

# CHAMBER IN-TOUCH

## AUGUST 2023



**Dr. T R B Rajaa, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce, GoTN delivering Chief Guest Address**



**President & Vice President, MCCI and select Governing Council members made a presentation at the Parliamentary Standing Committee Meeting on 'India's investment requirement for sustainable growth' Shri Jayanth Sinha, Chaired the Session - 21<sup>st</sup> Aug'23**



**Mr. S. Gopakumar, MD, Cape Electric and Mr. S. Appavoo, Chief Electrical Inspector (Retd.), GoTN made a presentation at the Session on "Electrical Safety Regulations 2023 & NEC 2023 – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**Schedule of Programs - August 2023**

**7<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**1**

**187<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**11<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**2**

**One day Workshop on  
Electrical Safety Regulations 2023 &  
National Electrical Code of India 2023**

**21<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**3**

**Interactive Meeting with the Parliamentary  
Standing Committee on Finance**

**Committee Meetings**

**7<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**1**

**187<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The 187<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held at Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Chennai on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023. In the Business session, the newly constituted committee for the year 2023-24 was announced. Mr.T.R.Kesavan, Group President, TAFE and Mr. Ramkumar Shankar, Managing Director, Chemplast Sanmar Ltd., continued their term as the President and Vice President for the year 2023-2024.

In the Public Session, the Chief Guest Dr. T.R B.Rajaa addressed the audience

The Public Session was attended by 200+ participants.

## Business Session

Mr. T.R.Kesavan, President chaired the meeting and conducted the proceedings. Before taking up the agenda items, he apprised the members about the various initiatives and activities of the Chamber during the year.



The full text of his address is given below:-

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure and a sense of profound responsibility that I present to you the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Let's reflect upon the accomplishments, key highlights, significant milestones and the path that we have paved for the future. I would like to thank the members for the unwavering commitment and for being a part of the MCCI family.

The Chamber has always strived to foster collaboration, influence policy and advocate the interests of the business community with the Government. We entered in to a MOU with Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) under the "Naan Mudalvan Scheme". The Scheme is aiming to increase the employability of the students from Government aided colleges across Tamil Nadu. We have developed the contents for a few courses with the support of the Logistics, IT, Company Law committees. We would be providing the necessary support to the Government in making this scheme a success.

Our regular interaction meetings held while having the general committee meetings with bureaucrats, Mr.S.Krishnan IAS, Addl.Chief Secretary, Ms. Pooja Kulkarni IAS, MD and CEO, Guidance TN, Ms. Innocent Divya IAS, MD, TN Skill Development Corporation, Ms. Jayashree Muralidharan, IAS, MD, Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation from Government of Tamil Nadu shows the strong relationship established by us with the Government and ensures that the voice of the business community is heard in the formulation of policies and regulations that impact commerce and economic development.

The Chamber had an exclusive meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr.M.K.Stalin to submit our recommendations for implementing the new airport at Parandur. Our suggestions were considered as relevant and the Chamber was requested to extend its support to TIDCO for conducting an awareness session which was done on a grand scale by the Chamber under the auspices of the Logistics Committee. We had the privilege of having Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Thangam Thennarasu, the then Minister for Industries, Investment promotion and commerce as the Chief Guest.

At our 186th AGM, we had the great pleasure of having Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, GoI as the Chief Guest and Dr.V.Sumantran, Chairman, Celeris Technologies as the Special Guest.

Following the AGM, we had the Chamber Day celebrations where in we had the honor of having Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan, Co-Founder, Cognizant as the Chief Guest and Mr. V.Sriram, Writer and Historian as a Special Guest.

Both occasions were attended by you in large numbers showing your unstinting support to the Chamber.

The continued support of our esteemed members has been instrumental in the success of the Chamber's flagship activities throughout the year. We had the Phygital 2022 which had experts making presentations on the emerging trends in industry automation, future of jobs, 5G and IoT, cloud computing among others, The Post Budget Workshop had the Chief guest analysing the macroeconomic picture of the budget followed by the detailed analysis of direct tax and GST and the overall perspective of the budget by our regular experts.

