



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

**CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE
A CALCUTTA**

PRESS RELEASE 2014

**French Republic bestows the honour of Knighthood in the National Order of Merit
("Chevalier du Ordre National du Mérite") on Mr. Umesh CHOWDHARY, Vice
Chairman & Managing Director of the Titagarh Group.**

The President of the Republic of France, Mr. François HOLLANDE, bestowed the honour of "Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite" (Knight of the National Order of Merit) upon Mr. Umesh CHOWDHARY, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Titagarh Group, which is one of the leading engineering groups in India. Titagarh is engaged in engineering and manufacturing of various equipment such as freight wagons, passenger coaches and mining equipment and ships amongst others. Titagarh group has invested in acquiring the assets of ArbelFauvet Rail out of bankruptcy in the year 2010 and after emerging a successful bidder, stated its operations in France under the name of TitagarhArbelFauvet Rail, TWAFR.

Mr. CHOWDHARY has been actively involved in the turnaround of the company and from initial revenue of 10 crores estimated in the first year of operation, the company has clocked revenue of 325 crores in the previous financial year and has a very healthy order book. In 2013 Titagarh Wagons AFR S.A. (TWAFR), the French subsidiary of Titagarh Wagons Ltd (TWL) bagged an order from French Railways for 400 hopper cereal wagons worth Euro 39 million (around Rs. 275 crore). In the process Mr. CHOWDHARY has maintained a very close contact and relationship with all stakeholders and has also had the opportunity to interact with French President François HOLLANDE about Titagarh's ventures in France.

During the process of this journey Mr. CHOWDHARY has gained a lot of respect and trust from the authorities and as a result of which the French Republic has appointed Mr. CHOWDHARY as 'Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite' (Knight in the National Order of Merit), which is one of the highest civilian order awarded to any foreign national, as a recognition of his outstanding and zealous contribution to the bilateral ties between India and France in the economic area.

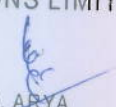
With this award Mr. CHOWDHARY joins a very elite club of members of the Order, created by General de Gaulle, such as King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, Queen Sonja of Norway, former Prime Minister of Nepal Surya Bahadur Thapa, who have also been awarded this honour./.

Contact : Mrs. Anjita ROYCHAUDHURY : anjita.roychaudhury@diplomatie.gouv.fr / 40 13 32 13

Consulat Général de France à Calcutta
21C Raja Santosh Road, Kolkata 700 027
Tel. Standard : + 91 (33) 4016 3200
Fax : + 91 (0)3340163201/02

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

For TITAGARH WAGONS LIMITED


**D. ARYA
COMPANY SECRETARY**