



**THE INSTITUTE OF
Company Secretaries of India**
भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान
IN PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE
Statutory body under an Act of Parliament
(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)



**National Convention of
Company Secretaries**

Vision

"To be a global leader in
promoting good
corporate governance"

Motto

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। इष्टं कुरु त्वत्कर्म। क्रोद्धेऽपि त्वत् कृत्स्नम्।

Mission

"To develop high calibre
professionals facilitating
good corporate governance"

Faculty Profile



**National Convention of
Company Secretaries**

October 31 & November 1-2, 2025 (Friday, Saturday & Sunday)

Hotel Grand Hyatt Kochi Bolgatty, Kochi, Kerala

Theme: Progressive, Inclusive and Sustainable *Bharat*



FACULTY PROFILE

National Convention of Company Secretaries (53rd Edition)

Theme

Progressive, Inclusive and Sustainable Bharat

Days & Dates

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday
October 31 & November 1-2, 2025**

Venue

Hotel Grand Hyatt Kochi, Bolgatty, Kochi



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Day-1

Inaugural Session

Friday, October 31, 2025

Time - 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

CHIEF GUEST

Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Hon'ble Governor of Kerala



Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar was sworn in as the 23rd Governor of Kerala on January 2, 2024. His early interest in public service was nurtured through his association with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) during childhood and later through his involvement with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as an active member since 1989.

He also served as the State President of the Goa BJP for four years. His unwavering commitment to democratic values was exemplified during the Emergency (1975–1977), when he faced imprisonment along with father for his resolute defence of democracy. His tenure as a Member of the Goa Legislative Assembly (2002–2007) was marked by respect for his ideologies and his advocacy for social issues, development and environmental conservation. From 2012 to 2017, as the Hon'ble Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly, he earned nationwide acclaim for his visionary leadership in making the Assembly the first in India to adopt a paperless system.

He also served as the Minister for Forest & Environment and Panchayati Raj in Goa. In July 2021, he was appointed as the 21st Governor of Himachal Pradesh, a position he held until 2023. In February 2023, he assumed office as the 30th Governor of Bihar, where he continued to demonstrate his commitment to public service.

He completed his matriculation at St. Joseph's Institute in Vasco da Gama, Goa and pursued a degree in Commerce at MES College in Vasco da Gama.

GUEST OF HONOUR

Shri N. K. Premachandran

Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha



Shri N. K. Premachandran is an Indian politician and a member of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP). He is currently a Member of Parliament (MP) in the Lok Sabha, representing the Kollam Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala. He serves as a Central Secretariat Member of the RSP (India).

He began his political career through the RSP's student organization. Over the years, he has held various positions at both state and national levels. He was elected as a member of the Navaikulam Grama Panchayat from 1987 to 1995 and as a member of the District Panchayat in 1995. He was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1996, followed by re-elections in 1998 and 2014 from the Kollam constituency. In 2000, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha. He also served in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, representing the Chavara Assembly constituency in Kollam district, and held the position of Minister for Water Resources from 2006 to 2011. In this role, he oversaw irrigation, groundwater development, water supply and sanitation. He played a key role in advocating for the safety of the Mullaperiyar Dam.

In the 2019 Indian general election, he won from the Kollam Lok Sabha constituency with a record margin of 1.5 lakh votes. During the 17th Lok Sabha, he introduced a private member's bill to overturn the Sabarimala verdict, the first private bill tabled in that session.

As Minister for Water Resources, he initiated several innovative measures in the drinking water sector. He established the consultancy wing of the Kerala Water Authority, known as WASCON, and proposed the setup of a bottled water plant and a pipe factory. He is renowned for his eloquent public speeches. He has also authored a book titled Oh Iraq, based on his travel experiences in Iraq.

He completed BSc from Fatima Mata National College, Kollam and passed LLB from Government Law College, Thiruvananthapuram with record marks and with first rank in 1985.

SPECIAL GUEST
Shri M. P. Ahammad
Chairman, Malabar Group



Shri M. P. Ahammad is an Indian businessman and the chairman of the Malabar Group of Companies. He is the founder of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the world's largest retail jewellery groups.

At the age of 17, he ventured into business by establishing an agro-products firm. By 1981, he expanded into trading spices and copra. In 1993, he founded Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Kozhikode, with an initial capital of ₹50 lakh. Under his leadership, the company has grown into one of the world's largest jewellery retailers, with over 340 showrooms across 13 countries.

He is involved in philanthropic initiatives through the Malabar Group, including the Hunger Free World project, which provides nutritious meals to those in need, and the Grandma Home initiative, which provides free accommodations for underprivileged women in Bengaluru and Hyderabad, with plans to expand to other major cities.

He completed his schooling at the Government High School in Kozhikode and later earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Calicut.

Day-1

First Technical Session

**Progressive Regulatory Reforms – Navigating Change with Strategic
Foresight**

Friday, October 31, 2025

Time - 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Shri APM Mohammed Hanish, IAS
Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce
Sports & Youth Affairs and Waqf Departments
Government of Kerala



Shri APM Mohammed Hanish is an IAS officer of the 1996 batch from the Kerala cadre. He currently serves as the Principal Secretary in the Industries Department, Government of Kerala. He has worked in many cities in varied capacities, held many important positions and many high-profile offices, such as the District Collector, Director of School Education Department, and Secretary PWD & Urban Development. He is also the recipient of E-Governance Award instituted by the Government of Kerala for initiatives undertaken by the Education Department.

