



Indian Chamber News

Newsletter of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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Indian Chamber ushers in the New Year in Grand Style!

ICCI welcomed the New Year in a Grand Style... with lively entertainment programs arranged at the newly renovated Children's Park, which was constructed and is being maintained by the Indian Chamber for many years. The celebrations were kicked off by the Past President and founder member of the Park committee Mr. N.P. Ouseph, who along with other office bearers was instrumental in conceiving and constructing the children park decades back, in a glittering function attended by Mr. Ebrahim Kunju, MLA, Mr. TK Babu, local councillor, Mr. TK Ashraf, Mr. KJ Sohan, Standing Committee Chairmen of Cochin Corporation, among others. The Park played host to numerous enthusiastic kids and their joyful



Mr N.P. Ouseph, Past President of the chamber inaugurating New year celebrations.

parents who assembled in large numbers to take part in the inaugural function and a lively entertainment programme followed. They were treated with

pleasing visuals of dances and songs thrown in a well packaged show hosted by professionals for two days. The park wore a festive look illuminated with decorative lights and stars, which continued till the dawn of 2011.

The President, Mr. P. Prathapachandran presided over the function. Thanking the local Resident's associations in the area including Sujatha Residents Association and its office bearers for bringing back the glorious past the park enjoyed in the minds of the residents in the locality, Mr. Prathapachandran announced that arrangements have been made to present cultural programmes in the park on all second Saturdays of every month. Any upcoming artiste can utilize the venue, free of cost, to showcase their talents by contacting the chamber officials. The play equipments of the park is open to young adults upto 12 years of age from 4 pm till 8.30 pm on all days.



A scene from colorful and lively dance performance during Newyear programme at the Children's Park.

Indian Chamber ready to spread its wings.....and take off!

Negotiations are in the final stages for starting a new office of the Chamber at the Cochin International Airport area at the CHA buildings near the Air Cargo Complex with a view to provide better service to its constituents. More details will follow.

The President joins the Committee Members in wishing all the Members of the Indian Chamber and their families

A joyous and prosperous New Year.

From the President's Desk



Dear member,

It is with immense pleasure that we present the first newsletter of the chamber for the year. It's been over three months since I took over the reigns of the Chamber and the days have been very hectic since then.

The global village has been witnessing some of the diverse acts of nature. While we have floods in Australia, the western world is covered in knee deep snow, with a tremor in Haiti and drought in some African villages.

Not to be left behind, in India, we have rollercoaster drive in double digit inflation hovering back and forth to single digits, price rise of essentials north bound than ever before, petroleum prices and bank rates seeing upwards revision on fortnightly basis, we are in for dynamic changes than before. 'Change' being the only constant, is itself witnessing dynamism in every sphere of life.

Down in Kochi- from a moderate sleepy haven we have woken up to multifarious activities seen around. With the Vallarpadam project becoming a reality next month to Kochi imprinting a map in cricket world through IPL, the city has never been a better place to live in.

At the Indian Chamber, we have undertaken quite a few developmental activities in the past couple of months and have lined up a host of action plans ahead. I am ecstatic in sharing the info that the chamber is on the threshold of attaining a membership of 500 on its rolls for the first time, and a functional office at Nedumbasserry airport also becoming a reality in February.

Dear members, I request you all to be part of our activities and join in your area of interest. We welcome your suggestions.

It is my pleasure to wish all the members and their families a fruitful New year ahead.

P. Prathapachandran, President

View from the Top

The corporate culture has imbibed the theory of pyramid structure in hierarchy and it is accepted that as you go up the pyramid, the view becomes clearer. It is lonely at the top, is what one hears in the corridor of CEO conclaves, and that is the price one pays for ascendancy.

Even in normal lives, one could see that at the top the vision becomes clearer. In a bi-lane traffic, the bus driver can see clearly ahead of him, better than the person in the car in front of him. The car following the bus could be in a favourable position even if the driver can see only the bus in front, and if he/she follows the bus, the result is that most often, he/she reaches faster than the rest. But does this apply to the person who looks down from the top of the world, like the Mt Everest for us. What could he/she be seeing from there? Is the vision clear down on earth? or has he/she lost touch with reality? Could it be myopia or is it the real view? and how long can one survive there? Minutes or may be seconds.

