



Maha Kumbh 2025: *World's largest congregation of religious pilgrims*



Maha Kumbh 2025: Facts and Figures

- The 2025 Prayag Maha Kumbh Mela set a record for the largest religious gathering, an estimated 64.77 crore devotees, exceeding the populations of all countries except China and India.
- As per astrological calculations, the 2025 edition was unique since the constellation alignment was witnessed once in 144 years.
- Extensive infrastructure development, including new roads, ghats, and temporary bridges, was undertaken to facilitate the large number of pilgrims.
- Experts estimate that the festival generated around Rs. 2 lakh crore in revenue.
- Generated about a million gig and temporary jobs over its 45-day duration. Roles range from construction and hospitality to digital security and drone operators.
- The event marked significant employment growth, including new age jobs, with a notable participation of women.
- Over 40,000 security personnel were deployed to ensure the safety of the pilgrims.
- 10,200 sanitation workers and 1,800 Ganga Sevadut were deployed to maintain cleanliness during the event.
- The Uttar Pradesh government implemented stringent food safety measures across five zones and 25 sectors.
- Nearly 20,000 people, daily, were enjoying free meals at the Maha Kumbh Mela.
- The Maha Kumbh Mela achieved several Guinness World Records, including the largest simultaneous river clean-up, the highest number of volunteers participating in a single-site cleanliness drive, and the most participants creating handprint paintings in just eight hours.



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The Sanmar Group Annual Day 2025

Together We Excel: Create Our Future

Dr. Ajay Shah
Economist

‘Intellectual stimulation, reflection, and connection are needed for the heart, head, and both sides of our brain,’ said Prashanth Vasu, setting the tone and starting the day with a few minutes of brain exercises.

The first guest speaker of the day, Economist Dr Ajay Shah, spoke on

‘The World gone topsy-turvy,’ – ‘on a world that has never been so crazy as it is today.’

His script had four leading questions: 1. I wish to assert that the world has gone topsy-turvy. 2. Why did this happen? The grand historical forces at work. 3. How might this unfold? and 4. What’s our best course of action?

Dr Shah discussed the geopolitical challenges and consequences, including tensions involving the US, Russia, China, and Europe. These challenges affect government operations, business dynamics, and people’s behaviours.

In response to these changes, organisations should focus on identifying market trends and opportunities to inform production strategies, strengthening competitive positioning, and leveraging data and technology to tackle these emerging challenges.

‘All of us are very careful about what we eat. We think 20 times about protein and fat and carbohydrates and sugar and all that but we are very indiscriminate in what goes into our eyes. So, I wish all of us would be far more cautious and sceptical about what we read. Like the rubbish that we are ingesting on WhatsApp, on Twitter, on Instagram. Social media is a huge force in world affairs...’

- Dr Ajay Shah





‘To achieve faster growth than anyone else, we need to invest in business. We will keep our margins deliberately low and reinvest the excess in the business so that we can grow faster. So, our margins will be 3 to 5% points than our competitors’

– N Lakshmi Narayanan

Dr N Lakshmi Narayanan Cognizant Technologies

Dr N Lakshmi Narayanan, Co-founder, former Vice Chairman, and CEO of Cognizant Technologies, spoke on ‘Leadership development in the context of Cognizant’- ‘how did Cognizant grow, what are the challenges, what are the things that we learnt, and how it might be useful in today’s context’.

Some of the key takeaways from Mr Lakshmi Narayanan: Organisational culture is the key

determinant of success; the behaviours demonstrated by leaders shape it. For example, when leaders exhibit high performance, this behaviour becomes ingrained in the culture. Performance ethics involve clearly defining the vision, purpose, and strengths of the organisation and communicating these effectively at all levels, including the front line and last line, clear parameters of success, precise measurement of success, and communication of the same.

He also stressed the importance of being open and honest with customers. Individuals should prioritise continuous micro-learning to enhance their skill sets, ensuring that they remain relevant and valuable. This may include pursuing knowledge in areas like AI and technical courses rather than relying solely on formal academic qualifications.



Sanmar and Cricket



'Any cricketer that I meet, that I cross path, that I truly believe has the potential to go far distant with cricket, I tell them they must experience Chemplast, and that's where they must hone their skills'—

- Ravichandran Ashwin

The Fireside chat with cricketers Ravichandran Ashwin and J Ramdas was a real spinner. The audience saw off-spinner Ashwin tackle many a googly that Ramdas bowled deftly, hitting several sixes and fours to the audience's delight.

