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A PUBLICATION OF THE SANMAR GROUP



*Migratory Birds Arrive in Doves at  
Vedaranyam, As The Season Begins*

Cover Photo: Greater Flamingos migrating from Iran and Kazakhstan at Vedaranyam Bird Sanctuary. Flamingos can also be seen at the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.



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### 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.  
Pentair Sanmar Ltd  
*- Steel Castings Divn.*  
Sanmar Foundries Ltd  
Matrix Metals LLC

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# The Sanmar Group Annual Day

## Industry Leaders on the Future of Business

The guest speakers at The Sanmar Group Annual Day on the 15 November 2017, spoke on the role of innovation in the future of industry, “disrupting business through technology,” and the importance of people in business.

The first speaker of the day, **Dr Naushad Forbes, Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall**, dwelt at length on the topic “Innovation and the Future of Indian Industry”.

“We do have also a lot in common in Forbes Marshall with The Sanmar Group, and the particular feature that we do have in common is indeed this ability to have long-standing joint ventures,” said Dr Forbes, in his opening remarks.

“For Indian industry to have a great future we need to have ‘four more’. We need to be more ethical, more international, more technology-focused more collaborative good corporate citizens. And if there are these four things, then we have a real opportunity to create a great future for us as a country”, he said.

On what we can do to build a long-term robust future from a policy perspective, Dr Forbes said, “I think to invest in people more than anything else. It won’t show in the short run. It will defiantly show in the

longer run. What can we do apart from that? Stability, removal of uncertainty, and good economic policies that are stable.”

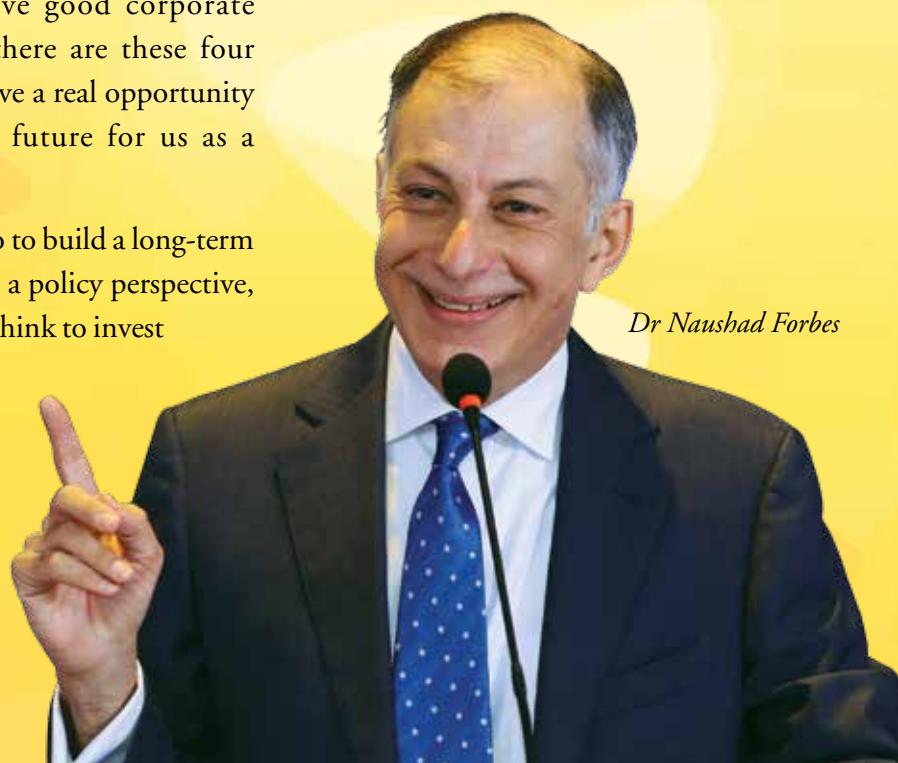
“So we have this great opportunity then as a country where a transformed innovation system could really deliver a transformed industry, the share of manufacturing might even grow finally above this 15% that it has been stuck at for so many years and it opens up markets for us worldwide on the back of a proprietary technology base,” he said.

**Ananth Narayanan, CEO, Myntra and Jabong** said, “Data is the new oil”.

“E-commerce is here to stay, for two primary reasons. We have mobile Internet and data access. Data is going to become increasingly free.”

*“We do have also a lot in common in Forbes Marshall with The Sanmar Group, and the particular feature that we do have in common is indeed this ability to have long-standing joint ventures”.*

- Dr Naushad Forbes



*Dr Naushad Forbes*



Ananth Narayanan

"In my view, every business traditional or otherwise should have a data scientist, who looks at data and is able to think creatively about what they can do with it". "All of us need to think about how we think about data, how we are storing it, how we use it, relearning and upskilling."

In today's fast-paced life what is new today may be obsolete tomorrow as the next version of the same innovation will be available. "One-time learning is gone, continuous learning is the new normal". Continuous learning and acquiring knowledge are vital.

Giving an overview of Myntra and e-commerce, Narayanan made an impassioned plea on technology and innovation.

Some takeaways from his speech: "Social media amplifies every single defect that you have", "What's called CTR conversion ratio is one of the life bloods of a consumer Internet business", "in absolute terms, we won't actually reduce the number of people we hire, but the type of people we hire will be

dramatically different in two to three years time".

