President's Message

Dear Fellow Foundrymen & Foundrywomen,

Greetings from the President's Desk!

Festivals in India have a profound impact. Economically, they create jobs, increase consumer spending and promote tourism, while culturally they strengthen family bonds and reinforce social harmony and keep traditions alive. As the festive season continues to bring joy, reflection and a sense of togetherness, I extend my heartfelt wishes to all of you and your families. The spirit of Diwali still glows in our homes and as we approach the closing of the festive calendar with Jagadhatri Puja and Guru Nanak Jayanti, let us cherish these moments of light, faith and unity. Festivals not only illuminate our surroundings and our hearts, but also reaffirm our commitment to harmony, progress and collective well-being.

Boost to the Economy with GST 2.0 Reforms

A major development fuelling optimism in the economic landscape is the rollout of GST 2.0 reforms. With the simplified two-slab structure of 5% & 18% and rate rationalisation, these changes significantly reduce the tax burden on MSMEs—especially relevant to our foundry industry, where many units operate in this category. The reforms are expected to spur domestic consumption, enhance ease of doing business and bring renewed momentum to sectors like manufacturing and allied businesses which aligns with our collective mission of growth and competitiveness.

Upward Revision in GDP Growth Forecast

Adding to the positive economic outlook, the Reserve Bank of India has revised India's GDP growth forecast from **6.5% to 6.8%**. This is a strong indicator of macroeconomic resilience and improved performance across key sectors. Strong rural demand, supported by good monsoon and robust agricultural activity, and the revival of urban demand, supported by buoyancy in the services sector, coupled with steady employment conditions and a rise in revenue expenditure by Union and State Goverments are the contributing factors. As an industry that directly contributes to core sectors like infrastructure, engineering and automotive, we are well-positioned to benefit from this upward momentum.

Inflation Under Control

Inflation remained contained at **2.6%**, providing relief to both businesses and consumers. This stability contributes to better purchasing power, lower input costs, and more predictable financial planning for manufacturers. For foundries, this brings better margins and greater flexibility in managing supply chains.

Forex Reserves Remain Robust

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves continue to remain strong, providing a solid buffer against global uncertainties and enhancing investor confidence. A stable forex position supports smoother import operations and financial liquidity—both vital for foundries relying on certain imported inputs or equipment.

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Challenges in Exports: Government Steps In

While the overall economy shows resilience, some sectors like textiles, gems, and jewellery are facing ongoing difficulties due to higher US tariffs. These challenges echo across some foundry-linked export segments as well. The Government is actively engaged in bilateral discussions and policy interventions to address these trade barriers and support exporters through relief measures and alternative market strategies.

Progress of 74th IFC & IFEX 2026

The 74th Indian Foundry Congress, IFEX 2026 and Cast India Expo would be conducted at NESCO Exhibition Centre, Goregaon, Mumbai, on February 12-14, 2026, under the theme Gateway of Global Foundry Industry, emphasising ground breaking opportunities for business growth and best practices.

With booking for 15000 sq m of exhibition space almost completed and the beginning of registration, close to 1500 delegates and 20,000+ visitors can surely be expected. The introduction of one-day Flexi Registration and Premier Club Registration for MD & CEOs is expected to boost the attendance. Top-level panel discussions by speakers of repute, a significant number of buyers, publications on new insights on castings free for delegates, along with famous Mumbai hospitality, coupled with luxurious cuisine and grand entertainment programmes will add to what promises to be the greatest Indian foundry show of the year and an unforgettable experience for members and foundrymen.

Looking Ahead

As we embrace these positive developments, we must also prepare to leverage opportunities for sustainable growth, efficiency and market diversification. I urge all members to remain focused on innovation, skill enhancement and energy efficiency—pillars that will define our success in a globally competitive environment.

I welcome your thoughts, feedback, and ideas at president@indianfoundry.org. Together, let us stay united in our vision and continue to build a stronger IIF and a vibrant Indian Foundry Industry.

Let's GROW Together.

Thank you.

Jai Hind!

Sushil Sharma
President, IIF
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