



**Building<sup>®</sup>  
Tomorrow's  
Boards**

## Directors' Dialogue Series




DDS 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition | Focus: Financial Services & Insurance Sector

Theme:-

**Preparing the Financial Services Sector for future:**  
*Board's Opportunities and Challenges*

**WEDNESDAY | March 10, 2021 | 1445 - 1845 hrs IST**

### SPEAKERS' PROFILE

	<p><b>Mr. Ashok Kapur, IAS (Retd.),</b> Director General, Institute of Directors, India</p> <p><b>Mr. Ashok Kapur, IAS (Retd.)</b> was an officer of the Indian Administrative Service (1967 Batch) of the West Bengal Cadre. He has served the Government in various capacities, including Secretary &amp; magistrate of various districts.</p> <p>During 1992- 94, was appointed leader of the Indian Delegation to the UN Conference on Biological Warfare.</p> <p>In September, 1991 was appointed as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Supplies &amp; food &amp; science &amp; technology, Govt. of India. Currently he is the Director General of Institute Of Directors, India.</p>
	<p><b>Lt. Gen. J. S. Ahluwalia, PVSM (Retd),</b> President, Institute of Directors, India</p> <p><b>Lt. Gen. J. S. Ahluwalia, PVSM (Retd.)</b> is President of the 'Institute Of Directors' and of the 'World Environment Foundation' (WEF).</p> <p>A Post Graduate in Electronics Engineering and MBA, he had specialised in engineering support to weapon systems of the Army. He has undergone extensive training in various manufacturing concerns in France, UK, USSR and Japan. He is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow Member of a large number of foreign and Indian professional engineering and management institutions.</p> <p>He has been Chairman of the 'Institution of Engineers (INDIA)', President of 'Delhi Management Association' and chairman of 'Safety &amp; Quality forum' (Institution of Engineers).</p>
	<p><b>Dr. Anup Wadhawan, IAS,</b> Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry, Govt. of India</p> <p><b>Dr. Anup Wadhawan</b> is an officer of the Indian Administrative Services borne on the Uttarakhand cadre, currently posted as Commerce Secretary, in the Department of Commerce, Government of India.</p> <p>His appointments in the States of UP and Uttarakhand have ranged from magisterial and development administration positions in the field to development policy related and regulatory assignments in areas like education, planning, hill development, rural development, panchayati raj, cooperatives, urban development, forests &amp; environment, land revenue, home and disaster management. He was District Magistrate in Etawah and Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission.</p> <p>He has served in the Government of India in the Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services and Commerce, and the Prime Minister's Office.</p>

He has worked for the Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank, providing technical assistance for enhancing accountability in Water Supply & Sanitation service-delivery through policy, institutional and utility reform. He was a member of an African Development Bank team that evaluated its lending to the public utilities sector in Ghana and Tanzania.

He holds a doctorate from Duke University, Masters' degrees from the Delhi School of Economics and Duke University, and a Bachelor's degree from Hindu College, University of Delhi, in the area of Economics. His doctoral thesis was on the "Time Path of Macro Variables in Alternative Structural Settings"

**Mr. Debasish Panda, IAS**, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India



**Mr. Debasish Panda, IAS** is an officer of the Indian Administrative Services of the 1987 Batch (Uttar Pradesh cadre). He was appointed the Secretary, Department of Financial Services, within the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India in early 2020.

Prior to this he was the Special Secretary, Department of Financial Services, within the Ministry of Finance.

Within the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, he has been the Chief executive officer (CEO) of the Greater Noida Authority previously. Prior to that he was the Principal Secretary - Home in the State.

**Mr. Tuhin Kanta Pandey, IAS**, Secretary, Department of Investment & Public Asset Management, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India



**Mr. Tuhin Kanta Pandey, IAS** is an officer of the Indian Administrative Services of the 1987 Batch (Odisha cadre). He currently serves as the Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) within the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India. He has acquired wide experience in the areas of Industrial Development, Financial Management and Public Finance and has been instrumental in bringing about several institutional innovations, new policies and systems in the Departments he has served.

In 2009, he was appointed the Joint Secretary, Planning Commission for five years and subsequently, appointed the Joint Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat for a period of two years. With Central Govt., he has also served as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Commerce previously.

Within the Government of Odisha and Government of India, he has worked in various capacities. He has served as Special Secretary, General Administration Department, Transport Commissioner, as well as Health Secretary and as Commissioner, Commercial Taxes. He took over as Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Government of Odisha in September 2016. In early part of his career, he worked as Executive Director & Managing Director, Odisha State Finance Corporation (OSFC) and Odisha Small Industries Corporation (OSIC) respectively.

Mr. Pandey is an MA in Economics from Punjab University, Chandigarh and MBA from UK.

**Mr. Vipin Anand**, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India



**Mr. Vipin Anand** assumed charge as Managing Director of LIC of India in April, 2019. Prior to his appointment as Managing Director, he held the positions of Zonal Manager-In-Charge of LIC's Western Zone, Mumbai and East Central Zone, Patna.

