

DAY 3

SHOW DAILY

FEBRUARY
14



74th IFC & 22nd IFEX 2026

DAY 3 GLOBAL DIALOGUE, TECHNICAL DEPTH & INDUSTRY CLOSURE

Day 3 of **IFEX 2026** marks the culmination of three days of intensive technology exchange, sourcing discussions, and industry engagement at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai. The exhibition continues to witness steady participation from buyers, exhibitors, and global delegates across ferrous and non-ferrous segments. Alongside IFEX, the **74th Indian Foundry Congress (IFC)** enters its concluding day with specialized technical sessions, the **World Foundry Forum**, and the **Valedictory Function**, bringing together Indian and international perspectives on the future of the foundry industry.



A LANDMARK GATHERING FOR THE FOUNDRY FRATERNITY

IFEX 2026 Mumbai, held from 12–14 February 2026, recorded an overall footfall of 46,736 across three days. The exhibition featured 417 exhibitors spread over 15,553 sqm of net display area, attracting 28,407 unique B2B visitors. The show facilitated 29,931 scheduled B2B meetings. The strong participation from both exhibitors and industry buyers reaffirmed IFEX's position as one of the largest and most impactful foundry exhibitions.

IFEX 2026: EXHIBITION – FINAL DAY ENGAGEMENT

The final day of IFEX 2026 continues to serve as an active sourcing and interaction platform, with exhibitors engaging buyers on technology adoption, productivity improvement, and supply-chain partnerships.

Key Focus Areas on Day 3

- Final-stage buyer interactions and evaluations
- Product demonstrations and solution comparisons
- National & International sourcing conversations, networking

With three days of sustained engagement, IFEX 2026 reinforces its role as a business-driven platform connecting technology providers with decision-makers.



ADVANCING DUCTILE IRON EXCELLENCE: METALLURGICAL PRECISION AND PROCESS CONTROL



The first session of Day 3, chaired by **Dr. N.P. Sinha**, addressed key metallurgical challenges in Ductile Iron, focusing on inoculation, thick-section properties, and micro-shrinkage control. **Mr. Ashok Vishwakarma**, Group MD, MPM Private Limited, stressed reducing the Cost of Poor Quality and adopting a structured, process-driven approach to inoculation using Design of Experiments. **Mr. Arif Vora**, GM-Technical, Fitcast Founders and Engineers Pvt. Ltd., shared a case study on meeting mechanical properties in thick sections up to 250 mm by controlling Cerium, optimizing Carbon Equivalent, and improving cooling practices. **Mr. Swapan Kumar Biswas**, Technical Manager, Elkem South East Asia Pvt. Ltd., highlighted the role of high nodule count, Lanthanum and Cerium-based inoculants, and melt preconditioning in reducing micro-shrinkage. **Dr. Nandita Gupta**, Professor and Dean of Research, NIAMT, Ranchi, presented research validating Cerium's impact on nodularity and discussed section size effects and improved inoculation techniques for uniform graphite distribution.

The session concluded that achieving defect-free, high-performance ductile iron demands precise control of trace elements, effective preconditioning, and a disciplined, data-driven inoculation process.

Glimpses of Day 3



World Foundry Forum – Global Trends and the Indian Opportunity



The dignified session was moderated by **Mr. Subodh Panchal**, with **Mr. Sushil Sharma**, President, IIF, underscoring the importance of global learning for India's advancement. The panel featured **Mr. Klaus Osterhof**, Business Development Manager, HUTTENES-ALBERTUS Chemische Werke GmbH, Germany; **Mr. Gerson Vick Jr**, Managing Director, Gevitec Mechanica Industrial LTDA, Brazil; **Mr. Oswaldo Almeda**, Global Sales Manager, Sorelmetal, Rio Tinto, US; and **Mr. Mario Grigoletto**, General Manager, Progelta s.r.l., Italy.

Mr. Klaus Osterhof outlined Europe's market contraction, particularly in Germany, and highlighted the urgent talent gap as senior experts retire. **Mr. Mario Grigoletto** stressed that technology integration and ROI-focused investments are essential to modernize foundries and attract younger professionals. From Latin America, **Mr. Gerson Vick Jr** described Brazil's steady production growth driven by automotive and agricultural sectors, while noting high interest rates limiting capital expansion.

The panel also addressed global megatrends including EV-driven shifts in casting demand, renewable energy opportunities such as windmill castings, and the rising costs of decarbonization. The discussion positioned India as a strong emerging alternative in global supply chains, with opportunities for joint ventures and technology adaptation aligned to local raw materials and market strengths.

COST SAVING & OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Cost Saving and Operational Excellence

The session, chaired by **Mr. Prayut Bhamawat**, Hon. Secretary – IIF, focused on practical pathways to reduce costs and improve operational efficiency.

Mr. Satyanarayana V.N., Sales Director, DISA & SIMPSON, explained the mechanics and economics of green sand reclamation, highlighting a scrubbing-based process that preserves grain size, improves sand quality, and enables up to 70% sand recovery. With reclamation costs around ₹500 per ton versus ₹3,000 per ton for new sand, he demonstrated significant per-ton savings and fast ROI. **Mr. Sandeep Kulkarni**, General Manager, Kolhapur Metals LLP, emphasized disciplined process control in energy- and material-intensive foundries. Through shop-floor observation and structured team involvement, he showcased major gains: improving melting practices reduced power consumption from 680 to 580 kWh per ton while increasing daily heats by 25% and optimizing sand moisture and mixing time improved Green Compressive Strength from 800–900 to 1200–1300 without changing the sand recipe. He concluded by stressing that awareness, accountability, and proactive leadership are central to sustainable cost control and operational excellence.