Currently at the helm of the shiny bright Kochi Metro mission in Kerala, he is also on the managerial capacity of many other organisations. He is the Chairman & MD of the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation in Ernakulam and is also the MD for Kochi Smart City as well as the MD for the investment arm of Cheraman Financial Services.

Armed with the knowledge from the various training programmes from the University of Toronto, Canada, and IIM Bangalore and long years of service in tow, he brings in his invaluable knowledge and skill sets to the new role.

He holds a B. Tech degree in Civil Engineering from the College of Engineering, Trivandrum and has undergone advanced training programs at the University of Toronto (Canada), Asian Institute of Technology (Bangkok, Thailand) and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He is fluent in English, Gujarati and Malayalam.

Dr. Praveen Trivedi

Executive Director, International Financial Services Centres Authority



Dr. Praveen Trivedi is the Executive Director of IFSCA. He has about three decades of rich professional experience wherein he has acted in various capacities including as practicing advocate, teacher, legal advisor, regulator, supervisor and administrator.

He joined SEBI in 1996 and served for over 22 years, contributing to policy making, regulation, supervision, investigation and litigation, and also led various committees. He was Regional Manager of SEBI's Northern Regional Office and served as the Adjudication and enquiry Officer in several cases. He rose to Chief General manager and headed SEBI's Enforcement Department.

During his SEBI tenure, he was deputed to the Ministry of Finance for three years, handling legal and regulatory matters including work with FSLRC and playing a key role in drafting the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. Before joining IFSCA in January 2021, he served as Executive Director of PFRDA from June 2018.

He has a Doctorate in Law and a P.G. Diploma in Management of Financial Resources.

Shri S. Santhanakrishnan
Former Council Member (Govt. Nominee), The ICSI



Shri S. Santhanakrishnan is the Founder-Partner of P K F Sridhar & Santhanam LLP, a distinguished Chennai-based firm of Chartered Accountants with roots tracing back to 1978. His broad vision, pioneering efforts and dynamic approach, have won several credits for the firm, positioning it among the leading national firms in India.

He has served on the Boards of several prominent companies including Tata Global Beverages, Federal Bank and Catholic Syrian Bank. He has also served as member of the Central Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India contributing to the development of the accounting profession in India. He was also appointed as the Government nominee to the Central Council of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India.

He is actively involved in numerous industry-oriented initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India and the Ministry of Company Affairs. His contributions span across regulatory reforms, financial governance and corporate transparency, reflecting his commitment to strengthening India's financial ecosystem.

Day-2

Second Technical Session

Capital Market Reforms vis-à-vis Sustainable Economy

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Time - 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Dr. Dinesh Soni

Group Head - Compliance, Nuvama Wealth Management Limited

Former MD & CEO, NSE Administration and Supervision Ltd.



Dr. Dinesh Soni is a dynamic regulatory, governance and compliance professional with nearly three decades of experience in governance, compliance, regulatory operations and exchange compliance. He has a distinguished track record of strengthening compliance frameworks and regulatory oversight at India's largest stock exchange, with a deep focus on leveraging technology to drive innovation, operational efficiency and market integrity. He has recently taken over as Group Head - Compliance, Nuvama Wealth Management Limited.

In his previous role as Managing Director and CEO of NSE Administration and Supervision Limited (NASL), he spearheaded transparent frameworks for validating financial returns, strengthened industry-wide compliance engagement and built system-driven models that enhanced accountability across the ecosystem. During his 11+ years at NSE, he led the Inspection & Enforcement function, introduced risk-based supervision, pioneered innovative compliance models and championed automation to improve efficiency and accuracy. He also served as Officer-in-Charge of the Regulatory Oversight Committee, where he reviewed and presented compliance matters across Listing, Enforcement, Surveillance and Investor Services, while advising senior leadership and supporting enforcement before the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT). He has also worked with organisations like Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), Forward Markets Commission (now merged with SEBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

He holds a PhD in Finance and an MBA in International Business & Finance. He has also completed the Capital Markets Programme (CPCM) in Securities Market and Derivatives from the University of Mumbai.

Shri Manan Lahoty
Partner and Head of Capital Markets Practice
Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas



Shri Manan Lahoty leads the Capital Markets practice at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas. Qualified to practice law in India and England and Wales, he has been at the forefront of some of the most significant and prestigious transactions in the domestic and international capital markets. He is renowned for his comprehensive advice on securities law matters to corporates, financial sponsors, domestic and international investment banks.

He also advises on pre-IPO reorganization and corporate governance. Some of his recent IPOs include those by ICICI Prudential AMC, PhonePe, Groww, Zomato, Swiggy, PolicyBazaar, Adani Wilmar and Vishal Mega Mart.

He has been consistently recognised as one of India's leading capital markets lawyer and is named in the top tier by several legal rankings and directories. His accolades include being recognized as 'Band 1' for Capital Markets by Chambers and Partners, IFLR Asia Best Lawyers, India Business Law Journal's 'A-List', Legal Era, Legal500, and Who's Who Legal. He has also been named as 'One of India's Top 100 Great People Managers' by Great Manager Institute in Forbes India Magazine.

He holds an LL.B from the University of Wales, Cardiff (2001). He is a member of the Bar Council of Delhi and a Solicitor in England & Wales.