**Dr Santrupt B Misra, Director, Group Human Resources and CEO, Carbon Black Business, Aditya Birla Group,** stood witness to the words of Jim Collins, the author of Good to Great, "Great vision without great people is irrelevant."

Elaborating on leadership lessons he learnt in his career spanning 30 years, he emphasised that, "leadership must walk the floors, talk to people, and continue to share examples and stories of what is accepted and what is acceptable and what is not acceptable... what are we trying to accomplish, that conversation is extremely important; that personal touch is very important, no matter how much digital we talk about. Everything else can be digital, but that employee connect still has to have that human touch and you cannot escape that phenomenon."

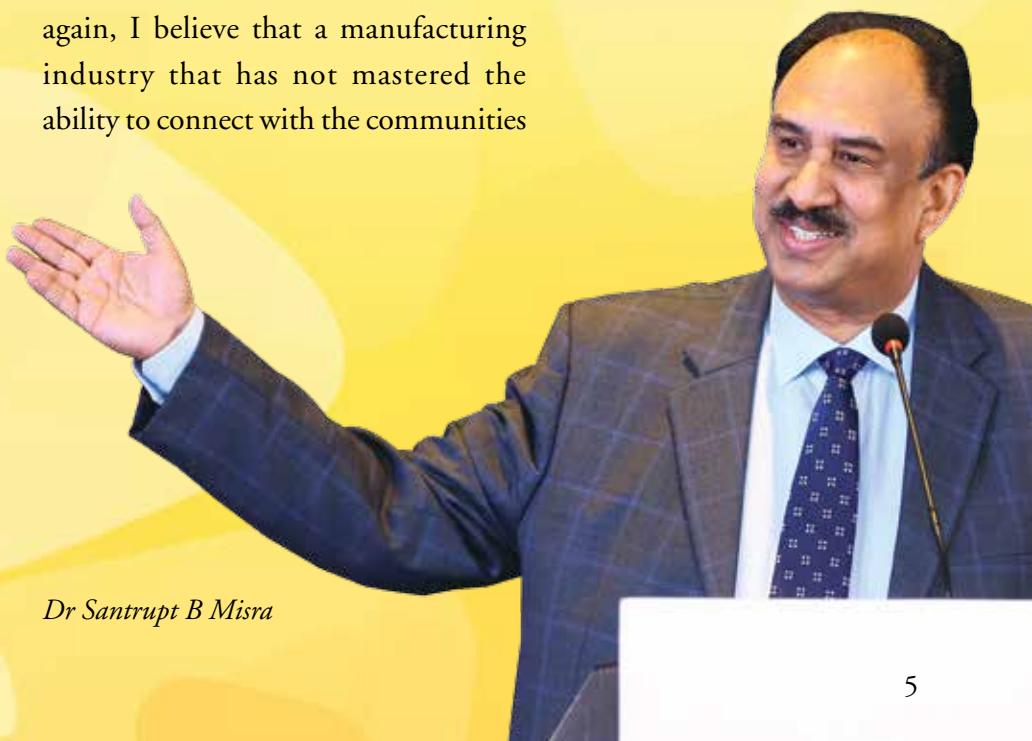
On the importance of connecting with the communities around manufacturing industries, he said, "Time and time and again, I believe that a manufacturing industry that has not mastered the ability to connect with the communities

*"In my view, every business traditional or otherwise should have a data scientist, who looks at data and is able to think creatively about what they can do with it".*

- Ananth Narayanan

*In a conglomerate, it is the cross-fertilisation of ideas between the leadership coming from different backgrounds that creates really disproportionate value."*

- Dr Santrupt B Misra



Dr Santrupt B Misra



N Sankar



Preety Kumar



Adit Jain



B Natraj and Sarada Jagan spoke on the Sanmar philosophy of Ethics.



***A very strong ethical code of conduct of doing business and Growth with Responsibility is The Sanmar Way”.***

- Vijay Sankar

effectively, perhaps does not have the right to continue to manufacture, because they are going to be there, their expectation is going to be different, the standards are going to be different and it is no longer a wage empathy or a charitable sense of doing some CSR, it is a more deliberate connect with the community to believe that we need to find ways of co-existence.”

Dr Misra added, “Creating a leadership bouquet is important. You know this is a fallacy of hiring, we all hire people like ourself. You need to very artificially, deliberately, create a leadership bouquet like this bouquet of flowers with different flowers; bring leaders of different capabilities, experience, and background. Because in a conglomerate, it is the cross-fertilisation of ideas between the leadership coming from different backgrounds that creates really disproportionate value.”

The afternoon session began with **Vijay Sankar** presenting the Sanmar

management view on “Business Performance and Outlook” for the year that was and the way going forward. Vijay said that 2017-18 had been a landmark year, with the 50th year for Chemplast and a transformational year for all other Sanmar businesses.

Lining up the priorities of Sanmar, he said, “the first priority is reputation - then comes growth. A very strong ethical code of conduct of doing business and Growth with Responsibility is The Sanmar Way.”





Sanjay Bhandarkar



V Narayanan

"We are very clear that profits are important, but how we do business is far more important to us."

