



# **Title: Special Report**

## **IPCA Biennial Conference**

### **Avinya – Innovate, Create, Inspire**

Corrosion	Sealants	Pigments	Binders	Construction Chemicals	Alkyds
Additives	Adhesives	Grinding Media		Titanium dioxide	Inks
Amino	Glass	Designer Finishes	Base Coat		DIY
	M&A	Emulsions	Oligomers	Varnish	Grinding
		CED		Marine	Powders
Polyurethanes	Can	White Cement		Paint Stripping	Metal
UV-Cured	Coalescents	Coatings	Photo-Initiators	Clear Coat	MTO
	Rheology	E-Beam	Dispersing	Decorative	Lacquer
		Epoxy	Automotive	Acrylics	
Surface Preparation	Paints	Resins	Driers		
Biocides	Thickeners	Facades	Supply-Apply	Oil and Gas	
Plastics	Metallics	Silicones	Putty	Adhesion	
Coil Carbon Black	Distribution	Dispensing	BIS	Ovens	
Offshore	Stainers	Weathering	Inkjet	Colour Matching	Top Coat
	Bulk	Admixtures	Conveying		Paint Booth
Solvents	Polyesters	ASTM	Colorants	Surfactants	Tinting
			Shade Cards	Flexo	Monomers

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# IPCA Biennial Conference

## Avinya – Innovate, Create, Inspire

Compiled by Jesal Parekh

THE Indian Paint and Coating Association (IPCA) inaugurated its prestigious Biennial Conference 2025 at The Ananta, Udaipur on 11th September. Nestled amidst the Aravalli Hills, Udaipur—the City of Lakes, offered a majestic backdrop for the gathering. The choice of theme “AVINYA – Innovate, Create, Inspire” reflected the rapidly evolving paint and coatings industry, emphasizing the need for continuous innovation, creative problem-solving, and inspiration for future growth. The inaugural session was attended by senior leaders of the industry, distinguished dignitaries, and enthusiastic delegates, making it a memorable start to the three-day conference.

The event commenced with the formal calling of the house to order by the Master of Ceremonies. The dais was graced by the senior leadership of IPCA, including Mr. Rajiv Parekh (Finance Secretary), Mr. Sandeep Goyal (General Secretary),

Mr. S. Mahadevan (Vice President), Mr. Neerav Shah (Convenor), Mr. Rohit Duggal (President), and Mr. Rohan Bhasin (Immediate Past President).

Their presence reflected the continuity of IPCA's leadership and its strong vision for the future of the coatings sector.

The audience stood together for the National Anthem, rendered live, which set a patriotic and dignified tone for the evening. This was followed by the ceremonial lamp lighting, accompanied by the melodious chanting of Ganesh Vandana. The act of lamp lighting symbolized the dispelling of darkness and the ushering in of knowledge and wisdom. Distinguished guests including Ashok Gaind, Anil Khanna, Vinod Karwa, Amit Mishra, Sanjeev Gupta, Jatin Agarwal, Sagar Goel, Dhiren Gosalia, and Rohan Bhasin joined in, highlighting unity and collaboration in the industry.



Lamp lighting

### Welcome Address by Convenor

Mr. Neerav Shah, the Convenor, delivered the welcome address. He warmly greeted all delegates and partners, sharing the excitement of hosting this grand event in Udaipur. He emphasized the immense effort put in by the organizing team to create a platform that combines technical knowledge-sharing with networking and cultural experiences. His words set the tone for an engaging and forward-looking conference.



Neerav Shah



Rohit Duggal

### Presidential Address

In his Presidential Address, Mr. Rohit Duggal elaborated on the conference theme “AVINYA – Innovate, Create, Inspire”. He underlined the importance of



On the dias L to R - Sandeep Goyal, Rohan Bhasin, Neerav Shah, Rohit Duggal, S. Mahadevan, Rajiv Parekh

embracing new technologies, sustainable practices, and global perspectives in the coatings industry. He also reminded delegates of IPCA's mission to act as a bridge between academia, corporates, and policymakers, while ensuring opportunities for both large and small industry players.

