

# PRINTING TIMES

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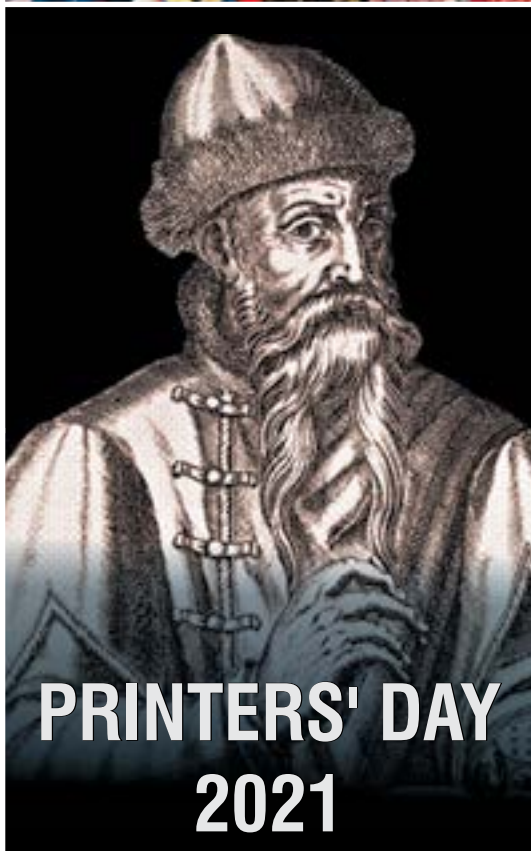
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AIFMP Indices

■ Pridex  
■ Cardex

## PRIDEX and CARDEX

The input cost variation has been a lot more volatile, and thereby, difficult to predict for the commercial print vertical as compared to the carton packaging sector. For a detailed analysis on page number 12.



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# PRINTING TIMES

Founder Editor:

Late V N Chhabra



1927-2017

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# EDITORIAL



I will start this letter with an abundance of New Year's wishes. To all of the employees and business owners who are still struggling to overcome setbacks from the past year, I hope and pray that 2021 is kinder to you. There are fewer moments of "just winging it" and more moments where you can say all is going just as planned. 2020 has been a tough year indeed; millions of people have died, millions are unemployed. In many ways, we should look back on 2020 and be grateful for what we have now. Let's make the best of 2021, learn some valuable lessons and move on to a better, braver New Art World.

Since we tighten our belts, many plans are to be executed now, several ideas to be fulfilled, all I can say that miles to go to accomplish all impending goals. Federation has in its store to conduct 251<sup>st</sup> Governing Council Meeting to be held on Jan 21 & 22, 2021. To consider the present circumstances, it will be conducted virtually again. Initiatives to be taken place like promoting and updating the Social Media platforms to keep updating the Printing Fraternity. The objective is to give voice and lend support to the Printers.

There is relaxing news in such challenging times which the Federation would like to share that AIFMP successfully achieved the institutional plot in Manesar, Haryana with the aim of initiating the AIFMP Bhawan for Research and Training Centre for Graphic Communications. It will surely boost the Printing Fraternity almost which caters to the 2,50,000 Lakhs Printers all over the world. Our president Kamal Chopra has put all his efforts and made this a dream of course with the support of his team members past and present.

Once again, we are gearing up for Printers Day to be celebrated on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Father of the Printing Industry, Johannes Gutenberg who introduced printing to Europe with his mechanical movable-type printing press, was a German goldsmith, inventor, printer, and publisher as well.

Before concluding, I would say many efforts are on the way to keep you updated about the Printing Fraternity as we are adding one column in this issue i.e. "Print Legends". Hope that you all will like these valuable efforts.

Thanking you all Wishing you all a great year ahead

P. Chander

Former President MPLA & AIFMP

## 251<sup>ST</sup> VIRTUAL GC MEETING OF AIFMP



The 251<sup>st</sup> Virtual meeting of the Governing Council of All India Federation of Master Printers was held on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 through Video Conferencing from 3.00 PM onwards both days under the Chairmanship of Mr. Kamal Chopra, President AIFMP.

First, Prof. Kamal Chopra, President expressed his sincere thanks to all the GC members for having faith in his working style and giving him another opportunity to serve the Federation and associate with all of them on this

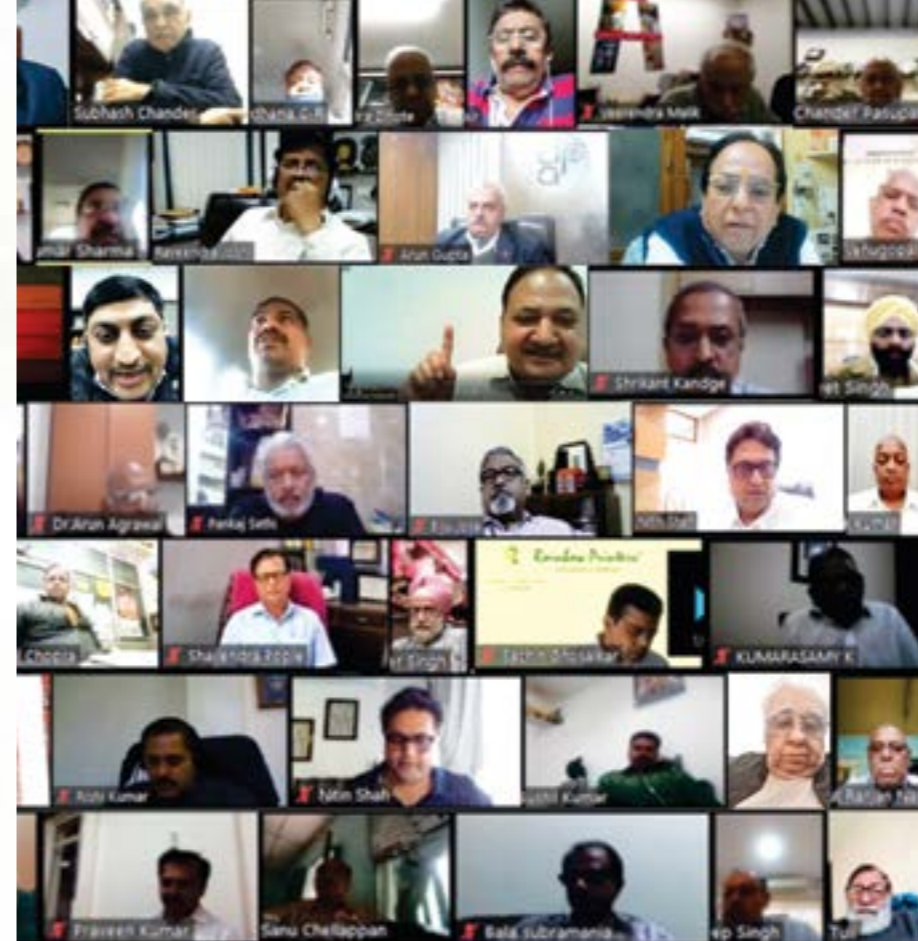
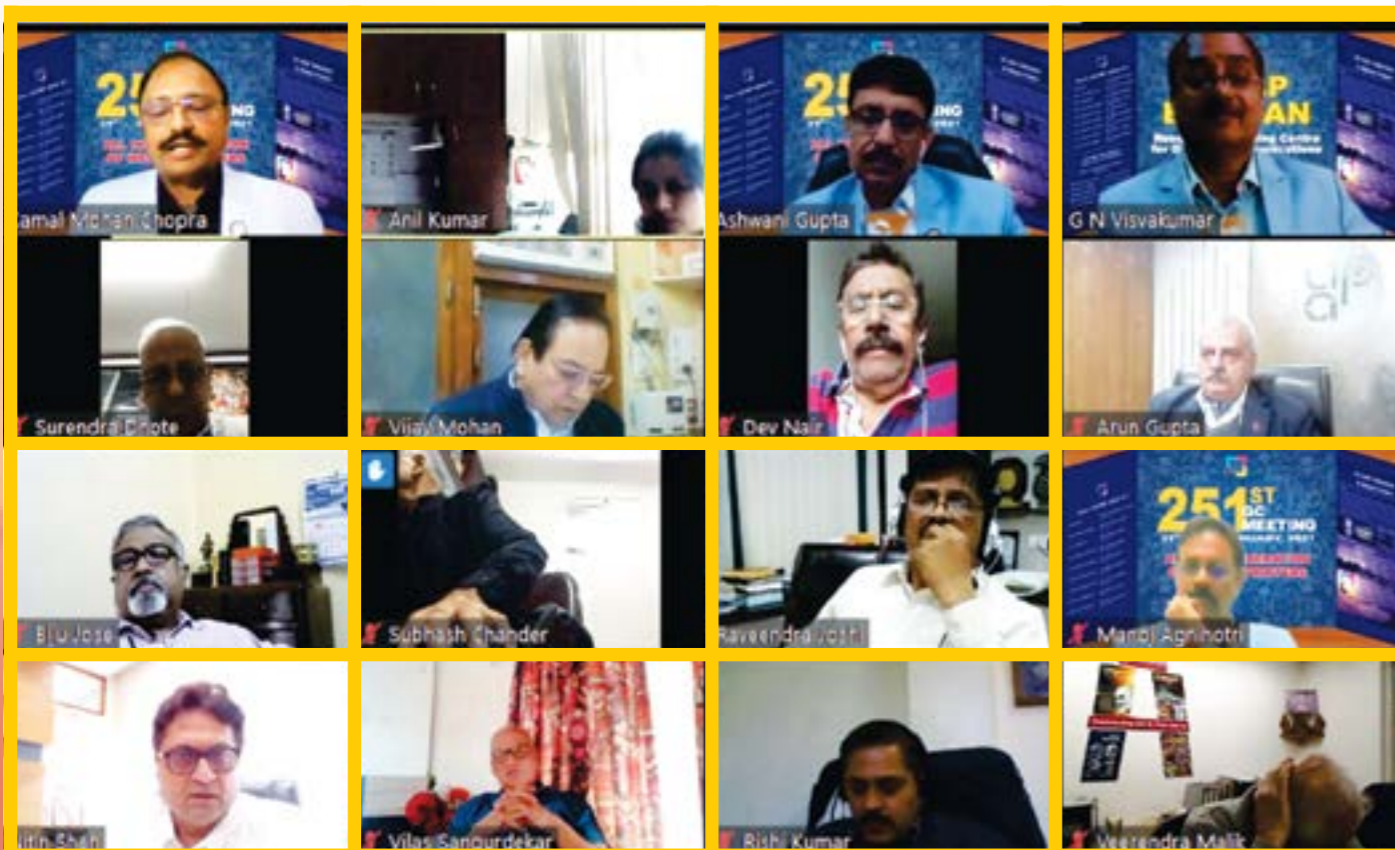
additional term. He welcomed all in 2021, maybe the year of survival. He briefed, Covid-19 pandemic infected almost 92 million people and killed nearly 20 lakh humans worldwide to date. Economies around the world collapsed, loss of jobs is at a peak

and several sectors already witnessed doom. Natural disasters followed in various parts of the globe, leading to further bloodbath. India, for instance, has witnessed floods, cyclones, earthquakes, and a bloody border confrontation all in the past eight

months. Apart from the physical impact, Indian printers are also facing an economic crisis badly due to this pandemic. The Indian printing industry is dominated by the Micro and Small units, let us assume if there are 250,000 printers in India, more than 85 percent of these are facing a deep crunch due to this longest ever lockdown in India. Our printers, especially commercial printers, and mainly micro and small printers have suffered the most. He said his first preference, as President AIFMP is to look at the micro and small printers because it is the question and era of their survival as well.

**AIFMP Bhawan – Research & Training Centre For Graphic Communication**

The project will be located at plot no I-15, measuring 1395 sqm in sector 2, IMT Manesar allotted by the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure



Development Corporation (HSIIDC) through e-auction for the institutional purposes to the highest bidder. This project will serve as a key institution to impart quality manpower for bringing out world-class print outputs and services. AIFMP will be managing this project for the benefit and growth of the printers of India, to cater to the phenomenal export printing market, especially when India has the advantage of low-cost labor and a large English knowing young population, there is a need to set up the research & training center to guide the printers on how to produce quality at economical rates, to remain competitive in the global market. The composition of the Indian Printing Industry is heterogeneous made up of Offset Printing, Gravure Printing, Screen Printing, Flexography Printing, Digital Printing, Packaging, etc. There has been a tremendous technological up-gradation in Pre-Press, Printing, and Post Printing activities which have metamorphosed the printing industry. The world of printing is going through a radical transformation through

R&D, Innovation, Technology up-gradation, and Automation. Global competition is posing to be a powerful challenge. Integrated Graphics and Digital Printing will become the order of the day. Pressure due to customer's quality consciousness and the concept of 'spot or instant' delivery expectation is putting the entrepreneur to a severe test. The only strategy of getting over the hump is continuous technological up-gradation and facilitating an appropriate infrastructure and environment backed by the adequate institutional framework to ensure easy availability of required skilled workforce to operate the present modern machinery & equipment together with adequate testing and research facilities. The present project is designed to meet this immediate requirement. "The objective is to introduce state-of-the-art research and training center matching the skills required for future printing machinery and equipment. Since continuous research is required to look at the problems of printing taking into consideration Indian weather and

systems of working, we are planning a Research Centre the only of its kind in India. Usually, printers face some technical difficulties while executing the work. The research center will look at to solve such problems. The research center will also work for the development of machinery/raw material for the ease of the printers of the country. During this process, the concentration will also be given to the training of existing employees so that they may be able to run/repair the latest sophisticated machinery and equipment. Training facilities for unemployed youth will also be provided to make them efficient and skilled enough for the operation of the modern printing unit. AIFMP is the apex association of 250,000 printers of India and all these printers will be our end users for the proposed research center and to consume the skilled manpower trained in this center to for their factories. The proposed Research and Training Centre will be a unique facility for entrepreneurs, not available anywhere in the country. The project will also serve as a knowledge center equipped with an updated library of books and periodicals related to the printing industry.

