

www.pickle.co.in

FEB | 2024

Pickle

INDIA'S ONLY MEDIA BIZ MAGAZINE FOR THE WORLD



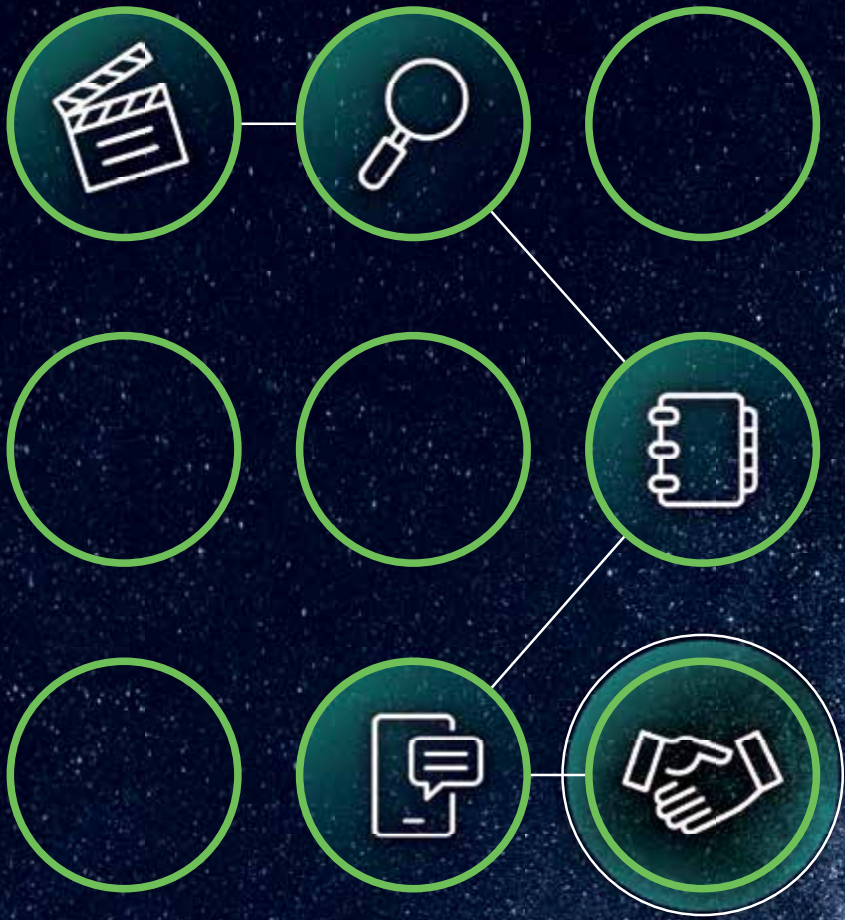
INDIA'S

100+

AVGC

TRAILBLAZERS

Discover the
Top Dynamic
Leaders
and Policy
Innovators
Curated by
Pickle and
Powered by
Bengaluru
GAFX



unlock the film industry_

Powered by



MARCHÉ DU FILM
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Co-funded by the
European Union



Creative
Europe
MEDIA

CINANDO
Join & Connect

61ST SPRING INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION MARKET

miptv[®]

CANNES FRANCE
8-10 APRIL 2024

Featuring
the biggest weekend
in unscripted

mipdoc[®]
mipformats[®]

PRE-MIPTV 6-7 APRIL 2024

In partnership with  CANNESERIES

Built by
RX

In the business of
building businesses

MIPTV[®], MIPDoc[®] and MIPFormats[®] are registered
trademarks of RX Global - All rights reserved



EFM

ITALIA
COUNTRY IN FOCUS 2024

**IT ALL
STARTS HERE
15-21
FEB 2024**

**DISCOVER
SCREENINGS,
ATTENDEES,
& PROGRAMME
HIGHLIGHTS**



[EFM-BERLINALE.DE](https://efm-berlinale.de)

FROM THE EDITOR

We take immense pleasure in presenting the latest edition of Pickle, specially crafted for the momentous occasion of BENGALURU GAFX 2024. Whether you hold this issue in your hands or view it on your digital screen, within these pages, you'll find an exclusive compilation featuring India's 100+ most influential Animation, VFX, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) powerhouses, the architects of India's vibrant audio-visual landscape. A remarkable aspect worth noting is that a significant number of these AVGC leaders boast over two decades of dedicated work in the intricate realm of imagemaking.

Today, we honor the minds shaping AVGC, steering it toward a future rich in innovation. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, in collaboration with sectoral ministries, formulated pivotal AVGC policies, ushering in transformative changes over the past two years. Swift policy development led to the establishment of the National Centre of Excellence for AVGC in Mumbai, a monumental achievement after 15 years of discussions. This stands as a testament to impactful government-industry collaborations, with plans for satellite Centres of Excellence to further fuel sector growth.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to ABAI Bengaluru GAFX for their unwavering support, enabling Pickle to curate and present the profiles of these AVGC Champions who are instrumental in propelling the growth of this dynamic sector.



In India, the convergence of innovation and digital transformation has created new platforms and growth opportunities for the media and entertainment industry. We believe that states will play an important role in the future expansion of the sector. BENGALURU GAFX 2024 recognizes this possibility and will create a unique platform for states to harness the sector's potential by developing policies that promote AVGC growth.

The emphasis on Intellectual Property (IP) has become paramount, with Indian animation and virtual production studios increasingly focusing on this critical aspect. The thriving media and entertainment industry in India present lucrative opportunities for both global and domestic enterprises, and government initiatives are strategically aligned to maximize the sector's vast potential.

We welcome your views and suggestions. Feel free to reach out with any inquiries regarding participation in global film markets and upcoming festivals in the coming months. Your insights contribute to the ongoing dialogue that shapes the dynamic landscape of the Indian AVGC sector.

Thank you for being part of this exciting journey..

n vidyasagar
pickle media
nat@pickle.co.in
www.pickle.co.in

Pickle Volume XIX 1st Edition

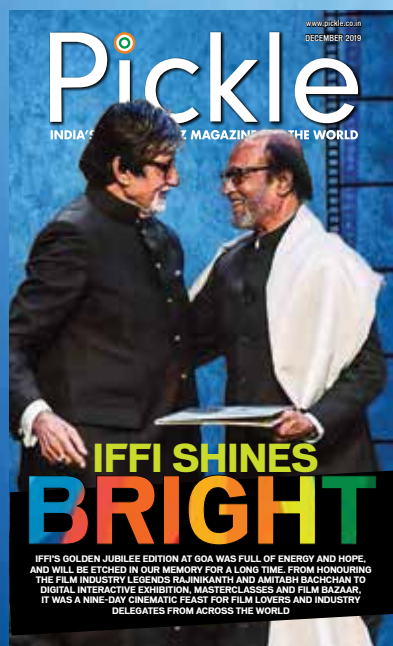
Published by Pickle Media Private Limited
Email: natvid@gmail.com
Mumbai | Chennai
No.2, Habib Complex
Dr Durgabhai Deshmukh Road
RA Puram CHENNAI 600 028

Senior Editor : Vivek Ratnakar
Editorial Coordinators : Maitreyi Vidyasagar,
Shruti Sundaranand, Bala, Ram
Design: Jose J Reegan, James, D Sharma
Photo Editor : K K Laskar
IT & Operations : B Rajalakshmi
Email: natvid@gmail.com

For advertising: natvid@gmail.com / pickle@pickle.co.in

C Pickle Business Guide 2024 Copyright 2024 by
Pickle Media Pvt Ltd. All Rights Reserved.
Pickle is an ad supported business guide tracking the filmed entertainment business in India.

India's only media biz magazine for the world markets



MARCHÉ DU FILM
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

www.pickle.co.in
MAY 2021

Pickle

INDIA'S ONLY MEDIA BIZ MAGAZINE FOR THE WORLD

LESSONS FROM MIPTV 2021
+ ANIMATION MASTERS SUMMIT 2021 4-8 MAY

SPREADING POSITIVITY

Expanding Toonz's global footprint and transforming it for new age viewing and learning in its 21st year, P Jayakumar, CEO, Toonz Animation Group, tells *Pickle* that how the Indian animation pioneer is spreading positivity through MyToonz OTT platform, online animation education arm R&Brain and partnership with studios globally

www.pickle.co.in
AUG 9-9 AUG | 2020

Pickle

INDIA'S ONLY MEDIA BIZ MAGAZINE FOR THE WORLD

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY GAME CHANGER

INDIA'S NEW EDUCATION POLICY ALLOWS STUDENTS TO PURSUE CREATIVE ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS AND DESIGN WHICH WILL HELP M&E AS AN ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT FROM 6TH GRADE TO PHD. AS AN ADVOCATE OF MAINSTREAMING OF MEDIA EDUCATION, ASHISH SK HAS SPENT ALMOST TWO DECADES PROPAGATING THE IDEA TO THE WORLD WITH THE ZEAL OF A CRUSADER. IN AN INSIGHTFUL INTERVIEW WITH PICKLE, THE FOUNDER OF PUNNARYUG ARTVISION AND SCREENYUG CREATIONS, TELLS HOW THE NEP IS A GAME CHANGER

www.pickle.co.in
MAY 2023

Pickle FILMS

INDIA'S ONLY MEDIA BIZ MAGAZINE FOR THE WORLD

Countdown to Glory! NAATU NAATU

As MM Keeravani's song is nominated for Best Original Song at the Oscars 2023, SS Rajamouli's RRR is redefining Indian cinema's worldwide reach

INDIA FOCUSED BERLINALE EFM 2023 ISSUE

www.pickle.co.in
MAY 2023

Pickle FILMS

INDIA'S ONLY FILM BIZ MAGAZINE FOR THE WORLD

Visit **INDIA PAVILION** SHOWCASING INDIA'S CREATIVE ECONOMY

108 Village Formations, Reverse Side

35% Incentives for International productions and Official Co-production
INR 25 Million
US\$ 300,000

Additional State's Incentives

Credit of taxes levied

www.fifo.gov.in

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India

NFDC
CORPORATE OF INDIA

FILM IN INDIA
The National Film Development Corporation of India

Invest India
INDIA'S GATEWAY TO INVESTMENT

Industry Partner
FICCI

Congratulations to the Bengaluru GAFX Team on a successful 6th Edition!

www.pickle.co.in



Capture
YOUR
VISION.

Register Now.

NABSHOW[®]
Where Content Comes to Life

EXHIBITS: APRIL 14-17, 2024
EDUCATION: APRIL 13-17
LAS VEGAS, NV

ANNECY FESTIVAL

Festival 9-15 June 2024

Mifa 11-14 June 2024

Film and Project Submissions

Last Call for the 2024 Edition

The Annecy Festival 2024 edition is around the corner! So, hurry up and hurry up and try to compete in the Official Selection or to be selected for the Mifa Pitches!



I'm submitting a film! 🎬

You have until:

- **Thursday 15th February** 2024 at 11:59 pm (French time) for Short Films, Graduation Films, TV Films, Commissioned Films
- **Friday 15th March** 2024 at 11:59 pm (French time) for Feature Films
- **Sunday 31st March** 2024 at 11:59 pm (French time) for VR Works.

If you have any questions, please contact [Laurent Million](#), Head of Films & Programme Planning.

www.annecyfestival.com



India'S 100+ AVGC Powerhouses

Discover the Top Dynamic Leaders and Policy Innovators Curated by Pickle and Powered by Bengaluru GAFX

Amidst the challenges posed by the post-COVID landscape, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) spearheaded a remarkable turnaround for the AVGC sector. Under the dynamic leadership of Anurag Thakur, Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports and Dr. L. Murugan, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, coupled with proactive states like Karnataka, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, the I&B Ministry created a palpable growth boost . This strategic alliance and concerted efforts propelled the AVGC industry forward, fostering a conducive environment for growth, innovation, and collaboration. Here's the 100+ AVGC Champions



PIONEERS

ASHISH S.K, BIREN GHOSE, JESH KRISHNA MURTHY, KIREET KHURANA,
KISHORE KICHILI, MUNJAL SHROFF, NEERAJ ROY, RAJESH RAO,
RAVI KOTTARAKARA, SHIBASHISH SARKAR, SRIDHAR MUPPIDI,
VISHAL GONDAL

BIREN GHOSE

Shaping India's Soft Power

Biren Ghose, Managing Director, Asia Pacific at Technicolor, is a visionary and strategist with over 22 years of industry influence. Leading Technicolor India, the world's largest single-location studio for Animation, VFX, Games, and Computer Graphics, Biren shapes the global narrative for Indian AVGC. Recognized by the Indian Prime Minister, he's a key figure in the declaration of AVGC as India's "soft power." As Chairman for CII's National AVGC Committee, President at ABAI, and Chief Mentor for STPI, Biren actively advocates diversity, CSR, and innovation in the sector. His transformative initiatives drive talent growth, exports, start-ups, and innovation. He was knighted by the President of France and is a Chevalier!

