

AIGMF marks 75th anniversary

To mark The All India Glass Manufacturers' Federation's 75th anniversary, Vinit Kapur, Secretary explained to *Glass Worldwide* (preferred international AIGMF journal) the organisation's principal activities, its aims and objectives, as well as profiling the AIGMF's current office holders.

GW: Who does the AIGMF represent and what are its overriding aims and objectives?

Founded in 1944, the AIGMF is the umbrella organisation for all categories of large, medium and small-scale glass manufacturers in different parts of India.

The federation's main aims and objectives are to encourage, promote and develop the manufacture of glass articles of all kinds. A series of committees meet regularly to ensure the promotion of glass, to study and research advances in glass technology, to secure the necessary supply of raw materials required for the manufacture of glass articles and to make representations whenever necessary to the Union Government or any unit of the Union of India for the removal of difficulties that might hamper the trade of glass articles or for special facilities to be granted to assist the local glass industry. In addition, the Government or public's attention is drawn to difficulties faced by the glass industry, soliciting their help and support through concerted action.

All those engaged in the manufacture of glass and glass articles are enrolled as 'ordinary' members of the AIGMF and those associated with the glass industry are enrolled as 'affiliate' members of the federation.

GW: Who are the organisation's office bearers?

President - Raj Kumar Mittal, Managing Director, Mittal Group of Glass Industries, Firozabad.

A commerce graduate, Raj Kumar was elected as Chairman of the Indian Industries Association (IIA), Firozabad Chapter and President of UP Glass Manufacturers' Syndicate (UPGMS). He has been associated with the glass industry for almost 30 years and heads five glass companies in Firozabad.

Senior Vice President - Bharat Somany, Vice President - Hindusthan National Glass & Industries Ltd, Bahadurgarh (Haryana)

A Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) graduate from the University of Delhi with a professional course in management from the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, Bharat Somany has benefited from multifarious hands-on training in the glass industry from various leading companies around the world, notably in Germany, Italy, the USA and Japan.

Vice President - Sanjay Agarwal, Managing Director, Kwaliti Glass Works, Firozabad.

A BSc graduate, Sanjay Agarwal was



Former AIGMF President, Sanjay Somany at an interactive AIGMF session staged last July in co-operation with the Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute and the Indian Ceramic Society.

elected Vice Chairman of the Indian Industries Association (IIA) Firozabad chapter and Vice President of UP Glass Manufacturers' Syndicate. He heads GT Group of Industries, a business that specialises in the manufacture of glassware, scientific ware/glass bangles and glass handicraft items.

Honorary General Secretary - Kailash Chandra Jain, President Sisecam Flat Glass India Ltd, Mumbai.

Kailash Jain is a mechanical engineer by profession and has worked in the glass industry since 2005. He is currently President of Sisecam Flat Glass India Ltd, with responsibility for flat glass operations in India. Mr Jain has 46 years of industrial experience in various industries ranging from steel to paper. He has also chaired the functioning of CCPS - Confederation of Construction Products and Services for over two years.



The AIGMF is the umbrella organisation for all categories of glass manufacturers in India.



The Executive Committee of the AIGMF meets regularly with the active support of regional associations.

Honorary Treasurer – Hargun C Bhambhani, Managing Director, Sunrise Glass Ind Pvt Ltd, Gujarat.

Located near Hazira port in western India, Sunrise Glass is a diversification of the Astron Group into the glass container business, a company originally created in 2011 by the late visionary Hasmukh Bhai Thakkar. Hargun Bhambhani, a family associate, has taken forward the vision of Hasmukh Bhai Thakkar and provided dynamic leadership to Sunrise Glass. It is his strong commitment for customer satisfaction and hard work to exceed customer expectations that has resulted in 100% growth in just eight years.

GW: Who else is involved in the AIGMF's Executive Committee?

Based on the recommendations of Zonal Associations, the following were nominated as members of the Executive Committee for the year 2018-19:

Eastern India Glass Manufacturers' Association (EIGMA)

Vinay Saran, Hindusthan National Glass & Industries Ltd, Kolkata.

Northern India Glass Manufacturers' Association (NIGMA)

Saurabh Kankar, Gujarat Guardian Ltd, New Delhi.
Shailendra Kumar Misra, Hindusthan National Glass & Industries Ltd, Bahadurgarh.

South India Glass Manufacturers' Association (SIGMA)

Rajesh Khosla, AGI glasspac, Hyderabad.

UP Glass Manufacturers' Syndicate (UPGMS)

Manish Bansal, GM Glass Works No 2, Firozabad.
Sanjay Mittal, Farukhi Glass Industries, Firozabad.

Krishan Mohan Gupta, Firozabad Glass Shell Industries, Firozabad.
Anurag Gupta, Om Glass Works (P) Ltd, Firozabad.
Mukesh Kumar Bansal, Sri Sitaram Glass Works, Firozabad.
Uma Shankar Agarwal, Pooja Glass Works (P) Ltd, Firozabad.

