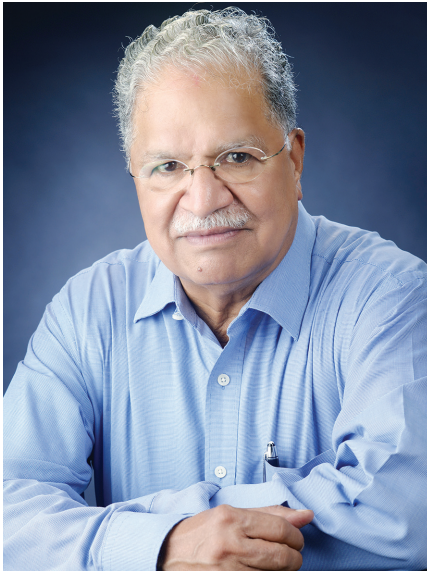


VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you and your business in good health and high spirits.

As we step into the first quarter of FY 2025–26, there are signs of renewed optimism, especially within India. While global challenges persist — including the ongoing Russia–Ukraine conflict, tensions in the Middle East involving Israel, Palestine, and Iran, as well as the complex India–Pakistan dynamics — India continues to move forward with resilience. It's



encouraging to note that, at least for now, some of these tensions have eased slightly.

Amidst this uncertain global environment, India stands out as a bright spot. We've recently achieved a major milestone by becoming the fourth-largest economy in the world, surpassing Japan. This is truly a proud moment for all of us.

On the business front, we're seeing a growing interest in metal packaging, especially as brands seek to appeal to Gen Z consumers. This generation is deeply conscious of sustainability, health, and reducing food waste. As a result, FMCG companies are focusing on smaller, more sustainable packaging formats to meet these evolving preferences.

This shift presents a great opportunity for innovation across all packaging materials — paper, glass, plastic, and especially metal. While others have already begun adapting to meet this demand, we in the metal pack-

aging industry face major challenges in Logistics cost, storage space, inspite of metal packaging being a preferred media for brand visibility.

Let us embrace this momentum with creativity and agility. The opportunities ahead are exciting, and with the right mindset, we can position ourselves at the forefront of this change.

Wishing you continued success and a thriving quarter ahead!

Warm regards

Diwakar Shetty

MANAGING COMMITTEE

- Mr Sanjay Bhatia - President
- Mr Diwakar Shetty – Vice President
- Mr Purushottam Patel – Secretary
- Mr Om Agarwal – Jt Secretary
- Mr Sheikhal Barodawala – Treasurer
- Mr A B Kulkarni
- Mr Fidahusain Tinwala
- Mr Shailesh Karia
- Mr Umesh Batra
- Mr Nitin Agarwal
- Mr Kaushal Vora

TRANSFORMING TINPLATE PACKAGING: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHIER FUTURE

Tinplate containers re-entering the supply chain through informal channels poses serious public health risks. This practice persists despite clear directives from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Tata Steel Tinplate Division is working with manufacturers of edible oils and regulators against this practice in favour of consumer safety.

The packaging industry is a cornerstone of modern consumption. Among various materials, tin-coated steel sheets (tinplate) stand out for their durability and prolonged shelf life. This makes it a preferred packaging solution across segments such as edible oils, processed foods, paints, pesticides, chemicals and more.

In India, bulk edible oils, particularly those used in the HORECA (Hotels, Restaurants, Caterers) segment, are commonly packaged in 15-kg tinplate containers. However, post-consumption, these containers often re-enter the supply chain through informal channels. Local traders collect and manually clean them using hazardous substances like caustic soda and reseal holes with lead-based solder, disregarding hygiene and safety protocols. This practice poses serious public health risks, including chemical contamination, microbial growth and lead exposure.

Despite clear directives from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which prohibits the reuse of tin containers for food packaging under its 2018 regulations and 2022 amendments, this cycle of informal reuse persists. A deeper examination of the tinplate lifecycle reveals that after second reuse of cans for edible oils, these containers are often repurposed for jaggery or chemicals storage, before eventually entering the scrap market.

These practices compromise food safety, expose gaps in waste management, and threaten public health. In response, Tata Steel Tinplate Division has launched a responsible intervention to prevent their informal reuse and ensure recycling through formal, regulated channels.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE, SUSTAINABLY



This initiative aligns with circular economy principles, promoting responsible reuse and environmental stewardship.

To amplify its impact, the Division is pursuing strategic partnerships with leading edible oil brand owners in India. Future plans include collaboration with the regulatory bodies such as FSSAI, major edible oil fillers and institutional buyers. Initial discussions reflect a shared commitment to ethical reuse and formal recycling.

Beyond consumer's safety, this initiative aims to:

- Formalize last-mile tinplate recycling
- Raise awareness among oil fillers



- Support aggregation infrastructure
- Reduce reused tins in the food sector



This approach sets a new benchmark for sustainable packaging where environmental integrity, regulatory compliance, and corporate responsibility converge. It offers a replicable model for the broader packaging industry, demonstrating how thoughtful intervention and stakeholder collaboration can transform a traditionally linear value chain into a circular, safer, and socially conscious ecosystem.

