Indiaspora Climate Summit

Tuesday, April 20th

SESSION I: The India Perspective

**Arjun Divecha**, Founder-Director, The Divecha Centre for Climate Change

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. An immensely successful business manager, Arjun has directed GMO’s unusual approach to emerging markets investing which is a computer-driven process. This approach has proved to be successful for the Boston-based GMO, which is managing $121 billion in assets, especially for institutions and wealthy investors. 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.

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

Anita Schwartz is a seasoned professional with almost three decades of experience in fundraising, marketing and communications for nonprofits. 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 Fundraising 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.

Deepika Rawat, PhD Candidate in the Biogeography and Landscape Ecology Working Group within the CEN Center for Earth System Research and Sustainability, Institute of Geography, University of Hamburg, Germany

Deepika is currently a Ph.D. Student and part-time Teaching Assistant at the CEN Center for Earth System Research and Sustainability, University of Hamburg, Germany with a research focus on climate change adaptation through sustainable livelihoods of marginalized communities in the Indian Himalayas. She did her Bachelor’s and Master’s in Geography from Miranda House and Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, respectively. She has previously worked and volunteered with various national and international NGOs focussing on natural resource management, GIS mapping, and children’s education. She is also an Alumni of Climate-KIC, European Union’s largest climate innovation initiative and the world’s largest summer school supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. At present, she is also leading an ongoing multi-country environmental awareness campaign 'The Faces of Tomorrow' and working at storytelling creative podcast 'No Place Green Enough' to shed light on major global issues related to climate, human rights, health, environment, economic development, and more.

Hisham Mundol, Chief Advisor, India - EDF

Hisham is the Chief Advisor, India for Environmental Defense Fund, for operations in India. He started his career in sales, marketing and consulting with Hindustan Unilever, WorldTel, Accenture & Infosys. He subsequently moved to the development sector where he led the National Condoms Programme for the Indian Government’s National AIDS Control Organisation and later set up operations in South Asia for Wikimedia Foundation promoting projects like Wikipedia. Most recently, he led the work of Children’s Investment Fund Foundation in India (across health, nutrition, adolescence, education, girls’ & women’s rights and livelihoods, child protection and climate change.)
Jane Burston, Executive Director, Clean Air Fund

Jane Burston is Executive Director and founder of the Clean Air Fund. She is responsible for defining the Clean Air Fund’s strategy in partnership with the Board, team and partners and leading the organisation to implement the strategy. Jane previously led climate and energy science in the UK Government, responsible for the UK greenhouse gas inventory and a £45m science programme. Prior to that as Head of Energy and Environment at the National Physical Laboratory she managed a team of 150 scientists working in air quality, greenhouse gas measurement and renewable energy. She has been named as a ‘Young Global Leader’ of the World Economic Forum, as one of the ‘40 under 40 European Young Leaders’ by Friends of Europe and is a previous UK Social Entrepreneur of the year.

Kamaljit Bawa, Founder-President, AshokaTrust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)

Kamal Bawa (www.kbawa.com) is a Distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and Founder-President of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), one of India’s top-ranked environmental think tanks, based in Bangalore. He has done extensive work in the Himalaya for a number of years on a wide range of issues from biodiversity conservation to climate change. Kamal Bawa has published more than 200 papers and has authored or edited more than 10 books, and special issues of journals. Among the many awards he has received are: Bullard Fellowship at Harvard University (1972, 2009) Guggenheim Fellowship (1987), Pew Scholar in Conservation and the Environment (1992), Giorgio Ruffolo Fellowship at Harvard University (2009), the Gunnerus Prize in Sustainability Science from the Royal Norwegian Society of Letters and Sciences (2012), the international MIDORI Prize in Biodiversity (2014) from the Aeon Foundation in Japan, the Linnean Medal (2018), and honorary doctorates from the University of Alberta (2014) and Concordia University in Montreal(2019). He is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2012), the Royal Norwegian Society of Letters and Sciences (2012), the Royal Society (2015), and the American Philosophical Society (2019). Kamal Bawa is the founding Editor-in-Chief of two interdisciplinary journals: Conservation and Society (www.conservationandsociety.org) and Ecology, Economy and Society (http://ecoinsee.org/journal/eb_editors). His latest coffee table book Himalaya: The Mountains of Life, a companion volume to Sahyadri: India’s Western Ghats, was published in 2013.

