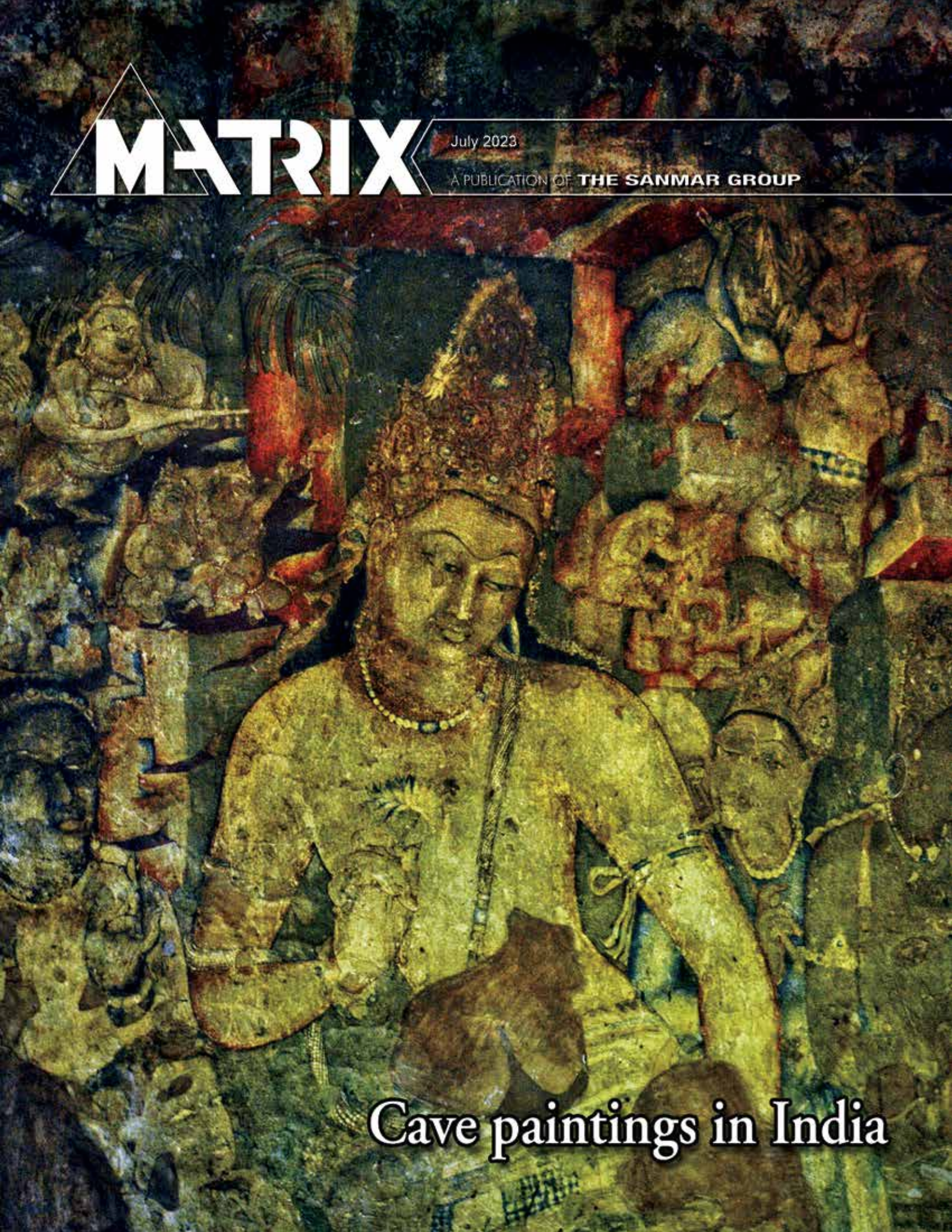


MATRIX

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A PUBLICATION OF THE SANMAR GROUP



Cave paintings in India



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SHL Chemicals

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd

Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd

TCI Sanmar Chemicals S.A.E.

