



06 October
2023

MCCI NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Greetings from MCCI.

This time our Newsletter looks different. It is different in content. We have not talked much about business but social affairs got prominence. We are looking at the society more deeply that will evolve the economic future.

But well, we are trying to get hold of more business from foreign lands and so this time our destination is Almaty in Kazakhstan. We have briefly said what we want to do but obviously more after we come back.

We have already entered the festive session. So let's be a little light, humorous and mirthy.

Wishing everyone all the best. Enjoy all the festivals to come.

Wishing everybody All the Best.

Happy reading.

Regards

Namit Bajoria
President, MCCI



MCCI initiates to put West Bengal on Kazakh businessline

Just months ahead of the Bengal Global Business Summit (GBS), the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Eastern India's leading Chamber is taking a 24 member delegation to Kazakhstan under the leadership of MCCI President, Namit Bajoria, who believes that there will be new avenues of businesses opening up between both the countries and the volume of Indian exports to Kazakhstan will go much beyond US \$ 436.54 million achieved during FY 22.

United Nations COMTRADE maintains the data base of International Trade. COMTRADE has the data base for exports from India until 2022. UN has found engagements between India and Kazakhstan increasing (see table) and new items of exports being added every year, pushing up the value and volume of trade. (see chart).

India being one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Kazakhstan in 1991, India and Kazakhstan have thereon boosted their relationship on multiple fronts. A robust bilateral institutional mechanism for developing trade, economic, scientific, technological, industrial and cultural



cooperation between the two countries was formulated with India - Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) in 1993.

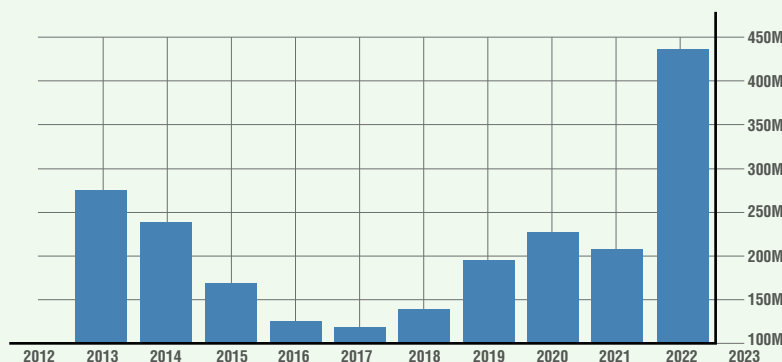
At present MCCI is looking at promoting Eastern India. The huge potential of supplying from the East of India, especially West Bengal, will be diligently looked into. MCCI's target is Almaty. One of the most efficient and modern town of Kazaksthan, erstwhile a part of the USSR. Here technology sways, fashion plays, architecture gets new ways. The places' infrastructure network is on an expanding path and hence a number of meetings have been arranged to showcase what can the MCCI delegation offer, said Suresh Agarwal, a committee member and a coordinator for this delegation.

The 24 member delegation in its seven day tour between October 7 & October 13 will visit the mayor of Almaty, will hold business discussion with an international delegation, meet the Kunaev City Governor, visit an apple farm and also visit the Hyundai factory there.

Since Kazakasthan is gradually opening up to private investmen with the government handholding still continuing, the delegation with meet both the government representatives and private sector representative.

It's after three years that an MCCI delegation is going to a foreign land for business talks. The Chamber expects a counter delegation from Kazaksthan to India soon said Mr. Vishal Jhajharia, Past President, MCCI.

India Exports to Kazakhstan	Value	Year
Electrical, electronic equipment	\$258.69M	2022
Pharmaceutical products	\$72.68M	2022
Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers	\$19.88M	2022
Coffee, tea, mate and spices	\$19.80M	2022
Optical, photo, technical, medical apparatus	\$13.82M	2022
Vehicles other than railway, tramway	\$9.30M	2022
Ceramic products	\$8.02M	2022
Organic chemicals	\$7.69M	2022
Articles of iron or steel	\$2.90M	2022
Meat and edible meat offal	\$2.37M	2022
Essential oils, perfumes, cosmetics, toileteries	\$2.02M	2022
Rubbers	\$1.85M	2022
Explosives, pyrotechnics matches, pyrophorics	\$1.53M	2022
Tools, implements, cutlery of base metal	\$1.36M	2022
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Canada looks up at India for entrepreneurship and education



