

Maruti Suzuki XISS Awanish Kumar Dev Memorial Trust



AWANISH KUMAR DEV
(1962-2012)

14th Awanish Dev Memorial Lecture **“Beyond Productivity: The Human Purpose of Work”**

September 25, 2026 (Friday)
The Crown, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Background

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. has formed a trust in the memory of Late Mr. Awanish Kumar Dev namely - **“Maruti Suzuki XISS Awanish Kumar Dev Memorial Trust”**.

The objective and purpose of the trust is:

- To establish and operate a scholarship scheme in memory of Late Mr. Awanish Kumar Dev.
- To organize and conduct “Awanish Kumar Dev Memorial Lecture” each year.
- To establish, promote, set-up, run, maintain, assist, training and vocational centres, lectures, activities, shows for the cause of HR and allied subjects.

The Trust is organizing, the **“14th Awanish Dev Memorial Lecture”** on **25th September 2026 at The Crown Hotel, Bhubaneswar**. The Memorial Lecture is being organised with the support of **Maruti Suzuki, XISS and National HRD Network**.

The theme of the lecture is **Beyond Productivity: The Human Purpose of Work**

About the Theme

The world of work is undergoing transformation. While advances in digital technologies, artificial intelligence, automation, and data-driven decision making continue to redefine industries, they have also prompted a more fundamental question: What is the true purpose of work beyond productivity?

As organizations become faster, smarter, and more efficient, there is a growing recognition that human contribution cannot be measured solely through output or performance indicators. In today's rapidly evolving workplace, employees increasingly seek meaning in what they do, opportunities to learn and contribute, and a sense of alignment between personal values and organizational goals. The organizations that thrive will be those that create environments where people feel valued not only for what they produce, but also for the ideas they share, the relationships they build, and the impact they create. As we move beyond traditional notions of productivity, the focus must shift toward designing work that enables fulfilment, well-being, and continuous development. This requires redefining leadership to be more human-centric, fostering cultures of trust and inclusion, enabling lifelong learning, and creating opportunities for employees to bring their authentic selves to work. It also means leveraging technology not merely to automate tasks, but to augment human potential and free individuals to engage in more creative, meaningful, and purpose-driven work.

In an era where Industry 5.0, human-centric innovation, and intelligent automation are redefining manufacturing and business ecosystems, organizations must ensure that technology serves to enhance human creativity, well-being, and purpose, keeping people at the centre of progress. Ultimately, the future of work lies not in choosing between productivity and people, but in recognizing that sustainable success comes when both advance together.

Who should attend?

The lecture is intended for HR fraternity to show solidarity & respect for our colleague who lost his life for the cause of HR. It aims to bring together CEO's, HR thought leaders, IR Professionals, Academicians and Management Students to discuss and share their views on the IR issues & Challenges facing the country.

Program Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers
09:00 am to 09:10 am	Lighting the Inaugural Lamp	
09:10 am to 09:15 am	A Tribute Video	
09:15 am to 09:25 am	Opening Address	Mr. Salil Lal (CHRO & Executive Officer, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd & Chairman, Maruti Suzuki XISS Awanish Kumar Dev Trust)
09:25 am to 09:30 am	Secretary's Report	Ms. Ladli Kumari (Dy. GM, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. & Secretary, Maruti Suzuki XISS Awanish Kumar Dev Trust)
09:30 am to 09:35 am	Awanish Dev Memorial Lecture - "Commemorative Reflections"	
09:35 am to 09:45 am	Keynote Speakers	Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi (Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.)
09:45 am to 09:55 am		Mr. TK Srirang (Managing Director & CEO, ICICI Securities Ltd.)
09:55 am to 10:05 am		Mr. Sunil Kakkar (Whole-Time Director & Chairperson- Executive Committee, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.)
10:05 am to 10:15 am		Dr. Bishnupada Sethi, IAS (Chairman, Odisha Forest Development Corporation, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha)
10:15 am to 10:25 am		Dr. Manish Ranjan, IAS (Director- Shri Krishna Institute of Public Administration, Jharkhand)
10:25 am to 10:30 am	Special Recognition "Excellence in People Management & Leadership"	Dr. NS Rajan (Former CEO- IDFC Foundation)
10:30 am to 10:40 am	Maruti Suzuki XISS Awanish Kumar Dev Memorial Scholarship	
10:40 am to 10:55 am	Tea/Coffee Break	
10:55 am to 11:40 am	Leader's Panel Discussion "Pass the Torch not the Playbook- What should we Preserve & What should we change"	Moderator – Mr. P Dwarakanath (Former Chairman, GSK Consumer Healthcare) Mr. Rajeev Dubey (Former Group President- HR & Corporate Services, CEO- After Market Sector & Member of Group Executive Board, Mahindra and Mahindra) Dr. Aquil Busrai (CEO, Aquil Busrai Consulting) Dr. NS Rajan (Former CEO- IDFC Foundation) Mr. Sanjay Bose (Executive Vice President & Head HR, ITC Hotels Ltd.)
11:40 am to 12:25 pm	Corporate Panel Discussion "Organizations of Tomorrow"- Defining the Equation	Moderator – Mr. SD Tripathi (Independent Director, Jakson Green & Former CHRO, Air India Limited) Dr. Ranjan K Mohapatra (Former Director-HR, Indian Oil Corporation & Founder and CEO, HridaySe Consulting) Dr. Neelesh Gupta (Partner, Human Capital Advisory Services, Deloitte India) Dr. VK Singh (CEO, Power Sector Skill Council) Mr. M Lakshmanan (CHRO – L&T Technologies)
12:25 pm to 12:55 pm	Fireside Chat "From Industrial Relations to Intelligent Relations: Balancing Emotions and Logic"	Moderator – Mr. Rajneesh Singh (Managing Partner, SimplyHR Solutions) Mr. Virjesh Upadhyay (Chairperson, Governing body- Dattopant Thengadi National Board of Workers Education and Development) Dr. Shahnawaz Alam (Vice President, TWU & Working President, JCAPCPL Workers Union)
12:55 pm to 01:25 pm	Student Panel Discussion "The Workplace we will Inherit – Young Voices on AI, Career and the Future of Work"	Moderator: Dr. G. P. Rao (Founder- GPR HR Consulting) Ms. Sriya Chaudhury - XIM Bhubaneswar Mr. Aditya Bahadur Pal - IIM Sambalpur Mr. Rajat Venugopalan Nair - XLRI Jamshedpur Ms. Aakshita Saxena - XISS Ranchi Mr. Ganesh S - IMI Bhubaneswar Ms. Megha Nanda - KSOM Bhubaneswar
01:25 pm to 01:30 pm	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Nidhi Vashishth Executive Director, NHRDN
01:30 pm to 02:30 pm	Lunch	
02:30 pm to 03:30 pm	Mentoring Session for participating B-School Students	