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Mumbai, India

2024

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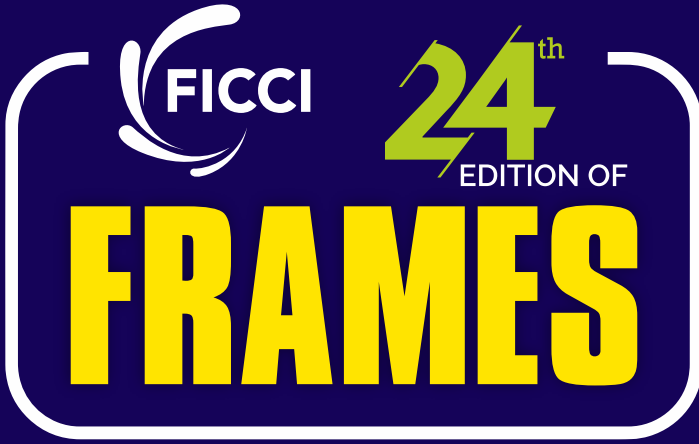
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## **SHRI ANIL KUMAR LAHOTI**

Chairman, Telecom Regulatory  
Authority of India (TRAI)

Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers from the 1984 batch. He had superannuated as Chairman & CEO, Railway Board on 31st August 2023 after a career spanning about 37 years Indian Railway. He is a graduate in Civil Engineering from Madhav Institute of Technology and Science, Gwalior, with gold medal and has master's degree in engineering (Structures) from IIT Roorkee. He has worked in various positions in the Central, Northern, North Central, Western, and West Central Railway, as well as in the Railway Board.

Besides Chairman & CEO, Railway Board, some of the important positions held by Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti include Member Infrastructure, Railway Board, General Manager of Central

Railway and Western Railway, Divisional Railway Manager, Lucknow, Northern Railway, Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), Northern Railway and Executive Director, Railway Board. Post his retirement, Ministry of Railway had appointed him to a One-Man Expert Committee for improvement in inspection and maintenance of track. In December 2023, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara, a Central University appointed him as a Distinguished Visiting Professor.

His expertise includes railway operations, track maintenance, project execution and station redevelopment. During his illustrious career, Shri Lahoti initiated several reforms in execution of infrastructure projects and took several initiatives to modernize and mechanize track maintenance on Indian Railways. During his stints as CRB & CEO, GM and DRM, he brought about significant improvement in freight transport performance and took several customer friendly initiatives to improve the quality of service and ease the customer interface. He has also extensively contributed to planning and structuring of station redevelopment projects in various positions served by him.

Shri Lahoti has travelled to various countries in Europe, North America, Asia, and Australia in connection with official assignments. He has undertaken executive training programmes at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA, SDA Bocconi Business School, Milan, Italy and Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.

He was born to Freedom Fighter Late Shri Ratan Lal Lahoti and Late Smt. Kanchan Devi Lahoti at Guna, M.P. and is the younger brother of former Chief Justice of India Late Justice R.C. Lahoti. His wife is a homemaker and his son is a working professional in Bengaluru.



## SHRI SANJAY JAJU

Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
Government of India

Sanjay comes from the 1992 batch of Indian Administrative Service. He has taken over the charge of Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on 5th February, 2024.

Sanjay is a Post Graduate Mechanical Engineer and a Cost & Management Accountant by background and has completed MBA in Finance. He has worked in diverse areas like Defence, Urban, Infrastructure, Civil Supplies, Education, Tribal Welfare, Information Technology.

He worked as Additional Secretary in the Department of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence in the Government of India and looked after the policies for bringing in investments and growth in Defence and Aerospace sectors to advance the "Make in India" resolve. He has also been instrumental in setting up Defence Innovation Organisation & iDEX for creating a collaborative platform for Startups to meet Defence requirements and has been conferred the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration, 2021 on 21 April 2022 during the Civil Services Day. He played a huge role in successful corporatization of Ordnance Factory Board, a long pending reform needed to improve the functioning of these factories established over 200 years back.

He has been the founding Director of the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, GoI to fast pace infrastructure creation on the borders and strategic areas.

He had earlier worked as Secretary to Government of Andhra Pradesh in Information Technology & Communications and Food and Civil Supplies Department and led the programme to complete Aadhaar registration of the residents of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh from start to finish.

He has been an ardent advocate of Information Technology for Development and Governance, he successfully led various projects - 'MeeSeva' a comprehensive flagship initiative for delivering host of G2C services in AP (2011), INAMPRO, INFRACON in NHIDCL (2017), DEFEXIM (2021). Many of these have been awarded National e-Governance Awards by Government of India.

He has worked as Municipal Commissioners in Hyderabad & Visakhapatnam.



## **SHRI ATUL KUMAR TIWARI**

Secretary  
MSDE, Govt of India

Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari is a career civil servant who belongs to the 1990 batch of Indian Administrative Service borne on the Karnataka Cadre. Besides studying History, Political Science and Economics, he has done MBA in Public Service from Birmingham (UK), M.Phil. in Social Science from Panjab University, and recently L.L.B from Delhi University. He has handled various assignments in the State of Karnataka, particularly, in Industries & Commerce, Urban Infrastructure Development & Finance, and Health and Medical Education with many accomplishments to his name. In the Government of India, he has served with distinction in Ministries of Urban Development, Overseas Indian Affairs, Rural Development, and Textiles. He is Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting since April 2019 handling matters relating to Broadcasting, Communication, Community Radio, Films, FM Radio and Vigilance.



## SHRI JAYESH RANJAN

Principal Secretary of the Industries & Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT) Departments, Government of Telangana

Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, is the Principal Secretary of the Industries & Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT) Departments of the Telangana government. His assignment involves developing policy frameworks, attracting new investments, identifying opportunities for utilizing IT in various government processes, and promoting the digital empowerment of the citizens. He has played a pivotal role in promoting the Telangana state as a leading destination for Media and Entertainment investments. Under his leadership, Telangana State is rapidly developing as one of the country's preferred Media and Entertainment hubs.





## **SMT. NEERJA SEKHAR**

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information  
and Broadcasting, Government of India

Ms. Neerja Sekhar IAS joined the government as a civil servant in 1993, and belongs to Haryana cadre. She has worked with the Governments of Bihar, Haryana and the Central Government during her long career of 31 years. At present, she is working in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as Additional Secretary and is dealing with policy and regulatory matters relating to the broadcasting and films sectors in India. Her repertoire has involved policy formulation in the media & entertainment sector in India and supporting the public broadcaster- Prasar Bharati, the radio sector and two public sector undertakings of the Government including the National Film Development Corporation.

During her grassroots experience of more than fifteen years in the districts in Bihar and Haryana, she has worked on various development projects of promoting education, skilling, providing food security, infrastructure, and elimination of poverty. Thereafter, Ms Sekhar gained experience in areas of school education, universities, local self-government, industrial financing, renewables, disabilities, social security, allied agricultural activities and so on. Her heart, however, lies in the development sector, where she believes she can make a long term difference with her compassion and commitment.

In her free time, she likes to paint and explore exotic teas. She has trained in many national and international institutes of eminence, including the Institute of Social Sciences in The Hague, Netherlands and the Judge Business School, Cambridge and considers herself a constant learner.



## **SHRI VIKAS SHANKAR KHARAGE**

Principal Secretary to CM &  
Principal Secretary, Cultural Affairs Department  
Government of Maharashtra

Mr. Vikas Shankar Kharage, an IAS Officer since 1994, with a BE in Electronics and Telecommunications and a master's from IDS University of Sussex. Currently, the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and in the Department of Cultural Affairs, he previously held key positions including Managing Director of Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation and Principal Secretary, Forest Department. Recognized for his contributions, he received awards such as the Satyen Mitra National Award for literacy program implementation, Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award for communal harmony, and Rajiv Gandhi Administrative Reforms Award for making NRHM office paperless. Notably, he launched the State song for Maharashtra, "Jay Jay Maharashtra Maza Garja Maharashtra Maza," and participated in events like the Smart City Seminar in Barcelona and COP 24 International Climate Change conference in Katowice. His diverse contributions extend to writing books on the Panchayat Raj System and Ek Harit Chalval.



## SHRI SANJIV SHANKAR

Joint Secretary, Broadcasting  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Sanjiv Shankar is an officer of the 1993 Batch of the Indian Revenue Service, presently, serving as the Joint Secretary (Broadcasting), in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. As JS (Broadcasting), he also looks after the Policy and Regulation matters of the Broadcasting Sector. His education includes a Master's in International Development Policy focused in Public Policy & Taxation from Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University, USA. He has worked in various capacities as Commissioner in the Income Tax Department, Govt. of India and also in the Ministries of Govt. of India. He has also co-authored a book on 'Tax Policy and Practice'. His special skills include Public Policy, Incentive and Risk Assessment, Taxation and Business Analysis.



## **SHRI GAURAV DWIVEDI**

Chief Executive Officer  
Prasar Bharati

Gaurav Dwivedi is a 1995 batch IAS Officer of the Chhattisgarh Cadre. He started his administrative career as an Assistant Collector in Kerala before joining Chhattisgarh Government. He has worked in various capacities in Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. He has also been a faculty member at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. He is a recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Administration for his work on food security & computerizing paddy procurement and PDS distribution. He was the first CEO of MyGovIndia under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and managed the Govt's citizen engagement platform launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2014. As CEO MyGovIndia, organized the 'MyGov Town Hall' in 2016.

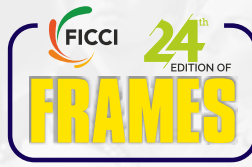
Hailing from Uttar Pradesh he did his schooling from Apeejay School, Noida and graduated in Zoology from the Hindu College of Delhi University. He is a Trium MBA, with Joint Degrees from London School of Economics, New York University's Stern Business School & HEC Paris. He is currently CEO Prasar Bharati.



## **ANANT GOENKA**

Vice President, FICCI and  
Vice Chairman, RPG Group

Anant Goenka is Vice Chairman of the RPG Group, a USD 4.4bn conglomerate with interests in tyres, infrastructure, pharma, IT and specialty sectors. He is also Vice-President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). Anant was Managing Director & CEO of CEAT from 2012 to 2023. Prior to joining CEAT, Anant worked with Unilever and KEC International. He has previously served as the Chairman of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA). Anant has been recognised by Forbes as the "Next Generation Business Leader of the Year" in 2017 and as "India's 40 under 40 Business Leaders" by Economic Times-Spencer Stuart. He is the recipient of "Kabiller Science of Empathy Prize" from the Kellogg School of Management. Anant is an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management and a BS (Economics) from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.



5-7 MARCH, MUMBAI



## KEVIN VAZ

Chair, FICCI Media and Entertainment Committee  
and Chief Executive Officer – Broadcast  
Entertainment, Viacom 18

A highly accomplished executive with close to three decades of experience in Media & Entertainment, Kevin Vaz joined Viacom18 in July 2023 as Chief Executive Officer – Broadcast Entertainment.

Kevin is also responsible for the media company's filmed entertainment business as well as regional content and marketing for its digital entertainment business. Kevin's visionary leadership and strategic acumen will play a pivotal role in elevating the existing channels to leadership positions, scaling up revenue realisation and significantly increase the network's overall market share across genres and geographies.

Prior to joining Viacom18, Kevin was the head of the entertainment business at Disney Star, where he made significant contributions to the company's success and growth. He was instrumental in shaping the Tamil, Telugu, Bangla and Marathi language markets and driving Disney Star channels in those respective markets towards pole position. His illustrious career encompasses the successful launch and management of 53 television channels, along with driving revenue growth and spearheading innovative content strategies.

Kevin started his career in Sales and moved up to be the youngest Network Sales Head for India's Largest TV Network. A hands-on executive, Kevin has the unique distinction of having led teams across almost every touchpoint of the media and entertainment ecosystem – from business management, revenue, content to marketing.



## SANDHYA DEVANATHAN

Co-Chair, FICCI Media and Entertainment Committee, and Vice President and Head Meta India

Sandhya is an experienced leader with a 22-year career in banking, payments, and tech. Currently, she's the Vice President for Meta India, where she's helping to strengthen relationships with businesses, creators, and partners.

She joined Meta in 2016 and used her experience to help Meta grow in Singapore and Vietnam. She also helped promote online shopping across Southeast Asia. In 2020, she started leading the Gaming section for APAC, an important part of Meta.

Sandhya got her MBA from FMS, Delhi University in 2000. She started her career at Citi, where she held various leadership roles in banking in India, the Philippines, and the US.

Besides her work, Sandhya is passionate about helping women in business. She's the executive sponsor for Women@APAC at Meta and started Play Forward, a Meta project aimed at increasing diversity in the gaming industry.

Sandhya's leadership extends beyond Meta. She serves on the global board of Pepper Financial Services and the National Library Board in Singapore. She is also a board observer for Jio Platforms. Additionally, she is a member of the Board of Advisors for the College of Integrative Studies at Singapore Management University and the US-India Business Council (USIBC).

Sandhya also co-chairs the FICCI Committee on Media & Entertainment and the CII National Committee on IT and ITes, further showcasing her commitment to the industry.



## ARJUN NOHWAR

Co-Chair, FICCI Media and Entertainment Committee, Senior Vice President and General Manager – India & South Asia  
Warner Bros. Discovery

Arjun Nohwar is General Manager – South Asia for Warner Bros. Discovery.

He spearheads the region's operations overseeing a wide portfolio of global brands and networks across kids, entertainment, sports, and infotainment genres in South Asia and includes brands such as Discovery, Animal Planet, HGTV, Eurosport, Cartoon Network, POGO, Discovery Kids, DC, and the discovery+ streaming service.

With a career track record in tech and businesses with a strong digital footprint, Nohwar is an active industry advisor for startups. He has hosted seminars and given prominent lectures at educational institutes across the country and in 2021, he was accorded the Young Alumni Achievers Award by Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur.

Prior to his role at Warner Bros. Discovery, Nohwar was the APAC Director and Regional GM for the B2B business at Uber. Before joining Uber, he spent nearly a decade at the Tata Group as a TAS Officer and worked across sales, operations, and strategy roles in several Tata Group companies. In 2012, Arjun was deputed to the Planning Commission of India to work on the Manufacturing strategy for the Country.

Nohwar is a part of the Advisory Board of a social enterprise, AMBA, that works to provide economic independence to the intellectually challenged. He is an active investor and advisor to multiple startups.

He is also a sports enthusiast and is passionate about playing Golf, Tennis and Basketball.





## **AASHISH SINGH**

Chief Executive Officer  
Lyca Productions

Aashish Singh is a content producer who has had vast experience in content creation, production and monetization. Aashish has recently stepped down as CEO of Lyca Productions to pursue his ambition of becoming an independent producer. He continues to consult multiple companies in the media space. He has also started his own company called Ace of Spades Entertainment. Prior to joining Lyca Productions he was leading Original Films at Netflix, India. He was earlier the CEO at Balaji motion pictures and Vice President - Production at Yashraj films. He has played an active role in many successful films like Chak De India, Dhoom 2, Dhoom 3, Tiger Zinda Hai, Rab Me Bana Di Jodi, Jab Tak Hain Jaan, Ek Tha Tiger, Band Baaja Baarat, Dream Girl, Ponniiyin Selvan etc.

Aashish has more than 25 years of experience in the media and entertainment business. He is a film buff, born in a film family and to his credit has been responsible for shooting feature films in more than thirty-five countries. He also has executive produced the maximum number of Hindi films. He is a B.Com graduate and has been responsible in getting some of the best rebates and incentives for feature films in Hindi language.



## AANAND L RAI

Filmmaker

A renowned film-maker and a coveted producer, Aanand L Rai has successfully made a mark for himself in the vast landscape of the Indian film industry. One of the top directors of the industry, he is synonymous with bringing the charm of small-town romances to the cinema screens with the likes of 'Tanu Weds Manu', 'Raanjhanaa' and 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns.'

As a producer, Aanand L Rai's Colour Yellow Productions is home to an impressive multitude of diverse films across Hindi and Marathi cinema such as 'Tumbbad', the 'Shubh Mangal Saavdhan' franchise, 'An Action Hero', 'Aatmapamphlet' and 'Jhimma 2' among others, including Rai's own directorials. Notably, the 2017 award-winning film "Newton" - India's official Oscar entry for that year - was also presented by him under the banner of Colour Yellow Productions.

With an unwavering commitment to creating content that resonates with both popular sensibilities and critical acclaim, he stands as a maverick of storytelling.



5-7 MARCH, MUMBAI



## ABE THOMAS

Chief Executive Officer  
Radio Big FM

Business leader, Growth Driver, Digital entrepreneur, Brand Builder with a proven track record of building and running large businesses for media publishers. Having deep knowledge of multi-media platforms of broadcasting (TV & Radio) print and digital media backed with over 30 years of hands-on leadership experience demonstrating the ability to build & scale media businesses within a competitive environment.

Building a robust organization with high performance teams is an area of specialization, consistently delivering better than market results across India, China and South Asia.

Radio – CEO Reliance Broadcast Network Ltd, CEO Radio City, COO Red FM | Digital Entrepreneur – ONE Network | TV- Mass, Niche and Speciality genres – Sony Entertainment Network, MTV Networks, Astro Broadcasting – Food Food, NDTV – Good Times | Print - The Indian Express Group



## ABHISHEK KAPOOR

Indian Filmmaker and Director

Abhishek Kapoor debuted as a filmmaker in 2006 with the sports drama 'Aryan', but rose to fame with 2008 directorial 'Rock On!!'. The film, starring Farhan Akhtar, Arjun Rampal and others, went on to become a blockbuster and received the coveted National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi along with the Filmfare Award for Best Story. After 'Rock On!!', the filmmaker helmed critically acclaimed 'Kai Po Che', which released in 2013 and starred Sushant Singh Rajput, Amit Sath and Rajkummar Rao. He continued his winning streak at box office with 'Kedarnath'. He has also directed 'Fitoor' starring Aditya Roy Kapur and Katrina Kaif, and 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui' (2021) starring Ayushmann Khurrana and Vaani Kapoor, which deftly handled the social stigma surrounding the transgender community. Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui went on to earn rave reviews from critics and audiences alike. The versatile filmmaker is now gearing up for two big releases. Recently, he announced 'Sharaabi'. The director is also working on an action-adventure film, which will star Ajay Devgn as the lead. The film will mark the debut of Ajay Devgn's nephew Aaman Devgn and Raveena Tandon's daughter Rasha Thadani.