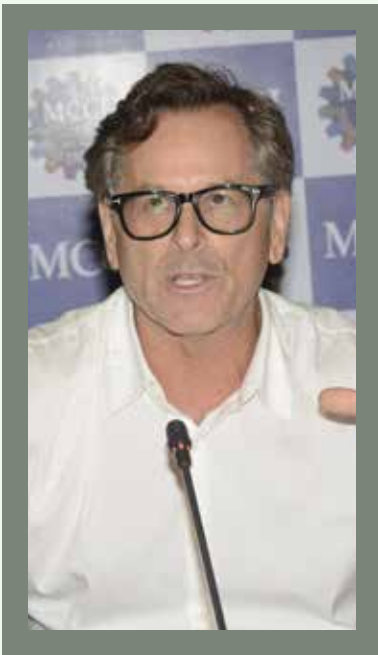
The least populace wants to open up for the highest populace for business and education. That is what the **Mr. Stephen W. Green**, Senior Managing Partner, Green & Spiegel (G&S), **Mr. Eren Sari**, Manager, Business Immigration & Development, Green & Spiegel (G&S), and **Mr. Mehmet Komurcu**, Partner, Dentons Canada LLP and **Mr. Imran Zaki**, Educationist & Social Activist revealed about Canada at the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry's **special session on "Canada: The Gateway to Global Business"** on September 8 at the MCCI conference hall.

Mr. Green, said that Canada is one of the least populated counties in the world so it is a great opportunity for foreigners to set up businesses in the country.

"The Canadian government provides special student visa and also introduces a special Entrepreneurial Programme for foreign companies. Canada is looking for entrepreneurs to create jobs and help the economy. The Start-up Visa Programme is an opportunity for both countries to work together and grow together. The Government of Canada provides venture capitalists, angel investors, and incubation centers for the investors," **Mr. Green** said adding that Canada has a very effective tax system. "Only the residents of Canada are required to pay taxes," he asserted.

Mr. Mehmet Komurcu, Partner, Dentons Canada LLP said that in Canada foreign investors can pursue in forms of franchise, solopreneurship and partnership. For business, it is easy to introduce new technologies or ideas in Canada because Canadians are conservative in adopting new things.

Mr. Namit Bajoria, President, MCCI in his



Welcome Address said that one of the largest immigrant groups in Canada is people of Indian origin. The 22 Indian-origin Members of Parliament (in the total strength of 338) in the House of Commons of Canada, is an example of the soft power of the Indian diaspora in the country.

He further added that since 2018, India has also been the largest source country for international students in Canada. Canada faces manpower shortages in sectors like IT and ITeS, healthcare, engineering, and education services, and the Indian workforce can help to mitigate the shortages. The removal of barriers to the mobility of skilled workers and professionals can be an area for discussion, Mr. Bajoria said.

Mr. B. D. Agarwal, Member, Council on Foreign Trade, MCCI, concluded the programme with a vote of thanks.

MCCI's knowledge session takes dip in tomorrow's mind



“Empowering Tomorrow’s Minds : Parenting in a Changing Educational Landscape” this was the idea which Merchants’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) took up considering the idea of future India, a nation which is fast moving, fast changing and evolving with new models.

As a business Chamber, it doesn’t look natural to gather with a group of teachers and parents at the Taj Bengal on a Saturday morning (September 23) to discuss the needs of children to empower their minds. But the economy shapes along with the shaping up of society. Therefore MCCI has been an early bird in trying to read the future.

The Government has brought in a new National education Policy. State education boards are changing their course curriculum, digitization has taken an enormous space in the teaching space. So where will all these lead to?

The Knowledge session inaugurated by **Dr. Skand Bali**, Principal, The Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet, discussed on **“Career Counselling”**; **“Parent School Connect - the Necessary Bridge”**; **“Importance of Foreign Language for Students: “How to Choose a Right Education Board for a Child”** and **“Role of Learning Management Systems in Education”**. **Shri Nirmal Agarwal**, Founder, Cognix Knowledge Group; **Smt. Damayanti Mukherjee**, Principal, Modern High School for Girls; **Smt. Sanjukta Poddar**, Head of Student Development, Calcutta International School, **Smt. Smaranika Tripathy**, Clinical



Psychologist, Belle Vue Clinic and **Shri Simarpreet Singh**, Director, JIS Group talked and interacted on the above said topics to capture the changing landscape of education and the challenges faced by parents.

