



EW

ELEVATOR WORLD

INDIA

Issue 4, Volume 19

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SHARED VISION FRUCTIFIED

Dr. Tonino Lamborghini, founder, Tonino Lamborghini SpA shares insights about their collaboration with Hybon Elevators and its significance for the elevator industry in India.

ELEVATING ICONIC LANDMARKS

Sebi Joseph, president, Otis India, explains the opportunities that unique projects present to push boundaries, raise VT industry standards and demonstrate expertise depth.

MULTIPLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

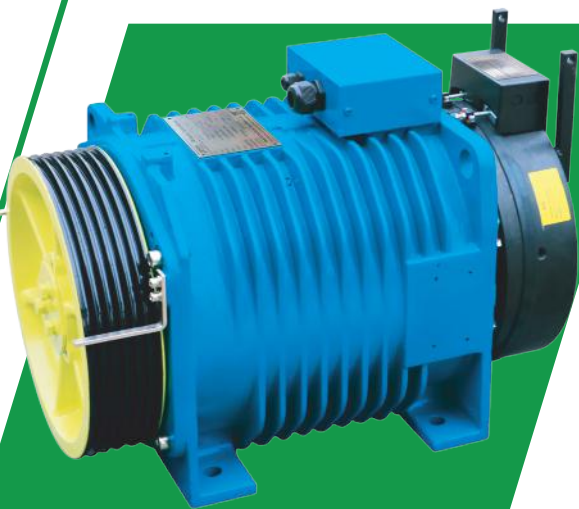
Schmersal Group opens a new facility in Pune with Product Experience Center, launches an innovative product portfolio and marks 13 years of manufacturing operations in India.

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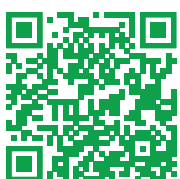


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Editor's Overview



Looking Beyond the Obvious at Untapped Potential

by Vijay Pandya

Everything about elevators and escalators has changed or transformed over the years. From perception to planning, implementation to usage, every

aspect has undergone a metamorphosis. This visible shift is reflected in the focus topic of this ELEVATOR WORLD India magazine issue, “VT Technology Advances & Spectrum Expansion,” and in the content by our panel of expert writers.

Vertical transportation (VT) is no longer defined by a narrow set of solutions. What was once a largely standardized offering is now expanding into a broad and dynamic spectrum that is driven by rapid technological advances and the evolving demands of modern buildings. Today, the conversation is no longer limited to speed, stops and specifications. It spans smart systems, connected intelligence, energy performance and a rapidly widening range of applications. VT, in short, has become far more interesting and far more consequential.

Technology has become the clear catalyst of this transformation. Predictive maintenance, intelligent dispatching, regenerative drives and touchless interfaces are quietly transforming how elevators and escalators operate behind the scenes. These advances are not about adding complexity; they are about removing friction. This shift is not about novelty; rather, it is about reliability, efficiency and systems that can adapt as buildings and usage patterns evolve.

Alongside these advances, the spectrum of VT applications is widening rapidly. High-rise towers may still dominate the skyline, but they no longer define the entire market. Low-rise residences, infrastructure projects, specialized accessibility solutions and space-constrained developments are all shaping demand. The result is a portfolio of VT solutions that must be as flexible as the environments they serve – i.e., tailored, contextual and purpose-driven.

With opportunity comes responsibility. As technology choices multiply, so do expectations around integration, cybersecurity, life-cycle performance and service readiness. Stakeholders must move beyond feature-driven decisions to focus on fit-for-purpose systems that deliver long-term value. The emphasis must remain on thoughtful adoption where technology enhances mobility without complicating it.

This issue explores how technology advances and spectrum expansion are redefining VT – not through spectacle, but through smarter choices and sharper intent. Because as vertical mobility becomes more intelligent and more diverse, the real differentiator will not be who adopts the most technology, but who applies it with purpose. In an industry built on movement, progress will belong to those who know exactly when to innovate and when to keep it elegantly simple.



Calendar

2026-2027

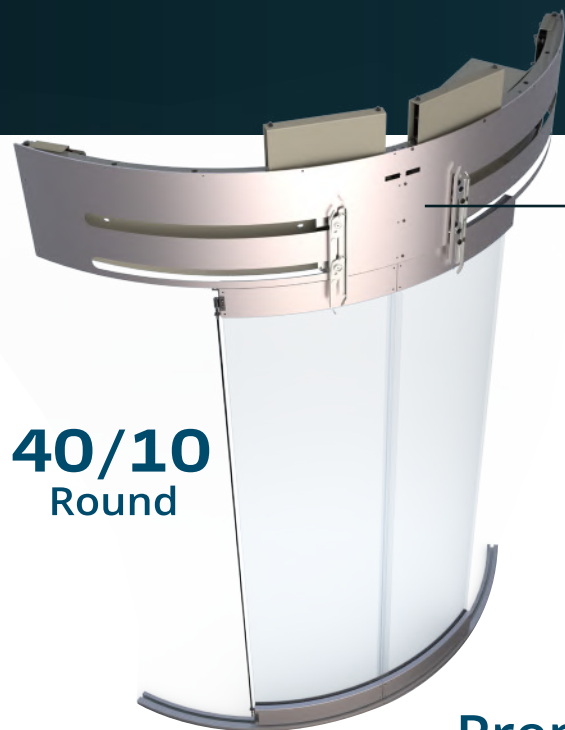
2026

AUG 20	EESFC Annual Fundraiser Toronto, Canada eesfc.org	
SEP 16-17	17th Lift & Elevator Technologies Symposium Kettering, U.K. liftsymposium.org	
16-17	Smart City Expo Poland Warsaw, Poland smartcityexpo.pl	
24-25	Wisconsin Elevator Symposium Lake Geneva, Wisconsin naesai.org	
SEP-OCT 28-1	NAEC 77th Fall Convention & Exposition Chicago, Illinois naec.org	
OCT 20-21	MIPIM Middle East Riyadh, Saudi Arabia mipim.com	
20-22	LiftExpo Poland Warsaw, Poland liftexpo.pl/en	
22-23	SIEME 2026 Seville, Spain simposioelevacion.com	
28-29	Chicago Build Chicago, Illinois chicagobuildexpo.com	
28-30	LiftExpo Italia Milan, Italy liftexpoitaliacom/en/	
NOV 10	Nordic Lift Expo Stockholm, Sweden nordiskahissmassan.com	
11-13	International Lift Expo Korea Goyang-si, Korea liftexpokorea.com	

2027

DEC 3-5	ISEE The E&E Show Delhi, India isee-expo.com	
10-11	International Elevator & Escalator Symposium Amsterdam, The Netherlands elevatorsymposium.org	
FEB 8-12	EESF AGM and Golf Outing Tampa, Florida eesf.org	
MAR 2-3	Heilbronn Elevator Days Heilbronn, Germany tae.de	
2-3	New York Build New York, New York newyorkbuildexpo.com	
23-25	The Elevator Show Dubai, U.A.E. elevatorshowdubai.com	
APR 11-14	NAEC Spring Education Conference Tampa, Florida naec.org	
15-16	ISO/TC 178 Plenary Meeting Helsinki, Finland iso.org	
15-16	VFA-Interlift General Assembly Düsseldorf, Germany vfa-interlift.de	
27-28	IUEC Global Safety Summit Las Vegas, Nevada iuec.org	
MAY 6-9	Asansör İstanbul İstanbul, Türkiye asansoristanbul.com	
SEP 12-15	NAEC 78th Fall Convention & Exposition St. Louis, Missouri naec.org	
OCT 12-15	interlift 2027 Nuremberg, Germany interlift.de	

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Tectronics: Strengthening Its Domestic Leadership With a Global Vision

After establishing a strong and trusted presence across India, Tectronics Techworld Pvt. Ltd. is preparing for the next chapter of its growth journey — building a globally recognized elevator technology brand driven by Indian engineering excellence.

Since its establishment in 2014, Tectronics has focused on designing and manufacturing reliable, energy-efficient and technologically advanced gearless elevator machines. The company's growing portfolio, ranging from 300 kg to 3,000 kg capacity, serves diverse residential, commercial, industrial and high-performance elevator applications. Its expanding range of elevator safety solutions, including overpeed governors and safety blocks, further reflects its commitment to providing complete and dependable solutions to the elevator industry.

To support its long-term global vision, Tectronics is strengthening its production capabilities, R&D, digital monitoring systems, precision engineering processes, quality standards and product-testing infrastructure.

Its upcoming world-class facilities will enable the company to accelerate innovation, enhance production efficiency, increase capacity and conduct comprehensive real-world validation of gearless elevator machines and other elevator materials.

These advanced capabilities will help Tectronics deliver products that meet the evolving technical, safety, quality and performance requirements of both domestic and international markets. The company is also developing a stronger global network through strategic partnerships, reliable service support and customer-focused engineering.

With continuous innovation, stringent quality control, a five-year standard warranty and a commitment to customer satisfaction, Tectronics aims to represent the strength and potential of Indian manufacturing worldwide. Guided by its vision to become a global leader in the elevator industry, Tectronics is moving forward with confidence, taking reliable, innovative and sustainable "Made in India" elevator technology to customers across the world.

Schindler India Launches the EcoLite Green Contract

In a LinkedIn post in June, Tarunesh Mathur, president and CEO, Schindler India, said, "Proud to share that Schindler India has launched the EcoLite Green Contract, India's first TÜV SÜD-certified elevator maintenance contract designed to reduce carbon emissions up to 35%. Sustainability in our industry can't just be a brochure claim. It has to be engineered into how we serve our customers. That's what EcoLite does. Our Digital Connectivity enables real-time adaptive maintenance catching issues before they become problems, making every maintenance touchpoint count. Less waste. More precision. Lower carbon. This is the direction I believe our industry must move in, and I'm glad Schindler is leading that shift." In

another post, Schindler India, shared, "Our remote Digital Connectivity dashboard sends real-time error reports directly to the Schindler team, enabling adaptive and preventive maintenance. By identifying potential issues before they escalate and facilitating faster response times, it makes the maintenance cycle significantly more efficient, reliable and sustainable."

L.T. Elevator Appoints Company Secretary, Secretarial Auditor

L.T. Elevator Ltd. has appointed Parthiv Rameshbhai Pansuriya as its company secretary and compliance officer, and the Board of Directors appointed M/s. Himanshu SK Gupta & Associates as the secretarial auditor for the financial year 2025-26, Scanx reported in June. Pansuriya is a qualified company secretary and an associate member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. He possesses qualifications in commerce and has professional experience handling secretarial and compliance functions for listed and unlisted companies, including corporate laws, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulations, Reserve Bank of India and Foreign Exchange Management Act regulations, listing compliance and corporate governance. M/s. Himanshu SK Gupta & Associates, a peer-reviewed firm of Practicing Company Secretaries, offers comprehensive corporate advisory and compliance solutions, specializing in secretarial audits, corporate law advisory and SEBI and Listing regulations compliance.

MMRC Announces New Lifts and Escalators for Aqua Line

Mumbai Metro Rail Corp. (MMRC) announced new lifts and escalators at seven locations across Mumbai Metro Line 3, also known as the Aqua Line, Mumbai Live reported in June. Hutatama Chowk now has lifts at three gates, Grant Road, a lift at one gate; Dharavi, both a lift and an escalator at one gate; Acharya Atre Chowk, a lift at one gate and an escalator at another; Science Center, a lift at one gate; Mumbai International Airport, an escalator at one gate; and Sahar Road, lifts at two gates. Rollout of the new vertical-transportation equipment along the growing 33.5-km rail line was announced in conjunction with enhanced telecommunication services, reflecting "going efforts to strengthen commuters' experience on the rapidly expanding Aqua Line network," the source observed.

Johnson Lifts Facilitates Transformation of Amrapali-NBCC Developments

A LinkedIn post titled "Elevating Trust. Delivering at Scale," conveyed, "From iconic residential towers to large-scale redevelopment projects, Johnson Lifts is proud to be part of the transformation of the Amrapali-NBCC (India) Ltd. developments in Noida and Greater Noida. With 450-plus lifts installed across multiple high-rise communities, we're ensuring reliable, safe and seamless vertical mobility for thousands of families — one ride at a time. Built for performance. Trusted for reliability."



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SCAN ME

Nidec Stall at Automation Expo 2026 Attracts Noteworthy Visitors

Nidec's participation at Automation Expo 2026 on July 22-25, 2026, witnessed distinguished guests and noteworthy visitors at its stall, C01/C02, in Hall 3 of Bombay Exhibition Centre,



Mumbai. Bijal Shah Parekh, Director of IDEX Corporation, inaugurated the Nidec stall as its Chief Guest, making the occasion truly special with her presence and marking a wonderful beginning to the exhibition. Among the visitors was Shrikant Patil, CEO of Maharashtra State Innovation Society, who explored the company's latest automation and drive technologies. Team Nidec extended a heartfelt thank you to its customers, partners and industry professionals who visited the stall. "Your enthusiasm and engaging conversations inspire us



to continue driving innovation and delivering smarter industrial automation solutions," the company shared in a LinkedIn post.



India's Ricardo Elevators' Global Expansion Plan Announced

India's Ricardo Elevators has announced an ambitious expansion strategy aimed at significantly strengthening its presence across India and international markets, Machine Maker reported in June. The company is targeting 40 customer touchpoints by the end of 2026. The planned 40-touchpoint network will include company-operated flagship experience centers, regional showrooms, dealer-led outlets and international country partnerships. This expansion drive includes the inauguration of new experience centers in Lucknow and Jammu. The company currently operates 21 experience centers across India and plans to add three more locations within the next two months. In addition, Ricardo Elevators (Aus & NZ) Pty Ltd. has received a Plant Design Registration Certificate from SafeWork New South Wales, clearing a key regulatory requirement for the sale, installation and commissioning of elevators in Australia. Following the approval, the company has already secured three confirmed customer orders in the market. The company has also commenced exports to Malaysia and is executing confirmed orders. Ricardo's powder-coated Malaysian shaft technology has emerged as a differentiating feature in the market. Building on its progress, Ricardo Elevators is actively pursuing partnerships and distributor agreements across several international markets.

TK Elevator India and MAS Industries Discuss VT Industry Dynamics

As per a LinkedIn post, senior executives from TK Elevator India and MAS Industries recently convened at the MAS Industries headquarters for a high-level discussion focused on the evolving dynamics of the elevator industry, emerging market challenges and future growth opportunities within India and the broader global market. The meeting brought together Rakesh Sharma, vice president (VP) – Purchase, TK Elevator India; Phoenix Wei, VP – AP Purchasing, TK Elevator; and Mudassar Mukadam, CEO – MAS Industries. The discussions centered on key industry developments and the rising expectations associated with serving one of the world's largest and fastest-growing elevator markets.

Montanari Lifts Components Leadership Visits Reliable Lifts India

A LinkedIn post conveyed that Reliable Lifts India Pvt. Ltd. welcomed senior leadership from Montanari Lifts Components Pvt. Ltd. at its Pune office, reinforcing global collaboration and shared growth in the elevator industry. The visit featured Marcello Bellei, Group Sales director, and Alessandro Montanari, Technical Sales manager, highlighting continued partnership efforts focused on innovation, technology exchange and industry advancement. The interaction reflects the growing synergy between Reliable Lifts and Montanari Lifts Components in driving next-generation elevator solutions.

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Otis To Install India's Fastest Elevator

Otis India has received an order from real estate company Prestige Estates to install two elevators that can travel at 10 m/s at the under-construction The Prestige at Mahalaxmi, Mumbai, India, which will be the country's tallest commercial building when complete, The Hindu was among outlets to report in May. Once installed, these will be the fastest elevators in India. At 70 floors, The Prestige is set to be the country's only commercial development with an observation deck. The elevator is expected to feature a unique 360-degree immersive video experience for passengers. The building will also have India's first Otis-made double-deck elevators featuring two cabins operating within a single shaft. Otis will supply and install five self-climbing Otis SkyBuild™ elevators designed to safely and efficiently move construction workers and materials during the construction phase before transitioning into permanent SkyRise™ high-rise elevators. The company's Compass® 360 destination-management system provides easy travel for passengers, and Otis' ReGen drives will capture energy usually wasted as heat and return it to the building for use as power. Otis India President Sebi Joseph said:

"This project marks the first installation in India of several advanced Otis technologies. We are very happy and proud to be associated with this prestigious project which is blend of luxury, efficiency and the latest technology."

Omega Elevators Installs Premium Elevator Solutions at Courtyard by Marriott, Colva, Goa

In a LinkedIn post, Omega Elevators, shared, "Every successful hospitality project is built on hundreds of details working seamlessly together. We're proud to have contributed to that experience at Courtyard by Marriott, Colva, Goa, with the installation of premium elevator solutions featuring SS Hairline Finish Cabins and Doors. Designed to complement modern architecture while ensuring smooth and reliable vertical mobility, these elevators help create the effortless guest experience that hospitality spaces demand. A sincere thank you to everyone involved in bringing this project to life."

Utopias MD Addresses IEI Flagship Seminar 2026

In a LinkedIn post, Utopias, shared, "We are proud to share that our Managing Director, Mr. Uday Kulkarni, was invited as a distinguished speaker at the IEI Flagship Seminar 2026, organized by The Institution of Engineers (India), Navi Mumbai Local Centre under the aegis of the Architectural Engineering Division Board. Mr. Kulkarni had the opportunity to present and engage with industry professionals, engineers and academicians, sharing valuable insights and contributing to meaningful session on 'Planning Effective Vertical Mobility in High Rise Architecture.'"

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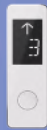
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Alimak Group Acquires Australia's Fuji Lifts

Sweden-headquartered Alimak Group announced in May it signed an agreement to acquire Fuji Lifts, a Melbourne, Australia-based traction elevator company specializing in new installation and modernization. The deal had been expected to close on June 1. With a team of six and a contracted project portfolio worth approximately SEK13 million (US\$1.37 million), Fuji Lifts becomes part of Alimak's Industrial division, strengthening capabilities in the traction elevator segment. Jens Holmberg, executive vice president of Alimak's Industrial division, welcomed the Fuji team and said Alimak looks forward to growing the business together. Fuji General Manager Ascanio Tartaglia said:

"This is an incredible milestone for Fuji Lifts. Joining forces with Alimak Group allows us to take our expertise in traction elevators and modernization to the next level. We are proud of what our Melbourne team has achieved so far, and we are eager to leverage Alimak's global industrial strength to better serve our clients."

Fermator To Boost Growth in Algeria With Strategic Alliance

Fermator recently announced a strategic alliance with LD Azouaou in Algeria, North Africa, in which Spain-headquartered Fermator will contribute its global experience, industrial capacity and specialization in automatic elevator doors toward a new government housing plan. LD Azouaou brings deep local market knowledge and an established commercial network in Algeria. The plan envisions construction of a significant number of new homes and an estimated demand for up to 75,000 elevators between 2027 and 2037. "In this context of strong growth in the residential market, the alliance allows both companies to join forces to respond to opportunities arising in the country," Fermator observed. With the agreement, Fermator continues to advance its international expansion strategy in high-potential markets, helping consolidate its role as an elevator industry leader.

Hyundai Elevator Unit Obtains ISO 45001 Certification

Hyundai Elevator Installation, a unit of South Korea-headquartered Hyundai Elevator, announced in June it received International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 45001 certification, the international standard for occupational health and safety (H&S) management, Seoul Economic Daily was among outlets to report. To achieve the certification, Hyundai Elevator Installation aligned its H&S practices across all sites with international standards. The company strengthened safety requirements for potentially hazardous tasks such as working at heights and handling heavy objects. It also established a voluntary accident-prevention system to identify and address potential workplace hazards. Hyundai Elevator Installation plans to continue its H&S improvement efforts as legal requirements rise under laws such as the Serious Accidents Punishment Act.

KONE and AIO Agree To Develop Sustainable Infrastructure in Egypt

KONE and Arab International Optronics (AIO), a prominent Egyptian company operating nine factories in Cairo that produce precision optical, electro-optical and electronic systems, in July signed an agreement to develop sustainable urban infrastructure in Egypt, outlets including Daily News Egypt reported. The agreement combines the Finnish OEM's people-flow expertise with AIO's industrial and technological capabilities to support future-ready, sustainable and innovative mobility solutions through advanced infrastructure nationwide. Attended by Egypt Minister of Industry Khaled Hashem and Finland's Ambassador to Egypt Riikka Eela, the signing of the letter of intent (LOI) reflects KONE's confidence in Egypt as a strategic hub for growth, innovation and industrial development in line with the government's Vision 2030 initiative. KONE Egypt Managing Director Ahmed Fathi said:

"This LOI represents an important step in strengthening collaboration between global expertise and Egyptian industrial capabilities to create long-term value for the local market. Through working closely with AIO, we aim to remain close to customer needs and support the development of reliable and future-focused mobility solutions."



KONE and AIO officials sign the LOI; image via Daily News Egypt.

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KONE Shareholders Approve US\$34-Billion TKE Acquisition

At an extraordinary general meeting on June 3 at company headquarters in Helsinki, Finland, KONE shareholders approved the company's planned US\$34-billion acquisition of German rival TK Elevator (TKE), a deal that would "propel KONE past U.S. rival Otis, create a European champion and strengthen its presence in the Americas," Reuters was among outlets to report. Antitrust scrutiny means closing the deal with TKE owners Advent, Cinven and others could take up to 18 months, and divestments in certain geographical areas are likely, KONE Chief Financial Officer Ilkka Hara told the source. The acquisition is "the largest sell-side private equity deal in Europe since records began in 1980," according to the London Stock Exchange, Reuters observed. It required a two-thirds majority approval that had essentially been secured in advance, with 74% of shareholders pre-committing to backing it. When KONE announced the acquisition in April, it said it would pay US\$5.8 billion (EUR5 billion) in cash, issue 270 million new class B shares and take on TKE "net interest-bearing" US\$10.4 billion (EUR9 billion) in debt. The issuance of shares would mean Advent and Cinven having an equity stake of roughly one third, 18% voting power and two seats on the KONE board.

Lift Material Australia Transitions to A&A Brand

Lift Material Australia, a major supplier of elevator and escalator parts in the Asia-Pacific region, announced it will transition to the A&A brand effective June 1, "marking an exciting step in our continued growth and alignment with our broader global business." The decision came after 18 months of reviewing business processes and listening to customers and colleagues across the company's international operations. "As a result, we are bringing our distribution businesses together under one, global A&A brand," the company stated. Existing agreements, trading arrangements and contacts remain the same, with all websites moving to aa-global.com and email addresses to the @aa-global domain. Transitioning to the A&A brand presents a clearer global offering, delivers a more consistent customer experience and strengthen collaboration across the company's international businesses, A&A stated.

MTR in Hong Kong Teams Up With Actor on Escalator Safety Campaign

Mass Transit Railway (MTR) in Hong Kong has teamed up with Hong Kong-based ad agency The Bread Digital and well-known actor Kent Cheng on a public escalator safety campaign, MARKETING-INTERACTIVE reported in July. The move was prompted by data showing that elderly passengers account for nearly half of all escalator accidents. The "JUST stand firm" campaign features Cheng — whose name in Chinese phonetically resembles the English word "just" — as spokesperson. Known throughout Asia by both older and younger generations, Cheng gained fame recently from completing a marathon earlier this year. The campaign centers

on a video of Cheng leading fellow runners into an MTR station and performing a fun, musical number that demonstrates safe escalator etiquette. MTS Branding and Communications General Manager Karen Woo said:

"Safety is our top priority at MTR. Despite our ongoing efforts, escalators accidents remain a concern. We want a campaign that feels warm, relatable and memorable. Partnering with Kent Cheng helps us connect across generations and remind everyone that staying safe is simple and achievable."



Kent Cheng in an MTR advertisement by The Bread Digital; image courtesy of MTR

Otis To Provide Units for Singapore Residential Building

Otis Worldwide Corp. will deliver a suite of high-performance Gen2® and Gen3™ machine room-less (MRL) elevator systems at One Marina Gardens, an upscale residential development in Singapore. One Marina Gardens is the first residential development at Marina Gardens Lane, beside the iconic Gardens by the Bay. The development comprises two residential towers with 31 stories and 45 stories, respectively. A total of 14 elevators will serve the two towers. All the elevators will be equipped with Otis ReGen™ drives, which capture energy usually wasted as heat and return it to the building for use as power. This reduces energy consumption compared to conventional systems without regenerative technology, contributing to lower overall energy usage.



One Marina Gardens; image courtesy of Yahoo

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Developed in Shanghai, Otis' Gen3 Comfort Wins Red Dot Award

Otis announced in July its Gen3™ Comfort elevator, developed by a design team in Shanghai, won a prestigious Red Dot Award in the Mega Trends: Ageing and Geriatrics category. High-quality senior living is a priority in China, where more than 400 million people are projected to be older than 60 by 2035, Otis observed. Many will live in older apartment blocks where inaccessible and unreliable elevators can restrict their independence and quality of life. Combining advanced accessibility features with intelligent elevator technology, the Otis Gen3 Comfort was engineered specifically to support the modernization of aging buildings. Outside of China, these features are available with Otis Viva™ Solutions. Otis Greater China President Sally Loh said the company worked with thousands of older residents to better understand their daily habits and needs to develop Gen3 Comfort.



Otis Gen3 Comfort; image courtesy of Otis

Otis Smart Cab 2.0 Awarded Two Red Dot Design Awards

The Otis Smart Cab 2.0 has been honored with two Red Dot Product Design Awards for 2026, recognizing excellence for both the integrated elevator system and its innovative modular ceiling solution. The next-generation elevator cab integrates AI, sensing technologies, Internet of Things connectivity and biometric recognition to deliver an immersive, multi-sensory experience tailored to a building's unique architecture and brand identity – and to the individual passenger. The Smart Cab 2.0's award-winning modular ceiling solution allows architects to precisely tailor the elevator experience. Built on a flexible 3x3 modular grid, it enables customizable configurations, including dynamic ambient lighting, air purification, and the ability to integrate fragrance. Other options include short-focus projection technology to display real-time information directly onto elevator doors and floors, such as information about building amenities, as well as an AI-equipped camera that monitors the cab and provides contextual voice messages based on real-time activity in the cab. The Otis Smart Cab 2.0 debuted at the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in November 2025. It builds on the success of the original Otis Smart Cab concept elevator, which won a Red Dot Product Design Award in 2024.

