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40
YEARS

PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

XOMOX

SANMAR

CRANE



Sanmar - a beacon of successful partnerships



(L to R): Narayan Sethuramon, Managing Director, Sanmar Engineering, H Shyam Kumar, President, Xomox Sanmar, Darin Palmer, Vice President, Xomox and WTA, Vijay Sankar, Chairman, The Sanmar Group, Max H Mitchell, President and CEO, Crane Co., B Narayan, Group President, Projects and Procurement, Reliance Industries, Hari Jinaga, President, Crane India, Juergen Sonderschaefer, Sr. Vice President, Global Sales and Marketing, Crane ChemPharma and Energy, B Visweswaran, Vice Chairman, Sanmar Engineering, and Gustavo Cruz, President, Crane ChemPharma and Energy.



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Xomox Sanmar 40

Sanmar and Crane Co commemorate four decades of joint venture partnership



Xomox Sanmar celebrated four decades of commitment to integrity and excellence.

The 40th-anniversary celebrations brought together on a single platform, the leadership team of Crane Co., USA, the dedicated Sanmar team, and the valued customers who have trusted and supported the company through its remarkable journey.

Exemplifying their longstanding commitment to the joint venture, Max H Mitchell, President and CEO of Crane Co., USA and four members of his senior management team came down all the way specifically for the event.

Celebrations were held on October 9, 2023, in the forenoon at Viralimalai and evening at Chennai.

Setting the right momentum for the evening, Narayan Sethuramon in his welcome address said, “In this day and age when joint ventures barely last 10 years, this joint venture, which is celebrating its 40th year, is a textbook example of everything that a joint venture setup in India

should be. Excellent relationship and trust between partners, free two-way flow of information and knowledge, domestic market leadership, global manufacturing base, product flow to all corners of the globe, a journey of continuous improvement, and the quest for business excellence.”

“Xomox Sanmar has been a beacon of innovation, quality, and reliability in the valve manufacturing industry. Today, the company is a market leader in its field in India and has a very strong reputation for product reliability and customer satisfaction,” he said.



(L to R): H Shyam Kumar, President, Xomox Sanmar, Max H Mitchell, President and CEO Crane Co., Vijay Sankar, Chairman, The Sanmar Group, Gustavo Cruz, President, Crane ChemPharma, Hari Jinaga, President, Crane India, Juergen Sonderschaefer, Sr. Vice President, Global Sales and Marketing, Crane ChemPharma and Energy, Narayan Sethuramon, Managing Director, Sanmar Engineering, Darin Palmer, Vice President, Xomox and WTA at the Xomox Sanmar 40, Viralimalai celebrations.

Vijay Sankar, Chairman, The Sanmar Group in his address recalled his father, the late Mr N Sankar's vision of establishing a joint-venture relationship deeply rooted in integrity, trust, and transparency. "One person who would certainly have enjoyed being part of this occasion is Mr Sankar, the architect of Sanmar Engineering. It was his idea to set up Sanmar Engineering 48 years ago comprising numerous product specific Joint Venture companies for providing niche products to various sectors in India."

"We're also commemorating 40 years of personal friendship and people-to-people relationships without which none of this would have been possible," he said.

Thanking all employees past and present, Vijay Sankar said, "I would be doing injustice if I tried naming each one of them. But I must thank them all for their tireless dedication and commitment in taking Sanmar past the 40th-year milestone."

Max Mitchell, President and CEO, of Crane Co., USA recalling his visit on

the 35th year of Sanmar Engineering said, "I remember coming in 2011 to help celebrate Sanmar Engineering's 35th year. And what an incredible accomplishment." He appreciated Sanmar and its leadership for perfecting the art of celebration of milestones, appreciating the past, honouring the tireless efforts of dedicated individuals who were a big part of making it happen and filled with ambition for the future.

"A legacy of governance excellence with the utmost integrity and ethical standards passed from generation to generation and I can't wait to see this legacy continue. I'm so proud of my 20-year affiliation with this joint venture. The legacy of Mr N Sankar will carry on and our future clearly will continue to be worthy of our past," he reaffirmed.

In the chief guest's address, B Narayan, Group President (Projects and Procurement), Reliance Industries Ltd., reminisced about attending the Sanmar Engineering's 25th Anniversary celebrations and lauded the company's dedication and commitment to its customers

"A legacy of governance excellence with the utmost integrity and ethical standards passed from generation to generation and I can't wait to see this legacy continue. I'm so proud of my 20-year affiliation with this joint venture."

- Max H Mitchell, President and CEO, Crane Co., USA



Xomox Sanmar Plant Expansion Foundation Stone laying at Viralimalai by Max H Mitchell in the presence of Vijay Sankar.



Max H Mitchell presenting Vijay Sankar with a memento.



MN Radhakrishnan and past Xomox Sanmar leaders at the event.

