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BUILDING A STRONGER WORKFORCE

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There's Never Enough Sparkle

Learnings from Indian Exhibition Fraternity:
Staying Connected During Crisis

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Image Source: NürnbergMesse India Pvt Ltd

Dear Readers,

There have been some positive developments in the last few months that need special mention here to rekindle our hopes as we struggle to emerge from the pandemic impact.

India's GDP at current prices stood at ₹51.23 lakh crore (US$694.93 billion) in the first quarter of FY 21-22.

India is the fourth-largest unicorn base in the world, with over 21 unicorns. By 2025, the country is expected to have 100 unicorns and will create 1.1 million direct jobs, according to the NASSCOM-Zinnov report 'Indian Tech Start-up'.

With an improvement in the economic scenario, there have also been investments across various sectors of the economy.

The Union Cabinet has approved the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods with a budgetary outlay of ₹6,238 crore (US$848.96 million) and the National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV (Photovoltaics) Modules with an outlay of ₹4,500 crore (US$612.43 million).

In September 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the PLI scheme in the Textiles sector at an estimated outlay of ₹10,683 crore (US$1.45 billion) and for the Automobile and Drone industries with an outlay of ₹26,058 crore (US$3.54 billion) to boost the country's manufacturing capabilities. The same month saw the Government announce plans to release ₹56,027 crore (US$7.62 billion) under various export promotion schemes to boost exports.

The Union Cabinet has also approved major reforms in the Telecom sector, which are expected to boost employment, growth, competition, and consumer interests.

All these statistics and projections augur well for the Exhibition Industry in India, which remains the most relevant and active forum to attract new players and investments.

The last few years have witnessed a lot of development when it comes to new state-of-the-art venues or in the way exhibitions are being organized. Technology is being leveraged massively to make events hi-tech, automate processes, and effectively analyze and use data to make exhibitions more relevant, catered, and curated.

Exhibitions in India have been a catalyst for growth and development. They have been an active platform for discussions, new mergers, exchange of ideas, and, most importantly, have served as a window for new international companies wanting to explore the Indian market.

The fraternity needs to rally at this point to further develop our offerings, improve standards of operations, and enhance the visibility of our events. A joint front will also be instrumental eventually to get the industry its due recognition.

I am taking this opportunity to extend festive greetings to all my industry colleagues and friends. May the coming festive season bring us prosperity, good health, and good business.

Let me also take this opportunity to inform you of the upcoming annual flagship conclave of our association — the IEIA Open Seminar — being back and scheduled to be held on December 20-21 at BIEC, Bengaluru.

The seminar endeavors towards uniting the industry stakeholders on a single platform for greeting, networking, knowledge sharing, and, most crucially, planning the way forward. ////

Sonia Prashar
President
Indian Exhibition Industry Association

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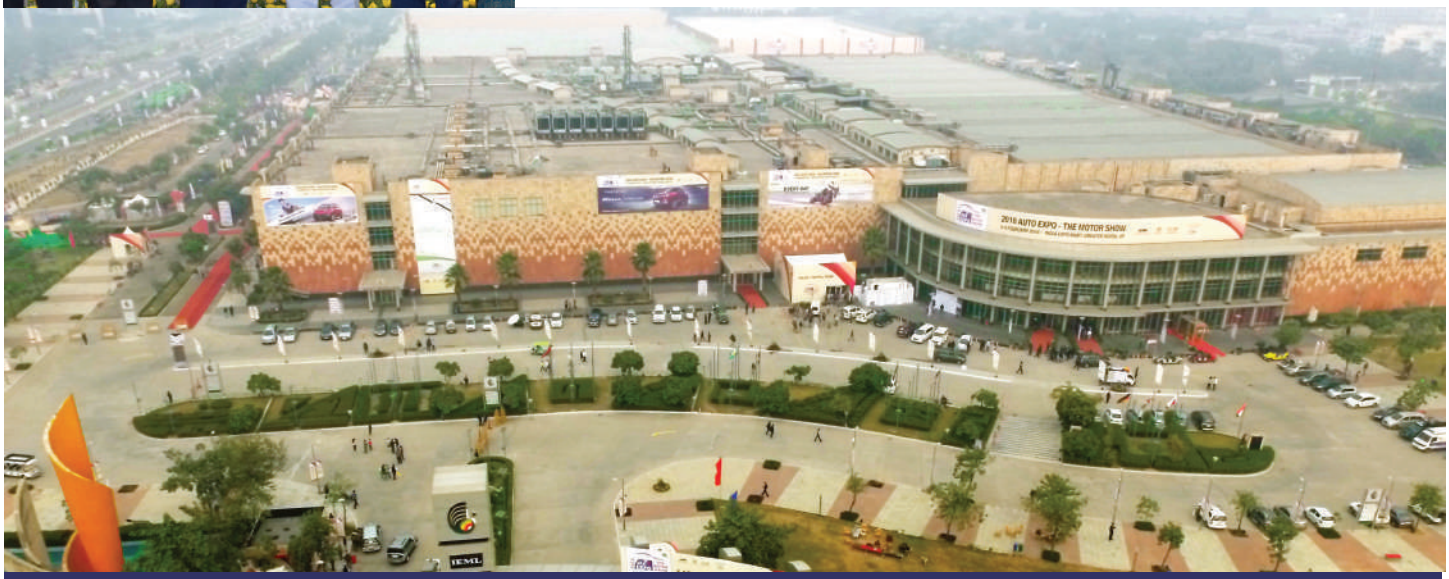

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Proficiency is the Way Forward

In a recent McKinsey Global Survey, 87 percent of executives said they were experiencing skill gaps in the workforce or expected them within a few years. However, even with this realization, just less than half of the respondents had a clear sense of how to address the problem.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the requirement for new workforce skills. The fast rise of digitization and remote work calls for a different set of skills.

To keep pace with changing business goals, organizations are investing in skill transformations. But the challenge is to implement the changes with the right perspective. Organizations are adopting a holistic approach towards skill transformations, as focusing only on hard technological skills will not yield the desired results. The pandemic has proven the importance of interpersonal skills and resilience to sustain and stay afloat in times of crisis.

As we continue to reel under COVID-19, companies are continuously expanding their operations to comply with safety protocols. A plethora of opportunities is opening up for people with the requisite skillsets. In today's competitive landscape, those who possess technical know-how and new-age soft skills will be assets to organizations. It is well-acknowledged that acquiring new skills prepares the workforce to keep pace as the future of work evolves.

To this end, companies are looking at the next three to five years to anticipate the future necessary skills and train the workforce accordingly so that they acquire new skills efficiently.

In this backdrop, we present this issue interlaced with how the Indian Exhibition Industry Association is taking encouraging initiatives to equip the future workforce and create opportunities in the industry to grow and thrive.

We are committed to fostering conversations to bring forth the challenges and success tales of the industry through 'Your' own medium — ExhiBits. Your valuable opinion is what we value the most, so our inbox is always open at soumi.mitra@magicwandmedia.in

Stay well and connected!

SOUMI MITRA
MANAGING EDITOR
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soumi.mitra@magicwandmedia.in

"If you want to strike, strike now. No matter how skillfully a footballer strikes beyond the 90 minutes' regulated time, he makes no influence. Strike now before it becomes too late!"

– Israelmore Ayivor

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IGJS 2021 Brings Indian Jewellery to Dubai

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) in organizing its flagship International Gems & Jewellery Show (IGJS 2021) at Grand Hyatt hotel in Dubai has successfully brought the legacy of Indian jewellery designs to customers in the Middle East.

Held on October 11-13, 2021, IGJS featured over 70 Indian gems and jewellery manufacturers, more than 550 international buyers, and participation from over 40 countries.

Exhibitors at IGJS 2021 showcased India's rich history in gems and jewellery, its designs and craftsmanship and leading jewellery manufacturers from India had extensive networking with select international buyers.

India is a major player in Dubai with exports worth around US$40 billion annually. The country also exports to Hong Kong, China, Middle East, and USA.

Reflecting on the show, H.E. Pavan Kapoor, Ambassador of India to UAE said, "India contributes 27 percent to the global Gems and Jewellery industry, and we should try and create more opportunities to increase this share going forward. This is one of the fastest growing sectors in the Indian economy with an annual growth rate of approximately 16 percent."

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Craft Exhibition in Jammu & Kashmir

The Government of Jammu & Kashmir organized an exhibition in Srinagar showcasing the advancements in crafts to support the artisan population. Speaking about the decision of the Government to host the exhibition, Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director, Handicrafts and Handlooms, Kashmir, said that the State Government arranged the exhibition to help artisans, highlight handicraft art and boost export trade. A range of products including shawls, walnut goods, chain stitching, willow wicker, paper mache, woolens, and traditional food were on display. According to Shah, the art business in Kashmir depends on tourism. Thus, exhibitions are vital to aid artists as well as promote the development of the Handicraft sector in the state.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Hyderabad Jewellery, Pearl and Gem Fair, a Big Success

The 13th edition of Hyderabad Jewellery, Pearl and Gem Fair (HJF 2021) was organized by Informa Markets in India on October 18-20, 2021, at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Novotel, Hyderabad. The annual three-day glittering trade extravaganza witnessed participation from India's leading jewellery companies and offered a platform for networking and knowledge exchange.

Over the years, Hyderabad Jewellery, Pearl and Gem Fair has been a gateway to the Indian jewellery market with special focus on South Indian designer jewellery while offering a platform for buyers and suppliers to connect, network, exchange ideas, discover upcoming trends and generate business opportunities.

Expressing delight about the successful conclusion of the latest edition of HJF, Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director, Informa Markets in India, said, "We are pleased with the fair's year-on-year success and will continue to unveil new jewellery trends, an unmatched jewellery portfolio and will focus on launching new initiatives to attract wider trade audiences in the coming years."

Image Source: Informa Markets in India

Indian IT Companies Showcase Innovations in Dubai

Slated as the world's biggest technology show, Gitex Global was held at Dubai World Trade Centre on October 17-21, 2021. Indian electronics and software companies, under the aegis of Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), showcased their products and services. The show was an opportunity for the Indian companies to reach out to the booming IT market in the Gulf, according to Kamal Vachani, Regional Director, Middle East, ESC. Gitex is the most impressive ICT event in the Gulf and with Indian Electronics and Software industries looking for newer opportunities in the Middle East, African and Asian region, the event is highly crucial.

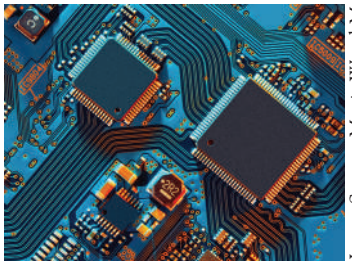

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Highlighting India's Growth at Dubai Expo

Inaugurating the India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai in Dubai recently, Shri Piyush Goel, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India, said that a resurgent India would be a frontrunner in the revival process post-pandemic when the world is coming together to bring growth back on track.

India is showcasing its vibrant culture and the diverse partnership opportunities it is capable of offering at the expo. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "India is already a leading player in the global markets in IT, Pharma and Space Technology, and with the development of research and innovation capabilities, the country's prowess in these areas would help reap the benefits of new-age technologies like artificial intelligence and robotics."

Image Source: India Expo 2020

The UAE is also the 8th largest investor in India, having invested US$11 billion between April 2000 and March 2021.

ITPO All Geared Up for Events

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the newly built exhibition complex (Halls 2 and 5) at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), which owns the Pragati Maidan complex, will organize the India International Trade Fair (IITF 2021) on November 14-27, 2021 in these new exhibition halls.

The project has a total built-up area of 4.2 million sq ft, comprising a world-class convention center that can accommodate 7,000 people in a single format, six modern exhibition halls with an exhibition area of 1.5 lakh sq mt and underground parking facilities and infrastructure connectivity to encourage the use of public transportation. Pragati Maidan is spread over 123 acre of prime land in the heart of India's capital, New Delhi.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Festival of Business: Ushering Economic Resurgence

Informa Markets in India has launched a new initiative called the 'Festival of Business'- Ushering Economic Resurgence', about 10 consecutive shows across different verticals the in-person, digital and hybrid (in-person as well as digital) formats.

'Festival of Business' has been curated for exhibition industry stakeholders to once again relive the experiences and joy of being in "in-person events" and enable business networking and help customers find customized solutions for their product portfolios. According to a recent industry report, the trends for India in the upcoming years for B2B shows is a share of 72 percent events taking place in the in-person only or hybrid formats and 28 percent shows that will occur through a virtual platform alone.

Image Source: Informa Markets in India

First EV Expo at HITEX

The Trade Show Company in partnership with the Government of Telangana organized the first ever expo on electric vehicles on October 8-10, 2021 at HITEX in Hyderabad. EV Trade Expo 2021 showcased a range of new electric vehicles and comprehensive market information and business opportunities in the Electric Vehicle industry. Speaking about the show, Manoj Patwardan, Partner, The Trade Show Company, said that exhibitors unveiled latest innovations, components, accessories, and services for vehicle buyers and the Transport industry.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Fi India & Hi Boosts Food and Health Industry

The 15th edition of Fi India & Hi, dedicated to the Food and Health industry, was held in a hybrid mode by Informa Markets in India on October 20-22, 2021, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. The event showcased the latest and most innovative ingredients from India and offered business opportunities for stakeholders in the Food and Healthcare industry.

The visitors were satisfied with the buying options and were able to source technology and place orders for products. Informa organized the event in a hybrid format for the first time, enabling stakeholders to exhibit, network and conduct business globally from remote locations.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Integrated Mobility Event at Pragati Maidan

The 9th edition of TrafficInfra Tech Expo, Asia's largest integrated mobility show, was held on October 26-28, 2021, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, along with Parking Infratech and Smart Mobility expo.

Inaugurated by Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, the event convened almost 100 national and international technology/system providers to showcase over 200 brands in traffic management, infrastructure ITS, tolling, telematics, parking, safety/security mass transport, tunnels, logistics, EVS, future mobility and discuss the future of traffic and infrastructure of the country.

On this occasion, Dr VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, said, "The Government has put pioneering policies in place to integrate key mobility. We must constantly think towards creating multiple options for sustainability since the main objective is to stop the emission of greenhouse gases and make transport more environment-friendly."

Image Source: TrafficInfra Tech Expo

PHDCCI to Host PITEX 2021

Shri Charanjit Singh Channi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, has given a go-ahead to PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI) to organize PITEX 2021 (Punjab International Trade Expo) in Amritsar on December 2-6, 2021. The Chief Minister will be inaugurating the expo to promote tourism in Punjab. Shri Charanjit Singh Channi called upon the industries and tourism departments of the state to make elaborate arrangements to organize the mega event successfully.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

PITEX 2021 will provide a platform for traders and manufacturers from various countries to showcase their products, establish trade links and boost economic activity in Punjab.

Railways Special Package for Darjeeling Ghum Festival

The Indian Railways has announced a special package for travelers visiting the Ghum Festival in Darjeeling, which is being organized by UNESCO World Heritage and Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, on November 13-December 5, 2021. Tourists get an opportunity to explore the Darjeeling – Ghum section, Red Panda special train rides on the Kurseong – Mahanadi section, Jungle Tea Safari rides on the Siliguri – Rongtong section, and passenger train journeys between NJP and Darjeeling.

Sunrise and sunset viewing at Tiger Hill Point, listening to local bands, trekathon, karaoke, mountain biking, tea garden tours, stand-up comedy, folk dance performances, visiting art exhibitions, handicrafts, and clothing stalls, are also offered as part of the tourist package.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

NDWBF 2022 as an In-Person Event

The National Book Trust, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, will hold the 30th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) on January 8-16, 2022, as an in-person event in the newly constructed halls at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

The exhibition themed 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' is being held when India is celebrating 75 years of independence. It is one of the largest book events in the Afro-Asian region. With France being the guest country, book lovers will enjoy the literature of France and many other countries at the foreign pavilion.

There will be a number of literary and cultural programs during the book fair, which include author's corners, seminars, discussions, workshops, and so on. There will also be B2B forums, viz. CEO Speak and New Delhi Rights Table, where publishers from across the world exchange translation rights and other business deals related to publishing.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Smart Manufacturing at ACMEE 2021

Image Source: AIEMA

Organized by Ambattur Industrial Estate Manufacturers Association, the machine tools exhibition ACMEE 2021 is all set to happen at the Chennai Trade Centre in Chennai. While the physical show will happen on December 9-13, 2021, the online version will take place on December 9-20, 2021. The 14th edition of the UFI-approved ACMEE will have 'Smart Manufacturing' as its theme and will showcase innovations and trends from the Machine Tool industry. The event, which was originally scheduled for June 2020, was postponed twice, first to June 2021 and thereafter to December 2021 due to the pandemic situation.

The event has got good response from the industry stakeholders with 376 participants confirming their participation. Overall, the show will span an area of over 18,000 sq mt, including exhibition halls 1, 2 and 3, convention center, and four temporary structures. The last edition of ACMEE in June 2018 generated business worth ₹350 crore. The event organizers are looking to surpass that figure with this edition.

COSMOPROF India in December 2021

COSMOPROF India, organized by BolognaFiere and Informa Markets in India, will be held on December 16-17, 2021, at Hotel Sahara Star in Mumbai. The exhibition concentrating on the beauty and cosmetics market will bring buyers, distributors, and R&D managers, among others, under one roof.

Speaking about the show, Gianpiero Calzolari, President, BolognaFiere, said, "The exhibition will be the first occasion for brands, buyers, retailers, and wholesalers in the Beauty and Cosmetics industry to meet again after a long time of travel restrictions and social distancing and discover how the domestic industry is reacting to new digital tools, revised distribution channels, and new consumer habits."

Image Source: COSMOPROF India

Supporting Calzolari's views, Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director, Informa Markets in India, said, "Scheduling COSMOPROF India in December will allow enough time for normality and confidence to return to the marketplace. It will enable us to offer state-of-the-art solutions for our stakeholders' evolving requirements."

Rajasthan Woos Investors for Growth

The Rajasthan week at India Pavilion in Expo 2020 Dubai is attracting investors and visitors significantly. Rajasthan is showcasing its business advancements alongside its tradition and culture through a series of events to showcase the opportunities in store for various industry sectors.

Speaking more on the same, Shri Shanti Kumar Dhariwal, Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development & Housing, Government of Rajasthan, said, "There is a lot of scope and business opportunity available in Rajasthan especially in the priority sectors including Tourism and Real Estate. The State Government has taken a series of measures and enabled a 180-degree change in how business is done in Rajasthan. To encourage transparency and ease of doing business, all our systems and processes can be accessed online."

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Supporting Shri Dhariwal's views, Shri Arjun Singh Bamaniya, Hon'ble Minister of State for Industry, Government of Rajasthan, added, "Investment in MSME and other projects in the state has been made more accessible and easier now, as the government has put all the processes under one roof. No Objection Certificate (NOC) and other necessary documents can be easily attained now."

PlastIndia Tradeshow Postponed

Plastindia Foundation has postponed its upcoming PlastIndia Exhibition that was scheduled to be held on February 17-21, 2022, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. The management committee of Plastindia Foundation and the national executive council for PlastIndia Exhibition took the decision in a meeting held recently.

The stakeholders arrived at the decision to postpone the show to a future date keeping in view the unfinished construction work of some of the new halls at Pragati Maidan as well as the further easing of travel restrictions which may encourage more exhibitor and visitor participation.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

The new dates for the next edition of PlastIndia Exhibition will be announced after further discussions with India Trade Promotion Organisation.

LED Expo for Intelligent LED Lighting

In light of the prevailing situation all around the world, the 22nd edition of LED Expo is happening in a hybrid format on November 18-20, 2021, at the India Exposition Mart Ltd (IEML), Greater Noida.

Some of the leading brands of the Lighting industry such as Tata Communications, Lumen Startech, Citilight, and Optiks Mechatronics will offer their product demo to showcase their latest innovations and developments. There will also be an insightful live panel discussions by the International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD).

Re-introducing the summit through a virtual webinar series, Messe Frankfurt India and LED Expo have a carefully curated line-up of events that aim to provide valuable content designed to drive progress and innovation in the Indian Lighting industry.

Image Source: Messe Frankfurt/LED Expo New Delhi edition

Through a chain of eight webinars, involving panelists from across the manufacturing, design and policy sides, LED Summit will explore 'what's next' for the Lighting industry and the challenges and opportunities impacting business, until the show goes live in November 2021.

Subsidized Pricing for MSMEs at IITF 2021

In the 40th edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) that will be held from November 14-27, 2021, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, stalls are offered to the MSMEs at subsidized rates through Procurement & Marketing Support (PMS) Scheme run by the Ministry of MSME in the separate MSME Pavilion.

