

Indian Business Chamber

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Dear Members,

As the year comes to an end, I lookback with both pride and humility for the resilience, flexibility and creativity that we I have seen throughout the journey this year as the chairman of IBC. I am proud of the new board which has brought in the right attitude and expertise for executing on our vision of becoming a stronger, inclusive and professional organisation.

I would also like to thank our members for their active participation this year during the golf tournament, input for newsletters and their engagement on what has been one of the most unprecedented year of our lives.

In this edition of the newsletter, we say goodbye to 2020 and feature another one of our young board member who has already contributed tremendously in the short time he's been engaged with us.

To improve our engagement with all our IBC members, we would request them to send in their feedback on the newsletter or suggestions on new topics to secretary@indianbusinesschamber.nl for subsequent newsletters. You are more than welcome to send your own creative article which we will feature in the upcoming newsletters.

Wish you all best of health. Stay safe!

Warm Regards,

Manu Katyal
(Chairman IBC)

Upcoming Events

AGM 2021*

*The dates are still undecided due to COVID-19 and we will follow the government's guidelines before planning any of the above events.

IBC Board Members

Manu Katyal
(Chairman)

Shivan Bhoendie
(Vice Chairman & Treasurer)

Sid Gupta
(Secretary)

Board Members:

- Vinod Sehdev
- Sumit Anand
- Hemant Mishra
- Gagan Vermani

Chairmen emeritus

- Badri Madan
- Harry Bahl
- Pramod Sharma
- Ram Sand

Goodbye 2020 and Welcome 2021!

Heartiest wishes for a wonderful New Year 2021 to all our members and readers of IBC Newsletter. We hope that you and your loved ones stay healthy and blessed always.

**Best Wishes
2021**

IBC

**Indian Business Chamber,
The Netherlands**

Sumit Anand

Manu Katyal

Vinod Sehdev

Gagan Vermani

Shivan Bhoendie

Hemant Mishra

Sid Gupta

Featured Member – Mr Sid Gupta

As you remember, from the month of June we started a series of interviewing our members and featuring their profiles and experiences in the newsletter. In this newsletter we bring you, Mr Sid Gupta, who joined as member of board early this year.

What/ how has been your journey to the Netherlands ?

I arrived to the Netherlands in 2009 to manage the marketing & strategy for mainland Europe for a leading MNC. The initial plan was to be here only for a couple of years but before I knew time flew by and I found myself well settled into the country. I lived mostly in Amsterdam & Amstelveen which are very International and I made friends & acquaintances from various nationalities. Apart from the convenience of the prevalence of English language everywhere in the Netherlands, what I also came to appreciate was the amazing systematic organization of everything here.

Can you tell us a bit more about your background?

With my father being an engineer and my mom a teacher, I was born into a family where there was always a lot of emphasis on education & values. Our family is originally from Delhi but I did my schooling in Kolkata, and my university in Bangalore. I am an Engineering (Electrical & electronics) graduate with an MBA in Finance. I have also studied Digital Transformation from the Darden Business School, University of Virginia. I love learning about different cultures and have lived in various parts of India & have

extensively travelled the world – both for work & for leisure.

What do you do professionally?

In 2015, having headed the operation in mainland Europe for a couple of years already, my company wanted me to move to the London HQ. At that point I realized that I had begun to really like living here. So, I took the opportunity to drop out of the corporate race and to start my own venture. Currently I am at the helm of two companies – marQtiQ which is a marketing strategy firm and Indware – which is an IT company. Our team is comprised of 20 highly motivated individuals based out of my office in India, servicing clients all over the world. Apart from that I am also the co-founder of iQ Business Network which is a forum for knowledge sharing and networking for entrepreneurs.

As part of giving back to the community, I often help out small businesses who are constrained by budget, with mentoring with regards to business strategy.



And who is Sid as a person, how would you describe yourself?

I am a fitness addict and I work out or play sports everyday – my favourite being tennis. I also like amateur car racing and visit the Zandvoort racing track once in a while. I am



also a Mindfulness practitioner and I believe in the power of meditation – particularly given the stress in today's urban lives. I am a voracious reader and am also writing a book at the moment.

So what is your book about?

I believe that the ultimate success in life is defined by your own freedom. When you are free to decide what you want to do for every aspect of your life, and not because you have to do it out of some compulsion – you are truly successful. This motivation drives me in business and my personal life and this gives a higher mantra than just chasing money or

power. My book will cover this and about finding a greater meaning to life.