Under the Sustainable Chennai Forum (SCF), the Chamber organised the 6th Conference under the UN Habitat Banner on the theme “Chennai – Planning for a net zero City” . We had the privilege of having Mr. Siva Meyyanathan, Hon’ble Minister for Environmental, Pollution control, GoTN as the Chief Guest. The Campus brought together dozens of esteemed speakers under one roof. This event served as a powerful platform for knowledge sharing and fostering meaningful connections. The active participation and the positive feedback from you (our members) reinforce the significance of our event that is held every year.

Being a “Madras Chamber”, we conduct events to commemorate the Madras Day every year in the third week of August. This year, we organised a unique Business heritage walk led by Mr.V.Sriram, Historian. The participants gave an exceptional feedback.

As you may be aware, the Chamber set up the MCCI Arbitration, Mediation and Conciliation Centre ( MAMC) to provide arbitration services to the members to resolve commercial disputes.

We have been providing excellent services to our esteemed clients and request you to avail our services. The second anniversary of MAMC was celebrated with Hon’ble Justice Mr.R.Subramanian, Judge High Court addressing the participants.

Our CSR Awards Ceremony stands as a momentous occasion, celebrating the remarkable achievements and impactful initiatives undertaken by our members in the realm of corporate social responsibility. Through a meticulous evaluation, the deserving organisations were selected by a team of experts and honoured in the exclusive ceremony. Mr. C.K. Ranganathan, Chairman and MD, Cavinkare Pvt.Ltd. Chief Guest, distributed the awards and addressed the participants.

The Chamber believes in “Together we grow” and has jointly organised programs with Business Standard, EU Chamber of Commerce, Consulate General of Malaysia, Department of IT, GoTN, Department of Trade, British Deputy High Commission providing a platform for networking, establishing new partnerships apart from the rich content shared by the experts.

Our training programs on varied subjects including the CSR certificate course were received well and “sowed the seeds” for growth, learning and collaboration.

The Chamber is the first port of call for overseas delegations. We had the “honor” of having delegations from Malaysia visit us this year.

The Expert Committees and Working Committees conducted numerous seminars, awareness programs in their relevant subjects providing unparalleled opportunities for sharing best practices, networking, building valuable relationships leading to business and professional development. The participation and the positive feedback received are proof that we are moving in the right direction.

Of course, all these achievements would not have been possible without the support and guidance of the General Committee, Expert Committees, Working Committees, Past Presidents, Chamber Secretariat and You (our members).

I take this opportunity to express my immense gratitude to one and all for the active participation and involvement in the initiatives which has led the Chamber to be at the forefront in influencing decision makers, shaping policies and creating a conducive eco system for business growth.

In conclusion, it was another memorable year for the Chamber as we successfully transitioned from the challenges posed by the pandemic to once again hosting a multitude of impactful physical programs and events

It is a great pride to be the President of the Chamber and with all your support, I am happy to continue my services for another year, and will seek your inputs, suggestions, feedback to shape the strategic direction of our Chamber laying the foundation for a prosperous and inclusive future.

#### **a. To adopt the Report for the year 2022-23:**

The President referred to the Annual Report for the year 2022-23 which had already been forwarded to the Members, detailing the activities of the Chamber during the year 2022-23. He mentioned that the report is fairly exhaustive and gives details of the various meetings, seminars, etc. organized during the year.

In the absence of any queries, he proposed that the Report be adopted.

Mr. Nagaraju Sharma seconded the proposal. Put to vote, the general body unanimously adopted the Annual Report.



#### **b. To adopt the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2022-23:**

The President referred to the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2022-23 sent to members as part of the Annual Report.

Since there were no questions, he suggested that the audited accounts be adopted.

Mr. G.Parthiban proposed that the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2022-23 be adopted. This was seconded by Mr. S.Ramakrishnan.

President thanked M/s RGN Price & Co. for auditing the accounts of the Chamber.

**c. To determine the rates of subscription payable by different classes of members for the year 2023-2024**

The President informed that there was no proposal to revise the subscription for the year 2023-2024 and the existing rates would continue. The President Mr.T.R.Kesavan proposed the motion and it was seconded by Dr.B.Ravi and the General Body unanimously accepted the proposal .

