

MATRIX

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The eye of the storm



Cover Photograph:

Hurricane Catarina as seen from the International Space Station on 26 March 2004 - NASA.



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‘The eye of the storm’

Hurricanes, Cyclones, and Typhoons

The word Cyclone was coined by Henry Piddington in the year 1848, even before the Indian Meteorological department was established. ‘Cyclone’ means ‘coils of a snake’ in Greek, as the tropical storms in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea appeared like coiled serpents of the sea to Piddington.

In December 1789 when a storm killed over 20,000 people, Piddington made a thorough investigation and presented the results before the Asiatic Society of Bengal in Calcutta – and in this paper he described storm as a ‘cyclone,’ meaning going around, or encircling like the coil of a snake. While Piddington thereafter continued to do extensive research and publish his book on ‘The Sailor’s Horn-Book for the Law of Storms,’ the world at large got their first glimpse of a cyclone from outer space in 1960.

Since then, we have become very familiar with how a tropical cyclone looks like from space with television channels often presenting animated sequences of images that clearly show the cloud bands swirling around the centre of the eye of the cyclone, like the coils of a snake.

Typically, cyclone is a general term for a weather system in which winds rotate inwardly to an area of low atmospheric pressure. For large weather systems, the circulation pattern is in counter clockwise direction as in the Northern Hemisphere and in a clockwise direction in the Southern Hemisphere.

Cyclones include tropical, extratropical ones and tornadoes. A tropical cyclone is a rotating low-pressure weather system that has organised thunderstorms but no fronts. They form warm ocean waters. They become tropical depressions if there are sustained surface winds of less than 39 mph, and if higher, are called tropical storms. Sustained winds of 74 mph become hurricanes/typhoons. While hurricanes form over the Atlantic Ocean or Caribbean Sea, typhoons form over the western Pacific Ocean.

A tornado is a rapidly rotating column of air extending downward from a thunderstorm and most violent tornadoes can cause tremendous destruction with wind speeds of up to 300 mph.

Typically, cyclones come under four types: Tropical cyclone, Polar cyclone, Mesocyclone and mid-latitude cyclone. Cyclones, in other parts of the world, have different names like hurricane, windstorm, typhoon, twister, whirlwind, tornado, baguio and taifu.

In India, the eastern coast has a long history of devastating cyclones - tropical cyclones that originate over the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. These cyclones have very high wind velocity and heavy rainfall and hit the Indian coastal states. Although cyclones

affect the entire coast of India, the East coast is more prone as compared to the West coast. The most affected states are Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

In the beginning, the cyclones were named arbitrarily. An Atlantic storm that ripped off the mast of a boat named 'Antje' became known as Antje's hurricane. In the late 1800s, they were named after Catholic saints. In 1953, the cyclones were named after women as the ships were always referred to as female and often given women's names. In 1979, male names were introduced. Presently, the naming of cyclones is more systematic.

That is, if the speed of a cyclone is more than 34 nautical miles per hour then it becomes necessary to give it a special name. If the speed of the storm reaches or crosses 74 mph, it is then classified into a hurricane/cyclone/typhoon.

Some recent examples include, Cyclone 'Okhi', which came in November 2017, was named by Bangladesh, which means 'Eye' in the Bengali language.

Cyclone Fani or Foni was also named by Bangladesh. Fani means 'Hood of a Snake'.

On 13 June 2019, cyclone 'Vayu' hit the Gujarat coast. It was named by India and was derived from Sanskrit and Hindi language meaning 'Wind'.

And cyclone 'Tauktae' has been named by Myanmar after a reptile which means 'Highly Vocal Lizard.'

The eye is the focus of the hurricane, the point about which the rest of the storm rotates and where the lowest surface pressures are found in the storm and is actually the calmest section of any hurricane. The eye is so calm because the strong surface winds that converge towards the centre never reach it.



The strongest tropical cyclone recorded worldwide, as measured by minimum central pressure, was Typhoon Tip, which reached a pressure of 870 hPa (25.69 in Hg) on October 12, 1979.

Hurricane John, also known as Typhoon John, was both the longest-lasting and the farthest-travelling tropical cyclone ever observed.

Marco is the smallest tropical cyclone ever recorded, surpassing the previous record set on December 24, 1974 by Cyclone Tracy, whose tropical storm-force winds extended 30 miles (48 km).





Bhola Cyclone - one of the world's deadliest natural disasters.



A house is engulfed by Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful typhoons ever recorded slammed into Legazpi city, Albay province in November 2013 south of Manila, Philippines.



NDRF teams clear up damage after Cyclone Vardah, Tamil Nadu

Here is a peek at some of the worst cyclones that hit the world:

Bhola Cyclone – 1970

The year was 1970, and Bangladesh was still East Pakistan. On November 8, a cyclone began forming over the central Bay of Bengal and then travelled northward, gathering strength on the way. At its peak, it unleashed winds of 185 kmph (115 mph). It is the deadliest tropical cyclone ever recorded till date and is one of the world's worst natural disasters. More than 500,000 people were killed in the storm, largely due to the storm surge that flooded most of the low-lying islands of the Ganges Delta.

The Great Backerganj Cyclone – 1876

The Great Backerganj Cyclone of 1876 was one of the lethal tropical cyclones in history. It hit the coast of Backerganj, near Meghna estuary, in present-day Barisal, Bangladesh, killing about 200,000 people. Almost 50% of the deceased were lost due to the flooding with storm surge, the remaining died subsequently due to the famine.

The Bangladesh Cyclone – 1991

The Bangladesh cyclone in 1991 was among the noxious tropical cyclones on record. The tropical cyclone led to 6.1 mtrs storm surge causing at least 138,866 deaths and about US\$1.7 billion in damage. As a result of the catastrophic damage, United States and other countries carried out the largest military operation Sea Angel.

Cyclone Nargis - 2008

Cyclonic storm Nargis was an extremely devastating and deadly tropical cyclone causing the worst natural disaster in the recorded history of Myanmar during early May 2008. The first named storm of 2008, Nargis caused catastrophic destruction in Myanmar with over 138,366 fatalities. And Nargis was the second costliest tropical cyclone in North Indian Ocean with estimated loss of \$12.9 billion at that time.