Ricky Kej, Grammy Award Winner

Grammy® Award Winner, US Billboard #1 artist, GQ Hero 2020, Ricky Kej is an internationally renowned Indian Music Composer and Environmentalist. He has performed at prestigious venues in over 30 countries, including the UN Headquarters in New York and Geneva. Ricky has won over 100 music awards in 20 countries. He serves as the UNESCO MGIEP “Global

His vast repertoire of work includes 16 studio albums released internationally, over 3500 commercials and 4 feature films, including the natural history documentary ‘Wild Karnataka’ narrated by Sir David Attenborough.

Robert Charles Swan, OBE, FRGS, first person to walk to both Poles

Robert Swan has earned his place alongside the great explorers and adventurers that have tested their physical and mental strength to the limit in the planet’s most hostile environments. As with the great explorers and adventurers in history, Robert Swan is the first man in history to walk to both the North and South Poles. The successful completion of his North and South Pole expeditions marked the beginning of a new phase in his life. On both expeditions, he experienced, firsthand, the effects of environmental damage on the Polar ice caps. This shaped Swan’s lifetime goal – to work for the preservation of the Antarctic as the last great wilderness on earth. He then founded 2041, an organization dedicated to this goal. With his presence and integrity, accomplishments and reflections, Robert Swan has an extraordinary ability to move people and motivate audiences.

It is through his expeditions and lectures that Swan works to inform, engage and inspire the next generation of leaders to take responsibility, be sustainable, and know that now is the time for action in policy development, sustainable business generation and future technologies.

Rohini Nilekani, Founder and Chairperson, Arghyam

Rohini Nilekani is the Founder-Chairperson of Arghyam, a foundation she set up for sustainable water and sanitation, which funds initiatives all across India. From 2004 to 2014, she was Founder-Chairperson and chief funder of Pratham Books, a non-profit children’s publisher that reached millions of children during her tenure. She is Co-founder and Director of EkStep, a non-profit education platform. She sits on the Board of Trustees of ATREE, an environmental think tank, and serves on the Eminent Persons Advisory Group of the Competition Commission of India.

A former journalist, she has written for many leading publications such as Times of India, India Today, Mint, etc. Penguin Books India published her first book, a medical thriller called Stillborn, and her second non-fiction book, ‘Uncommon Ground’, based on her eponymous TV show. She has written several books for young children, published by Pratham Books including the popular “Annual Haircut Day”. In 2017, she was inducted as Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Well Being Project from 2019.

Rohini Nilekani is a committed philanthropist and in 2017, she, together with her husband Nandan Nilekani, signed the Giving Pledge, which commits half their wealth to philanthropic causes.
Satya Tripathi, Secretary-General of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet
former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of New York Office UN Environment

Satya S. Tripathi is Secretary-General of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet. A development economist and lawyer with nearly 40 years of varied experience, Mr. Tripathi has served with the UN for more than two decades in key positions across the planet in the areas of Climate Change, Human Rights, Democratic Governance and Legal Affairs. He was most recently the UN Assistant Secretary-General, Head of New York Office at UNEP and Secretary of the UN Environment Management Group. His earlier engagements with the UN include: Head of Human Rights Investigations for the UN in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH); Chair of the Committees on Laws, Treaties and Administrative matters for the UN-mediated Cyprus unification talks in 2004; UN Recovery Coordinator for Aceh and Nias where he facilitated international cooperation and funding of over US$ 7 billion for post-tsunami recovery efforts in support of the Indonesian government and affected populations; and Executive Head of UNORCID, a UN System Office established by the UN Secretary General in 2011 to facilitate the implementation of a US$ 1 Billion REDD+ partnership between Indonesia, Norway and other stakeholders. Mr. Tripathi was instrumental in establishing the Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility (TLFF) in Indonesia in 2016 and the Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF) in 2017 to leverage ‘private finance for public good’ at mega-scale to achieve transformative social and environmental impact for millions of people in developing countries. He previously served on the World Economic Forum’s Global Advisory Council on Forests; World Agroforestry Centre as ‘Senior Distinguished Fellow on Natural Resources Governance’; and in India as a member of its national civil service.

Shloka Nath, Acting Director, India Climate Collaborative

Shloka Nath is Executive Director, India Climate Collaborative. She also leads the Sustainability portfolio at the Tata Trusts, focused on the organisation’s climate, energy, and environment work. Prior to this, Shloka co-founded and was Managing Partner, Sankhya Women Impact Funds. Shloka is an angel investor in social enterprises and has mentored organisations across sectors. Shloka has a Master’s in Public Policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and a BSc in Government from The London School of Economics and Political Science.
SESSION II: The U.S. Perspective

Assemblymember Ash Kalra, California State Assembly

Assemblymember Ash Kalra was first elected to the California Legislature in 2016, representing the 27th District, which encompasses approximately half of San Jose and includes all of downtown. In 2020, he was re-elected to his third term.

