

## 64<sup>th</sup> Indian Foundry Congress & foundry exhibition IFEX 2016 concluded with resounding success

The 64<sup>th</sup> Indian Foundry Congress (IFC) concurrently with foundry exhibition IFEX-2016 concluded successfully on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 at Codissia Trade Fair Complex, Coimbatore. This was one of the biggest events organized by the Institute of Indian Foundrymen (IIF).

The exhibition was spread over to approx. 18000 sq. mtrs. of area with a covered space of 9000 sq. mtrs. with over 300 exhibitors from India and overseas, showcasing their products, technologies and services.

More than 1800 delegates & 20,000 visitors and large number of students from Engineering Colleges, Polytechnics and ITIs also visited the exhibition, underlining the enthusiastic response to the event.

Foundry exhibition IFEX-2016 was inaugurated in the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2016 by the Chief Guest Mr. Ravi Sam, Managing Director, Adwaith Lakshmi Industries Ltd., Guest of Honour of the event was Mr. P. K. Ahammed, Chairman, PeeKay Group. Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 64<sup>th</sup> IFC, Mr. C. R. Swaminathan welcomed all the dignitaries and visitors. On the occasion, Mr. Swaminathan expressed his delight over the overwhelming response of the foundry fraternity to the IFC and wished the participants enlightening experience during the event.

The IFC was inaugurated in the evening of 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2016 by the Chief Guest Mr. Thimmaih, Managing Director, Meritor HVS India Limited. Guest of Honor Mr. Ramesh, Managing Director, Caterpillar India Limited also graced the occasion with his august presence.

During the inaugural of IFC, President IIF, Mr. K. Samaraj welcomed the delegates and mentioned that the theme of IIF for this year “**Nurturing Manufacturing**” complements with government’s policy of “**Make in India**” and foundries can significantly contribute in Indian manufacturing by focusing on lean manufacturing and by efficient resource management like energy, natural resources and manpower.

The Chief Guest Mr. Thimmaih, in his inaugural address to the delegates laid emphasis on change management and innovation to ensure sustainable growth and global competitiveness, while the Guest of Honor, Mr. Ramesh mentioned urgent need to focus on quality and adopting techniques like Six-Sigma to become globally competitive.

Later during the inaugural, IIF gave away awards under various categories to promote excellence in various foundry operations. IIF also facilitated and honored Past President Mr. Ravi Sehgal, National Council Member Mr. B. Ramachandran with IIF fellowship to recognize their valuable contributions towards IIF and foundry fraternity. The much awaited 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Indian Foundry Directory cum Buyers’ Guide 2016, Souvenir of IFC and DVD on “No Bake Technology for Castings – Binder System & Moulding Equipment” was also released during the inaugural ceremony.

For the first time in the history of IFC, two CEO meets were organized on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Jan, 2016. CEOs of leading foundries from India and overseas participated in these meets. President IIF, Mr. K. Samaraj in his address during one of the meets said our response time for product development has to be reduced substantially in the wake of new technologies like 3-D printing etc. He also laid emphasis on strong customer relationship and association from design stage itself and for developing customer support system. Mr. Ramesh Kymal, CMD Gamesha India, said foundry industry needs technology driven development and need to create value addition. Mr. Kanniaapan, MD, WABCO India said we need to focus on nurturing talent, centralized processes and consistency. Mr. Kasi Gounden of General Motors said it is important to build internal and external relationships and he dwelt at length the capacities and capabilities required to qualify as an OEM supplier to companies such as General Motors. Mr. Vikas Garg, Immediate Past President, IIF said it is time to reinvest in business. To reduce the attrition rate, investment in manpower, technology and branding is a must. He suggested that there is a strong need for diversification of products and customer base for survival and growth. Most organizations take the debt route to seek finance for their growth and technological upgradation, while other options such as equity funding are not considered, which needs to be explored by the industry.

Approximately 1000 visitors including domestic and foreign buyers, foundry consultants, foundrymen and students etc. visited the IIF stall in Hall A. Several visitors gave positive and encouraging feedback and showed keen interest in IIF membership, products and services. A large number of Indian Foundry

Directory and technical CDs were purchased by several visitors and many of them also showed interest in training programmes.

Cast source meet provided an opportunity to explore and forge new business relationships and present and future market trends and requirements. Several buyers from leading units across various industry sectors like Mr. Raghu- BFW, Mr. D. Maheswaran- Siemens Ltd., Mr. Ramesh- L&T Valves, Mr. Shrikrishna- Johndeere & others, made their presentations about their requirements and expectation and discussed their future plans for sourcing of castings from India.

One-to-one buyers sellers meet was also organized on the sidelines of the IFC.

