



# IPCA Biennial Agra Conference

12th - 14th October 2023

The Indian Paint & Coating Association (IPCA) held its highly anticipated Biennial Conference, 2023 from the 12th - 14th October 2023 at the Taj Hotel & Convention Centre in the historic city of Agra, home to the magnificent Taj Mahal. This year's conference marked a significant milestone as it celebrated the 20th anniversary of IPCA, bringing together over 800 delegates from the Paints and Coatings industry. The Taj Hotel and Convention Centre was the main conference venue with Courtyard by Marriott the second host hotel for the delegates.



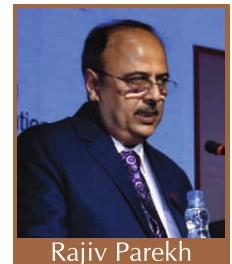
The theme of the Biennial Conference was IDEATION, The term "ideation" refers to the process of generating, developing and sharing creative ideas. The conference aimed to foster and spread great ideas within the Paints and Coatings industry. The aptly themed conference provided a platform for the industry's smartest thinkers, visionaries, and leaders to come together, inspire one another, and share their passion and insights. By embracing this theme, IPCA conference aspired to inspire, invigorate, and guide the industry towards a future characterized by innovation and positive change. This was evident throughout the conference, technical seminars and panel discussions.

The grand opening ceremony started with the key IPCA Central Committee members assembling on the dais, Mr. Rohan Bhasin, President IPCA, Mr. Rajiv Parekh, Convener IPCA Biennial Conference, Mr. Rohit Duggal, VP IPCA, Mr. S. Mahadevan, Hon. General Secretary IPCA and Mr. Nimish Agrawal, Hon. Finance Secretary IPCA. After the National



Anthem and the auspicious lighting of the lamp by IPCA Patrons and Apex body the opening ceremony proceedings commenced.

Mr. Rajiv Parekh, Convener, gave the Welcome Address to the packed house and informed about the activities planned during the conference. He stressed upon the significance of the theme IDEATION, prudence of coming to Agra after the first biennial of IPCA 20 years back and the pleasure and joy he has experienced over the past many years in actively working with various IPCA Presidents and core teams.



Mr. Rohan Bhasin, President, gave his Presidential address. He enumerated that India is witnessing remarkable growth, with robust GDP expansion, a burgeoning middle class. These factors present exciting opportunities for the Paints and Coatings industry. He gave an insight into the macro and micro challenges. He inspired and suggested that we can tackle these challenges head-on and seize the abundant opportunities before us. The complex problems can be solved by collective intelligence, commitment, and IDEATION, the theme of the IPCA conference. He elaborated on how IPCA has been at the cusp of ideation and has innovated and reinvented its way of working over the past 2 decades. His well researched address was very well appreciated by the learned audience.



Mr. Rohan Bhasin, Mr. Rajiv Parekh and IPCA dignitaries on the dais inaugurated the IPCA Souvenir along with Mr. Jesal Parekh, Editor in Chief & Suji Kumar Matthew Co-Editor and the key team member Mr. Neerav Shah.

Mr. S. Mahadevan, Hon. General Secretary, gave a Presentation on IPCA activities over the past one year. IPCA



team at various regions have been working tirelessly over the short span of one year with impressive activities in all regions. IPCA has seen an unprecedented increase in membership over the past one year. Under the leadership of the current IPCA team, there has been a rejuvenation and refocus on networking and inclusion in all regions. With path breaking events taking place at various regions. IPCA is taking the largest delegation to China Coat during the year and has numerous events planned during the coming year. This year the 20th anniversary of IPCA was celebrated with great enthusiasm. This celebration served as a reminder of the industry's growth over the years and the remarkable achievements of IPCA.



S. Mahadevan

Mr. Sanjeev Gupta and Mr. Jatin Aggarwal, Patrons and Past Presidents took the stage and went down the memory lane of the astounding growth of IPCA. They shared a lot of anecdotes, stories, challenges, cherished moments of hosting various events together as jointly hosting majority of IPCA Biennials as Conveners right from the first Biennial conference to the first IPCA International conference, largest ones and perhaps the most celebrated ones in the Indian industry. They mesmerized the audience while taking them through the formidable years of forming IPCA, to the timeline of various IPCA past presidents, their key achievements, legacy and trophies from the past. Many in the audience had been part of many past IPCA Biennial events and it was a very joyous recollection, remembrance and celebration on the occasion of the 20th IPCA Anniversary. IPCA is the true flag bearer of the Indian Paints and Coatings industry and has been at the forefront of representing the fraternity by creating platforms where history meets industry, and innovation blends with tradition. Mr. Jatin Aggarwal then announced and showcased the new IPCA Website, made with passion and by embracing the best technology and tools that shall make the website the best interactive platform for paint industry and IPCA members.