"These priorities have built the group in the last 50 years and that is the only thing that will help the Group sustain for the next 50 years." He also added, "Defaulting on Commitments is not something that we take lightly."

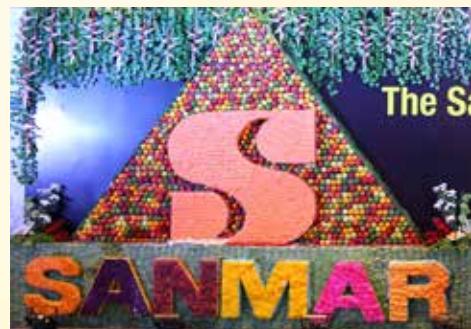
People are Sanmar's strength and the Group became truly professional many years ago with management and an independent corporate board, he said.

Speaking on the ethical values imbibed by the Group, Vijay said, "Ethics is our foundation stone. We are pioneers in this. We came up with a formal ethics manual, and is one of the first Indian Companies to have an Ombudsman."

"It is not just a need to be ethical but also a need to be seen to be ethical. And also equally important is the need to implement ethics in the right manner in the organisation." He exhorted zero tolerance to ethical non-compliance and a deep commitment to doing things in a 'more right way.'

"Things could turn. But we don't get phased out by that. But our ethics, our values and our principles have to sustain."

This was followed by internal business sessions with the heads of businesses presenting their respective overviews. Two important topics - Safety and Ethics - were discussed, with Krishnakumar Rangachari highlighting the key points from a safety perspective and B Natraj and Sarada Jagan elaborating on the Sanmar philosophy of Ethics.



The theme of the Annual dinner on 14 November 2017 was "Fruits and Vegetables" stressing nutritious and healthy eating. In addition to the fusion dinner spread that evening at the Taj Coromandel, a recipe book with fruits and vegetables fulfilled the gastronomic expectations of the guests.



PS Jayaraman, Krishnakumar Rangachari, B Visweswaran, Narayan Sethuram and CV Subba Rao presenting their respective business overviews.

# “Duty of Care Lies at the Very Core of Every Human Resources Management Initiative”

-N Kumar at the World Shipping Forum 2017

The World Shipping Forum 2017 was organised by the Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Chennai Branch, from 23 to 25 November 2017.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Shipping, said, “I know the industry is facing a lot of problems. It is the duty of the government to help the industry to solve the problems, and give a new vision for development. Infrastructure development has been given the highest priority by this Government. We have already taken steps to change some outdated laws in shipping and port sectors as they don’t apply to the current market conditions.”

In his keynote address, N Kumar, Vice Chairman of The Sanmar Group, dwelt on the Regulatory Perspective,



(L to R): N Kumar, Dr Malini V Shankar IAS, Director General, Shipping, Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources.



the Conundrum of Commerce and the Gallop of Technology, the three pillars that affect shipping.

#### Excerpts from N Kumar's address:

"I am indeed delighted to note, as a responsible ship-owner, the industry has brought in the Maritime Labour Convention, which to me, is all about the welfare of the crew on board. A laudable effort indeed and I do hope we will be able to ensure 100% implementation of all the ships. We must believe in the "duty of care," which lies at the very core of every human resources management initiative."

"I am also worried that overcapacity continues to plague the industry, and in spite of diminishing new constructions, the number of ships is in excess of demand. There have been rumblings about cost and availability of capital for quite some time now and therefore the question for ship owners, "Is good money chasing a bad product?"

"Disruption need not only be negative but could also be positive. Another example in technology is Maersk's dive



*A section of the audience at the function.*

into 3D printing, which is used for manufacture and supply of spares."

"Looking into the future, Graphene could invade into Steel as it is lighter and stronger; new types of paint for the hull which are marine environment-friendly and so on. Autonomous ships are also being talked about and if that happens then crew costs get impacted. Therefore, the impact of disruption due to technology is inevitable."

Earlier, CV Subba Rao, Deputy Managing Director, Sanmar Shipping and President, Institute of Marine Engineers (India) Chennai Branch, gave the inaugural address.

*Dignitaries on the dais.*



# Vijay Sankar Leads CII CEOs Delegation to Egypt

A high-level business delegation from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited Egypt during 21-22 November 2017. The delegation comprised twelve CEOs and Chairmen from six companies. Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, The Sanmar Group, led the delegation from India.

*CII CEOs Delegation Members presenting a memento to Dr Sahar Nasr, Minister of Investment and International Cooperation, Egypt, in the presence of the Ambassador of India to Egypt, Mr Sanjay Bhattacharyya, on 21 November 2017.*

The CII CEOs delegation along with the Ambassador of India to Egypt called on the Prime Minister of Egypt Mr Sherif Ismail on 22 November 2017. Dr Sahar Nasr, Minister of Investment and Mr Tarek Kabil, Minister of Trade & Industry and Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority Adm. Mohab Mamish were also present at the meeting.

The Prime Minister welcomed the visiting delegation and informed them about the recent developments in Egypt such as the economic reforms, new investment law, VAT, free floating of local currency viz-a-viz US Dollar etc. These developments laid the groundwork in making Egypt an attractive destination for Investment. He said that the government will continue to pursue economic reforms in the future as well without hesitation as they are crucial for the long-term stability of Egypt.

