

'Design in India - Where culture meets innovation'

SPEAKER PROFILES

'Design in India - Where culture meets innovation'**Dr Udayant Malhoutra**

Chairman, CII National Committee on Design Innovation (2024-25)
CEO & Managing Director
Dynamatic Technologies Limited

Udayant is the CEO & Managing Director of Dynamatic Technologies Limited, a world-class design, engineering and manufacturing company which designs and builds highly engineered products for Hydraulic, Automotive, Aeronautic and Security applications. Dynamatic Technologies Limited is a leading private R&D organisation with numerous patents and inventions to its credit, and partners marquee customers like Airbus, Boeing, Bell Helicopter, BMW, Audi, Daimler, Mercedes, John Deere and Cummins on a single source basis.

Udayant has been associated with Dynamatic Technologies for over three decades, and drives the leadership team of the Company in transforming it into a knowledge based organisation. In addition to being the CEO & Managing Director of Dynamatic Technologies, he is also the Chairman of Eisenwerk Erla GmbH, Germany, and Dynamatic Limited, UK.

He is a member of CII National Council, and Chairs the CII National Committee on Design. He has also served on the Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur, besides being the past Chairman of the National Sector Skills Council for Strategic Manufacturing, and the new National Institute of Design, Amravathi.

He has been conferred the degree of Doctor of Engineering & Technology (Honoris Causa) from University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata, in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the field of Technology & Innovation and his dedicated service to the nation.

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Mr Srinivasan

Chair, Grand Jury, CII Design Excellence Awards
& Senator, World Design Organization (WDO)

Srinivasan is a highly accomplished designer and entrepreneur in creative design and technology development, with over 30 years of work experience in Silicon Valley (United States), Europe and India.

Srinivasan is a Senator of WDO (World Design Organization), after serving as its President until February 2022. He has been and continues to work with its global members to promote sustainability and design for a better world. Srinivasan is also a member of the steering committee for Future of Design Education, a global initiative founded by Prof. Don Norman.

Srinivasan is the Founding President of WDO Foundation, a non-profit entity set up to work with cities, municipalities, and local governments to execute projects that help create a better lifestyle for citizens.

Srinivasan has been a keynote speaker at several design conferences across the globe on innovation and design topics. He has served as the jury chairman and jury member on several well-known design awards across the globe. Srinivasan is an active member of IDSA, the professional body for industrial designers in the US.

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Prof. Pradyumna Vyas

President-elect, World Design Organisation (WDO)
Senior Advisor, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
Former Director – National Institute of Design (NID)

Prof. Pradyumna Vyas is a former Director of National Institute of Design (NID), India's premier design institute. He is currently the senior Advisor for Design Promotion and Innovation at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and President-elect of the World Design Organisation (WDO).

Prof. Vyas acquired Masters in Industrial Design (M Des.) from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and was awarded an Honorary Master of Arts degree from the University for the Creative Arts in Farnham, United Kingdom in 2010.

With more than 38 years of professional and teaching experience in different spheres of design, Prof. Vyas was associated with NID for 30 years, first as a faculty member and later as the Director of the Institute from 2009-2019.

Prof. Vyas has been at the helm of design affairs in India and globally, and his illustrious career has been marked with several national and international milestones and accolades.

His contribution in the formation the India Design Council (IDC) in 2009, under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India was marked by Prof. Vyas being nominated as its first Member Secretary, a post he retained until his retirement from NID in 2019. Through IDC, he launched the India Design Mark, I-Mark in association with the Japan Institute of Design Promotion (JDP), Japan on the lines of the G-Mark award.

During his tenure as Director, NID received the status of Institute of National Importance by the Act of Parliament. Prof. Vyas assisted the Government of India in setting up four new NIDs across the length and breadth of the country.

Prof. Vyas has been conferred with multiple awards in recognition for his contribution to design education and promotion and is a jury member of several international awards.

Prof. Vyas is appointed as Independent Director on the Board of Titan Company Limited (2019), Dynamatic Manufacturing Limited (formerly known as JKM Ferrotech Limited) (2019), JKM Erla Automotive Limited (2019), Dynamatic Technologies Limited (2019), and Kirloskar Brothers Limited (2019-2022).

