

Celebration of 96th Foundation Day of the Indian Ceramic Society: A Report

The parent body of the Indian Ceramic Society, for the first time in history, celebrated its Foundation Day (the 96th Foundation Day) on 23rd April, 2024 at TT Jagannathan Auditorium of 'Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-Madras)', Chennai. A one day National Symposium on 'Challenges and Future Perspectives of Advanced Ceramics' was also organized during this occasion.

Indian Ceramic Society (InCerS), a non-profit organization, was established on 15th April, 1928 with the initiative of some of the then stalwarts like Sirdar Krishen Singh, T. W. Talwalker (the then refractory technologist of TISCO) and with the blessings of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the then Vice Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Over an immaculate journey spanning 96

About 130 delegates including members from different parts of the country, faculty members and students from IIT-Madras, Chennai and from Anna University, Chennai, technical and managerial personnel from the industries, representatives from local R&D institutions, etc participated in this significant occasion. The program was financially supported by Saint-Gobain Glass India Ltd, Therelek Furnaces Pvt Ltd, Hindustan Platinum Pvt Ltd and Kansal Enterprises.

Inaugural Ceremony

The inaugural session was chaired by the Chief Guest, Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula, Director-in-charge and Dean of Alumni and Corporate Relations, IIT-Madras. Special Guest



Dignitaries on the dais during the Inaugural Session

years, the Society has grown from strength to strength and presently, InCerS has more than 2200 members in and out of India. The members include manufacturers, professionals, academicians, technologists, R&D workers, artists, craftsmen, students and many more.

With the passage of time the Society has spread its wings and now it has 13 local chapters, 1 international chapter and 4 student chapters.

However, the parent body of the Society, till its inception, has not celebrated the prestigious occasion of its foundation day, although few of the local chapters of the Society celebrate this occasion every year in their own capacity. It is a day to commemorate the history, to revisit and reconnect with the continuing journey of the Society, as well as to rejoice the bond between the past and present members of the Society. It is a day to cherish its excellence over the period since its foundation.

of the occasion was Prof. Subramanya Sarma V., Professor and Head, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, IIT-Madras, Chennai. Mr Sudipta Saha, (President, Indian Ceramic Society), Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal (Vice President, Indian Ceramic Society), Mr Sitendu Mandal (Honorary Secretary, Indian Ceramic Society) and Prof. N. V. Ravi Kumar (Professor, IIT-Madras, Chennai) also shared the dais during the inaugural function.

According to the ritual of IIT-Madras, the inaugural program started with the State Anthem of Tamilnadu, Tamil Thai Vazhthu, followed by Vande Mataram. Thereafter, all the dignitaries on the dais paid homage to Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya, the main architect of establishing the Indian Ceramic Society, by flower garland followed by the formal procedure of lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Professor Ravi Kumar welcomed the dignitaries on the dais by presenting flower bouquets.



Homage to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya

Mr Sitendu Mandal (Honorary Secretary, InCerS and Chief Scientist, CSIR-CGCRI, Kolkata), offered his hearty welcome to all the dignitaries on the dais, invited speakers, industry personnel, faculty members, students, delegates, and the guests for their gracious presence on this occasion and extended a note of admiration to everyone for becoming a part of the event and gracing it with their presence. In his introductory speech, he briefly described the journey of the Society of about nine decades. He remembered with great pride about the peerless stalwarts who were responsible for establishing the Society with visionary insight. He remembered the glorious past of the Society, elucidated its strength, and assessed the challenges. He wished that the Society would have a glorious future filled with much more success and innovation.



Mr Sitendu Mandal, Honorary Secretary, InCerS, delivering welcome address

Mr Sudipta Saha (President, InCerS and President, Tile Operations & Business Head, Industrial Products, Prism Johnson Ltd, Maharashtra), in his welcome address, conveyed his sincere gratitude to all the dignitaries on the dais, distinguished guests, invited speakers, and all the delegates from all over India. While addressing the gathering, he opined that the celebration of Foundation Day serves as



Lighting of the ceremonial lamp

a reminder of the rich legacy of the Society as also provides an opportunity for the members, students, researchers and supporters of the Society to come together and renew their commitment to the Society's mission and values. He congratulated and appreciated each and everyone associated with this event for extending their whole hearted support to make it highly successful.



