



April 2018

A PUBLICATION OF **THE SANMAR GROUP**



The New Look Sanmar Corporate Headquarters

Cover Photo: The Sanmar Headquarters building at Chennai, India, after its recent facelift (See page 14).



The Sanmar Group

9, Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086.
Tel.: + 91 44 2812 8500
Fax.: + 91 44 2811 1902

Sanmar Holdings Ltd

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd
TCI Sanmar Chemicals S.A.E.
Sanmar Speciality Chemicals Ltd

Sanmar Consolidations Ltd

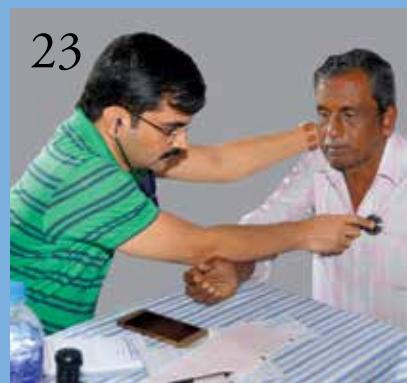
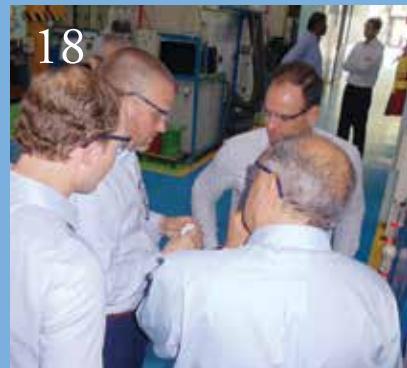
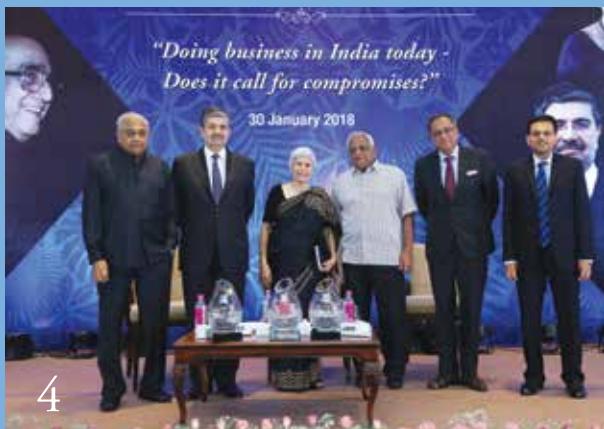
Sanmar Shipping Ltd
Cabot Sanmar Ltd
Sanmar Engineering Technologies Ltd
- Products Divn.

Flowserve Sanmar Ltd
BS&B Safety Systems (India) Ltd
Xomox Sanmar Ltd

Xomox Valves Divn.
Pacific Valves Divn.

Anderson Greenwood Crosby Sanmar Ltd
- Steel Castings Divn.
Sanmar Foundries Ltd
Matrix Metals LLC

In this issue...



- 4** The KS Narayanan Oration 2018
“Doing Business in India Today - Does it Call for Compromises?”
- 8** Emerson and Sanmar Join Hands Again
- 10** N Sankar Made Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineers
- 12** Cast in a New Mould
Matrix Metals launches New US Headquarters
- 14** The New Look Sanmar Corporate Headquarters
- 16** Yoga in the 21st Century
- 18** Flowserve Chief Executive Visits Sanmar
- 19** Greek Ambassador Visits Chennai

- 20** Chemplast Karaikal Recognised for its Industrial Garden
- 21** Sanmar Bags Three Communications Awards
- 22** “My Salem - My Pride”
Chemplast Supports Park Renovation at Mettur
- 23** Health for the Rural Populace
Mega Medical Camp Organised by Chemplast Mettur
- 24** Sruti Launches its 400th Edition
- 25** An Exceptional Sports Day at Madhuram Narayanan Centre
- 26** Legends From the South
Raja Raja Cholan I (947 – 1014)

Matrix can be viewed at www.sanmargroup.com

Designed and edited by Kalamkriya Limited, 9, Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086. Ph: + 91 44 2812 8051/ 52

For Private Circulation Only

The KS Narayanan Oration 2018

“Doing Business in India Today - Does it Call for Compromises?”

The third KS Narayanan Oration was held on 30 January this year, when Anu Aga, Director, Thermax Limited, and Uday Kotak, Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank, deliberated on the topic, “Doing business in India today - Does it call for compromises?” and Adit Jain, Executive Chairman, IMA India, moderated the proceedings of the evening.

In his welcome address, Vijay Sankar said, “Companies and their economies

are a microcosm of society and the people it represents and functions in. By all accounts, the Indian corporate landscape has not presented a pretty sight in the last few years, and perhaps this can be attributed to compromises made.”

“One of our very good friends in the audience raised a query as to what kind of ‘compromises’ are we going to be speaking about – for example, even a short-term gain on an investment for

(L to R): N Sankar, Uday Kotak, Anu Aga, N Kumar, Adit Jain and Vijay Sankar.

“Doing business in India today - Does it call for compromises?”

30 January 2018



a long-term can also be viewed as a compromise.”

“While agreeing that the topic can be very wide, this evening’s talk views compromise related to ethics, especially business ethics. This is also similar to Sanmar’s own value system.”

“As India moves on and becomes a strong nation economically, how well it deals with compromises of various kinds becomes increasingly important.”