CS (Dr.) K. S. Ravichandran
Practicing Company Secretary, Coimbatore



CS (Dr.) K S Ravichandran is the Founder and Managing Partner of KSR & Co Company Secretaries LLP, Coimbatore, Bangalore and Chennai. He is an expert in Company Law, Securities Laws and Regulations; Law relating to Foreign Exchange Management and its related rules & regulations, Industrial Law and Environmental Laws. His areas of specialisation include board process, governance, audits, compliance solutions, corporate restructuring, dispute resolution, IPRs, mergers & acquisitions, insolvency & bankruptcy and arbitration & conciliation.

He has appeared before various regulatory authorities and tribunals such as the National Company Law Tribunal, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal and Intellectual Property Appellate Tribunal. He has addressed several conferences, seminars and workshops and written more than 1000 articles on corporate laws. He has authored several books including: Second Edition of Duties and Liabilities of Directors (2024); Second Edition of CSR ESG and Charitable Institutions (2024); Third Edition of Related Party Transactions (2024). Apart from the above, his works include: A Treatise on Contraventions under Companies Act, Securities Laws and FEMA (2021); Corporate Social Responsibility – Emerging Opportunities and Challenges in India (2016); The Law relating to Limited Liability Partnerships in India (2010); and A Treatise on Corporate Lending, Charges, Debts Recovery, Enforcement of Security Interest and Winding up of Companies (2006).

He was a member of the expert sub-group constituted by MCA for studying the suggestions relating to chapters of the Companies Act, 2013. He was a member of Secretarial Standards Board of the ICSI. He served the Indian Air Force for more than nine years as a specialist in Russian Radar Systems. He was a lecturer at Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh. He served as an Independent Director of the Karur Vysya Bank Limited from the year 2016-2024. He chairs the Corporate Laws Council of ASSOCHAM's Southern Regional Council.

He is M Com, LLB, FCS and holds a doctorate from the Department of Management, Alagappa University on Prosecution of Directors under the Company Law and Criminal Law in India and UK. He also holds a Diploma in Electronics and Radio Communication Engineering and a Diploma in Technology.

Day-2

Third Technical Session

MSMEs & Startups: Role of Financial Ecosystem & Technology

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Time - 12:00 NOON – 1:30 PM

Shri Alok Bansal
Co-founder & Executive Vice Chairman
PB Fintech Limited (Policybazaar)



Shri Alok Bansal is the Co-founder & Executive Vice Chairman of PB Fintech Limited that owns India's leading Insurtech brand Policybazaar.com & leading lending marketplace Paisabazaar.com. He focuses on the long-term growth opportunities and Investor Relations for the Group. The group has recently incubated a healthcare venture to bring payer and healthcare service provider together to enable superior product offering and service to health insurance customers.

According to him, the success of any business lies in working with a team with different mindsets, allowing them the flexibility and freedom to experiment, innovate and contribute. His core strengths lie in strategic thinking, process control and execution. Prior to joining PolicyBazaar.com, he has worked in various cross-functional roles with Mahindra & Mahindra and GE.

He holds an MBA from IIM Calcutta and has a special interest in science & technology and economic empowerment.

Shri S. P. Kamath
Immediate Former President
The Cochin Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Shri S. P. Kamath serves as the Executive Director of Amalgam Foods (part of the Amalgam Group), a company established in 1977 specializing in food processing and seafood exports. He is also a prominent figure in the business community, having recently held the position of President of the Cochin Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the 2024-2025 term. Prior to his presidency, he served as an Executive Committee Member of the Chamber.

Ms. Vineeta Hariharan
Public Policy Exponent
Former Chief of External Missions, Ministry of MSME



Ms. Vineeta Hariharan has had an illustrious academic journey and an exemplary professional and public life. An alumna of the prestigious School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, she worked for a decade in leading private and public sectors of the country. At this juncture driven by the aim of donning the hat of a decision maker from an implementer, she pursued her mid-career Masters in Public Administration, from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore on a scholarship from the Singapore Government. This proved to be a game changer as she gained wide international perspective in policy making.

Post this, she has been with various multi-lateral and bilateral agencies with the Government of India, where she designed national policies and led the implementation of several flagship programmes of Government of India in the domains of Rural, Urban and livelihoods, Housing for All, National Rural Mission (NRuM), Formalisation of Micro Enterprises (PMFME), Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) being some of the key flagship programmes designed by her. Her most recent assignment with the Government of India was with the Ministry of MSME as Chief of Programmes handling Externally Aided Missions.

She then worked with Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Private Limited where she was in charge of Public Affairs and Communication and handled regulatory and policy issues and ensured stakeholder management across the States.

She is on the board of studies of leading global institutes and a mentor to social foundations that work towards empowering women and the girl child. She was recently given the Woman of Excellence Award from the Indian Achiever's Forum for her outstanding contributions to the field despite all hurdles.

She is a voracious public speaker and a thought leader in diverse issues of Nation Building. Her expertise is sought in various forums on digital and television media on policy and thought leadership issues.

Lt. Cdr. Sajith Kumar E V (Retd.)
Project Director, Kerala Startup Mission



Lt. Cdr. Sajith Kumar E V (Retd.) is a results-driven executive with over 22 years of multifaceted leadership experience across government advisory, infrastructure development, strategic operations and stakeholder engagement. He brings proven expertise in steering large-scale, high-impact initiatives across public and private sectors, including defence, industrial infrastructure, education and multilateral funding projects.