“What I see is you have excellent technology, excellent product, excellent service capability, over and above all of that, your mindset and your attitude to serve customers has been excellent whether it is from the standpoint of response time, quality, delivery time and emergencies,” he said.

The evening function also presented an opportunity to honour and express gratitude to the past Business Managers of Xomox Sanmar who left an indelible mark on the company.

The proceedings of the evening concluded with B Visweswaran, Vice Chairman of Sanmar Engineering Technologies, proposing a Vote of Thanks to the attendees.

“As we stand today in the 40th year, we are filled with pride for our past achievements and optimism for the future. With all of your continued support and partnership, we are confident that Xomox Sanmar will thrive, innovate and lead the way in our industry,” Visweswaran concluded.



N Murali, L Ganesh, Gustavo Cruz and Hari Jinaga.



Lakshmi Venu, Mallika Srinivasan and Sukanya Sankar.



K Skandan IAS (Retd.), MM Murugappan, Arvind Balaji, and Harish Lakshman.



MN Radhakrishnan, a Sanmar Engineering veteran, honoured on stage.



On the sidelines, the JV partners watched the India-Australia World Cup cricket match in Chennai, sporting T-shirts supporting the Indian team.



Hari Jinaga inaugurating the fifth Miyawaki forest developed on the Viralimalai premises.



Darin Palmer, inaugurating a new Sleeved Plug Valve manufacturing area at Viralimalai.



Juergen Sonderschaefer, Sr. Vice President, Global Sales and Marketing - ChemPharma and Energy, presenting a cheque to Mrs. Jayanthi, Headmistress of the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Vadugapatti, for infrastructure development.

Sanmar Shipping opens a subsidiary office in Singapore

As part of its global expansion, Sanmar Shipping opened a new subsidiary in Singapore. The inauguration held on October 24, 2023, was attended by well-known members of the shipping fraternity.

A prominent player in the international tanker market, Sanmar Shipping hopes to leverage its presence in Singapore both for operational and strategic efficiency.

During his address, Vijay Sankar, Chairman, The Sanmar Group expressed his vision to take the fleet to 20 ships in the next few years. He also said, “The Singapore office helps complement our growth. It gives us new avenues to finance and clients.”

Sanmar Shipping currently operates a fleet of 12 vessels, 10 of which are LR1/LR2s and MR2 product tankers, as well as two LPG carriers.

Managing Director of Sanmar Shipping, CV Subba Rao said, “We wish to expand our fleet, however the dramatic rise in ship prices has us watching what to do next.”

He also added, “We are comfortable with the CPP market. It has a good base in India.

Sanmar maintains its ships to very high standards and has vetting approvals from all oil majors. It is also part of Shell’s ‘Partners in Safety’ programme.

The company has developed strong partnerships with foreign companies throughout its 30-year history, and several of its ships operate in pools.

Photo Captions:

1. *Kenneth Lim, Maritime Port Authority, Singapore*
2. *G Jayakrishnan, Enterprise Singapore with Vijay Sankar, VS Ramesh and S Apparswamy*
3. *Prem Kumar Sivaraj, Indian Overseas Bank, Singapore*
4. *Ravi Maheswari, MSPL Diamond Pte Ltd, Singapore*
5. *Julian Owen, Associated Shipbroking, Monaco*
6. *A view of the audience at the event*
7. *Robet Tolani of Tolani Shipping, Singapore*
8. *(L to R): Standing: Raja Swaminathan, Fearnleys, Singapore, VS Ramesh, CPK Kashyap, GVV Ramesh Babu, Capt. K Rajasekaran.*

Seated: CV Subba Rao, S Apparswamy, Vijay Sankar, and Shigekazu Haruyama, President, Asahi Tanker Co., Singapore.



Vijay Sankar, Chairman, The Sanmar Group, inaugurating Sanmar Shipping’s Singapore office.



TCI Sanmar and United Gas Derivatives Company join forces

A boost to Egypt's petrochemical sector

TCI Sanmar Chemicals signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United Gas Derivatives Company (UGDC), solidifying a strategic partnership that will further bolster TCI Sanmar's commitment to Egypt's petrochemical sector and its national economy.

His Excellency Engineer Tarek El Molla, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Government of Egypt witnessed the signing of the MoU between the United Gas Derivatives Company and TCI Sanmar Chemicals on October 9, 2023.



Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Government of Egypt, H.E. Eng. Tarek El Molla with PS Jayaraman.

UGDC's world-class facilities in the port of Damietta will facilitate safe import of raw materials including Ethylene needed for development projects and expansion plans of TCI Sanmar Chemicals.

The MoU was signed by Engineer Refaat Ahmed Abdel Khalek, Chairman, UGDC, and PS Jayaraman, Chairman of TCI Sanmar Chemicals, in the presence of Engineer Hassanein Mohamed, Head of the Central Department for the Affairs of the Minister's Office, and Engineer Yassin Mohamed, Vice Chairman for Operations and Networks and board member at the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS) and

S Ganeshkumar, Managing Director of TCI Sanmar.

