

Chairman's Pen



My dear fellow exporters,

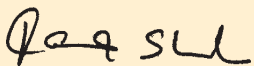
Friends, Council's exclusive Engineering Exhibition INDEE will be opened in Cairo on 23rd November. This is the 13th exhibitions of the series and 115 member companies are participating in the event. All the participants hope to reap big benefits out of this exhibition and a further fillip is expected in India's exports of engineering goods to Egypt.

India has moved on to 29th position among the leading merchandise exporters in 2005 which otherwise saw a slow down of real merchandise growth. As per the latest World Trade Organisation (WTO) Statistics, the country's total merchandise exports were US\$ 95.1 billion in 2005, a 25.8% rise from the previous year's US\$ 75.6 billion.

The Indo-Chinese bilateral trade has the potential to go up to US\$ 30 billion by 2009 from the current level of US\$ 17.6 billion. The key items of India's exports to China last year included ores, slag and ash, iron and steel, plastic and organic & inorganic chemicals, which accounted for 52.1% of total exports.

Mr. B. S. Meena, a 1975 batch Indian Administrative Services Officer has assumed charge as the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). He has replaced Mr. K. T. Chacko, who has superannuated.

Yours sincerely,


(RAKESH SHAH)