

MEET THE FOUNDING COHORT



Anuroopa Pereira

Anuroopa is Director, Marketing Communications at Sabre Global Capability Center. She is a communications professional with 20+ years of local and international experience in managing public relations & analyst relations campaigns for Fortune 500 companies in Asia Pacific & Japan.

She has in-depth expertise in developing creative, results-driven PR campaigns through traditional and social media channels. Anuroopa holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing Management and she is a proud mother of her son, Siddharth Pereira.



Deepti Mittal

Deepti is a HR Management leader with specialization in Compensation & Benefits, M&A Due diligence, Shared Services, Corporate HR. She has worked for 15 years with Firstsource Solutions Ltd. where she became the Head of HR & Corporate Communications.

She has been a pioneer in HR analytics and automation. She has been working with Corporates and Management Institutes in mentoring Senior Women Leaders for effectiveness in the boardroom, coaching & counselling the employees. She has also been awarded the top 50 most innovative technology HR leader by World HRD Congress in 2017.



Divya Sampath

Divya has 25+ years of leadership experience in the technology and consulting industries. Currently, she is a sponsor/portfolio partner at AWE Funds. She has built and managed high performance cross border teams in the Americas, Europe and Asia in roles spanning business development, operations and customer success.

As an angel investor and mentor, she works with multiple start-ups in fields as diverse as agritech, workplace automation, sustainability, ecommerce and fintech. Her interests include digital skill development, sustainable development, women empowerment, Digital transformation and Cloud, AI, Analytics.



Gagandeep Kaur

Gagandeep leads the Strategy and Impact team at Akanksha. She manages monitoring and evaluation of the Akanksha programmes in addition to ensuring that effective reporting, data collection, and monitoring systems are in place. Her focus area is to develop a data-driven culture leading to evidence-based decision-making across the Akanksha schools.

She has done her Bachelors in Economics from Delhi University, followed by a Master's in Business Administration. After 17 years of rich experience in the banking and finance industry, both in India and overseas, she made a choice to shift to the development sector.



Kakul Misra

Kakul is an IIM Bangalore alumnus. In her 2 decades plus of experience she has been an advocate for impact - based transformation. She has worked in both developed and developing economies with public and private sector to drive this passion.

Kakul has worked across sectors such as Education, Telecom, Healthcare, Aviation, Financial Services and Vocational Skilling. She is currently leading the operationalisation of the National Urban Digital Mission under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, with an aim to enable delivery of digitized municipal services across cities of India, leveraging technology and shared Digital Infrastructure.



Manisha Mehta

Manisha Mehta spent the first five years of her professional career as a management consultant with domain expertise in marketing financial products and business process outsourcing. Thereafter Manisha was a business news anchor, covering opening bell for NDTV Profit.

She has worked as a key participant of Design for Change Singapore chapter where she worked closely with the founder to design programmes to help children become change makers. Most recently, Manisha has helped to design a program on wellbeing for children in Singapore. She is also engaged in launching a Jewelry brand.



Meenakshi Kolay

Meenakshi is a business professional with more than 19 years of experience. Her experience lies in financial services, e-commerce and consulting. She has worked across Startups and Multinationals. Her roles have spanned across business development, strategy and general management. In her current role at Home Credit, she works primarily in digital lending and key partnerships.

She is a graduate of IIM Calcutta and is currently based in Gurgaon. She is also passionate about education and would like to work with organisations who are working towards creating equal education opportunities for children.



Nidhi Goyal

Over a career spanning 17 years, and a series of seemingly unconnected moves, Nidhi has always looked out for new challenges to solve. She spent the majority of her career at American Express (AmEx) where she worked in domestic and international locations in roles across Finance, Business Transformation and Strategy, and eventually was the market head for the India Charge Card product, New Product Development and Partnerships.

Currently, Nidhi heads strategic initiatives for Cygnet Infotech, an IT services firm that is looking to expand globally on the back of robust technology products.



