

DAY 1

SHOW DAILY

FEBRUARY

12



74th IFC & 22nd IFEX 2026

Gateway of the Global Foundry Industry, IFEX 2026 OPENS TODAY IN MUMBAI



Mumbai became the focal point of the foundry industry as **IFEX 2026 and the 74th Indian Foundry Congress** commenced at the **Bombay Exhibition Centre (NESCO)**. Organised by **The Institute of Indian Foundrymen (IIF)**, the event marks IFEX's return to Mumbai after nearly three decades, bringing together industry leaders and global delegates.

IFEX 2026 was inaugurated by Mr. R. V. Gumaste, Managing Director, Kirloskar Ferrous Ltd., in the presence of **Mr. Amish Panchal**, Chairman, 74th IFC, and **Mr. Sushil Sharma**, President, IIF. With **500 exhibitors**, over **1,500 delegates**, and strong buyer participation of around **30,000+**, the exhibition reinforces India's position as a global sourcing hub. An **Exhibitor's Directory** was also released during the inauguration.

Addressing the gathering, speakers highlighted the need for technology adoption, digitalisation, and sustainable manufacturing to strengthen the sector's global competitiveness. The inaugural ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by **Mr. Saibal Sen**, Chairman, IIF–Western Region, formally declaring **IFEX 2026** open.



Inauguration Highlights

"The grand scale of IFEX 2026 reflects the collective strength of our foundry fraternity, with seasoned stakeholders and visitors alike contributing to its success. As India witnesses a sizeable economic boom, driven by indigenous manufacturing and government-led initiatives, it is imperative that our industry plays its part in shaping this growth story. I congratulate the organizers for bringing together such a remarkable confluence of exhibitions and knowledge exchange."

Mr. R. V. Gumaste, Managing Director, Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Ltd.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Returning to Mumbai after nearly 30 years, IFEX 2026 has been declared the largest exhibition in the history of The Institute of Indian Foundrymen. The Indian foundry industry has evolved from regional strength to a serious global contender, now comparable with leading exhibitions in Germany, Korea, and Japan. Spread across massively with incredible exhibitors, the event was positioned not merely as a trade fair but as a powerful statement of India's industrial capability. Shifting global supply chain dynamics, the world is seeking resilient and reliable partners, and that this is India's moment to lead through value, quality, and innovation, demonstrating confidence in meeting high-value global demand.



Subodh Panchal, Mentor 74th IFC, Chairman, IFEX Team, 12-14 Feb, 2026, Mumbai



As we open the doors to IFEX 2026, we witness the foundry sector's evolution from a traditional backbone to a high-tech driver of global supply chains. Today, India's manufacturing competence is defined by more than just scale; it is defined by precision and sustainable innovation. The goal of IFEX is to provide a seamless, world-class ecosystem where technology meets intent. I invite you to explore the advancements in foundry and casting showcased here, advancements that are pivotal to India's vision of becoming a global manufacturing hub.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, India Exposition Mart Limited (IEM)





IFEX 2026: THE EXHIBITION PLATFORM

IFEX 2026 serves as a comprehensive sourcing and network platform for the foundry industry, hosting **500+ exhibitors** from India and overseas. The exhibition spans the full foundry value chain, covering equipment, machinery, consumables, process solutions, automation, and services across **30,000+ sq. metres**.

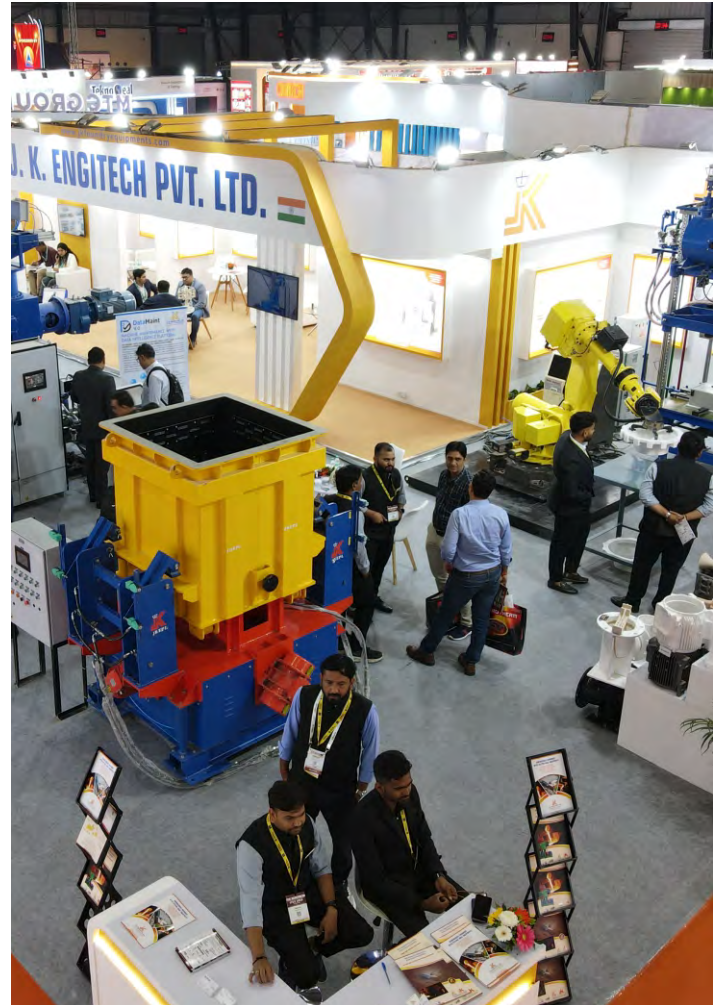
What IFEX Offers

- Direct access to technology providers and suppliers
- Live demonstrations and product launches
- Structured buyer-seller interactions
- Opportunities for collaboration and market expansion

