



# President's Message



**Dear Fellow Foundrymen,**

## **Greetings from the President's Desk!**

It is with great humility and gratitude that I accept the responsibility of serving as your President of The Institute of Indian Foundrymen (IIF). As the largest and only pan-India foundry association, I am truly honoured by the trust placed in me to lead this esteemed organisation.

I recognise the immense contributions made by my predecessors—the Past Presidents, National Office Bearers (NOBs), National Council Members, and all Office Bearers—who have collectively shaped IIF into what it is today. The shoes I have to fill are indeed large, and I am committed to upholding the legacy they have left behind.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the visionary efforts of our founding fathers—Mr N G Chakrabarti, Mr S Guha, Mr K C Sen, and Mr Arjan Vaswani—who, 75 years ago, laid the foundation for this incredible organisation. It is due to their foresight that we are celebrating the glorious journey of IIF today.

We are at a pivotal moment in time. The global spotlight is on India, especially with a surge in infrastructure development. The foundry industry, being one of the core sectors of manufacturing, is experiencing a significant transformation with a focus on capability building and capacity enhancement. As custodians of this vital industry, we also bear the responsibility of ensuring that our efforts are environmentally sustainable.

In recent years, IIF has initiated and implemented numerous strategies to address the dynamic challenges facing our industry. All three of our Centres of Excellence (COEs) have been activated and are well on their way to achieving their goals. Furthermore, the announcement of the fourth COE is poised to bolster our export capabilities, which will serve as a crucial platform for our members to tap into international markets.

Today, with 24 Chapters and 1 Activity Centre across India, IIF has a far-reaching presence, bringing together members from diverse geographies. Our organisation is well-recognised by international foundry associations and enjoys a direct line of communication with the Government of India, enabling us to raise our concerns and contribute to future policy-making.

However, resting on our laurels is not an option. It is essential that we build on our achievements and continue to advance our objectives. With this in mind, I am pleased to announce the theme for this year: **“Engineering for a Better Tomorrow”—an aspiration that we will achieve through Innovation, Collaboration and Sustainability.**

One of my key initiatives during my tenure will be fostering **Inter-Chapter Networking** through **Project Prayas**. This unique initiative will facilitate works visits by a mix of members from all Chapters to various foundry sites across India. Project Prayas aims to build stronger inter-Chapter collaboration, promote knowledge sharing, and foster relationships that will create a more unified and connected foundry community. By encouraging our members to engage with peers from different regions, we can create a collaborative network that can only strengthen our industry's growth.

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Additionally, I am committed to visiting as many Chapters as possible this year, engaging in **town hall-style meetings**. These meetings will offer direct communication between the leadership and members, fostering open dialogue about the challenges, opportunities, and innovations shaping our sector. It is essential that every member, from the largest foundry to the smallest, feels their voice is heard and their concerns are addressed.

During a recent visit to the Jamshedpur Chapter, a young foundry owner approached me with an idea to create a dedicated forum for new foundry entrepreneurs to address their unique challenges. I am excited to announce that, in response to this need, we have established our first-ever **Young Entrepreneurs Forum** at IIF. This initiative aims to support and engage young business owners, helping them derive greater value from their membership and empowering them to navigate the dynamic foundry landscape. I am confident this forum will attract many more young entrepreneurs to join IIF and actively contribute to our growing community.

My focus for the year ahead also includes strengthening our skill development initiatives through our COEs, fostering greater collaboration among Chapters and Regions, and creating more opportunities for knowledge exchange through networking events. Additionally, I will drive the newly announced National Centre for Export Promotion (NCEP) forward, a vital initiative that will help our members explore export markets and strengthen their international presence. With global buyers looking for alternatives to China, this is an opportune moment for Indian foundries to showcase their capabilities.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Immediate Past President, Shri D S Chandrashekar, for his exceptional contributions. His leadership has driven process-driven changes, culminating in IIF becoming an ISO 9001-certified organisation. I would also like to acknowledge our Hon Secretary (2023-24), Shri S Muthukumar, for his tireless dedication and our Hon Treasurer (2023-24), Shri Sushil Sharma Ji, for strengthening our financial systems.

As IIF steps into its 75th year, it is time to celebrate this remarkable milestone. The celebrations began with the National Foundry Day 2024, observed across the country on the same day, and will continue until the next National Foundry Day in 2025.

I cannot conclude without mentioning our flagship event—the 73rd Indian Foundry Congress (IFC), which will take place along with IFEX 2025 & Cast India Expo under the theme **“Casting the Future: Innovate, Collaborate, Perpetuate”** in Kolkata on February 7-9, 2025. This will be the largest fair in Eastern India, and I warmly invite all of you to attend and make it a grand success.

It has always been my dream to see IIF grow stronger and more unified, with active support from our Regions, Chapters, COEs, and National Committees. Together, we can elevate the Indian foundry industry to new heights, creating greater visibility, fostering stronger networks, and driving more knowledge sharing.

As we embark on this journey together, I call upon all our members to extend their support and walk with me in furthering the interests of IIF and the foundry fraternity. Together, we will transform this vision into reality.

Before I close, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all who have guided me along this journey—my teachers, colleagues, and family.

I look forward to an exciting and productive year ahead. For any ideas, opinions, or queries, I am always available at **president@indianfoundry.org**

**Thank you. Jai Hind!**

**Navneet Agarwal**  
**President, IIF (2024-25)**