The delegation along with the Ambassador met with the Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Dr Sahar Nasr on the 21st of November 2017. The Minister reiterated her continued support to all new and existing investors in setting up their investments in Egypt especially in the new free zones and the Suez Canal Economic Zone. Besides, the delegation also met with Dr Hisham Arafat, Minister of Transport, separately on the same day.





*CII CEO delegation members with Minister of Military Production and other officials from the Ministry.*

*Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, The Sanmar Group and Leader of CII CEOs delegation presenting a memento to Dr Mohamed Said El-Assar, Minister of Military Production, the Arab Republic of Egypt in the presence of the Ambassador of India to Egypt Mr Sanjay Bhattacharyya, during the CII CEOs delegation to Egypt on 21-22 November 2017.*



*CII CEOs delegation along with the Ambassador of India called on Mr Sherif Ismail, Prime Minister of Egypt, and few other Ministers from his Cabinet.*



# “Ethics, Integrity, Professionalism and Financial Conservatism are Hallmarks of Rane’s culture”

## N Sankar at LLN Centenary

The centenary celebrations of LL Narayan (LLN), former Chairman of the Rane Group, was held on 6 October 2017.

Speaking on the occasion, N Sankar recalled his family's four-generation old association with Narayan's and said that LLN turned Rane, a trading house, into an industrial enterprise with several state-of-the-art manufacturing complexes.

“Rane grew from strength to strength building on the wonderful foundation established by LLN. Ethics, integrity, professionalism and growth blended with financial conservatism are hallmarks of Rane's culture,” he added.

Recalling memories of his personal interactions with LLN, N Sankar said, “I have been forever grateful to LLN for the sincerity with which he guided me and the time he spent with me. I learnt a lot from that experience.” He also referred

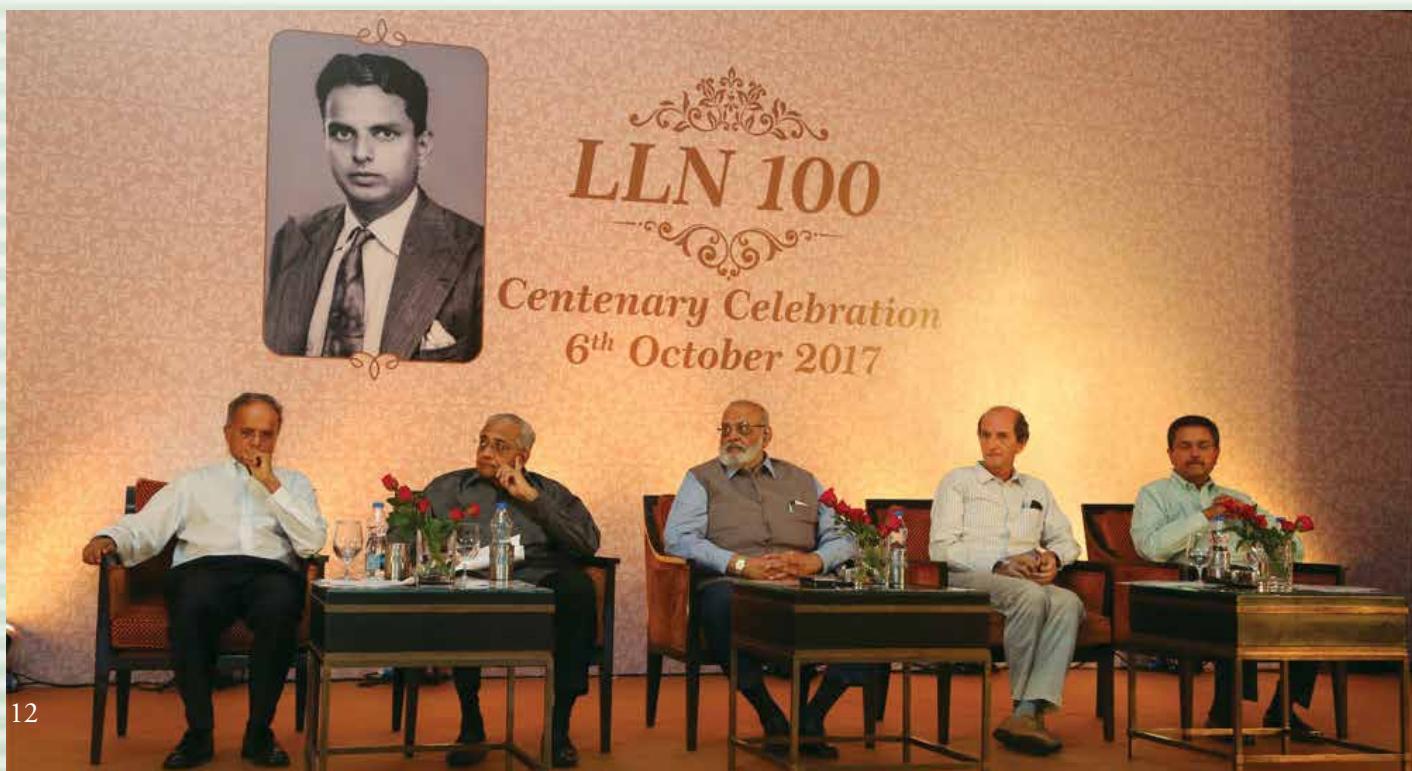
to LLN's pithy advice when he took him on a visit to the Karapakkam project site which had just been acquired for Sankar's first engineering venture.