## **ABHISHEK MOHAN GUPTA**

Promoter & Pro Chancellor  
Jagran Lakecity University

Abhishek Mohan Gupta joined his family business in 2008 after completing his education and holds the position of Joint Secretary & Vice Chairman- Executive Committee at Jagran Social Welfare Society, where he looks after strategic development, marketing and people management of the Society and its institutes. He is also the Founder & Pro-Chancellor of Jagran Lakecity University, a State Private University established in 2013.

His forte is Strategy, Brand Development and People Management. In 2019, Abhishek completed his Presidential Leadership Program from Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, and an Executive Program in Design Thinking & Innovation from National University of Singapore. In addition, he has an undergraduate degree from Leeds Metropolitan University, UK, and an MBA from RMIT, Melbourne. Abhishek is also a sports enthusiast and has played cricket at the highest level representing his country, state and University.

Abhishek is the Convener (Education) – CII Madhya Pradesh and the Founding Chair of FICCI Young Leaders Madhya Pradesh. He is also the Industry Champion (Education) for South-East Asia at the Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) and is a Member of the National Higher Education Committee, FICCI India. In addition, he is the Founding Curator of Bhopal Hub and an alumnus at Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum. In 2021, Abhishek got nominated to the Global Quality Assurance Committee of the Association of Universities of Asia and The Pacific. He also sits on the management committees of Delhi Public School (Bhopal, Indore, Kolar Rd Bhopal and Rau Indore) and Jagran Lakecity University.

In 2022, Abhishek was listed in BW Education 40 under 40 education leaders for 2022-23. Ms. Maneka Gandhi, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), presented Abhishek with Exemplary Leadership in Higher Education Award at the ObserveNow Higher Education Leadership Awards in 2021. He was honoured with 'Edupreneur of the Year 2020' at the National Summit on Women & Education Empowerment 2020. AsiaOne & PWC declared him among the '50 Most Influential Indians Under 50 in Asia' in 2017.



## ADITI SRIVASTAVA

Co-Founder  
Pocket Aces

Pocket Aces is a content creator and publisher across genres and platforms, with a weekly reach of over 50 million. Channels such as FilterCopy, Dice Media, Gobble and Nutshell have become culture creators across the 18-35 audiences. Dice Media also creates premium web series such as Little Things, Ghar Waapsi and Crushed across platforms.

Pocket Aces also runs Clout, which manages over 120 digital actors and influencers exclusively.

Aditi has won numerous awards including Entrepreneur Magazine, Fortune's and Impact's 40 Under 40 lists, and Impact's 50 Most Influential Women' List for 3 consecutive years in a row. Pocket Aces has also been selected by Forbes India DGEMS'23 Select 200 Companies With Global Business Potential.

Aditi previously set up an angel network focused on social enterprises, and spent over 5 years at Goldman Sachs. A magna cum laude graduate from Princeton, she is a CFA charter holder and a World Economic Forum Global Shaper, passionate about problem-solving, dance, and travel.



## **DR. AJAY BHUSHAN**

CEO, Chairperson, NFRA  
Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

Keen interest and passion in technology, policy, and law.

Unique Combination of knowledge of technology (Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur and Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Minnesota) and years of experience in strategy advocacy, policy formulation, and implementation of technology-driven large transformational projects in governance and public.

Always looks for innovative use of technology to solve problems and drive reforms. As Finance Secretary of India and CEO of UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India), he is credited with steering three major reforms in India - Aadhaar, GST, and Direct Tax reforms. As CEO of UIDAI, he expanded Aadhaar across India and drafted the historic Aadhaar legislation. The only non-lawyer who has the unique distinction of making a six-hour-long presentation to the Supreme Court of India. The 1200 page Aadhaar judgement extensively quotes from his presentation. For his contribution to Aadhaar, he received the Economic Times Award for Policy Change Agent in 2019. As Finance Secretary, he was instrumental in the historic reduction in corporate tax from 30% to 22% and for new manufacturers to 15%. Brought in a series of direct tax reforms and had them implemented through extensive use of technology.



## AJAY BIJLI

Managing Director  
PVR INOX Ltd.

Ajay Bijli is the Managing Director of PVR INOX, India's largest multiplex theatre chain, the fifth largest listed multiplex chain globally. Attracting over 140 million customers to its cinemas annually, the company operates a network of over 1700 cinema screens in over 360 properties across India and Sri Lanka. Ajay founded PVR Cinemas in 1997 ushering in the age of the multiplex in India. The multiplex revolution changed the way Indians watch movies and contributed to a boom in real estate by transforming malls and driving employment opportunities among its youth.

In recognition of his contribution to sustain livelihoods through the pandemic and revive footfalls at movie theatres post COVID, Ajay became the first Indian in over a decade to deliver the keynote address at CinemaCon 2023, the largest event for the international motion picture theatre industry. Ajay has played an active role in shaping global best practices in the premium cinema exhibition space as a member of the American Trade Association NATO (National Association of Theatre Owners) and the European Cinema trade group UNIC. He has served on several prominent trade bodies such as the Mumbai Academy of the Moving Image (MAMI), FICCI Multiplex Association (India), The Film and TV Producers Guild (India), the Young Presidents' Organization and Central Board of Film Certification, Government of India.

Ajay has been the recipient of prestigious awards such as the E&Y Entrepreneurial Award for Business Transformation, CNBC's Emerging India Award, Most Admired Multiplex Professional by CMO Asia's Multiplex Excellence Award. Under his leadership, PVR has bagged Fortune India magazine's Next 500 Big and Mid-sized Companies' Award. PVR INOX has been awarded India's Top Multiplex Chain of the Year' in Big Cine Expo 2023, Economic Times Excellence in CX and Employee Excellence in 2022, International Exhibitor of the Year award at Cine Asia in 2017. Ajay was named Asia Innovator of the Year at CNBC TV 18's India Business Leader Awards in 2016.

Born on February 9, 1967, Ajay graduated from Hindu College, Delhi University. He went on to complete the Owners/President Management program at the Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University in 1999. Ajay has been a member of the YPO International Chapter, the world's largest leadership community of Chief Executives, since 2016. As a YPO Gold Fellow, he has attended the YPO Gold Harvard Presidents' Program from Harvard Business School in 2020 and 2023.

In his spare time, Ajay is the lead vocalist of Random Order, a band founded by him. Random Order unveiled their first music video – Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me - as a tribute to the undying human spirit and the untiring efforts of the medical fraternity during the pandemic. His first solo music video- Ik Onkar, paying homage to the One Supreme Universal Reality, revealed by Guru Nanak, has been prominently featured as part of the Original Motion Picture Soundtrack Album of Shahrukh Khan's "DUNKI". The Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra directed video features Ajay singing the devotional song composed by Sheykhav Ravjiani in the Gurdwara Pathar Sahib in Ladakh.

Ajay lives in New Delhi with his wife Selena and three children – Niharika, Nayana and Aamer.





## **AKASH SAXENA**

Chief Technical and Product Officer  
JioCinema

Akash is an industry veteran with over 25+ years of experience and is currently the Chief Product & Technical Officer (CTPO) @Viacom18 where he oversees the flagship JioCinema product. The JioCinema product set a world record for live streaming at 32M peak concurrency during Tata IPL 2023.

Previously, he was the CTO of Disney+Hotstar, for close to 6 years where he led the team through two upgrades of the platform, setting and re-setting the video streaming concurrency world record thrice and running the largest video subscription platform in any country, with over 50M paying Disney+ subscribers just in India alone. At Hotstar he oversaw Disney+ technology in India, SEA and MENA.

In the past, he's held leadership positions in multiple technology companies where he has been part of one IPO and multiple acquisition cycles.

He lives and breathes startups, in scale and in spirit, has started up once, and is an active angel investor and advisor to 10+ startups. Akash holds an MS(Computer Science), from Arizona State University and BE/BS from College of Engineering, Pune.



## **AKHAURI P SINHA**

Managing Director  
Framestore India

Mr Akhauri has set up and established Framestore's newest studio, a state-of-the-art facility in Mumbai that will work alongside Framestore's established global network. Prior to joining Framestore, he was Managing Director at Method Studios, where he headed the studio's Indian operations. An entertainment industry and content veteran, Akhauri has worked across film, TV and VFX for over 25 years, including in leadership roles spanning companies such as UTV, Nimbus, BBC Studios and MPC.



## **AKSHAYE WIDHANI**

Chief Executive Officer  
Yash Raj Films

As Chief Executive Officer of Yash Raj Films (YRF), Akshaye Widhani takes the reins of India's biggest, foremost and the most coveted studio to strengthen top-line growth, drive initiatives and expansion for the brand on a global scale.

Prior to becoming the second-ever CEO in YRF's span of glorious 50-year history, Akshaye served in the leadership role as the Senior Vice President - Finance, Business Affairs & YRF Studios. He has had an unwavering track record demonstrating superior business acumen responsible for accelerated business growth, optimising value and refining brand equity across all verticals of the company. A graduate from the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University with a dual major in Finance and Entrepreneurship, Akshaye joined YRF as a Studio Manager and his contribution to the company since 2005 has been marked by purpose-driven passion, transformational changes and relentless commitment towards the success of the brand.

A growth catalyst by nature, he rose from the ranks and has undertaken industry-shaping projects under his wings. He led 'YRF Entertainment' (India's first studio producing international film content), thereby becoming instrumental in mounting YRF as a global filming powerhouse. As an extension, this division has also ventured into the booming digital content (over-the-top or OTT) landscape and has started producing marquee projects. He played a crucial role in launching and setting up the company's own in-house visual effects division: yFX - which is now responsible for churning out and showcasing the industry's best VFX work across tentpole Hindi films.

Akshaye also drove 'The Yash Chopra Foundation' initiative during the pandemic that aimed to assist the Hindi film industry union's daily wage earners and their families by virtue of provisions like health insurance, school fee allowance, ration supply, annual health check-ups and vaccinations, among other benefits to around 4000+ members.

Akshaye brings an exceptional blend of senior executive leadership, proven industry capabilities and deep understanding of the company's functions. And in his current role, he will lead all company verticals to take YRF into its next chapter of growth.



## **ANOOP AMBIKA**

Chief Executive Officer  
Kerala Startup Mission

Anoop P Ambika is a serial entrepreneur, organizer and a technology enthusiast. He is the co-founder of several technology startups and currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Kerala Startup Mission

A graduate in Computer Science and Engineering from TKM College of Engineering, University of Kerala, Anoop worked with MNCs like GE, NEC, Lucent and Nortel in various managerial capacities before starting Kreara. When working with GE, he was also instrumental with the ISO and Six Sigma quality initiatives that were being undertaken by the company in the late 90's. He underwent his management education in F W Olin Graduate School of Management at Wellesley, Massachusetts. He is also a post graduate in Computational Biology & Bioinformatics from University of Kerala.



## **ANU SIKKA**

Business Head  
Kids TV Network, Viacom18

Entertaining and engaging the most demanding audience cohort - children is no mean feat and the Kids TV Network Business Head, Anu Sikka, has perfected this over the last 2 decades at Viacom18. From leading the kids clusters' content to now its business strategy, it is under Anu's leadership that Nickelodeon paved its position as 'India's leading kids entertainment franchise'. Her responsibilities include strengthening the clusters reach, programming innovation, driving social impact, while tapping into newer markets and domains to increase monetisation. Her visionary efforts in the creation of indigenous local characters and toons over the last 14 years ushered in a wave of innovation and growth in India's animation industry, paving way for the category to become self-reliant. In addition to etching winning partnerships – on and off screen – with some of India's biggest brands, Anu is also credited with India's first global toon co-production with Nickelodeon UK, thus creating a space for homegrown kids content in global markets.

Anu's journey in India's media and entertainment industry spans over 3 decades. She started this voyage with Newstrack, first independent audio-visual news magazine from India Today Group. She has also been associated with leading media brands including Hungama and Sab TV in senior roles.

Leading the way with creativity and providing India's kids ecosystem with an impetus for innovation, Anu continues to be one of the most revered leaders in the category and has significantly contributed to Nickelodeon's journey to numero uno.



## **AMIN LAKHANI**

Chief Executive Officer  
Mindshare South Asia

As the Chief Executive Officer of Mindshare South Asia, Amin leads Mindshare group in South Asia. Amin has over 20 + years of experience in the media and advertising industry and has a proven track record of leading and growing businesses. He believes in using new-age data, technology, creativity, research, consulting, and products to help clients achieve their business goals. His interests include traveling and all things marketing.



## AMISH TRIPATHI

Author

Amish published his first book in 2010 and has written 11 books (both fiction and non-fiction) till date. His books have sold 7 million copies and been translated into 20 Indian & international languages. He is the fastest-selling author in Indian publishing history. Critics have said that his books are backed by tremendous research, deep thought, a rooted-pride in India, and a liberal progressive outlook.

Forbes India has regularly ranked Amish among the top 100 most influential celebrities in India. Amish was also selected as an Eisenhower Fellow, a prestigious American programme for outstanding leaders from around the world, in 2014. He won the 21st Century Icon Award in the UK in 2021 and the Golden Book award for his novel *Suhaldev* in 2022.

He is also a host for TV documentaries, including for Discovery TV's highly acclaimed and award-winning *Legends of the Ramayan* with Amish.

In his diplomatic role, Amish worked as the Minister (Culture & Education) at the Indian High Commission to the UK and the Director of The Nehru Centre in London.

Amish is an alumnus of the prestigious Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta; He received the Eminent Alumnus Award from IIM-Calcutta in 2017. He worked for 14 years in the financial services industry before turning to writing.

Amish is a voracious reader, reading 5-6 books on average every month. He is a music aficionado and was the lead singer in his college band in IIM-C. He was an active sportsperson, particularly in boxing and gymnastics, in his school and college days.



## AMIT DAS

Director HR & CHRO,  
The Times of India

A seasoned HR professional, Amit Das, has over 34 years of experience of working in Senior Leadership roles at various professionally managed, large MNCs & reputed Indian organizations. His experience spans across diverse business sectors with organizations like Tata Motors, CESC Ltd, Britannia Industries Ltd, Taj Group of Hotels, Vodafone, RPG Group and Reliance Group.

An alumnus of the Kellogg's School of Management, Amit currently holds the position of Director-HR & CHRO, The Times of India, which is one of India's most diversified & profitable media conglomerate.

Amit is a prominent & respected Global HR leader, who has been constantly recognized and rewarded for his professional contributions by several Organizations and Management Associations across the globe. He is a part of many Advisory Boards & Governing Council Member in several reputed Corporates & Educational Institutions across the world.

Amit has also been a key member of the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, wherein he was nominated by the Govt of India to create & manage an Electronic Employment Exchange platform for senior citizens named SACRED (Senior Able Citizens Re-employment in Dignity).

Amit has also been nominated by the Govt of India to be part of the CII B20 Taskforce in India's Presidency for G20 on Future of Work, Skilling & Mobility, for mapping & aligning Future Jobs, Technology & Employability, Skilling, Re-skilling & Upskilling, and International Mobility of Skilled workforce.

A regular speaker at reputed HR Forums, Colleges and Management Institutes across the globe, Amit is a fitness enthusiast, avid reader, and a continuous learner in today's integrated, multi-cultural & diverse ecosystem.





## **ANIMESH KUMAR**

President - HR & Transformation  
Zee

Mr. Animesh Kumar is the President - HR & Transformation at Zee Entertainment. He leads the people and transformation agenda for the Company and is also responsible for driving the diversity & inclusion, employer brand and the overall organizational change required to enable the ZEE 4.0 transformation. In addition, Animesh works closely and mentors the Corporate Responsibility and CSR teams internally. Animesh joined ZEE in 2018 as its Chief People Officer and under his leadership, ZEE has emerged as the Employer of Choice and one of the Top 50 Workplaces for Women in India.

With almost 30 years of experience across FMCG and Financial Services and the Media and Entertainment sectors, Animesh has led the HR function across large Indian and Multi-National Companies. In his previous stint, he was associated with the Future Group as the Chief People & Transformation Officer and prior to that, Animesh has worked with IDFC Group for almost a decade. As a member of the Executive Committee at IDFC Group, he was responsible for leading the Human Resources; Marketing; Corporate Communication and was the CEO of IDFC Foundation, driving corporate responsibility and community engagement for the Group. In his earlier stints he has worked in RBS; Standard Chartered, Thomas Cook and Marico.

Animesh has served on Boards and has worked closely with non-profit organisations helping them enhance internal capacity to increase their social impact. His interests include leading organization transformations in both, the for-profit and not for profit/social sector, improving diversity & inclusion in organizations and coaching senior leaders.



## **ANJUM RAJABALI**

Screenwriter, Head of Screenwriting  
Whistling Woods

Mr. Anjum Rajabali is a veteran screenwriter, with films like Ghulam, The Legend of Bhagat Singh, and Raajneeti to his name. He has also been a script advisor to numerous films.

In 2004, he set up India's first full-fledged screenplay writing department at FTII Pune and was its Honorary Head for 12 years. Since 2006, he has been the Founder-Head of Screenwriting at Whistling Woods International, Mumbai.

He regularly conducts screenwriting workshops and masterclasses in India and has lectured in various countries.

In 2019, he was chosen for 'Leading International Teacher' award by CILECT, the association of more than 180 major film schools.

In 2006, he formed the Progressive Writers Group which has been steering the Screenwriters Association since then.



## APARNA PUROHIT

Head of India & SEA Originals  
Amazon Prime Video

Since joining Prime Video India in 2016, Aparna has successfully developed and launched all Indian Originals on the service. This includes multiple award-winning originals like *The Family Man*, *Mirzapur*, International Emmy nominated – *Inside Edge*, *Made in Heaven*, and fan-favourites like *Farzi*, *Jubilee*, *Dahaad*, *Indian Police Force*, and more. In a career spanning over two decades in the entertainment business, Aparna has championed the creation of authentic, rooted, diverse stories that explore unique perspectives and have managed to strike a chord with audiences across the world. From beginning her career assisting directors such as Aparna Sen, Bharatbala and Naseeruddin Shah, Aparna has traversed the media landscape by leading content creation for print, radio and ads, besides developing films across languages and genres.

In addition to managing the Screenwriting Lab for three years, Aparna has also worked with Sony Entertainment Television, UTV Motion Pictures, Reliance Entertainment and Mumbai Mantra Media Ltd. (film arm of the Mahindra Group) in varying capacities. She is an elected member of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and has been recognized by *Fortune India* in its Most Powerful Women list in 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020, *India Today's* High and Mighty list, *Forbes India's* list of self-made women, received a special mention in the 50 Most Influential Women's List by Impact and has been highlighted as one of India's most powerful women by *Business Today*.



