

**Respected Past-Presidents
My Colleagues in the Managing Committee and
Members of the Association,**

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the Business Session of the 46th Annual General Meeting of the Association, this evening.

Growth and development are two integral parts of any business and our industry is growing along with the changing demand and quality. Friends, demand for corrugated boxes, is expected to increase 3.7% per year through 2019, approaching 260 billion square meters globally. In the present era, the awareness towards environmental degradation, has led an additional and ample opportunity for the corrugated box industry. This is also a case in our country, including our State, West Bengal.

India, the fastest growing major economy in the world, with a current growth rate of 8.2%, it is on course to become a 5 trillion economy by 2025. It has recently become the 6th largest economy in the world with a GDP of US dollars 2.6 trillion. In order to transform India into a modern 21st century inclusive economy, our Government has taken a number of measures both to uplift the economy and to improve the living standards of our citizens.

India today is home to the third largest Start-up ecosystem in the world. In the next few years, India will have a trinity of a billion bank accounts, a billion Aadhar that is bio-metric Identification cards and a billion mobile phones. This will create a digital ecosystem unique in the world. The effect of this digital revolution is also important for the corrugators. Besides, increasing demand for food and beverages, especially in the alcoholic beverages segment and frozen foods, would be core area for us to penetrate our presence and meet the specialised demand. In the midst of booming e-marketing sector and related delivery mechanism, corrugators have also been playing crucial role.

Friends, in the recent past, we have seen some very interesting events, which have changed the entire economy of our country, particularly the day-today operation in business world. Demonetisation and GST have left their strong footprint in reducing growth and generating bad sentiments. We faced real challenges while dealing with our transactions. While we are facing challenges, we need suggestions from our parents and under their guidance, we keep floating and forwarding. We are indeed missing our one of the most illustrious former President, Shri Anantraï B. Ajmera who breathed his last on 20th December, 2017 and his expert views in the circumstances. However, we need to grow and address the challenges.

Since the introduction of GST, there are a number of changes inducted through Notifications. The business needs to meet the challenges and to be coped with the arrangements and systems. In this regard, a dedicated GST section was devised and uploaded on the website. The Chairman of the Taxation Sub-Committee, Shri Bharath Kedia has taken special initiatives in this regard and his efforts have been well appreciated by one and all.

The Association organised an Seminar on 'E - Way Bill : New Perspectives on 15th May, 2018 at 'BHARAT CHAMBERS', Kolkata. the presence of Smt. Nandini Ghosh, Senior Joint Commissioner, Directorate of Commercial Taxes, Government

of West Bengal was very important as State based system and its nitty-gritty's were clarified by her keeping in mind the need of the corrugated industry. Besides, the Association also submitted a Memorandum covering the issues related to simplification of GST compliance.

Innovation and movement with the flow is important. This would inspire the next generation to act and older people also continue without feeling too old to discontinue as well. We need to keep ourselves vigilant and up to-date. Accordingly, a Full Time Comprehensive Course in Corrugated Packaging was organised on 27th and 28th February, 2018 at Hotel The LaLit Great Eastern, Kolkata, under the aegis of The Federation of Corrugated Box Manufacturers of India. More than 100 participants including Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Coimbatore and Bangladesh, registered for the course. Our Former President, Shri Hemant Saraogi has played a crucial role to activate the course in right direction. Shri Rajarshee Datta also co-ordinated the programme brilliantly.

The members of the Association have also faced a peculiar issue in terms of the renewal of Fire Licence and introduction of the exorbitantly high fee. The Association sent its representation to the Department of Fire Services & Emergency Services, Government of West Bengal through Bharat Chamber of Commerce and other industry Affiliates. I must add here that Shri Milan Kumar Dey, former President has raised the issue in various platforms and submitted a structured analytics to address the matter. We are given to understand necessary amendments will be notified shortly in this regard.

The New Market Development Sub-Committee under Chairmanship of Shri Milan Kumar Dey has been pro-active to grab any opportunities. In this direction, considering the de-notification of 275 items for direct procurement, Bharat Chamber of Commerce organised a NATIONAL SEMINAR AND EXHIBITION on 'Defence Production: Public-Private Partnership – Focus Eastern India' from 14th to 16th September, 2018 at Kolkata. Dr. Ajay Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Government of India delivered the Keynote Address. Professor Saugata Roy, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) and Member of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Defence was present as the Guest of Honour. Former Presidents of the Association, Shri Milan Kumar Dey made a Presentation which has attracted the audience and marked a special page for the promotion of eco-friendly packaging. Besides, a Stall was also set-up to exhibit the products of our industry. Many officers of the three forces of the Military and others visited the Stall.

Shri Achyut Chandra, Hony. Secretary and Joint Chairman, New Market Development Sub-Committee of the Association has also been pro-active to explore all opportunities available for us.

On a different note, I must add here that there is an urgent need of dry food, clean water and shelter for the flood victims in Kerala. With your support to saving lives and providing urgent and long-term relief, the Association arranges to send a Cheque for Rs. 1.51 lakh to the Kerala Corrugated Box Manufacturers' Association. I would take this opportunity to request members who have not contributed yet to send us their valued contributions for onward submission to Kerala Association.

The other activities undertaken during 2017-18 have been highlighted in the Report of Activities, which has been circulated with the Notice for the AGM, and constitutes one of the important Resolutions on our Agenda today.

The Association has been enjoying the continuing support of the members and others in the corrugated box industry. However, I would request each one of you to invite new members to the Association as our strength lies in our numbers. We introduced a new slogan - "Each One Reach One". Please support us to grow and enlarge your contour to get new ideas from the members.

Before I conclude, I would like to convey my gratitude to all the former Presidents who have taken keen interest in the activities of the Association during the year and guided us all along. I am confident, they will continue to guide us.

My thanks are also due to the colleagues in the Managing Committee of the Association for their unstinted co-operation and support, without which it would not be possible for me to perform my duty and responsibility as the President of the Association.

I am also thankful to the members in general for their whole-hearted support in the activities of the Association and for their participation in various programmes organised by the Association from time to time.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank Bharat Chamber of Commerce, to which our Association is affiliated.

My appreciation is also due to the staff at the R&D Centre of the Association – Chandrakanta and Joy, in the day-to-day activities.

Roy T. Bennett once said "Live the Life of Your Dreams: Be brave enough to live the life of your dreams according to your vision and purpose instead of the expectations and opinions of others." Today, we will learn from our young brigade about "Vision Twerty20", immediately after the Business Session, please be with us in this endeavor of our Association.

Vision is very important and work to achieve that is crucial. Our think tank, under the leadership of Hemantji, has been relentlessly working on the same. Now an announcement - Friends, with great pride and joy, I would like to share with you all that the prestigious 49th Conference of FCBM will be hosted by EICMA in the year 2020. This is a great honour for us. We need your fullest support to present a splendid show.

Having said that, I would now like to take up the items on the Agenda of the Business Session.
