

CPCL Leadership Inaugural Memorial Lecture



PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP IN NATION BUILDING

FROM LEGACY TO FUTURE READINESS

6.30 PM TO 08.15 PM
MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2026

**MMA MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEW NO 240, PATHARI ROAD
(OFF ANNA SALAI), CHENNAI- 6**



SYNOPSIS

India's Public Sector Enterprises have played a defining role in shaping the nation's industrial, economic, technological, and social landscape since Independence. From building critical infrastructure and ensuring energy security to nurturing indigenous capabilities and supporting inclusive growth, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have stood as enduring pillars of national development.

As India advances towards becoming a globally competitive and self-reliant economy, the role of public sector leadership is undergoing a profound transformation. Today's leaders are expected not only to preserve the rich legacy of institution-building, integrity, and public purpose, but also to navigate an era defined by technological disruption, sustainability imperatives, energy transition, digital transformation, and global competitiveness.

The inaugural SOOPER – CPCL–MMA Leadership Memorial Endowment Lecture seeks to reflect on this remarkable journey of public sector leadership and explore how PSUs can reinvent themselves to remain future-ready institutions. The lecture will deliberate on how visionary leadership, innovation-driven culture, operational excellence, and people-centric transformation can enable public enterprises to continue serving as engines of national progress.

In keeping with CPCL's vision of being a future-ready, innovation-driven leader delivering sustainable and high-value solutions, the lecture will also highlight the evolving role of energy sector PSUs in balancing growth with environmental responsibility, clean energy adoption, technology integration, and capability building.

The lecture series aims to create a thought leadership platform that brings together policymakers, industry leaders, management professionals, academia, and young executives to engage in meaningful dialogue on leadership, governance, sustainability, and institution-building in the public sector ecosystem.

Organised jointly by Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) and Madras Management Association (MMA), the SOOPER Leadership Memorial Endowment Lecture aspires to inspire current and future leaders to carry forward the enduring values of public service while embracing innovation and transformation for the India of tomorrow.

Programme

5:30 PM

Registration & Tea

06:30 PM

Welcome Address

Mr Lakshminarayanan D

President, MMA & Managing Director, Sundaram Home Finance Ltd

Opening Remarks

Mr H Shankar

Managing Director, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)

Special Address

Mr Arvinder Singh Sahney*

Chairman, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)

**Exchange of MoU : MMA- CPCL Annual Endowment
Lecture**

Keynote Address

“Public Sector Leadership in Nation Building: From Legacy to Future
Readiness”

Dr V Kamakoti

Director, IIT Madras

Special Address

“Strategic Public Sector Leadership in Building a Self-Reliant India”

Dr A Sivathanu Pillai, PhD, D.Sc.*

Founder, BrahMos Aerospace

Chief Guest Address

“Public Sector Leadership in Shaping India’s Journey to a Developed
Nation”

Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran

Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India

Q & A

Concluding Remarks & Vote of Thanks

08.15 PM

Dinner

* Confirmation awaited



Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran

Chief Economic Advisor

Government of India

Dr. Nageswaran is the Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India. He is also a writer, author, and a teacher. He has written a weekly Mint column for fifteen years and co-authored four books. He has taught at several business schools and institutes of management in India and in Singapore. He was the Dean of the IFMR Graduate School of Business and a distinguished Visiting Professor of Economics at Krea University. He was one of the founders of Aavishkaar Venture Capital Fund and the Takshashila Institution. He served as a Currency Economist at the Union Bank of Switzerland; Head of Research and Investment Consulting in Credit Suisse Private Banking in Asia; and Head of Asia Research and Global Chief Investment Officer at Bank Julius Baer. He was an independent Director on the Boards of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, Sundaram Fasteners, TVS Sri Chakra Tyres, Delphi TVS and Aparajitha Corporate Services. He received a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.



Dr V Kamakoti

Director, IIT Madras

Dr V Kamakoti is currently Director at IIT Madras. He joined the institute as faculty in 2001 and took over as its Director in January 2022.