While speaking on “**How to Choose a Right Education Board for your Child**” **Dr. Skand Bali** suggested that before choosing a Right Education Board, consideration of few factors such as ‘types of education boards’, ‘assessing a Child’s needs and goals’, “researching about the schools by talking to other parents and students and visiting schools”, “reviewing the curriculum” and “considering long-term plans” are crucial. “It is the school which is much more important than the Board of Education” – said Dr. Bali.

Shri Namit Bajoria, President, MCCI, delivering the Welcome address highlighted a few challenges faced by parents such as increasing competition and pressure for academic success, technological advancements, shifting pedagogical approaches to name a few. He viewed that equipping children with **transferable skills such as adaptability, critical thinking, and digital literacy would empower them to succeed in an ever-changing world.**

Shri Sunil Agarwal, Chairman, Council on Education, MCCI viewed that parenting plays a crucial role in shaping the educational

experiences of children, especially in a rapidly changing educational landscape. He suggested that with the advent of new technologies, evolving teaching methodologies, and the need for a holistic approach to education, parents must be active participants in empowering their children's minds.

Shri Nirmal Agarwal suggested to focus on four factors- ‘**Desire**’, ‘**Knowledge**’ ‘**Dedication**’ and ‘**emotional power**’ while choosing the right career path. He mentioned that one million children are turning 18 every month in India. He also added that in the changing world of education there are new careers getting added every year..

Smt Damayanti Mukherjee, while sharing her views on “**Parent School Connect - the necessary Bridge**” emphasized on honest and equal level communication between parents and children. She suggested that a child should be in the centre of attention and flow of care, love and responsibility should come from school and parents. She also added that there must be achievable and plausible expectations from the child. The need for learning a second language which would enhance cognitive skills, cultural understanding, expand career opportunities was important said **Smt. Sanjukta Poddar**. She highlighted a few tips for learning foreign



language. “Choose a language that you’re passionate about,” she said.

While emphasizing on the positive aspect of social media, **Smt Smaranika Tripathy**, suggested parents to connect with their child’s world and be a networked parent. “There is no harm to play games online with your child for a few hours” – said Smt. Tripathy. It is parents who are more stressed than the Children. “As parents we put expectations on our children and become judgmental of their actions”.

Shri Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group spoke about the latest initiative of introducing Learning Management Systems in Education by JIS Group. **Shri Alok Sharma**, Co-Chairman, Council on Education, MCCI, proposed the vote of thanks.



The Spirit of NEP

Back in the days of Hiuen Tsang and Fa Hien, India was a seat of learning. Pataliputra was the centre which created great scholars, who spread through out the world to impart knowledge. India aspires to get back the glory of those golden days.

India's New National Education Policy 2023 aspires to position the Nation as a prominent global hub of knowledge and innovation. This is ambitious. A vision which can be realized through a comprehensive and significant strategy comprised of four key pillars: accessibility, equity, high quality and accountability.

But accountability? This is where the rub is. Lets first make knowledge free. In the words of Tagore;

“Where knowledge is free

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls. Where words comes out from the depth of the truth.....let my country awake.”

MCCI and CMRI vows to reach out to the populace with health care, Nigam stresses on delivery mechanism



Shri Narayan Swaroop Nigam, Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare stressed on the importance of delivery mechanism as an answer to the well being of the population even as science and technology was at random use in the field of medical science.

Nigam was speaking at a special session on “Advancement in Health Care, Bridging Science and Practice”, jointly organised by the Merchants’ Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the. C K Birla Hospitals (CMRI) on Saturday, September 16.

MCCI and the CMRI Hospitals will partner in advancing medical science while also looking into the ways of implementing science with practice.

Addressing the session as the Chief Guest, **Shri**

Nigam, said that with the advent of digital technology, data speed and cloud system, providing medical services have become possible even in the remotest area. He referred to Telemedicine centres all over West Bengal, where there were 8,000 touch points with 65,000 people taking benefit out of it. He also spoke about Suswasthya Kendras run by the Govt. for those who didn’t have an access. These are the prime movers of extension of treatment, he added.

He said vaccines were created, tested and put into use within one year. Science was moving along with the advancement of the disease. He extended sincere thanks to the scientists, doctors and technically skilled people because of which it was possible to deal with COVID.

