

# RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PAST

It all began three decades ago. Enamoured by the success of IHA – the International Machine Tool Exhibitions in Hannover, IMTMA Members began voicing need to hold similar fairs in India, as well. The initiative was seized by a few Members, who got together to plan out and conduct a machine tool fair in Bombay city (now Mumbai)

## IMTEX 2009

IMTEX fairs have always known to rejuvenate business sentiments in a recessionary phase. 2009 was no different as it more than aptly enabled resurrection of the much-desired business confidence amongst the machine tool fraternity.

IMTEX was held in its 40th year of glorified existence along with Tooltech 2009 from 22 to 28 January at IMTMA's very own BIEC – India's first LEED-certified green exhibition-cum-conference facility of international quality. 14th in the series, IMTEX 2009 showcased the exhaustive range of innovations and technological refinements in the complete product segment of metal-cutting machine tools. 11th in the series, Tooltech 2009 featured newest trends in cutting tools and tooling systems from all across globe.

Both the exhibitions featured participation of 940 companies from India and 24 overseas countries. Almost half of the total participation comprised overseas companies – highest ever and truly making IMTEX a global phenomenon for the worldwide machine tool industry.

The response was equally spectacular. Notwithstanding industry slowdown, the exhibition was host to around 80,000 business visitors from all across the Indian manufacturing industry. Interaction with business visitors led to a virtual sell-out of all machines displayed at the exhibition and further generated for exhibitors serious business enquiries to the tune of Rs. 50,000 million.

The crème of IMTEX fairs has been its new introductions.

IMTEX 2009 witnessed the launch of IMTMA's key endeavour – IMTMA Productivity Institute – a state-of-the-art facility for conducting specialised courses on productivity.

And the other was “JAGRUTI - IMTMA Youth Programme” – a unique initiation to familiarise and orient engineering students with technological facets of the machine tool industry and make this industry an attractive career proposition.

The conclusion was also memorable with presentation of the prestigious FIE Foundation awards for outstanding displays.

## IMTEX 2007

The apex exhibition on machine tools and manufacturing solutions in South and South East Asia – IMTEX and Tooltech 2007, lived up to its exalting status of fostering competitiveness and enabling excellence in manufacturing. Scheduled from 18 - 24 January 2007, the b2b mega-event was held for the first time in South India and at IMTMA's own exhibition and conference facility – Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC).

In all, over 1,200 metalworking machines – conventional and CNC – together with a wide range of allied equipment were showcased at the exhibition.

1,187 Indian and overseas companies took part at IMTEX and Tooltech 2007 – across five halls covering over 50,000 square meters of gross area, 703 companies exhibited their products in the IMTEX pavilions, while the balance 484 companies displayed their cutting tools and tooling systems in the Tooltech one. The fair comprised as many as 800 exhibition stands – the largest number in any IMTEX and Tooltech show.

The exhibition had a large overseas presence from 24 countries, representing 47 per cent of the total participation – yet another highest at any IMTEX fair. Overseas participation also comprised six country-groups from China, Germany, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan and United Kingdom.

From then till the end of the fair, the exhibition was witness to a colossal flow of business visitors, totalling 1,30,000 numbers and setting a new feat.

The flavour of the business visitor turnout was enhanced by high-level delegations from user industries, group visits by most manufacturing conglomerates and several Indian and international business delegations.

IMTEX and Tooltech 2007 enabled business visitors to witness the latest revolutions in the industry and to source their ideal manufacturing requirement from a wide range of possibilities. The fair also became a forum to forge strategic alliances and new partnerships.

The culmination was clearly revealing! Business contracts worth Rs. 6,000 million and enquiries worth Rs. 50,000 million set a new benchmark for IMTEX fairs.

## IMTEX 2004

The 12<sup>th</sup> IMTEX fair and the 6<sup>th</sup> Tooltech exhibition metamorphosed the industry with unprecedented and unparalleled outcome in all aspects of success. Scheduled after 15 years at the venue where it all began, IMTEX 2004 was like a homecoming for all exhibitors at the Godrej Industrial Garden Township in Mumbai.