Sanjeev Gupta



Jatin Aggarwal

## Lifetime Achievement Awards

One of the most prestigious segments of the conference was the presentation of Lifetime Achievement Awards by the President of IPCA, Mr. Rohan Bhasin. This award recognised the remarkable contributions of individuals who had made an indelible mark on the industry.

The following industry stalwarts were honoured with this prestigious accolade:

Mr. Anil Khanna: Mr. Anil Khanna's outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to the coatings industry have left an enduring legacy, inspiring many to reach new heights.

As a Past President of IPCA and one of the strongest and pioneering pillars of the Paints and Coatings Industry in North India he was presented the award with great warmth by IPCA.



Lifetime Achievement Award - Anil Khanna

Mr. V. V. Puranik: Mr. V. V. Puranik's significant contributions to the field of Paints and Coatings were recognised with this award, acknowledging his pioneering work and dedication to the industry. Often known as the "Resin Man of India" the long legacy, innovation and scientific advancements in resin technology as well as his sheer grip on the subject of paints and coatings, technical expertise, sharing knowledge and mentorship to many and decades long contribution to the industry made him one of the most deserving recipients of the Life Time Achievement award of IPCA.



Lifetime Achievement Award - V.V. Pranik

The conferment of the Lifetime Achievement Awards was met with applause and standing ovations from the conference attendees, underlining the profound impact these individuals had on the Paints and Coatings community.

A poignant moment during the conference was when IPCA paid homage and offered condolences to the members of the Paints and Coatings community who had passed away since the previous biennial conference. This solemn act served as a reminder of the industry's collective spirit and the bond shared among its members. Mr. Rohit Duggal, VP IPCA paid homage on behalf of IPCA members.



Rohit Duggal

Involvement, Then Empowerment: Celebrating Women in the Paints and Coatings Industry.







IPCA team

In a groundbreaking move that sets a new standard for paint conferences, the esteemed Indian Paint & Coating Association (IPCA) gathered for a momentous event that highlighted the inspiring journeys of women entrepreneurs and influential ladies who have played pivotal roles in their family legacies, spanning generations. This unique debate was a brainchild of IPCA's President, Mr. Rohan Bhasin, and was conceived in alignment with the spirit of 'Ideation.' Under the leadership of Mr. Bhasin, IPCA has maintained a tradition of nurturing and disseminating innovative concepts. The association has consistently provided a platform for the brightest minds, visionary thinkers, and inspiring leaders to both draw inspiration and share their passion and insights, establishing it as a preeminent ideation platform. The 'Open House' discussion brought together key women from the Paints and Coatings industry to engage in a dynamic conversation on their remarkable journeys and experiences. These women have not only excelled in their careers but have also played vital roles in their family, businesses, acting as catalysts for growth and transformation.

The featured ladies included, Ms. Ravina Shah, Jesons Industries Ltd., Ms. Priya Bhumkar, Soujanya Color Pvt Ltd, Ms. Aneesha Gaiind, Acro Paints Ltd., Ms. Pooja Sharma, Indian Aerosols Pvt. Ltd, Ms. Anjali Bhatkhande, EOS Tradelink Ltd. Their presence and voices exemplified the theme of 'Involvement, Then Empowerment.' By showcasing the remarkable achievements and contributions of these women, IPCA celebrated the strides made by women in the Paints and Coatings industry, encouraging and inspiring future generations to pursue excellence.



Celebrating Women in the Paints and Coatings industry

Mr. Rohan Bhasin and Mr. Jatin Aggarwal were the moderators of the open house with lots of interesting, inspiring, penetrating and fun questions being asked from these remarkable ladies. Highlight was a Rapid Fire round where the ladies charmingly and admirably competed for hampers and shared lots of anecdotes, wisdom and key take aways from their inspiring and exhilarating journey.