Mr Sudipta Saha, President, InCerS, delivering his welcome address

Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal (Vice President, InCerS and Chief Technology Officer, (Process), Tata Steel Ltd, Jamshedpur), while delivering his welcome address, extended his hearty welcome to all the dignitaries on the dais, the delegates and the guests to the event. Dr Pal in his speech hailed the enthusiasm and determination of the Indian Ceramic Society that kept it functioning smoothly since its inception. He cordially thanked the members of the Society who actively participated in this prestigious occasion to celebrate 96th Foundation day of the Society, thereby contributing to its success. He wished that everyone associated with the Society would work more cohesively to create similar impactful program for the betterment of the entire ceramic community in future.

Prof. Subramanya Sarma, Professor, IIT-Madras, expressed his thankfulness to the Organizing Committee for inviting him as the Special Guest to this prestigious event of the Indian Ceramic Society. He was enthusiastic about this remarkable milestone. He placed his sincere appreciation to the dedicated team of the Indian Ceramic Society, who had left no stone unturned to make the event a grand success. He also congratulated the students and the faculty members of IIT-Madras for taking a keen part in this event and making it successful.



Prof. Subramanya Sarma, Professor, IIT-Madras, delivering his address

Hon'ble Chief Guest of the event, Prof. Mahesh Panchugnula, (Director-in-charge and Dean of alumni and corporate relations, IIT-Madras) while delivering his inaugural address vigorously thanked the crew of the Indian Ceramic Society for inviting him as the Chief Guest on this very exciting occasion. He extended his admiration to the stalwarts who contributed immensely towards establishing the Indian Ceramic Society. In his introductory speech, he briefly described the importance of science, technology and innovation in our day-to-day lives and the ways in which they



Chief Guest Prof. Mahesh Panchugnula, (Director-in-charge and Dean of Alumni and Corporate Relations, IIT-Madras), delivering his address

are transforming the world. He opined that many subjects did not exist 100 years before and might not exist 100 years down the time, but it is 'Ceramics', that was the subject of relevance 1000 years ago and will be the subject of equal significance even after 1000 years period. He also enunciated that individuals can and do make a difference; one idea, one thought can change lives. At last, he conveyed his sincere appreciation to the Organizing Committee for planning such a vibrant technical program on the occasion of celebrating 96th Foundation Day of the Society and wished the program a grand success. He also wished the Society to achieve greater success in the years to come.

Here it is to be specially mentioned that during the inaugural ceremony of the 96th Foundation Day Celebration of InCerS the new cover design of '*Transactions of the Indian Ceramic Society*', the quarterly journal published by the Society, was launched by Mr Sudipta Saha, President, Indian Ceramic Society.

The inaugural session was concluded by vote of thanks, proposed by Prof. N. V. Ravi Kumar, Professor, IIT-Madras,



Release of new cover design of 'Transactions of the Indian Ceramic Society'



Prof. N. V. Ravi Kumar, Professor, IIT-Madras, proposing vote of thanks

Chennai. Professor Ravi Kumar specially thanked the Chief Guest, the Special Guest, President, Vice President and Honorary Secretary of the Indian Ceramic Society for their gracious presence. He also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Dr L. K. Sharma (immediate past President, InCerS), Dr K. G. K. Warriar (Honorary member of the Society) and all other senior members of the Society for their courteous presence, which had taken the occasion to a new height and made the event a meaningful one. He conveyed his special appreciation to the sponsors, who had come forward with their generous contributions to make the event successful. He deeply appreciated the co-operations received from the secretariat staff members of the Indian Ceramic Society and student volunteers of IIT-Madras towards organizing such a prestigious occasion. He made a particular reference to the co-operative attitude of the all the invited speakers and delegates, without which the event could not be held successfully.

Technical Session

The Technical Session of the National Symposium on 'Challenges and Future Perspectives of Advanced Ceramics' was held on April 23, 2024, after the tea break. The Symposium was designed in such a manner to ensure interest and involvement of academic and industry personnel as also students. The Technical Session consisted of two Invited Lecture Sessions, one Students' Session and one Industry Brainstorming Session.