Sankar also talked on the camaraderie between Industrialists at that time, who although operating in different areas, helped one another in different ways from time to time. “Apart from my father (KSN) and LLN, this group included Mammen Mappillai of MRF, TS Narayanaswamy, AMM Arunachalam of the TI Group, TS Krishna of TVS, and DC Kothari, MA Chidambaram, Marutha Pillai of Aruna Sugars, S Venkataraman of Chandrie and Company, VL Dutt of KCP, TT Vasu and VD Swami and so many more. This group represented a generation of pioneering industrialists, who in the golden era of industrialisation in Madras State under Shri R Venkataraman as Industries Minister, set up greenfield projects in various fields,” he said.



*N Sankar and Chandra Sankar in conversation with Pushpa Lakshman.*

*(L to R): L Lakshman, N Sankar, Dr Abhay Sirodia, Padmashri awardee Michel Danino and L Ganesh.*



# Toxic Emission from Private Tanker at Perundurai

## Chemplast Mettur Team Swings into Action

On 25 October 2017, at the SIPCOT area of Perundurai, Erode, a tanker lorry carrying Nitric Acid emitted orange and yellow coloured fumes, at the gate of the Indian Sludge company. This created panic, and the driver of the tanker fainted.

Officials from the Directorate of Industrial Safety, V Manokaran, Joint Director and M Saravanakumar, District Environmental Engineer rushed to the spot. They sought the advice of Chemplast Mettur on mitigating the effects of the incident. Chemplast officials visited the site and helped sort out the issue. The primary cause of the emanation was found to be the contamination of the tanker with ferrous sulphate.

At the request of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and the Directorate of Industrial Safety, Chemplast officials provided training for chemical stockists in handling, storage and transportation of chemicals on 17 November 2017 at the Erode collectorate.



# Birds of different

Chemplast Sanmar, which has its salt works at Vedaranyam, has partnered with the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) in setting up a study centre here.



# feathers flock together



# Sanmar's Mexican Steel Foundry Bags Large Foundries Award in Mexico



(L to R): Jose Luis Grajales, President, Mexican Steel Foundry Society, Shrirang Kulkarni, President, and Raúl García, Engineering Director, Acerlan Foundry, at the award ceremony.

Matrix Metals Acerlan foundry, belonging to the Steel Castings Division of Sanmar Engineering Technologies Limited, received the Mexican Steel Foundry Society's (SMF) "Large Foundries Award" from SMF President, Jose Luis Grajales on 2 December 2017. The award was presented to Acerlan at a special ceremony that took place in Queretaro city. Acerlan was selected for the award based on its growth last year and for being a good example within the industry in Mexico.



## Safety Barbecue at Acerlan

As part of the recent initiatives taken to uphold safety at the Acerlan foundry, the department that has had no safety incident, not even a near-miss or the most minor incident for two months, is treated to a safety barbecue. This is in recognition of the prominent role played by the members of the Health and Safety brigade at the foundry.



*Roberto Plascencia, Director, HR, and Carlos Barbosa, EHS Chief, with the Acerlan Safety Brigades at a recent Safety Barbecue at Acerlan.*

## Farewell

Alberto Ramirez, welder, retired after a fruitful career spanning 37 full years at the Acerlan foundry, to spend more time with wife, sons and grandchildren.



*Roberto Plascencia with Alberto Ramirez and his wife at the retirement function.*



# Chemplast Karaikal Receives FICCI Sustainability Award for Excellence in Safety

The Chemplast Sanmar Karaikal plant was awarded the FICCI Sustainability Award for Excellence in Safety. N Palanisamy, location head, Karaikal, received the award from Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister of State for Chemicals, at the India Chem Gujarat 2017 event at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat, on 21 September 2017.

*Sanmar's N Palanisamy and Saurabh Tripathi, receiving the award from Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Chemical and Fertilizers.*



# Visitors from Danish Cultural Institute meet Vijay Sankar

A team of officials from the Danish Cultural Institute, Michael Mørch, Secretary General, Olaf Gerlach-Hansen, Senior Advisor, accompanied by Sune Kare-Sorensen, Political Advisor, and Amanda Salka, Intern

from Royal Danish Embassy took time to meet Vijay Sankar and SB Prabhakar Rao, Vice Consul on the 8 November 2017 and discussed historic Indo-Danish cultural links and their revival.