In his introductory speech, Adit Jain said, “KSN will be remembered for many things, including several entrepreneurial ventures in areas as diverse as cement, plastics, shipping and engineering. But more importantly, he will be remembered for his philanthropy, which involves several educational institutions and

charitable institutions such as the Indian Education Trust and the Madhuram Narayanan Charitable Foundation. He was a patron of the arts, and of sport, including tennis and cricket. But most importantly perhaps, he established a set of guidelines that encompassed standards of ethics, integrity followed consciously in the current Sanmar organisation.

Mr Narayanan will always be with us, in mind and spirit.”

He then posed a number of questions, “Is it possible to do business in India without compromises? You both (Anu Aga and Uday Kotak) steered your businesses through challenging



Vijay Sankar



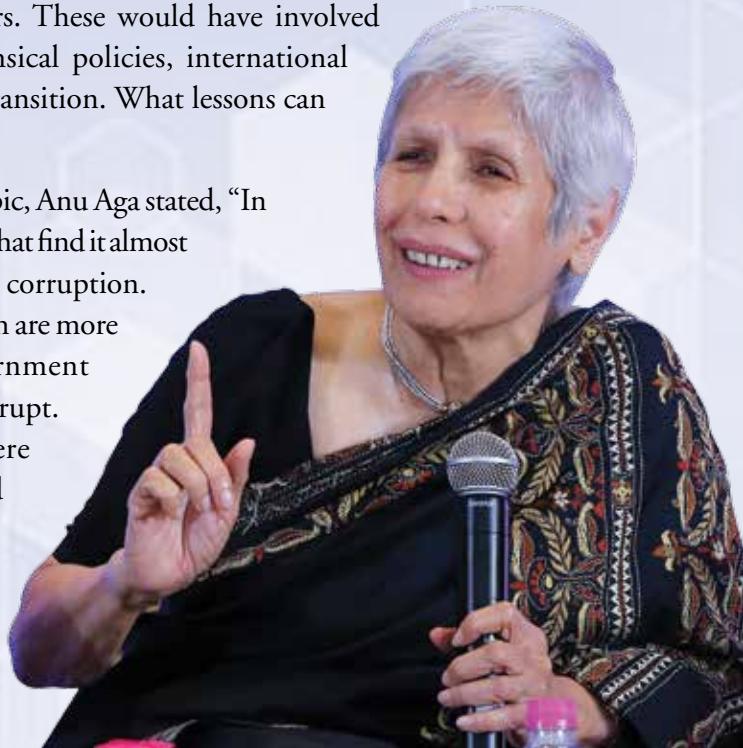
times over the past thirty years. These would have involved changes in government, whimsical policies, international developments, and society in transition. What lessons can we take away for the future?"

In her frank exposition of the topic, Anu Aga stated, "In India are there certain businesses that find it almost impossible to succeed without corruption. I do believe that businesses which are more susceptible to constant government intervention are likely to be corrupt. In spite of liberalisation, there are certain sectors, which need several government clearances and this breeds corruption."

"I am also aware that as long as political parties need corporate funding for elections, the politician business nexus will be a fact and corruption in India will continue. A few years ago there was an attempt to bring all the political parties under the Right to Information Act, which all the parties unanimously refused. Unless there is transparency in electoral funding, we will have to live with some form of corruption."

She also strongly felt that "it is only when individual conscience speaks firmly and with conviction that the two other dominant players in this game, that is, the government and companies, will be forced to listen, act, and reform time-tested questionable ways of doing business. Corporate governance is not window dressing, and business ethics is not another public relations practice to enhance corporate reputation or the company's brand. Ethical business goes beyond profit maximisation and envelops the entire society in a virtuous wrap."

A view of the audience.



Anu Aga



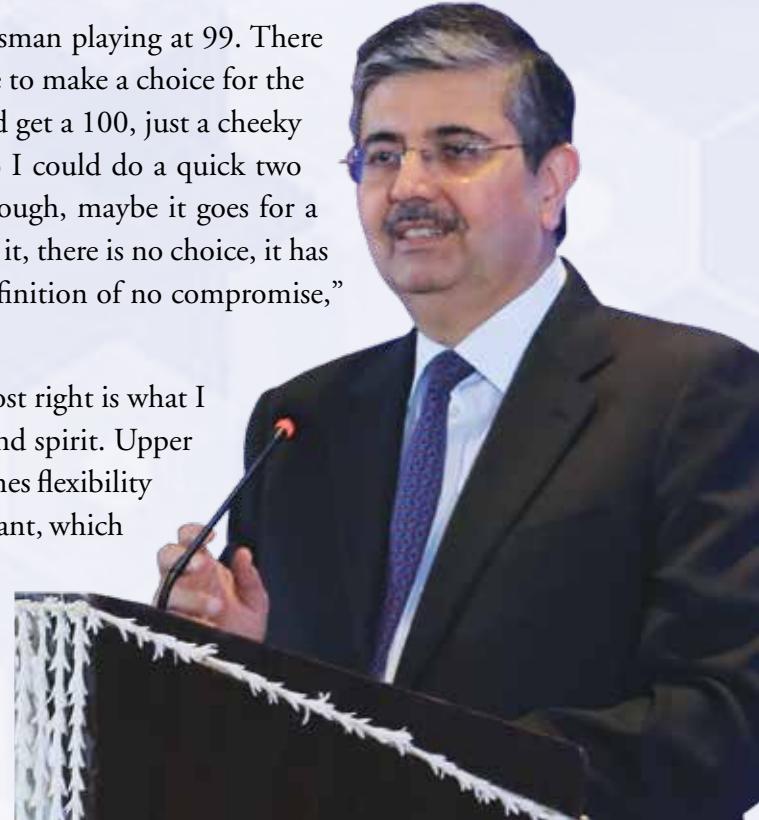
"On the 99th birthday of Mr KS Narayanan, I feel like a batsman playing at 99. There is one ball to go, two runs to get a tie, three to win, and I have to make a choice for the last ball of the game. A compromise would say maybe I should get a 100, just a cheeky single, a better compromise would say push it somewhere so I could do a quick two runs and get a tie. The third option would be hit it hard enough, maybe it goes for a four, but at least I will get three runs. Friends the way I look at it, there is no choice, it has to be a four or a six, nothing else will work, and that's my definition of no compromise," began Uday Kotak.

