Q&A participants positioned queries on robotics and automation in tax, tax block chain trends and the effect of global tax scenarios on businesses. Ms. Barton aptly closed with a quote, "Do today what will take you to tomorrow." The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Vilas Vaman Dhavale, Managing Director, LORD India Pvt. Ltd. who thanked Ms. Kate Barton, EY and AMCHAM for the insightful and engaging event.

1st Nov 2018

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

AMCHAM organized a 'Specialized Workshop on Authorized Economic Operator' on Thursday, 1st November 2018 in Mumbai. The session began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India. This was followed by a keynote address by Mr. Subhash Agrawal, Commissioner (NS-IV), Jawaharlal Nehru Custom House (JNCH) who was delighted to meet with AMCHAM members and shared an overview of the AEO scheme and its benefits. He also reiterated the keen support extended to the AEO program by the government and invited U.S. companies to actively benefit from the program.

Through a detailed presentation, Mr. Ravindra Kumar Singh, ADC, Nodal Officer (AEO), Zone – II, JNCH, shared crucial information on the benefits and application process, requirements and criteria to obtain the AEO accreditation. Participants engaged in the interactive Q&A that answered several queries on AEO. Member companies who have already acquired accreditations shared their success stories. The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Milind Tailor, Co-Chairperson – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Head of Indirect Procurement & Electronic Security Asia Pacific, Diebold Nixdorf Private Limited, who thanked JNCH and AMCHAM for the insightful event that truly showcased the ease of doing business in India!

2nd Nov 2018

### Western Region Committee Concall

A meeting of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee to discuss the updates of the Western Region Signature Event 'Opportunity in Volatility' was held on Friday, 2nd November 2018 via concall. Committee members actively discussed the next steps for the WR Signature Event 2018 - 'Opportunity in Volatility' scheduled to be held on 6th December in Mumbai. The meeting concluded with warm wishes for a Happy Diwali.

10th - 11th Dec 2018

### AMCHAM supported USTDA Workshop on India Energy Storage and Smart Grids

AMCHAM was a supporting partner for a 2 day workshop in Mumbai organized by USTDA on energy storage and smart grids on December 10th - 11th. Day one commenced with an inaugural and welcome session followed by sessions on 'Developing a Smart and Sustainable Grid for India' where senior power and sector stakeholders discussed challenges, opportunities and best practices to meet the changing needs of India's power sector. A session on 'Innovative U.S. Technologies to Power India Solutions' saw technology suppliers discuss solutions to modernize India's electric power grid. There were two roundtable sessions on 'Smart Grid Technologies and Energy Storage Applications' focused on 'Innovative Smart Grid Technologies to Drive Efficiencies' and 'Energy Storage Applications to Support Grid Reliability' respectively. The day also saw a conversation on 'Integrating Renewables into the Grid' regarding Telangana's work to integrate renewable energy onto the grid. The session on 'Microgrids and Distributed Energy Resources to Support the Modern Grid' discussed technologies, policies and best practices to enable microgrids and distributed energy resources to support grid resiliency and reliability. The last session of the day was a look at case studies of 'U.S. - Indian Technology Partnerships for Demand Side Management.' It showcased how Indian utilities are collaborating with U.S. technology suppliers to address the challenges and opportunities of meeting the country's accelerating energy demands through the use of Demand Side Management (DSM) technologies. The two case studies were BRPL - Oracle Utilities Behavioral DSM Pilot Project and State of Andhra Pradesh - Agricultural, Industrial and Residential/Commercial DSM. The day concluded with a reception.

Day two of the workshop began with a review of key takeaways from the previous day. This was followed by an industry perspective on energy storage, a conversation on Maharashtra's power sector initiatives and financing strategies for the India power sector. An insightful session on 'Hybrid Renewable Energy Power Parks (Wind, Solar, Battery Storage)' witnessed a discussion on solutions to issues presented by large scale renewable energy integration. A session on 'E-Mobility Technologies for India's Transportation Systems' highlighted the technologies that will play into India's transition to e-mobility with an emphasis on electric vehicles (EVs) and the integration of EVs into the grid. The day concluded with a report on key takeaways from the workshop and brief closing remarks.

