

Chairman's Pen



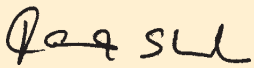
My dear fellow exporters,

Friends, in the last issue I informed you of INDEE Cairo 2006 will be inaugurated on 23rd November by H. E. Mr. A. Gopinathan, Ambassador of India to Egypt. We expect to sign two MoUs with the Chambers of Commerce in Egypt to increase cooperation, strengthen trade ties and facilitate flow of information between the two countries.

Japan is all set to extend 'special economic partner' status to India during the visit of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh to that country next month. Under the partnership, Japan would mobilise its investment, technology and know-how for the development of Indian manufacturing industry. Visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister may also include a free trade agreement. The proposed strengthening of economic relations is expected to more than double India-Japan merchandise trade from the present US\$ 8.5 billion to US\$ 20 billion by 2010.

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India has written to all State Governments requesting them not to levy octroi on inputs for export production. This is a welcome move, and will make our exports more competitive in the international market. The Indian exporters of engineering goods suffer a hefty cost disability factor, and moves like this are expected to cure these disabilities to some extent.

Yours sincerely,


(RAKESH SHAH)