Spread across a huge area of 46,000 square metres, IMTEX 2004 and Tooltech 2004 had on displays of 1,150 exhibitors from 27 countries. 559 exhibitors showcased their capabilities at IMTEX, while the rest 591 manifested their developments at Tooltech.

Indian participation comprised 620 exhibitors. Interesting facet of the Indian representation was the presence of over 95 per cent of the machine tool industry at the exhibition.

530 overseas exhibitors from 26 countries participated. Four group participations from Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, and Taiwan – the first ever in any IMTEX fair, clearly reflected the process of globalisation of the machine tool industry in India.

This IMTEX had its share of many firsts. Among them was a rare opportunity to regional machine tool players to demonstrate their potential with rest of the country and the world. Major highlight of displays included dramatic improvement in aesthetics and ergonomics of machines, using concepts of modern industrial design.

The seven-day exhibition recorded a huge turnout of 1,30,0000 business visitors, creating a new feat in the history of IMTEX fairs.

IMTEX 2004 and Tooltech 2004 had the international flavour too, with a large gathering of overseas visitors from Middle East, United States, Australia, South Africa, and the Far East.

IMTEX 2004 and Tooltech 2004 had business orders worth Rs. 5,000 million transacted across the stands, while generating potential business enquiries to the tune of Rs. 40,000 million. Undoubtedly, setting new records surpassing all previous achievements at any IMTEX fair.

## IMTEX 2001

Held amidst new challenges that embraced global manufacturing industry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, IMTEX 2001 and concurrent fair, Tooltech 2001 became a turning point for machine tool and cutting tool manufacturers in India and overseas. Eleventh in the series, the exhibition gave the machine tool industry a breather of the 'feel good' factor, while heralding in new opening for future business opportunities.

The eight-day Indian Machine Tool Exhibition, 865 exhibitors from 24 countries. Cost competitiveness was clearly the hallmark of the 1,000 machine tools and the large quantum of cutting tools and tooling systems on display, over a net space of 22,517 square meters in Pragati Maidan exhibition complex.

Core business visitors numbering 70,000 from all sectors of the Indian industry, interacted with exhibitors on the entire gamut of manufacturing solutions. Intensive parleys culminated in business generation to the tune of Rs. 2,000 million, while another Rs. 16,000 million of earnest enquiries for exhibitors.

Interesting feature of this IMTEX was about its being visited by a slew of dignitaries from policy framing institutions, to decision-making organisations, and the diplomatic corp. admiring the manifestations at the exhibition, Mr. Fernandes complemented the scientists, engineers, and technicians for putting the Indian machine tool industry into the competitive mode with the most advanced industrial countries of the world.

## IMTEX 98

It was an event that was unmatched; impressive in all aspects; and memorable in every respect. The tenth in the series of IMTEX fairs held so far supported revival of the sagging fortunes of Indian manufacturers.

IMTEX 98 and Tooltech 98 got off to a stupendous start on February 24 in New Delhi. A total of 1,195 companies, including 653 from India, took part at the show. Gross space of the exhibition

was 55,000 square meters and included five halls were earmarked exclusively for Tooltech exhibits first time in any IMTEX show. Overseas exhibitors from 25 countries comprised 35 per cent of the total participation. The largest space was, however, taken by India's premier manufacturing company, HMT Limited.

Over 120,000 business visitors to the show represented entire gamut of engineering and manufacturing industries.

Phenomenal interest evinced by these spectators, resulted in a practically complete sell-out of all machines displayed, and hectic interactions culminated in business contracts worth Rs. 1,450 million, and enquiries to the tune of Rs. 25,000 million.

IMTEX 98 and Tooltech 98 finally drew to a close on March 3, 1998. Prior to the conclusion, the prestigious FIE Foundation, CMTI-PMT Trust, and The Machinist awards were given away to best displays by over a dozen participating Indian companies.

## IMTEX 95

Organised for the second time in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan, IMTEX 95 was held during the most prosperous phase of Indian manufacturing industry. High growth in all sectors of Indian engineering industry was the hallmark of 1995, particularly during the exhibition period from January 15 to 22, 1995.