Hooghly River Cyclone – 1737

One of the five worst cyclones and deadliest natural disasters in the history, the Hooghly River Cyclone, confounded the Indian city of Calcutta. The cyclone, also known as Calcutta Cyclone, created massive destruction in the adjoining areas as well. The cyclone led to the estimated casualties of 300,000 – 350,000 people. Moreover, the Hooghly River Cyclone also destroyed around 20,000 vessels.

Interestingly, cyclones are not unique to Earth. Cyclonic storms are common on Jovian planets, such as the Small Dark Spot on Neptune. It is about one third in diameter of the Great Dark Spot and received the nickname ‘Wizard’s Eye’ because it looks like an eye. Mars has also exhibited cyclonic storms.

Perhaps the best defence against a cyclone is an accurate forecast that gives people enough time to get out of the way.



Seven people, including six tourists, have been killed in a violent storm that swept across a region of northern Greece on 10th July 2021.



F5 tornado viewed from the southeast as it approached Elie, Manitoba in 2007.



17 years have gone by but the scars of the devastating Tsunami, in Chennai remain.

The Sanmar Group Annual Day (26 – 27 November 2021)

Politics, Economics and Development Interface

This year's Sanmar Group Annual Day began briskly with the guest speaker **Vineet Agarwal, MD of the logistics major, Transport Corporation of India (TCI) and President, Assocham, talk on "Strategies for Supply Chain Management in the New Normal"**.

According to Agarwal, the legacy and value system of The Sanmar Group echoed well with his own 63-year-old organisation built on the fundamentals of the acronym CORE – C: Crust focus, O: Ownership R: Responsiveness and E: Empathy, on a mindset and vision imbibed from his grandfather and founder of TCI. Both the Groups considered long term value relationships and not short-term decisions. Both focussed

on people development built on a foundation of mutual trust.

On the topic of "Supply chain" which is very critical today, Agarwal brought to focus the "tremendous challenges in the last few months specifically starting from COVID", and how "Challenges are game changers." Elaborating on the massive disruptions in the supply chain either supply or demand led,



Vineet Agarwal

N Sankar: Wearing the Assocham hat what is your current view of the situation in the country? Is economics affected too much by politics? In spite of this, is economy likely to move forward?

Vineet Agarwal: I think in the last seven years the government has taken a lot of bold decisions. Some of those decisions was also beyond imagination and expectation in terms of audacity of them, from the IBC code, from the thought process around the infrastructure national pipeline, the fact that some of those could be monetize under the NMP, the idea around divestment, social ideas such as Jan Dhan, and building toilets in the remote villages, the fact that there is electricity and digital access in many places. As Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi said, we are a nation of a million problems but with a billion solutions that are possible. Lots of things have happened with this government being extremely positive and revolutionary. But there is also politics around it. On the other side, certain amount of our own ways and belief systems have been challenged. There is a certain amount of 'rightwingism' that has come about. But I still think that the people in the government are extremely hardworking. They are thinking positively about the country and not about themselves. That is a big change. Lots of hopes that the next decade for the country will be very very good.

Agarwal explained about the dynamic cost structure and changing channels – Omni, Physical and Online – paradigms that have come into play with the new normal. Deep vs Wide, Domestic vs Global, Adaptable vs Predictable and Just in time vs Just in case are some of the strategies for inventory and sourcing highlighted by Agarwal. And above all, how to get more digital in this ETA culture – where much depends on the ‘estimated time of arrival’, criticality of investment into predictive analysis and cyber security management at all layers.

The next speaker, **B Santhanam, CEO, Asia-Pacific & India Region, Saint-Gobain, spoke on how to “Grow and Impact” and “A.D.A.P.T. to thrive.”**

Santhanam was meticulous and forthright in driving home the points to the discerning audience. Explaining the acronym, A.D.A.P.T, Santhanam said,

A – Aspire to grow rapidly – get your aspirations back. We are currently short on aspiration, fundamentally we are sceptical and so how do we suspend this fantastic analytical intelligence we possess and really aspire very very differently? And if our aspirations are based on current constraints, we are never going to make it.

D – Digitalise our business – pervasive digitalisation has made very very big difference in such a short time. Let’s remove the notion that digital is like IT. Unlike IT, for digital transformation we need small nimble teams to do things. Let’s allow them through the four stages of storming, forming, norming and performing. Can we really look at



B Santhanam, N Kumar and Vijay Sankar.

customer related digital transformation? How can I apply digital in the customer engagement process? How do we get on with digital transformation, which is highly empowering? These are some of the key questions posed by Santhanam.

A – Accelerate, our rate of innovation. In the last 50 years, science has advanced the lowest, whereas society has advanced dramatically. Technology has advanced. There is a new paradigm that is coming - “Innovate close to the customers and not close to the factory.”

P – Productivity Improvement in human and financial capital. China is incredibly productive at people level. There is a productivity paradox in India. So, must focus on the productive capital.

T – Transform and outlook and market – Markets are transforming and digital is transforming. The whole ecosystem around us is transforming. What do we do in this situation?

In a nutshell, Santhanam’s hard hitting message to the audience,

B Santhanam





Dr S Narayan

“Digitalise furiously. Be fair. Be environmentally sensitive. Take care of your employees. Create surplus for both the shareholders and stakeholders.”

But you cannot remain content, static, if you want to remain relevant. Growth is imperative. You need to A.D.A.P.T. to thrive.

Dr S Narayan, former Finance Secretary of India, and Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister, with four decades of public service in the State and Central Governments addressed the topic, “How I see India going to be developing in the next 5 to 10 years and interface between politics, economics and development,” which is becoming even more important as we go along.

He put forth his arguments step by step on how, “policies faced in a democracy

for a government to take meaningful decision is shrinking, as education goes up. Shrinking as people’s awareness goes up and naturally as social media goes up.”

“The space for decision making on a large scale is shrinking. And if one space shrinks, one other is expanding and that space that is expanding is one in which the government is not involved.”

“Why are these technological decisions not being able to be taken?” Could be for two reasons:

- Not enough R&D
- ‘Asterix problem’ – the sky will fall on our heads. So why take a decision?

