



NIQR to Recognise Manufacturing Excellence in MSMEs with Dr V Krishnamurthy Medal

Chennai, June 2022

The Chennai-headquartered, National Institution for Quality and Reliability (NIQR), the premier institution for the promotion of excellence in quality and reliability, has instituted NIQR-Dr. V. Krishnamurthy Medal for Manufacturing Excellence, to recognise MSMEs that demonstrate outstanding performance in manufacturing.

In honour and with the blessings of Dr. V. Krishnamurthy, a pioneer and doyen of quality and management of Indian industries, NIQR-Dr. V. Krishnamurthy Medal would be at par with the Malcolm Baldrige Award and Deming Prize in terms of the stringent selection process, scrutiny, and evaluation. The medal is expected to emerge as the most coveted recognition for MSMEs in India, as currently there is no award, based on global standards, for the MSMEs in India.

Padma Vibhushan Dr. V. Krishnamurthy is a pioneer in bringing significant transformation in quality through participation of MSMEs in development of both private and public sector for their growth. He is also known as the "Father of Public Sector Undertakings in India" for his leadership and successful contribution in turning around PSUs like BHEL, SAIL and GAIL into the most profit-making industry in India and globally.

Launching the NIQR-Dr. V. Krishnamurthy Medal for Manufacturing Excellence, **Mr. K. Manikandan**, President, NIQR, said, "MSMEs are the backbone of the economy, and continue to play a pivotal role in the development of the industry of many nations including India. NIQR is proud and privileged to institute the NIQR-Dr. V. Krishnamurthy Medal for Manufacturing Excellence to encourage and promote excellence in manufacturing amongst MSMEs in India. This medal to recognise the MSMEs contribution adds another feather to our cap."

He pointed out that NIQR has recently signed an MoU with the American Society for Quality (ASQ), South Asia and also in talks with counterparts in several countries for the promotion of excellence in quality among industries, especially MSMEs.

In his comments, **Mr. R. Rajasekaran**, Immediate Past-President of NIQR, and Chairman of the Core Committee for NIQR-Dr. V. Krishnamurthy Medal, said that NIQR-Dr. V. Krishnamurthy Medal would go a long way in recognising and strengthening the contributions of MSMEs in India. The objective of the award is to bring about a spirit of competitiveness amongst MSMEs to work towards



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manufacturing excellence. The award would benefit not only the recipients but also the entire supply chain of the given manufacturing sector.

Commenting about the award process, **Dr. V. Swaminathan**, Senior Vice-President, NIQR, said that several MSMEs in the Indian industry, especially, the automotive industry, are certified to quality system certifications like ISO 9000 as well as industry specific quality system standards. They have been practising Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), Lean Manufacturing and 6 Sigma for over four decades now. The award would recognise many of these MSMEs. The companies applying for the prestigious prize will have to fulfil the criteria and would have to go through selection by a panel of eminent jury, to qualify.

About Dr. V. Krishnamurthy

Born in a small village of Karuveli, Tamil Nadu on 18th January 1925, Dr. V. Krishnamurthy scripted the biggest success stories of young India's fledgling public sector over the next five decades.

Through his exemplary stewardship of major enterprises, Dr. V. Krishnamurthy changed the rules of the game in the 1970s and 1980s. At Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, he saved the company from imminent disintegration and proved that Indian managers can manage large organisations. Steel Authority of India Limited was almost a sunset company when he took over, but he shook up the organisation from its very foundations and put it back in a leadership position. As the chairman of Maruti Udyog, he was instrumental in bringing a small and affordable people's car with high levels of quality in collaboration with Suzuki of Japan.

For his contributions, Dr. V. Krishnamurthy, was awarded Padma Shri in 1973, Padma Bhushan in 1986 and Padma Vibhushan in 2007 which is Government of India's Second highest civilian award. Dr. V. Krishnamurthy is also the recipient of " The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun" in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of bilateral economic relations and understanding of Japan in India. H.M. The Emperor of Japan Bestowed the Order on 3 November 2009. He was conferred the Special Nakajima Award by JIPM in 2007 for his efforts to promote Total Productive Management (TPM) initiative in India. Among the prestigious awards he had won included: Business Leadership Award (1975), Businessman of the Year Award (1987), Steelman of the Year Award (1989), Lifetime Achievement Award in Management by AIMA (2005).

About NIQR

The National Institution for Quality and Reliability (NIQR) is the Premier Institution for the promotion of excellence in Quality and Reliability in India. The need to have a single, premier institution to promote Quality & Reliability movement in India saw the merger and consolidation of two organisations in existence since 1971 - National Institution of Quality Assurance and Indian Association of Quality & Reliability. This resulted in the formation of the National Institution for



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Quality & Reliability in July 1987 with its Headquarters and Registered Office in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, INDIA, and branches in several parts of the country.

The Institution is governed by a National Executive Council, headed by the President. Members of the National Executive Council and Branch Committees are Industrialists, Senior Executives, Professionals and Academia elected through a democratic process and appropriate representation.

NIQR is a non-profit organisation with key objectives being:

- Promoting Quality as a Way of Life in Indian Industry and Service Organisations.
- Propagating Knowledge and awareness on Quality and Reliability amongst organisations in India through training and education.
- Make the industry internationally competitive by achieving quality and productivity at low cost.
- Assist service organisations in enhancing customer satisfaction.

Since its consolidation 35 years ago, NIQR has been organizing Quality Conventions, Conferences, Seminars and Webinars and training programmes on topics related Quality and Reliability. There have also been several short term and certification programmes.

NIQR has also instituted several Awards to encourage Quality. Competitions like Six Sigma is being organized annually for 7 years now. During pandemic and lockdown, these were organized virtually.

NIQR has been part of several international forums like Asian Network for Quality (ANQ), International Congress for Quality (ICQ) and World Alliance for Quality (WAQ) for over two decades. For exchange of information and bring world class quality programmes, NIQR has signed an MoU with the American Society for Quality (ASQ, India). NIQR is a Board Member in the Quality Council of India which comes under The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.