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BUSINESS

PRESENT

• INVITATION •

THE SIXTH
V NARAYANAN
MEMORIAL
ENDOWMENT
LECTURE

THURSDAY, 9 APR 2026

6:00 PM ~ 7:30 PM

MMA MANAGEMENT CENTER,
CHENNAI



Chief Guest

B Santhanam

Former CEO, Asia Pacific & India,
Chairman - Saint-Gobain, India

***Mr V Narayanan** was an inspiring visionary. He built a culture of character and competence, and inspired ordinary people to do extraordinary things in the businesses he helmed. His expertise was sought after by a number of corporates, and he significantly contributed to the growth of the manufacturing industry in India, particularly Tamil Nadu.*

SYNOPSIS

The Sixth V. Narayanan Memorial Endowment Lecture will explore the evolving relationship between Artificial Intelligence and the individual in shaping the future of work, leadership, and society. While AI is transforming industries, productivity, and decision-making at an unprecedented pace, the true differentiator will remain the human ability to learn, adapt, and lead with purpose.

Drawing from his four decades of leadership in global manufacturing and technology-driven transformation, Mr. B. Santhanam will reflect on how individuals can effectively integrate AI into their professional and personal lives. The memorial lecture will emphasize that in the era of Artificial Intelligence, the most critical element remains the “I” – the individual – who must develop the agility, ethical judgment, and continuous learning mindset required to harness AI responsibly and productively.

In the spirit of the visionary leadership of Mr. V. Narayanan, who believed in building organizations anchored in character and competence, the lecture will highlight how individuals can leverage emerging technologies while retaining the human values, creativity, and leadership qualities that drive sustainable progress.

PROGRAMME

Time	Programme	
05:15 pm	Registration & High Tea	
06:00 pm	Welcome Address	Mr Lakshminarayanan D President, MMA & Managing Director Sundaram Home Finance Ltd
06:05 pm	Introductory Remarks	Mr V Balaraman Past President, MMA & Former MD, Ponds India Ltd
06:15 pm	Introduction of the Speaker	Mr Ravi Shankar (Former Partner, Ernst & Young) Founder, Connect2Expert
06:25 pm	V Narayanan (Pond's) Memorial Endowment Lecture on “The ‘I’ in AI: Empowering Individuals in an Intelligent Age”	Mr B Santhanam Former CEO, Asia Pacific & India Chairman - Saint-Gobain, India
07:10 pm	Q & A	
07:25 pm	Vote of Thanks	Gp Capt R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM Executive Director, MMA
07:30 pm	End of the program	

PROFILE OF THE SPEAKER



B. Santhanam

Mr. B. Santhanam began his career with Grindwell Norton, a Saint-Gobain Group company, as a Management Trainee in May 1980, gaining wide-ranging experience across IT, operations, product development, sales, and marketing.

In 1996, he partnered with the Saint-Gobain Group (turnover exceeding €46 billion) to shape its Flat Glass investment strategy in India. As the first Managing Director of Saint-Gobain Glass India, he led investments exceeding ₹8,000 crore. Under his leadership, Saint-Gobain's total investments in India grew to over ₹12,000 crore across Glass, Gypsum, Insulation, Construction Chemicals, Abrasives, and Ceramics, with operations spanning 33 locations nationwide.

He served as Chairman of Saint-Gobain India Pvt. Ltd. (Jan 2020 - May 2025), Managing Director of Grindwell Norton Ltd. (Apr 2020 - Mar 2025), and CEO of Saint-Gobain APAC & India, and was a Member of the Group's Global Executive Committee in France (Jul 2021 - Mar 2025). He retired in May 2025 after 45 years with the Group.

Mr. Santhanam was a Member of the CII National Council (2006-2019) and Chairman of the CII Southern Region (2013-14). A strong advocate of workforce diversity, he played a key role in establishing CII's Indian Women Network (IWN) and continues to contribute to policy discussions on human resources, manufacturing, skills, and digitalization.

He has served on several academic and institutional boards, including IIT Madras Research Park (since December 2009), Anna University Syndicate (2012-15), IIIT Design & Manufacturing (since 2013), and the Centre for Urbanization, Buildings and Environment (CUBE), Chennai (since 2017).

Currently, Mr. Santhanam is an Independent Director on the Boards of Titan Company Limited (since May 2018), Kasturi & Sons Limited (since October 2024), Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (since October 2025), and Tata Electronics Pvt. Ltd. (since November 2025). He also serves as Chairman of Titan Engineering & Automation Ltd. (since June 2025).

He is a former President of the Employers' Federation of India (2009-10), Chairman of the PanIIT 2008 Global Conference, and a Gold Member of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO).

Mr. Santhanam holds a B.Tech in Civil Engineering from IIT Madras and a Post Graduate degree in Management from IIM Ahmedabad. His numerous recognitions include the IFCCI "Personality of the Year Award 2025," the Pragati Leadership "Exemplary Award" (2022), NHRDN "CEO of the Year" (2008), and the "Distinguished Alumnus Award" from IIT Madras (2004), among others.



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MADRAS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



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