303 TKE VT Units for New Corporate HQ in Shanghai

TK Elevator (TKE) announced in June it is providing 303 vertical-transportation (VT) units – 199 elevators that travel at up to 6 m/s and 104 escalators – for Bilibili's New Generation Park, Chinese video-streaming platform's new corporate headquarters (HQ) along the Yangpu River in Shanghai. TKE's MAX digital platform will be deployed across all units to provide real-time operational insights, predictive maintenance and remote monitoring. New Generation Park will integrate commercial, office, cultural, residential and historic preservation space, "creating an ecosystem that supports thousands of employees across digital R&D, creative industries and new-economy sectors," TKE stated. TKE Asia-Pacific CEO Jürgen Bohler said TKE is "delighted to support Bilibili's new HQ with smart and highly efficient mobility solutions that align with their dynamic digital culture."



Bilibili's New Generation Park; image courtesy of TKE



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GALLERY ONE



Project Gallery One Hyderabad Photo Courtesy...Mr Verghese, MD Zion Lifts Private Limited, Hyderabad



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TKE's New Sustainability Report Reflects Progress

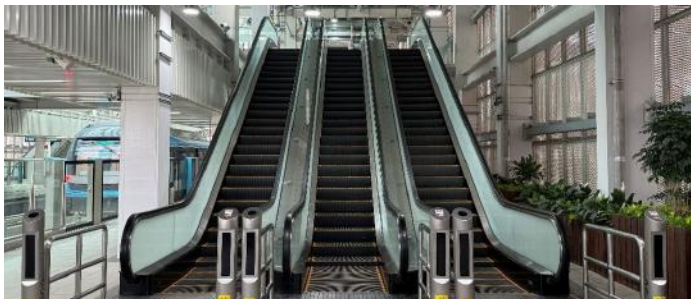
In July, TK Elevator (TKE) published its 2024/2025 Sustainability Report, reflecting progress the Dusseldorf, Germany-headquartered OEM has made toward its sustainability priorities including climate change, circularity, safety, equal opportunities, responsible business practices and sustainable supply-chain management. The company reported that:

- ◆ Scope 1 and 2 emissions are down 31%, and Scope 3 emissions are down 19% versus a 2019 baseline, further advancing TKE's net zero journey.
- ◆ TKE's EOX platform has reached 80% of order intake in Europe and 40% in the Americas, supporting decarbonization across the value chain.
- ◆ Renewable electricity has reached 83% globally.

Strides in sustainability, safety, digitalization and responsible supply-chain management have resulted in TKE receiving ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) accolades, including making the CDPTM Climate A-List and receiving the EcoVadis® Gold medal. "With sustainability firmly embedded in how we operate, innovate and grow, I am more confident than ever in where we stand today as we enter the next phase of our transformation journey," TKE CEO Uday Yadav said.

TMEC Provides 153 VT Units for New Taipei Metro Line

Taiwan Mitsubishi Elevator Co., Ltd. (TMEC), a Mitsubishi Electric Building Solutions Corp. (MEBS) company, recently delivered 153 vertical-transportation (VT) units – 40 elevators and 113 escalators – for the first phase of the New Taipei Metro Sanyang Line set to open this summer, MEBS announced in June. The fully elevated 14.29-km line stretches from Dingpu Station in New Taipei City through the Sanxia District to the Yingge District, "significantly improving convenience for communities along its route," including around National Taipei University. The order includes nine panoramic and six through-type elevators. All escalators feature low-speed standby operation and an automatic speed-control function that switches between 30 m/min and 39 m/min. The elevators are equipped with earthquake emergency-return operation to facilitate rapid evacuation and passenger safety during earthquakes.



New escalators; image courtesy of MEBS

Schindler Sees Opportunities in KONE-TKE Merger

Swiss OEM Schindler sees opportunities in the KONE-TK Elevator (TKE) merger, including gaining customers and



employees during the integration and acquiring assets if regulators require KONE to divest them, Reuters reported in July, quoting Schindler CEO Paolo Compagna. The complex integration process, Compagna said, will create

disruption for both customers and employees, and Schindler will be "ready to talk and see and listen" regarding any potential divestitures. The CEO stressed that such a scenario remains uncertain. Finland's KONE agreed to purchase its German rival TKE in a EUR29.4-billion (US\$34.4-billion) deal in April, creating the world's largest lift maker. Schindler has been one of the deal's most vocal critics, with Compagna stating it could create a "bloodbath" across the industry.

Otis Selected for South Korea Development Project

Otis Elevator Korea has been selected as the elevator supplier for the Seoul One IPARK project in South Korea being carried out by IPARK Hyundai Development Co. Otis will provide 59 elevator and escalator systems, including 42 Otis SkyRise™ high-rise elevators, 11 Otis Gen3® connected elevators, six Link™ escalators, and six Otis Compass® 360 destination management systems to six residential buildings in Seoul One IPARK. Seoul One IPARK project is a large-scale mixed-use development. On a site of more than 77,000 m², it will include eight residential facilities and more than 3,000 housing units and upscale "wellness residences" for senior living across eight buildings. Shopping streets and malls, prime offices and a global hotel are also being developed.



Seoul One IPARK

KM-40

Door Controller



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Vector Control
Technology

Auto-Learning
Operation

Fire Lift
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Protection

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Configuration

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Delivering Innovative, Cutting-Edge and Reliable Vertical-Mobility Solutions

Sebi Joseph (SJ), president, Otis India, shares insights with your author (SP) about providing VT for significant projects.

by Shilpa Pandya



Bangalore Airport

SP: What is the significance of Otis India providing vertical transportation (VT) for a landmark project like The Prestige, Mumbai?

SJ: This association is significant on multiple fronts. At its core, it brings together two market leaders in their respective industries: Otis and our longstanding customer, The Prestige Group. For Otis, this is a powerful endorsement of the confidence our customers in India place in us, built through more than 130 years of delivering innovative, cutting-edge and reliable vertical-mobility solutions in the country.

Equally important is the landmark nature of the project itself. The Prestige Tower in Mumbai is poised to become an iconic addition to India's urban landscape and a symbol of the country's growing global stature.

This collaboration establishes a new benchmark for the Indian real estate sector. It will redefine expectations for safety, speed, efficiency, passenger experience and building performance, while setting a precedent for the future of vertical urban development in India. We believe this project will serve as a reference point for the industry for years to come and reinforce India's position as a leader in creating world-class urban destinations.

SP: How would you describe the unique selling points (USPs) of the VT provided by Otis India in The Prestige, Mumbai, and the way it redefines how people move within it?

SJ: This project showcases advanced engineering, smart mobility and sustainable urban design. Through our VT solutions, we are moving people from one floor to another and

helping shape the future of how people experience the world's most advanced buildings.

The innovation behind this project is anchored in three pillars:

- ◆ India's fastest elevators: The deployment of our 10 m/s Otis SkyRise® elevators represents a new benchmark for India's high-rise vertical mobility. For visitors and occupants of The Prestige Tower, journeys to the upper floors and observation deck will deliver a world-class experience comparable to some of the most iconic skyscrapers globally.
- ◆ India's first double-deck elevator: By operating two elevator cars within a single hoistway, passenger handling capacity is increased significantly, enabling smooth and fast journeys, and maximizing space throughout the tower. When combined with our Otis Compass 360™ destination management system, which intelligently groups passengers traveling to similar destinations, the installation will lead to shorter wait times, fewer stops and a smoother flow of people throughout the building
- ◆ Superior passenger experience: Every aspect of the



Burj Khalifa

elevator experience has been engineered for exceptional comfort, so passengers always enjoy a remarkably smooth, quiet and refined ride. At the same time, our Otis ReGen™ drive technology recaptures energy generated by the elevator and returns it to the building's grid.

SP: What were the key challenges and opportunities for Otis India vis-à-vis providing VT in The Prestige, Mumbai?



Statue of Unity

SJ: Every landmark project presents its own unique challenges. But at Otis, we see these moments as opportunities to push boundaries, raise industry standards and demonstrate the depth of our expertise.

For example, this project also marks the first installation in India of the Otis SkyBuild™ self-climbing elevator solution. This is designed to improve logistics efficiency for on-site work crews and safely transport people and materials during the build phase. Once construction is complete, the system converts into permanent service as an Otis SkyRise® high-rise elevator.

It gives us the opportunity to bring our global expertise in high-rise buildings to India while developing world-class local capabilities and specialized talent.

SP: Why is it important that VT is not treated just as infrastructure, but as an integral part of the workplace experience in office buildings?

SJ: Elevators play a critical role in shaping the overall occupant experience.

In today's commercial real estate market, VT is central to a building's efficiency, productivity and tenant satisfaction. Long wait times and congestion in older systems create friction, while intelligent systems such as Otis Compass 360 help deliver a more seamless and intuitive experience that enhances the flow of people and contributes to a more efficient workplace.

As buildings become smarter and more connected, solutions like Otis eCall™ allow users to call an elevator from their smartphone, enabling a convenient and touchless experience that aligns with modern expectations around comfort, convenience and well-being.

Ultimately, a building's VT system reflects its overall quality. It signals a developer's commitment to innovation, operational excellence and creating exceptional experiences for occupants and visitors.

SP: Otis India has been associated with many landmark projects including the Statue of Unity. How does that reflect upon the brand's lineage and trust across India and the globe?

SJ: For more than a century in India, we have built a legacy based on reliability, responsive customer service and performance. Whether it is moving millions of visitors through a national landmark or enabling seamless mobility in a next-generation skyscraper, our responsibility remains the same: to provide customers with vertical-mobility solutions that deliver the highest standards of safety, quality and passenger experience. That enduring trust is what continues to define the Otis brand in India and around the globe.

Our association with some of India's most iconic landmark structures is a testament to this trust that Otis has earned over generations. From the Statue of Unity and Raj Bhawan (Kolkata) to The Prestige Tower and High-Speed Rail Network, we have been proud to contribute to projects that are symbols of progress, innovation and national pride. Being chosen to equip such structures reflects confidence in our commitment to safety, efficiency, engineering excellence and delivering customized solutions for complex and high-profile buildings.

SP: Which VT categories do you see being the key demand drivers for high-speed, smart technology-driven elevators for Otis in India?



Narendra Modi Stadium

SJ: As India's skyline evolves, VT is becoming a critical differentiator in how modern buildings are designed, operated and experienced. Demand for advanced VT solutions is growing rapidly across four key sectors: grade-A commercial offices, ultra-luxury residential towers, mixed-use developments and large-scale infrastructure projects such as airports and metro networks. Customers in all four sectors are seeking safe, smarter, faster and highly efficient vertical-mobility solutions that enhance occupant experience and maximize building performance.

SP: Do you envisage high rises in major Indian metros becoming even taller going forward and further increasing the scope for high-end elevators?

SJ: Absolutely. As India's major cities continue to urbanize and land becomes increasingly scarce, vertical development is a necessity to create taller, smarter and faster cities. We are already seeing a shift from conventional high-rises to even taller buildings, particularly in key markets such as Mumbai, Delhi National Capital Region, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

This evolution will significantly increase demand for safe, swift and intelligent VT systems. As buildings grow taller, elevators become even more critical to a building's functionality, efficiency and occupant experience. Technologies such as high-speed elevators, intelligent destination dispatch and double-deck systems will increasingly become the standard.

At Otis, we are not simply responding to this trend, we are helping shape it. Projects like The Prestige are an exciting view of the future of India's urban landscape and the role vertical mobility will play in enabling it. 🌐

About Sebi Joseph

Sebi Joseph was appointed president of Otis India in November 2015. He is responsible for the overall leadership and strategy for Otis India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. Prior to this he served as the managing director of Otis India since March 2012.



Joseph has been with Otis since 1987. He started his career with Otis India as an engineering trainee and continued to

hold various positions of increasing responsibility, including general manager (GM), Karnataka operations.

From 2003 to 2007, he was president and GM of Otis Philippines and in 2008 he was appointed director, Marketing, Sales and Communications for Otis South Asia Pacific and Gulf Area.

In 2009, Joseph was named GM, U.A.E. and was appointed area director, Gulf Region, in 2011.

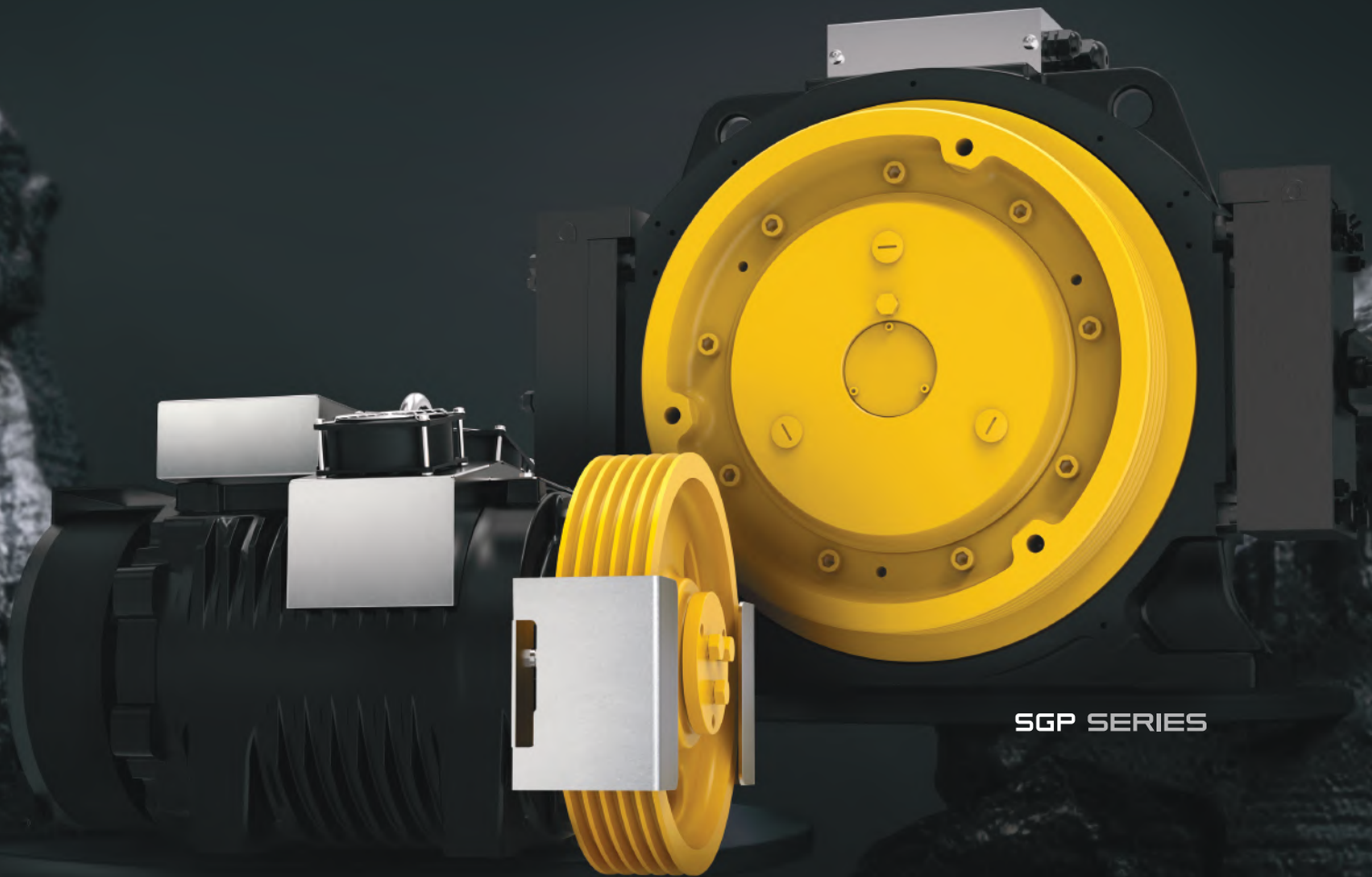
Joseph was the chairman of the Elevators and Escalators Division — Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) from September 2015 for five years.

Joseph was featured in the ELEVATOR WORLD — The People Issue 2023. EW has been recognized as the unequivocal premier publisher for the global VT industry for the last 70 years.

Joseph was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by The Economic Times, EY and Smart Lift and Mobility World in 2026.

He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the National Institute of Technology Kozhikode in Kerala.

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Schmersal Group Opens Facility and Introduces Six “Make in India” Products

SGCC expands operations and launches an innovative product portfolio.

by Sheetal S. Patil

Schmersal Group recently expanded its operations with the inauguration of a new, state-of-the-art office facility spanning a 25,000-ft² campus, along with the opening of a Product Experience Center (Marketing Gallery) in Wing A, Office No. 603, AP4 Tech Park, Sr. No. 1344, Wagholi, Besides Grant Road, Pune-Nagar Road, Pune, 412207, on July 1.

The company also launched six new “Make in India” products, further expanding its portfolio of machine safety systems and solutions. These new products strengthen Schmersal’s offerings in safety, automation and industrial efficiency while meeting its customers’ evolving requirements across a wide range of applications.



Ribbon cutting ceremony: (l-r) Rogerio Baldauf - MD (Schmersal Brazil), Gary Ferguson - MD (Schmersal U.S.), Uwe Seeger - director (Schmersal Asia & Middle East), Michael Ambros - MD (Schmersal Group), Dr. Anna Dahlem – head of People and Culture (Schmersal Group), Ramji Singh - MD (Schmersal India), Christoph Hallier - International Relations and Diplomacy, Jayadev Devadas – vice president (VP) (Schmersal Global Competence Center), Giovanni Lucido – MD (Schmersal Italy & Switzerland), Jan Noether - director general, Indo-German Chamber of Commerce

The occasion also marked another significant milestone: 13 years of Schmersal’s manufacturing operations in India, underscoring the company’s longstanding commitment to the Indian market and its continued investment in local manufacturing and innovation.

This strategic expansion underscores Schmersal’s ongoing commitment to innovation, engineering excellence and delivering cutting-edge safety software and solutions to global

markets with digital solutions as an added value to customers. The new facility significantly enhances the company’s operational capacity, enabling it to support growing customer demand and accelerate the development and deployment of next-generation technologies.

Strengthening Global Capabilities

The newly inaugurated office space has been designed to foster collaboration, innovation and agility. The expansion will further strengthen Schmersal Global Competence Center (SGCC)’s position as a high-impact hub for engineering, product development and digital transformation initiatives within the global Schmersal Group network. Ramji Singh, managing director (MD), Schmersal India, said:

“This expansion marks an important milestone in our journey. We have decided to relocate to our own bigger facility in Pune. It will explore strengthening its global engineering, digital solution, innovation and automation capabilities in our current man- and machine-safety solutions and service as an added value to align and upgrade to market and customer offerings.”

“The new facility not only reflects our growth ambitions but also reinforces our commitment to delivering world-class safety solutions. It provides an environment where innovation thrives and talent can achieve its full potential. Along with our new office, we are inaugurating a product experience center, and we are also taking this opportunity to introduce six new products from our Indian manufacturing operations.”



Product launch: (l-r) Dnyaneshwar Pangarkar - VP (Schmersal India), Devadas, Lucido, Kalpesh Saraf, head - Indo German Chamber of Commerce, Noether, Hallier



Celebration with the team: (l-r) Pangarkar, Lucido, Dahlem, Ferguson, Ambros, Hallier, Singh, Noether, Baldauf, Seeger, Devadas

In parallel with the facility expansion, the Schmersal Group also unveiled a new range of innovative products designed to meet the evolving needs of various industries. These products, developed and manufactured in India, focus on enhancing industrial safety, improving process efficiency and enabling smarter automation across sectors including manufacturing, logistics, vertical transportation, automotive, warehousing and infrastructure.

The newly launched portfolio features:

- ◆ Safety Field Box Port Extender – Enhances system connectivity and scalability by enabling seamless integration of field components across complex industrial setups.
- ◆ Magnetic Switch – A cost-efficient, European standard-compliant solution offering reliable position monitoring with consistent performance and durability, especially suited for the elevator segment.
- ◆ Fork Sensor – Infrared-based sensing solution designed for precise object detection in high-speed, high-accuracy industrial applications.
- ◆ New Safety Limit Switch Series – Upgraded, robust and versatile switches engineered to meet stringent safety requirements across diverse operating conditions, tailored for the Indian market.
- ◆ Overspeed Governor Limit Switch – Designed to detect when systems such as elevators exceed safe operational speed, ensuring enhanced safety and immediate response.
- ◆ Multi-Level Parking Control System – Enables authorized users to control vehicle movement across levels using key-based operation, supporting efficient and secure multi-parking.

These solutions align with Schmersal's vision of turning workplaces into safer places.

The Product Experience Center showcases the Schmersal Group's comprehensive safety solutions and demonstrates machine safety compliance expertise provided by tec.nicum.

Rogerio Baldauf, MD, Schmersal Brazil Shares Insights

"Lift technology was one of the first markets entered by Schmersal, and we have a long tradition in this market. There is one company dedicated in Germany only for the lift market, and in all other subsidiaries, it has one division dedicated for this market, as well. India is the second-biggest market for elevators in the world; it has a huge potential. In India, Schmersal always works with the elevator industry and people responsible for working with this market. We are also planning new developments and new partnerships for the elevator market.

"Given the growing emphasis on high-rise buildings and infrastructure projects, I see the demand for and usage of elevators developing differently in different regions. For example, in Brazil, it's been stable for many years; in China, it's decreasing; and in India, it's increasing. In Europe, it's more or less stable, as well, and then there are different opportunities in different regions, but it's still a big, big market and opportunity. We work with big companies, and we work with what we call the middle market and small companies, either for new elevators or for modernization and maintenance.

"The goal of this new SGCC is to provide support for new products for all the Schmersal companies in different areas. This includes embedded software for development of new products, support for our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and support in development of new software for sales. This will already present an edge to foster new business all around the world because we can count on capable people here to provide expert support.

"For example, I was just talking to the people here to start the development of a new product in Brazil with the support of the software people here in India, and I think this is already representing a very big input for the business, in general, around the world.

"We believe very much in the potential of the country and the capability of the people here to develop this market. I have talked to many people here – vendors and some distributors. I noticed very deep relationships and partnerships that have grown over many years. It is important to develop business in the country with good partners."

Visitors can experience:

- ◆ Safety solutions for people and machines
- ◆ Machine guarding, interlocking and access control systems
- ◆ Comprehensive machine safety solutions based on six key pillars, complemented by software and engineering services

- ◆ The transformation of industrial machine applications into safer, smarter and more digital solutions through Software as a Service (SaaS), in collaboration with tec.nicum and the SGCC

Driving Innovation and Talent Growth

The expanded facility will also play a critical role in fostering talent development and supporting cross-functional collaboration. With enhanced infrastructure and increased capacity, the SGCC aims to attract top engineering and technology talent while strengthening partnerships with global stakeholders. 

Uwe Seeger, director, Schmersal Asia & Middle East Provides Perspectives

“Schmersal India’s contribution to the Schmersal Group’s Asia operations is growing to be the most important contributor to the Asian elevator business. We have a highly competitive market in China, as well as in India. Our presence in India is very much settled. We have great customers. Since we continue to develop new products, we are making a good footprint in the elevator market.

“Schmersal Asia, within the Schmersal Group, is of growing importance, because where we are with the company in Asia – Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, India, the U.A.E, Saudi Arabia, and just recently, Egypt – these markets are all growing. And that’s the beauty. Whereas in Europe, it’s more of a stagnating market, and the Asian market’s importance is growing. That’s one of the reasons why there’s also the investment in India. Among the Asian markets, it is becoming our growth engine in order to, I believe, challenge the Chinese market and our business in China for the number one place. That’s a huge compliment.

“When we start by looking at the Asian operation, our new location here where we have a state-of-the-art office, as well as test facilities, we can further hire talent from India to support our Asian operation in terms of R&D activities and IT support.

“More important are our tec.nicum services, because this is how we support the Asian market out of India. From the tec.nicum side, our people are supporting and even deployed from India to other countries. Within the group, the investment in this state-of-the-art office is a further commitment to India first, of course, but also to the Asian market, as well from the German ownership.

“The further growth potential of Schmersal India within the Asia region is, at the moment, one of the highest we have. India is growing now in the higher two-digit numbers, which we have on a smaller scale in other countries, as well. But the sheer number in India is surprisingly high. Therefore, our forecast, our vision, is that India is the current and also the future growth driver for the Asian market.”

The occasion also marked another significant milestone: 13 years of Schmersal’s manufacturing operations in India, underscoring the company’s longstanding commitment to the Indian market and its continued investment in local manufacturing and innovation.

About the Schmersal Group

The Schmersal Group was founded in 1945 in Wuppertal, Germany, and is represented by eight manufacturing sites on four continents with its own companies and sales partners in more than 60 nations. The Schmersal Group employs approximately 2,000 people worldwide.

Schmersal India started its operation as a 100% subsidiary of Schmersal Group in 2007 and set up a manufacturing plant in 2013 at MIDC Ranjangaon, as well as a 100% export unit to manufacture certain products for the global market. The company has approximately 200 employees and more than 30 channel partners across India.

The SGCC is a 100% subsidiary of Schmersal Group. The process of setting it up as a legal entity was initiated in February 2021, and it became operational on January, 1, 2022, at Pune, Maharashtra, with nearly 60 employees. It is a specialized engineering and IT hub for the Schmersal Group globally. It serves as a global resource pool for custom application development, Microsoft technologies, SAP, IT infrastructure, embedded development and Internet of Things, distinct from Schmersal’s manufacturing.

The new SGCC will play a key role in contributing to Schmersal’s long-term strategy, planning and growth with additional skills, resources and infrastructure, and it will leverage India’s strong talent ecosystem to support global operations.



Sheetal S. Patil is associate editor, ELEVATOR WORLD India. She has a decade’s experience in overseeing weekend sections, special features, news columns, magazines and theme pages for leading English language daily newspapers, as well as several business-to-business publications. A holder of a diploma course in journalism, Patil previously worked in administrative positions with various real-estate, hospitality and media enterprises.