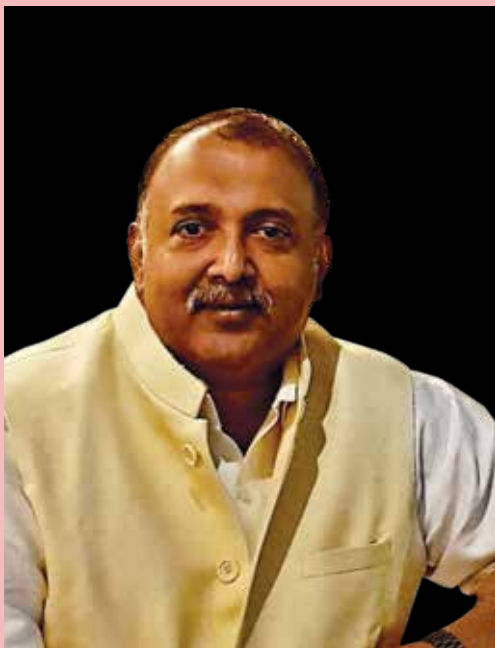


ASHISH S K

VISIONARY IN AVGC-XR & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Ashish S K, a stalwart in arts and media since 1986, has been a trailblazer in India's animation, visual effects, gaming and XR industry. As Chairman of the AVGC-XR forum at FICCI and MCCIA. He has played a crucial role in shaping policies at both state and national levels. Ashish is renowned for his contributions to education, skill development, creative career programs, and setting up Media

and EntertainmentSkillsCouncil. His initiatives include the FICCI Best Animated Frames Awards and credited to have coined the acronym AVGC. He has initiated and formed AVGC-XR Association like ABAI, SAIK, MP Media and Entertainment Association, West Bengal AVGC-XR Association etc



RAVI KOTTARAKARA

Indian Cinema Advocate

Ravi Kottarakara, FFI President and industry veteran, champions the growth of Indian cinema globally. Leading Film Federation of India and South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce, he steers India's cinematic narrative. With a 40-year legacy, Ravi's leadership transcends regional boundaries. Recognized for his role in prestigious film festivals, he envisions India's soft power rising through cinematic excellence. As a producer and visionary, he underscores the transformative potential of Indian films, highlighting successes like RRR, KGF, and Baahubali. A strategic partnership with the Spanish Film Commission signals India's global outreach, emphasizing collaboration and business expansion.

RAJESH RAO

Indian Games Trailblazer

Rajesh Rao, founder of India's first games company, Dhruva Interactive, is a trailblazer in the Indian Games Industry. Leading Dhruva for 22 years until its acquisition by Rockstar Games, Rao's entrepreneurship drew international acclaim. Recognized by Tom Friedman in "The World is Flat," he plugged India into the global games industry. Active in industry growth, he founded IGDC, India's premier game industry event. A mentor and advocate, Rao continues to shape India's gaming landscape with strategic initiatives and collaborations.





MUNJAL SHROFF

AVGC Visionary & Industry Advocate

Munjal Shroff, Director & COO of Graphiti Studio and Co-Chair of FICCI's Animation, VFX, Gaming, and Comics Forum, boasts 27 years of diverse experience. As a co-founder of Graphiti, he champions original content in the Indian animation industry. Munjal is the creative force behind animated masterpieces like "Krish, Trish, and Baltiboy" and "YOM." Serving on the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's Expert Committee, he actively shapes policies for the AVGC sector. His dedication extends to educating the next generation, making him a vital contributor to India's animation, gaming, and comics landscape.



SRIDHAR MUPPIDI

AVGC Visionary and Mentor

Sridhar Muppidi, Co-Founder of PurpleTalk India and chief mentor at Kohima's IT Applications in Graphic Design CoE, is an AVGC visionary with a prolific entrepreneurial journey. Having founded multiple companies, including PurpleTalk and YesGnome, Muppidi has made indelible contributions to India's gaming, animation, and VFX sectors.



KISHORE KICHILI

Gaming Visionary & Industry Leader

Kishore Kichili, Senior Vice President at Zynga India and AVGC Task Force Member, is a gaming visionary with over 25 years of expertise in Mobile Gaming, Digital Media, and Management

Consulting. Recognized for entrepreneurial thinking, he has led global initiatives, steering Fortune 500 companies. As the head of Zynga India, he contributes to the country's dynamic

gaming landscape, emphasizing the importance of diverse skills and the right mindset in the ever-evolving gaming industry.



JESH KRISHNAMURTHY

AVGC Visionary & Innovator

Jesh Krishnamurthy, a pivotal member of the AVGC Task Force, stands as a visionary and innovator in the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) realm. As the Founder and CEO of Anibrain, he has led the studio to prominence, contributing to over 150 Hollywood projects. Jesh's expertise spans VFX, Animation, AR, and VR, showcasing his commitment to blending art and technology. com, solidifying his dedication to propelling India's AVGC industry onto the global stage.



VISHAL GONDAL

Pioneer of Indian Gaming

Vishal Gondal, Founder & CEO of GOQii, is hailed as the father of the Indian gaming industry. Having sold India Games to Walt Disney, he redefined success. A fitness enthusiast, entrepreneur, and angel investor, Vishal's journey continues with nCore Games, a mobile games company based in Bangalore.



NEERAJ ROY

Digital Entertainment Maestro

Neeraj Roy, CEO of Hungama Digital Media and AVGC Taskforce member, is a pioneer in India's digital entertainment realm. Since founding Hungama in 1999, he's steered the company's evolution into a major content distributor, reaching a billion users across 190 countries. With a visionary focus on immersive technologies, Roy anticipates the gaming industry's role in broader media and entertainment convergence, particularly with the advent of 5G. His leadership has diversified Hungama's services, encompassing music and video streaming, mobile games publishing, and digital marketing.

SHIBASHISH SARKAR

Media & Entertainment Visionary

As Chairman & CEO of IMAC, Group CEO at Reliance Entertainment, and President of Producers Guild of India, Shibasish Sarkar is a stalwart in the media and entertainment landscape. With over 30 years of experience, he navigates diverse verticals, shaping the industry's future. Sarkar's expertise spans films, television, animation, gaming, and digital platforms, contributing significantly to India's entertainment ecosystem. A leader in corporate development, alliances, and operations, he orchestrates sustainable growth. Sarkar's multifaceted role includes a focus on digital content, visual effects, animation, and emerging technologies, positioning him as a driving force in India's entertainment evolution.





KIREET KHURANA

Cinematic Maestro & Social Advocate

Kireet Khurana, the Founder-Director of Climb Media, is a cinematic maestro with a profound impact on the animation industry. With 6 President's National Awards and 15 International awards, his defining works include feature films, ad films, documentaries, and PSAs. As the Festival Director of ANIMELA, India's first international festival for Animation, Gaming, VFX, XR, and Comics, Kireet continues to shape the industry. His commitment to social causes is evident in over 25 award-winning short films addressing critical issues. Kireet's artistic excellence and impactful storytelling make him a distinguished figure in the film and animation realm.



POLICY MAKERS

APURVA CHANDRA, ATUL KUMAR TIWAR, BISWAJIT SAHA, DR. ABHAY
SINHA, DR. EKROOP CAUR, JAYESH RANJAN, NEERJA SEKHAR, OMKAR RAI,
PRITHUL KUMAR, PRIYANK KHARGE, SANJAY KUMAR, SANJAY MURTHY,
SRIKANTH SINHA, SUBODH SACHAN

IN UNISON FOR AVGC GROWTH

In a groundbreaking collaboration, multiple ministries, as per the recent press release by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), converged to establish the AVGC Taskforce anchored by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B). This collaborative effort aims to significantly enhance the value of the Indian Animation, VFX, and Gaming (AVGC) sector, fostering growth both domestically and internationally. The collective strength of various ministries underscores a strategic commitment to propel the AVGC industry forward, complemented by enticing incentives for animation, VFX, and post-production work executed on Indian soil. This synergy signals a robust framework, reinforcing India's position as a global AVGC hub.



PRIYANK KHARGE

TECH POLICY CHAMPION

Priyank Kharge, Hon'ble Minister for Electronics, IT & BT, and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka, is a tech policy champion and innovative leader. With a background in animation, he uniquely integrates technology and policymaking. As an influential legislator, he transformed Chittapur into a model constituency, emphasizing rural infrastructure.

Priyank fosters innovation through initiatives like i4 policy, AVGC policy, Elevate, and Startup Cell. His dedication to education empowerment, seen in schemes like Prabuddha, and support for emerging tech CoEs, showcases his commitment to youth employability. Priyank's dynamic leadership and impactful reforms have positioned Bengaluru as a global city.



APURVA CHANDRA

AVGC Policy Architect

Apurva Chandra, Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, is a visionary leader and architect of the AVGC policy since 2021. As the chair of the AVGC Promotion Task Force, he played a pivotal role in formulating the draft policy for Cabinet approval. Under his guidance, India aims to establish itself as a global hub for cutting-edge Visual Effects (VFX). Chandra, a seasoned IAS officer, brings a wealth of experience, having spearheaded key initiatives in industries, defense acquisitions, labor reforms, and now leading the AVGC sector's development. His strategic direction and commitment are driving India's AVGC sector to new heights.



ATUL KUMAR TIWARI

AVGC Skill Development Advocate

Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, is a stalwart in driving skill development for the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) sector. With a focus on Industry 4.0, Tiwari's ministry has been instrumental in fostering collaboration between education, skills, and work. Under his leadership, the ministry has formed international alliances, empowering Indian youth with technical skills through partnerships with other countries. Tiwari's significant contribution to the AVGC task force reflects in the sector's skill advancements, with numerous universities offering specialized courses. As India moves towards creating globally appealing content, Tiwari champions the integration of AVGC into the education system, identifying and nurturing talent from an early stage.



SANJAY KUMAR

Driving India's Education Revolution

Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of School Education and Literacy at the Ministry of Education, Government of India, is spearheading the transformation of the country's education landscape. With over 30 years in the Indian Administrative Service, Kumar plays a pivotal role in executing the New Education Policy 2020, emphasizing skills development in school education. His initiatives, including collaborations with IT companies like IBM, focus on integrating cutting-edge technologies like AI and cybersecurity into school and higher education. Committed to providing quality, accessible, and affordable education, Kumar's leadership is shaping India's future through innovation and digital.

SANJAY MURTHY

Shaping AVGC Education Landscape

K. Sanjay Murthy, Secretary of Higher Education at the Ministry of Education, is at the forefront of steering India towards global academic excellence. A seasoned 1989 batch IAS officer, Murthy actively champions the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Focused on multi-disciplinary education, local language instruction, and industry-academia collaboration, he envisions an education system that adapts to students' choices and paces. Murthy emphasizes on the importance of sustained efforts and research impact in fostering academic growth on the world stage. His policies are shaping the AVGC education landscape in India's technical and higher education system.





NEERJA SEKHAR

Global AVGC Advocate

Neerja Sekhar, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, emerges as a staunch advocate for the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) sector. Championing India's AVGC prowess, she leads initiatives to propel the industry onto the global stage. At CII Summit FX 2021, Sekhar emphasizes collaboration with states and aligning policies to foster AVGC businesses. With 15 audiovisual co-production treaties and a commitment to extraordinary content, she envisions India as a hub for the toy industry. As the driving force behind the National Centre of Excellence for AVGC, Sekhar positions India to harness its technological capabilities, becoming a pivotal player in the global AVGC landscape.

PRITHUL KUMAR

AVGC Industry Facilitator

Prithul Kumar, Joint Secretary (Films) and Managing Director of NFDC, stands as a dynamic leader and the industry's voice. Renowned for executing incentives and simplifying processes, Kumar plays a crucial role in fostering the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) sector. Coming from a railway background, he brings hands-on experience to his role. Leading NFDC, Kumar shapes India's film industry and extends incentives to AVGC. His vision, reflected at global film festivals and market, highlights India's cinematic brilliance and commitment to supporting AVGC growth. Kumar's leadership emphasizes collaboration, making India an enticing destination for international filmmakers and reinforcing its position in the evolving AVGC landscape.