Drawing parallels from mythology, Kotak said, "The uppermost right is what I would call as the Rama quadrant that is, do it right in letter and spirit. Upper left quadrant is the Krishna quadrant, do it right in spirit, at times flexibility on the letter. Third lower left quadrant is the Duryodhan quadrant, which is right in the letter but not in spirit. And the fourth one, and this is where I say Ramayana as we know in the north, the fourth quadrant is wrong in letter and wrong in spirit, which is the Ravan quadrant. So in our philosophy, we would like

to be in the uppermost right quadrant, but we would not stray outside the Krishna quadrant. That means at every stage we should be right in spirit even if there is a view about the letter. But being right in letter and wrong in spirit is not an acceptable behaviour. So this is a small philosophy on how we at our firm, believe in following this principle of where do you draw the line and therefore, at the most, if at all we stray, it is from the Rama quadrant to the Krishna quadrant, but always on the upper side and not below that."

It was truly eventful with the discerning audience throwing up a volley of questions at the panel who fielded them very well, making for a lively and entertaining session at once.

Adit Jain



Uday Kotak



Emerson and Sanmar Join Hands Again

(L to R): Emily A McConkey, Associate General Counsel, Flow Controls, Dan Button, President, Business Development and Acquisitions Final Control, Emerson Process Management, Edward L Monser, President, Emerson Electric Co., Vijay Sankar and N Sankar.

Sanmar's Joint Venture for the manufacture of Crosby and Anderson Greenwood Pressure Relief Valves was recently renamed Anderson Greenwood Crosby Sanmar Limited (AGCSL).

This was consequent to the worldwide acquisition by Emerson Electric Co., of

the Pentair Valves and Controls business, including the investment in the Indian joint venture.

AGCSL is therefore now a Joint Venture between Emerson and The Sanmar Group.

This Joint Venture has a unique history.

It has gone through six changes of partners over its thirty five plus years of existence, with Sanmar remaining constant as the Indian partner. It was first set up as a Joint Venture with Geosource, a subsidiary of Aetna Life. Thereafter the US company spun off the division in a leveraged buyout in 1984 to Moorco. Moorco was acquired by FMC in July 1995. FMC sold the Relief Valve division to Tyco in June 1998, and Tyco





in turn to Pentair in September 2012. Pentair Valves was acquired by Emerson in April 2017. For each of these changes Sanmar renegotiated the Joint Venture Agreement with the acquirer.

Another interesting aspect of this relationship is that it brings together Emerson and Sanmar again after a break of six years. Emerson had been partners with Sanmar for close to thirty years, till Sanmar exited the Fisher Sanmar Limited in 2011. Sanmar's JV philosophy of maintaining excellent relations with partners even when exiting, obviously

had a lot to do with the revival of the relationship with Emerson.

AGCSL will continue to manufacture the complete range of Pressure Relief Valves. The JV Agreement was signed on 20th February 2018 by Ed Monser, President, Emerson Electric, and Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, The Sanmar Group.

Sanmar's joint venture management philosophy, developed over almost four decades of experience, enables the maximisation of the potential for both partners to benefit from the joint venture.

(L to R): Dan Button, Emily A McConkey, B Nattraj, Ed L Monser, Vijay Sankar, N Sankar, M Raman, MN Radhakrishnan and N Kumar.



N Sankar Made Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineers

N Sankar was conferred an Honorary Fellowship on 9 March 2018 by the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) at a function organised in Mumbai along with Shashi Ruia, Chairman, Essar Group, and KM Sheth, Chairman, Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd.

Commending the Institute for its excellent work in maritime research and training, Sankar said in his acceptance speech, that he always watched the trends in the industry very closely.

"I cannot by any means claim to be an expert in this industry, particularly in this room filled with such. However, as Chairman of our Shipping Company I have kept in touch with and have noticed some trends relevant to it, which I thought I would mention this evening.

The first is the increasing importance of technology. There is no doubt that the shipping industry has kept abreast of technological developments. As an

illustration, in using the instantaneous availability of satellite data for weather forecasting in planning ship movement. Or refining hull and engine designs using factors like wave induced vibrations. But when coming down to the nitty-gritty of operations like for example specific fuel consumption, I think more needs to be done. In this, I don't think there is going to be any single breakthrough which will make a huge difference, but a series of improvements on the different aspects of ship propulsion, I believe will work best. Low sulphur fuel legislation is already upon us, with its prohibitive costs, posing difficult choices to the industry of either fitting scrubbers on their ships or burning high cost gas oil. Again, technological choices. Perhaps a cooperative industry wide effort to identify such issues and work collectively in solving them may be worth considering.

