MADRAS MMA MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION — ESTD. 1956 — 70 YEARS CELEBRATION

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG

Invitation

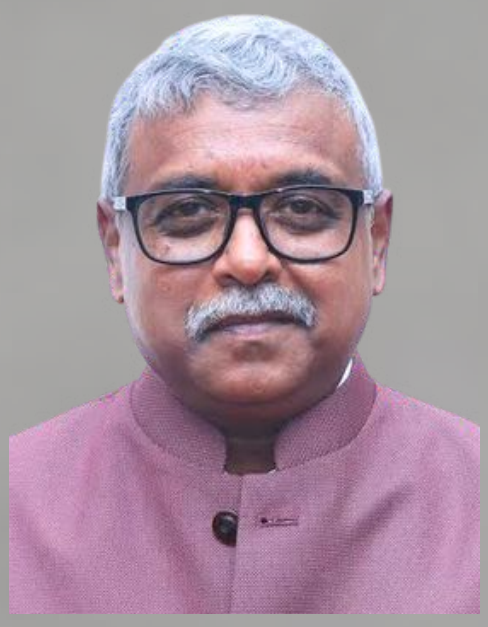


DISCUSSION ON THE BOOK

JAN 05 2027 — **TUESDAY**

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

MMA Management Center



Chief Guest

U Subba Rao

GENERAL MANAGER
SOUTHERN RAILWAY



Sriram Vijayakumar

AUTHOR & CERTIFIED
INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR
(IICA)



Jayanth Viswanathan

DIRECTOR - AKSHAYAM
CORPORATE ADVISORS



Shriram Subramanian

MD - INGOVERN
RESEARCH SERVICES

Synopsis

Independent Directors play a critical role in strengthening corporate governance, protecting stakeholder interests and ensuring regulatory compliance and long-term sustainability of organisations. The Independent Director's Handbook: Compliance & Beyond is a definitive boardroom guide for navigating the rapidly evolving governance landscape in India. Moving decisively past a narrow compliance lens, the book equips independent directors with the legal clarity, ethical compass, and strategic perspective required to deliver effective stewardship in promoter-led environments. It synthesises the Companies Act 2013, SEBI LODR expectations, global governance trends, ESG imperatives, digital risk oversight, and real-world boardroom dynamics into a practical framework for decision-making, dissent, risk mitigation, and long-term value creation. The book provides a structured and comprehensive resource for aspiring and serving IDs and the appendices offer practical boardroom takeaways.

Programme

5:15 PM — Registration & High Tea

6:00 PM — Welcome Address

Gp Capt R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM
Executive Director, MMA

Overview of the book by the Author

Mr Sriram Vijayakumar
Author & Certified Independent Director (IICA)

Launch of the book & Address by the Chief Guest

Mr U Subba Rao
General Manager, Southern Railway

Mr Sriram Vijayakumar, Author in conversation with Special Invitees

Mr U Subba Rao

Mr Jayanth Viswanathan
Practising Company Secretary
Partner – RBJV & Associates
Director – Akshayam Corporate Advisors Private Limited

Mr Shriram Subramanian
Managing Director
InGovern Research Services

Q&A

7:25 PM — Vote of Thanks

7:30 PM — End of the Programme

Profile



Mr U Subba Rao

General Manager, Southern Railway

Shri U. Subba Rao assumed charge as the General Manager of Southern Railway, Chennai on 1st August 2026. Prior to this assignment, Shri Subba Rao served as the General Manager of the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.

An officer belonging to the 1987 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineering (IRSME), Shri Subba Rao has held key leadership positions across various Zonal Railways and Production Units. Prior to his tenure as General Manager, ICF, he served as Additional General Manager and Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer of South Western Railway at Hubballi, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Salem Division in Southern Railway, Chief Mechanical Engineer (Planning) of South Central Railway at Secunderabad, Chief Workshop Manager at the Coaching Workshop in Mysuru (SWR), and Chief Workshop Engineer at the Rail Wheel Factory, Bengaluru.

Known for his innovative approach at work and operational excellence, Shri Subba Rao, as Chief Workshop Engineer, played a pivotal role in achieving a record production of 2 lakh wheels in a single year (FY 2011-12) at Rail Wheel Factory, Bengaluru. Under his dynamic leadership as General Manager of ICF, the premier Production Unit received several prestigious national accolades such as the Best Production Unit Shield of Indian Railways, the Change Maker Award, the CII National Award, the Star Performer Award, and the National Energy Conservation Award for Innovation. During his tenure at ICF, he was instrumental in ramping up the production of Vande Bharat trains. The first Vande Bharat Freight train was produced during his tenure. AC main line sub-urban trains were also produced during his tenure.