DR. EKROOP CAUR

Urban Governance Expert

Dr. Ekroop Caur, Secretary, Dept. of Electronics IT, BT, and Science & Tech, Govt. of Karnataka, is a seasoned IAS officer with 20+ years of experience. Recognized for excellence in public administration, Dr. Caur has led in key roles, including Secretary Finance and heading BMTTC, the country's largest urban transport company. Her diverse contributions extend to public sector companies, boards, and premier institutes. Presently overseeing Electronics, IT, BT, and Science & Tech, she brings expertise in public policy, finance, urban governance, and infrastructure. Dr. Caur's extensive experience and multifaceted leadership shape Karnataka's technological landscape.



JAYESH RANJAN

Hyderabad's AVGC Architect

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, IT, Government of Telangana, is reshaping India's AVGC landscape, positioning Hyderabad as a global hub. A visionary leader, Ranjan aligns the city's filmmaking legacy and technological prowess, establishing the IMAGE Towers to cater exclusively to audiovisual and digital entertainment companies. With a focus on infrastructure, talent development, and innovation, he ensures Hyderabad's readiness for the AVGC revolution. Ranjan's strategic initiatives, including the Center of Excellence, demonstrate foresight, making Hyderabad an enticing destination for global studios to collaborate, innovate, and contribute to the evolving world of entertainment.



OMKAR RAI

Leader in Electronics and IT

Dr. Omkar Rai, former Director General of STPI under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, is a key figure in promoting software exports and entrepreneurship in the IT/ITES/ESDM industry in India. With a PhD in Statistics, Dr. Rai has played a crucial role in formulating policies for industry growth. His leadership has been instrumental in shaping the landscape of the Information Technology sector, contributing significantly to India's technological advancements.

BISWAJIT SAHA

Education Visionary and AVGC Advocate

As CBSE's Director of Training & Skill Education, Dr. Saha has been instrumental in implementing competency-based education, aligning with the New Education Policy 2020. His expertise extends to the integration of AVGC in K-12 education, emphasizing its potential in crafting high-quality educational content and fostering joyful learning experiences. Driven by a commitment to democratizing education, he advocates for diverse subject offerings, gamified content, and personalized learning to cater to evolving career landscapes. Dr. Saha envisions a collaborative effort between the AVGC industry and higher education institutions, ushering in a transformative era of competency-based learning and educational inclusivity.





SUBODH SACHAN

AVGC Innovation Strategist

Subodh Sachan, Director at STPI Headquarters and CEO of STPINEXT INITIATIVES, is a trailblazing professional spearheading nationwide startup initiatives. An alumnus of IIT Roorkee and IIM Bangalore, Sachan drives the establishment of domain-specific Centers of Excellence in emerging technologies, such as IoT, AI, Blockchain, and AR/VR. His leadership extends to the Next Generation Incubation Scheme and STPI-Atal Innovation Centre. With a rich industry background, Sachan has played pivotal roles at a global level, contributing significantly to the telecom and smart devices sector. Notably, he led Business Development & Product Management at startup BORQS Inc, guiding it to a successful NASDAQ listing.



DR. ABHAY SINHA

Leveraging Indian IP

Dr. Abhay Sinha, Director General of the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC), is steering India into a global content leadership role. With a profound belief in India's potential, he champions the audio-visual industry's growth, presenting the India Pavilion at global platforms like MIPCOM and KIDSCREEN. Dr. Sinha strategically focuses on co-productions, of which AVGC is a significant part, leveraging India's talent and intellectual property. His five-year plan envisages expanding India's M&E industry through international alliances and participation in key global events. Committed to fostering partnerships, Dr. Sinha's leadership positions India as a powerhouse in AVGC, poised to captivate a global audience.



SRIKANTH SINHA

'Tech for Good' Leader

Srikanth Sinha, CEO at Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge, is a seasoned leader in the 'Tech for Good' space. With over 30 years of multicultural global experience, Sinha champions Collaborative CSR and aims to bridge the digital divide. Presently leading a non-profit organization, he focuses on promoting grassroots innovations and creating an inclusive India. Sinha's extensive leadership roles, including CEO at NASSCOM Foundation, reflect his commitment to leveraging technology for societal betterment. Known for building strong client relationships and a keen focus on outcome-based programs, Sinha has emerged as a driving force in the realms of corporate learning and online education.



SKILLS AND EDUCATION

ADITI SRIVASTAVA, ARUL MOORTHY, B S SRINIVAS, BIBHUDUTTA BARAL,
CHAITANYA CHINCHLIKAR, DIWAKAR SHUKLA, DR ANUJ KACKER, MOHIT
SONI, PHANI TETALI, PROF. NINA SABNANI, RAHUL BOJALWAR, RAMESH
ANUMUKONDA, SANJAY KHIMESARA, SANJEEV WAEERKAR, SATISH
NARAYANAN, SEKHAR MUKHERJEE, SHILPA RANADE, SUMANT RAO. M,
TEHZEEB KHURANA, VINEET RAJKAPOOR



TEHZEEB KHURANA

Children's Animation Pioneer

Tehzeeb Khurana, a pioneer in children's animation education, leads TOON CLUB with an award-winning curriculum. With over two decades of experience, Tehzeeb is a celebrated animation director, shaping young minds in art, animation, and storytelling. Her creative supervision has garnered 68 international awards for children's films. As the founder, curriculum designer, and principal faculty of TOON CLUB, Tehzeeb's impact extends to premier schools and international platforms, solidifying her role as a trailblazer in fostering creativity and animation education among children.



ARUL MOORTHY

AVGC Education Luminary

Arul Moorthy M, the founder of Davinci Media College, emerges as an AVGC education luminary, dedicating decades to shaping young minds in Animation, VFX, and Post-Production. His vision extends beyond industry service, emphasizing innovation in diverse domains like Theme Parks, Military Training, and Immersive Education. Arul is at the forefront of introducing Virtual Production Pipelines for feature films and utilizing media technology to showcase India's rich history.



Dr. ANUJ KACKER

Global Leader in Skill Development

Dr. Anuj Kacker, the Executive Director and President at Aptech Ltd, is a seasoned leader in individual learning and skill development. Overseeing business lines internationally,

including Arena Animation and MAAC, he has propelled Aptech to global recognition. Dr. Kacker's strategic foresight and extensive experience have contributed to the

company's rapid growth. Actively engaged in government and trade bodies, he is a respected figure in the Training and Skill Building Industry.



CHAITANYA CHINCHLIKAR

AVGC Education Trailblazer

ChaitanyaChinchlikar, Vice-President and CTO at Whistling Woods International, has been a pivotal force in mainstreaming AVGC career education for 18 years. As a member of the National Task Force for India’s AVGCXR policy, he contributed significantly in policy formation for the AVGC sector in India. Pioneering Cinematic Virtual Reality education and immersive capture, Chaitanya’s leadership extends to SMPTE, where he co-chairs initiatives on Best Practices in Virtual Production. A prolific writer and global speaker, he uniquely bridges education and technology, shaping the Filmed Entertainment Industry’s future.



MOHIT SONI

Architect of AVGC Education Excellence

Mohit Soni, CEO of the Media & Entertainment Skills Council (MESC), boasts a remarkable two-decade journey marked by entrepreneurial success and educational leadership. A stalwart in building start-ups and fostering emerging businesses, Mohit’s strategic vision has elevated MESC to new heights. His adeptness at forging industry-academia collaborations and international alliances has been instrumental in advancing the Media and Entertainment sector.



ADITI SRIVASTAVA

Academic Innovator & Brand Architect

Aditi Srivastava, President of Pearl Academy, is a seasoned academician, marketer, and entrepreneur. With over 25 years of diverse experience, she excels in strategic collaborations,

brand development, marketing, curriculum design, and business operations. Aditi’s visionary leadership, strategic planning, and expertise in franchise operations have been pivotal in expanding

the International Institute of Fashion Design (INIFD) globally. She has been a driving force behind its success, emphasizing pragmatic leadership and consumer brand building.



PROF. NINA SABNANI

Trailblazing Visual Storyteller and Educator

Prof. Nina Sabnani, an eminent artist and educator at IIT Bombay, stands tall among India's animation pioneers. Her brilliance in visual storytelling, recognized with national awards, spans folklore, ethnography, and participatory filmmaking. A Fulbright Fellow, Sabnani's contributions to traditional art and design, along with acclaimed documentaries, firmly establish her legacy in the realm of animation.



B S SRINIVAS

AVGC Pioneer & Industry Catalyst

B S Srinivas, a first-generation entrepreneur and computer science engineer, has played a pioneering role in India's AVGC industry. With over two decades of experience, he is the Director of Arena Animation centers in Bengaluru and the CEO of VedAtma Animation Studios. Srinivas actively contributes to the growth of the sector as the convenor of ABAI and Co-chair of Bengaluru GAFX. His efforts include setting up the first AVGC Centre of Excellence in India, fostering collaboration between academia and industry.



SATISH NARAYANAN

AVGC Leader in Production & Training

Satish Narayanan, CEO of JAIN SoDMCA, is a seasoned Media & Entertainment (M&E) consultant with over 18 years of immersive expertise in Multimedia, Animation, and Visual Effects. Hailing from Kerala, his

creative journey began early, evolving from a passion for art, acting, and filmmaking into a distinguished career. Satish served on the core committee of the Media & Entertainment Skill Council of India, contributing

significantly to the industry. As a prominent figure, he has served on global juries, including the New York Film Festivals, and represented India at ASEAN skills competitions.



SEKHAR MUKHERJEE

Design Educator & Graphic Storyteller

An alumni of NID, Prof. Sekhar Mukherjee- was a senior faculty of communication design with NID Ahmedabad from 2002 to 2018. In 2000, he trained the first 2D animation studio in Dhaka, Bangladesh, one of his cherished projects. In 2002, he joined his alma mater as a design educator. For the next 12 years, he headed the Animation Department. Under his mentorship, his students won many national & international recognitions. He is also the NID Film Club Chairman and the Artistic Founder Director of iconic Chitrakatha-A biennial International Student Animation Festival since 2007. He celebrates design as a problem solving and opportunity creation tool in his 25 plus years of professional journey. In 2018 end he took charge as Director of NID Andhra Pradesh, a baby design school of the same breed.



SANJAY KHIMESARA

AVGC Pioneer & Education Visionary

Sanjay Khimesara, Founder & President of Horizon Institute of Design, is a pioneer and trendsetter of AVGC training in Central India. As a core committee member of Asifa India, he actively contributes to building a strong community of animators, filmmakers, and creative artists. His initiatives focus on enhancing youth employability, and he actively participates in various industry forums, making significant contributions to the AVGC sector.



DIWAKAR SHUKLA

AVGC Education Visionary

Prof Diwakar Shukla, Director at Jagran School of Journalism and Communications, JagranLakecity University, brings over two decades of expertise in journalism, communications, and higher education. As Dean and Director, he spearheaded the Faculty of Journalism and Creative Studies, overseeing international affairs and promoting strategic leadership. With a rich background as Managing Partner at Ogilvy & Mather, he contributed to the first Social Marketing & CSR unit, earning accolades at Cannes. Prof Shukla continues to influence social impact, strategic leadership, and international collaborations in the realms of AVGC, emphasizing the integration of creativity and education.



RAHUL BOJALWAR

AVGC Strategist & Visionary

Rahul Bojalwar, Chairman at Tron Education, is an adept founder with a robust background in information technology, real estate, and construction. With a visionary approach, he has excelled in negotiation, business planning, and customer relationship management. Boasting extensive experience, he has also founded and led ventures in healthcare solutions, hospitality, and innovative construction. As a dynamic leader, he currently drives Tron Education, showcasing his prowess in steering diverse ventures with strategic acumen.



VINEET RAJ KAPOOR

AVGC Design Thinking Maestro

Vineet Raj Kapoor, an International Speaker and Design Thinking Expert, is the creative force behind groundbreaking initiatives in the AVGC (Animation, VFX, Gaming, and Comics)

domain. As the Dean of Chitkara University and Founder of Chandigarh Design School and SXILL, he shapes the future of designers. His role as a Knowledge Partner for TCS iON

and Delegation Lead for Korea signifies his global impact. With 27 years as CEO of VirtualSoft Technologies, Vineet champions Customer/User Experience Design.