## ARADHANA BHOLA

Managing Director  
 Fremantle India

Aradhana Bhola is the Managing Director of Fremantle India, part of a global creative, production and distribution network operating in 27 territories worldwide. Under her leadership Fremantle India has grown from being a leading national television content producer to creating content across screens, languages and genres. Leading the extremely talented team at Fremantle, Aradhana has been at the helm of some of the most loved, long standing and inspiring content brands in the country. There's Idols, a breakthrough reality talent format that enjoys many avatars in India: Indian Idol on national TV (Sony) and regional versions including Telugu Indian Idol on OTT (aha). Another one, India's Got Talent, part of the global Got Talent franchise that was named the world's most successful reality TV format ever by Guinness World Records, has run successfully for 10 seasons & counting in the subcontinent.

Aradhana's professional journey began in Mumbai in 1998, where she initially ventured into the realm of print media before transitioning to broadcast journalism with NDTV and subsequently moving to creating shows. She has been the creative nucleus on shows like Aap Ki Kacheri arbitrated by the pioneering Dr. Kiran Bedi, Sacch Ka Saamna hosted by Rajeev Khandelwal and TED Talks India presented by Shah Rukh Khan.

Aradhana's forward-looking and liberal views of the world and her knack of telling great stories that strike an instant chord with the audience, come from her innate curiosity and the exposure she has had to different people, cultures and continents throughout her life. An Army officer's daughter, Aradhana has travelled and lived across the country throughout her formative years. She graduated in Literature in English from Miranda House, Delhi University, followed by a diploma in Mass Communication at Xavier Institute of Communication, Mumbai. A believer in creativity being a way of life, Aradhana continues to enjoy discovering, crafting & sharing stories with a healthy dose of irresistible entertainment!



## **ASHISH KULKARNI**

Chair, AVGC-XR Committee  
FICCI

Ashish Kulkarni embarked on his journey in the field of arts and media in 1995, and since has immersed himself in the pursuit of conceiving sustainable careers in film, animation, visual effects, gaming, visual arts, and graphic design in India. Ashish's presence in the field of the arts commenced with the animation industry, the seed of which had only been planted in the fertile grounds of the Indian economy at the turn of the century. At this early stage, Ashish jump started the sprouting of the animation industry in India by facilitating outsourcing projects in the country with animation giants such as Disney, Warner Bros.Sony and Dreamworks.

Ashish is the founder of Punnaryug Artvision Pvt. Ltd. and Screenyug Creations Pvt. Ltd. and is developing a unique concept called The Green Butterfly Art Village at Lonavala, which aims to create a holistic and sustainable ecosystem for all creative, performance & sports artists by uniting the institutions, housing projects and production studios that make up their everyday lives.



## **ASHISH PHERWANI**

Partner  
Ernst and Young

EY India M&E sector leader with more than 20 years of experience, serving companies in all the M&E sub-sectors. A mentor and coach to teams.

Ashish Pherwani is the leader for the Media & Entertainment sector for EY in India. He has been associated with the M&E industry since 1999.

In his over two decades of expertise in the industry, Ashish has been associated with over 50 media companies across TV broadcasting, TV distribution, radio, content production, out of home, mobile, events, print and gaming.

He is a Chartered Accountant from the Institute of chartered Accountants of India and a certified internal systems auditor from Information Systems Audit and Control Association.

### **How Ashish is building a better working world**

“Our future lies in education. In Mumbai, I support a school for 500 children from underprivileged families as also tribal and migrant children.

I also teach media trends and concepts to students across universities and to professionals at EY”



## **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA**

Indian Actor and Singer

Ayushmann Khurrana (born Nishant Khurrana; 14 September 1984) is an Indian actor and singer who works in Hindi Films. Known for his portrayals of ordinary men often battling social norms, he is the recipient of several awards, including a National Film Award and four Filmfare Awards. He has appeared in Forbes India's Celebrity 100 list of 2013 and 2019, and TIME named him one of the 100 most INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD in 2020.

Mr. Khurrana won the second season of the reality television show MTV ROADIES in 2004 and ventured into an anchoring career. He made his film debut in 2012 with the romantic comedy VICKY DONOR, in which his performance as a sperm donor earned him the Filmfare Award for the BEST MALE DEBUT.



## **BHARAT GUPTA**

Chief Executive Officer  
Jagran New Media

Bharat Gupta is the Chief Executive Officer of Jagran New Media, the digital wing of India's largest print and radio publisher group, Jagran Prakashan Ltd. With more than 22 years of stellar experience to his credit, Bharat has been at the helm of managing and turning around diverse media businesses across print, radio, ground activation, and digital. With over 100 million users, JNM is among the top internet media groups in India.

Bharat has played a pivotal role in spearheading the vision and credo statement of JNM, premised on providing "factual and credible content that empowers 'New Bharat' through knowledge, information, and POV towards an inclusive and progressive society". With a specific focus on fostering an equitable work environment, Jagran New Media extensively embraces and champions diversity in a multitude of aspects, including age, gender, and ethnicity. Embodying the three intertwined values of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), which are at the heart of the organizational culture owing to their pivotal role in ensuring higher innovation, growth, engagement, and retention of employees and other stakeholders.

Under Bharat's guidance, VishvasNews.com, the fact-checking wing of Jagran New Media, with its flagship and award-winning programme, Sach Ke Sathi, has attained multiple international grants and awards. In 2022, Bharat brought together the IAMAI, Meta, and India's 10 leading newsrooms to collaborate on a capacity-building year-long fellowship programme.

In addition to his present role as CEO, Bharat is also serving as President to the INMA South Asia Board (International News & Media Association); he is a Co-Chair of DAC (Digital Advertising Council) by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and is the founding member of the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA). Bharat is also the founding member & President of the Misinformation Combat Alliance (MCA), a cross-industry collaborative effort to combat and limit the spread of misinformation.

In recognition of his achievements in the industry, he was awarded 'Youth Achievers Award' at the Sixth Global Marketing and Social Media Awards, 2014. Jagran New Media was certified by GPTW (Great Place to Work) for 3 years in a row and was bestowed with Best Place to Work (Media) in 2021. For his contributions GPTW recognised Bharat as One of India's Best Leaders in Times of Crisis 2021. He has been awarded as DMA Trailblazer Award 2023 in the "Women" category under "Individual Excellence" for his impactful vision and leadership in shaping HerZindagi's incredible journey to make it the No.1 leading women's website in just 5 years and touching the hearts of over 20 million people monthly.

Being a people-oriented team leader, Bharat is sincerely committed to revolutionizing Indian media by managing high-performing teams and encouraging new-age innovation.





## BHARATBALA GANAPATHY

Director and Screenwriter

Breathing life into his visuals through real places and people, Bharatbala weaves splendid cinematic experiences that are Indian in essence and universal in their sensibilities. Deeply influenced by the works of David Lean, David Lynch and Bimal Roy, this Chennai-born filmmaker has a penchant for discovering untold stories in the remotest corners of the country and showcasing them to a global audience through sublime creative expression and cutting-edge technology.

### Advertising

- Having directed over 500 TV commercials since 1985, Bharatbala has filmed across the subcontinent's storied landscapes for leading brands in India and around the world.
- His Incredible India campaign for the Indian Ministry of Tourism won the 1st prize at The International Exhibition of Tourism TOUR SALON 2005.
- His other prominent public campaigns include I am India (Ministry of Commerce) and School Chale Hum (Ministry of Human Resource Development). The former was screened at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in 2006.



## **B.V. SRINIVAS**

Politician  
Indian Youth Congress

Srinivas who hails from a non-political middle-class family, started his political career as a NSUI member during his college days at National College, Bangalore. Later he became a BLOCK President of the INDIAN YOUTH CONGRESS followed by positions at district level and state level.

He rose into publicity in 2010 when a group of Congress workers along with him mounted a protest against Pramod Muthalik, a staunch right wing activist in Coastal Karnataka and smeared black paint on his face for Muthalik's vitriolic stand against Valentine's Day Celebrations. He faced disciplinary actions from Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee following this. However, in October 2010 he received 'Best Youth Congress Worker' award from Rahul Gandhi.

He held the post of National Secretary, IYC, followed by National General Secretary, IYC, and its vice president in 2018. In July 2019 he was appointed president of the Indian Youth Congress when Keshav Chand Yadav resigned from this post after Lok Sabha elections. Under his leadership IYC organised 'National Unemployment Day' on September 17, the birthday of Narendra Modi.



## **CARLOS ROSADO COBIÁN**

President  
Spain Film Commission

President of Spain Film Commission, he has led the drive to position Spain as an audiovisual shooting destination. An expert in audiovisual law and intellectual property, in the late 1980s he abandoned the political arena to join Radio Televisión de Andalucía (Spain).

In 1998 he founded Andalucía Film Commission, and three years later Spain Film Commission was set up. Both these not-for-profit associations are dedicated to promoting Spain's wealth of natural and urban landscapes, as well as lobbying for tax incentives that will consolidate Spain's appeal to major foreign productions.

From his role in the background, Carlos Rosado is the reason why some of the world's leading international productions have chosen Spain for its shooting locations. Without his work and dedication, Spain would have lacked the industrial fabric that enabled it to be chosen as the shooting location for productions such as 'Game of Thrones' (USA, 2016); 'Exodus' (USA, 2014); or 'Wonder Woman 1984' (USA, 2020).



## CV RAO

CTO  
Annapurna Studios

Currently, a Chief Technology Officer at one of the Leading Studio's of India, Annapurna Studios, Mr. CV Rao, is Post-Graduate in Economics from SV University, Tirupah, India. Before taking up the prestigious position of a Post-Production General Manager, CV Rao had started his career as a Graphic Designer in an advertising agency and his interest towards new-age technology made him a Master of complete Post-Production Services and recently added Brain Child of his at the Annapurna Studios is the Virtual Production Stage. He not only manages but also knows the work of each and every department. To his credit, CV Rao has an international award for editing for one of the short films and is one of the backbones in delivering, India's Biggest Movie Baahubali Sequels & RRR in Hme with quality and also behind some 500+ movies for post-production works.



## **CHAITANYA CHINCHLIKAR**

Vice President and Business Head  
Whistling Woods International

Chaitanya has had a multi-faceted 2-decade career spanning the Film & Creative Arts industry. He is currently the Vice President & Business Head at Whistling Woods International - India's premier Film & Creative Arts institute. He also serves as the Chief Technology Officer for the institute and heads the Emerging Media Department. Over the past decade and a half, he has been instrumental in the mainstreaming of Film & Creative Arts education in India and the evangelising of multiple emerging technologies into both the mainstream education at Whistling Woods, and into the Film, Communication & Creative Arts industry at large. He has also acquired a strong understanding of the world of Education as well as Film & Creative Arts industries, both in India & globally. He has written several papers & articles about the same & is an active speaker & presenter at key global Media & Entertainment, Technology & Education forums.



## CHITTARANJAN TRIPATHY

Director  
National School Of Drama

Tripathy was born in Chandabali in Odisha. He did his graduation from Ravenshaw College, Cuttack & completed his Master's in Sociology from University of Hyderabad in 1992. Further, he acquired a Diploma in Acting from the prestigious NSD, Delhi in 1996. Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui was his batchmate there. He has done a specialisation course in musical theatre direction from Guildford School of Acting, London under a Charles Wallace India Trust Scholarship.

In 2007, Tripathy came to the ODIA MOVIE INDUSTRY with his film DHAULI EXPRESS, for which he was producer, director, scriptwriter, music director, lyricist and playback singer. The film received three ODISHA STATE FILM AWARDS. He made another movie Mukhyamantri in 2009. Other than this he has made more than 50 plays, including the NSD Rep's premiere production of Taj Mahal Ka Tender (for which he directed as well as wrote lyrics and music).



## DEEPAK AJWANI

Editor  
ET Online

Mr. Deepak Ajwani has played leadership roles across television, print and digital. In his 25 years of career till now, he has been responsible for setting up and leading editorial operations, worked with teams in planning and executing strategy, and driven operational improvement processes across the media businesses.

He led the launch of [www.forbesindia.com](http://www.forbesindia.com) and its iPad edition. He also ran India's largest selling consumer tech magazine Digit. He headed India's first consumer technology website [www.techtree.com](http://www.techtree.com), and was anchor of a Tech show on Business TV channel

He has international work experience in UK and worked with national and international media companies, thereby gaining a valuable understanding of global media business operations.

He has deep domain knowledge in the Tech, Media and Entertainment space. He has also conceived, executed and institutionalised high-impact offline/online properties like the Forbes India Celebrity 100 list, ET Prime Women Leadership Awards, Forbes India Philanthropy Awards, Forbes India Leadership Awards and Forbes India CEO Dialogues.



## DEEPAK DHAR

Founder & Group CEO  
Banijay Asia & Endemol Shine India

Deepak Dhar, pivotal in reshaping India's entertainment scene, started his illustrious career at MTV, moving through significant roles at Star TV, and then on to Endemol India in 2006. Rapidly rising to MD and CEO of Endemol Shine India, he introduced groundbreaking international formats like Big Brother, Fear Factor, and Masterchef to the Indian audience, significantly altering the TV landscape. In December 2017, Dhar launched Banijay Asia with the Banijay Group with an intention to bring some great original stories and scripted IP to India, pushing the boundaries of content across screens, languages, and geographies, continuing to influence global media production with his innovative approach. Recently Dhar announced the launch of CreAsia Studio to expand Banijay in South East Asia.





## DEEPSHIKHA DHARMARAJ

Chief Executive Officer  
BCW India Group and Genesis BCW

With over 29 years of rich and diverse experience in public relations and integrated communications, Deepshikha Dharmaraj is one of the most respected leaders in the industry in India. As the CEO of BCW India Group, she manages the overall business interests of BCW in India and implements its growth strategy encompassing people, clients and partners. BCW India Group currently has three brands Genesis BCW, Six Degrees BCW and GCI Health.

An active leader in India's public relations and public affairs industry initiatives, she is currently the Vice President the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI) and is CAC Member of the Public Relations Consultants Association of India (PRCAI). Passionate about bringing creative ideas and measurement into communications, she has been jury for numerous prestigious award shows, including Cannes PR Lions, SABRE South Asia Awards, PR Week Awards, Campaign PR Awards India amongst others. Mentoring talent is part of her leadership style and she spends time with students of communication across institutes and is on the WPP Stella India Founders Council which oversees the young women leaders mentoring programme at WPP India. She is also founding board member of the India chapter of the Global Women in Public Relations (GWPR).

She lives in Mumbai with her husband Atul Suri and son Sohum and loves spending weekends exploring new coffee shops, reading and keeping the mind and body energized with yoga and meditation.



## **DR. DELNA DHAMODIWALA**

Global Head of HR  
DNEG

A human resource professional who is self-driven, independent, and most importantly, an enabler. Currently, as Global Head of HR at DNEG (a seven-time Oscar-winning studio for Visual Effects) Delna is responsible for the human capital needs of the organisation across multiple divisions and diverse locations.

Her goal is to create an ecosystem that ensures we have the right people, in the right place, with the right skills and mindset - this will allow DNEG to achieve its ambitious corporate goals and business visions.

Being an integral part of DNEG's journey for over 15 years, this has given her the opportunity to contribute to numerous company transformations like mergers, acquisitions & partnerships. Her style involves adopting a collaborative approach with leaders and peers globally, constantly striving to forge productive relationships with the key stakeholders in the business to deliver result-oriented solutions.

She is a firm believer in the power of inclusion and EDI has always been at the forefront of initiatives for her.



## DEVRAJ SANYAL

Chairman & CEO, India & South Asia  
SVP Strategy-Africa, Middle East & Asia  
Universal Music Group

Sanyal has been with UMG for almost 14 years now and runs the label, publishing, brands & music, talent management, live & all allied businesses for the group for the region and is regarded as one of the top A&R men in the Indian music Industry worldwide and is counted in the top music professionals globally in the music business.

Sanyal is focused on turning the Indian music ecosystem into an artist first music & singer songwriter led economy from the traditional film led music that it has been for years through his multiple labels that operate under the “Universal Music Group” umbrella and is leading that charge with the largest Non-Film Music roster in the region across multiple genres of domestic local language pop, hip hop , rock, dance & regional music.

Sanyal is a future forward music professional who is readying to make our music industry count in the top 10 music markets in the world in the very near future and is on the forefront of taking our brand of music global.

He is a regular keynote speaker at the top music, media entertainment conferences across the region and globally. Sanyal was on the jury of “The Midem Artist Accelerator”, the world’s most prominent artist accelerator at Midem, Cannes for all its years. He is the only music & entertainment industry executive to have been awarded the “Indian Institute of Economic Studies prestigious “Udyog Rattan Award” and also made it to the “Top 25 Executives Under 40 running India Inc” by Business Today” along with the Hindustan Times “Top 50 young Stars under 40”.

He is now the only Indian label & publishing executive to make the hallowed Billboard “International Power Players” List for the third consecutive year in a row last year. Sanyal represents his region on all global bodies like the IFPI, ICMP, CISAC & others. Sanyal has been on television as a judge for India’s first ever English talent show #TheStage for all seasons.



## DIWAKAR GANDHI

Co-Founder & Co-CEO, Centre for  
Entertainment Arts, Vancouver

Diwakar Gandhi discovered the world as an international student. After receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of British Columbia, he obtained a master's degree from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Fast forward 15 years and Diwakar has helped thousands of international students discover their own future path. He credits his experience for instilling a passion for the transformative effects of a proper education mixed with the right amount of guided adventure.

“The deep joy and satisfaction I feel when a student lands their first job in the industry is what pushes me to help build an environment that puts the needs of our students first. We know that the only way the CEA (Centre for Entertainment Arts) can be successful is if our graduates are successful in their chosen professions. We have crafted our curriculum in such a manner that the students will experience the right mix of skills-based learning, team assignments and critical review and analysis of their work. They need to understand that the industry is competitive, and to land their dream job they need to work hard from day one through to graduation.



## DEEPI PURKAYASTHA

Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer  
Inshorts

Deepit Purkayastha is the Co-founder of Inshorts and Public app. Deepit, a Computer Science and Engineering graduate from IIT Kharagpur, started building Inshorts right out of college in 2013 along with Azhar Iqbal and Anunay Arunav Pandey. They have recently celebrated their 10 year anniversary.

