

CORCON, a landmark event that facilitates the exchange of technical information and interaction amongst professionals

"CORCON, an annual conference and expo on corrosion science and engineering in India, stands as one of the largest gatherings in Asia dedicated to this field," said Mr Sumeet Kataria, Chairman CORCON 2023, speaking at the inaugural function on October 25, 2023 at Hotel Sahara Star, conveniently located outside the Terminal 1, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai. "This event serves as a robust platform for sharing knowledge, acquiring information, identifying business prospects, and fostering valuable networks within the corrosion community. It is a win-win situation for all those who converge here. CORCON stands as a beacon of knowledge and innovation in the field of corrosion. This year, CORCON aims to push the boundaries of our understanding, explore cutting-edge research and fostering partnerships that transcend the boundaries."

The four-day event held October 25 – 28, 2023 had

three plenary talks, 23 keynote sessions, seven technical interactive forums, 18 symposia with more than 150 papers presented over four parallel sessions and poster presentations.

Prof Amir Eliezer, AMPP Board of Directors, Chair 2023, who was the chief guest at the event emphasized that the merger of NACE and SSPC has brought in many more opportunities. Showing his commitment to the growth of AMPP in India, he made it a point to attend the event in spite of the crisis in his homeland. He exhorted more persons from India to take part and get involved in the activities of AMPP by making it a more global organization from the American centric it is now. He said: "There are no such chapters in the world that have so much activity. For example, a few months ago, we had only one student chapter, and now we have three. After the merger, when we started this year, we had 32,000 members and now it's grown to 35,000. With a



strong and growing economy, a 1.4 billion strong people, there is so much potential to grow."

Dr A. K. Tewari, Chairman, AMPP India Chapter 2023-24, emphasized, "India has embarked upon a journey of becoming a US\$ 45 trillion economy within a couple of years and aspire to be one amongst the developed countries by 2047. With this comes huge infrastructure creation including roads, railways, RCC structures, marine and offshore, oil and gas, petrochemicals, power plants and transmission systems, utilities, fertilizers and chemicals, etc., etc. So when infrastructure is created the asset has to be protected, and definitely corrosion professionals have a very vital role to play. New trends in corrosion monitoring will be debated and the involvement of young scientists and students will be a game changer for the industry, and a lot of learning is likely to take place. The future of the corrosion control industry is very bright. The industry is

witnessing all-round change. We are today in an era of sector-specific knowledge expertise. All of us need to remain familiar and well-versed with the latest scientific and technological developments in this field."

This year, there were 18 symposia including the young scientist forum. The symposia on Corrosion in Petrochemical and Refineries; Corrosion Monitoring and Testing; Paints and Coatings; Cathodic and Anodic Protection; Corrosion Control in Water Treatment Utilities; Microbial Corrosion and Inhibitors; New Trends and Innovations in Corrosion Control; Materials and Composites; Corrosion in Marine and Offshore; Corrosion in Power Plants and Utilities; Corrosion in Tanks, Mounds, Bullets and Spheres; Corrosion in City Gas; Corrosion in Nuclear Industry; and Corrosion in Defense Equipment and Facilities continued to attract a large number of technical papers. With a delegate strength of over 900 industry stalwarts,





special emphasis was given to research work through the platform of young students and scientists forum. A round table conference on the Protective Coating and Lining Industry along with 'Jung-se-Jung, – Challenges with Integrity Assessment of Non-piggable Pipelines' and the workshop on 'High-Temperature Coatings,' were the other highlights this year.

Seven technical interactive forums on contemporary corrosion issues like corrosion monitoring, cathodic protection systems, water treatment, optimum coating specifications, concrete corrosion, regulations and standards in corrosion, was another segment that was attended in large numbers.

As is the practice at every CORCON, this year too Corrosion Awareness Awards

were presented to honor and respect individuals / institutions for their contribution to corrosion awareness and development in the field of corrosion science and technology in India.

Ever since the recognition was instituted in 1995, 127 scientists / teachers / engineers / professionals, 46 students and 26 public / private sector laboratories have been conferred various awards.

This year, the Excellence in Corrosion Science and Technology in Research and Education went to Mr Sunilkumar Dayarambhai Kahar; Excellence in Corrosion Science and Technology in Industrial Organization, Mr Jaiprakash Narain; Distinction in Corrosion Science and Technology in Research and Education, Dr Raffi Moham-



med, National Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh; Distinction in Corrosion Science and Technology in Industrial Organisation, Dr Dyana Joseline, Larsen & Toubro Construction, Chennai; Student Award for PhD Degree, Dr Sai Karthik Nouduru, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai; Meritorious Contribution in Research and Education, Dr R. Baloji Naik, Naval Material Research Laboratory, Ambernath; and the Meritorious Contribution in Industrial Organization, Dr Bhupendra Gaur.

The Expo area hosted over 75 stalls, not only leading names in the industry from across the country, but all over the globe exhibiting the latest innovations, products and processes. Awards were also given to the best designed stalls. Blastech, was awarded the best stall in the 9 sqm category, whereas BSS Tech CP (I) Pvt Ltd., was the winner in the 12 sqm category. The runners up were PRSTR International Pvt Ltd., and Asian Paints PPG Pvt Ltd., respectively. Besides these, awards were also given to 18 paper and poster presentations at the valedictory function.

The four-day event was not just scientific and serious

discussions but also had its share of lighter moments. The cultural program on the third day had delegates taken back in time with a musical program by Niche Entertainment titled Black and White that highlighted the glory of songs in Bollywood from 1945 to 1968 - the golden era of Hindi cinema.

A collage of performance on screen and stage aided by mega audio-visuals, the performers on stage blending with the celluloid took the delegates through a journey with veterans like K. L. Saigal, Bimal Roy, V. Shantaram and Guru Dutt along with the stylish Dev Anand, tragedy king Dilip Kumar, showman Raj Kapoor, the beautiful Madhu Bala, the classy Meena Kumari and the 'yahoo' Shammi Kapoor, to name a few. The presentation format was reminiscent of a stage musical where the singers "act" the characters. The performance touched the finer aspects of the era through the medium of music, pictures, movie clips, anecdotes and trivia. 'Black and White' was an attempt to give a third dimension to the celluloid screen, restore links with our past, get nostalgic and go back to our roots, to those moments which we all want to relive.