The intent was to talk to us about what it takes to build personal mastery in a field and use cricket as a vehicle, as well as what it takes to create high-performing teams, given that Ashwin has been in different World Cup-winning squads.

- **Reaction vs. Response:** In challenging situations, our instinct is often to react, which can lead to suboptimal outcomes. It's crucial to pause, assess the situation, and respond thoughtfully (sometimes quickly) – Ashwin referred to a super over in a prestigious match in South Africa, where he reacted, conceded 22 runs, and his team lost.
- **Leadership trait: Playing to your team's strengths:** Captain Dhoni's strength is identifying and making people play to their strengths and get the best out of them. That's one quality that makes him what he is today.
- **Staying Grounded:** When faced with criticism, it's essential to remain focused on areas for improvement rather than getting caught up in personal feelings or grievances.
- **Importance of preparation:** Ashwin highlighted the importance of preparation and took us through his thought process during the famous Steve Smith dismissal.
- **Innovation:** Ashwin took us through how he decided to try out the 'Carrom ball,' the struggles he had to go through during the process, and how he sustained using it.
- **Importance of a Mentor:** Ashwin talked through his experiences with WV Raman, who was a hard taskmaster.





‘The way you practice is eventually how you reach and how you scale up higher gradients. There used to be a Sanmar leader board. You used to have 15 rank holders and the 15 rank holders used to go up from 15 to number 1. Clearly indicative of Mr Bharath Reddy’s strategy. If you got on to the board, you got a pay hike.’

- Ravichandran Ashwin

(L to R): J Ramdas, Vijay Sankar, N Kumar with Ravichandran Ashwin.

Deepak Jayaraman Leadership coach and author



Prashanth Vasu in conversation with Deepak Jayaraman.

Leadership coach and author of the book ‘Play to Potential,’ Deepak Jayaraman, in a fireside chat with Prashanth Vasu, discussed how to lead a full life and become the best you.

Playing to Potential can be defined by South African Judge Marshall: ‘He did what he could and with what he had. Thus, it is all about what one can do with what one has, not what one doesn’t have. Leadership quality is defined by our ability to perform to the best of our capabilities, even amidst constraints.’

‘When once people get to a position of authority, a position of power and influence, I notice that good quality feedback often dries up. Leaders often encounter silence or noise.’

- Deepak Jayaraman



‘Leaders are often shooting in the dark when it comes to understanding themselves... very often, it is not only the development area they miss; they do not understand the superpowers well enough... even a Hanuman needed a Jambavan to believe what he could do.’

- Deepak Jayaraman



Six Hacks to Playing to Potential: FLAVOUR is the acronym to live a holistic life, to lead a full life, to become the best you

Family : Keeping the family context as one of the key anchors in your life decision to ensure happiness and fulfilment both at work and personally

Love: Identify what you love; it could be work, music, painting, spending time with family, etc. ensure you invest time on what you love

Aspirations: They differ from mere goals, also understand what truly matters to you and thereby reflect regularly to identify the same and find out what gives you true long-term happiness

VO Value Opportunity: Strive to be of value by regularly seeking opportunities or creating opportunities

Uyourself: Invest in yourself and create both internal and external awareness; one should not only have ‘to do,’ but should have ‘to be,’ (please reflect) on what is ‘to be’ list

Relationships: Cultivating healthy relationships with your spouse, friends, colleagues, peers, etc., gives meaning to life and helps you be your best self.

N Kumar celebrating 50 years with Sanmar



colleagues got together, and the day was very special. Please understand it was 30 years after we stopped working together, but we’ve kept together as a team.

Second, Sankar was very keen on ethics and governance and even formed a Sanmar Group Corporate Board, which was not actually required by law. I’m happy that we’ve been able to continue and keep it going, and it has been built into Sanmar’s DNA.

Third, another passion for Sankar and Sanmar was serving the community. He chose sports, health, and education not for commercial gain but to be useful to the community and to be known for his work. Sure, the next 50 years for Sanmar will be even greater because of teamwork, as it’s the people that make Sanmar.’

N Kumar shared three factors during his speech. ‘First, it’s been a privilege to work with many of you earlier in Indchem and now at Sanmar for these many years. This teamwork has been so special and is the reason for the success. I also cherish, more importantly, the relationship and the warmth I have received from people. On my 75th birthday, some of my Indchem



Sanmar and Safety

The Sanmar Group has been sailing towards 'ZERO Harm Culture' through a systematic approach to Process Safety Management and Behaviour Based Safety since 2022. To ensure enhanced safety measures, the Group has engaged Dss+ (DuPont Sustainable Solutions) as a consulting partner to implement the 'Transformation of Safety Culture programme through Process Safety Management and Behaviour Safety programs. This will make Sanmar manage the operational and process safety risks and drive towards operational excellence sustainably.