'Design in India - Where culture meets innovation'**Mr. Rabindra Srikantan**Vice Chairman, Karnataka State Council & Managing Director
ASM Technologies Ltd

Mr. Rabindra holds dual MS degrees in Computer Engineering and Computer Science from the University of Louisiana, USA, BE in Electrical and Electronics from PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore and schooling from Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet.

Rabindra Srikantan, founder and Managing Director of ASM Technologies Ltd, successful entrepreneur with over 35 years of experience in the areas of ER & D and Design Led Manufacturing. Rabindra Srikantan is the President and Chief Operating officer of ASM Digital Technologies Inc. USA, Director of ASM Digital Technologies Pte Ltd, Singapore and Designated Partner of RV Forms and Gears LLP, ASM Technologies Limited is a publicly listed company in India. With over three decades of experience in the areas of Engineering Services, Design Led Manufacturing. ASM is focused on two main verticals: Semiconductor/ Electronic Equipment and Transportation. ASM has multiple delivery locations in India with a global presence in USA, Singapore, UK, Canada, Japan and Mexico.

He oversees ASM Ventures, this arm of ASM Invests in early-stage companies in India and overseas in the areas of Cybersecurity, Networking, Wireless, Smart Manufacturing, IIoT. ASM has been supporting innovation, education and sports through its Social Responsibility focused for young minds through charitable organisations, Rabindra is State Council Member - CII Karnataka, Charter Member - TiE, Member – Former Member NASSCOM Engineering R&D Council, Past National Executive Council Member- Indo American Chamber of Commerce and Past Chairman -Indo American Chamber of Commerce.

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Mr Raj Menda,
Chairman, Supervisory Board
RMZ Corp.

RMZ is a long-term value investor dedicated to generating sustainable returns through disciplined growth strategies and patient capital deployment. Structured around essential real assets, As one of the world's largest family-owned alternative asset owners, RMZ emphasizes asset-light expansion through strategic partnerships and a disciplined approach to risk management, delivering transformational growth while mitigating risks through geographic and sector diversification.

RMZ's real estate investments encompass a wide range of sectors, including Commercial Real Estate, Industrial and Logistics, Business and Leisure Hotels, Luxury Residential and Retail. This diversity allows RMZ to capitalize on undervalued assets and distressed opportunities, focusing on scaling businesses and enhancing value through operational improvements and strategic investments.

RMZ's infrastructure portfolio includes critical assets such as Healthcare Infrastructure, Data Centers, and Fiber Optics. By prioritizing investments in these areas, RMZ supports the foundations of a sustainable global economy, with a focus on sectors poised for growth and long-term impact. The firm champions responsible and sustainable investment practices that create positive social impact and generate lasting stakeholder value.

Under Raj Menda's visionary leadership, RMZ has become a global leader in alternative asset ownership, strategically investing in high-growth opportunities that foster a sustainable global economy.

Raj's stewardship drives RMZ's focus on sustainability and innovation, positioning it as a pioneer in emerging sectors. By leveraging strategic partnerships and advanced business acumen, he ensures RMZ delivers exceptional returns while shaping India's economic landscape with a global outlook.

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Mr Bhaskar Bhat
Former Managing Director
Titan Company Ltd

Bhaskar Bhat has been associated with Titan since its inception and was managing director of the company for 17 years until his retirement on September 30, 2019. He has engineered the creation of many brands, including pioneering the concept of franchising and retailing in watches, jewellery, eyewear, and precision engineering.

He is also a member of the board of Tata Sons since 2017.

He is a B.Tech (Mechanical Engineering) degree holder of IIT - Madras, and a post graduate diploma holder in Management from IIM – Ahmedabad, India.

Since 1983 Bhaskar has been associated with the Tata Watch Project, later to become Titan Watches Ltd., and now Titan Company Ltd. At Titan, Bhaskar dealt with Sales & Marketing, HR, International Business and various general managerial assignments. Bhaskar is a member of the Governing Council at the T.A. Pai Management Institute, Manipal and the SDM Institute of Management and Development, Mysore.

He was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award of IIT Madras in 2008.

