Indiaspora Global Forum

Tarrytown House Estate on The Hudson

September 13 - 15

Bios
Saket Agarwal, Founder and Managing Partner, Onnivation

Saket is the Founder and Managing Partner of "Onnivation", which invests in the India Business of Israeli deep tech companies and helps them grow in India by providing the local team, capital and drive the sales and growth. Onnivation has a portfolio of 15 companies in the areas of E-commerce, Retail, Data Science & Analytics, AI, Cloud, Security, Marketing and Ad Tech Space.

Within 3 years, Onnivation has become a leading contributor in the growing relations between Israel and India. Saket is an active Angel Investor, Mentor at the “Nasscom Deep Tech Club”, and Wework Labs where he is helping startups with strategy and Go to Market. He is the founding Co-Chair of the Singularity University chapter in Mumbai. He is also a member of the Global Shapers Community, part of the World Economic Forum. Saket graduated from St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata and is a Chartered Accountant and Company Secretary by qualification.

Renu Agrawal, EVP & COO, Financial Institutions Group, Wells Fargo

Renu is EVP & COO, Financial Institutions Group at Wells Fargo. Based in San Francisco, Renu joined Wells Fargo in May 2006 and worked in a variety of strategy, finance and project based roles before joining International Treasury Management as EVP in July 2012. Previously, Renu held senior roles at ValleyCrest Companies, a landscape company, Quisic, an e-learning company and McKinsey, a management consultancy. Renu started her career as a scientist at Polaroid. Renu graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, has a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an M.B.A from the M.I.T Sloan School of Management. Renu has lived in India, Malaysia and the UK. She now lives in San Francisco with her husband and two sons.

Yamini Aiyar, President and Chief Executive, CPR

Her research interests are in the field of social policy and development. In 2008, Yamini founded the Accountability Initiative at CPR. Yamini is a TED fellow and a founding member of the International Experts Panel of the Open Government Partnership. She has also been a member of the World Economic Forum’s global council on good governance. Previously, she has worked with the World Bank’s Water and Sanitation Program and Rural Development unit in Delhi, where she focused on action research aimed at strengthening mechanisms for citizen engagement in local government. Additionally, she was a member of the decentralisation team at the World Bank that provided policy support to strengthen Panchayati Raj (local governance) in India. Yamini is an Alumna of the London School of Economics, St. Edmund’s college Cambridge University, and St Stephen’s College, Delhi University.
Maya Ajmera, President and CEO, Society for Science & the Public

Maya is the President and CEO of Society for Science & the Public and Publisher of its award-winning magazine, Science News. In 1993, Maya founded The Global Fund for Children (GFC), a nonprofit organization that invests in innovative, community-based organizations working with some of the world’s most vulnerable children. GFC has invested over $40 million in 80 countries, touching the lives of over 10 million children. Maya has served in multiple faculty positions at Duke University and The Johns Hopkins University where she is currently an adjunct at the school’s The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Maya serves on numerous boards, including Echoing Green and Kids in Need of Defense. Maya is also an award-winning children’s book author of more than 20 titles. Maya holds an A.B. from Bryn Mawr College and a M.P.P. from Duke University.

Niraj Antani, State Representative, Ohio House of Representatives

Niraj is serving his third term in the Ohio House of Representatives. First elected at age 23, now 28, he served as Ohio’s youngest elected official for nearly 4 years. He is the second Indian American state elected official in Ohio history, and the first Indian American Republican. He is the youngest Indian American elected official in the United States. Antani serves as Vice Chairman of the Committee on Insurance, and as a member of the Committee on Health, Committee on Public Utilities, and Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee. Antani was named to Forbes Magazine’s list of the top 30 under 30 people in the U.S. for politics in 2015. The conservative media organization Newsmax named him the 2nd most influential Republican in the nation under 30. He is currently a candidate for State Senator, which would make him the first Indian American State Senator in Ohio history.

Balan Ayyar, Founder and CEO, Percipient.ai

Balan is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Percipient.ai, a Silicon-Valley based artificial intelligence, machine learning, and computer vision firm focused on intelligence and national security missions. He is a seasoned CEO and retired USAF General Officer. Before founding Percipient.ai, Balan was the CEO of a $100M+ Gov't Services IT firm. His last role in the profession of arms was as the Commanding General of the Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435, in Kabul, Afghanistan. He has served in four combatant commands, the Office of the Sec of Defense and in the White House as a White House Fellow. He is a Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Board Member of both a public corporation and non-profit charity.
**Suchit Bachalli, CEO, Unilog**

Suchit brings twenty years of business technology experience to the role of Unilog CEO. He began his career in the late 1990s working for a pair of cutting-edge business technology companies before joining Unilog in 2002. At Unilog, Suchit has specialized in building sophisticated, large-scale eCommerce solutions that help businesses, especially those in the mid-market ($50 million to $1 billion in annual revenues), compete in today’s high-speed world. Suchit was President of Unilog North America, where he grew local employment in the Philadelphia area by 40 employees, before taking over as CEO in early 2017. His civic involvement in the Philadelphia community includes his involvement with an entrepreneurial group that seeks to expand the local startup ecosystem and his work with Vistage, which in May honored him with its Impact Award. In 2015, the Philadelphia Business Journal named Suchit to its “40 Under 40” list.

**Ashish Bali, Audit Advisory Board, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Ashish is a Senior leader and executive with experience in professional services globally serving for more than 38 years with Deloitte, as Audit partner and global CFO. Area of expertise: CFO; Finance; Global Operations; Treasury; International; Audit Partner; Risk management; Strategy; M&A. Ashish is also currently independent member of the Audit Advisory Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Board Member of RESULTS, a not for profit organization; Senior Advisor to CFO Consulting Partners; Mentor to a Fintech accelerator, Rise; Guest lecturer at universities in New Jersey. He also is designated as a CPA(US); FCA(UK); CA(Canada); ACA(India). He attended the University of Delhi in India and Kingston University in the United Kingdom.

**Vinita Belani, Artistic Director and Founder, EnActe Arts**

Vinita is the Artistic Director and Founder of EnActe Arts. She comes to the world of theatre and non-profit with 20+years of experience in the corporate world. She holds a degree in Computer Science from BITS Pilani, and an MBA from HEC, France and a Diploma in French Language and Literature from the Sorbonne in Paris.
Amit Bhandari, Founder, Chairman and CEO, BioUrja Group

Amit is the founder of the BioUrja Group and serves as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. He sets the overall direction for all group companies, defines the vision and mission, and directly oversees BioUrja Trading's supply and trading activities. Under Amit’s stewardship, the BioUrja Group, which focuses on energy, grains, and metals commodity trading and supply, has grown by double-digit percentages almost every year since inception. Ever an entrepreneur, he has built numerous successful companies over the past twenty years, including childcare companies, real estate investment companies, and various energy and agricultural companies, all of which have been profitable, 100% owned, and successful. In addition to managing his businesses, Amit is also active as a philanthropist. He is engaged especially with non-profit organizations that focus on underprivileged children’s causes, including education, and culture.

Akshay Bhardwaj, Executive Chef, Junoon

Akshay grew up eating homemade Indian food prepared by his mother. Couple this with his father being a restaurateur, Bhardwaj found himself drawn to the restaurant industry at an early age. Though he started studying business at university, he found himself in the kitchen of Junoon in 2012 as an apprentice, and he has worked for the restaurant group ever since, including a brief stint at the Dubai location. "The talented kitchen is particularly adept at bringing out contrasting flavors and textures in myriad dishes," say inspectors of Junoon, which has held a Michelin star since its opening in 2010. Bhardwaj reached the top of the ranks when he was promoted to executive chef in 2017, allowing him to continue to push the boundaries of Indian cooking and share his food with the world. (Bio courtesy of Michelin Guide website.)

Anurima Bhargava, President, Anthem of Us

Anurima is the President of Anthem of Us, a strategic advisory firm promoting dignity and justice in the building of our communities, workplaces and schools. In this role, she advises companies and educational institutions to address sexual and racial harassment and discrimination, and produces documentary films addressing social justice. In December 2018, Speaker Nancy Pelosi appointed her U.S. Commissioner on International Religious Freedom. From 2010-2016, she led federal civil rights enforcement in schools and institutions of higher education at the U.S. Department of Justice, and previously directed the education practice at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Since 2016, she has served as a fellow at the Open Society Foundations and the Institute of Politics and Kennedy School at Harvard. She currently chairs the board of Doc Society, co-chairs the National Advisory Board on Public Service at Harvard, and advises several foundations, corporations, and NGOs. She was named a 2017 Presidential Leadership Scholar.
Kamakshi Bhargava, Student, Georgetown University/USG

Kamakshi enjoys being at the academic and professional intersection of technology, policy, and international affairs. With a passion for emerging and disruptive technology trends, Kamakshi enjoys combining her technical background with a comprehensive understanding of international affairs and global politics to map the future of national strategy. Working as a cyber threat analyst, she focuses on analyzing cyber threats from South Asia to better protect the United States against national security threats. Her academic focus is on national security studies with a particular interest in applying international nuclear strategy to the future of cyber and advanced technical weapons. In her free time she continues to experiment with different art forms and enjoys sketching pen and ink pieces on her iPad.

Prakhar Bhartiya, Co-Founder, Indian School of Democracy

Prakhar is the co-founder of Indian School of Democracy (ISD). ISD's mission is to nurture principled leaders with moral courage and imagination, to work on strengthening four pillars of Indian democracy—legislative, executive, judiciary and media. He is an engineer and a Teach for India 2011 Fellow, Prakhar is also the founder of the grassroots leadership organization Youth Alliance (YA) which he started in 2008. Prakhar built YA from ground up and created immersion journeys into rural India for the youth. A mentor to multiple social entrepreneurs, he also serves on the board of Kat
Katha and Shikshartha.

In 2018, Prakhar moved to Columbia University, New York to pursue his Masters in Public Administration where he also engages in building the academic depth and network required to make Indian School of Democracy a success.

Neil Bhaskar, Founder Chairman, BoDE Foundation and NovaGroup

A serial entrepreneur in IT, Pharmaceuticals, Herbal, Logistics, Supply Chain and Financial sectors in four continents, Neil has created over 2,000 jobs in IT and last year exited a Nutraceutical & a Logistics company with multiple successful new product launches. He was a recipient of the E&Y Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the State of New Jersey and the 2001 Hall Fame of NJ in 2002. He is a founding member Jumpstart, an Angel Investment Group in New Jersey. He is a graduate of IIT, IIM and an OPM from Harvard Business School.
**Bhatia, Viresh, Entreprenuer, Bhatia Ventures**

Viresh is the creator of InstallShield, a software component embedded in most desktop software over the last 25 years. Viresh is an active investor in and advisor to software companies creating technical software. Viresh’s philanthropic efforts are focused on encouraging young members of the South Asian diaspora to be active members of representative government at the state and federal levels.

---

**Binda, Rhonda, Co-Founder and COO, Venture Smarter**

Rhonda is Co-Founder & COO for Venture Smarter and Executive Director of the Smart Regions Initiative, bringing smart city solutions to communities in the U.S. and around the world. In 2018 Venture Smarter successfully ran the Smart Regions Infrastructure Challenge gathering interest from over 250 governments nationally and helped create the bi-partisan U.S. Congressional Smart Cities Caucus. She previously served as Deputy Director for the U.S. Department of State’s Global Intergovernmental Affairs Division in the Office of the Secretary and in the West Wing of the White House, under the Obama and Clinton administrations respectively. In between her government tours she practiced telecommunications and technology law at Alston & Bird LLP. She was named Business Leader of the Year and is recognized internationally as a people’s choice leader in developing smart cities. Ms. Binda graduated from Duke University and Georgetown Law and is an Oxford University Lord Rothermere Scholar.

