



5th CSR Conference: New Paradigms in Corporate Social Responsibility Speaker Bios for Session 1: Reimagining Purpose: Walking the Talk

Deeksha Vats

Chief Sustainability Officer
Aditya Birla Group



Deeksha is a sustainability professional with over 27 years of work experience in consulting and corporate set-ups. She is currently the Chief Sustainability Officer for the Aditya Birla Group (ABG), where she drives the sustainable business transformation agenda across all its locations on strategic, operational, communication and advocacy aspects of sustainability. Prior to this at ABG, she led the sustainability agenda at group flagship metals and mining business, Hindalco Industries Limited. At Hindalco, she worked across geographies, functions and aspects towards mainstreaming sustainability in the business. This was a follow-up to her role where she led the environmental sustainability agenda at Aditya Birla Group on topics of climate change, energy transition, water, waste, emissions and biodiversity.

Prior to joining ABG, Deeksha led the Sustainability & Climate Change practice at PwC at their Mumbai office for over 8 years. Over years, through her work at prestigious firms like EY, Engineers India Limited and Chemtex Engineering Limited, Deeksha has worked across diverse industry sectors. A regular speaker, panelist at sustainability events, she has been at the forefront of sustainability agenda in India through participation in working groups, industry bodies and expert networks.



Mankiran Chowhan

VP for Enterprise Sales
Salesforce

Mankiran leads the Enterprise Sales business for Salesforce in India. Prior to this, she was the Managing Director at SAP Concur. She is a technology business leader with 20 years of experience in driving a high-performance growth culture. Mankiran has a proven track record of building talent and managing complex transformations, having won the The Economic Times Top 20 Corporate Women Leader award in 2018.

Harish Krishnan

Managing Director & Chief Policy Officer
Cisco Systems, India & SAARC

As the Managing Director & Chief Policy Officer, Harish leads Cisco's strategic engagement with National and State Governments of India on a wide range of public policy issues that concerns Cisco in India - as an investor, globalization hub, business unit and as a corporate citizen. Harish leads the Corporate Social Responsibility efforts at Cisco India in his capacity as the Board member, operating at the intersection of India's



societal needs and Cisco's domain expertise. Harish is based in New Delhi, India and is with Cisco since May 2007.

An industry veteran of over 25 years, Harish actively participates in public policy forums in India. He holds critical positions like Vice President of the Manufacturing Association of Information Technology (MAIT), Chairman of Corporate Social Responsibility committee of American Chamber of Commerce in India (AMCHAM) and is a member of CII's National Committee on Telecom. Harish has also been the Former Chair of US India Strategic Partnership Forum group on Electronic Manufacturing. He is also the co-founder of Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI).

From 2003 to 2007, Harish was an Executive in the Governmental Program function of IBM specially focused providing leadership to IBM's policy engagement with the Government of India on Innovation, Global Resourcing & HR issues.

Prior to joining IBM, Harish worked for over 11 years with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) – India's Premier Industry organization in a variety of roles. In his last role as CII's Director for Information Technology, Harish worked with top CEOs of corporate India on issues affecting the IT& BPO industry.