To avail of the subsidy, the MSE units that fall under the general category have to submit a demand draft from a nationalized bank for ₹22,621 in favor of PAO, MSME, New Delhi to MSME-DI, Ludhiana. MSE units of SC/ST Women, NER/PH and Aspirational Districts are exempted from the payment of space rent charges.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Khadi Exhibition in Varanasi

Hon'ble Minister of State for MSME, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, unfurled a 15-day state-of-the-art Khadi exhibition in Varanasi recently. Organized by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), exhibitors are displaying exquisite, handcrafted products from as many as 20 Indian states.

In total, 105 stalls have been set up by Khadi institutions from states such as Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Leh-Ladakh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Bihar, West Bengal and so on. PMEGP units and several SFURTI clusters from various states have also set up their stalls.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Exhibitors are displaying a wide range of exquisite Khadi products such as high-altitude honey from Jammu & Kashmir, woolen shawls from Kashmir and Rajasthan, muslin fabric from West Bengal, silk from West Bengal, Bihar, koti shawls from Punjab, leather products from Kanpur, terracotta pottery from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, and hand-knotted carpets from Mirzapur and Prayagraj.

The Minister lauded KVIC for organizing the Khadi exhibition and Khadi Kareegar Sammelan which will help strengthen the role of artisans.

Electrifying the Future of Indian Mobility

The E-Mobility India Forum, launched by Messe Frankfurt India and powered by NGV India Summit, at Le Meridien, New Delhi, was a great platform for discussing concepts relating to electric vehicles in India. Top OEMs, auto component manufacturers, and representatives from the Government deliberated upon the challenges relating to the adoption of electric vehicles in India.

Participants discussed the various fundamental topics relating to Indian Electric Vehicle industry including the future of mobility post the conversion to electric vehicles, electric vehicle incentives, policy, challenges and Government support in accelerating electrification, opportunities, and challenges for auto OEMs.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

On the electric vehicle revolution in India, Balbir Singh Dhillon, Head, Audi India, said, "When it comes to the success of e-mobility in India, I think we are on the way to becoming a big market for EV. OEMs, policy makers or infra companies converging together is creating a massive pull towards this movement, and our responsibility as OEMs is to give charging facility to our customers."

Eco Expo Asia Promotes Green Living

The 16th edition of Eco Expo Asia, organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and Messe Frankfurt in tandem with the Environment Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) from October 27-30, 2021. The online edition of the show ran from October 27 to November 6, 2021.

Eco Expo Asia 2021 featured more than 180 exhibitors. Companies from Austria, Mainland China, France, Switzerland, and Taiwan deputed local representatives to join the physical event and alternatively participated in the online edition of the show. Canada, Japan, and Sweden had group participation. Exhibitors showcased the latest environmental technologies and products and created a one-stop environmental protection business platform.

Speaking about the show, Benjamin Chau, Deputy Executive Director, HKTDC, said that although the global pandemic dented economic activities, environmental protection and green industries are showing considerable potential and will play an important role in the sustainable development of the economy.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

SIBS 2021 Opens ASEAN Gateway

Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) 2021 will run from November 18-21, 2021 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC). The event will include the Selangor International Expo (Food & Beverage), the Selangor ASEAN Business Conference, the Selangor Smart City & Digital Economy Convention, and the Selangor R&D and Innovation Expo.

Organized by Invest Selangor Berhad, the state's investment promotion agency aimed at facilitating local and foreign direct investment to encourage Selangor's economic growth, the 5th edition of SIBS in the hybrid mode will also feature the launch of the Selangor International Expo (SIE MEDIC) and the Selangor Industrial Park Expo (SPARK). The 4th edition was held on the virtual platform due to the global pandemic, attracting around 300 exhibitors from over 50 countries and 1,80,000 visitors.

Selangor, one of the prominent places in Malaysia, is known as the gateway to ASEAN for its strategic location and competitive business environment. SIBS 2021 will showcase trade insights in the F&B sector and will be an apt platform to explore the Internet of Things and Big Data.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

G2E Asia Postponed to 2022

Global Gaming Expo G2E Asia has been rescheduled from November 9-11, 2021 to August 30-September 1, 2022 at the Venetian Macao. The organizers American Gaming Association and Reed Exhibitions decided to postpone the show due to travel restrictions across Asia Pacific. This is not the first time the expo has been pushed back. The show was earlier planned to be held in May and then moved to November and has now been further shifted to next year. Before the onset of the pandemic, G2E Asia was held regularly as an annual event in Macau, since 2007.

Pet Fair South East Asia on Original Dates

Organized by VNU Group, Pet Fair South East Asia is back to its initial event schedule. The exhibition will be held from October 26-28, 2022 in Hall 103-104 of BITEC International Exhibition Center in Bangkok. Prior to the in-person show, the 3rd edition of Pet Fair South East Asia's virtual event series, 'PreConnect' will be held from February 16-18, 2022. The 2nd edition of PreConnect, held earlier in June 2021 connected around 300 pet industry players from over 60 countries.

Speaking about the show, Johannes C Kraus, Project Leader, Pet Fair SEA, said, "With the ongoing uncertainty in regard to travel restrictions into Thailand, we would like to ensure that our international exhibitors and buyers have utmost security at Pet Fair South East Asia in Bangkok."

Hong Kong to host 7 Trade Fairs Simultaneously

As many as seven autumn trade fairs will be underway simultaneously for the first time in Hong Kong on a single hybrid platform, offering visitors a unique experience of both online and offline events. The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), which is organizing these events, is endeavoring to take advantage of the peak sourcing season in Hong Kong, especially when buyers shortlist suppliers.

The physical fairs were held from October 27-30, 2021 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) while the online trade fairs ran from October 27 to November 6, 2021. So far, the trade fairs have attracted 1,700 exhibitors from 17 countries and geographical regions, and more than 20,000 visitors have registered to attend the events, either in-person or virtually.

Thailand Revives MICE Industry

The Center of COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), Thailand Government's body overseeing disease control measures and COVID-19 policies, has given the green signal to the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) to hold MICE events in the country from October 16, 2021 onwards.

Earlier this month, Thailand administration announced that fully vaccinated visitors would be allowed entry into the country. To begin with, visitors from low-risk countries such as US, UK, China, Germany, and Singapore will be allowed entry. Venues and organizers will however need to strictly abide by 'COVID Free Setting' protocols covering events, environment, personnel, and customers.

Speaking about the development, Chiruit Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya, President, TCEB, stated, "TCEB's proposal incorporating 'COVID Free Setting' is the first step towards reviving MICE in Thailand. The next step would be for TCEB and its partners to push for further easing, especially for larger size events."

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Bangladesh PM Inaugurates BBCFEC

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the newly built Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center (BBCFEC) at Dhaka's outskirts in Purbanchal. The exhibition center will function as a permanent venue for different trade fairs in Bangladesh throughout the year.

BBCFEC, spread in an area of 33,000 sq mt floor space, has two exhibition halls of 15,418 sq mt each with facilities to accommodate more than 800 stalls. The Export Promotion Bureau of Bangladesh, which was involved in the construction of the project, is planning to organize the 26th edition of the Dhaka International Trade Fair at BBCFEC.

Image Source: BBCFEC

ANKIROS and TURKCAST Postponed

ANKIROS and TURKCAST, organized by Hannover Messe, have been postponed to next year. The twin shows will be held from October 6-8, 2022 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The exhibitions are among the most important trade fairs for the Metallurgy industry. The organizer decided to postpone the shows keeping in view the COVID situation and travel restrictions prevalent in various countries. The new dates for the shows were decided upon after deliberations with the stakeholders.

Image Source: Hannover Messe

Koelnmesse to Bring ISM to Japan in 2022

A trade fair for sweets and snacks, ISM Japan will be organized by Koelnmesse from April 13-15, 2022, in Tokyo. The event will offer a platform for snacks and confectionery industries for the Asia-Pacific region to network and share information.

According to Koelnmesse, the sector is forecasted to grow at a CAGR 6.2 percent.

Gerald Böse, President & CEO, Koelnmesse GmbH, said that the introduction of ISM in Japan would significantly aid the growth of the sweets and snacks segments in the Asia Pacific region.

Asian Clean Energy Summit 2021 in Singapore

Asian Clean Energy Summit (ACES) 2021, organized by SEAS (Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore), was held from October 26-28, 2021 at Marina Bay Sands in Singapore as a live and in-person event.

According to industry estimates, around 45 percent of future global renewables and clean energy investments will be done in Asia, attracting US$1.5 trillion in clean energy investments in the next one decade. Given this backdrop, the event was extremely vital for generating business leads in the Renewable Energy sector. Regional energy leaders met live and in-person to deliberate upon key issues and programs for harnessing clean energy and decarbonization in South East Asia.

Malaysia's MITEC Reopens

The Malaysian International Trade & Exhibition Centre (MITEC) has reopened for exhibitions and events following the Malaysian Government's announcement of allowing business events in states under Phase 3 and Phase 4, effective from October 18, 2021 onwards.

As per prevailing protocols, visitors are limited to 50 percent capacity in the states under Phase 3 with physical distancing in place. MITEC has introduced the smart trade zone (STZ) platform and co-working space, which will enable businesses to harness new potential trade leads.

Touted as the gateway to Southeast Asia, MITEC has hosted some prominent events such as SEA Games 2017, Defense Services Asia Exhibition and Conference 2018, Global Halal Summit 2019, SEMICON South East Asia 2019, ASEAN Super 8, POWERGen Asia 2019, and many more.

Image Source: MITEC

VIV ASIA Postponed

VNU Group has announced the postponement of VIV Asia to its original event cycle in March 2023, alongside Meat Pro Asia and ILDEX Exhibitions. VIV Asia will be held from March 8-10, 2023, instead of January 2022.

Heiko M Stutzinger, Director VIV worldwide and Managing Director, VNU Asia Pacific and VNU Europe, said, "Looking at the recent official statistics regarding the overall vaccination program in Thailand and surrounding countries, we foresee that the COVID situation will not improve fast enough to clear travel restrictions and allow such an international show as VIV Asia with more than 65 percent of visitors coming from outside Thailand to welcome the expected high number of Feed to Food professionals in the beginning of 2022."

Cosmoprof CBE ASEAN Rescheduled

The organizers of Cosmoprof CBE ASEAN – Informa Markets, China Beauty Expo and BolognaFiere – have decided to reschedule the first edition to September 15-17, 2022 at the IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Center in Bangkok, Thailand. Highlighting the importance of the event, Gianpiero Calzolari, President, BolognaFiere, said, "Cosmoprof CBE ASEAN will offer to our community the chance to evaluate the economic potential of South East Asia. This event is strategic for our stakeholders, so we must provide the best and safest conditions to enjoy business. Therefore, we have been forced once again to postpone the first edition in Bangkok, thus respecting the local regulations and safety measures."

China Focuses on Cultural Tourism

The 5th China Intangible Cultural Heritage Traditional Craftsmanship Exhibition, 2021 International Cultural & Creative Industry Development Forum Anhui and the Huangshan Tourism Festival had a grand opening on Huangshan City on October 15, 2021.

Speaking on the occasion, Yuan Hua, Director of Department of Culture and Tourism of Anhui Province, said that cultural tourism has become an important growth pole for economic and social development.

Supporting Hua's views, Sun Yong, Mayor of the Municipal Government of Huangshan City, said that the Creative industry is a new carrier for the development of the urban economy and industrial integration and is also an emerging industry that Huangshan will focus on in the future.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

wire and Tube Southeast Asia Postponed

Wire and Tube Southeast Asia, organized by Messe Düsseldorf Asia, has been postponed to next year. The shows will be held from October 5-7, 2022 at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC) in Bangkok. The move to reschedule the events is in sync with the ongoing decisions to postpone large-scale events in Bangkok in view of the COVID-19 situation. At their last editions in 2019, over 96 percent of exhibiting companies came from outside of Thailand, alongside a visitor base where close to 45 percent came from overseas.

Speaking about the development, Gernot Ringling, Managing Director, Messe Düsseldorf Asia, said, "The decision to push the trade fairs to the later part of next year was made with careful consideration and in close consultation with relevant industry and regional partners. As wire and Tube Southeast Asia both have a very high percentage of international participation, we believe that this move would provide an adequate opportunity for more comfortable planning for all parties involved."

Beattrice Ho, Project Director, Messe Düsseldorf Asia, said, "Our ability to deliver an event that optimizes participant investment in time and resources is a priority, and after considering all the aspects, we felt moving the trade fairs to October 2022 would be the best decision."

Image Source: Messe Düsseldorf Asia

Expo 2020 Dubai Records Over 7.7 Lakh Visitors

Expo 2020 Dubai has attracted a footfall of more than 7.7 lakh visitors since October 1, 2021. Most visitors hold a season pass, with more than 1 lakh visiting the exhibition twice and over 35,000 have visited three times during the first 15 days of the show.

The expo, with the focus on the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, has visitors from as many as 180 countries. Expo 2020 Dubai will conclude on March 31, 2022.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Beauty West Africa Returns to Lagos

Beauty West Africa, organized by BtoB Events Ltd, will take place from November 17-19, 2021 at the Landmark Centre, Lagos, Nigeria. The exhibition will feature more than 220 companies from around the world, showcasing the latest products and services in cosmetics, skincare, makeup, hair, nail and salon supplies, personal care and hygiene, professional equipment and spa, perfume and fragrance, aesthetic surgery, etc. Machinery, packaging, chemicals, ingredients, and many other products will also be displayed.

The exhibition will also have conferences, seminars, and product demonstrations. Beauty masterclasses will be delivered by some of the region's leading celebrity make-up artists and industry experts in hair care, cosmetics, skincare, and so on. The organizer was permitted to hold the event by the Lagos Safety Commission and will run under the All Secure Standard global framework for safe hosting of exhibitions in the post-COVID world.

Tākina Partnership with Te Papa Proposed

Wellington City Council has proposed a partnership with Te Papa, to hold world-class exhibitions and events at the Tākina Convention and Exhibition Centre in New Zealand.

Mayor Andy Foster said, "The proposed operating model for Tākina is one of partnership and collaboration between the Council, Te Papa, and WellingtonNZ. We intend to deliver an authentic Wellington experience, showcasing local produce, providing training and employment for young Wellingtonians, and adding further vitality to our city."

"Tākina's 10,000 sq mt of the flexible, multi-purpose conference and exhibition space, spread across three floors, is nearby of Te Papa and other venues around the city, which creates opportunities to deliver unique events on a scale the capital hasn't seen before," she added.

Image Source: Tākina Convention and Exhibition Centre

UMEX and SimTEX 2022 Preparations Underway

The Higher Organising Committee for the Unmanned Systems Exhibition (UMEX 2022) and Simulation Training Exhibition (SimTEX 2022) is planning the launch of the 5th edition of the two exhibitions and the accompanying conference on February 20-22, 2022, at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces, the events are organized by the Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC) in cooperation with the UAE Ministry of Defense.

Next AfCFTA to Happen in South Africa

Organized by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) in collaboration with the African Union (AU) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, IATF (Intra-African Trade Fair) 2021 will be held in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa on November 15-21, 2021.

The 7-day trade show is expected to attract more than 1,000 exhibitors, more than 10,000 visitors, buyers, and conference participants from all 55 African countries and the rest of the world. More than US$40 billion in trade and investment deals are expected to be closed.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Celebrating 70 years of Māori Women's Welfare League

To highlight the caliber of women in supporting the community, the exhibition 'Te Rōpū Wāhine Māori Toko i Te Ora o Te Awahou – 70th Anniversary Celebrations Exhibition' at the Māpuna Kabinet art gallery in Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton, New Zealand, has begun on October 9, 2021, and will continue till December 10.

The exhibition is a display of stories of achievement in the local area by generations of wāhine who have made countless efforts to support whānau for 70 years.

Tracey Robinson, President, Te Awahou Māori Women's Welfare League branch, said, "We want to pay homage to those kuia who guided us to uphold our values and respond to the needs of hapū, tamariki, and mokopuna."

Uganda to Host 4th African Birding Expo

The 4th African Birding Expo is to be held on December 10-12, 2021 in Entebbe, Uganda. Bird watching has become quite a rage in Uganda's national parks, bringing in much-needed tourism revenue dollars. The event will further boost bird-watching activity in the country.

Image Source: African Birding Expo

The African Birding Expo 2021 will be a meeting point for a large spectrum of the bird-watching community, both within and outside Africa. The expo will attract bird watchers, travel writers, tour operators, safari lodge owners, etc., giving them a large platform for networking.

CRE 2022 Back in Action

Collision Repair Expo (CRE) is back in Australia after a gap of coronavirus-induced shutdowns. Collision repair and aftermarket stakeholders will have a lot to unearth as the expo gets underway at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on April 7-9, 2022.

The expo will showcase the latest collision repair equipment, products, tools and accessories, new technology, and trends, as well as a comprehensive training and education program for user industries.

48th WJMES Dazzles at Sharjah

The 48th edition of the Watch & Jewellery Middle East Show (WJMES), organized by the Expo Centre Sharjah with the support of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), on October 5-9, 2021, in Sharjah, was the largest event of its kind to date.

Held in an extended area of 30,000 sq mt, the exhibition showcased state-of-the-art products in jewellery, gemstones, pearls, and watches.

Saif Mohamed Al Midfa, CEO, Expo Centre Sharjah, said, "The WJMES is considered one of the largest international economic events hosted by Sharjah and enjoys a prominent position among a large segment of businessmen, investors, traders, experts, and workers in the field of manufacture and design of watches and jewellery locally and regionally."

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

MICE to Host World Barista Championship

Melbourne International Coffee Expo (MICE) 2022, which was postponed in 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19, is to be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) on September 27-30, 2022. Organized by Prime Creative Media, the event will feature the prestigious World Barista Championship.

"We are thrilled to have secured these prestigious World Coffee Championships," said Lauren Winterbottom, Show Director, MICE. "We already knew Australia was a renowned coffee destination, and now we have the chance to share our coffee culture with a global audience," she added.

MICE is a standalone show on coffee in Australia's Southern Hemisphere with around 145 exhibitors in action at the MCEC.

Vuka Group Collaborates for Two Events

Exhibitions and Events industry leader in Africa, Vuka Group, has signed two lucrative deals to strengthen its position in the industry. Smarter Mobility Africa and Kinetic Events will be held under its banner.

Speaking about the development, David Ashdown, CEO, Vuka Group, said, "We are very excited about adding to our industry portfolios and feel this will be an exciting learning curve for the group. As Vuka Group, we can look at our organization as a 'machine' that other complementary businesses will be able to partner with to grow their portfolios, whilst building shared intellectual property."

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Smarter Mobility Africa was launched in 2019 with the South African National Department of Transport and Gauteng Provincial Departments for Roads and Transport as key strategic government partners. Kinetic Events, an international business-to-business conference and exhibition producer, is an established strategic information provider to the Retail sector.

AAAE to Showcase 'Workshop of the Future'

The Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association (AAAA) is launching the Australian Auto Aftermarket Expo (AAAE) 2022 at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre on April 7-9, 2022, with the theme: 'The Workshop of the Future is Here.'

Speaking about the expo, Stuart Charity, CEO, AAAA, said, "We are excited to be able to move forward with our preparations for the Expo – an event run by the industry, for the industry. After a challenging couple of years for everyone, our industry is more excited than ever to come together to celebrate, learn, conduct business, and network."

This year the expo is featuring a 'Workshop of the Future Pavilion' displaying state-of-the-art equipment and technologies. Australia's leading brands are expected to showcase their innovations at the expo.

Image Source: Australian Auto Aftermarket Expo

Confectionery Event yummex ME in Dubai

Organized by Koelnmesse, the MENA (the Middle East and North Africa) region's leading confectionery event, yummex Middle East (yummex ME) will be showcasing innovations in sweets and snacks at the Dubai World Trade Centre on November 7-9, 2021.

The exhibition will attract over 180 exhibitors from more than 30 countries and will run parallel to other significant fairs in the region, including 'Gulfood,' 'The Speciality Food,' and 'Private Label & Licensing Middle East.' It will feature nine new country pavilions from Bulgaria, France, Latvia, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, and Spain.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Intersec 2022 for Global Safety and Security

The 23rd edition of Intersec, the world's leading emergency services, security, and safety event, will be held at the Dubai World Trade Center on January 16-18, 2022. Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mansoor Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Messe Frankfurt-organized event will feature an expanded three-day conference with a focus on Cybersecurity and bring the entire ecosystem of emergency services, security, and safety together. An added attraction will be a first-ever Cyber Lab, offering a vital platform for knowledge.

Image Source: Messe Frankfurt

Leading regional and international brands will exhibit the most innovative systems and solutions in a dynamic environment that will enable face-to-face and virtual exchange through interactive roundtables, workshops, and closed-door confidential conversations.

EAC Regional Tourism Expo, a Success

The first East African Community (EAC) regional tourism expo, held on October 9-11, 2021, in Arusha, Tanzania, featured over 100 exhibitors and 2,000 visitors. The expo offered opportunities to all local and international tourism operators and investors to diversify their businesses and tourism products, promote new products, and expand the business to new tourism routes.