---

**Nisha Biswal, President, U.S.-India Business Council**

Nisha is the President of the U.S.-India Business Council. Biswal served as Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs in the U.S. Department of State from 2013 to 2017, where she oversaw the U.S.-India strategic partnership during a period of unprecedented cooperation, including launching the U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue. In recognition of her efforts, Biswal was awarded the prestigious Samman Award by the President of India in January 2017. She previously served as Assistant Administrator for Asia at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Biswal also spent over ten years on Capitol Hill, serving as staff director on the State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee and the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives. Most recently, she was a senior advisor with the Albright Stonebridge Group, where she helped expand the firm’s India and South Asia practice.
Debottam Toshy Bose, Consultant, D. T. Bose, Esq.

Debottam is India’s first Art & Philanthropy lawyer. He is a Senior Legal Consultant to the Oxford India Centre. Oxford University and works closely with the Sir J.N Tata Trusts. A Member of the Supreme Court Bar Association. Interconnections of Art, Philanthropy & Advocacy has allowed an international practice advising a cross section of private clients based between New York, London, Oxford, Paris, Dubai, New Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Singapore.

Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, Consulate General of India, New York

Sandeep, a member of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) since 1996, has served in India’s Missions in several countries. Prior to becoming Consul General of India in New York in August, 2017, he was the Ambassador of India to Peru and Bolivia. Earlier he had been India’s Deputy Chief of Mission in Bangladesh. He has also served in Indian Embassies in Madrid and Bogota. In India’s Ministry of External Affairs he has held several positions including Press Relations Officer, Staff Officer to Minister and worked on desks dealing with Central Asia, East Asia and China. Before joining the Government, Mr. Chakravorty worked with civil society organizations dealing with natural resources and environmental issues. He has a Master’s degree in Advanced Studies in International Security from Geneva University, a Master’s degree in Sociology besides a Post Graduate Diploma in Forestry Management. He graduated in Physics from Delhi University. He speaks Hindi, Bangla and Spanish fluently. In his spare time he reads up on International Relations and the Environment and enjoys visiting historical sites. He is married and is father of twin daughters.

Lakshmi Challa, Founder and Managing Partner, The Challa Law Group

The founder and managing attorney of Challa Law Group, she has practiced business immigration law exclusively for over twenty years. For a decade she was appointed immigration Special Counsel for Virginia’s Attorney General’s office. Collaborations with Departments of Commerce and State to attract FDI gave rise to her selection as a U.S. delegation participant for the Global Entrepreneur Summit and SelectUSA. She lends a strong voice on immigration matters and was recently honored locally with that title, presenting on the economic impact of immigration with organizations like the New American Economy. Lauded for her community efforts, her awards include Finalist for NAWBO Community Leader of the Year, YWCA Outstanding Woman in Business, Henrico County Community Leader of the Year, and Influential Women of Virginia by Virginia Lawyers Weekly. The Richmond Bar Association recognized her commitment to helping domestic violence and trafficking victims with the John C. Kenny Pro Bono Award.
Rakesh Chand, Chairman, Kaura Foundation

The Kaura Foundation has its origins going back over 50 years when Rakesh’s Grandmother started an orphanage in the village in India from where the family came from and later a school for the same children. After gaining experience in non-profit work in New York and in Finance, Banking and Investment Management in Zurich, he decided to focus his energies on expanding its presence. It now has projects in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, India, Sri Lanka and Samoa. The focus is health, education and micro financing and after 5 years as its CEO, he now serves as its non-executive Chairman.

Anand Chandrasekaran, EVP of Products, Five9

Anand has worked on/led six products globally with 10M+ active users across omnichannel messaging, commerce, financial services & content discovery (with one over 1 billion users and two others over 50M). He is also an entrepreneur having co-founded & built Aeroprise Inc (acquired by BMC Software). He heads product management, product strategy and design at Five9 (Nasdaq: FIVN). Most recently, he was Director of Platform for Messenger at Facebook, leading the growth of the platform to 250,000+ active bot developers and 8B+ messages between businesses and consumers. Anand holds an M.S. in Electrical Engg. from Stanford University, and a B.S. in Communications Engg. from PSG College of Technology (India). In 2010, he was named Young Global Leader by World Economic Forum. In 2016 and 2017, Anand was named to Fortune’s ‘40 under 40’ list in India. Anand is also a part-time seed investor with over 50 investments in India and the US.

Udi Chattopadhyay, COO, Four Rivers

Udi is co-founder and Chief Operating Officer at Four Rivers, a South-East Asia focused investment firm based in New York, launched in 2012. The firm has closed three rounds of funding and is currently managing some real estate investments. His other experience includes strategy consulting at McKinsey, KPMG, and Ergo, serving clients in over 30 countries. He also launched business departments at the American Museum of Natural History and the Times Square Alliance. He is on the board of Oxford Valuation Partners and serves on the Emerging Markets Committee of CEO Connection. Udi is originally from London; he has a BA / MA in Economics from Cambridge, and an MBA from Wharton where he was a Thouron Scholar.
Seema Chaturvedi, Managing Partner, AWE Funds

Seema has over 20 years of capital markets and financial management experience. As an entrepreneur, investment banker and investor, she brings a unique perspective to the strategic planning and investment process. Ms. Chaturvedi is Managing Partner of Achieving Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) Early Growth Fund to invest in women owned, led, influenced companies. Seema is extremely passionate about promoting entrepreneurship in general and women entrepreneurship in particular. She founded and leads as chairwoman TiE Global’s marquee women’s entrepreneurship program: Project All India Roadshow for Women’s Economic Empowerment through Entrepreneurship (AIRSWEEE), for which she obtained funding from the US Department of State for 6 consecutive rounds of funding and has directly mentored 575 women from 97 Tier 2 and 3 cities in 20 states in India.

Jay Chaudhuri, Senate Minority Whip, North Carolina State Senate

Jay serves as Senate Minority Whip of the North Carolina State Senate, where he represents parts of Raleigh, Cary, and Garner. He also serves as Of Counsel at Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll. Previously, he served as a senior counsel to then Attorney General (now Governor) Roy Cooper and State Treasurer Janet Cowell.

Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale, In-Charge, Department of Foreign Affairs, Bharatiya Janata Party

Vijay is In-Charge, Department of Foreign Affairs, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), since November 2014. In this role, he is coordinating with the Indian Diaspora worldwide through BJP’s global outreach platform, Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP). OFBJP has chapters in more than 40 countries. Vijay is actively involved in coordinating community receptions to PM Modi across the globe. Additionally, he interacts with foreign embassies, diplomats and delegates of various countries to put forward party perspective on issues of mutual interests. Dr. Vijay participated in 2014 Lok Sabha election campaign. He was stationed in the BJP Headquarters in New Delhi for campaign coordination. He is co-editor of two books entitled “Hindutva in Present Context” (2009) and “The Modi Doctrine: New Paradigms in India’s Foreign Policy” (August 2016 ) which is forwarded by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and released by Minister of External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. He has authored peer reviewed scientific papers in international journals and is co-inventor of several global patents and delivered talks in international scientific conferences. His columns are published in The Asian Age, Indian Express, The Print, The Quint and vernacular media.
**Deepak Chopra, Founder/CEO, Freedom English Academy**

Deepak is the Founder and CEO of the charity: Freedom English Academy (FEA). Deepak’s lifelong mission is to develop effective and scalable solutions for poverty alleviation and help disadvantaged youth bootstrap themselves out of the cycle of poverty. FEA runs an innovative employability skill-building program that includes building English and non-cognitive skills and benefiting from MOOCs and Mentorship. More than 25,000 disadvantaged youth attend classes at the 100+ FEA branches. A randomized control trial is currently underway at FEA as the program anecdotally appears to add 50% – 100% to a disadvantaged youth’s income.

Deepak has been a lifelong entrepreneur in the food supplement industry and his business experiences inform the operations of FEA. Academics from Stanford, MIT, etc., use FEA as a research site for studying poverty alleviation methods, given FEA’s reliable data collection practices and culture of using metrics.

**Nina Davuluri, Host, Advocate, & Entrepreneur, Nina Davuluri LLC**

Nina is an acclaimed host, actor, advocate & entrepreneur. Nina first gained international recognition by becoming the first Indian American and South Asian to become Miss America 2014. Her most recent venture combines the network she has cultivated, her love for advocacy, and disrupting global beauty standards with her upcoming documentary, COMPLEXion. Raised in a culture sensitive to skin tones, Nina was hyper-aware of the skin lightening industry and how it dramatically influences beauty standards. Through advocating for diversity and encouraging others to embrace their identity, she knew it was important to deliver a message that empowers all people, regardless of complexion. Nina is also the co-founder of aavrani, a skincare line reviving India’s ancient rituals, translated for modern day.

**Bharat Desai, Chairman, DS Foundation**

Bharat is the Chairman of DS Foundation, a philanthropic organization focused on education and entrepreneurship. Bharat holds an MBA in Finance from the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Technology degree in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, India.
Ronak D Desai, India Practice Lead, Paul Hastings LLP

Ronak D. Desai leads the India Practice at Paul Hastings LLP, a prominent international law firm. A recognized scholar and practitioner in the fields of law and foreign policy, his work focuses on U.S.-India relations, diaspora politics, anticorruption, and global governance. From 2014-2016, he served as the Democratic Counsel to the Select Committee on Benghazi in the United States Congress. His previous Capitol Hill experience also includes his time on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. Additionally, Ronak serves as an Affiliate at the Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute at Harvard University. He also teaches at Johns Hopkins University. He is a regular contributor to a host of leading publications in both the United States and the Asia Pacific, including Forbes. Ronak earned his undergraduate degree from the Johns Hopkins University, and joint public policy and law degrees from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and Harvard Law School, from which he graduated magna cum laude.

Neha Dewan, National Co-Chair, South Asians for America

Neha is the national co-chair and co-founder of South Asians for American (SAFA), a grassroots organization committed to advancing the interests of the South Asian community. She is also an attorney at Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker. Prior to joining Wilson Elser, Neha served as the Deputy Director and General Counsel at NYC Mayor de Blasio’s Office of Appointments. Most recently, Neha served as the National Co-Chair for South Asians for Hillary, and was also appointed to Hillary Clinton’s National AAPI Leadership Council. During the 2012 presidential campaign, Neha chaired the New York Chapter of South Asians for Obama. Neha served as the President of the South Asian Bar Association of New York in 2012, and now sits on the organization’s Board of Directors. She received her JD from American University Washington College of Law and a BS in Psychology from Syracuse University.

Dharna Dhamija, General Manager Tata Sons, North America

Dharna is the General Manager at Tata Sons, North America and joined the Tata group through the leadership program, Tata Administrative Service (TAS) in 2008. Dharna has had cross-functional, cross-industry experience across varied businesses of the Tata group for over 11 years and has worked in functions including brand & communications, sales and business development in sectors including telecom, consumer retail, defence & aerospace. At Tata Sons, North America, Dharna works closely with group companies in creating and refining North American business strategies, executing business development projects, contributing to the Group’s thinking based on emerging trends in North America in identified areas of interest, and strengthening group’s efforts on branding and communication in US and Canada. Dharna holds a Bachelor of Science from St Stephen’s College, Delhi, India. She completed her Masters in Business Administration from The Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, India.
Arjun Divecha, head of Emerging Markets Equity team, GMO

Arjun is the head of GMO’s Emerging Markets Equity team and a member of the GMO Board of Directors. He joined GMO (Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co) in 1993 to start a fund that invested in equities in emerging markets. He is currently based in Berkeley, and, as the Chairman of the GMO Board, he is responsible for overseeing the team managing the GMO Emerging Markets Strategy, GMO Emerging Countries Strategy and the GMO Emerging Illiquid Strategy with assets of over $25 billion. Prior to his affiliation with GMO, Arjun spent 12 years at BARRA (a Berkeley-based investment research firm) directing software development, marketing, client service and emerging markets research and development. Arjun is the Founder-Director of The Divecha Centre for Climate Change, located at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and a board member of the Bay Area chapter of Pratham.