SHILPA RANADE

Multifaceted Animation Virtuoso

Shilpa Ranade, an animation stalwart at IDC, IIT Bombay, goes beyond the conventional realms of animator and filmmaker. Her illustrious career spans acclaimed short films, global film festival triumphs, and impactful curatorial endeavors. As an inspiring educator, she bridges creativity and storytelling in the classroom, contributing profoundly to children's content. Ranade's multidimensional force continues to shape minds, ensuring a vibrant future for animation.



PHANI TETALI

Animation Pioneer and Academic Leader

Phani Tetali, an eminent animator and Dean at UPES, boasts a two-decade legacy marked by leadership roles at DQ Entertainment and guiding students at IIT Bombay. His journey is a testament to his dedication to nurturing talent and fostering innovation in India's animation realm. With a rich tapestry of experiences, Tetali continues to champion creativity, shaping the future of animation through his roles as an academician and industry luminary.



SUMANT RAO, M

Animation Luminary and Educator

Prof. Sumant Rao, a seasoned Animation Faculty at IDC, IIT Bombay, seamlessly amalgamates engineering and design expertise in his illustrious 13-year

animation journey. As a consultant to industry giants and co-founder of Animagic, he has significantly influenced India's animation landscape. With a stellar legacy,

Rao's impact ranges from shaping and training manpower to pioneering animation divisions, leaving an indelible mark on India's animation narrative.



Dr. BIBHUDUTTA BARAL

Game Design Education Visionary

As the Discipline Lead for Digital Game Design at the National Institute of Design, Bengaluru, Dr. Bibhudutta Baral is a guiding force in shaping the future of game creators. With over two decades of teaching experience, Dr. Baral imparts knowledge in Cognitive Psychology, Ergonomics, and Communication Studies. His expertise extends to Indian Analytical Philosophy and the impactful role games play in enhancing cognitive skills. A firm advocate that games go beyond entertainment, Dr. Baral believes in their profound impact on decision-making, problem-solving skills, and neuronal architecture, fostering a new generation of thoughtful game designers.



RAMESH ANUMUKONDA

AR/VR Enterprise Visionary

Ramesh Anumukonda, Founding Partner at A Plus Associates LLP, is a pioneering AR/VR/MR thought leader driving enterprise adoption. With expertise in education and skill development, Ramesh catalyzes positive social impact through initiatives spanning Unreal Engine, technical teacher training, and Unity Education programs. As Country Manager for Unity Technologies in India Subcontinent, he advises and accelerates business development with a special focus on education initiatives.



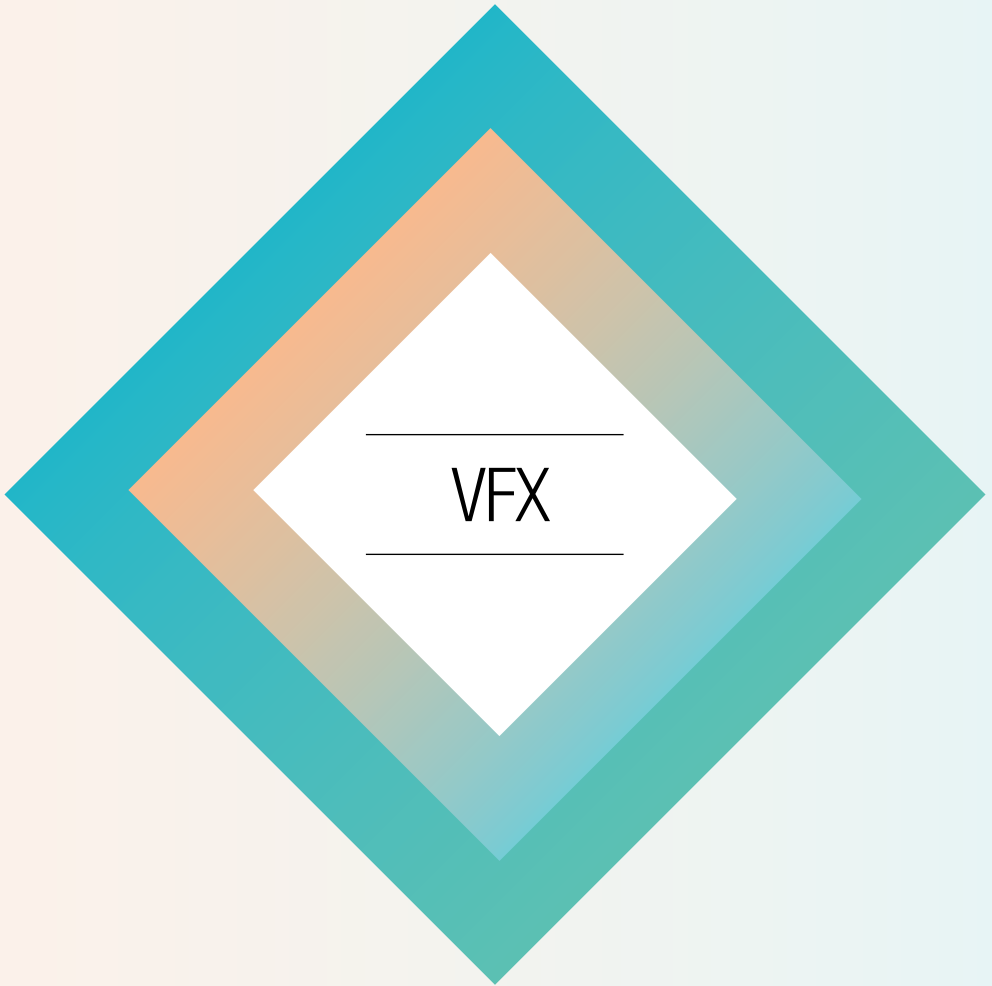
SANJEEV WAEERKAR

Animation Virtuoso & Creative Maestro

Sanjeev Waeerkar, with an illustrious 25-year tenure in the Animation Industry, now helms the creative domain at MAAC. A pioneering force, he co-founded UTV Toons, leading

the way in establishing India's outsourcing animation business. With a rich portfolio of projects, including 3D animation feature films like "Arjun the warrior prince" and TV

series like "Buntyaur Billy," he's an industry luminary. Sanjiv's directorial ventures, such as "Cric X" and "The World champs," underscore his creative prowess.



ABHISHEK MORE, AKHAURI SINHA, ANAND ROONGTA, ARPAN GAGLANI,
BEJOY ARPUTHRAJ, GAURAV GUPTA, KAMALAKANNAN, KEITAN YADAV,
KIRAN PRASAD, KRANTI SARMA, MAD MAX, MERZIN TAVARIA, MIKE YATHAM,
NAVEEN MANOHARAN, PETE DRAPER, PRAFUL GADE, R K CHAND,
RAJARAJAN RAMAKRISHNAN, SANATH P C, SARASWATI VANI BALGAM,
SESHAPRASAD, SHERRY BHARDA, SHOBU YARLAGADDA, SRIKANTH
POTTEKULA, SRINIVAS MOHAN,

SHERRY BHARDA

Creating a New World With CGI

Sherry Bharda, head of yFX at Yash Raj Films, was all set to do a Masters in business administration when she got seduced by computer generated imagery (CGI). She's the creative supervisor in YRF's spyverse which includes the recently released Pathaan (2023). After working on films like Mohabbatein (2000) and Lagaan (2001), she and her

team of 50 people set up Yash Raj Films's visual effects (VFX) studio, yFX. Since then, Bharda has worked on high-budget projects like the Dhoom and Tiger franchises, and also lent her expertise to projects like The Darkest Hour (2011) and The Expendables 2 (2012). She is also a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.



KEITAN YADAV

Versatility in VFX

Keitan Yadav, is a renowned name in the industry not just for his vision, but also for his leadership skills, youthful energy and strategic abilities. Keitan currently helms the Business Development & Operations for both divisions: Redchillies.vfx & Redchillies.color. Having started his career in 1996 and spending 8 years in the advertising industry, Keitan forayed into the Film Vfx world in 2003. Keitan has significantly contributed in preliminary design & development of the studio, building operational policies and strategic planning for maintaining the corporate image of the company. He has effectively managed overseas shoot deals in countries like US, UK & Australia. Under his guidance, redchillies.vfx has bagged several awards and achievements.



SHOBU YARLAGADDA

VFX and Animation and Aesthetics

Shobu Yarlagadda is the CEO, and co-founder of Arka Mediaworks; a leading film and television production house based in India. Shobu has been instrumental in making Baahubali, a predominantly regional Indian film, a success across the nation and in several global markets including Japan, the Middle East and South East Asia. He also played a key role in extending the Baahubali world beyond films, making it India's biggest and most successful tent-pole franchise; comprising of an animated series on Amazon Prime, a novel trilogy, graphic novels, virtual reality, mobile games, merchandising, and an upcoming Netflix original series, among others. Shobu was recently elected a Member of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, NY.



MIKE MADHAV REDDY

VFX Visionary & Industry Leader

Mike, the founder and chairperson of Rotomaker Group, has transformed the VFX industry with his California-based outsourcing company. Accredited by major studios like Disney Marvel Studios and Sony Image Works, Rotomaker stands as a leading player. Mike's passion extends to nurturing talent and creating a multimedia education ecosystem, impacting over 20,000 learners. As General Secretary of TVAGA, he drives innovation in the VFX and multimedia industries, showcasing his leadership in the global entertainment landscape.



MAD MAX

Global Animation Market Leader

AK Madhavan, popularly known as Madmax, is an international figure in the media, film, and entertainment business. As the founder of Assemblage Entertainment, he has been instrumental in opening doors for the Indian animation industry globally. With a track record of delivering over 400 TV episodicals and six global feature films, Madhavan is a respected leader. Featured in the exclusive HOT50 Digital studio Power list for four consecutive years, he continues to shape the CG animation production ecosystem worldwide.



PETE DRAPER

Two decades of VFX

Pete, Makuta has been heavily involved in the VFX industry for more than 25 years with previous roles as Lead and Senior Artist, Head of Media and Director of Visual Effects within studios in the UK and abroad. In addition to being a Visual Effects artist and supervisor, he is a seasoned author with several publications and a decade's worth of trade magazine articles.



ANAND ROONGTA

A master of visual engineering

Anand Roongta, MD Famous Studios has over 14 years of experience in managing operations, strategy, and development of the studio. He

has a Masters in Entrepreneurship from Aston University, UK, where he has been awarded the Beta Gamma Sigma International Honour. Anand has a strong

focus on introducing innovative technologies and new service offerings to the industry, such as visual engineering, virtual production, and co-working spaces.



RK CHAND

An Innovative Production Maverick

RK Chand, Executive Director at The Mill, Technicolor India, pioneers innovative approaches to craft captivating experiential productions. Over two decades of senior leadership experience in Animation and VFX Studios, RK oversees The Mill India teams, contributing to projects like *Thirteen Lives* and *Hocus Pocus 2*. His expertise spans TV Commercials, Game Cinematics, Brand Campaigns, and more. A former VFX Executive Producer at MPC, RK Chand's contributions are instrumental in acclaimed works, marking him as a visionary in the creative production and operations realm.



KIRAN PRASAD

Executive In Charge, VFX Operations

Kiran Prasad, Executive In Charge of Industrial Light & Magic Mumbai, brings 25 years of extensive experience to her role, overseeing day-to-day studio operations and production. Her impressive career includes key roles such as Head of Operations at Technicolor, Head of Production at MPC, and Head of Studio at DNEG. Notably, she played a pivotal role in the production of acclaimed films like "1917," "The Lion King," "Maleficent," and "Aquaman." Kiran Prasad's leadership ensures the seamless functioning of ILM Mumbai, contributing to the studio's success in the visual effects industry.



KRANTI SARMA

A Global Force in VFX

Kranti Sarma, a luminary with 28 years in VFX, steers MPC as Senior Vice President. Her impact resonates globally, evident in prestigious invitations like the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Contributing to blockbusters such as *The Jungle Book*, *Sully*, *Finch*, *1917*, *The Lion King*, *Top Gun: Maverick*, *Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio*, *Transformers: Rise of the Beasts*, *Prehistoric Planet*, and *House of the Dragon*, Kranti shapes the studio's direction. The honor of AMPAS membership in 2023 attests to her significant influence on the global and Indian VFX stage.