The expo featured tourism service providers displaying their offerings, besides speed networking, business-to-business meetings, and seminars on tourism and wild-life sub-themes.

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Industrial Transformation as Hannover Messe 2022 Theme

Image Source: Deutsche Messe

Digitalization and sustainability will be the key topics at Hannover Messe 2022, which will be organized by Deutsche Messe from April 25-29 in Hannover as a face-to-face event. "We are facing the greatest transformation since industrialization – into resource-saving, climate-neutral and sustainable production," said Dr Jochen Köckler, CEO, Deutsche Messe AG. "Digitalization, automation, innovative technologies, and regenerative energy: These existing trends are the dynamic drivers for achieving climate goals. All fields of technology must work together and initiate constructive communication between business, politics, science, and society. With its global and thematic focus, Hannover Messe 2022 provides the ideal platform for this and once again enables face-to-face contact."

The show, which will have 'Industrial Transformation' as its theme, will feature global companies from Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Logistics, Energy, and IT and Software sectors and showcase more on how to digitalize operations and processes, enhance resource efficiency, and bring forth climate-neutral products.

Eurobike 2021 Outperforms Expectations

Organized by Messe Friedrichshafen, Eurobike 2021 was held on September 1-4, 2021 at Lake Constance, Friedrichshafen, Germany. The exhibition, in its 29th edition, was a grand success despite apprehensions from various quarters due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was an unusual sight to witness an event being conducted without any traffic jams, ample parking spaces, and no queues to enter the venue. The show attracted a footfall of 18,770 trade visitors and 13,424 consumers.

"The massive enthusiasm for cycling is mobilizing the Bike industry. At the 29th edition of the leading trade show Eurobike, this even exceeded the expectations of the participants," said Klaus Wellmann, CEO, Messe Friedrichshafen, summarizing the show. "Despite numerous challenges, we were positively surprised by the significant international presence. There was strong business drive, further underling the enormous potential for this industry."

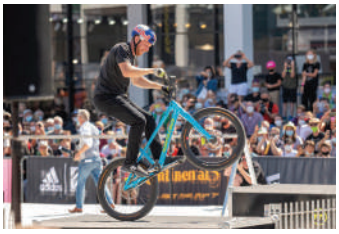

Image Source: Eurobike - Messe Friedrichshafen

In her welcome address at the show, Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, expressed her delight at the Bicycle industry being one of the first international trade shows to happen in Germany.

INA PAACE Automechanika Mexico 2021 Goes Digital

Although still firmly believing in the dividends that face-to-face events play, the organizers of INA PAACE Automechanika have decided to go digital for 2021. The event was slated to be held as an in-person event in the city of San Luis Potosí on December 1-3, 2021. It will now be held on the digital platform on the same dates.

"The health and safety of our exhibitors, visitors, and staff are of the utmost importance, and for that reason, we are moving the event from in-person to digital. We understand and appreciate the responsibility that we have in serving the automotive aftermarket, and we are excited to launch this dynamic event in a digital environment," stated Bridget Ferris, Show Director, INA PAACE Automechanika Mexico.

VISION 2021, a Grand Success

Organized by Landesmesse Stuttgart GmbH on October 5-7, 2021 at Messe Stuttgart, VISION 2021 was a big success as an in-person event. The event attracted around 5,400 trade visitors and hosted exhibitors from Italy, Switzerland, France, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Poland, UK, and Sweden.

The German industry association, VDMA Machine Vision, affirmed industry's optimistic approach during the event. VDMA Robotics + Automation Association expects turnover in the European machine vision industry to rise again by 7 percent in the coming quarters. The next edition of VISION will be held at Messe Stuttgart on October 4-6, 2022.

HostMilano and TUTTOFOOD, a Huge Success

More than 1,50,000 visitors met 2,700 companies at the in-person events of TUTTOFOOD and HostMilano, held in conjunction with MEAT-TECH, at Fiera Milano, Rho on October 22-26, 2021. The former is a global innovative event for the Agri-food sector, and the latter is a leading event in technologies and solutions.

"The gamble of going back to meeting in-person proved to be a winner. Together with the new agreements signed by Fiera Milano, this liveliness reinforces the supply chain approach that the Italian agri-food and hospitality ecosystem needs to present itself abroad in an organic way," commented Luca Palermo, CEO & General Manager, Fiera Milano.

The new partnership between Filiera Italia and Coldiretti will promote Made in Italy agri-food products around the world in innovative ways. The recent agreement with Informa Markets, on the other hand, will bring the companies participating in Fiera Milano events to even more strategic foreign areas.

Image Source: Fiera Milano

The Madrid Book Fair Returns

The Madrid Book Fair, also known in Spanish as Feria del Libro de Madrid, organized by Ifema Feria De Madrid, was held on September 10-26, 2021 at Madrid's Retiro Park. The event witnessed a visitor footfall of around 40,000 people in the pre-COVID era. However, this year, was limited to over 20,000 due to pandemic restrictions.

The book fair is a major sales channel for Spain's publishers and booksellers. According to Manuel Gil, Director, Madrid Book Fair, the fair ended in 2021 with €9.1 million (approximately $10.1 million) in total sales, a 10 percent decrease from 2019. Enrique Pascual Pons, Head, Madrid Booksellers Association and Director, Marcial Pons Bookstore, was satisfied with the outcome of the book fair.

The Madrid Book Fair 2021 once again successfully brought book lovers to the fore, which will go a long way in restoring the Publishing industry towards a faster recovery from the after-effects of the pandemic.

Image Source: Magic Wand Media

Texworld and Apparel Sourcing Open Registration

Texworld New York City and Apparel Sourcing New York City, the East Coast's largest textile sourcing event, has announced that registration for its winter 2022 edition is now open. Returning to face-to-face, the influential event will be held on January 25-27 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center, New York City.

"Each year, Texworld New York City and Apparel Sourcing New York City provide a diverse offering of material innovations, new trends, and resources. We look forward to returning to New York City in-person with an expanded show agenda and even more networking opportunities for visitors to take advantage of," said Jennifer Bacon, Show Director, Fashion & Apparel, Messe Frankfurt, Inc.

Texworld and Apparel Sourcing New York City bring together textile innovators, industry-leading organizations, and brand thought-leaders to deliver a robust offering of networking and educational opportunities. The two events, which provide a platform for the industry to explore high-quality fabrics, trims, and accessories, feature over 30 product categories and host hundreds of international exhibiting companies, including those from Turkey, Italy, Taiwan, Korea, China, and Pakistan, to name a few. This enables both visitors and exhibitors alike, gain exposure to new opportunities and outlets to grow their businesses.

Image Source: Messe Frankfurt

Exhibition Place Opens New Sky Bridge

Exhibition Place, Canada's largest entertainment and convention site, has opened Sky Bridge, the first glass-enclosed walkway of its kind connecting Beanfield Centre to Hotel X Toronto.

"The opening of the Sky Bridge at Exhibition Place marks a significant milestone as we work towards achieving an exciting vision for the future. We are enhancing access to Exhibition Place's historic and landmark buildings, landscapes, and features that provide the foundation for meetings, conventions, and exhibitions that bring the people of this city together," said Don Boyle, President & CEO, Exhibition Place.

With the opening of the Sky Bridge, connectivity between buildings has been improved, and the walkway provides a safer link with a more direct access. The new Sky Bridge runs east-west on a slight angle across Newfoundland Road, linking the conference levels of Beanfield Centre and Hotel X Toronto mid-block between Princes' Boulevard and Lake Shore Boulevard West.

Sustainability plays an important role in the Sky Bridge at Exhibition Place. Designed by NORR Architects, built by EllisDon, the design features a floor-to-ceiling insulated glass panel cladding that encloses the architectural exposed steel structure and a three-color interlayered film and bird-friendly pattern. The multi-color film decreases the solar heat gain to under 50 percent of the levels of transparent glazing.

Image Source: Exhibition Place

ExpoFerretera Introduces New Spaces

The leading exhibition on hardware, ExpoFerretera, will be held at the Costa Salguero Center in Buenos Aires on December 1-4, 2021. The event will convene players from the hardware, plumbing parts, paint, and construction material sectors to participate in different training and education activities.

The exhibition reopens after two years, with renovated premises focused on professional training and showcasing the most recent novelties and trends. One of them is the Machines Plaza, an open-air exhibition area for live demonstrations of equipment and products, ideal for learning first-hand about the latest technologies and equipment.

"Outdoor spaces gain prevalence in this edition," said Ezequiel Gorbarán, Project Manager, ExpoFerretera. "They will let us follow the required protocols and allow exhibitors to present their products with live demonstrations. In addition, under the expert guidance of the sector's main players, both professionals and hobbyists will be able to hone and improve their skills."

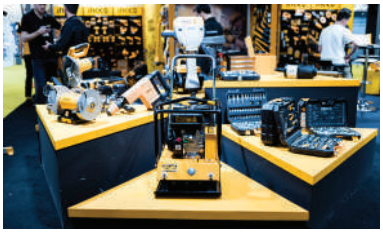

Image Source: ExpoFerretera

3D Printing Expo in Dublin

3D Printing Expo will be held at RDS Simmonscourt in Dublin on November 23-24, 2021. The event will feature an array of co-located shows: Future of Work Conference; The Automation and Robotics Event; The IoT & Industry 4.0 Expo; Lean Productivity & Continuous Improvement; National Manufacturing & Supply Chain Conference & Exhibition; The National Medtech & Biotech Summit; The National Pharmaceutical & Life Sciences Expo; The National Sustainability Summit; National Procurement; and the Supply Chain & Logistics Expo.

Show attendees can explore the business applications of 3D printing through conference sessions led by industry experts, demonstrations of the latest 3D printers and services, and programming for designers, professionals, and makers. Interacting with exhibitors, visitors can understand how 3D printing is revolutionizing industries including Manufacturing, Medicine, Architecture, Aerospace and more.

SIFER 2021 to Display Railway Innovations

SIFER, the 12th international exhibition of railway technology, organized by Mack-Brooks Exhibitions on October 26-28, 2021 at the Lille Grand Palais Exhibition Centre, Lille, France has concluded successfully. The exhibition is France's only B2B international exhibition bringing together suppliers and manufacturers of the latest in railway technology, products and services that are aimed at meeting the complex needs of mainline and urban networks.

SIFER 2021 provided a rich program of associated events, including conferences, round tables, workshops and seminars. Around 20 events took place throughout the 3-day event.

Image Source: Mack-Brooks Exhibitions

A Urology Congregation

Messe Stuttgart and the German Association for Urology organized the world's largest urology congress at the ICS International Congress Center in Stuttgart in the month of September in Germany. The event attracted 4,600 delegates from various locations and was a great platform for networking.

Commenting on the event, Prof Arnulf Stenzl, Medical Director of the Urology Clinic in Tübingen said that they were delighted to provide the customarily constructive and personal framework for scientific exchanges in the Urology field once again. They combined the best of both worlds with the live stream. The DGU, therefore, implemented an event model for the future that fulfills the requirements of modern medical congresses.

Image Source: Messe Stuttgart

IMTS 2022 to Highlight Digital Manufacturing

The 33rd edition of the International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS), organized by AMT (The Association for Manufacturing Technology), will be held on September 12-17, 2022 at McCormick Place in Chicago, USA. The theme for IMTS 2022 will be 'Digital Manufacturing. Implemented.'

The IMTS pavilions will occupy all four floors and all four buildings of McCormick Place, as will the co-located show, Hannover Messe. More than 2,400 exhibitors from the Manufacturing industry will display the latest products and technologies.

Visitors can experience the power of new equipment, software, and products to move their business forward and discover the effectiveness of transformative technologies, and connect with industry experts and peers to partner on new initiatives.

Image Source: AMT

Beyond the trade show, IMTS will host several conferences offering a myriad of topics ranging from deep dives on emerging technologies to guidance on building your business's competitive advantage.

Bord Bia Returns to European Trade Shows

Bord Bia, an Irish state agency to promote sales of Irish food and horticulture both abroad and in Ireland itself, will be back with a slew of trade events in Europe, including a ministerial-led trade visit and in-person trade fair in Germany.

Martin Heydon, Minister of State with responsibility for Research and Development, Farm Safety, and New Market Development is to lead in-person trade visit to Anuga in Germany. Virtual events will also remain a part and parcel of Bord Bia's engagements, both at home and abroad.

Tara McCarthy, CEO, Bord Bia, said, "As the world reopens, the opportunity to meet face-to-face at international trade shows and drive business is incredibly important. These trade shows and trade visits are critical for the export-led recovery of the sector, not least because of the business potential involved for Irish companies trading within the EU, which represents 34 percent of total Irish food and drink exports."

Image Source: Bord Bia

SwissExpo 2022 Postponed

SwissExpo will not be staging its dairy cattle exhibition in 2022 due to uncertainties associated with the COVID-19 situation. The decision to postpone the show was taken by the SwissExpo organizing committee after due deliberations with the sponsors and other stakeholders.

Although many exhibitors and participants had confirmed their participation in the event, the organizers went ahead with postponing the show, taking into consideration the safety aspects. The ongoing travel restrictions and health passports would be deterrents for participants and discourage farmers from participating in the show, the stakeholders felt. In the meantime, the organizers are already working on a new concept that would emphasize the international nature of the leading cattle breeding event and would begin it in the next edition.

Ravi Raghavan Elected President of IMTMA

Image Source: Bharat Fritz Werner Ltd

Ravi Raghavan
President
IMTMA

At the 75th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA), held on September 20, 2021, on the digital platform, Ravi Raghavan, Managing Director, Bharat Fritz Werner Ltd, was elected as the President of IMTMA for 2021-2022, succeeding Indradev Babu, Managing Director, UCAM Pvt Ltd.

Rajendra S Rajamane, Managing Director, Rajamane Industries Pvt Ltd, was elected as the Vice President. The new Executive Committee for 2021-2022 was also formed.

On his appointment, Raghavan said, "IMTMA will continue to tackle the numerous challenges faced by the Machine Tool industry with regard to the supply of raw materials, working capital, tariff protection, import regulations, government purchases of machine tools, and so on."

Vipul Ray, President of IEEMA for 2021-22

Image Source: Elmex Controls

Vipul Ray
President
IEEMA

Vipul Ray, Managing Director, Elmex Controls, has taken over as the new President of the Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) for 2021-22. Rohit Pathak, CEO, Birla Copper, Hindalco Industries, is now the Senior Vice President and Hamza Arsiwala, Chairman & Managing Director, Stelmec, is the Vice President.

Speaking about his vision for IEEMA, Ray said, "India is going through an energy transition, as a result of which the Indian Electrical and allied Electronics industry will have a lot of opportunities. Innovation, investment in digital transformation, research & development, and quality will be the key drivers to staying ahead of the curve. Exports and access to the international market will help keep us set our sights higher. Aligning with the national priorities of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, vocal for local and local for global, would be important. IEEMA will therefore focus on all of these and at firm level, work with its members to build competitiveness to be able to access international markets."

Welcoming Ray as the President of IEEMA, Charu Mathur, Director General, IEEMA, said, "We are delighted and looking forward to the leadership of Vipul Ray. He has an extensive international experience, a passion for start-ups, innovation, and technology. All this makes him exceptionally well-placed to lead IEEMA at this very important juncture."

Dr Debbie Kristiansen as New GM for BIECC

Image Source: BIECC

Dr Debbie Kristiansen
General Manager
BIECC

ASM Global, the world's leading producer of entertainment experiences, has appointed Dr Debbie Kristiansen as General Manager of the new Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre (BIECC) which is set to open in 2022.

The Center is expected to strengthen the Kingdom of Bahrain's position as a premier meeting and events destination, attracting future tourism investment and events to the region. It will be the largest venue of its kind in the Middle East with 95,000 sq mt of exhibition space spread across 10 Halls, a 4,000-seat tiered auditorium, 95 meeting rooms, a Royal & VIP Majlis, and a 250-seat restaurant.

Excited about the new role and looking forward to working closely with Bahrain Tourism & Exhibition Authority to develop and grow the international MICE business as well as to create a long-term legacy for Bahrain, she said, "To have the opportunity to work both for ASM Global and to return to the beautiful destination of Bahrain is a dream come true. This will allow me the privilege to help mentor and build the talents and skillsets of young Bahrainis for generations to come."

Citing Kristiansen as the ideal candidate, Harvey Lister AM, Chairman and Chief Executive, ASM Global APAC & Gulf Region, asserted, "Debbie has more than 30 years' experience in the industry and her leadership skills will bring many unique qualities to the role. Her appointment will help consolidate ASM Global's reputation in the region as the world's leading producer of event experiences and enhance Bahrain's standing as an international meeting destination."

IEIA
www.ieia.in
Indian Exhibition Industry Association

IEIA WELCOMES THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SOPS FOR EXHIBITIONS IN INDIA

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BUILDING A STRONGER WORKFORCE

Creating a large pool of well-trained workforce for the exhibitions and events industry is an arduous task. It calls for fostering initiatives in skill development and training programs. To further this cause, the Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA) has launched the 'IEIA Task Force – Skilling and Training' program, which will prepare the MICE workforce for tomorrow.

All image source: IEIA

In-person exhibitions have resumed in India after more than a year's hiatus. Aside from health SOPs, technology and human connections will play a significant role in making events a success. The move by the Government of India (GoI) to allow fully vaccinated travelers to enter Indian shores bodes well for the Exhibitions and Events industry, also Travel, Hospitality, and Aviation. India's massive vaccination drive is also producing results, as it has given the Exhibition industry stakeholders confidence to organize shows without complications.

The Indian Exhibition industry, which has an annual growth rate of around 10 percent, can enhance its growth rate even more if experienced professionals are employed. To steer the special initiative on skill development for the Exhibition sector in India, the Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA) held its first meeting on the 'IEIA Task Force - Skilling and Training' on September 07, 2021.

The stimulating session witnessed the presence of Basab Banerjee, Co-founder, Magic Billion; Sonia Prashar, President, IEIA and Chairperson, Management Board and Managing Director, NürnbergMesse India Pvt Ltd and Deputy Director General,

Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC), and other IEIA members. Banerjee is a Skill Development Expert who supported the GoI's skill development initiative while at the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), the Government's apex skilling agency, and also led the GoI's initiative for talent cooperation initiatives with Germany, UK, New Zealand, European Union, and Australia.

The attending members included Abdul H Khan, AGM, IEML (India Exposition Mart Ltd); Anamitra Mukherjee, GM, Head Fairs & Exhibitions India, DB Schenker; Dayaker Reddy, President, IPAMA (Indian Printing Packging & Allied Machinery Manufacturers' Associtaion); Dharampal Singh Malhotra, (EC Representative & Chairperson of the Task force), Executive Director, Namdhari Events N Promotions Pvt Ltd; Gurvinder Singh, Director - Exhibitions, EEPC (Engineering Export Promotion Council) India; Jagdish Patankar, (Co-Chair of the Task force), Co-Founder & Exe Chairman, MM Activ Sci-Tech Communications; Max Fernandes, Director - Operations, Informa Markets in India; Sanjay Wadhwa, Managing Director, Swift Corporation; Satyendra Mehra, Group Director and Member - Management Board, NuernbergMesse India; Sudhir Dhavan, CEO, RE Rogers India Pvt Ltd; and Uma Menon, Founder, Rudra Communications India.

Meeting New Requirements

The desire to provide high-quality products and services has resulted in a greater demand for higher-quality and skilled manpower resources. In this context, Prashar stressed the need to skill, upskill, and re-skill all the human resources working at different levels in the sector.

Providing insights on skilling from the Indian perspective, Banerjee elaborated on the background of the formation of the NSDC concerning the skill development model adopted by the Government of India, including Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and other levels of the National Vocational Education Framework. He also guided the attendees on the prospective steps to be taken to kick-start the skill development programs for the Exhibitions sector in the country, while also offering his pro-bono support and consultancy services to assist IEIA in driving this important initiative, both by mapping and adopting the existing Qualification Packs (QPs) offered by various Sector Skills Councils, as well as identifying the need to build new QPs relevant to the Exhibitions sector per se.

Training and Development

Continuous employee training and development, including internal and external stakeholders, is a crucial function for any organization. As the Indian Exhibitions industry grows rapidly, there is an urgent need to launch a world-class skill development and training program on a mission-critical basis to address the challenge of imparting the skills required for the sector. Reddy suggested that the first step in the direction of skilling the Exhibitions sector should be a commitment by all members to start with the training and skill development of their teams.

Companies impart training through industry professionals by deploying them in various projects that allow them to learn new skills and increase their efficiency and overall productivity. Training also eliminates uncertainties and ushers in behavioral change in a structured manner. Emphasizing the importance of educating and sensitizing the ground-level workforce, Malhotra added that lack of proper education in the MICE sector is a huge

challenge in implementing skill development of the already employed workforce. He further suggested that the important job roles should be identified for which skill development is pivotal for the success of an exhibition which could be taken up at the initial stages like venue branding, venue management, registration services, housekeeping, security services, exhibition logistics, freight forwarding, plumbing, electrical fittings, carpentry, etc.

