



## 4<sup>th</sup> CSR Conference: Capacity Building in the CSR Ecosystem

### Speaker Bios for Session 4: Research and Innovation for CSR



**Dr. Sapna Poti** is the Director, Strategic Alliances in the Principal Scientific Advisor's Office, Government of India. Her primary role is to promote Scientific R&D and Innovations for social impact and to address industry problems through Industry, Foundations and Government channels. This includes engaging Science & Technology institutes and the entire start up ecosystem to meet National Missions & National priorities including COVID 19, doubling farmers income, make in India, water mission, waste management mission etc.

Dr. Poti is a PhD from IIT Madras with a dissertation in Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP) and has around 26 years of experience in Industry, Consulting and Government. Her previous stints were with Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Tata Trusts and National Skill Development Corporation (under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship) in the social development and Government sector. Dr. Poti also has industry and consulting experience with ITC, Hewitt Associates, Deloitte, Toyota Kirloskar, Tatas and Crompton Greaves. Dr Poti is a member of Niti Aayog's Expert Group on 'Skill Development for Mountain States', Member of GIZ MSME committee and MESA's advisory committees. Further, Dr Poti is a Chevening Awardee 2015. She is also a member on the Board of studies of skill development and educational institutes. She has authored national and international journal papers.

**Dr. Ram Turaga** is the Chief Development Officer, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs (ODAA), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc). ODAA was established by the Council of IISc to develop an Industry-Institute-Alumni ecosystem to raise philanthropic funding for special projects at IISc. In this role Dr. Turaga works closely with corporates under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs and also with philanthropies globally.

A large number of projects (valued over Rs. 250 crores) in the areas of Education, Sustainable Technologies, Skill Training and renewable energy, women empowerment, advanced technology training in AI/ML/Data Science, Covid 19 projects - to develop technology solutions for mobile diagnostic platforms (RT PCR testing), Ventilator development, small Oxygen plants etc.. are being currently done by IISc. These projects have received support from corporates under CSR.



Dr. Ram Turaga has held leadership positions in Industry and academia. Dr. Ram Turaga is an alumnus of IIT Madras and Kharagpur. He holds Ph.D in Mechanical Engineering from the IIT,

Kharagpur. Dr. Ram Turaga has published papers in scholarly journals and holds several US patents. He has been invited to deliver lectures at various academic institutes.

Dr. Ram Turaga is a Fellow of The Institution of Engineers (India), Member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Life Member of Tribology Society of India. He also serves on the Executive committee of the Tribology Society of India.



**Ravishankar Rao**, Director - Strategy and Operations, Cisco

Ravishankar (Ravi) Rao is the Director of Strategy and Operations for Cisco India's Engineering Site. In his role he works on several key initiatives, working across company leadership and also engages extensively with external bodies. He has also spent time mentoring non-profits, primarily in healthcare. He is a member of Nasscom's R&D Council.

**Srikrishna Sridhar Murthy (Krishna)**

Co-founder and CEO, Sattva

Krishna is the co-founder and CEO at Sattva and is responsible for the overall strategic direction, growth and impact of the organisation. Over the last decade, Krishna has been working with the leadership of Global Foundations, Social Organisations and Corporates to design and scale their social impact initiatives, across India, SE Asia, Africa and Europe. Krishna leads many collective impact initiatives across different themes like water, education, livelihoods and is an active member of the CII National Committee on Sports.



Krishna started his career as an early member of Dell R&D in India and was the Founding Partner of Longhouse Consulting, a boutique executive search firm focused on technology and emerging sectors in India. Krishna is an alumnus of BITS, Pilani and INSEAD and serves on the Advisory Board of multiple social impact and technology start-ups.