17th Dec 2018

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

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

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

19th Dec 2018

**Western Region Committee Concall**

On 19th December 2018, AMCHAM's Western Region Committee held a concall meeting to discuss the initiatives of the Western Region. The discussion included updates and action points on the interactive session with the Honb'le Chief Minister of Gujarat Mr. Vijay Rupani, the next steps towards the proposed interactive discussion with Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, Trade Winds Indo-Pacific Forum & Mission 2019, and updates and actions towards AMCHAM's WR signature event. An overview of the WR activities in 2018 were also highlighted while the committee members looked forward to a great partnership in 2019.

30th Jan 2019

**Western Region Committee Meeting**

On 30th January 2019, members of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee met to discuss the initiatives of AMCHAM's Western Region. The discussion included updates and defining of next steps towards the Western Region signature event, interactive discussion with the U.S. Consul General Mumbai and the proposed D&I event on the occasion of International Women's Day in March.

12th Feb 2019

**Roundtable Discussion on Indo-Pacific Strategy with Mr. Thomas L. Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South And Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State**

On Tuesday, 12th February 2019, AMCHAM India organized a roundtable discussion on Indo-Pacific strategy with Mr. Thomas L. Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South And Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. The meeting began with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AMCHAM India. This was followed by a welcome address by Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A. and an address by Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai.

Mr. Thomas L. Vajda began his address by thanking everyone present and acknowledging the wonderful experience and the relationship he shared with AMCHAM during his tenure as U.S. Consul General Mumbai from 2014-2017. Through his keynote he actively discussed and shared insight on the vision of the Indo-Pacific strategy as an area of partnership between the U.S. and the Indo region. He highlighted the key areas of focus namely defense and security, governance, energy, infrastructure, cyber security and the intent of the U.S. government to explore ways to promote partnership with the private sector in the region. The floor was opened for an interactive discussion with AMCHAM members which saw candid sharing of issues and feedback on the ease of doing business for American companies doing business in India and the region.

In closing, Mr. Vajda reiterated the keen support of the U.S. Consulate, U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Department of State to U.S. companies in India and the neighboring countries. The meeting concluded with closing remarks and vote of thanks by Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, South Asia, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd.

5th March 2019

**Diversity & Inclusion CXO Group Meeting**

The 1st meeting of AMCHAM's Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) CXO group was held on Tuesday, March 5th, in Mumbai. The meeting commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd., which was followed by a round of introductions. As part of the agenda, members discussed ideas on building and driving the D&I Committee and its 3 working groups - gender diversity, LGBTQ, differently enabled, ideated on forthcoming D&I events and initiatives as well as the frequency of committee meetings. Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Chairperson – D&I Committee, AMCHAM, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A., while sharing the vision, strategy and action plan of the committee expressed the need to have active participation of CXO's and D&I leaders from AMCHAM's pan-India membership enabling a platform of best practice sharing and networking. The meeting was immediately followed by the D&I Committee event 'Balance For Better – Driving Gender Balance at the Workplace.'

5th March 2019

**Balance For Better – Driving Gender Balance at the Workplace**

In celebration of the week of International Women's Day, AMCHAM's Diversity and Inclusion Committee organized 'Balance For Better – Driving Gender Balance at the Workplace' on Tuesday, March 5th, 2019, in Mumbai. The event began with a welcome address by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM. Through his remarks Mr. Hitesh Sharma, Vice Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM and Partner, National Head of Life Science Industry, EY India, spoke on the initiatives and vision of the D&I Committee. He urged AMCHAM members to actively participate and nominate leaders to be a part of the committee.

Ms. Wahal introduced the panelists of the fireside chat: Ms. MaryKay L. Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Emily McNeal, Senior Vice President, Group CFO, Flipkart, Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd. and the conversation facilitator of the session, Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Chairperson – Diversity & Inclusion Committee, AMCHAM, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A. The fireside chat was very engaging with panelists candidly sharing their professional journeys while also covering important issues, such as building an ecosystem, mentoring other women, overcoming obstacles, male advocacy and a changing scenario of gender balance in the workplace over the past years. The Q&A session saw participants seek advice and encouragement to build the D&I agenda, not only in their organizations, but also personally. Ms. Nakhate once again invited CXOs and D&I leaders of AMCHAM member companies to spread the word and actively participate in the committee's forthcoming initiatives.