Standardization for Sustainability

Skill development is an important driver for increasing employability and productivity, as well as ensuring sustainable enterprise development and inclusive growth. To this end, Nidhi Sharma, Executive Director, IEIA, provided a brief overview of the relationship between the setting up of standards and the establishment of skill development programs for the Exhibitions sector. She further stated that the entire skill development process begins with mapping out the necessary standards, which are also known as National Occupational Standards (NOS) as part of the various QPs on which the skill training is delivered.

Mukherjee proposed establishing audit systems at various levels of job roles and opined that both internal and external audits would be necessary for the industry's strict implementation of standards, for which skill training is essential.

It is important to form a task force to meet India's growing demand for trained and skilled manpower for the Exhibitions and Events sector as well as to close the existing gap between demand and supply of skilled workers. As a result, developing the necessary framework for standards, curriculum, and quality assurance under current global standards becomes imperative.

Gurvinder suggested that the complete process of developing standards for the Exhibitions sector begins with the setting up of the standards and SOPs for carrying out various functions involved in the organization of exhibitions, which can be best done by the organizers. He further stated that employers must prioritize the necessary skills, encourage, and enforce the learning of hands-on skills by the workforce, which can begin at a basic level during the initial phases, while also training the supervisors who are responsible for monitoring the work's execution. To this, Fernandes added that quality audit systems be implemented across different job roles in the Exhibitions sector to standardize various key functions related to exhibition management.

Implementation and Demographic Advantage

In the current times, as compared to other developed and developing countries, India has a unique demographic advantage. In this regard, Menon mooted the idea of involving State Skills Missions in the implementation of skill development programs supported by State Governments. She pointed out that the most important activity for launching any skill development program would be to hold sessions on the importance of the value of skilling, particularly for the ground-level workers. Menon also discussed the idea of RPL of existing workforce skills and getting them certified for those skills. According to Khan, a process-driven approach should be taken, which will lead to the systematic implementation of skill training aligned with the needs of the industry.

If India can equip its people with the requisite life skills, job skills, or entrepreneurial skills now, the demographic advantage can be converted into a dividend in which those entering or already in the labor market can contribute productively to economic growth both within and outside the country. For the successful implementation of the programs,

NSDC SKILLS CLASSIFICATION

- SKILL LEVEL 1 (SEMI-SKILLED) REFERS TO SKILLS THAT CAN BE ACQUIRED THROUGH SHORT-TERM COURSES, FOCUSED INTERVENTIONS, AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.
- SKILL LEVEL 2 (SKILLED) REFERS TO SKILLS THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO THE OCCUPATION AND CAN BE ACQUIRED THROUGH TECHNICAL OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING.
- SKILL LEVEL 3 (HIGHLY SKILLED) REFERS TO SKILLS INVOLVED IN HIGHLY TECHNICAL OR COMMERCIAL LEVEL OPERATIONS AND CAN BE ACQUIRED THOUGH DEGREES, DIPLOMAS, AND POST GRADUATE EDUCATION.
- SKILL LEVEL 4 (HIGHLY SKILLED WITH SPECIALIZATION) REFERS TO THE SKILLS WITH HIGH SPECIALIZATION INVOLVING RESEARCH AND DESIGN THAT CAN BE ACQUIRED THROUGH DOCTORATE OR MANY YEARS OF WORK EXPERIENCE IN A SPECIFIC SECTOR OR AREA.

KEY TASKS OF THE TASK FORCE

- SUGGEST KEY AREAS IN THE EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS SECTOR WHERE ENHANCED TRAINING AND SKILL SET UPGRADES COULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE WORKFORCE'S QUALITY, PRODUCTIVITY, AND EFFICIENCY DURING PHYSICAL EXHIBITION BUILD-UP, BREAKDOWN, AND EVENT EXECUTION.
- IDENTIFY THE PAIN POINTS/AREAS, WHOSE AMELIORATION WILL RESULT IN IMPROVEMENT IN WORKER'S PERFORMANCE, ENSURE CONSISTENCY IN DUTY PERFORMANCE, ENSURE WORKER SATISFACTION, INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY, IMPROVE QUALITY OF SERVICES AND PRODUCTS, AND REDUCE COST AND SUPERVISION.
- KEEP IN MIND HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION, RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE, COMPLIANCE OF LEGAL FRAMEWORK, DEFINE AND SPECIFY MINIMUM STANDARD REQUIREMENTS OF TASKS IDENTIFIED FOR TRAINING AND SKILL SET UPGRADATION.
- IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES, SUCCESSES, AND EXPERIENCES FROM INDIA AND AROUND THE WORLD THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO THE INDIAN EXHIBITION ECOSYSTEM.
- RECOMMEND MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION SUCH AS PROCESS MODIFICATION, TECHNOLOGY INTERVENTION ETC. THAT MAY RESULT IN EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT.
- EXPLORE AND PARTNER WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO COLLABORATE AND SEEK ENDORSEMENT, FUNDING, ACCESS TO THEIR TRAINING INFRASTRUCTURE, ETC.
- CREATE OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS ALL SECTORS OF THE EXHIBITION INDUSTRY FOR SKILLING AND UP-SKILLING BY CREATING SYNERGIES WITH TRAINING PROVIDERS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL.
- CREATE SOPS FOR THE BASIS OF MANPOWER TRAINING IN THE POST PANDEMIC ERA SO THAT THE INDUSTRY IS READY FOR SUCH CALAMITIES IN THE FUTURE.

Malhotra recommended involving IEIA members from various states. According to Mehra, the association should establish its certification and training programs for the Exhibitions sector in India. Patankar outlined that the IEIA should act as the awarding body for running these programs and have tie-ups with different institutes for faster implementation of the skilling programs.

Bridging Critical Gaps

Dhavan indicated that while it is paramount to encourage skill development at all levels of the sector, understanding the pain points and on-the-ground difficulties is also essential for designing skill development programs. Building standards for the delivery of various services would be pointless without a thorough understanding of the challenges. He also emphasized that certain understanding and cooperation among all stakeholders would be required to overcome such challenges involved in the seamless delivery of services, especially during exhibition setup and dismantling.

Mukherjee emphasized the importance of soft skills training as well as first aid. According to Wadhwa, the highest priority should be given to health and safety regulations. He also clarified that these programs will be difficult to implement because they require a thorough understanding of the practical challenges faced on the ground.

After extensive deliberations and concluding the 'Defining the way forward' session, the members identified three key areas for designing the skill development programs: Soft Skills, Management Skills, and Occupational Health & Safety.

Steps Ahead

The Task Force will meet every fortnight or monthly, as needed, for administrative purposes. The meetings will be held either digitally or in person at convenient locations, depending on the circumstances. Reddy advocated that all IEIA members should provide feedback and suggestions on the key gaps for which standards and skilling programs should be established. He posited organizing segment-by-segment

TASK FORCE MEMBERS INTO 4 SUB-GROUPS

ORGANIZERS:

- JAGDISH PATANKAR, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, MM ACTIV SCI-TECH COMMUNICATIONS
- DAYAKER REDDY SRIPATHI, PAST PRESIDENT, IPAMA
- GURVINDER SINGH, DIRECTOR EXHIBITIONS, EEPC
- SATYENDRA MEHRA, GROUP DIRECTOR & MEMBER OF MANAGEMENT BOARD, NÜRNBERGMESSE INDIA PVT LTD
- MAX FERNANDES, DIRECTOR OPERATIONS, INFORMA MARKETS
- BILAL KHAN, HEAD OF OPERATIONS, ABEC

VENUES LED BY:

- DHARAMPAL SINGH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NAMDHARI EVENTS N PROMOTIONS PVT LTD (REPRESENTING TEMPORARY STRUCTURES)
- ABDUL HAZI KHAN, ASSISTANT GM, MARKETING, INDIA EXPOSITION MART LTD (REPRESENTING PURPOSE BUILT VENUES)

STAND BUILDERS AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

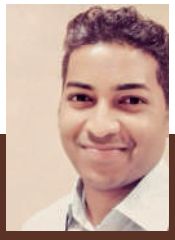
- N BINU
  DIRECTOR, LITMUS MEROFORM EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS PVT LTD
- DHARAMPAL SINGH MALHOTRA
  (EC REPRESENTATIVE & CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE),
  EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NAMDHARI EVENTS N PROMOTIONS PVT LTD
- SANJAY WADHWA
  MANAGING DIRECTOR, SWIFT CORPORATION
- UMA MENON
  FOUNDER, RUDRA COMMUNICATIONS
- MANOJ JAISINGHANI
  TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, BRADE EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS PVT LTD

FREIGHT FORWARDERS:

- SUDHIR DHAVAN
  CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, RE ROGERS INDIA PVT LTD
- ANAMITRA MUKHERJEE
  GENERAL MANAGER, HEAD FAIRS EVENTS AND SPECIAL LOGISTICS,
  DB SCHENKER INDIA

virtual interaction among members as a quick mode of consultation and industry feedback that the task force members could consider.

The Members of the Task Force must discuss and agree on a meeting schedule for the next six months in advance. The Task Force will submit its recommendations to the association's executive committee and secretariat, which will then direct the Task Force on what actions to take based on research and feedback. ////



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THERE'S NEVER ENOUGH SPARKLE

India could emerge as the largest diamond trading hub in the world as the exports of gems and jewellery have doubled this financial year. In this regard, the Government has declared the Gems and Jewellery sector as a focus area for export promotion and is taking several measures to beef up investment and upgrade technology and skills to promote 'Brand India' in the international market.

To help the above statement with some statistics, Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, has shared that up to October 2021, the export was US$23.62 billion, as compared to US$11.69 billion (+102.09 percent) for the same period in the previous year.

India's gold and diamond trade contributed 7.5 percent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 14 percent to India's total merchandise exports in February 2021. The Gems and Jewellery sector is slated to employ 8.23 million people by 2022. The exports of gems and jewellery stood at US$25.30 billion in FY 2021. The exports of gems and jewellery stood at US$3.42 billion in March 2021. In September 2020, the US was the largest country (44 percent) to import gems and jewellery worth US$938.54 million from India, followed by Hong Kong (33 percent) and the UAE (13 percent).

Corroborating the sector's potential, Colin Shah, Chairman, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), stressed that India's key export markets, such as the US, Hong Kong and the Middle East, have opened up. He added that revenge spending by consumers is visible. The sector has successfully catered to the demands of these markets. During April-September 2021, the overall gross exports of gems and jewellery recorded a growth of 11 percent to ₹1,40,412.94 crore (US$18,984.49 million), which is over 5.13 percent as compared to the April-September 2019 of ₹1,26,461.93 crore (US$18,058.52 million).

Status Quo of the Sector

Looking back at the crisis caused by the pandemic, Ashish Pethe, Chairman, All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC), remarked, "The Gems and Jewellery sector was severely affected due to the pandemic. Yet while all other Asset Class Investments were volatile during the first wave of the pandemic, gold was the only commodity that not only gave good returns on investment but also provided a cushion for many people to survive and sail through this crisis." He shared, "We are recovering slowly and steadily.

Deepak Sheth

Kamlesh Parekh

Rajiv Jain

Sonal Sawansukha

Dr Vishwas R Puttige

Rather than spending money on lavish weddings and holidays, people are now investing in gold jewellery, creating a huge demand in the buyer market. The millennials are realizing the importance of gold as compared to other luxury products, and sales at the retail counter are booming. Even exports have grown phenomenally."

On similar lines, Deepak Sheth, Partner, SK Sheth Jewellers, expressed, "Indians' faith in gold has grown three-fold at present and will at least sustain for the next three to four years."

Concurring this, Rajiv Jain, Honorary Secretary, Jaipur Jewellery Show and Chairman, Sambhav Gems Ltd, said that the festival and wedding season would accelerate a rush in the market and positive growth.

Sharing her perspective, Sonal Sawansukha, Co-owner & Creative Director, Jewel Saga, said that exhibitions, expos, trade shows, and e-commerce would be the significant business growth drivers in the coming times for the Gems and Jewellery sector.

Exhibitions, Best Networking Catalyst

According to Shah, exhibitions are ideal for building relationships with existing and new customers. The touch and feel factor is irreplaceable, especially for high-value luxury products like gems and jewellery. It becomes all the more important for trade visitors placing bulk orders. Physical exhibitions have this significant advantage over virtual shows.

In sync, Pethe shared that though the pandemic taught us the digital and virtual medium as the way forward, the touch and feel factor in a physical show remains a predominant requirement of the Gems and Jewellery sector. Many brands have successfully incorporated digital business as part of their annual marketing plan, but the networking opportunities at physical events win hands down.

Further, he added, "Large-scale vaccination drives across India and social distancing norms have contributed majorly to the restarting of B2B and B2C shows. The industry has responded very positively to the aspects of physical shows. Many gems and jewellery shows have been phenomenally successful to date. Our maiden large-scale B2B event, India Gem & Jewellery Show (GJS), which was postponed due to the pandemic, is rescheduled to take place on April 4-8, 2022, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi."

ACCORDING TO DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE, CUMULATIVE FDI INFLOWS IN DIAMOND AND GOLD ORNAMENTS IN INDIA STOOD AT US$1,194.00 MILLION BETWEEN APRIL 2000 AND JUNE 2021.

Validating the importance of physical shows, Sheth, an exhibitor in India International Jewellery Show (IIJS Premiere and IIJS Signature), shared, "Trade shows organized by GJEPC are a great platform to showcase our products and new designs. It allows the exhibitor to interact personally with retailers from across the country and do direct business. The last IIJS show proved that the jewellery business still needs touch and feel for better sales."

On similar lines, Ashish Sand, Partner, Savio Jewellery, substantiated, "IIJS showcases the best jewellery collections by the country's leading

> The future of jewellery in India definitely looks promising as it has come a long way. From considering gold as a mere investment to having pride in owning precious jewels, we have evolved to a great extent.
>
> **Abhishek Ghatiwala**
> **CEO & Creative Director**
> **Ghatiwala Jewellers**

> Jaipur Jewellery Show is a complete Gems & Jewellery show. One of the special features of the event has been proactive promotion of different stones and jewellery items as a theme.
>
> **Abhishek Raniwala**
> **Director**
> **Raniwala Jewellers Pvt Ltd**

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PERMITTED 100 PERCENT FDI IN THE GEMS AND JEWELLERY SECTOR UNDER THE AUTOMATIC ROUTE, WHEREIN THE FOREIGN INVESTOR OR THE INDIAN COMPANY DOES NOT REQUIRE ANY PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE RESERVE BANK OR GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

manufacturers. The focus is on the product – jewellery of the highest design, craftsmanship, and finish. It's not just about buying or selling the products but also getting to know about the latest jewellery trends."

He elaborated that each year jewellers showcase their new collections, reflecting the trends of the year. They also focus on customer satisfaction and requirements. Hence, whenever there is a new demand in the market, they add to the latest trend. He said that India has been adding modern techniques to its traditional know-how that are more in tune with global market trends, and IIJS is the perfect example of that. Savio Jewellery always focuses on bringing in new and trendy jewellery to each edition of IIJS.

Image Source: GJEPC

According to Jain, the gems and jewellery shows serve as an apt platform for the manufacturers to market their products (jewellery) on a national and international level. Exhibitions attract domestic and international exhibitors and visitors to explore the newest trends and designs and offer various business opportunities. Expos provide the retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and buyers a chance to select exclusive jewellery designs that are precisely crafted with the best technical know-how.

Walking down the memory lane, Abhishek Raniwala, Director, Raniwala Jewellers Pvt Ltd, an exhibitor at Jaipur Jewellery Show (JJS), reminisced how the show had a humble beginning in 2003 with 67 stalls at Entertainment Paradise (EP). Yet it received an encouraging response by stirring exciting interactions among the exhibitors and visitors. Continuing its tradition of creating unique experiences for sellers and buyers, the 16th edition of JJS hosted 800 booths in December 2019. He shared that the show is both a B2B and a B2C show, so jewellers and consumers find this platform apt for 360-degree feedback. Jewellers come across the usual display of a wide variety of goods in colored gemstones, diamonds, metals, beads,

ANY GEMS AND JEWELLERY EXHIBITION EMBARKS INDUSTRIAL CONNECTIONS AND SHOWCASES RECENT MARKET AND INDUSTRY TRENDS TO ALL VISITORS.

and carvings. B2C consumers get an opportunity to visit the booths and see the displayed goods in an accessible format. Hence, they can pick and buy from the sellers.

Articulating his thoughts on leveraging the most from attending gems and jewellery exhibitions, Kamlesh Parekh, Director, Imaginarium India Pvt Ltd, shared that there are ample benefits to being an exhibitor and a visitor. The exhibitions are filled with splendor and opulence that encourages the Jewellery industry's highest levels of craftsmanship and innovation. "Exhibitors get a chance to showcase their potential and try out the minimum viable products (MVPs) from a large collection, meet and greet direct clients, understand buying behaviors, and get honest customer feedback. It is like a minimum exhibit store that introduces new products and technology to the market. Any gems and jewellery exhibition embarks industrial connections and showcases recent market and industry trends to all visitors."

> "With lockdowns having eased out and normalcy restored across the nation, the demand in gems and jewellery in India during the period of April-June 2021 was around 76 tonne which is an increase of 19.2 percent as compared to the previous year in that period."
>
> **Ashish Pethe**
> **Chairman**
> **All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC)**

> "The Government has been very supportive and have been continuing to come up with trade-friendly policies and regulations for the ease of doing business in the Gems and Jewellery sector. There is no denying that the exports will rise exponentially in the near future."
>
> **Ashish Sand**
> **Partner**
> **Savio Jewellery**

Latest Designing Trends - 3D Printing

Orienting on the receptivity level of the Indian jewellery makers on using

Image Source: GJEPC

INDIA IMPORTED AT LEAST 11.4 TONNE OF GOLD IN MAY 2021 AS COMPARED TO A MEAGRE 1.9 TONNE IN MAY 2020. SO, THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THERE IS A RECOVERY IN THE CONSUMPTION OF JEWELLERY. WITH INCREASED CONSUMPTION, THERE IS LIKELY TO BE AN INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR PATTERNS AND MOULDS.

> Currently, the Indian Gems and Jewellery industry contributes only 5.8 percent of the global gem and jewellery demand of US$629.06 billion. India's Gems and Jewellery exports currently accounts for US$40 billion annually and has the potential to grow to US$70 billion by 2025.
>
> **Colin Shah**
> **Chairman**
> **Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)**

> Trade shows organized by GJEPC are a great platform to showcase our products and new design. It gives the exhibitor an opportunity to personally interact with retailers from across India and do direct business. The last IIJS show has proved that jewellery business still needs touch and feel for better sales.
>
> **Deepak Sheth**
> **Partner**
> **SK Sheth Jewellers**

3D Printing for designs, Parekh explained, "Before the onset of 3D Printing in India, jewellery manufacturers and designers relied on skilled karigars to carve wax models by hand. That was an expensive, time-consuming, and tedious process that required a separate warehouse and additional workforce. However, 3D Printing became a powerful tool for the same karigars who are slowly adapting to the CAD software."

In alignment, Dr Vishwas R Puttige, Business Head, amace solutions Pvt Ltd, elaborated, "From a designer's perspective, 3D Printing offers freedom to manufacture parts that are otherwise very difficult to produce using the traditional manufacturing techniques. The Jewellery industry has been relying on the traditional methods that involve making wax moulds and then casting them in precious metal such as gold. However, creating complex profiles with details into moulds is challenging, time-consuming, and lacks quality consistency. Thanks to 3D Printing, complex designs are no longer a barrier in the manufacturing of intricate jewellery."

To this Parekh, added, "With the digital workflow, the Gems and Jewellery sector can now churn out more highly complex and innovative designs in a shorter time than the old way. The sector has been steadily warming up to the digital revolution, fuelled by the pandemic. The retailers are continuously searching for innovative ways to connect with their clients; the new-age brands are deploying technology-based business models that allow them to scale rapidly and reach global markets. The designers are also exposed to all the new ways of creating jewellery through technology and craftsmanship combined, leading to a barrage of exciting concepts that were unimaginable only a few years ago. Coupled with a supply chain that can now produce on-demand, unique designs, there is a significant trend favoring mass customization

Image Source: Imaginarum

> There are ample benefits from attending any Gems &Jewellery Exhibition in India as an exhibitor as well as a visitor. These shows are filled with splendor and opulence that encourages the Jewellery industry's highest levels of craftsmanship and innovation.
>
> **Kamlesh Parekh**
> **Director**
> **Imaginarium India Pvt Ltd**

> With the changing trends, the industry is seeing the rising popularity of lightweight jewellery over heavy Jewellery. The jewellery pieces in demand are minimal, simple and chic.
>
> **Rajiv Jain**
> **Honorary Secretary**
> **Jaipur Jewellery Show**
> **Chairman, Sambhav Gems Ltd**

and personalization where every client can now have a say in their jewellery creation journey."