He is responsible for overseeing Product, Data and Strategy in the company. He has also made it to Forbes Asia '30 Under 30'- Media, Marketing and Advertising list for 2018 and Forbes India '30 Under 30' list for 2016.

Inshorts is India's highest-rated and #1 short news app, with more than 10 million+ active users. Inshorts became operationally profitable within 5 years of starting and is trusted by over 1000+ brands for award-winning marketing campaigns and content partnerships. After the success of the Inshorts App, the company also launched Public app, a hyperlocal social media with an aim to connect the local communities of Bharat and become the one stop solution for all their local needs. Currently, Public App is India's largest platform for hyperlocal content with 50 million+ active users and 2 million+ videos being created every month. Inshorts has raised of from investors including Vy capital, A91 Partners, SIG, Addition, Tiger Global and Tanglin Venture Partners

Innovation is the core of our DNA at Inshorts. Both Inshorts and Public apps were ideated and built to address significant gaps in quality and relevance in the Indian digital information delivery market. While both products were built for India, we believe they are globally scalable use cases with significant international appeal. Inshorts as a company is at an inflection point where our next stage of growth will be much faster and steeper while maintaining our robust profitability profile.



## **DHARNA DURGA**

Content Creator and Influencer

The 23-year-old digital creator started creating videos during the Covid-19 pandemic. With extremely relatable videos about Indian households with a pinch of quirkiness, her content started going viral almost overnight. In a short span of time, Durga has carved a niche for herself, which has helped her get a massive fan following. She now works with multiple brands across sectors, from Amazon and Google to personal care brands like Veet and The Face Shop.



## **FERZAD PALIA**

Business Head  
JioCinema

Ferzad Palia serves as Business Head at Viacom18's flagship digital platform, JioCinema. He is credited with playing a significant role in scaling the platform's Entertainment business to a dominant position. Having donned multiple hats, Ferzad is now responsible for growing JioCinema's Consumer business and platform partnerships in India and international markets.



## **GAUTAM K.M.**

Partner  
Krishnamurthy & Co. (K Law)

Gautam is a Partner based out of the Mumbai office of the firm. He started his career at Krishnamurthy and Co.

He is an experienced legal professional with close to 13 years of working in the broadcast media and technology industry. He has worked in leading media channels, Fortune 500 companies and law firms specialising in media, entertainment, technology and data privacy laws. He comes with vast experience in advising studios, broadcast channels, startups, technology companies, publishers, artists and OTT platforms on varied matters including: (i) commissioning and handling turnkey film and series productions; (ii) acquisition of content from international studios and music labels; (iii) advisory on interactions with bodies and associations such as IFTPC, FWICE, SWA etc.; (iv) advisory on publishing deals, gaming laws, laws surrounding NFTs and contracts in relation to the same; and (v) advisory on compliance with applicable legislations such as the Copyright Act, 1957, Cinematograph Act, 1952, Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, Information Technology Act, 2000 and its allied rules such as the Information Technology (Reasonable security practices and procedures and sensitive personal data or information) Rules, 2011 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

He is an accomplished Tech and Media Lawyer with a rich experience in the TMT space having worked with the biggest technology companies such as Infosys Technologies, Cognizant Technology Solutions and with large media conglomerates such as Fox Star (Now Disney Star) and Sony Pictures.

### **Representative Matters:**

- Represented Infosys as a lead counsel in a negotiation for a deal with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Represented Infosys as a lead counsel for a deal with a government bank in Jakarta.
- Has led the legal negotiations for various acquisitions from leading media houses such as NBC Universal, MGM, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (Oscars and Grammy's).
- Has represented as a lead counsel for various film, television and web series projects including Unpaused 2.0 (a series on Amazon Prime), Chappak, Bhrahmashtra, Scam 1992, Koffee with Karan etc.





## GAZAL DHALIWAL

Screenwriter

Most popular for being the dialogue writer for the unconventional film

Lipstick Under My Burkha (2016), that made waves in the industry, Gazal Dhaliwal is a screenwriter who started off working as a Software Engineer until she quit her job in 2005, to pursue her passion of screenwriting. Initially assisting Govind Nihalani, she wrote the dialogues for Wazir in 2016. After her stint in Wazir, she was associated with Lipstick Under My Burkha. Since then she has acted as a screenwriter Qarib Qarib Single (2017), a short film A Monsoon Date (2018), before doing the screenplay and dialogue for Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga (2019).



## HANDE ERÇEL

Turkish Actress

Hande Erçel is a distinguished actress known for her roles in 'The Daughters of the Sun' (2015), 'Hayat: Love Without Words' (2016), 'Halka' (2019), and 'Another Love' (2023).

Raised in Turkey, Hande pursued her education at the 'Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University.' Discovered for her talents, she made her debut with minor roles in series like 'Calikusu,' 'Tatar Ramazan,' and 'Çilgin Derslane Üniversite.' Her breakthrough came with the leading role of Selin Yilmaz in the youth series 'Günesin Kizlari.' In addition to her acting career, Hande won the title of 'Miss Turkey' in 2012, signaling her early success in the modeling industry. This multifaceted talent has continued to make significant contributions to the entertainment world, with a diverse range of roles in various genres.



## HARIT NAGPAL

Chief Executive Officer  
Tata Play Ltd.

Harit Nagpal joined Tata Play (erstwhile known as Tata Sky) in 2010. Harit's vision of pursuing practical strategies that connect customers to the content of their choice, has made Tata Play the largest content distribution platform in the country.

Understanding the pulse of the consumers, anticipating their needs before them, adaptability to the unforeseen, are some of the things that Harit has instilled deeply into Tata Play's culture. With an agility driven mindset, Tata Play has brought about a paradigm shift with many innovations over the years. Under Harit's leadership, the platform has created a successful business model leading to phenomenal growth. Harit also led the think tank behind the digital innovation – Tata Play Binge. Launched in 2019, Tata Play Binge is a bundled OTT content aggregation platform that brings best of content from leading on-demand apps via one interface with a single sign-in. With over 35 years of experience in operations and strategy, Harit has worked across multiple sectors handling diverse portfolios, including Telecom, Retail and FMCG. He began his career with Lakmé in 1985 and was the Group Marketing Director at Vodafone, prior to joining Tata Play.

Under Harit's leadership, Tata Play has won several awards and accolades for their products, innovations and marketing campaigns. The Company has been recognised as Great Places to Work for five years in a row, along with Kincentric Best Employer, India (2020). Tata Play was recognised as Emerging Industry Leader by the Tata Business Excellence Group (TBExG) in 2020, and was also accorded recognition in the Significant Impact through Improvement Interventions category by TBExM in 2023, for efforts towards automation and digital transformation in Supply Chain Management.



## HIMANSU SEKHAR KHATUA

Director, Satyajit Ray Film and  
Television Institute (SRFTI)

Himansu Khatua was born to Kunjalata Khatua and Rabindra Khatua on 21st December 1965 in Khatuapatna village of Bhadrak district. After getting his primary education from the village school, he completed his secondary education and college studies from different places of Odisha. Later, in 1992 he completed PG Diploma in Cinema with specialisation in Sound Recording and Sound Engineering (SRSE) from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.

Following completion of studies, he started his career in the Hindi film industry for a short span, but soon decided to return to Odisha and do something for his own State.

No one would have imagined that a student who was scolded by his teachers for making silly mistakes while acting in a village school drama, would one day create a niche for himself in the cine world. Yet, this feat has been accomplished by National award-winning film director Himansu Sekhar Khatua.



## IMTIAZ ALI

Film Director

Imtiaz Ali is an Indian film director, actor and writer. In 2005, he made his directorial debut with the film *Socha Na Tha*. His second film *Jab We Met* (2007) brought him success and fame. His 2009 film *Love Aaj Kal* gained much critical success, and was declared a super hit at the box office. His movie *Rockstar* (2011) was also a commercial and critical success. Imtiaz Ali had his origins in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. He was brought up in Patna and Jamshedpur. He had his early education in Patna- D.B.M.S. English school, Jamshedpur, and later attended University of Delhi in Delhi, where he took part in college theater. He started Ibtida the dramatic society of Hindu College. Thereafter he moved to Mumbai and did a diploma course from Xavier Institute of Communication.



## IRINA GHOSE

Managing Director  
Microsoft India

Irina Ghose is the Managing Director of Microsoft India, with the responsibility to engage with industry verticals across Microsoft's solution areas, underscored by artificial intelligence. Irina focuses on driving innovation and digital transformation for customers in India to shape market-making engagements, create new engines of growth and deliver on core business outcomes.

A Microsoft veteran of over two decades, Irina has held a variety of Strategy and Sales leadership roles across Enterprise, Solution Sales, Partner Solutions, and Education segments. In her previous role as the Chief Operating Officer of Microsoft India, she was focused on the end-to-end operations, go-to-market strategies and drove one of the largest world-class sales enablement programs.

She is an Electrical Engineer from IIT BHU and an MBA from XLRI. A proponent of Women in Business and Technology, she is a recipient of the 'Inspirational Women's Award' at Microsoft and 'Distinguished Alumnus Award' from IIT BHU. A marathon runner and a strong champion of Diversity & Inclusion, she is the founder of 'MyLittleBit', a philanthropic foundation, focusing on education and jobs for underprivileged girls. She's actively engaged with 'Microsoft for Startups' and as a Trustee of SonderConnect, a foundation for women entrepreneurs.



## JUAN MANUEL GUIMERÁNS

Secretary general, Spain Film Commission and coordinator of Valladolid Film Commission

Born in Cádiz (Spain) in 1967, currently is CEO of VALLADOLID TURISMO (Public-private partnerships for the Promotion of Tourism of Valladolid-Spain), Coordinator of the Valladolid Film Commission (within "Valladolid City of Film" project of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network), and Secretary general of the Spain Film Commission. LLM by the University of Salamanca (Spain) and Master in Political Sciences and Sociology by UNED (Spain), also holds a Postgraduate studies degree in European and International Law by KU Leuven (Belgium). Permanent member of the Castilla & Leon Regional Administration Civil Service since 1993, regularly collaborates with Universities and Administration Training Centres, in areas a Public Management, Organizational Change, and Smart Cities & Territories (intelligent and sustainable Heritage and Tourism).



## KABEER KATHPALIA

Composer  
Bollywood

Kabeer Kathpalia aka OAFF produces and composes songs that bridge the gap between mainstream Bollywood music and feel-good pop. His 2022 debut Bollywood OST (with co-producer Savera) "Gehraiyaan", broke records across, with a colossal 250M+ streams on the audio album, and 200M+ views across YouTube. He went on to create music for film projects in addition to releasing music independently, with his most recent project 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' receiving all the praise for its music.

He composed the title theme for the Amazon Prime Video's Emmy-nominated show 'Inside Edge' and created an array of immersive audio installations in Asia, Europe and the US.





## **KHUSHBOO SUNDAR**

Indian Politician and Actress  
Bharatiya Janata Party

Khushbu joined the Indian National Congress on 26 November 2014 after meeting with then Congress President Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, and then Vice-president Mr. Rahul Gandhi. She was the National Spokesperson of the INC. Khushbu was very critical of Narendra Modi's policies and has often taken to Twitter to criticise the ruling dispensation.

Khushbu resigned from Congress on 12 October 2020 ahead of the Tamil Nadu General Elections 2021. The congress secretary of Media said that Khushbu was being pressured by her husband Sundar C to join the BJP. Khushbu claimed that her previous party "does not want an intelligent woman" and there is no freedom to speak the truth within the party and called the Congress as "mentally retarded The National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled (NPRD) filed 30 complaints at different police stations in the state over her statements for allegedly making derogatory remarks against people with disabilities.



## KIRAN MANI

Chief Executive Officer  
Viacom 18 Pvt. Ltd.

As the Chief Executive Officer for Digital Ventures at Viacom18, Kiran Mani is leading the charge in transforming JioCinema into India's premier destination for curated content across mobile and Connected TV platforms. Given the dynamic landscape of India's content and entertainment sector, Kiran is excited to unlock its hidden potential and deliver sustainable and scalable value for consumers, advertisers and the creator ecosystem. The proliferation of content and creativity, combined with the widespread adoption of both linear and digital media, presents an array of infinite opportunities.

A qualified accountant and a Chartered Financial Analyst, Kiran holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration. He brings with him decades of experience from the Digital and Technology domains. Prior to joining Viacom18, Kiran served as the General Manager for Google's Android | Play Ecosystems across Asia Pacific and Japan, based in Singapore. In a career spanning over 25 years, Kiran has helped multiple leadership roles at Microsoft and Google, and even bootstrapped a start-up.

Kiran has lived in nine cities across three continents, speaks five languages, and has a love for mountains, motorcycles, and mindfulness. He is a proud father to two adorable girls and believes the worlds of compassion, fun, and serious business should co-exist to create true lasting value.



## KOMAL NAHATA

Film Critic  
Editor of Film Information

Komal Nahata (born 30 April 1964) is an Indian film trade analyst. Nahata is the publisher of "Film Information" and also a television show host. He is an anchor of the trade show ETC Bollywood Business on the Bollywood TV channels ETC and Zee Cinema. He is in the advisory board of Cinema Capital and other top companies. He is the son of film producer Ramraj Nahata.

His interviews are carried by CNBC, STAR, ZEE, B4U, NDTV, ZOOM, and DOORDARSHAN. In May 2007, Shah Rukh Khan and Karan Johar officially launched his weekly film magazine, The Film Street Journal. He runs a YouTube channel, 'Komal Nahata official' on which he gives film reviews.



## **MABELLE SAWAQED**

COO, Centre for Entertainment Arts  
Vancouver

Mabelle Sawaqed is a seasoned expert in international business development and market entry strategies with 15 years dedicated to expanding businesses worldwide. Prior to joining the CEA, Mabelle held the position of Senior Trade Officer (Education) and Regional Education Officer based at the Embassy of Canada in the United Arab Emirates for nine years, as part of Global Affairs Canada. Mabelle's mandate included assisting and supporting Canadian education institutions to enter the UAE and MENA markets, import education services and curricula, and develop meaningful partnerships that can leverage on Canadian capability in education. Prior to her role at the Embassy of Canada, Mabelle worked for a private equity firm as Business Development Manager and led a team of 15 in conducting analysis of new projects and execution of acquisitions. Mabelle currently holds the position of Chief Operating Officer at the Centre of Entertainment Arts.



## **MANDAR NATEKAR**

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
NeuralGarage (VisualDub.ai)

Mandar Natekar has spent over two decades in the Media & Entertainment industry in India and has held leadership roles in large organisations like Viacom18, Times Television Network, Reliance Entertainment & Turner International. Throughout his career he has worked with exciting brands like MTV, where he was responsible for driving revenue across Ad Sales, Consumer Products & Licensing, Digital Sales, and Branded Content. Under his leadership, MTV also launched the world's first independent music channel "Pepsi MTV Indies" in partnership with Pepsi. At Times Television Network, Mandar was a part of the founding team that launched "Movies Now" India's first HD channel, and which changed the game for the entire business. Not only was he able to deliver record breaking revenue for the company, he also set up the path to launch more channels around the core Movies Now Brand.

His exposure to the digital world began with Reliance Entertainment where he was a part of the founding team that launched BigAdda.com, India's first local social network. As CRO & CMO for the brand, Mandar was able to drive landmark brand communication for BigAdda and create multiple revenue streams. The partnership he created with HUL for their brand "Sure" on the social network is amongst the most notable social media partnerships globally. At Turner, he managed the ad revenue for HBO across key markets in India and also held an expat role in Philippines as the country manager for Cartoon Network.

Throughout his two decades plus career, Mandar has always held intrapreneurial roles within the organizations he worked with and was able to create many path breaking business initiatives in the industry and has also been a jury on many key awards and initiatives meant for recognizing great work in the media & entertainment industry. This two decades plus journey eventually led him to his co-founders which set up the keystone for his first entrepreneurial venture.

Mandar has always been excited about creating a pure tech business from India that is globally scalable and is at par with the best tech companies in the world. Making NeuralGarage a global name in the Entertainment industry is his biggest ambition and passion. An avid sportsman, Mandar has represented college, university and the industry in badminton and cricket and is also a trained boxer.



## **DR. MANISH KOTHARI**

President & Managing Director  
ISBR Institutions

Dr. Manish Kothari is a dynamic and visionary leader who has made significant contributions to the field of education in India. He is currently serving as the Managing Director of ISBR Group of Institutions, a premier Institution known for its academic excellence and global outlook. Dr. Kothari is a highly qualified professional with a Ph.D. in Management and a Master's degree in Business Administration from top-tier institutions in India. With over two decades of experience in the education sector, he has transformed ISBR into a leading institution that provides a world-class learning experience to students. Under Dr. Kothari's leadership, ISBR has witnessed remarkable growth in terms of student enrolment, academic programmes, and international collaborations. He has introduced several innovative teaching methods, modernised the learning infrastructure, and forged strategic partnerships with leading universities and institutions around the world.



## **MANOJ MISHRA**

Chief Executive Officer  
Powerkids Entertainment

Manoj Mishra is a seasoned professional with a remarkable record of accomplishments in the media and animation industry, particularly in kids' entertainment. With over 25 years of experience, Manoj has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and a talent for building and expanding creative businesses and diverse teams worldwide. His expertise spans the entire value chain, from IP (intellectual properties) development to monetization through various channels like Digital Media, Broadcast, and OTT platforms.

Having previously served as the Chief Operating Officer of DQ group and held key positions in IP development, co-production, and content acquisition for Al Jazeera children's channel in the Middle East, Manoj has honed his skills as a strategic thinker and visionary leader. Currently, as the CEO and Managing Director of Powerkids Entertainment, he assumes full responsibility for company strategy, team management, partner relations, and achieving favorable financial results.

One of Manoj Mishra's standout accomplishments is his role as an executive producer for well-loved and globally Successful Animated shows, such as "Dragonero," "Jungle Book Season 4," "Robinhood Season 2", "Adventures of Akira and Mowgli," "Super Hercules," "Cuddle Cubbies," "Totally Awesome," "The Psammy Show" and many more in the pipeline. His creative vision and effective leadership have been instrumental in bringing these engaging series to life, captivating audiences, and delivering memorable entertainment experiences.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Manoj has been recognized as an emerging leader in the industry and has received prestigious awards, including "Best Animation Personality of the Year" and "Emerging Leader of the Year." These accolades further solidify his position as an invaluable asset in the media and animation sector, showcasing his exceptional industry knowledge, growth-driving capabilities, and unwavering commitment to excellence.