### 3Key Benefits of the Project?

The project will provide training to out of school and school dropouts besides giving training to the present workforce thus will provide ample opportunities for reduction of unemployment in the country. The unique research center will serve as a major tool for the up-gradation of Technology on a continuous basis thus will reduce the demand for imported equipment. The project is designed to ensure adequate support and foundation to the printing units to meet the challenges of globalization so as to be capable to handle the outsourced global printing and packaging work.

## ZONAL GC MEETINGS WITH RESPECTIVE AFFILIATE ASSOCIATIONS

In context of the recent pandemic and possibly the longest lockdown the country has ever come across, our four VPs of four Zones **Mr. Vihu Meyase (East)**, **Mr. Manoj Agnihotri (West)**, **Mr. Ashwani Gupta (North)** & **Mr. C. Prakash Babu (South)** have conducted zonal GC meeting (virtual) with their respective Affiliate Associations. Certain very noteworthy concerns have been raised by them which are as follows:



Mr. Ashwani Gupta

**From North:** The meeting was conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2020 where twenty three (23) members have attended. Two minutes mourn observed in the memory of Sh. Vivek Bansal, S/o Sh. Arun Bansal before the meeting. Mr. Jawahar Bhargawa, LPA pointed out that due to the closure of

school, college & coaching institute/study centre business got terribly hampered, they are bound to pay the fixed cost like salary, wages, electricity bill, etc but on the other hand payments are not coming even from Govt. sector. Mr. Awadesh Awasthi, KPOA expressed the same worry & proposed that we must have a talk with Govt. Mr. Joginder Singh, JPA pointed out on the low volume of work is the main problem today especially due to closure of school, college & coaching institute/study centre. Mr. Arun Gupta, JPA requested AIFMP must approach the software companies to stop their drive of capturing small printers who are using pirated software. Mr. Dilpi Tuli, GDMPA pointed out on printers Bank loan as they are unable to pay the EMI, now they are approaching Banks for moratorium scheme. Mr. Maninder Singh, OPA Amritsar pointed out on shortage of work. Mr. Vipul Shanker Padaya, VPA pointed out on the market problem post Covid, proposed to form a committee on EPCG / DGFT and requested AIFMP's intervention in the matter. Mr. Nirmal Goel, ROPA pointed out his concerns through mail on recent slack market, purchase of raw material on short credit, customers not making payments in short time, etc. Mr. Pradeep Khanna also pointed out on shortage of work. Mr. Vijay Chopra, suggested that as AIFMP is not recognized by GOI & as

the printing business is going down, we must consider opting for another alternate business for diversification. Mr. Vinod Rajpal, DPA supported Mr. Vijay Chopra and suggested packaging as an alternative. Mr. Rahul Goel, supported his previous speakers and said that today free lancers are enjoining as they are not bothered to incur fixed expenses. Mr. Manoj Kalra, also agreed the points raised. Mr. M. N. Pandey, DPA expressed worry about the machinery of the printers are not utilized optimally & proposed we must join hands to help each other. Mr. Rishi Kumar, pointed out that while undertaking Govt. jobs they impose stringent condition, instead Govt must support us. Mr. Harjinder Singh, LPA asserted that the commercial printing is under stress but we failed to assess this. We must understand various verticals of the industry.



Mr Manoj Agnihotri

**From West:** The meeting was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2020 where thirty eight (38) members have attended. Mr. Nitin Shah, BMPA raised as major concerns are increasing cost in packaging material, ink, varnish papers, paper board, duplex paper, etc & proposed that we must consider in acquiring the Industry status for Printing industries & AIFMP must try to get it. Mr. Sanjay Patel, BMPA praised the Zoom meeting as good initiative & forced on extra effort on industry status. Mr. Minoo Davar, BMPA suggested AIFMP to spend money for data collection of all industries. Mr. Nitin Shah requested all printers to work as team. Mr. Ravi Joshi given more insight on this saying apart from Industry status in European country printing industry gets essential service status, we should try for that also so that Govt will take us seriously. Mumbai Mudrak Sangh expressed concern over Covid & what it taught us. They also supported the concept of Industry status. Mr. Mehul Shah has suggested to have dialogue with paper manufacturer on the price increase which must not take place with discussing with printing industry. Mr. Prakash Joshi, Aurangabad Mudrak Sangh raised a query as why MMP is no longer with AIFMP. President asked him to

write a formal letter regarding this to AIFMP. Mr. Mehul Desai suggested that for international tenders we must work as a team as individually we can't handle such a bulk order. Mr. Swadesh Sharma also raised voice on industry status. Mr. Manoj Banker raised point on legal age of bride & groom on wedding card. Mr. Vikas Jain raised point on SBI & PNB job work shifted from Bhopal to Manipal & Delhi. At the end of the meeting Mr. Kamal Chopra assured that action has been taken up already for the matter. He also told everyone that if someone sells his material in cheaper price, don't worry but yes do worry if someone production cost gets cheaper.



Mr C Prakash Babu

**From South:** The meeting was conducted on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2020 where forty (40) members have attended. Mr. Madhusoodanan, KMPA said that due to Covid-19, some printers who availed EPCG scheme was not able to pay, requested AIFMP to take up the matter with the concerned authorities. Mr. Manmohan Shenoy, KMPA said that the GST rates should be uniform for the same printing products, press act of 1885 to be amended. Mr. Jaideep Singh, TOPA also talked about the sad state of business and the paper rates. Mr. Biju Jose, KMPA informed that the election printing works of Kerala are printed in Tamil Nadu & it was agents not printers have done the job. Mr. Senthil Kumar, PMPA also agreed with Mr. Jose and also informed that the printers are not aware about the rates fluctuations especially when it gets reduced. Mr. Vijay pointed out on some Govt. works like LIC & Banks are printed by non-GST registered printers. On concluding note, Mr. Kamal Chopra assured member that the points are noted with confirming them that certain points like EPCG, GST have already taken up with Govt. He told everyone that not to sell in cheaper rate but reduce manufacturing cost. Mr. Visvakumar also assured everyone to stick to their printing.

**From East:** The meeting was conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2021 where eight (8) members have attended. TPA raised concern over the recent issues offset printers have been facing & to resolve the issues, they formed a committee for the next 2 years to address these issues regularly. AMPA



Mr. Vihu Meyase

wished to hold Romancing Print East on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at Imphal. NMPA expressed their concern over their lagging behind status in the State. Even the most needed raw materials for printing works are not available properly. Tenders are outsourced even though the local printers are willing to work, lack of manpower &

trained service professional, no AMC service for equipment, lack of support from the State Government to assign jobs to the local printers. Influential & vested interest used to take bulk of the jobs from Govt. depriving legitimate share of the local printers are is also a concern.



AIFMP is working for the cause of printing industry with maximum emphasis on micro and small printers. On the one end, a high-level standing committee is constituted to deal with the software companies for their highhandedness and exorbitant rates, which becomes a headache for the micro printer. On the other hand, with the aim to support the tiny and micro members in these days of pandemic and to encourage them to use only original software, AIFMP is launching the campaign 'Think Legal Be Safe.'

Under this project, it is decided to reimburse 15% of the value of invoice or Rs. 10,000/- whichever is less to the member on the purchase of original software for his business purposes to be used for Pre-Press, Press, and/or Post Press technologies. This subsidy will be available only on fresh purchases i.e. the purchases made on or after 1st December 2020. Speaking on the occasion Mr. G N Visvakumar, HGS of AIFMP said, "It is for the first time in the history of AIFMP that Federation has decided to provide subsidy to the micro printers for their purchase of legal software by the micro printers. This is initiated as a drive 'BE LEGAL BE SAFE' to encourage the printers to purchase the legal software, he said.



## AIFMP BHAWAN

Research & Training Centre for Graphic Communications

During 251<sup>st</sup> GC meeting of AIFMP, President Mr. Kamal Mohan Chopra announced that the dream of AIFMP Bhawan is going to be a reality now, he intimated the house that our former President Mr. Subhash Chander initiated the idea and another former President Mr. Raveendra Joshi started following it vigorously. We are now able to bid for the plot at Manesar, with the constant vigil and support of Mr. Sathish Malhotra again a former President. It is evident that AIFMP is successful in getting a prime 1395 sqm plot No I-15 at Sector -2, Phase-1, Industrial Model Township, Manesar. This plot is being allotted by the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) through e-auction for institutional purpose to the highest bidder.

This is the greatest achievement of AIFMP and an almost 11 year's long dream of Mr. Subhash Chander, PP who was the first to induce the idea of Printers' Bhawan will be the reality now. The proposed 'AIFMP Bhawan – Research and Training Centre for Graphic Communications' will be constructed at this site. AIFMP already received the possession certificate for this land and now working on the planning of the centre.

For the construction of the centre, Mr. Kamal Chopra, President said there is need to establish 'Building Fund' for the construction of the proposed AIFMP Bhawan at the land purchased by the AIFMP. The members were so enthusiastic that even before announcing the requirement of funds for the construction of 'AIFMP Bhawan – Research and Training Centre for Graphic Communications' they started offering handsome amounts for the construction so that the project may be completed as early as possible. President complemented that we are thankful to the following members for their generous donations, especially the first donor Mr. Vijay Mohan who donated Rs. 11,000/-. Mr. S. Dayaker Reddy, GC Member, TOPA announced Rs. 50,000/-. Mr. Mukesh Kaushik, GC Member, DPA - Rs 1,00,000/- and Mr. Mudresh Purohit, GC Member, APPA - Rs 5,00,000/- for the project on the spot.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Subhash Chander former president of AIFMP said, it is the prime location and congratulated the present team of AIFMP for this supreme achievement. Mr. Raveendra Joshi another former president said, the team is doing a wonderful job by continuous efforts to purchase land for AIFMP Bhawan. Mr. Sanjay Patel congratulated the team AIFMP & especially Mr. Kamal Chopra President for doing a wonderful job.

### AIFMP Expert Advisory Board

Printing is a vast subject and a combination of Science, Chemistry, Engineering and Technology. With the rapid developments in the techniques and machinery, availability of different type of paper and raw materials it becomes a challenge for the printer who has to face problems like non-sticking of ink, colour variation, and issues in drying. What will be the suitable ink and chemical to suit a particular job and paper, issues of cracking in board, creasing in paper and pasting problems and many more? What is the suitable process to print a particular job?

With a view to resolve the technical problems of the member printers, an Expert Advisory Board is constituted under the patronage of Prof. Dr Rajendrakumar Anayath, Vice-Chancellor, DCRUST, Murthal (Sonapat), Haryana. The other members of this board are:

- Mr. Pradeep Kulakkada, Future Schoolz, Cochin
- Mr. Panthala Selavan, Pressman Academy, Chennai
- Mr. Ganesh Kumar, DQS India Colour Specialist, Chennai

- Mr. Tarun Chopra, Color-dots.com, Delhi
- Mr. Hari Babu, Chennai

The members of AIFMP can highlight their problems through their affiliate association to the federation secretariat at [printsolutionsaifmp@gmail.com](mailto:printsolutionsaifmp@gmail.com). Such problems will be forwarded to the expert advisory board and the solution(s) provided will be given to the concerned member and will also be highlighted at the official website of AIFMP for the knowledge of others.

The expert advisory board is competent not only to provide the solutions to your technical problems but can also guide the member to improve and develop their business and will give solution for managing the unit and help in financial issues. Members can also consult them for setting up suitable machineries and methods to suit your needs, and ways to increase the profitability.



## SILENT VOICE



**Prn. Pradip Giri**  
Maninagar

I am an active member of AIFMP for the last 10 years; I see a very bright future of the Printing industry only we need to upgrade ourselves with technology & if AIFMP can conduct some awareness program on various modern technology. So far my experience with AIFMP is excellent, I only feel our Federation must get some recognition from Govt. to enjoy certain benefits from them. I like Federation's GC meeting, PAMEX, Award Function & Technology Seminar. I prefer to receive news items through E-mail, social media or newsletter; I receive Printing Times regularly & I rate it 10/10; I would like to see more contents on Pre-Press, Press & Post-Press technology in the journal. Last 1 year, I attended quite a lot of events physically as well as virtually & all of them were excellent. I think, to make our experience with Federation even better, we need to avoid political discussions, disputes, disagreements, in the GC meeting; rather we should focus more on the future of the printing industry.

I am an active GC member of AIFMP for the last 6 years; I see the future of the Printing industry is purely dependent on customer needs. I expect AIFMP should take necessary action to standardize GST throughout the country, control in price hike of raw material; Federation must maintain close acquaintance with the fellow members to have better working experience. I like Federation's conducting of meetings which is in a single platform where we can share our inputs & request for improvements. I prefer to receive news items through E-mail; I receive Printing Times regularly & I rate it 7/10; I would like to see more contents on GST amendments, taxation & recent technological advancement happening in the Print industry in journal. Last 1 year, I attended the GC meetings physically as well as virtually. I think, to make our experience with Federation even better, every member should be given opportunity to interact with Office Bearers during the meetings.



**Prn. Jolly Peter**  
Chennai



**Prn. J. L. Bhargava**  
Lucknow

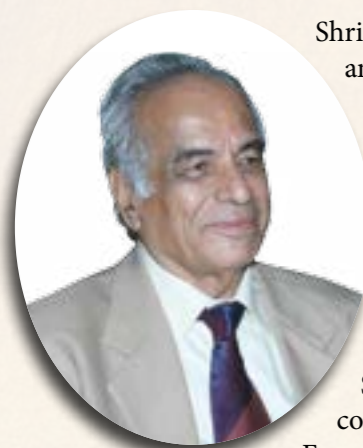
I am an active GC member of AIFMP for the last 7 years; I see the survival of the small Printers a bit difficult in future due to this uncertain market. I expect AIFMP should take necessary action to arrange regular dialogues between Printers & Govt. to have some favour for the fraternity. Standing committees should be monitored & improved by the Federation. I prefer to receive news items through E-mail; I receive Printing Times regularly & I rate it 10/10; I would like to see more technical contents in Printing Times, I think if the no. of physical GC meetings reduced to 1 from 3, we can save some cost. I think, to make our experience with the Federation even better, the Secretariat should be more proactive to have more communication with the GC members. OBs are doing good work, and request them to increase the boundaries of all the standing committees.