That takes us to some ground realities. The view from the top need not always be clear and the touch with reality could be lost, if the climb is higher than deserved. Also, it will be difficult to hang on at the top for long. Translated to corporate world, it could end up in disaster and Peter principle takes over (In a hierarchy every employee tends to rise to his level of incompetence).

In the present day context, we find many breaking this principle, and the result is disastrous for all. Should we find a self inflicting balance imposed voluntarily. Any takers to lead?

S. Ramakrishnan, COO

Quotable Quotes :

Dream is not what you see in sleep, Dream is the thing which does not let you sleep.

If a man empty his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best dividends - Benjamin Franklin, an American statesman and inventor

Visit Indian Chamber Website
www.iccicochin.com

West Kochi – Best Kochi the central theme

Indian Chamber initiated a project to make the 'west Kochi – the best Kochi' in the coming months by undertaking developmental activities and associating with any organization in this regard. As a first step towards realizing this objective, Indian Chamber organized a 'Mass Cleaning' programme at the Fort Kochi beach to clear the area of accumulated weeds. This was inaugurated by Mr. P. Prathapachandran, President, Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and included participation from Residents Associations, Heritage Society, Tourism Dept, Ice Cream vendors Association, Indian Navy among others. Mr. Antony Kureethara, local Councillor also took part. A meeting was held at the behest of the Chamber with RDO, Police, Councillor, and Representatives of the Residents Association at the Chamber hall on 17 December 2010 to chalk out future plans. A meeting with the District Collector was also held by the President and the Chief Operating Officer of the Chamber in this regard. The Chamber has mooted the idea of making the Beach area to be Plastic Free Zone and has assured all support in the venture to any like minded organisation.



Mr. P. Prathapachandran, President Indian Chamber inaugurating Mass cleaning drive at Fort Kochi beach initiated by the chamber.

The floating weeds accumulate daily hindering cleaning operations. Though the result is not tangible as of now, it is expected to be an ongoing process. A separate committee under RDO will evaluate the action plan in due course.

Mayor of Kochi visits Indian Chamber

A warm reception was accorded to the newly elected Mayor of the Kochi Corporation Mr. Tony Chamany at the Chamber hall on November 24, 2010. The Chamber Auditorium witnessed large gathering including 24 Councillors representing various divisions of the Corporation. The Mayor lauded the developmental role played by the Indian Chamber to promote trade and commerce. He also distributed about 500 CFL lamps, sponsored by the Chamber, to local residents to inculcate the



Mayor Mr. Tony Chammany addressing the members of the Chamber. Also seen are M/s KJ Sohan, Prathapachandran, JS Chawla & Bharat Khona

habit of conserving scarce energy resources. MK Mehta Memorial Award to winners of Essay competition held for the SSLC students was given away by the Mayor. Mr. P. Prathapachandran, President, Indian Chamber presided over the function and Mr. Bharat Khona proposed vote of thanks.

Brainstorming session with the Seniors.

An informal gathering of the Past Presidents of the Chamber was held on November 11, 2010 aimed to seek suggestions and strategies, which could be implemented, to restore the past glory enjoyed by the Chamber in the vicinity for many decades. The well-attended meeting spurned out many ideas worth



Session with Past Presidents in progress pursuing, some of which will be put to practice in the coming period. So, if you happen to notice healthy changes in the functioning of the Chamber, you know very well who to thank!!

Green Award and free Seed Distribution:

Green Award – instituted by the Chamber for the first time will be awarded to an individual for the best eco friendly project run by him/her. The criteria and the selection process have already been



Vice President, Mr. PL Prakash James addressing the audience

intimated to all our members through separate communication. All members are requested to utilize the opportunity to go green and bag the Award. Hon'ble Ministers Mullakara Ratnakaran and Benoy Viswam have consented to participate in the program scheduled in February 2011.



A cross section of the audience during the organic farming meeting.

To promote organic terrace farming and effective waste disposal among the residents, a booklet outlining the scientific approach to be inculcated is being distributed. The chamber places on record the contributions of Mr. Rangdasa Prabhu, President EDRAAC and Mr. A R S Vadyar, Director Yasoram Charitable Trust in this project. A follow-up meeting is being organized in coming days with representatives of Resident Associations. For further details, kindly contact the Chamber Secretariat.