*Officials from Danish Cultural Institute and Royal Danish Embassy with Vijay Sankar and SB Prabhakar Rao at the Royal Danish Consulate, Chennai.*



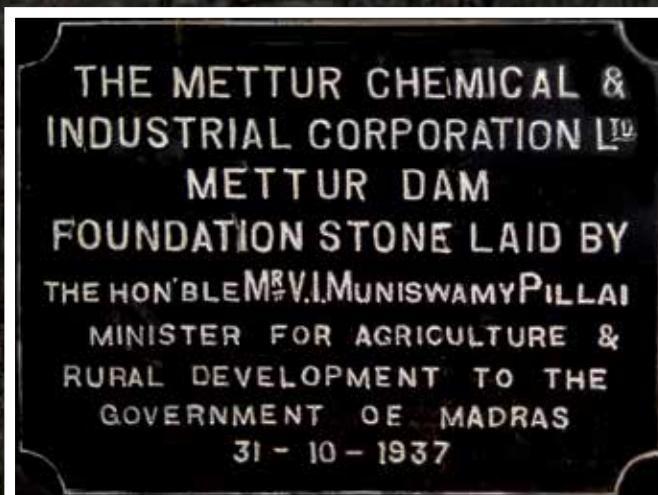
## Danish Princess visits New Delhi

Princess of Denmark, Benedikte visited Delhi on the 20 September 2017. Her earlier visits to the country were in 2004 and 2014 respectively. A reception was hosted in her honour by the Danish Ambassador in India at New Delhi. SB Prabhakar Rao, Vice Consul met the Princess at the reception when the Princess recalled her earlier visits to Chennai, taking a look at the photographs taken then with nostalgia.

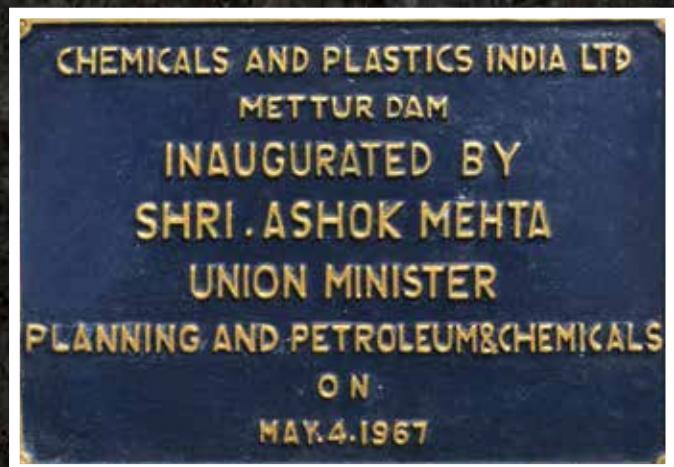
*Princess of Denmark, Benedikte with Honorary Vice Consul of the Royal Danish Consulate SB Prabhakar Rao.*

# Stones Speak History

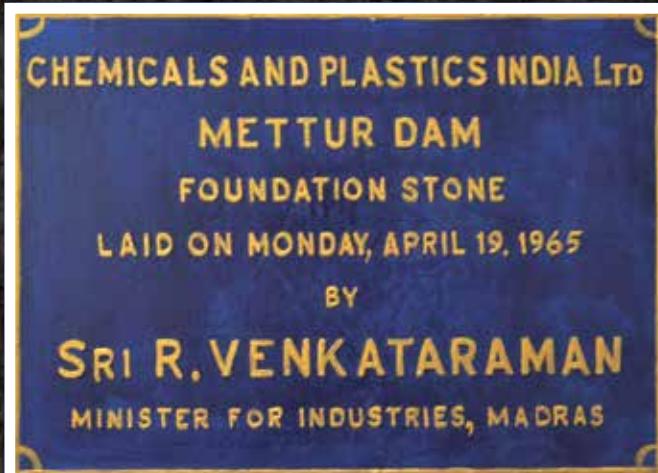
*Matrix* recently went on a virtual tour of the numerous foundation stones laid at historic junctures of the Chemplast Sanmar journey since its inception over 50 years ago. We offer a slice of history in the following sample milestones.



The foundation stone of Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation (MCIC), Mettur Dam, which was laid on 31 October 1937, shortly after the construction of the Mettur Dam and hydroelectric power station. MCIC, established to manufacture caustic soda, the critical material for the manufacture of PVC, was eventually acquired by Chemplast as strategic measure of backward integration.



Chemplast's 6000 TPA plant in collaboration with BF Goodrich of Ohio, USA.



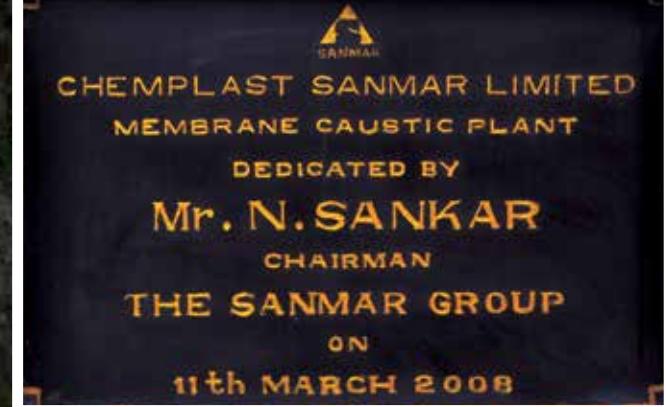
Chemplast was promoted to manufacture polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resins and compounds.



Chemplast was a joint venture with equity participation from BF Goodrich of the US, a major PVC manufacturer. It was also one of the earliest instances in South India, known for its conservative business outlook, of a joint venture between an Indian company and a foreign collaborator.



To circumvent chronic power shortages, Chemplast put into operation a combined cycle power plant with a capacity of 4.8 MW - the first of its kind in India (25 December 1986). R Venkataraman went on to become the President of India.