### Souvenir Launch



Launch of Souvenir, L to R Jesal Parekh, Ketan Kapadia, Sandeep Goyal, Rohan Bhasin, Neerav Shah, Rohit Duggal, S. Mahadevan, Rajiv Parekh

The highlight of the evening was the launch of the conference souvenir. The publication, carrying rich technical content and industry insights, was unveiled in the presence of Ketan Kapadia (Editor-in-Chief), and Sandeep Goyal (Co-Editor). The souvenir symbolized IPCA's role in promoting knowledge dissemination and documentation of industry trends.

### Presentation on IPCA Activities



Rohan Bhasin

Mr. Rohan Bhasin, Immediate Past President, gave a detailed presentation on IPCA's activities. He spoke about the association's role in policy advocacy, its collaboration with premier institutes like IIT Delhi and IICT Hyderabad, and the organization of training programs, knowledge-sharing seminars, and international delegations. His presentation showcased IPCA's growing stature as a representative body for the paint and coatings industry in India.



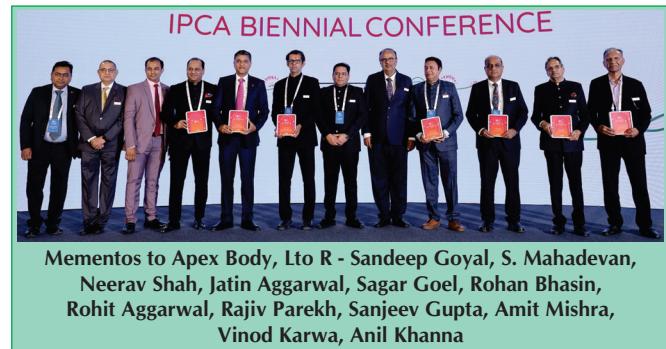
Dilip Raghavan

### Keynote Address

The Keynote Address was delivered by Mr. Dilip Raghavan, Editor, PaintIndia. He spoke on the growth potential of the Indian Paint Industry, highlighting the sector's resilience, expanding domestic demand, and opportunities for innovation. He also touched upon the future of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in the coatings industry, emphasizing how consolidation could help companies scale, access new technologies, and compete globally. His address was insightful and inspiring for all delegates.

### Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award & Mementos

The evening also recognized excellence within the industry.



Mementos to Apex Body, L to R - Sandeep Goyal, S. Mahadevan, Neerav Shah, Jatin Aggarwal, Sagar Goel, Rohan Bhasin, Rohit Aggarwal, Rajiv Parekh, Sanjeev Gupta, Amit Mishra, Vinod Karwa, Anil Khanna

The Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred on Mr. Vinod Karwa, honoring his invaluable contribution to the coatings sector. Mementos were presented to the Apex Committee, acknowledging their leadership and dedicated service. The recipients included Ashok Kumar Gajind, Anil Khanna, Vinod Karwa, Dr. Harish Agarwal, Amit Mishra, Sanjeev Gupta, Ashwani Mehra Jatin Agarwal, Sagar Goel, and Rohan Bhasin. This segment highlighted IPCA's culture of recognition and respect for its leaders and contributors.



Life time Achiavent Awardee, Mr Vinod karwa

### Announcement of New Regions



Jatin Agarwal

A major milestone of the ceremony was the formal announcement of two new IPCA Regions — Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The announcement was made by Mr. Jatin Agarwal and Mr. Sanjeev Gupta. This expansion reflected IPCA's commitment to strengthening its grassroots presence and ensuring broader industry representation across India.

### Obituary Tribute

A solemn moment followed with the obituary tribute, delivered through an audiovisual presentation. Delegates paid their respects to departed members of the IPCA family, honoring their contributions and remembering their legacy.

