



About half a century ago a young lad from Chennai barely 22 years old , fresh from Engineering College landed up one midnight at Singapuram road railway station set to join as Executive Trainee at JK paper, which kickstarted my career in this paper industry . I was scared and aghast, thinking where the hell I have landed, little realising that it is going to be the beginning of a strong foundation to my illustrious career in this industry. Absolutely no regrets. After spending about a decade, an opportunity knocked at my door for a marketing-oriented profession with L&T which I grabbed with both hands. It was a great exposure, which was then followed up by an overseas assignment of putting up the first ever paper mill in the Middle East. Yes, it is Union Paper mills, Dubai where we completed a project of 100 TPD kraft machine in record time. After it's successful completion, I was back in India and joined Tribeni Tissues Ltd at Kolkata as project manager.

We put up a new pulp mill, power plant and modernised two paper machines for speciality grades. With an urge to move to South India and a flair for marketing, I joined Servall engineering as head of marketing and later on to become the chief of Arjun technologies , Chennai, the city where I wanted to settle down finally. I am presently

associated with Parason machinery as Director (Business Development) based out of Chennai.

Interestingly, but for the first application I made to JK in response to an advertisement, I have never made an official CV and all the changes that came in my way were all through contacts and only contacts! I am proud to say that I get calls even now and then, which makes me think that I am just 23 years old with 50 years of experience 😊😊. Of course, there were quite a few challenges and roller coaster rides in my career but all that have only added strength and boosted my confidence.

My association with IPPTA started at JK Paper and I take immense pleasure in sharing my first experience. Mr. PK Nanda our works manager always encouraged us to join IPPTA and if my memory serves me right, Mr. M M Menon was then the general secretary.

It was in early or mid-seventies when I was working as a Mechanical engineer in Pulp Mill at JK paper, Rayagada, that a zonal seminar on "Maintenance in paper mills " was arranged at IPT Saharanpur. Mr. S C Jain the then VP of JK Paper Mills asked me to present a paper under the guidance of S V Mittal who was the Chief Mechanical engineer. I was certainly nervous, but Mr. Jain and Mr.

Mittal pumped in a lot of courage in me and I decided to take it as a challenge. The paper was prepared based on the short experience that I gained at JK. After getting the approval from the management I had to get 300 copies of the text cyclostyled and carry it in a train from Rayagada to Raipur and then to Delhi and finally to Saharanpur ; I could hardly sleep in the train , developing illusions about the proceedings of the seminar and at the same time keeping an eye on the packet lest I should lose it ! Theft was quite common those days especially in the night passenger train from Rayagada to Raipur. It was the first IPPTA of my career in paper Industry and that too I had to present a paper! Looking back I really wonder from where I got the confidence to present the paper in front of an elite gathering of stalwarts like Dr, Bhargava, M M Menon, KSR Moorthy, A Panduranga and so on. Anyway it all ended up pretty well and there were quite a few questions where Mr

Mittal chipped in whenever required to assist me !! On my return to my office, I shared my experience and thanked Mr, Jain for sponsoring me to attend this seminar and make a presentation. Well, it was certainly a morale boosting experience and something that I would ever cherish.

Well, since then, IPPTA has always been an integral part of my career over almost five decades now. and I have been enjoying every aspect of it. It is certainly a platform where one gets an opportunity to showcase one's talent and build up an image in the great industry. Over the years ILPTA has grown to become an international entity thanks to the untiring efforts put up by the office bearers. Needless to mention that I shall continue to be an active member of IPPTA and keep contributing in whatever small way possible.



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