



**Basking in Glory:** Winners at a photo session with chief guest Dr Amit Mitra, Sanjiv Goenka, Harshavardhan Neotia, Joy Chakraborty and members of the Association of Corporate Advisers and Executives

## BENGAL'S CORPORATE CZARS

Their smiles said it all. Some of the state's best business houses were cheered and lauded by the who's who of corporate Bengal at the second edition of ET Bengal Corporate Awards organised by *The Economic Times* and ACAE

ADITI GUHA

It was an evening that celebrated entrepreneurship, excellence and empowerment. One that would remain etched in the minds of Bengal's corporate who's who in the years to come.

The second edition of ET Bengal Corporate Awards (ETBCA) was organized by *The Economic Times* and presented by the Association of Corporate Advisers and Executives (ACAE) at the Taj Bengal on February 13, 2014.

It was an exclusive gathering, unique in quality as the doyen of Indian industry, nonagenarian Basant Kumar Birla shared a seat with other luminaries from the biz world. Birla was conferred the **Legendary Award**. And who better than the chief guest, minister for Finance & Excise, Commerce and Industries, Government of West Bengal, Dr Amit Mitra could have held together a full house with his fiery and open speech that touched the hearts of many who think like him. Chairman of RP-Sanjiv Goenka group, Sanjiv Goenka, chairman of Ambuja Neotia group, Harshavardhan Neotia, and chairman of Usha Martin Group, Prashant Jhavar, graced the occasion as guests of honour. The audience witnessed some legendary moments as some of Bengal's best business houses won awards and accolades.

As the anchor for the evening, Mridu Bhandari of ET Now set the proceedings in motion, the vibrant orange-green and blue-hued stage was set for some wonder moments of achievements and honours. The ceremony began with the lighting of the inaugural lamp by Dr Mitra, the guests of honour, director of *The Times of India* group, Joy Chakraborty and Jinesh S Vanzara and KN Jain of ACAE. "Corporate excellence is not confined to mere achievements. It also brings forth ways and means by which larger good can be attained," said Vanzara in his keynote address. "The time is not far when Bengal corporates will get recognized and be rewarded at the national level. That day will be a dream come true for us," he said. Vanzara lauded Birla as a true leader and a legendary person.

"Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning." So thought Benjamin Franklin. Words that aptly described the ethos and principles that made B K Birla the man and business baron that he is. It was an emotional moment as Birla was awarded the **Legendary Award** by Dr Mitra. It was 'the' moment everyone was waiting for. Felicitations by the guests of honour, Chakraborty and editor, ET followed. A standing ovation was perhaps not enough for the man whose contribution to industry remains almost unparalleled. An epitome of philanthropy, discipline and ethics, Birla shared a light moment with his better half, Sarala Birla, who congratulated him first, only to be congratulated by him following her felicitation. It was a rare sight to see most from the Birla family come together to honour the father figure and to share his joy.

Back to the proceedings, in his address, Goenka reiterated his thoughts on how the state is undergoing positive changes in areas more than one. He mentioned how various issues are getting resolved in lesser time, decisions are being taken quickly and man-day losses are almost negligible today, thanks to the speedy,



**For the best**  
BK Birla receives the **Legendary Award** from Dr Amit Mitra

### THE AWARD GOES TO...

#### BEST FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

● **Ghanashyam Misra & Sons**  
Companies with a maximum turnover of ₹ 300 crore

● **RS Software (India) Ltd**  
Companies having turnover between ₹ 300 crore and ₹ 1,000 crore

● **Emami Ltd**  
Companies with a turnover of more than ₹ 1,000 crore

#### FASTEST GROWING COMPANY

● **Vedant Fashions Pvt. Ltd**  
Companies with a maximum turnover of ₹ 300 crore

● **Flexituff International Ltd**  
Companies having turnover between ₹ 300 crore and ₹ 1,000 crore

● **Srei Equipment Finance Ltd**  
Companies with a turnover of more than ₹ 1,000 crore

#### HIGHEST JOB CREATOR

● **Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd**  
Companies with a maximum turnover of ₹ 300 crore

● **Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals Ltd**  
Companies with turnover between ₹ 300 crore and ₹ 1,000 crore

● **Himadri Chemicals & Industries Ltd**  
Companies with a turnover of more than ₹ 1,000 crore

#### BEST CSR IDEA

● **BANDHAN**

proactive efforts taken to boost industrialization in the state. Keeping the ensuing Lok Sabha elections in mind, Neotia said he expected rapid progress and activity on the ground. He lauded the state government for getting its act together and initiating positive changes. "The corporate awards acknowledges good performance and encourages companies to strive towards ambitious goals," said Neotia. Speaking on his 'Nanaji' (BK Birla), Jhavar spoke about his group's relationships with Birla and how the doyen remained an inspiration for him and his works.

On his part, Jain said, "In order to acknowledge and encourage the true contributors in the economic growth of Bengal, our association has joined hands with ET. It is a privilege for us to honour those who are carrying the torch of corporate Bengal." It was then time for chairman of Deloitte India, P R Ramesh, to explain in details the selection procedure. Following this, the winners took home their awards. And their smiles said it all! But the best, it seemed, was yet to happen. And it did so as the minister took the stage. As he spoke, Bengal's industrial brigade listened. Mitra assured how the state is much on the path of economic and industrial recovery and how it has far outstripped the national growth rates on parameters such as industrialization, agriculture and man-day loss. Allotment of land, he added, is being done through a very transparent process. "A few hundred cottahs are being auctioned for bus terminuses. Project clearances are happening fast; there's been a marked change in the work culture and the highest level of transparency is being followed at all levels of functioning," said the minister.

