

Message from Chairman

Dear NIQR members, Its my great pleasure to present the latest edition of our Newsletter from the Chennai Branch. I am proud to report a year of focused capability-building and continuous improvement, highlighted by a series of technical trainings and quality initiatives that strengthened people, process, and culture. All this has been possible by the earnest hard work of all the members involved.



K Sathianarayanan

We successfully completed the Shop operative training sessions 254 and 255 to boost frontline skills and excellence. Additionally we also delivered MSA training and Mistake proofing (Poke-yoke) sessions. To keep up with the industry trends, we implemented our 5S implementation workshop as well as 5S-WPM and DWN internal auditor training courses for improved daily management. Engagement was energized by conduction of competitions and memorial lectures as well as seminars that included New Seven Quality Control Tools as well as Industry 5.0. reflecting commitment to excellence and innovation.

I wholeheartedly thank you for the continued support and active participation. Let us continue working to achieve new quality heights and reinforce a culture of excellence.

Message from Secretary

The past six months have been both productive and rewarding for NIQR. Our flagship training program—including SOP, Mistake Proofing, 5S Internal Auditor, SPC, and Daily Work Management—were conducted successfully, receiving encouraging responses from participants. Our webinars on contemporary topics and Memorial Lectures also witnessed excellent Industry participation. Going forward, NIQR will focus on supporting MSMEs in their journey towards Digital Transformation and Industry 5.0.



P Arulmani

Executive Committee Meeting of NIQR – HQ at M/s MM Forgings Ltd conducted on 14th March 2026



Appointment -Wing commander (retd.) C Stanley John



Monthly EC meeting at NIQR , Chennai office





One day Training on New 7 QC tools (N7 Tools)

The N7 tools are problem-solving techniques developed by Japanese quality management experts in the 1970s. These tools were created to complement the 7 Basic Quality Tools (7QC Tools), focusing on addressing more complex and data-intensive problems.

NIQR arranged one day training program on N7 tools at NIQR Office , Chennai on 23rd May 2026 and total of 25 employees from 8 organisations participated. **Mr Rathinasabapathi** , Quality expert and EC Member – NIQR was the resource person of this program and the participants are asked to complete lot of exercise to convert the knowledge in to skill.

There are lot of positive feedback from the participants on this training and hope the participants will apply the learned knowledge in to their daily life at Gemba.

One day training on Poka – Yoke

The highest level of Quality is not achieved by finding mistakes. It is achieved by creating a system where mistakes struggle to exist. This shift from reactive approach to preventive approach brings Quality excellence.

This philosophy came alive at the **One-Day** training program on **Poka-Yoke** conducted at the NIQR office at Chennai , on 13th June 2026.

With 28 employees from 7 industries attended the training and **Mr S Raja** , Joint Treasurer -NIQR who translated the principles of Poka - Yoke into practical workplace applications through real-world examples, interactive discussions, and industry-focused insights.

Training on Daily Work Management (DWM)

Sustainable operational excellence begins with disciplined daily practices, the NIQR , Chennai branch successfully conducted one day Training on Daily Work Management on 27th June 2026 at their Chennai office.

Total of 21 employees from 9 organizations participated and the training was conducted by **Mr C Sundaravadivelu**, Quality expert and EC Member -NIQR. The program explored practical approaches to managing daily performance through structured review mechanisms, Managing Points, meaningful metrics, visual management and continuous improvement— helping participants translate organizational goals into daily action.

One day 5S WPM Internal auditor training

The training was conducted on 6th March , 2026 at SIPCOT, Pillaipakkam and 20 members from 7 organisations and NIQR were joined the session .

The training provided structured frame work to built the capability at Gemba to sustain the practices. This follow a typical cycle, i.e, When Internal audit capability improve -- Process maturity improves -- Performance stabilize -- Competitiveness strengthens.



Two days Shop Operative Program (SOP)-254

The SOP conducted on 23rd and 24th January at NIQR Office, Chennai and 27 employees from 9 organization participated. This program is to transfer the responsibility , From shop floor to excellence—empowering operatives with the tools of quality, productivity, and continuous improvement.