I am an active member of AIFMP for the last 8 years; I see a very bright future of the Printing industry mainly in the packaging & digital printing sector. AIFMP being a nodal body must invest more in the research on the trends of the Indian Printing Industry and guide small MSME printers across the country for their future preparedness. Federation must develop a database of Printers who are unable to come under local federation and try to keep in touch with them and pass on the information on development of Industry to them also. I prefer to receive news items through social media & newsletter; I like Federations functioning on Continuous participation to industry difficulties. Printing Times are limited to GC members only and should be made available in e- format to all through local association. Printing Times requires to cover more detailed information on the changes in the Government Matter and I rate it 6/10. I would like to see more matters on New Technologies, Trends in Indian Printing Industry, Government Matters, etc. Last 1 year, I attended all the GC meetings and it was a good experience. I think, to make our experience with Federation even better, conduct more webinars on Taxation and Technical Matters.



**Prn. Protip Das**  
Kolkata

## SHRI VASUDEO F. SHAH



Shri Vasudeo Shah, Chairman and Managing Director of M/s Onlooker Press Limited, Colaba, Mumbai 400 005 was born at Sindkheda, Dist. Dhule (M.S.), completed his primary education at Sindkheda and came to Mumbai to pursue his Higher Secondary Education and completed his graduation in Economics from the University

of Mumbai and at the same time represented Ruparel College in various sport activities and also winning the prestigious Mumbai University Volley Ball shield. While completing his college education Shri. Vasudeo Shah pursued his career by working with an advertising agency and at the same time gaining experience in commercial arts.

With the sole aim of starting his own business, he humbly began his commercial studio, Studio Linkall in 1962 and within a short span of time in 1968 shifted focus to printing. With sheer hard work and perseverance and the business growing, in 1972 he purchased

100% shares of the Reliance Agency Pvt. Ltd. who were also engaged into printing at the prime location of Mumbai city...share bazaar. As there was no looking back and always keeping himself abreast with the latest technologies, while on the lookout for a larger place to run his growing enterprise, Shri Vasudeo Shah in 1978 purchased the majority shares of the renowned M/s Onlooker Press Ltd. situated at Sassoon Dock, Colaba, Mumbai and further diversified into commercial printing and printing of share application forms and continuous computer stationery making sure he had the latest printing equipment to suit the varied print requirements.

In the perpetual habit of giving back to society what society has given him, and his love for the printing

industry Shri. Vasudeo Shah joined the Mumbai Mudrak Sangh and went on to hold the post of the President of the Association. He further went on to become the President of the Maharashtra Mudran Parishad. Gaining popularity, he took on the responsibility of the printing associations on a National level and went on to hold prestigious positions of the Hon. Gen. Secretary of AIFMP and then Vice – President AIFMP. During the diamond jubilee year of the AIFMP in 2013, the federation conferred upon Shri Vasudeo Shah, the award of the Jewel of AIFMP.

Realising that the need of the hour was a printing institute in the city, while holding the post of President of Mumbai Mudrak Sangh, Shri. Vasudeo Shah along with like minded people started the Institute of Printing Technology at Panvel. With continued and unstinted support from Dr. Prof. Pa. Bha. Kulkarni, Pune, Shri N.R.Patel, Mumbai, Shri Praful Dhargalkar and Shri Vilas Patil, Panvel, Shri Vasudeo Shah spearheaded the project and continued to be the President of the Institute of Printing Technology for

10 years ensuring that it achieved Maharashtra State and Central Government recognition and further ensured the success of the first batch of students passing out with Government recognised Diplomas. The struggles, hurdles and above all the joy in starting this institute,

prompted Shri. Vasudeo Shah to pen down his thoughts and he published a short booklet named *Karyapurti – Kartavyapurti Anand* which means *The Joy of Dutifully Completing a job taken on hand*. He was also awarded the prestigious Life Time Achievement award by Late Shri Dr. Pha. Bha. Kulkarni Prathishthan, Pune

Now leading a semi – retired life Shri. Vasudeo Shah continues to do social service and has built a Senior Citizens Conference Hall at his home town Sindkheda, dist Dhule.

A sincere Thankyou to all his brethren from the printing fraternity who have always whole heartedly supported him in all his endeavours.



## SHRI OM PRAKASH MAHAJAN

Sh. Om Prakash Mahajan owner of Koyal Offset, Jalandhar is a print legend of Jalandhar Printers Association and he is acting as Senior Vice President of the association.

Born on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1931 at village Ramgarh, Tehsil Samba, Distt Jammu, did his Matric education from Ranbir High School, Jammu.

His father expired in the year 1937, when he was just of 6 years of age. Their was no helping hand in the family. Mother was of 28 year and they were 3 brothers and 2 sister in the family and faced a very tough time in life.

His elder brother accompanied their uncle to Sialkot (Now in Pakistan) and learnt the binding job work from Sialkot.

In 1946, his elder brother joined Dewan Press Jammu and served their as a binder.

After Partition in 1947, they shifted to Amritsar and started their own binding job work from home for various printers of Amritsar. Due to the shortage of binding workers (as most of the binding workers were Muslim and they shifted to Pakistan) they got sufficient binding job work. Then they took a shop on rent in 1948 @ Rs. 12/- pm in Katra Sher Singh, Amritsar and started his binding business under the name M/s Gupta Binding House.

In the year 1951, He got married to Smt. Swadesh Mahajan ji from Meerut city. From 1951 to 1953, he shifted to Meerut and have a tour to whole of India for knowledge purpose.

In 1955, he returned back to Amritsar and started his printing press in the name of M/s. Pioneer Press and install 10x15 size Datson printing machine at a cost of Rs. 14,000/-. Then he took a printing machine of 13x19 size on rent. In the same year DAV institutions started their operations and as a pioneer printer they got all



the job work of the DAV institutions. They got the recognition of quality Magazine specialists in the whole region of Amritsar, Jalandhar, Patiala and Ambala etc.

In 1965, they installed 15x20 size OM1 Polygraph printing machine.

In 1971, they installed OM2 Polygraph 22x28 size printing machine under National Small Scale industry for Rs. 80,000/- only.

In 1976, he separated from his brother from Amritsar and shifted his work place to Jalandhar. He started his press under the name of M/s Job Press at Basti Nau, Jalandhar and at that time children were studying.

In 1992, he started Koyal Offset under the partnership of Sh. Baldev Luthra ji and installed Dominant 714 printing machine. In 1993, they installed Dominant 724. Then in 1995, they installed Heidelberg 25x36 double color. Thereafter they started the box manufacturing unit and installed all the machinery equipment and four color Heidelberg printing machine

with complete infrastructure in house.

In the year 2014 AIFMP honoured him as a "Jewel Printer" at the Diamond Jubilee Function at Chennai.

He had completed 70 years in print industry in the year 2017.

He won several North Zone and National Awards for excellence in Printing.

He is the Member of the DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi.

He is Patron of Akhil Bhartiya Mahajan Shiromani Sabha, Delhi.

He is very well renowned personality in printing industry and social worker of Jalandhar and his services are admirable to all.



## COVID-19 IS CLEARING FOG FOR US

### What are the latest numbers?

CRISIL has recently published the Q3 2021 results for the indices PRIDEX and CARDEX. In the Q2 and Q3 of FY2021 PRIDEX stands at 118.1 and 117 respectively. The CARDEX is at 121.5 (Q2 2021) and 125.3 (Q3 2021). The rise in PRIDEX between Q3 and Q4 2020 has been sharp compared to CARDEX; however, since Q4 2020, the index has dropped sharply. Confirming the volatile trend, PRIDEX has fallen by 2 per cent year-on-year, and the fall is 4.6 per cent between the high of Q4 2020 to Q3 2021. CARDEX has recorded a 6.5 per cent rise year-on-year, with a jump of 3.8 per cent between Q2 and Q3 of 2021.

### What do these indices tell us?

The long-term trends for PRIDEX and CARDEX are insightful, to say the least. "The industry has been shifting gradually but surely towards packaging vertical. If you closely track the journey of the two Indices, you will see the consistent input-cost rise as demonstrated by CARDEX." Sanjay Patel, the brain behind the duo AIFMP indices and the Project In-charge, adds, "The FY2021 results for PRIDEX have demonstrated a sharp decline in the activities on the commercial print front. Commercial printers who operated through this period faced acute challenges, for example, very low or no orders, working with 10-20% workforce, and more."

### The pandemic challenge

Despite the predictable yet sharp rise of CARDEX, we all know the packaging businesses have paid handsome dividends in terms of capacity utilisation, through the tough times of the lockdown and the subsequent months. Having said this, Sanjay further observes and advises the printers and the packaging converters to take every opportunity that comes their way, albeit with usual business cautions.

PRIDEX' southward trend may seem contrary to the price rise we have seen industry-wide in recent times. Twenty per cent decline in paper prices in the financial year have weighed heavily beside the muted demand for the commercial print segment. These explain the 2 per cent year-

on-year drop in PRIDEX. Sanjay advises, that "commercial printers should negotiate well with the clients to make the maximum of the input cost reduction in the times of lower demand for products."

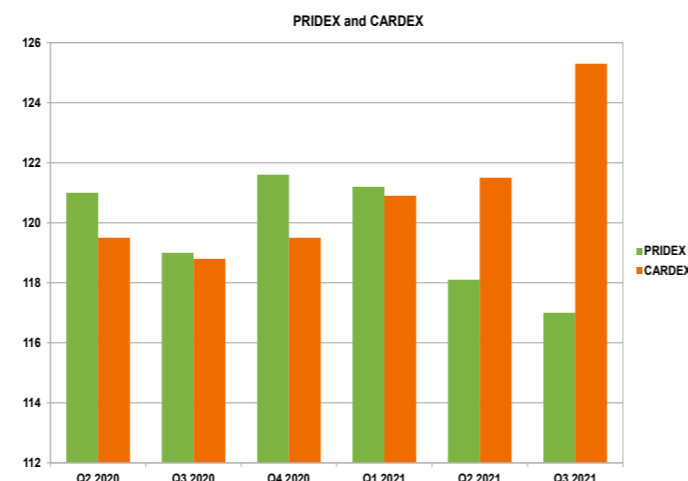
These indices have stood the test of time. The current trends and the results for the Q2 and Q3 of 2021 reflects the input costs for the two print industry verticals. The challenge for the printers is two fold. The packaging-sector printers need to demand prices in keeping with the trend; and commercial printers will be pressured to reduce the prices. However, a cautious advice from Sanjay is in keeping with the latest sharp price hike in paper prices at the beginning of January 2021. We shall have to wait for the Q4 2021 results to gauge its average quarterly impact on the overall input costs. The best practice in the current market conditions is to use the two Indices as general yardsticks, and aligning your prices to your company's actual costs.

### Where can you find the indices?

To know more about PRIDEX and CARDEX follow the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yayqnp2k> OR scan the QR code on the cover and bookmark it on your smartphone's Internet-browser for quick access. The detailed methodology used at computing PRIDEX and CARDEX is readily available at <https://tinyurl.com/yaqrr65m>.

Please note that FY2013-2014 is the base year for the twin indices with the index value at 100.

More power to all print company owners through AIFMP-CRISIL indices!

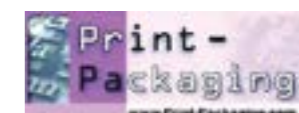


**PAMEX**  
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## CONVERGENCE OF : IS IT INEVITABLE?

- JEAN PONCET

Be it physical or online – drupa will further strengthen its pre-eminent position as the ‘Olympic Games’ of Printing, while at the same time highlighting the convergence of markets. In any case, the Düsseldorf trade show has not been limited to just commercial printing for a long time. The arrival of digital press manufacturers, and the successive expansion of their stands have already shown this.

Today, in addition to printing in the classical sense, other areas are growing: exhibitors are offering 3D printing machines that do not “print” colours or texts to surfaces, but instead print in 3D shapes. Gutenberg must be rolling over in his grave! Erez Zimmerman, the CEO of ‘Massivit 3D’ and specialist in large-format 3D printing, once told us at a fair in Munich: “We will surprise drupa with new products and innovations”. Undoubtedly that leaves us wondering what the relationship is between the creation of a 4-colour brochure (what the traditional show audience is looking for) and the production of a giant bottle of champagne for decoration at the point of sale. Is a giant bottle of champagne (among other things) of any interest to the traditional show customer? Obviously yes. This is a sign of visible, immediate and undeniable convergence.

Digital printing has certainly transformed the print world. For a long time, it was restricted to printed documents and photocopying, then inkjet went after the label market first, followed by the narrow width packaging market or “small” format. At the same time, in the world of large and very large format, inkjet pushed the screen printing and even the offset process out of the most common jobs.

Over the past few years, there has been a kind of mantra that has spread like wildfire- ‘Markets had to converge or would be forced to. This convergence would lead to a spectacular evolution!’ This of course is neither totally true nor totally false.

The decline in the traditional commercial offset printing industry has led printers to expand their range of business offers. Those who printed periodicals have squeezed costs, while others have managed to survive, thanks to the catalogues that the big supermarkets threaten to eliminate on a regular basis. Those who were doing brochures had to find new opportunities. The ‘transpromo’ or ‘document printing’ which were already exploiting the possibilities of digital for variable data, had their specialty companies.



These were often developed out of what was previously known as continuous printing. There was no question of going on their turf. Consequently, we had to move on to other niche products. The simplest thing to do was to develop additional service activities such as labelling or signage.

### The difficulty of expanding its business

It goes on and on, but let's not kid ourselves, it's still a back-up for these printers, except to step up and get heavily equipped.

The cost of investment is a hindrance, but it is not always the most important. There are at least two others, one concerning the equipment and the other concerning the people.

In order to expand your business, you can buy a digital press at an inexpensive price. Without having to store its sheet-fed offsetters, a printer can afford an entry-level, narrow-width toner press to make labels at less than 40,000 euros and even less for some low-performance models despite the already high quality for prototyping or ultra-short series. In order to move up to the higher dimension, you will soon reach half a million euros, which is no longer the same game. But above all, you can't produce very sophisticated labels that require expensive finishing tools without quickly reaching the same half million benchmark.

