

Retrospect

Business Delegation to France

24-25 May 2011

CII mounted a Business Delegation to France on May 24-25, 2011 led by Mr N Kumar, Past President and Vice Chairman, The Sanmar Group.

On May 24, 2011, the delegation participated at the seminar 'Greater Paris on the Move: New opportunities and Partnerships' organized by Greater Paris Investment Agency in partnership with CII. The seminar was attended

Paris Investment Agency, France. The sessions were held in the presence of H E Ranjan Mathai, Indian Ambassador to France.

Speaking at the session on Infrastructure, Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, emphasized on the scope of collaboration and investments in the sector by both India and France.



L-R Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Mr N Kumar, Past President CII & Vice Chairman The Sanmar Group, Mr Anand Sharma Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of India; Mr Pierre Simon, Chairman, Greater Paris Investment Agency; H E Ranjan Mathai, Ambassador of Indian to France; Ms Chiara Corazza, Managing Director, Greater Paris Investment Agency

and addressed by prominent French and Indian industry members. Speaking at the opening session, Mr N Kumar said, that there were several sectors where Indian companies could profitably participate in the Greater Paris project. There were huge opportunities for Indian companies in the areas of low-cost high quality renewable energy products, manufacture of engineering and construction parts, design and project consultancy, software development, and transport infrastructure. The seminar was also addressed by Mr Pierre Simon, Chairman, Greater Paris Investment Agency, France, Mr Claude Blanchemaison, Former French Ambassador in India, Special Advisor for India, Greater



Mr Chandrajit Banerjee speaking at the Greater Paris Seminar



Mr N Kumar addressing the delegation at the Greater Paris Seminar



Mr Anand Sharma addressing the gathering at the Greater Paris Seminar

The seminar was addressed by Mr Anand Sharma, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry, India. The Minister highlighted the strong Indo-French relationship and said that the efforts of both the countries will take the bilateral cooperation to the next level. He added that, in the areas of infrastructure and soft infrastructure, both the countries can look at cooperation and investment and can benefit from each other. Minister Sharma also pointed out that food security was one of the main challenges in India and emphasized the importance of value chain in agro processing. He asserted that French companies can explore opportunities in this sector. He also identified life sciences, pharmaceuticals and health sectors as the other sectors of cooperation.

HE Mrs Valérie Pécresse, Minister for Higher Education & Research, Government of France, addressed the gathering at the networking luncheon session. She spoke on French and Indian partnerships in innovation in education, specially higher education and rising talents. She mentioned the considerable investment in education and innovation of 35 billion Euros in France and looked forward to Indian partnerships in academics, research and R&D facilities. Speaking at this occasion Minister Sharma added that innovation and R&D was integral to the development of both the countries. Although India was behind the developed countries in investment and focus on innovation and R&D, the government looks forward to double the investment in R&D and innovation to 2% of GDP. Both



L-R Mr Anand Sharma, Ms Valérie Pécresse, Hon'able Minister for Higher Education & Research, Government of France: Mr Pierre Simon at the networking luncheon session

the ministers looked forward to a fruitful Indo – French collaborations in academics and R&D. Minister Sharma also welcomed French participation in the IIT at Rajasthan.

The seminar ended with a gala networking dinner for all participants.

The CII delegation also participated at a Round Table of French and Indian business representatives ‘India-France: The Investment Agenda’ organized by MEDEF over lunch. The roundtable was attended by 16 senior members of the French industry and Indian business delegation. The session was moderated by Mr Jean Burrelle, President, MEDEF. Speaking at this roundtable Mr Burrelle said that trade was developing rapidly between the two countries and there was focus on not only encouraging trade but also investments in India and France. Minister Anand Sharma addressing the roundtable mentioned that there would be a great focus on infrastructure in India and the highway programme was well under way with a target of 20 kms a day and more. There was also a focus on the PPP model. Talking of energy, he asserted that there was immense importance given to renewable energy and the national solar mission had targeted 20,000 megawatts to be completed in 10 years. All these areas were potential

areas of cooperation and investment for India and France. Both the sides emphasized on the cooperation in areas of skill development & capacity building, innovation & design, tourism and collaboration between small and medium enterprises.

The CII delegation led by Mr N Kumar comprised of Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Dr Mukesh Aghi, CEO (Asia-Pacific), Steria; Mr Ravindra Chawla, Vice President, Business Development, Mahindra Satyam; Mr Alain Davezac, Resident Director, Essar, Mr Prashant Jhawar, Chairman, Usha Martin Ltd; Mr Sanjay Mehta, Managing Director, Essar Global; Mr Mohan Murti, Managing Director-Europe, Reliance Industries Limited; Mr Hitesh Sethia, Deputy General Manager, ICICI Bank UK PLC, Mr Bala Subramanian, Vice President-Europe, ITC Infotech; Mr Philippe Ly Cong Trinh, Managing Director, KPIT Infosystems (France); Ms Supriya Banerji, Deputy Director General, CII; Mr Ramesh N Mulye, Senior Advisor, CII and Ms Gunveena Chadha, Director & Head-UK, CII



L-R Mr Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Mr N Kumar, Mr Pierre Simon, Mr Anand Sharma, H E Ranjan Mathai, Ambassador of Indian to France

... GLIMPSES ...

