ANNUAL SEMINAR 2026

Indian Institution of Industrial Engineering
Kerala Chapter

Kerala State Productivity Council
Kalamassery

Work, Worker, Work Environment - CHALLENGES AHEAD

One Day Seminar to address how innovations transform jobs and management practices

Thursday 26th November 2026

Hotel Monsoon Empress
NH Bypass, Palarivattom

Work, Worker, Work Environment - CHALLENGES AHEAD

The future of work is being reshaped by rapid advances in digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), automation, and other emerging technologies. These innovations are transforming not only how work is performed, but also the skills workers need and the environments in which they operate. While technological progress offers significant opportunities through improved productivity, new career pathways, flexible work arrangements, and enhanced innovation, it also presents challenges such as job displacement, skills obsolescence, cybersecurity risks, and ethical concerns surrounding AI. The key challenge for organizations, workers, and society is to harness these technologies responsibly while developing the human capabilities needed to thrive in an increasingly digital and interconnected world.

Inaugural session



Inaugural address

Sri. V. E. Abdul Gafoor
Honourable Minister of Fisheries & Social Justice
Government of Keralam

Keynote address



Sri. Vinod Tharakan

A banking and finance technology entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience in banking, enterprise IT, and software product development across the US, Europe, and the Middle East. As **Founder and Managing Director of ClaySys Group** and Board Chair of CU NextGen CUSO, he has led the development of digital banking, automation, AI, and compliance solutions for financial institutions, while also contributing to R&D in development economics and financial systems design. His work spans technology innovation, economic development, and integrated personal wellbeing through initiatives focused on financial, physical, and mental health.

Presidential address



Dr. A V V Prasada Raju
National Chairman
Indian Institution of Industrial Engineering (IIIE)

Guest of Honour



Sri. Saji V Mathew
Honorary Secretary
Kerala State Productivity Council (KSPC)

Invited Speakers

Sri. Kevin Simon Chittilappilly



An accomplished chemical engineering professional and manufacturing leader, currently serving as **Unit Head at PCBL Chemical Limited, Kochi**, part of the RPSG Group. With over 16 years of experience in the carbon black industry, he has progressed from Graduate Engineering Trainee to Unit Head, driving operational excellence, productivity, safety, and sustainability initiatives. Under his leadership, the Kochi plant achieved prestigious recognitions, including the “Champion of Champions” and “Quality Champion” awards.



Lt. Mathew Varghese

A distinguished operations, technology, and corporate strategy leader, currently serving as **Senior Vice President – Operations at Mane Kancor Ingredients Pvt. Ltd.** With over three decades of leadership experience spanning the Indian Navy and the natural ingredients industry, he has driven significant business growth, large-scale manufacturing expansion, and strategic acquisitions. He is widely recognized for combining engineering innovation, operational excellence, and high-performance team leadership.

Smt. Meena Thomas



A seasoned business leader with over 25 years of experience and currently serves as **Director – Business Excellence at Agappe Diagnostics Ltd**., where she has played a pivotal role in driving operational excellence, organizational development, and people-centric performance. She has held diverse leadership positions, including Chief Operating Officer, overseeing key functions such as HR, operations, supply chain, and business management. Recognized for fostering a culture of continuous improvement and employee engagement, she has significantly contributed to the organization's growth and excellence.



Sri. Ramesh P Nair

He serves as the **Country Managing Director of Aptiv Connection Systems India Pvt. Ltd**. in Kochi, Kerala. With over a decade of executive leadership in the automotive tech sector, he specializes in manufacturing, electronics, and Six Sigma implementation. An alumnus of Mahatma Gandhi University with a degree in mechanical engineering, he leverages strong technical expertise to drive operational excellence. His impactful contributions to the automobile industry earned him the prestigious Dhanam Business Professional of the Year 2026 award.

Smt. Suchitra Menon



She is the **Director & CEO of WFB Baird & Company (India) Pvt. Ltd.**, a chartered accountant who successfully transitioned from finance to top management and has led the company's significant growth over the past 15 years. Under her leadership, WFB Baird expanded its manufacturing capacity, established three facilities in India, and diversified into retail through the Burgoyne brand. She is recognized as one of the few women CEOs in the textile industry, known for combining financial expertise, commercial insight, and people-focused leadership.



Sri. Varkiachan Pettah

An **HR Professional with 36 years of experience,** an extensive and impeccable track record in Personnel Management; Industrial Relations and Labour Law Administration, known for his knowledge, information, inference and insights gained over four decades of professional practice. Has held very senior positions heading the HR function in Hindustan Construction Company Mumbai, Bhageeratha Engineering and English Indian Clays Ltd. (Tapar Group) Thiruvananthapuram. Has led numerous training sessions on PF, ESI, Contract Labour, POSH Act and other important Labour enactments.

Seminar Organisers

Established in 1959, the **Kerala State Productivity Council** is an autonomous tripartite organization with representation from State Government, Industrial Management and Employees unions. The Council is recognized by the National Productivity Council, New Delhi and Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo. KSPC helps organizations to improve productivity and quality not only by facilitating effective solutions, but by teaming up with organizations to achieve the objectives.

The **Indian Institution of Industrial Engineering (IIIE)** is the only professional body of Industrial Engineers in the Country founded in 1957 by eminent business leaders, top management personnel, academicians and practitioners of Industrial Engineering. It is dedicated to the advancement of Industrial Engineering Education & practice and application of scientific knowledge to assist in the management of all endeavours. The IIIE is headquartered at Mumbai and has 33 Chapters all over India.

Who Can Attend

Executives from Production and other supporting functions like Quality, Maintenance, Materials, Engineering, Utility, HR etc and anyone who are one or another way responsible for improving Productivity Levels of Resources utilized.

Delegate Fee per Participant

Members of KSPC/IIIE - Rs. 3,500/- (Single) ; Rs.3,150 (Two or more)
Non-members - Rs. 3,750/- (Single) ; Rs.3,375 (Two or more)
GST @ 18% Extra

Bank Account details (for NEFT/RTGS payment)
Beneficiary Name : Kerala State Productivity Council
Bank Name : SBI, Kalamassery Main branch
Account No. : Current A/c No. 57015663787
IFSC Code : SBIN0070145

Last date of Nomination
24th November 2026

General

Stationery, lunch and refreshments will be provided.
Participation certificates will be issued.
Link for registration : https://www.kspconline.com/programmes/details/718

Event Schedule

Date : 26th November 2026
Time : 09.30 a.m - 04.30 p.m
Venue :
Hotel Monsoon Empress
NH Bypass, Palarivattom

Scan QR code for Registration

Queries

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