Then there is human resource toll, where digital technology has erased the machine operator's know-how, putting it on the pre-press, but has not erased the finishing expertise that will make all the difference.

It is fine to make labels, but you still have to have a market!

And most commercial people are by nature, very traditional. The person who has built up his business base by knowing all the brochure buyers must start all over again without abandoning his basic profession. This is not a question of giving away the shop for a sixpence to renew its interlocutors. It's not impossible, but it takes time, so it is an additional investment. Some people think they can get away with it by becoming a subcontractor. They recover their business and run their presses, but this is often in disregard of their margins.

Recently, at a round table held in Lyon, we were talking with Robert Tison, a printer in Isère (Imprimerie Suquet), who has developed the printing of labels from a commercial printing business to buying a medium-range toner press. After starting out modestly to serve his customers, and to avoid losing them, he acquired the skills that led him to believe that this business would allow him to grow despite the decline in traditional printing. He realized that the hardest part was right in front of him. “At the beginning, we get orders and then, by word of mouth, we develop even more. But to move forward, you have to get organized and invest, even reasonably, and that's where it becomes difficult, because you have to commercialize it.”

This requires either changing gear from being a printing manager to becoming a sales manager or hiring a sales person and generating additional expenses.

We could say that this is unique to this sector, but that is not true. Of course, the development of flexible packaging has given ideas to many label printers. For example, some small pouches can be produced on label presses. Several printers that were interested in this possible development quickly realized that this required different finishing materials - unless you deliver webs of undone pouches.

Furthermore, their loyal customers who trusted them with labels were not buyers of these new references that they were offering. Also, it is important to recognize that it seems to be the same situation for flexible packaging converters - as they do not venture into the label industry even if they have the technical capacity. Constantia has recently focused on flexible packaging by merging its labels division with MCC, without any hesitation.

Web2print pushes for convergence of markets In fact, the idea of convergence of markets comes mainly from manufacturers, especially digital, but not only with the example of Mark Andy or Omet who now offer flexo presses in 450, 550 or even wider. The idea also comes

from web2print. The multiplication of references on the sector's sites, whether B2B or B2C, supports the idea of convergence.

Visit Online Printers in Neustadt-an-der-Aisch, close to Nuremberg. They can do anything with their arsenal of conventional and digital presses. If they can't do something, they can easily outsource it. It is the same for other international groups such as Cimpress, or more regional as Printoclock in Toulouse, for example.

Printoclock started as a pure player, with no own printing but with a finishing-cutting workshop – amalgam is the web2print solution dedicated to reprography. They then developed a large-format activity by integrating roll2roll presses to make tarps or posters. Isn't that convergence?

In Honfleur, Xavier Rozé, head of the Marie Printing

Company (Imprifrance Network), traditionally specialized in brochures, equipped himself with a 1.60m cutting-printer after hesitating to get into the label business. It now meets many local needs allowing it to run the shop. However, developing a “large format” activity is not as easy. This often requires having control of the installation: wrapping a vehicle is not that simple, nor is wrapping a store counter.

This is what makes web2print sites so successful. They are exempt from marketing because there is an internet site functioning as a self-service as well as from implementation since once the order is delivered, the site has fulfilled its mission. Let's not forget that payment made when ordering which is even better!

To conclude on large format, we can see the evolution of the materials used, with the search for the simplest possible implementation. We can also see the birth of recycling constraint. The PVC tarp gives way to the textile one, and in a curious mix of genres, decoration tempts the pros of sign age. You then have to equip yourself in roll-toroll when you are in flatbed, or vice versa. There is also a choice between direct printing (for vinyl) and sublimation (for textiles). However, this requires significant investment for companies that are often large small businesses.

To wrap it up, regardless of the business, specialized printing has good days ahead of it, as it is not easy to diversify. It is undoubtedly easier to remain faithful to one's basic business, to extend it to its maximum and above all to seek productivity gains. For this reason alone, there is nothing like being on the lookout for innovations. virtual. drupa will have a lot of them in store

## AIFMP TEAM FELCITIATED BY J&K OFFSET PRINTERS ASSOCIATION



J&K Offset Printers Association held its 11<sup>th</sup> AGM cum felicitation function at Hotel Ramada on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at Jammu.

Sh. Sudesh Kumar Gupta President J&KOPA while welcoming the hon'ble guests & members highlighted the activities of the association and the problems being faced by the local printing industry.

He said that the printers are facing many hardships as the Govt. has taken some harsh decisions which are detrimental to our local printing industry like allotting work to non-printers and printers outside our UT. There are other problems like non-uniform GST rates, non availability of Industrial Land & Power Connections, price preference in tenders etc. The Association has taken up the issues with the authorities & have been continuously presenting their demands at various levels, be it Director Industries, Commissioner/Secretary Industries, Advisor to the L.G. of J&K.

He also said that the Govt. of India has also issued orders to the departments & banks not to print diaries and calendars for the new year for which we are pursuing the authorities to get the order cancelled. He informed that they are continuously approaching the authorities to recall the earlier order of the Govt. to get the printing of departments done from Govt. Press only. He assured the printers that

the association would continuously keep taking steps for betterment of printing industry. He said that any member who is facing any difficulty regarding DIC, Pollution Board, Labour Department etc. can approach the association & they will try their best to resolve the issue.

The association also felicitated the newly elected office bearers of All India Federation of Master Printers (AIFMP) President Prof. Kamal Chopra, Sh. Ashwani Gupta Vice President (North), Sh. C Prakash Babu Vice President (South), S. Harjinder Singh Treasurer & Sh. Balbir Singh Jasrotia.

Prof. Kamal Chopra President AIFMP stressed that all printer brothers should work unitedly and have faith in each others. He urged upon the members to work towards establishing a cluster to survive in the future. He assured all his help for betterment of printing industry. Other office bearers also presented their views on the occasion.

The President and office bearers of AIFMP were presented citation of honour by the J&KOPA.

Mr. Avnish Anand Gen Secy., Mr. Satish Raina Fin. Secy. J&KOPA read the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> AGM & Auditor's Report which was passed by other members.

Present among others were Sh. Rahul Mahajan Sr. V-President, Sh. Sharat Sharma V-President, Sh. Rajnish Koushal Secy., Sh. Kuku Ji Bhan, Sh. Pankaj Sethi, Sh. Rakesh Mehta, Sh. Girish Kapoor, Sh. BS Chib, Sh. Kailash Diwan, Sh. Vipin Gupta & other senior members of the association.

Sh. Sudesh Kumar Gupta thanked the members for their valuable suggestions and offer of help.

The programme concluded with the singing of National Anthem.

## AIFMP TEAM FELCITIATED BY JAMMU PRINTERS ASSOCIATION



Jammu Printers Association (Regd.) held a felicitation ceremony for the newly elected Office Bearers of All India Federation of Master Printers at Hotel Country Inn, opp. Bahu Plaza, Jammu. on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. S. Joginder Singh, President welcomed Shri Kamal Chopra, President AIFMP who is very well read, widely travelled and no stranger to Jammu Printers. He has been a great force to take the printing industry forward and has been organising exhibitions and conferences all over the world to create awareness among the printers.

He also welcomed Shri C. N. Prakash Babu, Vice President (South) who had come all the way from Bangalore to attend the felicitation ceremony. He welcomed Shri Ashwani Gupta, Vice President (North) who has been very closely associated with JPA. He welcomed S. Harjinder Singh Hony. Treasurer AIFMP who had specially come from Lucknow. Also welcomed was Shri Balbir Singh, proprietor Lucky Processors, Jalandhar who had sponsored the JPA calenders 2021.

S. Joginder Singh said that year 2020 has been a year of hardships because of Corona Pandemic. Lockdown has badly impacted business and industry, particularly the Printing and Allied industries. He urged upon Shri Kamal Chopra and other office bearers to take up the cause of Printers with the central government for its revival and resurgence. Shri Kamal Chopra in

his reply thanked JPA for honouring him and his fellow office bearers. He assured JPA of all help from AIFMP and try every step so that printing industry returns back to its robust past.

Shri C.N. Prakash Babu complimented JPA on completing 40 years of its existence. He showered his praise on the President JPA and the team of his dedicated office bearers. Shri Ashwani Gupta, S. Harjinder Singh and Shri Balbir Singh also spoke on the occasion.

Vote of thanks was presented by founder member and past President Shri S. K. Gupta who thanked the honoured guests. He in particular thanked the esteemed members of Jammu Printers Association (Regd.) because of whose presence such an impressive function could be organised.



## MEETING ON INCREASING PRICES



To discuss problems faced by Print & Packaging Industry due to increase in prices of every raw material used in Printing & Packaging, a meeting was organized by Amritsar Offset Printers Association on 10th January 2021 at Service Club, Amritsar. It was decided to increase prices of all type of Printing jobs, Duplex board cartons corrugated cartons/boxes by 25%.

## 'SAVE PRINTING CAMPAIGN'



"Save Printing Campaign" was observed in Kerala during the first week of November 2020. This innovative and unique Campaign was organised by Kerala Printers Association.

The Campaign was started on November 1<sup>st</sup>, the day on which the State of Kerala was formed in 1956 and ended on November 7<sup>th</sup>, the day on which the Kerala Printers Association was formed in 1985.

On all the seven days, webinars were arranged on the topics relating to Printing, Publishing, Opportunities and threats facing by Printing Industry in the wake of Corona Pandemic etc. Eminent industrial and social leaders talked on the subject.

This spectacular Campaign was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Rajendra Kumar Ananyath, Vice Chancellor of Haryana State Government Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology.

Prof. Kamal Chopra, President, AIFMP delivered the keynote address. Sri. R. Suresh, Former President, AIFMP and Sri. D. Manmohan Shenoy, President, KMPA were the guests of honour. Sri. Y. Vijayan, President, KPA presided over the function.

Protect & Save Printing Industry, Withdraw anti printing policies of State and Central Governments, Governments should take active steps to stimulate Printing Industry etc. were the theme of the Campaign.

Deshabhimani Daily Chief Editor Sri. P. Rajeev Ex. MP, Malayalam Research Journal Chief Editor Prof. Dr. Babu Cherian, Kerala Paper Traders Association former Secretary Sri. Sanjay Pai, D.C. Books CEO Sri. Ravi Dee Cee, Celebrity Writer Sri. K.K. Marar, Financial Consultant Sri. George Joseph, Industrialist Sri. K.P. Raveendran, Life Coach Mrs. S. Salina, KMPA Former Presidents Sri. O. Venugopal and Sri. G. Venugopal addressed on various days on different subjects.

KPA General Secretary Sri. P.M. Hassainar welcomed all and Treasurer Sri. P. Ashok Kumar proposed the vote of thanks. The Meetings and Webinars were widely attended by the printers from all the 14 Districts of Kerala State through Video Conferencing.

## 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE OF KPA

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual State Conference of Kerala Printers Association (KPA) was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, 2020 through Zoom Video Conference.

Sri. G.N. Visvakumar (Hon. General Secretary, AIFMP) inaugurated the State Conference. Sri. C. Prakash Babu (Vice President - South, AIFMP) delivered Keynote Address.

They emphasised that the printing fraternity should show unity, due diligence, and care to overcome the present situation that emerged in this Covid pandemic era and promised all the possible help and assistance from AIFMP.

Both of the new officials of AIFMP attended a KPA Programme for the first time and they remained in the Conference till the end.

Sri. R. Suresh (Former President, AIFMP & Chief Patron, KPA), Sri. P.A. Augustine (Former President & Chief Advisor, KPA), Sri. Antony Parathode (Patron, KPA), Sri. K. Devarajan (Patron, KPA) were the Guests of Honour.

Sri. Y. Vijayan (KPA State President) presided over the function. Sri. P.M. Hassainar (State General Secretary) presented the Annual Report and Sri. P. Ashok Kumar (State Treasurer) presented the Annual Accounts. After deliberations both were passed unanimously.

Sri. Sanu P. Chellappan (General Convenor, Programme Committee & GC Member, AIFMP) welcomed the august body and Sri. Sibi Kodiyaunkunel (GB Member, AIFMP) proposed the vote of thanks.

More than 200 delegates from all the 14 districts of Kerala participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual State Conference. Attendees enjoyed beautiful entertainment programmes performed by KPA Family Members.

The use of Virtual Background by dignitaries and delegates showing the banner of the event was an additional attraction.

Before the State Conference, District and Taluk level Conferences were held during October, November, and December. In the wake of the Covid Protocol, all these Conferences were organised virtually. Being a new experience, most of the members attended and shared their views and suggestions.



## PRINTECH PARK AND COMMON FACILITY CENTRE AT BENGALURU



Karnataka State Printers Association (KSPA) having an history of 80 years serving the printing and allied activities in Karnataka has more than 500 members. KSPA inspired by a visit to Ahmednagar in Maharashtra and also looking at the plight of small printers located in rented premises thought of establishing a Printech Park at Harohalli Industrial Area, Ramanagar District. KSPA with the support of state govt. got 57 acres of land in KIADB industrial area. KSPA formed a special purpose vehicle with the support of 92 likeminded members, embarked on developing the area. State of the art infrastructure such as roads, drainage, power, water, civic amenities and greenery has been provided in the park. The approximate investment in the Printech Park is around Rs.100 crores. The Printech Park envisages an investment of more than Rs.1000 crores from SPV members with employment opportunities for more than 5000 persons.

In order to further serve, KSPA thought of establishing a Common Facility Centre to serve the SPV members as well

as KSPA members. With the assistance of Govt. of India, Govt. of Karnataka and also SPV members, established a state of the art CFC with an investment of Rs. 27 crores. CFC has versatile and sophisticated plant and machinery imported from Germany and indigenous machinery such as Hiedelberg, Auto Print, Megabound, Maxima etc. The services offered are at very nominal price. The infrastructure at CFC is as under.