His core competencies encompass strategic leadership and governance, government and stakeholder relations, public policy and advisory, infrastructure and industrial projects, multilateral funding, project management and execution, defence procurement and contracting, business development and growth strategy and organizational transformation.

Currently serving as Project Director at the Kerala Startup Mission (Government of Kerala), he leads incubation and associated services to foster Startup growth and innovation across the state. Prior to this, from December 2021 to August 2025, he was Business Head at ASAP Kerala (Government of Kerala), where he headed the Community Skill Parks (CSPs) and championed programs to enhance employability among women, marginalized and vulnerable communities, driving inclusive growth.

From August 2013 to December 2021, as Business Head at KITCO Ltd (a government undertaking), he spearheaded the execution of over 100 infrastructure projects and 500 advisory initiatives in defence, ports, healthcare and education. He directed multidisciplinary teams on classified defence infrastructure, greenfield industrial hubs and public health institutions, while serving as the key interface with the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board to structure and secure strategic funding for large-scale public sector projects.

Earlier in his career, from August 2003 to August 2013, he served as a Commissioned Officer in the Indian Navy, holding leadership roles in engineering design and contract management for advanced defence programs.

He holds a B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering and Postgraduate Degree from IIT Delhi.

Day-2

Fourth Technical Session

Circular Economy: New Perspectives and Emerging Role of CS

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Time - 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Session Chair

Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh

Director General & CEO, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs



Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, is a civil servant of 1992 batch. He is Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), which is a think tank under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. With an illustrious career spanning over three decades, he brings with him a wealth of experience in Finance, Corporate law, Insolvency, Corporate Social Responsibility, ESG Reporting, Public Policy, E-Governance and Capacity Building.

Dato' Akbar bin Moidunny

President, The Malaysian Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators



Dato' Akbar bin Moidunny is the 29th President of The Malaysian Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (MAICSA), having been appointed to the position in July 2024 and re-elected for a second term in July 2025. He previously served as President from May 2007 to May 2009 and has also held key leadership positions including Deputy President, Vice President, and Honorary Secretary. He was first co-opted to the Council in January 2000 and subsequently elected in December 2001.

Currently, he serves as Chairman of the four Regional Committees, the Conference Organising Committee 2024, the Membership Committee, the Constitution Task Force and the National Disciplinary Tribunal. He also chairs the MAICSA–Bar Council Joint Working Committee and represents the Institute on several key regulatory and industry platforms, including the Corporate Practice Consultative Forum (CPCF), its Technical Committee and Technical Focus Group established by the Companies Commission of Malaysia (CCM), as well as the Company Secretaries Consultative Group (CSCG).

He obtained his professional qualification from ICSA (now known as The Chartered Governance Institute [CGI]) in London, United Kingdom, in 1986 and has held a valid practising licence for the past 39 years. He is the Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the MINC Group of Companies, Malaysia, which he founded in 1986. The Group provides corporate secretarial and governance consultancy services to over 1,000 companies across diverse sectors.

With nearly four decades of experience, he has extensive expertise in corporate governance, restructuring, and due diligence for both multinational and local corporations, including private and public listed companies. A recognised authority in the field, he is a frequent speaker at corporate governance and legislative forums and also acts as a mediator in corporate disputes. In addition to his role at MAICSA, he is a member of the Malaysian Institute of Management (MIM) and serves on the Disciplinary Committee of the Bar Council Malaysia.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Mishra
Council Member (Govt. Nominee), ICSI
Ex-Technical Member, NCLAT



Dr. Ashok Kumar Mishra is a distinguished Fellow at IICA, Govt. nominee in the Governing Council of the ICSI, Independent Director of ICAI Registered Valuers Organization and Professor of Practice-Law & Finance at Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi. He retired in 2023 as Technical Member, NCLAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi on elevation from Technical Member, NCLT, Bangalore through high powered Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and Government of India.

He has over 40 years of extensive professional experience across various levels of Central and State Governments including quasi-government entities in accounting, financing, contract management, liasoning and legal domain. He led resolution of major litigation with governments of states of Karnataka and Orissa involving financial liability in excess of \$2 billion that had been pending in various judicial forums for 15 to 20 years, resolving them through Alternate Dispute Resolution with settlement under \$500M & at the minimum tax rate/tax exemption for future. He helped in converting cash deficit manufacturing units into cash surplus units by strengthening order book position and adopting cost-volume-profits relationship along with adopting milestone payment formulations in mobilizing orders. He has prepared standard contract documents for all defense PSUs and Ordinance factory board as per directions of Ministry of Defense. Prior to judiciary roles, he worked as Board Member, Director Finance (CFO) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (a Navaratna Defence Company).

He has authored a book titled "A Practical Guide to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016" and a compendium of Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgments vis-à-vis NCLAT Judgments under IBC, 2016 to bring uniformity in coordinate benches of NCLAT. He prepared Protocols for bringing near uniformity for disposal of petitions in case of Scheme Arrangements proposal involving Merger, De-merger, Amalgamation etc. under the provisions of Companies Act, 2013 in NCLT.

He is a B.Com (Hons.), M.Com, LL.B, PGDCA (IIBM), AMCSI, Ph.D. –Finance, LL.D and a Fellow Member of the ICAI. He was awarded "The Best CFO Award" in Public Sector category by the ICAI in 2015.