Hence, the policy making ability, Technological capability is shrinking.

According to Narayan, “We are at a cusp of a fairly major change in the development paradigm which is an interaction of politics, of economics as well as development of indigenous capabilities.”

Sanmar Senior Management Team.



Vijay Sankar's business overview

of the last two years, augured an optimistic outlook for the Group despite several external and internal challenges that existed.

The pandemic that was terrible for the world, had an unintended positive consequence for the Group. The Group has sailed through extremely difficult times – carbon footprint, extremely strong competitions, change in composition of industry and all the requirements that have come in after becoming a listed entity, and increasing pace of regulations.

Vijay Sankar affirmed that after a successful Chemplast Sanmar IPO and TCI Sanmar's debt restructuring process which had involved massive efforts, Sanmar is well poised for growth.



As such, the Group is ahead of the curve in many areas including Safety, Environment, Health and wellness of employees, strengthening of offshore and onshore relationships, and sporting excellence.

“This is a signal moment, and let us not be complacent,” he urged. “Operational excellence, customer service, benchmarking against competition and ensuring the best, thinking long-term and not compromising on our value system” are some of the key pointers for “Sustained Growth, which is the key success factor,” he said.

A view of the audience.



Sanmar Stalwarts retire

It was a very emotional moment for audience gathered at Annual Dinner of The Sanmar Group on the 26 November 2021, to bid farewell to three Stalwarts who garnered huge professional respect at Sanmar.

Chairman N Sankar took us down the memory lane of his personal and professional interactions with them.

MN Radhakrishnan

N Sankar, sharing his thoughts on MN Radhakrishnan (Radha) who had worked very closely with NS right through the 42 years (1979 – 2020) at Sanmar said, “Radha has played two very important roles in the Group. First, the development and building up of Sanmar Engineering from a single product company to a dominant multi-product engineering supplier, and two – assisting me in developing The Sanmar Group, its policies, management etc.

There were so many things Radha has done to maintain Sanmar Engineering’s progress over the years.

MNR became the CEO of Sanmar Engineering in 1991 when the then CEO SRS had a heart attack. There was no looking back since then.

Every engineering product we took up became the market leader.

The excellent relationship with all our JV partners is one of the hallmarks of Sanmar’s philosophy. At one stage, I think there were about 10 to 12

partners of Sanmar Engineering Radha had to deal with, and he maintained excellent relationships with all of them, at the same time ensuring Sanmar Engineering got a good and fair deal. In the course of this, he developed very good personal relationships with people on the partners’ side.

One outstanding example was the HBJ pipeline – he pretty much conceptualised the whole project for the end user, and lo and behold, it included all the products of Sanmar Engineering’s range. He also made sure that we were the primary suppliers of all these products to that project.

Another very important aspect of his character was that he talked and acted like a businessman - like it was his own business that he was managing. He personified the word ‘Proneurial’.

Next to work, his biggest passion is tennis. We often shared the court



(L to R): MN Radhakrishnan, Geetha Radhakrishnan, N Sankar, Vijay Sankar and N Kumar.



“I am fiercely proud of Sanmar. It is not an emotional statement. It is out of conviction.”

MN Radhakrishnan

together both here at the MCC and often when we travelled – we played with persons from our collaborators. The only trouble was, he carried his zeal for marketing Sanmar Engineering products to the tennis court, and even his personal life. To prove the importance of MRO, he went through two cardiac valve replacements himself and took them in his stride, as he would replace Xomox valves at one of our customers.

Finally there is one observation that I would like to make. In the early days,

Emerson was a company we were in awe of, and we only dealt with their divisions or subsidiaries. Of course later on we developed excellent relations at corporate level and Chuck Knight and subsequently Dave Farr became good personal friends. But the point is, when we started out in the early '80s, the relationship with Emerson was very fragile and distant, but a very valued one. How things have changed now! A lot of this change was due to Radha.”

S Sankaran

S Sankaran, retired as the Financial Controller of the Group after 33 years of service (1988 – 2021).

In N Sankar’s words, “Sankaran has the perfect personality - quiet, unobtrusive but totally capable and committed. He is the perfect corporate citizen and with him at the helm we have never had any issue with our accounts. He would ensure his Department worked so well and smoothly that you wondered if there was really anything involved in that. It’s only when he wasn’t available

Radha personifies qualities that made him the ideal professional executive – commitment, loyalty, dedication and the pursuit of excellence. As almost everyone who has worked in Sanmar Engineering over the year will confirm, he was a very demanding task master and expected everyone to live up to his own high standards.

N Sankar



“Sanmar has been a reference point for many things, not only in Chennai but among the industry .”

S Sankaran



S Sankaran receiving his long service award from N Sankar.

that we realised how much he was the glue that held the different parts together.

The other thing you have to remember is, right through his tenure with Sanmar, he had to work for a non-finance boss, an engineer who wasn't really familiar with accounting concepts, and who kept changing policies to be in line with common sense - our costing, write-off policies, provisioning policies etc etc. Common sense was something that he and I agreed had to be present in all our policies, and I think that has stood us in good stead all these years. There are so many policies and processes that we have introduced in Sanmar which form the backbone of our management, and all this was possible because of Sankaran's willingness to stop being a pure accountant and go into the purpose and logic of different processes."

R Rangarajan

R Rangarajan retired from the Group as Managing Director - Finance (Treasury) after nearly 15 years of service (2006 – 2020).

According to N Sankar, "In the stellar group of three individuals we are honouring this evening, Rangarajan has had the least number of years' association with Sanmar – 15 years. What makes him stand out is that, even when he went through periods of indifferent health, he was always there to look after his official duties. In fact, I remember many, many calls he would make from the hospital. He would make calls from there to the office, bankers and others and make sure things were done. He engendered tremendous respect in the financial community.

It was only with his committed and tireless endeavours that we have been able to complete the funding and financial restructuring of the chemical companies. I can assure you it was a very major and difficult exercise."



"As far as the Group is concerned, we have seen a lot of challenging times with the external and business side. As a person dealing with the external world, I think the reputation and relationship of the Group has been kept intact. I am proud to say I worked in Sanmar."