### Infrastructure at CFC

- Land Measuring more than one acre.
- Building measuring – 40000 sqft
- Power – 300 HP
- ETP & STP – Effluent treatment plant and Sewerage treatment plant
- Backup Generator
- Storage Space – 20000 sqft



The dedication of Printech Park and the inauguration of the Common Facility Centre was held on 20.01.2021 in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Large and Medium Industries Shri Jagadish Shetter, graced by dignitaries such as Smt. Anitha Kumaraswamy, MLA, Former Industry ministers Shri P G R Sindhia and Shri Katta Subramanya Naidu, Member of Parliament Dr. K Narayan and also top ranking officials of Govt. of Karnataka. A large delegation of AIFMP, affiliated associations participated in the event. Shri P G R Sindhia unveiled the logo of PPC, Shri Jagadish Shetter dedicated the Printech Park, Smt. Anitha Kumaraswamy inaugurated the Common Facility Centre Building and Switched on the Heidelberg Machine, Shri Katta Subramanya Naidu, unveiled the plaques of CFC & PPC.

Shri Jagadish Shetter spoke who was dedicated the cluster and CFC for the Nation speaking on the occasion expressed his happiness in establishing a first of its kind Printech Park and Common Facility Centre which has become role model for other associations to emulate the concept. He has praised the Karnataka State Printers Association for the excellent work done and the initiative to form the world class cluster and CFC and he assured that any support required for this cluster will be extended by his government. Hon'ble Minister also informed the audience on steps taken by Govt. in setting up toy cluster at Koppal FMCG Cluster at Dharwad, mobile cluster in Kolar,

Chikkaballapur, Shri P G R Sindhia, Former Industry Minister speaking on the occasion recollected his efforts for establishing industrial area in Harohalli and requested the Govt. to take steps in inviting investments to Harohalli Industrial Area. He expressed his utmost happiness for inviting retired officials who have extended support for setting up the Printech Park and CFC. He also requested the Hon'ble Minister to extend financial support to the cluster under the scheme of Upgradation of infrastructure.

Dr. K Narayan recollected his association with KSPA and requested the minister to resolve the issues related to land. Shri Katta Subramanya Naidu also lauded the dedicated efforts of KSPA office bearers for their effort. Smt. Anitha Kumaraswamy while congratulating KSPA informed that her support would always be there for development of Ramanagar District. Shri Ajith, Smt. Vani and Shri Saravana representing of M/s. Heidelberg Germany gracing the occasion made an announcement for associating with the Printech Park to establish an exclusive training centre on the Heidelberg Machinery.

All the dignitaries lauded the efforts of KSPA in establishing the Printech Park and Common Facility Centre and called upon others also to emulate and establish similar clusters in different sectors. Shri Manoj Mehta speaking on the occasion praised the hard work and dedicated effort of Shri C R Janardhana, Shri B R Ashok Kumar and Office



Bearers of both KSPA and PPC in establishing a first of its kind Printech Park and CFC. Past President of AIFMP Shri S R Sharma, Shri Subhash Chander, Shri P Chander, Shri Shyamal C Basu and Shri Raveendra Joshi, Shri Dayakar Reddy, President, IPAMA, Shri Raveendra Reddy, President, Telangana Offset Printers, Shri Manickam Former Vice President and Shri Manoharan from Karur

District Offset Master Printers Association, Shri C N Ashokan, Managing Director, M/s. Autoprint Machinery Manufacturer Pvt. Ltd., Shri Mohan B .V. M/s. Smith Link Graphics are the dignitaries grace the occasion.

More than 500 people from different walks of life and the printing community participated to make the event colorful and successful. On the occasion the dignitaries and special guests, service providers were felicitated. Shri C R Janardhana while delivering the welcome address gave a glimpse of KSPA and PPC journey and also gave a clarion call to printing community to utilize the services of Common Facility Centre for their betterment. On the occasion a report on evolution of printing industry and establishment of Printech Park and CFC was released. On this occasion a documentary on the establishment of Printech Park and CFC was shown in the event.

Sl. No.	Machine	Purpose	Specifications	
			Max Feeding	Min Feeding
1	Heidelberg CS 92	4 col + online Coating	25" X 36"	13.9" X 18.9"
2	Heidelberg Suprasetter A 106	CTP	36.5" X 41.7"	14.5" X 12.7"
3	Polar 115 PF	Cutting	44" X 45.5"	44" X 3.5"
4	Heidelberg Stahl Folder CH 78	Folding	30.7" X 47.2"	5.5" X 7"
5	Auto Print Dion 450+	4 Col	16" X 20"	5" X 6"
6	Autoprint Reckoner VDP 65	Bar Code	26" X 26"	5" X 7"
7	Auto Print Finecoat 80	UV & Aqueous Coating	22" X 32"	10" X 12"
8	Maxima EXB 35	Punching	35" X 25"	14" X 12"
9	Boxtech Carton glueing machine	Folding & Gluing	BT 65	Velocity Plus
10	Lamination Machine	Thermal	24"	

## ANALOG PLATFORM TO DIGITAL

On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Mumbai Mudrak Sangh in continuation of its webinar series unveiled the successful journey of Mr. Bimal Mehta, Managing Director, Vakils Premedia; from Analog platform to Digital. Mr. Mehta successfully set up and transformed Vakils with the Vakils Premedia business foraying into digital and IT-as-a-service for the global clientele.

Briefly, he cited an example of King Printing Co. Inc., a US-based book-printer, that offers services to self-publishing authors and publishers. They specialise in short-run book publishing where the publishers can print-on-demand (PoD) with deliveries to the end-users such as the universities, book stores, even readers, across the US. King can print as small quantities as one to five copies per order.

King offers database services to the publishers. It enables the customers to instantly and quickly order the necessary PoD of any of their titles. This service was specially developed to ensure the process of printing the titles was made easy for the clients; larger the publisher, more

significant the difficulty they face in managing the diverse portfolio of titles. With better customer communication, King not only identified the pain points but addressed them by creating the right service and effective customer communications.

Bimal's Key steps to transformation:

- Overcome the resistance to change.
- Set a new entity to experiment and attract the right talent.
- Understand that each business has to be run differently.
- Employ the right professionals, smarter than you, to run your businesses.
- Be the venture capitalist for your new business.
- Watch the cash flow; share resources with your existing businesses for better cash management.

Mr. Bimal Mehta concluded the webinar by spelling the gospel truth of the print and packaging industry in the twenty-first century: selling ink on paper is not enough anymore

## ALL ABOUT DIGITAL MARKETING



A webinar on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 by Mumbai Mudrak Sangh, Manoj Kotak not only demystified the technologies behind the Internet-giants like Google and Facebook, but he shared a few secrets about how to leverage these platforms to our benefit.

Manoj started his presentation with a declaration: Nothing is going to die. Nothing is going to be forever. In the pre- and early-Internet age in India, the brands relied entirely on push marketing – advertisements in the newspapers, the hoardings, and many places including aeroplanes to rickshaws.

The advent of Google's search engine or Facebook's granular data on individuals and communities enabled the marketers to target the specific segments of the audience to fetch enhanced returns on marketing investments.

With the next advent of WhatsApp, anyone with the know-how of using a smartphone and a decent data-pack could

use the Internet-based technology to connect and interact.

Manoj concludes the journey of the Internet in India by saying that "whatever is possible in the offline world, is possible in the online world. And vice versa."

We are happy to state on record that MMS has received an overwhelming response through these webinars and could successfully reach out to printers across the length & breadth of the country, with participation from GC members as well.

Another concern for our industry is the state of the rural economy in India and the ongoing farmers' protests. The rural markets generate much business – boxes for farm produce such as fruits, for example. The slowing rural economy and low consumption are directly hurting demand for print and packaging products from the rural markets. As an Association we are bringing these concerns to the notice of government authorities through AIFMP.

We are faced with mounting challenges. The most significant amongst them is a sharp rise in input costs. The labour, Insurance, Logistics, Paper, etc. have seen a significant rise in prices; we think, dialogue and immediate intervention are required to relieve our industry of these mounting input costs.

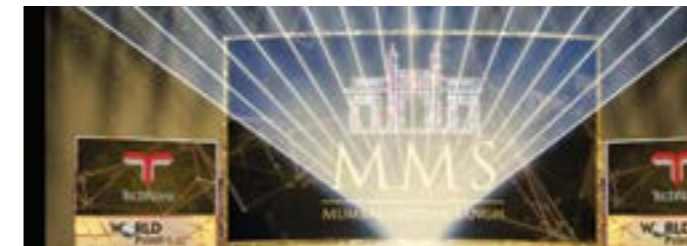
## AOPA CALENDAR OF 2021

To welcome the New Year 2021, a function was organized by Amritsar Offset Printers Association on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at Hotel H K Clark's Inn, Amritsar.

A vivid view of activities of the association of the whole year was shown to the members through a slide show. On this occasion AOPA Calendar of Year 2021 was released.



## AN OPEN PLATFORM FOR PRINT COMMUNITY



Mumbai Mudrak Sangh (MMS) has launched their new initiative – World Print Hub Community (WPH) <https://www.worldprinthub.com>, WPHC is the Global Community, focusing on Printers, Trade Associations, Suppliers and Manufacturers, Thought leaders, and Printing Enthusiasts the first and one of its kind platform for the print community.

According to Tushar Dhote, CMD of Dhote Offset Technokrafts and Immediate Past President, Mumbai Mudrak Sangh, the Objective of the portal is to provide a common platform whereby the industry leaders can meet with different constituents of the print packaging and allied industries and support each other towards future enhancements and augmentation in the digitalisation of the industry.

We are offering different services to its community members starting with an online stream of communications on industry topics in the form of Multimedia Posts," says Dhote, adding, "We are creating a global advisory group of experts in different subjects related to Printing. They can help our members access expertise in areas like Technology, Legal, Commercial, Taxation etc. The kind of content and material we will keep on making available would be mind-boggling. The freshness of content and stimulating of the mind is guaranteed.

The most important function of the portal is to offer a marketplace where manufacturers and suppliers of print equipment and consumable and replenishable can post their product information and seek leads and even transact business. This will be supported by a knowledge repository

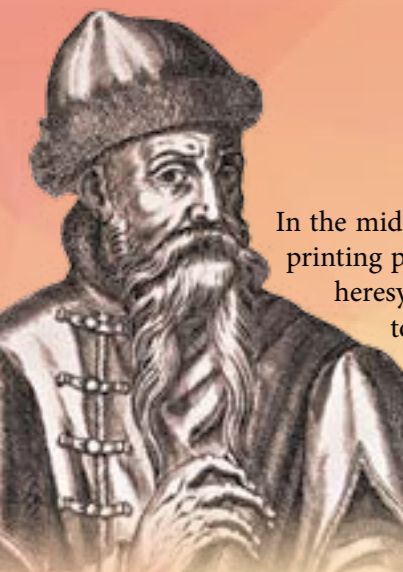
of different types of Estimators and Calculators of activity costs.

According to him, the portal allows the creation of different Groups. Members can come together in smaller numbers and have focussed progressive discussions. The portal also has a library which can crowdsource interesting and informative and futuristic content. There is a section dedicated to learning with MMS's Learning management system to support asynchronous learning where different training programs will be recorded and available to members with on-demand access. And for job seekers, there is a job section as well.

And, there will be a "Print Doctor" who will be available to address issues of the members round the clock and gain the wisdom of the senior members. "Printers are beset with a variety of problems but sometimes they are not aware how to tackle this or they may be hesitant to take a second opinion. So, our services of Print Doctor (Ask me anything – AMA) will be available to address issues of the members round the clock and gain the wisdom of the senior members.



The portal is accessible to all printers from across the world. Though most of the services are offered without any charges, for some specialised services a nominal charge would be levied. But, one has to become a member to avail of the benefits. MMS Core team would be Jigar Satara (Chairman), Rahul Kulkarni (Co-Chairman) and Tushar Dhote, who would monitor on a day-to-day basis. WPH has tied up with leading luminaries of the print world and a global advisory group of experts in different subjects. Mumbai Mudrak Sangh (MMS) has been at the forefront of providing yeomen service to the Print Industry. With a rich experience of 65 years behind it, MMS has always believed in innovating, implementing, integrating and invigorating fresh ideas and developments in the Print industry.



## PRINTERS' DAY

In the mid- 15<sup>th</sup> Century, things began to change with the advent of the printing press in Europe. The printing press, developed by goldsmith Gutenberg in the 1430s, helped spread truth, beauty, and yes, heresy throughout the world. The printing press is not a single invention. In his workshop, he brings together the technologies of paper, oil-based ink, and the wine-press to print books. It is the aggregation in one place of technologies known for centuries before Gutenberg. Copies of his first major project, the Bible, survive today. The invention of printing is considered to be the biggest invention of mankind till date. Printing is the foundation stone of modern civilization. Because his press unharnessed the power of ideas on the world, Gutenberg was declared "Man of the Millennium".

Let's celebrate PRINTERS DAY to remember the contributions made by the masters of this great art.

### Madurai District Offset Printers Association celebrated Printers' day



This year, MADOPA celebrated Printers Day on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at Madurai. Totally 32 girl children present in this home varying from 1<sup>st</sup> Std to 12<sup>th</sup> Std.

President K. Rajasekaran presided over the function and Secretary, R. Ayyappan gave the Welcome address., R. Velumani, K. Ravi, C. Chellasamy, B. Ramesh Kumar, K.N. Sundar, S. Rafeek, V. Venkata Anand J. Saravanan attended the function. Members enormously contributed to this Nobel cause and we presented Laser A4 Printer, A4 Copier Paper, School Bag, Pencil Box, Brown Sheets, Chart Boards, Brown Covers, Note Books, Drawing Notes, Ink Pen, Ink Bottles, Pen, Pencils, Erasers and amenities to the children's. Also distributed Sweets and Snacks to them. Mrs. P.S. Thailammal, GM of the home accepted our contributions along with their staffs. MADOPA take pride in organizing this event and event like this make more strength among us.

### Andhra Pradesh Rashtra Offset Printers Association celebrated Printers' day



Andhra Pradesh Rashtra Offset Printers Association celebrated Printers' day all over Andhra Pradesh, celebration campaign across the state to ensure that it is celebrated even in small towns as well . This includes small towns as well as 27 celebrations. Blood donation, sports meets, bike rallies, donations at orphanage homes and old-age homes, holiday declared at many places. Totally in a festive mood. We are proud to call it "Printers Pongal". It May not less than Pongal, Dussera, or Deepavali.