The Sanmar Group Safety Awards are presented annually for Safety Management Practices and Safety Performance at the Group level after being assessed by experts in the field. The winners under various categories were awarded at the GAD.



'It's all about culture and culture is the way we do things, whether somebody is looking at us or not looking at us.' He went on to suggest that as leaders we are expected to challenge the green and embrace the red. That's fundamental and when we do this, how we communicate determines the organisation's fundamental behaviour. – Srinivasan Ramabhadran

Awards/Categories:

Chairman's Award for Excellence in Safety Management

System under Chemicals Category

Chemplast Sanmar, Plant III, Mettur

Chairman's Award for Excellence in Safety Management

System under Non-Chemicals Category

Xomox Sanmar, Sanmar Engineering Technologies, Viralimalai

Chairman's Award for Best Safety Performance

i) Chemplast Sanmar Ltd, Karaikal

ii) Chemplast Sanmar Ltd, Plant IV, Mettur

iii) Chemplast Sanmar Ltd, CMCD, Berigai

iv) Sanmar Shipping Ltd, Sanmar Sruthi

Special Award for Achievement of 5 Million Safe Man-Hours without Lost-Time Injury

i) Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd, Cuddalore

ii) Sanmar Matrix Metal Ltd, Machine Shop, Viralimalai

Special Award for Achievement of 10 Million Man-Hours without Lost-Time Injury which is a First-Time Achievement in the history of The Sanmar Group
Chemplast Sanmar Ltd, CMCD, Berigai

Sanmar's Social Responsibility

J Ramdas, presenting on The Sanmar Group's Social Responsibility activities, said that the Group has been dedicated to community initiatives for several decades in line with the vision of its founders, KS Narayanan and N Sankar. Sanmar believes that social responsibility is integral to its business and constantly strives to expand its social footprint. Support has been rendered directly by The Sanmar Group companies and through charitable trusts associated with the Group in plant locations.



Dr Lakshmi Vijayakumar, member of the Sanmar CSR Committee speaking on the Group's CSR commitment. Rohini Ramesh, who handles Sanmar CSR activities, with N Kumar and Vijay Sankar.



(L to R): B Narasimhan, CPK Kashyap, S Saiy Subramaniam, Vijay Sankar, N Kumar, Bharath Reddy, N Muralidharan and AR Balaji (not in the Photograph).

The Group Annual Day is an occasion for all of us to celebrate our togetherness as a group. Though the Sanmar Group is diversified among five businesses - Chemicals, Speciality Chemicals, Engineering, Foundries and Shipping,



we have always maintained a group identity and unity in a variety of ways. For example, our value system. This is the most important aspect for Sanmar. Operationally also, we have several common policies that hold us together as a Group. Structurally we are run as one group. Most importantly, for people, who are the bedrock of Sanmar, the most important aspect of Sanmar is that Sanmar stands for ONE organisation.

The GAD is one of the time honoured traditions of the Group. We use this opportunity to recognise, connect and inspire everyone. – Vijay Sankar



According to Dr Amarnath Ananthanarayanan the key takeaway from GAD: 'Each and every one of us at Sanmar have to step-up to create our future jointly. We need to contribute to the growth of Sanmar to get to the aspiration that the Chairman has for all of us.'



(L to R): S M Mohamed Iqbal, K Satyanarayana Rao, N Kumar, G Manikandan, R Karthik, Vijay Sankar, G Anand, R Kalidas, G Sivakumar and other awardees G Raguram, S Vadivel and Ajith Kumar Jena (not in the Photograph).



(L to R): K Satyanarayana Rao, Prashanth Vasu, CV Subba Rao, K Venkatasubramanian, Dr Krishna Kumar Rangachari, Lavanya Venkatesh, PU Aravind, J Ramdas, VS Ramesh, Vijay Sankar, N Kumar, K Rajendran, Ramkumar Shankar, Narayan Sethuramon and Dr Amarnath Ananthanarayanan.



(L to R): M Milton Asirvadham, V Thirumoorthi, R Arun Parthasarathy, V Sankar, B Suresh, Vijay Sankar, R Ganesh, B Mathialagan, B Mohan, V Rajagopalan, N Kumar and Rakesh H Gajjar.