Assemblymember Kalra is the Chair of the State Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and also currently serves as a member on the Housing and Community Development, Judiciary, Transportation, and Water, Parks, Wildlife committees. Assemblymember Kalra has established himself as a leader on issues ranging from criminal justice reform to the environment, as well as health care sustainability, housing affordability, growing our transportation infrastructure, and expanding economic opportunity to all Californians.

Assemblymember Kalra previously served as a San José City Councilmember for eight years and was a deputy public defender in Santa Clara County for 11 years prior to the City Council. He is the first Indian-American to serve in the California Legislature in state history.

Dominic Waughray, Managing Director, World Economic Forum

Dominic Waughray is currently Managing Director, Centre for Global Public Goods; Member of Managing Board at the World Economic Forum.

Dominic holds a Degree (Hons) in Geography from Cambridge University and a Master's in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics from University College London. From 1994-98, he was Senior Scientific Officer, Natural Environment Research Council Institute of Hydrology for the UK Civil Service. From 1998-2005, he was Managing Partner of Environmental Resources Management. More recently, he served as Senior Director, Head of Environmental Initiatives, World Economic Forum, where he was responsible for the agenda on environment and sustainability issues, including events (Annual Meeting in Davos and regional meetings), analysis and initiatives (multistakeholder projects). His focus areas include resource scarcity (water-food-energy linkages); water security; climate change and green investment; sustainable production and consumption.

He is an International Fellow, IIED; Associate Fellow, Royal Institute of International Affairs; Trustee, The Climate Group, an international NGO; Vice-Chair, Water Resources Group Executive Committee, an international public-private partnership on water hosted by the World Bank Group; and a Member, UNFCCC
Momentum for Change Advisory Panel, an initiative to select and showcase the world's most promising climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.

Gitanjali Rao, Scientist, Inventor, TIME’s 2020 Kid of the Year

Gitanjali Rao was recognized as America's Top Young Scientist and received an EPA Presidential award for inventing her device "Tethys"—an early lead detection tool. Gitanjali is also the inventor of “Epione”—a device for early diagnosis of prescription opioid addiction using genetic engineering, and "Kindly”—an anti-cyberbullying service using AI and Natural Language processing.

She was honored as Forbes “30 Under 30 in Science” in 2019 and TIME’s “Top Young Innovator” and "TIME Kid of the Year" for her innovations and STEM workshops she conducts globally, which has inspired over 40,000 students in the last two years across four continents. In her sessions, she shares her own process of innovation that can be used by students all over the world. She is an experienced TED speaker and often presents in global and corporate forums on innovation and the importance of STEM.

Gitanjali is the author of the book "Young Innovator's Guide to STEM", which guides students, educators, or teachers with a prescribed 5 step innovation process.

Gopal Patel, Director, Bhumi Global

Gopal Patel is based at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies where he serves as the Director of their Bhumi Project - a global network and platform to encourage Hindus to take better care of the environment. He has served in this capacity since 2010, and has helped it become a leading voice on environmental issues for the global Hindu community. Gopal is regularly invited to speak at international conferences and forums on the role Hindu teachings can play in addressing climate change. He has previously spoken at the White House, UN Headquarters in New York, the British House of Lords, and has been honoured for this work by HRH Prince Philip. Gopal is a graduate of King’s College, London, and has spent time living in Hindu ashrams in India and England. He is based in Oxford, England.
Harmit Singh, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Levi Strauss & Co.

Harmit Singh is executive vice president and chief financial officer of Levi Strauss & Co. He is responsible for managing the company’s finance, information technology, strategic sourcing and global business services functions globally. This includes: financial planning and analysis, strategic planning and corporate development, accounting and controls, tax, enterprise risk management, treasury, internal audit, and investor relations.

Prior to joining LS&Co. in January 2013, Harmit served as chief financial officer of Hyatt Hotels Corporation and before that he held various global leadership roles at Yum! Brand foods, the world’s largest restaurant company, including CFO of Pizza Hut U.S. and CFO of Yum Restaurants International. Early in his career, Harmit also worked at American Express India and Price Waterhouse in India.