Source: Tata Steel Tinplate Division

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of your MCMA News for FY 2025-26.

There are lots of news from India and the outside world, since we last connected. Let us start with our India's good news. First important news is that we have graduated to the fourth largest economy in the world, beating one of the tough competitors, Japan.

Second important news is that India has moved up in the World Bank poverty index, India's extreme poverty has reduced from 27.1% to 5.3% of the population, between 2012 and 2022. This means 269 million individuals - more than the entire population of Pakistan - were lifted out of extreme poverty in India in just 11 years.

MCMA has been trying to promote the metal can as a sustainable and green packaging medium at different forums. In April, MCMA conducted a seminar titled "CAN – THE FUTURE". MCMA supported India Food Pack Expo, organised by Synergy Exposures & Events, as "Association Partner" during the exhibition held at Coimbatore, from July 2-4.

Our Members are also participating in various awards programmes and some of them have won awards for their quality cans. I feel more companies should partic-

ipate in such programmes and showcase their quality products.

This will not only win many awards and accolades for individual companies but, also create more awareness about the metal packaging solutions.

It will be interesting to know that FSSAI has recently allowed rPET as a food packaging material and this is certainly not be a comfortable situation for metal packaging. I am sure we will be able to overcome this competition and come out winners.

Inflation fell to 2.82% in May 2025, the lowest level since February 2019. Total exports reached a record USD 824.9 billion in 2024-25. As per Govt of India's Press Information Bureau report dated July 6, 2025, India's economy continues to grow at a steady and confident pace, standing out as the fastest growing major economy in the world. To quote Mr Sanjay Malhotra, RBI Governor, "In this global milieu, the Indian economy remains a key driver of global growth. Growth momentum is buoyed by strong domestic growth drivers, sound macroeconomic fundamentals and prudent policies."

The general environment in the country is good and with a good monsoon predicted, there will be more opportunities for growth of the overall packaging industry.

Already many players in the metal packaging industry are expanding their capacities, as more new food & beverage startups setting up shop here, all of us in the metal packaging can see good growth prospects.

See you again soon, until then I leave you with the great quote by Abraham Lincoln - *"Leave nothing for*

tomorrow, which can be done today."

Warm regards,

Editor

SOLVENT BASED CAN SEALING COMPOUNDS- STORAGE CONDITIONS & SAFETY

DAREX® solvent-based can sealing compounds require careful handling and storage due to their flammable solvents. Proper storage, temperature control, and safety precautions are essential to prevent fire, explosion, and health hazards.

Darex® sealants have evolved in parallel with the industry, adapting to the ever-changing requirements. This intimate, customer-focused customization allows Henkel to offer the world's broadest and most technologically advanced portfolio of can sealants. DAREX® is the only brand that offers both solvent-based and water-based can sealants.

Let us take a look at Solvent-based Can Sealants. DAREX® Solvent-based Compounds contain flammable solvents. Every precaution must be taken to prevent fire and explosions. The following guidelines must be strictly adhered to for safety.

Inward Material: Drum Storage

Drums must be stored in a designated, approved storage room for flammable liquids. Drums located in the lining area should be properly grounded to prevent static discharge. Only the minimum quantity needed for immediate use should be kept outside the designated storage room.

The recommended temperature range for drum storage is 50°F to 95°F (10°C to 35°C). If storage area and lining area temperatures are different, stored drums should be brought into the lining area 24 to 48 hours before use and allowed to attain ambient temperature. Prolonged storage at low or elevated temperatures can result in undesirable rheological changes in the compound. All drums should be used on a first-in-first-out basis to insure adequate rotation of older materials. To ensure proper stock rotation, drums should be used on a first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis and consumed within twelve months from the date of shipment. Before converting or constructing an area for compound drum storage, refer to the appropriate OSHA, local fire code standards.

Storage of Wet Compound and Lined Ends

- Store materials in a designated, approved flammable liquid storage room.
- Mixing and dispensing operations must be

conducted in areas equipped with explosion-proof equipment and fixtures, including lighting.

- Only use power equipment approved for this area. Properly ground and bond all equipment and containers.
- Prevent solvent vapors from escaping by keeping all drum and container openings securely closed.
- When transferring compound from the original drum, only use containers that are approved for flammable liquid storage.
- Avoid accumulation of solvent vapors in storage, lining, or lined end areas. These vapors are heavier than air, can travel to distant ignition sources, and may collect in low-lying areas, displacing breathable air. Ensure adequate ventilation is maintained to mitigate these risks.
- If welding or other activities involving potential ignition sources must be performed near solvent-handling areas, assess all hazards and regulatory requirements. Implement appropriate safety measures and procedures to control risks.
- Solvent vapors are flammable and can be ignited by static discharge. All equipment must be grounded and bonded using proper static discharge devices.
- Operators should only wear cotton or other non-synthetic clothing to reduce the risk of static discharge.
- Smoking should be strictly prohibited in areas where solvent-based compounds are stored or used.
- Dry lined ends in an area provided with good air circulation along with an exhaust system to keep the solvent vapor concentration within acceptable limits.
- Ensure lined ends are completely dry before applying any flexible film overwrap.