### Vote of Thanks

The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. S. Mahadevan, Vice President, IPCA. He expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, delegates, sponsors, and the organizing committee for their participation and



S. Mahadevan

support. His words encapsulated the collective effort behind the successful start of the conference.



View of the audience

The Opening Ceremony of the IPCA Biennial Conference 2025 was a resounding success. It combined solemn rituals, thoughtful addresses, recognition of excellence, and cultural splendor. The proceedings not only celebrated the achievements of the coatings industry but also set a visionary agenda for the days ahead, ensuring that the conference lived up to its theme — AVINYA: Innovate, Create, Inspire.

## Cultural Evening

The evening concluded on a vibrant note with a performance by The Manganiyar Collective, who presented Rajasthan's timeless desert music in a reimagined form. The soulful rhythms and folk melodies created an unforgettable cultural experience, blending tradition with modernity.



Rajasthani theme night

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 Rohit Duggal, Convenor Neerav Shah along with Patrons and other dignitaries from the coating fraternity.



Ribbon cutting of Technical Session L to R - Neerav Shah, Shailendra Bhatkhande, Dhiresh Gosalia, Rohit Duggal



IPCA Photo Booth



Satya Prakash



Anup Singh

The start of technical sessions was by the Conference PM partner, Tipco Engineering India Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Satya Prakash and Mr. Anup Singh presented Turnkey Solutions for paints, inks, construction chemicals and adhesives. They gave a brief on their company's 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 while focusing on energy and process efficiency for better productivity. They also harped upon their cost effective solutions to European Nations which were the very source of technical knowhow and how these countries, because of a higher price band were moving towards becoming net importers from exporters.

The Technical Session No. 2 was presented by Mr. Shailendra Bhatkhande of M/s. Cardolite Specialty Chemicals India LLP on 'Sustainable Solutions for Coating Industry-CNSL Technology Introduction'. Mr. Bhatkhande acknowledged the IPCA Biennial Conference as the biggest trade conference in the world. He stressed upon how corals protect the eco system and how it works as a natural filter with more than 40% being destroyed in the barrier reef in Australia. He shared a comparative analysis of cardanol and nonyl phenol. Cardolite is a world leader in supplying Cashew nutshell liquid (CNSL)



Shailendra Bhatkhande

based specialty chemicals, a renewable, non-food, low GUP materials with manufacturing facilities located in Zhuhai, China & Mangalore, India. Cardolite uses CNSL derivatives as building blocks for most of its products. Cardolite has recently launched high bio content solutions for high-performance low VOC coatings. The unique chemical structure & properties of CNSL, such as hydrophobicity, good wetting/ adhesion, low temperature curing, and increased flexibility find their application as curing agents in high corrosion areas.

**Vijay Joshi**

The 3rd technical session was presented by Mr. Vijay Joshi on 'Rheology-Exploring its role in Surface Coating' along with Mr Sandeep Vasani & Mr. Rahul Vasani of Bentec Organoclays on Rheological additives – Organo clays for paint and coating industry. – They have Niche expertise in manufacturing consistent, quality organoclays and they too echoed on the sustainability and Make in India principle. They discussed on importance of mill base dispersion with the right rheology modifier to optimize dispersion in coatings. The joint presentation was also focused on giving a brief of the company its operations and products with specific case studies being presented on alternative chemistries to replace conventional rheology modifiers with performance in comparison to global producers. There was also a talk by Mr Vijay Joshi on how rheology modifiers impact paint performance and flow properties. They gave illustrations on substitution of their trademark products with equivalent alternatives with videos featuring feedback from end paint manufacturers which kept the audience engrossed during the entire session.