R Rangarajan



R Rangarajan receiving his award from N Sankar.

Employees of the Year

PS Jayaraman (extreme right) and S Gajendiran (extreme left) with N Sankar, N Kumar and Vijay Sankar.



Long Service Awardees



*Long service awardees:
(L to R): S Subramanian,
B Venkata Subramanian, T Sankar,
Ramkumar Shankar, PU Aravind,
B Visweswaran with N Sankar,
N Kumar and Vijay Sankar*

*Long service awardees:
(L to R): Second Row:
P Veerasekaran, R Suresh,
K Satyanarayana Rao,
J Venkatasubramanian,
Saurabh Tripathi, N Mahesh,
AR Vasudevan, B Ganesh Rao
First row: V Sankar,
RV Mohan, Nilesh C Doshi,
KV Neelakantan, Syamal Chakrabarty,
GR Chandrasekaran, G Anand,
R Ganesh (inset).*



In keeping with India's 75th year of Independence, the theme of this year's Group Annual Day was 'Celebrating India.' Posters of Indian festivals gave a colourful decor to the ballroom of Hotel Taj Coromandel, where the two-day event took place. The dinner menu complemented the theme with a delectable spread drawn from the various States of India.

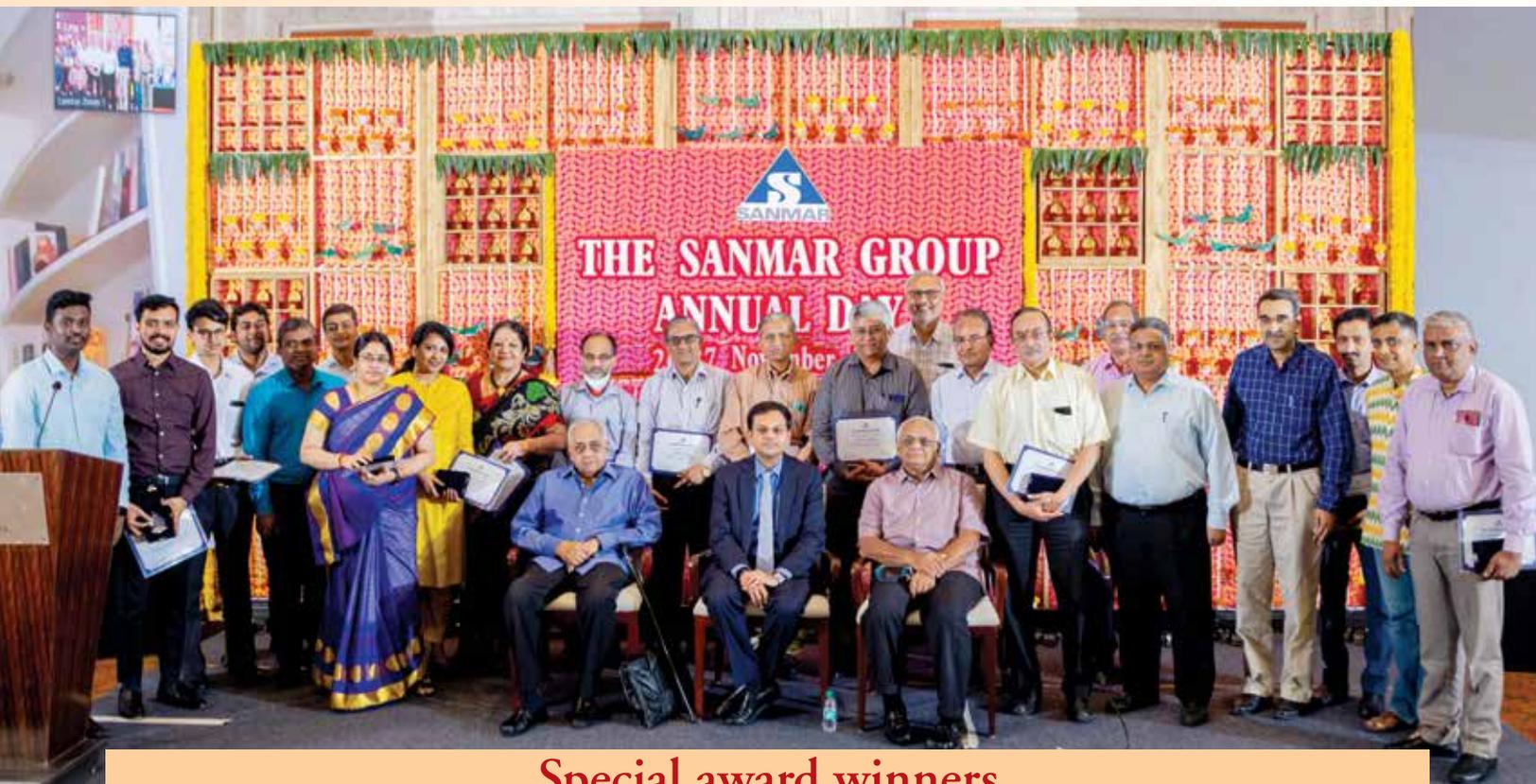


The Sanmar Group Annual Safety Award winners

(For the years 2019 and 2020)

As a group relentlessly committed to occupational health and safety, awards are given annually to various plants across Sanmar businesses based on comprehensive field audit by experts.

Best performance award is based on the individual plant's occupational health and safety performance. Motivational Awards are for those plants with Zero Lost Time Injury. Safety Management Practices Award is given to any one plant across the Group that has excelled in managing occupational health and safety.



Special award winners

They did it all. Successful Chemplast Sanmar IPO and TCI Sanmar debt restructuring.

Crane and Sanmar – an enduring partnership

Crane Senior Management visit Viralimalai

Crane and Sanmar enjoy a multifaceted relationship spanning over nearly two decades. Xomox Sanmar, which manufactures plug valves and other custom made valves for special applications is a successful joint venture between the two groups commanding a domestic market share in excess of 80%. In addition, it exports its products across the globe. Crane is also one of the largest customers of Sanmar's steel casting business and in addition, procures fully assembled valves for power sector applications from Sanmar.