One more such , **Two days Shop Operative Program (SOP)** conducted on 17th and 18th April , 2026 at NIQR Office, Chennai and 12 employees from 5 organization participated. This program focused on strengthening shop-floor excellence through practical insights and industry-driven methodologies. A case study from M/s **Sri Eswari Auto Components Limited** presented to demonstrate real-world application of quality and continuous improvement practices.



Both the SOP sessions were effectively delivered by experienced industry experts, **Mr Kothandaraman Parthasarathy , Mr Vaithyanathan Kumar , Mr Murugan and Mr D Rathinasabapathy.**



Kaizen competition

Kaizen is not about big breakthroughs. It's about disciplined efforts on making small improvements, done repeated and relentlessly.

In order to showcase the Kaizen from various organizations, NIQR organized KAIZEN competition on 21st February 2026, at SRM IST, Chennai. Total of 108 teams from 46 organizations gathered and 239 professionals presented real, implemented shop-floor improvements — across manufacturing, supply chain, quality, HR, finance and service sectors.

Every case studies were assessed for its Problem definition, Root cause, Countermeasures, Standardization and Horizontal deployment by the team of experts and 71% of the teams scored above 80% which shows the level of maturity the industry reached.



Case Studies on Industry 5.0

On February 12, 2026, the Department of Mechanical Engineering at SRM IST Chennai hosted a guest lecture titled "Case Studies on Industry 5.0," delivered by **Mr CV Gowri Shankar**, National Council Member, NIQR.

The session engaged 60 third-year Mechanical Engineering students and faculty from 8:00 AM to 09:40 AM. The students displayed a solid grasp of Industry 4.0, only needing a brief recap on the evolution to Industry 5.0. The lecture emphasized a future that is human-centric, sustainable, and purpose-driven.



NIQR – DR. V. KRISHNAMURTHY MEDAL

Manufacturing Excellence across MSMEs & Corporate Manufacturing Organisations Advancing Quality. Enabling Excellence. Building Viksit Bharat

The NIQR – Dr. V. Krishnamurthy Medal represents a national initiative to recognise Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Corporate Manufacturing Organisations that demonstrate disciplined manufacturing systems, structured quality practices, and sustained operational performance Inspired by globally respected excellence frameworks such as the Deming Prize, Malcolm Baldrige Award, and EFQM Excellence Model, the VK Medal establishes a process-driven, system-oriented evaluation framework tailored for the Indian MSME ecosystem.

The VK Medal aims to

- Recognise structured manufacturing excellence
- Promote quality and reliability disciplines
- Encourage data-driven operations
- Establish national performance benchmarks
- Create industry role models across MSMEs and Corporate Manufacturing Organisations
- Strengthen India’s industrial ecosystem

Evaluation Framework (100-Point Model)

Criteria	Weightage
Leadership & Strategy	15
Process Management	20
Quality Systems	15
Customer Focus	15
Data & Measurement	10
Continuous Improvement	15
Sustainability & Future Readiness	10
Total	100

Eligibility Criteria

a) MSME Applicant organisations must,

- Be registered MSMEs (as per Government norms)
- Be engaged in manufacturing activities
- Have a minimum of 3 years of operational track record
- Demonstrate basic to structured manufacturing systems
- Provide documented operational and performance data
- Comply with all statutory and regulatory requirements

b) Corporate Applicant organisations must,

- Be registered corporate entities engaged in manufacturing / industrial operations
- Have a minimum of 5 years of operational track record
- Demonstrate established and integrated management systems (Quality, Safety, Operations)
- Exhibit strategic alignment across functions, with evidence of policy deployment
- Provide comprehensive performance data, including financial, operational, and customer metrics
- Demonstrate structured continuous improvement practices (Lean, Six Sigma, TQM, etc.)
- Have systems for supplier quality management and value chain integration
- Show evidence of innovation, digital adoption, and analytics-driven decision-making
- Comply with all statutory, regulatory, and ESG-related requirements