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Sanmar Shipping Ltd

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Sanmar Engineering Technologies Pvt Ltd

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BS&B Safety Systems (India) Ltd

Xomox Sanmar Ltd

Anderson Greenwood Crosby Sanmar Ltd

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Matrix can be viewed at www.sanmargroup.com

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Cover photograph: Ajanta Cave painting

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The Sanmar Group at Vinyl India 2023

The Sanmar Group played an active role in the 10th Vinyl India, International PVC and Chlor - Alkali Summit held at Mumbai on April 26-27, 2023. The summit included presentations and panel discussions by industry leaders and experts covering the latest developments, providing a 360-degree view of the PVC industry.

Delivering the keynote address, Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, The Sanmar Group, highlighted the opportunities and challenges in meeting the growing PVC demand in India.

“The wonder plastic, PVC, is slated for a bright future globally thanks to its relatively low carbon footprint and rapid re-invention. There is an enormous opportunity in the Indian PVC market, currently at 3.5 million tonnes, as against that of China which caters to a demand of 20 million tonnes,” he said.

He added that the focus of the Indian government on growth and investment in infrastructure can present an ideal opportunity for the PVC industry to boost the market size considerably over the next 5 to 10 years.

He emphasised that the upstream segment which Chemplast Sanmar represents confronts a host of challenges in terms of its capital intensity with long gestation periods, dependence on feedstock, and high cost energy. Only consistent support of the government through policies



(L to R): Nidhi Verma, Anil Jain, Jayant Chheda, MM Sharma, Arun Baroka, Vijay Sankar, B Narayan, Deepak Mishra, Shishir Sinha, Nilesh Shah, Shreevallabh G Kabra.



and active collaboration with the downstream sector can promote investments upstream which is crucial for long-term sustainable growth of the vinyl industry. Appealing to a spirit of partnership, he concluded that sans a robust upstream, the glory of a thriving vinyl industry in India of 10 to 15 million tonnes will only remain a mirage.

The first business session post-inauguration was chaired by Ramkumar Shankar, Managing Director, Chemplast Sanmar. This session included an overview of the vinyl industry, both in India and

globally. There were also presentations on the downstream sectors, including the PVC pipe segment which accounts for over 70% of the total PVC consumption in India.

At the Business Session on the morning of Day 2, N Krishnamoorthy, Deputy Managing Director, Chemplast Sanmar, chaired the session on Additives and Compounding.

The summit brought together the PVC value chain enabling them to meet, educate and share best practices on technical and commercial aspects of the PVC environment.

Clockwise: Vijay Sankar, N Krishnamoorthy and Ramkumar Shankar at the Vinyl India 2023 Summit.

Sanmar joint venture

Emerson, USA



Lal Karsanbhai with Vijay Sankar.

Anderson Greenwood Crosby Sanmar Limited (AGCSL) is a Joint Venture between Emerson and The Sanmar Group. AGCSL manufactures a comprehensive range of Pressure Relief Valves.

Emerson had been partners with Sanmar for close to thirty years until 2011 in an earlier Joint Venture. Sanmar's JV philosophy of maintaining excellent relations with partners even after exiting, obviously motivated Emerson to continue the Joint Venture with Sanmar when they acquired Pentair globally in 2017.

Lal Karsanbhai, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mike Train, Chief Sustainability Officer and Susan Hughes, President of Asia Pacific, from Emerson, USA, met with Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, The Sanmar Group, B Visweswaran, Vice Chairman, Sanmar Engineering and Narayan Sethuramon, Managing Director, Sanmar Engineering over dinner on May 19, 2023 at the ITC Grand Chola. The meeting reinforced the strong relationship between Emerson and Sanmar as well as the warm bonhomie between Vijay and Lal and both sides reaffirmed their commitment to grow the business.



*(L to R): B Visweswaran,
Mike Train, Lal
Karsanbhai, Vijay Sankar,
Susan Hughes and
Narayan Sethuramon.*

partners' recent visits

Flowserve Corporation, USA

Scott Rowe, President and CEO Flowserve Corporation, USA along with Juan Carrera, Vice President, Operational Excellence Flowserve, and Leo Hee Khoun, Regional Operations Director, Asia Pacific, Singapore visited Flowserve Sanmar facility at Karapakkam, India on June 12, 2023.

They toured the factory and Scott Rowe commissioned the new universal grinding machine. B Visweswaran, Deputy Chairman, Sanmar Engineering, made a business presentation. Future growth plans were discussed.

Vijay Sankar hosted dinner on June 16, 2023, for the visitors from Flowserve Corporation, USA.