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Dr Geetha Narayanan
Founder & Distinguished Professor
Srishti Manipal Institute (SMI)

An evangelist for learning and an activist for change in educational milieus across the world Geetha has worked for over 4 decades in the overlapping fields of education, arts and culture, design and technology.

In the last four decades Geetha has moved from founding institutions that support and enable change to working both creatively and constructively in generating capacities for change within teachers, artists and other creative practitioners.

Geetha was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Oxford Brookes University in recognition of her contribution to teacher development in 2011. She has accepted a Director's Fellowship at the Media Lab of the Massachusetts's Institute of Technology USA and is currently holding the position of the UNESCO Chair for Culture Habitat and Sustainable Development as well. Geetha has also been invited to be a visiting faculty at Harvard Graduate School of Education's Future of Learning Summer School. Geetha serves and has served on many national and international boards.

'Design in India - Where culture meets innovation'**Mr. Dhaval Joshi**Founder
SIMULABS Creative Media Tech

Mr. Dhaval Joshi is the Founder of SIMU LABS, helping organizations and brands leverage generative AI and made it to the Forbes India DGEMS 2024 list of companies with Global potential. Prior to this, Dhaval led the Innovation team at the Interactive Entertainment Group (IEG) at Tencent Games HQ in Shenzhen China, focusing on developing IPs with interactive AI and XR technologies and experiences. During his time in China, he also helped establish a UX Research practice at Microsoft Asia Centre for Hardware (MACH), in Shenzhen. In India, Dhaval was with Nokia Research and Motorola Research Labs, developing culturally aligned tech solutions and experiences.

Active in academia, Mr. Dhaval has been engaging with institutions like Georgia Tech, NID, Nirma, IIT, etc advocating for inclusion of new tech and teaching methods, bridging industry and education. His research works have led to 12 Granted US patents and 2 EU patents for his work in AI, AR, VR, and Mobility.

'Design in India - Where culture meets innovation'**Ms Megha Awasthy**Director, Workplace Consulting
Steelcase

Megha Awasthy, Director A&D (Architecture & Design), APAC at Steelcase, the global leader in the office furniture industry, is responsible for the seminal propagation of Steelcase research & design ideation across the region, to assess and engage in workplace design consultations and bridge the gap between applied research, organizational vision & the physical environment.

Megha began her journey with Steelcase in 2017 and builds on her extensive experience of product design from the luxury lifestyle accessory & jewellery industries. She is a certified Action Learning Coach from the World Institute of Action Learning (WIAL), Washington, with over 10 years of workshop facilitation experience.

A strategic thinker and force majeure behind driving compelling future-state discussions, crafting workshops based on a human-centric design approach and creating a case for space.

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Prof. Gopal Meena
Director
Chitkara University

Professor Gopal Meena, an NID graduate, is a skilled multidisciplinary designer, strategist, and educator with extensive experience in academic and industry settings, both nationally and internationally. His innovative teaching approaches foster students' aspirations and creativity. He encourages academic and personal excellence through unconventional design strategies.

Currently, Prof. Meena serves as the Vice President of Strategy Initiatives at Chitkara Design School, Chitkara University. In this role, he oversees the development and execution of the school's strategic vision, curriculum enhancement, industry partnerships, international relations, and operational efficiency. He guides a team of faculty and staff while supporting students' academic and professional growth.

Prof. Meena has successfully implemented various initiatives to improve the quality and relevance of design education. These include establishing advanced design laboratories, forming partnerships with global and national institutions, introducing new courses and electives, and organizing design festivals, workshops, events, and competitions.

'Design in India - Where culture meets innovation'**Mr. Piyush Jain**Global Delivery Head, Digital Products & Services
L&T Technology Services

Mr. Piyush Jain serves as the Global Deliver Head - Digital Products & Services at L&T Technology Services (LTTS). He oversees strategy, planning, delivery, and operations for software and digital solutions across a diverse range of industries, including mobility, sustainability, and technology. Under his guidance, LTTS is scaling its digital innovation and deepening its offerings across global markets.