The theme of this GAD was ‘Together We Excel: Create Our Future’, and so much of the theme revolved around the future. The games at the Sanmar Annual Dinner on February 27, 2025, alluded to creating the future, including an artificially intelligent driven handwriting recognition and prediction mechanism, Robot caricature - so a robot did your caricature, there was a digital photo booth where one could appear on the cover of *Fortune Magazine*, and since it was all about the future predictions, there was also some ‘*Kili Josiyam*’.



Mentimeter survey response at the GAD 2025.



Sanmar Chairman and TCI Sanmar top management meet with Egyptian Minister for Investment and Foreign Trade

Vijay Sankar accompanied by Ambassador Navdeep Suri, P S Jayaraman and Saurabh Tripathi met with HE Hassan El-Khatib, Minister for Investment and Foreign Trade of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Kamel Galal, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to India on March 17, 2025 in New Delhi and discussed various matters connected with TCI Sanmar's operations.

A strong pitch was made for the need to increase Customs Duty on import of PVC into Egypt in line with other developing economies which will support the existing investments as also create a level playing field for the domestic PVC manufacturers.

The Minister appreciated the genuine request of the company and said that he will examine the duty matter and attempt to resolve the same.



(L to R): Saurabh Tripathi, Navdeep Suri, Ambassador Kamel Galal, HE Hassan El-Khatib, Minister for Investment and Foreign Trade, Vijay Sankar and PS Jayaraman.

His Majesty the King of Denmark honours Vijay Sankar for his consular services



HE Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen, Ambassador of Denmark in India decorating Vijay Sankar with the 'Knight's Cross of the Order of the Dannebrog' by His Majesty the King of Denmark, and presenting the citation.

Vijay Sankar, Honorary Consul General of Denmark for Southern India at Chennai, and the Chairman of The Sanmar Group was bestowed the honour of 'Knight's Cross of the Order of the Dannebrog' by His Majesty the King of Denmark in recognition of his distinguished Consular Services.

The award with a citation was presented to Vijay Sankar by His Excellency Mr Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen, Ambassador of Denmark in India at a function in Chennai on March 18, 2025. The Ambassador, while reading the citation, also referred to the contribution of Mr Vijay Sankar to Indo-Danish Relations during his tenure and also made references to his father Mr N Sankar and his grandfather Mr KS Narayanan who also held the post with distinction. The Ambassador also referred to the

five-decade long association of three generations of the family with Danish Consular Services, Vijay Sankar, N Sankar and KS Narayanan.





Lifetime Achievement Awards for N Kumar

N Kumar, Chairman, The Sanmar Group Corporate Board, received two lifetime awards recently.

N Kumar received the 'For the Sake of Honour Award' from the Rotary Madras Southwest on January 25, 2025, as a Tribute to his Vision, Leadership, and Compassion.

Kumar was also presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for promoting inclusion and furthering Childs Rights at the sixth edition of the Humanitarian Awards 2025 held on February 17, 2025.

Receiving the awards, Kumar said, 'We need to be inclusive in the future. Inclusive is an easy word to say but

difficult to implement, and that is why, as somebody said recently, we have to act, and we have to do it from today. Each one of us has to make a decision to act that way. I am only the face of the organisations I represent and I thank you on their behalf.'



Activist Apsara Reddy and Palki Sharma, Managing Editor of Firstpost, presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to N Kumar at the Humanitarian Awards 2025.



Nalli Kuppuswami Chetti presenting 'For the Sake of Honour Award' from the Rotary Madras Southwest to N Kumar.

FICCI and Union Budget 2025

Vijay Sankar, as Vice President of FICCI, participated in a *CNBC TV18* and *ET Now* discussions with the top brass of FICCI, where they shared their recommendations with the finance minister at the pre-budget consultation with industry stakeholders.

Vijay Sankar elaborated on FICCI's call for direct tax simplification, which would reduce compliance red tape and help close transactions more efficiently. He also emphasised the impact of the Chinese slowdown and the urgent need for anti-dumping regulations or higher tariffs to protect the interests of Indian manufacturers and investors.

He outlined FICCI's recommendations for the consumption slowdown, including consumption vouchers, tax structure rationalisation, and a food inflation response strategy.

He highlighted the manufacturing sector's potential for job creation through investment allowances and tax reductions, aiming to increase its share in the economy. He also emphasised AI's economic impact, noting India's advantage in data centres and emerging technologies, with expectations for budget announcements in this area.