Francisco D’Souza, Vice Chairman, Cognizant

Francisco co-founded Cognizant in 1994 and served as the company’s CEO from January 2007 through March 2019. In addition to his tenure as CEO, he served as President from 2007 to 2012 and held a variety of senior management positions. Francisco serves on GE’s Board of Directors, where he is a member of the Governance & Public Affairs Committee and the Management Development & Compensation Committee. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Carnegie Mellon University and as Co-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the New York Hall of Science. He is a member of the World Economic Forum and serves as the 2019 Chairman of the IT and Electronics Governors community at the Forum.

Reena Esmail, Composer; Artistic Director, Shastra

Reena works between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music, to bring communities together through the creation of equitable musical spaces. Esmail holds degrees from The Juilliard School (BM’05) and the Yale School of Music (MM’11, MMA’14, DMA’18).

Reena’s work has been commissioned by ensembles including the Los Angeles Master Chorale, Kronos Quartet, Imani Winds, Richmond Symphony, Town Music Seattle, Albany Symphony, Chicago Sinfonietta, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, San Francisco Girls Choir, the Elora Festival, Juilliard415 and Yale Institute of Sacred Music. Upcoming seasons include new work for Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Amherst College Choir and Orchestra, Santa Fe Pro Musica, and Conspirare. In addition, Esmail is Artistic Director of Shastra, a non-profit organization that promotes cross-cultural music connecting musical traditions of India and the West.
Madhuvanti Ghose, Alsdorf Associate Curator of Indian, Southeast Asian, Himalayan and Islamic Art, The Art Institute of Chicago

Madhu is responsible for the exhibition, collection, preservation and research of the museum’s permanent collections in these areas. She has curated and organized a series of exhibitions, including The Last Harvest: The Art of Rabindranath Tagore (2012); Zarina: Paper Like Skin (2013); Nilima Sheikh: Each Night Put Kashmir in Your Dreams (2014); Gates of the Lord: The Tradition of Krishna Paintings (2015–2016); Vanishing Beauty: Asian Jewelry and Ritual Objects from the Barbara and David Kipper Collection (2016); and India Modern: The Paintings of M.F. Husain (2017–18). She is currently exhibiting Ornamental Traditions: Jewelry from Bukhara (2018–2019). Between 2012–16 she led the Vivekananda Memorial Program for Museum Excellence with the Government of India that was designed to foster professional exchanges between the Art Institute and various museums in India. Ghose serves on the executive committee of the board of trustees of the American Association of Art Museum Curators and is Vice President of its Governance and Nominating Committee.

Raj Gilda, Co-founder, Lend A Hand India

Raj is a banker turned social entrepreneur. Currently dividing his time between USA and India, he is co-Founder of Lend A Hand India, an NGO focused on providing vocational education in secondary schools in India. Starting with 2 schools in 2005, Lend A Hand India’s operations have now scaled to 8500+ schools in 24 states across India. Prior to leaving the corporate sector in 2011 to focus full time on Lend A Hand India, he spent ten years in New York working with Citibank and Deloitte Consulting. Raj was appointed by Gov of India as a General Body Member of National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) from 2014-17. He was also selected by the UK Government, as a Chevening Gurukul Scholar (2012) at the London School of Economics. Raj is an Electronics Engineer from the University of Pune, a CFA, and holds an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin.

Vijay Goradia, Chairman, Vinmar International

A native of Mumbai, India, Vijay migrated to the US in 1978 and founded Vinmar International, Ltd., a global distribution company, that he grew to an international distribution powerhouse with over $3 billion in sales and over 29 offices worldwide. Vijay established Goradia Capital to invest in and acquire other businesses. Vijay and his companies have received recognition for his business success as well for philanthropy. Over 20 years ago, Vijay, together with Marie, founded an NGO called Pratham in the US to support an initiative in India to educate slum children. A very low cost ($25 per child per year) yet very effective teaching model, it has now grown to impact over 40 million children to date and currently benefiting over 5 million children a year in India. Vijay continues to travel around the world for work and pleasure (104 countries to date).
**Dr. Malvika Iyer, Motivational Speaker, Disability Rights Activist, Model**

Malvika is an award-winning Disability Rights Activist with a Doctorate in Social Work. She is the recipient of "Nari Shakti Puraskar", the Highest Civilian Honor for Women from the President of India. She is an International Motivational Speaker, a TEDx Speaker, a Model for Accessible Fashion and a Global Shaper at the Global Shapers Community (an initiative of the World Economic Forum). She is an Advocate for Inclusion and Gender. Her work has been recognized widely, including an honor from the President of India- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, a standing ovation for her motivational speech at the United Nations, and the 'Women In The World' Emerging Leaders Award in New York. She Co-Chaired the World Economic Forum India Economic Summit 2017. She has been the subject of numerous newspaper articles and books, even finding a place among the 100 Change Agents and Newsmakers of the Decade.

**Raj Goyle, Co-CEO, Bodhala**

Raj is Co-CEO of Bodhala, a data company focused on the legal industry. In 2006, Raj became the first Asian American elected in Kansas history and the first Democrat elected to his State House seat in Wichita in 2006. He was re-elected in 2008 and in 2010, ran for Congress against then- Congressman Mike Pompeo. After leaving Kansas politics, Raj moved to New York City, where he served as a senior adviser to Shelley and Donald Rubin's family office on philanthropic, political and business matters. He sits on the boards of Hunger Free America, New Deal Democrats, the State Innovation Exchange, Everyartist.me, Issue One, and Planned Parenthood of NYC Action Fund. He is the co-founder of the Indian American Impact Project and the India Center Foundation and serves on the advisory board of the American India Foundation. Raj has worked as a staff member for the ACLU, the Center for American Progress, and served as an adjunct professor at Wichita State University. He holds degrees from Duke University and Harvard Law School.

**Asha Jadeja, Managing Partner, Dot Edu Ventures**

Asha is an entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist based in Palo Alto, California. In her long career as a venture capitalist, Asha has invested in over 100 startups, some of which have gone on to become public companies. Asha initiated the spread of the maker movement and maker hubs to Africa in 2010 and later to India, Pakistan, and Brazil. Makerfest is a three-day event that brings local makers together for a week of collaborations and co-inventing.

Asha is also creating a network of Fablabs around the world to help spark off distributed manufacturing using just in time creation, tinkering, and deliveries. Through the Rajeev Circle Fellowship, Asha is developing a dynamic corridor of entrepreneurship, collaboration, and community between Silicon Valley and South Asia.
Piyush Jain, Co-Founder & CEO, ImpactGuru.com

Piyush is the Co-Founder and CEO of ImpactGuru.com, a crowdfunding platform in India with a major focus on healthcare. ImpactGuru.com is the GoFundMe equivalent in India. Piyush was featured recently in the Fortune 40 under 40 list in India and was awarded the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award by Entrepreneur India magazine. Piyush was previously an M&A investment banker with J.P.Morgan (New York, Hong Kong, and London), management consultant with BCG and EY (Southeast Asia and India). Piyush has an undergraduate degree from Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania, where he was a Joseph Wharton Scholar and a graduate degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He has co-authored a paper at Harvard Business School on innovative ways to finance entrepreneurial and social ventures.

Amit Jani, National Asian American Pacific Islander Director, Joe Biden for President

In addition to his current role, Amit is also the President of the New Jersey Leadership Program, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to engaging South Asian youth to government and politics. He has previously worked for the Phil Murphy Gubernatorial Campaign, Bob Menendez for U.S. Senate, and the New Jersey Democratic State Party. He has also served as a Congressional Aide to Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., Congresswoman Judy Chu and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPA). Amit is a Board Member for the Hudson County Schools of Technology in New Jersey and serves on the boards of South Asians For America, Act to Change, and the New Leaders Council. He hosts a podcast called "Politics and Spice," featuring prominent South Asian leaders. Amit is a proud native and resident of Jersey City, New Jersey.

Shaun Jayachandran, Founder and President, Crossover Basketball and Scholars Academy

Shaun is focused on using sport for development and social impact through the lens of gender and education rates. Born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada to the son of an orphan girl from India, he immigrated to the US while in high school. Crossover Basketball and Scholars Academy is a non-profit organization increasing gender equity and education rates in India for undeserved marginalized communities and using basketball as its vehicle of change. A TEDx speaker, Shaun is part of the John Wooden coaching tree where he has combined the pyramid of success with his ideas and passion towards education, coaching, and opportunity. Crossover has partnered with the government of Canada, the US Consulate in Chennai, and the WNBA Players Association in creating change.
Sanjay Kadaveru, Founder & President, Action For India

Sanjay is the Founder & President of Action For India (AFI), an organization whose mission is to help social entrepreneurs in India overcome barriers to scale and achieve greater impact at the Bottom of the Pyramid. AFI connects social entrepreneurs with impact investors, mentors, technology resources, government contacts and local partners. AFI is headquartered in New Delhi, India and has a chapter in Silicon Valley, California. Sanjay is also a Charter Member of The Indus Entrepreneurs. Sanjay is a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology at Madras and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Sanjay is pleased to invite Indiaspora members to the 8th AFI Annual Forum scheduled to be held on November 8 & 9, 2019 at the Indian School of Business (ISB) in Hyderabad. The Telangana State Government is a principal partner for the AFI Forum this year.

Jay Kansara, Government Relations Committee, Texas India Forum

Jay is a government relations professional with a decade of experience based in Washington, DC. During his time at the Hindu American Foundation, Jay worked on advancing policies to tackle hate crimes, advance human rights in the broader Subcontinent, and enhance understanding of Hinduism and Indian culture amongst lawmakers and thought leaders. Jay has testified before the US Congress on the rise of extremism in Bangladesh and its implication on regional and US national security. Currently, Jay is working with the Government Relations Committee of the Texas India Forum, a non-profit organization established to host India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Houston on September 22, 2019. In this role, Jay is engaging Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and across the United States to secure their participation in this historic event to advance the US-India partnership.

Cimeran Kapur, Founder & CEO, Communikind

Cimeran is the Founder and CEO of Communikind, a new care management app for families to track their health history and needs. Cimeran started her career as a special education teacher for students with moderate disabilities. Her passion for creating multidisciplinary care models drew her to an opportunity at UCSF to build the Children’s Communication Center for hearing-impaired children in Northern California. Cimeran’s efforts managing the care of over 850 families and driving forward meaningful clinical research and outreach, earned her an advisory board member position at the SF Department of Public Health. Cimeran holds a BA in Public Health from UC Berkeley and attended medical school at the UC Davis, where she focused on pediatric surgery. Cimeran brings her perspectives and experiences in these various disciplines to solve for families through Communikind’s platform - building a system that truly serves and empowers families in their health.
Ravi Kapur, Founder & CEO, Diya TV & Major Market Broadcasting

An award-winning journalist, Ravi is the founder & CEO of Diya TV and Major Market Broadcasting, enterprises that own television stations and networks airing to more than 70 million people in twenty markets around the U.S. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Diya TV is now the largest South Asian broadcast television network in the nation, providing relevant news, information and entertainment to the diaspora’s next generation. Major Market Broadcasting is America’s most diverse station group, incubating networks and programming for African-American, Hispanic, Native American, South Asian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino and rural communities through owned and operated television stations in San Francisco, Chicago, Orlando, Fargo, Bismarck & Minot. A frequent expert witness before the FCC and Congress, Ravi is a NAB Broadcast Leadership fellow, member of the MMTC Hall of Fame and recipient of the UCC’s Donald H. McGannon Award for advancing the role of women and persons of color in the media.