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Tonino Lamborghini's First Step Into Vertical Mobility Lands in India With Hybon Elevators

The country's first lifestyle elevator collection

by Perna Mistry



Elevators are no longer just transportation systems; they are becoming architecture. This is especially true as Tonino Lamborghini makes its global debut in vertical mobility in partnership with Hybon Elevators, introducing four cabin designs built on Italian design DNA and engineered for the Indian market.

Luxury homes today are defined less by scale than by experience in every element, from lighting to wellness spaces, curated for individuality and craftsmanship. Elevators are catching up to that shift, moving from functional infrastructure to architectural features in their own right.

Hybon Elevators, a Delhi-based company with more than 7,000 installations across India, has partnered with Tonino Lamborghini, the Italian luxury design and lifestyle house, to introduce India's first lifestyle elevator collection. The partnership was unveiled as MOVIMENTO The New Rise on June

27 in Gurugram. This marks Tonino Lamborghini's first-ever entry into vertical mobility anywhere in the world, and it has chosen to make that debut in India.

Tonino Lamborghini's design philosophy is built on more than 45 years of Italian craftsmanship, diversity and an uncompromising attention to detail — a heritage the house traces to its founder and its headquarters at the historic Palazzo del Vignola in Bologna. Today a global luxury lifestyle and design house spanning accessories, hospitality and real estate, that legacy of Italian mastery has, for the first time anywhere in the world, been translated into an elevator cabin, and it is India that has been chosen for its debut. Ratan Singh Sehgal, managing director, Hybon Elevators & Escalators, said:

"This collaboration was inevitable, born from a deep, mutual respect for craftsmanship, where Italian mastery meets Indian resolve. This is not a new product. It is a new chapter."

That philosophy takes shape across four cabins, each with a distinct character, treating the elevator not as an enclosure but as an interior space worthy of a living room or private lounge.

1) SOMMO – The Apex of Italian Grace

Soft champagne metallics, vertical brass detailing and Spanish grey marble create an environment defined by restraint rather than excess.

2) MARTE – The Power of the Linear

Dark wood veneer, warm brass and red ambient light are precise, restrained and quietly commanding.

3) DINAMICO – The Energy of Motion

Carbon-inspired surfaces, black tinted mirror and honeycomb flooring shadow impart brilliance and structural confidence in motion.

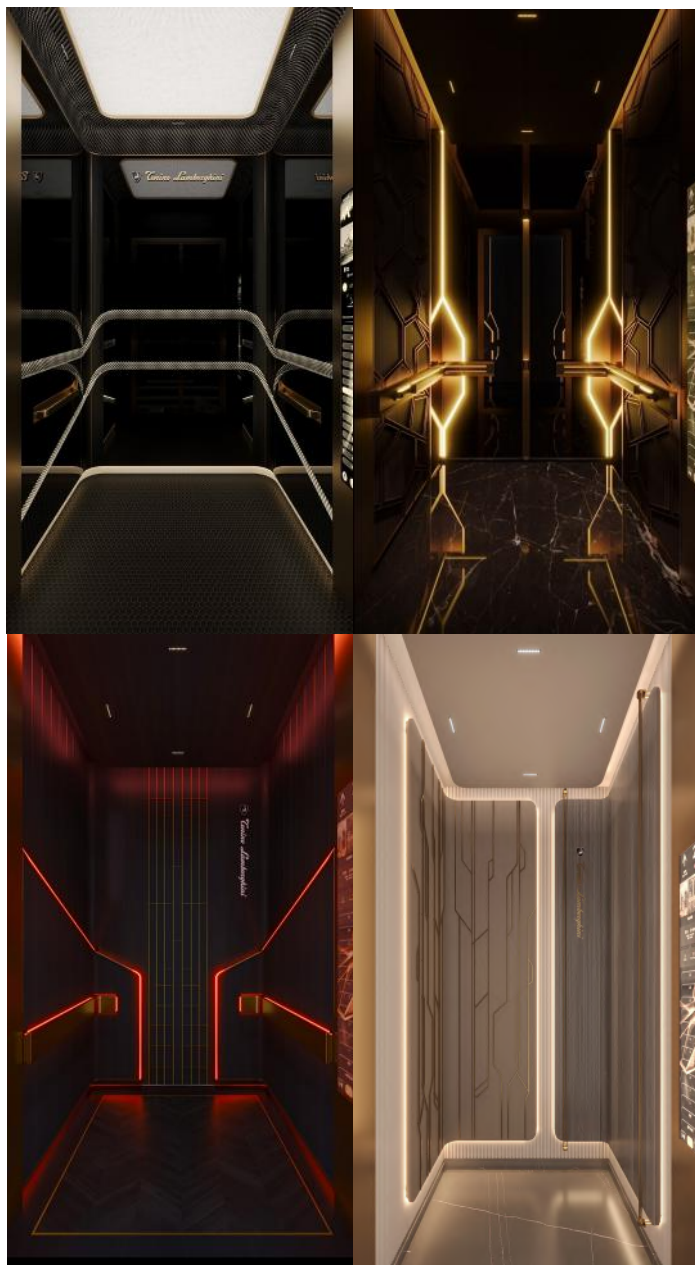
4) IMPERO – The Art of Command



Deep finishes, warm metallic accents and hand-finished textures reflect quiet authority that commands attention without effort.

The engineering matches the ambition, always in service of the experience it was built to elevate. Cabins run at up to 1.75 m/s across six stops, 75% faster than the industry standard. 3D-door sensing detects a passenger a foot away rather than only at the door line, and an uninterrupted rescue device keeps the cabin moving through a power failure instead of halting it. Cabins stand taller than standard at 3,000 mm high with 2,700-mm doorways and feature a 39-in. LED touchscreen, biometric and password access, climate control and a signature ambient fragrance detail that belong to a private lounge as much as to a lift. The collection carries a 15-year warranty with round-the-clock service – a first for the Indian elevator industry backed by a companion app for remote monitoring and control, and a service platform that auto-generates tickets and tracks technician arrival in real time. For architects, the cabin becomes part of a project's material palette rather than a technical afterthought. "We no longer specify an elevator as a mechanical necessity; we specify it as the house's first impression, for how it feels and how it completes a space," said Ar. Sumit Dhawan, principal architect, Cityspace' 82 Architects. For developers and premium homeowners, it reflects a broader shift: As India's luxury housing market matures, elevators are becoming lifestyle elements that reinforce a property's identity, not just move people through it.

Hybon Tonino Lamborghini in India is not simply a product launch; it is the opening chapter of Tonino Lamborghini's first move into an entirely new category, made in India for the world. It brings together two crafts: more than 45 years of Italian design excellence and Hybon's engineering expertise, built across 7,000-plus installations nationwide. As the country's luxury housing sector matures, that combination of Italian heritage and Indian engineering is set to define what premium vertical mobility looks like next. 🌐

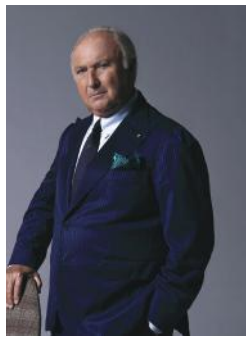


Lamborghini and Hybon Elevators Collaboration Discussed

Dr. Tonino Lamborghini (TL), shares insights with your author (VP) about the collaboration with Hybon Elevators and its significance for the elevator industry in India.

by Vijay Pandya

VP: How was the collaboration between Lamborghini and Hybon Elevators initiated and finalized? What is its significance for Lamborghini and the elevator industry in India?



TL: The collaboration with Hybon was born from a shared vision. We were looking for a partner capable of combining technical excellence, manufacturing expertise and a deep understanding of the Indian market, while Hybon was seeking a design-led luxury partner with a strong international identity. That alignment came naturally. This partnership represents the opportunity to bring, for the first time as in my DNA, our Italian design philosophy into a new category where aesthetics, technology and user experience converge. For the Indian elevator industry, I believe it introduces a new perspective: The elevator is no longer just a functional necessity, but an integral part of the architectural and luxury experience.

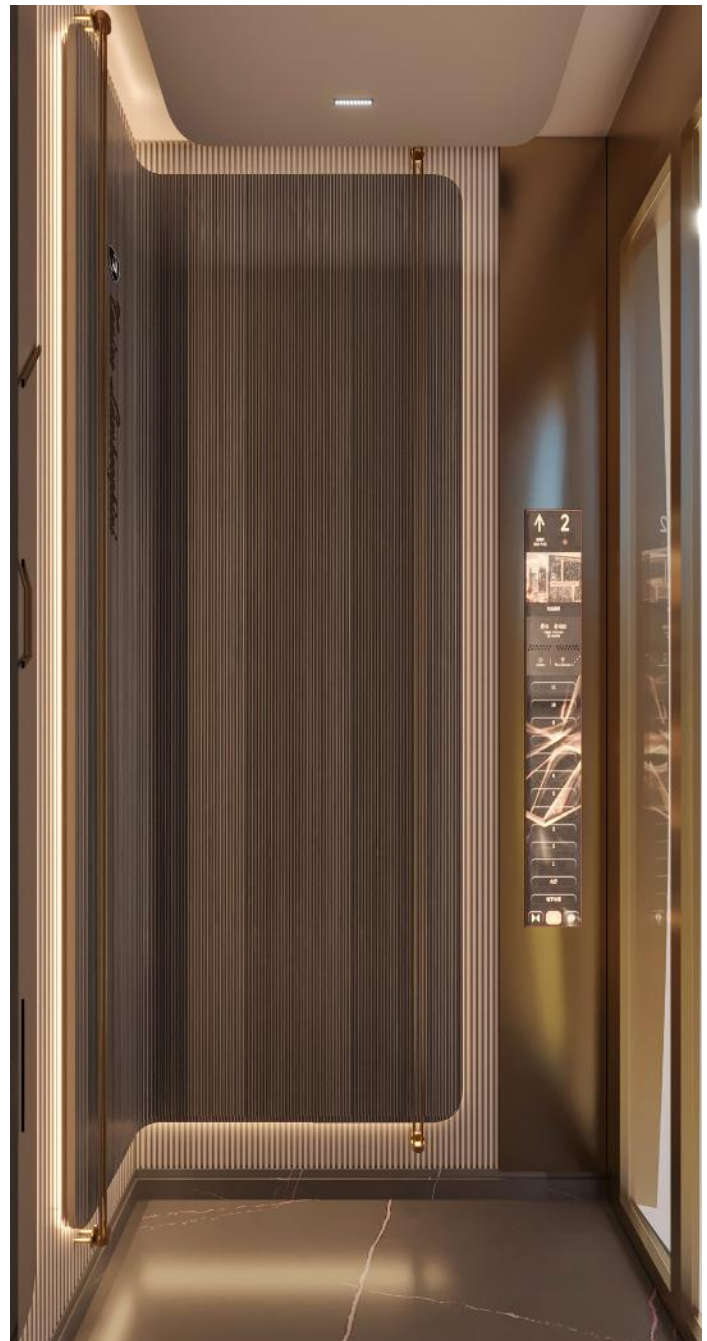
VP: What were your observations and reflections during the India visit for the launch event and afterwards?



TL: India continues to impress me with its energy, ambition and speed of transformation. The launch confirmed there is genuine enthusiasm for products that combine engineering performance with a distinctive design identity. This market is entering a new phase, where luxury is increasingly defined by experience and attention to detail. This creates exciting opportunities for brands like ours.

VP: What potential or scope does Lamborghini see in India as a market for its elevators?

TL: India is one of the most dynamic markets in the world today. The rapid growth of luxury real estate, premium hospitality and branded developments is creating strong





demand for products that offer differentiation and added value. I see significant potential because developers are increasingly looking for ways to elevate the customer experience throughout every touchpoint of a building. Elevators are part of that journey and can contribute meaningfully to the overall perception of quality and prestige.

VP: Which segments does Lamborghini expect to drive the greatest demand for its elevator models in India and why?

TL: We expect the strongest demand to come from luxury residential developments, premium hospitality projects, high-end mixed-use developments and landmark commercial properties. These are sectors where design, exclusivity and user experience play an increasingly important role in creating market differentiation.

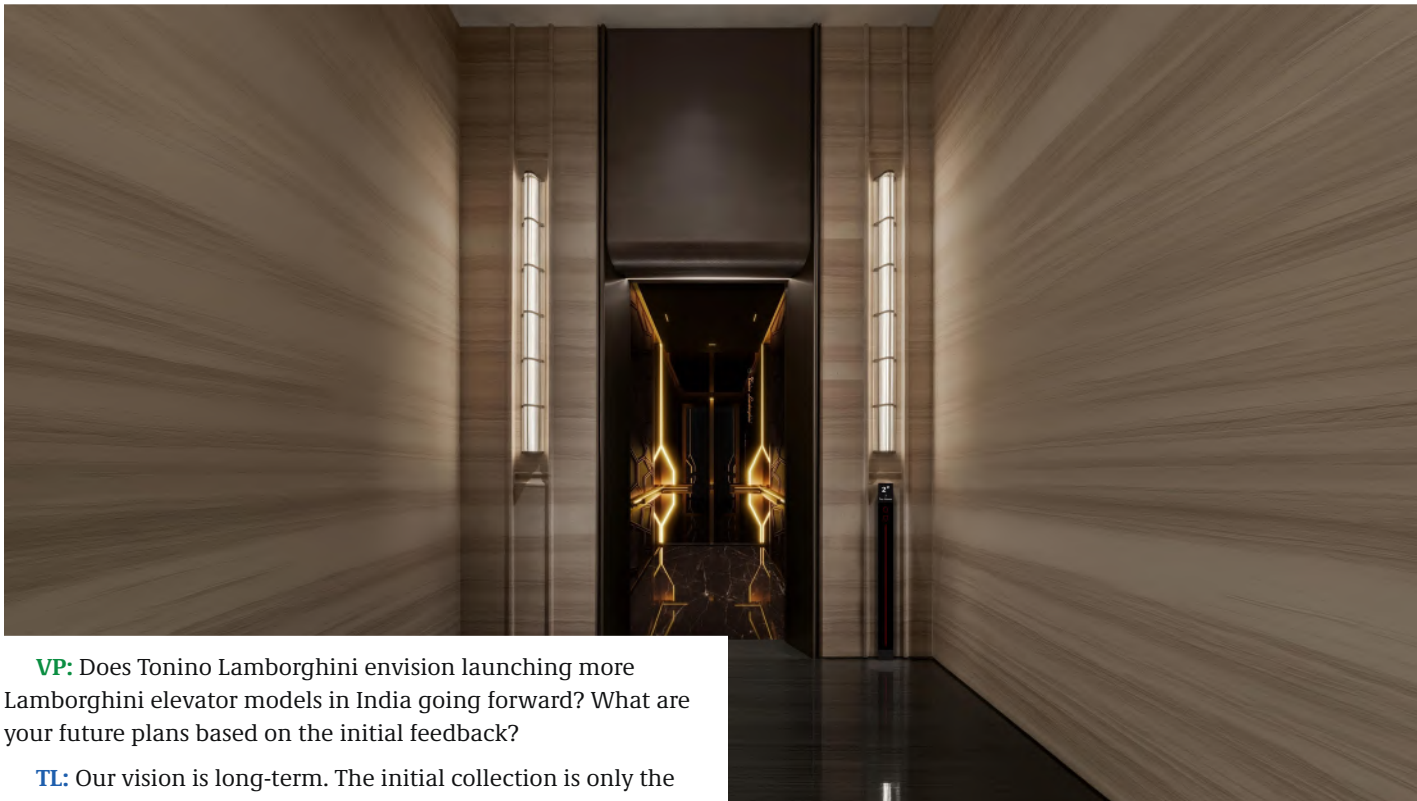
VP: How would you define or describe the Lamborghini brand perception and positioning in the elevator industry?

TL: We position ourselves in the elevator industry exactly as we do in every category we enter: as a premium design and

lifestyle brand that brings distinctive Italian creativity, elegance and attention to detail. My contribution is to define the design language, materials, atmosphere and emotional experience. Together with Hybon's engineering expertise, we create elevator environments that become part of the architecture itself rather than simply a technical component of the building.

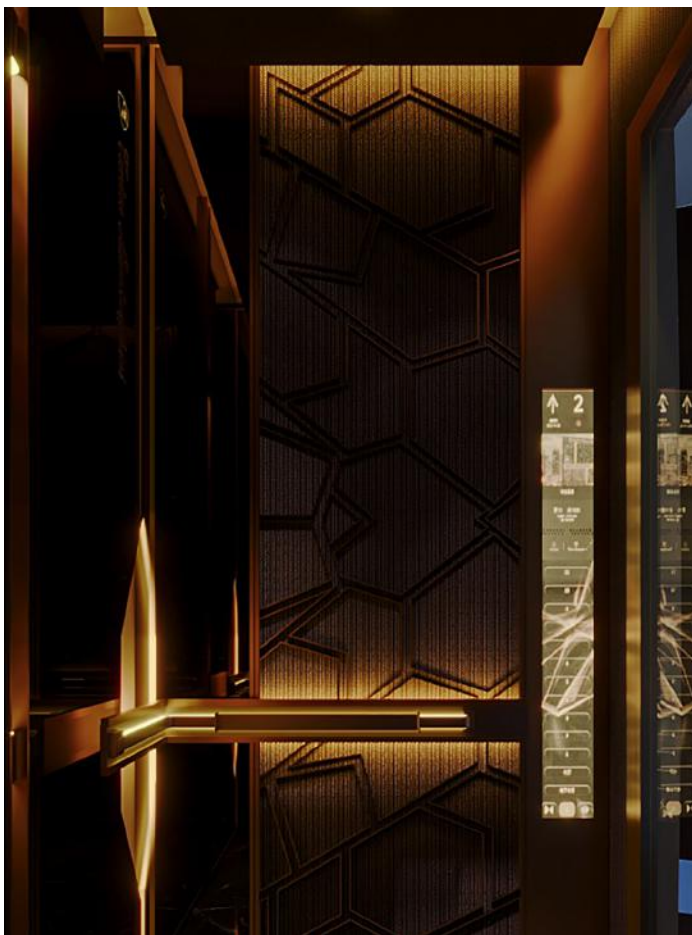
VP: What are the unique selling points or aspects that set the Lamborghini elevators in a class of their own?

TL: The key differentiator is the combination of Italian design heritage and advanced engineering. Every detail of the elevator cabin – from material selection and surface finishes to spatial design and user interaction – is carefully considered. Unlike conventional elevator interiors, these cabins are conceived as luxury architectural spaces. They are designed not only to transport people, but to enhance the overall experience of a building and reflect the aspirations of those who live, work or stay in it.



VP: Does Tonino Lamborghini envision launching more Lamborghini elevator models in India going forward? What are your future plans based on the initial feedback?

TL: Our vision is long-term. The initial collection is only the beginning of a broader journey. The current plan foresees the introduction of several models during the first phase, followed by the regular addition of new designs as the collection evolves.



About Tonino Lamborghini

Dr. Tonino Lamborghini is the founder of Tonino Lamborghini SpA. He was born on October 13, 1947, in Cento (Ferrara), Italy, into a family that became world-renowned in the mechanical and automotive sectors. He graduated with a degree in political and economic sciences from the University of Bologna. From 1974 to 2002, he served as president of Lamborghini Oleodinamica SpA, and from 1983 to 2003, as president of Lamborghini Calor SpA.

In 1981, he founded “Tonino Lamborghini Style and Accessories,” a company that creates luxury accessories and design projects under the famous “Charging Bull” brand. Today, the Tonino Lamborghini brand is distinguished by its innovative design and exclusive lifestyle. With a product range including watches, eyewear and fashion accessories to hospitality, branded real estate, total living, luxury beverages and electric golf carts, the brand embodies Italian elegance and sophistication.

In 1995, Dr. Lamborghini was appointed “Commendatore al Merito” by President of the Italian Republic Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. In 1996, he was made “Cavaliere al Merito del Sacro Militare Ordine Costantiniano di San Giorgio” by Don Carlo di Borbone, Infante of Spain. In 2015, he was appointed Honorary Consul of the Republic of Montenegro in EmiliaRomagna. In 2018, he received an Honorary Doctorate from D. Y. Patil University in Navi Mumbai, and in 2023, he received the “Sigillo di Ateneo” from the University of Urbino.

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Leadership in Motion

Ankitha K Arun (AKA) of Ascent Lifts & Escalators shares her vision for the future of vertical mobility with your author (SSP).

by Sheetal S. Patil

SSP: You had an excellent career in Ireland. What inspired you to return to India and join the family business?

AKA: It was definitely a huge learning opportunity for me. I worked in Ireland as a finance analyst at a global automotive technology company where I had the opportunity to collaborate with senior leadership, including several chief executives of a multi-billion-dollar organization. It also broadened my perspective and helped me build a strong international network.

While I genuinely enjoyed my career abroad, I always knew I wanted to bring those learnings back home. Even while I was in Ireland, I found myself constantly thinking about how their best practices could be adapted to strengthen our own business and create greater value for Ascent.

For me, Ascent isn't just a company; it's a legacy my father built through years of hard work, integrity and an unwavering commitment to customers. Returning to India wasn't about stepping away from an international career — it was about bringing that global experience back to help scale the business, modernizing the way we operate and contributing to the next phase of Ascent's growth.

SSP: Your father is regarded as one of the most respected entrepreneurs in the elevator industry. What has his journey meant to you?

AKA: I've had the privilege of watching my father's entrepreneurial journey from close quarters, and it has been one of my biggest sources of inspiration. He started Ascent with a clear vision, unwavering determination and a commitment to doing business the right way. Over the years, he has transformed it into one of South India's most respected elevator companies.

What I admire most is that the company's growth has never come at the cost of its values. Quality, integrity, customer trust and long-term relationships have always been at the heart of every decision. Today, Ascent and the Aarve Group are examples

of how a business can scale sustainably while staying true to its principles.

His journey offers valuable lessons for any entrepreneur: that lasting success isn't built overnight, but through consistency, resilience and an unwavering focus on delivering value. For me, carrying forward that legacy is both an honor and a



responsibility.

SSP: Ascent today is among the leaders in the premium elevator segment. What differentiates the company?

AKA: At Ascent, we've always believed that an elevator is much more than just a machine — it's an essential part of a building that people rely on every single day. That responsibility shapes everything we do.

Our strength lies in delivering premium quality, engineering excellence, responsive service and uncompromising safety standards. Our global technology partnerships with Monteferro and MORIS, Italy, allow us to bring internationally proven technologies and best practices to India.

We constantly invest in innovation, digitalization and customer experience because we believe our clients deserve world-class solutions.

SSP: The elevator industry has traditionally been male dominated. How has your experience been as a young woman leader?

AKA: The elevator industry has traditionally been male dominated, so people are sometimes surprised to see a young woman leading an engineering business. But I've found that credibility comes from knowledge, preparation and consistency — not gender.

Once customers and industry professionals interact with you, they appreciate competence more than stereotypes. I see this as





an opportunity to encourage more women to pursue careers in engineering, manufacturing and infrastructure. Leadership has no gender. It is defined by vision, integrity and the ability to inspire people.

SSP: Did your international education influence your leadership style?

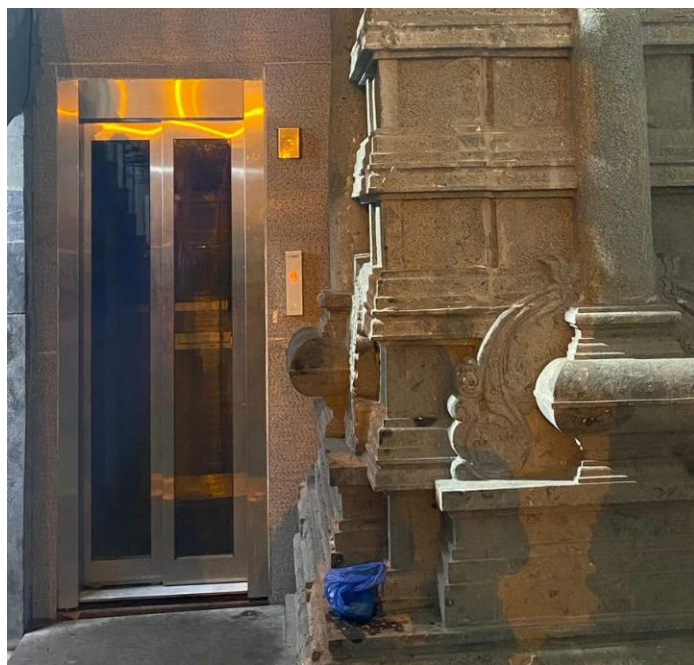
AKA: Yes, significantly. Studying and working abroad exposed me to diverse cultures, structured systems and a strong emphasis on innovation and customer-centric thinking. Working closely with senior leadership also gave me clear insight into how global organizations operate: the discipline in execution, the importance of processes and a consistent focus on growth and continuous improvement.

At Ascent, I've tried to integrate these global practices with the entrepreneurial foundation on which the company was built. The aim is to create an organization that is professionally managed, technologically forward and agile enough to respond to evolving opportunities.

SSP: How do you see the future of the elevator industry in India?

AKA: India's rapid urban growth presents tremendous opportunities for the elevator industry. As cities continue to grow vertically and India's aging population increases, elevators – particularly home elevators – are becoming an essential part of modern living. With many millennials now caring for aging parents, accessibility and independent mobility have become key considerations in home design.

The future will be driven by smart elevators, AI-enabled monitoring, predictive maintenance, energy-efficient



technologies and sustainable solutions. At the same time, customer awareness around safety, reliability and long-term service is steadily increasing.

The companies that continue to innovate while maintaining the highest standards of quality, safety and customer service will be the ones that lead the industry.

SSP: What is your vision for Ascent over the next decade?

AKA: My vision is to establish Ascent as India's most trusted and admired premium elevator brand while expanding our presence across new markets and segments.



We will continue investing in innovation, technology and people to build an organization known for quality, exceptional service and ethical business practices. While growth is an important goal, our true measure of success will always be the long-term value we create for our customers, employees and the communities we serve.

SSP: What message would you like to give young women aspiring to become entrepreneurs?

AKA: Never let anyone define your limits. If you're willing to learn, work hard and stay committed to excellence, there is a place for you in any industry.