Harmit holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University, and is a chartered accountant from India.

Jigar Shah, Director, Loan Programs Office, U.S. Department of Energy

Jigar Shah was most recently co-founder and President at Generate Capital, where he focused on helping entrepreneurs accelerate decarbonization solutions through the use of low-cost infrastructure-as-a-service financing. Prior to Generate Capital, Shah founded SunEdison, a company that pioneered “pay as you save” solar financing. After SunEdison, Shah served as the founding CEO of the Carbon War Room, a global non-profit founded by Sir Richard Branson and Virgin Unite to help entrepreneurs address climate change. Originally from Illinois, Shah holds a B.S. from the University of Illinois-UC and an MBA from the University of Maryland College Park.

Raashina Humayun, Environmental Commissioner, City of Los Altos, California

Raashina serves as the Environmental Commissioner for the city of Los Altos, California and Associate Director of EnAct Arts, Inc. a non-profit organization aimed at creating theatrical productions and telling stories of the diverse South Asian population.
She is an IIT Delhi Alumnus and has degrees in Environmental Engineering and Chemical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts and The Ohio State University. Raashina holds more than 40 patents and has lead path breaking technical advances in the semiconductor industry that are embedded in most devices we use today. She is passionate about innovation and education and also supports several social and environmental causes.

**Raj V. Rajan**, Vice President of Project Development at Direct Connect Development Company and Fellow of the Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota

An environmental engineer, Dr. Raj V Rajan has spent over three decades reducing the private sector’s energy and water footprint through independent consulting, startups and executive leadership role in a multinational corporation. He is active in global industry groups focused on climate change and water pollution; has served as an advisor in several public sector international and national guidance, research, and teaching institutions; serves on the Boards of several non-profits shaping the region’s clean energy and environmental policies; and was appointed by successive Minnesota Governors to the Minnesota Clean Water Council. Guided by a strong belief that shaping collective human behavior is more important than just developing technological solutions, he supports promoting the humanities through visual and performing arts to deliver social and environmental change. You can follow him on Twitter and LinkedIn.

**Riddhima Yadav**, Nonresident Fellow, Aspen Institute Sustainable Finance Group, Goldman Sachs

Riddhima works with Goldman Sachs’ Sustainable Finance Group, which partners with the firm’s global businesses to drive sustainable solutions related to climate transition and inclusive growth. Prior to Goldman Sachs, Riddhima worked with former Secretary of State, John Kerry on climate initiatives as well as the United Nations. She holds a B.A. in Ethics, Politics and Economics from Yale University and is a member of the board of directors of the We Are Family Foundation.

**Sejal Hathi**, Chai, DiasporaNEXT Advisory Board

Resident physician at Harvard Medical School / Massachusetts General Hospital

Sejal Hathi, MD, MBA is a resident physician at Harvard Medical School / Massachusetts General Hospital and an award-winning social entrepreneur dedicated to building better health systems for vulnerable populations.
globally. She received her MD/MBA from Stanford and her BS with honors from Yale, and serves on the boards of Indiaspora and The Arena.

Shefali Mehta, Founder and Principal, Open Rivers Consulting

Dr. Shefali Mehta is the Founder and Principal of Open Rivers Consulting. An environmental and agricultural economist and statistician, she 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.

Sumant Sinha, Chairman and Managing Director, ReNew Power

A leading first-generation entrepreneur, Sumant Sinha is the Founder, Chairman and Managing Director of ReNew Power – one of India’s largest clean energy companies. Sumant founded ReNew Power in January 2011, with a vision to transform the way energy is produced and consumed in India. ReNew has emerged as one of the leading asset creators in the country over the last 5 years. It now generates one per cent of India’s total electricity annually, and in doing so helps mitigate half a per cent of India’s carbon emissions in a year.

For his achievements in entrepreneurship and clean energy, Sumant has won several awards including UN Global Compact’s “SDG Pioneer for India, 2020”, “Chairman Of The Year” at the Stevie International Business Awards 2020, The Entrepreneur India’s Entrepreneur of the Year award, 2019, the coveted “Economic Times Entrepreneur of the Year Award’ 2018, “EY Entrepreneur of the Year”, 2017” and “Outstanding Start-up of the Year”- Forbes India Leadership Awards 2017 for ReNew Power.

Sumant has a Master’s degree in International Affairs from Columbia University, a degree in business management from the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta and also a B. Tech from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.