**d. To declare the election of Members of the General Committee for the year 2023-24**

The President informed the General Body that the Chamber’s activities have been growing phenomenally in all areas and also a number of new companies across various sectors were taking membership in MCCI.

He requested the Secretary General to announce the results of the election to the General Committee for 2023-24.

The Secretary General read out the names of the elected members for the respective offices for the year 2023-2024 as follows: -



**President:** Mr. T. R. Kesavan, Group President- Corporate Relations & Alliances, TAFE Ltd.

**Vice President:** Mr. Ramkumar Shankar, Managing Director, Chemplast Sanmar Ltd.

**Committee Members:**

Mr Anand Gopalan	Partner	T S Gopalan & Co.,
Mr A V Dharmakrishnan	Chief Executive Officer	The Ramco Cements Ltd.
Mr Gopal Mahadevan	Whole Time Director & Chief Financial Officer	Ashok Leyland Ltd.
Dr N Kamakodi	Managing Director & CEO	City Union Bank Ltd.
Mr P Kaniappan	Managing Director	ZF Commercial Vehicle Control Systems India Ltd.

Mr.Nagaraju Srirama	President & Director	J K Fenner (India) Ltd.
Mr G Parthipan	Chief Executive Officer	ZF Rane Automotive India Private Ltd.
Mr Rajiv Lochan	Managing Director	Sundaram Finance Ltd.
Dr B Ravi	Managing Partner	B Ravi & Associates
Mr M V Satish	Whole Time Director & Sr. Executive Vice President	L & T Construction
Mr R Shankar	Executive Director	TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd.
Mr.V.Sridhar	Senior Partner	Grant Thornton Bharat LLP
Mr Sriram Seshadri	Partner	Price Waterhouse & Co.LLP
Mr Suresh Raman	Vice President & Head of Chennai Operations	Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.
Mr Tuncay Deriner	Managing Director	Stahl India Private Ltd.
Mr.K.Vaitheeswaran	Advocate & Tax Consultant	K.Vaitheeswaran & Co.
Mr K G Venkataramanan	Head Finance – Glass & Solutions Business	Saint Gobain India Pvt.Ltd.
Mr.A.Vishwanathan	President	Delphi TVS Technologies Ltd.

#### **e. To appoint auditors for the year 2023-24**

The President informed that M/s RGN Price & Co., have been auditing the accounts for the Chamber for many years and they may continue as auditors for the current year 2023-24.

He proposed that RGN Price & Co. may be re-appointed as auditors for the Chamber for the year 2023-24 on a remuneration of Rs. 65000/- per annum plus out of pocket expenses. This was seconded by Mr. L. Prabhu

#### **f. To declare the appointment of Members of the Expert Committees for the year 2023-24**

The president informed the General Body that the Expert Committees have been a great source of strength to the Chamber. They have been doing excellent work. There were many programmes organized by various expert committees on topics of current relevance.

To deal with major subjects of importance and to broad base the activities of the Chamber and to have more sector specific interactions, the Chamber had identified 13 expert Committees and had invited nominations for those expert committees. As usual, substantial number of nominations was received for core expert committees. There are 5 working committees apart from the Expert Committees

He further said the Chairmen and Co-Chairmen for some of the Expert Committees have been selected on the basis of their seniority, knowledge of the subject and ability to represent the Chamber before the concerned authorities, meetings etc.



The Secretary General then read out only the names of the Chairmen and Co-Chairmen of the Committees as follows :