Health

Overexposure to vapors from DAREX® solvent-based compounds can give rise to headache, nausea, dizziness, disorientation, irritation of the nose and throat. Contact

with liquid solvent compound can produce skin and eye irritation. The material is harmful if swallowed.

To prevent overexposure, the following precautions should be observed:

- Avoid breathing vapor. Use adequate ventilation, including forced ventilation where required, to minimize airborne concentrations of solvent and keep

vapor concentrations within acceptable limits.

- Avoid skin and eye contact. Use appropriate protective equipment, including protective gloves, goggles, and clothing. Consult Material Safety Data Sheets for additional safety and health information.

Source: Ravikumar Purbhe, Business Development Manager - Metal Packaging, Henkel Adhesive Technologies - India, Middle East, Africa

RESPACK 2025

The RESPACK 2025 conference was held on June 2 & 3, 2025 at The Lalit Hotel, Mumbai. There were many presentations on different packaging material innovations on both the days.

Day 1 had two sessions on metal packaging :

- **Focus Session:** “Metal Packaging – A Green Media” chaired by Mr Ashwani Sharma, Business Head of JSW.
- **Panel Discussion:** “Metal Packaging – An Outlook of Brand Owners” moderated by Mr S Ramana-

than – Head Sales of JSW.

Some MCMA Members and their people attended all the sessions.

In the evening, there was a gala awards function, wherein companies received following awards for their exceptional quality containers.

Day 2 was a packed with lots of sessions on different packaging material.

Shetron Ltd



Commercial Design for Glen Bake House: a round decorative tin with attractive matte finish makes it a great design. Additionally, reducing the thickness for a more sustainable version of packaging.



Commercial Innovative material for Mansha Biryani: innovative approach to package Biryani in tins, moving from plastic makes it healthier and a more sustainable option for consumers.



Commercial Innovative material for Amintiri Hot Chocolate Powder: is an aesthetic round tin with slip on closure. Replacing plastic and giving the customer a more durable and recyclable option.



Hindustan Tin Work Ltd

Award in Commercial Design category for Gourmet Popcorn. The can is made in matte and gloss combination to maximize shelf appeal



Maharashtra Metal Works Ltd

Award in Commercial Design category for Guitar Shaped Tin for Hershey's. This container stands out on the shelf for its distinctive visual appearance.

INDIA FOOD PACK EXPO, COIMBATORE

Mr. Sasi Kumar, Vice President of Synergy Exposure & Events, invited MCMA to partner with their India Food Pack Expo exhibitions in Coimbatore – July 2-4, 2025, and Bengaluru – January 20-22, 2026. With MCMA President Mr. Sanjay Bhatia's support, we went beyond the logo presence to create a meaningful engagement. I'm grateful to Mr Sasi for offering two speaking slots—one of which was during the



Bakery session.

Chef Arvind Prasad from Whitecaps International School of Pastry, Bengaluru, wowed the audience with a live chocolate-making demo and insights into taste profiles. His session set the perfect stage for my session



on Green Packaging. I highlighted how metal containers can preserve the aroma, taste, and shelf life of chocolates and allow for partial consumption, while maintaining freshness. The chocolates in metal containers have a distinct advantage of imparting superior aesthetic value. There were about 60-70 participants.

MCMA logo was added to all the promotional material that was distributed digitally and also displayed on all banners at the exhibition site in Coimbatore

Source: Venu Ayyar



SHARING KNOWLEDGE AT PSG COLLEGE, COIMBATORE

I recently had the privilege of conducting a session on “Innovations in Food Packaging” for M.Sc. and undergraduate students at PSG College, Coimbatore. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Radhai, HOD of Food Processing, for the kind invitation and warm welcome!

This opportunity came on account of MCMA supporting India Food Pack Expo exhibitions in Coimbatore – July 2-4, 2025

The PSG College session was truly memorable. The

inspiring!

Special thanks to Teachers Radhai, Thamarai, Sreelakshmi, Sindhu, and all the wonderful faculty and students for your attention and interaction. I never imagined a packaging session would spark such interest among food processing students!

My friend, Ms. Subhaprada Nishtala of AFSTI connected me to PSG College

Source: Venu Ayyar



classroom was packed with enthusiastic students and faculty, and what was planned as a 1-hour talk turned into a lively 1 hour and 45 minutes of discussion and Q&A. The curiosity and engagement from the students were