The event concluded with closing remarks and vote of thanks by Mr. Rachid Fergati, Managing Director – Indian Sub-Continent, UPS, who thanked the panelists and participants for the dynamic dialogue. He thanked Bank of America for hosting the event and AMCHAM for the wonderful initiative.

12th March 2019

**U.S. - India Commercial Roundtable hosted by Consul General Edgard D. Kagan and Dr. P. Anbalagan, CEO, MIDC**

On Tuesday, 12th March 2019, AMCHAM, USIBC and USISPF, in partnership with the U.S. Consulate General Mumbai, organized a U.S. - India commercial roundtable which was hosted by U.S. Consul General Edgard D. Kagan and Dr. P. Anbalagan, CEO, MIDC. The meeting began with remarks by Dr. P. Anbalagan who welcomed the representatives of the U.S. government and the participants to the roundtable and encouraged an open dialogue to resolve issues and challenges in the ease of doing business faced by U.S. companies in Maharashtra. This was followed by remarks by Consul General Edgard D. Kagan who stated his confidence in the spirit of Maharashtra and the MIDC towards being strong partners to American businesses in the state.

As part of the commercial roundtable Dr. P. Anbalagan shared insights and updates on MIDC's land acquisition proposals and availabilities, water supply and the upgradation of water infrastructure, the government's electronic tendering process, law and order and incentives. Mr. Sanjay Ingale, Deputy Secretary, Department of Industries, shared insights on infrastructure developments, the new industrial policy, green technology, incentive packages and stated that the MIDC plans to increase investments in the next 5 years.

The interactive Q&A that followed saw U.S. companies share challenges and ask queries with regards to land acquisition, water shortage at their plants and the e-tendering process. Dr. Anbalagan and the MIDC officials present provided solutions to the queries posed as well as invited insights and suggestions from U.S. corporates for their roadshow scheduled to be held in June 2019. The meeting concluded with Consul General Edgard D. Kagan thanking Dr. P. Anbalagan and the representatives of MIDC for their openness to listen and exchange ideas and insights to support the ease of doing business. He also thanked AMCHAM for their continued support and partnership.

20th March 2019

**Supply Chain & Logistics Committee Meeting**

A meeting of AMCHAM's Supply Chain & Logistics (SCL) Committee was held on 20th March 2019 in Mumbai. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India. Through their welcome addresses Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman - Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP and Mr. Milind Tailor, Co-Chairman - Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Head of Indirect Procurement & Electronic Security Asia Pacific, Diebold Nixdorf Private Limited, reviewed the achievements of the SCL Committee over the past year and invited members to share their ideas to create a value added plan for 2019-2020. As part of the agenda members defined the overarching theme for the year, discussed proposed events and initiatives and ratified the SCL Committee office bearers 2019-2020.

5th April 2019

**Western Region Committee Meeting**

Members of AMCHAM's Western Region Committee met on 5th April 2019 at the Bank of America office in Mumbai to review the events and initiatives of the year 2018-19 and ratify the WR business plan for 2019-20. A few areas of discussion included the WR signature event, Trade Winds, topical events and membership drive.

5th April 2019

**Interactive Roundtable on 'Cyber Intelligence - at the Forefront of Cyber Tech'**

On Friday, 5th April 2019, AMCHAM India organized an Interactive Roundtable on 'Cyber Intelligence - at the Forefront of Cyber Tech.' The session began with a welcome address and setting of stage by Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson - Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India Pvt. Ltd. Ms. Thakkar thanked Consul General Kagan for his ongoing support and partnership to AMCHAM India. This was followed by a special address by Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai. Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director - Western Region, AMCHAM India introduced the panel of experts and invited them to share their views and experiences on the topic.

Through interactive presentations and discussions the speakers, Mr. Neel Bhatia, Director - Asia Region - Strategic Industry Collaboration, Platform Security Division, Intel Technology India Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Deepak Maheshwari, Director - Government Affairs, India, ASEAN and China, Symantec Software Solutions Private Ltd. and Mr. Kartik Shinde, Partner - Africa, India & Middle East (AIM) Advisory Services, EY India, shared their expertise on emerging cyber security trends in the digital world, cyber security threat landscape in India and cyber financial frauds respectively. An engaging discussion followed. The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks by Mr. Hitesh Sharma, Vice Chairperson - Western Region, AMCHAM and Partner, National Head of Life Science Industry, EY India, who thanked CG Kagan, the expert speakers, participants, Bank of America for hosting the event and AMCHAM India for the insightful and engaging platform of learning and sharing best practices.



