



## President's Communiqué

Dear Fellow Foundrymen,

On behalf of IIF and the IFC Organising Committee, I extend a very warm welcome to all our delegates at the 65th Indian Foundry Congress in Kolkata!

After tremendous backstage efforts involving more than six months of planning, numerous subcommittee meetings, appointments with sponsors, several roadshows all over the country, and meticulous planning down to the finest detail, the curtain finally rises on the 65th edition of the biggest foundry-focused event in India, and certainly one of the biggest and most enthusiastically attended in the world.

The IFC and IFEX have come a long way from their early beginnings where foundrymen from a few locations in India would meet to share knowledge, read technical papers, recognise achievements, and enjoy a convivial dinner or two in a fraternal atmosphere. Today, the Indian Foundry Congress is the largest event on the Indian foundryman's calendar, stretched over three activity-filled days with special industry focus sessions, representatives from government and industry invited to share their views, entertainment extravaganzas in the evenings, and papers covering everything from foundry management to the latest technologies in rapid prototyping.

Kolkata has contributed several firsts and milestone achievements to the history of the IFC. Four years ago, keeping the magnitude, growth and expectations of the event in mind, the 61st IFC held here was the first to employ professional event managers rather than the previous practice of IIF members volunteering to manage the event themselves. This has now become an established norm, albeit with local IIF members from the Region and Chapters still playing a key role in coordinating the event and assisting the event managers.

The same 61st IFC was also the first to depart from the traditional practice of presenting only technical papers, opting instead for a much wider range of relevant subjects in management, operations, human resources, technology innovations and even finance as subjects of relevance to foundrymen. And once that mould was broken (metaphorically), all IFCs henceforth have also included an eclectic and diverse set of presentations which have enriched the knowledge of foundrymen.

Another noteworthy aspect of the 65th IFC this year is the Young Engineers' Forum, where the brightest students from local colleges are invited to see the latest equipment at the IFEX, listen to industry leaders talking about opportunities in the foundry sector, and gain a feel of what it is like to be a foundryman. This is IIF's contribution toward attracting a bright talent pool and young fresh thinking for the future growth of the industry.

The theme of the event "Casting Challenges, Moulding Opportunities" rings particularly true now, even more than it did six months ago when we conceived it, given that we live today in a world of Brexit, Trump, GST, demonetisation, digital payments and changing global demand for castings. But that is the world today, ever-changing, and rather than resist change, the intelligent foundryman learns to read the signs, embrace the change and evolve to survive in the new environment. As the saying goes, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. And the IFC is one such event that proves the resilience of the foundry industry and its ability to bounce back in the face of adversity.

On behalf of IIF, I personally extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our supporters, sponsors, volunteers, members and especially our delegates who made the effort and commitment to sign up, come all the way to Kolkata and contribute in a major way to making the IFC a stellar success and an event to remember.

Anil Vaswani

**President, 2016-17**

**The Institute of Indian Foundrymen**

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