Following the signing of the MoU, His Excellency Engineer Tarek El Molla, stressed the importance of this cooperation with the largest Indian company in Egypt, indicating that there are opportunities to develop cooperation with the company in future projects, as Egypt places the petrochemical industry on top priority of its national strategy.

"This MoU reflects our unwavering dedication to the growth of Egypt's national economy and the advancement of the petrochemical industry," said PS Jayaraman. By investing US\$150 million (equivalent to EGP 4.6 billion), we aim to support our expansion plans and contribute meaningfully to the national economy.

This strategic partnership will prove to be a game changer for TCI Sanmar and will play a pivotal role in strengthening Egypt's position as a hub for petrochemical innovation and sustainable economic development.



PS Jayaraman and the TCI Sanmar team with Tarek El Molla, Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Government of Egypt.

CII Delegation to Saudi Arabia



Ramkumar Shankar, Managing Director of Chemplast Sanmar, was a part of the CII CEO's Delegation to Saudi Arabia. The delegation is seen here with Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Ministry

of Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India and Dr Suhel Ajaz Khan, Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia.

TCI Sanmar installs cutting-edge Ambient Air Monitoring Station in Port Said

TCI Sanmar Chemicals announced the installation of a cutting-edge Ambient Air Monitoring station in the southern Port Said Governorate, to assess contamination levels and improve air quality in the surrounding residential areas. The station was delivered by TCI Sanmar to the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency on August 29, 2023.

The company invested nearly USD 300,000 in the latest Ambient Air Monitoring station, which was supplied by Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA a world leader in the field. The Air Monitoring Station was installed in a public place chosen by the Government authorities.

Acknowledging the good work done by TCI Sanmar Chemicals, H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, explained that the Ambient Air Monitoring station was installed to support the

Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 while promoting local development, sustainability and community participation.

The installation and operation of the station followed the guidelines of the World Health Organisation for measuring ambient air pollutants, aligning with international standards and advancements.

Commenting on the company's recent initiative, PS Jayaraman, Chairman of TCI Sanmar Chemicals, said: "We are pleased to announce the installation of the state-of-the-art Ambient Air Monitoring station, a significant step towards enhancing the air quality in and around Port Said's residential areas. We are proud to be at the forefront of this important effort and we look forward to creating a positive impact on the quality of life in the city of Port Said."

The World of Indian Illusion

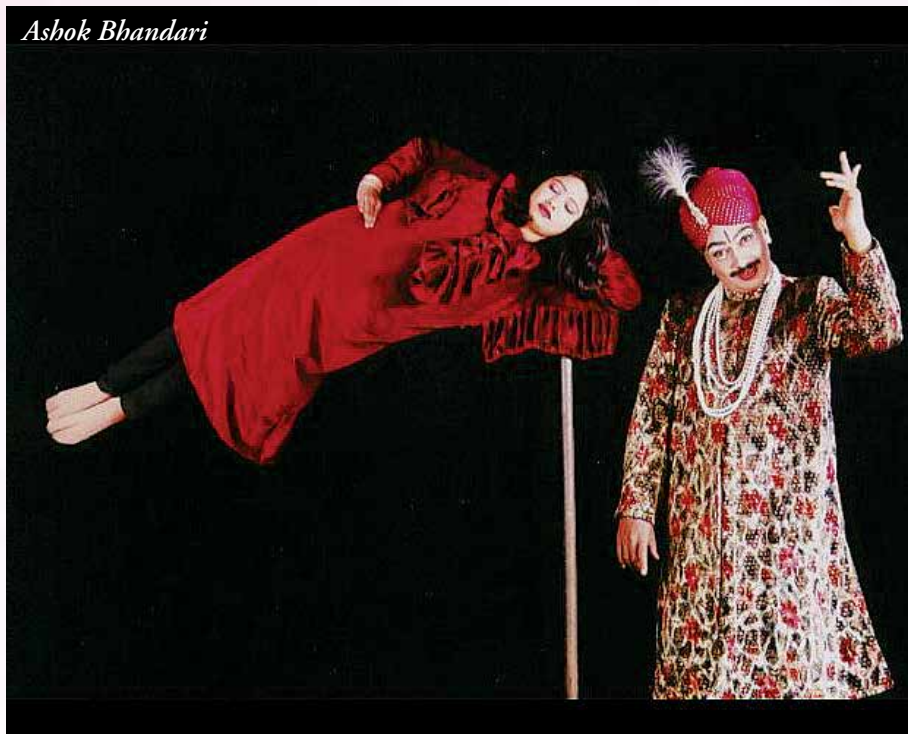


The story of Indian magic, as in the case with almost anything 'Indian', is deep rooted in the country's socio-cultural beliefs, religions and rituals. It traces an incredible journey from the amulets and talismans of the Harappan Civilisation in 3500 B.C. to the stellar stage performances of the professional magicians today. The Vedas, Sufis and Yogis used mystical miracles to drive home their messages. Buddhists and Jains used spells and incantations to win philosophical debates.