This thought-provoking event marked a significant shift towards recognising the power of inclusivity and diversity in the industry, reinforcing the idea that by involving and empowering women, we enrich and strengthen the future of the sector. The IPCA gathering at Biennial Conference at Agra, 2023 will be remembered as a turning point in acknowledging the invaluable contributions of women in the field and inspiring further progress. Music has the power to bring people together, create lasting memories, and enhance the overall atmosphere of any gathering. The night ended with Ms. Shibani Kashyap's mesmerizing musical performance when her melodious tunes filled the air with joy and energy, as people danced and enjoyed the music. Such performances provide an excellent opportunity for networking and socializing.

The opening day's success reaffirmed IPCA's commitment to advancing the coatings industry in India and its role as a leading organization in this sector. As the conference opening day came to a close, delegates left with new insights, valuable contacts, and a sense of excitement for the future of coatings in India while enjoying innovative ladies open house, journey of 20 years of IPCA and musical night with Ms. Shibani Kashyap.

## Day 2

Day 2 of the Biennial Conference started at 9.00 a.m. sharp with the inauguration by Ribbon cutting of Technical Session by IPCA President Shri Rohan Bhasin along with Patrons and other dignitaries from the coating fraternity. This was followed by a thought providing lecture by Mr. Dilip Raghavan Editor Paint India on the topic Succession Planning - An imperative for our Industry's Survival and Growth. Dilip Raghavan started out with giving a glimpse of the industry and its growth momentum going forward touching upon the competition faced by SME with the advent of new players. He emphasized the role of SME in the future and the need for future succession planning to keep the growth momentum on.



Dilip Raghavan

## OBITUARY OF SHRI ASHWIN SURYAKANT DANI :

The Paint Industry recently mourned the loss of a guiding light as we bid farewell to the revered Shri. Ashwin Suryakant Dani, who passed away on September 28, 2023. In recognition of his significant contributions, the Indian Paint & Coating Association found it imperative to pay tribute to this luminary figure. Shri. Jalaj Dani, his son, graciously accepted our invitation to receive our condolences.



At the solemn occasion, Mr. Rohan Bhasin, the president of IPCA, delivered a poignant eulogy for Shri. Ashwin Dani. He then welcomed Mr. Arvind Bhasin, a close associate of Mr. Dani for many years, to the podium. Mr. Bhasin shared heartfelt anecdotes that painted a vivid picture of Mr. Dani's indomitable character and charismatic personality. Following this, Mr. Jalaj Dani presented an interview featuring Shri. Ashwin Dani, wherein his life, aspirations, and vision were beautifully encapsulated. According to Mr. Jalaj, Shri. Ashwin Bhai harbored an unwavering dream of propelling Indian industries to the zenith of global rankings. His two resounding messages centered on innovation and a relentless focus on customer-centric principles. He also thanked the industry for coming together in times of grief & accepted condolences on behalf of his whole family. To further honor Shri. Ashwin Dani's enduring legacy, Mr. Rohan Bhasin extended an invitation to the dais for Mr. Chandrakant Parekh, Mr. G. B. Singh and Ms. Priya Bhumkar, esteemed longstanding acquaintances of the late icon. In recognition of his noble legacy, Mr. Jalaj Dani was presented with a commemorative memento and a shawl. IPCA and the entire paint industry will forever cherish and celebrate his memory



In loving memory of  
Shri Ashwin Dani, a revered  
soul whose grace lives on in  
our hearts.

The start of technical sessions was by the Conference PM Partner M/s. Tipco Engineering India Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Ritesh Sharma and Mr. Satya Prakash presented Turnkey Solutions equipment design and consultancy process automation and packing. They gave a brief of their companies activities, global footprint and their products following up with a presentation of their range of High Speed Dispensers, Dyno mills and Resin Plants. They stressed upon the technical parameters for their equipment's for while focusing on energy and process efficiency for better productivity. The session ended with a lucky draw winner getting a DELL Laptop.



Satya Prakash  
Ritesh Sharma

The Technical Session No. 2 is as presented by Mr. Monojit Chaudhari and Mr. Devang Sanghavi from M/s. Nitrex Chemicals India Ltd the RM Partner for the event on NC Cotton - Safety insights and future trends. They gave a brief introduction on the basic structure and properties of NC. Nitro cellulose is an Ester and nitro compound derived from natural cellulose with a mixture of various chain length polymer. The lecture dwelt on the inventory control of NC with its condition of storage, transportation and flammability characteristics. Wetting of NC with solvent like Ethanol, stability



Monojit Chaudhari



Devang Sanghavi

under ambient conditions with its degeneration on exposure to heat source and long storage. Further, the static electricity risks associated with unloading, mixing and handling precautions was discussed. Non-ferrous tools for opening of NC drum which are housed in an isolated places are a key requisite. Temperature control of below 40oC in warehouse with single layer storage was strongly recommended. The lecture finally gave an insight on fine control and fire-fighting requirements for NC storage and handling.