Confidence comes from preparation, and leadership is earned through actions, not titles. At the same time, don't forget to enjoy what you do. Trust your instincts, embrace challenges and don't be afraid to take calculated risks. The future belongs to those who create opportunities, not just for themselves, but for others, as well.

SSP: How would you like your leadership journey to be remembered?

AKA: I hope my leadership is remembered for creating a positive and lasting impact. By building on the strong foundation laid by my father, I want to help lead Ascent into its next era of growth.

I also hope to be remembered as a leader who wasn't afraid to challenge the status quo and make bold decisions in the long-term interest of the organization. I believe meaningful progress comes from having the courage to evolve while staying true to your core values.

If I can strengthen Ascent, empower people and create lasting value for our customers, employees and the industry, I would consider my leadership a success.

SSP: Ascent Lifts & Escalators has emerged as one of the most respected names in the vertical-transportation (VT) industry. What aspects set it apart?

AKA: Ascent Lifts & Escalators was founded by my father, Arun Kovuru, in 2012 with a clear vision: to bring world-class elevator technology to India while delivering customized mobility solutions that truly meet the needs of Indian customers. At a time when many global brands offered limited flexibility, he saw an opportunity to combine international engineering standards with the ability to design elevators around each customer's unique requirements.

Our philosophy has always been simple: Never compromise on safety, quality or customer satisfaction. Every project reflects our commitment to precision engineering, elegant design and dependable after-sales service.

Today, Ascent is one of South India's leading providers of premium vertical mobility solutions, with more than 15000 successful installations across residential, commercial, healthcare and institutional projects.

Our partnerships with globally recognized companies such as Monteferro and MORIS, Italy, enable us to bring advanced European technology to India while tailoring every solution to local needs. That combination of global expertise, engineering excellence and a customer-first approach is what continues to set Ascent apart.

SSP: Your father is widely recognized for building Ascent into a respected brand. How do you view his contribution?

AKA: My father built Ascent with a clear vision, unwavering perseverance and an uncompromising commitment to ethics. What I admire most is that he never measured success solely by the number of elevators we installed, but by the trust we earned and the relationships we built over the years. That philosophy has shaped Ascent into one of the most respected names in the industry and continues to guide every decision we make.

As the second generation, I see my responsibility as preserving those values while preparing the organization for the future through technology, innovation and continuous improvement. The greatest tribute I can pay to his legacy is to ensure that Ascent continues to earn the trust of our customers and sets new benchmarks for quality, safety and service.





SSP: Ascent has become synonymous with some of the most prestigious developments in South India. Could you share a few landmark projects that reflect the company's capabilities?

AKA: Every project is special to us because it represents the trust our customers place in Ascent. Over the years, we've had the privilege of contributing to some of South India's most prestigious residential, commercial and institutional developments.

Our portfolio includes the Sky Villas at Savyasachi Apartments — home to one of Bengaluru's most expensive Sky Villas ever sold — along with Embassy One (including Four Seasons Private Residences), 80 Lifts in a private villa project- New Dawn villas by Bricks & Milestone, projects for the Sumadhura Group and Joyalukkas Jewellery showrooms across Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Together, these projects reflect the confidence leading developers and brands place in Ascent.

Our engineering expertise is also reflected in specialized installations such as India's First Living Room Elevator for the Cadabams Group, the first hydraulic car lift installed in Bengaluru and several highly customized elevators designed for unique architectural requirements.

Whether it's a luxury residence, commercial landmark or institutional project, our focus has always been the same: to deliver safe, reliable and customized mobility solutions. Today, with more than 15000 successful installations, every project reflects our commitment to quality, innovation and long-term customer trust and relationship. 🌐

About Ankitha K Arun

Ankitha K Arun is executive director of Ascent Lifts and Escalators Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru, one of Southern India's leading elevator companies and a dominant player in the premium VT segment. She represents the second generation of leadership, following the remarkable entrepreneurial journey of her father, Arun Kovuru, managing director of Ascent Lifts, Surya Elevators and Aarve Group. After completing her education in Spain and pursuing a successful corporate career in Ireland, she chose to return to India to lead the next phase of the company's growth. Her journey, from international education and a successful career in Ireland to leading one of Southern India's most admired elevator companies is truly inspiring.



Ascent is also the global technology partner of Monteferro and MORIS, Italy, bringing world-class technologies to the Indian market. Ascent's continued success under the combined leadership of Arun Kovuru and the next-generation vision of Arun reflects how strong values, global thinking and a relentless commitment to excellence can create an enduring business legacy.

Two Sieger Parking Projects Reviewed

Re-engineering urban architecture through advanced automated multilevel parking

by Suresh Jayaprakash

In modern urban development, the success of architectural landmarks relies heavily on robust operational infrastructure, particularly car parking. As metropolitan density intensifies and real estate valuations escalate, traditional parking is functionally obsolete. For premier commercial and retail spaces, well-planned automated multilevel parking solutions are strategic imperatives. Intelligent car parking dictates spatial efficiency, traffic circulation dynamics and overall user experience of any landmark project. Properly engineered automated multi-level car parking prevents localized traffic bottlenecks, maximizes leasable floor space and delivers a frictionless parking and retrieval experience. At Sieger Parking, we approach severe urban spatial constraints not as limitations, but as parameters for advanced mechanical innovation.

This engineering approach is showcased through two of our flagship installations in Chennai, where rapid urbanization and complex infrastructure demands require innovative parking solutions.

Project 1: Reclaiming Urban Space With 311 Car Spaces in Guindy

Situated on a prominent river-edge site converging with a major transportation corridor, a premier commercial IT/ITES complex demanded an optimized architectural approach. Property owners mandated a car parking solution capable of managing immense volume without triggering traffic at the entrance gates. High employee footfall creates extraordinary daily demand, requiring infrastructure capable of processing hundreds of arrivals and departures within highly concentrated timeframes.

Limited land availability along the river corridor heavily restricted the structural footprint, rendering traditional

multi-story concrete structures unviable. Furthermore, subterranean development on a river-edge site involves deep excavation, which is notoriously complex, poses severe geotechnical risks and is prohibitively costly. Modern corporate professionals also expect rapid access and smooth, uninterrupted circulation.

To resolve these exacting challenges, Sieger Parking engineered and deployed the Overground Drive-Thru Puzzle Parking System. We integrated a high-density three-level mechanical grid directly into the ground floor of the IT building, successfully providing 311 car spaces within a hyper-compacted footprint. The system was meticulously calibrated to accommodate both sedan and SUV models.

From a mechanical standpoint, Puzzle Parking operates as an automated, high-density system parking cars on individual platforms within a multi-level grid. It autonomously shifts adjacent platforms horizontally and vertically to forge a direct retrieval path, operating like a sliding tile puzzle. This mechanism enables independent parking or retrieval of any specific car without manually moving surrounding cars.

The “Drive-Thru” configuration is an advanced evolution that allows cars to transit sequentially through one puzzle parking module to access another situated directly behind it. The system automatically repositions its platforms to establish a temporary drive-thru passage. By deploying this overground architecture, we entirely eliminated the need for deep subterranean excavation. Drive-thru functionality ensures that cars parked in the rear structural arrays remain universally accessible without disrupting the front rows, guaranteeing highly efficient circulation while maintaining independent parking operations.

Project 2: Subterranean Capacity Optimization on Poonamalle Highway

Located on Poonamalle Highway, a primary arterial transportation route in Chennai characterized by intense traffic density, a property developer initiated a major commercial reconstruction project. The development strategy involved the demolition of a 15-year-old structure to construct a modern facility. Severe urban spatial limitations dictated the new building footprint consume the entire site. This left zero land allocation for a separate, external parking facility.

Consequently, the property developers required the integration of high-capacity car parking directly within the subterranean levels of the new construction. The initial project specifications mandated an automated pallet-type cart-parking system capable of accommodating more than 100 cars.





For premier commercial and retail spaces, well-planned automated multilevel parking solutions are strategic imperatives. Intelligent car parking dictates spatial efficiency, traffic circulation dynamics and overall user experience of any landmark project.

Upon conducting a comprehensive analysis, Sieger Parking engineers formulated a highly optimized mechanical approach. Our technical team determined a comb-type auto-cart parking system offered superior integration with the specific structural grid of the new building compared to the initially requested pallet configuration.

To resolve the capacity and spatial requirements, Sieger Parking engineered and deployed a three-level comb-type auto-cart parking system entirely within the basement confines. This calibrated installation successfully provides 116 car spaces.

From a mechanical perspective, the comb exchange mechanism operates by lifting the car directly by the tires utilizing interlocking steel grids. This direct lifting action completely eliminates the requirement for individual steel pallets. Removing these pallets significantly reduces the overall mechanical overhead and optimizes the strict floor-to-ceiling height parameters inherent to basement construction. This engineering solution maximizes the volumetric capacity of the subterranean space while seamlessly supporting the architectural framework of the new development.

The Role of Experience, Expertise and Technology

Managing advanced parking infrastructure requires more than manufacturing expertise — it demands decades of engineering experience, multidisciplinary capabilities and continuous technological innovation. As urban environments become increasingly complex, parking systems must evolve into intelligent, digitally connected solutions. Our engineering expertise enables us to deliver high-performance automated parking systems that maximize land utilization for developers while providing fast, safe and seamless parking experiences for users. We remain committed to transforming urban mobility through reliable, technology-driven parking solutions. 

About Sieger Parking

Established in 1994, Sieger Parking designs, develops, manufactures and maintains state-of-the-art automation solutions for textiles, automated car parking and industrial storage. Headquartered in Coimbatore with a 3,00,000-ft² facility, we operate a 100% paperless digital factory serving customers across 25-plus countries. We are rigorously certified to ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 standards. Backed by a Department of Science and Industrial Research-recognized R&D division, our operations are driven by a formidable team of more than 50 mechanical design engineers and 25 software engineers, ensuring continuous innovation and highly reliable automation architectures.

Seiger Parking unique selling propositions:

- ◆ 15,000-Plus Car Spaces Provided: A proven track record of immense scale and execution capability
- ◆ 100% In-House Capabilities: End-to-end design, development, manufacturing and maintenance guaranteeing superior quality control
- ◆ 30-Plus Years of Automation Excellence: Decades of multi-disciplinary engineering expertise applied to complex challenges
- ◆ Global Footprint: Trusted by customers across 25-plus countries
- ◆ 24x7 Service and Support Network



Suresh Jayaprakash, deputy general manager, Sieger Parking, has been an integral part of Sieger Parking since its inception. With more than 14 years of experience, he has played a pivotal role in advancing automated multilevel car parking systems across South India. He leads South India Sales for Sieger Parking, partnering with architects, builders, developers, consultants, project management firms and government agencies to deliver parking solutions for landmark residential, commercial, industrial

and public infrastructure projects. A well-known name in South India's parking automation industry, Jayaprakash has built a strong network across the construction and real estate sectors. His leadership has been instrumental in expanding Sieger's footprint, earning customer trust and establishing Sieger as an industry leader in automated multilevel car parking. With his longstanding contribution to Sieger Parking, Jayaprakash continues to strengthen its industry leadership and advance the future of urban parking.

Arkel's KM-40 Door Controller

Intelligent performance for modern lift doors

by Agnes Xavier

Ask any maintenance technician which elevator component fails the most; the answer is rarely the hoist motor or the controller cabinet. It's the door. A typical elevator door cycles hundreds of times a day, absorbing impatient hands, overloaded trolleys and the occasional shoulder from a passenger in a hurry. Door faults are the single largest source of callbacks in the industry, and every callback is a cost, a liability and a dent in passenger confidence.

Elevator door performance isn't a cosmetic detail. It shapes ride comfort, dictates dispatch efficiency and – under EN-81 safety requirements – directly affects passenger protection. A drive that closes too fast underestimates static and kinetic force limits; one that closes too slowly adds round-trip time. Getting this balance right cycle after cycle, year after year, is where door drive technology earns its keep.

The KM-40 system by Arkel Electronic India Pvt. Ltd. is explicitly designed to drive Permanent Magnet (PM) door motors. Engineered to deliver exceptional performance, passenger comfort and operational reliability, it combines advanced hardware with intelligent software to ensure smooth, accurate and efficient door movement in modern elevator systems.

At the heart of the KM-40 is advanced vector control technology paired with high-resolution encoder feedback, providing precise control over the door motor. This enables accurate positioning while ensuring every door movement is smooth and controlled. Intelligent software further enhances performance by softening acceleration and deceleration during travel, eliminating abrupt movements and reducing noise, vibration and mechanical wear. The controller also removes the need for conventional limit switches through an advanced algorithm that automatically learns the door's travel limits, simplifying installation while improving long-term reliability.

Designed to integrate seamlessly with lift control panels, the KM-40 generates essential door status signals such as Door Fully Open, Door Fully Closed and Obstruction/Photocell Detection. These capabilities ensure reliable communication between the door controller and the lift control system, making the KM-40 well suited for demanding applications, including fire lift doors.

Key Features

Vector Control Technology

Advanced vector control technology works alongside high-resolution encoder feedback to deliver precise motor control and smooth door movement. Gentle acceleration and deceleration reduce vibrations, noise and stress on mechanical components, providing enhanced passenger comfort while extending the lifespan of the door system.

The KM-40 features an intuitive parameter menu with multiple access levels for manufacturers, service engineers and end users.

Auto-Learning Operation

The KM-40 simplifies installation by automatically learning the door's travel limits without requiring conventional open and close limit switches. Its integrated Line Bus (CAN Bus) connectivity further enhances installation by enabling seamless communication with compatible elevator control systems, resulting in faster commissioning, cleaner wiring and greater operational reliability. This intelligent self-learning capability reduces wiring complexity, shortens commissioning time and minimizes future maintenance while ensuring consistent door performance.

Fire Lift Ready

Built for seamless integration with elevator control systems, the KM-40 continuously communicates the status of the lift doors, including when they are fully open, fully closed or when an obstruction is detected. These features make it suitable for fire lift applications, where dependable operation and system communication are essential.

Intelligent Obstruction Protection

Safety is central to the KM-40's operation. When an obstacle interrupts the photocell for an extended period, the controller activates a nudging function with an audible buzzer and gently closes the doors at a reduced speed.

If a door jam occurs, the controller carefully navigates through the obstruction zone while maintaining slow-speed operation, helping protect passengers, prevent damage to the door mechanism and reduce unnecessary downtime.

Easy Parameter Configuration

The KM-40 features an intuitive parameter menu with multiple access levels for manufacturers, service engineers and

A typical elevator door cycles hundreds of times a day, absorbing impatient hands, overloaded trolleys and the occasional shoulder from a passenger in a hurry.



KM-40 Door Controller – Intelligent control engineered for smooth, safe and reliable elevator door operation.

end users. Application-specific settings – including motor reduction ratio, motor revolutions, sheave circumference and skate open zone – allow the controller to adapt to different elevator designs. Parameters are displayed using practical engineering units such as centimeters (cm) and centimeters per second (cm/s), making setup and fine-tuning quick and user-friendly.

Real-Time Monitoring and Diagnostics

The dedicated KM-40 keypad provides complete access to configuration settings, live operating information and system diagnostics. Users can monitor door position, operating speed, controller status and fault messages in real time, while built-in opening and closing cycle counters support preventive maintenance. This enables faster troubleshooting, reduced service time and greater system reliability throughout the product's life cycle.

Combining intelligent control, advanced safety features, flexible configuration and real-time diagnostics, the KM-40 Door Controller delivers a dependable, future-ready solution for modern elevator door systems.

Whether enhancing passenger comfort, simplifying installation or improving maintenance efficiency, the KM-40 is designed to meet the evolving demands of today's lift industry with confidence and precision.

arkel.co.in (please verify website) 

The KM-40 system by Arkel Electronic India Pvt. Ltd. is explicitly designed to drive Permanent Magnet (PM) door motors. Engineered to deliver exceptional performance, passenger comfort and operational reliability, it combines advanced hardware with intelligent software to ensure smooth, accurate and efficient door movement in modern elevator systems.



Agnes Xavier, is senior lead executive, Marketing and Brand Communications, at Arkel Electronic India Pvt. Ltd. With a passion for crafting compelling narratives that resonate with audiences, she is dedicated to optimizing the overall Arkel experience.

The Benefits of a New System

How a Hyderabad elevator company rebuilt the way its departments talk to each other – and what it says about where the industry's back office is heading

by Sumeet Katariya

Rosh Elevators Pvt. Ltd. has been in vertical transportation (VT) for 22 years. The Hyderabad-based company's portfolio today runs to more than 6,000 lifts across residential, commercial and institutional buildings. Two years ago, Managing Director Seby Frances decided that companies of that vintage usually resist: He changed the system that runs every department.

That resistance is worth understanding because it is rational. A company two decades old has processes built over two decades. It has department heads who have been in their chairs for 15 years and who know, without looking anything up, which building has the temperamental door operator and which client pays late. It has also watched a long line of software vendors arrive, promise transformation and disappear. For a firm like that, the question is never whether new technology is impressive. It is whether the new way is undeniably better than the old way – and whether the partner is patient enough to honor what already works.

Before the change, Rosh ran the way most established elevator companies still run. Sales, service, annual maintenance

contract (AMC) and inventory each had their own tools and their own records. Coordination between them happened through phone calls, emails and follow-up. Nothing was broken, exactly. It had worked for years. But as the industry evolved – tighter regulation, higher customer expectations, more technically demanding equipment – the seams began to show. Information lived with whoever happened to be handling it. A service history sat in one place, the payment status in another, the spare part in a third. The cost of that fragmentation is rarely a dramatic failure. It is a slow, constant tax on every department's time.

Rosh came to ElevatorPlus the way most serious buyers in this industry do – not through advertising, but through the trade. Another elevator company already running the platform recommended it, and the Rosh team had separately come across ElevatorPlus online while looking at what was available. A referral from a peer who runs lifts for a living carries a weight no marketing campaign can buy: It means someone with the same problems has already taken the risk.

What followed was a discovery exercise rather than a sales process. Before proposing anything, the ElevatorPlus team worked through Rosh's operation department by department – sitting with each head individually, mapping how work actually moved through sales, installation, service, AMC, inventory and billing, and identifying where the handoffs between them were leaking time.

That distinction matters. A demonstration shows a buyer what software can do; a discovery establishes what this particular business needs it to do. Only after those workflows were understood did configuration begin. Twenty-two years of operating history had to be brought across, each department's process had to be reflected in the system rather than replaced by it and the rollout was worked through with the people who would actually use it every day.

Frances describes the approach in a single word: patience. "It's excellent software," he said. "The team has been excellent, with great patience coordinating with all our department heads during onboarding and execution."

Two years on, the operational picture looks different. Sales hands off to installation inside the same workflow. Installation feeds service. Service feeds AMC renewals. AMC feeds billing. Each department can see what the others are doing without picking up the phone. Six thousand lifts and 22 years of operating history sit behind a single view. The gain is less a new





capability than the removal of an old friction — the coordination tax simply stops being paid.

Frances also points to something that does not show up in a product demonstration: “The product keeps getting new enhancements and updates that are genuinely required by the elevator industry.”

That last point describes the work that continues after a go-live, and it is where most software relationships in this industry quietly fail. A platform delivered and abandoned decays as the business around it changes. One that keeps absorbing what the industry throws at it — new compliance requirements, new customer expectations, new ways of working — compounds instead.

There is a broader point here for the industry. Most of the technology conversation in VT is about the lift itself: gearless machines, destination control, Internet of Things-enabled predictive maintenance. Far less attention goes to the business that owns the lift. Yet much of what a passenger actually experiences is decided in the back office, not the machine room: how quickly a breakdown is attended, whether the AMC

lapsed unnoticed, whether the right spare was in stock when the technician arrived. Digitizing that layer is unglamorous work. It is also where a great deal of service quality, and therefore a great deal of safety, is quietly determined.

The Rosh experience suggests a corollary that technology vendors do not always like to state. Software did not give Rosh Elevators its discipline; 22 years of running a business did that. What the system did was stop that discipline from leaking out through the gaps between departments. The role of the partner, on this evidence, is less to transform a company than to understand it first — and then get out of the way of what it already does well. 🌐



Sumeet Katariya is the founder of ElevatorPlus, an Elevator Business Operating System — an end-to-end platform built specifically for elevator companies to run sales, installation, service, AMC, inventory and payments from a single system. It is currently used by 200-plus elevator companies across more than 20 countries.

Evolving VT

From conventional transportation systems to smart mobility solutions

by Subramania Bharathiyar

The vertical-transportation (VT) industry is undergoing a significant transformation as urbanization, smart buildings and sustainability initiatives reshape the way people move within modern infrastructure.

Elevators and escalators are no longer viewed as standalone transportation systems; they have evolved into intelligent, connected assets that contribute to building efficiency, occupant comfort and operational sustainability.

Today, building owners and developers expect VT systems to deliver more than reliable mobility. They demand energy efficiency, advanced safety, optimized traffic management, real-time monitoring and seamless integration with broader building ecosystems.

At the same time, the market itself is expanding, creating opportunities across residential, commercial and high-rise applications. These trends are driving both technological advancements and expansion within the VT industry.

Smarter Control for Enhanced Passenger Experience

Modern VT systems are evolving through the integration of intelligent control, connectivity and energy-efficient technologies.

Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor (PMSM)-based gearless traction elevators deliver superior ride comfort, precise control and higher efficiency, while advanced sensor technologies ensure safe and reliable operation. DDS (Destination Dispatch Systems), combined with AI-driven traffic management algorithms, optimize passenger flow by intelligently assigning elevator cars based on travel patterns and destination requirements.

Internet of Things (IoT) connectivity, cloud-based monitoring and digital twin technologies further enhance system performance through real-time diagnostics, predictive maintenance and continuous operational optimization. Additionally, regenerative energy systems recover and reuse braking energy, reducing power consumption and supporting sustainability goals.

Together, these innovations significantly reduce waiting and travel times, minimize unnecessary stops and improve handling capacity during peak traffic periods. In commercial buildings, hospitals and high-rise developments, intelligent control technologies enhance passenger flow while maximizing operational efficiency. As a result, elevators are evolving from conventional transportation systems into smart mobility solutions that improve both user experience and overall building performance.

Advancing Sustainability Through Energy Efficiency

As buildings strive to reduce energy consumption and achieve sustainability targets, elevator technology has become a key contributor to overall building efficiency. Modern VT systems incorporate advanced technologies such as VFDs (Variable Frequency Drives) and high-efficiency PMSM machines, which can deliver up to 40% energy savings compared to conventional elevator systems. These technologies provide superior performance, precise control and lower power consumption while enhancing ride comfort and reliability.

One of the most impactful innovations in this area is Active Front End (AFE) regenerative technology. During elevator operation, excess energy is generated when a fully loaded car travels downward or a lightly loaded car moves upward. Traditionally, this energy is dissipated as heat through braking resistors. Inovance's AFE regenerative solutions capture this otherwise wasted energy and feed it back into the building's electrical network for reuse, significantly reducing overall power consumption. Additionally, lower heat generation reduces cooling requirements and further improves system efficiency.

Complementing these advancements, features such as LED cabin lighting and standby operating modes help minimize energy usage during periods of low activity while reducing maintenance requirements. As developers increasingly focus on green buildings and lower carbon footprints, regenerative and energy-efficient technologies are becoming standard features in modern VT systems, delivering substantial economic and environmental benefits.

Connectivity Driving Predictive Operations

The rise of smart buildings has accelerated the integration of elevators with BMS (Building Management Systems) and IoT-enabled platforms. Modern VT systems can now communicate seamlessly with building infrastructure, creating a connected ecosystem that improves visibility and operational control. Through IoT connectivity, elevators continuously generate valuable performance data that can be analyzed in real time. Building operators can remotely monitor equipment status, track performance trends and receive alerts about potential issues before they lead to downtime.

This capability enables predictive-maintenance strategies, where maintenance activities are scheduled based on actual equipment conditions rather than fixed intervals. The result is improved reliability, reduced service disruptions and lower maintenance costs. Advanced monitoring and analytics also



E-package solution in compliance with EN81 & IS17900

help facility managers optimize system performance, ensuring elevators operate efficiently throughout their life cycle while maintaining high levels of passenger satisfaction.

Safety at the Core of Innovation

While technology continues to evolve, safety remains the foundation of the VT industry. Modern elevators incorporate sophisticated monitoring systems, intelligent diagnostics and advanced protection mechanisms designed to ensure safe and reliable operation. Continuous monitoring of critical parameters allows potential abnormalities to be identified and addressed before they impact system performance. Intelligent fault detection and enhanced control algorithms further improve operational reliability while reducing risks.

Equally important is compliance with evolving safety standards. Modern VT systems are increasingly designed to align with regulations such as IS 17900 and EN 81, ensuring that advancements in automation, connectivity and energy efficiency are implemented without compromising passenger safety. As elevators become smarter and more connected, the industry continues to prioritize safety as a key pillar of technological innovation.

Expanding the Spectrum of VT

The scope of VT is expanding rapidly as emerging technologies redefine how people move within buildings. Beyond conventional elevator systems, innovations such as double-deck elevators are enabling higher passenger handling

capacity while reducing shaft requirements, making them ideal for high-rise developments.

Similarly, twin elevator systems, where two independent cars operate within a single shaft, optimize shaft utilization, reduce building core space and increase transportation efficiency.

The industry is also exploring rope-free elevator technologies that utilize linear motor systems instead of conventional ropes, offering greater design flexibility and the potential for multi-directional movement. Advancements in multi-system mobility are further extending the capabilities of VT systems by integrating vertical, horizontal and diagonal transportation within large structures, creating seamless people-movement networks.

These developments reflect the broader evolution of VT technology from simple lifting devices into intelligent, connected and energy-efficient mobility systems. Innovations such as destination control, AI-driven traffic management, IoT-enabled monitoring, predictive maintenance, regenerative drives and digital twins are expanding the operational spectrum of elevators. As smart buildings and smart cities continue to evolve, future VT systems will focus on sustainability, autonomous operation, cybersecurity and integrated mobility, making VT a critical component of next-generation infrastructure.