64<sup>th</sup> IFC was successful in creating an environment that fostered exchange of ideas, knowledge creation and expertise to propel foundry development in India. Various value added sessions were conducted where leading business leaders from industry & academicians shared their vision & thoughts on various issues for sustainable growth of the sector.

Post congress works visits were conducted to give exposure to the delegates to the best practices in the foundry sector.

There was lot of enthusiasm seen among the exhibitors, visitors, delegates, and other stake holders. Indian Foundry Congress has become the most important industry platform for manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, service providers, technology providers & technology seekers for the Foundry industry. IIF as the leading & apex industry body provides unique platform for the foundry sector for dissemination of latest technology, market trends, best practices & to promote partnerships & explore business opportunities.

The event was widely covered in Media. Few newspaper clippings are appended below:-

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**  
FOUNDRY CONGRESS TO HIGHLIGHT INDUSTRY

Coimbatore: The 64th edition of Indian Foundry Congress (IFC) was inaugurated on Friday at the Codissia trade fair complex here. Organised by the Institute of Indian Foundrymen (IIF), the apex industry body of the country's foundry sector, the main attraction of the three-day event is the foundry exhibition, featuring 300 exhibitors from about 12 countries. Exhibitors include equipment manufacturers, tools and tackles manufacturers, material suppliers and simulation specialists.

The perception of youth regarding the foundry industry has to be changed and this was possible only by bringing all stakeholders - industry, academia and government - together to reinvent the metal casting process, said a press release by the IIF.

IIF president K Samaraj said, "Make in India initiative is expected to double the contribution of manufacturing industry to the country's economy. To realise this, the foundry industry should grow at least three times from the present levels. Hence, we have selected the theme 'nurturing manufacturing'."

**300 exhibitors take part in event**

*P. Sreedharan*

**THE HINDU**  
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878  
FOUNDRIES URGED TO FOCUS ON QUALITY

'Innovate in areas such as inventory, quality, and cost reduction'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Coimbatore: Indian foundry industry should focus on improving quality and process innovation, attract the best talent and scale-up, N.P. Thimmaiah, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Meritor IVS India, said here on Friday.

He was speaking at the inaugural of the 64th Indian Foundry Congress here. The industry should see why it was not number two in foundry production, next to China. It was in the third position now. With manufacturing industries getting a boost with the Make in India initiative, the potential for the foundries will also go up.

Some of the challenges for the foundries are related to quality.

He urged the foundries to start treating machining as a core activity and improve quality. Process innovation should be faster. The industry should change the perception about it so that it attracts the best talent and have more innovation. Nearly 85 per cent of the 4,300 foundries in the country are small-scale. These should scale-up production capacities. In order to nurture manufacturing, shop floor discipline is must, he said.

M. Ramesh, Managing Director of Caterpillar India, said industries should constantly innovate in areas such as inventory, quality, and cost reduction.

"We need to see how to participate in growth," he said. "To be competitive companies should look at costs in all areas - production, logistics, etc.

The pace of change is so fast that industries need to focus on innovation and operational excellence.

According to K. Samaraj, president of the Institute of Indian Foundrymen, the main challenge for the Indian foundry industry is welcoming and embracing change.

With the Union Government envisaging increase in share of the manufacturing sector in the GDP from 15 per cent to 25 per cent by 2025, the potential for the foundry sector is huge and it should increase its capacity 3.5 times from the current level.

Some of the basic positive factors for the industry are size of the Indian market, expected investments in infrastructure projects, and opening up of defence procurement. "We need to ponder on the issues and adapt business models that will be benefiting," he said.

C.R. Swaminathan, chairman of the organising committee, said almost 1,900 delegates have registered for the conference, which has the theme "Nurturing Manufacturing". It will have two plenary sessions apart from parallel sessions.

Nithyanandan Devaraj, chairman-southern region of the IIF, said the last two years have been significant for the Indian foundry industry. The Foundry Development Council was formed which will benefit the sector.

IIF Awards and IIF Fellowship awards were presented at the inaugural of the three-day conference.

Kavi Sam, Managing Director of Adwaith Lakshmi Industries, inaugurated the 12<sup>th</sup> Indian Foundry Exhibition on Friday morning at the CODISSIA Trade Fair complex.

The event has 300 stalls spread over 16,000 sq.m of exhibition area.

As many as 12 countries are taking part in the exhibition, apart from group participation from China, Germany and Italy. The exhibits include low-cost automation, robots and three-dimensional printing for small-scale foundries too.

**Foundries urged to focus on quality**

*PHOTO: M. PERASAMBI*

The Trinity Mirror, Deccan Chronicle, Afternoon, Dina Malar, Dinakaran, Daily Thanthi and other local newspapers also covered the event.

The next edition i.e. 65<sup>th</sup> Indian Foundry Congress will take place at Kolkata in Feb 2016.