The Technical Session No. 3 was presented by Mr. Shaji Thomas of M/s. Jeson Industries Ltd. the Title Partner for the event on The colorful canvas Brushing up MSME, success in Indian Paint Industry. Mr. Shaji Thomas started giving an insight into Jesons profile, markets served and product mix for various industries. He furthered his presentation with India's entry into the new golden economic era and the great Indian opportunity. His lecture convened the 5C analysis for MSME to get into the high growth path. Company : Purpose – People – Process, Customer : Customer Centricity – Customer Segmentation, Competitor : Market positioning – Managing sustainable Competitive Advantage, Collaboration : Innovation, Content : Government Support ESG. The presentation was laced with motivational Quotes covering the above 5C with the main lecture take away being Lets make India's Growth story – Our Success Story.



Shaji Thomas

The 4th Technical lecture was delivered by Mr. Abhy Kadakia of M/s. Zigma International on use of Attapulgit as a Rheology modified Thixotropic Suspending Agent. Mr. Abhy started with giving a brief of his company, products, capacities and segments served. The presentation rheology modifiers are crucial ingredients in paint and used to control flow properties such as viscosity, brushability, sagging and flow. Attapulgit a clay mineral with the right processing is a good Rheology modifier was further modified and purified to obtain Zip-gel a unique fibrous product. This is eco-friendly and easy to handle. Zig gels card house structure builds viscosity and prolongs the shelf life of the end product. Zingel shows good compatibility with other rheology modifiers and extenders. The presentation was summed up with a comparison of Zingel with the similar modifiers and a study on its stability.



Abhy Kadakia

The 5th Technical lecture was presented by Mr. Trideep Raj Bhandari of M/s. Synco Industries Limited on Emerging Trends in grinding Media. He presented the grinding media selection from a paint manufactures point of view & highlighted the significant role it plays in production and product quality.



Trideep Raj  
Bhandari







He dwelled upon the fact that with the right equipment the conventional glass beads that will be replaced with efficient ceramic balls for high speed horizontal machines the shift was towards high wear resistant YT Stabilized Zirconium Beads. He also gave a cost calculation to prove the economic feasibility and superior performance of the company products.

The 6th technical lecture was presented by Mr. Shailendra Bhatkhande of M/s. Cardolite Specialty Chemicals India LLP on Chemistry for Tomorrow. Green Technologies. The presentation was split into three segments. Introduction to Cardolite and CNSL Technology. New multi-functional modified / diluent for high performance coatings and adhesion Cardolite polyols performance in anti-corrosion and pipe coatings. The presentation covered the Diluents performance study in coatings the chemical resistance and use of products in Water borne screeds and floor systems. The presentation was summed up with a study on Cardolite Polyols its application, mechanical properties. QUV colour stability, chemical resistance, thermal resistance and hydrolytic stability.



The 7th Technical presentation was presented by M/s. Toyal MMP India Pvt. Ltd. by Mr. Swapnil Kasar on Toyal Group Move Together as One. The presentation started with giving a brief of the Toyal group activities, industries catered to, products image map by production site. Aluminium paste production process viz ball milling, screening process, Solid Liquid separation process, mining was presented with orientation details. The presentation concluded with orientation details. The presentation concluded



The second part of the presentation was by Mr. Tejas Gal of M/s. Chemours Company on Ti-pure a sustainable Green Chemistry Introduction of TS6700. The outlined the new approach toward TiO<sub>2</sub> focusing on the green aspects. The focus on sustainability was an important highlight during the presentation which seems to now have become a core focus are for many companies.



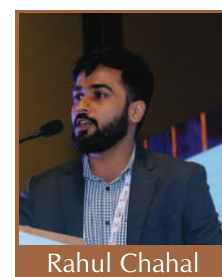
The afternoon session post lunch saw the hall being divided into two parts(break-out halls) for two technical session running concurrently.

Mansion 1 saw the presentation of 8th Technical lecture by Mr. Pankaj Verma of M/s. Grasim Industries Limited (Advanced Materials) on Diversifying Chemistries -Breaking Boundaries Mr.