Inovance Technology: Enabling Next-Generation VT Solutions

Addressing these evolving industry requirements, Inovance Technology offers a comprehensive portfolio of solutions designed to enhance elevator performance, safety and sustainability. The company's advanced NICE series integrated controllers provide intelligent elevator management and optimized traffic control, while elevator and escalator drive solutions, including ME320LN, MD500L and WISE310, deliver reliable and energy-efficient operation.

Dedicated AFE regenerative solutions further support sustainability goals by reducing energy consumption and maximizing power utilization. Complementing these technologies is a complete range of VT components, including COPs, LOPs, automatic doors and electrical accessories engineered to meet the latest industry standards.

By combining intelligent control, regenerative technology, IoT-enabled connectivity and compliance with modern safety requirements, Inovance Technology is helping elevator manufacturers and building developers create smarter, safer and more efficient VT systems for a rapidly evolving world. 



Subramania Bharathiyar is Elevator Product head, Inovance Technology India.

How VT Is Transforming Smart Buildings and Cities

The future of intelligent VT mobility

by Dr. Paresh Kariya

Imagine entering a building where elevators already know your destination, optimize passenger flow in real time, optimize energy consumption automatically and predict maintenance requirements before breakdowns occur. This is no longer futuristic imagination. It is the emerging reality of vertical transportation (VT). Across the world, elevators and escalators are rapidly evolving from conventional mechanical systems into intelligent mobility ecosystems that influence building efficiency, occupant experience, sustainability, safety and urban infrastructure planning. The VT industry today is no longer only about moving people between floors. It is about orchestrating intelligent movement inside increasingly complex buildings and cities.

According to multiple industry market research reports, the global elevator and escalator market is projected to exceed US\$100 billion over the coming years, driven by urbanization, high-rise construction, infrastructure modernization and smart city development. India is also emerging as one of the fastest-growing VT markets globally, with estimates projecting growth from nearly US\$4.1 billion in 2024 to more than US\$7 billion by 2030. This growth is not merely quantitative. It reflects a fundamental transformation in technology, customer expectations and building mobility philosophy.

Expanding Spectrum

The VT industry is no longer confined to conventional elevator engineering. The spectrum of VT technologies is rapidly expanding across multiple domains:

- ◆ **Mobility Spectrum:** From traditional vertical movement to multi-directional and intelligent mobility systems
- ◆ **Digital Spectrum:** From standalone mechanical systems to Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled, cloud-connected, AI-driven platforms
- ◆ **Sustainability Spectrum:** From energy-consuming systems to regenerative, low-carbon, green-certified mobility solutions
- ◆ **Experience Spectrum:** From basic transportation to occupant-centric, touchless, personalized mobility experiences
- ◆ **Infrastructure Spectrum:** From residential elevators to integrated solutions for metros, airports, hospitals, data centers and smart cities

Service Spectrum: From reactive maintenance to predictive analytics and life-cycle performance management. This expanding spectrum is transforming VT from an engineering utility into a strategic component of intelligent infrastructure.

Functional Expansion

Traditional VT systems focused primarily on vertical passenger movement. Modern systems now support:

- ◆ Vertical and horizontal mobility
- ◆ Passenger movement and traffic analytics

The VT industry today is no longer only about moving people between floors. It is about orchestrating intelligent movement inside increasingly complex buildings and cities.

- ◆ Mobility experience and intelligent people flow management
- ◆ Integration with access control and smart building systems.

In future-ready buildings, elevators will increasingly interact with parking systems, HVAC, security platforms, occupancy management and digital infrastructure.

Technology Advances Reshaping VT Smart & Connected Elevators (IoT Enabled)

IoT-enabled elevators are transforming maintenance and operational visibility. Advanced sensors continuously monitor vibration, temperature, door cycles, rope performance, traffic patterns and energy usage. This enables predictive maintenance, reduced downtime, remote diagnostics, better uptime management and real-time performance analytics. Globally, digital twin technologies are also gaining momentum, enabling virtual simulation and monitoring of elevator systems throughout their life cycle. Modern VT systems increasingly utilize: CANbus communication, cloud-based diagnostics, AI-enabled monitoring, machine-learning analytics and rope condition-monitoring systems. The industry is rapidly shifting from reactive maintenance toward predictive life-cycle management.

Touchless and AI-Based Interfaces

Post-pandemic expectations have accelerated adoption of mobile-based elevator calling, voice-enabled systems, facial recognition access, touchless destination selection and AI-based occupancy optimization. Hospitals, airports, commercial towers and smart residential developments are rapidly adopting these technologies. However, this also introduces new priorities around cybersecurity, data privacy, system integration and user adaptability.

Advanced Safety Systems

Safety is evolving beyond conventional compliance mechanisms. Emerging systems now integrate AI-enabled surveillance, fall detection systems, emergency response analytics, real-time monitoring dashboards and smart evacuation support systems. Public infrastructure and high-density buildings are increasingly adopting intelligent safety technologies.

Across the world, elevators and escalators are rapidly evolving from conventional mechanical systems into intelligent mobility ecosystems that influence building efficiency, occupant experience, sustainability, safety and urban infrastructure planning.

VT Is Now About Human Experience

One of the biggest industry shifts is that VT is no longer evaluated only by engineering specifications. Modern users increasingly evaluate elevators based on waiting time, ride comfort, safety confidence, digital interaction, accessibility, hygiene and touchless experience and building prestige and occupant perception. In premium office spaces, luxury residences, hospitals and commercial infrastructure, elevator experience is becoming part of overall brand perception and tenant satisfaction. Tomorrow's buildings will compete not only on architecture, but also on mobility intelligence.

India VT Market: Insights From Secondary Research

Recent secondary research studies, industry reports and market analyses indicate India's VT industry is transitioning from a volume-driven market into a technology-enabled and performance-focused ecosystem:

- ◆ India is currently recognized among the world's largest elevator markets, supported by rapid urban development, high-rise residential expansion, infrastructure growth and increasing modernization demand. Research findings indicate that a substantial share of future installations is expected to emerge from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, where urban verticalization is accelerating rapidly.
- ◆ Another major trend identified through secondary research is the growing adoption of connected elevator technologies. Customers are increasingly evaluating VT systems not only on equipment specifications, but also on data capability, uptime assurance, predictive maintenance, service ecosystem quality and energy performance.
- ◆ Sustainability is also becoming a major market driver. Studies highlight increasing adoption of regenerative drives, energy-efficient systems and smart standby technologies, especially in green-certified developments.
- ◆ The modernization segment is gaining strategic importance due to India's aging installed elevator base. Many building owners are now prioritizing safety upgrades, reliability enhancement, energy optimization and digital retrofitting.
- ◆ Secondary research also highlights persistent industry challenges: skilled manpower shortages, price-sensitive mid-market demand, inconsistent safety compliance and

a need for stronger regulatory enforcement. At the same time, customer expectations are evolving rapidly. Procurement decisions are increasingly shifting from lowest-cost purchasing toward life-cycle-based value evaluation. This marks a significant strategic shift in India's VT industry maturity.

Future Technologies To Watch

Emerging VT innovations likely to influence the next decade include AI-driven autonomous traffic management, digital twin-enabled elevator optimization, robotics-assisted maintenance, multi-directional magnetic levitation systems, Building Information Modeling (BIM)-integrated VT planning, smart evacuation systems, Tiny Machine Learning (TinyML)-enabled predictive diagnostics and integration with urban mobility infrastructure. These technologies may redefine how

The VT industry is no longer confined to conventional elevator engineering. The spectrum of VT technologies is rapidly expanding across multiple domains.

buildings manage people flow, energy usage and mobility intelligence.

Conclusion: The Future of Intelligent Vertical Mobility

VT is entering a transformational era where technology, analytics, sustainability and human experience converge. The next generation of VT systems will not merely transport people between floors. They will become intelligent infrastructure platforms connecting mobility, safety, energy efficiency, analytics and occupant experience into one seamless ecosystem.

For India, this transformation represents more than market growth. It is an opportunity to redefine how buildings move, interact and perform in the era of smart urbanization. As VT professionals, the focus must move beyond equipment selection toward intelligent mobility engineering, where performance, sustainability, digital readiness and human experience are designed together. The future of VT is no longer defined by elevators alone. It is defined by intelligent movement. 🌐



Dr. Paresh M. Kariya is director at PAPL and AIQ India. With a PhD, an MBA and a degree in mechanical engineering, he has nearly three decades of diverse experience in the VT industry with Otis, beginning his career as a service engineer working closely with equipment and later progressing to management positions in India, Thailand and the Asia-Pacific region. Kariya had the pleasure of working on the Statue of Unity — the world's tallest statue — in India. Passionate about developing programs that bridge the gap between elevator companies and customer requirements, he has helped put together modules on VT service quality and management.

Technologies Transforming the Way People Move in Buildings

Your author examines what's driving VT technology development.

by Rajnikant Lad



The rapid growth of construction activities, urbanization and infrastructure development has significantly increased the demand for elevators and escalators worldwide. Changing building designs, increasing urban density and the trend toward high-rise and supertall structures have compelled the vertical-transportation (VT) industry to continuously innovate and adopt advanced technologies.

Gone are the days when most projects required elevators operating at speeds of only 1 m/s or 2 m/s with a limited number of units. Today, the increasing height and complexity of buildings have pushed elevator speeds beyond 20 m/s in some of the world's tallest towers. Modern market requirements, user expectations, energy efficiency goals and the need for faster project delivery are driving technological advancements across the VT industry.

Major Technological Advances in VT

1) Gearless Drive Technology

The introduction of gearless traction machines has been one of the most significant developments in elevator technology.

Benefits:

- ◆ Higher energy efficiency
- ◆ Reduced space requirements
- ◆ Lower maintenance requirements
- ◆ Longer service life
- ◆ Smoother and quieter operation
- ◆ Improved ride quality

Today, gearless drives have become the preferred choice for most passenger elevators, particularly in medium and high-rise buildings.

2) PU-Coated Flat Ropes (Flat Belts)

Conventional steel wire ropes are increasingly being replaced by polyurethane (PU)-coated flat ropes in modern elevator systems.

Key Features:

- ◆ High-strength steel cords embedded within a polyurethane coating
- ◆ Smaller bending radius
- ◆ Reduced weight compared to conventional ropes

Advantages:

- ◆ Smaller traction sheaves and machine sizes

- ◆ Reduced motor power requirements
- ◆ Lower energy consumption
- ◆ Reduced wear on pulleys
- ◆ Improved traction performance
- ◆ Lower vibration and noise levels
- ◆ Better ride comfort
- ◆ Increased service life
- ◆ Enhanced resistance to corrosion and wear

Flat rope technology has enabled the design of more compact and efficient elevator systems.

3) Fiber Rope Technology

The introduction of fiber ropes is expected to be a game-changing development for the elevator industry.

Advantages:

- ◆ Significantly lighter than steel ropes
- ◆ Reduced machine and motor loading
- ◆ Lower energy consumption
- ◆ Reduced rope sway
- ◆ Longer travel capability
- ◆ Improved performance in high-rise applications

Fiber rope technology is helping overcome the limitations imposed by the self-weight of conventional steel ropes and is enabling the development of taller buildings.

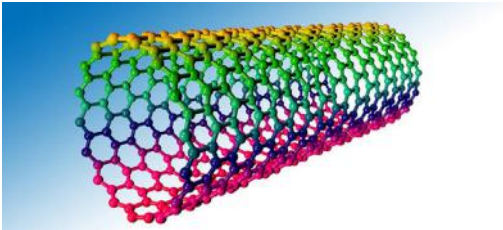
4) CNT Suspension Technology

Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are microscopic cylindrical structures made from carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal pattern. They are among the strongest and lightest materials known and are being actively researched for future elevator applications.

Potential Benefits:

- ◆ Extremely high strength-to-weight ratio
- ◆ Dramatic reduction in rope weight
- ◆ Lower motor power requirements
- ◆ Increased travel heights
- ◆ Reduced rope sway
- ◆ Improved energy efficiency

In supertall buildings, the weight of steel ropes becomes a major design limitation. CNT-based suspension systems could potentially eliminate this challenge and enable much taller elevator travel distances.



CNT technology also gained attention through theoretical concepts such as the “Space Elevator,” which proposes a cable extending from Earth into space.

5) Linear Motor Elevators

Linear motor technology represents one of the most revolutionary developments in VT.

Unlike conventional traction elevators, linear motor systems use electromagnetic forces to move the elevator car directly.

Key Characteristics:

- ◆ No traction ropes
- ◆ No counterweights in certain designs
- ◆ Direct electromagnetic propulsion

Advantages:

- ◆ Elimination of rope weight limitations
- ◆ No rope stretch
- ◆ No traction loss
- ◆ Reduced rope sway and oscillation
- ◆ Improved performance in seismic zones
- ◆ Suitable for supertall buildings

Future Possibilities:

- ◆ Vertical movement
- ◆ Horizontal movement
- ◆ Sideways movement
- ◆ Circulating elevator systems
- ◆ Multiple elevator cars operating within a single shaft

Linear motor technology has the potential to redefine elevator design, particularly for buildings exceeding 500 m in height.

6) Vacuum Elevators

Vacuum elevators operate using air pressure differentials and are becoming increasingly popular in residential and low-rise commercial applications.

Advantages:

- ◆ Compact design
- ◆ Minimal structural requirements
- ◆ Energy-efficient operation
- ◆ Quick installation
- ◆ Suitable for two to three stop applications
- ◆ Attractive architectural appearance

These elevators offer an excellent accessibility solution for homes, villas and small commercial buildings.

7) Digitalization and Smart Elevator Systems

The future of the VT industry is closely linked with digital technologies.

Emerging Trends:

- ◆ Elevator integration with Building Management Systems (BMS)
- ◆ Remote monitoring
- ◆ Real-time performance analytics
- ◆ Advanced fault detection
- ◆ Predictive maintenance
- ◆ AI-based diagnostics
- ◆ Internet of Things (IoT) connectivity

Spectrum Expansion of the VT Industry

The application spectrum of VT systems is expanding rapidly beyond traditional residential and commercial buildings.

Growth Areas:

- ◆ High-rise residential developments
- ◆ Smart cities
- ◆ Airports and transportation hubs
- ◆ Hospitals and healthcare facilities
- ◆ Metro and railway stations
- ◆ Religious and pilgrimage destinations
- ◆ Accessibility solutions for elderly and differently abled individuals
- ◆ Industrial facilities and warehouses
- ◆ Mixed-use developments
- ◆ Tourism infrastructure

The growing emphasis on accessibility, urban mobility and smart infrastructure is creating substantial opportunities for the VT industry.

The VT industry is entering a new era characterized by innovation, digitalization, sustainability and expanding application areas. Technologies such as gearless drives, PU-coated flat ropes, fiber ropes, linear motor systems and future carbon nanotube suspension solutions are transforming the way people move within buildings.

Simultaneously, digital technologies such as predictive maintenance, remote monitoring and intelligent building integration are improving safety, reliability and operational efficiency.

As urbanization continues and buildings become taller, smarter and more complex, VT systems will play an increasingly critical role in modern infrastructure. The coming decade is expected to witness unprecedented technological advancements, making the VT industry one of the most dynamic and innovative sectors of the built environment. 



Rajnikant Lad is an elevator auditor, founder — Elevator Safety Awareness Forum India and former chairman — Building Transportation Safety (FSAI).

The Future of VT

Enhancing the overall structure occupant experience

by Dr. Malini Saba

images by Gagandeep Kaur

For most people, elevators are an afterthought. They step in, select a floor and expect to arrive safely, comfortably and without delay. Yet behind that seemingly simple journey lies one of the most dynamic segments of the built environment.

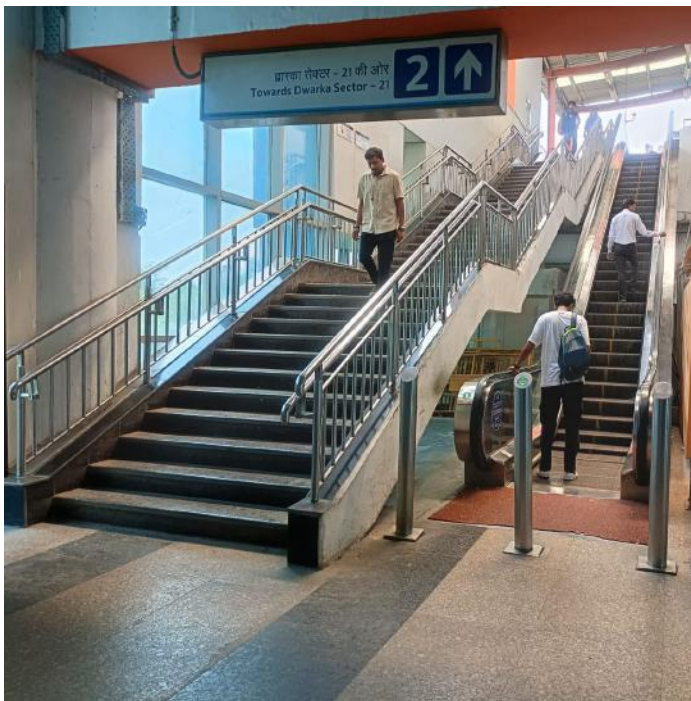
Today, the vertical-transportation (VT) industry is undergoing a remarkable transformation. Driven by advances in digital technology, sustainability initiatives, urbanization and evolving user expectations, elevators and escalators are becoming far more than mechanical systems that move people from one level to another. They are evolving into intelligent mobility solutions that interact with buildings, optimize operations and enhance the overall occupant experience.

process vast amounts of operational data. Information relating to traffic patterns, motor performance, door cycles and passenger flow can now be monitored in real time.

This intelligence allows building operators to gain deeper insights into system performance while enabling more efficient management of VT assets. Rather than functioning as isolated pieces of equipment, elevators are becoming active participants in a building's digital ecosystem.

AI-driven analytics are also helping optimize dispatching strategies based on traffic demand. By learning from usage patterns, systems can improve efficiency during peak periods and reduce passenger waiting times.

In an era where smart buildings are becoming the norm rather than the exception, intelligent elevators are rapidly emerging as a key component of connected infrastructure.



This transformation is best described as a spectrum expansion. The scope of VT technology is broadening beyond transportation alone to encompass connectivity, data analytics, energy management, accessibility and smart building integration. As cities grow taller and smarter, the role of VT systems is expanding in parallel.

The Rise of Intelligent Elevators

The elevator industry's journey mirrors the broader digital transformation occurring across virtually every sector.

Advances in sensors, cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT) connectivity and AI have enabled elevators to collect and



Destination Control: Smarter Traffic Management

As buildings become taller and occupancy levels increase, efficient passenger movement becomes increasingly important.

Destination Control Systems (DCS) represent one of the most significant advancements in traffic management. Instead of selecting a floor after entering the elevator, passengers register their destination before boarding. The system then groups passengers traveling to similar floors and assigns them to the most suitable elevator car.



The benefits are substantial. Fewer stops, reduced travel times and improved handling capacity contribute to a more efficient user experience, particularly in high-rise commercial buildings.

For developers and facility managers, DCS offers a practical solution to one of modern urban life's persistent challenges: moving large numbers of people quickly and efficiently. After all, few experiences test a commuter's patience quite like an elevator that seems determined to stop at every floor.

Predictive Maintenance: From Reactive to Proactive

Maintenance practices are also being redefined by digital technology. Traditionally, elevator maintenance relied on scheduled inspections and reactive interventions. While effective, this approach often identified issues only after wear or malfunction became evident.

Today, predictive maintenance is changing the paradigm.

Using IoT-enabled sensors and advanced analytics, VT systems can continuously monitor the condition of



critical components such as motors, controllers, brakes and doors. Any deviation from normal operating behavior can trigger alerts, allowing technicians to intervene before a breakdown occurs.

The advantages are significant. Predictive maintenance helps reduce downtime, improve equipment reliability, extend asset life and lower long-term maintenance costs. For building owners and service providers alike, the ability to anticipate problems before they occur is becoming a valuable competitive advantage.



Creating Seamless Passenger Experiences

User expectations are changing, and VT systems are evolving to meet them. The demand for touchless and personalized experiences has accelerated the adoption of technologies such as mobile applications, QR-code access, voice controls and facial recognition systems. Passengers can increasingly interact with elevators through their smartphones, enabling them to call an elevator, gain authorized access and navigate buildings with greater convenience.

These innovations are about more than reducing physical contact. They reflect a broader shift toward frictionless mobility experiences. Much like other aspects of modern life, the best technology is often the technology that works so seamlessly users barely notice it.

Sustainability Takes Center Stage

Sustainability has become one of the defining priorities for the built environment, and the VT industry is responding with a range of innovative solutions.

Modern elevators are significantly more energy-efficient than their predecessors. Regenerative drive systems, LED lighting, intelligent standby modes and lightweight materials are helping reduce energy consumption without compromising performance.

Regenerative technology is particularly noteworthy. By capturing excess energy generated during elevator operation and feeding it back into the building's electrical system, these solutions contribute to overall energy efficiency and sustainability goals.

As developers increasingly pursue green building certifications and governments strengthen environmental



standards, energy-efficient VT systems are transitioning from desirable features to essential project requirements. The future elevator must not only move people efficiently, but it must do so responsibly.

Expanding Accessibility and Inclusivity

Another pivotal dimension of VT spectrum expansion is accessibility. Contemporary buildings serve increasingly diverse user groups, and VT systems are playing a critical role in ensuring equitable access for all occupants. Features such as braille-enabled controls, voice announcements, enhanced visual indicators, larger cabin configurations and intuitive user interfaces are becoming standard elements of contemporary design.

The industry's focus is gradually shifting from regulatory compliance toward genuine inclusivity. The objective is not merely to accommodate users with different needs, but to empower them with a safe, independent and comfortable

mobility experience. In many ways, accessibility is becoming a measure of how effectively technology serves people.

Elevators in the Smart Building Ecosystem

Perhaps the most profound shift is the integration of VT systems within broader smart building frameworks. Elevators today increasingly communicate with building management systems, security networks, access control platforms and occupancy analytics tools. This interconnected environment enables more efficient operations and improved coordination across building functions.

For example, access credentials can automatically authorize floor access and summon elevators. Traffic data can inform occupancy planning. Emergency systems can coordinate elevator responses during critical situations.

As buildings become smarter, elevators are evolving into strategic digital assets rather than standalone transportation systems.





India's Vertical Future

The significance of these advancements is particularly evident in India. Rapid urbanization, the growth of high-rise residential developments, expanding commercial districts and the rise of mixed-use projects are creating unprecedented demand for advanced VT solutions. Cities such as Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad and Gurugram are witnessing increasing adoption of smart building technologies, driving demand for intelligent, efficient and sustainable elevator systems.

At the same time, modernization of existing installations

presents a substantial opportunity. Many aging systems can benefit from upgrades that improve safety, efficiency and user experience without requiring complete replacement. As India's urban landscape continues to evolve, VT technology will play a pivotal role in shaping how people interact with buildings.

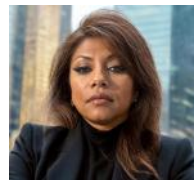
The Next Ascent

The VT industry is entering a new chapter, and it is one defined by intelligence, connectivity, sustainability and user-centric design.

What was once viewed primarily as a mechanical necessity is becoming an integral component of

smart buildings and future-ready cities. The expansion of VT technology's capabilities is transforming elevators from transportation devices into intelligent mobility platforms.

Yet amid all this innovation, the industry's core mission remains unchanged, and that is moving people safely and efficiently. The difference is that today's VT systems are doing far more along the way, including collecting data, conserving energy, improving accessibility and enhancing the overall building experience. As technology continues to advance and urban environments become increasingly complex, one thing is clear: The future of VT is not just about reaching the next floor. It is about elevating the journey itself. 🌐



Dr. Malini Saba is a self-made businesswoman, philanthropist, psychologist, author, environmentalist, human and social rights activist, and a global advocate for women and girls. But her work goes far beyond titles. For over 32 years, she's built a career driven by purpose, not just profit, working across countries and industries.

Dr Saba has a business background in international, multicultural environments and experience with highly engineered systems, requiring a deep understanding of critical business drivers in multiple markets. She has worked across agriculture and trade, pharmaceuticals, fintech, real estate, hospitality, entertainment, and gold mining.

A lifelong researcher, Dr Saba continues to explore areas where leadership-led intervention can drive meaningful change. She's not afraid to take risks but does so with empathy and insight — qualities not often seen together in high-stakes business.

Dr Saba founded the Saba Family Foundation to help one billion people live healthier, more empowered lives — a mission she's been quietly working toward for years. Through the foundation, she has supported millions across South and Southeast Asia, Africa, South America, and the U.S., helping people access healthcare, education, nutrition, and financial stability.

Her work has led to collaborations with institutions like the Bill Clinton Foundation, Stanford Medical Centre, CRY, Concern Worldwide, the Women Refugee Commission, and the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee, to name a few.



“One Nation, One Code”

India moves toward a new code requirement for lifts and escalators.

by Abhijit Dandekar

Introduction

The Indian government has been moving in the direction of “One Nation, One Code.” Two main new Indian Standards (IS) on Lifts for Transport of Persons and Goods were published in December 2022:

- 1) IS 17900 (Part 1): Safety Rules
- 2) IS 17900 (Part 2): Design Rules, Calculations, Examinations and Tests of Lift Components

These standards are modified adoptions of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 8100-1 and 2 (2019). IS 17900 (Part 1) is the main Prescriptive Standard, and it combines traction, hydraulic and machine-room-less lifts; IS 17900 (Part 2) defines design rules and calculations. A simultaneous running period of three years was publicized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) via a gazette notification. That means the new IS applies for all shipments from December 2025 onwards.

International Current Status

The main aim of revising the existing IS on lifts is to bring them to a level with international standards. Changes have been made in IS 17900-1:2022 from the ISO 8100-1:2019 for Indian market conditions.

ISO is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). BIS is a founding member of ISO. ISO TC178 has an objective to harmonize lift standards across the world. As BIS and its associated Ministry is striving for “One Nation, One code,” ISO TC178 is striving for “one standard across the globe” for various sectors including lifts, escalators and moving walks. The 2026 plan for ISO is shown graphically in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Source: ISO TC 178 documentation

The main aim of revising the existing IS on lifts is to bring them to a level with international standards. Changes have been made in IS 17900-1:2022 from the ISO 8100-1:2019 for Indian market conditions.