The second issue is something that is much on our minds, that of the impact on the environment. Given the increasing frequency of collisions, oil spills and the very negative impact they have on the perception of the industry, this is an area where a lot of work has to be done. Equally, while the Government's thrust on coastal shipping is welcome, there are a host of concomitant issues that need to be addressed. People issues are increasingly coming to the fore. The need for better training at all levels

N Sankar being conferred the title Honorary Fellow.

(L to R): Uday Purohit, Vice President, N Sankar and CV Subba Rao, President, IMEI.



of manning, both on ship and shore, has never been more important.

While I did refer to technology earlier, I must refer to the impact of the changes in the IT space on the industry. There is talk of continuously increasing automation in ship operations, including the perhaps fanciful talk of unmanned ships moving between continents in the future."

President of the Institute CV Subba Rao welcomed the guests. The audience consisted of eminent representatives of the shipping industry including the Director General of Shipping Dr Malini V Shankar, Additional Director General Amitabh Kumar, and other stalwarts of the industry.

Lighting the traditional lamp: N Sankar, KM Sheth, Uday Purohit, Vice President, IMEI, Amitabh Kumar, Additional Director General and Rajeev Nayyer, Chairman, IMEI, Mumbai Branch.



(L to R): Anshuman Ruia, N Sankar and KM Sheth.



Dr Malini V Shankar IAS,
Director General,
Shipping and Special
Secretary, Amitabh
Kumar, Additional
Director General,
Shipping.



Cast in a New Mould

Matrix Metals launches New US Headquarters



Matrix Metals LLC, a constituent of The Sanmar Group, celebrated the opening of its new North American Headquarters at Stafford, Texas, with a grand inaugural event at the new location: Stafford Grove Industrial Park, Suite 100, 10643 West Airport Boulevard on 22 January 2018.

The inaugural festivities were a good mix of tradition and the modern. The weekend immediately preceding the formal launch function saw the traditional prayer ceremonies at the Meenakshi Temple in Houston as well as at the new facility.

The Mayor of the City of Stafford, Leonard Scarella, inaugurating the Matrix Metals new premises.

The Mayor of the City of Stafford, Leonard Scarella, who has the unique distinction of being the longest serving City Mayor of any city in the United States, declared open the premises and delivered the inaugural address.

Gerard Smith, Global Category Manager for Castings for Schlumberger, who is Matrix Metals' largest customer, spoke eloquently on the deep and long-standing relationship between Matrix and Cameron (now owned by Schlumberger) and of Schlumberger's desire to further strengthen and expand



their partnership. The event was well attended by key customers of Matrix, key service providers in the Houston area, JV partners of Sanmar and others.

The new unified global logo of the Matrix Sanmar Metals business was also unveiled by Mayor Scarella on this occasion.

"We are very excited to launch our North American headquarters at Stafford, a prominent business location in the state of Texas. We believe that this move to Stafford and the new facility provides us with a platform to better service our customers with superior supply chain solutions. The new facility also provides a better work environment for our people," said Narayan Sethuram, Managing Director of The Sanmar Group's Steel Castings Division.

"Matrix Metals is committed to rapid growth of its business in North America through excellent customer service. We are confident that this new facility will go a long way towards achieving this," noted Richard Morford, President of Matrix Metals.

"Stafford offers the perfect location for Matrix Metals' new North American headquarters. The area offers a developing commercial environment that is supportive of industries, which



are similar to our clients and potential clients. Further, Stafford is close to our employee base, and the city offers amenities that will assist in continued success," said Anthony Quinto, Chief Financial Officer of Matrix Metals.

Matrix Metals, a constituent of The Sanmar Engineering Technologies Ltd, designs, produces and markets steel castings on a global basis, with manufacturing facilities in North America and in India. It produces products for the valve, construction and mining, automotive, marine, transportation, energy and military sectors.

Mayor Leonard Scarella, unveiling the Matrix Metals global logo as Narayan Sethuram, Managing Director of The Sanmar Group's Steel Castings Division, watches.

Matrix Metals team at the new premises at Stafford, Texas.



The New Look Sanmar

1991

The Sanmar Group headquarters building recently underwent a makeover with a spanking new facade made of Aluminium Composite Panel (ACP) structural glazing. ACP is the new age material used for building exteriors and has a host of practical and technical advantages over traditional materials. It is flexible, easy to maintain and durable. Hence, no painting of the building will be required for the next two decades.



Corporate Headquarters

The eight-storey Sanmar headquarters building was originally constructed with basement, ground and three floors in 1986. It was in 1991 that five floors were added to bring it up to its present imposing presence on Cathedral Road, an important arterial road of Chennai.

2018



Yoga in the 21st Century

Yoga has perhaps been the greatest export through the ages from India. It has been defined in a variety of ways, from a set of physical postures to a spiritual and ascetic discipline including breath control, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures—widely practised for health and relaxation. Yoga speaks of restraint and inner discipline to reduce the intensity and grip of life's many conditionings which hamper the expression of our natural creativity.

Though it is believed by some that Swami Vivekananda first took the message of yoga to the West during his visit to the USA in 1893, to BKS Iyengar (1918 to 2014), internationally acclaimed yoga guru of the “Iyengar school of yoga”, must go the credit of teaching the largest number of westerners yoga and developing an impressive band of yoga teachers both in India and the West. Iyengar, who practised yoga into

his nineties was himself a student of his brother-in-law Krishnamacharya, a respected teacher of the Patanjali Yoga Sutra. Krishnamacharya taught at the Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram at Chennai and lived to be 100, again leaving behind him countless practising yogis and yoga teachers.

