

**Shri Bharath Kedia, President**  
**Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers' Association**  
**At the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**On Friday, the 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 at 5.30 P.M.**  
**At "ITC - SONAR", Kolkata.**

**Shri Rajendra ji Ankola, President, Distinguished M.C. Members, FCBM**  
**Respected Past Presidents, FCBM & EICMA**  
**Special Guests, Friends & Family Members,**  
**Ladies & Gentlemen**

**WELCOME**

It gives me great pleasure to extend a hearty & warm welcome to you at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association.

The august presence of Sri Rajendra Ankola, President, stalwarts & galaxy of luminaries from FCBM has made this AGM a most momentous occasion; gentlemen, we are honoured & pleased to WELCOME YOU with a round of thunderous applause.

We extend a warm welcome & sincerely appreciate the presence of our outstation members, particularly. Sri Anil Agarwal from Siliguri, Sri Naveen Motani from Patna, Sri Manmohan Saraogi from Assam.

We would like to take the privilege of felicitating Raju Bhai; may I call upon, the suave, most charming personality from EICMA & Past President – FCBM, Sri Satish ji Kapur to do the honours. FCBM President Raju Bhai.....

## **ECONOMY & INDUSTRY**

The year 2012-13 has been a year of survival for the industry.

The Inflationary trajectory in the economy, lack of impetus for industrial growth & fresh investments by the Governments of the day; have curtailed the purchasing power of the Indian consumer. The strength of the economy has been the demand generated by the large population of the country. The lack of disposable income has hit the consumption of white consumer goods; naturally, requirement of packaging has also gone down.

This has happened at a time when, the Packaging Industry in the Eastern Region is catching up with its counterparts in the rest of the country by investments in new automatic plants & technology up gradation by existing players.

This has created a situation where excess supplies are chasing lesser demands; resulting in shifting of consumer loyalties; where the selling price reduces as the orders change hands.

Interestingly, the buying pattern by our consumers has been divided into two segments. The Multinationals and National large players requirement for boxes are being catered to generally by automatic plants and the other sectors by semi – automatic plants. In the real sense, now, the competition is not Automatic Vs Semi Automatic, rather Automatic Vs Automatic & Semi- Automatic Vs Semi – Automatic.

Friends, we have survived the depreciating rupee vis-à-vis dollar; the inflationary effect of frequent fuel price rise, the slump in consumer demand in the world economy; cash crunch; the governments' policy paralysis, the increasing burden of taxation on industry; the scarcity of quality work force; et all , with utmost determination & patience. **Perhaps the worst is beyond us and I am optimistic that things can only look better for the industry in the year ahead.**

## **ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES**

The association has touched the 200 Membership Mark in the year; thanks to the efforts of the New Membership Committee, headed by Biplabda.

The R & D committee; in keeping with the technical requirements of the industry has installed a new RCT machine this year under the guidance of Chairman, Chokhaniji.

The web site of the association has lived upto the high expectations of the fraternity by communicating, industry relevant information with utmost speed under the charge of our dynamic mentor, Hemantji.

The association has unraveled the Excise, Service Tax & VAT mystery from time to time way of circulars, seminars and individual replies; simplifying taxation for the members.

Friends, I am saving the best for the last; I am immensely proud of **“Project Tomato”**, conceived, developed & executed under the leadership of the path breaking, Sri Milan Kumar Dey, **Vice President** ably supported by Sri Narendra Kumar Jhunjunwala.

I have gained immense personal satisfaction from this project in my three year tenure as President of this association. I have said this before and I repeat with utmost conviction

**– “Mark My Words, I am very optimistic; we have been a witness to history in the making, for which the industry will remember the duo till the times Tomatoes are grown in India.”**

## **THANKS**

We express our gratitude to the Federation for their time to time fiscal support; we are thankful to President Ankola for giving EICMA the opportunity to chair important, New Market Development & Taxation Committee portfolios.

We are indebted to KCBMA & WICMA for their unprecedented financial support for “Project Tomato”

Friend, the association activities would not have been possible without the excellent team work by my colleagues on the dais & managing committee members; the guidance of the past presidents; support by the secretariat at Bharat Chamber of Commerce and personnel at the R & D Centre. I sincerely thank them for their self less services and invaluable support.

As I conclude, may I on behalf of the M.C. of your Association once again thank you, our valued members, for your continued support and encouragement.

Thank You!

.....