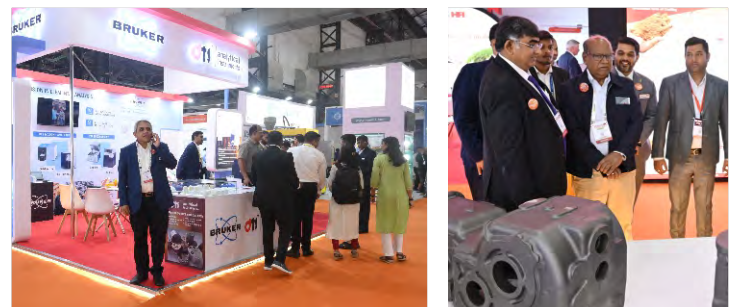
Exhibition Halls: IFEX 2026 and Cast India Expo 2026

- Hall 2 – Now Purchase Hall
- Hall 3 – Shirgaokar Hall
- Hall 6 – J.K. Engitech Hall & Laempe Hall

Designed for efficient navigation and discovery, IFEX 2026 enables meaningful engagement between exhibitors and decision-makers across domestic and global markets.



Glimpses of Day 1



IFEX INAUGURATION & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT



The inauguration of IFEX 2026 sets the tone for three days of focused industry engagement. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest highlighted the importance of technology adoption, scale, and quality in strengthening India's foundry competitiveness.

Inauguration – IFEX 2026

Chief Guest – Mr. R. V. Gumaste, Managing Director, Kirloskar Ferrous Ltd., Solapur – Koppal

The exhibition floor opened with strong participation from exhibitors, buyers, and technical professionals, reflecting confidence in India's foundry growth trajectory. Alongside the exhibition, the day also marks the opening of the **74th Indian Foundry Congress**, inaugurated by **Mr. Vinod Aggarwal**, reinforcing IFEX's role as a dynamic platform supported by deep technical and policy dialogue.



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS – DAY 1

Indian Foundry Forum – 1

Theme: *Global Challenges & Opportunities for Indian Foundries*
Key Speakers & Panellists



Indian Foundry Forum – 1

Theme: *Global Challenges & Opportunities for Indian Foundries*

Key Speakers & Panellists

- **Mr. Chetan Shah**, Chairman, Ashapura Group, Mumbai
- **Mr. R. K. Saboo**, Executive Director, Kores Group, Pune
- **Mr. R. V. Gumaste**, MD, Kirloskar Ferrous Ltd., Solapur - Koppal
- **Mr. Krishna Kumar Srinivasan**, MD & CEO,

Shriram Pistons & Rings Ltd., Ghaziabad
Moderator

- **Mr. Prasad Chavare**, MD, Foseco India Ltd., Pune

The 74th Indian Foundry Congress opened with Indian Foundry Forum – 1, bringing together senior industry leaders to discuss the future direction of Indian foundries. Moderated by Mr. Prasad Chavare, the session featured Mr. R. V. Gumaste, Mr. R. K. Saboo, Mr. Krishna Kumar Srinivasan, and Mr. Chetan Shah.

Discussions focused on closing technology gaps, addressing skilled manpower shortages, and improving scale and productivity. Speakers highlighted the need for stronger skill development, higher-value castings, global competitiveness through digitisation, and consistent policy support. The session concluded with a positive outlook for the industry's long-term growth. Resting the session with a unanimous optimum underscoring the industry's future.

STRATEGIC & DEFENCE MANUFACTURING SESSIONS



Sindoor Session – Defence & Strategic Manufacturing Eminent Speakers

- **Mr. Manish Bhardwaj**, Technical Advisor to Chairman, DRDO, Govt. of India
- **Mr. Nishank Jain**, GM, MIDHANI, Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India
- **Dr. Raj Kumar P. Singh**, Senior director, Kalyani Centre For Technology & Innovation, Bharat Forge Ltd
- **Rear Admiral Rahul Shrawat (Retd.)**, Chairman, Naval Group India, Former CMD, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd.

Moderator

- **Mr. Subodh Panchal**, Past President, IIF

This session explored the evolving role of foundries in defence production, advanced materials development, and indigenous manufacturing

aligned with national priorities. It emphasized how modern casting operations are critical to high-performance, mission-critical applications requiring precision, traceability, and metallurgical excellence. In this context, IFEX exhibitors were highlighted as key contributors, providing advanced melting systems, simulation tools, inspection technologies, and automation solutions that directly enable strategic and high-value manufacturing. The discussion reinforced the foundry sector's growing importance in building a resilient, self-reliant industrial ecosystem. Speakers encouraged foundries to engage with Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), adopt new materials and processes, and collaborate closely with DRDO to meet defence sector requirements. Utilising Technology Development Fund (TDF), which offers grants of up to ₹50 crore to support MSMEs and foundries in developing innovative defence projects.