**Expert Committees for the year 2023-24**

<b>Committee name</b>	<b>Chairman/Chairperson</b>	<b>Co-Chairman/Co-Chairperson</b>
Banking Finance & Insurance	Mr. R. Vittal Raj Partner, Kumar & Raj	
Company Law/ Corporate Matters	Mr. V. Babu Sankara Subramaniam Director, Vector Decision Support Services Pvt.Ltd.	Mr. Siva Chandrasekaran Executive Vice President – Secretarial & Legal Rane Holdings Ltd.
CSR	Dr. Vidya Durai Director – Philanthropy & CSR BNY Mellon Technology India Pvt.Ltd.	Mr. S. Sathappan General Manager – CSR Aspire Systems India P Ltd.
Direct Taxes	Mr. Krishnan Parameshwaran Partner, MSKB & Associates LLP	Ms. Sudha Ashok Tax Partner, PK Sridhar & Santhanam LLP
Education	Prof. Sridhar Narayanan Founder, Grand Alliance for Management Excellence	
Energy including Renewable Energy	Mr. Suriyanarayana Rao Director - Industry & Eng. Corporate Consulting Group	Mr. Balachandran Dharman, Director, R R Global Ltd.
GST	Mr. K. Vaitheeswaran Advocate & Tax Consultant K.Vaitheeswaran & Co	Mr. R. Gopakumar Associate Director Cognizant Technology Solutions
HR & IR	Mr. R. Kalyan Vice President – HR Operations & Corporate IR, Ashok Leyland Ltd.	Mr. Ganapathy Subramanian Chief Human Resources Officer Sundaram Home Finance Ltd.
IT/ITES	Mr. L. Ashok Managing Director Futurenet Technologies India Pvt.Ltd.	Mr. V. Srinivas President - IT Chemplast Sanmar Ltd.
Legal Affairs	Ms. Savitha Kesav Jagadeesan Partner Kochaar & Co.	Dr. M. Mahalakshmi General Manager – Legal TVS Motor Company Ltd.
Logistics	Mr. Udaybhaskar Reddy, Wholetime Director Sanco Trans Ltd.	Mr. Ashwin Vijayakumar Head Supply Chain Paramount Shipping Services Pvt.Ltd.
Manufacturing	Mr. M. S. Ravikumar Head of Mfg & Supply Chain Country Leader - Integrated Supply Chain ZF Commercial Vehicle Control Systems India Ltd.	Mr. L. Prabhu Managing Director Hanon Automotive Systems India Pvt Ltd
Women Business Council(WBC)	Ms. Bhavani Balasubramanian, Chief Strategist -Diversity Evaluation, AVATAR	Ms. Madhri Guruswamy , Advocate , T S Gopalan & Co.

### Working Committees

Agriculture Council	Mr.S.G.Anilkumar Founder & CEO Sammunati Financial Intermediation and Services Pvt.Ltd.
Economic Affairs	Mr V.Sriram, Partner, Sammati Consulting LLP
Healthcare	Mr.P.V.Jaishankar Chairman, Waterfalls Institute of Technology Transfer  Dr. Iyappan Ponnuswamy Medical Director, Kauvery Hospital
International Cooperation	Mr.J.Krishnan Parter, S Natesa Iyer Logistics LLP
SMEs	Mr.S.Krishnan Director, Kenspire Advisors Pvt.Ltd.

The President said that the Chamber Secretariat will soon convene the first meeting with the nominated members and then decide the plan of action for the respective expert committees.

### **g. Resolutions**

The President informed that the next item on the agenda is to consider few changes in the Memorandum of Association and Rules of MCCI

- **Nomenclature**

General Committee is the nomenclature used for the Committee consisting of President, VP and the elected members of the committee according to the present clause 1(b)

The President informed that It is proposed to change the nomenclature from General Committee to Governing Council. The President sought the approval of the General Body. The General Body unanimously approved. After obtaining the approval of the General Body unanimously the following resolution was passed.

Resolved that "the nomenclature General Committee will be replaced by Governing Council in the memorandum of association and rules. The acronym will continue to be "GC".

- **Membership and Subscription**

The President informed that with the expansion of activities of the Chamber and to enable more organisations to benefit from the services provided and to have a connect with the value chain, it is proposed to introduce a new category of members, namely Associate Members.

Associate Members - This category will consist of small manufacturing firms, proprietary firms, partnership firms, Traders. Individual practising professionals. The Fees would be Rs.5000/- per annum and all other terms would be as per existing rules for membership. They will neither be eligible to contest for elections nor will have the voting rights.

The President sought the approval of the General Body. The General Body unanimously approved. After obtaining the approval of the General Body unanimously the following resolution was passed.

