



Gaurav Sathaye,
Editor, Ink News

Welcome to the latest InkNews edition... and my first edition as the editor.

AIPIMA has been strategically involving the younger members of the association and giving more responsibility to youngsters to start contributing to the Association and our industry and so far the results have been quite positive. The young brigade is taking ownership and wants to do its best under the guidance and support of the seniors. Accordingly, we have few new faces in unfamiliar roles – including myself being entrusted with the task of being Editor of AIPIMA's coveted magazine InkNews.

A heartfelt thank you to AIPIMA president, BB Sen, and the managing committee for giving me the responsibility of being the Editor. I have big shoes to fill as industry veteran B S Kampani, has taken this magazine to greater heights in his stint as Editor with respect to content, advertising and circulation.

I am very lucky to have an experienced Editorial Committee consisting of Vimal Mehra, Ajit Lalvani, RY Kamat and Dhananjay Sathaye, and with their help, I will do my best to keep our magazine's flag flying high. I am also happy to have the ever supportive president BB Sen, who has been working extremely hard behind the scenes to give support and required boost to us, youngsters.

We have proposed to form a "Content Committee", with strong and knowledgeable persons from the Indian ink industry to both indigenise the content and make it even more relevant and interesting to all of us.

Let's take a quick view of all the chaos that has been going on around us in the industry, Mumbai and in India.

- The much-hyped 'No-Trust' motion in the Parliament followed by the most talked about the dramatic hug between RaGa and NaMo.
- Big nation-wide chakka jaam and transportation and logistics in a mess.
- Heavy rains, pot-holes, bridges falling - at least in Mumbai
- Political upheaval by the Marathas – again in Mumbai / Maharashtra
- Extremely uncertain raw material (RM) situation and steeply rising RM Prices dampen the spirits – all over the world!
- GST sops provide a small ray of hope – especially since varnishes and coatings are thankfully revised downwards from 28 to 18%.

The prices and general unavailability of RMs is the biggest pain point for our industry at present. Almost all the ink companies have already implemented one or two rounds of the price increase but are struggling to keep pace with the rising costs.

Being the optimistic types, we Indians may complain and crib all we want but we continue to put our heads down and strive that much harder. I sometimes feel that this cultural trait is what stops us from the long-term planning and quantum leap as a nation. Instead, we are stuck at inflationary incremental growth and even then we are the fastest growing economy in the world mainly due to our size or population.

When a method fails, we sometimes expect the results to improve just by doing more of the same things, by say, trying harder. But is it time to go back to the drawing board to sketch out a new path and try something different. Doing different things yields different results.

Great men become great not just by doing things right but also by doing the

right things. Management is doing things right, leadership is doing the right things. We all hope to be great leaders whether in our own professional or personal lives. Then let us take a step back and let us think – Are we doing the right things right?

The big news from AIPIMA is the Launch of Asia Coat + Ink Show 2019 to be held on March 25 – 28th 2019. It is the flagship Exhibition and International Technical Conference of AIPIMA, and perhaps the only exhibition and International ink association for supplier industries for inks and coatings and allied materials in India. With the energetic young team at the helm, backed by the blessings and guidance of the seniors, the 2019 Asia Coat + Ink Show is set to be the largest and is sure to deliver great footfalls, superb networking and informative engaging speakers.

The GST Refund Seminar, held alongside the launch event, was one of the most interactive and informative sessions held on this subject. Dr Sandeep Gunjal, asst commissioner, GST Council Mumbai is an authority on the subject and showed readiness to support the industry to solve their problems.

In continuation with providing Industry-relevant and current news information, AIPIMA has planned talks around the subject of – plastic waste management at the Annual General Meeting on 7 September 2018 at Hotel Mirage, Mumbai.

Going forward, the AIPIMA management committee and the editorial team is committed to continually improve the content, increase the circulation and readership base and to keep the brand image of the only quarterly publication for Inks and Coatings in India flying high.

On that high note, I give you our first edition of the new team. Happy reading!!

Yours sincerely

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