Dr L. K. Sharma (left) and Dr Ratheesh Ravindran (right) delivering invited lectures at Technical Session-I of the National Symposium

Invited Lecture Sessions

A total number of 9 invited lectures were delivered on different topics in the two Invited Lecture Sessions, held before and after lunch on April 23, 2024. The pre-lunch session was chaired by Mr Sudipta Saha (President, InCerS), wherein 5 invited lectures were delivered as follows:

- IL-1: 'Life Style Ceramics, Status and Scope in South India', delivered by *Dr L. K. Sharma*, immediate Past President, InCerS and CEO, Mahamana Ceramic Development Organization, New Delhi.
- IL-2: 'High End Microwave Ceramics and Composites for Wireless Communication Applications', delivered by *Dr Ratheesh Ravindran*, Director, C-MET, Hyderabad.
- IL-3: 'Process of Change Management', delivered by *Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal*, Vice President, InCerS and Chief Technology Officer (Process), Tata Steel Ltd, Jamshedpur.
- IL-4: 'Preparation of Hierarchical Ceramic Materials using Proteinaceous Template', delivered by *Prof. M. Balasubramanian*, Professor, IIT-Madras, Chennai.
- IL-5: 'Challenges and Future Perspectives in Ceramic 3D Printing', delivered by *Prof. S. Manisha Vidyavathy*, Professor, Anna University, Chennai.



Prof. S. Manisha Vidyavathy (left) and Prof. M. Balasubramanian (right) delivering invited lectures at Technical Session-I of the National Symposium

The post-lunch session was chaired by Dr K. G. K. Warriar (Emeritus Scientist, CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram), wherein 4 invited lectures were delivered as follows:

- IL-6: 'Advanced Ceramics for Nuclear Reactors: Future Prospects', delivered by *Prof. B. B. Jha*, Emeritus Professor, Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bengaluru.
- IL-7: 'Energy Saving Initiatives in Ceramic Tiles Industries', delivered by *Mr Subhasish Mukhopadhyay*, Associate Vice President, Prism Johnson Ltd, Dewas, Indore.



Mr Sudipta Saha (left) and Dr K. G. K. Warriar (right) Chairing Technical Session-I and Technical Session-II, respectively, of the National Symposium



Prof. B. B. Jha (left) and Mr Subhasish Mukhopadhyay (right), delivering invited lectures at Technical Session-II of the National Symposium

IL-8: 'Advanced Ceramics and Challenges', delivered by Mr T. K. Chakraborty, Head, Float Line, Saint-Gobain Glass India Ltd, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan.

IL-9: 'Canvas of Advances Ceramics', delivered by Dr Shyam S. Rao, Corporate Technology Officer, Carborundum Universal Ltd, Chennai.



Mr T. K. Chakraborty (left) and Dr Shyam S. Rao (right), delivering invited lectures at Technical Session-II of the National Symposium

Students' Session

The Students' Session was coordinated by Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal, Vice President, InCerS. It was an interactive session with the students, which allowed exploring and expanding the students' ability to think critically and laterally. The students of IIT-Madras and Anna University vigorously participated and extremely enjoyed the session. Mr Deepak Kumar and Mr Surachit Hepat, both students of IIT-Madras, Chennai (Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering), were awarded during the session.



Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal, Vice President, InCerS, conducting the Students Session

Industry Brainstorming Session

Industry Brainstorming Session was coordinated by Prof. N. V. Ravi Kumar (Professor, IIT-Madras) wherein the industry personnel as also other participants actively interacted and shared their opinion. The session helped and encouraged the participants to freely discuss and share their ideas as also fostered courage in people who may not usually offer their perspective on a problem. This session helped the students to form connections and share ideas with the peers.



Glimpses of the industry brainstorming session

The celebration of 96th Foundation Day of Indian Ceramic Society came to an end with the concluding remarks by Prof. N. V. Ravi Kumar (Professor, IIT-Madras). The ceremony was a grand success and it set the stage for more such event.



A group of participants of the event