

REIMAGINING LEADERSHIP IN AN

A DRIVEN WORLD

SEP 16 WEDNESDAY
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
MMA MANAGEMENT CENTER



MR SURESH NARAYANAN
Former Chairman and Managing Director
Nestlé India Limited



MR LAKSHMI NARAYANAN
Chancellor & Chairperson, Governing Council
Krea University



MS ANU OZA
Leadership Development Consultant

REIMAGINING LEADERSHIP IN AN AI-DRIVEN WORLD

Inaugural Edition of the MMA–ICT Academy Leadership Lecture Series

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly reshaping the way organisations operate, compete and make decisions. Yet, beyond technology, a more fundamental question is emerging: How must leadership evolve in an AI-driven world?

To explore this, Madras Management Association, in association with ICT Academy, presents a special lecture series — “Reimagining Leadership in an AI-Driven World” — featuring distinguished corporate leaders who will share their perspectives on leadership, judgement, decision-making and the human qualities that will remain critical in the age of AI.

The inaugural edition will feature Mr Suresh Narayanan, Former Chairman and Managing Director, Nestlé India Limited, an accomplished leader with extensive experience across India and several international markets. His career has seen him lead organisations through periods of economic uncertainty, geopolitical turbulence and major business challenges.

Drawing from these experiences, Mr Narayanan will reflect on an intriguing question: If today’s AI tools and technologies had been available during some of the defining crises of his career, how differently might he have led? He will also examine what technology can enhance — and what must continue to depend on human judgement, courage, empathy and trust.

The session will also feature insights from his recent book, *Courage Under Fire*, which draws on real-life leadership experiences including the MAGGI crisis, the Arab Spring, the 2008 financial downturn and the COVID period.

Mr Narayanan will then engage in a lively conversation with Mr Lakshmi Narayanan, Chancellor & Chairperson, Governing Council, Krea University, and Ms Anu Oza, Leadership Development Consultant exploring the future of leadership in an increasingly AI-enabled world.

This inaugural session promises to be a compelling blend of experience, technology and timeless leadership wisdom.

PROGRAM

5:15 PM

Registration & High Tea

6:00 PM

Welcome Address

Mr A R Unnikrishnan

President, MMA &

MD, Saint-Gobain India Pvt Ltd – Glass Business

Overview of the lecture series:

“Reimagining Leadership in an AI driven world”

Mr Lakshmi Narayanan

Chancellor & Chairperson, Governing Council

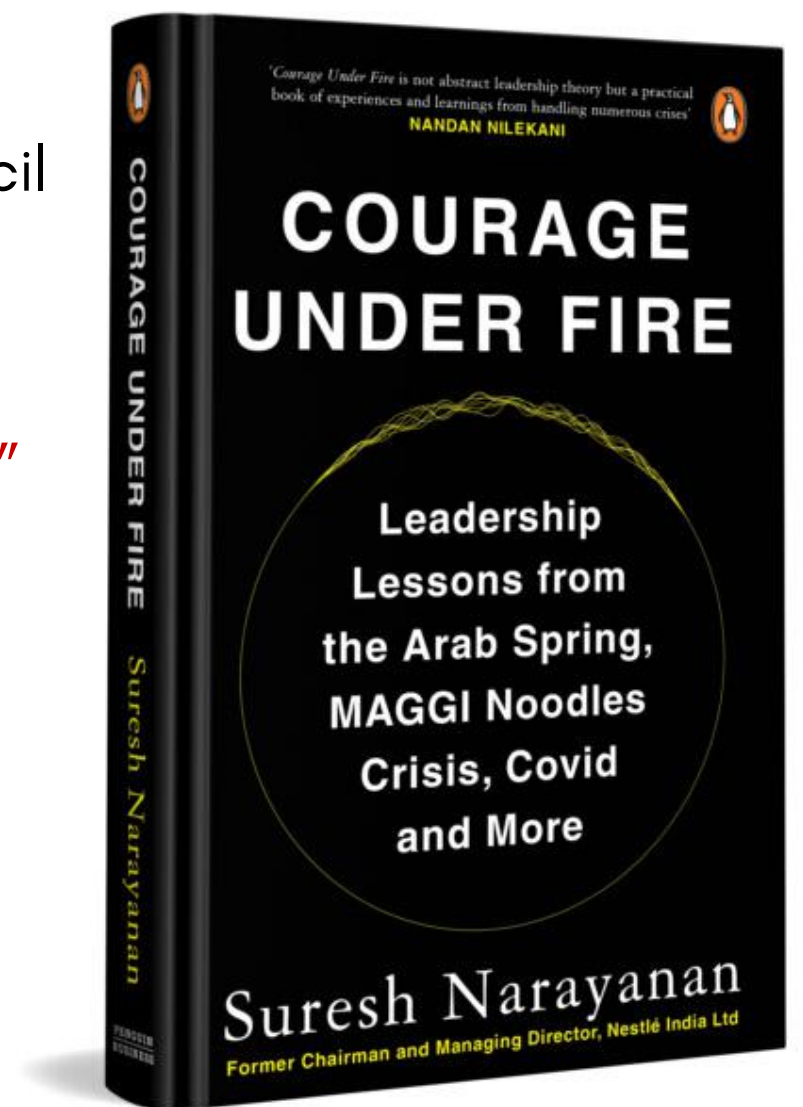
Krea University and Founder, ICT Academy