Talking of the deployment of 3D Printing in the sector, Dr Puttige shared, "In India, there are approximately 15-20 machines that are being used by the Jewellery industry for manufacturing designs, patterns, and ornaments from polymers, wax, and select precious metals. Stereolithography or SLA printing technology is used for creating master patterns casting. The Digital Light Processing (DLP) technology printers are also being used to produce wax-like patterns for lost-wax casting or investment casting."

Image Source: Imaginarium

3D PRINTING IS PROVING TO BE A BOON FOR THE INDUSTRY. THE DESIGNERS HAVING ACCESS TO 3D PRINTING MACHINES CAN CREATE VISUALLY APPEALING AND INTRICATELY PROFILED JEWELLERY. THIS ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY HAS OPENED DOORS TO A NEW ERA OF CREATIVITY THAT HAS BEEN WIDELY ACCEPTED AMONG THE JEWELLERY FRATERNITY.

The technology is proving to be a boon for the industry. The designers having access to these machines can create visually appealing and intricately profiled jewellery. This access to technology has opened doors to a new era of creativity that has been widely accepted among the jewellery fraternity. There are numerous advantages associated; for instance, designs that took weeks and months can now be printed in a few hours, ultimately reducing the design-to-market time considerably. The technology also enables customization and quick changes to the designs to be significantly incorporated.

He apprised, "Traditionally, India has had a good appetite for gold, especially during the festival and wedding season. As per the official records, India imported at least 11.4 tonne of gold in May 2021 as compared to a meagre 1.9 tonne in May 2020. So, this is a clear indication that there is a recovery in the consumption of jewellery. With increased consumption, there is likely to be an increase in demand for patterns and moulds."

Customers these days are becoming more demanding, and there is a lot of attention given to intricate designs in the jewellery that is worn. "Keeping in mind the interest of the customer, jewellery manufacturers have shifted

> The Indian Gems and Jewellery sector is one of the largest in the world, contributing almost 29 percent to the global jewellery consumption. India is today the world's largest diamond cutting and polishing center.
>
> **Sonal Sawansukha**
> **Co-owner & Creative Director**
> **Jewel Saga**

> In India, there are approximately 15-20 machines that are being used by the Jewellery industry for manufacturing designs, patterns and ornaments from polymers, wax and select precious metals. SLA printing technology is used for creating master patterns casting. The Digital Light Processing (DLP) technology printers are also being used to produce wax-like patterns for lost-wax casting or investment casting.
>
> **Dr Vishwas R Puttige**
> **Business Head**
> **amace solutions Pvt Ltd**

from the standardized manufacturing methods to the customized manufacturing approach where high degrees of customization can be achieved in ornaments. In order to meet this demand and achieve faster design-to-market, manufacturers will leverage the advantages of 3D Printing in the days to come," explained Dr Puttige.

Road Ahead

Currently, the Indian Gems and Jewellery industry contributes only 5.8 percent of the global gems and jewellery demand of US$629.06 billion. To this end, Shah emphasized that India's gem and jewellery export currently accounts for US$40 billion annually and has the potential to grow to US$70 billion by 2025.

In similar vein, Sand apprised that in the coming years, growth in the sector would largely be contributed by the development of large retailers/brands. Established brands are guiding the organized market and are opening opportunities to grow. Increasing penetration of organized players provides variety in terms of products and designs. Online sales are expected to account for 1-2 percent of the fine jewellery segment by 2021-22.

He further added, "The relaxation of restrictions of gold import is likely to provide a fillip to the industry. The improvement in availability, along with the reintroduction of low-cost gold metal loans and likely stabilization of gold prices at lower levels, is expected to drive volume growth for jewellers over the short to medium term. The demand for jewellery is expected to be significantly supported by the recent positive developments in the industry."

HANDHOLDING MSMEs

GJEPC gives preference to MSMEs for participating in its IIJS Premiere and IIJS Signature Shows. MSMEs from the Gems and Jewellery sector can avail the International Cooperation (IC) Scheme which facilitates the MSMEs to participate in the expos and showcase their products. The scheme provides MSMEs with actionable market-intelligence and reimbursement of various costs involved in export of goods and services and aims to facilitate the MSMEs' position as emerging export players.

Speaking on the upcoming trends, Jain stated that all brands require digital strategies to pick up the slack in the post-lockdown period. There is a rise in online shopping and an increase in the number of online players. Consumers prefer to browse online blogs and e-commerce platforms for ideas and inspiration. COVID-19 has made retailers in India re-evaluate their brick-and-mortar business model and implement an enhanced digital strategy. Foreseeing the latest trends in the Gems and Jewellery sector, he shared that there is a rising demand of lightweight jewellery over heavy jewellery. There is now a demand for minimal, simple, and chic jewellery pieces. ////

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STAYING CONNECTED DURING CRISIS

IEIA-ETT Club Panel Discussion

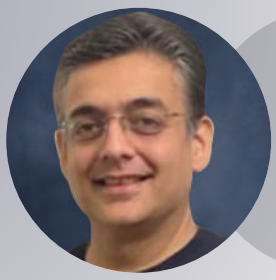
Matthias Tesi Baur
Founder, MBB Consulting Group & Exhibition Think Tank Club

Ravinder Sethi
International Ambassador & EC Member, IEIA
CMD, RE Rogers India Pvt Ltd

Satyendra Mehra
Member of the Management Board and Group Director NurnbergMesse India Pvt Ltd

Sunil Govind
Senior Director Facility Management and Operations BIEC

Max Fernandes
Director - Operations Informa Markets India Pvt Ltd



Sanjay Wadhwa
Vice President Swift Corporation

Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA), in collaboration with the ETT Club, recently held a stimulating panel discussion on how the Indian exhibition industry coped with the COVID-19-induced crisis and incorporated changes to be prepared for the future. The session moderated by Matthias Tesi Baur, Founder, MBB Consulting Group & Exhibition Think Tank Club, revolved around the theme of 'What Can The Exhibition World Learn From India?'.

Eminent panelists such as Ravinder Sethi, International Ambassador & EC Member, IEIA and CMD, RE Rogers India Pvt Ltd; Satyendra Mehra, Member of the Management Board and Group Director, NurnbergMesse India Pvt Ltd; Max Fernandes, Director - Operations, Informa Markets India Pvt Ltd; Sanjay Wadhwa, Vice President, Swift Corporation; and Sunil Govind, Senior Director, Facility Management and Operations, Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) shared their experiences on how the Indian exhibition fraternity persevered in the face of adversity.

Matthias Tesi Baur: How would you describe the current situation of the Exhibitions industry in India?

Ravinder Sethi: The world is aware of what India witnessed during the second wave of COVID-19. Our resonance led to our rapid recovery. Slowly and steadily, the exhibitions are reopening in India. We have a highly responsible ecosystem in place comprising show organizers, venue owners, and service providers.

Satyendra Mehra: Business activities and the economy in general are improving in India. The vaccination campaign is going well and the number of active cases of coronavirus in India is currently extremely low. This is an encouraging sign and a step towards recovery and development of our industry. It was overwhelming to see the response from the industry stakeholders, who rallied and ensured that the entire community was united. We believe that India is currently on an upward trajectory and will continue to grow in the future. Many exhibitions are in the pipeline to be organized in the coming days.

Matthias: I hear the story of fewer visitors attending the shows. But the visitors that do come are highly enthusiastic. Is it the same in India?
Ravinder: Though the visitor footfall may not be huge at present, the shows are visited by good quality visitors, and that is most important from an exhibition standpoint. The visitors are equally aware of the COVID-19 protocols and ensure compliance.

Satyendra: The feedback received from the organizers who have been able to put on shows in the last couple of months has been positive, not only concerning quality, but also in terms of a decent number of visitors, which was beyond their expectations.

Matthias: How did you react to the pandemic's onset, and what was your personal experience?
Sanjay Wadhwa: It was like a tsunami hitting us from the end of February this year, and the following months were all the more challenging. During the lockdown in April, due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, I realized things were changing.

Max Fernandes: We had not expected COVID-19 to hit us so badly. We were preparing for our forthcoming shows and all of a sudden, we saw notifications issued by the Indian Government to stay confined in our homes. Staying at home and trying to stay connected virtually with the outside world was when we started realizing that things have changed drastically.

Matthias: When revenue ceases to flow into the business, you no longer have currency because there is no revenue. Communication is the only currency in such a situation. What you say to your customer is your currency, and what you say to your customer is your profit. You can bet on your profitability if you stick with your customers. And I've seen some companies go completely silent and stop talking because they are not sure of what to do. How did India react? What would you do differently in the future if a pandemic hit another time?
Sunil Govind: IEIA reached out to all the stakeholders and there was a lot of communication that really worked wonders for the industry. In hindsight, we could have leveraged technology in a better way. At present, the focus is on health and safety.

Ravinder: We brought communication to the forefront as a community, as an ecosystem through our association and through company-to-company.

Matthias: The early stages of the pandemic were a time of confusion. So, the best way to get through this phase together was to gradually gain clarity on what the right things to do were. What can the world learn from India, and how has India bounced back?
Sanjay: People went above and beyond to help those in need. This was a classic example of Indian unity and brotherhood, where citizens prioritized humanity over everything else.

Matthias: Do you believe that the involvement of private life and its positive qualities have had an impact on business life, such that we are banding together and helping each other more? Would you say it is also a change in the business world?
Sanjay: There was a lot of virtual interaction during the lockdown days. I believe that our success was aided by our use of technology, as we attended many panel discussions and webinars and became more acquainted with people.

Ravinder: I think it was that inner cultural oblique, family bonds and strong ties that we had, were coming out.

Max: Interpersonal communications played an important role in carrying things forward.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- BROUGHT US TOGETHER
- IMPROVED COMPANY CULTURE
- TAUGHT US TO VALUE HUMAN CONNECTION
- LED TO AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP
- PROVED TO US THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING CONNECTED DURING CRISIS

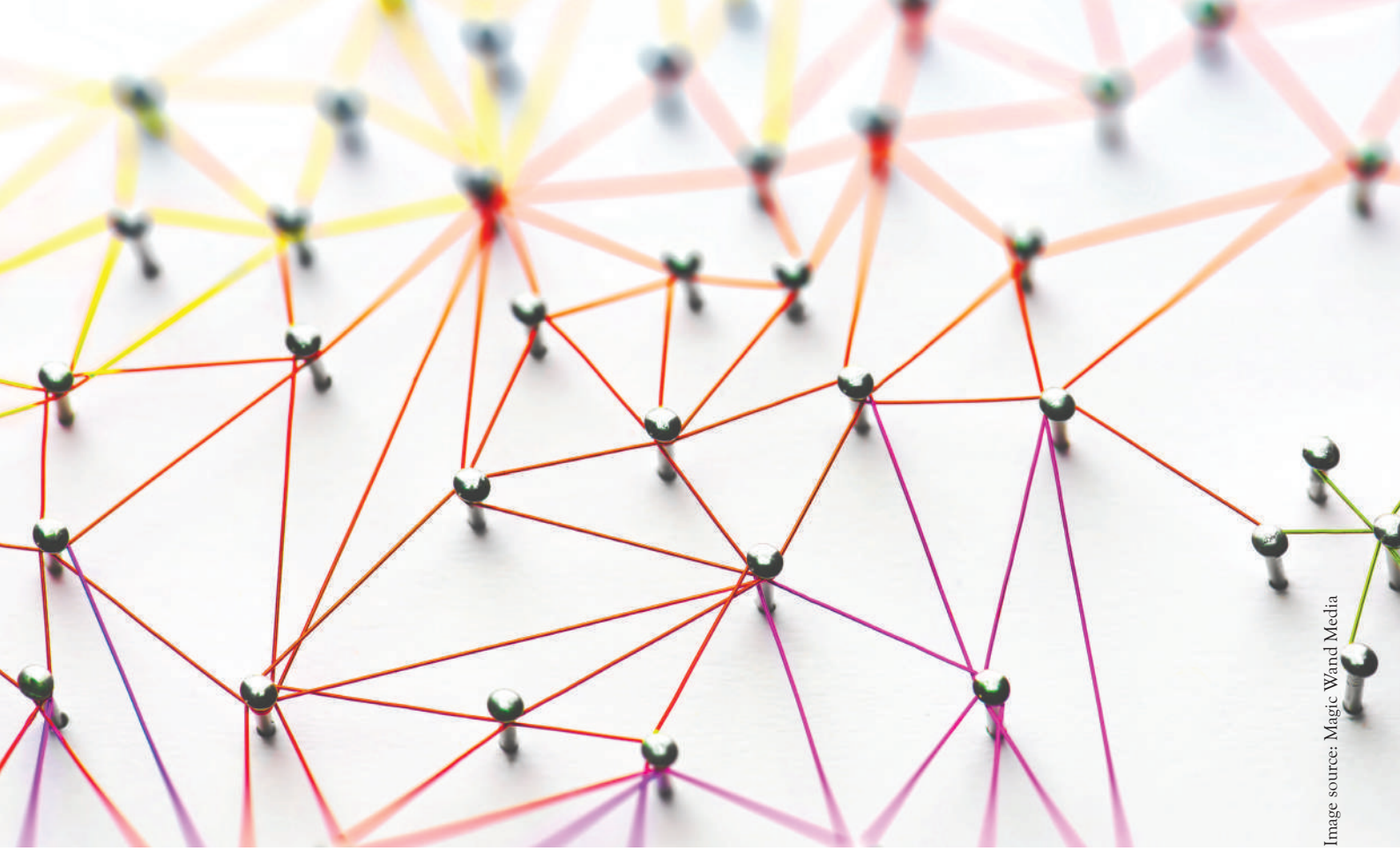


Image source: Magic Wand Media

Matthias: I think we are currently entering a phase where we need this culture of sticking together and helping each other and making sure we can execute shows.
The pandemic had a near-immediate effect on employment. It's a wave of a lack of skills, and workforce, and we do not have enough people to execute all our shows.
Satyendra: The pandemic taught us to act differently and think creatively; that is a lesson for us. Our business models, particularly in terms of sales and marketing approaches and strategies, have already changed. Focusing on providing a safe and secure environment will be critical in the future.

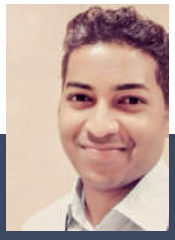
Sunil: IEIA and other similar organizations would need to play a bigger role in bridging the training gap and other issues. The other point that strikes me is that there could be a significant shift in the way exhibitions are organized. There may be more innovative models on the horizon that address the pandemic in a more sustainable manner. From the perspective of a venue, garbage management is essential.

Satyendra: Business models have changed and need to be redesigned to be much more future-proof. Companies also require having a business continuity plan, which they did not have previously. In the future of the Exhibitions industry, data content, return on investment, communication, training, and education are some of the activities that will require serious attention and investment in the coming years.

Sanjay: In terms of digital trends and hybrid exhibitions, it is the customers' customers – the buyers and the visitors who will set the tone.

Sunil: The tech-savvy next generation will uphold technology in the Exhibitions industry. This will have a significant impact on the exhibition space as we move forward, particularly in India.

Matthias: What can we learn from the pandemic, and what will be the role of digital technology?
Satyendra: We, as an ecosystem — whether it be venue providers, organizers, or service providers — have embraced technology and made it work to our benefit. We would have more digital offerings in the future, which would work to our advantage rather than pose a threat.



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All image source: Aakar Exhibition Pvt Ltd

SETTING UP THE STAGE

For the past two decades, Aakar Exhibition has been offering a high-quality platform for forging meaningful business bonds, emerging as a leading player in the Exhibition industry. With the vision to strengthen the brands associated with it and the right moves to realize it, the company is all set for further growth…

Aakar Exhibition Pvt Ltd commenced its journey in 2011 and since then has been growing leaps and bounds. More than 50 market-leading trade exhibitions have been successfully organized by the company, which has served well over 10,000 exhibitors, collaborated with more than 20 trade associations, and welcomed about 15,00,000 trade visitors to its events.

Premal Mehta, Managing Director, Aakar Exhibition, talks of the remarkable journey the company has had so far, "We started from one IP organized in a banquet hall in 2011. And in a year, we grew to cover a gross area of more than 1,00,000 sq mt for our market-leading exhibitions. All our IPs are growing at a rapid pace, and we are lapping up great feedback from our exhibitors and visitors."

"However, it was not pleasant throughout. We have seen our share of rough roads, but overall, we are satisfied with our achievements till date," he adds.

Dedicated to the Customer

Aakar Exhibition has a highly professional team that is committed to providing its customers with a high-quality platform for forging business relations.

"Everything we do is driven by our customers' needs. We have a passion for understanding and exceeding our customers' expectations, and strive to be their indispensable partner," adds Mehta.

"Exhibitions are a stable and reliable source of information dissemination to the group of people where it is required and fruitfully oriented. And Aakar is all about creating world-class exhibitions, a marketplace where we bring together people and communities to network, do business, and get inspired. We are committed to providing superior products and services with the highest level of quality and excellence. We strive

"Everything we do is driven by our customers' needs. We have a passion for understanding and exceeding our customers' expectations and strive to be their indispensable partner."

Premal Mehta
Managing Director
Aakar Exhibition Pvt Ltd

MORE THAN 50 MARKET-LEADING TRADE EXHIBITIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESS-FULLY ORGANIZED BY THE COMPANY, WHICH HAS SERVED WELL OVER 10,000 EXHIBI-TORS AND WELCOMED ABOUT 15,00,000 TRADE VISITORS.

to be professional in all our customer dealings and, hence, find ourselves valued," he shares.

Visitor Mobilization

Sharing the company's success in managing visitor mobilization at its shows, Mehta says, "An exhibitor who recently participated in the Aakar 2021 exhibition that had record visitors after COVID-19 pointed out that it is hard to decode the equations of our visitor

mobilization. He added that the kind of visitor flow seen in our exhibitions year-on-year is unbelievable."

He explains that the team has been working extremely hard and smart since 2011 to mobilize trade visitors from all over the country. "We keep every trader/ visitor in our database informed about the exhibition as to who is participating and what are the products on display that are to boost the number of visitors to our exhibition," he adds.

Taking pride he shares, "We have never faced any challenge in terms of being in Ahmedabad and organizing successful shows. We have never been judged on our location by the exhibitors or visitors. Ahmedabad is known for its successful exhibition organizers and has given us an advantage."

Smooth Sailing During Pandemic

Aakar recently concluded three physical exhibitions. Two in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi – Photo Video Asia 2021 and Aakar 2021 (Tent Décor Asia/Catering Asia/ Hotelware Asia), and the Beauty and Salon Expo at Ahmedabad YMCA Club. All three exhibitions had more visitor footfall compared to any of the exhibition organizer's pre-COVID exhibitions.

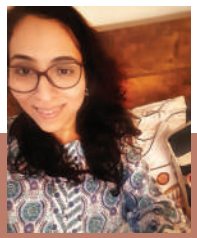
"We truly feel blessed. We got support from our exhibitors even though they were skeptical about the number of visitors and ROI, but post-exhibitions we were pleased to know that each exhibitor received more than the expected response. Our exhibitions were rather instrumental in restarting the entire business of Photo Video and Catering/Tent/ and Professional Beauty industries," he asserts.

AAKAR RECENTLY CONCLUDED THREE PHYSICAL EXHIBITIONS. TWO IN PRAGATI MAIDAN, NEW DELHI – PHOTO VIDEO ASIA 2021 AND AAKAR 2021 (TENT DÉCOR ASIA/CATERING ASIA/HOTELWARE ASIA), AND THE BEAUTY AND SALON EXPO AT AHMEDABAD YMCA CLUB. ALL THREE EXHIBITIONS HAD MORE VISITOR FOOTFALL COMPARED TO ANY OF THE EXHIBITION ORGANIZER'S PRE-COVID EXHIBITIONS.

The company, Mehta opines, ensured safety protocols like paperless registration, compulsory masks, sanitizing hands, building an isolation chamber, temperature screening at the entrance, and keeping medical teams handy apart from regular ambulance deployment, in case of emergency, to name a few.

Excellence is the Goal

Mehta believes in chasing excellence and shares the company's vision of remaining a leading player in the Exhibition industry by providing the best services and excellent ROI to the participants, pulling in quality trade visitors, and maintaining its business-centric approach. "We will keep strengthening our existing brands and keep adding more brands to our wide array of exhibitions," he adds, summing up. ////



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STAYING RELEVANT

Ascent to leadership roles is not about gender, and women with the right talent, experience, and professionalism can also break the glass ceiling and climb the career ladder, believes Uma Menon, Managing Director, Rudra Communications, and Joint Secretary, Indian Exhibitions, Conferences & Events Services Association.

