LET'S GROW TOGETHER

President's Message

Dear Fellow Foundrymen,

Greetings from the President's Desk!

74th IFC & IFEX 2026: Celebrating Unity, Vision and Global Leadership

The 74th Indian Foundry Congress & IFEX 2026 held on Feb 12-13-14, 2026 in NESCO, Mumbai, was not merely an event – it was a powerful affirmation of our collective strength and global aspiration. Under the inspiring theme "Gateway of Global Foundry Industry," we did not just speak about leadership – we demonstrated it.

Over three remarkable days at NESCO, the Congress & Exhibition brought together global thought leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs and policymakers. Every technical session reflected depth and foresight. Every interaction symbolised trust and partnership. From Buyer–Seller Meets and AluConf to the Sindoor Session on Defence opportunities, from Melt & Match fostering international collaborations to the World Foundry Forum, BRICS dialogue, the Congress became a dynamic platform where vision translated into action. Beyond the impressive scale — 15,000 sq m of exhibition space, 1,500 delegates, 400+ exhibitors, more than 650 B2B meetings and over 20,000 visitors — what truly stood out was the spirit of unity. Collaboration over competition. Learning across generations. Integration across regions. When Indian foundries stand together, we do not merely participate in the global ecosystem — we help shape it.

This success belongs to every member of our fraternity. I extend heartfelt gratitude to the Organising Committee, Team Western Region, speakers, exhibitors, delegates, employees and volunteers whose dedication made this event exceptional. A special note of appreciation to our esteemed sponsors and partners. Your generous support and unwavering confidence enabled us to host a Congress of global stature. You did not just sponsor an event — you strengthened a movement and invested in the future of our industry. Let us now convert the momentum generated in Mumbai into sustained progress, deeper partnerships and global leadership.

India–EU Free Trade Agreement: Expanding global horizons

The India–European Union Free Trade Agreement, signed on January 27, 2026, marks a significant milestone in India's trade journey. It opens access to one of the world's largest consumer markets, creating unprecedented opportunities for Indian industries, especially MSMEs and exporters. With tariff reductions, improved regulatory cooperation and a predictable rules-based framework, the agreement is poised to accelerate exports, attract investment and enhance competitiveness. For the foundry sector, this represents

expanded market access, stronger global integration and enhanced positioning in high-value supply chains. This development reflects India's growing strategic influence and reinforces our commitment to innovation, resilience and shared prosperity.

Strengthening resilience amid global uncertainty

At the same time, geopolitical tensions in West Asia have created volatility in global energy and logistics markets. Rising crude prices, higher freight costs and currency fluctuations may directly affect energy-intensive industries like ours.

In such circumstances, strengthening domestic supply chains, improving energy efficiency, adopting cost optimisation strategies and building operational resilience are no longer optional, they are essential. The Indian foundry industry has demonstrated resilience before, and I am confident we will emerge stronger through adaptability and collective effort.

Global Platforms: Expanding our international footprint

I urge members to actively participate in **Metal China to be held on May 6-9, 2026, in Shanghai and GIFA / METEC / THERMPROCESS / NEWCAST on June 21-25, 2027, in Düsseldorf.** These premier global platforms provide unmatched exposure to cutting-edge technologies, sustainability solutions and new market opportunities. With thousands of exhibitors and global participation, these exhibitions offer visibility, benchmarking, export expansion and strategic networking. Active participation will further strengthen India's standing as a trusted and competitive global casting hub.

Big Brother Project: Strength through collaboration

Our Big Brother Project reflects our belief that growth must be inclusive. Larger Chapters are encouraged to adopt smaller Chapters from other regions, providing mentorship, structured support and collaboration opportunities. The Head Office will match approved expenditure up to ₹1 Lakh, ensuring financial encouragement alongside guidance. The objective is clear — stronger inter-chapter bonding, improved programme execution and greater regional activity. I am pleased that Chennai has adopted Nagpur and Coimbatore has adopted Indore. I encourage other major Chapters to come forward and contribute to building a more cohesive national network.

Festivals of Unity: Message of peace

As we celebrate Holi, Eid al-Fitr, Ram Navami, Mahavir Jayanti, Dol Jatra, Ugadi, and Gudi Padwa, I extend heartfelt greetings to all members and their families. These sacred occasions remind us of the timeless values of peace, compassion, righteousness and harmony. The colours of Holi spread joy, the spirit of Eid nurtures unity and gratitude and the teachings of Lord Ram and Lord Mahavir inspire truth and moral courage. May these auspicious celebrations bring stability, hope and prosperity to our nation and the world.

I welcome your thoughts and suggestions at **president@indianfoundry.org.**

Let's GROW Together.

Thank You.

Jai Hind!

Sushil Sharma
President, IIF
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