In India, the boundaries in magic as seen in the ritualistic practices or supernatural beliefs and magic for entertainment is kept blurred, perhaps intentionally so, contributing further to the image of India as the land of yogis, mystery and magic. The wide spectrum of performers who

come under the pantheon of Indian magicians is also interesting. The range spans across castes and is also a formalised collective in the Northern states, known as the Barah Pal (loosely translating to the brotherhood of twelve). This includes jugglers, snake-charmers, animal handlers, puppeteers, ventriloquists, storytellers, impersonators and acrobats.

Down south, practitioners of black-magic, people who perform ritualistic acts like temple oracles, leaders of pagan tribes would also be classified as magicians, for their proclivity of invoking the so called supernatural. Finally, if our godmen who are prone to frequent bouts of magical display can be featured under this category, is a question best left to one's imagination and intellect.



Asbok Bhandari

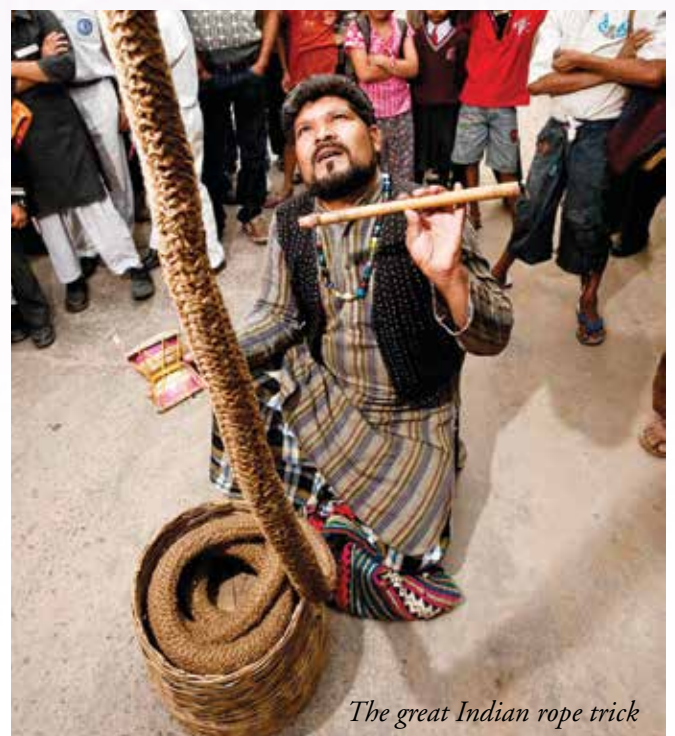
While the Rig Veda refers to Indra as the master of magic (Indrajaal), the Atharva Veda documents the spells, prayers and charms of the Vedic age. In the seventh century, a Hindu sage, Sankara, is known to have performed the soon to be famous, 'the great Indian rope trick' in an attempt to explain the concept of 'Maya' or 'Illusion'.

The modern world got a sample of Indian magic in 1813, when an enterprising Captain of the East India Company took a group of jugglers from Madras for performances along the Thames. Other troupes quickly followed. Remarkably, the next few decades saw many people from the continent slathering black paint and performing the tricks. A line in London's Strand Magazine in 1899, perfectly captures the after-effects, almost a century later - "Ask the average man for what India is most celebrated, and chances are ten-to-one that he will ignore the glories

of the Taj Mahal, the beneficence of British rule, even Mr Kipling, and will unhesitatingly reply in one word, 'Jugglers'."

With the world awakening to Indian mysticism, these jugglers, jadugars or acrobats were showcased at the great world exhibitions in London, Brussels, Berlin and Paris. In fact, some of them where even stranded in these countries after the fair. The ones who did not make it to the Indian government's repatriation arrangements continued to stay back, practising and teaching. Indian magic had gone global. This inspired a new breed of enthusiasts back home, seeking professional avenues in magic.

Mohammed Chhel, Vazhakunnam Neelakandan Nampoothiri, Ganapati Chakraborty etc. were a few popular magicians of those times. Nampoothiri is hailed as the grandfather of magic in Kerala. While he started off with jugglery and card tricks, he became



The great Indian rope trick



famous for technology-oriented tricks like the 'bullet', 'guillotine', disappearing acts (mooti vidya) and even hypnosis / mesmerism on audience insistence. Decades later, in 1933, when Protul Chandra Sorcar took up magic as a full time profession post his B.A. degree, the face of Indian magic changed forever.

PC Sorcar, known as the father of Indian magic, re-invented stage performances with his 'Indrajaal' shows. He charmed the audience as much with his characteristic banter and Maharaja attire as with the proficiency of his tricks. A master of illusion, his acts of vanishing things, driving swords through people and seeing things blindfolded made him a favourite world over. Apart from astonishing acts like making the Taj Mahal, Victoria Memorial and a train disappear, he authored around 22 books on magic, inspiring generations to take up magic as a profession. His legacy is taken forward by his son, PC Sorcar Jr.