Image Source: Rudra Communications

> Women often want to be treated differently from their male colleagues. If you do your job efficiently, there is no room for gender bias. It creeps in when family and personal stuff are let into the professional space.
>
> **Uma Menon**
> **Managing Director**
> **Rudra Communications**

For more than two decades, Rudra Communications has been functioning as a fully equipped studio that makes short films. It has been making films on most of the government projects on skilling, including the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. A filmmaker, environmentalist, philanthropist, and certified life coach, Uma Menon has, over the years, built a reputation of integrity and quality. She has been the official press representative of India at the WorldSkills International Competition in Germany, Brazil, Abu Dhabi, and Russia, and has also extensively covered skills across the length and breadth of the country, from Kashmir to Gulbarga, and from Diu to Shillong.

Women in Leadership

Women are increasingly getting visible at the forefront, whether it is climbing to the top position, accepting challenging roles in organizing exhibitions and conferences, or managing key groups within organizations.

Menon has been an integral part of highly prominent shows in the Exhibitions and Events industry for a significant period of two decades. Her expertise gives an insight into what it's like to be a woman in a leadership role in an industry that has a reputation for becoming more inclusive over time.

Reflecting on her journey, she recalls that when she began working in exhibitions and events in 1994, the world was vastly different with few women in the industry. She considers herself fortunate to be directly involved with landmark events such as IMTEX, one of India's oldest events on the machine tool and manufacturing technologies organized by the Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA), and the Partnership Summit 1995, a flagship event of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). "There weren't any courses or colleges where one could learn these skills; whatever you learned came from what you learned on the job. Hence, I feel blessed to have worked and interacted closely with the doyens of the industry."

"One big change that has happened in this period is that systems are now coming into place. We also have more professionals entering the industry, which is better and is the way forward," she remarks.

She, however, misses the bonhomie of the past where every event seemed to be an extension of college, "When we were out working on the field, everyone was equal. There were no clients or vendors, and we were just a large team committed to making an event spectacular."

Pointing out the challenges that came her way when she started off, she recollects, "The biggest challenge that I faced was my age. I was just 23, and with my media background, I was and maybe still am a bit of an oddball in the industry. People were nice but did not know how to box me because I did not fit in any stereotypical exhibition service provider role."

Navigating Gender Bias

Menon believes that gender bias is something that is created by women themselves. "Women often want to be treated differently from their male colleagues. If you do your job efficiently, there is no room for gender bias. It creeps in when family and personal stuff are let into the professional space," she says.

She herself has walked the talk in this male-driven business and has kept her professional and private spaces well divided. This could be one of the many reasons that have aided in her climbing up the career ladder to a leadership position. "The one thing that separates leaders from the rest is vision, and vision has no gender. We are blessed that we live in a country where women are, at least on paper, promoted and exalted. The catch is that since you have it in writing, you can do the action," she adds.

Nextgen women leaders have to make a conscious choice to join this industry and not meander into it, Menon suggests. "Efficiency and best practices will automatically follow suit. To the future women leaders, I have only one piece of advice: keep yourself constantly relevant."

Where the industry is concerned, she points out, it is like any other industry where one has to fend for themselves. "When you are down, you extend your right hand to your left and lift yourself. Don't see

Image Source: Rudra Communications

Image Source: Rudra Communications

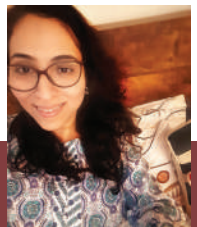
yourself differently as it's a race and you can either die trying or die crying," she warns.

Women Adept at Technology

Menon resents the fact that women are underestimated in the technology domain. "It is misunderstood that our minds are not wired to understand technology, and yet the latest Mangalyaan was all about women. Automation made its way into the workspace the day our mothers began using electric irons and mixers at home, and hence, long before men, it was women who started using automation for optimization. Women not just thrive on changes, but their intrinsic adaptability makes them use technology to its optimum, paving the way for new and futuristic innovations," she asserts. ////

THE ONE THING THAT SEPARATES LEADERS FROM THE REST IS VISION, AND VISION HAS NO GENDER. WE ARE BLESSED THAT WE LIVE IN A COUNTRY WHERE WOMEN ARE, AT LEAST ON PAPER, PROMOTED AND EXALTED. THE CATCH IS THAT SINCE YOU HAVE IT IN WRITING, YOU CAN DO THE ACTION.

Image Source: Rudra Communications



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A PLACE OF CHOICE

With luxury hotels offering their state-of-the-art venues and excellent services to the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conference, and Exhibitions) industry in India, they have become a preferred destination. Here's knowing what Radisson Blu Coimbatore has been doing to accommodate the ever-changing needs of its guests…

All image source: Hotel Radisson Blu Coimbatore

Radisson Blu Coimbatore, the city's first and finest international upscale hotel with major highlights being its location and ambience, has proven to be equally ideal for business and leisure. Located in Peelamedu, it is close to PSG College of Technology, Gedee Car Museum, Tidel Park Coimbatore IT SEZ, and Codissia Trade Fair Complex.

The Exhibition and Event industry has been leveraging the hotel's strategic location and comprehensive facilities. "As our hotel is situated in the heart of the city, we have had the pleasure of hosting big local events such as Gaga Hospital Doctors' Conference, KMCH Hospital Doctors' Meet, National Conference in Orthopedics, Lakshmi Diamonds Event, PSG Group etc. Each of these conferences convened 500 to 600 people," states Nijo Augustin, Director – Sales & Marketing, Radisson Blu Coimbatore.

Radisson Blu Coimbatore features 135 spacious rooms/suites spread across 7 categories. It houses 5 Banqueting/Meeting facilities, 4 Food & Beverage outlets, a Health Club (Fitness Center, Spa,

> "Spread across 9,400 sq ft, our expansive pillarless banquet venues can accommodate up to 1,000 guests. Our state-of-the-art meeting rooms are equipped to ensure business meetings are a success. With themed menus and customized function set-ups, our dedicated venue managers ensure even the smallest of needs are catered to."

Nijo Augustin
Director - Sales & Marketing
Radisson Blu Coimbatore

Swimming Pool and Salon), and a Business Class Lounge.

"Spread across 9,400 sq ft, our expansive pillarless banquet venues can accommodate up to 1,000 guests. Our state-of-the-art meeting rooms are equipped to ensure business meetings are a success. With themed menus and customized function set-ups, our dedicated venue managers ensure even the smallest of needs are catered to," he shares.

Flowing with the Tide

The pandemic has brought about changes that have caused Hotel Radisson Blu Coimbatore to reconsider its commitment to health and hygiene for its guests. It has been implementing stringent measures in its standard operations and adhering to all the norms set for the Hospitality industry.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is a humanitarian crisis that has affected people's lives and triggered a global economic crisis. This has led to a tangible impact on the Hotel Industry, which is critical for many people, places, and businesses. The pandemic has forced the adoption of new ways of working. Organizations must reimagine their work and the role of offices in creating safe, productive, and enjoyable jobs and lives for employees," remarks Augustin.

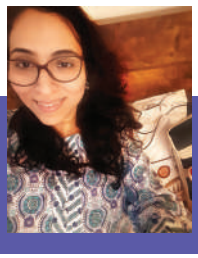
"The current times call for social distancing. Hence, guests are on a lookout for venues with adequate space. We are proud to say that most conferences happen in our hotel since we have the state-of-the-art conference rooms and biggest banqueting facility available in the city," he informs.

Sustainability is Key

The Hotel has been conscious of the waste generated due to an increase in casual as well as business travel. Hence, it strives for environmentally friendly solutions to find a way around it. Augustin outlines some sustainable measures resorted to: "We recommend our guests do a minimum decoration of the venues during conferences and meetings. All our signage has been digitalized to avoid printed brochures and standees. We practice conscious energy management on air conditioners and lighting, among other things. The guests are encouraged to arrive by carpooling. And we serve and source local, organic, and seasonal food as much as possible."

RADISSON BLU COIMBATORE FEATURES 135 SPACIOUS ROOMS/ SUITES SPREAD ACROSS 7 CATEGORIES. IT HOUSES 5 BANQUETING/ MEETING FACILITIES, 4 FOOD & BEVERAGE OUTLETS, A HEALTH CLUB (FITNESS CENTER, SPA, SWIMMING POOL AND SALON), AND A BUSINESS CLASS LOUNGE.

As much as the hotel is appreciated for its green values, it is preferred mostly for its open lawn area where the buffet is arranged. And since the banquet venue is the largest in the city, it becomes an obvious choice for a post-conference huddle where most of the networking happens. ////



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All image source: IEIA

A PLATFORM FOR GROWTH

Organized by Indian Exhibition Industry Association, the premium event of the Indian exhibitions sector Open Seminar 2021 will convene the industry stakeholders on December 20-21, 2021, at Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), to deliberate upon the crucial role that exhibitions play in the larger scheme of things and how India could be the ideal exhibition destination…

To commemorate 75 glorious years of India's independence and mark Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA's) 15 years of dedicated service to the Exhibitions sector in India, the Association has organized the 10th edition of the IEIA Open Seminar. The event, with the underlying theme - 'Exhibitions in India - Building Global Business Platforms' - will be focusing on positioning India as the preferred exhibition destination in the world.

IEIA is the national apex body representing the exhibitions sector in India. Over the last 15 years, the association has been continuously working for the sector's growth through its various initiatives focusing on industry advocacy, professional development, raising the bar of industry standards, and supporting business growth of its members.

Exhibitions are Crucial

Exhibitions have proven to be a catalyst in bringing in investments, boosting exports, spurring multi-sectoral growth, and generating business tourism, which impacts the overall economy of India. By being significant contributors to the achievement of the US$5 trillion economic status of the country, trade fairs are supporting India's vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat. With such high potential, exhibitions act as the most critical tool for economic and business growth.

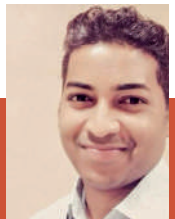
Decision-makers of the industry, including exhibition organizers, heads of trade bodies, policymakers, and service partners from all parts of the country, will come together on this platform, making it an unparalleled networking opportunity in the Exhibitions sector in India. The thoughtfully curated conference sessions will bring forth the latest trends and topics of interest for all stakeholders. At the same time, the impressive panel of speakers will enlighten the audience through their thought-provoking keynote addresses and panel discussions.

A single standardized partnership package is being offered to the industry players for the first time in the history of IEIA Open Seminar under the theme: #TogetherWeStand #TogetherWeCan

Surpassing Past Success

The 9th edition brought together professional players from various verticals of the Exhibition industry. Over 500 delegates from over 28 international countries marked their presence, bringing together the Indian and global exhibition industry fraternity under one roof. Many global associations supported the event, including UFI, IAEE, AFECA, SISO, UBRAFE, AEFI, AFE, IELA, CENTREX, AUMA, and SBE.

The upcoming edition is slated to surpass last year's success. ////



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SPREADING THE SPARKLE

Image Source: Informa Markets in India

India's leading B2B exhibitions organizer Informa Markets in India recently concluded the 9th edition of Delhi Jewellery and Gem Fair in its in-person format, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Highlights of the show that dazzled…

Delhi Jewellery and Gem Fair (DJGF), North India's biggest international jewellery trade show, made its physical appearance after a two-year absence. The event attracted around 12,500 buyers and featured about 200 exhibitors, 850 designer brands, and over 15,000 unique designs.

The expo was marked by the presence of high-profile dignitaries, from ministers to associations and media from the Gems and Jewellery industry, all under one roof. Renowned personalities such as Chief Guests Shri Dushyant Chautala, Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana and Shri Satyendra Jain, Member of Delhi Legislative Assembly, along with key dignitaries including PK Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Delhi; Ashish Pethe, Chairman, All India Gems and Jewellery Domestic Council and Partner, Waman Hari Pethe Jewellers; Yogesh Singhal, President, Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri Jewellers (TBJA), Delhi; Mahendra Tayal, President, Hitech City Jewellers Manufacturers Association (HJMA); and Pallavi Mehra, Group Director, Informa Markets in India, graced the show.

What All Happened

Some highlights of the expo included the launch of SHAKTI – Women Achiever's Awards jointly with the Gems & Jewellery Trade Council of India (GJTCI). The launch of SHAKTI was an effort to support the 'Amrit Mahotsav' initiative taken by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. The Amrut Mahotsav is dedicated to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India this far in its evolutionary journey but also hold within them the power and potential to enable Prime Minister Modi's vision of activating India 2.0, fueled by the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat. SHAKTI felicitated the brilliance of women entrepreneurs, business owners, and corporate professionals from the gems and jewellery industry in India.

Image Source: Informa Markets in India

Shri Dushyant Chautala, present at the Delhi Jewellery and Gem Fair, said, "Such an event helps hundreds of exhibitors from North India. The Indian Gems and Jewellery industry has made a notable mark and the Government has supported the promotion of this industry." He also graciously invited the industry to the state of Haryana and promised that the State Government would continue to promote it by providing acres of land for establishing the entire infrastructure in the region.

Congratulating the entire team of Informa Markets in India for conducting such an exhibition, Shri Satyendra Jain added, "Our approach would be to highlight the importance of the increasing value of jewellery, its endorsement and how it needs to be preserved. The Indian Gems and Jewellery industry contributes 4-7.5 percent to the GDP and 14 percent to the export trade of the country." He also focused on promoting industry, which currently employs more than 5 million skilled labourers across the country.

While addressing the gathering, Singhal, appreciated the Government's hallmark law and said, "Such Government policies will maintain the goodwill and transparency in the gems and jewellery industry."

Speaking on the return of DJGF in the physical format, Mudras stated that returning in the physical format after a gap of 2 years, DJGF has reinforced a sense of trust in the jewellery market with over 200 participants showcasing an array of unique and trending jewellery. "It has reinforced the bond amongst the jewellery community, the Government, and investors. Informa Markets in India stands by the Indian Government's endeavors to achieve significant growth in the Gems and Jewellery sector by serving as a facilitator and bringing the organized jewellery fraternity together under one roof," he added.

Participants and Supporters

The three-day expo was supported by The Bullion & Jewellers Association (IBJA), Gems & Jewellery Trade Council of India, Delhi Jewellers Association, Maliwada Jewellers Association, Meerut Bullion Traders Association, All India Gems and Jewellery Trade Federation, and many more. The fair represented jewellery manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, importers, and exporters; diamond, gemstones, and pearl suppliers and traders; precious metal and jewellery mounting traders and suppliers; and representatives from trade and governmental organizations all under one roof to meet, connect, network, and grow their business. Products of different styles and designs from Gold, Diamond, Gemstones, Silver, and Loose Stones categories along with machinery, showcased over 850 different kinds of brands.

DJGF HAS REINFORCED THE BOND AMONGST THE JEWELLERY COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNMENT, AND INVESTORS.

The list of exhibitors this year included Beera Jewellers; Unique Chains Pvt Ltd; Royal Chains Pvt Ltd; Heera Jewellers; and Future Diamond Jewellery Pvt Ltd, amongst others. As a pre-cursor, the fair held a series of successful road shows for the jewellery community in North Indian cities like Lucknow, Ambala, and Meerut. On-ground shop-to-shop activities in over 25 cities across India were also part of the pre-event activities.

DJGF was an intrinsic part of the 'Festival of Business – Ushering Economic Resurgence' campaign by Informa Markets during this festive season. The Festival of Business is a medley of 10 back-to-back shows till October-end across different verticals in physical, digital, and hybrid formats. It has been curated to help discover the joy of in-person re-union, cementing bonds, networking, driving business objectives, spotting innovations through touch and feel, gathering marketing intelligence, and arriving at customized solutions through different platforms under the umbrella of each B2B show.

The expo was amply supported by its AllSecure & Travel Safety Guidelines – a safety standard initiative that provides attendees and participants the reassurance and confidence that they are participating in a safe and controlled environment. These international protocols are based on the broader principles of Physical Distancing, Protect & Detect, Cleaning & Hygiene, and detailed Communications. ////

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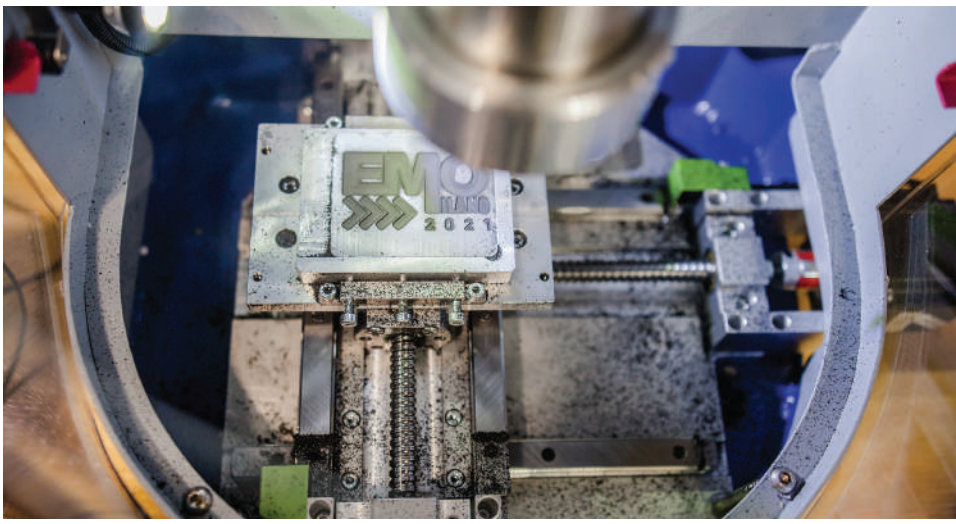
INNOVATION ON DISPLAY

All image source: UCIMU



EMO MILANO 2021, the world trade show dedicated to the metalworking sector held at the Exhibition Centre of fieramilano Rho, closed on October 09, 2021. Glimpses follow…

Organized by the operational structures of UCIMU-SISTEMI PER PRODURRE, the Italian machine tools, robots, and automation systems Manufacturers' Association, and promoted by CECIMO, the European Association of Machine Tool Industries, EMO MILANO 2021 registered more than 60,000 visitors coming from 91 countries.

Organizers' Take

Luigi Galdabini, General Commissioner, EMO MILANO 2021, stated, "The exhibition data confirms the value of the event, considered as the appointment of reference for the worldwide manufacturing industry of machine tools, robots, and automation systems."

"In such a complicated, historic moment, where the public health emergency is not yet completely over, EMO showed its importance, drawing all those operators to Milan, who could have the green light to move from their countries of origin. Moreover, the participation of the operators, coming not only from Europe, also proves the attractiveness of Italy, regarded as one

of the most interesting and promising markets, as well as a leading manufacturing country in the sector," he added.

Alfredo Mariotti, Director, EMO MILANO 21, pointed out, "A very large number of exhibitors have expressed their full satisfaction with the results achieved over these six exhibition days. 'Qualified and very motivated visitors', 'A duly organized trade show in all its details and not least those related to safety' – these are the most common expressions of appreciation received both from habitual exhibitors of the world metalworking trade show and from companies who did not have particular previous participation experiences."

Who All Participated

Despite the travel restrictions, foreign exhibitors accounted for 60 percent of the total, whereas foreign visitors made up 30 percent of the overall number.

A major attraction for the operators of the world manufacturing industry was the wide product offering on show, representing all the segments of the sector. Over 700 enterprises exhibited within 6 halls set up for the event, covering 1,00,000 sq mt of overall exhibition area.

Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain, Austria, Slovenia, Turkey, Poland, Russia, and Denmark were the most represented countries at the trade show, which was also attended by numerous operators from Finland, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, Czech Republic, USA, Great Britain, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Ireland, and Egypt.

Among the foreign visitors, there were also over 30 qualified foreign operators participating in the business missions organized by UCIMU-SISTEMI PER PRODURRE in cooperation with MAECI and ICE-Italian Trade Agency, as well as 30 members of an autonomous delegation from Turkey. The matching activity organized by UCIMU-SISTEMI PER PRODURRE materialized into 1,200 meetings arranged at the stands of the exhibitors that took part in the initiative.

Besides registering the users' interest, EMO MILANO 2021 attracted the attention of the international press: about 400 accredited journalists, of whom 40 percent were from abroad.

A MAJOR ATTRACTION FOR THE OPERATORS OF THE WORLD MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WAS THE WIDE PRODUCT OFFERING ON SHOW, REPRESENTING ALL THE SEGMENTS OF THE SECTOR. OVER 700 ENTERPRISES EXHIBITED WITHIN 6 HALLS SET UP FOR THE EVENT, COVERING 1,00,000 SQ MT OF OVERALL EXHIBITION AREA.