With over three decades of experience in the engineering and R&D sector, Piyush has been instrumental in establishing large-scale offshore and nearshore consulting and delivery models. His expertise spans system, software, and digital technologies, enabling him to drive transformation for clients across industries. A recognized thought leader, he regularly contributes insights on engineering trends, innovation, leadership, and people practices. Piyush holds a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Surat and is currently located in Bangalore, India.

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Mr Amod Gijare
Principal Designer
Forbes Marshall

Amod Gijare at present takes care of Industrial Design- Experience design (UI/UX), Space design. His experience counts in - Leading an in house design team. Outlining a design vision for products and experiences. Handling multi domain design projects from concept to release. Has 9+ years' experience in leading cross functional design projects and Teams Established 3D printing competency/capability at Forbes Marshall R&D.

Has achieved India Design Mark(IMark) awarded to 'Marshall B boiler', effiMAX and Rtru201.

'Design in India - Where culture meets innovation'**Professor Dhiraj Kumar**

Director – Academics

Unitedworld Institute of Design (UID)

Prof. Dhiraj Kumar, a seasoned professor and the founding Director of the National Institute of Design, Madhya Pradesh (NIDMP) in India, is a distinguished expert in design education. With extensive experience in Design Policy frameworks, product design, research, and management, he actively promotes design thinking in India, contributing as a member of national committees and boards. Prof. Kumar, recognized for his publications and research guidance, has led the establishment of five design institutions over 25 years, showcasing his leadership in shaping departments and institutes of national importance. He holds a Post Graduate qualification in Higher Education, an MBA with a specialization in Design Management, and a Bachelor of Design from prestigious institutions, while also being a member of various national design committees.

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Ms. Aditi Srivastava
President
Pearl Academy

Aditi is an academican, marketer and entrepreneur rolled into one, with a hands-on approach to critical functions of strategic collaborations, brand development, marketing, curriculum development, training and development, talent acquisition and business operations management. She is a dynamic, innovative professional with demonstrated success in her 30+ years of vast and diversified experience.

Her key strengths are pragmatic leadership, strategic planning and execution, consumer brand building, marketing, business operations management, expertise in franchise operations, and complete business setup. Aditi earlier served as the Global President, International Institute of Fashion Design (INIFD). She has been the force behind its expansion across India and international locations.

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Mr Devesh Mistry

Deputy General Manager- Design Lead
Godrej Interio

Mr. Devesh Mistry, is the Deputy General Manager Design @ Godrej Interio, and is responsible for Workspace and Education furniture designs. With over 20 yrs of experience in the Design Industry, Devesh has a mentoring and collaborative approach towards his team to create Knowledge, that helps in creating a Purposeful Product. His endeavours for excellence in Design and has given significant contribution to Businesses, Innovative patents, and Award-winning products. According to him, the key challenge in design today is to stay curious and open for critical thinking to design better products with intellect and purpose.

'Design in India - Where culture meets innovation'**Dr. Arindam Das**

Director

Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology

Dr. Arindam Das has over 34 years of rich experience in academics and has handled various leadership positions. He has previously held senior management positions with Pearl Academy of Fashion (PAF) and with National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) as the Director of the Delhi, Gandhinagar and Shillong campuses.

Dr. Das's research interests are in the areas of professional training and development; teaching & learning experiences; curriculum development & implementation; assessment systems & processes; and soft skills development in the domains of design and design management.

Dr. Das holds a Masters in Fashion Management & Ph.D. on 'A Framework for Assessment of Creativity: A Case Research on Fashion Design at NIFT' from NIFT Delhi.

Dr. Das has independently managed curriculum development as per QAA (UK) Standards successfully validated by Nottingham Trent University (UK). Dr. Das was also a Member of Special Committee of Professional Experts to select the permanent State Emblem/ Logo for the State of Meghalaya; and Member of Project Approval Board (for Design Innovation Centre), Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India.

At SMI MAHE Bengaluru, Dr. Das leads a talented team of staff and students who have won very prestigious national and international awards; coordinates the unique World Design Protopolis WDP Project; and has established two Centres of Excellence. Dr. Das has been a key figure in designation mapping at SMI, the launch of the practice-based PhD, and working closely with leading institutions in India and abroad. He has also represented SMI at the World Design Organisation (WDO) and Cumulus events at Tokyo and Budapest respectively, and is a Member, Board of Studies, MSAP Manipal and the CII National Committee on Design.