GAURAV GUPTA

Dynamics of Digitisation

Gaurav Gupta is the Managing Director at FutureWorks Media. After completing his graduation from the University of Michigan, he returned to India to work in his family's motion-picture business. He formally started FutureWorks in January 2008 after noticing the opportunities for digital services that came with the big shift towards digitization in the film industry around that time. Gaurav anticipated that in the age of Netflix and Amazon Prime, the quality of TV had to really step up. As a result, he prepared for TV shows increasingly being made in a similar way to feature films, with post-production work such as color grading, which wasn't the case before.



SESHAPRASAD

VFX Maestro & Film Industry Luminary

AR Seshaprasad, Head of Production at Dneg, stands at the forefront of India's visual effects and animation industry. With over two decades of experience, he has played key roles in studios like Rhythm & Hues and Dreamworks Animation. Seshaprasad has overseen the execution of over 200 movies, including Academy Award-winning films like Life of Pi and Blade Runner 2049. His expertise lies in establishing artist-friendly studios and contributing significantly to the success of blockbuster films.

MERZIN TAVARIA

Empowering AVGC

Merzin Tavaría is the Chief Creative Director and Co-founder of Prime Focus, now DNEG. He has been associated with the company since its inception and works in collaboration with the UK, US, Canada and India studios of Prime Focus. Merzin has worked for about two decades in the media and entertainment industry and is respected for his contribution towards the use of color grading and visual effects in India. He is also a jury member at various film and advertising festivals, and has been a speaker on many industry related events.





RAJARAJAN RAMAKRISHNAN

A Creative Director Maestro

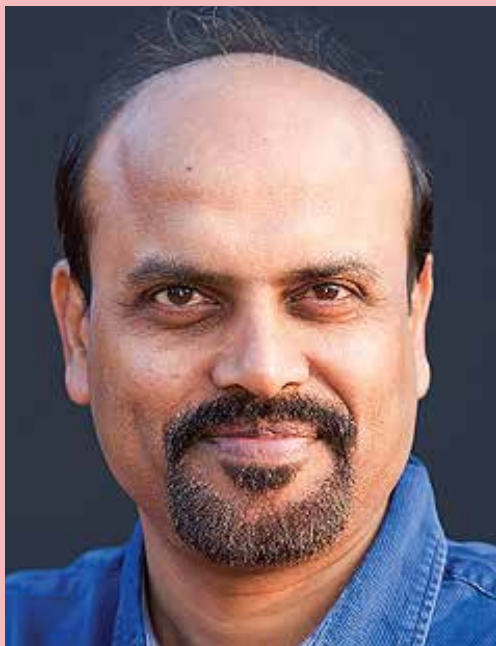
Raj, a Creative Director at MPC India, embodies two decades of CG mastery with extensive expertise in full CG features. His journey, from a CG generalist to leading creative roles at MR X, includes credits on Goosebumps, Monster Hunter, Hell Boy, Resident Evil, among others. Working with the global and the local senior management teams on show preparedness, resourcing and casting for all the productions within India, his multifaceted career, from Head of Lighting to Head of VFX, positions him as a linchpin in the success of complex shows and major productions like Top Gun: Maverick, The Little Mermaid, and Napoleon.



AKHAURI SINHA

Imagemaking Specialist

Akhauri P. Sinha, MD, Framestore is known for his works in movies like World War Z (2013), Prometheus (2012) and Men in Black: International (2019). Akhauri has worked across film, TV and VFX for over 20 years, with a career spanning companies such as Nimbus, MPC, BBC Studios and UTV (now Disney India). During his VFX stints he has overseen the Indian VFX work on over 50 features, including 'Jumanji: The Next Level', 'Ford vs Ferrari', 'John Wick: Chapter 3' and 'Birds Of Prey'.



SRINIVAS MOHAN

Visionary of Visual effects

Vadlamudi Srinivas Murali Mohan is an Indian visual effects designer, coordinator and supervisor known for his works primarily in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam films. He is also known for his works in few Hindi and Kannada films. Srinivas fetched five National Film Awards for Best Special Effects for works such as Magic Magic (2003), Sivaji (2007), Enthiran (2010), Baahubali: The Beginning (2015), and RRR (2022). Srinivas Mohan was born in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India into a Telugu speaking family. Before getting into visual effects industry in Chennai, Srinivas worked as an animator and computer programmer.

KAMALA KANNAN

Veteran of visual effects

RC Kamalakannan is a veteran visual effects supervisor. Born and raised in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, Kamalakannan is famous for his work in the movie 'Bahubali: The Conclusion.' He started his career as an ENG photographer and U-Matic editor. The ace technician is also widely popular for his work in 'Magadheera' 'Yamadonga' 'Eega' and 'Puli.' Known for his technical skills, Kamalakannan has won several state and national-level awards for various films in various languages. Kamalakannan has also worked in major VFX company named 'Makuta VFX.' Kamalakannan is considered one of the most successful VFX creators in India.



BEJOY ARPUTHRAJ

VFX Maestro & Creative Entrepreneur

Bejoy Arputhraj, founder, CEO, and VFX Supervisor at PhantomFX, wears multiple hats in leading the creative and administrative endeavors of the studio. With a decade of industry experience, Bejoy has catalyzed PhantomFX's growth into a full-fledged creative studio with a global presence. His commitment to delivering unparalleled visual effects has garnered awards and recognition, establishing PhantomFX as a prominent player in the industry.



NAVEEN MANOHARAN

VFX Maven

Naveen K. Manoharan, the Digital Head at Lahari Films, orchestrates a harmonious blend of regional diversity in the music industry. Spearheading Lahari's digital endeavors, he bridges the gap between film and non-film music, emphasizing good content over star power. With a legacy spanning three to four decades, Lahari Music boasts a vast collection, closing deals seamlessly with producers. Naveen recognizes the pivotal role of the Indian diaspora, contributing 30% to Lahari's revenue, notably from the Tamil and Telugu communities. As Lahari expands into film production and post-production, Naveen envisions an exciting future, navigating challenges in the ever-evolving music landscape.



ABHISHEK MORE

Virtual Production Visionary

With 23+ years of expertise, Abhishek More, Founder & CEO of Digikore Studios, is a visionary in virtual production. A proud recipient of the Pride of Maharashtra Award, he's an entrepreneurial leader with a knack for disruptive ideas. Digikore, a TPN audited and industry-approved studio, revolutionizes filmmaking globally. Abhishek's strategic planning and innovative approach drive Digikore's success in delivering VFX for over 200 Hollywood and Bollywood films. As the Founder & CEO of Scoufi, he pioneers a unique platform, akin to Airbnb for the film industry, facilitating location and talent discovery for global film and TV productions.



SANATH PC

Creating complex visual effects

Sanath is known for its excellence in visual effects design, creature animation, large scale simulation & destruction effects.

He had been part of major Visual Effects-intensive feature films such as Anji (2004), Arundhati (2007), Magadheera (2009), Enthiran / Robot (2010), Anaganaga O Dheerudu (2011), Bhaag Milkha Bhaag (2013), Kayal (2014) and Baahubali The Beginning (2015). He has received multiple National, State & Private Awards, and is widely regarded as the nucleus that led to the development of a vibrant visual effects eco-system in Hyderabad and the rest of Southern India.



ARPAN GAGLANI

CGI is his strong zone

Arpan Gaglani, MD 1, PHILM CGI is a highly experienced professional with over 20 years of work experience in computer animation, character animation, and Maya. He has worked in various roles, including Creative Director at Krayon Pictures, and CGI Supervisor at AI Developer. Arpan has also worked as a CGI Lead at Maya Entertainment Limited and as a Director at Xerox. He is skilled in compositing, visual effects, and photography. Arpan is based in India and has a strong background in the entertainment industry.

PRAFUL GADE

AVGC Maestro & Industry Veteran

Prafull Gade, the COO & MD at Company3 Method India Pvt. Ltd (formerly Deluxe Entertainment Services India Pvt. Ltd.), boasts an illustrious 37-year career in the Indian Animation Industry. A Fine Arts graduate with a keen eye for creative evolution, he seamlessly transitioned from cartoon strips to CGI 3D, leaving his mark on over 1000+ commercials, 40+ motion pictures, and 26 animated series. His proficiency in navigating the intricate balance of quality, cost, and revenue sets him apart. Currently serving as the Director of Operations at DigiCaption India Pvt. Ltd, Prafull's expertise extends across animation, VFX, and multimedia, making him a stalwart in the AVGC domain.





SRIKANTH POTTEKULA

Animation Visionary & Industry Leader

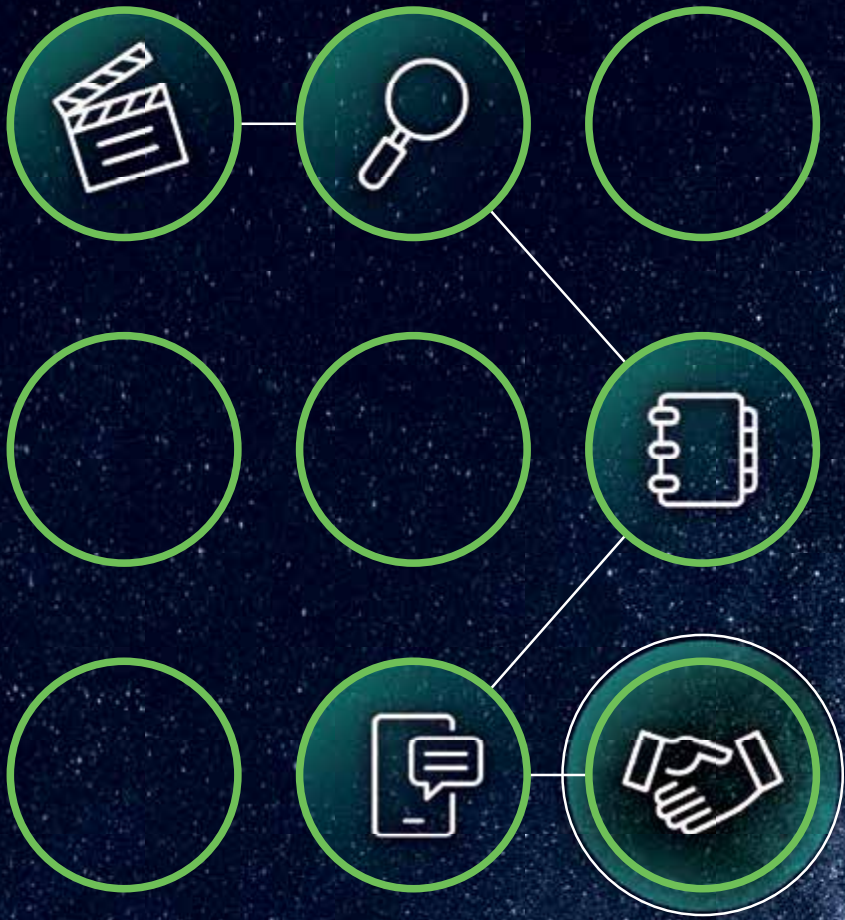
SrikanthPottekula, Founder and CEO of Discreet Arts LLP, and CTO of Skyeits PVT. Ltd., stands as a respected figure in the animation industry. With a career spanning 30+ years, he initiated Laughing Lion Animation Studios and later transformed it into Discreet Art Productions. Srikanth's leadership led to long-term collaborations with global clients, including Anima Estudios, Studio 100, and Technicolor. His success is marked by exceptional leadership, team building, and nurturing industry relationships, contributing to the creation of acclaimed animated features and series.

SARASWATHI VANI BALGAM

Versatile Creator & Animation Leader

Saraswathi Vani Balgam, a writer, director, and creative producer, stands out for her versatile storytelling skills. As the founder of Dancing Atoms, she focuses on powerful storytelling through authentic voices. Vani's experience as the Head of Creative Management for DreamWorks Animation in Shanghai and Executive Director of Rhythm & Hues India underscores her global impact. Her leadership in supporting the artistic community and mentoring future creators makes her a notable figure in the animation and film industry.





unlock the film industry_

Powered by



MARCHÉ DU FILM
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Co-funded by the
European Union



Creative
Europe
MEDIA

CINANDO
Join & Connect



ANIMATION

ANU SIKKA, CHETAN SHARMA, DHIMANT VYAS, LEENA LELE DUTTA, MANOJ MISHRA, MEGHA TATA, MILIND SHINDE, NILOY BISWAS, P JAYAKUMAR, PRASAD AJGAONKAR, RAJIV CHILAKA, ROHIT KATARIA, SHAMBHOO PHALKE, SOUMITRA RANADE, SRIRAM CHANDRASEKHARAN, SUBRATA ROY, SURESH ERIYAT, TEJONIDHI BHANDARE, UTTAM PAL SINGH, VAIBHAV KUMARESH, VIRENDRA CHAUHAN

A close-up portrait of P. Jayakumar, a man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with some architectural elements.