Vijay Sankar addressing the Press on Union Budget 2025



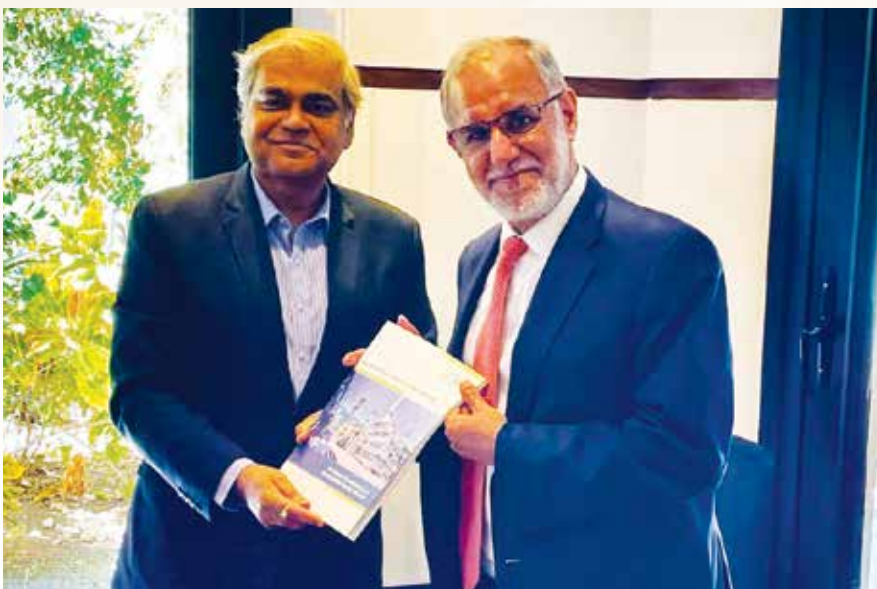
Naina Lal Kidwai (Past President - FICCI), Vijay Sankar (Vice President - FICCI), Harsha Vardhan Agarwal (President - FICCI), Jyoti Vij (DG - FICCI), Anant Goenka (SVP - FICCI), Subhrakant Panda (Past President - FICCI).

Ramadan Iftar dinner hosted by Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to India



PS Jayaraman (*3rd from right*) attended the Ramadan Iftar dinner hosted by HE Kamel Galal, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to India in honour of HE Hassan El-Khatib, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Arab Republic of Egypt at the residence of the Ambassador in New Delhi on March 16, 2025.

TCI Sanmar releases sixth Sustainability Report



On March 11, 2025, Ambassador Navdeep Suri, Director, released the Sixth Sustainability Report of TCI Sanmar Chemicals, S.A.E. for the year 2023-24 and the first copy of the report was received by Madhur Kumar, Chief Executive, Bank of Baroda, London and Director on the Board of TCI Sanmar Chemicals representing the banks.

The Ambassador of Egypt in India visits Sanmar Headquarters

HE Kamel Galal, Ambassador of Egypt in India, visited the Sanmar headquarters in Chennai on February 11, 2025, and met Vijay Sankar, Chairman of The Sanmar Group, N Kumar, Chairman of The Sanmar Group Corporate Board, and P S Jayaraman, Chairman, TCI Sanmar Chemicals.

The Ambassador appreciated Sanmar's efforts in dealing with several challenges in Egypt and TCI Sanmar's investment of around USD 1.5 billion in Port Said, Egypt. The Ambassador assured complete support for the company's activities and initiatives.



(L to R): Saurabh Tripathi, Vijay Sankar, HE Kamel Galal, Ambassador of Egypt in India, N Kumar and PS Jayaraman

Ambassador Navdeep Suri appointed Chairman, TCI Sanmar Chemicals, Egypt



Navdeep Suri, Former Ambassador of India to Egypt, has been appointed Chairman of TCI Sanmar Chemicals in Port Said, Egypt.

Ambassador Suri is a director of The Sanmar Group Corporate Board and has also been advising TCI Sanmar for the last couple of years.

Regina, the new Gas Carrier in the Sanmar Shipping Fleet

Sanmar Shipping, as a part of the continued growth into the gas, has acquired Sanmar Regina, making it the fourth Sanmar ship flying the Singapore flag.

The vessel was physically taken over in Panama on February 18, 2025, and has since been loaded in the USA. It is en route to China with a parcel of Ethanol, being transported at -104 degree C.



Deloitte Enterprise Growth Awards 2025

Deloitte's Enterprise Growth Awards is a programme to celebrate businesses that have transformed local ambitions into national success stories. More than 500 companies from across the country, including from tier 2 and 3 cities, participated in Enterprise Growth Awards, and 33 winners were named across key sectors, including consumer, financial services, life sciences and healthcare, technology, media and telecommunications, energy, resources, and industrials. The winners, announced on March 6, 2025, in Chennai, include family-owned enterprises that demonstrate a commitment to governance and sustained growth.