Western India Glass Manufacturers' Association (WIGMA)

G K Sarda, Empire Industries Ltd, Vitrum Glass, Mumbai.
Sanjay Tiwari, Piramal Glass Ltd, Mumbai.
Naresh Gupta, Hindusthan National Glass & Industries Ltd, Mumbai.
H R Bhandari, Pragati Glass Works (P) Ltd, Mumbai.

GW: Please identify the activities and primary focus of each of the zonal associations that make up the AIGMF.

The Executive Committee of the AIGMF meets regularly with the active support of regional associations and organises healthy debate on industry issues, with the sole aim of the industry's development.

The federation is made up of five regional associations, namely the Eastern India Glass Manufacturers' Association, the Northern India Glass Manufacturers' Association, the South India Glass Manufacturers' Association, the UP Glass Manufacturers' Syndicate and the Western India Glass Manufacturers' Association.

Individuals, companies and



Raj Kumar Mittal.



Bharat Somany.



Sanjay Agarwal.



Kailash Chandra Jain.



Hargun Chhataram Bhambhani.



AIGMF Secretary, Vinit Kapur.

corporate bodies that wish to become ordinary or affiliate members of the federation submit an application to the AIGMF Secretary via their relevant regional association, in a format prescribed by the committee. The application is then placed before the committee at the next meeting or it is circulated for consideration, provided the regional association has already recommended it.

GW: What are the key benefits of AIGMF membership and what type of organisations do you represent?

The AIGMF provides a stable platform for all manufacturers to participate at the annual forum. Its Executive Committee meets every three months to discuss challenges and opportunities that may exist for the glass industry and ways and means to move forward.

A united front is provided on behalf of all glass manufacturers to gain those advantages that may not be possible via individual initiatives. The AIGMF helps to draw Government or public attention to the difficulties faced by the glass industry, while also solving other problems confronting it and soliciting their help and support through concerted action.

Members are involved in the container, float, solar and speciality glass sectors, while affiliate members include suppliers of raw materials, machinery, consultants etc.

The AIGMF publishes its own quarterly journals *Kanch* and *Glass News*, carrying news from around the globe. An exclusive tie-up with *Glass Worldwide* adds quality and information relevant for an industry with a readership of over 12,000. Complimentary copies are provided to AIGMF members.

The secretariat works closely with various ministries, Departments at the Government of India and State Governments, public undertakings, trade associations, institutions etc, seeking their continued support for the furtherance of the federation's aims and objectives, as well as for the local glass industry's development and growth.

GW: Are there any key industry initiatives in which the AIGMF participates, both domestically and internationally?

Members are informed about important exhibitions, conferences, trade fairs and workshops etc held in India and abroad and to seek their possible participation. Among the regular AIGMF events are:

- Events held parallel to Ex Com meetings aiding Make in India and Clean India campaigns by promoting glass packaging and the Government of India's Smart Cities mission by promoting the use of glass in buildings from human safety and aesthetics.
- CII's Indian Green Building

Congress as one of the supporting associations.

- glasstec exhibition in Germany and China Glass in China.
- glasspex and glasspro exhibitions as a supporting association and organising the AIGMF's bi-annual international conference in parallel to glasspex exhibition.

GW: Please summarise economic conditions in India and the challenges/opportunities faced by India's glassmakers.

Glass in various forms is used in road vehicles for sidelites and backlites, windscreens, windows, rear view mirrors etc. An increase from this sector is leading to increased demand for glass.

The construction industry, both in India and globally, has

The 2nd AIGMF Awards

In recognition of outstanding contributions to the Indian glass industry, The All India Glass Manufacturers' Federation (AIGMF), with support from *Glass Worldwide*, has announced plans for the second C K Somany Award for Innovation and Technology and the BalKrishna Gupta Award for Exports.

Last August, The All India Glass Manufacturers' Federation (AIGMF) executive committee and invited guests gathered for a ceremony in Delhi to recognise Sushil Jhunjhunwala and Piramal Glass Private Ltd as the inaugural winners of the prestigious C K Somany Glass Award and the BalKrishna Gupta Award respectively.

The C K Somany Award for Innovation and Technology will be given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the glass industry in the field or fields of manufacturing,

product development, environmental factors, business performance/ growth, research and development and/or science/technology. The inaugural winner last year was Sushil Jhunjhunwala, Vice Chairman of La Opala RG Ltd.

The BalKrishna Gupta Award for Exports will be given to an individual/ firm by considering the following factors: Who has contributed towards the identification or growth of new potential markets/volume of exports/ reaching a number of countries or any other area showcasing valuable contributions in glass exports. The 2018 winner was Piramal Glass Private Ltd.

Referral applications can also be submitted by Regional Associations UP Glass Manufacturers' Syndicate (UPGMS), Firozabad; South India Glass Manufacturers' Association (SIGMA), Hyderabad; Western India Glass Manufacturers' Association (WIGMA), Mumbai; Northern India Glass Manufacturers' Association

(NIGMA), Bahadurgarh, Haryana; and Eastern India Glass Manufacturers' Association (EIGMA), Kolkata, who may give recommendation for giving award to a likely individual.

