

Kolkata hosts special session on India-Philippines Partnership



MI News Service, Kolkata: The Calcutta Chamber of Commerce successfully hosted a special session on "Promoting India-Philippines Partnership," bringing together key dignitaries, industry leaders, and members of the diplomatic community to discuss bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

The event was graced by Josel Francisco Ignacio, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines in India, as the Chief Guest. He was joined by Melissa Anne Telan, Third Secretary and Vice Consul of the Embassy of the Philippines, Deepak Kumar Khemka, Honorary Consul General, Consulate General of the Philippines in Kolkata, and Eugenio C. Elevado, Jr., Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of the Philippines, as Guests of Honour.

Hari Shankar Halwasiya, President of the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce emphasized the significance of strengthening economic ties between India and the Philippines under India's "Act East Policy" and the Philip-

ippines' "Build-Build-Build Programme."

The session underscored the growth in bilateral trade, which surged from \$1.89 billion in 2015-16 to \$3.05 billion in 2022-23, marking a significant milestone as it surpassed the \$3 billion mark for the first time.

Josel Francisco Ignacio, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines emphasized strengthening economic and business ties between the Philippines and India, particularly with West Bengal, citing the region's remarkable economic growth and investment potential. He highlighted the Philippines' commitment to fostering bilateral trade, investment, and tourism, mentioning ongoing efforts to improve trade agreements, air connectivity, and visa accessibility.

The Calcutta Chamber of Commerce reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating stronger economic and business engagements between India and the Philippines, fostering a new era of bilateral cooperation and growth.