Current ISO Adoption Status Within Asia Pacific and China Region

Sr #	Country	Standard Publication	ISO Adoption Status
1	India	IS 17900-1/2:2022	Modified Adoption
2	Hong Kong	HK COP 2021	Modified Adoption
3	Taiwan China	CNS15827-20	Direct Adoption
4	South Korea	KC2050	Cite EN81-20&50
5	Malaysia	MS EN 81-20/50	Direct Adoption
6	Indonesia	Permanaker 6 2017	Will adopt EN81-20/50 soon
7	Philippines	No National Code	All international codes
8	Singapore	SS550:2020+A1:2022	Modified Adoption
9	Thailand	No National Code	All international codes
10	Japan	JISA4307-1&2	Modified Adoption
11	Australia	AS1735.1	Modified Adoption
12	New Zealand	BS EN81-20&50	Modified Adoption
13	Vietnam	TCVN6395-20&50	Direct Adoption
14	Cambodia	No National Code	All international codes
15	China	GB/T7588.1&2:2020	Modified Adoption

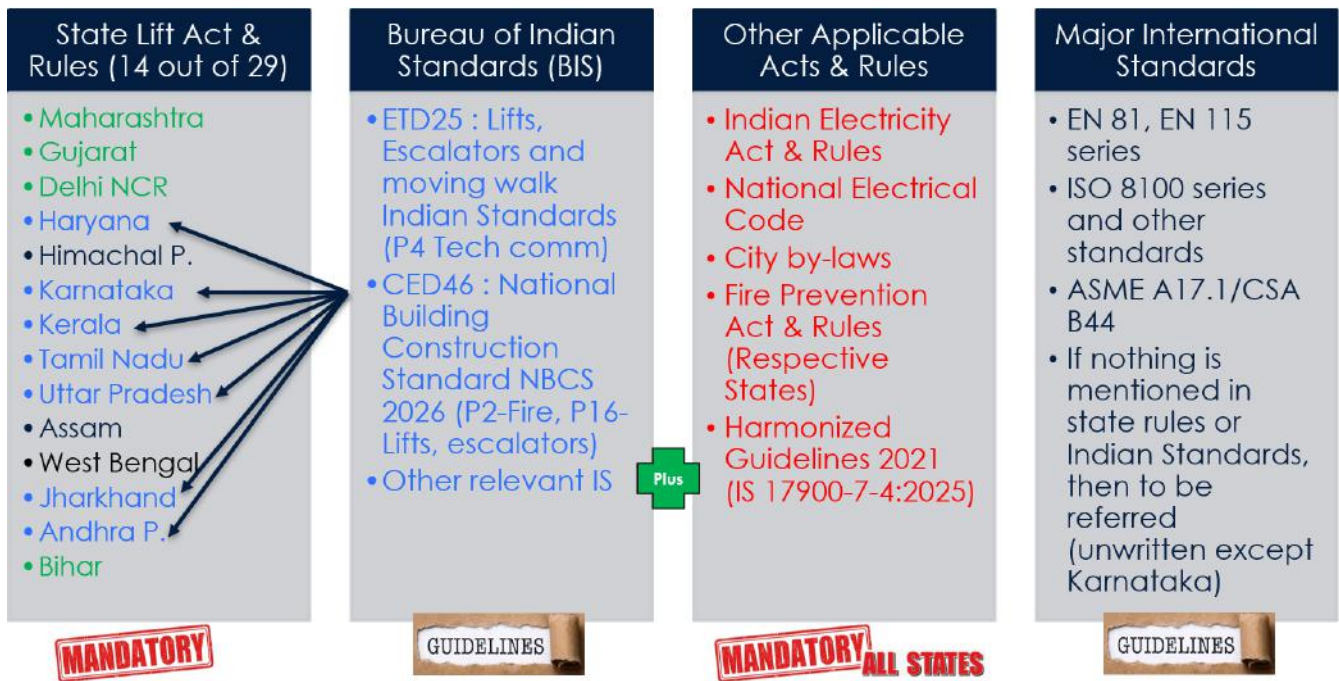
Source: Pacific Asia Lift & Escalator Association (PALEA)

Current Indian Lift and Escalator Regulations Status

Out of 29 states and union territories in India, only 14 states have lift acts and rules. Some states, for example, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi National Capital Region and West Bengal, have their own lift and escalator rules; Indian standards are used as guidelines only. Indian standards are now mandatory to be followed in seven states of India: Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. Bihar is on its way to adoption.

“One Nation, One Code” Will Meet The Following Objectives In India:

- ◆ One elevator, escalator and moving walks standard across India
- ◆ One certification across India with mutual recognition agreements with international laboratories
- ◆ Alignment with an internationally accepted standard like ISO 8100-1/2, so there will be one standard across India, Asia Pacific and China



Source: PALEA

- ◆ Qualification and certification mandatory for all safety components specified under IS 17900-2:2022
- ◆ Enforcement of these laws, along with licensing requirements for all units across India
- ◆ Annual recertification process to be defined for 100% compliance

Standards That Can Be Made Applicable Across India Under “One Nation, One Code”

Other 17900 series standards, IS 17900 (Part 7/Section 3) on Lifts in Private Residences (Home Lifts) and IS 17900 (Part 7/Section 7) on Lifts under Seismic Conditions, will be published soon.

IS, not in 17900 series but connected with lifts and escalators, can also be the part of enforcement across India:

- 1) IS 17106 (PESSRAL and PESSRAE)
- 2) IS 17515 (Energy Efficiency)
- 3) IS 17518-2 (Fire-Resistance Tests for Lift Landing Floors)
- 4) IS 17615 (Ride Quality)
- 5) IS 17805 (EMC Guidelines)
- 6) IS 17806 (Guide Rails)
- 7) IS 2365 (Wire Ropes)
- 8) IS 4591 (Escalators and Moving Walks)
- 9) National Building Construction Standard 2026 (NBCS Vol 2/Part D/Section 5A, 5B and 5C).

Disclaimer: This article has been prepared in good faith with the objective of educating readers and increasing awareness of the standards applicable to lifts, escalators and moving walks across Asia, including China. The information

presented is intended to provide a high-level overview and does not comprehensively address all applicable requirements, technical details or conditions. Readers are therefore advised to consult the original and official standards for complete and authoritative guidance. The views expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the author’s employer or any affiliated organization. Neither the author, the publisher, nor any associated organization shall be held liable for any actions taken or decisions made based on the information contained herein. 🌐



An electronics engineer with post-graduation in marketing management, **Abhijit Dandekar** is working as director – Codes & Standards (APAC) at Otis’ Asia Pacific Regional Headquarters, responsible for product and process quality and product safety enhancements, increasing reliability and customer satisfaction. With almost 38 years of experience at Otis, Dandekar’s expertise spans across various functions including the Otis R&D

department, field engineering, training, quality, product safety, Lean manufacturing, supply chain and codes. He is currently president of PALEA, Singapore, with an objective to harmonize codes and standards across the Asia Pacific and China.

Member of ISO technical committee TC =178 (and its seven working groups: WG4, WG4/TFRA, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 13), CEN TC 10, World Elevator and Escalator Federation, he represented the India delegation from BIS in eight past meetings held in Russia, the U.S., South Africa, Australia, India, Germany, France and China. A member of ETD25 (P4 panel) Elevator and Escalator Code Committee of BIS, he has been liaising with government authorities for consultation on amendments to local elevator codes for Maharashtra and Gujarat states. He is also a member of CED46 (P16 panel, responsible for drafting the National Building construction standard (NBCS 2026) of India.

Strategic Modernization of Aging Escalators: An Engineering Framework for Extending Service Life

Why complete replacement is not always the optimum engineering solution

by Byju Kannampalli

Abstract

As thousands of escalators installed during the construction boom of the 1990s and early 2000s continue to age, building owners are increasingly faced with the decision of whether to modernize existing equipment or proceed with complete replacement. While replacement is often regarded as the default solution, detailed engineering assessments frequently demonstrate that many escalators retain structurally sound core components capable of providing many additional years of safe and reliable service.

This article presents an engineering framework for evaluating aging escalators based on the condition of individual subsystems rather than chronological age alone. It discusses the principles of strategic partial modernization, identifies the key components requiring technical assessment and proposes a structured decision-making approach that balances safety, reliability, operational continuity and life-cycle cost. The objective is to encourage engineering-led modernization strategies that maximize asset value while minimizing unnecessary replacement.

Introduction

Across the world, a significant proportion of installed escalators are approaching the stage at which major capital investment decisions become unavoidable. Increasing maintenance requirements, aging electrical systems, evolving safety standards and the gradual obsolescence of replacement components often prompt recommendations for complete equipment replacement.

While complete replacement is appropriate in certain situations, it should not be regarded as the default solution for every aging escalator. An escalator is a complex assembly of structural, mechanical, electrical and safety systems, each operating under different service conditions and each having its own expected service life. These systems rarely deteriorate at the same rate. Consequently, the overall age of an escalator is not, by itself, a reliable indicator of its remaining service potential.

For building owners, the decision extends beyond the cost of new equipment. Complete replacement may require prolonged shutdowns, significant demolition work, structural modifications, interruption of pedestrian circulation and disruption to commercial operations. In facilities such as shopping malls, airports, metro stations, hospitals and commercial buildings, the indirect costs associated with

operational downtime can be as significant as the capital investment itself.

For consulting engineers and modernization specialists, the challenge is therefore to determine whether complete replacement is technically justified or whether a carefully planned modernization program can restore safety, improve reliability, extend operational life and deliver greater long-term value.

This article examines the engineering principles that should guide that decision. It proposes a structured methodology for assessing aging escalators, evaluating the condition of individual subsystems and identifying modernization strategies that optimize both technical performance and life-cycle value. Rather than treating replacement as the starting point, the article advocates an engineering-first approach in which every major investment decision is supported by objective technical evaluation and sound asset management principles.

Engineering Assessment Framework for Escalator Modernization

The success of any escalator modernization project depends on the quality of the initial engineering assessment. Decisions based solely on equipment age often result in unnecessary replacement of serviceable components, while overlooking systems that genuinely require renewal. A structured technical evaluation enables modernization strategies to be developed on the basis of actual equipment condition, operational requirements and life-cycle value.

Internationally, modernization assessments are generally guided by the principles of EN 115-1 Safety of Escalators and Moving Walks – Construction and Installation and EN 115-2 Rules for the Improvement of Safety of Existing Escalators and Moving Walks, together with manufacturer recommendations and applicable local regulations. These standards promote a risk-based approach, encouraging targeted improvements that enhance safety and reliability without unnecessarily replacing structurally sound equipment.

Unlike many building systems, the major components of an escalator do not reach the end of their service life simultaneously. The structural truss may remain serviceable for several decades, while controllers, drive components, safety devices and electrical systems may require modernization much earlier. Consequently, each subsystem should be evaluated independently before determining the appropriate level of intervention.

The engineering assessment should address the principal subsystems shown in Table 1.

Subsystem	Primary Assessment Criteria	Typical Modernization Strategy
Structural Truss	Structural integrity, corrosion, deformation, weld condition, support arrangement	Preserve where structurally sound; reinforce or repair where necessary
Drive System	Motor, gearbox, brake, bearings, sprockets, lubrication, vibration	Renew worn mechanical components selectively
Controller	Obsolescence, reliability, diagnostics, spare-part availability	Replace with microprocessor controller and variable-frequency drive (VFD)
Step Chain and Drive Chain	Elongation, roller wear, alignment, tension	Replace when wear exceeds manufacturer limits
Steps	Structural cracks, cleat wear, roller condition, axle wear	Selective replacement of damaged steps
Handrail System	Surface condition, tracking, tension, synchronization	Replace worn handrails and adjust drive system
Balustrade Assembly	Glass integrity, skirt clearance, alignment, decking condition	Refurbish and correct alignment defects
Safety Devices	Functional testing, code compliance, operational reliability	Upgrade in accordance with EN 115-2 recommendations
Electrical Installation	Wiring, grounding, protective devices, documentation	Renew obsolete electrical systems and improve maintainability

Table 1: Recommended Engineering Assessment Criteria

This subsystem-based assessment provides a clear technical understanding of the escalator's actual condition and enables engineers to distinguish between components that require immediate replacement and those capable of providing many additional years of reliable service.

Rather than viewing modernization as a single intervention, the assessment establishes the technical foundation for selecting the most appropriate modernization strategy. The objective is not to replace the maximum number of components, but to restore safety, reliability and performance while preserving assets that continue to provide engineering value.

The Escalator Modernization Decision Pyramid

Escalator modernization should not be viewed as a choice between routine maintenance and complete replacement. Instead, it should be regarded as a structured engineering process in which each level of intervention is evaluated

according to the condition of the equipment, operational requirements, applicable safety standards and life-cycle objectives.

To support this approach, your author proposes the Escalator Modernization Decision Pyramid – a practical engineering framework for determining the appropriate level of modernization before considering complete replacement.

Escalator Modernization Decision Pyramid



Figure 1: The Escalator Modernization Decision Pyramid proposed by your author illustrates a structured decision-making framework in which modernization progresses from cosmetic improvements to complete replacement based on engineering assessment and life-cycle considerations.

The pyramid illustrates a simple but important engineering principle: Modernization should progress from the least intrusive interventions to the most extensive. Each level should be fully evaluated before moving to the next. Complete replacement therefore becomes the final engineering option rather than the default starting point.

Cosmetic Improvements

The first level addresses the visible condition of the installation. Although cosmetic improvements do not directly

Modernization should progress from the least intrusive interventions to the most extensive. Each level should be fully evaluated before moving to the next. Complete replacement therefore becomes the final engineering option rather than the default starting point.

affect operational performance, they significantly influence passenger perception and the overall image of the facility.

Typical measures include:

- ◆ Replacement of damaged skirt panels
- ◆ Balustrade refurbishment
- ◆ Stainless-steel polishing
- ◆ Step cleaning or selective step replacement
- ◆ LED lighting upgrades
- ◆ Decking refurbishment
- ◆ Replacement of worn comb plates and floor plates

These relatively low-cost improvements can substantially enhance the appearance of an aging escalator while extending the period before more extensive interventions become necessary.

Safety Upgrades

Passenger safety remains the highest priority throughout the service life of an escalator.

As safety standards continue to evolve, many existing installations can benefit from targeted upgrades recommended by EN 115-2 without requiring complete replacement.

Typical improvements include:

- ◆ Upgrading safety monitoring devices
- ◆ Modern brake monitoring systems
- ◆ Handrail speed monitoring
- ◆ Improved emergency stop protection
- ◆ Missing step detection
- ◆ Enhanced combplate safety devices
- ◆ Integration with fire alarm and emergency management systems

Where practical, modernization should aim to achieve the highest reasonably attainable level of safety while retaining structurally sound equipment.

Performance Improvements

Performance improvements focus on enhancing operational efficiency, passenger comfort and energy performance.

Typical modernization measures include:

- ◆ Replacement of relay-/PLC-based controllers with microprocessor-based control systems
- ◆ Installation of VFDs
- ◆ Improved acceleration and deceleration characteristics
- ◆ Energy-saving operating modes
- ◆ Reduced vibration and operational noise
- ◆ Enhanced fault diagnostics and monitoring

For consulting engineers and modernization specialists, the challenge is to determine whether complete replacement is technically justified or whether a carefully planned modernization program can restore safety, improve reliability, extend operational life and deliver greater long-term value.

These upgrades often produce noticeable improvements in ride quality while reducing maintenance requirements and operating costs.

Reliability Improvements

Recurring breakdowns are frequently associated with a relatively small number of aging mechanical or electrical components rather than deterioration of the entire escalator.

Engineering assessment should identify components exhibiting excessive wear, reduced reliability or limited spare-part availability.

Typical reliability improvements include:

- ◆ Renewal of drive chains
- ◆ Replacement of bearings and sprockets
- ◆ Brake refurbishment
- ◆ Lubrication system upgrades
- ◆ Replacement of obsolete electrical components
- ◆ Wiring improvements
- ◆ Installation of modern diagnostic systems

Targeted replacement of these components often restores dependable operation while avoiding the cost and disruption associated with complete replacement.

Major Component Renewal

Only after lower levels of the pyramid have been evaluated should engineers consider the replacement of major assemblies.

Typical examples include:

- ◆ Complete controller replacement
- ◆ Drive machine replacement
- ◆ Step chain renewal
- ◆ Handrail replacement
- ◆ Brake assembly replacement
- ◆ Major electrical system renewal

Such interventions should always be supported by detailed engineering assessment demonstrating that the existing components have reached the end of their practical service life.

Complete Replacement

Complete replacement represents the highest level of intervention and should be recommended only when engineering evaluation demonstrates that modernization is no longer technically, economically or operationally viable.

Typical conditions supporting complete replacement include:

- ◆ Structural deterioration of the truss
- ◆ Extensive corrosion affecting structural integrity
- ◆ Inability to achieve acceptable safety levels through modernization
- ◆ Fundamental design limitations
- ◆ Obsolete equipment with no practical modernization pathway
- ◆ Life-cycle cost analysis demonstrating that replacement provides greater long-term value

Replacement should therefore be regarded as the outcome of a structured engineering assessment rather than an assumption based solely on equipment age.

Engineering Significance

The Escalator Modernization Decision Pyramid provides a systematic methodology for evaluating modernization options in a logical sequence. It encourages engineers to prioritize safety, reliability, operational performance and life-cycle value before recommending major capital expenditure.

By applying this framework, consultants, facility managers and building owners can make modernization decisions that are technically justified, economically responsible and aligned with internationally recognized engineering practices.

Engineering Decision Matrix for Escalator Modernization

Selecting the appropriate modernization strategy is one of the most significant decisions in the life cycle of an escalator. While complete replacement may be technically justified in some cases, many installations can continue to provide safe and reliable service through carefully planned modernization programs.

Before committing to major capital investment, building owners, consultants and facility managers should undertake a structured engineering evaluation that considers both the technical condition of the equipment and the operational requirements of the facility.

The following decision matrix provides a practical framework for evaluating whether modernization or complete replacement represents the most appropriate engineering solution.

Engineering Decision Matrix

1)Is the structural truss suitable for continued service?

The structural truss is the foundation of the escalator and often has the longest service life. If detailed inspection confirms that it remains structurally sound and free from significant corrosion or deformation, modernization may provide a technically viable alternative to complete replacement.

2)Which components have genuinely reached the end of their service life?

Escalator subsystems deteriorate at different rates. Controllers, drive systems, handrails, safety devices and electrical components frequently require renewal long before the primary structure. Decisions should therefore be based on engineering assessment rather than chronological age.

3)Can the escalator achieve current safety expectations through modernization?

Modern safety improvements recommended under EN 115-2 can often be incorporated into existing installations without replacing the entire escalator. Upgrading monitoring systems, safety devices, brake supervision and emergency interfaces may significantly improve operational safety while preserving serviceable components.

4)Does the proposed modernization support the operational requirements of the building?

Every building presents different operational challenges. Shopping malls, airports, hospitals, metro stations, hotels and commercial developments each have unique traffic patterns, service expectations and maintenance constraints. The modernization strategy should therefore reflect the operational function of the facility rather than follow a standard replacement approach.

5)What additional service life can realistically be achieved?

A comprehensive engineering assessment should estimate the expected extension of service life following modernization. Where structurally sound equipment can continue to operate safely and reliably for many additional years, modernization may represent the more sustainable engineering solution.

6)What operational disruption can be avoided?

Decisions based solely on equipment age often result in unnecessary replacement of serviceable components, while overlooking systems that genuinely require renewal. A structured technical evaluation enables modernization strategies to be developed on the basis of actual equipment condition, operational requirements and life-cycle value.

The objective is not to replace the maximum number of components, but to restore safety, reliability and performance while preserving assets that continue to provide engineering value.

Complete replacement often involves extensive dismantling, structural modifications, prolonged shutdowns and significant disruption to building operations. In occupied facilities, these indirect costs may exceed the savings achieved through a replacement-focused strategy.

Strategic modernization generally reduces project duration, minimizes disruption to tenants and building users and allows facilities to maintain normal operations wherever practical.

7) Which option delivers the greatest life-cycle value?

Engineering decisions should consider the total life-cycle cost of ownership rather than initial capital expenditure alone. Factors such as maintenance costs, equipment reliability, energy performance, operational continuity, spare-part availability, future maintainability and expected service life should all form part of the investment evaluation.

The objective is not to identify the least expensive solution, but the solution that delivers the greatest long-term value while maintaining safety and operational performance.

Conclusion

As the global stock of ageing escalators continues to increase, modernization strategies will play an increasingly important role in asset management. The challenge facing the industry is no longer simply replacing aging equipment but determining the most appropriate engineering intervention based on technical evidence, operational requirements and life-cycle performance.

A structured engineering assessment – supported by the principles of EN 115-1, EN 115-2, manufacturer recommendations and applicable local regulations – provides a rational basis for these decisions. By evaluating each subsystem independently, engineers can distinguish between components requiring renewal and those that continue to provide reliable service.

Strategic partial modernization is not an alternative to engineering; it is the result of sound engineering. It enables owners to enhance safety, improve reliability, extend operational life, reduce project disruption and maximize the return on existing assets without unnecessary replacement.

Ultimately, the success of a modernization project should not be measured by the quantity of equipment replaced, but by the quality of the engineering decisions that preceded it. The most effective projects are those that replace only what is necessary, preserve what continues to perform and deliver the optimum balance between safety, performance, sustainability and long-term value.

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- [5] Manufacturer modernization manuals and technical documentation 

Professional Highlights

- ◆ 30-plus years in the VT industry
- ◆ 2,000-plus elevator, escalator and automated parking systems delivered
- ◆ Specialist in elevator modernization and high-rise installation
- ◆ Executive MBA | Diploma in Electrical Engineering
- ◆ Author, innovator and technical contributor
- ◆ Extensive leadership experience across the GCC (global capacity center)



Byju Kannampalli, chief technology officer, Bharath School of Vertical Transportation (BSVT), is a VT professional with more than 30 years of international experience in elevator and escalator installation, modernization and operational leadership.

Throughout his career, Kannampalli has successfully delivered more than 2,000 elevator, escalator and automated parking systems across the U.A.E., Oman and India, establishing a

reputation for technical excellence, innovation and execution of complex projects.

His project portfolio includes several of the Middle East's landmark developments, including Burj Khalifa, Dubai Metro, Dubai International Airport, Abu Dhabi Airport Expansion, Muscat International Airport, Etihad Towers and ADNOC Headquarters, together with numerous high-rise residential, commercial, hospitality and infrastructure projects.

A recognized specialist in elevator modernization, Kannampalli is passionate about delivering practical engineering solutions that enhance safety, improve reliability, extend equipment life and maximize long-term value for building owners. His work has also led to the development of innovative installation methods, specialized tools and productivity systems that improve project efficiency and workforce performance.

In addition to project leadership, Kannampalli actively contributes to the advancement of the VT industry through technical writing, innovation and workforce development. His professional philosophy is centered on combining engineering excellence with practical field experience to deliver safe, reliable and sustainable vertical-mobility solutions.

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The Buying Ladder: Procurement Strategy for the Independent Elevator Company

Key reasons why choosing your supplier is one of the most important decisions in your business

by Arun Narang

Let's analyze why how you buy must change as your business grows — and the buying options available at every stage.

Installations bring revenue. Service builds relationships. But the one thing that quietly decides whether an elevator company actually makes money is how it buys. Procurement. And for an independent elevator company, procurement is not just a buying exercise — it is something far more fundamental.

Here is something unique about the independent elevator business: The supply chain is inherently split. Unlike a multinational elevator company where the factory and the brand are the same, for most independent elevator companies, the company that makes the components and the company that installs the elevator on-site are not the same concern. They do not run their own full-scale manufacturing and assembly operations — which means their suppliers effectively become their production set-up. The quality of every component that arrives at your site becomes the quality of your elevator. The end customer sees your name on the elevator — if there is ever an issue, they call you.

That makes choosing your supplier one of the most important decisions in your business — and when you choose, look beyond price. You may be technical yourself, but your suppliers need to be masters of their product — they should know the standards, the testing requirements and the applications inside out. Your suppliers are effectively your production partners; you want them run by people who truly know their domain.

We work with elevator companies across India at very different stages — some doing one or two lifts a month, some doing eight or 10, some doing 20 or more. And the one pattern

You may be technical yourself, but your suppliers need to be masters of their product — they should know the standards, the testing requirements and the applications inside out. Your suppliers are effectively your production partners; you want them run by people who truly know their domain.

The quality of every component that arrives at your site becomes the quality of your elevator. The end customer sees your name on the elevator — if there is ever an issue, they call you.

that is clear is that your procurement strategy must change as your business grows. Think of it as a buying ladder — four stages, each suited to a different volume of work.

One-To-Three Lifts a Month

If you are doing one to three lifts a month — and most independent elevator companies in India are in this range — your smartest move is to buy a full kit. One supplier, one package: guide rails, ropes, motor, controller, door system, everything arrives together. Someone else has already done the bill of materials work for you, and you focus on what you do best — installation, service and building your name.

Three-To-Eight Lifts a Month

At three-to-eight lifts a month, something shifts. You now have enough volume to start splitting your buying: mechanical from one source, electrical from another. You start building direct relationships with component suppliers and you begin to see where the real margin sits in each part of the lift. But something else happens, too; your lift starts becoming uniquely yours. The combination of components you choose, the suppliers you work with, the specifications you set — that mix is your imprint. No other installer buying a standard kit can offer what you are now offering.

Eight-To-15 Lifts a Month

At eight-to-15 lifts a month, you unbundle further — mechanical fabricators, electrical builders, OEM traders and OEM companies — in some cases, all direct. You need a full bill of materials knowledge now — component by component, specification by specification. Your lift is entirely your design. But it is worth noting your costs rise, too. You need space to land all that material, you need inventory management, you need more working capital tied up in stock and you need more people to manage the procurement, coordinate across suppliers and handle the quality checks. You have to check whether the unbundling is truly more beneficial once you add up the real costs.

The supply chain in the Indian independent elevator market is wider and more layered than most people realize and is already representing how a mature distribution supply chain for any industry would look.