Technical Session No.4 was presented by Dr. B.P. Mallik of Jesons Industries the title partner for the event on 'Advancements in Specialty Coating Emulsion to address critical challenges of the Architectural Coatings Industry'. His session included the science portion in the first half and the product range in the 2nd half. He spoke about coastline of India being 11000 km and how these environmental parameters affect the life of any coating. The design of any emulsion needs to address and cover the broad environmental factors so that the life span of the end coating can be increased. He also highlighted the effects of humidity, intense rain, offshore climatic conditions, etc, which need to be considered for engineering and designing the product. The problems of dampness, dirt pick up, stick marks and algae formation are some typical problems observed due to exposure, whereas in interior applications, stain resistance and hygienic environment are of paramount importance. His vast experience, repertoire of knowledge and experience of a lifetime showcased just how Jeson Industries Ltd has catapulted

in becoming the best solution provider when it comes to the challenges faced in the decorative space. This was followed by a very interactive Q&A session with the august IPCA gathering.

The 5th technical lecture was presented by Mr. Jeevan Bhosale and Ms. Vandana Kamath Chief Manager from New India Assurance Co Ltd on the topic Bharosa, Nayi Suraksha Ka with New India Assurance. She started her presentation giving a brief of the company's activities and the operational aspects from new India. The specifics on what the need for insurance is and how to approach the same wherein specifically the SME was the key focus. The presentation highlighted various insurance schemes specifically relating to options to help secure our investments in human resources, land, assets, plants and machinery, and how to enhance coverage against natural losses. They highlighted primarily the fire hazards, which have catastrophic repercussions on the coating fraternity at large and how to secure yourself from these financial perils. With more than 11000 fire claims in the last one year the insurance along with proper education on all regulatory compliance to ensure reimbursements. She also emphasized the public liability coverage for industries which is of utmost essential.

**Jeevan Bhosale****Ms. Vandana Kamath**

The 6th Technical lecture was presented by Mr. Trideep Raj Bhandari of Syncro Industries on 'Carbon Black: Putting Things into Perspective'. He presented an overview of his company and its operations with a specific focus on the range of Carbon Blacks they offer, along with the market specifics of carbon black consumption. The presentation was centered on the technology of carbon black manufacturing with product properties of the same. He highlighted the process of manufacturing the carbon black and various check points and tests conducted to ensure supremacy of the product against peer alternatives. He showed the growth rate of rubber black and specialty black wherein the latter shows promise of phenomenal growth, and this is what will be the growth driver for Syncro soon. He showcased the prime three categories of carbon black differentiated by their manufacturing process.

**Trideep Raj**

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

**Hari Tooraskar**

The 7th technical session in Mansion 1 was presented by Mr. Hari Tooraskar from The Chemours India on the topic Introduction of Ti-pure TiO<sub>2</sub> grades and their applications. The presentation started with an introduction of the group activities, production and product grade with the new

approach towards TiO<sub>2</sub> focusing on green aspects. A very informative detail was shared on the grade and their properties while looking at performance aspects. TiO<sub>2</sub> having the highest refractive index can give the highest opacity in combination with proper spacing with TiO<sub>2</sub> particles. Paint being a complex design, not all performance parameters come from TiO<sub>2</sub> which basically covers whiteness index, brightness index, partially UV etc. was well explained to the engrossed audience.



Prasad Gurav

The 8th technical lecture in Mansion 2 was presented by Mr. Prasad Gurav of Arkema Chemicals India Pvt Ltd on 'Arkema Offerings: Industrial Coating Resin: Focus on high solid resin and NISO grades'. The presentation started with an introduction of Arkema offerings to the industry and their product chemistries for the various applications. Emphasis was on the importance of high-solid and bio-based systems, balancing performance with cost. The concept of NISO grades with an impetus on sustainability with substitution of hardeners a high environmental hazard in the industrial coating application, was a very thought provoking presentation with the future in hindsight. The exploration of hybrid chemistry involving acrylics and epoxies was a very novel and unique concept.