P. Jayakumar, CEO of Toonz Media Group, is a distinguished figure and thought leader in the media and entertainment industry. His visionary leadership has steered Toonz into a global force in kids and family entertainment. A co-executive producer for award-winning animated shows and films, Jayakumar's strategic acumen has expanded Toonz's global footprint through strategic acquisitions. His contributions to industry associations and government bodies showcase his commitment to shaping the media and entertainment landscape.

P. JAYAKUMAR

Toon Mogul &
Visionary Leader

Rajiv Chilaka, Founder and Managing Director of Green Gold Animation Pvt. Ltd, stands as a creator, director, and producer of India's top children's shows. With an illustrious career, he has delivered award-winning animated films and series, including the renowned "Chhota Bheem." Rajiv's creative vision and leadership have positioned Green Gold Animation as a highly acclaimed enterprise. His dedication to storytelling in animation reflects in the success of iconic characters like Krishna and Chhota Bheem. As a pioneer in the animation industry, Rajiv continues to shape India's animation landscape with his innovative and captivating creations. He is the creator of India's first Netflix original animation series, Mighty Little Bheem. A global success, Mighty Little Bheem is a testament to the spirit of creation that drives Rajiv and the Green Gold Group.

RAJIV CHILAKA

Animation Trailblazer



MEGHA TATA

Media & Entertainment Maven

Megha Tata, CEO of Cosmos Maya, brings over 30 years of expertise to the Media and Entertainment industry. With a distinguished career at Star, Turner, HBO, BTVI, and Discovery, she excels in sales, negotiations, P&L analysis, and strategic business operations. Recognized as one of India's influential women in media, Megha has received numerous awards, including the 'Women of the Decade in Media' by the Women Economic Forum. Her leadership roles in industry associations, including IAA, highlight her commitment to shaping the future of media and entertainment.



SOUMITRA RANADE

Animation Maverick and IP Visionary

Soumitra Ranade, the Chairman and Creative Director at Paperboat Studios, is a pioneering force shaping the animation, design, and films domain. With a remarkable journey spanning over 13 years at Paperboat and earlier roles as Set Designer/Art Director for Theatre Productions and Art Director at J. Walter Thompson, Mumbai, Ranade has played a pivotal role in transforming India's animation landscape. His leadership at Paperboat has elevated the studio's status as an IP lab, creating cutting-edge IPs that showcase India's rich heritage globally. With a focus on quality over quantity, Paperboat, under Ranade's guidance, continues to break new ground in animation.



SURESH ERIYAT

Animation Pioneer & Visionary

Suresh Eriyat, a director, producer, animator, and mentor, has been a pivotal figure in Indian animation for nearly two decades. Founder of Studio Eeksaurus, his legacy includes over 400 films, earning 100+ national and international awards. An alumnus of the National Institute of Design, Suresh's exceptional contributions, including the Annecy festival Cristal for 'Fateline,' showcase his prowess. A leading force in transforming perceptions of animation in India, his studio consistently delivers impactful work, earning accolades such as Cannes Lions, D&AD, and Clio.



MANOJ MISHRA

Kids' Entertainment Wizard

Manoj Mishra, CEO of Powerkids Entertainment, brings 25+ years of expertise in kids' entertainment. From co-producing with Sony Pictures Network Kids India to launching "PowerKidsKartoon" on JioTV, Manoj's visionary leadership elevates the industry. Awarded "Animation Personality of the Year," he drives success in IP development, co-production deals, and emerging as an influential figure. Under Manoj, Powerkids Entertainment's YouTube channel thrives, solidifying its position as a major player in the ever-evolving landscape of children's content.



MILIND SHINDE

Animation Studio Pioneer

Milind Shinde, Founder & CEO of 88 Pictures, stands as a doyen in the animation industry with nearly two decades of expertise. His illustrious career includes pivotal roles in Project Management, Production, and setting up new studios. Notably, he played a key role in establishing DreamWorks Animation Studios' production unit in India, contributing to successful franchises like Madagascar and How to Train Your Dragon. With astute management and a commitment to quality, Milind has positioned 88 Pictures as a leader, serving top-notch clients like DreamWorks, Warner Bros, Netflix, and more.



SUBRATA ROY

Animation Industry Pioneer

Subrata Roy, Founder and Managing Director of Hi-Tech Animation and Moople, brings 25 years of invaluable experience to the animation industry. With a vision to transform India

into the animation hub of the world, Mr. Roy guides Hi-Tech Animation in producing top-notch content for national and international clients. Subrata Roy's leadership emphasizes

creativity, integrity, and excellence, positioning Hi-Tech Animation as a prominent player in animation, VFX, and filmmaking.



LEENA LELE DUTTA

M&E Visionary & Strategic Leader

LeenaLele Dutta, a stalwart in media and entertainment for over 20 years, stands as a business leader with P&L responsibility. Currently, as EVP & Business Head at Sony Pictures Networks India, she spearheads the Kids portfolio, contributing to fiscal growth and strategic innovation. Leena's career highlights include launching the Content Licensing division for SPT in South Asia and establishing a comprehensive Kids business for Sony. A pragmatic and result-oriented executive, she thrives on creating startup-like environments, emphasizing team leadership, productivity, and balanced risk-taking.



ANU SIKKA

Innovator in Kids' Entertainment

AnuSikka, Head of Creative, Content, and Research at Viacom18, is a seasoned professional with over 22 years of experience. Specializing in curating content for children, Anu has been instrumental in the success of shows like MotuPatlu and Rudra. Her avant-garde programming strategy has led Nickelodeon to the top spot. Anu's expertise extends from being the Creative Director at Hungama to executive producer at Sab TV, showcasing her commitment to delivering quality content.



UTTAM PAL SINGH

Kids Content & Animation Head

Uttam Pal Singh, Head of Kids Cluster at Warner Bros. Discovery, brings nearly two decades of comprehensive experience in the kids content and animation industry. With a

360-degree approach, he has contributed to animation, design, direction, and production, working with leading broadcasters, advertising agencies, and brands. As the

creative force behind Discovery Kids, Uttam successfully launched popular series like "Little Singham" and "FukreyBoyyzzz," elevating the channel's ranks, ratings, and popularity.



TEJONIDHI BHANDARE

Strategic Animation Leader

Tejonidhi Bhandare, CEO of Reliance Animation Studios, boasts 16 years at the helm, contributing to iconic shows like Little Krishna and Golmaal Jr. With a strategic approach, he turned the business profitable and introduced Bollywood to Animation. From Company Secretary to CEO, Tejonidhi's expertise lies in financial planning, fund management, and driving innovative projects. His vision for the sector's evolution emphasizes the 3 P's - Patience, Passion, and Perseverance, guiding the industry from service work to diverse content for global audiences.



VIRENDRA CHAUHAN

A Feature Film Production Maestro

Virendra Chauhan, Executive Producer at MPC Films, Technicolor India, is a seasoned professional with a remarkable 33-year track record. His diverse roles, from CG Generalist to Head of Studio, showcase his expertise in production management, client servicing, and team development. As a key member in establishing DreamWorks' dedicated unit in Bangalore, Virendra contributed to notable feature film projects like Boss Baby, Trolls, and Kung Fu Panda 3. With a rich background spanning AD Film Director to Creative Producer, he continues to make significant strides in animation, VFX, and filmmaking.



VAIBHAV KUMARESH

Emmy-Nominated Animation Filmmaker

VaibhavKumaresh, Founder and Creative Director of Vaibhav Studios, is an International Emmy-nominated animation filmmaker. In his illustrious career, he founded Vaibhav Studios, creating beloved animated content for TV commercials, episodic series, and channel promos. His directorial venture, “Return of the Jungle,” premiered at IFFI 2023, earning recognition and recommendation. A Fine Arts graduate and animation film-making alumnus of the National Institute of Design, Vaibhav is an active committee member and Honorary Secretary of The Animation Society of India (TASI). His leadership and teaching roles contribute to India’s animation landscape.

DHIMANT VYAS

Versatile Animation Artistry

Dhimant Vyas, an acclaimed Animation Film Designer, crafts visual marvels with an extensive portfolio. From Oscar-winning projects with Aardman Animation to the title animation sequence for ‘TaareZameen Par,’ his impact is profound. As a Professor of Practice at IDC IIT Bombay and Senior Art Director at Zynga Games India, Dhimant’s versatile skills span stop-motion, experimental animation, drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, and more. Honored with the ‘Ram Mohan Award,’ Dhimant’s dedication to conservation messages and storytelling makes him a true maestro.





NILOY BISWAS

Animation Maestro & CEO

NiloyKanti Biswas, CEO of Wackytoon Studio Pvt Ltd, brings 20 years of extensive experience in the Animation & Media & Entertainment Industry. His journey encompasses leadership roles in renowned companies, including Toonz Animation, Tata Interactive System, and Animazione Animation. Proficient in handling diverse projects for major networks like Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, and Disney India, Niloy is a creative visionary passionate about visualizing concepts for 2D, 3D, and VFX ad films. With a proven track record, he leads Wackytoon Studio, contributing to the vibrant animation landscape.



PRASAD AJGAONKAR

Innovator & Animation Visionary

Prasad Ajgaonkar, a libertarian entrepreneur, is an award-winning technology and entertainment visionary. With a career spanning over 29 years, he pioneered digital innovations, crafted the first multimedia CD-ROM, and developed revolutionary platforms in collaboration with global giants. As CEO of iRealities Technology Private Limited, Prasad blends technology and creativity, producing groundbreaking animated features like “ChaarSaahibZaade” and the Disney series “Super V.” Beyond professional success, his transformative journey embraces a deeper understanding of life and purpose, creating a narrative of continuous evolution.



ROHIT KATARIA

AVGC Visionary & Founder

RohitKataria, a proud veteran with over three decades of experience, serves as the Founder & CEO at Script to Screen Films Pvt Ltd, Tavrohi Animations Pvt Ltd, and Metanimate. His expertise spans management and leadership, contributing significantly to the animation industry. As Founder & CEO of Metanimate, he leverages XR, Web 3.0, and Metaverse platforms for innovative content creation. At Script to Screen Films, his vision combines masterful artistry and storytelling, creating world-class IPs and concepts. Tavrohi Animations, under his leadership, pioneers full-stack animation production, venturing into 3D animation, AR/VR, and captivating storytelling.



SHAMBHOO PHALKE

Animation
Maestro &
Strategist

Shambhoo Phalke, a name synonymous with creativity and commercials in the Indian animation realm, is a seasoned professional with a career spanning 30+ years. Renowned for striking the right balance between creativity and commercial success, Shambhoo has excelled in traditional and digital production methods. His roles as GM of an animation studio in Manila, Sr. Vice President Operations at Maya Entertainment, and COO at Colorchips India showcase his diverse expertise. A taskmaster, he focuses on unique deals, building clientele, and restructuring animation studios, consistently enhancing their bottom and top-line revenue.



SRIRAM CHANDRASEKHARAN

Animation Maestro &
Studio Innovator

Sriram Chandrasekharan, acclaimed for *Mia and Me: The Hero of Centopia* (2022) and *100% Wolf: Legend of the Moonstone* (2020), has left an indelible mark on children's entertainment. Recognized under the Indo-German audiovisual Treaty, *Mia and Me* is a co-production between Studio 100 Media GmbH, Studio B Animation Pty Ltd., and Broadvision Services Private Ltd. Beyond this, he founded Studio56 Animation, an award-winning production house with 150+ artists, amassing over 1000 man-years in global delivery for international animation projects.



CHETAN SHARMA

2D Animation
Maestro

Chetan Sharma, co-founder & director of Animagic, is a self-taught artist and award-winning animator. With over 30 years of dedication to 2D animation, he is a driving force in the Indian animation scene. Notable for Cannes Silver-winning commercials and Bollywood hits like "Mission Kashmir" and "Eklavya," Chetan's passion extends to illustrating children's books and creating diverse award-winning films. As an industry luminary, he continues to shape the future, currently focusing on in-house theatrical features and graphic novels at Animagic.



