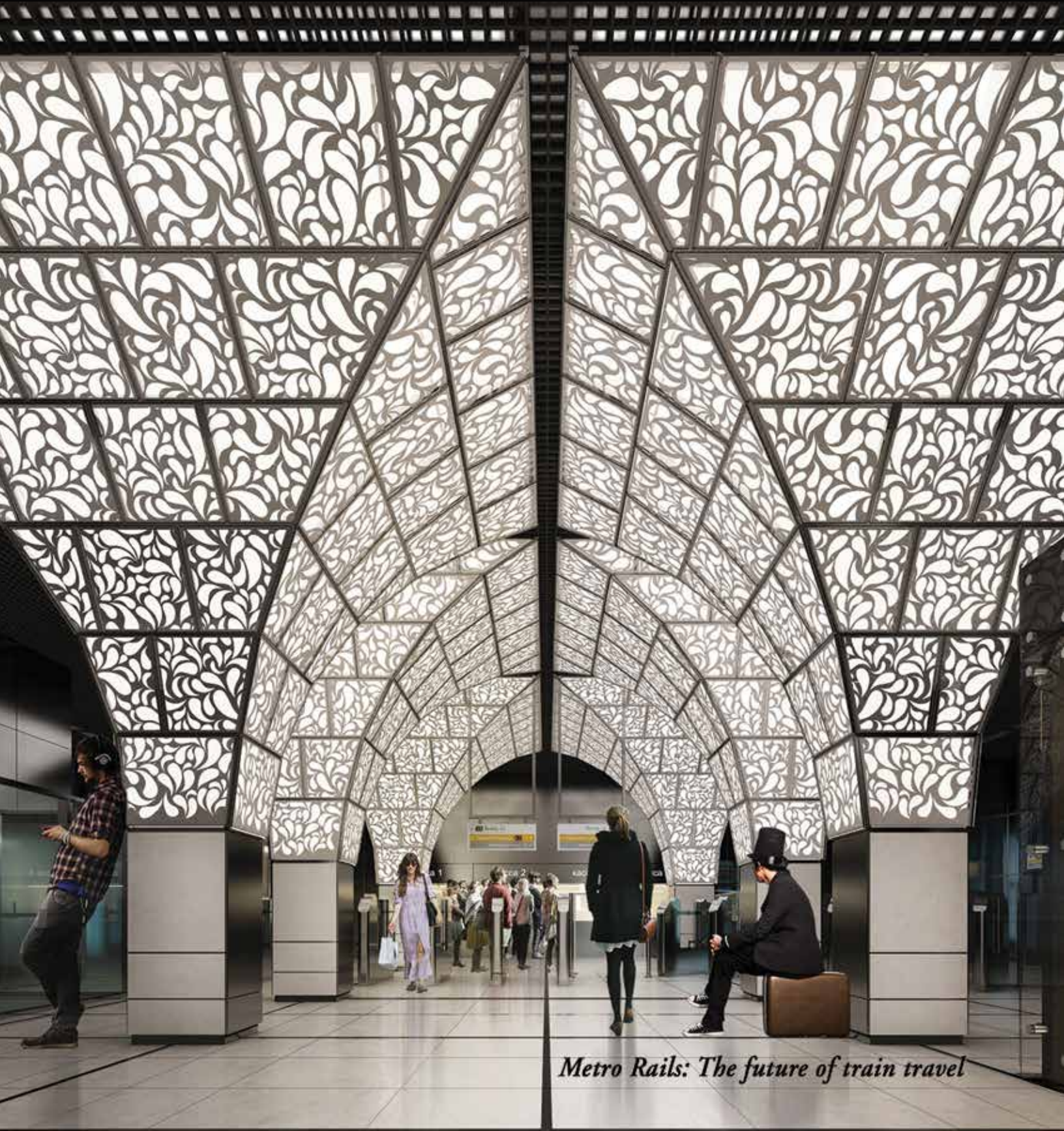


# MATRIX

January 2020

A PUBLICATION OF **THE SANMAR GROUP**



*Metro Rails: The future of train travel*

Cover Photograph:  
*Moscow's Novoperedelkino Subway Station*



## **The Sanmar Group**

9, Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086.  
Tel.: + 91 44 2812 8500  
[www.sanmargroup.com](http://www.sanmargroup.com)

### **SHL Chemicals**

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd  
Sanmar Speciality Chemicals  
(A division of Chemplast Sanmar Ltd)  
Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd  
TCI Sanmar Chemicals S.A.E.

### **Sanmar Consolidations**

Sanmar Shipping Ltd  
Cabot Sanmar Ltd  
Sanmar Engineering Technologies Pvt Ltd  
Flowserve Sanmar Ltd  
BS&B Safety Systems (India) Ltd  
Xomox Sanmar Ltd  
    Xomox Valves Divn.  
    Pacific Valves Divn.  
Anderson Greenwood Crosby Sanmar Ltd  
Sanmar Matrix Metals Ltd  
Matrix Metals LLC  
Acerlan Matrix Metals S.A. de C.V.

# In this issue...



**4** Sanmar Shipping's 25th Anniversary at Mumbai

**6** 10 years of fruitful partnership  
Sanmar Speciality Chemicals and Syngenta

**7** 'KS Narayanan Pediatric Intensive Care Unit' at the Childs Trust Hospital

**8** The Sanmar Group Annual Day (7-8 November 2019)

**14** British Safety Council's Occupational Health and Safety Audit  
Five Star grading for Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd

**15** N Sankar honoured with FICCI Lifetime Achievement Award  
Chemplast Sanmar bags 'Efficiency in Water' and 'Excellence in Safety' awards in Chemical Sector