The 9th technical lecture in Mansion 1 was presented by Ms. Nivedita Chaskar of Soujanya Color Pvt Ltd on Innovative Color Solutions for Industrial coatings. Soujanya is a global leader in innovative, sustainable color solutions with over 1 million color shades. The presenter focused on the newer technology and gave an introduction into the latest generation of colorants, and their AI-based support and tools. A holistic approach toward reducing VOC, increasing process efficiency, innovation and sustainable process was discussed. Offering more than 1 million shades in a varied platform and 35 years of experience Soujanya continues to be the industry leader in this niche segment.



Venkat Puli

The 10th technical lecture in Mansion 2 was presented by Mr. Venkat Puli and Mr. Abhay Mehrotra from Delta Specialities on the topic 'Little make Difference ... by Delta Additives'. The presentation started with an introduction of the company and its range of products for the coatings industry. In sync with the tag line Little makes the difference the presenters focused on their range of wetting and dispersing agents, along with flow control additives and defoamers. The specifics of the application of these products were also discussed and how the



Abhay Mehrotra

performance is enhanced by the same. The presentation covered various kinds of surface defects and the type and dosage of additives needed for course correction were enumerated upon. He spoke about universal pigment concentrates and solvent free floor coatings and the major role Delta additives play in ensuring the performance parameters of all the coatings.

The 11th technical lecture in Mansion 1 was presented by Mr. Pavan Prabhakar Patil from BYK India Ltd on the topic 'Sustainable wax solutions from BYK'. He started by giving an overview of BYK range of products and their global footprints along with the India operations. He specifically shared his insights on wax additives, and their role and performance of bio-based matting agents for coatings applications. A few sustainable products ranges based on bio renewable sources were also discussed with explanations on bio based organic carbon content. Mr. Patil spoke on the regulatory compliance and the role of wax additives. The differentiator is temperature stability, low melt viscosity and chemical stability as it does not naturally decompose.



Pavan P. Patil

The 12th technical lecture in Mansion 2 was presented by Mr. Abhijeet Sangale and Mr. Sarjerao Kasbekar from Indofil Industries Ltd on the topic 'Build to withstand, designed to perform'. The presenters started with an introduction to Indofil and their range of products offered with applications. The focus was specific to the product offerings and their growth story and aspirations. They spoke about their new plant at Dahej manufacturing specialty performance products having a capacity of 35000 tons per annum. They showcased the EHS, Quality, Product Stewardship Policies, Excellent Certificates etc. They spoke about anti-carbonation coatings for structures which does not allow carbon to pass using the water-based technology, which is a very niche segment.



Abhijeet Sangale



Sarjerao Kasbekar



Dr Hemang Patel

The 13th technical lecture in Mansion 1 was presented by Dr Hemang Patel of 20 Microns Ltd on 'Engineered additives for High performance Paints: From Rheology to durability with cost optimization'. The speaker enumerated certain existing and niche products designed by 20 Microns resulting in gloss and rheology enhancement. He showed how minerals can move beyond being cost-effective fillers to specialty additives enhancing properties like matting, rheology and surface finishes. The focus of the presentation was on how 20 Microns has evolved to customize tailor-made products with the right designing and cost optimization for its list of enviable clients. He spoke at length on rheological additives, zinc oxide and titanium replacements and many more.



The 14th Technical lecture in Mansion 1 was presented by Mr. Zeeshan Syed of SF Engineering Projects and Equipment Pvt Ltd. on 'Innovative Engineering Solutions by SF Engineering'. Mr. Syed started his presentation giving a brief of his journey and the products and capabilities of the company. As a 3rd generation entrepreneur in this industry, showcases the company's

expertise in equipment manufacturing and selection criteria of machinery to achieve optimum dispersion. The cost-benefit study by proper equipment selection was also highlighted. The role of correct machinery to ensure performance parameters and stability was very well enumerated. The motto of good dispersion being the foundation for high quality product was overemphasized.

