

REMEMBERING C K SOMANY

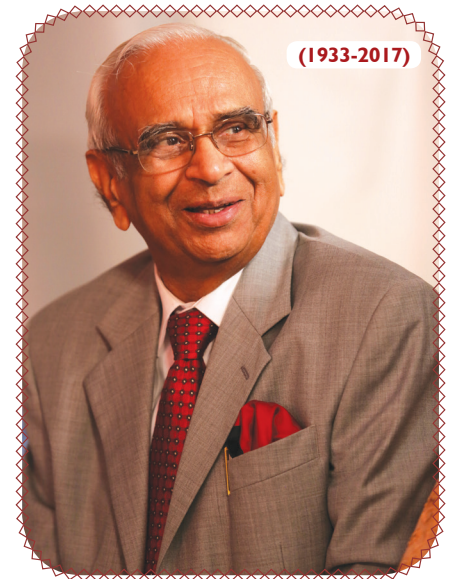
Mr. Chandra Kumar Somany, AIGMF Former President and Executive Committee Member left for heavenly abode on May 17, 2017 at the age of 84 at Kolkata.

Born on 25th June 1933 in Kolkata, Mr. Chandra Kumar Somany acknowledged expert in glass technology laid the foundation of Hindusthan National Glass and Industries Ltd.

Mr. Somany headed India's principal glass manufacturing group for

Industry formed by the Government of India, Ministry of Industry between 1995 and 1997.

Mr. C.K. Somany was popularly known as CK, a globally respected entrepreneur. Mr. Somany was the principal architect of what constitutes the modern Indian Glass Container Industry today. He joined the Indian Glass Packaging Industry when it was at a nascent stage. His family had interests in a small glass bottle plant in the state of West Bengal, which was largely based on the manual process of manufacturing. Around



It was indeed very bad news. As a young glass technologist, I first met him in Kolkata 45 years ago and then so many other times in glass meetings. He was a genius and I wish he served the nation for some more time. I am extremely sad to hear about this worst news for all of us in glass related activities where he played a pivotal role. Moreover: He was like a library with so much knowledge. My sincerest heartfelt condolence to the Somany family - and to Mukul Babu and Sanjay Babu.

- Prof. (Dr.) Asis K Bandyopadhyay, Ph D (Sheffield), Ex-CNRS (Paris), Ex-Principal, GCECT, Kolkata

We are shocked to hear the sad message of sudden demise of Shri C. K. Somany, Former President and Executive Committee Member of AIGMF. We called a condolence meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri Raj Kumar Mittal, President of UPGMS. In the meeting members present, expressed deep sorrow on the death of Shri CK Somany ji. Infact, he was a veteran of Glass Industry. He served Glass Industry very well for which he will always be remembered. We all pray to ALMIGHTY GOD to render peace to the departed Soul and solace to the bereaved family.

- Raj Kumar Mittal- President UPGMS & Sr. VP AIGMF and Sanjay Agarwal - Hon. Sec. UPGMS & Hon. Gen. Sec. AIGMF

more than 60 years. The company under its leadership has used latest state of the art technology of glass manufacturing. Hindusthan National Glass & Industries (HNGIL) emerged as the region's dominant supplier of containers and also diversified into the rapidly expanding float glass business.

Some of the prominent positions held by Mr. C K Somany are: He served as the President of The All India Glass Manufacturers' Federation (1975-1976), Eastern India Glass Manufacturers' Association (EIGMA) – Kolkata (many terms) and several other commercial and non-commercial organizations. He has served as the Chairman of the Development Panel for Glass

this point in time, his family wanted to go for substantial automation in the business process.

Mr. Somany served as the Chairman of the Glass & Glassware Panel of CAPEXIL (Chemical & Allied Products Export Promotion Council) which controls an export turnover of US\$ 17 billion.

Mr. Somany was pioneer in bringing world class quality product to its customers.

Mr. C K Somany's elder son, Mr. Sanjay Somany and younger son, Mr. Mukul Somany are the Vice Chairman and Managing Directors of the company. Mr. Bharat Somany, son of Mr. Sanjay Somany is Vice President in HNGIL and also serves

as Vice President of the AIGMF.