## **MERZIN TAVARIA**

Co-Founder & President – Global Production & Operations at DNEG

Mr. Merzin Tavaria - Co-founder of Prime Focus and the President, Global Production and Operations for DNEG

Merzin Tavaria, co-founder of Prime Focus and the President, Global Production and Operations for DNEG, brings over 25 years of senior-level experience in the international media and entertainment industry. His visionary leadership and deep industry knowledge have played a pivotal role in shaping the success of both companies. Merzin's leadership at DNEG exemplifies his dedication to pushing boundaries. He played a pivotal role in integrating the Prime Focus and Double Negative teams, forging a unified and successful workforce in India. Moreover, his expertise in building and running successful businesses shone through as he led the seamless integration of creative and technical teams across DNEG's global operations. His keen eye for talent, transcending geographical boundaries, combined with his deep understanding of global creative landscapes, has been instrumental in DNEG's continued success in the international VFX and animation industry.





## **MOHIT SONI**

CEO  
MESC

With over two decades of extensive experience in building start-ups, fundraising, strategic alliances, business development, international collaborations and a range of other areas, Mohit Soni has been instrumental in establishing some of the finest brands we know in the media sector.

Mohit started his career in the media industry as a graphic designer and established his first production studio at the age of 18 years.

Acknowledged as the youngest CEO heading one of the largest Media Training Venture, Mohit is presently spearheading Media & Entertainment Skills Council as a Chief Executive Officer.

Taking forward the vision of our Honorable Prime Minister to make India the Skill Capital of the World, Mohit is working towards developing the national standards for creating skilled workforce matching the global requirements.

Understanding the potential of the media and entertainment industry and its contribution towards the economy, Mohit is dedicated to building a long-term relationship with his partners and always looks to identify and groom potential talent. He also aims to develop international partnerships with other countries to promote the exchange of ideas and knowledge, with the ultimate aim of creating a strong and sustainable industry.



## **MONIKA SHERGILL**

Vice President - Content  
Netflix

As a Vice President, Content at Netflix India, Monika oversees the development, creation, licensing and acquisition of all Indian language content on Netflix. Under her leadership, Netflix has built strong partnerships with the creative community in India and built a distinct and diverse slate across genres and innovative formats. Over the last year and a half, Netflix India has delivered several hit series like Kohrra, Guns and Gulaabs, Khakee - The Bihar Chapter, Delhi Crime Season 2, Rana Naidu, Class, Trial By Fire, and Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives and several blockbuster Original films such as Jaane Jaan, Khufiya, Darlings, Mission Majnu, Monica O My Darling, Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga and the Academy Award-winning The Elephant Whisperers and many more. Driving this growth, Shergill led Netflix India to become the fastest growing for the company amongst all markets with the highest net paid additions in 2022.



## MRINALINI JAIN

Group Chief Development Officer  
Banijay Asia & Endemol Shine India

Mrinalini Jain, in her role as Group Chief Development Officer at Banijay Asia and EndemolShine India, drives strategic content expansion in India, and Asia. Mrinalini's forte lies in her holistic approach to content development—from ideation and packaging to global marketing and execution. Her leadership has been pivotal in opening new business avenues, establishing fresh concepts, and penetrating untapped markets. Her talent for building strategic partnerships, both on and off screen, and her knack for developing universally appealing ideas, underline her significant impact on the global stage of entertainment. Mrin



## MUNJAL B. SHROFF

Director and COO, Graphiti Studios, and Producer  
KTB, Bharat Hain Hum

Munjal is a creator, producer and director with 27 years of experience across the entire spectrum of live-action, animation, gaming and VFX. He co-founded his production company and animation studio, Graphiti in 1995. Over the last two decades he has produced over 500 Brand communication films and TV Commercials. His passion for creating original content and understanding of the business of kid's entertainment has helped to establish his animation studio as a content powerhouse. He has forged partnerships with some of the biggest names in kids entertainment including Netflix, Walt Disney TV, Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon and has also helped to put India on the global map for Original content. He has developed and produced India's first kids live action with 3D animation TV show "J bole toh Jadoo" with Nickelodeon. He brought Indian folk art and folk series to the children not just in India but across the world through his hit children's movie series Krish, Trish and Baltiboy which is on Cartoon Network and Gubbare. He is also the creator of the animated series, YOM for Disney Channel. YOM and Krish, Trish and Baltiboy have been released by Netflix in 150 countries in multiple languages including Hindi, English, Turkish, Polish, Korean and Chinese. His latest creation is the Netflix Original, Deepa and Anoop which has being produced by Mattel TV. It's a music-driven series starring seven-year-old Deepa and her color-changing elephant Anoop as they "help" guests at her family's bed and breakfast with Deepa's incredibly imaginative solutions. The show swept the Kidscreen 2023 Awards with four wins – Best New Show, Best Inclusivity, Best Music and Best Voice Talent. He is the only Asian creator with the rare honor of his show receiving four Kidscreen awards in a year! His latest creation is Krish, Trish and Baltiboy – Bharat Hain Hum, a 52 part series on the unsung heroes of Indian Freedom Struggle which is co-produced with CBC, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The series has the rare distinction of being the first series to release simultaneous globally on Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. In fact within 4 days of the launch it was on the Top 10 Shows in Netflix in India.

His brilliance as a Creative Producer has led him to the prestigious project of creating the official YouTube Channel Yoga with Modi featuring the 3D animated Yoga Video featuring a 3D Avatar of Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

His selfless contribution to the cause of producing original Indian content has won him many accolades and was also honored as the Toon Titan of Asia by Animation Magazine, USA.

He also serves as the Co-Chairman of FICCI AVGC Forum (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics), he is member of FICCI's Media and Entertainment committee and is also an Advisory Board member of Media and Entertainment Skill Council. He recently served on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's Task force on National Animation, VFX, Gaming, Comic and XR Policy.



## **NALIN MEHTA**

Managing Editor  
Moneycontrol

Nalin Mehta is Managing Editor, Moneycontrol and Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. He is an award-winning journalist, political scientist and author who has held senior leadership positions in major Indian media companies as well as educational institutions; served as an international civil servant with the UN and international financing institutions like the Global Fund in Geneva, Switzerland; taught and held research positions at universities and institutions in Australia (ANU, La Trobe University), Singapore (NUS), Switzerland (International Olympic Museum) and India (Shiv Nadar University, IIM Bangalore).

He has previously served as Group Consulting Editor, Network18; Executive Editor, The Times of India-Online; Managing Editor, India Today (English TV channel) and Consulting Editor, The Times of India.

Mehta is the author of several best-selling and critically acclaimed books, including *The New BJP: Modi and the Making of the World's Largest Political Party*, which remained No. 1 on Amazon's bestseller lists for 26 consecutive weeks in 2022. His other books include *India on Television* (Asian Publishing Award for Best Book on Asian Media, 2009), *Behind a Billion Screens* (Longlisted as Business Book of the Year, Tata Literature Live, 2015), and *Dreams of a Billion* (winner of the 2022 Ekamra Sports Book of the Year Award), co-authored. His latest book, *India's Techade: Digital Revolution and Change in the World's Largest Democracy*, is receiving rave reviews.



## NAMAN RAMACHANDRAN

International Correspondent  
Variety

Naman Ramachandran is a film trade journalist who covers the international beat for Variety, specialising in South and Southeast Asia. His work as an author includes Rajinikanth: The Definitive Biography (Penguin), Lights, Camera, Masala: Making Movies In Mumbai (IBH) and chapters in Rough Guide To Film (Rough Guides), Movies: From The Silent Classics Of The Silver Screen To The Digital and 3D Era (Universe) and Movie Star Chronicles: A Visual History of 320 of the World's Greatest Movie Stars (Peregrine). He is a voting member of the BAFTA, Golden Globes and London Critics' Circle.



## NIKHIL PAHWA

Journalist and Founder  
Media Nama

Nikhil Pahwa is an entrepreneur, journalist and activist. He is the Founder and Editor of MediaNama, a leading publication chronicling the evolution of digital policy in India, and an advisor to Saka Ventures, which invests in early stage Indian startups building for the world. Nikhil is also on the advisory board of the CyberBRICS project. He started the SaveTheInternet.in campaign for Net Neutrality in India, and co-founded the Internet Freedom Foundation.

Nikhil is a TED Fellow, an Asia21 Fellow and was named one of India Today Magazine's "Indians of Tomorrow". He has been profiled in Forbes, Wired and GQ. He gave a TED Talk in 2016, and spoke at the EU's Cyber Direct forum in 2019. At TED, he has conducted Discovery sessions on "How to build a movement". Nikhil has given talks at Harvard, Oxford, Columbia, Stanford, IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Kanpur, TISS Mumbai, among several other prestigious universities.



## DR. NIMISH RUSTAGI

Additional Director General  
Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC)

Nimish Rustagi is the Deputy Press Secretary to the President of India, New Delhi, India. He holds a PhD in marketing from HEC Paris whose work brings together a combination of academic research and managerial experience. His research interests are Consumer Behavior, Self-identity and Consumption, Compensatory Consumption, Materialism and Well-Being, and Social Media.





## **NIRAJ RUPAREL**

Emerging Tech Lead  
WPP India

Niraj Ruparel is a seasoned professional renowned for his expertise in Generative AI, Metaverse Marketing, Mobile Marketing, Voice Marketing, XR Marketing, consumer platforms, brand communications, and marketing analytics.

With a distinguished tenure as the Emerging Tech Lead for WPP and as Head of Mobile & Emerging Tech at GroupM in India, Niraj has played a pivotal role in spearheading the development of innovative creative technology solutions for both agencies and clients within the Indian market.

Niraj is widely regarded as a leading authority on AI, voice tech, mobile, and digital platforms, with a track record of garnering industry accolades, including prestigious awards such as FOMG, WARC, Cannes, and I-com Data Creativity Awards. His exceptional contributions have earned him personal recognition, including the inaugural WPP Ignite awards, inclusion in Campaign Asia's Top 40 Rising Talent list, and acknowledgment as a top digital marketing leader in 2022 by CMO Asia. Notably, he was recently honored for his significant contributions to the Metaverse & AI industry at IAA TechPlus.

Niraj Ruparel stands as a visionary figure shaping the landscape of digital marketing. Beyond his professional pursuits, he is an avid fitness enthusiast, hula hooper, and dedicated father.



## **NISHANT DALVI**

Founders  
Feltiv Technologies

Nishant Dalvi is an accomplished Product Manager with eight years of expertise in building cutting-edge technology platforms. As a key member of Feltiv's team, he brings a wealth of experience in product development and strategic planning. Nishant's proficiency lies in conceptualizing and executing innovative solutions that meet the evolving needs of clients in the localization industry. With a keen eye for detail and a passion for user-centric design, he has played a pivotal role in driving Feltiv's product roadmap forward. His collaborative leadership style and commitment to excellence make him an invaluable asset in delivering impactful solutions that drive business growth and client satisfaction.



## **PALAK MUCHHAL**

Renowned Singer

Palak Muchhal is a well acclaimed National Award winning playback singer and philanthropist who has achieved what very few people would have perhaps achieved at such a young age. She has made her mark as a Playback singer in Bollywood by churning back-to-back hits like Prem Ratan Dhan Payo, Aashiqui 2, Kaun Tujhe yun pyar Karega from MS Dhoni, Gabbar is back, Toilet Ek Prem Katha, Ek Tha Tiger, Kick, Baaghi2, Bahubali, Jai Ho, Gadar2 and the list is endless.

With every song she sings, every time she performs many lives are saved. She is a true humanitarian who has performed across India and abroad to raise funds for needy children who could not afford heart surgeries. So far, she has provided financial aid to treat 2976 kids and there are about 400 youngsters on her waiting list needing treatment. It's Palak's mission of life now to save lives!!!

Palak's achievements haven't gone unnoticed. School books in India have included a story on her immense efforts. Palak's story has been included in the text books of Maharashtra and CBSE board, Even the Government of India has lauded her efforts and her by honouring her the National Child Award, in the year 2001, her achievements have made it to the Guinness World Records and Limca Book of World Record.



## PARAS SHARMA

Director of Global Partnerships  
Meta India

Paras leads content partnerships for Meta in India for Media Publishers and Creators including Public Figures, Athletes, and emerging creators across different genres such as Entertainment, Sports, Music, News, Social & Community among others. He has over two decades of experience in diverse disciplines of media, including Content, Creative, Programming, Marketing & Communications, Platforms (pay-tv, FTA, OTT, Telcos), and Digital Media across multiple genres & demographics.

Before his current role at Meta, he was the Senior Vice President & General Manager (SEA) and Head of Digital Media for Asia, for Viacom Media Networks. Before that, he was the Vice President at Fox International Channels (FIC), where he was leading FOX SPORTS' marketing, communication & digital media. He's also held senior roles at ESPN Star Sports, and McCann.



## **PARTH SHAH**

Creative Supervisor, Virtual Production  
DNEG

Mr, Parth Shah is a Creative Supervisor - Virtual Production at DNEG, a seven-time Oscar-winning studio known for its commendable work in the VFX industry. He is also a Board Member of the Visual Effects Society India Chapter, a prestigious global organisation that honors and advances the art and science of visual effects. With over 9 years of experience in the industry, Parth has a passionate understanding of the latest technologies and techniques in virtual production, such as In-Camera VFX, Simulcam, Performance Capture, Photogrammetry, Virtual Scouting, and Visualization. Parth has been instrumental in setting up and supervising innovative virtual production studios and projects in India, such as the Green Rain x Netflix Innovation Lab, Centroid India's Mumbai studio, and India's first LED Volume. He has worked across film, game, and television sectors and has an impressive list of credits, including Yu Yu Hakusho, RRR, Kaala Paani, Archies, Indian 2, Dream Cricket 2024 and many more. Parth was also awarded 40 under 40 in the Indian AVGC Sector by Animation Xpress, a leading media platform for the animation, gaming, and comics industry. Parth's mission is to create and deliver immersive and engaging visual stories that inspire and entertain audiences worldwide.



## PAVAN R CHAWLA

Founder, Mediabrief and Senior Advisor  
Adfactors PR

Pavan R Chawla is an award-winning expert and thought leader in Media, Content, Marketing, Strategic Communications and more.

A jury-member and speaker at, and supporter of, several prestigious industry events and associations, Mr Chawla has worked with category-leading entities like Bennett Coleman, ZEEL, Sony Entertainment Television, MAX, and Adfactors PR, and is Founder-Editor of respected Industry website [WWW.MEDIABRIEF.COM](http://WWW.MEDIABRIEF.COM).

He is an expert on content across all formats, was responsible for some of Hindi GEC's biggest shows on Indian Television (CID, Aahat and Helena on SET); helped launch the mega OTT Platform Hotstar, the Headend In The Sky (HITS) platform NxtDigital for the prestigious Hinduja conglomerate, India's first and biggest Chat it platform CoRover, and the streaming platforms' precursor in India, Spuul, amongst several others. The podcasts that he produced for the world's largest medical association, the Indian Medical Association (IMA), back in 2019, won the first of the prestigious Sabre 2 Tech awards in Singapore for the use of podcasts for strategic comms in India.

Mr Chawla also hosts the reputed and award-winning Podcast series MVP - The Master's Voice Podcast, and Mediacast, both published by Mediabrief.

He was also Dean of the DY Patil-Whistling Woods School of Film, Media & Communication in Pune, and teaches and mentors students at several institutes of professional training.



## PETER WALSH

The Centre for Entertainment Arts (CEA)  
Co-CEO & Co-Founder

Peter Walsh is the co-founder and co-CEO of the Centre for Entertainment Arts (CEA), a global leader in developing and managing world-class educational programs for the film, visual effects, animation, and game industries. With over a decade of experience in the entertainment industry, Peter has worked on notable titles such as Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Crackdown, and Medal of Honor. He is also the author of several books on real-time rendering and game development. Peter's international background, having lived in Europe, the Middle East, and North America, allows him to leverage his deep industry knowledge and extensive understanding of the education ecosystem to bring CEA's exceptional educational products to new partners worldwide, facilitating the delivery of skilled graduates to the rapidly growing industry.



## PROF. PIYUSH ROY

Founding Dean, School of Film, Media and Creative Arts, RV University Bengaluru

He is an author of two textbooks on cinema taught as prescribed syllabus in world cinema curriculum in many global universities - Appreciating Melodrama (Bloomsbury Global) and Bollywood FAQ (Applause, USA)

He is a curated Europe's largest India-themed festival from 2016-17, the Edinburgh Festival of Indian Films and Documentaries and currently curating India's largest student filmmakers focussed festival, the Teen Indie Film Awards, Bangalore. Been Editor of Stardust and StarWeek, wrote film columns in The Speaking Tree, Orissa Post and The Hindu for over 10 years in cumulative.

He is also a National Film Award Winner in the category of Best Film Critic and was special invitee at the 70th Indian Independence Day celebrations hosted by Queen Elizabeth II in Buckingham Palace, UK, featuring eminent Indians from the world of arts, media, culture, sports and education.





## **PRAVIN ANAND**

Managing Partner  
Anand and Anand

Pravin Anand is the Managing Partner and Head of Litigation at Anand and Anand.

Awarded the AIPPI Award of Merit, INTA's President's Award and recognised as the "Most Innovative Lawyer" for the Asia Pacific Region by Financial Times, Pravin has an experience of appearing in over 2500 cases in over 42 years of his practice as an IP lawyer.

Some of the landmarks in his career include Patent lawsuits that transformed pharmaceutical and biotechnology enforcement regime in India including Merck Vs. Glenmark; Roche Vs. Cipla; the Monsanto case; and a large number of other suits on behalf of Pfizer, BMS, AstraZeneca, etc.

He also has to his credit India's first Anti-anti-suit injunction order (InterDigital v Xiaomi); Software Patent law suit conferring protection (Ferid Allani case); Multi-year, Multi-technology Patent Cross-license Agreement between Nokia and Lenovo, and settlement of all pending patent litigation worldwide, development of damages culture in large number of cases that recognized not only punitive, but compensatory, exemplary and aggravated damages (Philips Vs. AmazeStore); India's first post-trial SEP judgment (Philips Vs. Bhagirathi); development of unique remedies such as the "Tree Planting Order" (Merck case); and order benefitting adolescent girls (Hermes case)



## PREETI VYAS

Chief Executive Officer and President  
Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd.

