



President's Message



Dear Members,

This is my last message as President of this prestigious Institute. It has been a wonderful year serving as the head of IIF. I tried my level best to serve the Institute and its members throughout the year. I have learnt a lot while serving as Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and Vice President of this Institute. Though I would be stepping down as President, I would still keep working for the Foundry fraternity in the capacity of an ordinary member.

Today my heart is filled with gratitude, humility and countless memories.

When I accepted this responsibility, I knew I was taking over an office. What I did not realise was that I was becoming part of an even larger family—the IIF family.

Over the past year, I have travelled across our country, meeting members in large cities and small industrial towns. Every chapter welcomed me not as the National President but as one of their own. I have shared meals with foundrymen, walked through their foundries, listened to their concerns, celebrated their achievements and learnt from their experiences. Those conversations, often over a cup of tea rather than across a conference table, have become my most treasured memories.

One incident will always remain close to my heart. During one of my chapter visits, a young engineer came up to me and said, “Sir, I would like to take a photo with you along with my family. This is my first IIF event and I am meeting the President of the Institute for the first time. (He said) Today I realised that I belong to something much bigger than my company.” At that moment, I understood that the true strength of IIF is not in its buildings, meetings or events. Its strength lies in its ability to connect to people, inspire young minds and create lifelong relationships.

Another memorable moment was meeting one of the senior members of the Institute, who quietly said, “Every President adds one brick to the institution. Never try to build the whole building yourself.” Those simple words became my guiding principle throughout my tenure. I never tried to leave behind monuments; I only tried to strengthen the foundation laid by those before me and prepare it for those who will follow. You all are aware, I faced quite a few challenges, but nothing deterred me, rather it made me stronger and more dedicated to my goal which was to make this Institute greater and serve its members in the best possible way.

Our industry has faced uncertain global markets, geopolitical tensions, rising input costs, energy challenges and increasing competition. Yet wherever I travelled, I found optimism. I saw entrepreneurs investing in automation, adopting digital technologies, embracing sustainability and preparing for Foundry 4.0. I saw young professionals eager to innovate and experienced foundrymen willing to mentor them. That spirit gives me complete confidence that the future of Indian foundries is bright.

We worked together to strengthen communication between the Head Office and our Regions & Chapters, encouraged membership growth, promoted skill development, supported young engineers, recognised women leaders in our industry and spread knowledge through seminars, conferences and technical programmes. These achievements belong to every member who gave their time selflessly.

Leadership has taught me one invaluable lesson: institutions are not built by Presidents; they are built

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by members. Every Chapter Chairman, every committee member, every organiser, every speaker, every student member and every member who attended an event has contributed to making IIF stronger.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Vice President Mr Vikram Jain, Honorary Secretary Mr Prayut Bhamavat, Honorary Treasurer Mr S Muthukumar, Immediate Past President Mr Navneet Agarwal, Past Presidents, National Council members, Region & Chapter leadership, the Executive Director, IIF staff and every member of the Institute. Your commitment transformed ideas into action. My special thanks to Prayut & Muthukumar for making this year memorable. Both of you had been strong pillars for me throughout the year in all respect.

I would not be doing justice if I did not thank ED Madam and her Team at HO as well as in IIF offices elsewhere for their constant support and guidance. It was always great working together. Throughout the year, the ED has diligently worked with me and my NOB team for resolving various issues. Her appointment was finalised towards the end of the year when I was the Hon Secretary of the Institute. I must acknowledge her dedication to the Institute and the fact that over the years she has matured a lot in her working to become an asset for the Institute. I personally feel that every staff member of the Institute is a part of our big IIF family and we need to take care of them for their growth and support to the Institute.

I would also like to thank my Staff at Shamlax for their constant support and also my family, who silently accepted my frequent travels, daily virtual meetings and missed family occasions. They shared this responsibility with me without ever asking for recognition. I missed lot many parties and get-togethers which we friends enjoy every month in Nagpur. This year most of my friends have organised parties after considering my travel plans in order to accommodate me.

I always have my dinner with my 84-year-old mother every day. She missed me on so many dinners during this year. She waited for me even when my flight was reaching late in the evening rather than have dinner by herself. On my part, I also did not have food in flight to enable me have dinner with my mom.

As I complete my tenure, I do not feel that I am saying goodbye. In IIF, there is no farewell. There is only a change of responsibility. Tomorrow, I will sit amongst you as an ordinary member, but with the same enthusiasm and commitment that I have always had.

To the incoming President Vikram ji and the new leadership, I offer my wholehearted support. You inherit not only a proud institution, but also thousands of committed members who stand ready to work with you. I wish you every success in leading IIF into an even brighter future.

To our young members, I have one humble request. Dream big for our industry. Learn continuously. Question old practices. Embrace technology without forgetting craftsmanship. Build globally competitive foundries but above all, build relationships. Machines make castings but people build institutions.

As we celebrate the 75th Annual General Meeting, let us also renew our commitment for the next 25 years. Let us work together to make India the world's most respected foundry destination through quality, innovation, sustainability and unity.

My tenure as President may have come to an end but my journey with IIF will never end. This Institute has given me friendships that will last a lifetime, experiences that have enriched me and memories that I will cherish forever.

Thank you for your trust, your encouragement, your affection and the privilege of serving this great institution.

May The Institute of Indian Foundrymen continue to grow from strength to strength!

Let's Grow Together

Thank You.

Jai Hind!

Sushil Sharma
President, IIF
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