Mr. C K Somany was associated with various charitable and philanthropic organizations carrying on in the glorious tradition of his illustrious ancestors.

In the area of philanthropic activities, he has carved a niche for himself among the peer group.

He has set up a large Community

We are all desperately sorry to hear of CK's passing and send our sincere condolences. We will also contact the family separately to this effect. Once again, please accept our deepest commiserations.

- Dave Fordham, Glass Worldwide, London

Centre at Rishikesh, a modernized school in Haryana, helped several colleges, Universities, Temples

I knew Mr. C. K. Somany personally from my childhood. He was an outstanding industrialist, and a shining light of the Indian glass industry. He was always at the forefront in trying out new developments in the industry. His company ran at such high levels of efficiency, as to set benchmarks not just in India, but in several other countries of the world. He brought many innovations to glass making in India, including elimination of the use of arsenic, and the introduction of slag in the batch. I feel a personal sense of loss to hear of this sad event.

- Pradeep Kheruka, Vice Chairman, Borosil Glass Works Ltd., Mumbai

and Social Organizations in their respective pursuits, He has set up the Somany Surgical Eye Clinic, equipped with ultra-modern machines to serve the distressed and the needy for their

vision problems. His wife, Mrs. Sudha Somany has supported him in all his CSR activities.

Phoenix Award Committee announced, Mr. C K Somany as

“Glass Person of the Year 2013” for his significant and major contributions to glass industry in the field of production, glass education and container glass.

Our heartfelt condolences. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace - Harikumar Menon & staff of R D Ashar Pvt Ltd., Mumbai

*It is very sad to hear the demise of Shri C K Somany. My heartfelt condolences to his family.
- Prof. Devendra Kumar, BHU, IIT, Varanasi*

The Glass Industry in India and World over will remember the Great services of Shri. C K Somany Saab- A Achari, Asha Glass Services, Baroda

*We express our heartfelt condolences.
May God give strength to bereaved Family.
-Shrikant Ramteke, WAM India Pvt. Ltd., Thane*

*Sorry to learn about sad demise of C.K. Somany Ji. May his soul rest in peace.
-Prem P Malhotra, Glacera Engineers, Pune*

सी.के. बाबू- संक्षिप्त जीवनी

सन् 1952 में मात्र 15 टन प्रतिदिन की क्षमता के काँच के उद्योग से शुरुआत करने वाले मारवाड़ी मूल के श्री सी.के. बाबू के बारे में कोई नहीं जानता था कि यह एक दिन काँच की दुनिया के बेताज बादशाह बन जायेंगे। बाजार पर उपलब्ध होने वाले ‘H’ मार्क वाले काँच की विश्वप्रसिद्ध कंपनी ‘एचएनजी’ आज उनकी सोच, कठोर-परिश्रम का ही नतीजा है।

सी.के. बाबू के नाम से जाने वाले चन्द्रकुमार सोमानी का 84 वर्ष लंबा जीवन कई उतार-चढ़ावों से भरा रहा। सन् 1933 में 25 जून को कलकत्ता में जन्मे श्री बाबू के पिताजी स्व. मुरलीधर सोमानी जूट बेग, मलमल के कपड़े व शेरय मार्केट का छोटा-मोटा व्यवसाय करते थे। जीवन की विषमताओं का प्रथम प्रहार मात्र 10 वर्ष की अबोध आयु में ही हो गया। जिस आयु में पिता के संरक्षण व स्नेह की छत्र-छाया की आवश्यकता होती है, ऐसे समय में आपके पिता का देहावसान हो गया। बचपन तो कलकत्ता में ही बीता और प्रारंभिक शिक्षा प्राप्त की वहाँ के बंगाली माध्यम के ‘हेअर स्कूल’ से जो उनके मकान से लगा हुआ ही मारवाड़ियों के आधिक्य वाले क्षेत्र

