

**Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.Banwarilal Purohit participated as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the eAgePrint 2019 organised by the Madras Printers' & Lithographers' Association**

Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu participated as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the eAge Print 2019 organised by the Madras Printers' & Lithographers' Association at Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, Chennai today (31.05.2019) and addressed the gathering.

Hon'ble Governor said, "It gives me great happiness to be here today at the third edition of eAge Print 2019 being organised by the Madras Printers' and Lithographers' Association (MPLA).

I am informed that the event will witness an exhibition of Printing equipment and machinery associated with the Packaging and allied industries, a technical seminar titled the Coramandal Printers' Conclave and a meeting of the Governing Council of the All India Federation of Master Printers. That all these are being held under the auspices of the Madras Printers' and Lithographers' Association is a tribute to their long standing contribution to the printing industry. The MPLA as it is called in short has been the flag-bearer of the Indian printing industry since 1952 when it was formed as the first association in India to bring all printers under one umbrella. During the last 66 years the association has successfully guided its members enabling them to meet the challenges of changing technology, global competition and resource mobilisation for rapid growth. It has also been influencing policy by advising the Government on issues connected with the printing industry. For performing this, it has had at its helm a group of dedicated men who guided its destiny with maturity and confidence. The healthy growth of the association is a testimony to the sincerity, transparency and devotion of the founders and their successors who have built it up over the years.

As I can see, the prospects for the printing industry are very bright. The industry, as a whole, is estimated to grow at a rate faster than the annual GDP growth rate of 7 per cent. The figures speak for themselves.

In 2017, the value of the Indian print industry's worth was estimated to be around Rs 660 billion. The figures grew to Rs 734 billion last year and are projected to reach Rs 862 billion by the beginning of the next year.

Opportunities for print packaging and print publishing are growing considering the rising literacy rates, a youthful population and an expanding economy that India is witnessing today.

In fact the print packaging industry is growing at an annual rate of 17 per cent and commercial printing at an annual rate of 10-12 per cent.

As you are all aware, India is the sixth-largest book market in the world, and currently the second largest for books in English, behind the United States. It should therefore come as no surprise to anyone that the book publishing industry in India is booming with an annual growth rate of around 30 per cent.

India has also moved up from the tenth position to the fifth position in international rankings on the basis of print volume. All this augurs very well for the future.

Technological advancements are also opening up whole new frontiers.

The number of surfaces one can print on, ranging from plastic to metal to glass, is increasing.

The industry is also transforming itself from one that relied on heavy machinery to a more software-centric business. Now, Indian printers are equipped with the latest computer-controlled printing machines and flow lines for binding, with state-of-the-art digital technologies being used in pre-press activities.

UV digital printing and inkjet technology are also on the rise in India. The digital printing sector has been witnessing significant transformations with new technologies and applications providing cost-effective and customised solutions. It is encouraging to see that this sector has been growing annually at a rate of nearly 30 per cent in recent years.

I, for one, am fascinated by the potential of 3D printing in fuelling the growth of the industry.

3D printing or additive manufacturing has caught the attention of everybody – from school going children to researchers all over the world. Through a process of making three dimensional solid objects from a digital file by laying successive layers of material until the object is created, 3D printing enables the production of even complex shapes using less material than traditional manufacturing methods.

This form of printing is being used largely in medical, architecture, automotive, industrial, aerospace and military applications at present. It is expected to be increasingly adopted in other areas of printing considering the technological support that is coming its way.

3D printing has been catapulted to higher levels of adoption in recent years with many companies producing affordable desktop 3D Printers across the world. The research in the area of polymers, powder metals and processing techniques such as Fusion Deposition machining, Laser Sintering, UV Curing etc. have made this revolution possible.

The Asia-Pacific region is the fastest growing 3D bio-printing hub in the global market, largely due to the presence of a large client population and fast growing economies. India which has never been lagging behind in adopting advancements in printing technology is well on its way towards making the maximum use of 3D printing and institutions such as MPLA should take the lead in this effort.

With all this it is not difficult to imagine that in the coming years, innovative printing techniques, especially employed along with packaging and product design, will not merely be used for imprinting information, but will enable the creation of tactile experiences that will enhance usability for the end consumer.

The Indian Printing Industry has more than 2,50,000 big, small and medium printers.

And more and more entrepreneurs are joining the industry. With a fast growing consumer base and a rapidly expanding economy, the print industry is poised for a quantum leap forward. The Madras Printers' and Lithographers' Association which has been a pioneering body representing the industry with sincerity for several decades should continue to guide the industry with imaginative ideas, tactful leadership and cohesive management. I am sure that they will be ably assisted by the All India Federation of Master Printers on this journey into the future.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the Madras Printer's and Lithographers' Association and may success crown them in all their endeavors".

On this occasion, Thiru. P. Chander, Chairman, eAge Print 2019, Thiru. G.N. Visvakumar, President, Madras Printers' and Lithographers' Association, Thiru. Ravindra Joshi, President, All India Federation of Master Printers, Thiru. R.

Anbalagan, Secretary, Madras Printers' and Lithographers' Association and other dignitaries participated.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai -22

Sd/-

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Joint Director (PR)