A senior management team from Crane ChemPharma and Energy, USA, visited Xomox Sanmar at Viralimalai on 6th December 2021. The Crane team consisted of Gustavo Cruz, President, Amit Kakkar, Senior Vice President – Operations and Supply Chain and Gerardo Velazquez, Head of HR. From the Sanmar side, Narayan Sethuramon, Managing Director of Sanmar Engineering Technologies, TV Nagaraju, Executive Director, Sanmar Matrix Metals, H Shyam Kumar, President, Xomox Sanmar hosted the team.

Wide ranging discussions were held with a focus on further strengthening the business relationship between the two partners. The Crane team also had a shopfloor tour of the JV including the capital expansion works under implementation and also visited Sanmar Matrix Metals Limited.

The team from Crane visited Sanmar Group's inhouse training institute - "S R Seshadri Training Institute (SRSTI)". A detailed insight on the various types of training provided to fresh Graduate Engineering Trainees as well as continued training to all employees was presented.



Visitors at the Xomox Sanmar shopfloor at Viralimalai.



(L to R): Gerardo Velazquez, Amit Kakkar, Gustavo Cruz, Narayan Sethuramon, TV Nagaraju and K Praveen.

Vijay Sankar meets the Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Egypt

Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman of The Sanmar Group, accompanied by PS Jayaraman, Chairman of TCI Sanmar Chemicals S.A.E, Egypt had a very successful meeting with H.E. Mr. Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of Arab Republic of Egypt in his office on Sunday, 21st November 2021. H.E. Eng. Tarek El Molla, Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Egypt also participated in this meeting.

During the meeting, Vijay Sankar explained the investments made by TCI Sanmar and its contribution to the Egyptian economy in the form of employment generation, import substitution and export revenues brought in by the company.

The plans for new investments aggregating to USD 400 million for setting up of Combined Heat and Power Plant and Marine Terminal

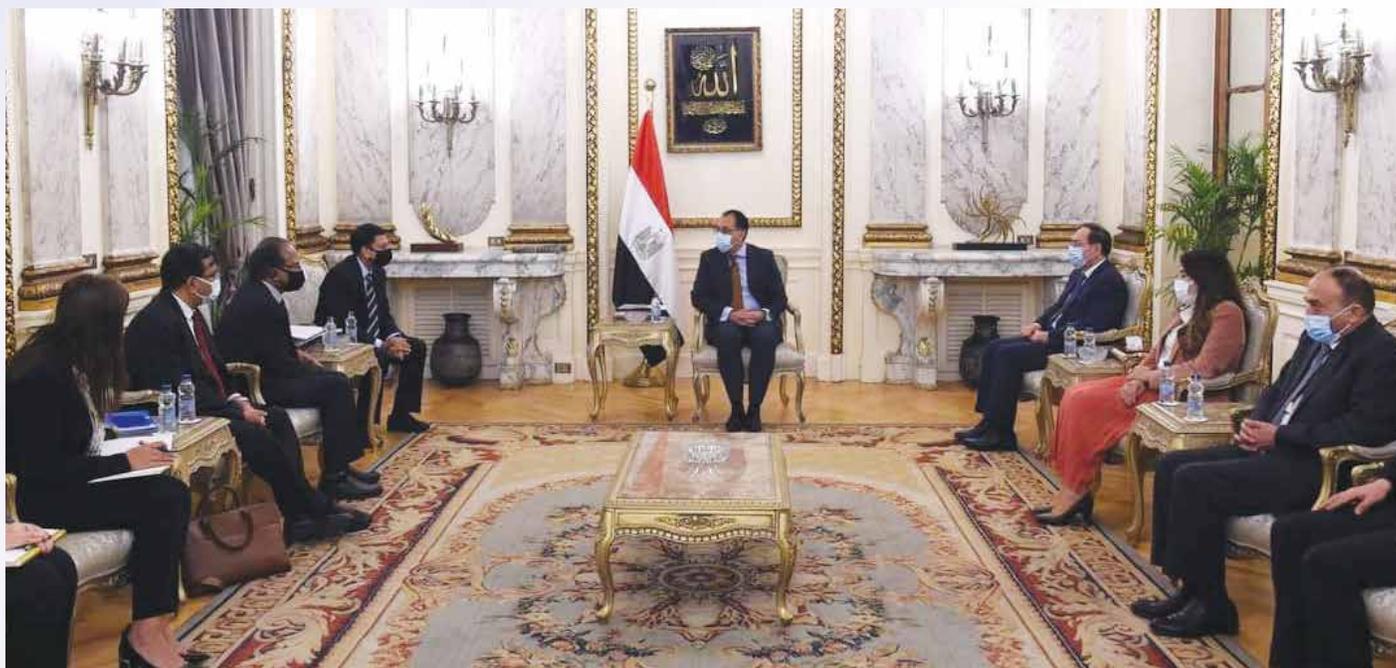
to import Ethylene and VCM to be undertaken by the company was also presented in the meeting.

The Prime Minister expressed the Government's appreciation for TCI Sanmar's commitment and continuous investments made in Egypt. He also assured Government support for TCI Sanmar's future endeavours.

The Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources mentioned about TCI Sanmar's successful efforts in creating huge capacities of PVC and Caustic Soda with good technology focus in Port Said. He also remarked that the Marine Terminal project is a welcome move as it could benefit other entities also to utilise the same to import products.

Before meeting with the Prime Minister, the Sanmar team had a successful meeting with H.E. Dr Mohamed Maait, Minister

Vijay Sankar meeting with the Prime Minister of Egypt.





(L to R): Ahmed Kouchouk, Vice Minister of Finance, Egypt, PS Jayaraman, TCI Sanmar, Dr Mohamed Maait, Finance Minister, Egypt, Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, The Sanmar Group and V Sunder, TCI Sanmar.

for Finance, Egypt on the same day and impressed upon him the need to resolve issues like refund of Value Added Tax (VAT) facilitating import of Ethanol, etc. The Minister assured his support and the VAT refund has since been resolved.

