



Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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Press Note

70 years' Celebrations of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (1949-2019)

On Saturday, 23rd March, 2019, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized befitting celebrations of their 70 years of service to Trade & Industry. The organization established in the year 1949 has continued to serve with dedication & distinction the Trade & Industry of Gujarat and has kept growing by leaps and bounds.

Today GCCCI has more than 6000 direct members and 200,000 plus indirect members through its affiliation with other associations in Gujarat. Through GCCCI Regional Council it is equally focused to address the trade & industry related issues faced by small towns & cities of Gujarat represented by various Regional Chambers. GCCCI has been playing important role in each Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit as Government's State Partner.

The 70 Year Celebrations function was graced by Shri Sanjay Lalbhai, Chairman, Arvind Group of Companies as the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honour on the occasion were Shri Pankajbhai Patel, Chairman, Zydu Group, Shri Gautambhai Adani, Chairman, Adani Group, Shri Sudhirbhai Mehta, Chairman Torrent Group and Shri Deepakbhai Mehta, Chairman & MD, Deepak Nitrite Limited.

On the occasion GCCCI presented Lifetime Achievement Award to the renowned Industrialist of Gujarat and Founder Chairman of Nirma Group, Padmashri Karsanbhai Patel.

GCCI also felicitated the galaxy of Past Presidents of the Chamber for their huge contribution over the years.

Gujarat's nine Regional Chambers are part of GCCCI Regional Council and all the nine Regional Chambers were felicitated on this occasion.

The celebrations held at Andaz Party Plot began with GCCCI's specially created "Theme Song" which has been penned & composed by renowned musical duo Shyamal & Saamil.

In his welcome address, while welcoming the galaxy of guests, President Dr. Jaimin Vasa also provided a bird-eye view of GCCCI's activities during the current year and also mentioned about the huge contribution made by the galaxy of Past Presidents.

He paid glowing tributes to the founding fathers of GCCCI Sheth Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai and Sheth Shri Amrutlal Hargovindas who had put in their tireless efforts in establishing this great organization. He also mentioned about the important role played by each subsequent President in ensuring the expansion and growth of GCCCI.

He also remembered late Past Presidents of GCCCI who are no more with us but whose blessings still keep guiding the organization.

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In his welcome speech GCCI President mentioned about some sterling activities like 1) Establishment of JAPAN Desk; 2) Establishment of GCCI's UAE Chapter; 3) Key role played as the State Partner during 9th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit; 4) Global Conclave of National & International Chambers of Commerce & Industry organized first time ever during the Vibrant Gujarat summit & devised by GCCI; 5) 2nd Edition of GCCI & Maskati Market Farm to Fashion – Indian Textile Global Summit which was attended by more than 500 national & international buyers and business worth Rs.2500 Crore was carried out; 6) MSME Convention of Vibrant Gujarat where GCCI played crucial role; 7) Release of Gujarat's Tourism & Hospitality Directory by GCCI & Gujarat Tourism Department; 8) Release of unique publication on Gujarat's Start-ups prepared with EDI; 9) GCCI's ADRC Centre, MSME Help Desk, Export & Import Help Desk; 10) Recently inaugurated GCCI MSME Finance Cell; 11) First ever Open House on Direct Tax with the presence of All IT commissioners of Gujarat; 12) GCCI expanding its global foot-prints by sending delegations to foreign countries like Germany, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, South Korea & Taiwan; 13) GCCI's renovation to provide it corporate outlook; 14) the year round seminars & workshops as well as important role played in resolving Trade & Industry related issues by liaising with Government of Gujarat and Government of India. He appreciated the role played by GCCI Business Women Wing as well as GCCI Youth wing in encouraging & empowering women entrepreneurs and youth entrepreneurs. In response to the Lifetime achievement Award presented to him Shri Karsanbhai Patel mentioned that business is the inherent trait of every Gujarati and what distinguishes Gujarati businessman is his commitment to community. Recalling his own growth as an Industrialist, he remarked that being a successful businessman was never his goal, but he kept working honestly, keeping in mind the welfare of all his associates and that is how Nirma kept growing and became a big conglomerate. He congratulated the fine work GCCI has been doing helping & empowering budding entrepreneurs of Gujarat many of whom will be Industry leaders in future.

Sharing his thoughts with the audience **Guest of Honour Shri Sudhirbhai Mehta** mentioned that each GCCI President should select just one or two crucial & important issues relevant for the growth of Trade & Industry in Gujarat and throughout his tenure he should focus on that only.

Guest of Honour & Past President Shri Pankajbhai Patel remarked that he was part of GCCI family and that the organization must always remember that Chamber is equivalent to Member and members' interests should be paramount.

Chief Guest of the celebrations Shri Sanjay Lalbhai recalled the role played by his grand-father Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai as an institution builder. While he congratulated Shri Karsanbhai Patel for establishing Nirma against dominating presence of Hindustan Lever, he gave greater credit to Shri Karsanbhai Patel for establishing Nirma University and remarked that this is the trait of Gujarat's Industrialists to establish educational institutions with no interest of personal gain and that is why Gujarat and particularly Ahmedabad has emerged as an important centre of education.

Guests of Honour Shri Gautambhai Adani and Shri Deepakbhai Mehta could not attend the celebrations. However their good-will messages were read on the occasion.



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On the occasion GCCI signed three important Memorandums of Understanding.

One MoU was signed with Centre for Environment Education (CEE) & LD College of Engineering to carry out research & promotional work to ensure that Gujarat's Industry keep growing without harm to the environment & the eco system.

One MoU was signed with Gujarat Forensic Sciences University which will focus on educating trade & industry in terms of Artificial Intelligence, Internet, Information Technology, Bitcoin and how to avoid the resultant frauds.

GCCI also signed an MoU with Bank of Baroda where Bank of Baroda to partner GCCI's MSME Help Desk.

On the occasion as a tribute to martyrs of Pulwama Attacks GCCI presented a Cheque of Rs.50 Lac as its support to martyrs' families. The cheque was presented to Shri K.M.Yadav, Dy. Inspector General of Police, CRPF, Gandhinagar.

To celebrate its 70 years' saga of service GCCI also released a commemorative issue depicting the history of 70 years, contribution of GCCI towards growth of Trade & Industry and Gujarat's economic growth during these years.

These grand 70 year celebrations was attended by more than 2000 members & guests as a testimony of GCCI's growing role in Gujarat's Trade & Industry.

To,

The Editor/ Chief Reporter/ Commercial Editor/ Bureau Chief/ News Editor with a request to kindly incorporate the above Press Note in your esteemed News Paper.


Jagdish Shah
Secretary General, GCCI.