Lauding the ETBCA, director of Emami Group, Aditya Agarwal said, "The ETBCA not only provides corporate Bengal with the prestige and recognition it deserves, but helps them to forge quality relationships with its various stakeholders and also attract good talent." To many gathered there, the highlight of the evening was the FM's speech. "Dr Mitra's speech appeared to be straight from his heart. He clearly shares the passion that we have about Bengal and Kolkata," said consultant interventional radiologist, Dr Shuvro Roychoudhury. According to principal secretary of the Department of Urban Development, Govt of West Bengal, Debashis Sen, it was a stunning ceremony that championed the entrepreneurship talent of Kolkata and Bengal. On the same lines, CMD of Infinity Group, Ravindra Chamarla, said, "The ETBCA proved to be indispensable in promoting healthy competition among companies. It provides an accurate analysis of a company's strengths and weaknesses and provides an incentive for growth."

For CEO and MD of Anmol Biscuits, Bimal Chowdhury, "The awards provides much-needed encouragement and opens up an array of diverse sectors for them to explore," he said. That the awards encouraged efforts of companies and created a yardstick was agreed to by many, including MD of Patton group, Sanjay Budhia. The ceremony was perhaps best described by chairman of Dhunseri Petrochem & Tea Ltd, CK Dhanuka: "ETBCA must continue in the years to come; the parameters, however, should be changed with time. Awards such as this, act as a booster and inspire others to follow suit and take initiatives to perform better." The sponsors for the event were Emami, Bengal Energy, Concast, Kesoram, Anmol Biscuits, Vedant Fashions (Manyavar) and Simplex Infrastructure. Deloitte was the knowledge partner.

### CORP speak



**DR AMIT MITRA**  
Minister for Finance & Excise, Commerce and Industries, Government of West Bengal



**SANJIV GOENKA**  
Chairman, RP-Sanjiv Goenka group



**HARSH NEOTIA**  
Chairman, Ambuja Neotia group



**PRASHANT JHAWAR**  
Chairman, Usha Martin Group



**PR RAMESH**  
Chairman, Deloitte India



**JINESH S VANZARA**  
ACAE



**K N JAIN**  
ACAE

### THE NOMINATIONS...

**BEST FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
MAXIMUM TURNOVER OF 300 CR  
● Ghanashyam Misra & Sons  
● La Opala RG Ltd  
● InfoSoft Global Pvt Ltd  
● Kopperrn Maco Services Pvt Ltd

**BETWEEN 300 CR & 1,000 CR**  
● RS Software (India) Ltd  
● Rupa and Company Ltd  
● Anmol Biscuits Ltd  
● Phoenix Conveyor Belt India

**TURNOVER OF MORE THAN 1,000 CR**  
● Emami Ltd  
● Shree Cements Ltd  
● Manaksia Ltd  
● Berger Paints India Ltd  
● Britannia Industries

**FASTEST GROWING COMPANY**  
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● Vedant Fashions Pvt. Ltd  
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**BETWEEN 300 CR & 1,000 CR**  
● Flexituff International Ltd  
● KIC Metaliks Ltd  
● MSP Steel & Power Ltd  
● Gallantt Ispat Ltd

**MORE THAN 1,000 CR**  
● India Glycols Ltd  
● Srei Equipment Finance Ltd

**HIGHEST JOB CREATOR**  
TURNOVER OF 300 CR  
● Maheshwari Mining Pvt. Ltd  
● AKA Logistics Pvt. Ltd  
● Vedant Fashions Pvt. Ltd

**BETWEEN 300 CR & 1000 CR**  
● Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals Ltd  
● RS Software (India) Limited  
● Lux Industries Ltd

**MORE THAN 1,000 CR**  
● Himadri Chemicals & Industries Ltd  
● Srei Equipment Finance Ltd  
● Skipper Ltd

**BEST CSR IDEA**  
● Bandhan  
● Infinity Group  
● Anandlok

(\*All figures in Rs)

Inputs by Irene Saha and Shalini Sengupta  
Photos by Dipanjan Ghosh

## Night of The Legend and The Luminaries



**The Right Mood**

Industry bigwigs share a light moment in the midst of action



**Light of Inspiration**

State finance, commerce & industries minister Dr Amit Mitra lights the inaugural lamp as dignitaries look on



**Listening On**

Company moguls grace the front row at the corporate awards ceremony



**Hand in Hand**

Dr Mitra introduces BK Birla and Sarla Birla to Canadian High Commissioner Stewart G Beck

Knowledge partner

**Deloitte**

**ANMOL**  
The Right Biscuits

**BENGAL**  
ENERGY

**CONCAST**  
MAXX  
STEEL

**emami**

**KESORAM**

**Manyavar**  
A NEW WAY TO WEAR

**SA**  
SIMPLEX INFRASTRUCTURES LIMITED