Scott Rowe commissioning the new universal grinding machine at Flowserve Sanmar, Karapakkam.

(L to R): RB Satish Kumar, B Visweswaran, Vijay Sankar, Scott Rowe, Lamar L Duhon, Juan Carrera.

Scott Rowe with Vijay Sankar.



Sankara Nethralaya dedicates the Paediatric Ophthalmology department to the memory of N Sankar

The Sankara Nethralaya eye hospital dedicated the Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus department on the fifth floor in the MAHYCO block to the memory of the late N Sankar, Chairman, The Sanmar Group on April 17, 2023, on his first death anniversary.

It was dedicated in the presence of Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya,

TS Surendran, Director, of The Hindu Publishing Group, N Ram, and the family members of N Sankar including his wife Chandra Sankar, son Vijay Sankar, daughter-in-law Sukanya Sankar, daughter Madhurika Sankar and his brother N Kumar.

The paediatric department is a highly specialised and advanced eye care facility offering expert diagnosis and



(L to R): Vijay Sankar, N Ram, Chandra Sankar, TS Surendran, N Kumar, Sukanya Sankar and Madhurika Sankar.

treatment for the entire gamut of ophthalmic problems in children belonging to various age groups from just-borns to teens, apart from treating adults with strabismus.

Sankar had supported Sankara Nethralaya for over 30 years. He had contributed to the setting up of refractive surgery/laser vision correction centre, Madhuram Narayanan Surgical Complex and a block dedicated to the memory of KS Narayanan, his father.



Recently, contributions were made to the Sankara Nethralaya-Sanmar Centre of Excellence for the Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS) and towards research equipment and instruments to the Sankara Nethralaya - Vision Research Foundation (VRF) from The Sanmar Group CSR Trust.



TS Surendran, Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya.



N Ram, Director, The Hindu Publishing Group.



Vijay Sankar.



Madhurika Sankar.

Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference 2023

Chemplast Sanmar and Sanmar Engineering participate



(L to R): Akhil Narula, Vijay Sankar, Alok Tayal, Rajneesh Sharma.

Chemplast Sanmar and Sanmar Engineering, both participated in Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference 2023 (APIC2023) in Delhi hosted by the Chemicals and Petrochemicals Manufacturers Association, as one of the key sponsors. The two-day event which was supported by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India saw some 1000 delegates and senior business leaders from global chemical industries coming together to explore opportunities in the petrochemical space.

The engineering division of Sanmar offers a range of products in flow control solutions like seals, valves, rupture disks and other accessories widely used in chemical, petrochemical and oil/gas industries.

The event showcased the growth potential of the petrochemical industry in India and Asia.



(L to R): Manoj Mehta, Akhil Narula, Ramkumar Shankar, Rajneesh Sharma, Saurabh Tripathi from Sanmar and Samidha Hasija.

First ministerial meeting of India-EU Trade and Technology Council

The European Union and India held their first ministerial meeting of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) on May 15-16, 2023 in Brussels, Belgium.

The ministerial meeting was co-chaired by Executive Vice-Presidents Margrethe Vestager and Valdis Dombrovskis on the EU side, and on the Indian side by S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology.

Narayan Sethuramon, Managing Director, Sanmar Engineering Technologies, led the CII Indian Business Delegation to India - EU Trade and Technology Council Stakeholder Meetings.



Matrix Metals at the Valve World Expo 2023, Houston, Texas

Matrix Metals Global was present at the Valve World Expo and Conference in Houston, Texas on June 7-8, 2023.

The Expo & Conference showcased the latest developments and trends in

the Flow Control industry. It served as a meeting point to network with existing and potential customers and learn from several exhibitors from the US, Canada, Europe, Asia, India, Mexico and beyond.

The exhibition also gave an opportunity to network and devise new ways to collaborate and win in a rapidly changing marketplace.

(L to R): Nathan Martin, Paul Lapointe, Buddha Narasimhan, V Rajeshkumar, Chakrapani Subramaniam, Narayan Sethuramon, Susana Cornejo, Gloria Rodriguez, Rickey Umbach, Maribel Morales, Mahendar Singh, John Mathias and Ivan Huerta.



