

# Indian Business Chamber

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Dear Members,

November is the month that culminates festivities from our Indian traditions and transitions to festivities in the west. We are fortunate to get the best of both worlds. I hope you and your loved ones have celebrated the essence of Diwali this month, though it may not have been with the same intensity of previous years, I also hope it brings the families closer on another dimension.

For the business community in the Netherlands, although it's been another tough month but light at the end of the tunnel seems visible with positive signs about various vaccine possibilities, stabilizing political outlook in the west with US elections, and less than anticipated restrictions over the holiday period.

This month among other things we bid good bye to HE Venu Rajamony, the ambassador of India to the NL, on behalf of all our members. In this edition of the newsletter, we bring you pictures of the farewell for the ambassador and feature 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](mailto: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

IBC Diwali Gala Dinner\*

IBC 31<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event\*

\*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

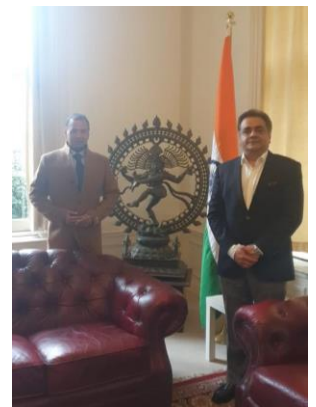
- Badri Madan
- Harry Bahl
- Pramod Sharma
- Ram Sand

# Highlights November



In November, the chairman of IBC had the distinct pleasure of presenting a memento on behalf of members of IBC to His Excellency Mr Venu Rajamony, the outgoing ambassador of India to the Netherlands. We would like to thank the ambassador for all his support in promoting, encouraging and giving direction to IBC. We will definitely

remember him for his inclusive leadership and his impact on the Indian diaspora in the Netherlands.



# Featured Member – Mr Hemant Mishra

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 Hemant Mishra, who joined as member of board early this year.

**How did your journey with the Netherlands begin and when did you first visit the Netherlands?**

I was working in India until 2011 for a MNC and then I got a project from a Dutch based telecom company. They invited me to come to the Netherlands. Initially I was here for just 3 months. My work was extended by one year, then two years and now it has been 9 years already.

The first city where I lived in NL was den Haag. I used to live in Scheveningen. I liked the environment, people and area. I could take a walk to the sea, and everything I needed was close by.



By education and profession, I am an engineer and I was impressed by the engineering work the Dutch did. From Bridges to water management and renewable energy. I really like the work ethic of Dutch people, their communication and spirit. Yes, I knew that this was the environment where I wanted to dedicate my own skills and knowledge too.

**Can you tell us a bit more about your background?**

I was born in a small village in India and raised in Jammu, Kashmir, Rajasthan, Delhi and MP. My dad worked in the Indian defence services. Our family was used to move around a lot. Later I studied in different KV's among the country. I finished my Bachelor of Engineering in Indore. After I got my degree I worked in Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Gurgaon and Bangalore before moving to NL. I have lived and worked from the North to the South of India already by the age of 25.

**What is your current profession?**

I'm a lead consultant for one of the leading bank in the Netherlands. Apart from that I also do voluntary work for a foundation associated with the bank. Next to that I've my own business: HemCos. I work in business development and strategy, digital marketing and IT-consulting. I also have other small venture for event management and retreats called RUDRAM.

**Next to your professional occupation, have you also been involved in social causes? Can you tell us a bit more about it?**

I do believe in the importance of social causes and I've always been involved in them to help with my skills and knowledge. In past, I was part of big movements against corruption in India which gave me an inclination to work for social causes.



Initially I worked for a newly born political party in 2012, first as a volunteer and later as a campaign manager. The work involved helping good political candidates to create more visibility. I was also the coordinator in the Netherlands for the same political party. Later I became part an NGO which is called Surkarma foundation. Main target of the NGO is empowering women and girls in rural areas, menstruation hygiene and access to education and health.

### What do you do in your free time?

I like to write stories and poems, play cricket and recently I started playing golf. I like horse riding. I also enjoy cooking for my friends.