**16** Indian Chemical Council awards for Chemplast Sanmar

"Responsible Care" Logo for CCVL

**17** ICC's Sustainability Conclave 2019 on significance and future of the Indian Chemical Industry

**18** Metro Rails: The future of train travel

**22** FICCI Summit on Global Chemicals & Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India

PCPIR Rejuvenation study launched

**23** Former OSFL employees' reunion

Sanmar – the common chord that binds them together

**24** Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children  
6th International Conference  
30th Annual Day



**25** Alumnus of Sri Sankara Vidyashramam plays British Deputy High Commissioner for a day

**26** Iconic Institutions of Chennai  
All India Radio  
The voice of a nation for over 8 decades

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

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# Sanmar Shipping's 25th Anniversary at Mumbai



Ring in Sanmar Shipping's 25th year in the industry, Vijay Sankar, the Deputy Chairman of The Sanmar Group, hosted cocktails and dinner on Friday, 22 November 2019, in the elegant setting of The Rooftop in the premises of South Mumbai's iconic Trident Hotel in Nariman Point. The guest list comprised people from the Indian Shipping industry, such as Bharat Sheth of Great Eastern Shipping, Dr Sujata Naik of Tolani Shipping, Sunil Parekh of Polestar Marine and the overseas partners of Sanmar Shipping, such as Maersk Tankers, Torm Tankers, Hafnia Management, Asahi Tankers, JX Ocean Ltd and The Torvald Klaveness Group. Senior management of Sanmar Shipping's customers from Reliance, Indian Oil Corp., Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum and Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd made time to join the gathering. Senior Bankers from NTT Finance, Kotak Mahindra and IndusInd Bank were present too and engaged in deep conversations with the industry executives. Senior executives from the Mumbai Port Trust, Classification Societies, P&I

Clubs, Ship Brokers, Ship repair yards, Shipping Agents and Maritime Union of India also graciously joined the event. The Sanmar Group Corporate Board Directors, Sanjay Bhandarkar, PN Kapadia and MK Sharma too graced the event.

In his introductory remarks, Subba Rao welcomed the guests and thanked them for making it convenient to attend despite their busy schedules.

In his key note, Vijay Sankar spoke on the significance of the event and stressed on the importance of placing people, teams, values before business. He spoke of how The Sanmar Group has managed to keep its feet firmly planted on values, while engaging stakeholders in the current day volatile and uncertain business environment.

A short film on The Sanmar Group's foray into Shipping, its current portfolio and videotaped messages of good wishes from Torm, Maersk, Hafnia, Klaveness and Lloyd's Register were also played for the audience. The film carried a clip of The Sanmar Group Chairman, N Sankar recollecting his memories.





# 10 years of fruitful partnership

## Sanmar Speciality Chemicals and Syngenta



the visit also commemorated 10 years of partnership between Sanmar Speciality Chemicals and Syngenta.

Addressing the Berigai team on the occasion, Dr Jens Hoepken commented that Syngenta was thankful for all the work done so far by the team in building the relationship. He was impressed to witness the advances in production professionalism since his previous visit a number of years ago. He felt the strong foundation that has been built should enable Sanmar to extend the cooperation to more products.

Thanking Syngenta, Dr Krishna Kumar Rangachari reiterated Sanmar Speciality Chemicals' commitment to the 5 key elements that Syngenta expects from good suppliers - Excellent HSE, Competitive Cost, Quality, Technical Capability and Responsiveness. He welcomed Syngenta to the list of long-standing partnerships that The Sanmar Group has built over the years.

Senior delegates from Syngenta procurement team visited Berigai on 2 December 2019. The team comprised Dr Jens Hoepken - Global Procurement Category Manager, Dr Olivier Desponds - Asset Strategy/Technology and Sourcing Manager, Dr Madhvanand (Madhav) Kashid - Global AI Procurement Manager, and Ljubomir Vukadin - Procurement Manager.

Apart from reviewing status of current business and various ongoing projects,



*Dr Jens Hoepken addressing the plant team.*



# 'KS Narayanan Pediatric Intensive Care Unit' at the Childs Trust Hospital

The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Childs Trust Hospital has been renovated at a cost of Rs 2.4 crore and has been named KS Narayanan Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, in memory of the Chairman Emeritus of the donors, The Sanmar Group, at a function held at the hospital premises on 24 September 2019.

Designed keeping in mind the patient comfort and safety, the renovated PICU now meets the guidelines of several international bodies and is a spacious facility with 21 beds. It took seven months for the PICU to be renovated, and it now has child-friendly images and dimmable LED lights among its other facilities including mechanical ventilation, non-invasive ventilation, dialysis and ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation).

Around 1400 patients get admitted to the PICU every year, for a variety of causes including head injuries, cancers, and serious infections and after major surgeries, according to Dr Bala Ramachandran, Head of Department of Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

*(L to R): N Sankar, AC Muthiah, Chandra Sankar, SN Subrahmanyam and N Kumar.*



*The renovated Pediatric Intensive Care facility at the Childs Trust Hospital.*



# The Sanmar Group Annual Day

## (7-8 November 2019)



This year's Group Annual Day brought in newer perspectives on topics as varied as 'Leadership and a culture of excellence through integrity', 'Ethical values and corporate governance', 'Joint Venture partnerships' and also on 'Narendra Modi.'

### “When you are sitting in Delhi, you have to be political all the time”

**Raghavan Jagannathan, Editorial Director, Swarajya**, is a journalist with over 40 years' experience in business and general journalism. In the past he has been the Editor of *Financial Express* and *Business World*. Speaking on the topic, 'Modi 2.0,' Jagannathan began robustly with the question, “How many of you all think that Modi we see today, in Delhi is the same Modi we saw in Gandhinagar in Gujarat? How many think that he is sending the same message?”

