

63rd Indian Foundry Congress / Exhibition concluded with resounding success

The 63rd edition of Indian Foundry Congress (IFC) concurrent with IFEX 2015 & CAST INDIA EXPO drew to a close on 1st March 2015. Here, 300 Indian and international exhibitors from the fields of ferrous & non-ferrous casting technologies and moulding & core making technologies showcased the entire foundry industry value-added chain. Around 15,000 visitors flocked to the exhibition from all over the globe, underlining the enthusiastic response to the event. Once again, the Indian Institute of Foundrymen (IIF) gave away awards to promote excellence in various foundry upgradations. And for the first time, IIF organized 'Cast Source Meet' which was a star attraction for delegates during IFC. Cast source meet provided an opportunity to explore and forge new business relationships and discuss the challenges & opportunities of present & future markets for mutual benefit

From February 27th 2015 – March 1st 2015, India Expo Center & Mart, Greater Noida acted as a magnet to the entire foundry industry. 300 exhibitors from all over the world attended this year's Indian Foundry Congress and Foundry Exhibition in Greater Noida, and all were extremely happy with their success at the exhibition. This is a great platform for industry professionals to know about new technologies and about the companies working in this sector. Also to highlight, it was not only the number of visitors that met with praise - the quality of the exhibition and conference was also lauded by attendees.

"63rd IFC and IFEX 2015 aimed to focus on creating an environment that fosters exchange of ideas, knowledge creation and expertise to propel foundry development in India. The exhibition brought together over 300 exhibitors who displayed various advancements in the space of foundry. More than 15,000 professionals from across the globe attended India's leading exhibition-series for the foundry industry – Indian Foundry Congress and Foundry Exhibition. We expect the same enthusiastic response in our upcoming events and hope to add more value" said. **Mr. Vikas Garg - President**, The Institute of Indian Foundrymen.

"Indian Foundry Congress and the exhibition have given access to the stakeholder community and with the new government showing strong directions to the manufacturing sector and sourcing material from the domestic industry we can foresee a bright future for the foundry industry. We are happy organizing such event and definitely looking forward to increased participation in future editions also," declares Mr. Naresh Garg, Organizing Chairman, 63rd Indian Foundry Congress.

63rd IFC conducted various value added sessions where Senior Ministers, Bureaucrats, leading business leaders from industry & academicians shared their vision & thoughts on various issues for sustainable growth of the sector. Over 80 presentations were made by leading experts from India & overseas on various topics such as skill development, innovations, environment protection, effective energy & resource management. **Plenary session** deliberated on "**Speed, Scale, Skills-3S**" for sustainability & the CEOs meet. Expert panelists consisting of Special Secretary, MSME, MD & CEO NSDC & leaders from industry participated & share their thoughts. **Mr. Amrendra Sinha, Special Secretary, Ministry of MSME Government of India & Mr Shailendra Singh ,Jt Secretary ,DIPP ,Ministry of Commerce & Industry** also extended helping hand to the industry for the efficient and continuous growth of the sector.

Mr Shailendra Singh mentioned that DIPP is working on improving ease of doing business ,centre state co operation for better implementation for policies which will impact & promote the manufacturing sector.

Mr Amarendra Sinha emphasized on disruptive thinking & extended help in skill development & asked the industry to recommend list of training modules which can be initiated by his office .These can be implemented in all the foundry clusters .He also assured that his office has shortlisted 5 clusters for installation of sand recycling plants for which land to be arranged by the industry .These places are Coimbatore, Rajkot , Kolhapur & Belgaum to begin with .His office is soon going to launch project on improving the energy efficiency in foundries with the help of EESL by leveraging available funds which can go upto USD 300 Mn .He also explained the SES (Senior Experts Services) in Germany for skill development & asked the industry to prepare list of retired persons who may be roped in for skilling in foundry sector.

Mr CEOs from leading units also deliberated to charter future strategies for the sector to propel it to the next level in view of the new business environment & opportunities which the future will offer in view of "Make in India "policy & to be future ready .Post congress works visits were designed to give exposure to the delegates to the best practices in the foundry sector.

As we know India is a consumer driven economy where there is a wide gap between demand and supply. To counteract this gap, the new Indian government has decided to strengthen the role of foundry industry. 63rd IFC also organized a **post budget review session** where Mr. Surajit Datta, CFO, IIF and other senior officials of CA institute of India discussed snapshots of union budget and its effect on the foundry industry. The budget announced seems to be a growth oriented budget with high focus on railways, renewable energy, import duties, corporate taxes etc. will lead to the improved demand in foundry components.

Mr A K Anand ,Director,IIF in his reaction to the budget mentioned that the budget is growth oriented & not populist this time .In the rail budget ,emphasis is on improving passenger amenities ,hygiene & increasing the speeds which will call for upgrading the rolling stock & spur demand for manufacturing sector .The announcement related to deferment of GAAR by 2 years ,rolling out of GST by Apr 2016 ,reducing corporate taxes in phased manner ,more impetus on new & renewable energy ,clarifications & announcements regarding retrospective taxation issues & reducing basic custom duty on 22 items will increase the confidence of investors which will further spur investment in Indian sub-continent & will also benefit the foundry industry.However,the increase in service tax rates will have negative effect.

Government focus on 'Make in India' for manufacturing of defence equipment will also lead to rise in demand for foundry products. With all these announcements the foundry sector is expected to get a substantial boost. The event was held, in the backdrop of subdued economic activity .. Despite all this ,there was lot of enthusiasm seen among the exhibitors, visitors, delegates, and other stake holders.

Indian Foundry Congress has become the most important industry platform for manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, service providers, technology providers & technology seekers for the Foundry industry. IIF as the leading & apex industry body provides unique platform for the foundry sector for dissemination of latest technology ,market trends ,best practices & to promote partnerships & explore business opportunities.

The next edition .ie 64th Indian Foundry Congress will take place at Coimbatore in Jan 2016 where there are large number of foundries.