Dr. Harikumar Ramadas

Director, Energy Management Centre Kerala

Department of Power, Government of Kerala



Dr. Harikumar Ramadas is the Director of the Energy Management Centre which is the State Designated Agency of Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) of Government of India, in Kerala. He leads implementation of the Energy Conservation Act 2001 including the Energy Conservation Building Code, Perform-Achieve-Trade scheme for energy-intensive industries, municipal and agricultural demand-side management and standards & labelling for equipment.

A pioneer in sustainable energy, he has mobilized Kerala's Hydrogen Hub, facilitated the visit of the Energy Observer, the world's first hydrogen-powered vessel using renewables, to Kochi and launched the Smart Energy program to foster conservation behaviour among students. Under his leadership, EMC has won multiple awards and ranks as a top performer in NITI Aayog's State Energy Efficiency Index.

From September 2016 to December 2018, he was deputed to the Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research & Technology (ANERT) as Director, launching the "Soura" program with Kerala State Electricity Board Limited targeting 1000 MW of solar by 2022. Earlier, from 2006 to 2009, he was on deputation to ANERT as its Project Director leading its district operations.

He has over 34 years of experience in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy. He was trained at the National Productivity Council in 1992 and worked for a national energy consultancy organization in North India. He is a Certified Energy Auditor of the BEE and is the Honorary Founder General Secretary of the Society of Energy Engineers and Managers (SEEM), the professional body of Certified Energy Managers and Auditors in the country, established in 2005. He has delivered capacity-building programs nationwide as faculty for FICCI and UNIDO and travelled many countries including Barbados, China, France, Japan, and the US for various energy related missions.

He is a graduate in Mechanical Engineering, a postgraduate in Energy Conservation and holds a Ph.D. in Energy Management.

Ms. Sharmila Gopinath

Corporate Governance Consultant

Former Specialist Advisor, Asian Corporate Governance Association



Ms. Sharmila Gopinath joined India Asian Corporate Governance Association (ACGA) in 2005 and worked on a full-time basis until December 2012, when she moved to India. She continues to work for the Association on a part-time basis as the Research Director, India.

A seasoned former journalist specializing in business writing and editing, she has built her career across Hong Kong, New York and Singapore with expertise in information technology, general business and finance. Between 2000 and 2001, she reported for Singapore's Computer Times. She has been the author of the India chapter in CG Watch since 2007, was a co-author of our White Paper on India in 2010, and has contributed to various submissions made by ACGA to government bodies and regulators in India. Throughout her tenure at ACGA, she has also covered markets such as Hong Kong and Malaysia, contributed regularly to the Asia Regional Briefing newsletter and spoken at numerous events around the region.

She holds a BA in English from the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George.

Day-2

First Special Session

Innovation & Leadership: Inspiring the Next Generation

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Time - 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Dr. K. N. Raghavan, IRS (Retd.)
Secretary General, Seafood Exporters Association of India
Former International Cricket Umpire



Dr. K. N. Raghavan joined the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) in 1990. He held key posts in field formations of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. He has also served on deputation to the Government of Kerala, besides serving a tenure as First Secretary (Commerce) in the High Commission of India, Singapore. He was the Commissioner of Customs in Kochi from 2012-2017 and Principal Commissioner of Central GST in Mumbai from 2017-2019.

He worked as the Executive Director of the Rubber Board of India in Kottayam from 2019 till 2023. During this period, he also held charge as Chairman Rubber Board, Chairman Tea Board, Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority and Chairman of Tobacco Board of India. He was working as Director General of National Academy of Customs, Indirect taxes and Narcotics when he superannuated in May 2024. He also contributed towards commissioning the new campus of academy at Palasamudram and it was inaugurated by Hon. Prime Minister in January 2024. Post retirement, he has taken up an assignment as Secretary General of Seafood Exporters Association of India besides serving in advisory capacity to a Startup working in the area of environment protection and sustainability.

He was accredited as an umpire with the Board of Control for Cricket in India in 1991. He has umpired two One-Day International matches (one on field and one as third umpire), and was reserve umpire in three matches. He has umpired numerous Duleep, Deodhar and Ranji Trophy matches, besides matches in other BCCI tournaments. He was also the first umpire in the world to uphold the appeal for 'Timed Out' in first class cricket. His book, *Dividing Lines: Contours of India- China Conflict*, won critical acclaim as one of the best researched books on the topic of the Sino-Indian war of 1962. He is also the author of *World Cup Chronicle* and *Vanishing Shangri La: History of Tibet and Dalai Lamas in the Twentieth Century*. His works in fiction category are *A Slice of Calicut Halwa*, *Reverse Swing* and *Bouncer* (Malayalam) and *Mantras: Lessons from Ramayana for the modern-day manager*. His latest book "Rubber Board: Mithayayum Yatharthayavum" was released in February 2025.

He completed his MBBS from Calicut Medical College in 1988. Later, while pursuing postgraduate studies in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, he joined the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) in 1990.

Day-2

Second Special Session

**GIFT-IFSC: Enabling Growth & Professional Opportunities for achieving
vision of Viksit Bharat**

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Time - 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Shri K. Mahipal Reddy
Executive Director, IFSCA



Shri Mahipal Reddy assumed the charge as Executive Director at the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in GIFT City, Gujarat, in November 2024. He brings 35 years of extensive experience spanning the insurance industry, as well as regulation and supervision. In his current role at IFSCA, he oversees key activities related to Insurance, Pension and Ancillary Services.