Verma gave an insight emphasizing the Divisions extensive experience expertise in the domain of Epoxy resins and allied system backed up with state by art manufacturing facility and R&D capabilities. Business pioneering approach led to the introduction of Polyester and resins a game changer in the industry diversifying in different chemistries. Both Epoxy and Polyester for Powder coating industry are being offered through a single window which is a unique proposition. The presentation covered an overview of the various grades of Polyester resins being introduced along with understanding the critical importance of complementary hardener with focus on Reactive Polyamides.

Mansion II has the 9th Technical lecture on Energy Price Risk Management for Paint Industry by Mr. Rahul Chahal from MCX Metal and Energy. The presentation concerned the volatility in energy prices, price with exposure impact of raw materials, Energy market fundamentals energy derivations contracts, energy price risk management and hedging illustrations – Impact on budgeted costs and margins. Factors affecting energy market, crude oil market impacting the coating industry with commodity derivatives and exchange mechanism were the Centre point of the presentation.



The 10th Technical lecture was presented by Mr. Amol Mulajkar from M/s. Soujanya Colour Pvt. Ltd. on role of Colorant in circular economy. Soujanya a global leader in innovative sustainable colour solutions with over 1 million plus shade. The presentation focus was on linear economy resource production, distribution, consumption and disposal with a circular economy model recycling, Re-manufacturing, refurbishing, reuse and longer use intensifying use dematerialization. A wholistic approach towards reducing VOCs, increase process efficiency, waste minimization with the focus in next two decades were discussed.



The 11th Technical presentation was by Mr. G. B. Singh of M/s. Anupam Colours and Chemical Industries on an overview on Pigments. Mr. Singh started his lecture giving an insight on ACCI history from start August 1979 till date and the achievements. The products offered includes chrome pigments, anti-corrosive pigments, pthalo blue high performance organic pigments, fluorescent pigments. Mr. G. B. Singh the managing partner had an interactive session with the audience sharing his experiences since inception of company with a message. We add value to the relationship. We do not sell but meet customers immediate and long term requirements.





The 12th Technical lecture was presented by Mr. Kalpesh K Jain of M/s. BYK India Pvt. Ltd. on Sustainability - Today and Tomorrow with BYK. The emphasis was given on the regulatory challenges/ changes over the period of time and how BYK found the regulatory compliant sustainable solution. The presentation covered the sustainable solutions for current regulatory challenges in coating industry like sustainable additives, biocide free, cyclic siloxane free, organotin compound free & PFAS free. Few sustainable product range based on bio renewable sources was also promoted with explanation of how to calculate bio based organic carbon content. The regulatory compliant range of surface additives for water base as well as solvent base system was briefed to show the product range meeting the critical requirements without impacting the market demands and performance requirements. The last but not the least important challenge as far as regulatory requirement were concerned was PFAS. The future is of PFAS free products and to meet this requirement we briefed about PFAS free range of waxes which deliver comparable performance against conventional PE/PTFE waxes with relatively better gloss level. We also briefed about PFAS free range of defoamers which will replace currently PFAS containing market standard BYK defoamers.



Kalpesh K Jain

The 13th Technical presentation by Dr. Prashant Khobragade of M/s. Anuvi Chemicals Ltd. on Specialty Emulsion for Architectural Paints and Coatings. He started with an introduction of coatings and company with its founders and market specialized application. He stressed upon the company values and products range going forward. He introduced a segment world of Paints giving a run through of Anuvi range of emulsion for various application covering emulsion for elastomeric paints, emulsion for stain resistant paints and emulsion for dirt pick up resistant paints and nano emulsion for anti-fluorescent paint, has thickness for paints and opaque emulsions.



Prashant Khobragade

The 14th Technical lecture was presented by Ms. Mrunal Vaidya of M/s. Covestro India Pvt. Ltd. on sustainable solution for construction and wood. Flexible, hard, tough coating materials are formulated with Polyurethane raw materials for application in many different market segments. This presentation gives overview of diverse collection of water-base solutions from Covestro portfolio for coatings which are formulated to achieve the high-quality requirements w.r.t. drying, gloss, mechanical and chemical resistance properties necessary for many applications. Water-based dispersions from Covestro have properties that meet or exceed those of traditional solvent-based systems. Covestro shared high performance solutions in waterborne polyurethane technology



Ms. Mrunal Vaidya

for wall, floor, water-proofing and wood applications, designed as per local requirements which as a result will give formulators an opportunity to develop a MAKE IN INDIA product delivering unique performance properties and aesthetics.