While some look at yoga with suspicion as a Hindu religious practice, many others see great benefits for humanity regardless of creed or skin colour. Medical professionals too realise that it is a holistic mind-body wellness system.

“Yoga manages the person, not the disease,” says a medical expert. “Therefore, yoga is not a therapy but a lifestyle. If you are willing to change and adopt that disciplined lifestyle, then you become a yogi.”

There are athletics coaches who use yoga-based moves to take athletes through functional patterns of movement, training sportspersons to use yoga in enhancing functional strength.

Yoga in the 21st century is marketed with great sophistication as a new age system, a glamorous lifestyle activity. Many new variants of the ancient system are being promoted by both genuine advocates of its holistic values and fly-by-night operators.

Some of the more exotic varieties being offered include Horseback Yoga, Aerial Yoga, Laughter Yoga, Hoop Yogi, SUP Yoga, Slackline Yoga, Acro Yoga and Aqua Yoga.

BKS Iyengar



Trends and risks

The biggest risk for yoga is the industry gets taken over by yoga ‘instructors’ who have great charisma but are motivated mainly by money than student welfare. They also are likely to promote

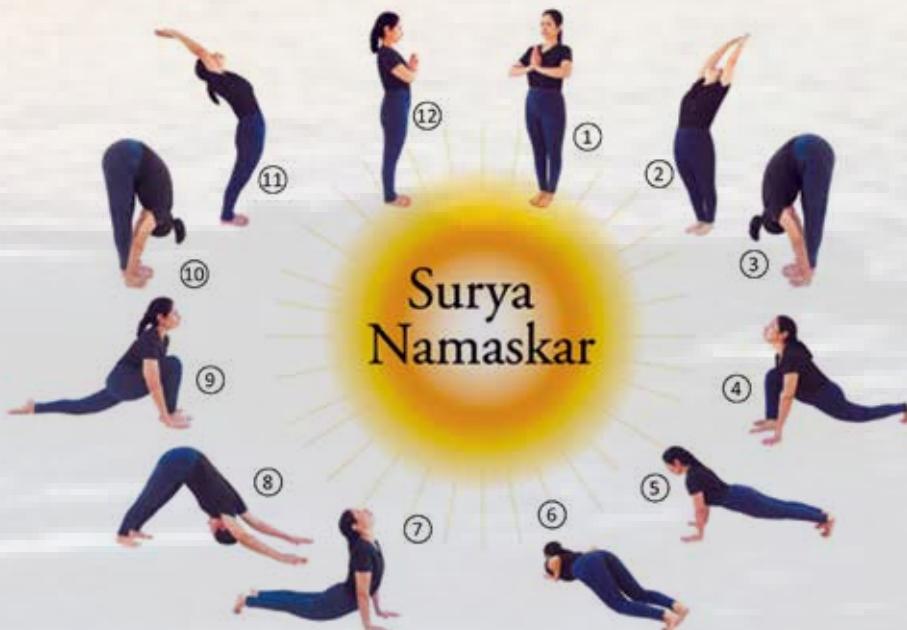
- competition amongst students to do the best headstand in class, showing off to the new student who is struggling to even do child’s pose
- strict rules that are enforced against everyone, embarrassing whoever breaks them such as no laughing or no baggy shorts
- expensive yoga wear
- steep prices as class is the place to ‘be seen’.

However, if the majority of yoga instructors, teach for the love of yoga and their joy at passing along the benefits to their students, in an opening and welcome class, then the contradiction that is yoga in the 21st century, is not really such a contradiction at all!



India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was the prime mover behind a UN General Assembly declaration of 21st June as International Yoga Day.

The day is observed in great earnest all over the world, as the date has considerable significance as the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. In India, prominent leaders including the Prime Minister take part in community yoga practice on that day.



Sources and Suggested reading:

The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali
by Swami Satchidananda

The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali: A New Edition, by Edwin F Bryant

Light On Yoga Sutras Of Patanjali by BKS Iyengar

Inside the Yoga Sutras: A Comprehensive Source book for the Study & Practice of Patanjali's Yoga Sutras by Jaganath Carrera

Flowserve Chief Executive Visits Sanmar

More than forty years ago, on 1st July 1976, to be precise, the first Sanmar Engineering joint venture was signed with Durametallic Corporation for the manufacture of mechanical seals.

That was Durametallic India, and there has been no looking back since; it has been a story of sustained technical, managerial and marketing excellence for Flowserve (formerly Durametallic) and Sanmar. This first joint venture led to many successive repetitions of the experience and Sanmar has earned a fund of goodwill from each of its partners.

Over the years, there has been a steady stream of visitors between Flowserve

and Sanmar. On 31 January 2018, Scott Rowe, President and CEO of Flowserve, USA, made his maiden visit to India after taking over. He was accompanied by Eddie McBarnet, Vice President Operations, and Eric Van Gemeren, Vice President, Marketing & Technology, Flowserve, USA, with V Asokan, GM/ Director Sales & Operations, India.

They took time to meet N Sankar, Vijay Sankar and the Sanmar Engineering management team at the Sanmar Headquarters. They also visited the manufacturing facility of Flowserve Sanmar at Karapakkam and held discussions with the Flowserve Sanmar team.



(L to R): Dinesh Khanna, V Asokan, Eddie McBarnet, Scott Rowe, MN Radhakrishnan, B Visweswaran, KR Varma, Eric Van Gemeren and Shyam Saradchandra Kumar.