Before joining IFSCA, he served as Chief General Manager at the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). During his tenure at IRDAI, he gained extensive experience in insurance regulation and supervision, particularly in the areas of registration, monitoring and overseeing the governance of general insurance companies and insurance brokers in India. This expertise has provided him with valuable insights into the insurance regulation and supervisory frameworks.

Prior to his role at IRDAI, he worked with a Public Sector General Insurance Company where he held various positions, including managing branch offices. This phase of his career allowed him to acquire significant field experience in the insurance sector.

He holds professional qualifications in insurance as a Fellow of the Insurance Institute of India. He has postgraduate degrees in Economics and Management, equipping him with sound knowledge in Non-Life Insurance and Insurance Regulations.

Shri Sathyaraj C.M.
General Manager, IFSCA



Shri Sathyaraj C.M. is a seasoned public administrator with a decade of extensive experience in institutional development, regulatory affairs and sports governance. He currently serves as General Manager at the IFSCA, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Since joining IFSCA in 2020, he has played a foundational role in building the Authority from the ground up handling key responsibilities such as statutory registrations, staffing, policy formulation, etc. Currently, he oversees critical divisions including Banking Supervision, Foreign Universities and the Financial Support Services Regulatory Division (GIC, BATFs and TechFin & Ancillary Services).

Prior to his tenure at IFSCA, he held several leadership positions at the Sports Authority of India (SAI), which he joined in 2012 through a special recruitment process for Civil Services candidates. He served as Deputy Director and Assistant Director across various departments and training centres, managing administrative and operational functions at both national stadiums and regional centres. He played a key role in implementing flagship programs such as the Khelo India initiative and coordinated high-profile national and international events including the FIT India Movement, South Asian Games, FIFA U-17 World Cup India and multiple marathons flagged off by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. He also served as Chief Administrative Officer at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Anna University, Tamil Nadu, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi. He has further sharpened his leadership and policy acumen through executive education, including the Future CHRO Programme at ISB Hyderabad and the Advanced Management Programme in Banking and Finance at the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance, Mumbai.

Day-3

Fifth Technical Session

AI Emergence: Capabilities, Possibilities and Challenges

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Time - 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

FCS Jacqueline Waihenya
President, Institute of Certified Secretaries, Kenya



FCS Jacqueline Waihenya is the 2025 Chair of the Institute of Certified Secretaries (ICS), an ICS-accredited Governance Auditor and certified Legal and Compliance Auditor by the Kenya School of Law. A distinguished commercial lawyer and dispute resolution expert, she has advanced competencies in governance, ADR and international commercial law. She is a Fellow of ICS, a Chartered Arbitrator and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb), and Emerita Chair of its Kenya Branch. She serves on the Board of ICC Kenya and is a member of the Institute of Directors (IOD) Kenya Branch.

In 2021, she served on the Taskforce to Review the Certified Public Secretary Act, whose report laid the foundation for the Certified Governance Secretaries Bill, 2023. She also represented Ciarb Kenya in the National Steering Committee for the ADR Policy 2020, convening its Legislative Proposals Sub-Committee. The resulting National ADR Policy was approved by Cabinet in 2023 and tabled in Parliament as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 2024.

Her expertise spans construction adjudication, with advanced certification from Ciarb and specialized training from King's College London and International Federation of Consulting Engineers. She is affiliated with the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation and listed on international arbitration panels including Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration, Arbitration Foundation of South Africa, ICC and the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration. As a Chartered Mediator, she is accredited by the International Mediation Institute (IMI), FIFA's Football Tribunal, and the Kenya Judiciary. She is also an Advocate of the High Court and Managing Partner at JWM Law LLP.

She holds two LL.M degrees, one in International Dispute Resolution from Queen Mary University of London and another in Public Finance & Financial Securities Law from the University of Nairobi, where she is also a Doctoral Fellow and PhD candidate researching AI regulation, ESG, and sustainable finance. She recently completed the "Artificial Intelligence: Law, Policy and Governance" course at the London School of Economics and Politics. A committed scholar and mentor, she lectures at the University of Nairobi and contributes widely to governance and ADR literature.

Prof. (Dr.) Bindu S. Ronald

Vice-Chancellor

Maharashtra National Law University, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar



Prof. (Dr.) Bindu Samuel Ronald has 23 years of work experience and has been working with Symbiosis Law School, Pune since 2007. She is a Professor of Law and previously served as the Deputy Director of Symbiosis Law School, Pune for nearly a decade. Since August 2021, she has been the Deputy Head of Symbiosis Centre for Advanced Legal Studies and Research (SCALSAR). Before joining Symbiosis Law School, Pune, she taught at West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata. Her Areas of expertise include Company Law, International Trade Law, Competition Law, Mergers and Acquisitions, Marine and Shipping Law, Contract Law.

She has numerous research publications, including SCOPUS and WoS, and is the co-author of 'Manual of Maharashtra Laws (Vol 4-19)' and Bombay Stamp Act. She has participated in various workshops, seminars and conferences across India as well as in Cardiff, Germany, Singapore, Bulgaria, Italy, Vietnam, Sweden, Singapore and Australia. She has also presented papers at various national and international conferences. At Symbiosis International University, she serves as a research guide, having supervised 6 students to their PhDs, and she currently mentors 8 Ph.D. candidates.