Trade related news

Meeting with the Commissioner, Commercial Taxes, Kerala:

A meeting with Mr. Suman Billa IAS, Commissioner, Commercial Taxes, Kerala was held on November 12, 2010 at the Chamber auditorium, based on a detailed memorandum submitted by the chamber citing the hardships faced by various trade bodies with regard to VAT. Representatives from various trade bodies participated and interacted with the Commissioner during the occasion. As an off shoot of this meet, the Commissionerate organised a seminar on November 30, 2010 at Trivandrum where representatives of the Cochin Rubber Merchants Association were invited to present their views.

District Level VAT Consultative Committee Meeting:

Some of the points discussed at the District Level VAT Consultative Committee Meeting held on 13th October 2010, include Detention of vehicle without valid and proper reasons, Non publication of Departmental Circulars and Notification on the Website and through Print media, Detention of goods on the basis of Circular No.C2-13255/06/CT, Sudden Departure from existing procedures without prior discussions and giving breathing time to the Trade for evolving the same, and problems in E Declarations.

Meeting with Road Safety Commissioner:

The Chamber initiated a meeting with the Road Safety Commissioner on October 24, 2010 at the Guest House, Ernakulam to discuss matters related to movement of containers. Mr. Prathapachandran, President and Mr. P L Prakash James, Vice-President were present. On the basis of the discussions, detailed submissions have been forwarded to the Road Safety Commissioner, Trivandrum. It also highlighted the difficulties faced by the exporters, if the proposal to restrict the movement of containers between 8.a.m. and 8.p.m, is implemented.

News and Events

MK Mehta Memorial Essay Competition for School Students:

The Chamber conducted M K Mehta Memorial Essay Competition for SSLC Students from the Schools in West Kochi on October 20, 2010. Twenty two Students from various schools participated in the competition. The winners were awarded prizes by worshipful Mayor of Cochin Corporation.

Elocution Contest for College Students:

The 46th A D Shroff Memorial Inter-Collegiate Elocution Contest was conducted by the Chamber on behalf of the Forum of Free Enterprise, Mumbai on October 20, 2010. The contest open to college students was to encourage the young generation to present their views on current topics of interest thereby improving public speaking skills. The topics for this year included The Telecom revolution in India, Emergency of India as a hub for global Automobile industry, Industrial disasters – Lessons from Bhopal tragedy, Educational reforms – significance to right to education. The keenly fought contest saw Ms Asna M Nesrin, U C College, Aluva, Ms Nithya Ramesh, Maharajas College, Ernakulam, and Ms Deepa Venugopal, Cochin College, Cochin, emerging as winners.

Presentation contest for B School students

The Chamber in association with Forum of free Enterprises, Mumbai organised the Presentation Contest for Management Students. B school students



Presentation by B School Students in progress

from various colleges participated. Team from SCMS School of Technology and Management, Cochin bagged the first place, followed by Rajagiri Centre for Business Studies at second place. The third place was

shared by Bhavan's Royal Institute of Management, and Albertian Institute of Management. Panel of judges included Ms. Christina (Project Coordinator, UNESCO), Mr. Chvb Chari (Regional Manager, Central Bank of India), and Mr. RV Kilikar (Principal, SRBS, Cochin).

Donation of Books to Iqbal Library:

The Chamber in association with Lions Club donated books to Iqbal Library on October 23, 2010 at a function inaugurated by Mr. Anwar Hashim. Mr. P. Prathapachandran, Chamber President donated the books on behalf of the Chamber.

A trip to remember:

The chamber organized a pleasure trip for the students and family members of the students of DISHA, an institution for specially abled children on December 12, 2010 to Veegaland. Teachers and staff members accompanied them. Some of the students and parents narrated the experience they had at the amusement park during the X-Mas function organized by DISHA. It is heartening to note that DISHA, promoted by the Chamber is running successfully for the past many years in the chamber premises. Members are welcome to forward their suggestions for the improvement of this project.

Blood Donation Camp:

All Kerala Bank Employees Federation, Cochin Town Committee organized a Blood Donation Camp at the Chamber Auditorium in association with the Chamber on November 11, 2010. President, Mr. P. Prathapachandran, presided over the function which was inaugurated by the Asst Commissioner of Police, Mattancherry, Mr. Mohammed Rafeeq.