The 15th technical lecture was presented in Mansion 1 by Mr. Pankaj Verma of Grasim Industries Limited (Advanced Materials) on 'Next Gen Solution: The Rise of Waterborne Epoxy Systems'. He started with a brief introduction of Grasim Industries extensive experience expertise in the domain of Epoxy resins and allied systems backed up with state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities and R and D capabilities. The presenter gave an overview of the various grades of waterborne Epoxy systems and the critical importance of the complementary hardener. A key focus of the presentation was towards sustainable technology with the use of waterborne epoxy systems and their advantages.

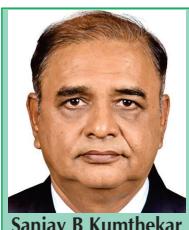
**Pankaj Verma**

The 16th technical lecture in Mansion 2 was to be presented by Mr. Arun B Kumar of The Kerala Minerals & Metals Limited on 'The Geoeconomics of The Titanium Dioxide Industry'. Due to last-minute exigency the speaker could not make it for the technical presentation, and we look forward to having them again with us sometime in the near future in another IPCA gathering.

The 17th technical lecture in Mansion 1 was presented by Dr S C Srivastava of K-Tech India Ltd on 'Avinya – New world of additives'. Dr Srivastava, in his true adorable style started with a journey on philosophy entrenching it into the world of additive technology. The influence of additives in manufacturing, storage, application stage along with the life span of coating, was discussed. The chemistry of active coating additives, special functional additives, along with wetting and dispersing technology, defoamer technology, levelling technology, and light substitution technology was discussed.

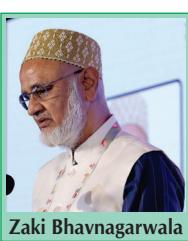
**Dr S C Srivastava**

The 18th technical lecture in Mansion 2 was presented by Mr. Sanjay B Kumthekar of Micas Organics Limited on the topic 'General discussion on Pigments and Micas'. The presenter gave the same online and started giving an overview of Micas operations and the pigments chemistries the company offers.

**Sanjay B Kumthekar**

He dwelt specifically on the Micas range of organic and inorganic pigments and their performance attributes for various applications. He focused on some popular grades like Yellow 3 and Yellow 65 with the later replacing lead pigments and used by major players in the coating fraternity. He also spoke about Yellow 74 which shows a drop in strength on keeping which Micas has overcome with the help of some specialty additives.

The 19th technical lecture in Mansion 1 was presented by Mr. Zaki Bhavnagarwala of Essar International Pvt. Ltd. on 'Polysaccharide Resins (Polyresin100) Rheology modifiers and other strategic portfolio of Essar International and Harsh Chemicals'. He spoke about his and the company's journey in the industry and the range of products in the portfolio of the company. Special emphasis was given in the presentation on Poly saccharide resin, its properties and application usages. Also, the emulsifiers, rheology modifiers zinc dust and cuprous oxide and their usages were specifically covered in the lecture. The wide range of strategic products available with the company impressing upon strength as a competitive and complete one stop solution for the coating industry was very impressive and well received.

**Zaki Bhavnagarwala**

The 20th technical lecture in Mansion 2 was presented by Mr. S Suresh of DCW Ltd on the topic 'Manufacturing of synthetic Iron oxide pigments'. He started by giving an overview of DCW operations products and industries catered to, dwelling into the manufacturing process of Iron oxide with emphasis on the company having adopted

low carbon footprint technology and contributed to sustainability. He spoke about the mission, vision and journey of DCW towards all its stakeholders along with its value proposition and scale-up capacity. DCW is the largest manufacturer of synthetic oxide for a various range of products from construction, paper, plastic, coatings, fertilizer and fertilizer composites

The 21st technical lecture in Mansion 1 was presented by Mr. Saurabh Nikhare from Brenntag Ingredients (India) Pvt. Ltd. on the topic 'Rethinking Paint Formulation: Novel Water inclusion strategies for VOC reduction'. The speaker started his presentation with an overview of the company products and their operations, and the markets catered to. He spoke on water inclusion technology using Brenntag range of products and lowering the VOC. These novel technologies covered water inclusion in alkyd enamels, minimizing VOC emissions and stressing on the current buzz word of sustainability. VOC regulations, in spite of being there, are not very stringent. But going ahead, a

**Saurabh Nikhare**

lot of regulations would be coming into effect from the Government, so it's better to be prepared for the same. There are quality perspectives and challenges when one moves from solvent-based enamels to water included enamel, which would be overcome in due course of time.