### Delhi Printers Association proudly celebrated Printers' Day



Delhi Printers Association proudly celebrated Printers' Day with the inmates of Bhawgatdham Dharmarth Nagrik Awas, (old age home) Mayur Vihar-1, Delhi by serving Mid-day meal to them.

The inmates were greeted with flower. Executive Committee members and former presidents of DPA were present on the occasion. Inmates had enjoyed the event fully. They sang songs to DPA representatives. The joy and happiness on the faces of inmates were unexplainable.

The whole event was very memorable to both the inmates of the Bhagwatdham Dharmarth Nagrik Awas and DPA EC members.

### Salem District Offset Printers Association



J&K Offset Printers Association celebrated Printers' day



J&K Offset Printers Association (J&KOPA), celebrated the birthday of the Father of the Printing, Johannes Gutenberg here today. Gutenberg was a German blacksmith, goldsmith, printer and publisher who introduced printing to the world and his birthday is celebrated as Printers' Day.

J&KOPA members celebrated this Day with the children of Balashram, Ambphalla Jammu J&K-UT by giving small amount of Cheque of their Daily Needs including Meal, Chairs etc. These children are in the age group of 4 to 16 years.

The Member of the association who were present on the occasion were President J&KOPA Sudesh K. Gupta, Sr. V. President Rahul Mahajan, V. President Sharat Sharma, Gen. Secretary Avnish Anand, Secretary Rajneesh Koushal, Finance Secretary Satish Raina, Joint Secretary Kukoo Ji Bhan, IPP, Ravi Gupta, Arun K. Gupta, Pankaj Sethi, Satish Jandyal, Sanjay Soni, Vipin Mahajan & Avinash Gupta

The Accounts officers of the Balashram thanked J&KOPA for its contribution towards the needy children of the School.

Amritsar Offset Printers Association celebrated Printers' day



28-02-2021: To pay homage to the Inventor of Printing Press, Sir Johannes Gutenberg, Printers Day was celebrated by Amritsar Offset Printers Association on Sunday the 28th February 2021 at Hotel H K Clark's Inn, Amritsar. At the beginning of the program, a presentation on "History of Printing Press" was shown to all present. On this occasion, Women who have adopted Printing as profession were honored by AOPA

DSMS CELEBRATES PRINTER'S DAY

The committee members of Dombivli Shahr Mudrak Sangh had a virtual meeting to celebrate the printer's day of 2021. We discussed various options to celebrate the printer's day. Finally, we came to the conclusion that it was not possible to get together due to increasing cases of covid 19 in our area.

We decided to donate some toys to some needy & economically backward school children because many times it is experienced that cash donations do not have the accountability of proper usage. Hence we decided to donate in terms of kind. Based on the decision Sachin Ghosalkar found out Nandadeep foundation, Kalyan. A residential school for small children, which is managed by a kind-hearted person, Dr. Soni. The school has about 110 children who stay and learn on the same premises. We offered them the toys but Dr. Soni said that they have sufficient toys for the children and they are in need of food grains. We immediately accepted the proposal and donated food grains amounted to Rs. 15000/-+. Big-hearted members of DSMS also contributed their affordable share to the noble cause under the current business crisis period.

PRINTERS DAY CELEBRATION @ ARASAN GANESAN POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE, SIVAKASI



The printer's day was celebrated at our Printing technology department on 24/02/2021 to mark the birth anniversary of Johannes Gutenberg, father of printing who invented movable type and for the invention he is recognized as inventor of the millennium.

Our principal Dr. M. Nandakumar and HoD Printing department addressed the printing students with a motivational lecture highlighting the importance of printing technology and how the Printing Technology is

making the world communicative and its role in the cultural development of humans. Principal motivated students to aim high by quoting "Small aim is big crime" and to start working towards achieving the goals. Principal also motivated the students to take up innovative projects, as there is wide scope and opportunities for the printing students to bring out innovative and creative projects. The demand for printing students are very high and industries are ready to pay high salaries compared to any

other branches provided they should be technically strong with right attitude to learn and implement with commitment.

He also explained about placement opportunities available for Printing Diploma students in abroad as every year our students are getting placed in leading industries in Dubai and UAE.

The second year students were demonstrated with innovative projects models developed by their seniors. The scope of creativeness in designing, and packaging was demonstrated to the students to think out of box to create innovative packaging designs on their own.

The collection of handmade papers manufactured was showcased to all the current printing students to innovate their models. Mr. A. Paramasivam, Dept I/c, and other faculties of the department were present during the event and motivated the students to be proud of being Printing Technocrats.

AVINASHILINGAM INSTITUTE GETS TWO PATENTS



The department of printing technology, Avinashilingam Institute, Coimbatore, has been awarded patents for a multipurpose die-cutting machine.

TKS Lakshmi Priya, professor and head, printing technology, School of Engineering, conceived the idea to design and fabricate a table-top manual die-cutting machine and create a multipurpose combo package in 2016. Subsequent to the making of these prototypes, patents for both projects were filed in 2017.

The main objective of these inventions was to promote an eco-friendly environment.

## PAPEREX SOUTH INDIA TO TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 8-10, 2021 AT CHENNAI TRADE CENTRE



10 February 2021: 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Paperex South India expo will take place on 08-10 April 2021 at Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai. Paperex South India, organized by Hyve India Pvt. Ltd. is the extension of PAPEREX, the world's largest paper show to provide a unified business platform with unlimited opportunities for paper

& allied industries. Paperex event is always very well attended by a large gathering of Paper Manufacturers to explore the New Technology. The show was to take place on November 26-28, 2020, and got postponed in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic across the globe.

"Against this backdrop over the years, PAPEREX event has become an important business platform in India.

Paperex South India covers pulp, paper, and allied industries. It will bring together the expert group of exhibitors, industry professionals, and targeted visitors base to tap into the booming paper and pulp industry in South India. There will be various

technical seminars by renowned experts revolving around topics such as the dynamics, improvement, and implications for the pulp and paper industry in India.

The paper industry in India has become more promising as the domestic demand is on the rise. While the Paper & paper products market in India to reach \$ 13.4 billion by 2024, the domestic consumption is projected to rise to 23.5 million tpa by 2024-25. About one million tpa of integrated pulp paper and paperboard capacity is required to be created in India on an annual basis over the current capacity to meet the growing demand.

## SONA PAPERS LAUNCHES NEW RANGE OF PAPERS



Sona Papers have launched a new range of papers brand Neenah to be available on a pan-India basis. The new range consists of 72 product SKUs, including Neenah paper's signature brands Classic, Environment, and Royal Sundance. Neenah has been the market leader for the last 100 years in the creation and manufacturing of papers for premium writing, text, cover, digital, packaging, and label applications.

The launch took place at Pulp Society, a creative gallery and workshop initiative by Sona Papers in New Delhi. Also Sona Papers Annual Calendar, 2021. Sona Papers has been known to create an annual creative

collaborative calendar every year for its clients. The calendar theme of this year is 'flexibility and motivation', which celebrates human endurance during the recent pandemic and lockdown.

"The two mantras that have guided us along the way this year and have kept us motivated to stay with life, conveys the calendar theme," said Raju Suneja. The calendar is printed on different types of paper from the Sona product portfolio, so that the beholder may also feel the tactile and olfactory sensations of paper, which cannot be replicated by any form of digital media.



### हिन्दी की पहली प्रिंटिंग प्रेस खोलने वाले मुंशी नवल किशोर

हिन्दी देश के सबसे बड़े हिस्से में बोली जाने वाली भाषा है। हिन्दी में लाखों की संख्या में अक्षरों, परिवारों, तथा शिक्षित वर्ग हैं। आज के हाईटेक युग में हिन्दी की प्रिंटिंग प्रेस की निराली कला भी अद्वितीय है।

ये प्रिंटिंग प्रेस अपने हाईटेक और डिजिटलवादी में लेकिन यदि डिजिटल के चालों को छोड़ें तो अक्षरों के हिन्दी की प्रिंटिंग प्रेस की संख्या भी कम होती जाती है।

देश की सबसे पहली हिन्दी प्रिंटिंग प्रेस वर्ष 1858 में लखनऊ में खुली थी। इसकी स्थापना करने वाले मुंशी नवल किशोर के नाम पर उत्तर प्रदेश को राजधानी में मुक्ति तो लगी है लेकिन इनके नाम में अब तक कोई बड़ा काम है।



मुंशी नवल किशोर पर जारी एक डाक टिकट

प्रेस स्थापित करने का अर्थ अक्षरों का प्रकाशन किया था। इसके अलावा 5000 से भी ज्यादा किताबों का प्रकाशन अरबी, हिन्दी, उर्दू, अंग्रेजी, मराठी, पंजाबी, फारसी, संस्कृत में उन्होंने किया। उन्होंने कई लखनऊ की खुलवाई और लखनऊ यूनिवर्सिटी को हजारों किताबें दान कर दीं।

उत्तर प्रदेश हिन्दी संस्थान के प्रकाशन अधिकारी डा. अमित दुबे ने कहा कि इतिहास में मुंशी नवल किशोर का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। उन्होंने बड़े पैमाने पर प्रकाशन का संस्कार बढ़ाया था जो उस जमाने में किसी मामूली व्यक्ति के बस की बात नहीं थी। —इंदिरा गुप्ता

## "BOOKS ARE STILL LOVED BEST IN PRINT": SHAPING THE FUTURE OF BOOKS WEBINAR ROUND-UP

We welcomed an audience of over 200 people from more than 25 countries at Chapter 1 of our event: Shaping the Future of Books. Webinar participants heard the latest economic data, as well as the perspectives of a printer and a publisher on the state of Europe's book market and its future in a post-pandemic world. Many important topics were covered – from the importance of automation, shorter run length, and reducing inventories, to sustainability, deep reading, and subscriptions.

The webinar was opened by Cees Verweij, President of Intergraf, who explained that "Books occupy a special place in our lives and culture. Even in today's virtual workplaces, printed books proudly appear in the background of many of our digital conversations. Books have also kept us entertained and informed throughout today's challenges – allowing us to travel to other worlds and continue learning from the safety of home. With life shifting more and more online, it is noteworthy that books are still loved best in print. E-readers opened new doors, but they did not develop as predicted."

The first presenter was Adam Page, Global Director of Research and Reports at Smithers, Intergraf's chosen market research partner and supporter of this event series. Adam gave an overview of the latest book printing trends, clarifying that in the context of the pandemic books saw "short-term positive impacts" in most countries – for example, opportunities for education and activity titles (e.g. baking, gardening, DIY). In Western Europe, the book market is projected to grow from €5.7 billion in 2020 to €6.5 billion in 2025 (2.6% CAGR).

Next, panel moderator Håvard Grjotheim, book industry expert and former Intergraf President, joined the stage to introduce our two panellists. He highlighted that what we should really be focusing on is "re-shaping" the book market for the future, because although books have been around for many years, they continue to "add dimensions to one's life like learning, empathy, and psychological development". He added: "Books are good for your health and are here to stay; paper-based books are something for the future".

The panellist giving the print perspective was Rupert Smith, CEO of Halstan Printing. In his opening



presentation, Rupert was interviewed by Charles Jarrold, CEO of the BPIF, who noted that the pandemic has not only accelerated external trends, but also internal business decisions and investments for many companies. Rupert explained that future developments will take place in areas like automation and workflow integration, which fall into the wider trend of enhancing digital and technological capabilities. He elaborated that "publishers invest in AR; we now employ more coders and workflow specialists than print technicians". For 2021, Rupert sees the outlook for book printers as good because "the market has been strong" – especially for mainstream books; "this year can now be for sales and growth".

Giving the publishing perspective was Peter Kraus vom Cleff, Managing Director of Rowohlt Verlag GmbH and President of the Federation of European Publishers. Underlining the importance of books for the future, Peter clarified that "we need to convince people to do deep reading again" – deep reading is like a sport which must be practiced, and future generations need to develop this skill for better empathy and education outcomes.

The importance of print for developing deep reading skills has been well-documented by Intergraf. Reading printed materials (as opposed to reading in digital environments) is scientifically proven to be better for deeper comprehension, concentration, and retention – especially for digital natives. Such findings make it clear that books will play an important role in European society for the foreseeable future.

Watch the webinar replay here: [www.intergraf.eu/events/shaping-the-future-of-print/book-conference-2021](http://www.intergraf.eu/events/shaping-the-future-of-print/book-conference-2021)



## FESPA MOTIVATION & STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

FESPA hosted its first virtual Global Summit on 20 - 21 January 2021, welcoming over 165 delegates from 36 countries. The Global Summit, an exclusive event funded by FESPA's Profit for Purpose programme, invited some of the world's leading printers to connect, learn and debate about the future of the speciality print industry.

The two-day summit, hosted by Pedro Jacques de Sousa, International Executive Director at Digital Graphics Group International, was a participative and interactive event featuring a comprehensive programme of presentations. To inspire the speciality print community to build stronger, more innovative businesses, FESPA was joined by print visionaries and marketing experts to discuss the key trends driving the industry forward.

Paddy Moran, owner of Neuro Coach Ireland opened the event, speaking about how, at a time when human connection has been minimised, it's essential to motivate, engage and communicate with employees. Anna Gapinska, owner of Think Customer and Tom Hawkins, Global Managing Director at GLIMMA then addressed evolving customer needs and why companies should approach business with a customer-first strategy. FESPA's Textile Ambassador, Debbie McKeegan was joined by Ross Haxton, Creative Brand Consultant at G Creative and Annette Taylor-Anderson, Creative Director at ATA Designs to discuss the décor market and the growth opportunities it presents.

On day two, sustainability consultant Clare Taylor, FESPA Vice President and CEO at ATC Christophe Aussenac, and Nathan Swinson-Bullough, Director of Imageco talked about how printers can sustainably rebuild their businesses after the pandemic.

Following that, René de Heij, CEO of Probo NL and Erik Strik, CEO of Print Factory highlighted the trend towards web-to-print and e-commerce, and the importance of automation. Wrapping up the event, Rafael Pelote, Head of Marketing Intelligence at SONAE SIERRA and Massimo Volpe, co-founder of Retail Hub considered the changing marketing landscape from a brand perspective, explaining how touchpoints are shifting within the customer journey and how printers can adapt to the evolving demands of consumers.