Another marvel of the times is Prof. K Bhagyanath, who was the architect of the Fantasia shows – an elaborate show of magic and illusions that lasted three hours. His enthusiasm for research and experimentation in magic, simplistic idealism and Gandhian philosophy made him an idol amongst his fans.

Ashok Bhandari, Prahlad Acharya and Gopinath Muthukad, are amongst many talented others who have made a mark for themselves on the Indian platform. The magicians of today are no longer the sherwani-clad Indian mystic. Social media has enabled them to gauge global audience, gain wider perspectives and carve a niche for themselves in the West. Mentalism and stage magic is taking new forms much like the stand-up comedy scene that captured the entertainment space recently.

Magic transcends language barriers and is not limited by subjectivity like the other performing arts. Clearly, the Indian magician is at the doorstep of another phenomenal era in magic and stage craft.



Gopinath Muthukad



Prahlad Acharya

British Safety Council's 'Sword of Honour 2023'

Recognition for Chemplast Sanmar Plants and Cabot Sanmar

The Sword of Honour is awarded by the British Safety Council, United Kingdom, to those organisations that have reached the pinnacle of occupational health, safety and wellbeing management.

Organisations worldwide who have achieved a "Five Star Rating" in the British Safety Council's occupational health, safety and wellbeing Five Star Audit during 2022-2023 are invited to apply for the Sword of Honour in September 2023.

Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur Plant 1, Mettur Plant 4, Chemplast Sanmar, Karaikal, and the Cabot Sanmar plants were awarded a FIVE STAR rating in the first quarter of 2023 by the British Safety Council's after their OHS Five Star audit, which is the most comprehensive, contemporary, quantified audit process to benchmark performance of an organisation against recognised set standards by the British Safety Council, UK.

This year, all four plants have been recognised with the "Sword of Honour" for the exemplary management of occupational health, safety, and wellbeing after achieving a five-star rating.

This is a recognition and reinforcement of Sanmar's commitment to excellent health and safety management, to reach the set goal of ZERO Harm Culture.



TCI Sanmar Chemicals releases its fifth report to unveil its sustainability journey



Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Government of Egypt, H.E. Eng. Tarek El Molla, releasing TCI Sanmar's Sustainability Report.

TCI Sanmar released its Fifth Sustainability Report 2022-23 entitled "Measuring our Sustainability Footprint" on November 23, 2023. The event was graced by H.E. Eng. Tarek El Molla, Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Government of Egypt who released the Report. The first copy of the report was received by Eng. Ibrahim Mekky, Chairman, Egyptian Petrochemicals Holding Company (ECHEM), the largest Government owned Chemical/Petrochemical company.

The event was also attended by Alaa Ghora, Deputy Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Mohamed Zaki, Vice Chairman, ECHEM, PS Jayaraman, S Ganeshkumar and other senior executives from TCI Sanmar, besides Dr Manal Hussein, Consultant.

The Minister appreciated the pioneering effort of TCI Sanmar in bringing out the Sustainability report every year.

PS Jayaraman, Chairman, TCI Sanmar, thanked the Minister for releasing the Fifth Sustainability report. The report, prepared in line with the international GRI guidelines, highlighted the achievements of TCI Sanmar Chemicals in terms of its sustainability performance.

PS Jayaraman also mentioned that the company has shown remarkable progress in its environmental, social and governance standards over the past several years. The company has come a long way in integrating sustainable practices into its operations. It has implemented many measures to reduce the environmental footprint, such as adopting cleaner production technologies, working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improving upon energy consumption.

PS Jayaraman also acknowledged the continued support and encouragement received from the Egyptian government and all stakeholders of the company.



PS Jayaraman (5th from left) and the TCI Sanmar team with the Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Government of Egypt.

Moments to cherish:

N Kumar at the ICCI's GK Sundaram Award function



Image courtesy: *S Siva Saravanan, The Hindu, Coimbatore Edition.*

N Kumar (centre), Chairman, Group Corporate Board, The Sanmar Group, presented the GK Sundaram Award instituted by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Coimbatore to R Raja Ravichandran, Managing Partner of Bharath

Electronics and Appliances, TS Ramani Sankar, Senior Partner of Sankar and Associates and D Rajeshkumar, Joint Managing Director of Salzer Electronics, in Coimbatore on December 16, 2023. B Sriramulu, President of the Chamber was also present.

Acerlan Matrix Metals recognised for promoting diversity in the workplace

Acerlan Matrix Metals, Mexico, part of the Sanmar Group, was recently honoured with an award from the Governor of Querétaro for promoting diversity in the workplace. Ministry of Labour of the Government of the state of Querétaro instituted the 'Distintivo Sin Brecha' award ('Distinction Without Gap') to recognise companies that generate inclusive and collaborative work environments promoting labour equality. These include addressing issues of bullying, harassment, gender pay gap, and discrimination against women. The award is an affirmation of the company's commitment to ensuring occupational equality.