Launch of the book – “Courage Under Fire”
authored by

Mr Suresh Narayanan

Author of the book &

Former CMD, Nestlé India Limited



Address by the Chief Guest Mr Suresh Narayanan
on “Reimagining Leadership in an AI driven world”

Mr Suresh Narayanan in conversation with

Mr Lakshmi Narayanan

Moderated by

Ms Anu Oza

Leadership Development Consultant

Q&A

7:25 PM

Vote of Thanks

Gp Capt R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM

Executive Director, MMA

7:30 PM

End of the Programme

PROFILE



Mr Suresh Narayanan

Former Chairman and Managing Director
Nestlé India Limited

Mr Narayanan was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Nestlé India in August 2015 and was on the Board of Directors of Nestlé India Limited. He also served as the Chairman of CII National Committee on Food processing Industries. He was an Independent Director on the Board of Asian Paints Limited and also in the Board of Governors of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

Mr Narayanan is a quintessential 'Peoples Leader' who has had an unmatched record in steering the Nestlé ship towards calmer and progressive waters, repeatedly. The leader with a personal code and set of uncompromising values that have brought strength and purpose to his own life, and that of the organizations that he has led, with patent dignity, decency and commitments that have defined his career.

He always insists on seeing past differences in search of common ground and leading from the front. Famous for his 'management style of walking and talking to everyone, everyday'. He institutionalised the spirit of 'People, Purpose and Partnership' by celebrating diversity, inclusivity, and largeness-of-spirit within the organization by personifying the ideals of Nestlé, and upholding fidelity to its deep well of societal, environmental, moral, and corporate principles.

Under Mr Narayanan's leadership, Nestlé India was recognized by several media houses and industry forums. In 2023 Business World magazine hailed Mr. Narayanan as one of the "Most Valuable CEOs" who generated value for the company and shareholders in a challenging economic environment. He was conferred the Best CEO in the FMCG category following the Business Today magazine and PwC India Survey. The Financial Express newspaper awarded Nestlé India in financial practices as large enterprises manufacturing industry category.

During his tenure Nestlé India was recognized as 'MNC in India of the year' in 2022 by All India Management Association. In 2021 Nestlé India was named Outstanding Company of the year by CNBC TV18 India Business Leader Awards (IBLA). In 2020 Business Standard awarded Nestlé India as the MNC of the year, while Business World recognized Nestlé India for Best Financial Performance in the MNC Category and also bestowed 'Purpose and Resilience'. Under his leadership, Nestlé India won the "Best Governed Company Award for 2018" by Asian Centre for Corporate Governance & Sustainability.

PROFILE (CONTD...)

In a personal capacity in 2021 Mr. Narayanan featured amongst the Top 101 Male Gender Equality Champions Globally. He was conferred CNBC-AWAAZ Best Performing Leader for the MNC category in 2020. He was also honored as the Entrepreneurial CEO at EY Entrepreneur of The Year™ 2020. Business Today awarded him “Best CEO – FMCG” for three years consecutively in 2019, 2020 and 2021. He was recognized among the “Most Valuable CEOs” in 2019 by Business World. Mr. Narayanan was honoured Best CEO at the Forbes India Leadership Awards 2017 in the Multinational category.