Christian Duyckaerts, FESPA President comments: "The annual FESPA Global Summit was designed to support and motivate business leaders in our sector. This is now more important than ever, hence our decision to deliver the Global Summit in a virtual format for the first time. As always, the event delivered fascinating insights into

the challenges our market is facing. These will help us to direct our Profit for Purpose investment in ways that give print businesses clear direction on how to stimulate their recovery and remain resilient."

Building on the hottest topics discussed during the Global Summit, FESPA members will be able to download an exclusive white paper summarising the key themes from the event, including print, décor, sustainability, automation, changing consumer behaviours, and engaging your team. The white paper will be available via the Club FESPA Online portal in March 2021. In addition, members can access Global Summit session recordings from 1<sup>7th</sup> February.

Christian Duyckaerts concludes: "FESPA's core purpose is to educate, inspire, connect and expand the speciality print community. Events like the Global Summit, complemented by our continued research into growth applications and verticals, enable printers to make well-informed business development decisions for sustained long-term growth. We look forward to continued dialogue with our global speciality print community throughout 2021, and to helping business leaders to move forward from the exceptional challenges of the last year and embrace positive opportunities."

For more information on FESPA's Profit for Purpose programme, visit: [www.fespa.com/profit-for-purpose](http://www.fespa.com/profit-for-purpose).



**A Tribute to Mr N R Patel**  
**Past Hon Gen Secretary of AIFMP (1994-95)**  
**and President Mumbai Mudrak Sangh (1989-92)**

This life is but one step in a much greater journey.

As Hon Gen Secretary of the AIFMP, his passion for the print industry was unmatched.

He lived his life well and fully, one of meaning and contributors to several civil society organizations. As he would himself say in cricketing terms, he played well for this 93.

The Indian print industry today stands with the passing away of N R Patel, who was a doyen of our industry.

AIFMP conveys its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

## BILT ANNOUNCES PRICE RISE



BILT Graphic Paper Products is to increase the price of its Indian art paper grades across India. The rates shared by a paper trading company

is "Rs 63 (plus GST) in November. In January, the rates are Rs 73 (plus GST)."

A BILT Graphic Paper Products statement issued on 18 January 2021 highlights the "inorganic price increases in market pulps, chemicals, coal and shipping freight in the past few weeks. These price increases in raw materials have a global footprint and impacted almost every paper supplier across the globe." The communique

states that BILT's Unit BHU deploys 60% of imported materials plus the price increase in chemicals, coal and shipping freight will "directly impact the products' costing."

Meanwhile, in an official statement that has been issued on 20 January 2021, BILT has said, new prices will apply from 21 January 2021 on uncoated varieties like Sunshine Super and its variants as well as Fine Print.

## AS NEWSPRINT PRICES GO UP, INDUSTRY SEEKS HELP FROM GOVERNMENT

Ahead of the 2021 Union Budget, the Indian Newspaper Society (INS), has asked Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to help print media tide over the crisis that the pandemic caused, by removing customs duty on newsprint imports and a stimulus package for the industry, including releasing government advertisements to publications at rates that are 50% higher.

With the pandemic affecting circulation and ad revenue many newspapers have already shut shop

and those still in business are now looking to the government to bail them out. The print industry feels it is time the government to extend a helping hand for them to stay afloat.

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity's (DAVP) rates for advertising in newspapers are much lower than the commercial rates and this brings down their margins. For many years, INS has been asking the government to increase the prices.



The INS note also added that the government should consider hiking the rates it pays for advertisements (through the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity) by 50%.

## ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD



Nizamappas, founder and CEO of YesGo was awarded the Entrepreneur of the year award for 2020-2021 by Indian Achievers Forum and Achievers' World on 2 February 2021.

He won the award specifically for his venture My Print Career- India's first employment portal exclusively for the global print and packaging industry.

Recently in December, Nizamappas was also conferred the title of Most Influential Leaders In Packaging awards by Asia Logistic and Supply Chain Congress and Awards.

He also kickstarted SGO, a pre-media services arm in January at a grand event in Chennai.

"It's a great feeling when your endeavor receives such honor and recognition. I strongly believe that My Print Career is an inherent need for the print and packaging industry and it helps candidates and employers get connected. Since its inception, it has received appreciation from the industry worldwide," said Nizamappas.

## KONICA MINOLTA- GLOBAL 100 MOST SUSTAINABLE CORPORATIONS IN THE WORLD

Konica Minolta, Inc. has been listed among the “2021 Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World” (2021 Global 100). Konica Minolta’s inclusion on this prestigious list will mark the fourth time and the third year in a row, following 2011, 2019 and 2020.

The Global 100 is announced annually by the Canada-based Corporate Knights at the meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), known as Davos Meeting. This year, the meeting will take place as a virtual “Davos Agenda” during the “Davos Week,” from January 25 through 29\*.

\*Due to Covid-19 concerns, WEF will hold the in-person special annual meeting 2021 in Singapore from May 13 through 16.

The 2021 Global 100 corporations that excel in sustainability were selected from among 8,080 major companies around the globe based on an evaluation of environmental, social and governance indicators as well as the ability to promote diversity and innovation and the percentage of sales of eco-friendly products. 5 Japanese companies are on this global list of corporations that excel in sustainability.

Konica Minolta believes that pursuing a sustainable society also leads to enhanced sustainability for companies. Based on the belief, the company keeps enhancing its commitment to innovation that fosters new value creation. The aim is to realize both people-centered engagement with worksite professionals and the creation of a sustainable society, simultaneously building on the growth of the businesses.

Konica Minolta's Workplace Hub, for example, supports diverse work styles at our corporate clients while boosting productivity and creativity. Meanwhile, our bio-healthcare business is helping to deliver precision medicine. Improving quality of life for both caregivers and care recipients, our HitomeQ Care Support service is streamlining workflows for caregivers. In yet another field, our gas monitoring solution makes gas leaks visible at plants using non-contact, remote-monitoring technology, thereby preventing accidents and helping to ensure the safety and security of urban areas.

Konica Minolta has also been addressing the urgent crisis of global climate change. By not only reducing its own environmental impact, but also by providing the suppliers and customers with the environmental technologies and know-how it has acquired, Konica Minolta is advancing its Carbon Minus initiative to achieve carbon emission reduction in excess of its own emissions by 2030. In response to this initiative, not only client corporations and suppliers, but also other industry sectors have shown their support. Konica Minolta launched the Environmental Digital Platform to share environmental know-how across Japanese industries.

Konica Minolta is integrating the strengths developed in its business over the decades with the latest digital technologies to provide high value-added products and services, thereby helping to achieve the SDGs.

## HEIDELBERG SELLS PRINT MEDIA ACADEMY BUILDING



Heidelberg has sold the Print Media Academy building across the street from the town's central station. The 12-story PMA building is one of the tallest buildings in the university city. The building was seen as the centerpiece of a larger project to include research and development and a showroom for its presses. Its inauguration in 2000 coincided with its 150th anniversary.

Commenting on the PMA sale, CEO Rainer Hundsdörfer said, “For us, the sale of PMA is the next logical step on our schedule. We are aware that the sale has a signal effect: However, we will remain closely connected to the city as well as the region in the future. At the same time, we are convinced that the change of ownership will open up new, diverse perspectives for the city and the local people.”

## INKJET PRINTING REVOLUTIONISES



### Categories: Direct-to-Shape, Digital Inkjet

The reliability and performance of the Xaar 1003 printhead utilising its unique TF Technology proved instrumental in the ground-breaking, direct-to-bottle printing operation for Beck's beer, with over 200,000 special edition bottles produced for the UK market.

Each beer bottle was printed directly with one of nine different 360-degree designs, replacing the need for a label. This significantly reduced the amount of packaging materials required, as well as minimising turnaround time, with designs being seen on shelf just weeks after their initial approval.

This innovation was a collaboration between the world's largest brewer, AB-InBev, and leading digital decoration printing company, Dekron, using the DecoType Performance machine with Xaar 1003 printheads to decorate each bottle before filling and sealing.

“We worked closely with Xaar to

develop this innovative direct-to-container printing application for Beck's,” said Zsolt Rozsnyai, product manager for decoration at Dekron. “Xaar's UV inkjet technology allowed us to combine effects to both maximise the print impact on the beer bottles and significantly reduce the time taken from design to the retail shelf.”

The DecoType Performance at AB-InBev uses the Xaar 1003 printheads to deliver exceptionally high-speed rotary printing in full colour, using CMYK with a white and varnish. In its full configuration the DecoType Performance uses a total of 288 printheads across 48 print cages, delivering an output of up to 24,000 glass bottles per hour.

As well as providing a high-impact print finish, the capacity to undertake multiple passes and add a varnish enables the simulation of glass embossing effects on bottles. This allows completely new design combinations to be envisaged by one machine, with the variable full colour print combining with a tactile finish,

saving time and money by avoiding the need for labels to integrate with a screen print or embossed bottle.

Xaar's TF Technology, supported by the development of a specific Waveform, was critical in ensuring the jetting was able to meet the demands of this challenging application. By enabling the ink to flow directly past the back of the nozzle during drop ejection, even at very high flow rates, the printheads are continuously primed, and with the ink in constant motion, this prevents sedimentation and nozzle blocking, particularly with heavily pigmented inks.

“The quality and stability of Xaar's printheads are second to none, proving to be much more reliable, durable and longer-lasting than any other printheads available on the market,” continued Zsolt.

“We have been very impressed with the results enabled by Xaar's TF Technology and Waveform optimisation programme and software which have ensured greater drop placement accuracy for maximum print impact.

“These, combined with the support and co-operation from Xaar throughout the project, have helped ensure the success of this campaign and start a potential revolution in glass bottle printing.”

The 200,000 custom printed Beck's bottles, comprised of nine different designs, with each being printed at AB-InBev's Tattoo Alpha site in Belgium. The bottles were then filled and sold in the UK through the country's second largest supermarket chain, Sainsbury's.



## REGISTRATION OPENS FOR VIRTUAL.DRUPA 2021

drupa exhibitors and interested companies from the international printing industry now have the opportunity to register for participation in virtual.drupa. After the face-to-face format of the world's leading trade fair had to be cancelled due to the Corona pandemic, drupa will now take place in a virtual format from 20-23 April 2021. During the four-day online show, companies will present themselves and their products to the global print community, interact and reactivate their business by generating important leads and sharing expert knowledge.

Companies can now register for the virtual drupa at <https://virtual.drupa.com>. The basic package includes a presence in the Exhibition Space, where the company profile, service and product offerings are displayed in an online showroom. Keywords, product categories and video presentations guide interested parties to the various profiles, which remain accessible for information and interaction after virtual.drupa, regardless of time and place. Based on the information in the showroom, visitors can find exhibitors via profiles and keywords to get in touch with. With the help of matchmaking, exhibitors can also interact personally with existing and new customers in the Networking Plaza and arrange meetings after registration. This allows targeted networking in the run-up to the virtual event. The tool not only simplifies the first contact, but also specifies - based on the participants' match in product categories and structural questions.

The basic package can be expanded with additional individualised services that set the company apart from its competitors. For this purpose, marketing tools such as the integration of company logos, additional product categories for even better findability or prominent placements of advertising banners that actively lead visitors to the online showroom will be available from the end of January. Live web sessions, which enable direct interaction and exchange with relevant target groups and subsequently promote more in-depth, individual contact, are also particularly interesting for generating new contacts.

In addition to the Exhibition Space and the Networking Plaza, virtual.drupa invites you to transfer knowledge in the Conference Area with top topics from the drupa Hotspots. Internationally renowned speakers will present best cases and highlight the influence of global trends such

as the circular economy, sustainability and the connected consumer on the industry.

The drupa preview already gave a foretaste of how the three pillars of the virtual drupa will look. Its three main pillars will be expanded into virtual.drupa and bring the worldwide community together with its comprehensive range of offers. The drupa preview conference programme will take place for the last time on Tuesday, 23 February.

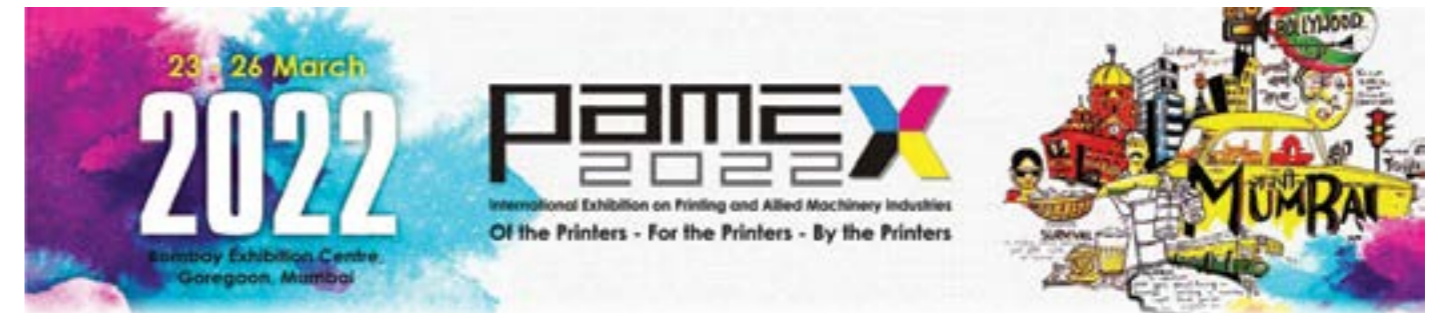
All information on the service description and participation in virtual.drupa is available at <https://virtual.drupa.com>. Visitors can register free of charge from March 2021

### THE NEW PRESIDENT OF SIEGWERK ASIA



Mr Ashish Pradhan is appointed the President of Siegwark Asia, leading global suppliers of printing inks for packaging applications and labels. In this role, Ashish will take over responsibility for South East Asia in addition to his current responsibilities for India and Greater China.

