

Hosted by - IIF Eastern Region & Its Chapters

9th, 10th & 11th February, 2025 | Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, Kolkata

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IFC/IFEX NEWSLETTER

Today's Events

- Young Engineers Forum
- Export Opportunities for Indian Foundries
- > Technical Paper Presentation
- TechMart Sessions

- > Vendors Development Programme
- ➢ B2B Meetings
- IFEX & Live Demo
- Valedictory Session



he Young Engineers Forum, a pivotal event at the 73rd Indian Foundry Congress, took place on 11 February 2025 at Texmaco Hall, Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, Kolkata. This unique initiative provided engineering students with a platform to explore career opportunities in the foundry industry, widely regarded as the foundation of all engineering sectors and one of the oldest manufacturing industries globally. Over 450 aspiring engineers from various institutions, including Aliah University, Swami Vivekananda Institute of Technology, and MCKV, participated in engaging discussions aimed at shaping their future in this dynamic field.

Mr Anil Vaswani, Managing Director of the Wesman Engg Co Pvt Ltd, stressed the necessity of modernisation within foundries, highlighting the advantages of embracing automation to enhance efficiency and productivity. He shared practical strategies for integrating automation effectively, providing students with valuable insights into the future of foundry operations.

Dr Abhishikta Roychowdhury (Acharyya), Executive Director of IIF, underscored the critical role of young engineers in driving innovation and progress. She emphasised the importance of mentorship and collaboration between experienced professionals and emerging talents in fostering an environment of growth and learning. Her moderation encouraged students to actively contribute their ideas and perspectives during the forum.

Ms Nityangi Kejriwal Jaiswal, Whole-time Director of Electrosteel Castings Ltd, spotlighted women empowerment in the foundry industry. Drawing from her personal journey through sales, marketing, and operational roles, she emphasised the increasing participation of women in mechanical fields and their significant contributions to industrial growth.

Mr Abhay Kejriwal, Trustee Member of the MCKV Group, addressed the impact of advanced technologies, including AI, machine learning, and robotics, on modern industries. He stressed the importance of mentorship programmes and collaborative academiaindustry projects to bridge knowledge gaps and foster skill development.

Mr Ankit Divekar, Vice Chairman of Pearlite Liners Ltd, shared insights on the transformative potential of the foundry industry. Through his presentation titled "Join the Foundry Revolution and Shape the Future," he explained foundational principles and practical applications of foundry processes, encouraging students to actively engage with this evolving sector.

Mr Navneet Agarwal, President of IIF and Managing Director of RBA Exports Pvt Ltd, defined the foundry industry's role in the engineering world and discussed the pivotal contributions of students in sustaining its growth. He called upon the youth to actively participate, recognising them as the backbone of the industry's future.

Swami Vedatitananda from Ramakrishna Mission Shilpamandira emphasised the importance of innovation and technology integration in the foundry sector. He advocated for stronger collaboration between educational institutions and industries, fostering the exchange of ideas and advancements in foundry practices.

The Young Engineers Forum successfully fostered a vibrant exchange of ideas and insights, setting the stage for a dynamic future in the foundry industry. By combining education, innovation, and applied intelligence, the event empowered students to envision their roles in shaping this evolving sector. Through the collective wisdom and guidance of industry leaders, the forum highlighted a promising pathway for the next generation of engineering professionals.



Student Participants





Vendors Development Programme

The 73rd Indian Foundry Congress featured a Vendor Development Programme on 10th and 11th February 2025 at Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, Kolkata. Mr Mudit Beriwal, Member of IIF, delivered the welcome address, followed by Mr P K Das, Joint Director of MSME, Government of India, as Chief Guest.

He discussed several Central Government initiatives designed to support MSME industries across India. Renowned companies presented their specific product and service requirements, focusing on vendor development within the foundry sector and associated industries. Key presentations were delivered by Dr Alok Agarwal, Head of Foundry Technology at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum, and Mr Amiya Sarkar, GM.



This event served as an excellent platform to bridge industry needs and vendor capabilities, fostering collaboration and growth.