Spread over 45,000 square metres of gross space in ten halls, IMTEX 95 was a complete show of manufacturing technology and automation systems. Virtually the entire range of metal-working solutions, including 2,500 complete machines valued at Rs. 1,122 million and it was displayed by 819 companies, including 282 from 21 overseas countries. There was for the first time, three group participants from Spain, Israel, and Germany.

IMTEX 95 received an overwhelming response. About 120,000 business visitors these included individuals and group delegations from USA, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Europe, and many other overseas countries.

Eight days at IMTEX 95 resulted in business contracts worth Rs. 1,100 million, including Rs. 100 million by way of export orders. Business enquiries, for Indian and overseas market, that emerged from the outcome of IMTEX 95, amounted to Rs. 18,750 million – the most enthusiastic response ever in the history of nine IMTEX fairs.

## IMTEX 92

IMTEX series moved away from the commercial capital of India to its political capital – New Delhi in 1992. Held for the first time in Pragati Maidan exhibition complex, IMTEX 92 displayed the vibrancy of the Indian machine tool industry, which had just been freed from the shackles of controls and closed-door regimes.

Held from March 7 to 16, 1992, the Eight Indian Machine Tool Exhibition had participation of over 600 companies, including 140 from 16 overseas countries. The fair was organised in eight halls of Pragati Maidan, spread over 33,000 square metres of gross space. Indian participation comprised 300 manufacturers from SSI sector. Major attraction of this fair was the presence of 200 CNC machine tools, FMS, SPMs, machining centres, and several Robots.

Over 100,000 business visitors came to witness for themselves, strides made by the industry. Exhibitors at IMTEX 92, therefore, had reasons to be happy about. Rs. 220 million worth of business contracts were signed during the ten-day fair and other Rs. 100 million coming from export contracts. Business enquiries that were generated amounted to Rs. 5,000 million during the fair.

## IMTEX 89

Re-christened as Indian Machine Tool Exhibition, IMTEX 89 was memorable in more ways than one. Not only had IMTEX series completed 20 years of existence in 1989, it was for the ultimate time being held in the Godrej Industrial Complex and in Bombay.

Amidst this celebration was the absence of one very critical link in IMTEX series – that of the indomitable presence of its founding mentor, Late Mr. N. P. Godrej. He was the mastermind, and pillar behind the success of all the previous IMTEX shows.

IMTEX 89 was held from February 2 to 13. About 850 companies, including 254 from 22 overseas countries, took part at this show which was spread over a gross area of 50,000 square metres. IMTEX 89 displayed over 1,500 complete machines, and 28,000 allied products.

IMTEX 89, unique that it was, had the privilege of being inaugurated by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India and the 12-day show attracted 200,000 visitors. IMTEX 89 concluded with business contracts worth Rs. 500 million, and enquiries worth Rs. 1,500 million.

## IMTEX 86

Held from February 6 to 17, 1986, the Sixth All India Machine Tool Exhibition with international participation became the country's largest specialised show. Spread over 50,000 square metres of gross area in two large halls of Godrej Industrial Complex, IMTEX 86 displayed some of the finest range of machine tools, from all over the country.

650 companies, including 240 firms from 18 overseas countries. A little over 1,500 metal-cutting and metal-forming machine tools and allied equipment were put up for show at IMTEX 86. These included about 120 CNC machine tools: the new bug in the industry then. Also to be displayed at the exposition were 15,000 items relating to machine tool accessories, cutting tools, measuring equipment, etc. Display of the first indigenously-built industrial Robots was, however, the special attraction of this fair.

IMTEX 86 was visited by 185,000 spectators; these included over 800 international visitors from 22 countries. There was also the presence of seven international delegations to the fair.

IMTEX 86 generated business contracts worth Rs. 1,000 million and enquiries amounting to Rs. 3,000 million.

## IMTEX 82

Godrej Industrial Complex was the venue for the Fifth All India Machine Tool Exhibition, which was held from February 10 to 21, 1982. For the first time, IMTEX fair was held in two large halls covering 31,000 square metres of gross space.

About 500 machine tool companies from large, medium, and small sectors took part at IMTEX 82. For the first time, 125 overseas companies from USA, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Japan, and West Germany participated with their well known brands.