In 2026, he was honoured with the Fr. E. Abraham Medal for Management and Industrial Development by XLRI Delhi-NCR, in recognition of his high standards of business leadership. Mr. Narayanan joined Nestlé in 1999 as Executive Vice President for Sales in India, where he spearheaded major structural and strategic changes in Sales and Customer Management and set up the chilled dairy business.

His international career commenced from Nestlé Indochina in 2003, as Executive Director for Sales, Marketing and Food-Services, covering Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. In 2005, he returned to Nestlé India as Head of Sales for India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. He also served as the Chairman and CEO of Nestlé Philippines in 2015. As a Managing Director of Nestlé Singapore Pte. Ltd., Nestlé Singapore continued its path of growth, despite the economic downturn. He was awarded the Medal of Commendation by the Government of Singapore for excellence in employee relations during this challenging period. He moved to Nestlé Egypt as Chairman and CEO and Head of NEAR (North East Africa Region), where his initiatives resulted in significant business growth and investments despite the turbulence and volatility faced by the region at this time.

Mr Narayanan began his career as a management trainee with Hindustan Unilever, where he held numerous positions of increasing responsibility in sales, marketing and General Management. He has also worked with Colgate Palmolive in India.

Mr Narayanan holds a master’s degree from Delhi School of Economics and completed an executive program from IMD. He was conferred with honoris causa, Doctor of Philosophy in Management by Bennett University, India.

He has participated in the Nestlé Leadership Program of the London Business School. He has delivered talks at NASSCOM forums, various Corporates, NUS School of Business-Singapore, American University-Cairo, Columbia University, Army War College Mhow, Naval War College-Goa and Business Schools such as IIM’s, ISB etc. in India.



Mr Lakshmi Narayanan

Chancellor

Chairperson Governing Council, KREA University

Mr Lakshmi Narayanan is the Co-Founder of Cognizant and Director, ICT Academy, Chennai Mathematical Institute. He is a Technology industry professional, who has spent over 40 years in the IT industry, with the last few years in a leadership and governance role in Cognizant's Board. He is passionate about encouraging young minds to seek a larger purpose in life and encourages them to realise their potential through higher education and entrepreneurship. He plays an active role in ICT education and promotes research in Math and Computer Science.

His association with ICT Academy, Chennai Mathematical Institute, and Thiagarajar School of Management is aimed at promoting excellence in higher education. He is also actively involved in nonprofits, such as United Way, CHILDS Trust Medical Research Foundation, and others, to advance the cause of disadvantaged people and create meaningful livelihood opportunities in areas of technology and healthcare. He supports young entrepreneurs through angel investments as part of The Chennai Angels and the TiE Organisation. His recent investments include deep tech startups, space startups and energy ideas.

PROFILE



Ms Anu Oza

Leadership Development Consultant

Ms Anu Oza is a Leadership Development professional with over three decades of experience advising CEOs and senior teams across India and internationally. Her work spans leadership development, executive facilitation and coaching, and is grounded in a career that has moved across multiple sectors, three continents and some of the most respected institutions in business and academia.

Her career began at Hindustan Unilever, where she spent nine years and where her understanding of how organisations build leaders was formed. Hindustan Unilever is widely regarded as one of India's finest talent factories, and the rigour it brings to people development has stayed at the centre of her work ever since. Over the years her career has spanned three of the world's major financial capitals, New York, London and Mumbai, an arc very few leadership professionals have in a single career. At the United Nations in New York, she directed CSR and Communications projects for the Global Compact and led the first-ever project on Public-Private Partnerships for UNFPA. She built and led the Leadership Development practice for Mercer in India, where she also carried revenue generation responsibilities, running it as a business and not only as a practice. She has designed senior leadership pipelines at Accenture, and headed Human Resources at Foster Wheeler through a significant organisational transition.

Her academic foundation spans the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, the London School of Economics, where she completed an MSc in Development Studies, and Harvard Kennedy School, where she completed her Master in Public Administration. The immersion at Harvard, in particular, shaped how she thinks about leadership: not as a set of competencies to be trained, but as a capacity to be developed across systems, sectors and the full complexity of organisational life.

She bring a T-shaped perspective to her work, broad across industries, sectors and geographies, and deep within leadership development itself. She has worked across retail, power, pharmaceuticals, media, software and the non-profit sector, with leaders at every level. She was also selected to the Marshall Goldsmith 100 Coaches, a global group of one hundred chosen for measurable impact in their field.

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