Gireendra Kasmalkar, Founder & CEO, Ideas to Impacts

Gireendra is the Founder Director and CEO of Ideas to Impacts Innovations Pvt. Ltd. and Lead Investor and General Partner at Alacrity India Fund. Ideas to Impacts is in the business of “Distributing The Future Evenly ®” by offering cutting edge technology services with our “smart town” model - the logical next step of Indian off-shoring. Our co-promoted fund Alacrity India invests in early stage technology Indian start-ups. He is a Mechanical engineer from IIT Mumbai (1987) and Univ. of South Carolina, USA, (1989). His initial business was in the CAD-CAM space, before starting his pioneering independent testing business. Gireendra founded VeriSoft, one of India’s earliest and leading independent testing companies. VeriSoft was acquired by SQS Software Quality Systems AG, the global leader in independent testing.

Suresh Katta, Founder and CEO, Saama Technologies

Suresh founded Saama Technologies in 1997, well before the collective global corporate conscience was aware of the extraordinary opportunities – and significant challenges – inherent in “big data.” Today, under Suresh’s visionary stewardship, Saama successfully harnesses and applies the power of AI and Deep Learning to its award-winning, proprietary analytics platform. Saama enables pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to bring better drugs to market faster and cheaper than ever before. Under Suresh’s leadership, Saama’s LSAC cloud platform was named by PM360 as one of the Most Innovative Products of 2017 and Frost & Sullivan recognized Saama’s RWE solutions for technology leadership in 2018. Suresh successfully launched two start-ups prior to founding Saama. He earned his M.S. in Computer Engineering at the University of Southwest Louisiana, and his B.S. in Electronics Engineering at the University of Bangalore in India.
Avinash Kaza, CEO, Upwell

Avinash is the Co-Founder & CEO of Upwell, a data science services company implementing customized analytics and solutions for its clients. He also serves as a Managing Director at Farvahar Partners, a boutique merchant bank that invests partner capital in growth businesses and acts as a liquidity provider of private placements on behalf of companies and institutional investors. Prior to Upwell and Farvahar Partners, he held senior level finance jobs across sales, trading, and research roles at Goldman Sachs, Perry Capital, and Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Avi serves on the Boards of Emerging Markets Charity Benefit and World Connect and the US Programs Leadership Committee for the International Rescue Committee. He is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a Milken Institute Young Leader, and a Security Fellow at the Truman National Security Project. He holds a B.A. in Economics and M.A. in International Policy Studies from Stanford University.

Gopal Khanna, Corporate Executive. Servant Leader. Community Worker

Gopal was appointed as the director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality at the White House in 2017. Previously, he was Minnesota's first Chief Information Officer (CIO), appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2005 and reappointed in 2007. Gopal also served as the Lead Co-Chair of the 19 member Minnesota Commission on Service Innovation (CSI), created to submit recommendations to the Minnesota legislature on "a strategic plan to reengineer the delivery of state and local government services, including the realignment of service delivery by region and proximity, the use of new technologies, shared facilities, centralized information technologies, and other means of improving efficiency." Additionally, Khanna served as a member of Health Information Technology Policy & Standards Committees' Enrollment Workgroup, chaired by President Obama’s CTO at The White House, which was tasked to develop a set of standards to facilitate enrollment in federal and state health and human services programs.

Dr. Dhruv Khullar, Physician, Writer, Weill Cornell Medicine

Dhruv, M.D., M.P.P. is a physician at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and an assistant professor at the Weill Cornell Department of Healthcare Policy and Research. He is also a contributor at the New York Times, where he explores the intersection of medicine, health policy, and economics. He currently serves as a Senior Research Fellow at NYC Health + Hospitals, and as Director of Policy Dissemination at the Physicians Foundation Center for Physician Practice and Leadership. Dr. Khullar recently worked in the ABC News Medical Unit, and was previously at the White House Office of Management and Budget, focusing on Affordable Care Act implementation. He completed his training at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and at Yale School of Medicine, and has a MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School. His work has appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), Health Affairs, New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Atlantic, Slate, and other lay and academic publications.
Sri Kulkarni, Candidate, Sri Kulkarni for Congress

Sri is a lifelong public servant and national security expert who has spent his career overseas working to protect Americans here at home. From Jerusalem to Iraq to Russia, Sri served in some of the toughest places in the world, representing the interests of the United States and reducing conflict around the globe. In Congress, Sri will use his experience to seek common ground, find solutions, and address the needs of every Texan.

Arun Kumar, Chairman & CEO, KPMG in India

Arun, Chairman and CEO of KPMG India has vast experience across multiple sectors and geographies. Arun served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and Director General of the U.S and Foreign Commercial Service in the Obama Administration. He traveled to over thirty countries around the world, engaging with senior Government and business leaders. Before his tenure in public service, Kumar was a Partner and member of the Board of Directors at KPMG, LLP, leading the firm’s West Coast Management Consulting practice. Kumar is a Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, New York. He is the author of a book of poetry, Plain Truths (Current Books, 2010).

Sukesh Kumar, Partner, KPMG

Sukesh is an Audit Partner in KPMG with over 23 years of experience providing audit and business advisory services to high growth companies. Sukesh is a member of National Audit Leadership Team for the Canadian firm. He is also the National Leader of India Practice in Canada and a member of KPMG’s Professional Practice Group in the GVA, providing leadership and guidance to clients and partners in resolving complex technical issues. As a partner serving clients in various industry sectors including technology, food processing, manufacturing and distribution, he acts as a business advisor to all his clients. As the leader of the India practice in Canada, Sukesh is actively involved in the Canada-India Business Corridor. His key area of focus is to support trade and investment opportunities between Canada and India. He is actively engaged in policy dialogue on promoting trade between Canada and India. Sukesh regularly visits India and leads a dedicated team in Canada and India focusing on supporting bilateral trade and investment opportunities.
Dr. Shinjini Kundu, Resident Physician and Medical Researcher, The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Shinjini, MD, PhD, is a resident physician in radiology and computer scientist at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. One of the youngest physician-scientists, she holds an MD degree from UPMC as well as a PhD in biomedical engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University. Earlier, she obtained B.S. and M.S. in electrical engineering from Stanford University. Her research focuses on developing novel artificial intelligence techniques to detect latent signs of disease from medical images imperceptible to the human eye. Her recent work enabled knee osteoarthritis to be predicted in healthy individuals 3 years before the onset of symptoms, among many other exciting applications. She was named NRI of the Year by the Times Network, MIT Technology Review 35 under 35, and Forbes 30 under 30. She was a participant at a United Nations summit, where she was a contributor to the Sustainable Development Goals in health.

Shohini Kundu, PhD Student, University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Shohini is a doctoral student in Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. She graduated with distinction and high honors from Cornell University in three years, where she studied economics, computer science, and mathematics. She has held internships at the German Central Bank, Citigroup, and BlackRock. Shohini is a regular contributor to several publications including Scientific American, Forbes, the New York Times, Huffington Post, and SeekingAlpha. She has received honors and awards from the National Science Foundation, US Department of State, US EPA, US Department of Defense, Intel Corporation, and Henry David Thoreau Foundation. Shohini serves on the board of directors of the Telluride Association, an educational non-profit organization with an endowment of >$50 million that offers educational opportunities and scholarships to high school, undergraduate, and graduate students.

Manoj Ladwa, Founder & CEO, India Inc. Limited

Manoj is the founder and chief executive of the India Inc. Group. He has interests in India focused advisory services, government affairs, and publishing. For 15 years Manoj practised as a corporate lawyer running his own firm with offices in Westminster & Mumbai. Manoj serves on the advisory board of the Commonwealth Enterprise & Investment Council. In 2003, he established the London office of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. He has served on committees of India’s Ministry of External Affairs, UKTI and London Chamber of Commerce. In 2014 Manoj served as a member of the Narendra Modi for Prime Minister campaign. He has been instrumental in organising many of Prime Minister Modi’s diaspora engagements including at Wembley Stadium in 2015. Manoj writes a popular weekly blog “Globally Speaking,” and is active on Twitter @manojladwa. In 2017 he authored a landmark study on UK-India Relations Beyond Brexit, released by Prime Minister Modi.
Sean Languedoc, CEO, Code in Canada, Global Talent Accelerator

Sean has built 4 tech companies in Canada as CEO. Sean believes great talent should have no boundaries yet some countries are increasingly moving toward reducing immigration. Sean has built two companies based on the challenges. Code in Canada helps US and India companies that may be impacted by H1-B issues, to operate near shore in Canada. Global Talent Accelerator helps international tech talent with soft skills training to adapt quickly to the cultural differences of working in North American, agile development environments.

Manjula Luthria, Senior Economist, World Bank

Manju is senior economist at the World Bank with two decades of global experience in leading policy dialogue on a wide range of economic development and social inclusion issues. She is recognized as a thought-leader on the power of migration in unlocking global human development potential and focuses on both immigration and emigration policies and systems, leading programs to bring together the private sector and government to forge positive win-win narratives on migration. She has a PhD in economics from Georgetown University.

Rao Maddukuri, Founder & President, Poland India Business Council

Rao conceptualised and pursued building Inter-Governmental relations for economic development & investments between Indian States and Regions of Poland under the flagship program of Poland-India IT Forum. He was instrumental in the signing of the first ever MOU between the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Malopolska Region in the year 2005, which led to signing of many more MoUs.

Rao has worked tirelessly to promote trade and investments between India and Poland for more than a decade. He facilitated the highly-successful investments by Indian IT companies (Infosys, HCL, TCS, Zensar etc.), resulting in direct employment to more than 10000 Polish nationals. He is an entrepreneur and business executive in the telecommunications sector for more than two decades. He advises and mentors tech start-ups. He is a recipient of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (The highest Civilian Award given for Indian Diaspora by the Govt. of India) at Varanasi 2019 from the Hon’ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind.
Ajay Mago, Managing Partner, Edwards Maxson Mago & Macaulay, LLP

Ajay is Managing Partner at Edwards Maxson Mago & Macaulay, LLP. Ajay is a nationally recognized lawyer, trusted boardroom advisor, and passionate advocate for individual, corporate and institutional clients across numerous industries. Ajay is committed to the community and engages in significant pro bono work. He has handled pro bono matters involving international and domestic microfinance, civil rights issues, immigration rights and countless other issues.

Meenakshi Mahajan, Director of Development and Communication, Magic Bus USA

Meenakshi is the Director of Development and Communication at Magic Bus USA with over 15 years of experience in sustainable development, livelihoods and women's empowerment in India and the US. Her role at Magic Bus includes developing and implementing strategies for advocacy, engagement, and fundraising from foundations and corporations in the US. Prior to moving to the US, she worked with the Ford Foundation’s India office in Sustainable Livelihoods and Micro-finance, and with CREA, one of the few feminist human rights organizations based in the Global South. She has consulted with organizations such as the National Dairy Development Board, Sa-Dhan (Association of Indian MFIs), and Johns Hopkins University.

