

PRESS RELEASE

Youth and Glass Industry stalwarts honoured at the Annual General Body Meet of the AIGMF

September 19, 2026 NEW DELHI: At the Annual General Meeting of The All India Glass Manufacturers' Federation (AIGMF), Youth and Industry Members were felicitated at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Delhi), Hauz Khas, NEW DELHI on Sept 19, 2026.

A special session on container glass strengthening was also organised where Youth winners were honoured who participated from India-wide schools and colleges in the annual contest on 'Glass in Institutions' or संस्थानों में काँच coinciding with the International Youth Day on Aug 12. Online entries were invited from the age group between 7-24 years by means of essays, poems, drawings, paintings, photography, etc., where over 2000 entries were received from educational institutes from India and some foreign countries.

The Jury comprised of Mr. Gurmeet Singh, Chairman, Federation of Safety Glass (FOSG) and Managing Director, Gurind India (P) Ltd.; Mr. G N Gohul Deepak, Executive Director, Glazing Society of India (GSI); Mr. Dave Fordham, Member Editorial Board of KANCH (AIGMF's Glass journal), Former Publisher of Glass Worldwide magazine and Global Engagement Lead for Glass Futures (United Kingdom); and Mr. Vinit Kapur, Secretary of The All India Glass Manufacturers' Federation (AIGMF) who judged top 3 entries:

1st Prize (Rs. 25,000) was given to Ananya Bazad aged 14 years, 10th class student of Pathania Public School, Rohtak HARYANA

2nd Prize (Rs. 15,000) was given to Deekshitha M S aged 23 years, 6th year Pharm. D (Integrated) student of Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar TAMIL NADU

3rd Prize (Rs. 10,000 each) were given to:

- a) Shreya Tahlan aged 17 years, 12th class student of Bal Bharti School, Bahadurgarh HARYANA
- b) Shlok Gupta aged 14 years, 9th class student of PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sattenapalli ANDHRA PRADESH

The annual 'CK Somany Award for Excellence' was given to Dr. K Annapurna, former Chief Scientist, Speciality Glass Division, CSIR-Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI), Kolkata and Member Editorial Board of KANCH. The 'Balkrishna Gupta Award for Exports' was bestowed to M/s SGD Pharma India Pvt. Ltd. The 3rd 'Lifetime Achievement Award' was given to Mr. Jagdish Sarin of Ceracon Engineers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. The previous winners are listed at www.aigmf.com

Dr. K. Annapurna who worked as Scientist G at Specialty Glass Division, CSIR-CGCRI since 1996 and since then has played a leading role in the Research and Development of specialty glasses, focusing on strategic applications and process technologies. As Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator, Dr. Annapurna has successfully handled around 23 research projects and has been pivotal in establishing an architectural research and testing facility, now recognized as testing center by BIS. The chalcogenide glasses developed were validated at IRDE, Dehradun as highly suitable for thermal imaging. These Chalcogenide glasses have been used to fabricate thermal imaging cameras and field tested by BEL. Several industries like BEL, Stellar Optics, Analinear systems have shown interest in transfer of this technology.

"With profound thanks to the Jury Members, I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive the prestigious C. K. Somany Award for Excellence from the AIGMF. I consider this recognition not merely a personal achievement, but a tribute to the collective efforts of my colleagues, students, collaborators and the institution with which I have had the privilege of working. I accept this award with great gratitude, humility and a deep sense of responsibility." said Dr. K Annapurna, recipient of CK Somany Award for Excellence.

M/s SGD Pharma India Pvt. Ltd. is a trusted global supplier of pharmaceutical glass packaging solutions, serving pharmaceutical customers across multiple international markets with a strong export presence and long-term partnerships with leading pharmaceutical companies across the globe.