बड़ा बाजार में स्थित था। उच्च शिक्षा ‘सेंट जेवियरर्स कॉलेज’ से प्राप्त की।

आज़ादी के पूर्व वर्ष 1946 में श्री सोमानी जब कॉलेज में पढ़ ही रहे थे, तभी उन्हें ‘काँच की दुनिया’ ने खींच लिया। सोमानी परिवार का ‘मेन्यूअल प्रोसेज’ पर आधारित एक छोटा सा ‘ग्लास प्लांट’ पश्चिम बंगाल के हावड़ा में था, लेकिन वह श्रमिक समस्या के कारण लंबे समय से बंद पड़ा था। वर्ष 1946 में उनके परिवार ने ऑटोमेटिक मशीनें लगाकर ‘ग्रीन फील्ड ग्लास प्रोजेक्ट’ की तरह उसे प्रारंभ करने का निर्णय किया।

1964 में कोलकाता के बाद बहादुरगढ़ में ग्लास प्लांट लगाया।

व्यावसायिक उतार-चढ़ावों व संघर्षों को पार करता आज एच.एन.जी. काँच उद्योग के क्षेत्र में विश्व भर में एक जाना माना नाम बन चुका है। वर्तमान में समूह के देश में कुल 7 प्लांट स्थापित हैं और मात्र 15 टन प्रतिदिन की क्षमता से प्रारंभ उद्योग आज प्रतिदिन 4300 टन से अधिक का काँच दुनिया को दे रहा है। भारत में तो समूह का अपना स्थान

है ही, साथ ही यह नेपाल, नाइजीरिया, फिलीपींस, इंडोनेशिया आदि देशों को भी बड़ी मात्रा में माल निर्यात कर रहा है।

बाबूजी ने अपने व्यवसाय व परिवार के साथ ही मानवता की सेवा में भी यथा शक्ति भागीदारी दी है। प्रसिद्ध तीर्थ ऋषिकेश में आपने अपनी माता की स्मृति में जनहितार्थ ‘जानकीदेवी सोमानी भवन धर्मशाला’ का निर्माण करवाया। ऋषिकेश आने वाले तीर्थयात्री यहाँ घर सा माहौल महसूस करते हैं। कोलकाता ‘सुनेत्र आई हॉस्पिटल’ में भी आपने डेढ़ करोड़ रुपये का योगदान दिया तथा सर्जिकल यूनिट की स्थापना की। यहाँ आने वाले 20 प्रतिशत रोगियों को निःशुल्क, 30 प्रतिशत को रियायती दर पर तथा शेष सभी 50 प्रतिशत को अत्यंत कम शुल्क पर चिकित्सा सुविधा प्रदान की जाती है। इस हॉस्पिटल का उद्देश्य लाभ कमाना नहीं है, शुल्क तो केवल उपकरणों के आधुनिकीकरण के काम में ही आता है। बहादुरगढ़ हरियाणा में आपके सहयोग से ‘बाल भारती विद्यालय’ संचालित हो रहा है।

उनकी इसी कामयाबी के चलते सन् 2013 का ग्लास पर्सन ऑफ द इयर के अवॉर्ड से उन्हें नवाजा गया। इतना ही नहीं वो पहले भारतीय हैं जिन्हें फिनेक्स अवॉर्ड देकर सम्मानित किया गया है। ये सम्मान पाने वाले वो दूसरे एशियन हैं।

*Extremely shocked to hear just now through AIGMF email about the sudden demise of Shri CK Somany ji. This loss is not only to the Somany's family, Spouse, Sons, Grand Children etc, but, to the entire Glass Industry, as I use to respect him as a 'Father of Glass Industry. Also, there wouldn't be another CK Somany ji in the Glass Industry on this planet. I along with Shamvik family pray to the Almighty "to Rest his Soul in Eternal Peace"
- Vijay Goel, Shamvik Glasstech, Mumbai*

*We all are deeply sadden to learn tragic news of C K Babu's departure. AIGMF Secretariat convey heartfelt condolences to entire family.
- Vinit Kapur / Dilip Kumar / Gajendra Singh, AIGMF Secretariat*