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Prof. Mandar Kale
Professor
BITS Design School

Mr. Mandar is a designer by profession, manager by experience and teacher by temperament. Over the last two decades, Mandar has been an active contributor to the Indian design ecosystem, mentoring creative minds, building spaces to nurture innovative thinking and creating value.

An alumnus of IDC IIT Bombay, Mandar's journey into design started with designing physical products and experiences, for brands like Nissan, Bilcare, Commonwealth youth games and Nirelp. It then evolved into designing for learning and growth at ISD Rubika, where he built and lead the foundation program with a team of international designers. His last role was to set up Strate school of design, a French design school, from scratch, to cater to new age design education paradigms. Currently he is a part of the faculty team at BITS Design school, Mumbai.

Mandar draws from his rich experience to balance the big picture with an eye for detail. Design for him is a framework for thinking that enables clarity. His current interests include Linear vis a vis circular approach to education, sketching as a thinking tool, and learning in the age of AI. When not interacting with students, Mandar can be found exploring photography, aviation, art and Lego.

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Mr Shridhar Rajgopalan
Managing Director
Accenture

Mr. Shridhar is a leader in the forefront of both Experience and Sustainability at Accenture. He is a visionary Leader with over 3 decades of experience in IT. Shridhar believes in embracing change and exploring new possibilities. His impressive education, including an M. Tech from IIT Chennai, has fuelled his journey from mainframe to digital. He believes in building Experiences that Drive Growth.

As the lead for Accenture Song in India's Advanced Technology Center, he has built a dynamic team of designers, marketers and technologists and built culture of cultures. He is proud to be leading a gender balanced organization. This team leverages the power of technology and AI to create unique customer experiences that have propelled Accenture Song, an \$19 billion organization, to become the world's largest digital agency according to Adage.

As a passionate advocate for sustainability, Shridhar is leading the charge to integrate sustainable practices into the core values of clients, employees, and communities. By creating a technology-driven ecosystem, he empowers companies to embrace sustainable business practices that are not only good for the planet but also drive profits. He is also developing innovative digital solutions to create sustainable livelihoods for people from all walks of life. He is a recognized thought leader.

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Dr Lokesh Aggarwal
Chief Technology Officer
NBC Bearings

Dr. Lokesh Agrawal, Chief Technology Officer at NBC Bearings, is a distinguished engineering leader with close to three decades of experience in R&D, engineering services, product development, and product planning. A triple alumnus of IIT Bombay, where he earned his B.Tech., M.Tech., and Ph.D. in engineering, Dr. Agrawal further honed his expertise in business management through an Executive Business Management Program at IIM Kolkata.

Dr. Agrawal's illustrious career spans multiple sectors, including automotive, aerospace, heavy industry, and medical equipment. His professional journey has included impactful roles with globally renowned organizations such as DRDO, GE Research, TCS Engineering, and Cummins, where he gained deep insights into advanced engineering disciplines and innovation.

Since joining NBC Bearings in 2017, Dr. Agrawal has been instrumental in driving the company's Research & Development function. Under his leadership, NBC has excelled in areas such as application engineering, product and process design, technical capability enhancement, and the development of new products and technologies. His expertise has been pivotal in strengthening NBC's position as a leading manufacturer of high-performance bearings, recognized for their precision, durability, and reliability.

R&D is a cornerstone of NBC's strategy, enabling the company to innovate and deliver tailored solutions across industries. Dr. Agrawal has been at the forefront of developing advanced bearings that meet the stringent demands of challenging sectors like automotive, renewable energy, and aerospace. His leadership has been vital in driving NBC's contributions to the aerospace industry, where high precision, reliability, and unique material processing are non-negotiable.

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Mr Saurabh Singh
Head of Design (GM)
Maruti Suzuki India

An alumni of IISc- Bangalore, Saurabh completed his Masters in Product Design in the year 1999. Since the beginning, he has been incredibly passionate about all things design and has always looked for opportunities to showcase innovation and creativity in the field. In 2003, he became a part of India's leading automobile company - Maruti Suzuki India Pvt Ltd and joined their creative team as a Designer which served as a platform for him to hone his love for car design that continues to grow stronger each year.