He specializes in Computer Architecture, Information Security and VLSI Design. He heads the Microprocessor Development Program and the Information Security Education and Awareness Program at IIT Madras funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India. He is member of the National Security Advisory Board. He was also the Chairman of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. At IIT Madras he has served as the Chairman, JEE and as Associate Dean, Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research.

He has over 150 publications in international journals and conferences, guided many research scholars for their PhD and Master of Science (by research) program. He has coordinated and successfully delivered close to 50 projects from industry and government R&D establishments. He serves in the technology committees of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Dr. Kamakoti is the recipient of DRDO Academic Excellence Award, Indian Electronics and Semiconductor Association Techno Visionary Award, 'Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation National Fellowship', ACCS Life-time Achievement Award, IBM Faculty Award, VASVIK Industrial Research award and JC Bose Lifetime Achievement Award.

He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT Madras.

PROFILE



Dr A Sivathanu Pillai, PhD, D.Sc.

Founder, BrahMos Aerospace

Leadership Roles:

Distinguished Visiting Professor, IIT(Bombay)

Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Technology, (Madras)

President, Project Management Associates, India

Sir C V Raman Chair Professor, SRMIST

Fmr Hon' Distinguished Professor, ISRO

Fmr Chief Controller (R&D), DRDO

Dr. A. Sivathanu Pillai is a distinguished Indian scientist and technologist with over five decades of pioneering contributions in aerospace and defence. He graduated in Electrical Engineering from Madras University (1969), completed a management program at Harvard Business School, earned a PhD from Pune University (1996), and a D.Sc. from Tumkur University (2012).

He played a pivotal role in India's space and missile programs under visionary leaders like Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, Prof. Satish Dhawan, and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, with whom he shared a 40-year collaboration. Dr. Pillai was instrumental in the development of SLV-3 and the configuration of PSLV for ISRO. As Program Director of IGMDP and Chief Controller R&D at DRDO, he drove the development of Agni, Prithvi, Nag, and Akash missiles.

As Founder, CEO & MD of BrahMos Aerospace, a landmark Indo-Russian joint venture, Dr. Pillai led the creation of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile—BRAHMOS—now a key asset of India's defence arsenal. Recognised as the "Father of BrahMos," he also initiated the development of hypersonic technologies for future systems.

A global defence technologist, he has authored 11 books, published over 100 research papers, and co-authored works with Dr. Kalam. Dr. Pillai is a Padma Shri (2002) and Padma Bhushan (2013) awardee, and recipient of Russia's "Order of Friendship." He continues to promote innovations in hypersonics, green hydrogen, and youth development.



Mr Arvinder Singh Sahney

Chairman, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)

Mr A S Sahney is a Chemical Engineer from HBTI, Kanpur, with over three decades of expertise in the Refinery and Petrochemical sector. He brings extensive experience from working at five of Indian Oil's nine refineries. At Indian Oil, he has been instrumental in commissioning and optimizing key refinery units, including the 15 MMTPA Paradip Refinery, which has significantly bolstered India's refining capacity and energy security.

Prior to his appointment as Chairman, he headed Indian Oil's Petrochemical vertical, where he was instrumental in the conceptualization of various petrochemical projects, including the upcoming mega Petrochemical Complex at Paradip, poised to significantly expand Indian Oil's footprint in the sector.



Mr H Shankar

Managing Director, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)

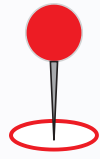
Mr H Shankar is a Mechanical Engineer and MBA in General Management with an extensive knowledge in business management, strategic planning, and leadership. With over three decades of experience in all facets of refinery operations, he has played pivotal roles in project management, leading numerous large-scale projects from inception to completion. His proficiency in contracts management has optimized costs and ensured timely resource delivery, while his in-depth knowledge of health, safety and environment (HSE) has fostered a culture of safety and environmental stewardship.

Mr H Shankar assumed charge as Director Technical, CPCL and has been a part of the CPCL Board, driving innovation and excellence in various domains, including new energies and digitalization. Mr H Shankar was appointed as the Managing Director of CPCL by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) and is also holding additional charge as Director (Technical).

FOR REGISTRATION

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