



P R E S E N T



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KARAKURI KAIZEN

Leveraging Low-Cost, High-Impact Innovation
for Superior Operational Efficiency

JAN SATURDAY
10 10.00 AM - 12.45 PM
2026 MMA MANAGEMENT CENTER

SYNOPSIS

Karakuri Kaizen: The Low-Cost Silver Bullet to Enhanced Profitability offers deep insights into Toyota's mechanical automation philosophy and the power of low-cost, high-impact innovation. It showcases how simple, gravity-powered mechanisms and reusable components can dramatically uplift operational efficiency while keeping costs and environmental impact extremely low. Key takeaways include:

- Substantial cost savings (e.g., ₹80,000 Karakuri solutions replacing ₹5-lakh automated systems)
- Higher operational efficiency, including improved cycle times, increased machine utilisation and faster order generation (3–6 minutes)
- Stronger ergonomics & workforce creativity, thanks to worker-led design of many mechanisms
- Sustainability benefits through extensive scrap reuse (up to 90%), zero power usage, and lower CO₂ footprint

Given the relevance of these insights, this event would be particularly beneficial for COOs, Operations Heads, Supply Chain Leaders, and a select group of undergraduate students who may be inspired by Toyota's frugal innovation and problem-solving culture.

PROGRAMME

09:00 AM	Registration, Tea & Networking	
09.55 AM	Lighting of the lamp and felicitation of dignitaries	
10.00 AM	Welcome Address	Mr Lakshminarayanan D President, MMA & MD, Sundaram Home Finance Ltd
10.05 AM	Opening Remarks	Dr Debashis Sanyal Director Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai
10.15 AM	Overview & Key Insights from the White Paper	Dr N Vivek Professor of Practice – Operations, Great Lakes Institute of Management Mr Thej Kumar Vice President - Operations, Product Development and Quality Toyota Gosei South India Pvt. Ltd.
10.30 AM	Formal Launch of the White Paper “Karakuri Kaizen: The Low-Cost Silver Bullet to Enhanced Profitability”	By the Chief Guest and other dignitaries
10.40 AM	Address by the Chief Guest	Mr B Santhanam Former CEO, Asia Pacific & India and Chairman - Saint-Gobain, India
11.00 AM	Presentation of mementos & Vote of Thanks	Gp Capt R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM Executive Director, MMA
11.10 AM	Panel Discussion “Karakuri Kaizen & the Future of Frugal Automation: Lessons for Indian Industry”	<u>Moderator:</u> Dr Kedar Pandurang Joshi Associate Professor - Operations & Analytics, Great Lakes Institute of Management <u>Panellists:</u> Mr N Harihara Subramaniyan MD & CEO Mayura's Automation and Robotic Systems P Ltd Mr Venugopal Gowda Founder Leantech Engineering Mr Thej Kumar
12.10 PM	Q& A Session	
12.30 PM	Presentation of mementos	
12.35 PM	Closing Remarks & End of the Conclave	Mr Yash Merchant Director, Brand Marketing Great Lakes Institute of Management
12.45 PM	Lunch	

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

(CLICK ON PHOTO TO VIEW THE PROFILE)

Chief Guest



Mr B Santhanam

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



Dr N Vivek

Professor of Practice – Operations,
Great Lakes Institute of
Management



Mr Thej Kumar

Vice President - Operations,
Product Development and Quality
Toyota Gosei South India Pvt. Ltd.



Dr Kedar Pandurang Joshi

Associate Professor -
Operations & Analytics, Great
Lakes Institute of Management



Mr N Harihara Subramaniyan

MD & CEO
Mayura's Automation and Robotic
Systems Pvt Ltd



Mr Venugopal Gowda

Founder
Leantech Engineering



Dr Debashis Sanyal

Director, Great Lakes Institute
of Management, Chennai



Mr Yash Merchant

Director, Brand Marketing
Great Lakes Institute of
Management



Mr Lakshminarayanan D

President, MMA &
Managing Director
Sundaram Home Finance Ltd



**Gp Capt R Vijayakumar
(Retd), VSM**

Executive Director, MMA

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