Chemplast changed over at Mettur from mercury-based technology to membrane cell technology for the manufacture of caustic soda in 2008, well ahead of the MoEF deadline of 2012.

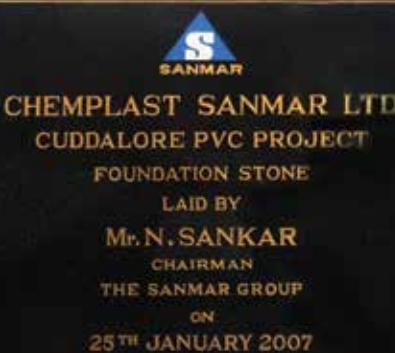


MCIC put up a plant to produce Refrigerant Gases under the brand name "Mettron", with a capacity of 500 TPA at a cost of Rs. 4.5 crore.

Chemplast Sanmar's greenfield project at Cuddalore was set up at an investment of Rs 600 crore. The facility with an initial capacity of 170,000 TPA is one of the larger chemical projects in Tamil Nadu.

After nearly four decades since Chemplast began on 4 May 1967, KS Narayanan, Chairman Emeritus of The Sanmar Group, commissioned a world class PVC facility at Cuddalore .The plant has desalination and Zero Liquid Discharge facilities for efficient use of water.

Chemplast's state-of-the-art PVC plant along with a marine terminal facility at Cuddalore is based on the technology of Ineos Vinyl, the third largest PVC producer of the world.



# Blood donation to Support Dengue Treatment at Chemplast Mettur



A blood donation camp in collaboration with Gokulam Hospital, Salem, was organised on 2 December 2017 at Chemplast Mettur Plant II. Dr Arthanari, MD, Gokulam Hospital, and S Venkatesan of Chemplast inaugurated the event.

101 Chemplast employees donated blood to support the treatment of the dengue-affected in and around Salem.

## Puppet show

To create dengue awareness among students, Chemplast organised a puppet show at the Vaidheeswara Higher Secondary School on 3 November 2017. The programme, which was much appreciated by students, parents and teachers alike, earned the praise of Meghanatha Reddy IAS, Sub-Collector, Mettur, who was present at the show.

*Kalai Araperavai Kalaivanan Kalai Kuzhu* headed by Kalaivanan performed the puppet show. About a thousand eight hundred students from fourteen nearby schools attended the event.



## Dengue Awareness Programme at Chemplast Cuddalore



A dengue awareness programme was conducted at Chemplast Cuddalore on 4 November 2017 for employees at the Cuddalore plant.

Joint Director, Industrial and Safety Division, Cuddalore R Rajasekhar, Deputy Director, Health Department, Cuddalore KR Jawahar and District Malaria Officer C Palanichami, participated in the programme. More than 200 employees took part. Nilavembu Kudineer was distributed. Also a pledge to keep surroundings clean as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission was undertaken.

# Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Houses the 4th Nanhi Chhaan National School Essay Contest

The 4th Nanhi Chhaan National School Essay Contest was held at the Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Tiruvanmiyur, Chennai, on 19 September 2017. This year's contest saw 17 schools from eight different states participate in the competition on the topic "Child marriage – It must be stopped".

Over 400 students across the country took part in this national contest, the final of which was held in Chennai. Aryan Sadh, a student from Vasant Valley School, Delhi, walked away with the first prize of Rs 50,000 and a trophy while the second prize of Rs 25,000 and

trophy was bagged by Nasreen Sultana of Bal Mandir School, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The judges Vijay Thadani, Co-founder, NIIT, Prashanth Vasu, Location leader and Partner, McKinsey, Chennai, and Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar, Founder, Sneha, hosted the question and answer session as well as group discussion for the students who took part in the contest and selected the winners thereafter.

N Ravi, Director, Kasturi & Sons Ltd, the Chief Guest, distributed the prizes. N Kumar, Managing Trustee of Sri Sankara Vidyashramam, was also present.



# Madhuram Narayanan Centre

## 14th National Workshop



N Kumar releasing MNC's Social Audit Book and Prof Camille Catlett receiving the first copy.

The 14th National Workshop organised by the Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children was held on 23rd and 24th November 2017. The theme of the workshop this year was "Early Intervention in Intellectual and Associated Disabilities - Towards Making Inclusion a Reality."

During the workshop, Madhuram Narayanan Centre released its Social Accounts for the years 2015-2017. The Social Audit book was released by N Kumar, Chair-Board of MNC, and the first copy was received by Prof Camille Catlett, the main resource person for the workshop. This is the fourth cycle of social audits released by MNC, with the first three reports released for the periods 2008-09, 2010-12 and 2013-15.



Prof Camille Catlett, a Scientist at the University of North Carolina's Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, conducting a workshop.

Priya Murle and her team presenting the theme "Story telling through music Movement – Bringing out the spontaneity in Children's participation" through a dance.

Nancy Furru presenting the topic "Bringing out Creativity in Children through Art and Craft."



# for Exceptional Children

## Annual Day - Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar, Chief Guest

The 28th Annual Day of the Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children was celebrated on 12 December 2017 with Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar, the founder of Sneha, a mission to counsel

the suicidal, as the Chief Guest. MNC has completed 28 years of service to children with developmental delays as in Mental Retardation and associated disabilities in the age group six years and below.