The 22nd technical lecture in Mansion 2 was presented by Mr G B Singh from Anupam Colours and Chemical India Pvt Ltd. A legend and Doyen of the industry, he gave an inspirational lecture sharing his views and life experiences. He started with the inspiration behind his entrepreneurial journey and the various challenges faced

and how the same were overcome. He further briefed the gathering on his new Pvt Ltd company which was formed and new range of products which they are catering to service a broad spectrum of industries. Mr. Singh touched the audience's heart with his life journey and philosophical thought, specially his overemphasis on the alphabet "I" in the word SIN.

## Panel Discussion

A captivating panel discussion revolving around the conference theme of "Ideation" took center stage. Mr. Rohan Bhasin, the distinguished Immediate Past 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:



Panel Discussion Lto R - Ashok Rajput, Subhas Gupta, Mayur Chhabra, Dhiresh Gosalia, Shailendra Bhatkhande, Parag Karhadkar, Rohan Bhasin

Mr. Ashok Rajput, Head of Procurement South Asia Paints & Coatings at Akzo Nobel India Ltd., emphasized that regardless of the current circumstances, the outlook for the Indian Coating Industry is remarkably promising. He spoke about the change in regulatory framework with EPR and Anti-Dumping duties. 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 further shared his views that all is not lost for the MSME and encouraged more MSME industries to work as channel partners with the large conglomerates, which was an alternative opportunity to co-exist and grow in tandem with the industry.

Mr. Dhiresh Gosalia, Chairman & MD of Jesons Industries Ltd., spoke about the challenges being faced in the RM sphere due to backward integration drive taken by big companies and the pressure on bottom lines, with the MSME sector being the silver lining for them. He spoke about his learnings from projects which could not breach the parameters of being lauded

as successful. He gave insights on how it is important to get off the wrong train boarded in the very next station rather than continuing with the journey, which could be disastrous. He also shared his views on the next generation at Jesons and the difference between expectations and ground reality.

Mr. Shailendra Bhatkhande Vice President of Cardolite Specialty Chemicals India LLP spoke about sustainability in the India market context debating on the same still being premature and at a nascent level compared to growing and developed economies. The high-cost component, which comes with the sustainability quotient in a price sensitive market like India is far from finding its acceptance even after so many years. He also stressed upon the impact of the slowdown on the Chinese economy on the overall business sentiments.

Mr. Mayur Chhabra Head of Supply Chain, JK Maxx Paints stressed upon the JK vision in entering the paint segment and the challenges faced due to the disruption by the big brothers of the industry. He shared some valuable insights and stressed upon the USP being their entry into this segment. He was optimistic about the years ahead and expected a robust growth in the paint segment in spite of the industry suffering from the current bottleneck of huge overcapacities, with new entrants coming with massive capacities and many more to enter in an now overcrowded paint market.

Mr. 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. The broad impact of tariffs imposed and its adverse impact on the export market, job sector and brain gain from the Indian economy perspective was discussed.

Mr. Subhas Gupta Savita Paints (P) Ltd, representing the MSME in the elite panel, showed full confidence in the road ahead for the MSME in spite of the current turbulent times, as the space for the small and mid-players will always remain due to their interpersonal skills, reachability, accessibility, quick adaptation and working at the ground reality levels. He was optimistic about retaining a decent pie as has been historically with the small-scale industries and will continue to be a dominant force in this sector.

