

# Indian Foundry Poised to Rank Second in the World



**S. P. OUDHIA**  
Chairman, GMC 2004 - 05

The Institute of Indian Foundrymen (IIF), Western Region recently celebrated its Golden Jubilee along with Greater Mumbai Chapter (GMC) which celebrated its Silver Jubilee. Set up in 1950 to promote education, research, training and development to Indian Foundrymen, it has served Indian foundry industry for more than six decades.

Mr S. P. Oudhia, B.E. (Met.), M.E. (Foundry), M.I.I.F., M.I.C.M.E., (U.K.), C.Eng. (U.K.), Life Member ASM International(U.S.A.), has been with the IIF since 1962. He was the GMC Chairmen for 2004-05. After post-graduation in Foundry Engineering from the Prestigious Indian Institute Of Science, Bangalore; he put up dedicated and meritorious service with reputed organisations like CISCO Ltd, Himmat Steel Ltd, Sree Engineering Products Ltd. Post retirement, with 35 Years of experience in the field of Metal Castings, Mr. Oudhia is working as a free lance consultant to the foundry industry. The organisations who used his technical knowledge include EWAC Alloys Ltd;



Tell us about your initial period with the Institute of Indian Foundrymen and GMC.

- I joined IIF as a student member at the Indian Institute of Science, in the Year 1962. I attended some meetings of IIF-Kolkata while working with M/s. Sree Engineering Products. My contacts with the IIF revived in 1972 when I took up a job in Mumbai. The Greater Mumbai Chapter, since its formation has been with a number of well known casting units like Mukand Ltd., New Standard Co. Ltd., Meehanite Foundry of Premier Automobiles Ltd., Malleable Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Bombay Metals and Alloys Ltd., Indian Smelting and Refining Ltd.; etc. GMC had reasonably large base though the activities were generally on low key. I became an active member of IIF-GMC in 1996 and since then, have been involved in conceptualizing, planning and organising seminars and conferences on grand scale. GMC's programs have attracted participation of Foundrymen from all over the country in large numbers. An effective and dedicated team of GMC members has made it possible to organize programs and make Chapter grow to be the largest in the western region. I have been fortunate to remain associated in the development and growth of GMC.

What is the present scenario of the Foundry Industry, its products and services?

- In India there are around 5,500 Foundries, out of which 85% are in SME Sector. They account for nearly 50% of total castings production. The other 50% is the Large Organised Sector. India, the third largest producer of castings in the world, is poised to occupy second rank very soon. Indian foundries produce world class castings with efficiency. However, such foundries are few. Majority of SMEs depend upon old technologies and are highly labour intensive. Such units suffer from low quality out put and high scrap rate,

making them less competitive.

What are the issues faced by the Foundry Industry?

- High cost of long term capital for modernization and up-gradation of existing SMEs, too many SMEs and all of them producing many varieties of castings are major constraints for the industry. Non availability of trained labour is also a cause of worry. Lack of quality assurance equipments, this being addressed to with common facilities at Foundry Clusters, is another bothersome issue. There is an urgent need for community sand reclamation plants to conserve natural resources as disposal of waste like sand and slag are a concern.

How has the IIF helped in tapping international business?

- IF has been instrumental in development of international business by providing information about Indian Foundries through their web site. IIF organizes buyer-seller meet during their annual Indian Foundry Congress. It also holds stalls at International Foundry congress, exhibition and GIFA. So far the institute has worked with trade organisations like CII, ASSO\_CHAM, EEPC; etc.

Tell us about your long association with GMC.

- I have been very active in IIF-GMC since 1996. I was closely associated in organising a number of successful seminars and conferences like : NCDI-1996 for Ductile Iron; CAT-1997 on Castings for Automobile & Tractor Industries; "Current trends in Die-Castings," year 2000; "Steel & Alloy Steel Castings" year 2004; "Export of Cast Metal Components" year 2005; "Cupola, a Cost Effective Melting Unit" year 2006; S.G.IRON year 2008 and WESCON-2009, a two days western Regional Conference. With the effective co-operation of well wishers, supporters & efforts of well-knit GMC team all the events of the chapter were grand success.

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