To his credit so far, Saurabh has played a key role in conceptualizing and designing a diverse range of automobiles such as Esteem, Omni, Estilo, WagonR and Alto facelifts. In the year 2008, he was recognized by Auto Monitor and was awarded the "Young achiever of the Year" for his distinguished efforts and contributions to Concept A-Star – the company's first concept car.

In the year 2012, he led the complete project for the inception and launch of the New Alto 800-One which went on to become one of the highest selling cars in the country. Under his creative guidance and with his fresh and bold perspective, the design department of Maruti Suzuki has created numerous award winning in-house productions such as Vitara Brezza, Fronx, S-Presso, Concept Future-S and Futuro-E that serve as design inspiration to future generations.

On the personal front, Saurabh's drive and enthusiasm for mobility goes far beyond hardcore car design as he actively supports creative initiatives around the subject and pursues his hobby for off-road and mountain cycling.

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Mr Biju Damodharan
Director, UX Design and Research
Amazon

Biju Damodharan currently holds the position of Director of UX Design and Research at Amazon. He oversees Shopping Design in India and other Emerging Markets. Biju played a key role in scaling Amazon to 100 million active customers from its India launch in 2013 till date. Setup and built the team and the UX practice grounds up. Instrumental in elevating the customers' needs and help invent the best experience to solve the needs of millions of customers.

Before joining Amazon, Biju managed design as a senior manager at Yahoo! India, leading their design efforts. Biju also worked with ZOHO Corp and Cognizant. He has spent 25 years leading design teams that crafted User Experience Design for Online Shopping, Payments, Enterprise Business Applications, Network Management Products, and Online Products for Small businesses.

Biju has a degree in Physics from the University of Madras. He likes Photography, Motorcycling and Theatre. Enjoys reading history and fiction (horror) during his free time.

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Mr Harjeet Gulati
Chairman
Cerebrent Group

For over 28 years, Harjeet S. Gulati has been a transformative force in the technology landscape, spearheading the growth of pioneering organisations across India, the United States, the United Kingdom, and now expanding into Singapore and Dubai. As a seasoned entrepreneur and visionary leader, Harjeet has been instrumental in driving the global expansion of the Cerebrent Group and its dynamic portfolio of companies, including Millipixels Interactive, Clariant, and Evantiv. Together, they deliver cutting-edge digital solutions that empower businesses worldwide.

Harjeet's deep expertise in technology and UX design places him at the vanguard of the digital revolution. He has consistently led initiatives that reshape business models, drive innovation, and elevate user experiences. His remarkable journey spans collaborations with agile startups, ambitious small businesses, and Fortune 100 enterprises, helping them unlock tangible value from their technology investments.

A frequent invited speaker at international events, Harjeet is recognised for his forward-thinking vision and relentless pursuit of excellence, and leadership that is both inspiring and impactful. His enduring contributions to the digital and UX industries continue to set benchmarks, fostering a legacy that shapes the next generation of global technology leaders.

'Design in India - Where culture meets innovation'**Mr Milind Dhabade**

Sr. Engineering Manager, Advanced Mechanical Design
GE Aerospace

Milind joined GE Aerospace's John F Welch Technology Center (JFWTC) in Bangalore in 2002, and in the early years of his career, focused on developing design automation tools for the Aerodynamics discipline. Through the company's flagship Edison Engineering Development Program (EEDP), Milind expanded his expertise in aircraft engine analysis and design. Subsequently, he contributed to the Advanced Mechanical Design team, working on technology maturation efforts for what are now known as the LEAP and GE9X engines. Milind led teams in the Engine Dynamics and Clearances discipline, guiding them through the certification of the LEAP engine and the detailed design of the GE9X engine program. He further honed his program management skills through a University Collaboration program, developing prototype design for an advanced engine accessory component. Milind's leadership experience was enriched by a role that encompassed Quality, Compliance, and Operations, along with overseeing the Edison program at JFWTC. In his current role, he leads a team within the global organization focused on Future of Flight technologies.