Preeti Vyas is the President, CEO and Chief Storyteller of Amar Chitra Katha Private Limited, publishers of the iconic Amar Chitra Katha comics and Tinkle magazine. She is also the Founder of FunOKPlease Publishing that creates contemporary Indian content for children. Through her 29-year-long career, she has been a retailer, publisher, marketer, editor, author and entrepreneur. Preeti is also a jury member of the Advertising standards Council of India and Governing member of the Media Entertainment Skills Council of India. Preeti believes passionately in the power of children's content to shape the future of India and the world.



## PERNA SINGH

Chief Executive Officer  
 Bhansali Productions

Perna Singh, a distinguished and accomplished professional in the Media & Entertainment industry, currently holds the position of Chief Executive Officer at Bhansali Productions. With over two decades of extensive experience, Perna has made significant contributions to the industry and established herself as a prominent figure in the field.

### Professional Journey:

Perna Singh's illustrious career journey has been marked by leadership roles at several renowned studios before assuming her role as CEO at Bhansali Productions. She has held pivotal positions at Eros International, Balaji Motion Pictures, Reliance Entertainment and at Zee Group Advertising Agency. These experiences have honed her expertise in various aspects of the industry, positioning her as a multifaceted professional with a deep understanding of media and entertainment operations.

### Key Responsibilities at Bhansali Productions:

In her current role as CEO at Bhansali Productions, Perna Singh plays a pivotal role in overseeing and guiding the organization's strategic vision and operational excellence. Her responsibilities encompass a wide range of critical functions, including content development and production, revenue generation, strategy planning, business growth and expansion, licensing, marketing, finance, legal compliance, policy formulation and implementation, corporate governance, and effective stakeholder and team management.

### Achievements:

Throughout her career, Perna has been instrumental in driving the success of her respective organizations. Under her leadership, Bhansali Productions has expanded its reach and influence in the Media & Entertainment sector, contributing to the company's growth and accomplishments.

### Expertise:

Perna's comprehensive knowledge and proficiency across diverse areas of the industry make her an invaluable asset to Bhansali Productions. Her ability to formulate and execute strategic plans, facilitate cross-functional collaboration, and navigate the intricacies of the Media & Entertainment landscape positions her as a respected industry leader.



## RABINDRA NARAYAN

MD and President  
PTC Network

Rabindra Narayan, the MD & President of PTC Network, is hailed as the Father of Punjabi Satellite Television, credited with globalizing Gurbani and launching the world's first Punjabi satellite channel. With a diverse background, Narayan studied English literature at Delhi University and earned diplomas in Journalism and Marketing. His journey includes a prominent stint in theatre, journalism, and film criticism, along with directing specialized documentaries.

A creative powerhouse, Narayan's ideas come to life through engaging content, making him a leader in Punjabi television. Notable among his achievements is "Aazadi De Taraaney," the first Punjabi multimedia stage show, marking 50 years of Indian Independence. Establishing ETC Punjabi in the late 90s, Narayan spearheaded PTC Network's rise, boasting seven flagship channels dominating Punjabi television globally.

Under Narayan's leadership, PTC Network expanded worldwide, introducing groundbreaking innovations like the world's first Virtual Reality 360-degree Live Telecast Service of Gurbani from Sri Darbar Sahib. PTC Network also owns a record label, movie production, and distribution company, producing an original one-hour feature film weekly.

Narayan's unwavering dedication has earned him numerous accolades, including the 'Delhi State Punjabi Media Award' in 2003 and the 'Jewel of Punjab' honor from former Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh. Recognized as one of Asia One India's Greatest Leaders 2019-20, Narayan's efforts have sparked socio-economic change in Punjab, offering employment and exposure to aspiring talent.



## RAGHAV ANAND

Partner  
Ernst and Young

Raghav is the Partner and Segment Leader for New Media and Convergence sector for AIM (Africa, India & Middle East) at EY. With over 20 years of experience across media & entertainment, telecom & digital media, he has engaged with a majority of the top 100 Media and Entertainment companies globally. Raghav has provided consulting support to 20+ Fortune 500 clients, driving transformative changes and recommending growth and sustainable monetization strategies. He has spearheaded numerous prestigious M&E projects in India, MENA, and LATAM regions.

Beyond M&E, Raghav has provided valuable advice to clients spanning various sectors, including telecom, digital & media infrastructure, health, retail, automobile, banking, sports, education, and more. He has authored several articles on the Indian Media sector and released white papers on broadcasting transformation in NAB, Gaming, and Digital media segments. He was also the Session Chairperson at the Arabia Film Summit at Dubai, Panel Chair at NASSCOM Animation & Gaming and key speaker at FICCI & NASSCOM conferences.



## **RAHUL VATTS**

Chief Policy Officer (India and South Asia)  
Bharti Airtel

Rahul Vatts is Chief Regulatory Officer (India & South Asia), Bharti Airtel. He is also Director – OneWeb India and Vice Chairman of Indian Space Association (ISpA). He is also Director in Bharti Hexacom Limited, Indo Telexport Limited & Mobipro, which runs the India mobile Congress.

A telecom industry veteran with over 28 years of experience with leading corporations, Rahul is an expert on Telecom Licensing, Economic Regulations, Spectrum Management and Regulatory Litigation. He has actively shaped public policy discussion in emerging areas such as data privacy, M2M & IoT and content self-regulation.

Rahul's domain expertise has been extensively used in global forums by OneWeb UK, Axiata in Malaysia, Indosat in Indonesia, and Dialog in Sri Lanka.

Rahul did his Engineering in Telecommunications from University of Pune and is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad and The Wharton School, Pennsylvania. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Cellular operators Association of India (COAI) for more than a Decade and also a member of GSM Global Policy group and spectrum Management group besides being a Governing Council member of various Telecom standardization bodies in India.



## DR. RAJ SINGH

Vice Chancellor  
Jain SoDMCA (Deemed-to-be University)

Dr. Raj Singh is currently the Vice Chancellor of JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) Bangalore. With over 42 years of experience including 29 years in education and 13 years as Vice Chancellor, he has headed prestigious Universities including Amity University–Jaipur, GD Goenka University–Gurgaon. Earlier he was the Pro-Vice Chancellor at Amity University NOIDA, Director General of the prestigious Amity Business School and Head of ICFAI Business School (IBS) New Delhi from inception in 1995. He has been an advisor to many Universities and served the Indian Air Force from 1981-1994.

A passionate teacher, researcher, consultant, trainer, astute academic administrator, speaker and education entrepreneur, Dr. Singh has done his Masters in Economics and CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) and PhD in Strategic Finance. Known for his oratory skills and innovative approach to Higher Education, he is a TEDx speaker!



## **RAJIV CHILAKA**

Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Green Gold Animation

An alumni of the Academy of Art, San Francisco, USA, Mr. Rajiv Chilaka's entrepreneurial journey started with a vision of creating an animation studio at par with the best in the world. This took shape with the establishment of Green Gold Animation in 2004. In an industry still in its nascent stages, his journey was punctuated with more challenges than opportunities. Braving the odds, he created and brought India's most loved and iconic character, Chhota Bheem, to life.

Today, as the CEO of the Green Gold Group, he leads a team of over 1400 artists who have produced over 12 shows, 1000 episodes, 100+ TV movies and 6 Feature films in the last decade itself. Green Gold Group's footprint spans across television, movies, digital and L&M reaching an audience of over 100 million kids and 190 countries globally. It also owns and licenses India's biggest children's IP with over 100 brands across multiple categories.

Under his leadership, Green Gold Animation has won many accolades and achieved many a milestone, the most recent being the creator of India's first Netflix original animation series, Mighty Little Bheem. A global success, Mighty Little Bheem is a testament to the spirit of creation that drives Rajiv and the Green Gold Group.

Driven by Rajiv's profound love for films, Green Gold has embarked on an exciting journey into the production of live-action films. Presently, Green Gold is proudly involved in the production of two South Indian and one PAN India movie under the banner name as Chilaka Productions.

Further more, in 2021, Green Gold has started its VFX journey aiming to pioneer new realms of creativity & innovation in the world of visual effects, leaving its mark on over a dozen films in South India and PAN India.





## **RAMAN KALRA**

VP & Senior Partner  
Communications Sector Lead &  
Sustainability Consulting Lead

Professional & an entrepreneur at heart with over 30 years of experience in Industry & Consulting, Raman has a strong track record in conceptualizing, growing and managing businesses. Working closely as trusted advisor to CxOs, Raman has led business growth with digital transformation & innovation across industries bringing together business strategy, consumer experience & various emerging technologies like Cloud, IoT, AI/ML.

Presently Raman is Senior Partner & Vice President with IBM Consulting & leads IBM India's business across Telecom, Media, Sports, Energy & Utilities Industries. Passionate about energy transition, sustainability and net zero solutions, Raman also leads IBM's portfolio for Sustainability Consulting services across sectors.

Prior to this, Raman had also been a Senior Partner with PwC Consulting and advised leading companies across Telecom, Media, Sports and consumer industries for business growth strategies.

Raman is also an investor/advisor to various start-ups across media, climate-tech and health space & also, has been a frequent speaker of various topics in different forums and academia.



## RANI MUKERJI

Indian Actress

Rani Mukerji is an Indian movie superstar and a global icon amongst Indians and South Asians across the world. Rani is synonymous with memorable female leads in Indian cinema and is widely credited for her enormous contribution towards changing the representation of women in films, thereby projecting them as strong, independent and self-reliant. Often titled as the Queen of Hearts by popular media, Rani is a movie star with a huge theatrical fan following - the only barometer to measure star value in a post-pandemic world. Rani has won over 50 acting awards and has been nominated a staggering 85 times throughout her illustrious career, making her one of the most respected and idolized actors in the Indian Film Industry. She is the first actress to have ever won both the Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress trophies in a single year (2004). In 2023, Rani scored again theatrically with Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway, a true story that saw her as a mother who takes on a country to win back her kids and delivered a gut-wrenching performance. It was the first content film post-pandemic to achieve commercial success theatrically and to break the myth that content films have no takers at the box office in the post-pandemic world. Rani Mukerji once again proved that she is adored by generations across and has a genuine fanbase that celebrates her.



## **RAVI GANDHI**

President  
Reliance Retail and Reliance Jio

Expert in Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs with a demonstrated career history in the telecommunications industry. Skilled in Business Management, Strategic Planning, Cross-functional Team Leadership and Management.



## **RICHA CHADHA**

Actress

Richa Chadha is an actress who is par excellence, each time the powerhouse of talent comes on screen, she manages to impress her audiences and critics alike. Having etched some of the most memorable on screen characters we have seen on screen in the past decade, Richa Chadha paved her way to success on her own terms. Best known for her roles such as Bholi Punjaban in *Fukrey* and *Fukrey Returns*, Nagma Khatoon in *Gangs of Wasseypur 1 and 2*, Devi in *Masaan*, Zarina Malik from *Inside Edge*, Madhuri from *Love Sonia*, Hiral from *Section 375* and Menu from *Panga*.

Having not only won the praises of millions, Richa has managed to be conferred and honoured with some of the biggest awards and honours. She is currently working on a slate of exciting projects including the much awaited Sanjay Leela Bhansali's magnum opus, *Heeramandi* for Netflix, Zee Studios' next inspired by the real life stories of the second wave of covid in India.

Richa recently also announced the launch of her production house, with Ali Fazal, Pushing Buttons Studio. And their maiden project, *Girls Will Be Girls* directed by Shuchi Talati made its world premiere at Sundance winning two major awards.



## RISHI NEGI

Group Chief Operating Officer  
 Banijay Asia & Endemol Shine India.

Group Chief Operating Officer of Banijay Asia and Endemol Shine India, With a keen eye for disruptive ideas that are saleable, scalable, and profitable. He believes in delivering solid entertainment across broadcasting and streaming platforms continually. Being both a thinker and an inventor, he expertly navigates the crucial domains of production, operations, and commercials to generate profitable revenue streams in both scripted and unscripted formats. He has managed the most exciting and popular programming content which are now one of the biggest unscripted reality shows like Big Boss, Khatron Ke Khiladi, Fear Factor, and Masterchef India. Prior to joining Banijay Asia, he held key positions in corporate behemoths such as Emerald Asia Media, Fame India Limited, Pizzeria Restaurants, and the Taj Group of Hotels, where he established a name for himself as a master of result-oriented growth strategist.



## ROHIT JUGRAJ

Director & Producer  
 (Known for Chamak, Sardarji)

Rohit Jugraj is a known figure in Indian cinema, carving a dynamic presence as a versatile writer and director in both Punjabi and Bollywood film industries. In addition to his career as a filmmaker, he is also a qualified MBBS doctor. Renowned for his multifaceted talents, Jugraj has seamlessly nHis journey in the industry began as an assistant director to luminaries such as Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Ram Gopal Varma. Chauhan made his Hindi cinema directorial debut with the film "James" and SUPERSTAR Venturing into Punjabi cinema, he crafted cinematic gems like "Jatt James Bond", "and "SARDARJI 1 ". And then SARDARJI 2 , and then there was no looking back . The Genius Filmmaker is supposed to have launched singer - actor and punjabi star, DILJIT DOSANJH into SUPER STARDOM with these films. After this both Rohit and Diljit prepared Diljit's entry for BOLLYWOOD and that paved the way for Udda Punjab.



## ROHIT PANDHARKAR

Partner  
Ernst and Young

Rohit Pandharkar is a Partner in Technology Consulting at EY. He has 13+ years of experience focused on Data Science AI and Machine Learning in multiple sectors like Ecommerce, Banking and Finance, Insurance, Asset Management, Manufacturing, Logistics, Travel and Hospitality, Real estate and Telecom. He has a Masters Degree from MIT Media Lab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA and has published several international peer reviewed publications in the areas of Machine Learning, Cryptography, Computer Vision and Signal Processing. Filed several US patents in the areas of computing and algorithms. Worked prior as the Group Head of Data Science at Mahindra Group, and then as the Global Head of Data science and AI at OLX Autos, a global e-commerce platform for auto sales. Recently before joining EY, he was the Head of Data at Circles.Life Singapore, an asian telecom SaaS company funded by Sequoia and Warberg Pincus and was based out of Singapore.



## RUCHIKAA KAPOOR SHEIKH

Director  
Original Films - India

Ruchikaa is the Director, Netflix Originals at Netflix India. She has been the creative force behind various films at Netflix India including Kathal, Kho Gaye Hum Kahan and Jaane Jaan. Prior to this, she has been associated with Balaji Motion Pictures. Ruchikaa has also been a producer, known for various films including Uda Punjab, Ek Villain Returns and Ek Villain.





## **DR. S. N. SRIDHARA**

Vice Chancellor, Hindustan Institute of Technological Science (HITS)  
Deemed to be University

**Education:** Ph.D, and Masters in Aerospace Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering from Bangalore University.

**Research interest:** Fluid Dynamics, Heat Transfer, Thermodynamics, Turbomachinery, Automotive Power trains, Hybrid Electric Vehicle, Computational Fluid Dynamics

**Work experience:** Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Professor, Dean, Principal, Director, Executive Council Member of University. A Total of 32 years of service in Teaching including 20 years of research and 13 years of administration. The work administration included setting academic standards and procedures, mentoring fellow colleagues, development of curriculum, student admission and other administrative works. Served as member and chairman of several boards at University and engineering colleges.

**Academic Excellence:** Guided 8 PhD Scholars, supervised 25 theses at PG and 60 theses at UG level, Reviewer of international Journal, 'Energy', 'Energy Reports' and 'Journal of Applied Fluid Mechanics'

**Publications:** 2 text books, more than 150 journal and conference publications

**Professional Body membership:** Indian Society of Technical Education, Institute of Engineers (India), Combustion Institute (India), Aeronautical Society of India, Institute of Engineers (India), Member of Research and Innovation Committee (RIC) and Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) of Association of the Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP).

**Professional training delivered:** to many corporate such as GM, GE, M & M, BOSCH, Tata Motors, Schneider Electric, etc and DRDO, in various topics such as Automotive Power Train, Thermal Engineering, Heat Transfer Solutions, CFD, Fluid Flow through turbomachines, etc. Delivered training to many institutes on OBE, Bloom's and Accreditation (NBA, NAAC)

**Awards:** Best Engineering College Principal at National and State Level, honoured by Indian Society for Technical Education, & Visvesvaraya Technological University respectively and Vocational Excellence award by Rotary International. Life Time Achievement Awards accorded by UNISEC (India), Indian Technology Congress and Committee for Space Programme Development (CSPD), Serbia, 'Vice Chancellor of the Year-2022', awarded during 2nd HE Innovation and Technology Summit, Life-Time Achievement: Eminent Engineer Award from Institute of Engineers, Karnataka Section during the celebration of 56th Engineer's Day in 2023.



## **SABRINA DARYANANI**

Head of APAC & Principal  
FT Strategies

Sabrina heads up APAC for FT Strategies, the consultancy from the Financial Times. She has over 12 years in digital transformation and strategic guidance across different industries such as media, e-commerce and financial services. Prior to joining FT Strategies, she worked in global roles for publishers such as The Economist, Condé Nast and The Wall Street Journal, driving revenue growth through improved customer experience, retention strategies and audience insight.



## SAJITH SIVANANDAN

Head  
Disney + Hotstar

As the head of Disney+ Hotstar, he drives India's overall strategy, growth, revenue and product operations. He is also responsible for developing the streaming services' strategic business goals and outlining a sustained and exponential development roadmap. Collaborating closely with the Disney+ team across the United States, APAC and EMEA regions, he supports the continued expansion of Disney+ Hotstar, making it India's most extensive streaming service.

He began his career at Star T.V., followed by successful stints at The Gallup Organization and Affle, based in Singapore. He then went on to join Google, where he strongly contributed to growing Google's presence by building its Malaysian operations from the ground up. He eventually ran and managed their operations across Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and emerging countries. After a 20-year stint in Southeast Asia, he returned home to India and was instrumental in expanding the Google Pay business before joining Disney+ Hotstar in 2022

An athlete at heart, he represented Singapore in cricket as well. He holds a B.A. (Hons) in History from Hindu College, Delhi University, an MBA from Fore School of Management, New Delhi and another MBA (with distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management, Manila, Philippines.



## SANJEEV DAS

Founders  
Feltiv Technologies

Sanjeev Das comes with an experience of over 26 years of in media localisation industry, and is the founder of FELTIV. His experience comes from the era of magnetic tapes to DOS, and now to the era of cognitive & generative AI. With a proven track record of delivering high-quality localization services, Sanjeev possesses a deep understanding of international markets and cultural nuances. His strategic vision and hands-on approach is propelling Feltiv to become a trusted partner for businesses seeking to expand their reach and connect with diverse audiences worldwide.