*Resolved that "there will be an additional category of members, namely Associate Members. This category will consist of small manufacturing firms, proprietary firms, partnership firms, Traders. Individual practising professionals. The subscription Fees would be Rs.5000/- per annum plus 50% of the subscription fee will be the entrance fees. All other terms would be as per existing rules for membership. Associate Members will not be eligible to contest for election nor will have the voting rights. The new category of Associate Members is open for membership from September 2023 onwards. Associate member applications will be scrutinised carefully and admitted at the discretion of the General Committee.*

- **Fixing the term for becoming a member of the General Committee**

The President informed that for contesting as a Member for GC, as per the existing rules, the Company should ideally be a member of the Chamber for at least for 3 years without any break and should have paid the membership subscription up to date.

To ensure necessary exposure and to contribute in the expert committees and to have continuity and commitment, a term of 5 years is proposed to contest in elections.

There were detailed discussions wherein there was a split opinion about increasing the term from to 5 years. Hence no resolution was passed in this regard.

Since there were no other issues for discussion, the President thanked the Vice President Members of the Chamber, Members of the General Committee, Members of the Expert Committees and the Chamber Secretariat for the excellent work done during the year and requested for their continued support.

In the Public Session scheduled at 6.00 pm the Chief Guest was Dr. T.R.B.Rajaa, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce

Chennai  
7<sup>th</sup> August 2023

K.Saraswathi  
Secretary General

**Public Session**



In the Public Session, Mr. T.R.Kesavan delivered the welcome address. He elaborated on the activities of the Chamber in the last one year and set the tone for the public session.



Dr.T.R.B.Rajaa in his address stated that Tamil Nadu is number one in automobiles, textiles, electronics and now EV has definitely taken over. He stated that the Government has introduced various initiatives and schemes to make the State excel in all aspects. He elaborated on the Naan Mudalvan and Makkali Thedi Maruthuvam schemes. He added that the Government is looking into R & D and is working towards making Tamil Nadu the R & D Hub. Green Energy is another sector that the present government is keen to promote. He invited the industrialists for the Global Investors Meet 2024 and thanked the Chamber for giving him an opportunity to share his thoughts.

Mr. Ramkumar Shankar, Vice President proposed the formal vote of thanks  
The AGM Public session concluded with dinner.



**11<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**2**

**One day Workshop on Electrical Safety Regulations 2023 & National Electrical Code of India 2023**



Under the auspices of the Energy Committee, the Chamber organised a one-day workshop on Electrical Safety Regulations 2023 & National Electrical Code of India 2023 on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at Hotel Regenta Deccan Plaza.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has revised the National Electrical Code of India (NEC) and have released the same recently. In the revised NEC, Bureau of Indian Standards has brought out a state-of-the-art and most contemporary version of the NEC in line with the International practices.

To understand the importance of the NEC, this workshop was organised.

Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, Chairperson, Energy Committee welcomed the participants and introduced the speakers

The Resource persons were Mr.S.Gopakumar, Managing Director, Cape Electric and Mr.S.Appavoo, Chief Electrical Inspector (Retd)Govt. of Tamilnadu. Elaborate presentations were made and queries of the participants were answered. The feedback was positive. Around 70+ participants attended this workshop.

Mr. Balachandra Dharman, Co Chairman, Energy Committee, MCCI proposed the formal vote of thanks



**21<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**3**

**Interactive Meeting with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance**



During the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance’s visit to Chennai under the leadership of Mr. Jayant Sinha, they desired to have a discussion with the select team from the Chamber on the subject "India's investment requirement for sustainable growth". A detailed discussion was held internally with select members of the Governing Council and a PowerPoint presentation was made and presented by Mr.T. R. Kesavan at the meeting held at Hotel ITC Grand Chola on 21st August 2023. The Parliamentary standing committee was a 15-member team and the Chamber was represented by 10 select members of the council including a few past presidents. A few queries were raised by the committee and details have been sought. The feedback received was favourable.



**Governing Council Meeting**

**The Governing Council Meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**Other Meetings**

**Ms. K. Saraswathi, Secretary General attended the logo launch of the TNGIM 2024 held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at Hotel Leela Palace Chennai.**

**Ms. K.Saraswathi, Secretary General attended the Water as Leverage workshop on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at RainTree on St Mary's Road, Alwarpet, Chennai organised by the Chennai Resilience Centre.**