Vijay Sankar, Chairman of The Sanmar Group, was a Guest of Honour at the event.

Excerpts from Vijay Sankar's interview with KR Sekar, Deloitte

Q: You stepped into the shoes of your great father, grandfather, and everybody in the family, and you belong to a family of a successful business and philanthropist. What were your two challenges, and how did you overcome them?

My father was somebody who academically had two double promotions in school. He was always a standout performer wherever he went, whether in sports or the academic field. So, it was a difficult sort of shoe to fill.

But he gave me the confidence to do it. He always encouraged me, but one thing he made very clear when I joined the company was that it is a company built on the shoulders of professionals. And if there's an argument between you



and a professional, the professional wins. Don't push it beyond a point because you know if it comes to choosing between you and the professional, I will choose the professional. That was the one thing that always stood out when I joined the company very early, and it has stayed with me ever since.

Q: What is the reason for the Sanmar Corporate Board, and how did you get value from it?

Mr Sankar, my late father, always felt that we needed to have a standard of governance across all the companies in the group. He felt the need for a common Sanmar board approach to all the companies, and in 2004, he embarked on a further process of separating ownership and management. This added another layer of governance. It never caused any extra pain because, for us, as with many of the companies, governance is an innate part of our everyday workforce and our DNA. So it didn't add a layer of extra work, but it added a layer of extra governance.

Q: You said in an interview somewhere in 2019 or 2020 that Value first, Growth second. So how do you reconcile or how do you align Values and Growth?



(L to R): Debasish Mishra, Chief Growth Officer, Deloitte South Asia, KR Sekar, Deloitte Private Leader, Deloitte India, Dr Sridhar Ganesan, MD, Caplin Point Laboratories Ltd, Vijay Sankar, Romal Shetty, CEO, Deloitte South Asia.

Finding the right balance between Values and Growth is important. Growth is necessary. Without Growth, you will not be able to attract talent or provide a purpose over a long period of time. So Growth is important in whatever shape or form, but it has to be couched in a proper value system-based environment, at least how we've always thought.

Mr Sankar always said every professional in the group must sleep peacefully every night. So that was the only watchword we were left with, which necessitated a framework of strong value systems and governance.

Q: Now that you have become a vice president of FICCI, what do you think is the role of advocacy in India?

Advocacy is an integral part of a developing country, especially as the Government needs to hear the voice of industry transparently and non-biasedly. The only thing I am very careful about when I wear the FICCI hat is how I wear and don't wear my company hat. That's something that I'm extra particular about. But as long as you present the needs of industry, the Government wants to hear it. The Government is extremely open to suggestions and ideas.

Q: With so much passion for sports, do you see sports as an industry in the coming days?

As N Sankar would always say, we have promoted sports very extensively for 60 years, the longest association between a company and a particular team is Jolly Rovers cricket club. We've supported Jolly Rovers with no financial gain.

Likewise, with tennis as well. We have supported tennis for over 50 years and sponsor the Sanmar-TNTA Tennis League, which celebrates 30 years this year. We have almost 800 to 900 players playing in the league across five divisions.



Vijay Sankar in conversation with KR Sekar.

It's purely done out of passion. Sports is a great outlet, and I've seen my father play tennis actively every day after work or play cricket. That was a great de-stressor and provided the right level of competition and the ability to talk to others outside your business environment.

Q: How do you believe the corporate should play a role apart from the mandatory CSR 2% contribution?

As far as Sanmar goes, we've been supporting social initiative activities well before CSR became a buzzword, but I do want to add one comment - I think it's not just the law and the rule; I think it's the spirit of how you spend it.

Rapid fire questions:

Q: What would be your advice to all the NextGen entrepreneurs and budding entrepreneurs?

Incorporate good quality, good systems processes, governance, and focus on ethics early in your growth journey; in that case, it'll be much easier for it to stick with you when you grow up and you know you encounter challenges.

Your favourite sports: Cricket, Tennis or Chess

I love watching cricket and tennis, but playing tennis has always been my favourite hobby.

Who's your favourite tennis player?

It's been Federer.

What would you like to do - listening to Carnatic music, reading books, spending time with family, or none of the above?

It's a two-and-three between books and family. My wife is very passionate about music, so she also writes and edits a music journal.

If God comes before you and asks you only one boon?

I wish everyone good health, including me and my colleagues. May we not stray from our chosen path.

