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**Dr. U. Kamachi
Mudali**



**Mahmood
Daylami**



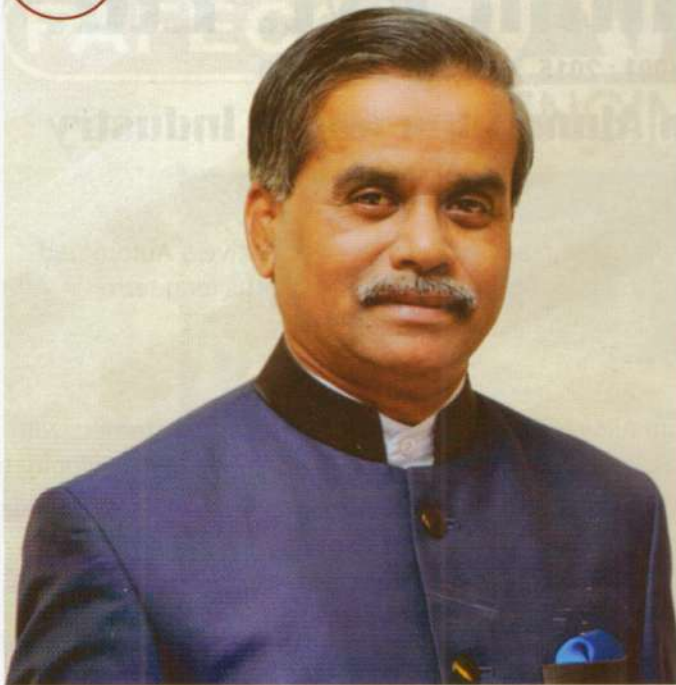
R. Harikumar



Ajay Kapur



L. Pugazhenty



Dr. U. Kamachi Mudali, Distinguished Scientist of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and Chairman and Chief Executive of Heavy Water Board, an flagship industrial unit of DE is currently the President of IIM. He was formerly the Director of Materials Chemistry and Metal Fuel Cycle of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam. He is with DAE for the last 35 years and made outstanding contributions towards development of advanced materials and coating technologies, Corrosion Prevention and Control, Surface Engineering and Modification, Reprocessing Materials, Equipment and Process. Since September 2017, Mudali is responsible for smooth operation of heavy water and other specialty materials production plants at Kota, Manuguru, Thal, Hazira, Baroda, Tuticorin and Talcher.

Mudali has been recognized with Fellowship of 10 academies including three from abroad, and has received many prestigious awards including the recent FN Speller Award from NACE International, USA (first Indian to receive). He has been associated with the Indian Institute of Metals since 1984, and has occupied several responsibilities in IIM before becoming its President in August 2019.

Speaking to **Sanjay Singh** of **Metalworld**, Mudali says that similar to the steel recycling policy there is also a strong need for Non-ferrous metal scrap recycling policy for environment conservations and sustainable development. Excerpts

Non-Ferrous Metals Have A Big Role In Boosting Economic Growth

- Dr. U. Kamachi Mudali
President
Indian Institute of Metals (IIM)

What are the present and future prospects you see for Non-ferrous Metals in India ?

We have issues concerning about availability of raw materials for the domestic aluminium and lead industry.

We have very big scope for the growth of metal industries, in general, for our country. If we have to meet the dream of our Prime Minister to achieve 5 trillion dollars economy, the metal industries have to grow at least 10 to 12 % every year in all metals sectors. It is not only the growth of steel is very important, but also the Nonferrous metals like Aluminium, Copper, Zinc, Lead, etc have to grow significantly for advanced technologies in defense, space, telecommunication, automobiles, energy, etc.

Today India produces annually Aluminum of approx. 3.8 million MT (6% world production) and is next to China (55% of production), 4th in Copper production (5% of world while China is 35%) and 6th in Zinc production, and so on. India is fortunate to have high quality Bauxite with 5th place in world abundance. Our growth in Aluminium sector should grow faster matching with the annual requirement of this metal.

With the major push from the present government in "Make in India", innovative initiatives like smart cities, and also increase in the manufacturing sector share of GDP from the present 17% to the 25% by the end of 2025, Non-ferrous metals will have a big role in the industrial and economic growth. There is no doubt that with the growth of manufacturing sector there will be proportionate growth of Non-ferrous metal industry aided by the strong demand from various sectors like automobiles, construction, electrical and domestic appliances.



One important concern is that downstream products like copper wire and aluminum coil which are still fully dominated by the imports due to lack of development of the downstream industry in India. However, there is large scope with the various requirements undertaken by the present government, the end use sectors of Non-ferrous metals will provide great opportunity to downstream industry in future.

Also there is going to be bigger scope in exploring newer applications in defense and aerospace, hybrid and electrical vehicles, solar panels, mobility, etc.

Don't you see the need for recycling of these important raw materials in a big way by favourable government policy?

Similar to the steel recycling policy there is also a strong need for Non-ferrous metal scrap recycling policy for environment conservations and sustainable development. Thus with the scrap recycling eco-system with appropriate legislation and laws to promote organized scrap collection and segregation is needed for Non-ferrous metals sector.

The Non-ferrous industry is also witnessing strong challenges and stronger government support is needed for its steady and healthy growth in the coming years. The important concerns are: "Inverted Duty Structure" under the Free Trade Agreements (FTA), the raw



materials insufficiency, inadequate infrastructure, China factor, under developed scrap recycling sector, etc. It is evident that Non-ferrous metal sector which is also equally important for the overall growth and development of the nation needs stronger attention of the Government similar to the steel sector.

How has IIM evolved over the years and how it has achieved its objectives?

The Indian Institute of Metals (IIM) founded in 1946 for the development and growth of metal industries towards contributing to the nation building, is a professional body of Metallurgists and Materials Engineers spread over 56 Chapters all over India.

IIM contributes to appropriate forum and authority and in turn (directly or indirectly) helps Government of India in formulating various plans and policies for development of metals sector in the country. The activities of the Institute are divided into three domains viz, Ferrous, Non-ferrous and Material Sciences.

IIM also organizes national and international

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technical conferences and programmes, research activities, publications, outreach events, industrial courses, etc are its notable activities.

IIM honors and recognizes professionals for their individual as well as organizational contributions under the Ministry of Steel, Government of India every year on November 14, which is known as "National Metallurgists Day". During this year, Minister of Steel Dharmendra Pradhan participated as Chief Guest, delivered address to 900 participants, and presented the award to the awardees at Trivandrum on November 14, 2019.

IIM has made significant contributions by way of publications of technical articles in Transactions of Indian Institute of Metals and feature articles in house magazine "Metal News". During the year 2021-22, IIM will be celebrating its Platinum Jubilee of 75 years growth and contribution to the nation building for the metals sector, and T.V.Narendran, CEO and MD of TATA Steel will be the President of IIM.

What is the present strength of IIM members?

Starting with a modest membership of 42, today IIM membership stands nearly 10,000 drawn from academia, industries and research fields of metallurgy and materials engineering. ■