Shri Subba Rao holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Postgraduate Degree in Public Policy & Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru. He has also undergone advanced executive training, including the Senior Managers' Programme in Paris and Johannesburg, and was actively involved in the validation of the EMU Cast Wheels Design at the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI) in the USA.

Profile



Mr Sriram Vijayakumar

Author & Certified Independent Director (IICA)

Sriram Vijayakumar, Certified Independent Director (IICA), Certified Corporate Director & Corporate Governance Practitioner with an MBA and a B.Tech (IT) and 20+ years of exp across APAC, US and UK in technology-led and regulated environments advising and supporting Banking, Financial Services and Energy clients. Specialising in Technology, Cyber & AI Risk Governance - Audit, Risk & Technology Committees. Board Advisor to multiple firms globally, certified CAIO and CISO and a Certified Member of ISC2. Founder - The Boardroom Blueprint and author of multiple governance books. Recognised with awards for professional excellence (Infosys Ltd) & academic excellence and recognised as a Runner-up at the Veblen Directors Awards 2026 (Innovation Leadership).

Profile



Mr Jayanth Viswanathan

Practising Company Secretary

Partner – RBJV & Associates

Director – Akshayam Corporate Advisors Pvt Ltd

Mr Jayanth Viswanathan, a fellow member of the Institute of Companies Secretaries of India and a Master in Labour Law and Labour Welfare from University of Pune, has 17+ years of experience in handing Secretarial and compliance ranging from Public listed companies in India to Compliance works for companies across the globe ranging from United States, United Kingdom, Mauritius, Singapore, Philippines among others. Jayanth Viswanathan is Partner of RBJV & Associates and Director of Akshayam Corporate Advisors Private Limited.

His areas of focus include handling corporate litigations and appearances before Adjudicating authorities viz. NCLAT, NCLT, Regional Director, ROC, RERA, FEMA. He has appeared in 450+ cases including representing home buyers, Banks, Creditors, Corporate Debtors, Resolution Applicants, Resolution Professionals and Liquidators under IBC and for petitioners and respondents in Oppression and Mismanagement before various NCLT & NCLAT benches across India. He currently is focusing on Litigation, Listed entities Compliance audit, Start-up advisories and IPO of large entities.

Having passion for teaching and the flair to simplify complex matters he was the youngest faculty member taking classes since the age of 23, at The Institute of Companies Secretaries of India SIRC – ICSI students pursuing CS course. He has addressed more than 7500+ college students and has given lectures across various colleges in Chennai on various topic including Companies Act, Corporate Laws, SEBI and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. He is the youngest empaneled Faculty in Institute of Directors (IOD-global) where he conducts sessions on Corporate Governance for over 500+ Senior Management members who are due to becoming Independent Directors on the Board of large corporates.

He is also the Co -Chair of Company law Expert Committee of 190 year old Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industries (MCCI). He is a Trustee of Om Charitable Trust, a Trust that has been running All India Vedic Competition for 10,000+ Vedic Students across India, for the last 17 years in order to encourage and empower the Vedic Society.

Profile



Mr Shriram Subramanian

Managing Director

InGovern Research Services

Shriram Subramanian

- Founder and Managing Director of InGovern Research Services – India's first proxy advisory and corporate governance advisory firm since 2010.
- InGovern advises companies and investors on investor engagement, corporate governance and shareholder activism.
- He has over 31 years of global capital markets experience. Before starting InGovern in 2010, he was at Infosys Consulting for over 8 years.
- He also worked in Mumbai in equity research and investment banking for 5 years.
- He completed a PGDM from XIM, Bhubaneswar and MS in Financial Engineering from NTU, Singapore and Carnegie Mellon University, USA.
- He is a member of Jury for the ICSI Annual Corporate Governance awards for the past 3 years. Prior to that he was a member of the Expert committee for the awards.
- His inputs are sought by regulators like SEBI, the MCA, NFRA, etc.
- He is/was an invited member of
  - o the National Committee of Financial Markets at FICCI
  - o the Technical Advisory Committee of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)
  - o the National Committee of Financial Reporting at CII
- His views are regularly sought/published by media – TV, print and online media.

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