

02 April 2026

**Leadership Dialogue Session with Dr Akhil Kumar, former Managing Director and CEO of GS Caltex India**



On 2nd April 2026, MCC Boyd Tandon School of Business organised an interactive Leadership Dialogue with Dr Akhil Kumar. Dr Akhil Kumar has held senior-level positions in the Energy business across several geographies, working with diverse governments and cultures. His work experience includes serving as the Managing Director and CEO of Caltex India (a joint venture with Chevron, USA), the Managing Director of Chevron India, and the Finance Director of Chevron across several geographies, including the USA, South Korea, Hong Kong, South Africa, and Central Africa.

The session by Dr Akhil Kumar focused on the challenges and strategic importance of cross-cultural management, particularly in the context of international joint ventures and global leadership. He began by explaining the concept of joint ventures as collaborative arrangements between organisations to pool resources, expertise, and capital, a common practice in the energy sector. Using GS Caltex (a Joint Venture between Chevron and GS Corporation) as an example, he highlighted how partnerships bring together diverse organisational values and cultures. He introduced Cultural Intelligence (CQ) as a key competency in managing global operations. Managers must recognise that trust is culturally defined and requires different approaches in multicultural teams.