The 12-day exposition attracted 160,000 visitors. 700 of them were from overseas, including 22 delegations from 17 countries. Hectic interactions between visitors and exhibitors resulted in business contracts worth Rs. 250 million, and generated business enquiries to the tune of Rs. 2,000 million.

Several functions and technical workshops were held alongside IMTEX 82, including a seminar titled 'NC Machine Tool Technology' – a topic on the CNC segment that was relatively unknown in India. Functions, seminars became a part of IMTEX series from then on.

## IMTEX 79

The Fourth All India Machine Tool Exhibition was organised in 1979, at Godrej Industrial Complex, which by then had become synonymous with IMTEX fairs. Held from February 9 to 20, IMTEX 79 surpassed the feats achieved in the previous show.

285 companies took part at IMTEX 79, over a gross area of 25,000 square metres. 850 metal-cutting and metal-forming machine tools were displayed, accessories and other machine tool equipment numbered another 10,000.

The 12-day show attracted about 140,000 visitors, 500 overseas visitors.

IMTEX 79 notched up business contracts worth Rs. 300 million, and generated enquiries to the tune of Rs. 1,500 million. Exhibitors were also able to capture Rs. 100 million worth of export orders. Perfect Machine Tools Company Private Limited, an IMTMA Member, instituted a PMT Trust award at this IMTEX, which was given away to the first three best displays. PMT Trust award, along with FIE Foundation award became a regular feature in all successive IMTEX fairs.

## IMTEX 75

The Third All India Machine Tool Exhibition took place from November 21 to 30, 1975 at the same venue – Godrej Industrial Complex. IMTEX 75 fair, that year, proved to be a phenomenal success, and from then on came to be recognised as the largest product-based industrial show to be held in India.

225 Members of the Association took part in IMTEX 75, which was held over a gross space being 15,000 square metres. Participating companies displayed over 500 machines, and 5,000 accessories. A significant aspect at this fair was the display of over 100 newly-developed machine tool products by Indian manufacturers. These products were put up alongside 50 imported machine tools, permitted for exhibit by the Association.

IMTEX 75 attracted about 130,000 visitors. Almost 2,000 visitors from several overseas countries including dealers, collaborators, members of other international Associations, and officials from Embassies, came to witness developments by Indian manufacturers. Interaction with visitors, over ten days at IMTEX 75, culminated in generation of business enquiries worth Rs. 2,000 million, and export enquiries of over Rs. 20 million. For the first time, several displays won awards, that were conferred by FIE Foundation.

## IMTEX 72

Three years later the Association held the Second All India Machine Tool Exhibition, coinciding it with IMTMA's Silver Jubilee celebrations. The exhibition was held in the same venue from January 30 to February 8, 1972. Focus, this time, was on advancements made by Indian manufacturers in the field of design and diversification.

Organised over 7,000 square metres of gross space at the Godrej & Boyce plant, IMTEX 72 displayed over 350 equipments, and accessories, by 95 participating IMTMA Members. Imported machine tools were also displayed and demonstrated at this show.

Total number of persons visiting IMTEX 72 exceeded 120,000, and included several overseas importers and distributors of machine tools. Visitors came from Switzerland, Sweden, West Germany, France, Canada, and USA.

IMTEX 72 was instrumental in boosting sales and export prospects of Indian machine tool industry that year. The exhibition concluded with business contracts worth Rupees six million, and enquiries for 11,000 machine tools worth Rs. 250 million.

## IMTEX 69

Subsequent efforts, thus, led to the organising of the First "All India Machine Tool Exhibition" in 1969. Held from December 14 to 21, the show took place at the plant of Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Private Limited in Vikhroli, Bombay. Primary objective was to acquaint trade and user industries with latest developments by indigenous machine tool manufacturers.

23 Indian companies, all IMTMA Members, along with Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) took part at the exhibition.

IMTEX 69 became instantaneously popular, as over 50,000 spectators, and even delegates to the All India Machine Tool Design & Research Conference (AIMTDR), visited the eight-day show. To pay a visit to IMTEX 69 was a delegation of machine tool dealers from United States of America, Canada, and other countries. The delegation came to India only to witness new developments by Indian manufacturers.