The audience was enthralled by the wealth of information and in-depth analysis provided by the panel of experts on the dais, enriching their understanding of the industry's dynamics and prospects.

## Ladies & Children's Programme

A dedicated Ladies & Children's Programme was organized on 12th September 2025 at the Nilgiri Hall, Ananta Resort & Spa. The program witnessed enthusiastic participation, with 125 ladies and 30 children in attendance.

The event commenced at 11:00 am with an insightful session on Women and their mental health, conducted by Mrs. Namita Shah (psychologist), which was highly appreciated by the participants. This was followed by a series of games and interactive

sessions designed to encourage engagement and camaraderie among the attendees.



Mrs. Namita Shah

A lunch session provided an opportunity for informal networking and relaxation. The afternoon segment featured group and team skits, which showcased creativity and teamwork, as well as a spirited Antakshari session, which generated active participation and enjoyment. For the children, a dedicated play area was arranged within the hall, ensuring they were entertained throughout the day.

To further encourage participation, lucky gifts were distributed to winners of the games, skits, and Antakshari. The event concluded with a high tea served at the same venue, bringing the programme to a close at 4:30 pm.

Overall, the Ladies & Children's Programme was a well-structured and interactive event, providing a balanced mix of learning, entertainment, and engagement. It added significant value to the Biennial Conference by fostering a spirit of inclusion and creating memorable experiences for the families of members and delegates.



Ladies Program

### Closing Ceremony

The grand closing ceremony of the IPCA Biennial Conference 2025, held on 12th September 2025, brought to a close two days of vibrant exchange of ideas, meaningful networking, and celebration of the Paints & Coatings industry.

The session commenced with Mr. Jesal Parekh, Central Committee Member of IPCA, presenting a detailed recap of the past two days of the conference. He highlighted the rich variety of technical sessions, interactive panel discussions, product presentations, and engaging events that defined this year's gathering. From thought-provoking lectures on innovation and sustainability to carefully



Jesal Parekh



Conference Committee

curated ladies' activities and evening entertainment programs, every element bore testimony to IPCA's reputation for hosting an industry event that balances knowledge, networking, and camaraderie. His address underscored the overwhelming appreciation received from the fraternity, reaffirming IPCA's pivotal role in shaping the direction of the paints and coatings sector.

Following this, Mr. Neerav Shah, Convener of the Biennial Conference 2025, delivered an emotional and heartfelt speech. He shared his personal journey of steering such a landmark conference — the largest in IPCA's history in terms of rooms booked and delegates hosted. He spoke candidly about the challenges faced during the planning stages and the immense satisfaction of seeing the event unfold successfully. Extending his gratitude, he warmly acknowledged the untiring efforts of the organising committee and the support of volunteers and sponsors, whose dedication had been instrumental in ensuring a seamless execution.

The evening then saw an inspiring address by IPCA President, Mr. Rohit Duggal. In his speech, he reflected on the key takeaways from the sessions of the past two days and shared his thoughts on the progress and initiatives undertaken by IPCA over the past year. Mr. Duggal expressed his deep appreciation for the enthusiastic participation of members and delegates, especially noting the packed attendance at technical seminars and breakout sessions on the final day, which is often a challenge in long conferences. He commended the spirit of the community that has made IPCA conferences an institution in themselves.

The closing ceremony concluded with the presentation of mementos and awards to the organising committee, sponsors, and contributors, marking a gesture of gratitude and recognition for their efforts. This was followed by the much-awaited lucky draw segment, which added an element of excitement and joy for the delegates, drawing enthusiastic participation and cheers from the audience. The evening ended on a note of celebration, pride, and unity, as the delegates departed with renewed energy, stronger networks, and a shared vision for the future of the paints and coatings industry.

The IPCA Biennial Conference 2025 at Udaipur will be remembered as a milestone event — not only for its record participation and scale, but also for the way it brought together leaders, professionals, and stakeholders in a spirit of collaboration, learning, and festivity. ■