ALUCONF @ IFEX – NON-FERROUS FOCUS



AluConf Session 1

Theme: Next Decade for Non-Ferrous Castings

Speakers Include

- **Mr. Krishna Kumar Srinivasan**, MD & CEO, Shriram Pistons & Rings Ltd., Ghaziabad
- **Mr. Vivek Joshi**, President & CEO, Sundaram Clayton Ltd., Chennai
- **Mr. Jitendra Lakhotia**, CEO, Aakar Foundry Pvt. Ltd., Pune
- **Mr. Manish Bhardwaj**, Technical Advisor to Chairman, DRDO
- **Mr. Rajesh Mishra**, Managing Director, Vulkan Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Pune
- **Mr. Vipul Shah**, Director, Maverick Success Engg Technology, Pune

Moderator: Mr. Rajendra Newadkar, Mentor, IIF – NCTS

The dialogues move decisively beyond technology showcase to long-term strategic transformation, outlining how robotic integration, intelligent material handling, automated fettling and finishing, and data-driven process control will determine precision, scalability, safety, and quality benchmarks in the years ahead. Emphasis was

placed on seamless integration with existing plant infrastructure, cross-system interoperability, and the shift from standalone automation islands to fully synchronized, digitally connected manufacturing ecosystems.

AluConf Session 2

Theme: Automation in Foundries

Speaker

Mr. Yogesh Kumar, ED & COO, DiFACTO Robotics & Automation

The session reinforced Advanced Industrial Robotic Automation, highlighting India's rise from 9th to 6th globally in robot consumption, with annual installations reaching 9,000. **Mr. Yogesh Kumar** pointed out that India's robot density remains low at 9 per 10,000 workers compared to the global average of 177, indicating strong growth potential. He discussed emerging trends such as collaborative robots and generative AI-enabled programming, while addressing concerns around cost and job loss. Emphasising safety and efficiency, he noted that automation removes workers from hazardous “3D” tasks involving molten metal and is becoming a practical and scalable necessity for modern foundries.

Focused Engagements and Celebratory Industry Convergence



The Networking Meetings facilitated structured buyer-seller interactions, enabling targeted dialogues, strategic sourcing discussions, and high-value partnership exploration in a focused environment. Designed to strengthen the industrial collaboration, these curated meetings connected decision-makers, technology providers, and manufacturers with clear procurement and association agendas. The momentum transitioned seamlessly into the evening programme, featuring the prestigious IIF Awards & Bollywood Night, followed by vibrant industry networking, and a gala dinner, creating an ideal platform for relationship building, peer recognition, and impactful conversations beyond the exhibition floor.



Testimonials



Anoop Mutha, Mutha Group of Industries, Buyer: Visiting IFEX 2026 has been an eye-opening experience for us as buyers. We found some of the best suppliers who are truly strengthening the foundry supply chain, making it more reliable and future ready. Our search for moulding machines within budget has been met with promising options, and the showcase of automation, 3D printing, and other indigenous innovations left us thoroughly impressed. The scale and diversity of solutions presented here reaffirm IFEX as the ultimate platform to discover, connect, and invest in technologies that will shape the future of the foundry industry.



Christian, Singapore, Buyer: Coming to IFEX 2026 from Singapore has been an extraordinary experience. In a single visit, I was able to meet multiple capable suppliers, making our sourcing journey seamless and efficient. The diversity and depth of solutions showcased here truly reflect foundry excellence at its best. On a scale of 10, I would rate this expo an 11 for the sheer value it delivers. I am especially delighted to witness the digitalized and automated solutions on display. IFEX 2026 has set a new benchmark for global foundry exhibitions.



Apoorv Mangla, Datumtools Pvt Ltd, Buyer: As a first-time visitor to IFEX 2026, I am truly amazed by the new trends, applications, and groundbreaking findings in the foundry industry. The expo opened my eyes to the immense possibilities, and I was particularly excited to explore options for Induction Casting Machines that fit within our requirements. The impressive showcase of digitalized and automated solutions, alongside innovations like 3D printing and indigenous technologies, made this experience invaluable. IFEX 2026 has not only exceeded my expectations but also reaffirmed its position as the ultimate destination for buyers seeking excellence in the foundry sector.



Krupal Patel, J K Engitech Pvt Ltd, Exhibitor: IFEX 2026 has been a great exhibition, and the data and records clearly depict that it is the largest to date. The event is truly taking the foundry and casting industry to new levels. I am hopeful for strong growth on the automation side, as India continues to stand as the second-largest foundry market in the world. IFEX has given us the best opportunity to showcase our capabilities, and we are proud to focus on everything Make in India, an initiative that this platform actively promotes. The feedback from visitors has been overwhelmingly positive, reaffirming IFEX as the right place to connect, collaborate, and grow.