Neil Makhija, Attorney at Berger Montague, PC and Lecturer at Penn Law

Neil is an attorney at the law firm of Berger Montague PC, and Lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia, PA. He is currently representing parents of children in a class action against JUUL Labs, Inc., for the marketing of highly addictive e-cigarettes to children. In 2016, Makhija was the Democratic nominee for a Pennsylvania house district, where he outperformed the national Democratic ticket by 14 points in the general election. He now serves on the board of an organization designed to shift the electorate in Pennsylvania. On matters of law, politics, and policy relating to Pennsylvania, workers' rights, and consumer protection, Makhija is a regular advisor to several Members of Congress and presidential candidates in 2020.
Ranjan Manoranjan, Principal, 3SG+

Ranjan, the co-founder of 3SG Plus, a global business and community leader highly regarded on the local, national and international stage. Ranjan has a rich history of helping complex, fast-moving companies grow and flourish by strategically creating and nurturing relationships necessary to make deals, impact change and improve the financial bottom line. He is known for using excellent listening and negotiation skills to accomplish corporate and community goals. Ranjan was appointed to the Ohio Casino Control Commission in 2011 by then Ohio Governor John Kasich, and currently serves on the World of Children Board of Governors and the Ohio Society's Political Action Committee. Other organizations that have benefited from his involvement: Executive Board of the Ohio Society of CPAs, The Ohio Board of Tax Appeals, Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority, Governmental Affairs Advisory Council, and The State Audit Committee. Ranjan was awarded the distinguished Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2005.

Dipti Mathur, Art Collector and Philanthropist

Dipti is biochemist turned collector of contemporary South Asian art. She has a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and has performed post-doctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has served on the Board of Trustees of the Seattle Art Museum, the Collections Committee of the Asia Society Museum, New York, and the Contemporary Art Advisory Panel of the San Francisco Asian Art Museum. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the San Jose Museum of Art, and is a founding member of the Asian Contemporary Art Consortium, San Francisco.

Kavita Mehra, Executive Director, Sakhi for South Asian Women

Kavita is deeply committed to serving organizations that build equity and advocate for justice. Currently, she is the executive director of Sakhi for South Asian Women (Sakhi), which has existed for 30 years to represent the South Asian diaspora in a survivor-led movement for gender-justice and to honor the collective and inherent power of all survivors of violence. Under her leadership, Sakhi’s has launched a trauma-informed mental health program, a housing program, and a food justice program for clients. Her commitment to building a survivor-centered movement has positioned Sakhi to open its second office in Queens in January 2020 and its third office in Brooklyn in 2021. Prior to joining Sakhi, Kavita was the interim CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Newark and has held leadership positions at the GlamourGals Foundation, South Asian Youth Action, and Asian Women in Business. Kavita is an Advisory Board Member for the New Leaders Council’s New Jersey Chapter, a Board Member for Act to Change, and a Board Member for LadyDrinks.
Aneesh Mehta, President, South Asian Bar Association of North America

Aneesh is the President of the South Asian Bar Association of North America (SABA). SABA is a voluntary bar organization and serves as an umbrella organization to 27 chapters in the US and Canada. SABA is a recognized forum for professional growth and advancement for South Asian attorneys in North America and seeks to protect the rights and liberties of the South Asian community. Aneesh is also an attorney at Microsoft supporting the Devices team. Before moving to the law Aneesh worked as an electrical engineer in Florida. Aneesh lives in the Seattle area with his wife and two kids.

Dennis Mehta, CEO, Princeton Growth Accelerator

Dennis is a lifelong entrepreneur with a background in private equity and venture capital. Specific sectors of interest include Renewable Energy - Storage Lithium Batteries – Solar panels, Cyber Security, and IoT. Dennis has specialized in driving growth in companies through focused marketing efforts, unlocking new or untapped distribution channels, revitalizing sales teams, and creatively combining products to retain customers. Dennis Mehta currently serves as the Co-CEO and Chairman of the Princeton Growth Accelerator - a venture capital fund dedicated to the growth of early stage startups with expertise focused on Scale. Dennis founded Professional Software Technologies - After leading the firm to a successful acquisition, he continued to build value as an executive, leading it to second and third exits at higher valuations by Esko and Danaher. He also serves as the Chairman for I-IT Group, a platform focused on connecting Israeli suppliers and technology with Indian markets, companies and consumers.

Parag Mehta, Executive Director, Center for Inclusive Growth, Mastercard

Parag is the Executive Director of the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth. He leads a team of professionals dedicated to ensuring fair and lasting economic growth around the world and is responsible for overseeing the Center’s programs, research and engagement. For nearly two decades, Parag has been a leader in creating positive social impact. From shaping evidence-based public policies to organizing large-scale social change movements, he has worked with diverse groups of stakeholders to advance the common good. Prior to joining Mastercard in 2017, Parag served as Chief of Staff to the U.S. Surgeon General. He also spent four years directing communications for a civil rights agency in the Department of Labor and served on Barack Obama’s presidential transition team. Parag has a Master’s degree in Public Administration from Syracuse University and a B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin.
Dr. Shefali Mehta, Founder, Open Rivers Consulting Associates

Shefali, an environmental and agricultural economist and statistician, focuses on developing strategy and change plans for organizations undergoing transformation. She founded and leads Open Rivers Consulting Associates to tailor solutions and create holistic strategies for a range of clients. Prior to founding Open Rivers, Dr. Mehta worked in roles across private, public and non-profit sectors including McKinsey, Syngenta, the Soil Health Partnership, amongst others. She serves or has served as a Board member for various groups including Bountifield, Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pest Center (MITPPC), the School of Statistics at University of Minnesota, The Gates Scholar Advisory Council, amongst others. Dr. Mehta received her PhD in Agricultural and Applied Economics and MS in Statistics from the University of Minnesota, MPhil in Economics from Cambridge University and a BA in Economics from New York University.

Seema Mody, CNBC Global Markets Reporter and Host, “Futures Now”

Seema Mody is a global markets reporter for CNBC, focusing on the intersection of foreign policy and Wall Street. She hosts the CNBC Digital show “Futures Now” and the “European Close,” a daily segment on CNBC’s “Squawk Alley.”

Previously, Seema was an anchor and reporter at CNBC-TV18 in Mumbai, India where she covered the country’s economic boom. Seema reported on private equity deals and M&A activity across India, exclusively interviewing global private equity heads including Warburg Pincus CEO Chip Kaye, and provided daily market updates for CNBC World’s “Capital Connection” and “Cash Flow.” Seema graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Biological Sciences and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Follow Seema Mody on Twitter @SeemaCNBC.

Rakesh Mohan, Senior Fellow, Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University

Rakesh, a Senior Fellow at Yale’s Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, and Distinguished Fellow at Brookings India has been among of India’s senior-most economic policymakers and an expert on central banking, monetary policy, infrastructure and urban affairs. Most recently he was executive director at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C., representing India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan, and chairman, National Transport Development Policy Committee, Government of India, in the rank of a Minister of State. He is also a former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India. As deputy governor he was in charge of monetary policy, financial markets, economic research and statistics. In addition to serving in various posts for the Indian government, including representing India in a variety of international forums such as Basel and G20, Mohan has worked for the World Bank and headed prestigious research institutes.
Naghma Mullia, Chief Operating Officer, EdelGive Foundation

Naghma is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of EdelGive Foundation, an organisation set up by Edelweiss Group towards building the capacities of the not-for-profit sector. Over the last seven years, Naghma has been instrumental in driving asymmetrical impact across project areas of the visionary organisations the foundation supports. She has also fostered collaborative philanthropy by partnering with stakeholders within the sector on large-scale innovative programs of social change. Naghma provides support to start-ups, as a mentor, at the Nadathur S. Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning, at IIM, Bangalore. She is a Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and has a Masters of Commerce (M. Com.) degree from the Pune University.

Anita Nagpal Schwartz, Development Director, India, The Nature Conservancy

Anita Schwartz is a seasoned professional with almost three decades of experience in fundraising, marketing and communications for non-profits. She heads The Nature Conservancy's philanthropic efforts for India in the U.S. and U.K. Before joining The Nature Conservancy, Anita worked as the Vice President of Development, Marketing, and Program Administration for Western Resource Advocates from 2004-2016. She has also worked at the Environmental Defense Fund where she managed fundraising efforts in a seven-state region. She started her non-profit career at Conservation International in Washington, D.C., in 1990. She holds a Bachelor's degree from American University, Washington, D.C., with a double major in literature and American studies. She is a Certified Fund Raising Executive, having secured an internationally-recognized professional credential for philanthropic fundraising executives. She has also completed a Certificate Program in Authentic Leadership at Naropa University, Colorado. Anita has a deep love for India, its cultural heritage and nature. She is an aspiring collage artist, avid reader and enthusiastic world traveler.

Laxman Narasimhan, CEO, RB

Laxman was appointed as CEO of RB on 1 September 2019. Prior to joining RB, Laxman held various roles at PepsiCo from 2012 to 2019. He was previously Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo’s Latin America, Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa operations, where he ran the Company’s food and beverage businesses across the regions. Prior to PepsiCo, Laxman served as a Director for McKinsey & Company and held various roles from 1993 to 2012. He was also an Advisory Board member of the Jay H. Baker Retailing Centre at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.
Shekar Narasimhan, Managing Partner, Beekman Advisors

Shekar is Managing Partner at Beekman Advisors and Chairman of Papillon Capital, and a Principal in the Emergent Communities Fund, an Opportunity Zone Fund, focusing on small towns and cities in the Southeast U.S. Shekar was appointed by the Governor as the Chairman of Virginia Housing Development Authority’s Board of Commissioners. Shekar has served on several boards of housing and related organizations and is a Senior Industry Fellow at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard. He also served as a Commissioner on President Obama’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and has founded AAPI Victory Fund, a Super Pac to elect progressive Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. He holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, and an MBA from Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh.

Raj Narula, Founder and CEO, InCa Synergies

Raj is an entrepreneur, business builder and active angel investor in eLearning, Web Portals, Security, Hospitality and IT Domains. He worked for Canadian General Electric and Dresser Industries before setting up his own business in 1984. After running multiple business ventures in Hospitality and Tourism, he established his first India focused IT venture, TaraSpan, in 2005 to deliver a footprint for a number of Canadian Tech companies into the India market. He grew TaraSpan from 2 to 165 members over a number of years with offices in Pune, Gurgaon and Mumbai. He exited in 2014. He then started InCa Synergies based in Ottawa and has successfully generated significant revenue from the India market. Raj has also led many Trade Missions to India. Positioning companies has led to many successful M&A transactions over the years. Raj is also the co-founder and Charter Member of the Ottawa chapter of TiE (the Indus Entrepreneur). He was also a co-founder of the Maharaja’s Ball, a local charity, that deployed close to $1M for social causes in Ottawa.

Pari Natarajan, CEO, Zinnov Management Consulting Pvt. Ltd.

Pari is the CEO of Zinnov, a global management and strategy consulting firm, which assists large technology MNC GICs in improving their engineering efficiency and innovation capabilities through effective use of globalization. Started in 2002, Zinnov has made it to the prestigious IAOP top advisory firms list for the past decade, including 2018. Pari has extensive experience in assisting large MNC GICs in conceptualizing and operationalizing Globalization, Digital Transformation, Growth strategies, Market Creation, and Ecosystem Development, and identifying Emerging Markets. He brings a wealth of expertise in the fields of Operations Research, Strategic Management, and Product Engineering. He helped incubate TalentNeuron (acquired by CEB a Gartner Company (NYSE:IT)) at Zinnov. Prior to heading Zinnov, Pari held management positions at Praja and Centric Software. He holds an M.S. in Industrial Engineering from Iowa State University.
Dr. Rajan Natarajan, Chairman/Founder, Global Alliant, Inc.