Process Safety Management Day at TCI Sanmar

Process Safety Management (PSM) Annual Day was observed at TCI Sanmar Chemicals, Port Said, Egypt on May 18, 2023 as a re-iteration of the Sanmar safety culture.

TCI Sanmar is moving towards achieving and sustaining 'Zero Process Safety Events.'

Posters and Screensavers were put up, quiz programmes were conducted for field and DCS operators and prizes distributed. On May 18, 2023 shop-floor employees showcased a skit demonstrating all the 14 PSM elements which was well appreciated.

Senior leadership team delivered speeches pitching the company's SANSAFE journey, its importance and the vision of the company to make TCI Sanmar site achieve world-class standards on safety with a clear focus on achieving 'Zero Process Safety Event' as the prime indicator.



*PVC zone team leaders with Zero LT1 motivational award.
(L to R): Abdel Nabi, Senthamizh Chelvan and Ahmed Raafat.*



Process safety management leadership team at TCI Sanmar (L to R): Sitting: Ahmed Tuhamy, M Arjunappa, S Rambabu, TCN Sai Krishnan, S Vadivel, Tarek Farouk, M Mohanasundaram, Abdel Razek and Mohammed Ibrahim. Standing: Plant Safety implementation committee members.

Cave paintings of India

A treasure trove of ancient stone art

India is known for its diverse art and culture. According to research and records, India's oldest existing art proofs can be traced back to the Stone Age. Cave paintings in India were discovered in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Ladakh among many other places. India's rich history of paintings has called for recognition from across the globe.

From imposing paintings to intricate rock-cut sculptures, these age-old caves are a treasure trove of ancient stone art that offers a glimpse into the lives of our ancestors.

To produce these paintings brushes were most likely made from twigs that were chewed to soften and discard the fibres. Additionally, fingers, bird feathers, and animal hair are believed to have been used as brushes. Pigments for different colours may have been obtained from vegetables or from surrounding

sedimentary rocks. Hydrated iron oxides from rocks were likely used to make shades of ochre and red and burnt to produce colours such as yellow, rust orange, and brown. Evidence suggests that colours were only used in the wet form—by mixing pigments with oils and water—and never in solid or powdered form.

Here are some of the most popular of India's cave paintings:

Bhimbetka Cave Paintings, Bhopal

This group has more than 600 different caves, which were primarily shelters. VS Wakankar classified the drawings and paintings into seven different periods and dated the earliest paintings to have belonged to the upper Paleolithic to be as early as 40,000 years ago. The colours used are vegetable colours which have endured through time because the drawings were generally made deep inside a niche or on inner walls.

One rock in Bhimbetka, popularly referred to as “Zoo Rock”, depicts elephants, barasingha (swamp deer), bison and deer. Paintings on another rock show a peacock, a snake, a deer and the sun. On another rock, two elephants with tusks are painted. Hunting scenes with hunters carrying bows, arrows, swords, and shields also find their place in the community of these pre-historic paintings.

Scholars believe that the Bhimbetka cave paintings were quite mature and advanced for their time and were probably not the first works of art created by human beings in the region.



*Bhimbetka Cave
Paintings, Bhopal*



Adamgarh Hills Cave Paintings, Hoshangabad.

Adamgarh Hills Cave Paintings, Hoshangabad

Situated 2 kms south of Hoshangabad town, near the Narmada River, Adamgarh rock shelters were discovered by Manoranjan Ghosh in 1922 CE. There are around 18 rock shelters in Adamgarh, 11 have visible paintings, and others have faded with time. The shelters contain mostly miniature paintings and Shelter No. 10 has a superimposition of paintings from different periods. Painted in red, dark brown, shadowy brown, and white, the human figures are pinched merely in outlines, while animal figures have a little more detailing.

Bagh Caves Paintings, Dhar district

The Bagh Caves are a group of nine rock-cut monuments, situated among the southern slopes of the Vindhyas in Bagh town of Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh. Like those at Ajanta, Bagh caves were excavated by master craftsmen on the perpendicular sandstone rock face of a hill on the far bank of a seasonal stream, the Baghani. Buddhist in inspiration, of the nine caves, only five have survived. All of them are 'viharas' or resting places of monks' monasteries having quadrangular plans. The most significant of these five extant caves is Cave 4, commonly known as the Rang Mahal (Palace of Colours).

