

Dear Engineers,

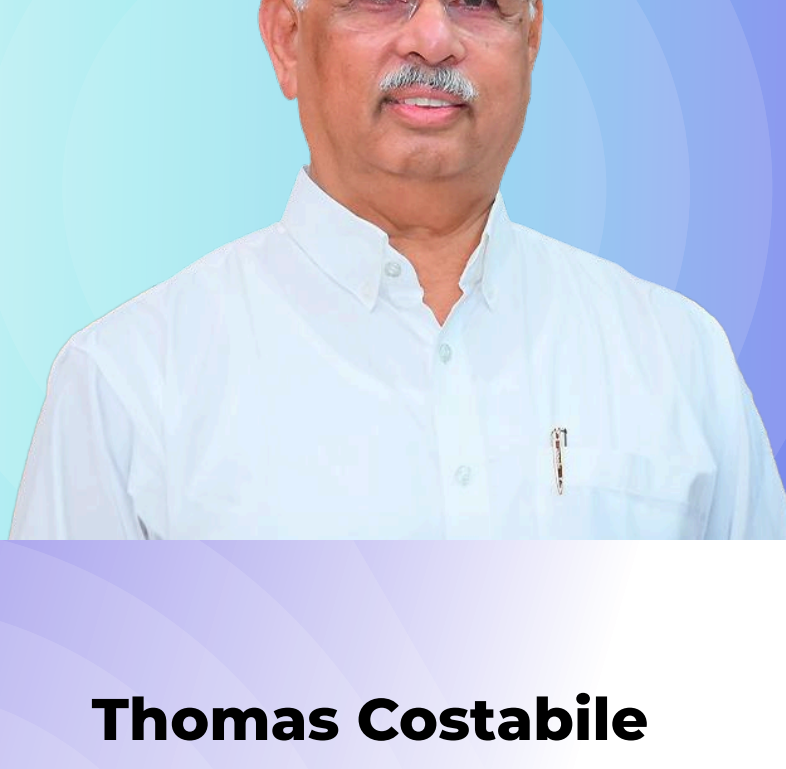
The second edition of ASME's International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition (IMECE) India brought **over 3,000 delegates to Chennai** for three days of keynotes, plenaries and technical sessions across energy, mobility, manufacturing and digitalization.

Sustainability should be our goal.

Thiru Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Hon'ble Governor
of Tamil Nadu & Keralam

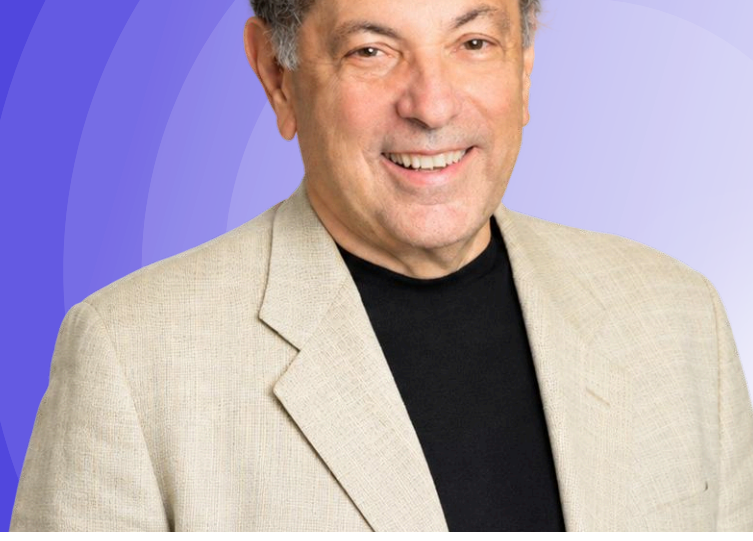
Delivering the inaugural address, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and Keralam, Thiru. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, said India is **working towards Atmanirbharta**, where engineering innovations **provide solutions to real-world problems** and benefit humankind.



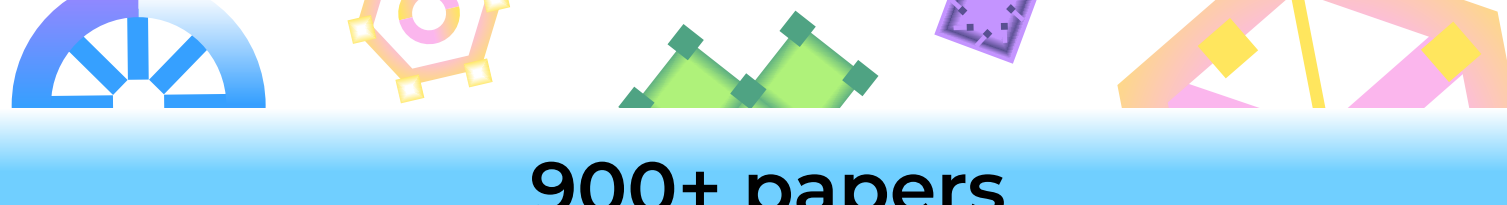
Thomas Costabile

Executive Director & CEO,
ASME

said the second edition of IMECE India is built on the momentum of the debut Congress in Hyderabad, adding that when **academia, industry and government work together**, the results are extraordinary.