Chamber Halls on rent

Chamber has two air-conditioned halls with matching facilities to offer to hold your business meetings at nominal rent. The auditorium has a capacity of 125 pax and the Board room can accommodate about 25 persons.

So, the next time you plan to organize any event, think of the Chamber Halls!!!!

Please drop in/contact the chamber office for further details.

Forthcoming Programmes

January 25, 2011:

Clients Meet – A meeting with the clients of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be held at the Durbar Hall, Hotel Casino, Wellington Island on Tuesday, January 25, 2011.

February 2011

Inauguration of Nedumbassery Airport office of the Indian Chamber at Airport Cargo Complex, CHA Buildings, CIAL. Details will be intimated soon.

February 4, 2011:

Seminar on INCOTERMS 2010 RULES & FOREIGN TRADE POLICY INCENTIVE SCHEMES in association with Federation of Indian Export Organisations at Grand Ball Room, Hotel Abad Plaza, Ernakulam on Friday, February, 4, 2011.

February 17, 2011

Indian Fisheries '2011: A Seminar in association with Infrastructure and Logistics Federation of India and Confederation of Indian Small and Medium Enterprises on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at Hotel Le Meridien, Kundanoor, Cochin.

February 18/19, 2011:

A Catalogue Exhibition of Taiwanese Machinery in association with Taiwan Chamber of Commerce will be held at Ramavarma Club, Ernakulam from 10 am to 7pm on Friday and Saturday, February 18 and 19 2011. All members are requested to participate.

February 2011.

A national trade meet in association with Forwards Markets Commission and national commodity exchanges viz. NMCE, NCDEX and MCX. The details will be shared in due course.

February 2011

Nani A. Palkhivala memorial elocution contest for law students: In association with Forum for Free Enterprises, Mumbai. Details will be shared in due course.

The website of the chamber is getting a facelift with many interactive features being added. Kindly visit the website regularly www.iccicochin.com for updated information on the activities of the chamber and other related news and information.

Members Directory

The Chamber is bringing out a directory of members which will have all contact details etc. The members are requested to update their current details with the Chamber office at the earliest. Advertisement support is essential in this venture and it is gratifying to note that some members have responded positively to our request in this regard. Members are once again requested to come forward to contribute by way of advertisement or by referring other potential clients, to make the publication of directory a success.

OUR SERVICES

Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been issuing Certificates of Origin, Quality, Weighment-Measurement as well as Attesting Commercial Documents, which are internationally accepted. This service is made use of by the exporting community. The Chamber also disseminates important information-data of concern and interest to the business community. The Chamber has also been taking keen interest in the overall economic development of the State. The Chamber also organises periodical interactive meetings for exchange of views between the representatives of the Government and the business community on matters connected with promotion of industry and trade. The Chamber provides support to facilitate the EXIM sector in getting Export related documents legalized from all Arab and Foreign Embassies/Consulates. Anyone interested in getting our services are welcome to contact the chamber office.

Mr. S Ramakrishnan appointed as COO



Mr S. Ramakrishnan took charge as the Chief Operating Officer of the Chamber. He is a graduate mechanical engineer and is also a post graduate in Business Administration. He brings with him more than 25 years of professional experience in varied fields. Please join the President in welcoming Mr Ramakrishnan on board.

Citizens Forum Meeting:

Mr. P. Prathapachandran, President represented the chamber in two meetings convened by the District Collector on November 2, and 4, 2010 to discuss matters related to city development. It was decided to form joint ventures with Chambers of Commerce, CREDAI, Residents Associations and various trade bodies to provide support to the Corporation.

Meet with the Fourth Estate:

The President addressed a media meet organized by the Chamber at the Auditorium on November 8, 2010. He discussed the plans and roadmap of the chamber in the coming year to address issues of development activities charted out. Representatives from Press and Media participated in the meeting.