CATALYSTS

ASHISH PHERWANI, GIRISH MENON, GOWREE GOKHALE, JEHIL THAKKAR,
LEENA JAISANI, MADHURIMA MANIYARA, NEERJA BHATIA, ROLAND
LANDERS, SAMEER JAIN, T S SURESH



Neerja Bhatia, the Deputy Director General at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), is the voice of the AVGC industry. With a rich background, she excels in business and regulatory analysis, leadership, and program management. At CII, Neerja, overseeing the services sector, stands as an indispensable asset, propelling the industry body towards its objectives. In the Media &

Entertainment realm, she spearheads policy advocacy, envisions a \$100 billion Indian M&E Dream, fosters global collaborations, and positions India as the Content Hub of the World. Her leadership ensures the ease of doing business, amplifies India's presence at international film markets, and champions co-productions, fostering a level playing field for Indian entities globally.

NEERJA BHATIA

Voice of AVGC Industry



LEENA JAISANI

Media & Entertainment Strategist

Leena Jaisani, Deputy Secretary General at FICCI, is a seasoned professional in non-profit organization management. With a robust background in media and entertainment, business development, and digital marketing, she plays a pivotal role in shaping FICCI's initiatives. Leading the Media and Entertainment Skills Council, Jaisani focuses on skill development and industry growth. Her 29-year journey at FICCI reflects dedication to the sector. As the Assistant Secretary General and Head of FICCI Entertainment Division, she drives initiatives in media, entertainment, FMCG, retail, and e-commerce, underscoring her commitment to advancing the industry.



GOWREE GOKHALE

TMT Legal Luminary

Gowree Gokhale, Partner at Nishith Desai Associates, stands among the legal elite in Technology, Media, and Telecom (TMT). Recognized in the Legal 500 TMT Hall of Fame, her expertise extends to commercial and intellectual property advisory, gaming law, and the healthcare sector. As the co-chair of FICCI's Privacy and Data Protection Committee, Gokhale actively shapes industry discussions. Committed to fostering legal talent, she invites applications from professionals with a focus on tech, media, and IP agreements. Gokhale's legal prowess, combined with her passion for industry collaboration, positions her at the forefront of legal advancements in the dynamic TMT landscape.



ASHISH PHERWANI

Media & Entertainment Vi- sionary

Ashish Pherwani, the luminary at EY's Media & Entertainment helm, meticulously shapes the industry's trajectory. With a rich, two-decade-long immersion across over 50 media dimensions, from TV broadcasting to gaming, Pherwani is the architect behind EY reports that expertly guide companies toward a savvy future. Beyond his role as a Chartered Accountant and tech auditor, he passionately contributes to underprivileged children's education and enlightens both universities and EY on emerging media trends.



JEHIL THAKKAR

Media Strategy Maestro

Jehil Thakkar, a Partner at Deloitte India, is a strategic leader with a profound impact on media and entertainment. Specializing in strategy, operations, and financial services, he brings over 20 years of experience to the table. Thakkar envisions the transformative power of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), heralding inclusive growth and efficient governance. His insights, shared during the Deloitte-CII panel at Davos 2024, showcase a deep understanding of India's digital trajectory. With a rich background encompassing Deloitte, KPMG, and DreamWorks, Thakkar's strategic acumen contributes significantly to the industry's evolution and its global impact.



ROLAND LANDERS

Online Gaming Visionary

Roland Landers, CEO of the All India Gaming Federation (AIGF), is a policy advocacy expert spearheading the development of policies for India's online gaming and fintech industries. With over 25 years of experience, Landers has successfully established the apex online skill gaming industry body. His domain expertise extends to sports business, broadcast media, and the business of online gaming. Landers' strategic acumen, evident in his leadership at AIGF, highlights his role in shaping the regulatory framework for the Indian online gaming sector. A thought leader, he shares insights through guest lectures at prestigious institutes, contributing to industry knowledge.



T S SURESH

IP Strategist & Corporate Law Maestro

Meet T.S. Suresh, the astute Founder of T S Suresh + Associates, a distinguished full-service law firm. With over three decades of rich experience, he stands out for his expertise in corporate, commercial, and intellectual property laws, specializing in IP exploitation, licensing, mergers, acquisitions, and global transactions. A visionary in the audio-visual sector, he has been a trailblazer in shaping the Animation industry in India.



MADHURIMA MANIYARA

Advocate of Gaming for Good

Madhurima Maniyara, at the Indian Digital Gaming Society (IDGS), is pioneering positive change in the Indian gaming landscape. As an advocate of "gaming for good,"

IDGS actively works with the Ministry of Skill Development to close the skill gap in gaming and esports. The strategic initiatives include developing courses aligned with

current skills and technology needs. Maniyara champions the recognition of gaming as a respectable form of entertainment and competition



SAMEER JAIN

Catalyst and Transformation Leader

Sameer Jain, a stalwart with over two decades of global experience. Sameer spearheads AVGC policy at Primus Partners. With a robust background in program delivery and leadership roles at KPMG, Ericsson, and TCS, Jain is a key player in national priorities like Smart Cities and MSME. As a managing director and thought leader, he propels Primus towards IT solutions and contributes significantly to the converged media and entertainment segment.



AVGC Expert

Girish Menon, Chief Strategy Officer, JetSynthesys and professional with 25 years of experience in M&A, Strategy and Consulting, with a specialization in the Media, Digital, Gaming and Consumer Internet sectors. Specializing in the Media and Entertainment sector, Girish has led numerous high-profile transactions, demonstrating a deep understanding of the industry. As a strategic thinker with financial acumen, he brings a unique blend of skills to the table.



COMICS

ADITYA BAKSHI, ALOK SHARMA, JEEVAN KANG, MANOJ MENON, NIKHIL PRAN, P C VIKRAM, PREETI VYAS, SAUMIN PATEL,



PREETI VYAS

Cultural Custodian & Digital Pioneer

Preeti Vyas, the astute CEO and president of Amar Chitra Katha (ACK), stands as a vanguard in storytelling, seamlessly blending tradition with the digital wave. With 29 years of versatile experience, from publishing to entrepreneurship, she's an industry stalwart. Under her leadership, ACK remains a cultural beacon, educating through comics on Indian mythology, history, and culture. Preeti ingeniously navigates nostalgia, leveraging the trust of parents while captivating younger audiences. A digital maven, she propels ACK into modernity, with apps boasting 3 million subscribers globally. Her strategic transmedia approach ensures ACK's stories thrive in diverse formats worldwide.

NIKHIL PRAN

Custodian of Indian Comics Legacy

Nikhil Pran, the director of Pran's Features LLP, wears the mantle of preserving and evolving India's comic legacy. As the torchbearer of his father Pran's legacy, Nikhil oversees the iconic 'Chacha Chaudhary' comics, enthraling readers since 1960. Under his stewardship, Pran's Features explores new frontiers, forging collaborations with Disney, Nickelodeon, and venturing into gaming. Nikhil's strategic vision extends the reach of beloved characters like Chacha Chaudhary, Sabu, and Pinki into digital realms, ensuring they remain cherished companions for generations to come.





MANOJ MENON

An Emmy-Nominated Creative Genius

Manoj A Menon, Creative Director at Mikros Animation, brings over 20 years of expertise in animation, theme park design, and gaming. An Emmy Award nominee, he orchestrates creative brilliance for global giants like Netflix, DreamWorks, and Disney. His role at Mikros Animation involves handling creative aspects and client communication, contributing to the production of feature films and long-format episodic content. Manoj's influence extends to acclaimed projects with renowned studios, marking him as a luminary in AR/VR experiences and the broader animation industry.

P C VIKRAM

Multifaceted Artisan & Entertainment Visionary

P C Vikram, an art director and animation film designer, unfolds a rich tapestry of creativity across the entertainment industry. With a foundation from the National Institute of Design, Vikram's journey spans advertising, animation, comics, and more. From pivotal roles in Millitoons to contributions at Chandamama, Virgin Comics, and Big Animation, he's been a creative force. Vikram's artistic influence extends globally, collaborating with esteemed names like Disney, Universal Studios, and Nickelodeon. Currently, he embarks on a new chapter, steering non-profit initiatives, while seeking opportunities to merge his artistic vision with an understanding of consumer trends.





ADITYA BAKSHI

Media Entrepreneur & Tech Trailblazer

Aditya Bakshi, Founding Partner at Aditya Horizons Productions LLP, spearheads a dynamic media and technology enterprise. Renowned for premium content on TV, OTT platforms, animation, and AR/VR, the company excels in Military, Travel, Science, Children's edutainment, and Historical-themed programs. With a strong footprint on major channels, ongoing collaborations with Zee Media, History, and Discovery, and projects for leading film production houses, Aditya Horizons is a force in the industry. Beyond content, the venture champions socially impactful technology initiatives like Aerobotics for underprivileged education and innovative green tech. Aditya Bakshi, an award-winning entrepreneur, leads the charge at the company.

ALOK SHARMA

Multimedia Creative Maestro

Alok Sharma, a luminary in AVGC, is a Writer-Director in Films, Animation, TV, Comics, and Radio. As the Co-Founder and CCO of Indusverse, India's premier Graphic Novel brand, he leads with innovation. Alok's career spans Warner Bros. Discovery, Graphic India, Turner, Reliance Animation, and Disney. As Showrunner for Discovery Kids, his creations include 'Little Singham' and 'Fukrey Boyzzz.' With a penchant for creative consultation, he's shaped numerous IPs. Alok pioneers in IP incubation through Small Town Boys Studio, contributing to the evolution of AVGC in India.





SAUMIN PATEL

Visual Narratives Maestro & Illustrator

Saumin Patel, an accomplished illustrator based in Mumbai, weaves captivating tales through his dynamic and stylized artwork. With a focus on comic book projects and concept art, Saumin's creativity knows no bounds. His unique storytelling ability, expressed through comics and animation, defines his body of work. A stalwart in visual narratives, Saumin navigates both client-based and personal projects with finesse. Despite challenges faced by independent studios in India, Saumin's commitment to pushing artistic boundaries, evident in projects like 'Kaamotsav' and 'Blazing Bajirao,' makes him a visionary force in the realm of comic art.

JEEVAN KANG

Comic Maestro & Storyteller Extraordinaire

Jeevan Kang, a luminary in the Indian comic book realm, stands tall as a senior illustrator at Liquid Comics. Renowned for his masterpiece, "Spider-Man: India," he has contributed prolifically to Virgin Comics, co-creating the animated series "The Legend of Hanuman." His artistic brilliance shines in works like "The Sadhu" and "Seven Brothers," solidifying Kang's status as a trailblazer in the fusion of traditional art and contemporary storytelling. With an illustrious career spanning graphic novels and animated epics, Kang's creative prowess leaves an indelible mark on India's comic landscape.





EFM

ITALIA
COUNTRY IN FOCUS 2024

**IT ALL
STARTS HERE
15–21
FEB 2024**

**DISCOVER
SCREENINGS,
ATTENDEES,
& PROGRAMME
HIGHLIGHTS**



[EFM-BERLINALE.DE](https://efm-berlinale.de)



GAMING

AKSHAT RATHEE, ASHISH GUPTA, B N VICHAR, DANIEL SMITH, HRISHI OBEROI, MANISH AGARWAL, MANVENDRA SHUKUL, NINAD CHHAYA, NITISH MITTERSAIN, QUENTIN STAES-POLET, RAJAN NAVANI, RAJAT OHJA, ROHIT BHAT, SAI SRINIVAS, SALONE SEHGAL, SHIVA NANDY



Rajan Navani, Vice Chairman & Managing Director at JetLine Group; Founder & CEO JetSynthesys, emerges as a digital visionary dedicated to connecting India globally. As the Chairman & MD of Jetline Group and JetSynthesys, Rajan is a leader in technology with a focus on nation-wide transformations. Serving as the National Chairman

of CII's Council on Future Businesses and AI Task Force, he passionately contributes to creating a Digital India. Additionally, Rajan holds key roles in various foundations and societies, including the India Digital Gaming Society. His commitment to gaming, AI, and digital innovations solidifies his status as a transformative force.