15-Plus Lifts a Month

And at 15-plus lifts a month, you are fully unbundled with direct OEM and OEM partner relationships. You may even start manufacturing one or more components yourself — start small, with one item you buy in serious volume and understand well, and scale from there. And it helps to remember even India's largest consumer durable companies do not manufacture everything in-house. They work with networks of suppliers.

The ladder is not about climbing for the sake of climbing. It is about knowing your options and matching your buying to your stage. Many companies operate very successfully doing one-to-eight lifts a month for years. That is not being stuck — that is a legitimate, profitable business.

And it helps to know what buying options are out there; the supply chain in the Indian independent elevator market is wider and more layered than most people realize and is already representing how a mature distribution supply chain for any industry would look. Here are the various types of suppliers available, and depending on where you are on the ladder, these can be mixed and matched to suit your needs.

Full Kitting Manufacturers

They make mechanical components, do the electrical assembly work, source other OEM items and assemble a complete kit. One supplier, one package.

Full Kitting Traders

They don't manufacture, but they source from different suppliers and bundle everything into a kit for you. Similar convenience, just a different sourcing model.

Mechanical Fabricators

Custom mechanical items only: car frames, cabins, brackets, machine mountings, doors. Fabricated to your specifications.

Electrical Builders

Control panels, wiring harnesses, COP and LOP. The core electrical components like drives come from OEMs — these builders assemble them into the finished systems.

OEM Traders and Channel Partners

They trade in specific OEM brands — guide rails, doors, machines and smaller components — without the kitting. You go to them when you are buying components directly and want to cherry pick their offerings.

OEMs and OEM Partners

The OEMs or their appointed exclusive partners in India. Direct relationships with them, usually when your volume justifies it.

Each of these serves a different need and a different stage of the ladder, and knowing the full landscape changes how you think about your buying.

One thing we have seen consistently: The companies that lock in their supply chain and stay consistent do well. When you standardize your components, everything downstream gets easier — your spares become predictable, your technicians get trained on one system, your after-sales becomes simpler and faster, your project execution becomes repeatable. Think of Indigo Airlines — one aircraft type, enormous advantages in maintenance, training and efficiency.

Your procurement strategy must change as your business grows. Think of it as a buying ladder — four stages, each suited to a different volume of work.

Companies that keep switching vendors and chasing the cheapest price every time — every lift they deliver is different, their spares become unpredictable, their service quality becomes harder to maintain. We have seen much better results from companies that stay consistent. Look out for new vendors and new technologies, absolutely; but there is a difference between staying informed and constantly changing your suppliers. Consistency in your supply chain is what builds consistency in your product.

And one last thought: Procurement is important, but it is one of four fronts. Project management needs your attention. After-sales need your attention. New business development needs your attention. The ones that balance all four are the ones that grow steadily. Procurement feeds your business, but it is the whole business — all four fronts working together — that makes it strong.

If any of this resonates with how you buy and build your elevator business, we would love to hear from you. Write to us at arun@besco.in or anitha@virgo-comm.com. 



Arun Narang leads BESCO, a supply chain company serving India's elevator industry. He works with homegrown elevator brands and focuses on solutions that support capability-building and better installation outcomes. Narang is based in Mumbai.

ISSDA and GSSE Announce Strategic Partnership

Goals include expanding domestic application of stainless steel and promoting global best practices.

by Prerna Mistry

A strategic partnership between the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) and the Global Stainless Steel Expo (GSSE), organized by Virgo Communications and Exhibitions, was announced on June 30 in Mumbai. The focus will be on strengthening policy dialogue, promoting best global practices, expanding domestic applications of stainless steel (SS), facilitating international collaborations and curating a comprehensive knowledge-sharing platform during the fourth edition of the GSSE to be held on September 16-18, 2027, in Mumbai.



During the announcement conference, industry leaders expressed confidence that the collaboration would help accelerate SS adoption across infrastructure, construction, mobility, energy and manufacturing sectors while supporting India's ambition to become a global hub for advanced SS production.

Technical Expertise Combined With a Global Business Platform

Addressing the gathering, Anitha Raghunath, managing director, Virgo Communications and Exhibitions (P) Ltd., said the collaboration between ISSDA and GSSE would strengthen the industry's collective efforts by combining technical expertise with a global business platform. She said:

"ISSDA brings knowledge, technical expertise and industry leadership, while GSSE provides the platform to connect manufacturers, users, technology providers and policymakers. Together, we aim to promote wider adoption of SS across sectors, encourage knowledge sharing and create new opportunities for industry growth in India and overseas."

Enabling the Process of Building Durable, Sustainable Assets

Rajamani Krishnamurti, president, ISSDA, pointed out that with the government's continued focus on infrastructure,

railways, urban development, renewable energy and manufacturing, SS can play a transformative role in building durable, sustainable assets while generating employment and investments.

Krishnamurti said India has the manufacturing capability and technical expertise to emerge as a global SS powerhouse, but requires policy support to unlock its full potential. He said:

"The SS industry today faces two major challenges: cheap imports and the absence of a dedicated policy framework. SS continues to be treated under the broader steel category despite having distinct manufacturing processes, raw material requirements and end-use applications. A separate 'National Stainless Steel Policy' is essential to ensure raw material security, encourage investments and enable India to become a leading global producer of value-added SS."

Highlighting corrosion as a silent economic burden, Krishnamurti said India loses nearly 4% of its GDP, estimated at around ₹12 lakh crore annually, due to corrosion-related damage across public infrastructure, transportation, industrial assets and utilities. He added:

"Much of this loss is avoidable. A national anti-corrosion policy will encourage life-cycle-based infrastructure planning and the adoption of corrosion-resistant materials, particularly in India's vast coastal regions where SS offers significantly longer service life and lower maintenance costs. Investing in the right material at the construction stage is far more economical than repeatedly replacing damaged infrastructure."

Krishnamurti said SS is emerging as the preferred material for sectors such as green hydrogen, ethanol, water infrastructure, ports, bridges, coastal construction and specialized engineering applications, making it strategically important for India's long-term industrial and sustainability goals.

Engaging More Effectively With Policymakers on Key Issues

Rajeev Garg, group head — Marketing and Sales, Jindal Stainless Ltd., said the partnership comes at a crucial time when the domestic industry requires a stronger collective voice to address policy issues and protect investments. He said:

"India is already the world's second-largest consumer of SS, but our per capita consumption remains significantly below the global average. At the same time, rising imports from countries such as China, Vietnam and others continue to put pressure on domestic manufacturers. A platform like this will enable the industry to engage more effectively with policymakers on issues such as unfair



imports, raw material security, life-cycle-based infrastructure planning and sustainable industrial growth.”

Garg added that although SS accounts for only a small share of India’s overall steel production by volume, it contributes significantly in terms of value addition, sustainability, durability and life-cycle savings, warranting greater policy recognition.

Taking a Hat-Trick of Successful Editions Forward

GSSE has been bringing together all the stakeholders of the SS sector under one roof with successful editions in 2022, 2023 and 2025. The expo opens doors to new avenues and business opportunities for exhibitors and visitors alike, with the summit being a melting pot of innovative ideas and a knowledge hub.

With cutting-edge innovations, strategic dialogues and future-forward collaborations, GSSE showcases the sector’s growth potential, sustainability focus and role in nation-building. The Stainless Today Summit welcomes manufacturers, policymakers, suppliers, buyers and thought leaders from across the SS value chain to take part in networking, sourcing, learning and much more.

A Very Significant Event for the VT industry

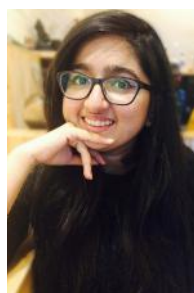
The first three editions of the event have witnessed participation from many exhibitors and visitors related to the vertical-transportation (VT) industry – and with good reason. SS is extensively utilized in many facets, from the structure of the elevator car to the handrails inside it. Other VT components that use SS include the beams above the car (the crosshead); the sling extending down and the guide rollers or guide shoes attached above and below it; springs inside that help regulate

the speed; wire ropes; and the landing operating panel (LOP) and car operating panel (COP). Load-bearing steel shafts are preferred for maximizing usage of limited available space, combining functionality and aesthetics.

Similarly, SS plays a key role in the steps used in escalators and moving walks, as well as the decking and balustrades. From quick and hassle-free installation to eliminating rust, SS is an element that incorporates multiple benefits to all stakeholders involved, from real estate and infrastructure developers to the maintenance teams and end users.

Automobile manufacturers and the railway system, along with construction and infrastructure, remain the biggest consumers of SS globally. SS is often used in the treatment and design of the external façade of buildings. It is one of the preferred materials for construction of load-bearing structures, supporting components and fittings, bridges and other utilities such as flyovers, elevated roads, metro lines, etc., most of which are strong demand drivers for the VT industry.

As the SS sector continues to evolve, GSSE will continue to remain pivotal in driving collective progress and fostering a unified vision for India’s industrial advancement and for the VT industry, as well.



Prerna Mistry is a writer and editor with more than a decade of experience at notable English and Korean media platforms. Backed by a master’s in English literature, she brings a global perspective and editorial depth to covering the VT, real estate and infrastructure industries.

The 55th National Assembly of ANACAM

Shaping the future of the VT and mobility industries

by Anishka Raghunath

The 55th National Assembly of Italy's National Association of Lifts Manufacturing and Maintenance Companies (ANACAM) was held at the Chia Laguna Resort, Sardinia, Italy, on June 18-19. It was your author's privilege to address delegates from across the global elevator industry on the opening day, representing the second generation of leadership at Virgo Communications & Exhibitions Pvt Ltd.

My presentation, titled "India: Powering the Next Billion Elevator Rides," highlighted India's remarkable growth across infrastructure, urban development, real estate and manufacturing and the tremendous opportunities this creates for the elevator, mobility, parking systems and access control industries.

It also conveyed how Smart Lift & Mobility (SLM) World Expo, together with the ELEVATOR WORLD India (EWI) Summit and Future Buildings & Smart Mobility (FBSM) Summit, provides an ideal platform for global companies to explore India's fast-growing market, connect with key stakeholders and expand their business in one of the world's most promising economies.

With a 1.46 billion-plus population, the world's fastest-growing major economy (~6-7% GDP growth) and a 600-million-plus urban population expected by 2030, India has a long-term, structural demand for vertical mobility. Real estate, the core driver, is expected to generate demand for high-speed, premium elevators with strong long-term maintenance and modernization demand in the residential segment and high-capacity, smart mobility systems with continuous, high-value service and annual maintenance contract potential in the commercial segment.

The rise of high-density urban development positions elevator companies at the center of India's next real estate growth cycle. Simultaneously, there is a rising demand for



vertical-mobility solutions powered by the large-scale, high-traffic infrastructure expanding nationwide, expanding highways and corridors driving residential and commercial development, metro and rail ecosystems, airports and aviation growth, IT, data centers and digital economy, hotels and hospitality, medical and healthcare infrastructure, spiritual economy and cultural infrastructure. India is rapidly emerging

My presentation, titled "India: Powering the Next Billion Elevator Rides," highlighted India's remarkable growth across infrastructure, urban development, real estate and manufacturing and the tremendous opportunities this creates for the elevator, mobility, parking systems and access control industries.





as a global manufacturing, sourcing and export hub for the elevator and vertical-mobility industry.

With India emerging as one of the fastest-growing vertical-transportation (VT) markets globally, Virgo Communications remains committed to building strong international partnerships, fostering industry collaboration and creating world-class platforms that connect global innovators with opportunities in India.

As we continue to expand our global footprint, our focus remains on driving innovation, facilitating meaningful business connections and creating new growth opportunities for the VT industry worldwide. 🌐



Anishka Raghunath is Marketing strategist at Virgo Communications & Exhibitions. A Business Management and Marketing graduate from the University of Manchester, she brings a global perspective to hands-on entrepreneurial execution. Actively involved in the family business, her focus lies in building industry forums, conferences and high-value networking platforms. FBSM is her brainchild, driven by a vision to shape relevant conversations and create lasting industry impact. The Summit series marks her debut in the events industry as a conceptualizer and organizer.

About ANACAM

Headquartered in Rome, ANACAM represents more than 400 industrial and craft companies operating in the lift systems sector (lifts, hoists, escalators and moving walkways, etc.). The association, established in 1971 and divided into 18 regional sections, includes all the components of the supply chain: manufacturers, installers, maintenance technicians, designers and providers of specialist services to businesses. The associated companies undertake the maintenance of more than 50% of national lifts, estimated at 900,000 units, and employ about 12,000 highly qualified technical-professional employees.

The association manages relations with the competent national and European institutions in the interest of the associates; promotes the economic development of the sector by preparing tools to support the companies and provides advice to companies on technical, regulatory, tax and legal issues specific to the sector.

ANACAM experts play an active role in the Italian (UNI), European (CEN) and international (ISO) technical standardization bodies and in the Lift Directive Working Group. The Association fostered the establishment of the European Federation of Elevator Small and Medium Enterprises (EFESME), based in Brussels.

Fifth NAREDCO Mahi Real Estate Convention 2026

Annual event brings together women leading the real estate sector.

by Shilpa Pandya

The fifth National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) Mahi Real Estate Convention 2026 was held on June 20 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, bringing together women leaders, developers, entrepreneurs, policymakers and industry stakeholders to celebrate five years of NAREDCO Mahi's journey with enthusiasm and verve in advancing women's participation and leadership in the real estate sector. Held under the theme "From Impact to Inspiration," the convention highlighted the



critical role of women in driving economic growth, sustainable development and nation-building.

Addressing the gathering, Mansukh Mandaviya, minister of Labor and Employment, said women are not merely stakeholders in India's growth story but architects of the nation's future. He firmly stated that the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 cannot be achieved without the full participation, leadership and economic contribution of women across sectors, including real estate.

Mandaviya noted that initiatives such as NAREDCO Mahi have evolved from conversations into impactful movements, creating platforms that empower women professionals, entrepreneurs and changemakers. He highlighted the importance of breaking traditional perceptions about leadership and innovation and creating an ecosystem where women can lead from the front. Mandaviya said:

"Women are not just stakeholders in India's growth story; they are the architects of it. The journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 requires the active participation, leadership and economic contribution of women in every sphere. When women lead, industries evolve, communities prosper and the nation transforms."

In his remarks, Mandaviya observed that the convention's theme aptly reflects the need to challenge limitations and

create opportunities for women to contribute meaningfully to India's development agenda. He appreciated efforts aimed at leadership development, entrepreneurship, sustainability and social impact.

Smita Patil, president, NAREDCO Mahi, reflected on the organization's five-year journey and its transformation into a nationwide network of women leaders in real estate. She pointed out NAREDCO Mahi's efforts in skill development, mentorship, entrepreneurship, sustainability and community engagement, stating that empowering women through knowledge and opportunity creates lasting transformation. Patil said:

"Five years ago, NAREDCO Mahi was founded on a simple belief that when women come together, possibilities multiply. What started as an initiative has today become a nationwide movement of women leaders in real estate. We believe women should not merely have a seat at the table; they should help design the table."

"Skills create confidence, confidence creates leadership and leadership creates transformation. Through our initiatives focused on capacity building, sustainability, mentorship and social impact, we are preparing women not only for jobs but for leadership and entrepreneurship."

The convention also marked the significant five-year milestone for NAREDCO Mahi. Speakers and delegates celebrated the achievements of women leaders who have broken barriers in traditionally male-dominated sectors and inspired future generations to lead with confidence, innovation and purpose.

The event concluded with a collective call to strengthen women's leadership across industries and reaffirmed the commitment of NAREDCO Mahi toward building an inclusive, sustainable and empowered future for India.





The fifth NAREDCO Mahi Convention was attended by former Union Minister Smriti Irani, who addressed the gathering and spoke at length about the importance of women's empowerment and the need for greater participation of women in the real estate sector. She emphasized that increasing women's representation in leadership, entrepreneurship and decision-making roles would be instrumental in accelerating India's journey toward Viksit Bharat 2047. Her address inspired delegates to continue breaking barriers and creating pathways for future generations of women professionals and entrepreneurs.

The event included the release of a joint report by JLL and NAREDCO Mahi which pointed out that, while women account for nearly half of India's population and are increasingly influencing housing demand, property ownership and sustainability-led development, only 1-2% of women occupy leadership positions in the country's real estate sector.

The report, "Building Inclusive Future: Empowering Women in India's Real Estate Transformation," highlights that women comprise 48.5% of India's population but represent only around 10% of the 71-million-person workforce employed in the construction sector, one of the country's largest employment generators and a key contributor to GDP.

The findings point to a significant leadership gap in an industry that is rapidly evolving through urbanization, digital transformation, ESG adoption and green building practices. While women are increasingly emerging as homebuyers, entrepreneurs, developers, architects, sustainability experts and PropTech professionals, their representation sharply declines at senior management and decision-making levels.

According to the report, women account for nearly 40-45% representation at entry-level positions in several real estate-related professions. However, attrition rises significantly during mid-career stages, resulting in a steep fall in representation at senior management and leadership positions.

Commenting on the report, Patil said:

"Women are no longer participants at the margins of the real estate sector; they are increasingly shaping its future as homebuyers, professionals, entrepreneurs and sustainability champions. However, the industry must now focus on building stronger pathways for leadership through mentorship, skilling, financial inclusion and equal opportunities. Greater participation

of women is not only an inclusion imperative but also a business imperative for the future growth of Indian real estate."

The report notes that despite several policy interventions aimed at encouraging women property owners – including stamp duty concessions, home loan incentives and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) – significant barriers continue to limit women's progression into leadership roles.

The study also draws attention to the challenges faced by women in the informal construction workforce, where a majority continue to work without adequate social security, childcare support, insurance coverage or structured career advancement opportunities.

At the same time, women are playing an increasingly important role in shaping India's sustainability agenda. The report highlights their growing contribution to green building certification, ESG implementation, sustainable urban development, PropTech innovation and smart infrastructure planning.

The report also highlights the role of NAREDCO Mahi in promoting women's participation through leadership development programs, mentorship initiatives, knowledge-sharing platforms, industry networking forums, startup incubation support and international learning exchanges.

It recommends a series of interventions, including transparent pay structures, return-to-work programs, stronger workplace safety mechanisms, childcare support, leadership development initiatives and greater representation of women in decision-making roles.

A Shankar, India head – Government Advisory and Infrastructure Solutions, JLL India, said:

"Meaningful progress in the participation of women in real estate emerges not from isolated gestures but through accumulated actions: comprehensive training programs, structured career pathways, pay equity transparency, childcare support and workplace cultures that recognize diversity. Enabling women's full participation in real estate transcends equity alone – it represents a strategic pathway toward achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 goals and India's aspiration of becoming a US\$1 trillion economy."

According to the report, unlocking the full potential of women across construction sites, corporate offices and boardrooms will be critical to strengthening talent pipelines, improving governance standards and supporting India's vision of becoming a developed economy by 2047. 🌍



Shilpa Pandya is a senior journalist who has handled business- and lifestyle-related coverage. With more than 25 years' experience, she has written for a wide array of publications. Experienced in global coverage, she also excels in regional reporting. Based in Mumbai for the past few decades, she has been a silent team player across different organizations and is happy to be part of the EWI content team, as well

WEE

Expo 2026, Guangzhou

Thirty years in, the World Elevator & Escalator Expo still packs a punch.

by Peng Jie, EW Correspondent

Continued



submitted by ELMAS

The 2026 WEE Expo was held at the Canton Fair Complex in Guangzhou, China, on May 20-23.



Guangzhou is one of the leading markets and manufacturing workshops for elevators and escalators in China.



The expo welcomed tens of thousands of visitors over four days.



The Landmark Tower, featuring its slim waist, loomed gray in a rainy skyline on the Pearl River in Guangzhou, China, the host city for the 2026 World Elevator & Escalator (WEE) Expo held on May 20-23. Outside on the streets, construction cranes, rotating or at a standstill, came into sight here and there amid old buildings or on the riverside. Obsolete structures had been pulled down for reconstruction, while some of the old buildings seemed to be under modernization, given the erection of additional hoistways for elevators. Your reporter walked past a jobsite bustling with activity in the Baiyun District near the airport.

Guangzhou, the metropolis in southern China, plays a guiding role in the dynamic growth of the elevator industry, as well as in the development of the economy and ecology of the Greater Bay Area, which is also one of the leading markets and manufacturing workshops for elevators and escalators in the country.

Despite the incessant rain, visitors from nearly all continents around the world, as well as from across China, stepped with

enthusiasm into the Canton Fair Complex, where the WEE Expo was distributed on two floors. They visited the exhibits with interest and concern, talked to exhibitors and took photos. Industry veterans seemed to cherish this opportunity more than others, reveling in the opportunity to speak face-to-face to one another, which makes greater sense than an instant text by

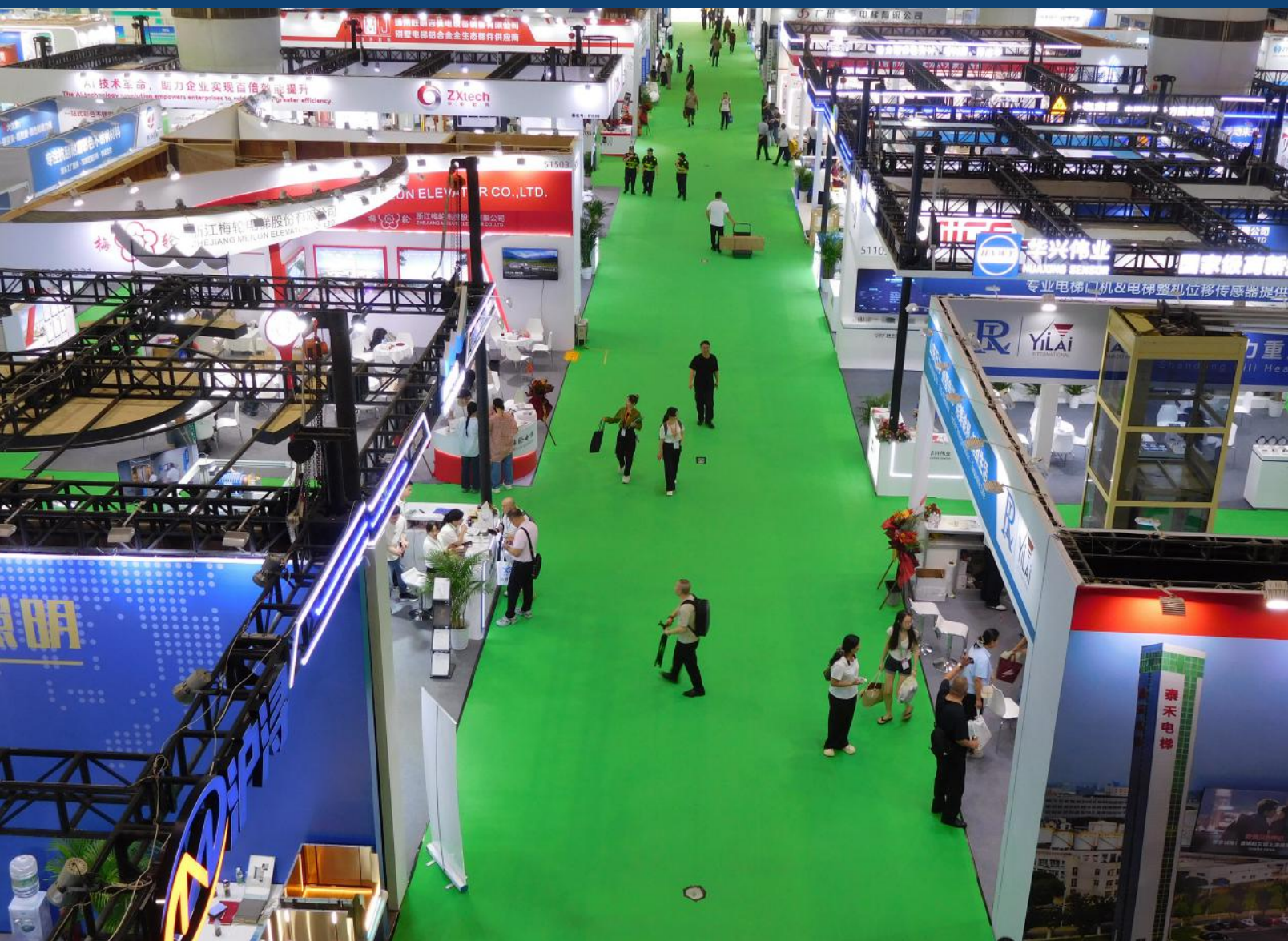
WeChat or a phone conversation. Friends and business partners seemed to enjoy the pleasure of calling up fading-away memories over a cup of tea, in addition to talking business.

This year marked the 17th iteration of the WEE Expo, and 30 years since its inception. Last held

in Guangzhou in 2014 in the year of the horse, it returns to the city in the year of the horse after an exact 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle. The first WEE Expo opened in Beijing in August 1996 with an ELEVATOR WORLD team headed by Publisher and Editor-at-Large Ricia Sturgeon-Hendrick in attendance. Since then, WEE has paced out more ups than downs to the growing rhythm of the country's elevator industry, as reported on by EW

The 2026 WEE Expo, themed "Connecting Global E&E Market," provided more than 100,000 m² for roughly 1,000 exhibitors from some 40 countries around the world.

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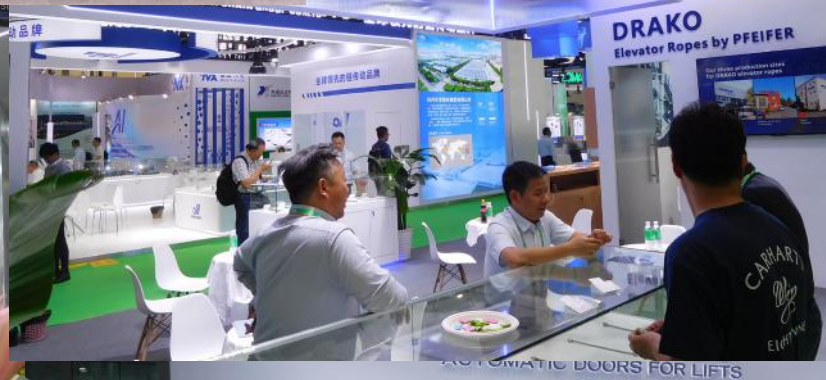
each iteration. WEE has only been held in four cities since its inception: Beijing in 1996, 1998 and 2002; Shanghai in 1997, 2000, 2004, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2023 (postponed from 2022) and 2024; Langfang in 2006, 2008 and 2010; and Guangzhou in 2012, 2014 and 2026.