Export Opportunities for Indian Foundries



The 73rd Indian Foundry Congress and IFEX 2025, hosted in Kolkata, featured a stimulating symposium on export opportunities for Indian foundries. Held on 11th February at the Ratan Tata Hall, the event was an invaluable platform for industry leaders to share their expertise and actionable strategies for enhancing India's global outreach.

Mrs Anima Pandey, Director of NCEP, skilfully moderated the session, setting the stage for a series of compelling discussions. Mr Ravi Sehgal, Chairman of IFEX and the National Centre for Export Promotion, as well as the former President of IIF, provided insightful commentary on the prevailing dynamics within the Indian market. He outlined key measures to propel growth and expand global reach.

Following this, Mr A K Bharati, Group General Manager at RITES, elaborated on the essential certifications and preparedness required by MSMEs to connect with international markets. He emphasised the significance of developing competitive products and acquiring critical knowledge to succeed in a global environment.

Contributing a European perspective, Mr Thomas Fritsch, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of Foundry Planet GmbH, discussed the challenges faced by the foundry industry in Europe, with a specific focus on Germany. He underlined the importance of strategic partnerships, highlighting Turkey as a significant ally for Indian foundries seeking to navigate these obstacles.

The discourse was further enriched by Mr Bharat Agarwal, Vice President of SIP Industries in Houston, Texas, who offered valuable insights into market development opportunities within the US. Mr Carlos Quintella, Managing Director of Q&F Engineering in the USA, rounded off the session by addressing export opportunities for Indian foundries. He dispelled common misconceptions that hinder growth and proposed a forward-thinking roadmap that emphasised product value addition and potential mergers and acquisitions.

This engaging event fostered meaningful exploration, laying the foundation for actionable strategies aimed at bolstering India's export potential across diverse sectors.

B2B Meetings





TechMart Session

Mr Ankan Adhikari, Chief Technology Officer of NowPurchase, delivered an engaging presentation on Metal Cloud, highlighting its transformative potential in streamlining supply chain processes and enhancing efficiency in the metal industry.



IFEX 2025

India's Largest Exhibition of Foundry, Equipment and Raw Material Supplies



Ladies Programme





The 73rd Indian Foundry Congress concluded on 11 February 2025 with its valedictory session held at Texmaco Hall, Kolkata. The event, an integral part of the Congress, showcased the achievements of the Indian foundry industry and provided a platform for business, networking, and innovation. Organised by the IIF Eastern Region, the Congress saw over 1,000 delegates and 230 exhibitors, attracting more than 10,000 visitors to IFEX 2025, India's largest foundry exhibition.

Mr Vijay S Beriwal, Chairman of the 73rd IFC Organising Committee, praised the event as a monumental success, attributing it to the collaborative efforts of the organising team and the support from the West Bengal Government. He highlighted key accomplishments, such as over 400 B2B meetings and significant business generated during the three-day exhibition.

Mr Pradeep Kumar Madhogaria, Co-Chairman of the Organising Committee, extended heartfelt gratitude to the team for their six months of relentless effort. He expressed hope that the upcoming 74th IFC in Mumbai would be equally memorable.

Mr Navneet Agarwal, President of IIF, acknowledged the challenges faced by the organising team and their eventual success. He appreciated the involvement of government representatives and the support of WBIDC and the MSME Department. He also spotlighted the students' programme, which saw over 430 engineering students interact with industry leaders regarding career prospects in foundry. Mr Ravi Sehgal, Chairman of IFEX 2025, thanked all contributors, including the event management team, and emphasised the outstanding participation of exhibitors. He also recognised the Andhra Pradesh Government's resolution of the sand issue, an essential input in foundry processes.

Chief Guest Mr Tilak Agarwal, President of SIP Industries, urged Indian casting suppliers to maintain honesty and punctuality in international markets.

The valedictory session also included the handing over of the IFC flag to the IIF Western Region, who will host the next Congress. Sponsors and contributors were felicitated, and the Soli Commissariat Best Paper Award was presented for a study on the reusability of cupola slag.

The 73rd Indian Foundry Congress stood as a testament to the resilience and innovation of the Indian foundry industry. Through collaborative efforts and visionary leadership, the event successfully bridged academia, business, and technology, paving the way for future advancements in this essential sector.