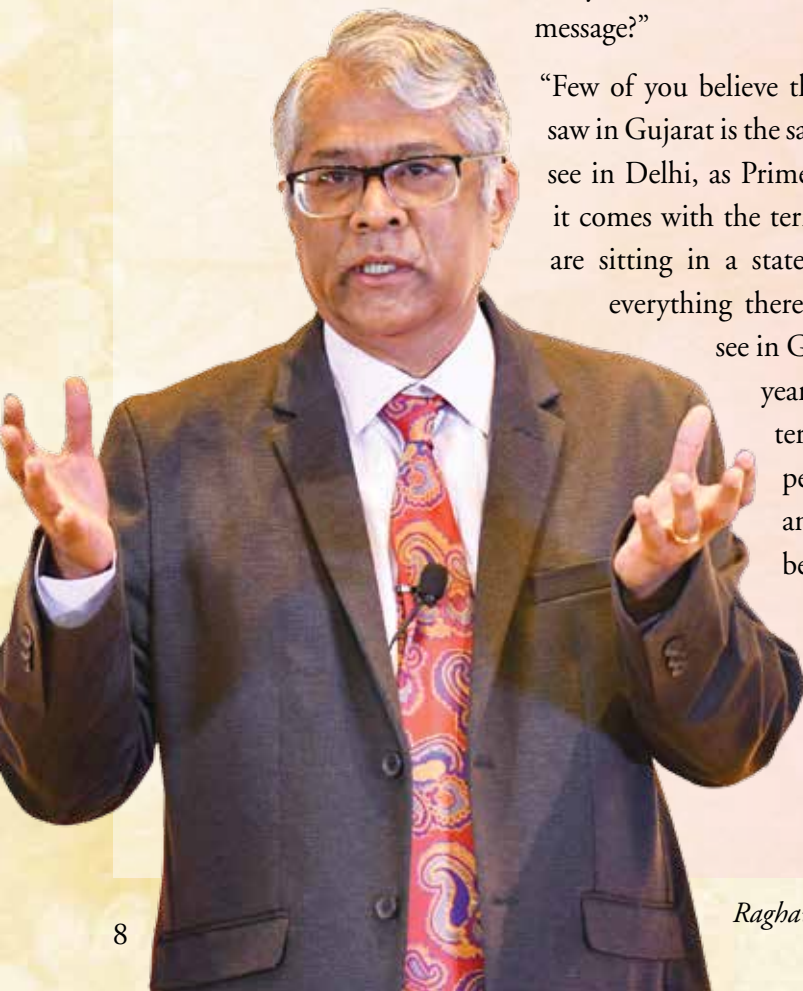
“Few of you believe that the man you saw in Gujarat is the same as whom you see in Delhi, as Prime minister. Partly it comes with the territory; when you are sitting in a state, you can focus everything there. If you actually see in Gujarat, the first 4 years in every 5 year term, he will be a perfect gentleman, and last year he becomes political.

When you are sitting in Delhi, you have to be political all the time because

there are 3 major elections every single year. So you are seeing far more of the change in Modi.”

He went on to explain, “All right winged government, tend to have 2 components, one is cultural, nationalistic, religious aspect to them, and the other thing is, move rightwards in terms of economy. This happens in all developed countries. But in India, there has been much more poverty than we have seen in the developed world. There is really no space for being an ultra market oriented pro business government.”

“After 2024 he is likely to remain the supreme leader of the party. If he wins 2024 he might choose the Presidency after that. Basically he has positioned his party and himself in a way he has actually wanted it to be. Where he dominates the space across India, now it's time to re-engage with business that's the first half of this term, and certainly he will do that. Second half, he will be back in political mode, whether you think he is going to be pro business or anti business, that's what is likely to play out.”



*Raghavan Jagannathan*



## “We have a set of values, and integrity is our number one value”

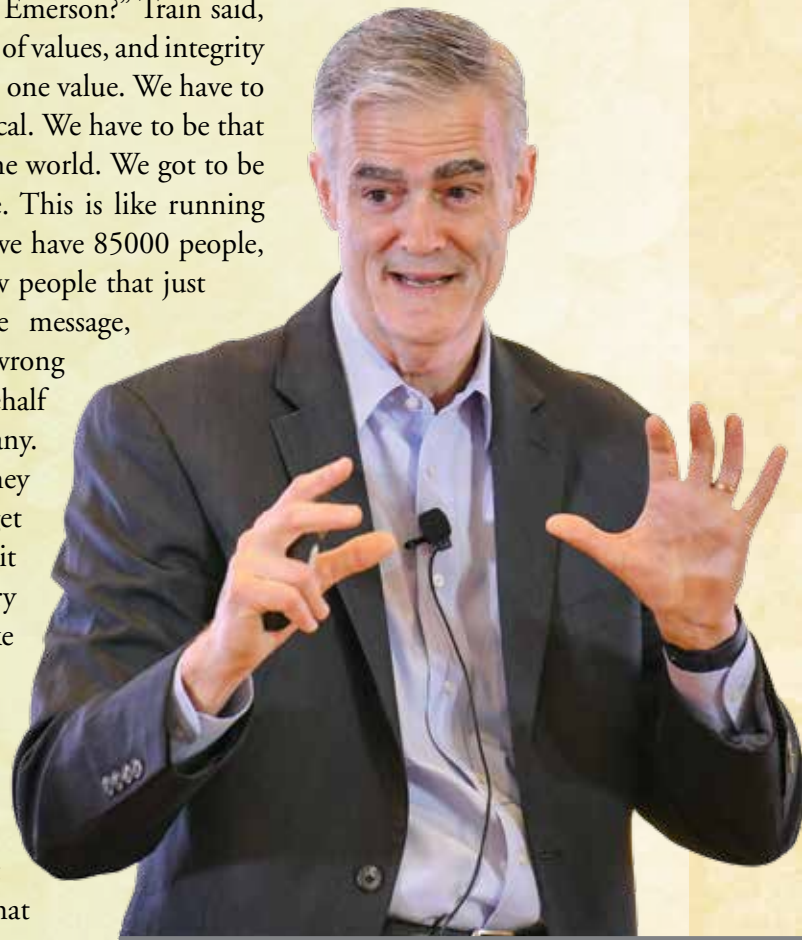
Mike Train, *President, Emerson, and Chairman, Emerson Automation Solutions, USA*, drives the company’s focus on software and digital technology development, major investments, international growth and global shared service organisations. As one of Sanmar’s long standing joint venture partners, Train shared his experience of working with The Sanmar Group for the last twenty five years, almost after Xomox Sanmar joint venture was firmed up. Train affirmed, “The Group has been a testimony to integrity here in India, and it’s a pleasure to work with you.”