Rajan is the Former Deputy Secretary of State and Commissioner of Transportation in Maryland. In appreciation of his service as Maryland’s Deputy Secretary of State, Governor O’Malley reappointed Rajan as the Commissioner of Transportation of Maryland in 2015. Presently, he is also serving on the Maryland Governor’s Cybersecurity Executive Board, Maryland Chamber of Commerce’s Executive Board, and University of Maryland Board of Visitors. He has served on multiple boards and chambers, including President of the Maryland-India Business Roundtable, Executive Board Director of the Asian-Pacific American Chamber of Commerce, and Commissioner of the Governor’s Commission of Maryland Real Estate Development. Rajan is a successful entrepreneur and founded two fast growing technology firms, EverTech, Inc and Global Alliant, Inc.

Rajan Navani, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, JetSynthesys (Jetline Group of Companies)

Rajan is the Vice Chairman & Managing Director of the diversified Jetline Group of Companies, the roots of which originate back to the 1930’s in Bangkok, Thailand. Rajan is provides leadership and strategic direction to digital group JetSynthesys with operations in India, MENA, SE Asia, UK, Japan and US. With a vision to play a key role in the digital lives of 1.3 billion Indians, the group has recently made significant investments and is building businesses in powering varied consumer-facing digital platforms, products and services. Using the venture and private equity funding mechanisms to both invest in, as well as to build and acquire next gen operational businesses in India and globally, the group now has majority owned ventures in new age digital media, entertainment and in categories including short format video & music, gaming, classifieds, cricket, mindfulness and healthcare. The group is also building AI and blockchain led Industry 4.0 solutions to strengthen enterprises globally.

Saili Oak, Vocalist; Programs Director, Shastra

A native of Mumbai, Saili Oak began studying music at the age of 3. A finalist on the popular reality TV series “Zee Marathi SaReGaMaPa.” A senior disciple of Dr. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande, she is a leading vocalist of the Jaipur-Atrauli gharana. She completed her Sangeet Visharad from the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal and has earned awards including the prestigious Pt.Jasraj Yuva Award, Pt Vasantrao Deshpande Yuva Award, and the Gaanwardhan Award. Saili is also known for her work in the Indian/Western Classical music crossover space. She has performed with the Albany Symphony, Richmond Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Tonality choir, Salastina Music Society. She has been featured on several albums including ‘Beyond’, “American Mirror”, “Sing about it” and “KALA.” Saili serves as the Programs Director of non-profit Shastra.
**The Honourable Ratna Omidvar, Senator, Senate of Canada**

Senator Omidvar is an internationally recognized voice on migration, diversity and inclusion. In April 2016, Ms. Omidvar was appointed to the Senate of Canada as an independent Senator representing Ontario. As a member of the Senate’s Independent Senators Group she holds a leadership position as the Scroll Manager and was previously the Deputy Chair of the Special Senate Committee on the Charitable Sector. Senator Omidvar is a Councillor on the World Refugee Council, a Director at the Samara Centre for Democracy and Chair Emerita of the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council. Previously at Ryerson University, Senator Omidvar was a Distinguished Visiting Professor and founded the Global Diversity Exchange. Senator Omidvar was appointed to the Order of Ontario in 2005 and became a Member of the Order of Canada in 2011, with both honours recognizing her advocacy work on behalf of immigrants and devotion to reducing inequality in Canada.

**Nishant Pandey, CEO, American India Foundation (AIF)**

Nishant is the CEO of the American India Foundation. In this capacity, Nishant provides strategic leadership to AIF’s operations spanning the US and India. Nishant is an economist by training and began his career as a banker but soon realised that development sector was his calling. He joined Oxfam, a leading global charity, as the Programme Officer for South India where he designed and developed value-chain programmes on the theme of ‘power in markets’. Subsequently, he moved Oxfam’s global HQ in Oxford to lead on programme development and management in 12 countries including Russia, Tajikistan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Albania, Yemen, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Jordan. In his work on Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area and its impact on small farmers in European neighbourhood, he demonstrated his ability to link high-level policy with projects on the ground and was soon given the opportunity to lead the entire policy and campaigns portfolio for Oxfam in the region. Before moving back to India as AIF’s Country Director, Nishant was based in Jerusalem as Oxfam’s Country Director for Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel.

**Dr. Mihir Parikh, Leader Strategic Legal Practice, Nishith Desai Associates**

Mihir is Strategic Thought Leader based in Palo Alto (Silicon Valley) office of Nishith Desai Associates—a research-oriented international law firm. With his expertise at the intersection of strategy, technology, and law, he helps companies understand the strategic implications of technologies and develop strategies to use law as a strategic asset to create new business opportunities, defend competitive position and manage risks in highly competitive industries.
Vaibhav Parikh, Head US Operations, Nishith Desai Associates

Vaibhav is an engineer and a lawyer with around 25 years of experience. He leads the practice areas of Technology, Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity and Blockchain. Over the years, Vaibhav has been advising many leading Indian e-commerce companies in their operations from a legal and regulatory standpoint. Tying in his expertise in advising several private equity players and venture capitalists navigate their way to successful investments, Vaibhav has facilitated some of India’s largest e-commerce transactions.

Tarina Patel, Actress, author, peace activist

While studying medicine in India, Tarina fell in love with the arts, and started shooting commercials post university and on weekends Racked up almost 100 ads, learnt Hindi and starred in Bollywood films, being the 1st South African to do so. She has subsequently produced films that have opened in Cannes, started her own jewellery and clothing line, and is one of the most popular faces on South African television. After a long battle to save her father’s life, she has made a turn back to the medical world and started a foundation in Africa focusing on health and education. She is in the midst of penning a book to tell her heart wrenching but beautifully inspiring story with her beloved father.

Gaurav Pathania, Visiting Professor, George Washington University

Gaurav is a sociologist and teaches Social Movements in the Department of Sociology at The George Washington University. His current research in cultural sociology critically examines contemporary identity movements in India and among the diaspora. Along with several research papers and reviews, Gaurav has recently authored his first book, “The University as a Site of Resistance: Identity and Student Politics” (Oxford University Press, 2018). The book conceptualizes the conditions for the emergence of cultural politics and student resistance in Indian higher education. Gaurav has formerly served as a Visiting Scholar to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and as a Research Associate at the University of Southern California. Along with scholarship, Gaurav is a published poet. His poetry won the national prize sponsored by the Poetry Society of India. He is currently working on his memoir about his childhood in a village in a pre-globalized India.
Mason Payne, Executive Director, Vistex, Inc.  

Mason is the Executive Director of the Vistex Foundation and the Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at Vistex, Inc, both programs he developed and launched with the CEO and founder of the company. In addition to managing global grant making and employee engagement programs, Mason has led an enterprise-wide effort to leverage the tech company’s assets and capabilities to develop social impact projects. Over two decades, Mason has worked with non-profits, with Fortune 500 companies, with universities and public schools, with foundations and campaigns. This diversity of experience ranging from global health and community development to environmental policy and the arts has been at the core in his efforts to build a strong CSR program that creates meaningful, relevant and necessary social impacts. Mason has a Master’s in Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a lifelong habit of playing music in bar bands.

Anoop Prakash, President of the Ambulance Division, REV Group

Anoop is incoming President of the Ambulance Division for REV Group, a publicly traded manufacturer, headquartered in Milwaukee. Previously, he was a leadership advisory consultant with Egon Zehnder. Prior to Egon Zehnder, he spent 10 years with the Harley-Davidson Motor Company, in general management, sales and marketing roles in the US, Canada, and India. Earlier, Anoop also served as an appointee in the President George W. Bush Administration in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and at the Small Business Administration. He has also held business development roles with two technology companies, worked as a consultant for McKinsey & Company, and served four years on active duty in the US Marine Corps. Anoop holds a BA from Stanford University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Priya Rajan, Managing Director, Silicon Valley Bank

As the Market Lead for India, SEA and Africa, Priya provides international market entry advice and introductions with a focus on technology and innovation cross-border companies, entrepreneurs and venture capital funds in emerging markets. Prior to this role she was Director of Early Stage practice where she oversaw enterprise-wide university engagement strategy and closely worked with top-tier incubators and accelerators, she helped founders create strategic partnerships with those who can accelerate the way forward. She also spent several years as the group controller for SVB Financial Group, where she managed financial and accounting functions for all global entities. As the global group financial officer, she served as a core member of the company’s Finance team. Through her work at SVB, Priya supports entrepreneurs who strive to make the world a better place. She serves on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters and of Women Who Code, an organization dedicated to helping women to excel in technology careers. In addition, Priya is a charter member of TiE, as well as a venture partner at XFund and advisor at Entrepreneurship at Cornell University.
**Jenifer Rajkumar, Lawyer & Professor, CUNY**

Jenifer is a lawyer and professor. She served in the administration of New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo as Director of Immigration Affairs & Special Counsel. She led a statewide effort to ensure immigrants in New York State have access to counsel through the Governor's first-in-the-nation Liberty Defense Project. Rajkumar has a wide range of experience in litigation, policy, and politics. She practiced civil rights law for several years at Sanford Heisler Sharp LLP, focusing on class action litigation on behalf of the disenfranchised. She was part of the legal team on Velez v. Novartis, which was ranked by the U.N. as one of the top 10 cases in the world advancing women's rights. She teaches Political Science as a Professor at CUNY's Lehman College. She is a panelist on the national PBS Show "To the Contrary" which airs to over 1 million viewers nationwide.

**Kasi Rao, President and CEO, Canada-India Business Council**

Kasi currently serves as President and CEO of the Canada-India Business Council. In this capacity, he advises corporations, universities, think tanks, not-for-profit organizations, and different levels of government on India-related strategies. Prior to that, he was a Senior Advisor at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada in the Toronto Office. He has also held positions as Vice-President and Director for the Foundation’s Toronto Office and Senior Fellow with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. He has served on the Government of Saskatchewan’s Asia Advisory Council. He also serves as the Senior Advisor (India) to the law firm Bennett Jones. He was recognized as “Member of the Year 2012” by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce and a recipient of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal.

**Raghu Rao, President, ESeva**

**MR Rangaswami, Founder, Indiaspora**

MR is a software executive, investor, entrepreneur, corporate eco-strategy expert, community builder and philanthropist. Recognized as a software business expert, he participated in the rapid expansion of the Silicon Valley software industry during his tenure as an executive at both large and small software companies. In 1997, he co-founded Sand Hill Group, one of the earliest “angel” investment firms and was featured on the front page of the Wall Street Journal. He produced the prestigious Enterprise and Software conferences that were held in Silicon Valley. He was also listed on the Forbes “Midas” list of investors. MR is the publisher of SandHill.com, a leading website for entrepreneurs, VCs and CIOs. In 2007, M.R. embarked on a new venture as the founder of the Corporate Eco Forum, an invitation-only membership organization for Global 500 companies that demonstrate a serious commitment to the environment as a business strategy. In 2012 MR founded Indiaspora to unite Indian Americans and to transform their success into meaningful impact in India and on the global stage.

**Viren Ratnaswami, Director, IIFL Capital (Canada) Limited**

Viren oversees the Canada business for IIFL Wealth & Asset Management. IIFL is one of the largest wealth management companies in India and its largest shareholders are Fairfax Financial and General Atlantic. Viren manages all aspects of the Canadian operation. He joined the IIFL Wealth Team full-time in 2017 but has been associated with the Group since 2011. Viren has over 6 years of experience in the financial services industry, 4 of which were spent in Mumbai, having worked with IIFL Institutional Equities in both research and sales for 3 years followed by a year at Fairbridge Capital (a subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings), as a junior analyst. Viren holds a B.A. from the University of Richmond in Virginia, USA and an MBA from The University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Management.