## **SANYUKTHA CHAWLA**

Founder, Mediabrief and Senior Advisor  
Adfactors PR

A screenplay and dialogue writer Sanyukta Shaikh Chawla, in fact, started her career as an assistant director in 2004 with the Rani Mukerji and Saif Ali Khan-starrer Hum Tum. Making her debut as a writer, she was associated with the Jimmy Sheirgill and Neha Dhupia-starrer Delhi Heights in 2007. Since then, she has had movies like Love Breakups Zindagi, Jodi Breakers, Neerja, and Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran to her credit.



## SAUGATA MUKHERJEE

Head of Content  
Sony LIV, Sony Pictures Network India

Saugata Mukherjee is the Head of Content for SonyLIV, the digital business of Sony Pictures Networks. He was previously the Head of Content at HBO Max, India and was instrumental in setting up and producing the first originals slate for Disney + Hotstar. Before Hotstar he worked as Senior Vice President and Editor at the Content Studio of Star India (now Disney India) networks. Saugata also spent several years in publishing - he was the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief at Pan Macmillan and Picador India and Managing Editor at HarperCollins India.



## SAURABH GUPTA

Director, Screenwriter  
(Dialogue Writer of Animal)

Saurabh Gupta is a writer and director based in Mumbai. He has worked across a range of media since 2000. He was the Founder and CEO of Phonethics, a digital content company working at the intersection of technology and the creative, for 12 years before returning to film-making in 2017. He has Written and Directed Ctrl+Alt+Del (2005) & Gulabi Lens (2019). Most recently he wrote the dialogues of the hindi film 'Animal'.



## SAURABH VARMA

CCO

Content Engineers and Film Director

With 25 years of experience in the Filmed Entertainment industry, Saurabh Varma, a director, writer, script doctor, and acclaimed marketer, has successfully navigated various roles within the Film and entertainment sector. He has made significant contributions to the marketing and production of over 950 films across almost all Indian languages. Remarkably, he may very well be the only Indian Film Industry professional to have worked extensively in both the Commercial and Creative aspects of Films, OTT platforms, Theatrical Distribution, TV, Music Videos, Ad Films, Marketing, and Strategic Planning.

Saurabh has not only directed, written, and edited several films but has also played a key role in the creation of upcoming web series like "Tiwari," featuring Urmila Matondkar, and 'Mickey Virus.' His profound knowledge and expertise in all facets of film marketing have earned him the prestigious Philip Kotler Award. Saurabh has had direct or indirect collaborations with nearly all major Studios and Production Houses in India.

Notably, his short film 'Girl in Red' has amassed an impressive 18 million views on YouTube. Currently serving as the Chief Creative Officer and Filmmaker at Content Engineers, Saurabh Varma has previously held positions at CMO, Reliance Jio Studios, INOX, Reliance Entertainment, and PVR Cinemas.





## SHALINI GOVIL PAI

Vice President and General Manager  
TV Platforms, Google

Shalini Govil-Pai is the VP and GM of TV Platforms at Google overseeing product, design and engineering teams for Android TV OS and Google TV.

Earlier, Shalini was the senior director for technology solutions at YouTube, where she led the distribution strategy for media creators - growing this cohort to have a billion monthly active users up 10X during her tenure. Shalini was technical director at Pixar, launching the blockbuster films: Toy Story and A Bug's Life, and worked with clients including Levi's, Chips Ahoy and Listerine on award winning commercials.

Shalini is an industry thought leader and a frequent speaker on digital transformation. She was the keynote speaker at Google's annual hardware event, IBC 2019 and at CES 2021. She was featured on NextTVs executive watchlist, Forbes, Vogue and Economic Times and writes frequently on leadership. Devoted to education, she is a board member of Pratham, an educational non-profit.

Shalini holds a BS in Computer Science from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay where she holds a Distinguished Alumni award, and a MS in Computer Science from Penn State from where she holds an Outstanding Engineering Alumni award.



## **SAMYAK CHAKRABARTY**

Founder and Managing Director  
Workverse

Samyak's mission in life is to empower humans to outsmart artificial intelligence at work. As the Founder and Chief Architect of Workverse, he is creating a virtual world of work where youth master soft skills and enhance their natural intelligence to have an edge over automation. As a passion project, he is also building #AdoptOne - a social re-engineering movement to provide India's abandoned children a loving home. Forbes has featured him amongst Asia's most influential young entrepreneurs. He started his entrepreneurial journey at the age of 16, when he took the concept of Model United Nations & youth conclaves to schools and colleges located in the far-reaching corners of India. Over 10,000 students from across 80 cities participated in this initiative. He also presided over the first-ever Indo-Pak Youth Peace Summit during the same time.



## SHRADHA SHARMA

Founder  
YourStory

Shradha Sharma is the founder and CEO of YourStory Media, the biggest entrepreneurship storytelling platform, having told 150K stories

She is co-chair of India's S20 initiative under India's G20 Presidency, and a member of the National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) advising the government on efforts needed to build a strong ecosystem in India

YourStory was founded on the belief that India's new-age entrepreneurs deserved to have their stories heard, and has touched over 10 million lives across 20+ digital assets, including TechSparks and SheSparks

Shradha is committed to creating 10 million entrepreneurs by 2030 and has launched YourStory University to help entrepreneurs succeed and grow

Shradha has been recognized as a top 40 under 40 entrepreneur in India by Fortune magazine for three consecutive years and has received the Forbes Power Trailblazers award

Shradha has interviewed leaders such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ratan Tata, Sundar Pichai, Steve Wozniak, and Nandan Nilekani

She has also interacted with global icons such as Angela Merkel, Sudha Murty, and Priyanka Chopra, and inspired thousands with their personal journeys

With more than two million followers on her personal social media handles, over five million on YourStory's handles, and around eight million monthly active readers on the platform, Shradha's network and influence are far-reaching—one that she has consistently leveraged over the past decade to shine light on entrepreneurs and the enabling ecosystem.



## SHRESHTHA GUPTA

Executive Vice President IT and  
Digital NSDC and Director & CTO  
NSDC International

Ms. Shreshtha Gupta, an expert in leading IT and Digital initiatives and seasoned technology executive, brings over fifteen years of extensive experience in spearheading the digitalization and digitization of business processes across diverse sectors, including skills development, education, healthcare, and retail & supply-chain spanning multiple global regions. Proficiencies encompass the realms of digital strategy, IT strategy, operations management, change leadership, strategic governance, and transformational initiatives.

With a wealth of experience, she has successfully implemented large-scale IT and digital skilling solutions caters to a diverse audience of 880 million Indian beneficiaries, including learners, industries, knowledge providers, content partners, training organisations, employers, centres, trainers, assessors, and financial institutions.



## SHRIKANT SINHA

CEO, Telangana Academy for  
Skill & Knowledge (TASK)

As the CEO of TASK, his major role is enhancing the employability for the youth in Telangana under the Department of ITE&C, Government of Telangana. He has been responsible for onboarding Govt. degree colleges and polytechnics, multiple industry partners as well enhanced the offerings at TASK. his priority has been to increase focus on the rural areas of the state as well as to promote skilling and placement of girls and the underserved communities. With the onset of the COVID pandemic, he has been spearheading the transition of conventional training programs to virtual (online and blended) mode, and initiated several webinar series on various subjects.

He is also an Executive Council Member for Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, one of India's Leading Technical University. He is a Member of AVGC Sub Task Force for the Media and Entertainment Skill Council. He is also a Committee Member of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry), CII and SSD & Entrepreneurs

An eminent speaker at national and international forums, he is also the Advisory Council Member for Digital Safety and Security Programme

Prior to joining TASK, he was the CEO of NASSCOM Foundation, the social development arm of the Indian IT-BPM industry body – NASSCOM, where he led the 'tech 4 good' movement in the country for little over 4 years. Prior to joining NASSCOM Foundation, he was based out of Malaysia, working as Head Corporate learning, APAC and MENA, at GlobalNxt University (formerly U21Global), a leading Online Graduate School, helping thousands of people working in corporates across the Asia-Pacific, Middle-East and North African regions with limited or no access to good quality academic opportunities.

Through his unique perspective and diverse and rich experience spanning over 34+ years, he helped take NASSCOM Foundation to newer heights and helped create much larger impact. He has also been championing the cause of collaborative CSR, where corporates can join hands for a common cause, with government and non-government entities to solve social issues and create large scale impact. As a respected leader in the space,

A student of Computer Applications & Physics from Delhi university, earlier in his career, Shrikant has played a pivotal role in the success of APTECH in India, in Latin America & the Middle East.



## SHRIPAD ASHTEKAR

Chairman & Managing Director  
Signpost India

Shripad Ashtekar stands as a paradigm of innovation and strategic foresight in India's digital advertising landscape. As the visionary Founder and Managing Director of Signpost India Ltd., his journey as a leading figure in the AdTech media enterprise showcases his unwavering pursuit of transformative leadership. With a keen eye on the future, Ashtekar has steered Signpost India to become India's largest digital out of home and integrated advertising media enterprise through strategic investments in technology-driven startups and a firm belief in the power of data analytics. His dedication to programmatic strategies and smart technologies has redefined advertising effectiveness, making him a leading force in leveraging data for business intelligence and client servicing.



## SIDDHARTH KUMAR TEWARY

Indian TV Producer, Director and Founder  
Swastik Productions

Siddharth Kumar Tewary is the founder of Swastik Productions, one of India's largest production houses that brings the country's most popular epics and stories to life. Armed with a Mass Communication degree from Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication, Pune, Siddharth started his career in advertising and marketing. Over time, his sheer love for storytelling and writing unique stories inspired him to create shows. Recognizing the immense potential of Indian stories that transcend age and background, Siddharth founded Swastik Productions in 2007. With over about 15 years of experience in producing content for television, Siddharth Kumar Tewary has mastered the art of telling mythological stories, with relevance to this generation in an authentic way. After the success of his previous show Mahabharat, he has now launched Shrimad Ramayan. He understands the importance of preserving our culture and art through the medium of storytelling. Being in the industry for so long, he has seen the way the Indian audience's content consumption has evolved over the years.

### About Swastik Productions

Established in 2007 by Siddharth Kumar Tewary, Swastik Productions, is a creative force whose profound vision brings India's biggest epics and stories to life. It is well-known as one of the biggest storytellers in Indian television and has consistently curated content with larger-than-life production values. With over 1000 hours of content production, Swastik Productions has etched its name in the industry with shows like 'Mahabharat', 'Shiv Shakti', 'RadhaKrishn', 'Porus', and 'Shrimad Ramayan'. Beyond television, their expertise extends seamlessly into cinematic storytelling. Its innovative narratives not only captivate audiences but also set a new standard for storytelling across platforms. Swastik Productions' excellence is widely spread over music, and content creation for television and OTT. It is acknowledged with many prestigious awards, celebrating its remarkable impact on the industry. Known for their unparalleled prowess in crafting narratives that deeply resonate with audiences, Swastik Productions consistently leads the industry, setting new benchmarks in reshaping the very essence of storytelling. Swastik Bhoomi, a production studio spanning over 25 acres owned by Swastik Productions, serves as the expansive canvas where immersive stories are crafted and visionary concepts are brought to life.



## SIDHARTH JAIN

Founder  
The Story Ink

Sidharth Jain has been working in the film industry for 20 years. In 2018, he founded The Story Ink, India's largest book-to-screen adaptation company. The Story Ink represents more than 200 authors and exclusively controls the screen rights to more than 500 books and has now transformed into a video-consultation & webinar platform for the content industry. Sidharth also produced a series for Netflix - Trial by Fire, which streamed to rave reviews. His production slate currently has 4 projects in production. In the past, he has worked at Hotstar.com, Adlabs Films, iRock Films, Hyperion Studio (Los Angeles) & Baazee.com.





## SMITA PURANESH

Chief Human Resources Officer & People Head  
Viacom18

Smita Puranesh joined Viacom 18 at the end of 2022 to head the People function for the company at a pivotal time when the business ambitions significantly scaled up to pivot and built a tech organisation. As CHRO, she is responsible for the People Strategy Including Organization Design, Talent Acquisition and Entertainment, Talent Development and Workplace services, in close collaborations with CEO and leaders in the organisation.

An avid Trekker, she has journeyed to the Mount Everest Base Camp and dived to the depths of 80 feet. Smita loves to explore and draw inspiration- quite literally - from the high and lows of the world!



**SUMUKHI SURESH**  
Stand-Up Comedian

Sumukhi Suresh is a stand up comedian, actor, writer, showrunner and most importantly a show-off. Sumukhi started comedy in Bangalore while working at a food testing and certification company. She rose to fame with "Behti Naak", a Youtube series created by her. She also acted in the mockumentary web series "Better Life Foundation" created by Naveen Richard. Eventually she created and starred in the once in a lifetime role in the acclaimed Amazon Prime Video show "Pushpavalli", season 1 and 2.

"Go Straight Take Left", a sketch comedy show co-written with fellow comedian Naveen Richard is another feather to her character-playing cap. Sumukhi has created and acted in shows across OTT platforms namely, "Beauty and the Feast" for Hotstar, "Banake Dikha" for Zomato and "Lust Stories" for Netflix. She was also a host and now judge on the Amazon Original "Comicstaan". Notable among the actress' feature film credits is the 2018 Kannada satirical comedy "Humble Politician Nograj". She recently released her stand up special "Don't Tell Amma" on Amazon Prime Video and turned producer on "Notary"- a short film that's doing the rounds at festivals.



## SUSHANT SREERAM

Country Head  
Amazon Prime Video

As the Country Director, Sushant is entrusted with strengthening Prime Video's goal of being India's most loved video-subscription service, by scaling the subscription video-on-demand (SVoD) business, marketplace offerings (Prime Video Channels & Movie Rentals), and sports. Sushant's role operates across defining and driving execution of the long-term product and content strategy, accelerating customer adoption of Prime Video across the country catering to the diverse entertainment needs, and deepening the impact of Prime Video in delivering a compelling Prime membership to customers. Over the past 5 years, Sushant has, across a variety of roles, been instrumental in building Prime Video by super-charging marketing across Originals and licensed content, building best-in-category brand love for Prime Video, and scaling customer adoption. Over a career of more than 19 years, Sushant has operated across multiple industries including Consumer Goods, eCommerce, Travel & Tourism, and has been an entrepreneur too.



## SWATI CHOPRA

Principal Correspondent  
The Quint

Swati Chopra is the Principal Correspondent at The Quint and has over 15 years of experience as a reporter and anchor behind her. Her love for cinema goes beyond the screen and into understanding the intricacies of the world of film, be it how the industry works behind the scenes or how it has affected multiple lives, both within it and beyond.



## **SYED TAUSIF ABBAS**

Principal Advisor  
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Mr. Syed Tausif Abbas is currently working as Principal Advisor in Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). He is responsible for regulatory and licensing matters related to Broadcasting & Cable Services, Spectrum and Networks.

He is an officer of Indian Telecom Service and has got more than 30 years of experience in Telecom Sector at various positions covering Telecom Projects, Telecom operations, capacity building & training division, telecom licensing, regulatory and policy formulation.

Presently, in TRAI, he is associated with the regulatory and licensing work related to Broadcasting & Cable Services including Cable TV, Satellite TV (DTH), IPTV, Radio broadcasting, Digital Addressable System and 5G Broadcast. He is also associated with the works related to Mobile Networks, Spectrum and Telecom Licensing matters including 5G Technologies, M2M Communications, IoT, Satellite Communications.

Currently, he also holds the position of Chairman of Spectrum Working Group at South Asian Telecommunications Regulators Council.



## **TANYA BAMBI**

Series Head – Netflix India

Tanya Bami is the head of Series at Netflix India. She joined Netflix in 2019 and oversees the development of original fiction shows, reality series, comedy specials, and documentaries. She has led the development of some of Netflix's most loved series including Kota Factory Season 2, Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives, Bombay Begums, and The Big Day. Bami is a seasoned entertainment professional with over twenty years of experience. She began her career with the world's premiere youth brand, MTV, and then went on to explore the world of non-fiction programming by working with renowned broadcasting companies - BBC, Star Plus and Zee TV. She led and set up, both the A-VOD and S-VOD original series slate for Viacom18's Voot. She has diverse experience across both scripted and unscripted content.



## TRINETRA HALDAR GUMMARAJU

Actress and Medical Doctor

Trinetra Haldar Gummaraju is a primary care physician and received her M.B.B.S. degree from Kasturba Medical College, Manipal. She received a government seat in 2015 via the Karnataka COMMON ENTRANCE TEST (CET), wherein her rank was 163. She is reportedly Karnataka's first transgender doctor. After coming out, her content focused on mainstream representation of LGBTQIA+ people and brought awareness around transgender rights. Her work has highlighted the lack of queer-inclusive information in medical education and transphobia in medical curricula and colleges across India.

She began her acting career with the AMAZON PRIME Original - MADE IN HEAVEN Season 2, where she played the role of Meher Chaudhry, a wedding planner, becoming the first trans woman to play a main character in an Indian web series.

In 2022, she was listed in FORBES 30 Under 30 - India as well as Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia - Media, Marketing & Advertising. She was on the Forbes Top 100 Digital Stars Lists in 2022 and 2023. She was enlisted under the GQ 25 Most Influential Young Indians List in 2021 and GQ 30 Most Influential Young Indians List in 2022. She has featured on the covers of magazines like Forbes India, Femina and Elle India.



## UDAY SINGH

Managing Director  
Motion Picture Association

Uday Singh is the Managing Director of the Motion Picture Association's (MPA) India office. The MPA aims to advance and support the film, television, and streaming content industry. Uday has over 25 years of experience in the entertainment industry and 38 years overall.

Before joining the MPA, Uday served as CEO of PVR Pictures. At PVR, he established content distribution across TV, digital streaming, and music platforms.

Previously, Uday was the Executive Vice President for the Columbia Tristar Motion Picture Group. His role involved managing and growing Sony's local Indian-language film portfolio.

From 1996 to 2009, Uday was Managing Director of Sony Pictures India. He led the company's turnaround and built a successful distribution business. Under his leadership, Sony became the most successful Hollywood studio in India. Uday added and supervised the theatrical distribution of Disney and produced the first-ever Indian film by a Hollywood Studio in India.