Talking on leadership he said, “I can’t talk leadership without talking about Charles F Knight. When I joined in 1991 Chuck was our chairman, and already been our chairman for 18 years. He went on to be our chairman for a total of 27 years. Charles had a very simple philosophy about the management process. His 6 basic principles, keep it simple, commit to a rigorous planning process, have a strong system of follow up and control, action-oriented organisation, demand operational excellence, create an organisation in which people can and do make a difference.”

“Management’s job is to identify and successfully implement business investment opportunities that support the growth, and profitability targets of the company.’ To do this you have to support the community, the environment, and the people. A leader’s job is making other people better.”

Replying to one of Vijay Sankar’s questions, “How do you pick unethical behaviours early, who makes these

tough calls, is it too late by the time you make these calls, how does it really work at Emerson?” Train said, “We have a set of values, and integrity is our number one value. We have to be highly ethical. We have to be that way around the world. We got to be Emerson style. This is like running small cities - we have 85000 people, there are a few people that just won’t get the message, and do the wrong thing on behalf of the company. And when they do that, I get mad about it and it’s very easy to make the decision, to take somebody out of the company. We broadcast frequently what our expectations are and hold everybody in the company to a high standard. There are 10 or 20 incidents a year, most of it small, but you know people cheating on expenses reports, people colluding to misrepresent results in some locations etc. We make examples out of people, and make sure that people understand, and have equal passion for the ethics part of what we do.”



*Mike Train*

*B Natraj, MN Radhakrishnan, and N Sankar sharing a lighter moment with Mike Train.*



## “The ethical standards and corporate governance of The Sanmar Group has been phenomenal”



Omar Bassiouny

The next speaker, **Omar S Bassiouny**, *Partner and Head of Corporate and M&A, Matouk Bassiouny and Hennawy*, is consistently ranked in top tiers and bands by legal periodicals in the areas of corporate law and mergers and acquisitions. Complimenting The Sanmar Group on its strong and ethical standards and corporate governance, Bassiouny said, “In my experience, and I am saying it in a very candid way, the ethical standards and corporate governance of The Sanmar Group has been phenomenal, really world class. Secondly, I am nothing short of impressed by the unique resilience and willingness to achieve their goals, at how the management has overcome the obstacles and impediments - whether they are dealing with revolutions, with the free floatation, with an increase of electricity price of 200% or 300% - it just illustrates an unbelievable willingness and resilience about the Group. Lots of investors would have packed and left.”

“Ability to navigate and adapt to turbulent times, ability to see the problem and to confront it and to see the solution that is adequate and commercially viable to deal with, has been something very characteristic to The Sanmar Group. And again, the amount of CSR done by the Group in Port Said has been remarkable.

I don't think any other company in Port Said has done more than what TCI Sanmar has done.”

“Having witnessed the journey with The Sanmar Group for the last 13 years, no one has had the difficulties that you have faced, no one has had the resilience to overcome these difficulties, and to have created what you have created which is one of the largest, petro chemical project in Port Said, in Egypt.”



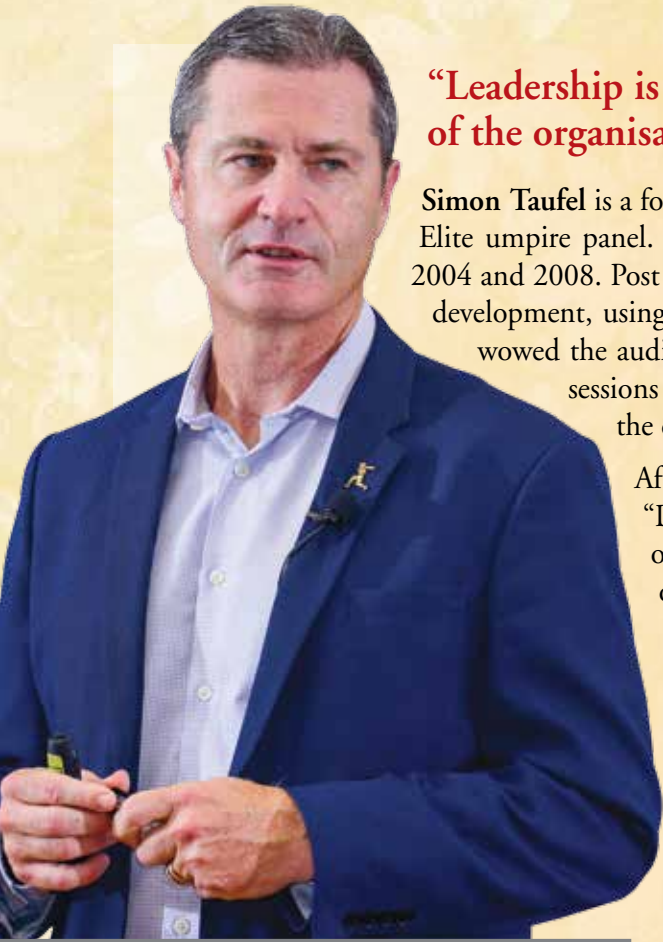
Vijay Sankar

## “What we insist is a logic and its uniform application”

Vijay Sankar dwelt at length on “Management and Business – The Sanmar Way”, driving home Sanmar’s deep commitment to do things in a “More Right Way” and the need to be “Ethical” and also “Seen as Ethical”.

Explaining the Sanmar Management Philosophy, Vijay Sankar stressed, “Our philosophy is ‘Management by common sense’ - this is based on implementation of a few good ideas, through hundreds of managers, tested over time, in diverse businesses, under varying economic conditions – this is our day to day routine.”