The 2026 WEE Expo, themed “Connecting Global E&E Market,” provided more than 100,000 m² for roughly 1,000 exhibitors from some 40 countries around the world. A dozen forums and workshops with specialized themes were convened, in addition to the Elevator Industry Development Forum on the opening day. Tens of thousands of visitors came into the show halls to see, talk and place orders with exhibitors during the event’s four days. More significantly, the organizer, Langfang International Conference & Exhibition Center Co. Ltd., won the trust of exhibitors from home and abroad. To our satisfaction, Wu Peng, the young man in charge of furnishing EW’s booth, together with the company’s engineering team did a perfect

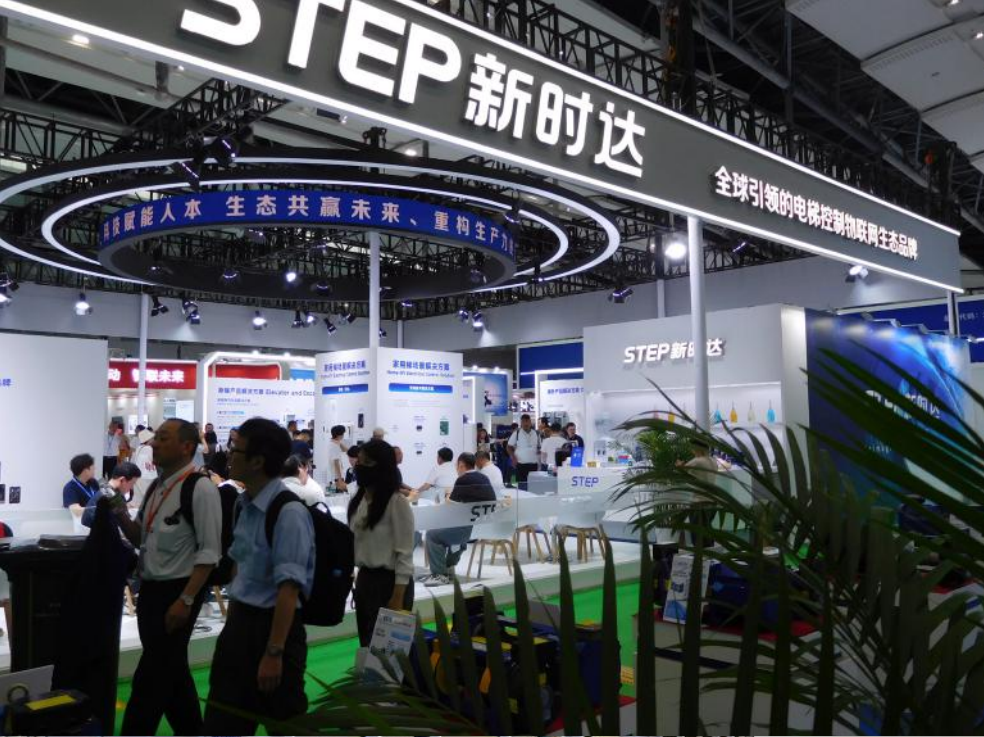
job to have printed and put up all the logo booth panels for EW within 20 h, just on the eve of the opening day.

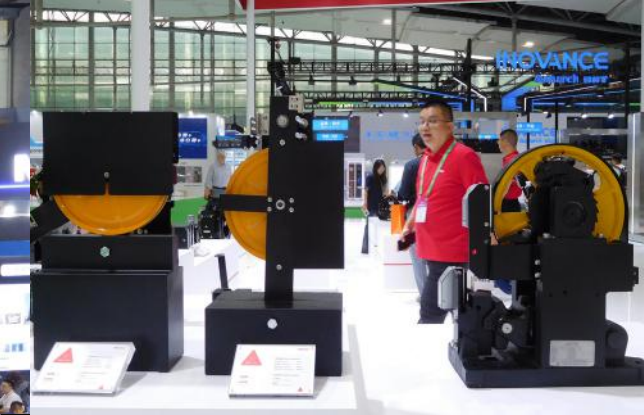
EW would like to take the opportunity to express sincere thanks to the many decades-long business partners who share their stories with us. It is remarkable for SJEC to have installed thousands of escalators and moving walks in hundreds of RT-Marts in so many cities and towns in China that your author would take it for granted that these two names were synonymous. Canny Elevators continues its consistent efforts toward challenges of big mountains with more successful projects completed in dozens of cultural and tourist landscapes across China, such as the escalator series in Shangrao Lingshan and Liancheng Guanzhaishan, while maintaining perfect reliability and safety records of the equipment running in the wild open. Hanson Elevators displayed a live model of its unique embedded modernization escalators, which can fit into any existing trusses with limited size and space, thus offering

Continued









EW Türkiye and Middle East Managing Director Bülent Yılmaz and your author.

cost-effective solutions to modernization jobs in old buildings by means of in-factory-assembled modules. FJZY, Shandong did an amazing number of jobs in modernization of old residential buildings by new elevator installations, winning a good reputation from numerous customers. Some exhibitors, like Otis and FJZY, presented impressive glass well models or attractive cars in hoistways. Dongnan Elevators held its certificate awarding at the expo, while other exhibitors held booth performances or organized factory tours.

The elevator powered by linear motor technology, which Nidec Elevator showcased for the first time at the exhibition, was a new product that stood out for its ability to operate both vertically and on an incline – a feature that sets it apart from traditional elevator solutions.

Otis' Smart Cab II cabin, with its modern, stylish interior design and buttons, along with a floor indicator projected onto the lobby floor, created the sensation of being in a space station.

Undoubtedly, one of the fair's most eye-catching booths was that of cabin manufacturer FUAM, which featured a booth design that appeared mysterious from the outside yet embodied a modern art concept, complemented by elegant and beautiful models showcasing its cabin designs. With each cabin's visual presentation shown by a live model, the booth had the atmosphere of a fashion show.

Zynoe and NBSL, meanwhile, succeeded in drawing attention with the massive, 8-m-long operational doors they displayed at their booths. In particular, Zynoe's fully operational automatic door – 8-m wide x 4-m high – became one of the must-see attractions for visitors.

HEPU Power, one of China's leading manufacturers of electric vehicle and elevator motors, welcomed its international guests with a highly attended and enthusiastic ceremony prior to the fair. At the dinner held following the ceremony, all guests had the opportunity to sample the unique flavors of the rich Chinese cuisine. Guests who missed this pre-fair ceremony were

Continued



treated to factory tours and a dinner throughout the fair. Bülent Yılmaz from the EW team was also among those who visited the factory during the tour organized on the third day of the fair.

The most meaningful goals achieved, though, were those face-to-face business chats over order forms. Opposite the EW booth was a small one for KTon, a Cixi-based company (near Ningbo); the company makes screw-free terminal wiring blocks, and its two booth attendants stayed busy working with customers throughout the show, resulting in plenty of orders. KTon's factory is said to employ 50-60 people for supplying to more than 100 domestic and overseas customers. This could be regarded as the miniature of the gigantic supply chains concentrated in the three major E&E manufacturing regions, i.e. the Yangzi River Delta, Canton and the Coastal Bohai, each consisting of thousands of suppliers, big and small, for varied parts and components, from guideways to traction machines, from sensors to AI controls, from field technician training school to logistic service. It is the incredible efficiency and reliability of so many companies and factories working together that make brilliant projects by all the well-known local and global brands possible, successful and wonderful.

During WEE Expo's four days, EW had the great pleasure to meet with Zhu Weibin, general manager of SJEC; Qin Jiancong, founder and president of Dongnan Elevators; Chambrey Zhang, president of Hanson Elevators (we were both young when working in the same elevator joint venture company in the 1980s and 1990s); and Zhu Ruihua, managing director of Shanghai Fuji, along with many other old friends and VIPs. William C. Sturgeon, founder of EW used to say, "A picture speaks louder than a hundred words." Gradually, I have realized this is true not only in preparing stories, but also with work in the office, the workshop and the field! So, I will keep taking pictures at events whenever it looks worth doing. I believe pictures will tell more about what was seen inside and outside of the enormous trade fair complex in Guangzhou. Moreover, a little poem I wrote is hereafter attached in description of the event. Last but not least, the next WEE Expo, the 18th, is scheduled in Guangzhou on May 17-20 2028. 🌐



A Poem: The WEE Expo

by Peng Jie, EW Correspondent

Up or down to Floor One passengers go,
Come exhibitors of the Elevator Expo.
Hurry to the booth with manner in grace,
Welcome visitors to look at our showplace.

Wirerores're long and the pulley's round,
What are in need we have already found.
Tour the halls looking for all material supply,
Always greeted warmly by a lady's smile.

Purchasers arrive from all parts of the globe,
For machines, controls and everything they hope.
Over a cup of tea business talks at the table,
Four days are short, but we've got orders out of scale.

Fashions and trends here are for everyone to see,
Take a ride in the shining car and some photos for me.
The event opens a door as well as a window,
Let's rejoice here in May, 2028 again in Guangzhou.



The WEE Expo organizing team



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ENEXPO

Keeping the Indian Flag Flying High at WEE Expo 2026

The 30th edition of the World Elevator & Escalator Expo (WEE Expo) witnessed the presence of brands that kept the Indian flag flying high while several visitors from India were also seen during the four-day event.

The ELEVATOR WORLD India booth saw enthusiastic visitors and exhibitors interacting with Anitha Raghunath and Raghu G., the directors of Virgo Communications and Exhibitions, the pioneers who introduced the vertical-transportation (VT) industry-focused expo and magazine concept in India.



Connecting with global industry leaders, innovators and partners, discussing media collaborations, industry growth and the future of VT and smart mobility over the four-day event, Anitha, publisher, and Raghu, commercial director/Sales and Marketing, EW India magazine, termed it an incredible few days of global networking, industry interactions, innovation showcases and meaningful conversations with leaders from the elevator and mobility sector.

They also shared it was great reconnecting with long-time associates, meeting new faces from the industry and sharing thoughts on innovation, growth and the evolving future of VT, adding:



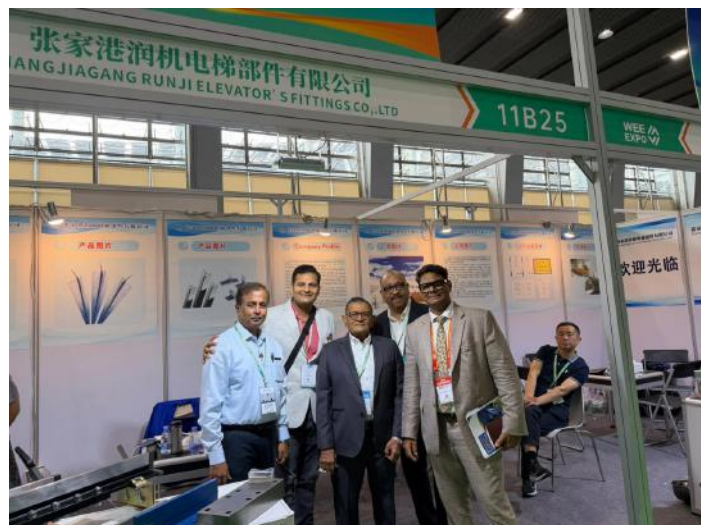
"We are grateful to everyone for the warm conversations, valuable exchanges and memorable moments throughout the event. Looking forward to future collaborations and crossing paths again soon."

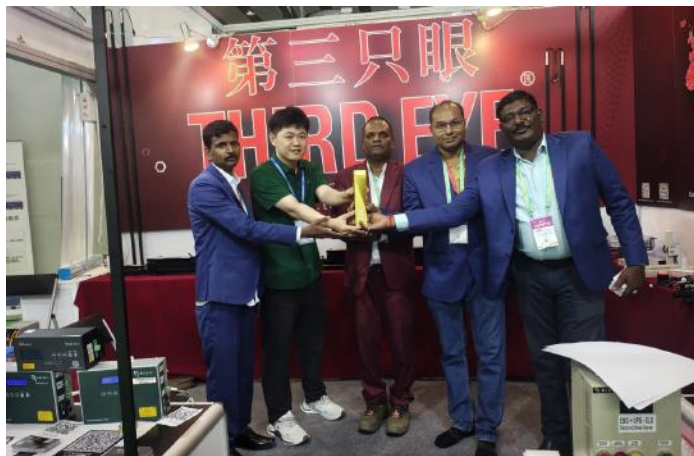
Raghu made an insightful presentation on the rising opportunities and potential India offers to VT industry players across the globe, which drew loud applause from those gathered at the event venue.

Consistently serving the elevator sector since 2007, Virgo is credited with launching dedicated trade fairs, technical forums, publications, virtual events, webinars and other initiatives in India, as well as in additional emerging international markets like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

Ketan Gada, managing director, K2 Engineers, shared that participation in the expo was a valuable experience for them:

"The exhibition gave us an excellent opportunity to interact with elevator manufacturers, controller manufacturers, distributors and other industry professionals from different countries. Visitors at our booth showed keen interest in our customized braking resistors, particularly our ability to develop





products as per specific technical requirements and support smaller order quantities. The discussions and feedback received were very encouraging and helped us better understand international market requirements and emerging industry expectations. Overall, the response was positive, and the exhibition provided us with useful business connections and valuable feedback. We are pleased to have participated in the event and look forward to building long-term associations with the contacts made during the exhibition.”

Senthilnathan K, spokesperson for THIRD EYE® Elevator Pvt. Ltd., highlighted that the company unveiled its transition into next-generation smart mobility and green urban infrastructure systems. The centerpieces of THIRD EYE's engineering breakthrough at its booth were its two newest high-demand product releases: the Elevator Gearless Traction Machine and the highly compact 150mm Dia Over Speed Governor. The THIRD EYE showcase immediately drew technical professionals and high-volume buyers alike. Senthilnathan said:

“The modern elevator sector isn't just growing; it's sharpening its focus on energy conservation, passenger safety and a minimal mechanical footprint. By pairing our classic, ultra-reliable door sensors and guide shoes with our new 150mm Dia Governor and high-efficiency gearless traction machines, we showed the global market that THIRD EYE offers a complete ecosystem of safety and motion control. The reception here has been truly phenomenal.”



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PHOTO CONTEST 2026

EW's 14th annual competition showcases unique VT perspectives from Australia, the Middle East, North America, Southeastern Europe and more.

by Kaija Wilkinson

Photographers, videographers and artists really pulled out all the stops for ELEVATOR WORLD's annual photo contest this year. Winning entries are filled with life and color: One photograph, taken through the glass of a panoramic elevator in Veliko Tarnovo, "the historical and spiritual capital of Bulgaria"^[1] dating back to the Middle Ages, shows impossibly green treetops giving way to the town and hills beyond under sapphire blue skies. Seeing it in person would likely take one's breath away.

Then there is a view from a supertall in Toronto, Canada, that shows the city's glowing towers sparkling as the sun prepares to rise over Lake Ontario. It's a view, the photographer noted, available to only a select few, including billionaires and elevator technicians. This entry comes from the always-popular City Skylines & Tall Buildings category, which garnered so many worthy entries a follow-up article is already in the works. All winners in this category are from locations in North America: two from Canada (Toronto and Vancouver) and one from Mexico.

Winning photographs in the Projects in Action category show vertical-transportation (VT) technicians focused on their work as they cut rails in Sydney; install a home lift in Toronto; and look down at a modernized escalator in Washington, D.C. Again, there is color, but this time from bright orange work vests and flying sparks.

In some cases, it's not just the VT equipment itself, but also its setting that catches the eye. A winner in the Elevators, Commercial category, for example, shows an elevator that fits seamlessly into its luxury waterfront location in Athens, Greece – yachts and all.

This year's winning photos offer both the expected – a ritzy residential elevator in Florida – and the unexpected – innovative designs of home elevator installations in Belgrade, Serbia, and Istanbul.

Color is perhaps no more striking than in a photograph of an escalator glowing with LGBTQ pride in Germany. Its title, "Somewhere Over The Rainbow," reflects the unit's vibrant color scheme. It's evident from the entries' titles and descriptions – especially in the Escalators and Moving Walks category – that the photographers were quite moved by the images they captured. Here, titles read like names of poems: "Blinding Butterfly Lights" (which graces this issue's cover) and "Papillion en Vol," etc.

Employees of both OEMs and independents are responsible for capturing this year's winning photos, artwork and video. And although AI might be annoying in many ways, it is clear that, this year, it resulted in some pretty amazing winning images in our Industry Art/Illustrations category. We hope you enjoy these images as much as we do!

Reference

[1] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veliko_Tarnovo

City Skylines & Tall Buildings



1st

"A Billionaire's View;" Taken during construction of The One in Toronto, Canada, this photo captured a breathtaking view at daybreak only a select few get to take in; photo by Jeff O'Connor, Otis.



2nd

"Where Cities Rise;" An aerial perspective captures the energy, scale and ambition of modern urban elevation in Mexico; submitted by Elevadores Alamex.



3rd

"Seize the Day;" Clad in white terracotta and crowned by its famous four-faced clock tower, this 15-story building at 736 Granville Street has watched the Vancouver, Canada, skyline transform over more than a century; photo by Aurora Rawlings, KONE.



1st

"Cutting Through;" Apprentices learn how to cut rails in Sydney, Australia; photo by Robert Dean, Schindler Lifts Australia.



2nd

"Precision Behind Every Detail;" A worker is focused on every detail of the Savaria Luma installation process in Toronto, Canada; photo by Liliana Ortiz, Savaria.



3rd

"Rebuilding the Core: Navy Yard Infrastructure Overhaul;" A powerful, symmetrical look down the steep incline of a major transit-grade escalator modernization project at the Navy Yard metro station in Washington, D.C.; photo by Ronaldo Grimaldi, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

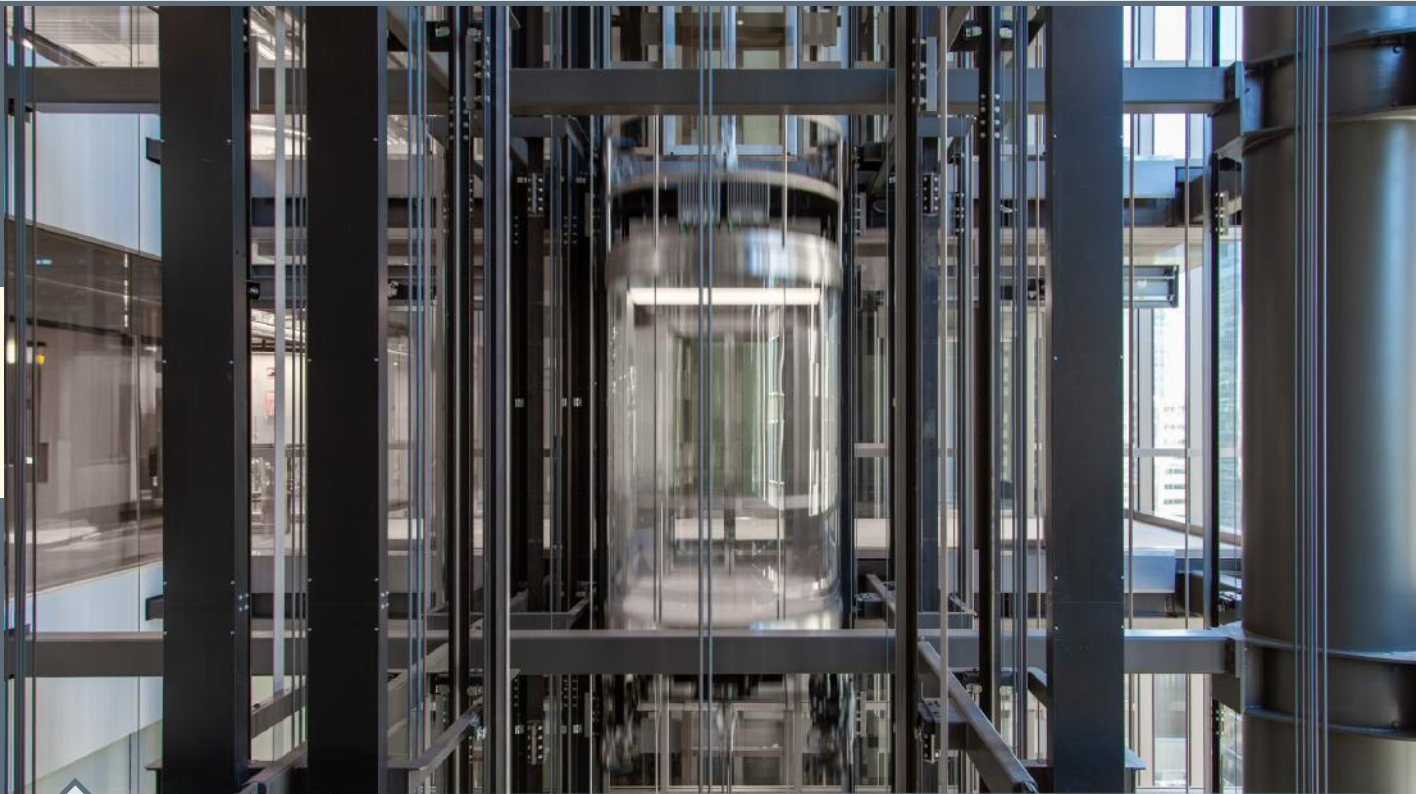
Continued

Elevators, Commercial



1st

"Transparent Motion by the Aegean Sea;" KLEEMANN elevators at Astir Marina Vouliagmenis seamlessly combine modern vertical transportation (VT) with luxury waterfront architecture in Athens, Greece; photo by Amiridis Kostas, KLEEMANN Hellas S.A.



2nd

"Precision, Speed;" A Schindler high-speed lift at 50 Martin Place in Sydney; The entire shaft is of engineered steel construction with half-circular glass lifts; photo by Robert Dean, Schindler Lifts Australia.



3rd

"Ascending Through Time;" Through the glass of a modern elevator cab, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria, unfolds as past and present at once – rolling green hills give way to a city that was once the capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire (1185-1392); photo by Aurora Rawlings, KONE.

Continued

Elevators, Private Residence



1st

"Redefining Luxury Through Vertical Motion;" These circular panoramic elevators by KLEEMANN in Belgrade, Serbia, redefine VT through elegant curves, immersive design and architectural expression; photo by Bogdan Kalušević, KLEEMANN Hellas S.A.



2nd

"West Palm Beach Glass Elevator;" An impressive glass elevator near West Palm Beach, Florida – our most complex project yet that included design, manufacturing, installation and a complete custom glass enclosure system; photo by John Virk, UTE Elevator Inc.



3rd

"A Blend of Modernity and Luxury: Kempinski Residences;" At the Kempinski Residences in Balmumcu, Beşiktaş, Istanbul, the elevator reflects a home's artistic spirit. The polished steel structure reflects the artwork on the home's walls, while the transparent glass allows natural sunlight to filter in in a striking manner; photo by H.264 Media, SNC Elevator

Continued

Escalators and Moving Walks



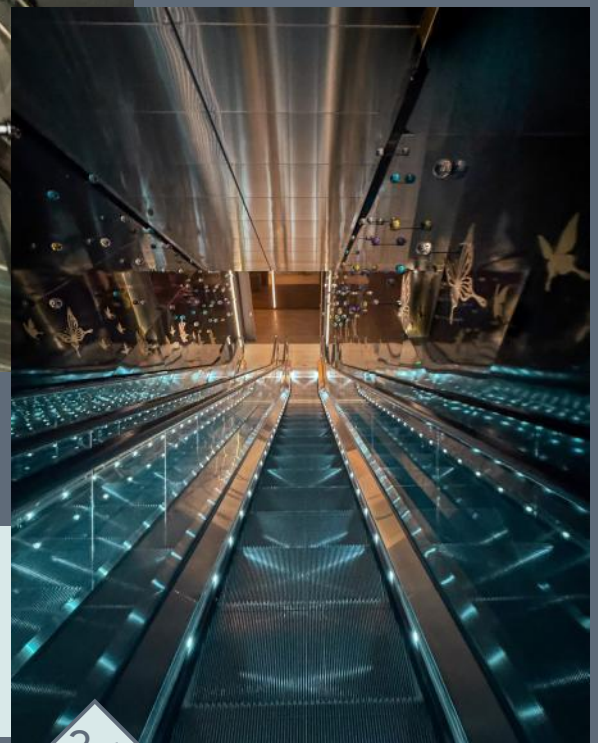
1st

"Somewhere Over The Rainbow;" A new high-performance victoria escalator by TK Elevator (TKE) at the main train station in Freiburg, Germany, emphasizes inclusion and openness toward LGBTQ lifestyles with its vibrant rainbow color scheme; photo by Christoph Bleicher, TKE.



2nd

"Blinding Butterfly Lights;" An escalator at the exit of the Mobility Pavilion at Expo City Dubai remains open following Expo 2020 Dubai; photo by Pedro Russo, TKE.



3rd

"Papillon En Vol;" With sleek, glass balustrades glowing with soft, embedded light, a pair of KONE escalators rise in quiet symmetry within the Cardo Brussels Autograph Hotel in Brussels; photo by Aurora Rawlings, KONE.

To be Continued : Look for the second part of the EW Photo Contest 2026 Images in upcoming issues of EW India magazine

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*The alien in the image is 5'8" for size reference

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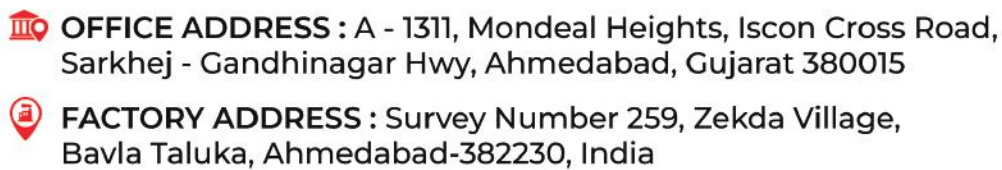
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