The Principal Secretary pointed out that the



concept of public health has changed. Earlier, diseases like small pox and tuberculosis were extremely dreadful. With the advent of Science now, even a disease like Cancer is treatable with intervention at the right time. He stressed on an accessible, affordable and effective healthcare system for the masses, even in a remote area.

CMRI on the other hand said it was poised to create a dedicated Oncology Centre to meet the patient demand, while joint replacement was another area in which patient demand has been increasing. The hospital has evolved a unique and groundbreaking Endoscopy Bariatric Surgery, a first of its kind in Kolkata, which the CK Birla Group hospital claims to be unmatched in Eastern India.

Shri Sombrata Roy, Unit head of CMRI Hospitals, Kolkata said, “We are approaching fifty four years of being the best in healthcare, with a record accomplishment in clinical excellence and patient service.

Following India’s presidency in G20, which gave priority to strengthen primary healthcare, health workforce, and essential health services to



better-than-pre-pandemic levels, ideally within the next two - three years, CMRI will work on those lines for reaching out to more patients with their expansion and technology adoption.

In fact the entire health care sector has expansion plans over the next five years and MCCI has pointed out that core profitability after factoring in the impact of bed expansion will improve with an EBIDTA growth of 8 percent to 10 percent over a period of five years, a MCCI spokesperson said citing a Kotak Securities report. While the hospital space will remain constructive by a healthy EBITDA and free cash flows over the medium term period, the Chamber have concerns over the escalating valuations, the spokesperson said.

MCCI President, Shri Namit Bajoria, while delivering his welcome address pointed out to the WHO’s



recommendation of all countries conducting a substantive gender equity and inclusion analysis grounded in human rights standards and principles to inform baseline assessment, design planning and implementation.” He told the media that MCCI was willing to partner CMRI in implementation of such recommendation and would likely work out a plan for it.

Shri Roy said, following the best practice and evidence-based medicine the hospital aims to create a haven where healing is nurtured and where patients are not just treated but cared for with utmost empathy and respect.

He said in West Bengal’s health sector, extraordinary growth was taking place. “Medical science and technology sector was an extraordinary phenomenon that needed to be highlighted in the present time.

The introduction of robotic surgery was a watershed moment in this path. CMRI Hospital has completed 500 successful robotic procedures under the competent supervision of Dr. Rakesh Rajput, Director and HOD of the Department of Orthopaedic and Robotic Joint Replacements Surgery at CMRI. The state-of-the-art Respiratory Care Unit, overseen by **Dr. Raja Dhar**, Director and Head of the Department of Pulmonology at CMRI consistently rated among the finest in the country in terms of service and patient care.

CMRI’s commitment to Gastro Science under, **Dr. Sarfaraz J Baig** (GI and Bariatric Surgeon at CMRI Kolkata) evolved a unique and groundbreaking Endoscopy Bariatric Surgery. “Our commitment to excellence and innovation will redefine what it means to heal and the future of healthcare in Bengal.” Dr. Baig said.

There is also the need to address the challenges that hinder the translation of scientific discoveries into practical applications, through enabling policies from the government and adequate investment. Upgradation of infrastructure in healthcare manufacturing units is also essential to support initiatives that facilitate the transfer of scientific innovations into the hands of those who can use them to improve patient outcomes, **Shri Rajendra Khandelwal**, Chairman, Council on Healthcare, MCCI said.

Chairman, Council on Human Resource & Skill Development, MCCI, **Shri Smrajit Mitra** concluded the event with a vote of thanks



Business Automation using Advanced Excel

Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a Workshop on “**Business Automation using Advanced Excel**” on Saturday, 9th September 2023 at 11.00 AM at MCCI Conference Hall. The Workshop was addressed by **CA Shyam Agarwal**, Partner, R G Agarwala & Co. and **CA Devarshi Bhuwalka**, Founder, Devarshi Bhuwalka & Co.

In his Welcome Address, **Shri Yashovardhan Gupta**, Chairman, Council on IT & Communication, MCCI mentioned that the Workshop was of extreme importance, as Advanced Excel was being used in a big way towards business automation. This had assumed much more importance with the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and ChatGPT.

In his Special Address, **Shri Sanjib Sanghi**, Co-Chairman, Council on IT & Communication, MCCI pointed out that the programmes of IT Council had received very good response recently. He spoke about

the future programmes of the Council including among others, a Session on Social Media Optimization.