On Sanmar’s unique management style, he explained, “A deep commitment to do things in a “More Right Way” is paramount - our first priority is reputation and then comes growth and everything else. There is often an opinion that some of our processes are rigid and bureaucratic – this is not true. Our policy development is flexible but implementation is rigid. What we insist is a logic and its uniform application.”



**“Leadership is about serving others and the purpose of the organisation or team”**



**Simon Taufel** is a former Australian cricket umpire who was earlier a member of the ICC Elite umpire panel. He won five consecutive ICC Umpire of the Year awards between 2004 and 2008. Post retirement, Taufel has expanded his ambit to leadership training and development, using his experiences on the field to help businesses and institutions. He wowed the audience at The Sanmar Group Annual Day with his hands-on training sessions on “Leadership and Integrity” and the second one on “Excellence and the culture of integrity.”

After bouncing off the fundamental question on the audience, “Do you trust your manager/ leader? Why /why not? Simon Taufel went on to explain, “Leadership is about serving others and the purpose of the organisation or team. The role of every leader is to develop new leaders, and this requires dedicated training and mentoring programmes. Managers, captains, leaders and umpires set the tone and environment for how the culture is shaped. They have a direct influence and communicate what behaviours are expected and accepted.”

Taufel’s stellar career in umpiring, coaching, training and administration probably taught him to get to number one and stay there. As he puts it, “Most of us are good at something, but the challenge is to be great.”

*Simon Taufel*

This year, the theme was “Back to Basics” and the décor, game stalls and cuisine at the Annual Dinner on 7 November 2019 was well coordinated, reiterating the fact that to stay on top, you need to remember to touch the bottom and get back to basics.



# Distinguished Long Service Awardees

This year's Annual Day marked several milestone moments with N Kumar, Vice Chairman, completing 45 years, Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, 20 years, MN Radhakrishnan, Chairman, Sanmar Engineering, 40 years and M Raman, Executive Director, Secretarial and Legal, 30 years of service with the Group. N Sankar presented the awards, commending their exemplary service.



N Kumar

*“Kumar’s has been a really interesting and colourful career. He started with a Precision Machine Shop, and then got into his first love of electronics and was probably the first to introduce to India through manufacturing many of the electronic innovations that we now take for granted through Indchem Electronics. In every case, he was probably ahead of the market.”*

*“It’s not easy to perform in the shadow of an original Group promoter – worse if he happens to be your father. But I must say Vijay has been more than up to the task. He pretty much runs the Group today very capably.”*



Vijay Sankar

*“Radhakrishnan is probably the ultimate example of a true professional. He is entrepreneurial in his thinking, totally dedicated and loyal, and committed to everything he takes up, he lives, breathes, eats the business 24 hours a day like any entrepreneur will do.”*



MN Radhakrishnan

*“Raman is another true professional. He has been with us for 30 years now. He is in many ways the conscience keeper of the Group.”*



M Raman



*Sitting (L to R): N Kumar, N Sankar, Vijay Sankar*  
*Standing (L to R): S Suresh Babu (30 years), R Dheenadhayalan (30 years), T Subramaniam (30 years), V Balaji (30 years), S Kannan (30 years), K Nadimuthu (35 years), Rakesh H Gajjar (30 years), V Rajagopalan (30 years), A Rajendran (30 years).*

## Employees of the Year

*“It is not an exaggeration for me to say that she is the engine behind all the excellent initiatives in the Group dealing with people - the HR processes that she keeps updating and functioning smoothly, the ethics initiative that she has taken to with so much passion, the training programmes, to name just a few.”*

- N Sankar



Sarada Jagan



*Standing (L to R): N Krishnamoorthy, Saurabh Tripathi, Karthik Rajasekar*  
*Sitting (L to R): Sarada Jagan, N Kumar, N Sankar, Vijay Sankar*  
*Inset: T Sankar.*

# British Safety Council's Occupational Health and Safety Audit

## Five Star grading for Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd

Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Limited (CCVL) has successfully completed a best practice 'Five Star Occupational Health and Safety Audit' conducted by the British Safety Council in September 2019. This demonstrates CCVL's commitment to the continual improvement on health and safety management systems. The British Safety Council believes that no one should be injured or made ill at work.

The recognition was given to CCVL after a comprehensive, quantified and robust evaluation of its occupational health and safety policies, processes and practices. The audit process included documentation review, interviews with senior management, employees and other key stakeholders, together with sampling of operational activities.

The audit measured performance against key health and safety management best practice indicators and a detailed review of over sixty component elements. CCVL was awarded a five star rating following the audit which is reflective of a best practice organisation.



# N Sankar honoured with FICCI Lifetime Achievement Award

N Sankar was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his distinguished contribution to Petrochemical Industry at the FICCI Chemicals and Petrochemicals awards on 11 November 2019. Vijay Sankar received the award on behalf of N Sankar.

The FICCI Chemicals and Petrochemicals awards ceremony recognises leaders who ensured sustainable growth of the Chemical industry of India and set benchmarks for the others to follow.



*Vijay Sankar receiving the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' on behalf of N Sankar from P Raghavendra Rao, Secretary, Dept. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Government of India.*



## Chemplast Sanmar bags 'Efficiency in Water' and 'Excellence in Safety' awards in Chemical Sector



Chemplast Sanmar Limited, Mettur Plant II, won the award for "Efficiency in Water Usage in Chemical Sector" and Chemplast Sanmar Limited, Mettur Plant-III won the "Sustainability Award for Excellence in Safety in Chemical Sector".

The awards were presented at the "Summit on Global Chemicals & Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India" organised by FICCI in Mumbai on 11th November 2019.

*Saurabh Tripathi receiving the award on behalf of Chemplast Sanmar from P Raghavendra Rao.*

# Indian Chemical Council awards for Chemplast Sanmar “Responsible Care” Logo for CCVL

Chemplast Sanmar was conferred with the ICC ‘Certificate of Merit for Social Responsibility’ for 2018.

Chemplast Sanmar was also awarded a ‘Certificate of Merit for Best Compliant Company under Pollution

Prevention Code’ under Responsible Care.

Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd (CCVL) has been granted the ‘Responsible Care’ Logo by the Indian Chemical Council for a period of three years, beginning September 2019.

The awards were received on behalf of Chemplast by Ramkumar Shankar and Dr R Palaniappan at a function organised by the ICC on 27 September 2019 at Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai. Ramesh Ramachandran, President & CEO, EQUATE Petrochemical Company KSCC Kuwait, was the Chief Guest and Samir Kumar Biswas, Joint Secretary - Dept. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India, was the Guest of Honour.



*(L to R): Samir Kumar Biswas, Joint Secretary - Dept. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India, Dr R Palaniappan, Ramkumar Shankar, Chemplast Sanmar, and Ramesh Ramachandran, President & CEO, EQUATE.*



*Dr R Palaniappan receiving the ‘Responsible Care’ logo on behalf of Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd from Samir Kumar Biswas.*



# ICC's Sustainability Conclave 2019 on significance and future of the Indian Chemical Industry

Indian Chemical Council (ICC) hosted a two day "Sustainability Conclave" on the 4-5 November 2019 at New Delhi.

Jointly organised with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and with the support of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India, the conclave brought eminent personalities from across the globe, including key policy makers, on a common platform, to discuss the significance and future of the Indian Chemical Industry.

Speaking on the occasion, Vijay Sankar, President, ICC, said, "The chemical industry is going to be a key growth element of the Indian economy to achieve the Government's vision to make India a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024-25. With chemicals increasingly becoming a part of our daily lives, it is important that we create a sustainable ecosystem. It is essential that we build an environmentally conscious industry that can yet be globally competitive."





*Chennai Metro Rail*

# Metro Rails: The future of train travel

1863, the year when Lord Elgin, took over the charge of being Indian viceroy, the year when Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation during the third year of the American Civil War, was the same year which saw the first underground railway system in London.

‘The Metropolitan Railway’ used gas-lit wooden carriages hauled by steam locomotives. More than 30,000 passengers tried out the Tube on the opening day and it was hailed by the Times as “the great engineering

triumph of the day”. Thence started the history of an electrical engineering marvel the Tube/ Metro/ Subway trains.

Though the underground Tube services started as early as 1863, it was unhealthy and uncomfortable for passengers and operating staff. More sophisticated tunnels were built and became operational from 1875. Meanwhile the United States started its service in 1897. The New York City today has the world’s largest 4 track line, stretching to 14.5 km. The oldest subway in the southern hemisphere, Subterraneous de Buenos Aires opened in 1913 in Argentina. It used to carry 190,000 passengers on a daily basis, and was a great tourist attraction those days. In 1919 Madrid metro was opened, which today is one of the world’s longest metro system in the world. The metro in USSR, one of the most elaborately decorated underground metros in the world was opened in 1935. Asia’s first city to have a metro was Tokyo in 1927, and the

*Stockholm’s Tunnel Rail.*



list continues. The dramatic design featured in several metro hubs across the world makes catching a train an awe-inspiring experience.

The history of Metro rails in India is quite fascinating. For a country like India which is over populated, new modes of transport would always be a boon, so is metro. Incidentally, the word 'metro' is derived from 'Paris Metropolitan', which was quickly abbreviated to metro, which became common to all the subway networks. This method of transport allows us to travel major distances much faster while simultaneously helping us skip the road traffic and greater exposure to pollution. When compared to private automobiles, this mode of transportation is also quite affordable. Based on all these reasons, the popularity of the Metro rail has gone up significantly.

The first rapid transit system in India was Kolkata Metro, which started operations in 1984. Elattuvalapil Sreedharan, popularly known as the 'Metro man' was behind this great effort. Delhi metro is India's first modern metro which began operations in 2002. Metro rail in Gurgaon which started operations in 2013 is India's first privately owned and operated metro.



Chennai started its metro operations from 2015. The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), a joint venture between Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu, builds and operates the Chennai Metro. The system has a mix of underground and elevated stations and uses standard gauge. As of November 2019, about 121,000 people use the service on a daily basis. There are 42 trains with four coaches each, making a total of 168 coaches, operating in the first phase.

Though Indian metropolitan cities are slowly picking up, as far as the pace of building well connected metro lines are concerned, we are not the best. These countries and their metro services are considered to be the best in

*Formosa Boulevard MRT Station, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.*

*London Underground Metro Rail.*





*Moscow Metro.*

the world. Hong Kong metro stations as well as the trains are immaculately clean, well-signposted, cheap, regular, convenient and connect most corners of the city. There's free Wi-Fi in every station in Hong Kong, facilities such as tactile flooring and Braille plates for travellers with disabilities and public washrooms, shops, banks and takeaway food outlets inside many stations or close to their exits. There's no timetable for commuters – trains just turn up every few minutes, sooner during peak periods – and it's dead simple for visitors to buy a ticket via the automated machines.

*A giant mural of Spanish flamenco artist Paco de Lucia can be found at Madrid's Paco de Lucia metro station.*



Seoul, the only metro systems in the world with cell phone service and Wi-Fi, many of the subway trains in

Seoul are outfitted with TVs and are climate controlled. London Tube which is about 249 miles long has more than 4,100 trains. While Paris, the City of Light's metro is unusually dense, with 302 stations on 16 lines, in just 87 square kilometres of the city. Paris Metro is in the top-five for busiest city-rail services in the world.

Madrid has the sixth-longest metro system in the world. The underground stations are so huge that they can hold public events. One station contains a 200-square-metre archaeological museum. Madrid Metro has 1,656 escalators, the most of any system in the world. Tokyo's metro is super fast, always punctual and transports about 6.84 Million passengers daily. Guangzhou, China, is also considered to be one of the best metro lines in the world.

As we step into 2020, we desire trains that are fast, efficient, transnational, energy efficient and able to cope with the increasing demand on infrastructure. With the global population expected to reach 9.8 billion by 2050, we expect the railways to deliver new innovations and make more efficient use of our existing infrastructure.