He joined the Life Insurance Corporation of India in 1983. During his service of more than 37 years with LIC, he has handled with great success several important assignments in various capacities and departments, in operations as well as at the corporate level in all core areas of life insurance. These range from Marketing, CRM, Information Technology and Personnel & Industrial Relations to Corporate Communications and International Operations, across different geographical locations of the country. He was a member of the IRDAI committee for framing

Regulations on Digital Marketing and was a member of the CII Committee on Insurance and Pensions. He is currently a Co-Chairman of ASSOCHAM National Council for Insurance.

He is a Science graduate and has received training from INSEAD Singapore, FALIA, Stephen Covey Institute, ISB Hyderabad, IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Lucknow, Institute of Public Administration- (RTI) Bangalore and National Insurance Academy- Pune besides attending several seminars in India and abroad. He was awarded "Top Rankers Excellence Award for Outstanding Leadership" in January, 2020. In addition to being a Managing Director of LIC of India, Mr. Vipin Anand is Non-Executive Chairman of LIC Bangladesh and is on the boards of Grasim Industries Ltd., LIC Housing Finance Limited, LIC Cards Services Ltd and LIC (International) B.S.C. (c) Bahrain. He has also served on the boards of LIC HFL Care Homes, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited and CDSL-CIRL.



**Mr. Yashish Dahiya**, Co-founder & Group CEO, Policybazaar.com  
Policybazaar.com, Paisabazaar.com, Policybazaar.ae

**Mr. Yashish Dahiya** is the Group Chief Executive Officer (Group-CEO) and Co-Founder of PolicyBazaar.com Group of Companies. He has a strong belief that customers in India need more financial cover for death, disease, and disability and the long-term profitability of the insurance industry depends upon how well the industry is focussed on these three. With that, he has built Policybazaar.com into a 3,500-crore plus insurance marketplace within a short span of 12 years.

Under his leadership, the group company started PaisaBazaar.com, an online financial marketplace for investment and lending products in 2014. Today, Paisabazaar.com is India's largest online financial marketplace for loans and credit cards, disbursing loans worth Rs 12,000 crore annually to more than 22M customers in 450 cities and towns.

Before starting his entrepreneurial journey with PolicyBazaar.com, he was the Managing Director of ebookers.com, a leading pan-European online travel distributor, which was also an FTSE 250 company listed on Nasdaq. Yashish was also a management consultant with Bain & Co. in their London office. Yashish holds a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from IIT Delhi, a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from IIM Ahmedabad, and an MBA from INSEAD.

He likes to spend his spare time outdoors, is the current masters' national champion in swimming and is the fifth fastest Ironman from India across all ages.



**Mr. Shailesh V. Haribhakti**, FCA, Chairman - Mumbai, Institute of Directors, India; Chairman on the Boards of Blue Star Ltd., L&T Finance Holdings Ltd., L&T Mutual Fund Trustee Ltd., Future Lifestyle Fashions Ltd. and NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd.; Independent Director on the Boards of, Bennett Coleman and Co. Ltd. (Times Group), Mahindra Lifespaces, Ambuja Cements Ltd., ACC Ltd. etc.; and Chairman, New Haribhakti Business Services LLP

**Mr. Shailesh V. Haribhakti FCA**, is a Chartered and Cost Accountant, and a Certified Internal Auditor, Financial Planner & Fraud Examiner. Over decades of hands-on professional involvement, he has worked through myriad engagements which have defined the next steps at Haribhakti Group. Currently, he is on the Boards of India's top performing organisations include L&T Finance Holdings Ltd., L&T Mutual Fund Trustee Ltd., Blue Star Limited, Future Lifestyle Fashions Ltd, NSDL e-Governance, ACC Limited, Ambuja Cements Limited, Bajaj Electricals Limited, Bennett Coleman and Company Limited and few others. His passion for quality is reflected in the ISO 9000 certification for various processes of the Group's operations.

He represented India on the Standards Advisory Council (SAC) of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and also a member of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He worked with PBAS, an affiliate of IFC Washington, to establish Activity-based costing and Strategic Planning Processes in Polish SMEs. He is a staunch believer in Corporate Social Responsibility, Governance and in promoting a greener environment.



**Mr. Ravi Krishnamurthy, President, SBI Life Insurance**

**Mr. Ravi Krishnamurthy** has over 37 years of rich experience in building profitable BFSI corporates. A seasoned professional, he is currently working with SBI Life Insurance as a President (Zone I). He holds the responsibility for deploying key strategies and functional guidance to all areas in the company, besides overseeing the achievement of business and operational goals across the Northern Indian States, and ensuring a dominant market share in these geographies.