Milind has earned his Master's in Aerospace Engineering, specializing in Aerodynamics, from IIT Bombay and has been credited with nine rated-to-file inventions during the course of his career. In his leisure time, he loves actively contributing towards green initiatives like composting for his terrace garden and driving water conservation measures for his apartment complex.

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Mr Vyasateja Rao

Founding Partner & Consulting & Product (India/Global)
Analogy

VT is the founder of Analogy, a design studio that bridges the gap between physical and digital products. With a Masters in Industrial Design from North Carolina State University (2007), he has spent over 15 years crafting a global design perspective. VT's expertise spans across industries and geographies, having worked with leading brands in the US, UK, China, Singapore, Taiwan, and India.

As a pioneer in product innovation, VT has designed groundbreaking products such as the first-ever credit card case, the world's first wireless charging consumer device, a massager backpack, and an automatic chai machine. His deep understanding of design processes has enabled him to transform ideas into full-scale production, mastering the entire new product development (NPD) lifecycle from concept sketch to final manufacturing.

His global experience includes extensive work with renowned factories in China, where he has set up and qualified production facilities from scratch, aligning them with design and production excellence. VT's collaborations with design agencies in the US have led to the creation of disruptive consumer technology products for brands like Amazon, Panasonic, Google, Ultrahuman, Perry Ellis, Case-Mate, Wildcraft, and many others.

In the fashion accessories space, VT has designed for high-profile clients like Justin Bieber and Lily Kwong, blending aesthetics with innovation. His creative leadership has been recognized with prestigious accolades, including the Red Dot Design Award, iF Design Award, Good Design Award, European Product Design Award, NYC Product Design Award, IDA Gold and Silver Awards, and many others.

VT's portfolio reflects a relentless pursuit of innovative design that resonates emotionally with users, driven by a passion for uncovering hidden nuances in design. His work stands as a testament to the transformative power of global design, marrying cultural insights with cutting-edge processes to deliver impactful products at scale

'Design in India - Where culture meets innovation'**Mr Shakeel Ahmad**

Vice President, Head- Process Improvement, Innovation
& PLM
TKIL

An impressive background in design engineering, particularly specializing in Bulk Material Handling Systems. With an extensive experience of 34 years in the design of Belt conveyors, especially in Overland Belt conveyors and Pipe conveyors have acquired a deep understanding of these complex systems from concept to commissioning.

The current role at TKIL Industries (formerly known as Thyssenkrupp Industries India Pvt Ltd) focusing on Engineering Process Improvement, Innovation, and Engineering execution of Pipe and Overland Conveyors underscores the leadership in driving advancements and ensuring efficient Belt Conveyor project execution within the industry.

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Mr Anuj Prasad
CEO & Founder Director
Desmania

Anuj Prasad is an alumnus of NID. He holds a BE in Production Engineering from Punjab Engineering College and is better known as a design entrepreneur.

Anuj owns and manages his design company Desmania Design (www.desmania.com) which has grown into a leading blue chip design house with multidisciplinary integrated design facilities.

An industrial designer with over 30 years of industry and entrepreneurial experience, Anuj founded Desmania, along with Sandhya Raman in 1993.

Desmania started as a design hot shop and over the years grew into a multi disciplinary design company with over 70 team members. With a fully integrated design studio in Manesar, Gurgaon, Desmania offers product, packaging and automotive/mobility design services to the who's who of the Indian corporate. Under Anuj's leadership Desmania has been a recipient of several design awards, including Indiastar & Businessworld Design Excellence Awards. Desmania has been voted several times as India's best Industrial Design Studio.

A design thinking advocate, innovator and entrepreneur - Anuj dons various hats. He has been a founding member of CII's National Committee of Design. He has also been a jury member for the 'India Design Mark', at its inception. As a change-maker he has been an influencer and speaker at many design forums. He is also in the board of several design schools and universities.

His endeavour is to take design to new heights through his renewed passion in 'Innovation through Design Thinking & Doing'. Desmania Innovation Labs LLP (DIL) is a pioneering venture for innovation in social and personal spaces. Over 10 patents have been filed within 2 years of its inception.

