

IIM Tiruchirappalli and MCCI Conduct Executive Programme on Women's Board Readiness and Leadership

Chennai, September 23, 2026



The Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli (IIM Tiruchirappalli), in collaboration with the Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI), successfully conducted the **Women on Boards: Executive Leadership & Board Readiness Programme** from September 16–18, 2026, at the IIM Tiruchirappalli Chennai Campus.

Designed to strengthen board-readiness capabilities among women professionals, the three-day Management Development Programme focused on executive leadership, corporate governance, strategic decision-making, and the evolving responsibilities of board members in contemporary organisations.

Inaugurating a Journey Towards Board Leadership

The programme commenced with an inaugural session featuring an invocation and ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The gathering was welcomed by **Ms. Shobhana Ravi, Chairperson, MCCI Women Business Council**.

Addressing the participants, **Prof. Naresh G., Programme Director, IIM Tiruchirappalli**, outlined the objectives of the programme and highlighted the growing importance of diverse and capable leadership in boardrooms. The inaugural address was delivered by **Prof. Saravanan P., Dean (Corporate Relations & Faculty Affairs), IIM Tiruchirappalli**, who spoke about the increasing strategic role played by boards in shaping organisational direction and governance.

The session also featured a special address by **Ms. K. Saraswathi, Secretary General, MCCI**. The inaugural ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by **Dr. CMA S. Subhashini, Co-chairman, MCCI Women Business Council**, along with **Mr. Senthil Saravanan, Corporate Relations Officer, IIM Tiruchirappalli**.

Strengthening Governance and Strategic Decision-Making

The programme provided participants with intensive learning across key dimensions of board leadership and governance. Sessions covered topics including **Finance, Risk and**

ESG; Board Governance; Strategy and Business; Independent Directorship; Boardroom Leadership; and Digital Fluency in the Boardroom.

Participants explored financial statements and performance indicators, governance and financial red flags, strategic oversight by boards, fiduciary duties and accountability, board composition and effectiveness, independent directorship, board recruitment and positioning, leadership presence, and contemporary issues relating to technology and governance.

The programme also addressed emerging themes such as **Artificial Intelligence, Generative AI, cybersecurity, data privacy, digital transformation, and technology governance**, equipping participants with insights relevant to modern boardroom responsibilities.

Learning from Academic and Industry Experts

The sessions were facilitated by a distinguished group of faculty members and industry practitioners, including **Prof. Naresh G., Prof. Saravanan P., Prof. K. S. Manikandan, Prof. Suresh Paul Antony, Prof. Upam Pushpak Makhecha, and Ms. Shobhana P. Ravi.**

Drawing upon expertise across finance, accounting, strategy, entrepreneurship, organisational behaviour, human resources, marketing, governance, innovation, and technology, the speakers provided participants with both conceptual understanding and practical perspectives on boardroom effectiveness and leadership.

An Experiential Approach to Board Readiness

Designed for senior women executives, aspiring independent directors, entrepreneurs, family-business leaders, CXOs, and professionals with board-reporting responsibilities, the programme sought to prepare participants for the challenges and opportunities associated with board-level roles.

A strong emphasis was placed on experiential learning through case discussions, boardroom-oriented exercises, and experience-sharing sessions. Participants engaged with practical issues relating to governance responsibilities, risk oversight, strategic decision-making, board effectiveness, and pathways to directorship.

Through these interactions, participants developed a deeper understanding of the responsibilities and accountability of directors while strengthening their ability to contribute meaningfully to boardroom discussions and organisational governance.

Celebrating Successful Completion

The programme concluded with a valedictory session held on September 18, 2026, at the IIM Tiruchirappalli Chennai Campus.

The session commenced with the presentation of the batch report by **Prof. Upam Pushpak Makhecha, Programme Director**. Participants were subsequently addressed by **Ms. Shobhana Ravi, Chairperson, MCCI Women Business Council**, and **Dr. CMA S. Subhashini, Co-chairman, MCCI Women Business Council**. A special address was delivered by **Ms. K. Saraswathi, Secretary General, MCCI**.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by **Dr. CMA S. Subhashini**, along with **Mr. Senthil Saravanan, Corporate Relations Officer, IIM Tiruchirappalli**.

A total of **seventeen participants** successfully completed the programme and were awarded certificates during the valedictory ceremony.

Looking Ahead

The Women on Boards: Executive Leadership & Board Readiness Programme reflects the shared commitment of IIM Tiruchirappalli and MCCI to advancing leadership development and enhancing boardroom participation among women professionals.

By combining academic rigour, practical boardroom perspectives, and opportunities for peer learning, the programme sought to equip participants with the knowledge, confidence, and strategic outlook required to contribute effectively to governance and leadership at the highest levels of organisations.

About IIM Tiruchirappalli

Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli (IIM Tiruchirappalli) is a premier business school established in 2011 under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Known for its strong academic rigour and focus on socially responsible leadership, the Institute offers flagship MBA programmes, executive education, and research-driven initiatives across disciplines. Its academic quality and global orientation are reflected in its **NIRF 2025 Management ranking of 16**, its **AMBA accreditation** and its status as a **member of the AACSB Business Education Alliance**, placing it among the **top 2% of business schools worldwide**. With a deep commitment to innovation, industry engagement, and global perspectives, IIM Tiruchirappalli prepares students to become ethical, analytical, and impactful business leaders.

Dr. Godwin Tennyson

Director (In-charge)

directoroffice@iimtrichy.ac.in

Media Relations & Communications:

Dr. Abhishek Kumar Totawar

Chairperson - Media Relations & Communications

Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli

mrchair@iimtrichy.ac.in

mrcoffice@iimtrichy.ac.in

Phone Number: +91 75987 52616

mrcteam@iimtrichy.ac.in

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/abhishektotawar/>

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Gauri Girish Nair - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gaurigirishnair/>

Suruthi V - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/suruthi-v-/>