She received the Erasmus Mundus Grant, through which she taught 2 courses at the Department of German, European and International and Commercial Law at Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany. She has also participated in 2 EU-sponsored projects. Her additional research experience includes involvement in a UNDP project, project on Plantation Labour Act and Land legislations affecting Tea Gardens in India for the Tea Board of India and on the Takeover Code for ITC Ltd.

Currently, she serves as the Module Leader for the prestigious Jean Monnet Module on 'Legal Aspects of Doing Business in EU' – a grant by the European Commission. She is a member of the Board of Studies at Sai University Tamil Nadu, Garware College of Commerce and Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Member Doctoral Research Committee- MNLU Mumbai, Research and Recognition Committee, SPPU. She is also on the Academic Council of Symbiosis International (Deemed University).

Ms. Nazneen Jehangir
CEO, NeST Digital Pvt Ltd.
Executive Director, NeST Group



Ms. Nazneen Jehangir is the CEO of NeST Digital and the Executive Director of the US \$ 200 million NeST Group. NeST Digital is a global technology solutions provider with a presence in India, USA, Middle East, Europe and Japan. She is responsible for driving growth and value-addition across all the software products and service-lines at NeST Digital.

She is a second-generation entrepreneur with a strong engineering background. With her remarkable business insights and innovative strategies, she contributes significantly to the tech landscape. As per the Economic Times Women Ahead List, she is one among the 29 exceptional women leaders in the Indian corporate landscape.

Under her leadership, NeST Digital has evolved into a strong brand in the tech industry, earning accolades such as the prestigious Best IT Company title at the FICCI Made in Kerala Awards 2024. Her strategic focus on key sectors like Healthcare, Transportation, BFSI, GIS and Industrial & Energy has driven substantial growth. Since assuming the role of CEO in 2009, she has achieved a fourfold increase in headcount and a fivefold rise in revenues. Expansion into new regions, including the GCC countries and Japan, is a testament to her leadership.

Her journey as a successful entrepreneur has earned her numerous accolades, including the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2018 by Destination Kerala and the Unique Times Excellence in Entrepreneurship and Mentorship Award 2024. She's an elected member of Kerala NASSCOM Regional counsel. She actively participates in CII's Indian Women's Network. Furthermore, she serves on the Board of Governors for IIIT Kottayam, contributing her expertise to shape the future of technical education in India.

She holds a Bachelor of Technology degree in Information Technology from Cochin University of Science and Technology.

CS Divya Kumat
President, Chief Legal Officer & Company Secretary
Datamatics Global Services Ltd.



CS Divya Kumat is a seasoned legal professional with over 30 years of experience. She currently serves as the President, Chief Legal Officer & Company Secretary at Datamatics Global Services Ltd., leading legal and secretarial functions across 41 global entities. She has consistently enabled business success while ensuring compliance and strong corporate governance.

She was rated the best-performing senior manager globally at Datamatics for three consecutive years and received the Outstanding Achievement Award typically reserved for business heads. She played a key role in over 20 strategic initiatives including mergers, acquisitions, demergers and restructuring. She developed and implemented critical governance policies such as Insider Trading, Whistleblower, Investor Grievance and POSH. She also spearheaded the automation of contract management across the Group. She built global IPR assets securing copyrights, trademarks and service marks and previously led legal operations at Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) in Indore.

She regularly contributes to legal publications, speaks at national and international conferences, and is known for her thought leadership in the legal domain. Outside work, she's a passionate marathon runner who lives by the motto: "Love what you do and do what you love."

She holds dual bachelor's degrees and a Gold medal in LLM. She is a fellow member of the ICSI, Associate member of Chartered Secretaries – UK and a certified corporate governance professional in India.

Day-3

Sixth Technical Session

Grassroot Governance – Promoting Equity & Inclusion

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Time - 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Shri M. Anil Kumar

Hon'ble Mayor, Kochi Municipal Corporation



Shri M. Anil Kumar has nearly 30 years of experience in public life. He entered politics at the young age of 25, when he was first elected as a Councillor of the Kochi Municipal Corporation. A proud Kochiite, he has since been elected to the Corporation Council four times and is now serving as the Mayor of the city.

Before assuming charge as Mayor, he served as the Chairman of the Works Standing Committee of the Kochi Municipal Corporation from 2008 to 2010. Throughout his career, he has played a key role in driving meaningful change and institutional transformation in the city through effective leadership and vision.

As Mayor, drawing from his vast experience in local governance and his commitment to inclusive planning, he is dedicated to improving health, education, agriculture and livelihood opportunities in Kochi, while also prioritizing job creation and youth empowerment.

He is a State Committee member of the CPI(M) and a General Council Member of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU). He also leads several trade unions of major public sector enterprises, including Cochin Shipyard Ltd. and the Naval Base.

He holds a Master's degree in Law from Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), which he completed with a scholarship awarded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development for specialization in Copyright Law.

Dr. Sanjeeb Patjoshi, IPS

DGP & Ex-Joint Secretary to Government of India

Ministry of Panchayati Raj



Dr. Sanjeeb Kumar Patjoshi is a distinguished Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, Kerala cadre, 1991 batch, renowned for his exemplary leadership, academic excellence and commitment to public service. With a strong will to serve the country and uphold law and order, he ascended to the esteemed position of an IPS officer in Kerala state cadre.

