

**116<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of**  
**Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry**  
**with Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla,**  
**Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, Government of India**  
**on 29 November 2017 at 12.30 p.m.at Taj Bengal, Kolkata**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the **Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry** was held with **Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, Government of India, as the Chief Guest, today.

Addressing the Session, Shri Shukla said that under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, around 9 cr. 56 lakhs employment opportunities were created in the last three and a half years, which included self employment opportunities. In line with Modiji's concept of sustainable and inclusive development of the economy covering even the poorest of the poor, micro & small loans were given for the marginalized class, including women. He mentioned that opening of Jan Dhan accounts were of much importance, till today around 35 cr. zero-balance accounts have been opened.

The Hon'ble Minister was of the opinion that the problems relating to imposition of GST would fade away with the passage of time, although there are still some problems in the rural and semi-urban areas, where there is not much of computer literacy. Camps are still being held in the rural areas for educating the business community, the Minister added.

**On NPAs by banks, he was of the opinion that banks would have to deal with the issues in an effective manner.**

**He spoke strongly about the growth potential of West Bengal and assured all help and support to the activities of the Chamber.**

Earlier, in his Presidential Address, **Shri Hemant Bangur** spoke about the robust Indian macro-economic parameters, imposition of GST, NPA issues of banks and lack of availability of collateral free loans for MSMEs. He felt that with the right push,

the state's regeneration process could sustain a double digit growth.

The Session ended with a hearty Vote of Thanks by **Shri Ramesh Agarwal**, Senior Vice President & President-Elect of the Chamber.