NIQR – DR. V. KRISHNAMURTHY MEDAL...contd Evaluation Process

The **Dr VK Medal** follows a four-stage evaluation process:

- Stage 1 – Application Screening**
: Eligibility verification
Documentation completeness
- Stage 2 – Technical Assessment**
: System maturity evaluation
Performance analysis
- Stage 3 – Site Inspection**
: On-site verification of systems and processes
- Stage 4 – Jury Evaluation**
: Final decision based on scores and reports

Audit Structure & Fees

Category	Registration Fee	Audit Team	Duration	Audit Fee	Certification Fee	Total Fee*
Micro	₹30,000	1 × L3	1 Day	₹25,000	₹20,000	₹75,000
Small	₹60,000	2 × L2	2 Days	₹65,000	₹25,000	₹1,50,000
Medium	₹1,00,000	3 × L1	2 Days	₹1,00,000	₹30,000	₹2,30,000
Corporate Enterprise	₹1,50,000	3 × L1	3 Days	₹1,50,000	₹50,000	₹3,50,000

* Plus 18 % GST

Note:

Payment is NOT required in one go. It is split into 3 stages for ease:

Registration → Audit → Certification

Process (through NIQR website www.niqr.in)

Registration (online) → Reference Number → Audit → Certification

Scoring & Recognition

Score	Recognition
90+	VK Medal
86–89	Gold
81–85	Silver
75–80	Bronze

For further details Contact :

National Institution for Quality & Reliability (NIQR)
Website: <https://niqr.in>
Email: directorgeneral.niqr@gmail.com / niqrhq@gmail.com
Telephone: 9940289704 / 9543246256

CYK Memorial Lecture Program



The 11th **Prof. C.Y. Krishna Murti Memorial Lecture Meeting** was conducted with 66 participants on 10th January, 2026 at Hotel Radha Regent, Chennai. The speaker of the evening, **Mr Dhianeshwar Sugumar K S**, delivered session on “Design for Quality, Quality of Design; Think Differently” was highly engaging, interactive, and thought-provoking. The hands-on demonstrations brought quality concepts to life, with one powerful message standing out — all the failures are not only quality issues but a gap of design thinking.

Dr Kazuki Suzuki Endowment Lecture

The NIQR successfully hosted the **Dr. Kazuyuki Suzuki Endowment Lecture** on 31 January 2026 at Chennai with 118 participants and the endowment lecture on “Pragmatic Approach to Policy Management” was delivered by **Dr. V. Swaminathan**, Director – VSAM Associates .



Chief Guest **Mr Prasanna kumar Narayanasamy** , Vice President & Head–Central Quality, Ashok Leyland, highlighted the critical role of policy deployment (Hoshin Kanri) in large manufacturing organizations. He underlined how clarity of purpose, cross-functional ownership, and consistent review mechanisms are essential for driving quality, competitiveness, and customer trust in today’s dynamic industrial landscape.

Guest of Honour – **Dr. N. Ravichandran**, Chief Mentor – UCAL Fuel Systems, reflected on the importance of leadership-driven quality culture, continuous learning, and mentoring the next generation of professionals. He emphasized that robust policy management acts as a bridge between vision and execution, enabling organizations to achieve long-term excellence.

The evening also featured felicitations and recognition of NIQR fellowship members, reinforcing NIQR’s commitment to honouring exemplary contributions to the Quality movement.

NIQR Fellowship – Recognizing Distinguished Quality Leadership

During the Dr. Kazuyuki Suzuki Endowment Lecture on 31st January 2026, NIQR had the privilege of honoring the six esteemed members with the NIQR Fellowship in recognition of their exceptional leadership and contribution to the Quality Movement.

NIQR Fellowship recognizes professionals who a) Rendered distinguished service to the Quality fraternity b) Significantly contributed to the growth and advancement of quality practices in Indian industry c) Served as role models and mentors inspiring quality excellence and organizational performance and d) Strengthened NIQR’s mission of spreading quality knowledge and driving excellence nationwide .