Jogimara Cave Paintings, Sarguja

Jogimara Cave is situated at Amarnath near the origin of Narmada, in Sarguja in Chhattisgarh. The paintings of these caves have been dated from 300 BC to as back as 1000 BC. Here is the oldest known love message in the world. The painting was done in two layers – the original by an expert artist in the 1st century BC and the latter by another artist, in inferior quality. Drawings were made in lines. Red, black, white, and yellow colours were used. Each painting has a red outline. At the root of this cave, there are several paintings of human, fish, and elephant figures.

Sittanavasal Cave Paintings, Pudukkottai

Sittanavasal Cave is a 2nd-century Tamil Sramana complex in Sittanavasal village in Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu. Its name in Tamil means "the abode of great saints". The murals have been painted with vegetable and mineral dyes in black, green, yellow, orange, blue, and white. Paintings have been created by applying colours over a thin wet surface of lime plaster. The Sittanavasal Cave is listed as one of the Adarsh Smarak Monuments by the Archaeological Survey of India.

The decorative paintings in the ceiling of the sanctum and Ardha-mandapam of Aravirkovil though compared to the classical cave painting styles used in the Ajanta Caves but have minor variations in the use of the materials for creating the paintings and also reported to provide a link between the Ajanta paintings (2nd and 1st centuries BC) and the Chola paintings of 11th century at Thanjavur. The Sittanavasal Caves are a fantastic representation of Buddha's philosophy.

Badami Caves Paintings, Bagalkot

The Badami cave temples are a complex of Hindu and Jain cave temples located in Badami, a town in the Bagalkot district in the northern part of Karnataka. The caves are important examples of Indian rock-cut architecture, especially Badami Chalukya architecture, and the earliest date from the 6th century.

Badami mural paintings are the earliest survivors of Hindu paintings. Many of them could not stand the effects of time yet some have reasonably survived. The caves at Vatapi were fully decorated with murals; many of them were inspired by the Puranas. The most surviving murals include the paintings



Ajanta Cave Paintings, Aurangabad.

of Shiva and Parvathi as well as some other mythological characters. The paintings were highly decorated as the remains clearly suggest the grandeur and splendour of the ancient ages of India. Cave 4 is based on Jain ideology and has a huge image of Lord Mahavira.

Ajanta Cave Paintings, Aurangabad

The Ajanta Caves are 29 rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments dating from the second century BCE to about 480 CE in the Aurangabad District of Maharashtra state. Ajanta Caves are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Universally regarded as masterpieces of Buddhist religious art, the caves include paintings and rock-cut sculptures described as among the finest surviving examples of ancient Indian art, particularly expressive paintings that present emotions through gesture, pose and form. The paintings in the Ajanta caves predominantly narrate the Jataka tales. Caves 1, 2, 16 and 17 have the largest surviving paintings elaborated in rich colours depicting the life of Buddha, rebirths of Buddha

and tales from Aryasura’s Jatakamala.

Mural paintings are found in these caves, most of them depict the life of Buddha and other stories.

Ellora Cave Paintings, Aurangabad

Ellora is famous for Hindu, Buddhist and Jain cave temples built during the 6th and 9th centuries. Three ancient Indian religions are housed here. Three arts converge here. The site, spread over a two-kilometre long, is one of the

world’s largest rock-cut temple cave complexes with more than a hundred caves. Ellora Cave is India’s Classical masterpiece and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983. The carvings at Ellora were at one time profusely painted. The rock was covered with lime plaster which was painted. The plaster and the paint have survived in places.

Saspol Caves Paintings, Ladakh

These caves have been shaped in the 13th – 15th century AD by the followers of the Tibetan Buddhist school Drikung Kagyu, focusing on meditative practice.

The interior of caves is simple – the ceiling, for the most part, has been left without changes, with large boulders perched in the conglomerate. Walls though are plastered with clay and covered with brightly coloured paintings. Paintings consist of a large amount of smaller miniatures showing the many deities of the Buddhist pantheon.

The mysterious land of India is filled with unique artefacts and history, and the more you explore the subcontinent, the more amazed you will be by the grandeur of the culture and history. The irony is that these precious paintings have survived nature’s harshness but not human damage.

Ellora Cave Paintings, Aurangabad.