Indian Chemical Council 2025

Vijay Sankar addressed the Third Edition of the 'Industry Institutions Partnership Summit' organised by the Indian Chemical Council on January 30, 2025. He spoke on 'Partnership-Driven Advances in Chemical Engineering - Exploring Emerging Trends and Opportunities.'

He highlighted India's low investment in R&D and referenced the book *'The Struggle and a Promise'* by Naushad Forbes. He noted that India was once a leading investor in R&D post-independence, driving industrialisation. However, the focus has shifted, with India lagging far

behind countries like China, which invests over \$400 billion annually in R&D.

Calling China, a model for innovation, he urged stronger academia-industry collaboration to drive product development, from formulation to commercialisation.



Chemplast Sanmar recognised with 'CII Industry Trendsetter Award' for Sustainability

Chemplast Sanmar Limited received 'CII Industry Trendsetters Award under Sustainability Category' at the CII Tamil Nadu State Annual Meeting 2024-25 held on March 14, 2025.

The award was given to Chemplast Sanmar for its exceptional commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable business practices. The citation read 'The company has consistently demonstrated leadership by integrating sustainability into its operations, with focus on reducing its carbon footprint, optimizing energy usage and implementing eco-friendly technologies in its manufacturing processes.'



G Sankara Subramanian and R Sathish Kumar receiving the award on behalf of Chemplast Sanmar Ltd from B Santhanam, CEO of Asia Pacific & India and Chairman of Saint-Gobain, India, Srivats Ram, Chairman - CII, Tamil Nadu State and AR Unnikrishnan, Vice Chairman - CII, Tamil Nadu.

Inauguration of the Academic Wing at the Cancer Institute, Adyar

A state-of-the-art Academic Wing has been built at the Cancer Institute, Adyar, with a liberal donation from The Sanmar Group. The Wing was inaugurated on March 15, 2025 by Prashanth Vasu, Managing Director, Coordination and Review, The Sanmar Group.

Speaking at the inauguration, Prashanth Vasu said, 'The longstanding relationship between the Cancer Institute and The Sanmar Group spans several decades, reflecting a deep commitment to supporting the institution's mission.'

The construction of the Academic Block is another significant initiative that The Sanmar Group is proud to have supported. This project plays a crucial role in fostering the development of young healthcare professionals, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to make meaningful contributions to society and dedicated to improving public health.

Currently, Mr Vijay Sankar, upholds the family's longstanding commitment to the Cancer Institute. As a member of the Institute's Governing Body, he continues to play a vital role in supporting the institution and the patients it serves.'



Prashanth Vasu inaugurating the Academic Wing at the Adayar Cancer Institute while R Karthik looks on.



Prashanth Vasu, Managing Director - Coordination and Review, The Sanmar Group Corporate, addressing the audience, while Dr Hemanth Raj, Executive Vice Chairman, Cancer Institute, S Seetharaman, Executive Chairman, Super Auto Forge, and Dr Kalpana Balakrishnan, Director, Cancer Institute are seen on the dais.



Expansion of Spinal Injured and Stroke Care Centre

Foundation stone laying function at Amar Seva Sangam, Tenkasi



Amarnath Ananthanarayanan, Managing Director, Corporate, The Sanmar Group was the chief guest at the foundation stone laying function at the Amar Seva Sangam, Ayikudy, Tenkasi District on January 25, 2025.

This is a significant step for The Sanmar Group in its dedication to supporting people with spinal injury and stroke patients.

The expansion of the centre will offer advanced rehabilitation services to individuals with spinal cord injuries and stroke survivors, assisting them in regaining independence and enhance their quality of life.

Amarnath Ananthanarayanan of Sanmar with Founder Chairman and President S Ramakrishnan, and Promoter Co-Chairman and Secretary S Sankara Raman of Amar Seva Sangam.

Contribution to SCARF

Sanmar contributed towards the 'Supported Employment Program for Persons with Mental Illness in Tamil Nadu,' a significant rehabilitation / livelihood project of Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF).

Vijay Sankar presented the financial contribution to Dr R Thara, Vice Chairman, SCARF at the Sanmar Headquarters.



Medical Equipment donation

Primary Health Centre at Santhai Thanampatti, Mettur

Chemplast Sanmar supported the Primary Health Centre at Santhai Thanampatti by way of Medical equipment which were handed over on January 7, 2025. The initiative aimed to improve healthcare services and ensure better medical care for the local community.



(L to R): Sriram Kumar, S Gajendiran, Dr Divya Bharathi, Medical Officer, Santhai Thanampatti and Robini Ramesh.