Honoring New NIQR Fellows

1. Shri. Murali Shankar Sambasivam
2. Dr. N Gowrin Shankar
3. Shri. R Mohanakrishnan
4. Shri. M N Akileswaran
5. Shri. P Muthuganapathy
6. Shri. Chokkalingam Sundaravadivelu

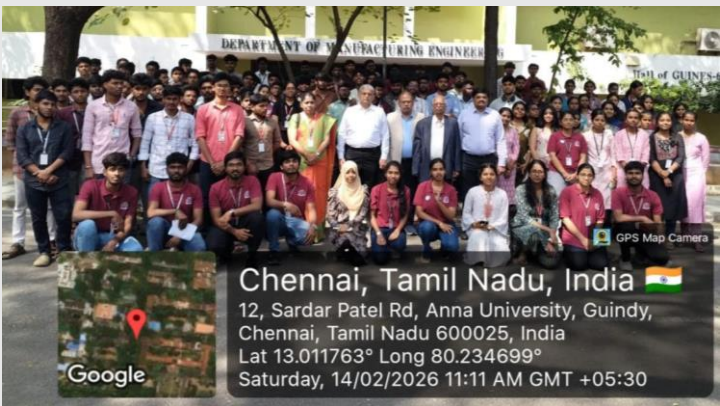


44-Hour Intensive Programme on Operational Excellence.

On 31st January, 2026 , NIQR awarded certificates to the professional from leading organizations on completion of 44 Hrs. intensive program on Operational Excellence , as a part of **Dr. Kazuyuki Suzuki Endowment Lecture** .

Lean Six Sigma program at Anna University

On 14th February 2026, NIQR conducted Lean Six Sigma yellow belt training , at AU TVS Centre for Quality Management, Anna University to impart problem-solving capability among students. The program was led by **Dr. V. Swaminathan** and **Shri R. Mohana Krishnan**, NIQR,



LSN Guptha Memorial Lecture

NIQR – Chennai Branch is privileged to host the 19th Shri LSN Guptha Memorial Lecture at Hotel Radha Regent, Chennai on 2nd June 2026 with the participation of 65 professionals. We are honoured to have **Mr Joseph Jackson**, Head HR – Water & Effluent Treatment IC, Larsen & Toubro, deliver the memorial lecture on "Culture of Quality: The Strategic Role of HR in Manufacturing Excellence."

When **Mr. Joseph Jackson** challenged a belief that exists in many organizations. Quality is not created by quality departments. It is created by culture and the culture is shaped by leadership. The lesson was simple. You can audit a process. You can certify a system. You can inspect a product. But we cannot inspect quality in to an organization , but to be built only on people.

Before the lecture, participants competed in the **Quest for Excellence – HR & Quality Quiz 2026**, and 3 participants won awards



QCI 3rd Meeting conduted on 16th May 2026 , Physical Attendance : 39 members.



Successful inauguration of NIQR -Trichy Chapter on 6th March 2026 at **M/s Rane Madras Ltd** – Engine Components Division, Viralimalalai. Wish the new chapter marks an important milestone in expanding the mission of NIQR in promoting Quality , Reliability and continuous improvement culture across industries and academia in Trichy region



IMTOF& IPPEX 2026, 2nd to 6th April, 2026

At the Global Metal & Polymer Integration Summit during the International Machine Tool Fair 2026 at the Chennai Trade Centre, this transformation took center stage. On 3rd April, **Mr CV. Gowri Shankar**, Executive Council Member of NIQR represented NIQR as a panelist in the session, “**Smart Automation and Robotics – Driving Next Gen Manufacturing.**”

,The NIQR stall attracted 120 visitors in those 5 days.