Sanmar is an equal opportunity employer and recognises that the active participation of women in its



Adan Herrera and Adriana Araujo from Acerlan Matrix Metals received the 'Distinction without gap' award from Tania Palacios Kuri, Secretary of Sustainable Development, State of Querétaro, Mexico.

workforce is indeed a crucial factor for sustainable development and economic growth. The group drives gender equality and inclusivity through good practices and policies in Human Resources.

CII Business delegation to Egypt



*Minister for Trade and Industry
H.E. Ahmed Samir Saleh*

PS Jayaraman, Chairman, TCI Sanmar Chemicals, led a CII Business Delegation to Egypt from October 3 to 5, 2023. Besides Ganeshkumar, Managing Director, TCI Sanmar, the delegation consisted of more than twenty representatives from various leading Indian companies with varied businesses. The delegation started with a briefing by H.E. Ajit Gupte, Ambassador of India in Egypt before proceeding to other interactions.



*H.E. Mostafa Madbouly,
Prime Minister of Egypt*

Interactive sessions were held with H.E. Ahmed Samir Saleh, Minister of Trade and Industry, H.E. Hossam Heiba, CEO, General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), and senior level functionaries from the Ministry of Communication. The delegation also had close interactions separately with the

members of the Egyptian Industries Association, the Cairo Chamber of Commerce, and the Egyptian Businessmen Association.

On the 5th of October, PS Jayaraman and a select few of the senior captains of the Indian industry had an exclusive meeting with H.E. Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of Egypt and a few other Ministers in Sharm El Sheikh on the sidelines of the India Egypt Business meet put together by Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI) in association with CII. The Prime Minister invited the Indian Industry to invest in Egypt and reap the benefits of the growing industrial development in the country. PS Jayaraman also addressed the CREDAI-CII inaugural session of the India Egypt Business meet which had participation of more than 1500 CREDAI delegates.



*H.E. Hossam Heiba, CEO, General
Authority for Investment and Free Zones
(GAFI)*

Meeting with GAFI CEO in Delhi

On December 13, 2023, PS Jayaraman, Chairman of TCI Sanmar Chemicals had a luncheon meeting with H.E. Hossam Heiba, CEO, General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), Egypt at Delhi. H.E. Wael Hamed, Ambassador of Egypt to India, Moustafa F Shaikhon, Minister Plenipotentiary (Comm.), and Ibrahim Mamdouh Fouda, Second Secretary, Political-Economic Section from the Egyptian Embassy at Delhi also attended the meeting. Jayaraman briefed the participants about the achievements of TCI Sanmar and the company's vision. He also explained that the company has increased its exports, though at reduced contribution, in the context of shortage of US Dollars in the country. The GAFI CEO appreciated TCI Sanmar for the efforts

put in and its contribution to the industrial development and assured of full support from GAFI and other governmental agencies in Egypt.

Donation to Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund



The Sanmar Group contributed Rs One Crore to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund, for those affected by the Michaung Cyclone.

Vijay Sankar, Chairman, The Sanmar Group, presented the cheque to MK Stalin, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on December 11, 2023, at the Secretariat. R Karthik, Executive Vice President-Corporate Affairs, is also seen.

Chemplast Sanmar, Karaikal's CSR efforts recognised

Chemplast Sanmar was felicitated for providing financial support to meal scheme for TB patients at Karaikal under the "Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan" scheme.

The recognition was conferred on Chemplast at the Puducherry Liberation Day at Karaikal by Home Minister of Puducherry, A Namassivayam, in the presence of A Kulothungan, District Collector, Karaikal.



S Mathivanan and M Jothi Shankar receiving the memento from A Namassivayam, Home Minister of Puducherry.

Meeting with Minister of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

On the occasion of India-Saudi Investment Forum held in Delhi on September 11, 2023 a dinner was hosted by H.E. Khalid Al-Falih, Minister of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the 10th September in the presence of H.E. V Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs. PS Jayaraman, Chairman, TCI Sanmar Chemicals attended the dinner and interacted with the Minister of Investment, KSA. He explained the various businesses of The Sanmar Group. The Minister extended an invitation for investment in Saudi Arabia. The other important dignitaries met by Jayaraman during this occasion included H.E. Badr Al Badr, Deputy Minister for Investors Outreach and Laith H Alshebel, Chemicals Investments Advisor from Ministry of Investments, KSA.



H.E. Khalid Al-Falih, Minister of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with PS Jayaraman

TCI Sanmar empowers 500 technical graduates through 4 rounds of vocational training in Port Said

TCI Sanmar Chemicals, Egypt, has successfully concluded the fourth round of its vocational training program in Port Said, in collaboration with the Industry Service Complex, an affiliate of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT). This round of the program witnessed the graduation of 90 students, bringing the total number of graduates equipped with industry-relevant skills and expertise to nearly 500 since its launch in 2018.