Nita Tyagi

Nita is passionate about addressing the hard to crack societal challenges at the population scale, through collaborations across samaj-sarkar-bazar. In her corporate stint of 20 years, she worked in India and Europe with several organizations primarily in banking and analytics. For 8 years now, Nita has pursued her passion for driving transformations at National level in areas like Health, Urban Governance, Water and Electoral Politics. Currently she is actively engaged with eGov foundation as Director Partnerships for its Health Mission.

Nita is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore.



Padma Parthasarathy

Padma Parthasarathy is Senior Vice-President and Head, Consulting and Digital Services at Tech Mahindra. She's been with TechMahindra since 2006, and has played multiple roles in the company. An alumna of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Padma has had roles in consulting, technology, sales, key account management and strategic initiatives, and has handled multiple P&L management responsibilities during a career spanning more than 30 years.

In March 2020, Padma was featured on Forbes Magazine's India Women Power list of Self-Made Women. She is passionate about sustainability and addressing biases to enable the empowerment of women and girls.



Pallavi Tewari

Pallavi leads Women's World Banking's Advisory Team in India. She has 20+ years of experience in financial services and works with consumer and Channel (Business Correspondents, Call Centre, Digital) insights, research, analytics, marketing and project specialists to deliver sustainable & scalable products.

She has also worked in smaller domestic start-ups launching businesses and products from concept to MVP to national launch. Pallavi holds a Masters of Business Administration from IIM Bangalore and a Bachelor of Economics from Delhi University.



Pratima Harite

Pratima heads the Asia Pacific CSR & Philanthropy, at Lenovo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Lenovo. She is responsible in building strong charitable partnerships across Asia Pacific's diverse markets and increase employee engagement in alignment with the new global volunteer benefit.

She is a subject matter expert in the areas of Women Empowerment, education, financial literacy, vocational training, and healthcare. She also works pro bono with non-profit organizations supporting them in developing communication strategies and fundraising.



Rajani Surendar Bhat

Dr Rajani is a pulmonologist and palliative medicine physician, practising as an independent consultant in Bangalore. She is an elected member of the governing council of the Indian Association of Bronchology (IAB).

She was a member of the Empowered Committee of the Delhi State government shaping the state public health response to the first wave of COVID-19. She is also one of the principal physician scientists of the Community Science Alliance, a program with the Foundation for Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship for promotion of evidence-based high quality of primary health care for rural and tribal communities.



Rani Sasikumar

Rani is a communication professional with experience in Media (print and visual), Leadership communication, Internal Communication and CSR. She has extensive experience in global employee communication and change management; with experience of communicating to customer and internal audiences in a captive as well as service organisation. Currently, she is heading the External communication and CSR practice of Allianz Technology India, part of the global Allianz Group.

Rani is a gardener, nature and travel enthusiast and Communicator fascinated by the great connections, inspirations and stories from nature and people.



Shilpa Kohli

Shilpa is a Finance & Banking bred professional, art connoisseur, ex art curator/entrepreneur, a mother of 17-year-old son, travel enthusiast, certified career counselor, early-stage investor and a philanthropist. She has worked in a diverse set of environments including two global banks/MNC, with deep exposure to a multi-cultural work environment. Business, Finance, Business build-out, Strategic Planning, Credit & Risk management, Portfolio management, amongst others.

She is an engaged partner with SVP India (Social venture Partners is a philanthropic venture that strengthens non-profits) and also Chair the Grants Committee of SVP India Delhi Chapter.



Shruti Choudhari

Shruti is Director- Projects & Strategy at B L Kashyap, one of India's renowned listed civil construction companies. She has studied Architecture from the University of Minnesota and Sushant School of Art & Architecture, NCR. Shruti founded Chrysalis Design Studio (CDS) as the Principal Architect in 2007

Shruti has a Master's degree in Strategic Planning from MIT & Columbia University and a Master certification in Construction Engineering from University of Michigan. She has received the "Women in Excellence" award at the WEF in 2017 and in 2021, she was inducted as WICCI Construction Council - National Director.