IMECE 2026



900+ papers

600+ speakers

12 technical tracks

4 MSME plenaries

Keynote 1

Dr. Vivek Lall:

Fundamentals in the AI Era



Dr. Vivek Lall

CEO, General Atomics Global Corporation

Dr. Vivek Lall, CEO, General Atomics Global Corporation, highlighted the role of engineering in transforming ideas into complex systems that operate in the real world. **As boundaries between disciplines disappear, he said, engineering education and practice must adapt by becoming multidisciplinary.**

AI will let engineers understand increasingly complex systems, experiment with multiple design options, and detect maintenance problems before they occur. But **engineers of the future need strong foundational knowledge, because human judgement cannot be outsourced.** To fulfil the ambitions of Indian manufacturing, Dr. Lall argued, industry must channel real-world problems into research laboratories and laboratory breakthroughs must find their way back into industry as products.

As India opens civil nuclear energy to private participation, the plenary examined how MSMEs can integrate into an evolving supply chain, and what stands in their way.



Plenary snapshot

Building India's Nuclear Supply Chain for a 100-GW Future



Cameron Martin

Executive, Global Product
Management & Growth,
Westinghouse Electric Company

"In the nuclear energy sector, safety is not balanced against cost, schedule or output. Safety considerations set the boundary within which every other decision is made."

Entry barriers in the sector are notoriously high, said **Dr. Alok Misra, Country Director, Westinghouse India**. To be considered by OEMs, MSMEs must demonstrate robust safety and quality systems, including certifications and credible traceability of vendor-supplied components. Proof of compliance is a prerequisite, said **Mr. Joy Manjaly, Vice President, Nuclear Energy Business, Reliance Industries**. **Mr. Hans Raj Verma, IAS (Retd.), Director General, COSIDICI**, pointed to two accessible sections of the plant: the turbine island and balance-of-plant systems, including piping, valves, structural materials and control instrument panels. Access to finance remains a major bottleneck. **Ms. Gayatri Karnik, Nuclear Finance Specialist, Anthropocene Institute**, recommended green bond certifications, blended public-private finance where public capital absorbs first losses, and bulk order aggregation to reduce vendor unit costs. Digital technologies are an equaliser, said **Mr. Soumendra Banerjee, Director, New Energy Initiatives, Honeywell Technologies**, noting that digital trails speed up audits and deliver consistent quality. Representatives of L&T, Aruna Alloy and Ratnamani Metals and Tubes shared how they achieved vendor readiness and stayed qualified.

Key Takeaways

- Safety culture, including safe spaces to flag flaws and near-misses, precedes commercial considerations
- Certification and component traceability are the entry ticket, not a differentiator
- Digital tools shorten design cycles and make compliance auditable
- OEM mentorship is essential for MSMEs meeting nuclear-grade requirements



Plenary Snapshot

Engineering the Blue Economy

India is working to harness the potential of its 11,000 km coastline and an exclusive economic zone of over 2.37 million square kilometres, spanning fisheries, oil and gas, minerals and metals, and wind and wave energy.

Dr. Balaji Ramakrishnan

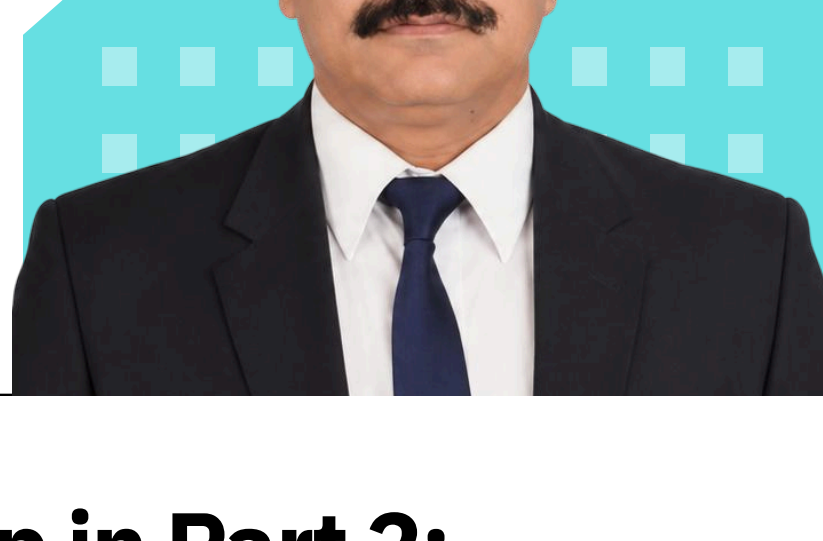
Director, National Institute of
Ocean Technology,

said the Deep Ocean Mission, launched in 2021, operates across six research and technology verticals, from deep-sea mining and submersible technology to ocean climate advisory services and energy and fresh water from the ocean. NIOT has been developing indigenous marine engineering systems, including submersible vehicles, remotely operated vehicles, autonomous underwater vehicles, and platforms for harnessing wind and wave energy.

Mr. Rajiv Ranjan

Executive Director, Engineers
India Limited,

said India's strategic roadmap for offshore energy pursues twin goals: becoming a developed nation by 2047 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2070. Cross-sector collaboration, he noted, is what turns scientific discoveries in the laboratory into practical, scalable technologies.



Coming up in Part 2:

Mr. Ajit Prabhu, CEO, Quest Global, on engineering a company built to last a century, the aerospace sector's shift from Build-to-Print to Build-to-Spec, and why digitalisation has stopped being a question of scale.

Stay Connected!

<https://imece.asme-india.org/2026>

[instagram.com/asmelndia/](https://www.instagram.com/asmelndia/)

[linkedin.com/company/asmelndia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/asmelndia/)