Institute of Child Health, Chennai

The Sanmar Group CSR Trust supported the Institute of Child Health (ICH)- a government children hospital at Egmore, with a donation for a neonatal ventilator and a milk pasteuriser and thawing machine for the human milk bank for their Neonatal department. The equipment was formally handed over to ICH on February 20, 2025 in the presence of the Director of ICH and Dr Muthukumar, the head of the Neonatology department.

Dr Muthukumar, Head of Department and Professor of Neonatology, Dr Sangeetha, Dr S Lakshmi, Director and Professor ICH, seen with T Sankar and K Prabhakaran from Sanmar.



Iconic Institutions of Tamil Nadu

Kutralam: Where Nature Whispers Secrets

Kutralam is not just a destination - it's a living, breathing entity with a story to tell.

Often overshadowed by its waterfalls, the town has an undercurrent of folklore, healing mysticism, and forgotten stories. Locals speak of Kutralam's waters as sacred rivers woven with the wisdom of ancient Siddhars, Tamil mystics who are said to have discovered the medicinal properties of its streams. They believed these waters could align the body's energies, like nature's acupuncture session.

Historically, Kutralam's allure dates back to the Chola dynasty, with references in Tamil literature like the *Tirukkural* hinting at its significance as a place of natural beauty and spiritual retreat. By the British colonial era, it earned its moniker 'Spa of the South'.

Kutralam's truth is its falls. When we arrive at Kutralam, the air feels different—cooler and lighter, carrying the scent of wet earth and herbs. Somewhere in the distance, we hear water crashing onto rocks. These waters, fed by the Chittar River and monsoon rains, tumble down the rocky cliffs of the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The first stop will be the Main Falls (*Peraruvi*) and then the Five Falls (*Aintharuvi*). No two visitors experience the falls the same way. For some, the falls are a natural orchestra, with its five streams creating harmonious music. For others, it's a meditative escape.

More than falls

But Kutralam isn't just about waterfalls. Walk towards the Kutralanathar Temple, where the air carries a subtle energy, like stepping into a time capsule. The carvings on its walls—each one seems to whisper stories of devotion, of a faith rooted in Tamil Nadu's deep history. Nearby, the Chitra Sabha, adorned with intricate paintings, feels less like a religious site and more like an open invitation to lose oneself in art.

The Shenbagadevi Falls is an adventure—trekking through a forest scented with Shenbaga flowers, their aroma enveloping you like a warm embrace. Hidden deep in the woods, the falls feel untouched, almost sacred.

When the day turns to dusk, Kutralam reveals its softer side. The Old Falls

Main Falls (Peraruvi)



(Palaya Aruvi) is quieter, as if the waterfalls are winding down for the day. The locals talk about *Puli Aruvi* (Tiger Falls), a spot children adore for its gentle, playful streams.

The Kuttralam Herbal Forest is more than just greenery; it's a living apothecary. Every plant has a purpose, every leaf a story; it's like attending a crash course in ancient botanical wisdom.

With their slightly chaotic charm, the souvenir shops hold treasures — handcrafted wooden toys, herbal oils, or intricate kolam designs.

The Hidden Life of Kuttralam

What makes Kuttralam fascinating is the rhythm of its everyday life. Early mornings are serenaded by the chirping of Malabar (bird) whistling thrushes, often called the 'Nightingale of the South.'

During monsoon season, when visitors throng the falls, locals often retreat to their favourite hidden spots—the lesser-known corners of the waterfalls or quiet forest trails. It's in these secluded areas that the true spirit of Kuttralam comes alive.

Kuttralam's night markets sell everything from steaming fresh parottas to sweet 'Palm Fruit Jelly,' known locally as nungu—a treat one doesn't easily forget.

The Haunting Lore of Kuttralam

Kuttralam isn't without its mysterious tales. One story locals love to recount is about the elusive Mookkan, a shadowy figure who, they say, guards the hills at

night. The elderly claim that the sound of rustling leaves is sometimes not the wind but Mookkan watching over trespassers venturing too far. Though dismissed by the younger crowd as a myth, the story adds a touch of intrigue to evening bonfire conversations.

There is a lesser-known legend about the Shenbaga flowers, native to this region. According to lore, these fragrant blossoms carry the prayers of those who visit the Shenbagadevi Falls, sending them directly to the goddess residing in the hills.

In the tribal settlements on the fringes of the forests, one might encounter indigenous traditions, herbal remedies, and ancient knowledge passed down through generations.

Kuttralam isn't just a destination; it's an experience that evolves as you uncover its layers, leaving an indelible imprint on us.

Five Falls (Aintharuvi)