In the years to come by, we will witness more 'Driverless trains', as in Copenhagen metro. In many developed cities, driverless trains are not uncommon. Many are used on low speed, protected infrastructures. Other would be 'Hydrogen trains' these trains are CO<sub>2</sub> emission free regional trains, an alternative to diesel power. Hydrogen power works when hydrogen is burned with oxygen to produce huge amounts

of energy, with the only by-product being water. A hydrogen powered passenger train is currently being used in Germany from 2018. Other countries are also looking into hydrogen trains, including Britain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Italy and Canada.

Hyper loop the prestigious project of Tesla and SpaceX, the same kind of trains that we saw in our James Bond movie 'The living daylight' would see the light soon. We will be able to go from one country to another by trains, a distant dream but defiantly in the books to revolutionise the history of rail transport.

Indeed, development of metro systems across the globe itself is an interesting journey. The Hong Kong metro services is equipped with 3G cell phone services, the Copenhagen metro is 24/7 driverless electric system, Ukraine is the world's deepest (346 feet underground) metro, the Moscow metro is commonly regarded as having the most beautiful stations in the world, the New York city subway (with 468 stations) is the largest subway etc.

And in India, Kolkata Metro, which is also the country's first metro rail network, will proudly have a European-style underwater tunnel by 2021, as part of its East-West Metro project. This will be India's first underwater metro rail tunnel. Commuters travelling between these two stations will spend around one minute under the river.

The journey is not yet complete. There is more to come in the world of metro rails.



*The entrance of metro station Porte Dauphine in Paris 16th arrondissement, France. The building is a work of French architect Hector Guimard.*

### Quick facts

- \* India is among the 55 countries that have a Metro rail network. However, its share in the global rail network is currently limited to only three per cent.
- \* City of Joy, Kolkata, was the first city to see the arrival of the Metro. Work on the country's first Metro started in 1972 while operations began in 1984.
- \* Rapid Metro Rail Gurgaon, which started operations in November 2013, is India's first privately owned and operated Metro network.
- \* The Delhi Metro, India's first modern Metro network, which began operations in 2002, is set to become the fourth-largest Metro network in the world after Shanghai, Beijing, and London in another six months or so.
- \* In future, the entire Metro network will carry 12-15 million passengers every day, about four times their current capacity.

*Khalid bin Al Waleed (BurJuman) Metro Station in Dubai.*



# FICCI Summit on Global Chemicals & Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India

## PCPIR Rejuvenation study launched

FICCI launched the PCPIR Rejuvenation study on 11 November 2019 at the Summit jointly with the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India and the Indian Chemicals & Petrochemicals Industry.

Vijay Sankar, in his presentation, highlighted the current status of the Indian PCPIR and major issues faced by them including non-availability of feedstock from anchor tenant, logistical and infrastructural and other regulatory issues. He also put forth ideas of a model PCPIR

including government facilitation, coordination and a roadmap for attracting key investors.

Speaking about extraordinary role of Chemicals & Petrochemicals Industry in shaping the other industries, DV Sadananda Gowda, Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India said, “The Indian Chemical & Petrochemical Industry is currently witnessing a rapid expansion. The untapped potential for this industry needs to be addressed which holds the power to bring a revolution in the country.”



# Former OSFL employees' reunion

## Sanmar – the common chord that binds them together

Former employees of The Sanmar Group, mainly Overseas Sanmar Financial Limited (OSFL), gathered for a reunion on 23 November 2019 at the Alumni Club, Chennai, the 4th such reunion organised in the last ten years.

*Stephen Dique (Steve), a former OSFL employee and presently with HSBC reports:*

“Most of us were those who have been with The Sanmar Group from about 3 decades back, including some who are still with the Group.

With the use of social media, within a few days Senthamarai Selvan (better known as Tom) had managed to garner a membership of around 170

members, plus another 20 to 30 who did not use WhatsApp. We had friends flying in from Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Kochi, Madurai, Trichy and other places outside Chennai...the energy levels were indeed palpable. The meeting hall was abuzz with greetings, nicknames and reminiscences of the great journey we all had at Sanmar.

We recalled the birth of OSFL through the strategic joint venture between Sanmar Financial Services (SFS) and Indian Overseas Bank. We also discussed some of the Ad campaigns of that time and the slogan “Life is too wonderful to be spent worrying”. Discussions continued about FD Centre, Autoplan, our annual staff trips, cricket etc.

The fellowship and sharing continued during the dinner and many of us were reluctant to leave as we basked in the glory of our great time spent at Sanmar. All joined together, searching for those past days of joy and pleasure of being a part of those lovely days with Sanmar, with which their prime days of career and youth were closely entangled and enshrined. Be it a present employee, past employee (now with other organisations) or retired employee, we all shared that one common chord that binds us all together..... SANMAR.”

## 4<sup>th</sup> Friends Meet



# Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children 6th International Conference



A two-day International Conference by national and international experts on the field of disability was conducted by the Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children on 7-9 November 2019. This is the 6th International Conference and the 16th National Workshop conducted by MNC and the theme this year, “Towards Inclusion: Evidence based supportive practices in Early Intervention”.

The conference was inaugurated by Robert G Burgess, Consul General, American Consulate in Chennai. Welcoming the gathering, N Kumar talked about MNC’s services in dissemination of the latest trends in Early Intervention. Girija Vaidyanathan, formerly Chief Secretary to Government of TN, was the chief guest of the Valedictory function and distributed certificates.

## 30th Annual Day

Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children celebrated its 30th Annual Day on 12 December 2019. The Chief Guest, Mrs Padma Venkataraman is well known for her work in “shahdara” a colony of leprosy afflicted people near Delhi.

This year the theme was “Arumbugal Malarkinrana”





– Buds to Blossoms –  
Nurturing the child. Just as every flower passes through various stages and blossoms, the children at the centre pass through many stages of training and learn things.

N Kumar, in his address said, ‘Year after year the performance of the children and mothers amazes me. I appreciate their courage and patience.’



