

Address By
Shri Bharath Kedia, Incoming President
Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers Association
at the 38th Annual General Meeting
on Friday, the 20th August, 2010 at 7.00 p.m.
at The Calcutta Swimming Club, Kolkata.

Respected Past Presidents', FCBM dignitaries, Friends!

I thank the general body for electing me as the president of this prestigious institution.

The new committee warmly welcomes you to the AGM.

I am personally overwhelmed, on this momentous day, by the august presence of Sri Pankaj Shah & Sri Ram Kumar Sunkara. I sincerely thank them for being here.

The demand for Corrugated Boxes has been increasing with the growth of business & industry in the country. Eastern India is slowly catching up with a substantial increase in requirement of boxes. Kraft Paper production capacities have increased in Bengal. The region is almost self sufficient for its requirement of the primary raw material.

This is the opportune time for the units to grow & expand. The need-of-the hour is proper house-keeping & technological up gradation. We, on our part, intend to organise more interactive seminars by experts on the subject.

An impending bottleneck in the expansion of the industry is scarcity of skilled work force. There is a lateral shift of workers with new units being set up & increase in existing capacities. The change of loyalty comes at a price, thereby raising the overall wage structure. We propose to work out a modality of training & building a new work force. We welcome your suggestions on the issue.

Friends, I anticipate a busy year ahead for the association with G.S.T. & D.T.C. proposed to be implemented from 1st. April. Your association will keep you informed & facilitate smooth transition to the new tax regime.

The constitution of the association is as old as the organisation. I propose to amend the constitution to keep up with the times, with the mandate of the house. We also look forward to compiling the – “Members Directory 2011”.

The present EICMA office & testing centre has a capacity for holding a M.C. meeting only. Gentlemen, I have a dream, a dream of holding an EICMA AGM at our very own premises. I am confident that Sri B.D. Kothari, our present Building Committee Chairman, will leave no stone unturned to convert this hallucination to reality.

Today, as I start a new innings, I find myself walking down memory lane. I recall sitting at the back benches of several EICMA AGM's. Thereafter I was inducted to the M.C in 1995. I started taking active interest, thanks to the encouragement of the then President, Sri R.G. Agarwalaji.

It was and still is an honour to share space with legendary, Sri A.B. Ajmeraji, Sri Satish Kapurji & Sri D.D. Kothariji. I find myself listening to them in awe & have always admired their knowledge & oratory skills.

I fondly remember being convinced into filing my nomination as Secretary in 2000 by Sri B.D. Kothariji. Since then I have had the privilege of learning the ropes of the association, under the able leadership of my Presidents' Benoyda, Biplab da & specially Hemantji.

At the risk of blowing my own trumpet I am trying to make two points –

First, your association encourages members to climb the ladder, as in my case where I have been promoted from the back benches to the hot seat.

Second, you know the people responsible for my performance (or the lack of it) in the year ahead. I am indeed thankful to all the past presidents, names that I have just mentioned, for shaping my destiny in the association. I would appreciate a round of applause for them.

We plan to rely on a blend of experience & youth in the year ahead. We seek the blessings of our seasoned past presidents' in policy matters. We have on board the experienced Sri R. Chokhaniji & the calm & composed Sri Ashok Newarji.

We expect innovative ideas & its implementation from the new blood. I have immense faith in the dynamic & articulate Sri Mohit Bajaj; mark my words; he is a "Lambi Race Ka Ghoda"

We are confident of the administrative support from B.C.C. & R & D Centre. We would appreciate regular suggestions & feedback from all members.

I make no promise of taking the association to new heights or substantial increase in membership strength. I do not promise greater fellowship amongst members or a vibrant web site. All that I promise are my sincere efforts, dedicated approach & commitment to work to the best of my ability. I solicit the blessings of my elders & good wishes of the friends like you.

"Together, we can, we will....." Thank you!