Students also confirmed their interest in the event. Young visitors were 1,300, including students from Technical High Schools, Universities, and ITS-Higher Technical Schools, who visited the exhibition accompanied by their teachers. Among them, 450 were escorted on guided tours by tutors of UCIMU-SISTEMI PER PRODURRE.

"The work carried out by the EMO team has been appreciated by Italian and foreign operators, who also expressed their satisfaction on the social media, thus supporting the climate of trust that characterizes the sector and regarded EMO MILANO 2021 as the event launching the post-pandemic era," concluded Mariotti. ////

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All image source: Informa Markets in India

PRIORITIZING HEALTH AND SAFETY

With health and safety aspects taking the driver's seat, and cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitization becoming buzzwords since the onset of the pandemic, the Indian cleaning and facility management professionals gathered for insightful sessions on sanitation, health, and hygiene in India at the maiden ISSA Conference India launched by ISSA and Informa Markets in India on October 21-22, 2021 at Hotel Lalit, Mumbai.

The two-day event, supported by UNICEF, the Professional House Keeping Association, and the Global Biorisk Advisory Council, was organized at the right time, given the war, we are waging against viruses throughout the world. It brought together industry leaders, think tanks, and professionals on a common networking platform to share ideas, innovations, developments, solutions, and experiences in cleaning, hygiene, and facilities management. The event was designed to provide commercial, institutional, and industrial stakeholders with lessons learned and best practices in cleaning, readiness, and resilience as well as leadership in times of crisis. The participants were able to get in-depth knowledge of products, procedures, techniques, and operations management and a continuous update on skills.

Attracting Talent

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony of the conference, keynote speaker, Prof Neharika Vohra, Vice Chancellor, Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University, Government of Delhi, said that the Cleaning and Facility Management industry has to attract good talent to occupy the center stage. She called upon the stakeholders to invest in training and developing personnel, and encourage them to stick to the jobs by providing them decent salaries, amenities, and perks. She added that when in the right ecosystem, employees get encouraged to remain in the profession and give their best. Furthermore, she drew a parallel with the BPO industry which had invested in their personnel in terms of salary, training, cafeteria services, etc, all of which attracted the youth to the industry, and it became a profession of choice rather than chance.

Harnessing Potential

Anand Ghodke, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Officer, UNICEF India, expressed his views during the event and highlighted that the Government can create opportunities while the private sector can sustain them.

There are several areas to harness the private sector's potential in solutions and services, and the industry needs to focus on providing healthcare facilities at schools and daycare centers, workplaces and commercial buildings, refugee and migrant, or other camp-like settings, prisons, markets and food establishments, transport hubs, places of worship, home, and public spaces. Globally, three billion people –

around 40 percent of the world's population — do not have a place in their home to wash their hands with water and soap, and, hence, there is a huge potential and opportunity to fill this gap.

Expressing his happiness in working closely with ISSA to launch the conference, Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director, Informa Markets in India, said "We are happy to work closely with ISSA to launch the ISSA Conference India. It has not only brought advanced international expertise to India's fast-growing Cleaning industry but is also presenting overseas innovative equipment, products, and solutions to the huge Indian market that has a lot of potential in this niche industry. We believe our partnership with ISSA for this conference will help promote the Cleaning industry in a more organized manner. It has brought together professionals and organizations, sensitizing them to the pertinent issues in dealing with pandemics and redefining the global cleaning community with the single mission of changing the way the world views cleaning."

Networking Galore

The conference featured a galaxy of domestic and international speakers from the cleaning and facilities management segment, sharing their knowledge and insights on the latest technological innovations and best practices in cleaning, sanitation, and facility management. The experts at the conference emphasized that sustainability in products and operations should be the centerpiece for the industry to be relevant and significant. As the event was held in in-person and on a digital platform, more participants from different geographical regions got an opportunity to participate and express their views.

The key sessions were:

- Return to Work – Health, Hygiene, and Safety
- Leveraging the New Normal to Accelerate Behavioral Change
- The Science Behind Cleaning & Disinfecting
- Integrating Infection Prevention into Routine Cleaning: Learnings from COVID-19 Pandemic
- The Next Big Need in India's Facility Management World
- Leveraging the Merger of Building Automation & Service IoT in Facilities
- Manage What You Measure: Developing a Top-Quality Assurance Program
- Making the Business Case for Investing in Cleaning & Hygiene.

A Festival of Business

The ISSA Conference India was an intrinsic part of the 'Festival of Business – Ushering Economic Resurgence' campaign by Informa Markets in this festive season. The Festival of Business was a medley of 10 back-to-back shows till October end across different verticals in physical, digital, and hybrid formats. It has been curated to help discover the joy of in-person re-union, cementing bonds, networking, driving business objectives, spotting innovations through touch and feel, gathering marketing intelligence, and arriving at customized solutions through different platforms under the umbrella of each B2B show.

> "Our partnership with ISSA will promote the cleaning industry in a more organized manner by bringing together professionals and organizations and sensitizing them on pertinent issues in dealing with pandemics and redefining the global cleaning community with the single mission of changing the way the world views cleaning."

Yogesh Mudras
Managing Director
Informa Markets in India

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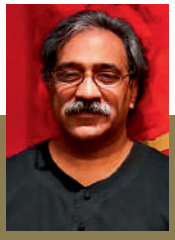

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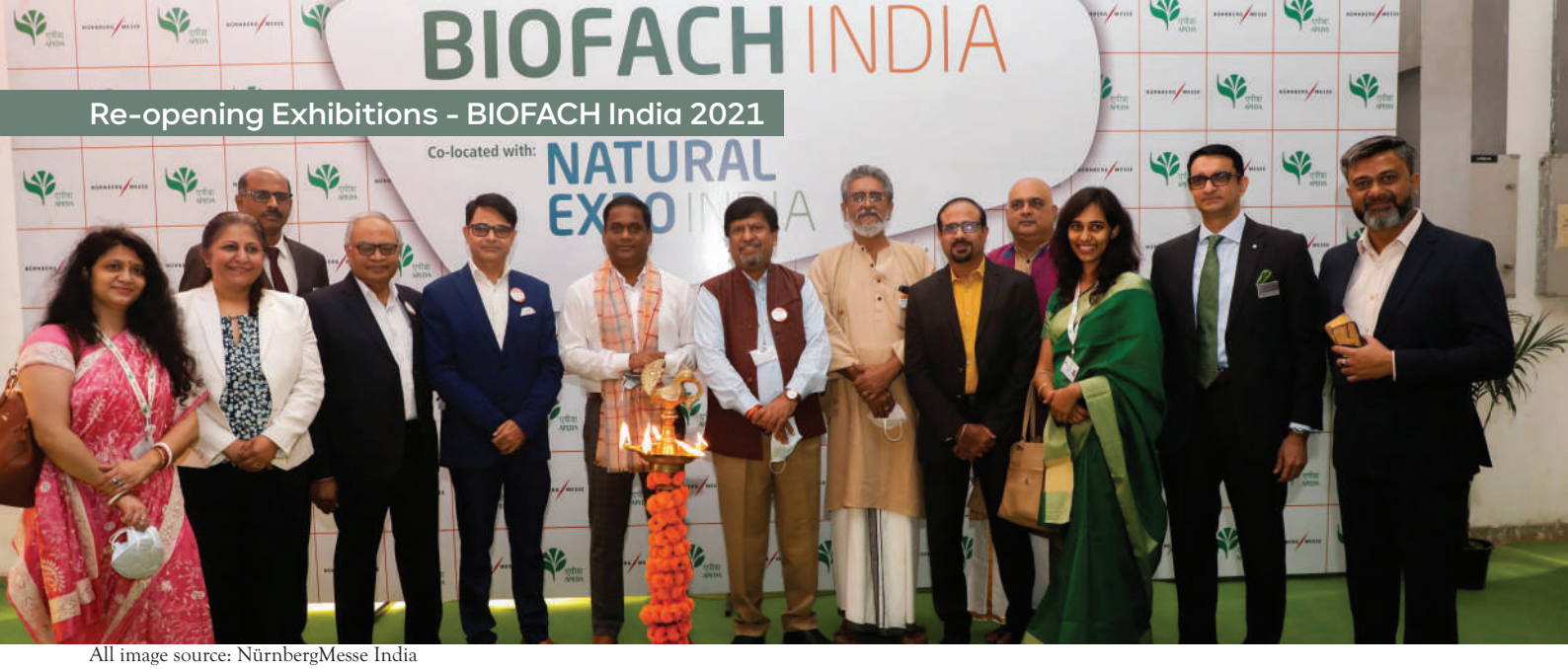

All image source: NürnbergMesse India

CHAMPIONING ORGANIC & NATURAL INDUSTRY

BIOFACH INDIA 2021, India's leading trade fair for the organic and natural industry, took place from October 28-30, 2021, at India Expo Centre & Mart (IEML), Greater Noida, to connect key industry players on a single platform.

The three-day exhibition, organized by NürnbergMesse India in collaboration with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, ended on a positive note, with an overall optimistic outlook for the future of the Organic sector, especially in light of the growing awareness about organic and natural products and a favorable policy framework for promoting the industry.

Mobilizing Visitors for Shows

The event provided an ideal forum for manufacturers in this domain to meet relevant buyers and investors, encompassing the entire Organic Product spectrum from production to consumption. The platform offered several intriguing features such as exhibitor product showcases, conference programs, B2B-buyer seller meetings, Vendor Development program, CEO's Conclave, and so on.

The fair drew attendees from over 16 countries and over 200 Indian cities. They could witness a wide range of products from over 100 brands, network with stakeholders, and participate in a host of knowledge-sharing sessions.

Organizers Opine

Speaking at the event, Sonia Prashar, Managing Director, NürnbergMesse India, elaborated, "Our partnership with APEDA, together with the active support of other leading associations, has enabled us to create a platform which brings all the Organic Stakeholders together and create a forum which facilitates business and dialogue. As the largest post-pandemic gathering of the organic community, the 13th edition of BIOFACH INDIA was not only successful but also pivotal."

Dr M Angamuthu, Chairman, APEDA, added, "The time has come to position India's organic products on a local and global platform and promote this industry." APEDA has been actively supporting the event for the past four editions.

BIOFACH INDIA 2021 DREW ATTENDEES FROM OVER 16 COUNTRIES AND OVER 200 INDIAN CITIES. THEY COULD WITNESS A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS FROM OVER 100 BRANDS, NETWORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS, AND PARTICIPATE IN A HOST OF KNOWLEDGE-SHARING SESSIONS.

Promising Future for the Industry

According to the FiBL (The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture) and IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) Organics International Report 2021, India ranks first in Asia and fifth globally with 23 lakh hectares of area under organic farming. The Indian organic food market has also seen a surge, with the market size touching US$820 million in 2020, which was just about US$200 million in 2018, as per the report. It is likely to grow at a CAGR of 24 percent during 2021-2026.

COVID-19 has acted as a motivator for people to adopt a healthy lifestyle, resulting in a rapidly growing trend of organic foods that promotes healthy eating and overall well-being. Government policies have also aided farmers in adopting organic farming and improving remuneration due to higher prices.

The event featured an impressive display of products and solutions from various segments, including organic food and beverages, natural cosmetics, wellness, ecological textiles, and certification.

Discussing the growing opportunities in the organic space, Dr Tarun Bajaj, Director, APEDA, commented, "India's Organic industry witnessed a 51 percent growth last year, and in terms of trade, we have crossed the US$1 billion mark. Clearly, the industry is on the right growth trajectory."

BIOFACH INDIA 2021 was held following the most recent Government guidelines and comprehensive health and safety protocols centered on COVID-19. ////

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L-R: S Hari Shankar, Chairman, India ITME Society; Roop Rashi Mahapatra, IA&AS, Textile Commissioner, Govt of India; Swati Pandey, Postmaster General, India Post; and Ketan Sanghvi, Hon Treasurer, India ITME Society at the event.

All image source: India ITME Society

PROVIDING THE IMPETUS TO GROWTH

To strengthen the textile industry in India and improve demand and consumption, India International Textile Machinery Exhibitions ((ITME) Society, along with India Post, organized Textile Philately & Interactive Programme on October 30, 2021, at the iconic GPO Heritage Building in Mumbai in the presence of Roop Rashi Mahapatra, IA&AS, Textile Commissioner, Government of India.

India ITME Society, a 42-year-old non-profit industry body, has been at the forefront of supporting the Textile industry with its out-of-the-box solutions and commitment to quality services for exhibitors. Its initiatives have been instrumental in bringing back business momentum through a first-of-its-kind get-together at the iconic GPO heritage building built in 1913 and modeled on Gol Gumbaz, Karnataka. It is one of the five Philatelic Bureaus in the country authorized to sell United Nation stamps.

The evening was attended by industry stalwarts including Vikas Sharan, Director, India Operations, Saurer Group; Surjit Singh Mahajan, Director, Staubli India; Niraj Thakkar, Director, Precitex; Sameer Kulkarni, Managing Director, ITEMA Weaving (India) Pvt Ltd; Navin Agrawal, Vice President ATE; Ashok Pal, Vice President (Sales & Marketing), Indian Card Clothing; Dr Sujata Saxena, Director, ICAR-CIRCOT; Sanjiv Lathia, Past Chairman, India ITME Society; Dhijen Mehta, Vice President, India ITME Society; NK Brahmachari, Steering Committee Member, India ITME Society, and R Anand, Senior India ITME Society Committee Member. Officials from the Textile Commissioner's Office and India Post also graced the program. Other dignitaries included Madhukar Pandey, Additional Director General, State Economic Offences Wing and Alok Ranjan Mahapatra, Vice President, Sterlite Technologies Ltd.

Enlightening Perspectives

Swati Pandey, Postmaster General, India Post, enthusiastically spoke about her association with India ITME Society since the 40th year of the program. She presented the golden history of Indian culture and textiles encaptured in the postal stamps. The industry

L-R: Seema Srivastava, Executive Director, India ITME Society; Sanjiv Lathia, Past Chairman, India ITME Society; S Hari Shankar, Chairman, India ITME Society; Roop Rashi Mahapatra, IA&AS, Textile Commissioner, Govt of India; Swati Pandey, Postmaster General, India Post; Ketan Sanghvi, Hon Treasurer, India ITME Society along with the faculties and students of VJTI and NIFT.

body felicitated her for winning the 67th National Film Award for the best biographical film 'Elephants Do Remember'.

Avinash Mayekar, Managing Director & CEO, Suvin, made a highly informational presentation on 'Roadmap for Ecosystem Development of Textile Engineering Industry in India'.

The Textile Commissioner Mahapatra spoke on the need for 'Nurturing the Future'. She kept the participants highly engaged with quizzes and gave them thorough insights into the Textile industry.

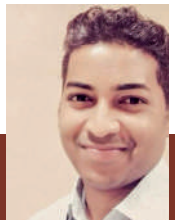
Creating Synergies

India ITME Society has remained committed in its pursuit of adding depth to students' knowledge on the Indian Textile industry, which it does by offering the best learning experience through its programs. Continuing the unique series under the program 'Nurture the Future', this was the third gambit to bring the industry, Government, and academia together for better synergy and growth of the Textile industry. The initiative facilitated exposure to the textile policies and workings of the Government and set forth an opportunity for students to interact with the Textile Commissioner. Faculties and students from VJTI and NIFT were thrilled to interact one-on-one with her.

Textile Philately Exhibition

INDIA ITME SOCIETY HAS REMAINED COMMITTED IN ITS PURSUIT OF ADDING DEPTH TO STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE ON THE INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY, WHICH IT DOES BY OFFERING THE BEST LEARNING EXPERIENCE THROUGH ITS PROGRAMS.

The evening also included a tour of the Heritage GPO Building for the students for a memorable experience. The My Stamp Activity counter offered personalized stamps for the attendees as a souvenir. ////



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All image source: Messe Düsseldorf India Pvt Ltd

IN WINE THERE IS TRUTH

The first edition of ProWine Mumbai, held on November 17-18, 2021, at The St. Regis Mumbai, turned out to be a mega success among the Wine & Spirits Community of the country. A report...

The international trade fair for wines and spirits ProWine Mumbai was received by the Indian Wine & Spirits industry with much gusto and enthusiasm.

Part of the globally iconic ProWein World, the event was jointly organized by Messe Düsseldorf India and All Things Nice. It was attended by dignitaries from the US Consulate, the Consulate General of France, Australian High Commission, South African Consulate, Trade Centre of Argentina, Republic of Mauritius, corporate heads, and the industry associations with media partners.

As India's first in-person trade fair for the Wine & Spirits sector since the COVID pandemic, ProWine Mumbai 2021 was well received and featured over 200 brands from 70 companies across 13 countries with 2,017 attendees.

The exhibitors included renowned companies such as Brindco, Pernod Ricard, William Grant & Sons, John Distilleries, Grover Zampa Vineyards, Amrut Distilleries, thinKitchen, Brown-Forman, and many more. They unanimously emphasized that they were glad to be a part of the first-ever comprehensive professional event for the Wine & Spirits sector and were overwhelmed by the quality of footfalls and good business results.

"The event was a great opportunity to reach, interact, and connect with the consumers, and also a chance to meet and network with the industry folks. It was a highly planned event," said Nikhil Varma, Amrut Distilleries.

"The ProWine Mumbai was a real success, and we are really proud to have been part of it with our 13 French producers in the Pavilion," said Mathilde Bertille, Trade Officer Agribusiness Department, Business France India.

The visitors at the trade fair included major hoteliers, prominent restaurateurs and bar owners, importers, distributors and retailers, sommeliers, chefs, and food and beverage teams. The event was an ideal opportunity for people in the trade to hold business meetings and explore new products available in the Indian market. On showcase was an array of wines well represented by brands from India and many countries worldwide. The French Pavilion, led by Business France, innovatively provided access to visitors to speak to France's wine producers digitally. In the Spirits Pavilion, visitors could taste and meet producers of gin, vodka, single malts, rum, tequila, craft beverages, and beer. The highlight for visitors at the Spirits Pavilion was the artistically curated innovative cocktails. Also, on display were bar and glassware products and premium drinking water brands.

Organizers Speak

Thomas Schlitt, Managing Director, Messe Düsseldorf India Pvt Ltd, stated, "It fills me with joy and gratitude to see this amazing recognition from the industry stakeholders in India for the first ProWine Mumbai event. Going from being a ProWein Educational Campaign to a first-ever full-fledged comprehensive trade fair for the Wine & Spirits industry is the reflection of developing the market for the future growth of the industry in India."

"We believe ProWine Mumbai will elevate the future of the Indian Wine & Spirits industry and hope you enjoy all that ProWine Mumbai will offer you in the coming years," said Nikhil Agarwal, Founder, All Things Nice and Co-organizer of ProWine Mumbai.

More at the Event

The ProWine Masterclasses that ran in parallel had a packed audience for all 15 sessions over the two days. Eminent speakers from across the industry represented the masterclass program – a good mix of old mentors and young trailblazers introducing new trends, the best of knowledge, and tastings that covered a range of wine and spirit categories. ProWine Mumbai gave the audience complimentary access to this experience. The Masterclasses also brought in international speakers digitally and orchestrated their tastings onsite.

AS INDIA'S FIRST IN-PERSON TRADE FAIR FOR THE WINE & SPIRITS SECTOR SINCE THE COVID PANDEMIC, PROWINE MUMBAI 2021 WAS WELL RECEIVED AND FEATURED OVER 200 BRANDS FROM 70 COMPANIES ACROSS 13 COUNTRIES WITH 2,017 ATTENDEES.

The organizers had implemented strict measures to ensure that all hygiene and safety protocols were in place at all times. They assured that all participants at ProWine Mumbai were fully vaccinated at the time of entry. More than 14,000 glasses were used at ProWine Mumbai. They had been washed at 90 degrees with sanitizing products. In addition, individual biodegradable spittoons were provided for a safe tasting experience. In support of reducing the carbon footprint of trade fairs, only glass water bottles were used. ////

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L-R: RK Verma, Executive Director, EPCH; Dr Rakesh Kumar, Director General, EPCH; Dr Syed Zafar Islam, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha); Shri Sunil Bharala, Chairman/Hon'ble Minister of State, Labour Welfare Council, Government of UP; Rajkumar Malhotra, Chairman, EPCH; and Kamal Soni, Vice Chairman, EPCH, at the event.

All image source: EPCH

MAGNIFICENCE IS HANDCRAFTED

The 52nd edition of IHGF Delhi Fair Autumn, held from October 28-31, 2021, at India Expo Mart & Center, Greater Noida, Delhi NCR, showcased the best of Indian handicrafts, concluding on a highly positive note.

Organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), IHGF Delhi Fair is one of Asia's most significant gifts and handicrafts fairs, held biannually as Spring and Autumn editions. Over time, the fair has become a favorite sourcing connect for the best in home, fashion, textiles, and furniture from leading Indian manufacturers.