Uday started his career at Philips, where he held senior positions in consumer electronics, domestic appliances, and multimedia divisions.

Uday is an alumnus of Harvard Business School, where he completed an Advanced Management Program. He also holds a bachelor's degree in commerce from Osmania University and an MS degree in Digital Business, which he graduated magna cum laude from GBSB Global Business School, Spain.

Currently, Uday co-chairs the Film section of the FICCI Media & Entertainment Committee. He also serves on the FICCI-IP committee and the CII Media & Entertainment Committee.

The MPA Studios comprise Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, Netflix Inc., Paramount Pictures Corporation, Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc., Universal City Studios LLC, and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.





## UNMESH PAWAR

Chief People Officer- South Asia  
Dentsu

Unmesh is a highly sought-after leader with more than 25 years of international expertise in creating high-performance leadership teams. Throughout his career, Unmesh has excelled at managing huge, complicated organisational cultures. As the Chief People Officer for Dentsu South Asia, he is responsible for building distinctive talent expertise across the Indian and South Asia markets - overseeing all aspects of the talent strategy while assisting dentsu leadership in shaping the culture journey to retain and attract best-in-class talent. Before dentsu he was the CHRO for KPMG's entities in India, responsible for leading KPMG in India's People, Performance and Culture (PPC). In his role, he led the journey of building differentiated capabilities in the marketplace by designing and deploying innovative talent management practices.



## UTTAM PAL SINGH

Head, Kids Network  
Warner Bros. Discovery

Uttam Pal Singh, South Asia – Head of Kids Cluster, Warner Bros. Discovery has been in Kids content and Animation Industry for almost 20 years and has contributed to it in a 360-degree manner. From Animation to Design to Direction and Producing several award-winning Television series, shorts, Commercials, Campaigns to now heading Entertainment channel – Cartoon Network, POGO and Discovery Kids.

On his journey he has worked with leading Broadcasters, Advertising Agencies and Brands like - The Walt Disney Company, Channel [v], MTV, Star TV, Hungama TV, O&M, Leo Burnette, McDonalds and Future Group.

He is the creative vision behind the successful launch of very popular Bollywood IPs 'Little Singham' and 'Fukrey Boyzzz' on Discovery Kids.

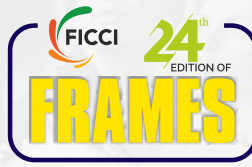


## **VANITA KOHLI KHANDEKAR**

Author and Columnist  
Business Standard

Vanita Kohli-Khandekar has been tracking the Indian media and entertainment business for two decades.

Currently she is a columnist and writer for one of India's leading financial dailies, Business Standard and writes for Singapore-based Content Asia. A Cambridge University press fellow (2000), Vanita has taught at some of the top media schools in India. The fifth edition of her book, *The Indian Media Business: Pandemic and After* (Sage) was released in October 2021. Her second book, *The Making of Star India* (Penguin-Random House) is being developed into a web-series.



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## VARUN DUGGIRALA

Founder And Journalist  
VML Y&R Network's Digital-First Creative Agency,  
The Glitch

The Glitch is one of the leading, digitally-led creative agencies in India, with over 300 digital strategists, technologists, content creators and planners on-board. The agency was acquired by WPP, world's largest advertising network, in 2018. In 2020, the agency joined forces with global experience agency VML Y&R, which is also a part of WPP. The agency works closely with brands like Netflix, Hindustan Unilever, LinkedIn, Lenovo, Diageo, Microsoft, Triller, among others.



## **VED MANI TIWARI**

Chief Executive Officer, NSDC &  
Managing Director, NSDC International

Ved Mani Tiwari is the Chief Executive Officer of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Managing Director, NSDC International (NSDCI). He has three decades of experience working with the Government of India along with key corporations in a wide range of sectors including infrastructure, energy, urban development, transportation, and education & Skill development. He has been a strong advocate of using technology to democratise skill development, employment and entrepreneurship. With his experience ranging across public, private and the development sectors, Ved has contributed significantly to development and execution of NSDC's strategy to scale up skilling operations through various stakeholders including Sector Skill Councils (SSC), training providers and industry partners.



## **DR. VIDYA YERAVDEKAR**

Pro Chancellor  
Symbiosis International University

Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar is the Principal Director of Symbiosis Society, and Pro Chancellor of Symbiosis International University. Symbiosis International University is a multi-disciplinary, multinational, multicultural University having more than 45000 students from all States of India and international students from 85 countries. The Symbiosis Society not only has under its ambit the Symbiosis International University but also has K12 Schools, College of Arts and Commerce and Museums- the Afro Asian Cultural Museum and the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Museum & Memorial.

Dr. Vidya holds a Postgraduate Degree in Medicine, a Degree in Law and Ph.D. in 'Internationalisation of Higher Education in India'. Having presented papers at various National & International Conferences, she has numerous research publications to her credit and has also authored several books. Ranked No.14 amongst India's top 25 Powerful Women, Dr. Vidya has been instrumental in bringing in innovative approaches to promote internationalisation of higher education in India.



## VIKRAM CHANDRA

Founder  
Editorji Technologies

Vikram is the founder of Editorji Technologies - a start-up that seeks to transform video news through innovation in user experience, using artificial intelligence. Editorji provides personalised video newscasts on mobile phones and can be downloaded at [editorji.com/download](http://editorji.com/download).

In his earlier avatar, Vikram was one of India's best-known TV news anchor, presenting shows like "The Big Fight", 9 o'clock News and Gadget Guru together with programmes for social transformation such as the Cleanathon, Greenathon and "Save our Tigers". He has helped pioneer innovations such as news on mobile phones, the live streaming of video on the internet and the first major news app in India.

Vikram has been named 'Global Leader for Tomorrow' by the World Economic Forum in Davos; and has won the Indian Television Academy Award for "Best Anchor for a Talk Show", the Hero Honda Award for Best Anchorperson and the Teacher's Achievement Award for Communication, along with featuring in the top 20 on the Impact list of the Digital Power 100. He was educated at Oxford University and St Stephen's College, before attending the Mass Media Institute at Stanford University.



## VISHAL PANT

Executive Editor  
India Today

My journey into the world of TV started more than 2 decades back. And it was bit of an accident.

I was one of those lucky people who didn't have to look around for a job after completing my MBA. I was in final semester when companies started coming to our Campus and before I knew it, I had 2 job offers within the first two days. Without taking any risks I clutched onto the 2 offers I had and finally chose one of them.

Phoenix International Ltd, Indian manufacturers of Reebok shoes was the company I chose to work with. The year was 1995. Truth be told, the reason to work with this company was Reebok. Case study of Nike: Just Do it, was so strongly etched in my head that if it was not Nike, Reebok would do perfectly.

Working in the assembly line of Reebok was a great experience, but within 6 months I knew my heart was not in it. I wanted to tell stories. But how do I do that was the question that stared my face every day. I realised it had to be either Advertising or Journalism. Advertising was the natural extension for someone who had come out from a Management Institute a year back. Journalism meant moving to a different career altogether. In the end, Television journalism chose me.

In 1996 I started working with the TV venture of The Hindustan Times, Home TV. and from then on there was no looking back. I worked with the best names: Uday Shankar, Karan Thapar, Aroon Purie, Kalli Purie, Ronnie Screwala, Rajdeep Sardesai, Arnab Goswami, etc, and with the best institutions: UTV, BBC World, Reuters, Times Network, India Today, etc.

It has been more two decades now, and the ride has been absolutely brilliant.

I am presently working as Managing of India Today TV, heading the Output side of the Channel.





## VISHNU MOHTA

Co-Founder  
Hoichoi TV

Vishnu Mohta, joined SVF in 2007, as the head of the Digital Cinema business. After making it the largest player in West Bengal and fourth largest network in India within a year of operations, Vishnu now heads the New Media division of SVF Entertainment. He launched its first venture hoichoi in 2017, and successfully made it a leading Bengali entertainment platform which showcases Originals (in the form of web series, films and shorts), Movies and Docu-Series, targeting Bengalis in India and the Bengali diaspora.

September 2023 has emerged as a momentous milestone, marking the culmination of six illustrious years for hoichoi. At the forefront, hoichoi has carved a niche for itself by crafting a resplendent collection of over 140 Original content in one language—an unparalleled achievement in the realm of content creation. The platform has undergone a metamorphic evolution, boasting a remarkable 40% surge in Direct Subscriptions, and a staggering 60% ascent in individual Watch-Time per subscriber, when compared to the preceding year.

Vishnu has worked with KPMG in Risk Advisory and Lloyds TSB in Corporate Strategy in their London offices, in the past. He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Bond University Australia and MSc in International Business from Aston University Birmingham, UK.

Armed with an exceptional ability for identifying solutions to entrenched problems, helping to collaborate with a solution centric approach across all levels, he has built long lasting profitable business relationships.

Vishnu is a member of prestigious organizations including Entrepreneurs Organization (EO) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE). He is also a member of Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS), a society of top 10% students from the best B schools of the world. It is the highest recognition a business student, anywhere in the world, can receive in a business program accredited by AACSB International.

Experienced in Corporate Finance and Strategy, with strong analytical and interpersonal skills, Vishnu has an in-depth understanding of the Media and Entertainment industry.



## VIVAN SHARAN

Partner  
Koan Advisory

Vivan Sharan is Partner at Koan Advisory, a public policy consulting firm specialised in tech markets and based in New Delhi. He is also on the Board of the Esya Centre, and a Visiting Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation. Vivian authored "Wonked!: India in Search of an Economic Ideology" (Bloomsbury) in 2019; and co-authored "The Dazzle of the Digital: Unbundling India Online" (Routledge) in 2022.

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We, at Viacom18 have always believed in creating stories that travel across boundaries and into the hearts of our audience. Be it life altering cinema or a piece of content that simply entertains you, as India's youngest full-play media & entertainment network, we've reached more than 800 million people, in 130+ countries with 38 channels & 5 lines of business: Broadcast, Digital, Consumer Products, Movies and LIVE experiences.

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## VIACOM 18



## महाराष्ट्र चित्रपट, रंगभूमी आणि सांस्कृतिक विकास महामंडळ (म.) MAHARASHTRA FILM, STAGE & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)  
Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari  
Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Limited



### Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari is managed by Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Ltd.

(popularly known as Film City). Established on 26 September, 1977 by Government of Maharashtra to promote cinema, theatre, culture & performing arts. Situated in the western suburb of Mumbai - spread over 521 acres of lush green and picturesque land. Film City provides myriad outdoor as well as indoor shooting locations. Dynamic place where sets are being created for films and mega TV serials on an ongoing basis. Film City offers 15 AC studios ranging from 2,000 sq. ft. to 16,000 sq.ft. for indoor shoots, 70 outdoor locations and 76 makeup rooms.



### Film City Court

Think about law and order and what comes to your mind? Most certainly the famous Courthouse scenes! This location has been a filmmaker's mainstay in the heart of the Film City compound and always seen in iconic films over the years. Films like Pink, Yamla Pagala Deswana, Jolly LLB 2, Batti Gull Meter Chalu, Damini, Ghayal, Ghatak Gajani have been shot here. The notoriety of this landmark cannot be missed on your law related films and TV Shows.



### Film City Temple

Spread over an area of 32,300 sq ft, this location is your go-to shooting place spread with sprawling lawns and lush greenery around which make it an ideal location for TV and Film shootings. This is one of the favorite locations of the filmmakers shooting for various films. Prominent shoots include Iss Pyaar ko Kya Naam Du, Dil To Happy Hai Ji, Phir Na Maane Badtamez Dil, Big Boss



### Regional Financial Incentives

Government of Maharashtra started a scheme in 1997 to provide financial assistance to Marathi film producers as incentive to produce quality Marathi Films. The films are scrutinized by the film Screening committee and awarded category: A&B. Category A Film is eligible for assistance of Rs. 40 lakhs. Category B Film is eligible for assistance of Rs. 30 lakhs



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**Industries Department  
Government of Maharashtra**



**Features of Maharashtra Information Technology /  
Information Technology Enabled Services Policy 2023**

**Special Incentives for AVGC Sector**

- ❑ Capital Subsidy up to Rs. 25 Crore to AVGC Anchor units.
- ❑ Capital Subsidy up to Rs. 25 Lakh to all eligible AVGC units.
- ❑ Stamp Duty Exemption, Electricity Duty Exemption and Power Tariff Subsidy for eligible AVGC units.
- ❑ Market Development Assistance to the tune of Rs. 20 lakhs for various events / competitions promoting AVGC sector.
- ❑ Provision of Rs.500 Cr. for M-Hub and Venture Capital fund for IT / ITeS Sector.
- ❑ Ease of Doing Business, Single window clearance, Investment facilitation through MAITRI cell.



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Jharkhand Legislative Asseble



**Shri Champai Soren**  
Chief Minister of Jharkhand

Nature's Hidden Jewel along with attractive & visionary film policy – irresistible combination for the film makers.

### Highlights of Jharkhand Film Policy :

- Single Window Clearance for Shooting Permission; [www.jharkhandfilms.org](http://www.jharkhandfilms.org)
- Airstrips will be made available to film units.
- Film Makers will be provided with necessary security facilities during shooting **FREE OF COST**.
- Special Discount for the film makers in the hotels of Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation Limited.
- Scholarships to the students of Jharkhand who are pursuing film related courses in SRFTI & FTIL.
- Financial Incentive to the film makers:
- ✓ Films made in Regional Languages will be given subsidy upto 50% of the total costing of the film or Rs. 2 Crore whichever is lower.
- ✓ Films made in Hindi & other languages will be given subsidy upto 25% of the total costing of the film or Rs. 2 Crore whichever is lower.
- ✓ For promoting tourist places, cultural legacy of the state, the film will be granted additional incentive to the maximum of Rs 50,00,000.00
- ✓ If the film is directed in the state in which the main five actors / actress are from Jharkhand then the remuneration of the actor / actress for the given film or Rs 25 lacs, whichever is less will be given as additional grant.



**Shri Siddaramaiah**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka



**Shri D. K. Shivakumar**  
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka

Government of Karnataka  
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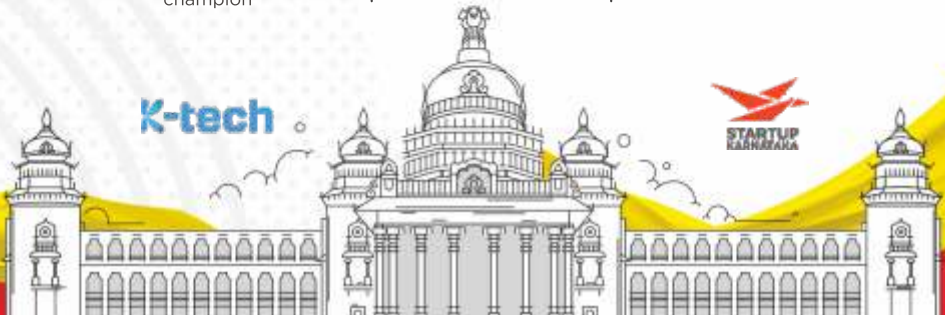


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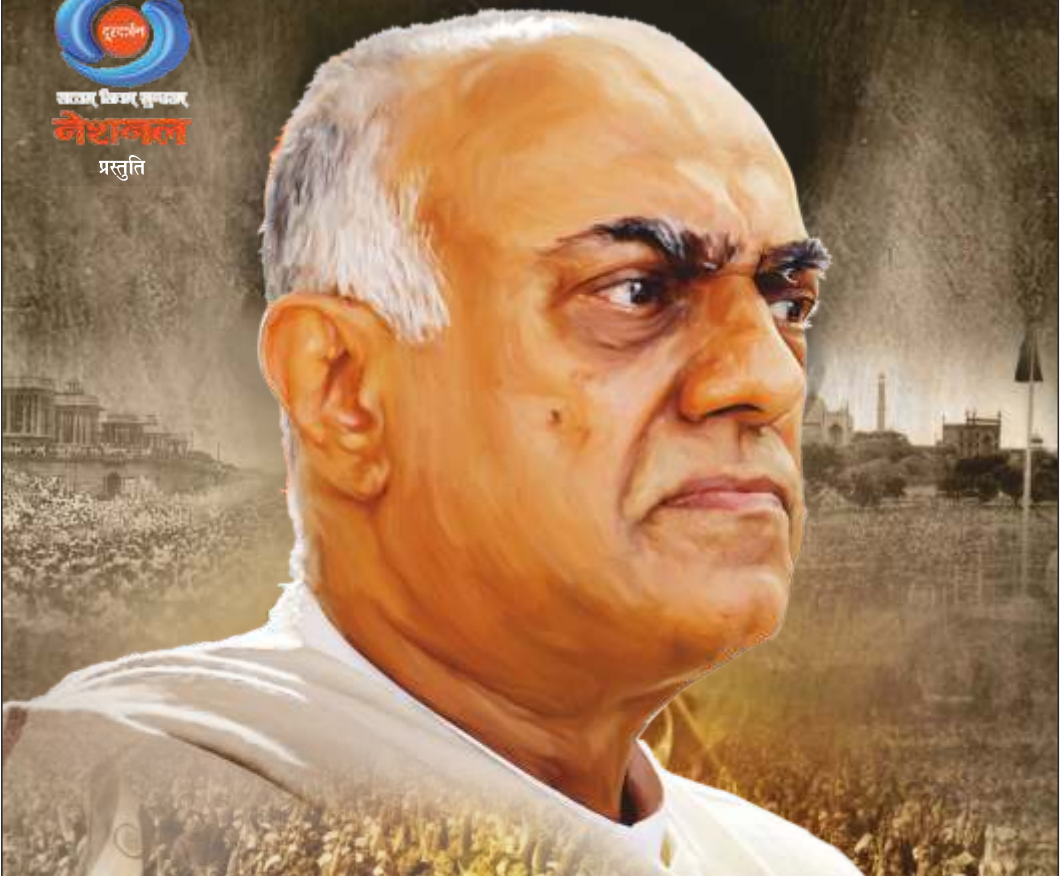
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## द गेम चेंजर

10 मार्च 2024 से हर रविवार

सुबह 11:30 बजे एवं पुनः प्रसारण रात 10:00 बजे

**Free Dish** 02 SD  
113 HD

**videocon** 175

**TATA PLAY** 197 SD  
196 HD

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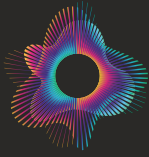
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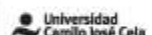
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