

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF
SHRI HEMANT SARAOGI
AT THE 36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
EASTERN INDIA CORRUGATED BOX MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION
ON FRIDAY, THE 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2008 AT 1900 HOURS
AT THE CALCUTTA ROWING CLUB, KOLKATA**

Dear Friends,

I have great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 36th Annual General Meeting of Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers' Association.

You are well aware that the overall economic scenario in the country is quite depressive. The growth of manufacturing sector and agriculture has been declining. The economy of the country is bogged down by soaring inflation. Consequently, the corrugated box industry is not in a happy shape. Apart from the stagnancy, Government anomaly of 14% Excise Duty on boxes & 0-8% Duty on Kraft Paper has further worsened the situation.

Not only this, Notification no. 47 issued on 1st Sep 09 on Branded goods has made our members worried & unsecured.

The Association is taking up the matter strongly with authorities concerned along with FCBM.

Our unity in supporting All India Bandh called by FCBM has yielded positive results, If not paper manufacturers, we were able to draw the attention of our Customers about the facts & draw them to negotiating table.

We, the manufacturer of corrugated box in Eastern India supported the bandh call and downed our shutters for Three days. The Bandh was spontaneous. Many non-member manufacturers even joined the Bandh.

Besides excise problem, the corrugated box manufacturing units are constrained with ever increasing production cost. The prices of vital input like stitching wire, ink and

adhesives have also been increasing steeply , not only this fuel & manpower cost in recent years has witnessed unprecedented increase.

Unfortunately, corrugated box users are not ready to neutralize the increasing cost of production leading to erosion of economic viability of the units. This cannot continue for long. Now is the time when we should stand united to make our consumers understand to share the increasing conversion cost apart from kraft paper.

Our industry has also been adversely affected by the poor quality of kraft paper and the usual practice of paper mills of not adhering to the acceptable quality parameters and delivery schedule. An understanding needs to be reached immediately with paper mills and dealers for timely delivery of required quality of kraft paper so as to avoid penalization by our customers.

We would also urge government to reduce the Custom Duty on Kraft paper so that import of quality Kraft paper can be viable.

Friends, you are aware that our Association has launched its own website. We are up-dating the information at the website regularly. The website has been well accepted and visited by numerous users, specially, after the presentation of Union Budget. I request you all to visit the website from time to time and keep yourself up-dated with the latest development on various aspects of the industry.

Friends, this year is very crucial for us, we will be hosting 2009 FCBM conference under the able guidance of our past president & Conference Chairman Sri B.D. Kothari. I seek whole hearted support from all of you to make this conference memorable one.

After Sri A.B. Ajmera , Late Harlalka Saheb , Sri Satish Kapur our very dear R.G. Agarwal Saheb will be leading FCBM from our association from 2009 conference onwards.

On the occasion, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all our illustrious past Presidents for their valuable support and co-operation for the betterment of corrugated box manufacturing industry.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of Mr. Achyut Chandra & Chetan Shah to make the Press conference successful one.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Association for their continuing support and co-operation in enabling me to deliver my services during the year.

I am thankful to

Shri Milan Dey, Vice-President,

Shri Bharath Kedia, Hony. Secretary,

Shri Rajendra Chokhani, Hony. Treasurer,

Our past Presidents, Shri A B Ajmera, Shri R G Agarwala, Shri B D Kothari,

Shri Benoy Basu Mullick and Ex officio Shri Biplab Datta.

I trust, the distinguished past Presidents will continue to guide the Association to follow the path of further glory and eminence.

Before I conclude I must express mine gratitude to Bharat Chamber specially Mr. U.S. Roy Chowdhary for his invaluable services. My special Thanks to our Lab in charge Mr. Vibhas Dutta.

I would now invite your esteemed views and suggestions to broad base the activities of the Association.

With these words, I thank you all, once again, for your presence at this Annual General Meeting.