The 15th Technical presentation was by Dr. Hemang Patel of 20 Microns Ltd. Functional Additives for Gloss & Rheology Enhancement. He enumerated on certain existing and niche products designed by 20 Microns resulting in gloss & rheology enhancement. These developments have been lauded, appreciated and well received by both their existing and proposed clientele. The foray of 20Microns into newer segments and innovative market space was a very interesting section during the presentation. He also stressed upon the global footprint of the company and the new geographies it is exploring to venture into the near future.



Dr. Hemang Patel

The 16th Technical presentation was by Mr. Gaurav Namdhar of Ocsial India Pvt. Ltd. on Graphene nanofibers for high performance antistatic / conductive coatings. The presentation covered Tuball, graphene nanofibers and TUBALL for industrial and automotive coatings. A well dispersed TUBALL graphene nano tube in an excellent conductor, 100 times stronger resistance at low addition level. They find application in construction of better roads, automotive composites, oil and gas, PPE, application of nano fibers in ESD and anti-static floorings, were also presented. Nano tubes used in lining and in automotive conductive primers were discussed.



Gaurav Namdhar

The 17th Technical lecture was presented by Mr. Yogesh Singhal of M/s. Chemelyne Specialities Pvt. Ltd. on Driers & Additives - The Chemelyne solution. Mr. Yogesh started with a recollection of the Chemelyne journey of determination since



Yogesh Singhal



View of the audience







2005, global footprints along with the strong and core values. The presentation covered paint driers, combination drier, FRP drier, liquid PVC stabilizers for flexible applications. He also spoke about the future expansion plans of the group and their venture into a foray of new products for the coating fraternity.

The 18th technical lecture was presented by Mr. Pranav Shah of M/s. Micas Organics Limited on sustainable pigments for Paint and Coating Industry. The presentation started with an overview of the company's products, capacities and certification and market catered to the concept of earlier approaches to performance sustainable was discussed. The presentation covered the global foot print of the company, state of the art laboratory, range of products and their application and their commitment to sustainable manufacturing process. One of the leading players in the ink segment Micas is seriously looking at capturing the paint market and becoming one of the dominant pigment suppliers in the near future.



Pranav Shah

The 19th technical lecture was by Dr. S. C. Srivastav of M/s. K-Tech India Ltd on the topic Paints and Coatings Additives Technology - A Bird Eye View. The presentation started with the definition of a paint and coating with trends in material science and paint and coatings technology. The influence of additives in manufacturing, storage and application stage along with the life span of coating was discussed. The chemistry of surface active coatings additive catalytic Active coating additive, chemically active coating additive and special function coating additive with focus on wetting and dispersion technology, defoamer technology, levelling technology, slip and mar technology, U. V. stabilization and light substitution technology was also highlighted.



Dr. S. C. Srivastav

The 20th technical lecture was presented by Mr. Georg Toennissen of Eckart GmbH Sustainable Effects in Decorative Coatings who stressed upon the vision and technological advancement which has been the USP of the company going forward. The presentation had the august gathering all glued this being one of the largest knowledge sharing platform and was a very interactive session. Eckart's stress on sustainability in servicing specifically the decorative coatings was a learning curve for one and all.



Georg Toennissen

The 21st Technical lecture was presented by Mr. Dheeraj Pandey of M/s. Wab India Pvt. Ltd. An Innovative solution by Devree. The presentation started with a tour of WAB range of Dyno mills and its application, network and subsidiaries across the world. This was followed by



Dheeraj Pandey

Devree range of filling solution ranging from semi-automatic filling machines to automated filling machine and complete filling line with automated function. The way features of machines viz the accuracy, PLC controlled system were also presented during the session.

There was a lucky draw which followed after each session and silver coins were gifted to all the winners handed over personally by the respective speakers of the session.