AIGMF may also take help from BHU (Ceramic Glass Division), CGCRI (Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute), CCPS (Confederation of Construction Products) and FOSG (Federation of Safety Glass) for identifying suitable candidates for the award.

It is anticipated that these second awards in these categories are likely to be presented in September or October 2019 at the platinum jubilee celebrations of AIGMF during the Annual General Meeting or at glasspex India 2019.

The 2019 jury for the awards will comprise:

- Dr K Annapurna, Senior Principal Scientist, Glass Division, CSIR-Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI), Kolkata.
- Dave Fordham, Publisher, *Glass Worldwide*, London (UK).
- Bharat Somany, Senior Vice President, AIGMF and Vice President, HNG Industries Ltd, Bahadurgarh (Haryana).
- M K Bansal, Executive Committee Member, AIGMF and Partner, Shri Sitaram Glass Works, Firozabad (UP).
- Vinit Kapur, Secretary, AIGMF, Delhi.

Applications are invited at info@aigmf.com from within India from all those connected with the glass industry, who may submit a brief write-up/CV in support of their candidature at the latest by 31 July 2019.



Award winners Sushil Jhunjhunwala (fourth left) and Sanjay Jain (fifth left) with AIGMF President Raj Kumar Mittal (centre), members of the Somany and Gupta families and AIGMF executive committee members and dignitaries.



Jury members in 2018 included (from left to right) Vinit Kapur (AIGMF), Dr Ranjan Sen (CSIR-CGCRI), Dave Fordham (*Glass Worldwide*) and Bharat Somany (HNG). M K Bansal (Shri Sitaram Glass Works) (not pictured) was also a juror.



Delegates at the 12th AIGMF International Conference in 2017.

been experiencing rapid growth over the past few years, driven primarily by real estate construction. In recent years, there has been increasing demand for improving the aesthetics of commercial complexes, which has further fuelled growth in the use of glass in various forms. Government schemes and initiatives like 'Housing for all by 2022', smart cities, RERA etc are driving the level of development, construction, infrastructure, employment opportunities etc in these cities, which will in turn lead to additional demand for glass.

Demand for glass used in solar energy applications is expanding. As a result, demand for glass processing equipment serving this sector is also

expected to offer significant sales potential.

The growing use of glass packaging is driving the glass container industry globally. With glass possessing the properties of reusability and being 100% recyclable, customers are increasingly conscious about safety and hygiene and increasingly making use of glass containers.

The AIGMF invites suggestions from its members, including those relating to a recently introduced GST by the Indian Government and submits representations to various Government departments and related trade organisations seeking relief on raw materials availability, mainly in the form of natural gas, soda ash and cullet etc.

GW: How does the AIGMF's co-operation with *Glass Worldwide* enrich proceedings?

The AIGMF's association with *Glass Worldwide* has always been a special one, with *Glass Worldwide* named as the organisation's preferred international journal in association with *Kanch*.

In order to benefit the glass industry and its members, the AIGMF approached *Glass Worldwide* in 2012 to tie up for an exchange of information and articles that may be beneficial to all parties. The AIGMF website is updated with an online library of Indian articles in association with *Glass Worldwide*. And all Indian articles published in *Glass Worldwide* since 2009 are uploaded for ready reference.

In addition to being the leading bi-monthly journal for all sectors and regions of the global glass industry, *Glass Worldwide*'s co-operation with the AIGMF and *Kanch* provides the Indian sub-continent with the best possible forum for the exchange of news and views between glass manufacturers and their suppliers. *Glass Worldwide* shares the AIGMF's goals of promoting the Indian glass sector to a domestic and global audience, as well as informing Indian glass professionals about developments from other regions.

Recently, co-operation with *Glass Worldwide* has grown in the form of participation at international events, eg glasstec exhibition, where a joint stand is taken to facilitate greater publications and information exchange.

Along with the Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute and the Indian Ceramic Society, the AIGMF organised an interactive session on 'The Role of Publications in Brand Promotion' in July 2018 at CGCRI, Kolkata, where Dave Fordham, Publisher of *Glass Worldwide* was the guest speaker. Mr Fordham gave an overview of *Glass Worldwide*, its reach and sectors covered, emphasising the publication's association with the Indian glass industry/AIGMF, as well as the exchange of technical articles.

In 2018, the first AIGMF Glass Awards were presented. This ceremony featured the C K Somany Award for Innovation and Technology and the Balkrishna Gupta Award for Exports. Dave Fordham was invited to participate on the selection panel. Later this year, the second AIGMF Glass Awards will again be supported by *Glass Worldwide*. ●



AIGMF dignitaries at the 12th AIGMF International Conference in 2017, each holding their latest copies of the Indian Glass Directory.

Further information:

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