(L to R): Padma Venkataraman, R Krishnan, Jaya Krishnaswamy, Chandra Sankar, Madhura Visweswaran, Geetha Ranganath, N Kumar and SB Prabhakar Rao.

## Alumnus of Sri Sankara Vidyashramam plays British Deputy High Commissioner for a day

Deepa Jayaraj, a 20-year-old law student of the School of Excellence in Law, and an alumna of Sri Sankara Vidyashramam, Tiruvanmiyur, took over the role of Oliver Ballhatchet, the British Deputy High Commissioner for a day and led the British Deputy High Commission the entire day.

Deepa was one of the seven winners chosen from across the country, as part of a contest where women aged between 18 and 23 were asked to submit a video presentation on ‘‘What does gender equality mean to you and who is your biggest inspiration.’’

Ballhatchet said Deepa was the ‘‘first woman Deputy High Commissioner in Chennai’’ after 26 men serving the post here since 1947.

Deepa passed out of Sri Sankara Vidyashramam in 2017 and she had secured second rank in the state in Biochemistry, Class XII.

*Deepa Jayaraj with Oliver Ballhatchet, the British Deputy High Commissioner in Chennai.*





# Iconic Institutions of Chennai

## All India Radio

### The voice of a nation for over 8 decades

In the 1980s, the day would never be complete without listening to the voice of 'Akashvani' news reader Saroj Narayanaswamy. Those were the days when Doordarshan and All India Radio were the only broadcast media, unlike now where we have more than 100 TV channels and more than 25 radio stations in the state of Tamil Nadu and around 3000 radio stations and 850 television channels in India.

Until the advent of television, radio was the prime source of entertainment to many in India. Many All India Radio listeners still recall those days when the radio broadcast was a coherent mix of news, soothing music, drama, cricket commentaries and gripping topical talks.

Initial Indian broadcasting (from Mumbai and Kolkata) was in English and catered to a small European community and Westernised Indians, ignoring the mass population. Faced with a rising tide of anti-imperialist sentiment, the colonial government bought these outlets and renamed them the Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS).

Four of the princely states established their own radio stations. Programmes for rural areas and schools were initiated. In 1935, the government took a decisive step by inviting the BBC to help lay the foundation for a public broadcasting service with the

primary goal of providing information and education.

Senior BBC producer Lionel Fielden spent five years in India as controller of broadcasting, creating the All India Radio (AIR). Programmes of Indian music, drama, and public affairs were increasingly broadcast over AIR in Hindustani after about 1940, in an attempt to standardise language use in one of the most multilingual parts of the world.

In Madras (now Chennai), broadcasting service was initiated in the year 1924 by the Madras Presidency Radio Club. In June 1936, Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS) became All India Radio. AIR was initially housed in a building called East Nook, in Egmore, and moved to its present premises only in 1954. Since then, Radio broadcast in our country has come through a long winding journey, with hundreds of radio stations being established in several cities.

The signature tune of All India Radio – the 'akashvani' jingle at the break of dawn - was composed by Walter Kaufmann, then director of music at AIR.

AIR has a three-tier system of broadcasting. These three levels of programmes are the National, Regional and Local each having distinct audiences. National programmes were broadcast from Delhi for relays by



the capital, regional and local radio stations. Some of these are the national programme of talks and features in Hindi and English, the national programmes of drama and music.

The National Channel of All India Radio located in Delhi used to broadcast programmes and this channel worked as a night service from 6.50 PM to 6.10 AM the next morning. Broadcasting in Hindi, Urdu and English, the programme composition of the channel had been designed to make it representative of the cultural mosaic and ethos of the country. It was closed in January, 2019.

The Regional Stations in different states form the middle tier of broadcasting. They originate programmes in the regional languages and dialects. Regional Channels are located in the major linguistic-cultural region of every state. 116 Regional Channels are spread over 29 states and 6 Union Territories including the North-Eastern Service.

The Regional Channels follow a composite programme pattern comprising music - classical, light, folk and film, news and current affairs, radio plays, features, farm and home programmes, health and family welfare and programmes for women, children etc.

Local radio is relatively a newer concept of broadcasting in India. Local radio stations to serve small communities showcase local culture and broadcast area specific programmes for the benefit of the community. The programming is flexible and spontaneous and the stations function as the mouth piece of the local community. At present there are 86 local stations spread across the country.

All India Radio is the largest radio network of the world, and one

of the largest broadcasting organisations in the world in terms of the number of languages broadcast and the spectrum of socio-economic and cultural diversity it serves.

“With over 415 radio stations in about 23 languages and 146 dialects, AIR is one of the largest radio broadcasters in the world. It also has 99% population coverage and 18 FM channels,” according to All India Radio website. AIR’s home service comprises 420 stations located across the country, reaching nearly 92% of the country’s area and 99.19% of the total population.

In the year 1967, commercials were introduced for the first time on Vividh Bharati; from there we have reached a state of live world cup coverage to winning recognition from our neighbouring country, Bangladesh for Akashvani’s contribution in Bangladesh Liberation War.

“In India’s remote villages there are many who, after the day’s work is done, find time hanging heavily...and there must be many officials whose duties carry them into out-of-the-way places, where they crave for the company of friends and solace of human companionship. To all these and many more broadcasting will be a blessing and boon of real value.”

These words, spoken by Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin at the inauguration of the Bombay Station of Indian Broadcasting Company on 23 July 1927 still hold true to a large extent. Even today, people in the most remote village find solace in the company of a radio.

## AIR: Some quick facts

June 8, 1936 that is an important day in the history of radio broadcasting in India. On this day, Indian State Broadcasting Service was renamed All India Radio.

Vividh Bharati was one of the most popular services by All India Radio. It was launched in 1957. One of the most popular shows of Vividh Bharati was Binaca Geetmala.

AIR was also indirectly responsible for giving India its most well-known superstar, Amitabh Bachhan, when AIR rejected the Shahenshah of Bollywood after an audition.



*AIR Chennai*



A publication of The Sanmar Group