Ashish is a graduate in Engineering with post-graduate qualifications in Management. He joined Siegwark in 2015 with more than 24 years of industry experience globally with companies such as Huhtamaki, Positive Packaging, Henkel, and International Paper. Since taking over as CEO India in April 2016, he has successfully increased both sales and profitability and in his recent role as President India and Greater China, was also able to turn around Siegwark's business in China.



## PAMEX ANNOUNCES SEPARATE HALL FOR LABELS IN 2022

The current pandemic has affected certain industry segments, but now everyone has accepted the new normal and is taking the business ahead with necessary norms. Where trade exhibitions scheduled for this year have mostly been postponed, with some being cancelled, PAMEX was the last big and successful Show held before pandemic. And now the next edition of the exhibition is scheduled for 23-26 March 2022 at BEC, Mumbai.

PAMEX, the international exhibition on printing & allied machinery industries, has grown over the years and in the year 2022, it is dedicating a separate hall to Label Converting and Printing.

The growing demands of label printers for shorter print runs, faster turnaround, and greater flexibility & customization is driving the industry towards higher levels of automation across digital and analogue printing methods. Flexo and combination presses are also witnessing huge growth in a market traditionally dominated by offset. Labels have come up as a seasonable choice for web offset printers, opening new avenues and opportunities. The exclusive hall for Label

Converters and Printers at PAMEX 2022 will give a global business and networking platform to the industry.

The exhibitor product profile will include Digital and conventional printing presses, High tech label and packaging materials, Prepress and platemaking technology, Finishing and converting systems, Inspection, overprinting and label application equipment, Dies, cutters, rollers, Inks and coatings, RFID and security solutions and Software and interactive technology.

This Exclusive Hall at PAMEX will see Printers / converters of labels, flexible packaging and folding cartons; Brand owners; Label and packaging designers and Industry suppliers visiting the Show.

PAMEX, organized by All India Federation of Master Printers (AIFMP), in association with Print-Packaging.com (P) Ltd., has more than 140 exhibitors already signed up for 2022 edition.

**For more details,**  
send email to [neha@print-packaging.com](mailto:neha@print-packaging.com)

## LECTA PRESENTS RECYTAL MATT, ITS NEW COATED RECYCLED PAPER

Barcelona – Exceptional print results, naturally

At Lecta we remain firm in our commitment to the environment and sustainability, offering natural paper solutions in which quality assurance is always guaranteed. We are now proud to present Recytal Matt, a new 2-side coated recycled paper in a natural white shade, with excellent results with all types of printing methods.

Obtained from 100% recycled fiber, this new paper generates less waste, promoting a circular economy.

The Recytal Matt range has FSC® Chain of Custody certification and is available in substances from 90 to 240 g/m<sup>2</sup> in sheets and reels. It is suitable for an extensive range of applications such as books, brochures, catalogs, direct marketing, folders, inserts, magazines, environmental reports, etc.



Recytal Matt is the natural choice for all types of high-quality prints and finishes, contributing to a more sustainable world.

For more information about Lecta's new Recytal Matt coated recycled paper please visit the products section at [www.lecta.com](http://www.lecta.com).

## HD4YOU: PARTNER TO PACKAGING PRINTERS

- Heidelberg offering three webinars including “Ask the Expert” sessions this spring
- First webinar will be on March 4, 2021: Reliable and efficient packaging production
- More detailed information through packaging campaign currently running on the homepage at [www.heidelberg.com](http://www.heidelberg.com)
- Virtual Gallus High Performance Day will take place in March for label printers

The growth market of packaging and especially the folding carton segment is part of the core business of Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG (Heidelberg). The company offers the industry a trend-setting product portfolio here, with new innovations being added all the time to meet the requirements of customers and offer added benefits. As a partner, Heidelberg would like to use its digital platforms to share helpful information and also answers its customers' individual questions in an interactive exchange.

Heidelberg is therefore launching a series of no less than three webinars in spring under the slogan “HD4You” that will look at the trends in packaging printing, show solutions, and offer a platform for a collective exchange. The free webinars will be held at 9:00 a.m. CET and again at 4:00 p.m. CET, and will go on for an hour. Afterwards, the participants will be able to put their questions about the topics of workflow, press, and postpress directly to the experts live in three different “Ask the Expert” sessions.

The events are aimed at packaging printers all over the world and will be held in English. The webinars will be recorded and can be accessed by registered participants at any time afterwards.

The events will kick off on March 4, 2021 with the webinar “Reliable and efficient packaging production”. This will provide answers to the question of the degree to which folding carton production can be automated – from intelligent workflow to navigated packaging printing and robot-assisted postpress.

On March 25, 2021, the participants in the webinar “Expand your business into packaging production” will learn how an existing commercial print shop can get started in folding carton printing, and the concrete steps required for this.



The third seminar will take place on April 27, 2021 and will cover “One pass special applications in packaging”. It will show how folding cartons with special finishing effects can be efficiently produced in just one printing pass.

“Already with the virtual Innovation Week last fall, we showed that even in difficult times we stay in contact with our customers,” confirms Ludwig Allgoewer, Global Head of Sales and Marketing at Heidelberg. That being the case, Heidelberg will continue to use the digital platforms for webinars and further knowledge transfer. “We know that personal contact between customer and manufacturer is very important in the printing industry, because it creates and reinforces trust. As soon as the situation allows, we look forward to welcoming our customers on site again. Nevertheless, we regard the digital platforms as a good complement to the live events, even in the future, especially for customers from countries further away,” explains Ludwig Allgoewer.

Heidelberg has put together a whole package of interesting information on its website ([www.heidelberg.com](http://www.heidelberg.com)). Here you will also find the videos from Innovation Week that show the product innovations for Packaging, Commercial, and Label. Furthermore you will find additional and in-depth content about the innovative range of solutions for packaging printing at [heidelberg.com/packaging](http://heidelberg.com/packaging).

Label printers around the world will learn everything there is to know about label production on March 3 and 4, 2021 with the “Virtual Gallus High Performance Day”. Using this new event format, Gallus will present the highlights from its portfolio of digital and conventional printing presses. The demo sessions will be followed by breakout sessions where label experts will provide exclusive insights.

## RULE OF 1% GST LIABILITY PAYABLE IN CASH MAY IMPACT 45,000 UNITS



GST liability effective January 1 would be applicable to about 45,000 taxpayers, Revenue Department sources said on Saturday.

This comes to only 0.37% of the total businesses registered in the Goods and Services Tax system, they added.

To curb tax evasion by way of fake invoicing, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had recently made it mandatory for businesses with monthly turnover of more than ₹ 50 lakh to pay at least 1% of their GST liability in cash.

The new rule restricts use of input tax credit (ITC) for discharging GST liability to 99% effective January 1, 2021.

However, this restriction will not apply in cases where the managing director or any partner has paid more than ₹ 1 lakh as income tax or the registered person has received a refund amount of more than ₹ 1 lakh in the preceding financial year on account of unutilised input tax credit.

Sources said data analysis showed that of the total GST taxpayer base of 1.2 crore, only about 4 lakh have monthly supply value greater than ₹ 50 lakh. Of these, only about 1.5 lakh pay less than 1% of their GST liability in cash.

“When exclusions in the rule are applied, around 1.05 lakh taxpayers get further excluded from these 1.5 lakh taxpayers. Thus, the rule would apply only to 40,000 to 45,000 taxpayers,” sources said.

The CBIC has booked about 12,000 cases of ITC fraud and arrested 365 persons in such cases so far. In the last 6 weeks alone, more than 165 fraudsters have been arrested.

## CREDIT GUARANTEE UNDER CGTMSE

Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Nitin Gadkari has said that the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) has accorded guarantee approval to 67,171 loan accounts of women entrepreneurs for an amount of Rs 3,366.63 crore as of December 12, 2020, in the current financial year.

He informed Rajya Sabha in a written reply to a question on the number of women entrepreneurs who benefited under the government scheme for easy credit availability.

“The accounts approved during FY20 for women entrepreneurs under CGTMSE to support their business expansion and growth stood at 1,24,984 involving Rs 5,367.38 crore,” he added.

Jointly set-up by the MSME Ministry and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), CGTMSE offers credit guarantee to financial institutions to provide collateral-free loans to MSEs. The government had increased the loan disbursement limit from Rs 1 crore to Rs



2 crore. Moreover, the scheme's corpus was also enhanced from Rs 2.5 lakh crore to Rs 7.5 lakh crore.

The government had extended the guarantee of Rs 45,215.35 crore in 8,38,947 loan accounts in FY20 up from 30,168.57 in 4,35,520 accounts in FY19, according to the MSME Dashboard data published by the MSME Ministry.

## TIFAC LAUNCHES 'SAKSHAM'



Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), think-tank under the Department of Science and Technology has launched a job portal Saksham that will conduct skills mapping exercises of workers as per requirements of MSMEs.

It also launched a seaweed cultivation mission on TIFAC's 34<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day.

The DST said that the "Saksham" job portal, launched by the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), will help eliminate middlemen, labour contractors as well as help in identification of skill proficiency level and development of skill cards for "shramiks" (workers).

"This initiative will facilitate placement of 10 lakh blue-collar jobs (pan-India), directly connect shramiks with MSMEs eliminating middlemen/labour contractors, identification of skill proficiency level and development of skill cards for shramiks. This portal will reduce the hardship of shramiks in finding jobs in nearby MSMEs," it added.

By an estimate, if seaweed cultivation is done in 10 million hectares or five per cent of the Exclusive Economic Zone area of India, it can provide employment to 50 million people, the DST said.

TIFAC will demonstrate a model along with other in-line ministries for commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing for value addition towards boosting the economy, the DST added.

Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary at DST, underlined how the Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) and efforts by the TIFAC, could bring about cultural changes to connect the invention and innovation ecosystem and instil confidence to realise self-reliance in every sector through science and technology.

"Our initiatives have already generated several start-ups. However, there can be a massive escalation in the numbers if we can trigger confidence in the youth to have their own start-ups. Atamanirbharata needs a change in mind-set.

The youth needs to think beyond themselves for the larger good of society," Sharma said.

On increasing non-linearity of science, V K Saraswat, Member Science, Niti Aayog, and Chairman-TIFAC identified the technological priorities of the future like cyber-physical systems, quantum computing, green chemistry and water.

He stressed that it is imperative to focus on technologies that can make India self-reliant or Atmanirbhar and are futuristic as well.

"We should identify those areas where technologies have made breakthroughs and bring in indigenous technologies to be independent and globally competent. It is important to make sure we have an eye on the future as well as on the present, and that is where TIFAC's role comes in a big way," Saraswat said.

He also added that the National Research Foundation (NRF) announced recently that it would create an ecosystem for providing a platform for futuristic research to bring our country at par with the rest of the world.

### MSME ASSOCIATIONS ASKED TO PUBLICISE NEW LOAN SCHEME FOR FIRST TIME BORROWERS

The office of Development Commissioner-MSME, under the Ministry of MSME has dashed off a letter to all Industry Associations to publicise about the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notification dated February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 issued to all Scheduled Commercial Bank (SCBs) regarding credit to MSME entrepreneurs.

As per this notification SCBs will be allowed to deduct the amount equivalent to credit disbursed to 'New MSME Borrowers' from their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) for calculation of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CCR).

For the purpose of this exemption, 'New MSME Borrowers' shall be defined as those MSME Borrowers who have not availed any credit facilities from the banking system as on January 1, 2021. This exemption will be available only upto 25 lakhs per borrower.

"For those micro units in the MSME sector who have not availed any credit from the banking system, it is a very good opportunity from them to take the credit if required. Therefore, it is requested that this information may be widely circulated among all MSME units so that they can avail the benefit," the letter read.

## INDIA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY LOOKS BRIGHTER THAN IT ACTUALLY IS; WORST OVER, REGAINING GROUND WILL TAKE TIME



Though in on-year growth terms, FY22 would appear to be an extremely good year, in level terms, it would only be slightly better than FY20.

India's economy is recovering at a better-than-expected pace since the fiscal second quarter but it may take a long time to regain the momentum it had before the pandemic kicked in. The projected GDP growth does indicate that the worst is over, but it still does not indicate whether the economy has recovered the lost ground or surpassed it, said a report by India Ratings. The size of the Indian economy in FY20 was Rs 145.66 lakh crore at constant prices. Further, it is expected to contract 7.8 per cent on-year to Rs 134.33 lakh crore in FY21, and grow 9.6 per cent on-year to Rs 147.17 lakh crore in FY22, according to the estimates of India Ratings.

Though in on-year growth terms, FY22 would appear to be an extremely good year, in level terms, it would only be slightly better than FY20. It would be only about 1 per cent higher than the FY20 level. This suggested that

the economy will be able to just recover the lost ground in FY22, and surpass the FY20 GDP level in a meaningful way only in FY23, the rating agency added.

To further understand the actual impact of the pandemic and calculate the recovery in a more appropriate way, it is important to understand that if the pandemic had not arrived and the Indian economy had posted modest GDP growth of 5 per cent in FY21 and FY22 respectively, the size of the economy by FY22 would have been Rs 160.59 lakh crore. Based on this, even with a 9.6 per cent GDP growth, the size of the economy in FY22 would reach only Rs 147.17 lakh crore, due to the pandemic. On the other hand, to achieve Rs 160.59 lakh crore, the GDP will have to grow at 19.5 per cent in FY22, which looks impossible at the moment.

The above analysis shows how the enormity of the loss to the economy becomes quite unclear with an on-year growth and why there has to be pragmatism why calculating the recovery. India Ratings underlined that if the output loss is converted into loss in consumption demand and employment, the damage to the economy may appear even bigger.

Do you know What is Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Finance Bill, Fiscal Policy in India, Expenditure Budget, Customs Duty? FE Knowledge Desk explains each of these and more in detail at Financial Express Explained. Also get Live BSE/NSE Stock Prices, latest NAV of Mutual Funds, Best equity funds, Top Gainers, Top Losers on Financial Express. Don't forget to try our free Income Tax Calculator tool.

Courtesy: [www.financialexpress.com](http://www.financialexpress.com)

## WPI INFLATION IN JANUARY RISES TO 2 PER CENT FROM 1.22 PERCENT IN DECEMBER

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Courtesy: KNN India

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