The intensive training program focuses on equipping participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in various technical fields including Occupational Safety and Health, Principles of Gas and Electric Arc Welding, Heating, Ventilation, Air-conditioning systems, Electrical Maintenance for Factories, Principles of Hydraulics and an introduction to solar cells and renewable energy.

TCI Sanmar has invested more than EGP 2 million in the four rounds of the vocational training program in the period between 2018 and 2023, as it is committed to investing in the development of Egypt's human capital, recognising the importance of skilled labour in driving economic progress.



‘Our Lady of Guadalupe’ Celebration at Acerlan Matrix Metals

‘Our Lady of Guadalupe’ is a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with a Marian apparition and a venerated image enshrined within the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The Basilica is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world, and the world’s third most-visited sacred site.

The 2023 Guadalupe Celebration was held on December 10th at Acerlan Matrix Metals, Mexico, a part of The Sanmar Group’s Steel Castings business.

This was followed by festive celebrations on the company grounds. In his special address to the employees and their families, Narayan Sethuramon, Managing Director, Sanmar Engineering and Matrix Metals, highlighted the positive future potential of Mexico’s economy and for Acerlan Matrix Metals. He emphasised that the responsibility of creating a good future for Acerlan rests with the team present and for this, the critical attributes required are – teamwork, a sense of one team, perseverance, a never-give-up attitude, collaboration, and mutual engagement – working with and supporting one another.



Legends from the South

Avvai TK Shanmugam: *All the stage was his world*

The year 2023 marked the fiftieth anniversary of a true legend of Tamil stage plays, TK Shanmugam, better known as Avvai Shanmugam or Shanmugam Annachi.

Shanmugam began acting in plays when he was a wisp of a kid at the age of six, and for over fifty years, till his death in February 1973, Shanmugam's life was confined to stage dramas and running his drama troupe along with his three brothers Sankaran, Muthuswami, and Bhagavati. The TKS group represented a high point in the history of Tamil theatre.

Shanmugam's storied career began under the tutelage of Sankaradas Swamigal, the pioneer of Tamil theatre. The latter had come up with the now famed Boys Companies, the touring drama team in which, as its name would make it clear, young boys and men played all the characters.

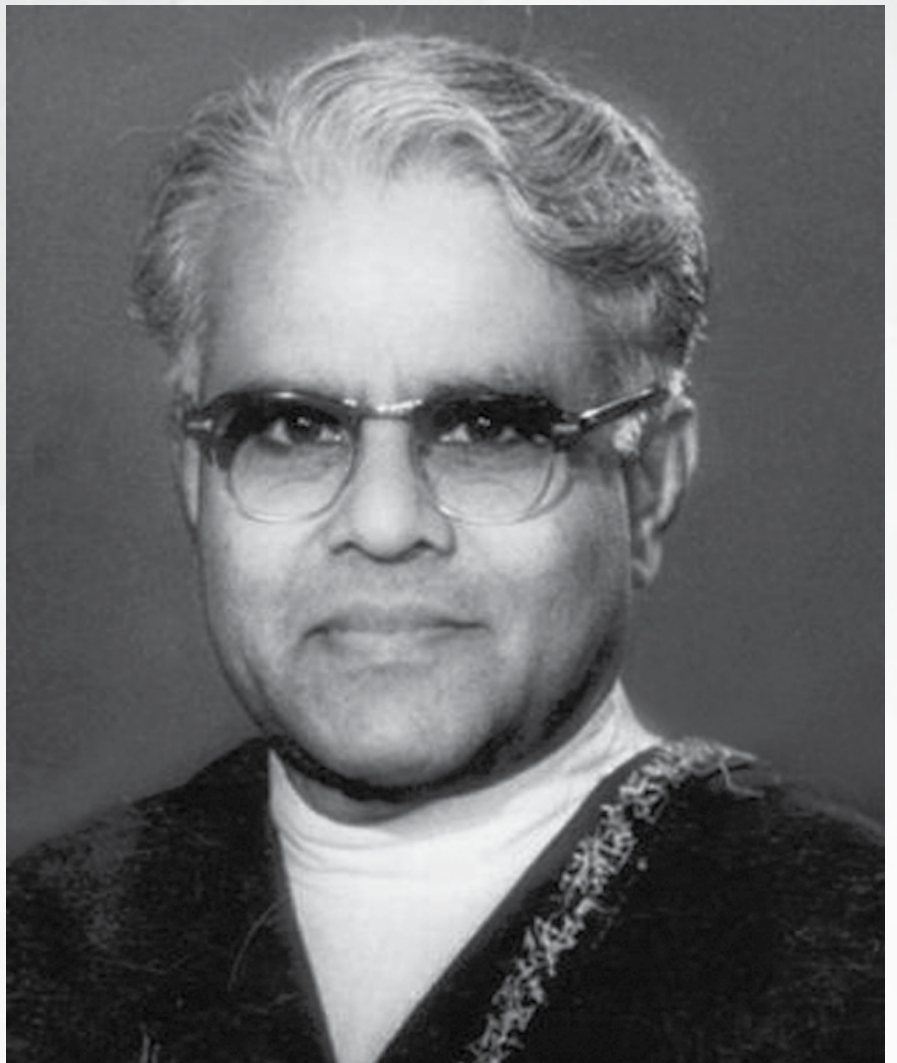
In 1918, Shanmugam along with his brothers had tagged along with their father Kannusami when he went to meet Sankaradas. When the latter wanted the young boys to join his troupe, their father said that their education would be hit. To this, Sankaradas retorted: "I will teach them Tamil, so what's the point in going to school? Are they going to be lawyers? I tell you this is a good opportunity. Let them join the company." And the rest is history.