"This award is a reflection of our team's commitment to excellence, our customers' trust, and our shared vision of taking Indian manufacturing excellence to the global stage. We remain dedicated to delivering high-quality pharmaceutical packaging solutions that support healthcare worldwide while contributing to India's export growth. We also acknowledge AIGMF's contribution to the glass industry through its tireless efforts, not only in bridging the gap between the industry and the authorities but also in working with academia to spread awareness on glass." said Mr. Deepak Sood, Managing Director, SGD Pharma India, on receiving the Balkrishna Gupta Award for Exports.

Mr. Jagdish Sarin is the founder and President of Ceracon Engineers Pvt. Ltd., based in New Delhi. After graduating in Ceramic Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, BHU in 1972, he worked with Refractory Manufacturing units and gained valuable experience on the factors affecting life of Refractories in Glass Melting Furnace. With the Liberalisation of Imports in 1991, he started M/s Ceracon Engineers to bring Global technology for the benefit of indigenous Glass Industry. He filled this gap by bringing in Foreign Technology for various areas of Glass making. To initiate manufacture of Lightweight bottles and Narrow Neck Press and Blow process, he introduced high quality Plunger Mechanisms. He has been an advocate for modernizing the glass manufacturing ecosystem in developing markets, encouraging the adoption of Narrow Neck Press and Blow (NNPB) light weighting techniques, higher furnace efficiencies, increased line speeds, and automated quality control, inspection equipment, energy saving systems, electric boosting systems, Furnace Design and Development and Turnkey Glass Plants etc.

Later, he expanded Ceracon's operations to cover glass plants across neighbouring and regional markets, including the Gulf region, West Asia, Africa, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Oman, Kuwait, and Israel. With over five decades of experience in the glass industry, he has played a pivotal role in bridging international glassmaking technology with the Indian and regional markets.

"To receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from AIGMF is a privilege that words cannot fully capture. For over eight decades this institution has been nurtured by the true titans of our industry, and to receive recognition for a lifetime of work from such an august body is the greatest milestone of my professional life. For more than five decades my journey has been driven by a singular passion: to push the boundaries of what is possible and elevate Indian glass manufacturing to global standards. None of this was walked alone, and I particularly thank Mr. Sanjay Somany for his invaluable guidance and mentorship over the years. We stand at the threshold of a new era driven by green energy, automation and sustainable manufacturing; glass is the material of the future and India is perfectly positioned to lead the global supply chain. To the next generation of engineers, innovators and entrepreneurs: do not fear change, embrace it, keep investing in modern technologies and never compromise on quality." said Mr. Jagdish Sarin, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The jury for the awards comprised of Mr. Dave Fordham, Member Editorial Board of KANCH (AIGMF's Glass journal), Former Publisher of Glass Worldwide magazine and Global Engagement Lead for Glass Futures (United Kingdom); Mr. Amit Malhotra, President of Confederation of Construction Products and Services, Treasurer of uPVC Window & Door Manufacturers Association and Managing Director of McCoy Silicones Ltd.; Mr. Pawan Kumar Shukla, Treasurer AIGMF and Managing Director, Schott Glass India Pvt. Ltd.; and Mr. Gurmeet Singh, Chairman, Federation of Safety Glass (FOSG) and Managing Director, Gurind India (P) Ltd.

The cash prizes for the winning students were sponsored by Schott Glass India Pvt. Ltd., producing Type I pharma tubing primarily meant for Glass Vials which were supplied worldwide for packaging the COVID vaccination; SCHOTT has more recently added syringe and cartridge glass tubing, reinforcing its commitment to the 'Make in India' initiative and positioning the company as Asia's largest producer of syringe and cartridge glass tubing. Top 200 entries were sent a specially designed Glass Mementos and the winning entries can be viewed at www.aigmf.com

About The All India Glass Manufacturers' Federation (AIGMF)

As the National Apex Body of the Glass Industry, the AIGMF undertakes socially responsible steps as a voluntary service to society, thereby bringing increased awareness of Glass being a safe and 100% recyclable building and packaging material.