



# President's Message



Dear Fellow Foundrymen & Foundrywomen,

Greetings from the President's Desk to members and readers of IFJ!

It is my proud privilege to write to you as President of this august Institute. I feel truly humbled by the trust placed in me to lead this esteemed organisation.

It is with the blessings of my late father and my beloved mother, good wishes of my family members and friends, guidance from Past Presidents and IIF National Council members, support from my colleagues in the NOB and IIF Members at large that I have accepted this position of great honour and responsibility.

This is not just a personal milestone — it is a collective celebration of 75 years of IIF's unwavering commitment to the Foundry and Allied Industries. This legacy has been built by generations of visionaries, technocrats, entrepreneurs and professionals who believed in the power of collaboration, innovation, and resilience.

I am fortunate to inherit a strong foundation laid by my predecessors and I pledge to build upon it with dedication, transparency and inclusivity. I invite each one of you to be an active partner in this journey — because the strength of IIF lies in its members.

As we stand at this historic juncture, I am deeply aware of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The foundry industry is undergoing a transformation — driven by sustainability, digitisation and global competitiveness. It is our duty to ensure that Indian foundries not only adapt but lead in this new era and I am confident we will do it.

My **Presidential Theme for 2025–26, "Let's GROW Together"**, underlines the fact that our progress depends on every part of our ecosystem — Foundries, Raw Material Suppliers, Equipment Manufacturers and Young Foundrymen — advancing together. The growth of IIF as a whole relies on the united growth of all our Regions and Chapters. When we work as one, we build not just a stronger industry, but a stronger India.

I had promised my predecessor, Shri Navneet Agarwalji, that the Young Entrepreneurs Forum would be continued on a bigger scale and the new NOB team has kept the promise.

My vision for the year ahead is anchored in three pillars:

**Skill Development & Youth Engagement: Empowering the next generation through training, mentorship and industry-academia partnerships.**

We have added new modules to the existing list of modules of NCSD and presently it stands at 22. Almost 60% of the modules are sponsored by the corporates as we aim to incorporate training to the shop floor team of every foundry to make the foundation strong enough for the building to rise multi-stories.

Urja Sanchay Project, initiated last year by my dear friend and WR Chair, Shri Saibal Sen, in Western Region was a successful project, benefitting foundries in reducing power consumption — the biggest raw material for any foundry. The Urja Sanchay Project was launched this year at the national level and, in the first phase, we plan to benefit about 75 foundries across all four regions, to be coordinated and executed by NCTS.

I am thankful to the two corporates, Oritech Solutions and Allied Refractory Products India, for sponsoring this national project and we are confident that we will be able to achieve the target of 150 foundries by the end of this tenure. This project has generated excellent savings of a few lakh rupees to crores in a year to the foundries, depending upon their production capacity.

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**Technology & innovation in promoting adoption of smart manufacturing, green technologies and R&D collaborations.**

**Policy Advocacy & global outreach to strengthen our voice in shaping industry-friendly policies and expanding India's footprint in global foundry networks.**

The 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Indian Foundrymen held at Hotel Radisson Blu, Nagpur, on August 24, 2025, was graced by **Shri Nitin Gadkariji, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India**, as the Chief Guest. The Hon'ble Minister, addressing industry leaders and delegates present on the occasion, emphasised India's economic growth trajectory and the crucial role of manufacturing, especially in the automobile sector, in achieving the national vision of a \$5 trillion economy and making India the third-largest economy in the world. With supportive Government policies and industry collaboration, India's automobile and manufacturing sectors cannot only meet domestic needs but also emerge as global leaders. As a result of significant growth of the automobile sector, the Indian foundry industry is also poised to witness substantial growth, making India a truly self-reliant and prosperous nation.

We all need to come together, forgetting our regional boundaries, and make India a true **Gateway of Global Foundry Industry**.

Today, there are many more challenges to be faced by foundries and I am sure the global scenario will change soon and open the market for Indian foundries.

The four Centres of Excellence imparting knowledge and supporting the foundry industry are the four strong pillars of the Institute.

1. NCTS: National Centre for Technical Services at Pune
2. NCSD: National Centre for Skill Development at Chennai
3. FIC: Foundry Informatics Centre at New Delhi
4. NCEP: National Centre for Export Promotion at Kolkata

In addition to this, the staff at IIF Head Office are under the able leadership of Executive Director Dr Abhishikta Roychowdhury to achieve the Institute's goal in the year to come.

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the **74<sup>th</sup> Indian Foundry Congress, IFEX 2026 and Cast India Expo, to be held from February 12-14, 2026, at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, NESCO, Goregaon, Mumbai**, which would be one of the biggest exhibitions in the history of IIF.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Governing Council, my staff at Shamlax Meta-Chem Pvt Ltd, my mentors and my family and in particular to Anujaji for her kind support. Above all, I thank you — the members of IIF — for placing your trust in me.

Special thanks to members of the IIF-Nagpur Chapter for having trust in me since I took over from Shri A B Pandeyji as Chairman, IIF-Nagpur Chapter, to the current position as National President of this prestigious Institute. It was a really long journey and a great learning experience.

Thanks a lot to all National Council members and Past Presidents, many of whom travelled to attend the NC Meetings and the AGM at Nagpur and witnessed the Change of Guard.

For members and foundrymen who would like to lend their ideas, opinions and queries for building a greater foundry industry and a stronger IIF, I would be available at [president@indianfoundry.org](mailto:president@indianfoundry.org).

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Let us move forward together, with purpose and pride, as we shape the future of Indian Foundries.

**Let's GROW Together**

Thank you.

Jai Hind!

**Sushil Sharma**  
**President, IIF**  
**(2025-26)**