**Raju Reddy, Founding Patron, Kakatiya Sandbox**

Raju is the founder and former CEO of Sierra Atlantic, a company that grew to be a best-in-class global services company over a period of 17 years before being acquired by Hitachi. Previously, Raju spent 10 years at Intel. He enjoys working with young entrepreneurs and mentoring to build great global companies. Raju currently serves on the board of Grey Orange, Belong and Seclore, and previously on RedBus (acquired by Naspers), Esspresso Logic (now CA) and Cognovision (now Intel). Raju is currently a Board member of RAND Corp Center for Asia Pacific Policy and EnActe Arts. He previously served as the Chairman of BITSAA Intl., the alumni body of BITS Pilani. Raju is the Co-founder of Kakatiya Sandbox, an initiative in rural Telangana building an ecosystem for long-term, positive social impact. He is an active TiE Silicon Valley charter member and served as Convener for TiEcon 2016.
**Avi Sahi, Chief Strategy Officer, DBG at Anthem, Inc.**

A global growth executive, Avi is keenly interested in partnering with leaders from the diaspora to make business and social impact. His professional focus is on launching and profitably scaling P&Ls via new product and market development to solve critical customer problems. His core experience is in Private Equity, Investment Banking, and more recently, applied in Consumer Products, Energy, Healthcare and Industrial sectors. Avi previously led global innovation and venture capital investments for Johnson Controls ($32B revenue) with a focus on digital transformation, mobility and energy technology. He holds an MBA from Georgetown University, an MA from NYU, and a BS from Rutgers University.

**Mythili Sankaran, Principal, Stratalens**

Mythili is a product management specialist, dealmaker, entrepreneur and community builder and comes with extensive experience in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors. With over two decades of experience in the technology sector, Mythili brings a combination of strong startup, enterprise, product management and business development expertise to teams she works with. Previously, Mythili was the Senior Director, Western Region for the U.S. India Business Council where she led the Council’s west coast practice and membership. Mythili recently founded Stratalens to help early stage startups and advises them on all aspects from product ideation and investor pitch preparation to fundraising and business implementation. Additionally, Mythili is a member of Pipeline Angels, a network of women investors, who are changing the face of angel investing and creating capital for women entrepreneurs. Along with her husband, she also serves on the Regional Board of Room to Read, a global nonprofit supporting girls’ education and literacy.

**Atul Satija, Founder/ CEO, The/Nudge Foundation and Founder 2.0/ CEO, GivelIndia**

Atul is the Founder & CEO of The/Nudge Foundation. After 17 years of starting, scaling and turning around various businesses in some of the largest and most respected organisations globally, he decided to start The/Nudge Foundation to fulfill his passion of working on inequality and social issues facing India. Atul is now serving both The/Nudge and GivelIndia as their CEO. Prior to InMobi, Atul was the Head of Mobile Business for Japan & Asia-Pacific at Google. Atul has also done various general management, business development and sales roles across telecom and technology companies including Adobe, Samsung and Infosys. Atul also served EndPoverty, another non-profit as Chairperson for two years, working on various poverty related issues including water, sanitation, education, skill-development, sustainability and women empowerment, and continues to serve as their Board Member. Atul has been named in the #40underForty list by The Economic Times in 2017. Atul holds a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from Indian School of Business and B-Tech from National Institute of Technology.
Sanjay Shah, CEO, Vistex

Sanjay Shah is the Founder of Vistex and serves as its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Architect. Sanjay brings a high level of passion, energy and skills to address complex business processes for global organizations. Sanjay has been instrumental in creating an entirely new category of business software called “Go-to-Market” programs and has charted a visionary path for Vistex that transcends the “business as usual” mindset. With relentless focus and unbridled vitality, he executes on the vision like only he can.

Vidya Shah, CEO, EdelGive Foundation

Vidya is the CEO of EdelGive Foundation, an organization set up by Edelweiss Group towards building the capacities of the nonprofit sector. Under her leadership, EdelGive Foundation has grown to become a platform for strategic philanthropy. Vidya is the Non-Executive Director at Edelweiss Financial and serves as a Director on the board of organisations such as Mabella and Spire Investment Advisers, Janaagraha, Masoom, AVPN, Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy and Manndeshi Foundation. Vidya has served as CFO for Edelweiss Group and has also worked with ICICI, Peregrine and NM Rothschild India in the past. She has been recognised as India’s Top 100 Women in Finance by Association of International Wealth Management of India (AIWMI) 2019. She earned her MBA from the prestigious IIM, Ahmedabad and B.Com degree from R.A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai.

Moh Sharma, Advisor, US Congress

Moh is currently a Member Services and Outreach Director and a Policy Advisor in the U.S. House of Representatives. She was previously a Senior Policy Advisor and the Director of Outreach and Member Services for the Committee on Small Business in the U.S. House of Representatives under Ranking Member Nydia Velázquez, a Senior Policy Advisor for the House Democratic Caucus, and a Legislative Aide for the Office of Congresswoman Judy Chu and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC). She holds various positions on a few volunteer boards and is currently the president of the South Asian Bar Association of Washington D.C., the chair of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Alumni Association, the vice president of the Congressional South Asian American Staff Association, on the board of directors for the Washington Leadership Program and Adhikaaar, and the immediate past president of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Staff Association and the chair of its advisory council.
Amita Shukla, Founder & CEO, Vitamita

Amita is an innovator and entrepreneur focused on creating transformative innovations for human health, well-being, and potential. She is the founder and CEO of Vitamita and the author of *Enduring Edge: Transforming How We Think, Create and Change*. Amita advises companies and organizations and has been invited to present over 100 keynotes, lectures, and workshops to innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders in industry, academia, and government. Her work focuses on mastering the mind to lead individual, team, organizational, and societal transformation. Previously, for about nine years, she was a healthcare investor at New Enterprise Associates, one of the world’s largest and most active venture capital firms. Amita is an Adjunct Lecturer at Johns Hopkins where she teaches a graduate course on Leading Change. She also serves on the boards of several innovation and entrepreneurship focused organizations. Amita holds a BA in biochemistry from Harvard, an MBA from Stanford, and 10 patents.

Ashok Siddanthi, Management Consultant, Endyna Inc.

Ashok is a management consultant with engineering background brings over 22 years of experience with private sector and past seven (7) years working with Federal clients holding senior positions in management consulting and government contracting. Highlights of his relevant private sector achievements included the benchmarking of best practices in quality and productivity in 20 countries, which influenced GE’s adoption of the Six Sigma program and Ford’s reduction in automotive development cycle time. He brings the private sector experience and best practices to leverage developing workforce efficiency and effectiveness through training and human capital support to government agencies.

Dr. Smita Siddhanti, President, EnDyna Inc.

Smita started EnDyna following a successful 15-year career with leading government contracting companies. A nationally recognized expert in public health risk assessment and management, she has worked extensively with federal agencies, the states, and multilateral organizations to develop regulations, policy, guidance, technology evaluations and management approaches to environmental protection and training. In addition to several publications, Dr. Siddhanti authored the book, *Multiple Perspectives on Risk and Regulation: The Case of Deliberate Release of Genetically Engineered Organisms into the Environment*, published in 1991. In addition to being actively involved with various philanthropic efforts, her passion is in enhancing rural entrepreneurship and livelihood in Indian villages, especially with women. Along with her other philanthropic pursuits, she is actively engaged with an NGO – WomenTech – working with 150,000 self-help groups in villages of Maharashtra, India, for the past two decades. She is a biologist by training (B.S. Biology Hons. and M.S. in Endocrinology) from Delhi University, and holds a Ph.D. in Technology and Public Policy from the University of Pittsburgh.
Dr. Somdutta Singh, Founder & CEO, Assiduus

Somdutta holds a PhD in Economics and is a board advisor for Kotler Impact, a strategic community organisation helmed by Dr Philip Kotler. She is also a Former Vice-Chairperson NASSCOM Product Council, Core Committee Member, WEP – NITI Aayog, a serial Indian entrepreneur, angel investor. She has founded several multi-million dollar ventures. She is the Founder and CEO of Assiduus Distribution, Digital Leadership Institute (DLI). She is also the Founder of IRA, a crowd-sourced multi-million dollar Fashion Label (amazon and retail), Co-Founder of Amplicell - a health supplements company, and Founder- CEO at Unspun Group, one of India’s first technology-based marketing solutions companies. She is also on the advisory board for BloombergQuint and on ghd advisory board of several start-up businesses. She is a mentor of various initiatives like Google Launchpad, Microsoft and Target Accelerator, and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

Sree Sreenivasan, Loeb Visiting Professor, Stony Brook University

Sree is inaugural Loeb Visiting Professor of Digital Innovation at Stony Brook University, named for Marshall Loeb, legendary editor of Fortune and Money. He is also a consultant and trainer for nonprofits, corporations, startups and execs around the world. He has been Chief Digital Officer in multiple industries: City of New York; Columbia University; and Metropolitan Museum of Art. Before joining the Met, he spent 20 years as a full-time professor at Columbia Journalism School. He taught entrepreneurship for four years with Ken Lerer, co-founder of Huffington Post and Buzzfeed. He appears monthly on CNBC’s “Squawk Alley” to talk tech. He was named to Fast Company’s 100 Most Creative People in Business in 2015; world’s most influential Chief Digital Officer by CDO Club in 2016; and one of Poynter’s 35 most influential people in social media in 2010. He is cofounder of SAJA, South Asian Journalists Association, which marks its 25th anniversary on Oct. 5.

Rajesh Subramaniam, President & COO, FedEx Corporation

Raj is President and Chief Operating Officer of FedEx Corporation and Co-President and Co-CEO of FedEx Services. As President and Chief Operating Officer of FedEx Corporation, he oversees the FedEx portfolio of operating companies and the more than 450,000 team members of FedEx Ground, FedEx Express, FedEx Freight, FedEx Services, FedEx Logistics and FedEx Office. He is a member of the five-person Executive Committee, which plans and executes the corporation’s strategic business activities. He is also a member of the FedEx Strategic Management Committee, a select group of the company’s top leadership, which sets the strategic direction for the enterprise. Raj is responsible for several landmark developments at FedEx, including the continuing digital transformation of FedEx services, the first-ever global brand campaign, and a significant expansion of the company’s global product portfolio.
**Neville Taraporewalla, President, BCCL Worldwide Inc**

A Certified Executive Leadership Coach, Neville has held several Senior Executive Leadership positions at Microsoft Corporation, Yahoo! Inc., Publicitas, Mid-Day Multimedia Ltd & The Time of India Group. Neville has been the Co-founder, past Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) in 2004 & 2005. In 2011, 2012 & 2013 he was included in the annual Campaign India ‘A’ list which showcased leaders in advertising, marketing & the media Industry in India. IMPACT Digital 100 List 2012 & 2013 included Neville in the list of leaders who have contributed to the growth of digital in India. An Angel investor to early stage start-up companies he plays a critical role of a mentor & advisor; his portfolio of investments include new media companies in the travel, home services, personal wellness, audio processing, mobile application development and augmented reality space in India & the US.