PS Jayaraman meets the Minister for Trade and Industry, Egypt



(L to R): Ibrahim ElSeginy, Assistant Minister for Economic Affairs and Head of the Commercial Processing Sector, Egypt, PS Jayaraman, Chairman, TCI Sanmar Chemicals, H.E. Mrs Nevin Gamea, Minister for Trade and Industry, Egypt, V Sunder and Deepak Dave, TCI Sanmar.

On 18th November 2021, PS Jayaraman accompanied by V Sunder and Deepak Dave met H.E. Mrs Nevin Gamea, Minister for Trade and Industry and discussed TCI Sanmar's activities in Port Said and the need to create a level playing field for the domestic players to compete with import of PVC. The Minister assured her support in the matter.

6 Axis Robotic Laser Cutting Machine at BS&B (India) Simpler, Sharper and Smarter

BS&B's Advantage:

- Flexibility of 6 axis with better processing accuracy
- Quick and efficient repositioning
- Feasibility to increase the number of possible part configurations with respect to the cutting head
- Flexibility to reach the most difficult areas of the workpiece by enveloping any shape similar to an ellipsoid instead of a cuboid
- Superior freedom of movement of the laser head.

BS&B Safety Systems (India) Ltd has invested in a 6 Axis Robotic Laser Cutting Machine at Karapakkam recently.

From milk products, agricultural dusts, metal dusts to coal dusts in food, chemical, bio-agri, and power and cement plants, large sized circular or square/ rectangle explosion vents are used in sizes that range from 8 inches up to 48 inches in diameter/ 200mm x 200mm up to 920mm x 1920mm.

While commonly, metallic sheets are cut by mechanical shearing or by nibbling, which demand high skill level of operators, industries have started using laser cutter of 2D (3 axis) and then 3D (5 axis). The vent requirement is for cutting, trimming, piercing of complex geometries, particularly along the diameter of the formed (bulged) sheets apart from flat portions.

With this investment, BS&B's offtake of explosion vents is expected to significantly increase 3-fold in the coming years to meet the demands of the expanding powder and dust market.



Vijay Sankar inaugurating the 6 Axis Robotic Laser Cutting Machine at BS&B Safety Systems (India), Karapakkam.



(L to R) Vijay Sankar, K Balasubramanian, Amarnath Ananthanarayanan, CV Subba Rao, B Visweswaran and B Jayashankar.



WWF-India delegation meets Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

A delegation of WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund)-India, met Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu MK Stalin on 11th November 2021.

Members of the delegation that met CM were WWF-India's Secretary General and CEO Ravi Singh, WWF-India's Ambassador for Environment Education and Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, its Philanthropy Ambassador, Madhura Visweswaran, its Directors, Radhika Suri, and Ritika Bhalla Whig, and its Vice President, N Kumar.

They presented the work being done by WWF in the state. The organisation is refocusing on existing projects



Members of WWF-India delegation with Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu MK Stalin.

including those involving elephants. They also briefed on the numbers of the Nilgiri Tahr, the State animal of Tamil Nadu as stable and rising.



(L to R): Radhika Suri, Ravi Singh, Madhura Visweswaran, Ritika Bhalla, N Kumar, Chief Minister MK Stalin and Viswanathan Anand.

Jolly Rovers clinch the VAP trophy for the 8th time, in addition to earlier winning the Rajah of Palayampatti Shield for the 21st time



The year 2021 has been a double bonanza for Jolly Rovers - they not only clinched the Rajah of Palayampatti Shield for the 21st time by defeating Vijay CC in the finals by virtue of first inning lead, but have now won the VA Parthasarathy trophy for the eighth time by defeating Vijay CC by 45 runs.

In the finals for the VAP trophy on 30th September 2021 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, in a rain-curtailed match of 33 overs a side, Jolly Rovers put up a commanding performance and scored 254 for 4. B Sai Sudharsan (73), M Kaushik Gandhi (55) and Ankeet Bawane (67 not out) hit half centuries and Baba Aparajith scalped four wickets to seal an easy victory for Jolly Rovers.

While Baba Aparajith was adjudged as 'Player-of-the-Final', Sai Sudharsan was declared player of the tournament with 494 runs in 7 matches, with four half centuries and a century.

DT Chandrasekar of Jolly Rovers receiving the Rajah of Palayampatti Shield from Meyyanathan Siva V, Minister of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu, and Rupa Gurunath, President, TNCA. RS Ramasaamy, Secretary, TNCA, looks on.

Jolly Rovers, winners of the VAP Trophy with chief guest, Rupa Gurunath, President, TNCA at the MA Chidambaram stadium on 30th September 2021.



ICC's 3rd Sustainability Conclave on

Clean India – Green India: Strategies, Innovations and Technologies for Chemical Industry

The third edition of Indian Chemical Council's flagship event and marquee initiative, "ICC Sustainability Conclave" was held on 2-3 December 2021. The theme of the conclave for this year was "Clean India – Green India: Strategies, Innovations & Technologies for Chemical Industry". Vijay Sankar, Immediate Past President, Indian Chemical Council (ICC) was the guest of Honour at the opening session on 3rd December 2021.

In his address Vijay Sankar said, "The Indian chemical industry is at the cusp of many great things and we have surely witnessed some transformation in the last few years. We have been speaking about it for decades but in the last few years we have seen a lot of positivity."

"In my view sustainability is probably the big elephant in the room. Whether it is an enabling ecosystem, China plus one, huge domestic market, stable and supportive government, there are a lot many factors that will fuel growth. The challenge not only before the companies but in front of the ICC as well is how we can grow in a sustainable manner without compromising," said Vijay Sankar.

"If you look at the context in India, we still remember the Bhopal gas tragedy that happened years ago. It left a deep and sad mark on many human beings. It also brought out the response of the chemical industry including ICC

spearheading of the Responsible Care programs. This voluntary initiative did help in implementing the measures for environmental protection, and community services," he opined.

In his speech, Vijay Sankar expressed gratitude to Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, who has provided exceptional leadership to promote sustainability through various initiatives like promotion of decarbonisation, promotion of renewable energy through global initiatives of International Solar Alliance, promotion of technology innovation to develop low carbon approaches, etc.



Bhagwanth Khuba, Hon'ble Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers, and New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India, delivering his address.