He has held numerous high-impact roles across government and public sector organizations. He served as Managing Director and Chief Executive in various Kerala state enterprises, including the Dairy and Milk Federation, Road Transport Corporation and Film Development Corporation. He was Director of the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM) and later appointed Joint Secretary to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India in 2016. His contributions to the dairy sector earned him the Pride of India Award in 2010.

His career also includes international service as Officer of Communication in the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, for which he received a UN medal in 2001. He held key positions such as Joint Director in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Police Commissioner of Calicut, ADC to the Governor of Kerala and Director in the SAARC International Centre of Agricultural Banking. He also served as Chairman and Managing Director of the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation and CEO of several food and technology institutions in Kerala.

In recognition of his integrity and dedication, he received the Satyendra K. Memorial Award from IIT Kanpur in 2011 and the President of India Medal for Meritorious Service in 2016. He later served as Director General of the Department of Fire Force and Rescue Services and Commandant General of Kerala Home Guards and was appointed Chairman and Managing Director of the Kerala Police Housing and Construction Corporation.

He holds a B. Tech in Electrical Engineering from VNIT Nagpur, an M. Tech in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur, an MBA from IIM Bangalore and Syracuse University and a Ph.D. in Economics and Entrepreneurial Development.

Prof (Dr.) G. B. Reddy

Vice Chancellor

National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Kochi



Prof (Dr.) G. B. Reddy, a distinguished lawyer turned academician, is currently the Vice Chancellor of NUALS, Kochi, and serves on several academic and legal bodies including the state, central, national and other prestigious institutions. His international engagements span Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand. After seven years of practice at the Andhra Pradesh High Court, he joined academia, specializing in Constitutional Law, Judicial Activism and Intellectual Property. He is a Senior Professor of Law (HAG) at Osmania University, Hyderabad, currently on FS on deputation.

He authored 29 acclaimed law books and published over 120 articles. His works Women and Law and Judicial Activism in India were favourably reviewed by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer. He offered seven SWAYAM courses between 2019 and 2025 and played a pivotal role in curriculum innovation at Osmania University. He delivered more than 550 invited lectures and successfully guided 21 Ph.D. scholars in Law so far. He held key positions including Dean, Head, Principal, Chairperson of BoS and Director at Osmania University and served as Dean at Telangana, Sathavahana and Mahatma Gandhi Universities. He was Convener of TS LAW CET & PGLCET (2019–2022), Founding IPR Chair Professor (DPIIT) at Osmania University, and received the Telangana State Best Teacher Award in 2021.

He holds LL.B., LL.M. (Constitutional Law) and Ph.D. from Osmania University, with a PG Diploma in Human Rights from University of Hyderabad. He earned four gold medals and was the first UGC-JRF qualifier in Law from Osmania University.

Dr. Chhavi Rajawat

Former Sarpanch, Village Soda Tonk District, Rajasthan



Dr. Chhavi Rajawat is a former Sarpanch (elected head of the Village Council) from Soda village, Tonk district, Rajasthan. She is an alumna of Rishi Valler School, Mayo College Girls School and Lady Shri Ram College. She worked for companies like Times of India, Carlson Group of Hotels and Airtel before signing up to become a Sarpanch.

Her mission has always been to co-create a holistic model for rural development, empower people, upskill and educate. Her service to the community has been recognized several times with awards that include the First Ladies National Award from the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Reebok's Fit to Fight Award, Young Indian Leader Award by CNN/IBN, Grassroots Women of the Decade Achievers Award, Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Shakti National Award, the All India Women Achievers Award, the Yuva Award and the Changing Face of Indian Politics Award. She has also been felicitated by Former President Late Shri Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

She is a motivational speaker and has given keynote speeches to hundreds of people at economic, governance, social justice, and equity conferences in the Government, non-profits, businesses, and universities.

She received higher education at Rishi Valley School and Lady Shri Ram College and completed her MBA from Pune.

Ms. Bhakti Sharma

Former Sarpanch

Barkheddi Abdullah Village Bhopal District, Madhya Pradesh



Ms. Bhakti Sharma is a national executive committee member of Bharatiye Janta yuva morcha and co-in charge of Uttar Pradesh. She is an ex- Sarpanch (village leader) in Madhya Pradesh, India, and her story inspires many. She had the opportunity to take a high-paying job and live a comfortable life in the United States but she chose to return to her hometown, Bhopal, to make a difference.

In 2014, she ran for Sarpanch to drive meaningful change at the grassroots level. She turned a village struggling with poverty into a successful model for others to follow. Her leadership focused on improving basic amenities such as electricity, water supply, sanitation, and the effective implementation of government schemes. Her work earned national acclaim, and she was honoured as one of the 100 Most Influential Women in India in 2016. She continues to mentor women leaders and Sarpanches across the country, guiding them in governance, leadership and community development.

In 2018, she was honoured by the Prime Minister and former President Pranab Mukherjee for her work. She has received numerous state and national awards and was named one of the 100 most impactful and influential women. She has also represented India at major events like the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia, and has spoken on global platforms such as TED, the UN General Assembly New York and other international forums. She is A Raisina Alumni, represented India at American Council of Young Political Leaders 2023-24.

She completed a Master's degree in Political Science and a law degree.

Motto

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