### Panel Discussion:

A captivating panel discussion revolving around the conference theme of "Ideation" took center stage. Mr. Rohan Bhasin, the distinguished President of IPCA, engaged the luminaries with incisive inquiries, followed by questions from the attentive audience. The insightful gems of wisdom shared during this dialogue were as follows:

Mr. Ashok Rajput, Head of Procurement at Akzo Nobel India Ltd., emphasized that regardless of the current circumstances, the outlook for the Indian Coating Industry is remarkably promising. The industry is poised for growth, projected to outpace the GDP by 1.5 times, translating to an expected annual growth rate of approximately 10%. He encouraged a focus on consistent supply and innovative product offerings, highlighting steady growth in areas such as Marine, Powder, and Coil Coatings. He also stressed upon the vision and prospects of Atmanirbhar Bharat and how this would be providing a plethora of opportunities to all manufacturers and service providers.



Panel Discussion

Parag Karhadkar, Director Sales South Asia with Perstorp Chemicals India Pvt Limited, expressed his satisfaction with the robust infrastructure support provided by the Indian Government that facilitates the establishment of manufacturing plants by international companies in India. Further he emphasized on how new and niche segments were coming up in the Indian market which is still quite buoyant compared to the global situation.

Mr. Atil Parikh, CEO & MD of 20 Microns Ltd., lauded the government's support in establishing new facilities for raw material suppliers across various regions of the country, enabling them to provide superior service to companies setting up plants in diverse Indian locations. He further suggested that IPCA should collectively prioritize innovation and interaction



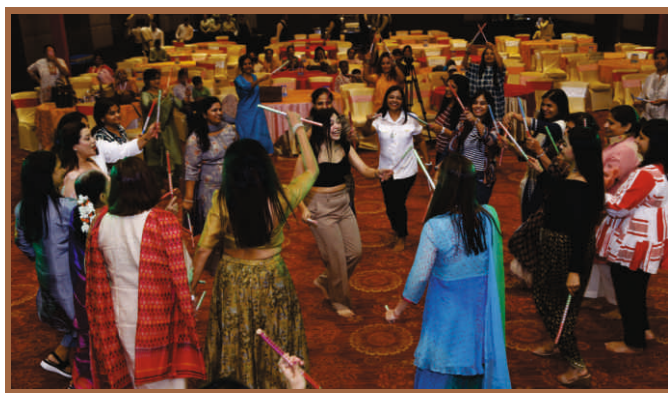
with the various government bodies to expedite the process of providing steadfast progress to the MSMEs.

Mr. M. P. Suryaprakash, Executive Director at Ponpure India Ltd, underscored that regular projections in the near future can serve as indicators of an upward trajectory in business. He also highlighted India's reliance on imports for petrochemicals and predicted significant innovative advancements in supply chain management, emphasizing the need to continuously offer a competitive advantage to customers.

### Ladies Activity

The ladies were enthralled and engrossed with the Grand Ball Room (GBR) at the Taj Hotel & Convention Centre being decked up suitable in line with the heritage importance the city of Agra offers to the world. The pre-lunch session kickstarted with a Dandia session followed by the Q&A with a ramp walk. All of them thoroughly enjoyed the same and were thrilled with the sash, glittering crowns and prizes distributed to all the winners.

The post lunch session was more fun and frolic with various interactive and engaging sessions with the respective hosts who kept all the ladies active with a slew of innovative games. The noise and cheers were a testimony on the effort put in to make this one of the most cherished and memorable day for all ladies and their respective families.



### Closing Ceremony

The Biennial closing ceremony commenced with the MC calling on stage all the regional chairmen. Mr. Jesal Parekh, Chairman of IPCA Maharashtra beautifully and succinctly summed up all the lectures and proceedings of the conference. He said that as we drew near the conclusion of this conference, he found himself tasked with a truly momentous responsibility. Over the course of several years, more than 25 dedicated individuals have invested countless hours in research and preparation. Their collective efforts have culminated in the creation of these remarkable presentations.

This was followed up by Rajiv bhai who spoke about how the planning and execution was done and who played the crucial roles. He thanked the whole IPCA fraternity for being supportive and coming in such great numbers to attend the conference. The task of a Convenor is akin to the captain of the ship, who has to steer it through choppy waters and also the calm sea! After spending countless sleepless nights and looking after each and every minute detail, finally the mammoth task has been achieved! He thanked his family and the stars above for the smooth conduct of the conference.

The sponsors, the bedrock of support for IPCA, were honoured with beautifully designed mementos! It's the sponsors wholehearted support which makes our programs a roaring success. IPCA has steadfastly held on, with credible deliverables and honesty and integrity to boot!

The curtains thus came down on yet another iconic and memorable IPCA Biennial Conference with a promise to return in two years with yet another milestone conference!

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Closing Ceremony