### How did you find out about IBC?

When I moved to the Netherlands, in my initial days in Den Haag , I met Late. Dr. Vasant Moharrir and he introduced me to the Indian Diaspora. Later I got introduced to different professional and social groups in the Netherlands. The same social contacts helped me to get to know the IBC. I immediately felt I really wanted to be part of this inspiring business group. I got introduced to Harry Bahl and other respected members of IBC. I felt the urge to take part in the IBC to use my skills and create a wider platform in the Netherlands.

### You started in February as a board member and already organized a big golf tournament for our IBC members in September 2020. How was your experience?

After forming the new board, the golf tournament was one of the first events coming up in 2020.



It was really challenging due to Corona situation. Along with other board and committee members we worked very hard to make this event happen. Starting from making a plan and to coordinate a corona-proof dinner. The new restrictions came up right 48 hrs before our event was planned, it almost looked like mission impossible. With my fellow board member Gagan, golf committee members and the

Mondial staff we made sure that things will go as planned on the day of the event. With our dedication and spirit, it really went well.

### What do you want to achieve as an IBC board member?

My role is to strengthen the qualities which are already present at IBC and use my skills and knowledge to make them more visible. I see IBC as the leading platform where young entrepreneurs from India and the Netherlands can come together to grow mutual understanding, trust and an inspiring business culture. I want to make IBC a platform for different entrepreneur and professional working environment to grow together. IBC can create a channel to bring the Indian business community in India and businesses in the Netherlands together. We can become a bridgebuilder.

### What personal message would you like to give to our Indian expat community?

I must say the new generation of expat community coming to Netherlands is smart, eager and willing to explore. They are working with the top companies holding various responsibilities at the same time they are trying hands in small businesses and startups, I must say Netherlands is the best country to explore yourself. I would urge the expat community to come forward and become part of Indian diaspora, community groups and Indian business chambers, join these platforms and help indian diaspora to touch the new skies. Also many young Indian talented students are coming to the Netherlands. Sometimes the gap between their education and working environment is too big. It would be great to match young students with a business mindset with our IBC members for mentorship, encouragement and advice.

# 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

### **Dutch will not compromise, despite Hungary, Poland veto of EU budget deal**

Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte has told parliament that the Netherlands cannot accept any attempt to water down conditions for the EU's new budget and coronavirus recovery fund, despite the threatened veto by Hungary and Poland.

[Read More](#)

### **Reasons to be cheerful: Nine things you should do now**

So coronavirus is back with us for the foreseeable future, and unlike first time round, the 'let's make the best of it' approach seems to have all but disappeared. Winter is drawing in, people no longer stop and let you pass in the street with a smile, and politicians appear to be on the verge of cancelling Christmas.

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### **Northern provinces get €438m from EU for energy transition, job creation**

The three northern provinces of Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe will get a total of €438m from European funds, junior economic affairs minister Mona Keijzer has told provincial officials.

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# Important News – India

## **Battle Of The Billionaires: Bezos, Ambani Gun For India Retail Supremacy**

Jeff Bezos and Mukesh Ambani, two of the world's richest men, face a turning point in a battle for preeminence in India's booming, nearly trillion-dollar retail market.

The outcome of a legal dispute which has embroiled the billionaires' Amazon.com and Reliance Industries Ltd empires - where a court ruling is imminent - may shape India's retail landscape for years to come.

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## **India's economic contraction slows as vaccines boost recovery hopes**

NEW DELHI: The contraction of the Indian economy eased off in the three months to September amid signs of a pickup in manufacturing, and economists expect a steady recovery next year if progress on coronavirus vaccines feeds consumer demand

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose party won elections this month in the eastern state of Bihar, expects the recent easing of farm and labour laws, along with tax incentives, to bolster manufacturing and lure more foreign investment.

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## **India may grow at 8-10% in long run; content with key reforms: Carlyle Group CEO**

The Carlyle Group, among the world's largest investment firms, considers India a "strategically incredibly important market" where it wants to double down on its mainstay, private equity franchise. At the same time, it will also look to expand its offering to private credit, real estate and infrastructure, the buyout group's newly appointed chief executive Kewsong Lee told Indulal PM & Arijit Barman in his first India interview. Lee took over as sole boss in July. Having deployed over \$3 billion in India, a fourth of it in 2020, the quest remains to seek bankable partners and CEOs to expand the franchise.

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