ICTT - an update

ICTT took several years in the making and went through three rounds of auction. The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. Ltd (P&O Ports), the British port operating company had successfully bid for the Vallarpadam project in 1999. The Union government later scrapped the bid because it felt that given the involvement of P&O in Colombo, Vallarpadam would not be developed to its full potential. As fate would have it, DP World, the world's fourth biggest container port operator majority owned by the Dubai



government, won a 30-year contract in a public auction in 2004 for developing and operating the Vallarpadam terminal. It was allowed to operate the existing Rajiv Gandhi container terminal (RGCT) at Cochin port for eight years or till it constructed and shifted operations to Vallarpadam. Soon after in 2006 DP world bought P&O in a global takeover. DP World later sold its stake in the Colombo terminal, 16% which P&O had, to avoid a possible conflict of interest.

Nearly six years after signing the agreement (16th February 2005) to construct, develop and

operate an International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Vallarpadam, the person who laid the foundation stone, Dr. Manmohan Singh, is expected to declare open the Terminal in February 2011. Thus Vallarpadam finds its place in the maritime map of India as the largest single operator terminal in India to operate in SEZ. Strategically located on the main east-west global shipping lines and offering a draft of 14.5 m, Cochin is expected to free India's dependence on foreign ports like Sri Lanka, Dubai and Singapore, to handle transshipment.

Chat with CEO, India Gateway Terminal



The man at the helm of overseeing the transition to Vallarpadam is Mr. Krishnadas, the new CEO of IGTL, a subsidiary of DP World. We are ready to shift and are awaiting the dates of Dr. Singh, he says. The first phase will have a

capacity of 1 million TEUs consisting of 600 metres of quay out of total 1800 meters planned. Eleven RT Gantry cranes and four Twin lift quay cranes (ship to shore) are ready and operational, quips Mr Krishnadas. This will improve yard handling, truck turnaround time and quayside operations. Ro-Ro ship facility will be used between Vallarpadam and the present RGCT, which will be reduced to stuffing centre for EXIM activities.

Committee Members of the Indian Chamber for the year 2010-11

Shri P Prathapachandran* - President
Shri P L Prakash James* - Vice-President,
Shri Jasbir Singh Chawla* - Imm. Past President
Shri A A Abdul Azeez, Shri Abraham Philip, Shri Amar Bahadur Singh, Shri Anwar Hashim*, Shri Arvind P Patel, Shri Baiju Ramachandran, Shri Bakul V Shah, Shri Balagopala B Pai*, Shri Benzy Jose, Shri Bharat N Khona*, Shri Divij R Agarwal, Shri G P Goyal, Shri Malaykumar Ratilal, Shri M Prabhaker Kini, Shri Nishesh Shah*, Shri P M Muraleedharan, Shri P M Premkumar, Shri Raj Kumar Gupta, Shri R Mohandas*, Shri Sadiq H Kapasi*, Shri TA Kaleelur Rahman, Shri Vikash Kumar Singhal*, Shri V F Pious, Shri Viresh D Khona & Shri Viswanath Agarwal are members.

*Standing Committee Members

Cochin - The fastest growing maritime gateway

The modern port of Cochin was developed during the period 1920 to 1940. Sir Robert Bristow was the visionary harbour engineering chief, responsible for the modernisation of Cochin Port. He was



responsible for the daring engineering feat of cutting the rock like barriers of sand and silt at the mouth of harbour to open up the present Port at the Willingdon Island. The Cochin Port was declared a Major Port on

the first of August, 1936. Simultaneously, the harbour administration was taken over by the Government of India and Sir Robert Bristow was appointed as the first administrative officer of the Port. The administration is now vested with the board of trustees appointed by Government of India.

The Queen of Arabian Sea- Cochin, enjoying its ecstatic backwaters, silhouetted with the beauty of palm trees, known for its tourist fascination, is also known for being one of the major seaports of India. The first e-port of India, administered by Cochin Port Trust compliments uniquely with the largest shipyard in India, the Cochin Shipyard. Apart from the two tough pillars - Cochin port and shipyard, the city of Cochin vows much more with World's finest international cruise terminal, an eco-friendly marina - between Marine Drive and Bolgatty Island will accommodate 50 luxury yachts, Asia's largest oceanarium - spread over 44 acres on PPP model with Rs. 300 crores at New Vypeen, the Vallarpadam ICTT project, the mega reactor in Kochi Refinery and a regional campus at Cochin port from Indian Maritime University (IMU) - making Cochin the dream come true Maritime Hub. Cochin is topping the maritime list. ■

With Best Compliments from :

M/s Jai Narayana Shipping Co.

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