"Sustainability must be seen as an opportunity than a challenge: There is an ongoing paradigm shift in terms of sustainability happening within the chemical industry," Vijay Sankar.

Meeting with His Excellency, Federico Salas, Ambassador of Mexico



Narayan Sethuramon, Managing Director of Sanmar Engineering Technologies Private Limited, called on H.E. Federico Salas, Ambassador of Mexico, on 8th December 2021 at New Delhi.

Sanmar Engineering, through its steel castings subsidiary Matrix Metals which it acquired in 2008, has a steel casting foundry located at San Juan del Rio, Mexico. The unit Acerlan Matrix Metals, currently employs around 400 people and is one of the market leaders in the steel casting business in Mexico. It exports over 80% of its sales to the United States.

Narayan briefed the ambassador on The Sanmar Group operations and plans for its Mexican venture. The two of them also had wide-ranging discussions on the Mexican economy, new opportunities emerging for Mexico based businesses due to the regionalisation of supply chains and the various reforms being pursued in Mexico.

Narayan invited the Ambassador to visit The Sanmar Group facilities in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry during his next visit to South India.

Port Said International Economic Forum



On the occasion of Port Said International Economic Forum held in October 2021 at the invitation of H.E. Mr Adel Mohamed Ibrahim Yousef Al Ghadhban, Governor of Port Said, TCI Sanmar participated by setting up a stall in an exhibition associated with the event. H.E. Mrs Nevin Gamea, Minister for Trade and Industry, Egypt accompanied by H.E. Mr Mohamed Maait, Minister for Finance, Egypt and the Governor of Port Said visited the stall, interacted with TCI Sanmar employees and appreciated the company's contribution to the industrial development of Egypt.

Display of the products manufactured by TCI Sanmar Chemicals, Port Said, Egypt on display at the stall.

First animal crematorium in Chennai – a boon to pet owners

A first-of-its-kind crematorium for animals in South India was inaugurated at the Blue Cross in Chennai on 30th October 2021. A boon indeed to pet owners, this facility is a joint initiative of the Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation and the Blue Cross India.

The initiative was conceived by N Sankar, former Chairman of CWCF, after realising that there was no place to bury the pets and pet owners were struggling to find space.

Chairman of CWCF, L Ganesh, inaugurated the long awaited facility. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner, felt that this crematorium would

ensure that animals get a dignified end.

According to Chinny Krishna, Co-founder, Blue Cross India, this crematorium also lets the pet parents conduct the final rites for their furry companions before bidding goodbye. In this gas fired crematorium the ashes will be provided in an urn within an hour of the cremation. Blue Cross has obtained clearance from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. Soon Blue Cross will be setting up a dedicated link on their website so that pet owners can book a slot.”



(L to R): Gagandeep Singh Bedi, Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner, L Ganesh, Chairman, CWCF and Chinny Krishna, Co-founder, Blue Cross India at the inauguration.

MRI Scanner at the Madhuram and KS Narayanan Department of Imaging, VHS

A donation of Rs 4.8 crores towards MRI Scanner to be installed at the 'The Madhuram and KS Narayanan Department of Imaging' was made on 10th November 2021.

Dr S Suresh, Honorary secretary and K Balaji, Trustee, Voluntary Health Services (VHS), received the cheque from N Sankar, in the presence of N Kumar and Vijay Sankar at the Sanmar Head Office at Chennai.

Sanmar has committed to the establishment of a full-fledged Department of Imaging at the VHS at Taramani, Chennai. A state-of-the-art CT Scanner at a cost of Rs 1.62 crores was installed during December 2020.

The Madhuram and KS Narayanan Department of Imaging is named after the parents of N Sankar and N Kumar.

(L to R): Vijay Sankar, N Sankar, Dr S Suresh, K Balaji and N Kumar.



Sankara Nethralaya-Sanmar Centre of Excellence for Stevens Johnson Syndrome

Vijay Sankar inaugurated the SN-Sanmar Centre of Excellence for Stevens Johnson Syndrome (SJS) at the Sankara Nethralaya on 11th October 2021.

SN-Sanmar Centre of Excellence will enhance clinical research, clinical expertise and patient care in the treatment of SJS, a devastating life threatening reaction in the acute stage, a rare disease that leads to corneal blindness in the later stages of the disease.

This centre will be one of a kind in the world, for brainstorming and planning the route map for adopting strategies, for drafting research and treatment guidelines for SJS.

Inaugurating the centre, Vijay Sankar pointed out that this was a unique initiative that would have global reach. Sanmar has been donating regularly to Sankara Nethralaya for over two decades and this joint venture aims to propel clinical research towards understanding the disease, he said.



Vijay Sankar at the inauguration of the SN-Sanmar Centre of Excellence for Stevens Johnson Syndrome (SJS) with the Sankara Nethralaya team of doctors.



(L to R): SB Prabhakar Rao, Dr T S Surendran, Vice chairman, Dr Girish Shiva Rao, President, Dr Muralidhar Rajagopal, Dermatologist, Dr Pramod Bhende, Director - Vitreo Retinal Department, Dr Rama Rajagopal, Director - Cornea Department, Dr Geetha Krishnan Iyer, Consultant, Vijay Sankar and Dr Bhaskar Srinivasan, Consultant.

Community initiatives across Sanmar locations

Mettur

Books and computer to Mottur library

Books in Tamil and English and a desktop computer were donated to the library at Mottur on 27th October 2021 by Chemplast Sanmar. The library which was unused for want of books has since been revived and is open to the public.



Rice to Sudaroli Social Service Trust and the Raghavendra Orphanage

The Sudaroli Social Service Trust which houses 100 inmates was given 2500 kg



Pulse Oximeters and IR Thermometer to Komburankadu Primary Health Centre

Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur, donated pulse Oximeters and IR Thermometers to the Komburankadu Primary Health Centre on 12th October 2021.



Cuddalore

Barricades for Armed Police and Recreation club at Cuddalore

Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Limited contributed towards erection of barricades for Armed Police and Recreation Club at



of rice and the Raghavendra Orphanage which has 15 boys and girls was given 1100 kg of rice by Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur. These donations were made during November 2021.