Western Region Committee meeting in progress



Members at an interactive session on 'Monitoring and Measuring the Impact of CSR Programs: The Concept and Application of Social Return on Investment (SROI)' in Mumbai



AMCHAM's Supply Chain & Logistics Committee members at Dow India Technology Centre in Navi Mumbai as part of it's Sharing and Learning Initiative



U.S. Consul General Edgard D. Kagan and Ms. Manisha Singh, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, with AMCHAM members



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



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



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



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



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

(L-R) Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Chairman – Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AMCHAM and Sr. Director, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India, Ms. Charu Aggarwal, Regional Supply Chain Manager – North, Kellogg India and Mr. Rahul Agarwal, Principal Investment Specialist, Invest India



Participants at the interactive session with experts from Invest India on 'The Growth of Transportation, Infrastructure and MMLP in India'



Participants at the launch of AMCHAM's Diversity & Inclusion Committee



(L-R) Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM, Chairperson - D&I Committee, AMCHAM and President and Country Head (India), Bank of America giving a welcome speech during launch of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee



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



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



(L-R) Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurti, Chairman – Western Region, AMCHAM and Managing Director, RGP India, Consul General Edgard D. Kagan, Mr. Sanjiv Navangul, Chairman – Pharma Committee, AMCHAM and Managing Director – Janssen India, Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Chairman – HR Committee, AMCHAM and Executive Director – India, Cognizant Technology Solutions



Participants at the specialized workshop on Authorized Economic Operator with Mr. Subhash Agrawal, Commissioner (NS-IV), JNCH on 1st November in Mumbai



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



AMCHAM members at a roundtable discussion on Indo-Pacific strategy with Mr. Thomas L. Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State



Participants at 'Balance For Better - Driving Gender Balance at the Workplace' – an initiative of the D&I Committee

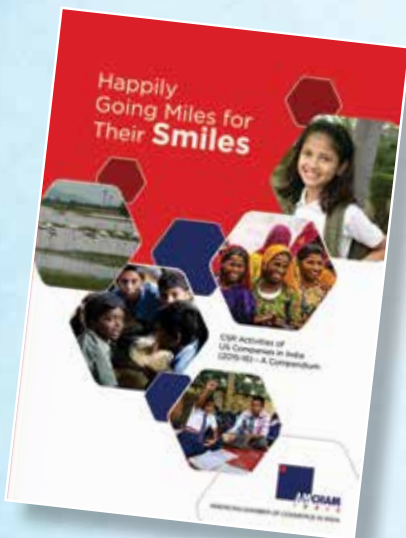
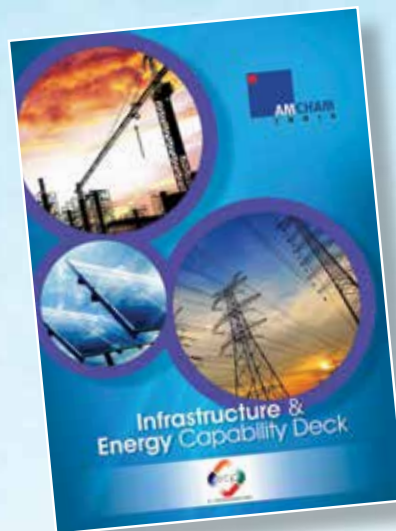


(L-R) Ms. MaryKay L. Carlson, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Ms. Emily McNeal, Sr. VP, Group CFO, Flipkart, Ms. Ursula Thakkar, Chairperson - Western Region, AMCHAM and MD, Lubrizol Advanced Materials India and Ms. Kaku Nakhate, Chairperson – Diversity & Inclusion Committee, AMCHAM, Vice Chairperson, AMCHAM and President & Country Head (India), Bank of America N.A.



U.S. Consul General Edgard Kagan in conversation with Mr. Ishmeet Singh, Member, Western Region Committee, AMCHAM and other Chamber representatives at the press event of 'Passage to Prosperity: India-Afghanistan International Trade and Investment Show' in Mumbai

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