The Speakers discussed about the following topics :

- Advanced Excel Functions for various routine tasks, including Functions like IF, CHOOSE, XLOOKUP, SUMIFS, COUNTIFS, TEXTJOIN, IFERROR, LEN, LARGE, SMALL and others
- Automating MIS/FS Reporting : Formatting of Tables using Power Query, advanced features like Pivot Table
- Using ChatGPT to use Excel efficiently Data extraction and transformation from multiple sources to Excel using AI : Text File Data Extraction using Get Data Box, and also transform through PowerQuery Window.
- Excel Automation Tools : reference was made of VBA coding to automate different tasks, for example, how to convert figures into words.

CA Shyam Agarwal said that popularity of ChatGPT is growing day by day. It has a variety of use cases ranging from healthcare to banking domain.

CA Devarshi Bhuwalka pointed out that even though Microsoft Office 365 contains fair amount of AI in Excel, AI had been in built in Excel in all versions since 2016. OpenAI also has a public API which makes it easy to embed ChatGPT in any web application or software. Since web API is available, the same could be used in MS Excel as well using VBA code. Some of the beginners may not be familiar with VBA but with Excel Macros. VBA is basically a programming language used to create Excel Macros to automate repetitive tasks, he added.

The Workshop was well attended and participated by representatives of member-firms of the Chamber and select non-members.



32nd MCCI MSME Help Desk

32nd MCCI MSME Help Desk was organized on 20th September 2023 from 4.00 PM onwards at MCCI Conference Hall.

The Mentor Panel for the Help Desk included :

- **Shri Rajkumar Middya**, Joint Director (P & S), MSME, Government of West Bengal (Chief Mentor);
- **Shri Sanjib Kothari**, Treasurer and Chairman, Council on MSMEs, MCCI;
- **Shri Vivek Jalan**, Co-Chairman, Council on GST, Indirect & State Taxes, MCCI
- M/s. Suvidha Consultants as Technical Partner.

The objectives of the Help Desk are to help MSMEs leverage the opportunities and explore solutions to the key issues, in which domain and subject matter experts will be available for mentoring, handholding and consultation for the MSME units.

The Help Desk was attended by members and select guest-units. There was good participation from the districts of West Bengal.

There were 10 mentee units each having a one-on-one session with the Mentor Panel.



2nd MCCI Legal Help Desk

The 2nd MCCI Legal Help Desk was held on Monday, 4 September 2023 at 4.30 PM at MCCI Conference Hall. The Help Desk was held in association with the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences.

The objective of the Help Desk was to provide mentoring & handholding services to our members and MSME units to help them address issues relating to :

- Corporate Governance
- Competition Law
- Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code [IBC]
- Environmental & Social Goals [ESG]

The Help Desk was mentored by :

- **Dr. Mamta Binani**, Chairperson, Council on Legal & Corporate Governance, MCCI
- **Prof. Vaneeta Patnaik**, Associate Professor, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences.

The Help Desk was attended by members and select guest-units. There were 9 Mentee units each having a one-on-one session with the Mentor Panel.

ABOUT MCCI

MCCI is a 122 years old non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with 700 direct members and 15,000 indirect members covering a wide cross-section of small, medium & large industries, trade and services besides, 10 Associations of Industry & Trade are also affiliated to MCCI.

MCCI addresses various aspects of the industry, trade and service sectors, their issues & Challenges and through several learning and best practices forums, guide them to the future. MCCI also helps members to explore international business opportunities through its international connect initiatives.

MCCI has been working on the development of an indigenous vibrant industrial base in the country, especially in Eastern India. The indomitable spirit and quest to build an institution to safeguard the interests of the indigenous business community led to the birth of Vaishya Sabha and with the changing times, now it stands as MCCI. MCCI has evolved to reinvent itself to address the challenges in this era of new normal.

MCCI works as a bridge between businesses and the policy makers to create a conducive economic environment for the industry to prosper and flourish while benefitting all the stakeholders in the economy. The Executive Committee, which has 30 Councils reporting to it, is the principal facilitating structure of the Chamber.

We are one of the leading Chambers of Eastern India relentlessly working for the betterment of MSMEs through several initiatives. MSME Helpdesk, IP facilitation, connecting with Banking and Financial institutions, technology for MSMEs, besides taking up members' issues at the appropriate level. Several Business meets are organized for the benefit of the members.



Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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