Medical Equipment to the Santhaitanaipatti Primary Health Centre

Chemplast Sanmar donated medical and allied equipment worth Rs 2 lakhs, which included an Oxygen Concentrator, an ECG Machine, a Fetal Doppler, BP Apparatus, Stretchers, Computer, and Printer on 22nd September 2021 to the Santhai Thanaipatti Primary Health Centre.



Berigai

Cuddalore. On behalf of CCVL, N Palanisamy handed over a cheque for Rs.3.5 lakhs to S Sakthi Ganesan IPS, District Superintendent of Police, Cuddalore district.



Borewell facilitated at Kurubarapalli village, Berigai

Custom Manufactured Chemicals Divn., Chemplast Sanmar, has donated towards construction of a borewell at Kurubarapalli Panchayat, Kurubarapalli village, Berigai at a cost of Rs. 3 lakhs. About 1000 villagers will benefit from this initiative.



Iconic Institutions of Chennai

Kapaleeswarar Temple

As one of the important *Sivasthalams* or *Padal Petra sthalams*, the Kapaleeswarar temple at Mylapore is a prominent landmark in Chennai. Built in the 7th century CE by the Pallavas, the original Kapaleeswarar temple was destroyed by the Portuguese. The present masonry was built by the Vijayanagara rulers of the Tuluva Dynasty during 1491 – 1570 CE.

Nayanmars glorified the temple in the 7th century. There is a reference to the temple in Sangam literature of the 1st to 5th centuries and the earliest post-Sangam mention is found in the 6th century Tamil literature. The temple and the deity were immortalised in Tamil poetry in the works of *Tevaram* by poet-saint belonging to the 7th century – Thirugnana Sambandar who has composed the 6th *Poompavai pathigam* in praise of the temple. Arunagirinathar, a 15th-century poet, sings the praise of the temple in *Tirumayilai Tirupugazh*. The 12th-century poet Gunaveera Pandithar sings about *Neminathan* under *Theerthangar neminathar pugazh*. *Tirumayilai Prabandangal* is a compilation of four works on the temple and the deity.

Kapaleeswarar temple was awarded ISO 9001:2008 more than a decade ago. The temple and its precincts are well maintained and spotlessly clean.

Shiva is worshiped as Kapaleeswarar, and is represented by the *lingam*. His consort Parvati is depicted as Karpagambal. Other than the main deities - Kapaleeswarar and Karpagambal - there are various other shrines of Natana Vinayakar, Palani Andavar, Vaayilar Nayanar, Singara Velar, Dakshinamurthy, Somaskandar and Durgai. There is another small shrine outside, in the courtyard



of the temple and under the old Punnai tree depicting Goddess Uma in the form of a peahen worshipping Lord Shiva, which tell us how the place got the name Mylapore and the same story is the root of this magnificent pilgrim centre. It is said that Sukracharya worshipped the Lord here and got back his lost eye.

As the legend has it, Goddess Karpagambal (Uma) wished to know the meaning of the five lettered divine mantra “Na Ma Shi Va Ya”. She pleaded to Lord Shiva to teach her the true meaning of the mantra along with the significance of sacred ash. He agreed and once while he was teaching the same to Uma Devi, her eyes fell upon a beautiful peacock dancing and she lost her concentration. Lord Shiva displeased by her, cursed her to become a peahen. In order to free herself from the curse, she was asked to go to Earth and do penance on him. Therefore, Goddess Karpagambal

worshipped the Shivalinga under the Punnai tree here where the temple stands. Pleased by her devotion, Lord Shiva freed the Goddess from the curse and she regained her original form. This is how the place came to be known as Mylapore (Mayil – Peahen) where Goddess Karpagambal in her peahen form worshipped the Shivalinga and freed herself from the curse.

As per another legend, Lord Brahma once failed to show respect to Lord Shiva, an act that made Lord Shiva so angry that he plucked off one of Lord Brahma’s heads (*kapalams*). Later, in order to please Lord Shiva and do penance, Lord Brahma came down to Mylapore and established a lingam here. The name of this temple is derived from two words—‘*kapalam*’ meaning head and ‘*Iswarar*’ referring to Lord Shiva.

The Kapaleeswarar temple is an excellent example of the Dravidian architecture. The *gopuram* which stands tall and overpowers the street is a testimonial of the artisans. The temple has two entrances, with two *gopurams*. The east *gopuram* is about 40 metres high and the western one is smaller and faces the temple tank. These colourful *gopurams* enhance the beauty of the whole temple.

Normally in all Hindu temples, the sanctum faces the east but, in this temple, it has been positioned towards the west. At the entrance of the temple, there is a sculpture that depicts the story of Thirugnana Sambandar. The daughter of Sivanesa Chettiar, Angam Poompavai, who lost her life due to snake bite, was later resurrected here by the powers of Thirugnana Sambandar. Besides the main deities, there are bronze carvings of the 63 *Nayanmars*—all of these are carried in the *Arubathimoovar* festival procession held in the months of March and April.

The *theppakulam* or the temple tank lies to the west of the temple. Also known as the Kapaleeswarar Tank or the Mylapore Tank, it is one of the oldest and well-maintained *theppakulams* in Chennai, measuring about 190 m in length and 143 m in breadth. The tank has a storage capacity of 119,000 cubic metres and has water all through the year. The 16-pillared, granite-roofed structure, known as the *mandapam* at the centre of this tank is known for its significance during the three-day annual float festival when idols of Lord Kapaleeswarar and other deities are taken around the tank to the chanting of Vedic hymns.

At the annual festival *Brahmotsavam* which is celebrated in the *Panguni* month (mid-March to mid-April), the *vahanas* at the temple including the *Adhikara Nandi* (bull), elephant, bandicoot, peacock, goat and parrot, are brought in a procession with the statues of the god and goddess seated on them. There is also a peacock and a peahen caged inside the temple, to symbolise the tradition that Karpagambal had come in the form of peahen to plead to Kapaleeswarar. During the *Arubathimoovar* festival the sixty-three *Nayanmars* follow the Kapaleeswarar idol in a procession. This is when thousands of devotees visit Kapaleeswarar Temple to get a glimpse of their Lord and Goddess Karpagambal.