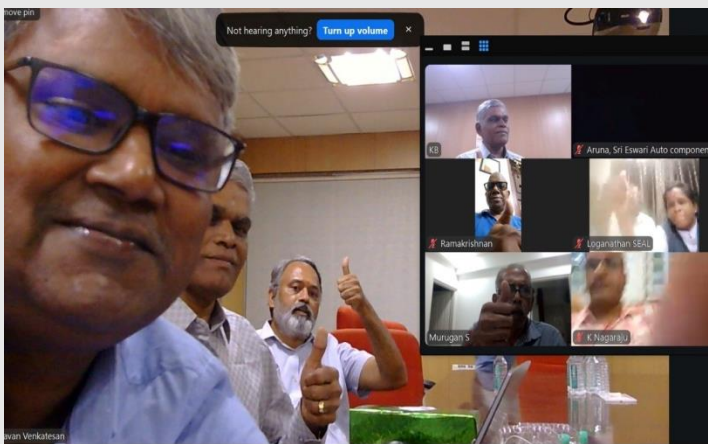
Workshop on 4 Pillars for Sustainable Growth

On 11th April 2026, it took its first decisive at Trichy to conduct this workshop to emphasise that sustainable growth is built through disciplined systems and continuous improvement. The program brings insights on, a) Managing Change b) Significance of Quality c) Continual Improvement and d) Leveraging QMS for Business Growth.Total of 36 Participants from 14 organisations and the training was led by **Mr Kothandaraman Parathsarathy**, Chief Executive – TRAINCONST & Vice Chairman, NIQR Chennai Branch.



Webinar on Path to Excellence

Webinar organised by NIQR on 11th April 2026 on Path to Excellence and professionals are encouraged to join the Zoom call. **Mr K Balamurugan**, Head – QA\C1\CS , Federal-Mogul Motor parts delivered the session. He emphasis more on todays requirement on Safety and Quality practices at Gemba.



Webinar on Industry 5.0

The future factory will not be defined only by automation. It's defined by the powerful partnership between human creativity and intelligent technologies such as AI, Digital Twins, IIoT and Cobots.

To provide insight on Industry 5.0 , NIQR organized Webinar for 2 Hrs. on 20th June 2026. The session was delivered by **Dr Arvinth AR** ,DGM- Project planning, Ashok Leyland

- Key Topics covered :
- ☐ Evolution from Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0
 - ☐ Human-centric manufacturing and collaborative intelligence
 - ☐ AI, IIoT, Digital Twins & Smart Factories
 - ☐ Sustainable and resilient manufacturing systems
 - ☐ Real-world Industry 5.0 applications and success stories
 - ☐ Future skills for manufacturing professionals



NIQR Student chapter

On 12th February 2026 ,NIQR launched its first workshop for school students at **Dr. Mangalam High School** in Kattankulathur. Titled “Housekeeping, Environment & Safety, Problem Solving, and Small Kaizen,” the event was organized in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the NIQR with 36 students , for 3 Hrs in the morning session

The workshop aimed to introduce students to basic quality concepts and connect cleanliness, safety, and environmental care to their daily school life. The students utilized a “before-and-after” improvement template to document the problem observed and the improvement action taken with photographs of the situation before and after.

This approach encourages a problem-solving mindset, enabling students to propose and implement Small Kaizen ideas. NIQR look forward to expanding this model to more schools, nurturing future generations to think systematically and care for the environment.

18-04-2026 - Coimbatore - Reconstitution & Strategy Roadmap



Activities Completed in H1 -2026

- Monthly EC members meetings conducted on 1st Sunday of every month.
- Kaizen competition conducted during H1 , 2026.
- Promotional activity on increasing number of Life Membership kick started during Q2,2026
- Trainings : One each program on Poka – Yoke, DWM , 5S auditor and 2 nos. of SOP programs conducted . 2 Webinars conducted in H1, 2026
- Student chapter NIQR started in one school.

Activities Planned in Q3-2026

- Student chapter – NIQR planned to start at Sarasvathi Vidya Mandir school, Vanagaram, Chennai in August , 2026.
- One webinar planned during August, 2026
- Expansion activity of Training hall at NIQR Chennai office is planned
- NIQR planned to have a stall in July at TEXPO TIEMA,Thirumudivakkam.
- EXCEL 3.0, competition on Business excellence projects planned in Jul 2026.

Editorial Committee:

P Kothandaraman
D Ravindran
E Vijayaragavan
K B Balachandar