Greek Ambassador Visits Chennai

Panos Kalogeropoulos, Ambassador of Greece in India, visited Chennai from 11 to 13 February 2018. This was his first visit to Chennai since assuming office in December 2015.

The Ambassador was accompanied by Vassilios Skronias, Minister Plenipotentiary Economic and Commercial Affairs, Embassy of Greece, New Delhi.

During his visit, the Ambassador made a courtesy call on the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K Palaniswami, and briefed him on recent developments in Greece and on Indo-Greek relations.

The Confederation of Indian Industry and Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry had organised a meeting of Business leaders of the State and the Ambassador took time to interact with them. During these meetings, he mentioned that Greece was coming out of the financial crisis and welcomed

investments into Greece. A delegation to promote commercial cooperation between the two countries, Greece and India, will happen towards the end of this year.

N Kumar, Vice Chairman, The Sanmar Group, and Hony. Consul General of Greece in Chennai, coordinated the visit.

(L to R): N Kumar, N Sankar, Panos Kalogeropoulos, Ambassador of Greece in India, Vassilios Skronias, Minister, Plenipotentiary Economic and Commercial Affairs, Embassy of Greece, New Delhi and Vijay Sankar.



Ambassador of Greece meeting the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K Palaniswami, and officials of the Government of Tamil Nadu at the Secretariat, Chennai.

Chemplast Karaikal Recognised for its Industrial Garden



N Palanisamy, receiving the award on behalf of Chemplast Karaikal, from KU Asana, MLA, Karaikal South, in the presence of District Collector Karaikal, R Kesavan, IAS, and A Anbarasu IAS, Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Puducherry.



At the 18th Flower, Vegetable and Fruit show organised by the Puducherry Government, Chemplast Karaikal won the second prize under the Industrial Garden category. Chemplast was recommended for the recognition by a team of experts from the Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural College, Karaikal, who visited the plant.

The Award for Chemplast Karaikal was received by N Palanisamy from KAU Assana, MLA, Karaikal South, in the presence of District Collector Karaikal, R Kesavan, IAS, and A Anbarasu, IAS, Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Puducherry, at a function organised on 18 February 2018.

Sanmar Bags Three Communications Awards

The Sanmar Group has won three awards for Corporate Communications from the Association of Business Communicators of India (ABCI) and the Public Relations Society of India.

At the ABCI Annual Awards Nite in Mumbai on 22 December 2017, the Sanmar house journal 'Matrix' won a bronze medal under magazine design category, and its employee newsletter 'Scribbles' won a bronze under the newsletter design category. The awards were received by Ramadevi Ravi, General Manager, Corporate Communications. Sanmar also won the second prize for its employee newsletter 'Scribbles' at the National Public Relations Awards held on 15 December 2017 at Visakhapatnam.

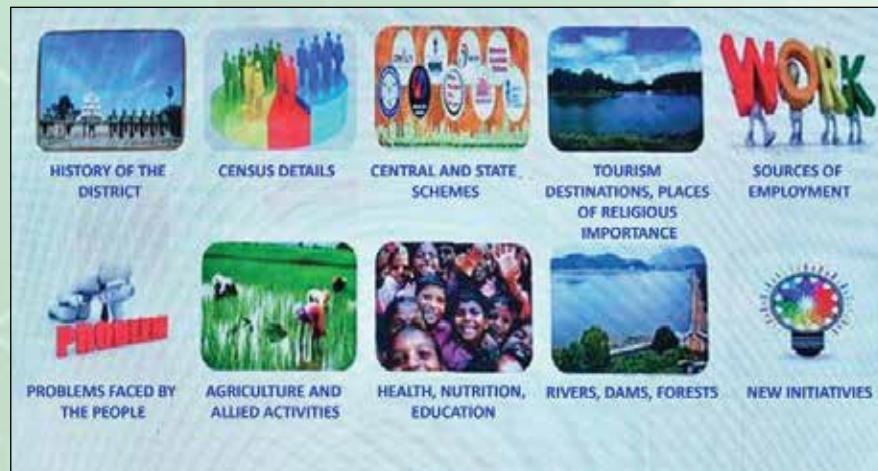


Award Winning Issues



“My Salem - My Pride”

Chemplast Supports Park Renovation at Mettur



Chemplast Mettur contributed a sum of Rs 10 lakh towards the development of “Chinna Poonga” (Kamath Park) at Mettur in support of the “My Salem-My Pride” campaign, initiated by the district collector of Salem, Rohini R Bhajibhakare, IAS, who appreciated the efforts of Chemplast. The contribution was made in the presence of Arul Jothi Arasan, Project Director, Salem District and Mettur Municipal Commissioner and Project Engineer.

S Venkatesan handing over the cheque on behalf of Chemplast Sanmar to the District Collector of Salem, Rohini R Bhajibhakare, IAS, in the presence of other government officials and Chemplast staff.



Health for the Rural Populace

Mega Medical Camp Organised by Chemplast Mettur

A mega medical camp was organised at Chemplast's Vaidheeswara Higher Secondary School, Mettur, on 18 February 2018, in collaboration with Sri Gokulam Hospital, Salem.

Inaugurated by Meghanatha Reddy IAS, Sub-Collector, Mettur, the camp had a team of six specialists and fifty paramedical staff. Sixty-five volunteers

from Chemplast assisted in conducting the camp. Dr K Arthanari, Chairman, Sri Gokulam Hospital, supervised the proceedings.