He has led SBI Life to success in various aspects of leadership in the Insurance industry. Amongst them is the recent initiative he led for SBI Life to win the 2012 Ramakrishna Bajaj National Quality Award & the 'World Class' title in Asia Pacific Quality Organisation's (APQO) Global Performance Excellence Award (GPEA) 2013.

Before taking on the role of Executive Director - Marketing in May 2014, Mr. Krishnamurthy was the Chief Operating Officer at SBI Life. Having worked for over a decade with SBI initially, and then another with ICICI Bank in various areas of banking, he has varied experiences and expertise in corporate as well as retail banking.

He is recognized as a thought leader in emerging areas such as Insurance Distribution Expansion, Technology and Operating Excellence and Quality in Industries. He is certified by the Indian Institute of Bankers as well as the Indian Institute of Insurance. He holds a PGDBM from NMIMS, Mumbai, in the area of Human Resources. He is certified by the Directors' Club. He also possesses a certificate in Business Excellence from Columbia Business School.



**Mr. Sharad Mathur, Managing Director & CEO, Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited**

**Mr. Sharad Mathur** has 24 years of rich business experience primarily in General Insurance Industry. He is Managing Director & CEO, Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited. Previously, he has been employed with SBI General Insurance Company Limited in different roles since its inception, in the year 2009 and finally as Head - Distribution till July 2019, appointed as a KMP by the Board of Directors of the Company.

He also had a specific stint in a new General Insurance project, developing business structure and long-term strategy for a proposed venture. Earlier, he has been employed with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited, since its inception, in the year 2001, in various regional and national leadership roles. In the past, he has worked with large diversified manufacturing organizations, including, MRF, Bharat Shell and Reliance Retail.

He has been conferred with 2 prestigious awards such as '50 Most Talented Retail Professionals of India' by CMO Asia and '50 Most Influential Digital Media Professionals' by World Marketing Congress.

He has been a key-note speaker and panellist in international insurance summits, being held in parts of Asia, South Africa and Europe.

He holds a Bachelor's degree from Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, University of Delhi; Completed Post-Graduation Program in Management with a specialization in Marketing IIPM; 'Certification Programs in Leadership and Management from Indian School of Business and Harvard.





**Dr S. Prakash**, Managing Director, Star Health and Allied Insurance

**Dr. S. Prakash** is a passionate medical doctor who became a Managing Director of a leading Health Insurance Company for the first time in India. He is the first of its kind to have 2 decades of clinical experience from India & overseas and having more than a decade of experience in Health Insurance.

As a Managing Director of Star Health Insurance, he leads a network of 12000 plus network hospitals and diagnostic centres in India. During the past 12 years of his tenure, he grew from Medical Director, Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer, to Joint Managing Director and now elevated as a Managing Director. His efficiency in contributing to the functional growth of Star Health Insurance is reflected in the GWP of USD 3 million in 2007 to USD 780 million in FY19.

He heads the product innovations in Star Health by introducing exclusive health policies for Senior Citizens and for people living with Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiac Ailments, and Autism Spectrum Disorders, etc. He is also the Chief Editor of the quarterly in-house Health Magazine, a visible testimony to his multi-dimensional personality.

He has played a key role in implementing mass health insurance schemes like '*The Aarogyasri*' and The Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme for Life-Threatening Ailments in the State of Tamil Nadu covering 12 cr people.

He is the Chairperson of CII Tamil Nadu Healthcare Panel for consecutive 3 years from 2016-17 to till date. Under his leadership the company has received many awards, including 'Emerging Trends in Corporate Governance Award' and 'The World Health Day Award of Excellence'.

He holds an M.B.B.S from Thanjavur Medical College, along with an M.S (General Surgery) from Madras Medical College (1993-1996) and F.R.C.S (Glasgow) from the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow, U.K (2000).



**Mr. M. K. Poddar**, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Agriculture Insurance Co. Of India Ltd.

**Mr. Malay Kumar Poddar** joined General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC), Mumbai, as a generalist officer in 1986. After initial training in all trades of General Insurance, he was inducted into Crop Insurance Department of GIC. He worked in GIC Crop Insurance Department for almost 18 years and served in six different states of India as State In-charge.

After formation of Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AICI) in 2002-03, he joined the newly formed Company in April 2004. He served there for almost 15 years and became General Manager in 2014. In 2018, he moved on to National Insurance Company Limited at Kolkata as General Manager. At NIC, he oversaw Agriculture, Aviation, Liability and Miscellaneous lines of business and led the digital marketing initiative of the Company. He joined back AICI on 18th December 2019 as Chairman-cum-Managing Director.

During his career in Agriculture Insurance, he was deeply involved in development and implementation of various Crop Insurance Schemes and products introduced by Government of India, GIC and AICI. He has been closely associated with International Research Organizations, World Bank Group and Global Reinsurers working in the field of climate change and risk management in agriculture. He has served as a Member of Task Force on NITI Aayog's (National Institute for Transforming India) Crop Insurance Committee.

He has Agricultural Economics as academic background and a Fellow of Insurance Institute of India.