The theme of this year's Annual Day was "Save Trees."

MNC children and their parents performed so well on this theme that the chief guest said that "as a psychiatrist I have been through many a tough situation and in my profession we are not supposed to get emotional but today I am really touched." N Kumar in his address thanked everyone whose presence was a great encouragement for the children and mothers especially, and praised the centre for its untiring work.



Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar



# Iconic Institutions of Chennai

## Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital

The history of the Government General Hospital goes back to 1644 or so, and it has been at the present location from 1772. The hospital had nine incarnations during that period, making the present one the eleventh, after its reconstruction in 2002.

The first medical institution in India, the Government General Hospital of Madras was founded on 16th November 1664 by the British East India Company. It was an initiative to treat the sick soldiers of the Company. The hospital first housed in Fort St. George grew into a formal medical facility over the next twenty years. After the Anglo French war the hospital moved to its present permanent place in 1772.

The hospital building was constructed at this site by John Sullivan at a cost of 42,000 pagodas and opened to patients from 5 October 1772. The next major expansion was in 1859 followed by yet another in 1893 and a third in 1928. At the conclusion of that third phase of expansion, Dr Sir A Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Principal of the Madras Medical

College, declared, "The Madras General Hospital now presents an inspiring pile of buildings of which Madras may well be proud of and which delights the eye of every professional visitor to this city." The hospital acquired its Neurology, Cardiology and other specialty blocks from the 1960s onwards.

The hospital's earlier nomenclature appears to have been Government Hospital and in 1692, Dr Edward Bulkley was appointed as its head. The next year he performed the first medico-legal autopsy in India.

The Madras Medical College which was attached to the hospital, started off as a private medical hall run by Dr D Mortimar (Superintendent of the Hospital), and was regularised into a medical school in 1835, which was opened by the governor, Sir Frederick Adams.

It was only in 1842 that the G in the name began to stand for General when the facility became open to Indians. The hospital became a wholly civilian institution in 1899.

The GH takes pride in Col C Donovan's discovery in 1903 of the organism that caused the dreaded Kala Azar. Not so well known is Dr WJ Niblock, who documented in India the first successful gastro-jejunostomy for gastric outlet obstruction due to peptic ulcer at the GH on March 2, 1905. Niblock's work on gastroenterology was to be brought to public notice by Dr N Rangabhashyam in 1975 when under his guidance the GH acquired a gastroenterology department. John Maitland, a close associate of Ronald Ross, worked at the GH and did pioneering work on filariasis.

*GH in the past.*



The GH was headed by a Superintendent from 1858 onwards, the first incumbent being Lt Col William Evans of the Indian Medical Service. The first Indian to hold that post was Lt Col MN Choudhri. The post of Dean of the Government General Hospital and Medical College, Madras, was created in 1950, with the first occupant being Dr RV Rajam.

### **Women in MMC**

Muthulakshmi Reddy became the first Indian woman (Mrs AM Vangnen a burgher from Ceylon was the first woman) to get a medical degree from University of Madras in 1912. She went on to establish the cancer institute of Adyar.

The institution holds the pride of place in having produced the first lady Doctor in the English speaking World and also the first Indian lady Doctor to graduate.

The hospital has 52 operation theatres, besides intensive care units, post-operative wards and about 3000 beds. On 10 July 1987, the first ever transplant surgery in the hospital was done. The first successful cadaver renal transplantation was performed at the hospital in January 1996. By 2006, the hospital started treating about 8,000 to 10,000 outpatients every day. The hospital also performed three open-heart surgeries free of cost daily. In 2011, the hospital was renamed Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in memory of the late Prime Minister. By 2013, the number of outpatients per day increased to 12,000.

### **Latest Information**

Dispensaries attached to the hospital include Government Secretariat Dispensary, Government High Court Dispensary, Government Chepauk Offices Dispensary, Government Estate Dispensary, and Government Raj Bhavan Dispensary.

The hospital contributes to the second largest number of deceased organ

donations in Tamil Nadu. In March 2012, the hospital performed its 1000th kidney transplant, the highest in any government hospital in the country, of which about 90 were cadaver transplants. As of 2013, the hospital has a 22 percent share in organ transplants, the highest among hospitals in the city.

The hospital houses many clinical and non clinical departments. The non clinical departments are Anatomy, Bio Chemistry, Community Medicine, Forensic Medicine, Microbiology, Pathology, Pharmacology and Physiology.

The clinical departments are Anesthesia, Blood Transfusion, Cardiology, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Dermatology, Diabetology, E.N.T., Endocrine Surgery, General Medicine, General Surgery, Geriatric medicine, Geriatric Surgery, Hematology, Hepatology, Medical Gastroenterology, Nephrology, Neurology & Neuro Surgery, Medical Oncology, Occupational and Contact Dermatitis, Orthopedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Psychiatry, Radio Diagnosis, Radiation Oncology, Rheumatology, Surgical Gastroenterology, Thoracic Medicine, Urology, Vascular surgery and Venerology (STD).

GH is without doubt a premier medical establishment in the country catering to poor patients offering them best-in-class treatment and services.

*And as it looks now.*





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