The recently held Autumn edition housed around 1,500 Indian exhibitors, displaying a comprehensive selection of over 2,000 new products and more than 300 design expressions spanning across 12 product categories such as houseware, home furnishing, furniture, gifts and decoratives, lamps and lighting, Christmas and festive décor, fashion jewelry and accessories, spa and wellness, carpets and rugs, bathroom accessories, garden accessories, educational toys and games, handmade paper products and stationery, and leather bags, in eight halls and 900 permanent showrooms in the mart area.

The visitors' profile for the show included overseas buyers from across the globe, comprising wholesalers, distributors, chain stores, departmental stores, retailers, mail order companies, brand owners, designers, and trend forecasters.

Dr Syed Zafar Islam, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) (second from left) visiting a stall at the trade fair.

What The Guests Had To Say

Shri Ramdas Athawale, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, inaugurated the show in the presence of Shri UP Singh, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Shri Shantmanu, IAS, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts); Raj K Malhotra, Chairman, EPCH; Dr Rakesh Kumar, Director General, EPCH and Chairman, IEML; Members of Committee of Administration, EPCH; Vishal Dhingra, Chairman, Buying Agents Association of India (BAA); film star Gagan Malik; and RK Verma, Executive Director, EPCH.

Other dignitaries who visited during the four-day event included Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti; Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship & Electronics and Information Technology; and Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussian, Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Government of Bihar.

While addressing the gathering, Shri Athawale appreciated the efforts of EPCH for holding a physical fair after a long hiatus. He was happy to note the participation of several artisan clusters, the results of which would go a long way towards empowering those striving at the grassroots level. He assured his ministry's support towards EPCH's future endeavors in empowering artisans and craftspersons across various sectors.

Shri Singh said handicrafts and gifts entail the touch and feel factor and expressed his hope that the resumption of physical fairs would increase the number of orders booked and business generated, thereby creating new jobs and opportunities for exporters, entrepreneurs, and artisans.

In his address, Dr Kumar informed that despite travel restrictions in many parts of the world, the buyer turnout at IHGF Delhi Fair Autumn 2021 has fulfilled expectations. "For the last many years, a large number of buyers and sellers have been dependent on IHGF Delhi Fair for procurement and supply of products that vibe well with consumers across world markets and are readily sellable. So opening up the fair after a gap of two seasons came as a welcome change for them as they traveled far in these times to source from India."

Adding statistics to emphasize the success of the show, Verma said, "Approximately 1,250 overseas buyers from 90 countries and over 1,100 buying consultants visited the fair, conducting the business of

Recipients of the Ajai Shankar Memorial Awards for Best Display Design

Bathroom Accessories

- M/s PREMIER COLLECTION, MORADABAD (Gold)

Candles, Incense Sticks, Potpourri, and Aromatics

- M/s BALAJI AGARBATTI COMPANY, BANGALORE (Gold)

Decoratives and Gifts (Including Corporate Gifts)

- M/s GOEL EXPORTS, DELHI (Gold)
- M/s SAAJ, CUTTACK (Silver)

Fashion Jewelry, Bags, Scarves, Ties, and Accessories

- M/s SHAILJA CREATIONS, NEW DELHI (Gold)
- M/s RAGHAV HOME FASHIONS PVT LTD, PANIPAT (Silver)

Home Textiles, Furnishings, and Floor Coverings

- M/s KANODIA GLOBAL PVT LTD, NEW DELHI (Gold)
- M/s NAVKAR HOME, BIKANER (Silver)

Lamps and Lighting

- M/s OPULENZ DESIGNS, GHAZIABAD (Gold)
- M/s ASHOKA INTERNATIONAL EXPORTS, MORADABAD (Silver)

Houseware, Tableware, Kitchenware, and Hotelware (including EPNS)

- M/s PRECISO FASHION, CHENNAI (Silver)
- M/s B.M. (INDIA), MORADABAD (Gold)

Furniture, Furniture Hardware, and Home Accessories

- M/s MANGLAM ARTS, JAIPUR (Gold)
- M/s ELITE ARTS AND CRAFTS, JODHPUR (Silver)

A glimpse from the Award Distribution Ceremony

around ₹1,850 crore." Buyers visited from USA, UK, UAE, France, Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Greece, Italy, Sweden, Russia, Japan, Australia, China, Singapore, South Africa, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Canada, Brazil, and many other countries.

Ending Positively

IHGF Delhi Fair Autumn 2021 edition concluded with a Valedictory Ceremony and Best Display Awards with distinguished guests, including Dr Syed Zafar Islam, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Shri Sunil Bharala, Chairman/Hon'ble Minister of State, Labour Welfare Council, Government of Uttar Pradesh. They gave away the Ajai Shankar and P.N. Suri Memorial Awards for best design and display. They shared their appreciation for the fair, its vast range of items on display, and the resilience and optimism of the Handicrafts industry.

In his address, Dr Islam congratulated the awardees and praised them for their award-worthy efforts. He hailed the strengths of the nation's capable and highly skilled artisans and craftsmen, supported by entrepreneurs and manufacturer exporters, that present India in the right light today.

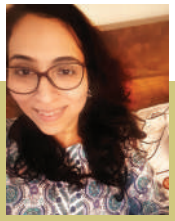
He added further that the Prime Minister's 'Vocal for Local' and 'Make in India' initiatives plan to take the local brands to a global stage. Under the same programs, new schemes will be announced that will benefit the artisans even more.

Malhotra spoke about the challenges the fair organizers had to overcome in putting the show together. After a lot of discussion with the stakeholders, EPCH took the bold decision to organize the fair physically.

THE RECENTLY HELD AUTUMN EDITION HOUSED AROUND 1,500 INDIAN EXHIBITORS DISPLAYING A COMPREHENSIVE SELECTION OF OVER 2,000 NEW PRODUCTS AND MORE THAN 300 DESIGN EXPRESSIONS SPANNING ACROSS 12 PRODUCT CATEGORIES.

APPROXIMATELY 1,250 OVERSEAS BUYERS FROM 90 COUNTRIES AND OVER 1,100 BUYING CONSULTANTS VISITED THE FAIR, CONDUCTING THE BUSINESS OF AROUND ₹1,850 CRORE.

The Ajai Shankar Memorial Awards for Best Display Design were given in various product categories such as Decorative and Gifts (including Corporate Gifts); Bathroom Accessories; Lamp and Lighting Accessories; Furniture, Furniture Hardware and Accessories; Candles, Incense Sticks, Potpourri and Aromatics; Fashion Jewelry and Accessories; Home Textiles, Furnishings and Floor Coverings; and Houseware, Tableware, Kitchenware and Hotelware including EPNS. ////



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SINCE HEALTH IS WEALTH

Dedicated to innovation, technology, and best practices in public health, the recently held Public Health Innovations Conclave, 2021 showcased innovative products and services that can equip organizations to ensure the health and safety of individuals and the community.

Organized by HITEX Ltd and Infection Control Academy of India (IFCAI) from November 12-14, 2021, at HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad, Public Health Innovations Conclave (PHIC) convened industry leaders, exhibitors, buyers, Government officials, and delegates from various states. The event housed leading companies to showcase products and services, innovations, technological progress, and the latest trends in the prevention and control of communicable (infectious) diseases and non-communicable diseases, healthcare system, management of health services, environmental health, community health, occupational safety, and digital health categories.

All image source: HITEX Ltd

The three-day Conclave and Expo was supported by Public Health Foundation of India, Indian Medical Association, Telangana Super Speciality Hospitals Association, Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices, and Society for Cyber Security Council, among others.

The Ideal Start

Among the dignitaries present at the inaugural ceremony were Prof Basuthkar Jagadeeshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad; Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman & Founder, AIG Hospitals; Dr Anuj Sharma, Technical Officer, Antimicrobial Resistance, Health Laboratories, Infection Prevention and Control, World Health Organisation (WHO) for India; Dr T Gangadhar, OSD to CM, Govt of Telangana; Pramod Kumar Vijayvargia, General Manager, In-Charge of SIDBI, Hyderabad Regional Office; Dr K Shankar, Director, Institute of Preventive Medicine, Public Health Labs & Food (Health) Administration, Hyderabad; Dr Sanjeev Singh Yadav, National Secretary, IMA Academy of Medical Specialists; and Dr Rajeev Menon, Cardiologist, AIG Hospitals.

In his welcome address, Dr Ranga Reddy Burri, President, IFCAI, said that every crisis provides significant learning and an opportunity. He said COVID-19 also allowed us to discover new innovative approaches for healthcare delivery to promote accessibility, availability, and affordability of quality care.

Prof Rao said, "Public health is coming up with new designs, discoveries, micro-fluidics, inexpensive diagnostic technologies, and highly efficient outreach systems. The myth that biological diseases will remain inaccessible has been proved wrong, and the systems are mind-bogglingly clear and crisp. The ideas need a support system to implement them. Therefore, we need engineers, mathematicians, statisticians, and more people to bring ideas into the implementation space. In India, the transformation has just begun. We need to work efficiently together and bring in real innovators."

Eminent physician Dr Reddy hoped that life would come back to normal by next year, and while COVID-19 may remain, it will become like a common cold. He called for making public health accessible and economical.

TOP 10 INNOVATORS AWARDS CEREMONY

The awards were categorized into three categories that the jury committee, including Dr Ranga Reddy Burri – IFCAI; Dr GVS Murthy – IIPH; Dr N Madhusudhana Rao - AIC; Ramjee Pallela – AIC; Dr Viswanadham Duppatla – AIC; and Dr P Ratnakar, selected.

Evelabs Technologies Pvt Ltd – Evelabs work on wireless infusion monitoring and controller for hospitals and homecare.

Janitri Innovations Pvt Ltd – Its product connects the gynecologist/doctor with the maternity ward in real-time, thus enabling them to view the data remotely on its mobile application.

Salcit Technologies Pvt Ltd – Patented AI technology that assesses respiratory health through audiometric analysis of cough sounds.

Aerobiosys Innovations Pvt Ltd – Aerobiosys has developed an innovative ventilation system called 'Jeevan Lite'. It is a portable, cost-effective, IoT-enabled, battery-operated pressure and volume triggered ventilation system for saving the lives of COVID-19 patients admitted to hospitals or homecare patients.

Althion Tech Innovations Pvt Ltd – Based on a novel hydrophilized polyamide membrane technology licensed from the national research lab CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Althion has developed an IoT-enabled compact device that produces ultra-pure water that is twice as pure as AAMI standards used in kidney dialysis.

Dr Sharma spoke on the unpredictability of life since the pandemic and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) as the critical factor. He stated, "AMR has been identified as the urgent public health challenge for the next decade. I urge our innovators to look at such challenges, not just the new drugs but also the new diagnostics and preventive methods to avoid infections."

Insightful Sessions

The topic of Day 1 Conference was 'Infectious Diseases & Control' that involved technical sessions, panel discussion, and interactions on topics such as India's preparedness for health emergencies; a broader perspective on IPC, viral and airborne infections; advocacy for strengthening hygiene, infection control in professional and community settings; environmental cleaning; and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in the backdrop of COVID-19. There was a session on rational antibiotic usage and quality improvement and a panel discussion on 'Freedom from Chemicals in Human Life and the Impact Analysis'.

The speakers included Dr BR Shamanna, Professor, School of Medical Sciences, University of Hyderabad; Dr Subodh Kandamutham, PhD (Health Economics), Professor & Director, Centre for Healthcare Management, Program Director, Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI); Dr K Pragathi, Consultant Microbiologist, Infection Control Officer, AIG Hospitals; Dr Sai Sruthi Iyer, Consultant Microbiologist, Dr Lal Pathlabs, Hyderabad; and Dr Nagamani K, Professor of Microbiology, Gandhi Medical College and Hospital.

'Non-Communicable Diseases' was the topic of Day 2 Conference that highlighted the challenges in the detection and diagnosis of NCDs during a pandemic, managing diabetes during a pandemic, chronic respiratory diseases, mental health, the impact of a pandemic on target groups, and the importance of yoga in curing infectious diseases.

The speakers for the session included Dr Krishna Reddy Nallamalla, Country Director, Access Health International; Dr Lakshmi Lavanya Alapati, Endocrinologist, MD, American Institute of Diabetes & Endocrinology; Dr Masood Mohammed, Senior Consultant Intensivist, Care Hospitals; Dr GVS Murthy, Director, Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad; Dr J Sreekanth, Sr Consultant - Internal Medicine, Apollo Health City, Hyderabad; and Dr KD Modi, Endocrinologist, Sr Consultant, Care Hospitals.

The topic of Day 3 Conference was 'Digital Health', which involved topics such as emerging technologies in digital healthcare,

Clearcals Pvt Ltd – It recommends personalized nutrition driven by data to manage or prevent chronic diseases. The team of clinical dietitians, engineers, and scientists at Clearcals has developed a mobile app called 'HINT' for this purpose. All the food nutrition information is provided in the app.

Kardle Industries Pvt Ltd – THOOYAN is a NextGen Air process system, enabled with a remote air health monitoring system. It does not require any internal filter arrays to improve air quality. Further, it reduces foul odors, carbon dioxide, and other toxic gases, while reducing the Aerosolized Microbial Load.

Axolotl Health Pvt Ltd – Femprotec by Axolotl Health is a novel human-centric product to solve the problem of pelvic floor disorders in post-menopausal women. This solution revolutionizes post-menopausal patient care, improving quality of life.

Urvogelbio Pvt Ltd – This startup fills the existing clinical gap of the lack of accessible, easy, and early diagnostics of CNS diseases. Urvogelbio has established a platform/technology for diagnosing the CNS space for neuropathological and neuroinflammatory diseases from the peripheral blood using brain-derived exosomes.

Special Mention:

Turtle Shell Technologies Pvt Ltd – Dozee is the pioneer in contactless patient monitoring and early warning systems using Artificial Intelligence.

> Today, I can remove my mask and speak. That is the change from last year to this year. Public health needs incubation time. Smallpox and Polio took some time to disappear. Covid also needs such time.
>
> **Dr GVS Murthy**
> **Director**
> **Indian Institute of Public Health**

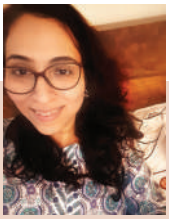
global strategy towards digital health, role of incubation centers and accelerators, digital healthcare technologies, and the synergistic approach in Indian digital healthcare.

The participants in the sessions were Raghu Dharmaraju, President, ARTPARK, IISc; Dr Ambuj Chaturvedi, Sr Vice President, IKP Knowledge Park; Sharad Sharma, Co-founder, iSPIRIT Foundation; Deepthi Ravula, CEO, WE HUB, Hyderabad; Viswanadham Duppatla, AVP, IKP Knowledge Park, Dr Renu John, Professor, Head & Founder, CfHE, IIT Hyderabad; and Dr Ramjee Pallela, COO, Atal Incubation Centre of CCMB (AIC-CCMB), among others.

On the Showcase

The products displayed in the Innovation Arena comprised Wireless infusion monitoring and controllers for hospitals and homecare; Real-time mobile application to monitor women's health during pregnancy; A portable, cost-effective, IoT-enabled, battery-operated pressure and volume triggered ventilation system; IoT-enabled compact device that produces ultra-pure water twice as pure as AAMI standards; Personalized Nutrition app; NextGen Air Process System enabled with a remote air health monitoring system; Post-menopausal patient care product; A new diagnostic platform for CNS diseases; Contactless patient monitoring system; Patented AI technology that assesses respiratory health; AI & IoT enabled Smart Watch solution; and World's first dual-powered bi-phasic defibrillator.

The products displayed at the Expo included Cleaning Liquids, Surface Disinfectants & Sanitizers, Non-Strike Air Sterilizers, Laboratory Incubator, Cooled Incubator, and Portable Freezers, Household Healthcare system, Health air purifying system, Disinfectant equipment, Clean-Tech Products, Technology Commercialization and IP Management), ANTICOVID Antibacterial Lights for Disinfection, Lab Furniture and Fume Hoods, Air Energizer, Oxygen Concentrator, Alcohol-Free Sanitizer and Nano Coated Mask.////



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BUILDING A STRONG EXHIBITIONS INDUSTRY

The 7th Annual General Meeting of Indian Exhibitions, Conferences & Events Services Association (IESA) was held recently at JW Marriott, New Delhi.

The event witnessed the presence of more than 70 guests. Sonia Prashar, President, IEIA; Ravinder Sethi, Executive Committee Member, IEIA and Nidhi Sharma, Executive Director, IEIA were invited as special guests.

On this occasion, Sunil More, President, IESA, welcomed and thanked members who had flown in from different parts of India for the AGM. He further spoke on the activities held in the recent past and new projects and activities of the association.

The appointment of IESA's new Executive Committee members 2021-2023 were updated to all the members present.

Addressing the gathering, Prashar emphasized on the need of building a skilled ecosystem to enable progressive growth for the exhibitions sector. Furthermore she added that for building a strong exhibitions industry in India it is important to be resilient and stand united. ////

All image source: IEIA

UNITED WE STAND

SONIA PRASHAR, PRESIDENT, IEIA; RAVINDER SETHI, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, IEIA AND NIDHI SHARMA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IEIA ATTENDED THE 7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF IESA.

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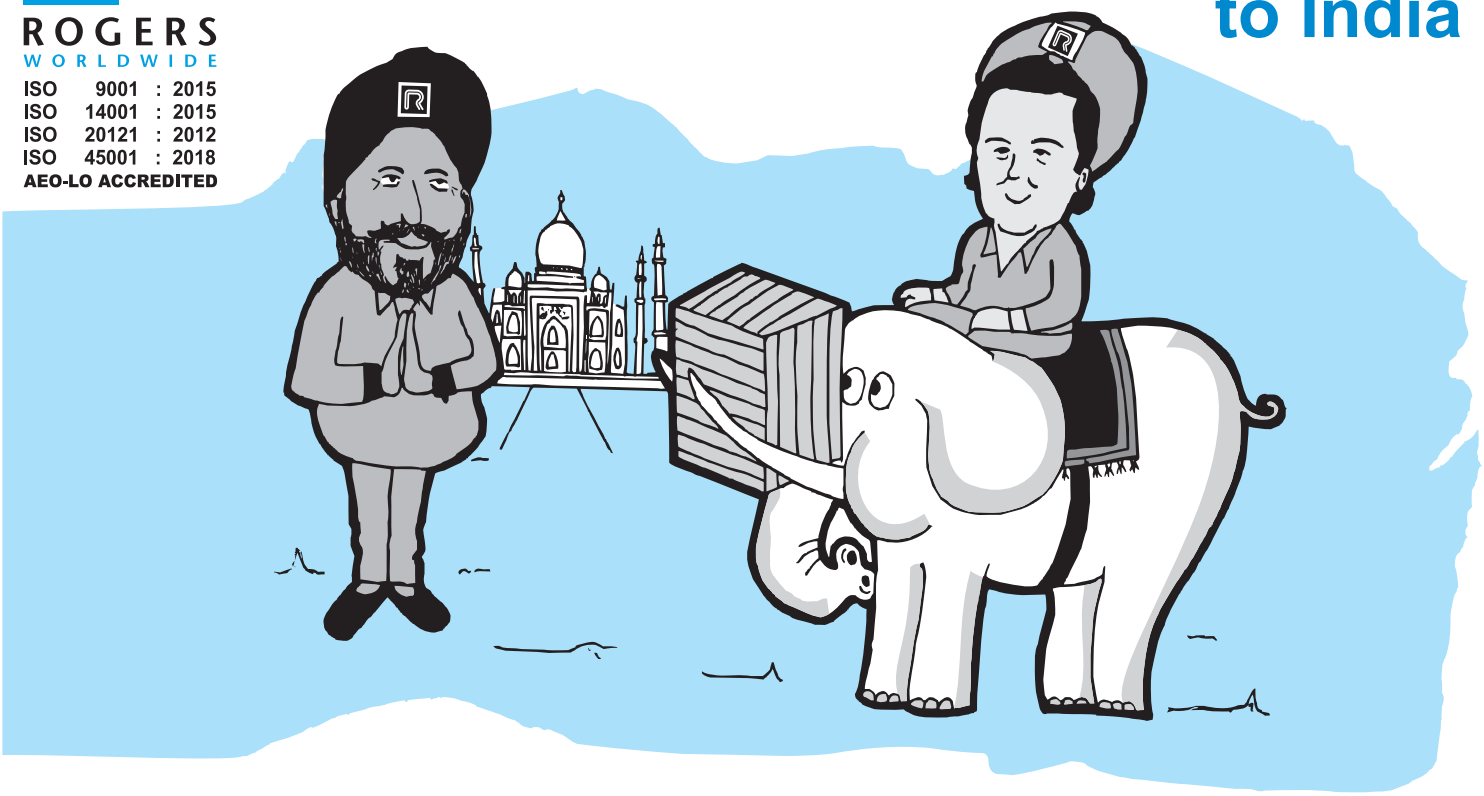

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