Dinner get-together with Ambassador of India to Mexico



Ambassador of India to Mexico, Dr Pankaj Sharma, hosted a friendly dinner on June 14, 2023, for Secretary of Economic Development of CDMX, H.E. Fadlala Akabani in the presence of Diego Foyo, from Govt. of Querétaro, Sanmar's Narayan Sethuramon & UPL's Nainwal. There

was a discussion on mutual interest in diversifying trade and Government, of CDMX's vision of joining forces with Indian companies.

Source: <https://www.indiainmexico.gov.in>

Meeting with Municipal President of Queretaro

Narayan Sethuramon, Managing Director of Sanmar Engineering, recently called on H. E. Luis Bernardo Nava Guerrero, the Municipal President of Queretaro. He was accompanied by K Praveen, President of Acerlan Matrix Metals and Adan Herrera, CFO of Acerlan Matrix Metals.

Narayan gave an overview of the Sanmar Group and explained in detail on the Group's operations in Mexico and specifically in Queretaro state.

An in-depth discussion was held on the Mexican business and all support was assured to Sanmar for the existing business as well as for the growth of the business in Queretaro state.



relationships

High-level Suez Canal Economic Zone team meet TCI Sanmar senior officials



PS Jayaraman, Chairman, TCI Sanmar Chemicals, former Ambassador of India in Egypt, Navdeep Suri, presently a Director of TCI Sanmar, and Saurabh Tripathi from Sanmar met with a high-level Suez Canal Economic Zone team led by Chairman, Walid Gamal el Din, over lunch at New Delhi on June 20, 2023.

Moustafa Shaikhon, Minister Plenipotentiary and Head of the

Economic and Commercial Office, Embassy of Egypt in New Delhi, India was also present. The meeting was attended by other prominent industrialists from Egypt who accompanied the Suez Canal Economic Zone team.

PS Jayaraman and Navdeep Suri explained the growing business of TCI Sanmar in Port Said, Egypt, and also the projects they have taken on hand involving a further investment of around US \$ 350 million which will be over and above the investment of US \$ 1.5 billion already made by the company. The visiting team and others who participated were appreciative of the gesture of TCI Sanmar and assured their support and cooperation in their endeavours in Egypt.

Sanmar's Mexico operations update to the Ambassador of Mexico to India

Narayan Sethuramon, Managing Director, Matrix Metals Global, the foundry arm of Sanmar with a manufacturing facility in Mexico met with His Excellency Federico Salas, Ambassador of Mexico to India on May 26, 2023. Narayan updated the Ambassador on the expansions of Sanmar's operations in Mexico and the employment opportunities being created.

CSR initiatives undertaken by Matrix Metals in the neighbouring communities were highlighted and these were well appreciated by His Excellency. Mexican economy and the opportunities were also discussed.



ICDS Child Care Centre refurbished

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is one of the flagship programmes of the Government of India and represents one of the world's largest and unique programs for early childhood care and development.

The Sanmar Group CSR Trust donated Rs 2.80 lakh to refurbish one ICDS Child Care Centre which required quick attention. The inauguration of renovated ICDS Centre at Kannagi Nagar was held on June 8, 2023. R Karthik, Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs, The Sanmar Group inaugurated the renovated premises. Rohini Ramesh, Vice President, CSR, The Sanmar Group, was also present.



With this granted amount, Turning Point Education Trust has undertaken upgrading the infrastructure including construction of compound wall, setting up of a water tank and other civil work.

Nutritional baskets to TB patients

Chemplast Sanmar contributed Rs 2 lakhs towards providing Nutritional baskets to TB patients in Karaikal under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (PM-TMBA). The cheque was handed

over to the District Collector A Kulothungan by S Mathivanan and Col M Jothi Shankar of Chemplast Sanmar on May 19, 2023.



Chemplast donates outdoor play equipment to Gonur panchayat



Chemplast Sanmar Ltd, Mettur donated outdoor play equipment to Samathuvapuram Community Park at Gonur Panchayat on March 27, 2023. On behalf of Chemplast,

S Gajendiran handed over the materials to the Block Development Officer, Nangavalli in the presence of Revathi Rajasekar, District Chairman, Rajasekar, Govinthraj, President Gonur village panchayat, Saravanan, Gonur panchayat secretary, Praveen, Vice President, Sekar ward member and public from Samathuvapuram village.