How is being on the board of Indian Business Chamber?

I joined the Board of IBC early 2020 on being invited by the erstwhile chairman Mr. Harry Bahl and the current chairman Mr. Manu Katyal. The role of the Secretary comes with a lot of responsibilities and lot of expectations. Led by our Chairman's vision, we in the middle of a transformation in terms of making the organization truly professional & in tune with the times. These sort of transformations are crucial but never easy. And having it all in the middle of a pandemic year present additional challenges ! All I can say is that it has been an interesting experience so far. The Golf Experience organized by us was definitely a highlight of my term till date.

How do you see IBC moving forward in the coming years?

The Indian Business Chamber is one of the oldest and best known organizations for the Indian diaspora in the Netherlands. We are now working on delivering more tangible things that can help our entrepreneurial community. This can be in terms of knowledge sharing about entrepreneurship, webinars, networking opportunities etc. Me, along with the entire board under the leadership of the Chairman, is aligned on this and committed to deliver this.

I also believe it is very important to open up and mix with other communities – we can benefit a lot as a community & as businessmen by these interactions. End of

the day, we are not in India - we are in the Netherlands and it is very important to focus & synergize with the local ecosystem.

Any message for our readers?

We Indians are very enterprising. We proved across countries our resilience and ingenuity in building businesses and successful communities.

You can say that entrepreneurship runs in our blood ! There are many successful and established business people among our community - I would like to congratulate them and thank them for being an inspiration to the newer breed of entrepreneurs.



Having said that, it is also important to note how the entrepreneurial landscape is

evolving. Our community was only restricted to few traditional sectors so far in the Netherlands – and the newer generations are increasingly trying their hands at newer tech oriented businesses. At this point it is important to realise that new sectors of businesses require new ways of doing business. As such entrepreneurs need to reach out and tap into various knowledge sources. I would strongly advise them to join various networking platforms, including , of course the Indian Business Chamber. Try to make a clear vision about your business and how you intend to achieve that vision – but don't worry if you do not have it all figured out. If you connect with the right people, you will get your answers as you go along. Best of luck!

Upcoming Events

None.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all upcoming IBC events are carefully considered based on the guidelines of [Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport](#) and want to ensure the safety of our members and their families as top priority.

Important News – Netherlands

Locations for first round of coronavirus vaccines announced

The full list of 25 locations where healthcare workers will be vaccinated from January 18 has been published by the national network of health boards (GGD).

Three locations in Utrecht, Rotterdam and Hart van Brabant will begin vaccinating from January 11, with the other 22 joining a week later. The Netherlands is the only nation in the European Union that has yet to start its coronavirus vaccination programme.

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The Netherlands to host first online international Climate Adaptation Summit

As the world continues to work towards recovering and emerging better equipped from the COVID-19 pandemic, CAS 2021 will serve to provide an opportunity to find solutions that will enable people and our planet to adapt to the effects of climate change.

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Brexit Deal finally done – how does it impact business in Netherlands?

Source: business.gov.nl - On 24 December 2020, the EU and the UK negotiated a deal on, amongst other things, customs and trade. This deal has yet to be ratified by the European Parliament, and details of the deal are not yet fully known. To find out what rules and regulations will apply from 31 December 2020, stay up-to-date by checking the Brexitloket and other sources. In this article, you will find advice on matters that will change in any case.

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Important News – India

Farmers protest is about politics, not economics, Indias IMF executive director Surjit Bhalla tells CNN-News18 | national

NEW DELHI : The economy has nothing to do with the peasant movement in Delhi The whole thing is happening for political reasons That's what economist and IMF executive director Suraj Bhalla said about the farmers' movement in protest of the new agriculture law. In an exclusive interview with CNN-News18 on the farmers' movement, Surjit Bhalla said that not all Indian farmers are against the law, only a small section of farmers are participating in the protests.

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Suspension of scheduled international passenger flights extended till January 31

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday further extended suspension of scheduled international passenger flights till January 31, 2021. However, restrictions will not apply to special flights and international air cargo operations, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in an official release.

"International scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case-to-case basis," the circular read.

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Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at 41 on Forbes 2020 list of 100 most powerful women

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has made it to the list of the world's 100 most powerful women by Forbes, for the second year in a row.

US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, Biocon Founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and HCL Enterprise CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra have also been named in the list which has been topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the 10th year in a row.

Sitharaman is ranked 41st on the list this year. In 2019, she was ranked at 34.

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