VALEDICTORY FUNCTION

The Valedictory Session marked the grand conclusion of the **74th Indian Foundry Congress and IFEX 2026**, celebrating record participation and formally handing over the mantle to the Northern Region for the Platinum Jubilee edition. **Mr. Saibal Sen**, Chairman, IIF Western Region, welcomed delegates and reflected on the event's scale, connecting over 30,000 visitors with innovation. Citing a Tesla anecdote linked to Claudio Mus, he highlighted how bold casting demands can reshape global manufacturing and urged the industry to recycle setbacks into future success. **Mr. Amish Panchal**, Chairman, 74th IFC Organising Committee, described the event as the **"WhatsApp Congress,"** noting seamless digital coordination. He announced key milestones including 1,441 registered delegates, over 500 exhibitors, and 15,550 sq. meters of exhibition space, while thanking all stakeholders. **Mr. Sushil Sharma**, President, IIF, acknowledged the logistical challenges of hosting the event in Mumbai and praised **Mr. Subodh Panchal**, Past President and OC Mentor, for his dedication. Mr. Subodh Panchal stated that IFEX 2026 now stands comparable to major global exhibitions and revealed that registrations closed early due to overwhelming demand. Chief Guest **Mr. R.K. Saboo**, Executive Director, Kores (India) Ltd., urged MSME foundries to move beyond protectionist thinking toward productivity and global competitiveness, while bridging generational gaps to accelerate technology adoption. **Mrs. Jaya Dokania**, Director, BMC Metalcast Pvt. Ltd., was felicitated for her pioneering leadership in the foundry sector – **"Iron Lady of Jamshedpur"**. **Prof. Dr. Gautam Sutradhar**, Editor-in-Chief, launched the open-access journal Sustainable Manufacturing and Foundry Practices, aimed at translating research into industry application. Concluding the session, **Mr. Sudeep Sarcar**, CEO, IEML, shared final figures of **46,736 total footfall**, 417 exhibitors, and 29,931 scheduled B2B meetings, and announced that the **75th Platinum Jubilee** edition in Delhi aims to be a 100% carbon-neutral event. The ceremony ended with the formal handover of the IFC flag to the Northern Region.



BUSINESS ENGAGEMENTS & FINAL DAY NETWORKING

Buyer–seller meetings continued through the final day, enabling focused discussions, follow-ups, and closure of conversations initiated earlier in the show. The concluding phase of IFEX 2026 provided participants with the opportunity to consolidate interactions, evaluate partnerships, and align on next steps beyond the exhibition. As the platform moves towards its close, these engagements underscore IFEX's role in facilitating structured business outcomes and sustained industry collaboration.



Closing Note

IFEX 2026 and the 74th Indian Foundry Congress draw to a close after three days of purposeful engagement, technology exchange, and business interaction at Mumbai's Bombay Exhibition Centre. The platform brought together the full foundry ecosystem, enabling conversations that connected innovation with application, and strategy with execution. Across exhibitions, conferences, and networking forums, the industry reaffirmed its commitment to quality, sustainability, and global competitiveness. As delegates depart, IFEX and IFC leave behind a strengthened roadmap for collaboration, capability building, and India's growing role in the global foundry landscape.



Testimonials



Mr. Sushil Sharma, President, Institute of Indian Foundrymen (Year 2025-26)

After three decades, IFEX has returned to Mumbai — India's financial capital and the very centre where foundries thrive and businesses scale faster. Organizing such a large event in a city that never sleeps was always a challenge, but this year the response from exhibitors and visitors has been excellent. IEML has done a commendable job, and I extend special thanks to Dr. Rakesh Kumar and Mr. Sudeep Sarcar for their leadership. We look forward to strengthening our association with IEML. I also appreciate the IFEX app, which has made navigating the show and its intricacies seamless for all participants.



Subodh Panchal, Mentor 74th IFC, Chairman-IFEX 2026

Thirty years ago, IFEX was first organized in Mumbai with German partners, and it was then the biggest and most successful show of its kind. To see IFEX return to Mumbai now with IEML and achieve even the greater scale and success is truly impressive. The turnout has been remarkable, and I extend my congratulations and best wishes to all involved. IFEX continues to set benchmarks in the foundry segment, and I believe it will remain groundbreaking for the industry. IEML will going to have best prospects and success.



Weiwei Cheng, Hebei Jinju New Material Co Ltd, Exhibitor - China: Participating at IFEX 2026 for the very first time has been a truly great experience. It is a highly professional exhibition with strong visitor turnout, and we have been busy engaging with customers throughout. I have networked with multiple new buyers, especially those interested in metallic and foundry solutions, which aligns perfectly with our expertise. India already represents a very developed market for the metallic and foundry industry, and we see significant potential here for our company. I am glad to join this confluence and look forward to building lasting collaborations.



Rajesh Kumar, MPM Pvt. Ltd., Exhibitor: Our experience at IFEX 2026 has been truly appreciable. As exhibitors, we are expecting more and more buyers to join, and this platform is proving to be the right place to connect with them. We specialize in extensive foundry solutions and are proud manufacturers of castings. At the same time, we are actively digitalizing our foundry processes, whether in sand, metallurgical, or other advanced applications. IFEX gives us the perfect opportunity to showcase these capabilities and receive valuable feedback from visitors, reinforcing India's position as a global leader in the foundry industry.