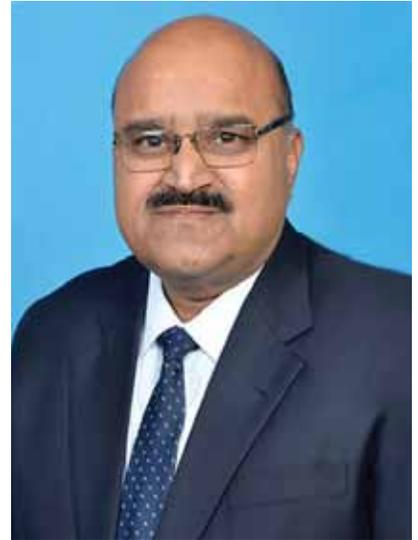




President's Message



IIF is committed to make the Indian foundry industry a casting superpower and a global destination for quality castings.

Dear Fellow Foundrymen and Friends,

By the time you would be reading this address, most of you have visited IIF's flagship event and gone back to your daily lives in respective locations, after experiencing the richness and hue of the 67th Indian Foundry Congress & IFEX 2019 being held concurrently with 15th Asian Foundry Congress at the world-class India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, India on January 18-20, 2019.

With events like Cast India Expo, Cast Source Meet, B2B Meetings, Panel Discussions, CEO Meet, Case Studies, Success Stories being made available in one venue, in addition to carefully selected Technical Presentations, Post Congress Tours, Works Visits and Special Entertainment Programmes, I am sure there has been a lot of takeaways for all foundrymen.

One of the great advantages of participating in IFC & IFEX is that it always brings together various cross-sections of the industry across locations and professions on a unique platform, from foundry owners, industry professionals, equipment manufacturers, material suppliers to consultants, academicians, researchers and students among

others. This results in exchange of diverse opinions, new learning opportunities in terms of technology and market trends, showcasing of products and services, as well as developing of business contacts, benefitting not only individuals but also the industry at large.

IIF is committed to make the Indian foundry industry a casting superpower and a global destination for quality castings. Keeping this in mind the Organising Team of 67th IFC had aptly chosen the theme of the event as "Mission World Market".

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry has set target to double the exports from India in next 5 years. The aftermath of the US-China trade war has led to keen interest in US OEMs in India as an alternative source of their casting requirements. This offers a great opportunity to be tapped for Indian foundries. India's exports rose by 9.8%, in financial year 2017-18 & by 16.3% during April-August 2018-19 which is the highest rate of growth in six years, in spite of some globally negative trends.

China at present contributes nearly 49 per cent of the global sand castings production while the

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second position is held by India in the case of ferrous castings. Whereas for non-ferrous castings production, US is at the second position, after China. Automobile and industrial machinery are two major end-use industries, which serve as the key demand drivers for sand castings production.

With manufacturing gradually picking up and several emerging sectors opening up new opportunities, the more than \$18 billion Indian foundry or casting industry is looking to double its growth rate in terms of current production.

Foundries can expect large orders from the Railways as more than 2,000 locomotives are expected to be made in India. New rail lines also provide opportunities for the foundries to enhance their castings production by expanding their market range for both raw materials and end products. While auto, the main source of demand for the foundry sector, is picking up, the tractor industry is also poised for growth as farmers in India had a good agricultural harvest this year. More mechanised methods of farming to improve yield will be required to double the income of farmers as set by the government which in turn would create greater demand for agricultural implements thereby generating demand for foundries.

Despite the opportunities, the industry is faced with several challenges and these need to be addressed on a priority basis. The main challenge bogging the industry down is lack of funding, technology upgradation and access to quality manpower.

IIF is working closely with authorities at various levels, through PPP model, cluster approach, Govt funding and other means to make technology and finances

more easily available to foundries. However, in order to make foundry industry a destination for public funding and large private investment, foundries have to make themselves not only economically viable but also suitably profitable to allure the potential investor in search of higher returns.

In order to have quality manpower in foundries, the industry needs to work on two fronts. One is attracting fresh talents by offering better pay package and working conditions. The other is skilling up of current manpower. The IIF through its modular courses and skill development programme titled "Yogyata Vikas" is continuously working for skill upgradation of industry workers and professionals. It interacts with various Govt Ministries through the Foundry Development Council and also coordinates with private agencies to enable more education and training for foundry workers and professionals.

Other problems include getting right prices for foundry products at local, national and international levels and dealing with issues like dumping, protectionism and trade barriers.

This requires approaching and representing at appropriate levels and resolving the concerns through interaction and negotiations.

The 67th Indian Foundry Congress, IFEX and 15th Asian Foundry Congress was one such platform. Let us hope there would be many more to come.

Shashi Kumar Jain

President 2018-19

The Institute of Indian Foundrymen