Chemplast Sanmar employees donate blood

A blood donation camp was conducted at Chemplast Sanmar Mettur on June 14, 2023 in coordination with Santhaithanapatti PHC and Mettur GH. 70 units of blood was donated by Chemplast employees.



SANMAR-TNTA Chennai City Club League Championship 2022-23

The 30th edition of the SANMAR - TNTA Chennai City Club Tennis League was played during January February and March 2023. The total prize money for the event was Rs 4 lakhs. 78 teams with around 500 players participated in all categories - 6 zones, namely, A, B, C, D, E, and F in the Regular event, A and B Zones of 45+event, 60+ and Mixed doubles events.

Indian player Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Sai Jayalakshmi, Sai Samhitha, Vinod Sridhar, Vijay Kannan, M Fariz, Ajay Selvaraj, Elwin Antony, youngsters Dhananjaya Athreya, Ajay Kannan and veterans Rajesh Ganapathy, Rameez Samad, Vivek Reddy, Manoj Chandani, Dr Karthik Kailash, amongst others.

The experienced Madras Cricket Club 'A' (MCC) Team regained the KS Narayanan Rolling Trophy when they defeated defending champions Nungambakkam Tennis Club (NTC) 2-1 in the finals of the 'A' zone of the 30th Sanmar TNTA Chennai City Club Tennis League

Madras Cricket Club 45+ 'A' Zone

*Sitting (L - R): R Karthik,
R Venkatesh, N Kumar,
B Vijaykumar, Vivek Reddy.*

*Standing (L - R): Rajiv
Vijaykumar, Manoj Chandani,
G Rajesh, RVRK Ranga Rao,
Nikhil Swaminathan, Desmond,
Sandeep Batija.*

Many top players of Tamil Nadu have taken part in this league all these years. This year is no exception and the leading players representing various clubs included yesteryear Somdev Devvarman, current top



played at the Madras Cricket Club on April 29, 2023. Narayan Sethuramon, Managing Director, Sanmar Engineering gave away the KS Narayanan Rolling Trophy to the winners in the presence of B Venkatesh Joint Secretary TNTA, B Vijaykumar, President MCC and R Karthik, Honorary Secretary, MCC.

The winner received a purse of Rs 64000 and the runners-up received Rs 32000.

In the 45+ 'A' Zone event, Madras Cricket Club (MCC) 'A' team got the better of Anna Nagar K Block 'A' team 2 matches to 1 in an entertaining final. played at Madras Cricket Club on April 17, 2023. N Kumar, Vice Chairman, The Sanmar Group gave away the MVG Appa Rao Rolling trophy to the winners in the presence of Vivek Reddy, Honorary Treasurer, TNTA, B Venkatesh Joint Secretary, TNTA, B Vijaykumar, President MCC and R Karthik, Honorary Secretary, MCC.



Madras Cricket Club 'A' (A Zone)

Sitting (L - R): R Karthik, Narayan Sethuramon, B Vijaya Kumar, B Venkatesh, Jayaraman.

Standing (L - R): Manish Suresh Kumar, Somdev Devvarman, Siddharth Hande, Sai Samhitha, Mohammed Fariz, Elwin Antony, Prithvi Sekhar, Prajnesh Gunneswaran.

Besant Nagar Club (B Zone)

(L - R): Raj Vishnu, Vijay Kannan, Kalyan Sagar, Ajai Selvaraj (captain), Dr K Pari, R Karthik, B Venkatesh, Abinesh A, MV Arjun Ram, Aadith Prasad.



Legends from the South

SP Balasubrahmanyam: *The man with a golden voice*

40,000 songs, countless records, innumerable stages... all these credits, and much more go to Sripathi Panditaradhyula Balasubrahmanyam also affectionately referred to as SPB or SP Balu or Balu – an Indian playback singer, television presenter, actor, music composer, dubbing artist, and film producer – and he wore all these hats with nonchalance.

Born on June 4, 1946, in Konetampet, in present-day Tamil Nadu, then in Andhra Pradesh, SPB's father, SP Sambamurthy was also a fine musician and an excellent exponent of *Harikatha* (a fine art form of entertainment combining music and storytelling). This perhaps

prompted SPB to develop an interest in music very early in his life, while his father wanted him to become an engineer.

