

**Chairman's Pen**

*My dear fellow exporters,*

*As we come to the penultimate days of the current year, I would like to wish you all a very happy 2009. I do hope that the gloom and doom witnessed in the last two months of this year will ease out soon in the next year. As can be expected, the role of the Government will be critical and the Council is making all efforts to provide the Government with all the necessary feedback with respect to various issues impacting our member exporters so that the Government is aware of all that is happening in the Indian economy, with respect to the engineering industry and exports.*

*A point that we have been stressing to the Government is that the engineering sector has a long gestation period and, therefore, the impact will be much serious in the next fiscal year and this will have a severe impact on employment in the country. Even large scale engineering firms have intimated to the Council that already there is a drop in employment of nearly 20% and unless there is a revival very quickly, 2009-10 could turn out to be a bleak year than the present fiscal year.*

*We do hope that the Government will take pro-active measures to revive engineering growth and exports in the country.*

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aman Chadha'.

(AMAN CHADHA)