In all, 544 benefited from the camp. Blood glucose and Blood pressure were checked for 544, ECG for 441, and Echo Cardiogram was conducted on 115 beneficiaries. Those detected with heart ailment were referred to Gokulam Speciality Hospitals for further free treatment. Medicines were also distributed free of cost to the needy rural populace.



Sruti Launches its 400th Edition

The Sruti Foundation launched the 400th edition of the performing arts monthly Sruti, at a function held at Amethyst, Chennai, on 4 January 2018. R Seshasayee, Chairman, IndusInd Bank and Vice President, The Music Academy, released the volume. Eminent artists Chitravina N Ravikiran and Shantha and VP Dhananjayan were the guests of honour and received the first copies along with N Sankar, Chairman of the Sruti Foundation, who presided over the function. The celebration was well attended by artists, writers, readers and critics.

The event started with a well-coordinated choral music presentation by Sargam Choir led by Sudha Raja. Editor-in-Chief V Ramnarayan welcomed the gathering and recounted his association with the magazine and N Pattabhiraman who founded Sruti. Recalling many Sruti firsts like the Pallavi project, Ramnarayan thanked longtime contributors to the magazine, writers, and supporters, who have stood by the magazine, and The Sanmar Group which took over Sruti by recasting the Sruti Foundation in 2006.

In his speech, Seshasayee gave the audience several fresh insights into the current state of the performing arts, their economics and the support required to nurture both the art and the artist. He raised thought-provoking questions about what we need to do to sustain art as it exists today.

N Sankar spoke about his happy relationship with Sruti magazine over the last decade. Praising Seshasayee for his multifaceted talents, he welcomed the artists on the dais and complimented the entire Sruti team for its good work.

While Ravikiran mentioned the vital role the magazine had played in bringing forth a new wave in arts journalism, VP Dhananjayan complimented Sruti for its efforts to bring dance closer to the audience.

Sukanya Sankar, the Managing Trustee, proposed a vote of thanks. She has worked in expanding the footprint of the magazine with its digital edition, blog, ebooks and app avatars. Executive Editor S Janaki, compered the show.

(L to R): Ravikiran,
Shantha and VP Dhananjayan,
N Sankar, R Seshasayee,
V Ramnarayan, Sukanya Sankar,
S Janaki and N Sudha.



An Exceptional Sports Day at Madhuram Narayanan Centre

The Annual Sports Day of the Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children was conducted on 9 February 2018. The games chosen for the day were from a variety of activities to suit children at different levels of disability involving motor skills, cognitive skills and social skills and activities pertaining to daily living.

Roy Kho, Consul General of Singapore, and his wife Tan Cheng Pauline graced the occasion. The Singapore Consulate General sponsored the refreshments and gifts for the sports day and donated mats to the centre.

Gifts were distributed among all the participants and Mrs Pauline was visibly moved seeing the children's participation in the event.

Roy Kho, Consul General of Singapore handing over a gift to a participant.



(L to R): Jaya Krishnaswamy, Tan Cheng Pauline, Roy Kho, N Kumar and S Krishnan at the MNC Annual Sports Day.



Legends from the South

Raja Raja Cholan I (947 – 1014)

Three dynasties—the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas—ruled Tamil country for long years. Of these, Raja Raja Cholan I was the best known Chola king, one of the greatest rulers in the history of the Tamils.

Born Arulmozhi Varman in 947 AD at Tirukoilur as the third child of Parantaka Sundara Cholan and Vanavan Maha Devi, he became Raja Raja when he ascended the throne in 985. His reign

