



# President's Message



*72nd IFC & IFEX 2024 brought together a vibrant community of the foundry industry, exceeding expectations on all fronts. Over 1500 delegates, including 51 lady delegates & about 612 students, actively participated alongside distinguished guests and 49 insightful speakers. The expansive exhibition space of 25,000 square meters buzzed with activity, hosting over 340 exhibitors, and attracting a staggering 20,000+ visitors across the three-day event.*

## **Foundry Fraternity, Namaste!**

The prestigious 72nd edition of the Indian Foundry Congress, a flagship event organised by The Institute of Indian Foundrymen, unfolded in Bengaluru, India's Silicon Valley, on February 2nd, 2024. Held at the vibrant Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, the event drew a multitude of attendees from the foundry and associated industries across India. Kicking off with pre-event activities like the MSME Conclave and industry visits, the Congress promised a monumental experience.

Coinciding with the Congress, IFEX 2024, the country's largest-ever International Exhibition of Foundry and Allied Industries Products, commenced at the same location. This exciting three-day event, held from February 2nd to 4th, 2024, was packed with an array of engaging programmes, ensuring a truly immersive experience for all participants.

## **Key Takeaways from 72nd IFC & IFEX 2024**

Keynote speaker Mr. Girish DM, Vice President of Volvo Group Purchasing in India, highlighted Volvo's long-standing support for the Indian foundry industry through sourcing of cast components. He emphasised the growing foreign interest in Indian castings due to recent geopolitical developments. Additionally, he noted the trend towards lighter auto components using more aluminium alloys, urging Indian foundries to capitalise on this opportunity while prioritising sustainability.

Dr N Muthukumar, President & COO of Meritor & AAL India, celebrated the upcoming 75th anniversary of The Institute of Indian Foundrymen (IIF) and acknowledged the countless individuals who contributed to its success, mirroring India's own journey towards becoming the second-largest economy by 2047. He paid respects to national leaders and commended India's steady progress in initiatives like Digital India, Clean India, and Green India. Highlighting the Aatmanirbhar India ("Self-reliant India") initiative's success in achieving 50% domestic procurement of defence supplies, Dr Muthukumar projected immense export opportunities for the Indian foundry industry, urging 20% export growth. He concluded by emphasising the crucial role of digitalisation, renewable energy, and talent acquisition in the industry's future.

Chief Guest, Mr. Sriram Satish, Global Category Director at Flowserve Corporation, highlighted two key challenges facing the foundry industry at the valedictory function. Firstly, he emphasized the difficulty in attracting young engineers to the field. He attributed this to several factors. Secondly, Mr Satish stressed the need to incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into foundry operations. He believes, this technology holds immense potential to improve efficiency, quality, and overall competitiveness.

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### **Setting New Benchmarks**

72nd IFC & IFEX 2024 shattered benchmarks across various aspects. Record-breaking delegate registrations, the highest number of exhibitors ever, the largest exhibition area witnessed, and an unmatched visitor turnout stand as testaments to the event's success. Innovative initiatives like live Lost Foam Casting demos coupled with technical sessions on LFC, and dedicated student programmes at IFC as well as demo at IFEX received overwhelming response, further enriching the experience. Seamless online registration for all participants ensured a smooth and efficient experience.

### **Teamwork: The Cornerstone of Success**

The incredible achievement of 72nd IFC & IFEX 2024 is a direct result of the dedicated teamwork of the 72nd IFC & IFEX 2024 Organising Committee of IIF-Southern Region. The blend of experience and youthful enthusiasm, led by veterans Past Presidents Mr SRV Ramanan and Mr Sanjay Shroff, proved invaluable. The passionate involvement of members from Shimoga, Chennai, Coimbatore, Bangalore, and Belgaum Chapters played a crucial role in the event's smooth execution. Sri S Rudregowda, Chairman of the Organising Committee, provided invaluable guidance and support throughout the process.

### **A Meticulous Journey**

The success of 72nd IFC & IFEX 2024 wasn't a stroke of luck, but rather the culmination of meticulous planning and execution over 14 months. The Organising Committee meticulously followed the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle, holding numerous physical and virtual meetings to focus on even the minutest details. This commitment to thorough planning translated into flawless execution, making 72nd IFC & IFEX 2024 a benchmark event.

### **Continuous Improvement**

Recognising that even the most successful events present opportunities for learning and growth, the organisers are committed to capturing valuable takeaways and learnings from 72nd IFC & IFEX 2024. These insights will be meticulously implemented in future events, ensuring continuous improvement and even greater success in the years to come.

### **A Dream Realised**

For the Organising Committee members, witnessing the culmination of 72nd IFC & IFEX 2024 felt like the realisation of a cherished dream. The immense effort and dedication poured into the event resulted in a resounding success, leaving a lasting impact on the foundry industry.

### **Gratitude and Looking Forward**

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who contributed to 72nd IFC & IFEX 2024's success – the speakers, exhibitors, visitors, volunteers, IIF staff, and especially the passionate members of the Southern Region/Chapters. As we bid farewell to this remarkable event, the excitement for future collaborations and continued progress within the foundry industry burns bright.

Jai Hind and Happy Reading!

Best wishes

**D S Chandrashekar**

**President IIF, 2023-24**