**Vauhini Telikapalli, Founder & Managing Director, VEVA Services**

Vauhini is the Founder and President of VEVA Services, a boutique management consulting firm delivering successful strategies and providing solutions to clients in the areas of Sustainability and Big Data. Also as an advisor at GLG, she lends her technical and management expertise to the top Tier Global Management Consulting Firms. As Director of Product Management and Marketing for Carbon Capture and Storage Business she led a global team of 50 and successfully executed R&D projects to commercial scale levels (>1B). At The Dow Chemical Company, she was handpicked by the C level management team to shape, lead and sustain key strategic business initiatives, propelling the company’s growth in emerging geographies. She was invited by the Government of India to shape the national policy framework for Solar Photovoltaics.

**Navin Thukkaram, Angel Investor / Entrepreneur**

Navin is a technology investor and speaker, having generated over $3 billion in exits. Navin is lead investor / board member of SkyKick, a cloud software company serving 20,000+ business customers globally. He founded Innovation Bootcamp, an immersive innovation workshop designed to prepare business leaders for the impact of mass automation. Previously, Navin was seed investor / COO of Qwiki, a mobile startup acquired by Yahoo!. Prior to Qwiki, Navin was #2 partner of Vulcan Capital Private Equity.

Navin has been featured by CNBC, Fox News, Fortune, and is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Business School. He serves on the advisory board of the Center for Strategic International Studies and formerly served as a trustee of Hampden-Sydney College and on the executive panel of the U.S. Chief of Naval Operations.
**Rishad Tobaccowala, Chief Strategy Officer, Publicis Groupe**

Rishad is the Chief Growth Officer of the Publicis Groupe, the world’s third largest marketing communications firm with 78,000 employees. Over his 37-year career in marketing, Rishad has served as the Chief Strategist of Publicis Groupe, The Chairman of Digitas and Razorfish and several roles at Starcom and Leo Burnett including setting up the first digital units for both firms called Starcom IP and Giant Step over 20 years ago. Rishad is finishing a book titled “Restoring the Soul of Business: Staying Human in The Age of Data,” which will be published by Harper Collins in January 2020. In addition, Rishad is a prolific speaker keynoting many conferences around the world. He is also the Chairman of The Tobaccowala Foundation which helps 10,000 people in India gain better healthcare and education. Rishad has a BS in Mathematics from the University of Bombay and an MBA from the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago.

**Atman Trivedi, Managing Director, Hills & Company, International Consultants**

Atman is a Managing Director at Hills & Company, International Consultants. He advises businesses on trade, investment, and political-security risks in India, China, and other markets. Atman previously served in various government roles related to U.S.-India relations at the U.S. Commerce and State Departments, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Chairman John Kerry). He writes and comments frequently on U.S. foreign policy towards India and other Asian countries, and works with several prominent think tanks. Earlier in his career, Atman was an international trade lawyer at WilmerHale LLP. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife Dr. Sarika Joshi, son Shaan, and daughter Jinyu.

**Sheel Tyle, Founder and CEO, Amplo**

Sheel is the Founder & CEO of Amplo, a venture capital firm focused on investing in the most impactful young entrepreneurs globally. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Andela, most recently named the #1 most innovative company in Africa by Fast Company. As an angel investor, Sheel has invested in the seed or Series A of Casper, Fiscalnote, Mark43, Robinhood, and others. Sheel graduated from Stanford University in three years, at the age of 19. He is a World Economic Forum Global Shaper, and was on the Forbes 30 under 30 list in 2013. He holds a JD from Harvard Law School. In 2016, upon invitation of the White House, Sheel was part of the US delegation with President Obama on his historic visit to Cuba.
Sujay Tyle, CEO and Co-Founder, Frontier Car Group (FCG)

Sujay is the CEO and Co-Founder of Frontier Car Group (FCG), a Berlin-based, emerging markets-focused automotive marketplace. FCG has raised $175M+ from Naspers, Balderton, and TPG Growth. Prior, Sujay was a partner at Kingsway Capital, a London-based emerging-markets focused fund. Sujay was on the founding team of Hired.com (a talent marketplace) as its COO, which now operates in Australia, Europe, and the US. Before Hired, Sujay entered Harvard at age 15, before leaving with a Thiel Fellowship. Sujay was named one of Forbes’ 30 under 30 and one of Goldman Sachs’ top 100 intriguing entrepreneurs in 2016 and 2018.

Roopa Unnikrishnan, Head of Strategy, HARMAN International

Roopa builds on almost two decades of experience in roles where she has seeded and driven change and innovation in several Fortune 500 companies. Roopa’s new book, The Career Catapult, brings together her insights and experiences to help professionals think differently about their lives and careers. Roopa started her career with seven years in consulting at Katzenbach Partners LLC (1999-2006), and was then the strategy director at one of Citibank’s CitiCards (2006-2007). A Rhodes scholar who completed both an MPhil in Economic and Social History and an M.B.A. at the University of Oxford, Unnikrishnan also has a varied extracurricular life, being both a published poet and a world-class athlete in sports riflery. She has captained an Oxford University team and won many medals for her nation in the International arena. In 1999, she received the Arjuna Award from the President of India, the highest sports prize in the country.

Amb. Richard Verma, Vice Chairman and Partner, The Asia Group

Rich is Vice Chairman and Partner at The Asia Group, a leading strategic advisory firm in Washington DC. He previously served as the U.S. Ambassador to India from 2014 to 2017, where he led one of the largest U.S. diplomatic missions and championed historic progress in bilateral cooperation on defense, trade, and clean energy. Ambassador Verma was previously the Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs. He also served as Senior National Security Advisor to the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and as a member of the WMD and Terrorism Commission. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and his military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal and Air Force Commendation Medal. Ambassador Verma is the recipient of the State Department’s Distinguished Service Award and the Chief Justice John Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award. He holds degrees from the Georgetown University Law Center (LLM), American University’s Washington College of Law (JD), and Lehigh University (BS).
Maya Vishwakarma, Founder & President, Sukarma Foundation

A native of Mehra gaon village in district Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh (MP), India, Maya has been living in San Francisco, California (USA) for nearly a decade. After completing high school (from) in her village, she went to Jabalpur RDVV University for her Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Biochemistry. She dropped out of a PhD program and moved to the Bay Area to pursue her career in Cancer Biology at UCSF hospital. While working in her home district for the last 5-6 years, she made a documentary on the model village, Baghuvan in Madhya Pradesh, titled “Swaraj Mumkin Hai” (Independence is Possible), and wrote a book by the same name. These projects were aimed at spreading awareness of rural education and sustainable villages, and have been awarded and appreciated at the national and international levels.

Hemant Wadhwani, President, Sai Translations Corporation

Hemant is president of Sai Translations Corporation and oversees TranslationCity.com. He is an active board member of the Hindu American Seva Communities (HASC) having organized faith-based conferences with the White House Faith Based Council during President Obama’s administration. His current focus with HASC is development work in Puerto Rico/US Virgin Islands and running a weekly vegetarian meal program for the past 20 years in Harlem - New York City with the Manhattan Sai Center. Hemant also is an active advisor to the Interfaith Assembly of Housing and Homelessness in NYC and currently serves on the Interfaith Advisory Commission for the State of New Jersey - Homeland Security Department. Hemant Wadhwani graduated with a B.A. in Economics from Manhattanville College and an M.S. in Management with a specialization in International Business from the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Mohan Wanchoo, CEO, EC Infosystems, Inc.

Mohan is the Founder President & CEO of a nationwide EDI Transaction Management and Integrated Billing Services provider to the Energy Industry. EC Infosystems has been serving 300+ Energy Marketers and 100+ Utilities in the US since 1995. Mohan is also the Founder President & CEO of Jasmine Universe, which is an Energy Management & Demand Response systems company. Jasmine Universe system helps consumers reduce their energy consumption and energy bills thus promoting a cleaner environment, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, reducing global warming and above all making our planet green. Mohan runs several charities like Ekal Vidyalaya, Sankara Eye Foundation, Vatsalyagram, Rotary Club etc. in the New York area that are focused on providing education, healthcare and social welfare services for the underprivileged in India and USA.
Sanjeev Joshipura, Executive Director, Indiaspora

Sanjeev has served as Indiaspora’s Executive Director since January 2018, and served as Director since July 2016. Prior to that, he was active in the US-India corridor for several years in a public policy and business capacity, via his own consulting firm. In the corporate realm, Sanjeev has worked at Fortune 500 multinational organizations in different industries, in the areas of strategy, finance and project management. Since 2008, he has been actively engaged in public policy, American politics and government relations. He has managed a US Senate election campaign, worked as a staff member on Capitol Hill advising congressmen and senators on economics and international affairs, and has been the Executive Director of an international industry association with large member companies around the world. Sanjeev has a Bachelors in Computer Engineer from Pune University, India, an MBA from the University of Toronto, Canada, and a Certificate in Financial Risk Management from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Ashish Shah, Community Relations Director, Indiaspora

Ashish Shah is the Community Relations Director at Indiaspora. He comes to Indiaspora with a background in non-profit management, consulting, and business development. Ashish is the founder of GivingRise, an online giving platform created to make giving to India from the U.S. simple, transparent and highly impactful. Ashish is focused on understanding giving habits and patterns of the Indian diaspora in the U.S. and empowering donors and philanthropists who wish to give and support causes in India. Before GivingRise, Ashish worked for over 10 years as a management consultant in the healthcare industry in Chicago, San Francisco, and Seattle. Born and raised in Mumbai, Ashish graduated with a Bachelors in Engineering from Mumbai University and a Masters in Telecom Policy from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Mansi Patel, Senior Manager, Communications and Outreach, Indiaspora

Mansi Patel comes to Indiaspora with a background in communications, policy, and public service. She previously worked at a bipartisan government relations firm, where she served as a Legislative Assistant working on education, tech and natural resources issues. Prior to that, she served Congresswoman Frederica Wilson on Capitol Hill as part of her communications team. Prior to that, she was a public school teacher in South Florida. Born in Chicago and raised in Stuart, Florida, she graduated with a BA from Northwestern University.
Gabrielle Trippe, Philanthropy Initiatives Manager, Indiaspora

Gabrielle is the Philanthropy Initiatives Manager at Indiaspora where she works to catalyze philanthropic efforts and social impact among the global Indian diaspora. She comes from a background in international public health, and began her career in sub-Saharan Africa, where she worked on issues such as HIV/AIDS, human rights, and water and sanitation issues. Her experience in India began as a William J. Clinton Fellow with the American India Foundation. She served in Hyderabad and focused on women’s and girls’ health, in addition to work with the LV Prasad Eye Institute. Most recently, before coming to Indiaspora, she worked with Purpose as Research and Partnership Development Consultant for a campaign to reduce avoidable blindness in India. A Fulbright-Hays Scholar and a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, Gabrielle holds a Masters in Public Health from Columbia University.

Rucha Gopal, Community Relations and Programs Coordinator, Indiaspora

Rucha graduated from the George Washington University in May of 2019, where she received her BA in International Affairs with minors in Religion and Public Health.

Prior to joining Indiaspora, Rucha interned at the Hudson Institute, within the Initiative on the Future of India and South Asia department. She has also held intern positions at the Human Impacts Institute and Sponsors for Educational Opportunity. Rucha is originally from the tristate area, where she has learned Bharatanatyam and Hindustani Classical Music. She is also an avid equestrian, and enjoys spending time out on the trails when the weather is nice.

Christine Ramos, Events Director, Encore Productions

Christine brings over two decades of experience in managing meetings, events and large-scale productions for major corporations as the founder of Encore Productions. She works meticulously to incorporate the highest standards in green meeting design and practices at all CEF events. For logistical information relating to CEF events, including travel and accommodations for the annual meeting, please contact Christine directly.