The company went on stage in Madurai with Satyavan Savitri, with six-year-old Shanmugam playing Narada. The audience went gaga over the young Narada's smart performance.

It was at the Boys Companies Shanmugam earned his early spurs, and later when he donned the role of the great female Tamil poet Avvaiyar with utmost conviction the title Avvai became a well-deserved suffix to the name of Shanmugam. He, at the age of 30, bowled over audiences

spectacularly by becoming a bent woman of incalculable age - it was a make-up miracle. Consummate actor that he was, Shanmugam modulated his voice, walk and expressions to interpret Avvaiyar in such an endearing manner that even the cognoscenti went gaga.

It is said that Shanmugam packed a lot of power into the spoken word. Though Shanmugam Annachi followed in the footsteps of Sankaradas Swamigal genre of music-oriented drama, he was never able to overpower



audiences with his musical rendering. Acting and dialogue delivery were his forte. It was difficult for him to win over the audiences as music held sway in those times. But Shanmugam with his passion and diligence continued at it, and eventually managed to impress the drama buffs. It was verily a lesson in perseverance and professionalism. He also focused more on 'social' plays that gave better scope for histrionics and were less dependent on songs.

A true pioneer and a thorough professional on the stage, Shanmugam had many firsts to his credit. He was the first to bring dramatic focus on VO Chidambaram Pillai. It was Shanmugam who brought alive the famed sports of Lord Siva on stage for the first time – His Sivaleela paved the way for the celluloid classic Thiruvilaiyadal.

Aside from acting on stage, Shanmugam, who was known for his integrity and upright ways, brought much-needed respect to actors and to the profession of acting, which was looked down upon in those times.

For Shanmugam, the key ideal was professionalism. Punctuality and punctiliousness pervaded every aspect of stage plays and troupe running.

Swamigal never approved of young actors trying out tobacco, snuff, or alcohol. Shanmugam, for his part, even avoided non-vegetarian food. Shanmugam also devoted an hour to devotional singing all through his life. TKS plays are still remembered for the magical speed with which one scene followed another and gave audiences a sense of the cinema. The proficiency

of the actors in playing their parts (through the discipline of repeated rehearsals) and the focus they brought on great personalities connected with Tamil culture and history made the TKS troupe a Tamil cultural phenomenon.

His dramas brought alive, in a manner of speaking, iconic figures like VO Chidambaram (Desabhaktar Chidambaranar), Chola monarch Rajaraja

(Rajarajachozhan) and Pallava King Narasimhavarman (Sivagamiyin Sapatham). He had a yen for history and paid great attention to bringing authentic period details to his plays.

Shanmugam adapted to movies quickly. When cinema, the talkies as they were called then, arrived with a bang in the early 30s, the going was tough for the social plays of the brothers. The early movies were all about songs and music, but Shanmugam and his brothers had different strengths. And they did come up with the first-ever social movie Menaka.

The success of the movie helped the brothers to revive their drama company. Using cinema to buttress theatre was a gambit used continually by the brothers. They were also alive to the techniques of cinema that could enrich drama.

Unfortunately, his movies – Menaka (1935), Balamani (1936), Bhuloka Ramba (1940), Gumasthavin Penn (1941), Bilhana (1948), Manithan (1953), Inspector (1953), Ratha Paasam (1954), are all lost. All we have are Shanmugam's cameos in Or Iravu, Vanjikottai Valiban and Kappalottiya Thamizhan (as the patriot Subramania Siva).

Despite his flings with the Dravidian movement, Shanmugam remained a nationalist at heart. Shanmugam became the head of the Actors Guild in 1950. He gave up acting in the last five years of his life, though he was active as a member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council. He was conferred the Padma Shri in 1971. The Lloyds Road in Royapettah was renamed Avvai Shanmugam Road in his memory, where he had his house.

The ultimate tribute to the true legend was provided by one of his early proteges Kamal Haasan, who named his movie in which he played a female character – Avvai Shanmughi. An artistic homage that Shanmugam would have approved of.



TK Shanmugam was conferred the Padma Shri in 1971 by President of India VV Giri.