This brought him to Ananthpur, where he enrolled in an Engineering course at JNTU. Later, he discontinued the course due to typhoid and then joined AMIE. Meanwhile, he also pursued his hobby and won awards at many singing competitions.

In 1964, a Madras-based Telugu Cultural Organisation held a music competition for amateur singers. SPB won the first prize, and that proved to be a turning point in his life. Music director SP Kodandapani took him under his wing. SPB made his debut in film music as a singer on December 15, 1966, with *Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna*, a film scored by his mentor Kodandapani.

His first Tamil song, a duet with LR Eswari under the musical direction of MS Viswanathan for the film *Hotel Ramba* was never released. The song *Medante Meda Kaadu* from the film *Sukha Dukhalu* (1968) composed by Kodandapani brought him recognition in Telugu cinema. Other early songs he sang were duets with P Susheela for films starring Gemini Ganesan, MG Ramachandran. He got introduced to the Malayalam film industry by G Devarajan in the film *Kadalppalam*.

SPB came to international prominence with the 1980 film *Sankarabharanam*. Directed by K Viswanath, the film's soundtrack was composed by KV Mahadevan and led to an increase in the usage of Carnatic music in Telugu cinema as well as in other languages. Not a



classically trained singer, SPB used a “film music” aesthetic in recording the songs.

SPB received his first National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer for his work. His first work in Hindi films was in the following year, in *Ek Duuje Ke Liye* (1981), for which he received another National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer.

In 1989, Balasubrahmanyam sang for actor Salman Khan in the blockbuster *Maine Pyar Kiya*. The soundtrack for the film was very successful and he went on to win a Filmfare Award for Best Male Playback Singer.

For much of the next decade, SPB continued as the romantic singing voice on the soundtracks of Khan’s films. Notable among these was *Hum Aapke Hain Koun*, which became the highest-grossing Hindi film of all time. His duet with Lata Mangeshkar, “*Didi Tera Devar Deewana*”, was very popular.

SPB worked as a music composer for more than 45 movies, including Rajinikanth’s *Thudikkum Karangal* and the iconic Telugu film *Mayuri*. *Sigaram*, Tamil movie in which he acted as well as composed music, was his composing career’s best. Perhaps he found a way to express his insatiable love for music, through this musical drama, which is refreshingly original.

SPB accidentally became a dubbing artist with K Balachander’s film *Manmadha Leela* (1976), the dubbed Telugu version of *Manmadha Leelai*, providing voice-over for Kamal Haasan. He has also provided voice-overs for various artists, including Kamal Haasan, Rajinikanth, Vishnuvardhan, Salman Khan, K Bhagyaraj, Mohan, Anil Kapoor,

Girish Karnad, Gemini Ganesan, Arjun Sarja, Nagesh, Karthik and Raghuvaran in various languages. He was assigned as the default dubbing artist for Kamal Haasan in Telugu-dubbed versions of Tamil films.

He hosted and judged Telugu musical reality TV show *Padutha Theeyaga*, which marked his television debut. Starting from 1996, the show is credited for unearthing singing talents.

In a career spanning over five decades, SPB has won six National Film Awards for Best Male Playback Singer for his works in four different languages – Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi; 25 Andhra Pradesh State Nandi Awards for his work in Telugu cinema; and numerous other state awards from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu governments. In addition, he won six Filmfare Awards South. According to some sources, he held the Guinness World Record for recording the highest number of songs by a singer with over 50,000 songs in 16 languages.

On February 8, 1981, SPB created a record by recording 27 songs in Kannada from 9 am to 9 pm. In addition, he recorded 19 songs in Tamil, and 16 songs in Hindi in a day, which is also a record.

In 2012, he received the NTR National Award from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and in 2015, the Harivarasanam Award from the Government of Kerala. In 2016, he was honoured with the Indian Film Personality of the Year award at the 47th International Film Festival of India. He was a recipient of the Padma Shri (2001), Padma Bhushan (2011), and Padma Vibhushan (posthumously) (2021) from the Government of India.

On September 25, 2020, SP Balasubrahmanyam died in Chennai after being hospitalised for over a month for complications due to COVID-19. He is survived by his wife Savithri and daughter Pallavi, and son SP Charan.