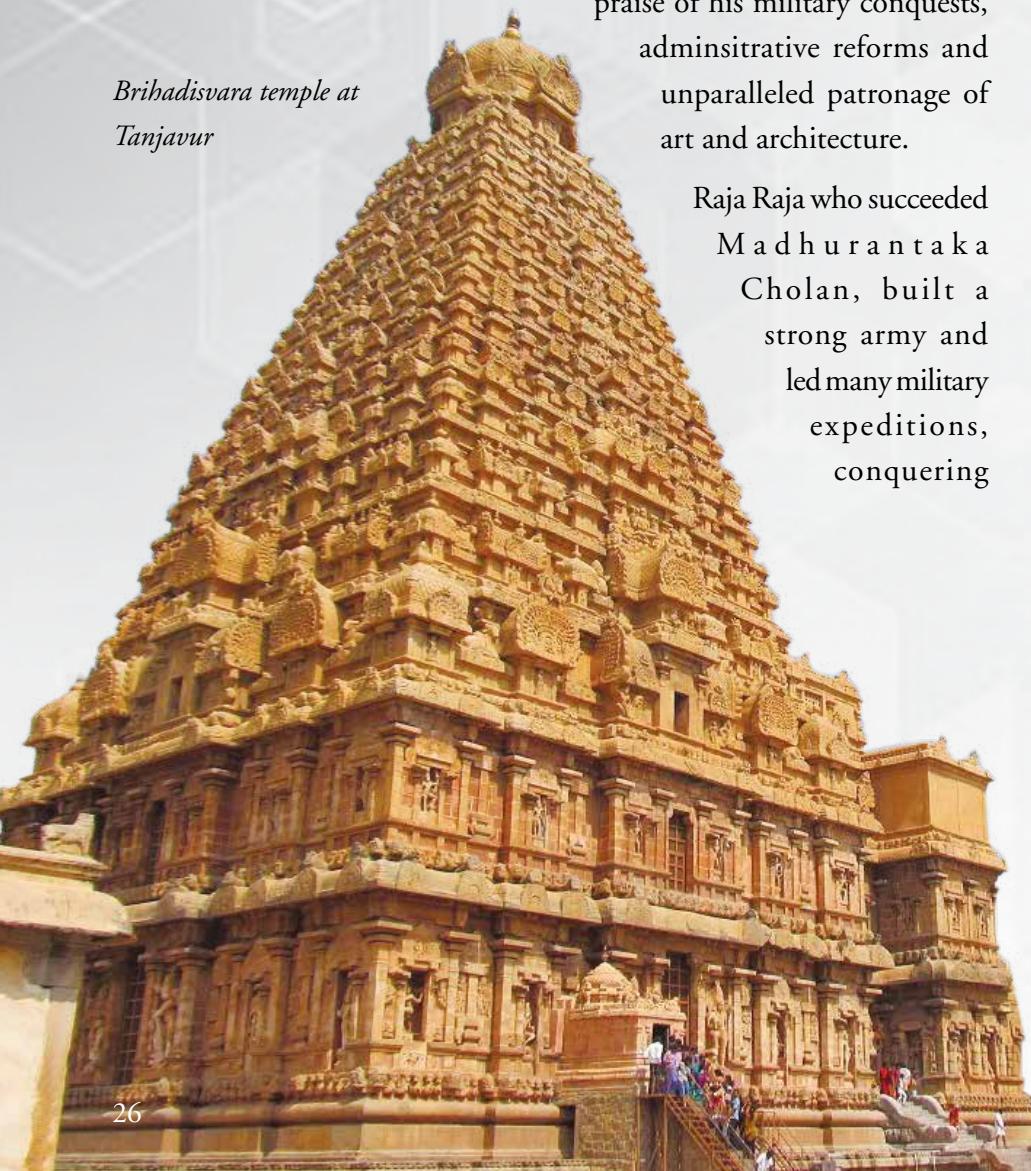
has been described as a golden age in praise of his military conquests, administrative reforms and unparalleled patronage of art and architecture.

Raja Raja who succeeded
M a d h u r a n t a k a
Cholan, built a
strong army and
led many military
expeditions,
conquering

the neighbouring Pandya and Chera kingdoms, extending his reign to present day Karnataka (Bellary, Eastern Mysore, Tadigaipadi, Vengi, and Coorg) as well. He was continuously at war with the Western Chalukyas. He controlled the Bay of Bengal region, with Nagapattinam serving as the main port of the Cholas and, perhaps, his navy headquarters as well. He also invaded Ceylon, beginning century-long Chola rule over the entire island.

Towards the later years of his reign, he shifted his attention from conquests to internal administration. He appointed local government authorities and formed a centralised machinery to control village assemblies and other public bodies without restricting their autonomy. He conducted a survey of his kingdom, a major achievement of the time, and devised a sophisticated system of audit. Many arts—sculpture, painting, drama, dance and music—flourished during his time. He was the first ruler in the region to record history including his conquests and achievements through inscriptions in temples. These inscriptions were in gold, copper and stone. He also recorded the events of the past, including the deeds of his ancestors. He recognised even the smallest contribution made by the people towards the construction of the big temple by inscribing their names on the temple walls. The tradition was

Brihadisvara temple at Tanjavur



to continue beyond his reign, becoming an important way of recording south Indian history.

Raja Raja was a great military and naval strategist and administrator. He promoted international trade along the Indian Ocean, extending from Arabia to Malaya. He even carried elephant troops on ships. He commissioned and deployed Arabs and Chinese to build his naval programme. His naval administration had sub-units similar to modern navies to maximise operational advantages.

Raja Raja is remembered today mainly for the construction of the spectacular Brihadisvara temple at Tanjavur, a magnificent architectural monument also known as Rajarajeswaram or the ‘Big Temple’. Famous for its delicate sculptures and supreme craftsmanship, it is today a UNESCO world heritage site. Raja Raja was assisted by his sister Kundavai in the administration and management of temples.

Though Raja Raja was a devout Saivite, he built Vishnu temples in Mysore after he conquered the region. He allowed Silendra King Srimara Vijayottunga Varman to build the Buddhist shrine Chudamani Vihara at Nagapattinam, and contributed money for its construction. He and his sister also facilitated the building of at least one Jain temple.

Raja Raja was succeeded by his son, Rajendra I, who further glorified the Chola empire, by invading Maldives, the Malabar Coast, and the southern regions of Ceylon.

The thousandth anniversary of the Big Temple was celebrated on a big scale in 2010.

Raja Raja Cholan I had performed the consecration of the temple in 1010, during the twenty-fifth year of his reign.

The Tamil Nadu government sponsored celebrations were held on 25 & 26 of September 2010.

Eminent Bharatanatyam dancer Padma Subrahmanyam led a programme by 1000 dancers on the premises of the Big Temple. Nagaswaram concerts and singing by 100 Oduvars, the traditional exponents of Devaram and Tiruvachakam, preceded the dance programme. Seminars were held at the Thanjavur Tamil University while general conferences were conducted on the temple premises.

A Rs 5 commemorative coin was released by the then Chief Minister M Karunanidhi. On the obverse side of the coin could be seen Raja Raja Cholan’s figure in a standing posture with folded hands with a figure of the temple and words depicting the 1,000 years of the temple written in Hindi and English.



A publication of The Sanmar Group