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Mr Rajesh Gogu
Vice President, Design
Maruti Suzuki India Ltd

Rajesh Gogu is the Vice President Design at Maruti Suzuki. He is one of the brains behind Suzuki Motor Corporation's ambitious A-Star Concept car

He is a B Tech in Mechanical Engineering from Jawahar Lal Nehru Technological University and M. Des in Product Design from IISC.

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Mr Julien Sabatier
Studio Chief Designer
Renault

After a dual degree in Mechanical Engineering and Industrial Design, Julien has international career at Renault. He demonstrated expertise across multiple countries, including France, Romania, Russia, and India, contributing to innovative automotive solutions and cross-cultural project management.

Career span

2007 to 2012 : Packaging Engineer then Studio Engineer in Romania. Creating the activity in Romania, and working on all projects developed at that time.

2012-2013 : Upper-Body architect of the Renault Kwid in India

2013-2019 : Upstream Design Quality Manager in Renault France, working with my team on all projects of Renault group & coaching International studios

2019-2022 : A-Class Head of Department in LADA Design, in Russia. Managing A-Class activities of 3 projects in development, and creating the link between Renault France and LADA Design for technical perimeters

2022-2023 : Renault Design Project Manager for part of International Projects (India and Marroco)

From 2023 : Studio Chief of Renault Design Center of Chennai. Currently with an headcount of 27 person, covering all design expertises. Target to reach headcount of 38 next year. Working on both Renault India projects and Renault group European projects

'Design in India - Where culture meets innovation'**Mr Yatan Kumar Mishra**Associate Vice President, Head – Systems Engineering
Tata Advanced Systems Limited

Mr Yatan is responsible for design and development of various types of Missile Launchers, Rocket Launchers and other large defense systems. He functions as the Chief System Architect for Artillery Guns, Missile Launchers, Rocket Launchers, Integrated EW systems, Communication Systems, Command and Control systems, Radar Systems, Turrets and other manned/unmanned weapon systems. He also leads the team for solution architecting large defense systems like Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicles & Air Defence Gun systems, Tactical Communication Systems, Battlefield Management Systems, Artillery Modernization Systems, UAVs and Active Protection systems.

Mr. Yatan has spearheaded the development of Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems(ATAGS) 155mm/52 Cal howitzer being developed for the Indian Army by DRDO and TASL. This Made in India gun has successfully completed all trials under various climatic & terrain conditions.

He has been an industry voice at various platforms. He holds Masters degree in Control & Instrumentation from IIT Bombay, a Certified System Engineering Professional from INCOSE, and Senior Member of IEEE.

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Mr Balwant Rawat
Head of IP
Mercedes Benz

Mr. Balwant leads the IP and Strategic Intelligence activities for Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI). Before joining MBRDI, he was the head of IP Center of Excellence team at Eaton India Engineering Centre, and senior manager of the IP operations team at Evalueserve.

Committed to inventor rights, Balwant advocates for the recognition and remuneration of innovators, reflected in his published research on the need for Inventor Remuneration Law in India. He is also an executive member of 'India IP Alliance', a non-profit entity committed to bringing together various IP ecosystem partners (Creators, Protectors, and Enablers) for the greater good of society.

He is recognized as one of the World's leading IP Strategist by IAM Media, and a recipient of the IP Excellence Award by Assocham, and the In-house Counsel Award by India Business Law Journal. He is also a certified Innovation Coach in Design Thinking, a certified Lean & Agile practitioner, and a registered patent agent with the Indian Patent Office.

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Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with around 9,000 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from 286 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

For more than 125 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes. Partnerships with civil society organizations carry forward corporate initiatives for integrated and inclusive development across diverse domains including affirmative action, livelihoods, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and sustainable development, to name a few.

As India strategizes for the next 25 years to India@100, Indian industry must scale the competitiveness ladder to drive growth. It must also internalize the tenets of sustainability and climate action and accelerate its globalisation journey for leadership in a changing world. The role played by Indian industry will be central to the country's progress and success as a nation. CII, with the Theme for 2023-24 as 'Towards a Competitive and Sustainable India@100: Growth, Inclusiveness, Globalisation, Building Trust' has prioritized 6 action themes that will catalyze the journey of the country towards the vision of India@100.

With 65 offices, including 10 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 8 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with 350 counterpart organizations in 133 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

Confederation of Indian Industry

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