Smita Nair Kotwal

Smita has a background in corporate finance having worked with leading firms and foreign banks for over 15 years. She was last with a foreign bank for around a decade and led coverage of the financial services and auto sector advising banks, financial services firms, conglomerates and multinationals on fund raising and M&A transactions. She is presently an active angel investor and looks at early-stage investments. She serves as a mentor to entrepreneurs and helps with financial, corporate governance matters and customer acquisition as well. Smita is a Chartered Accountant and holds a Master's degree in Corporate Finance from the London School of Economics.



Sucharita Kamath

Sucharita has two and a half decades of a unique mix of experience in the Corporate and Sustainable Development spaces spanning the IT, nonprofit, social enterprise and consulting industries including various senior management roles. She is currently the India Chapter Head at Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE).

Sucharita has done MBA from Saïd Business School, Oxford University. Her domains of Interest are Clean Energy, Climate Change, Gender, Governance, Livelihoods, Poverty and Sustainability.



Supriya Kapoor

Supriya provides mentoring and business consultancy to Indian social enterprises with an objective to help them scale, create sustainable growth and intensify their social and economic impact. In the past, she has worked with Indian and international corporates and consulting firms, in the areas of strategic planning, market entry, operating models, process excellence, HR & Organizational transformation.

Supriya is passionate about supporting sustainable and inclusive ideas and enterprises, gender equality and aerial adventure sports.



Susmitha Chakkungal

Susmitha has a career spanning more than two decades in areas like Communication, Marketing, Corporate Social Responsibility, creative content development for Radio/TV/ entertainment and Culture and Diversity Engagement consultations.

She is a double Master's degree in Criminology and Human Rights. She has conceptualised and executed a number of innovative brand management and Communication strategies for some of the world's best known corporations and social ventures.



Suvarna Apte Dalvie

Suvarna is a landscape architect with over 20 years of professional and academic experience. She has contributed to planning and building public projects with horizons ranging from 3 to 30 years with multiple stakeholders. She has designed private and public open spaces in the US and India, taught design studios as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Hong Kong and is managing the recycling program for her local community in Mumbai.

She is an architecture graduate of the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi and has a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture from University of Pennsylvania. A life long learner with a keen interest in application, she is part of SVP (Social Venture Partners) through whom she is participating in the social sector. She is interested in waste management, protection of our ecology and all topics that relate to public spaces.



Swati Shah Gupta

Swati has been working in Development Finance space for more than 16 years and have looked at it from several angles including municipal finance, PPP policy, project finance, CSR fund raising, credit analysis and impact and ESG strategy for venture capital funds.

She has also explored entrepreneurship - towards women's work force participation and circular fashion.

Currently, she runs her own firm called Excellerate Solutions that offers research and consulting services in areas of sustainable finance, WASH financing and impact measurement.



Vaishali Banerjee

Vaishali, an alumna of XLRI, is a seasoned Human Resources professional with deep domain knowledge and strong operational excellence along with program management skills, enabling a transformational journey. With over 20 years of experience in HR, she has gained diverse experiences in talent management, HR Business Partner role and Organisational transformation.

She started her journey in Executive Coaching through a structured program in her current organisation to be able to "Give back" to others.



Vinti Agarwal

Vinti is an academician and a researcher with a specialization in economics, finance, and data analytics. This includes a C.F.A designation from ICAI, a doctorate in economics from C.C.S University and an M.S in Analytics from Johns Hopkins University.

She has more than two decades of experience across academic institutions, professional training organizations and non-governmental organizations carrying out research, consulting, teaching and training. She currently runs her own research firm which exclusively works with non-profits on their MEL and impact evaluation projects.