RAJAN NAVANI

Digital Visionary & Gaming Enthusiast

A close-up portrait of Nitish Mittersain, a man with dark hair and a slight smile, wearing a red shirt. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

Nitish Mittersain, CEO & Founder of Nazara Technologies, stands at the forefront of India's mobile gaming revolution. Leading a prominent mobile games developer and publisher, Nitish focuses on the vast mobile consumer base in India and emerging markets like the Middle East and Africa. Under his leadership, Nazara operates unique services

and serves as an exclusive distributor for key game developers. Nitish's contributions extend beyond his role, as he serves as the Chairman of the Mobile Value Added Services Committee of the Indian Merchants Chambers. His commitment to gaming and mobile VAS industries has garnered widespread recognition.

NITISH MITTERSAIN

Mobile Gaming Mogul



AKSHAT RATHEE

Esports Visionary and Mentor

Akshat Rathee, Co-Founder of NODWIN Gaming, stands at the forefront of India's esports revolution. An esports 'Professor,' he leads NODWIN Gaming to global recognition, making it the largest esports firm in South Asia. Akshat's journey from gaming enthusiast to industry leader mirrors the meteoric rise of esports in India. As a mentor, he actively shapes the future of competitive gaming, fostering talents, startups, and influencers. With a background in management consulting and extensive experience in the gaming industry, Akshat is a driving force behind NODWIN's success, contributing to the monumental growth of esports in the region.

DANIEL SMITH

Emmy-Winning Game Producer

Daniel Smith, the Studio Director at Rockstar Games, brings Emmy-winning expertise to the gaming landscape. With a career spanning prestigious studios like Hanna-Barbera, Walt Disney, and Infinity Ward, he has consistently demonstrated leadership in animation, TV, film, and video game production. Smith's contribution to notable projects like Red Dead Redemption 2 and GTA Online exemplifies his prowess. As a proven leader, Smith's commitment to quality, integrity, and innovation positions him as a driving force in the gaming industry. His role as Studio Director in India reflects Rockstar Games' commitment to excellence and creative achievement.





SAI SRINIVAS

Gaming Strategist & Industry Leader

Sai Srinivas Kiran G, Co-Founder at Mobile Premier League (MPL), brings a wealth of experience from the gaming industry. With a background in Aeronautical Engineering from IIT Kanpur and stints at Zynga and Bharti Soft Bank, Sai has played a pivotal role in shaping gaming products and studios. As the Co-Founder of MPL, he contributes to the platform's success and growth, overseeing strategic initiatives. Sai's expertise in mobile gaming and his commitment to delivering engaging experiences position him as a key player in India's gaming ecosystem.



MANVENDRA SHUKUL

Gaming and Animation Visionary

Manvendra Shukul, a stalwart with two decades of experience, is the CEO of Lakshya, a powerhouse in the gaming and animation industry. Pioneering the establishment of Escotoonz and Lakshya, he transformed the latter into one of the world's largest Game Art and Animation service providers. A co-founder of the NASSCOM Gaming Forum, Shukul actively contributes to fostering game development initiatives in India. With a leadership journey from a 6-member startup to a 500+ strong global team, he exemplifies expertise and vision, driving the gaming and animation industry's growth.



ROHITH BHAT

Mobile Gaming Entrepreneur

Rohith Bhat, CEO of 99Games and Founding President of TiE Mangaluru, is a parallel entrepreneur with a remarkable journey. Having started Robosoft Technologies, Global Delight, and 99Games, Rohith's impact on the industry is undeniable. With a successful exit from Robosoft Technologies, acquired by TechnoPro in 2021, Rohith focuses on steering 99Games into the next phase of growth. With a comprehensive skill set spanning coding, product design, sales, marketing, and team building, he envisions mobile gaming as the next frontier for B2C growth in India. Rohith's entrepreneurial spirit continues to drive innovation in the mobile gaming landscape.



B N VICHAR

A Versatile Art Director

Vichar BN, Art Director at Technicolor Games, boasts close to two decades of experience in the animation industry. From a background in fine art to becoming a celebrated Zbrush sculptor, Vichar's journey is marked by versatility. His roles as an Assistant Art Director, illustrator, designer, and sculptor showcase his proficiency in various artistic domains. Serving as a Member of the Academic Council of Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Vichar actively contributes to the artistic community in India, solidifying his status as a multifaceted art virtuoso.



RAJAT OHJA

Metaverse & Gaming Innovator

Rajat Ohja, Chief Builder at PartyNite, is a pioneer in console gaming, VR, and the metaverse. With 28 years in the gaming industry, he led the development of chart-topping titles like Resident Evil and Battlefield. Now spearheading the metaverse revolution globally, PartyNite hosts 750+ brands and 45+ celebs. Rajat's visionary work blurs the lines between gaming, VR, and the everyday, making Web3 a reality. As an investor, gamer, and theme park builder, he continues to redefine digital entertainment landscapes.



HRISHI OBEROI

Gaming Trailblazer and Founder

Hrishi Oberoi, Founder & CEO at Photon Tadpole Studios, emerges as a dynamic force in the video game industry. With a wealth of experience, including

stints at Disney and Indiagames, Hrishi is a seasoned developer specializing in gameplay, UI, mechanics, and AI. His passion lies in crafting interactive experiences

that captivate and challenge players. As a founding member of IGDC and an advisory council member, Hrishi actively contributes to India's gaming ecosystem.



QUENTIN STAES-POLET

Media-Tech Maestro & Deal Architect

Quentin Staes-Polet, a seasoned business leader with over 25 years of experience, and former Managing Director of Unreal Engine, International Operations at Epic Games. His versatile career spans roles at Epic Games, Unity, Ankama, Take2, Kreed, IBM, and Universal Music. Quentin excels in negotiating and executing strategic partnerships and large deals worldwide, leveraging his deep tech insight and digital marketing skills. Passionate about content, social media, and disruptive technologies, he plays a pivotal role in steering the growth and development of Unreal Engine as an industry-leading real-time 3D creation platform.



ASHISH GUPTA

Gaming Industry Luminary

Ashish Gupta, Marketing Lead for India and South Asia at Riot Games, is a stalwart in the gaming industry with over two decades of expertise. From pioneering game design to steering business strategy, he has left an indelible mark. As a key figure in Gameloft, Reliance Jio, and now Riot Games, Ashish's leadership has been instrumental in India's gaming landscape. Recognized for his achievements, he has won accolades for games and ad campaigns. Ashish's strategic vision and in-depth industry analysis continue to contribute to the dynamic growth of gaming and esports in the Indian subcontinent.



MANISH AGARWAL

Web3 Gaming Visionary

Manish Agarwal, Founder of Kratos Studios, is a gaming pioneer with over 20 years of experience. As the CEO of Nazara, he made it India's first publicly listed gaming company. Now, with IndiGG, he aspires to create the world's largest Web3 gaming community. A strategic leader, Manish actively shapes the Indian gaming ecosystem, convening online gaming committees and co-founding the Indian Game Developers Forum. His adaptability to digital trends and innovative business models reflects his dedication to advancing the gaming landscape.



SHIVA NANDY

Architect of Esports Excellence

Shiva Nandy, CEO of Skyesports, spearheads a gaming revolution with over four years of leadership in esports. As the Founder and CEO, Shiva has propelled Skyesports into one of South Asia's largest esports companies, operating under JetSynthesys. His mission is to craft and host innovative esports tournaments, including groundbreaking IPs like the Skyesports Championship and Skyesports League. Leveraging an MBA in Technology Management and prior experience as the Founder of Skytou Studios, Shiva orchestrates a dynamic team, driving social game development and mobile applications. Under his visionary leadership, Skyesports has amassed over 50 million gamers and achieved a remarkable 1.5 billion viewership.



SALONE SEHGAL

Pioneering Interactive Media Visionary

Salone Sehgal, Founding General Partner of Lumikai Fund, brings 18 years of expertise as an interactive media VC, games entrepreneur, and former M&A banker. Her journey includes co-founding TrulySocial, a UK-based venture-backed gaming company, and serving as Principal at London Venture Partners, a seed stage fund focused on gaming ecosystems. Salone is recognized as the world's first female GP of a games and interactive media VC fund, conferred with the "Iconic Women Leader" award by Women Economic Forum, and featured among "47 Awesome Women in Tech to Watch Out for in 2017."

NINAD CHHAYA

Metaverse Innovator & Gaming Visionary

Ninad Chhaya, Senior Vice President at Reliance Games, is a versatile professional with a rich background in the gaming and interactive media industry. Currently overseeing strategic alliances and digital strategies at Reliance Games, Ninad's journey includes co-founding GoPhygital and SUSTAIN AI. As a dedicated Advisory Board Member for Responsible Netism, Ninad actively promotes cyber wellness. With extensive experience at WITS Interactive and a role as Visiting Faculty at Whistling Woods International, Ninad brings a holistic perspective to gaming.



Capture
YOUR
VISION.

Register Now.

NABSHOW[®]
Where Content Comes to Life

EXHIBITS: APRIL 14-17, 2024
EDUCATION: APRIL 13-17
LAS VEGAS, NV



STARTUPS

ANISH MEHTA, ARVIND SINGH JEENA, CHARUVI AGRAWAL, GITANJALI SEHGAL, HARSHAVARDHANA KIKKERI, UPAMANYU BHATTACHARYYA, VIREN PATIL, VRINDA SOOD

Charuvi Agrawal, an Animation Filmmaker and founder of Charuvi Design Labs (CDL), stands as a pioneer in merging fine arts with cutting-edge multimedia. Graduating from Delhi College of Arts and earning a master's from Sheridan College, she introduced her first film in 2007, with subsequent successes like "The Legend of Hanuman" animated series on

Disney+Hotstar. Beyond her creative endeavors, Charuvi contributes to industry policies as a member of the PHD Chambers AVGC committee and serves as an UNREAL® mentor. CDL, under her leadership, embraces innovation, utilizing AR, VR, XR, and AI for over a decade. Charuvi's upcoming projects include TV shows, museum content, and short films.

CHARUVI AGRAWAL

Multimedia Maestro and
Storyteller



HARSHA KIKKERI

AVGC Innovator & XR Pioneer

Harsha Kikkeri, CEO of HoloSuit Pte Ltd, is an industry maven heralding the era of casual reality. With 21 years of expertise and 44 patents, he's a trailblazer in eXtended Reality motion capture suits, aerial and ground robots. Renowned for the world's first full-body motion tracking suit, HoloSuit, his mastery extends to VR/MR/AR platforms, crypto technologies, and robotics. From Unity to Ethereum, Kikkeri's proficiency spans diverse landscapes, including drones, mobile robots, arms, grippers, and 3D sensors. A programming polyglot, he commands languages from C/C++ to Python, driving innovation at the intersection of technology and immersive experiences.

ANISH MEHTA

AI Visionary

Anish Mehta, Founder of Animeta, pioneers AI-powered creator tech, envisioning the future of the creator economy. Dedicated to empowering influencers through cutting-edge AI technology, he transforms creators into potent brands. Animeta's proprietary Self-Service Creator Tech platform amplifies digital creators, enhancing their narratives and community reach across diverse social media platforms. An industry veteran, Anish's decade-long CEO role at Cosmos-Maya showcased his prowess in animation, securing a \$90M exit. Now, as the architect of Animeta, Anish combines tech and creativity to reshape the AVGC landscape, empowering creators to redefine storytelling in the digital era.





VRINDA SOOD

Animation Entrepreneur & Visionary

Vrinda Sood, Founder of Citrus Ink Studios, is an MBA-marketer turned animation entrepreneur. Under her guidance, the studio thrives in short films, IP development, and the recent launch of its VFX division. Committed to originality, Vrinda's focus on narrative innovation garnered global acclaim, with films like "The Social Chameleon." With Citrus Carmashala, she champions education in collaboration with Technicolor Creative Studios Academy, shaping a new generation of creative minds.

GITANJALI SEHGAL

AI Integration Visionary

Gitanjali Sehgal, a seasoned CEO and entrepreneur, brings over 25 years of diverse expertise across Media & Entertainment, Films, FMCG, and consulting. Former CEO of Pixion and co-founder of Metamorphosis, India's first broadcast design house, Sehgal is recognized for her international achievements, including Promax Asia awards. Currently, she champions the integration of state-of-the-art technologies like Generative AI, AR/VR, and video-tech. As a co-founder in AI, Sehgal leads groundbreaking initiatives, emphasizing seamless workflows, personalized engagement, efficiency, dynamic content creation, and collaborative leadership, driving the transformative impact of AI in VFX, advertising, and content production.





UPAMANYU BHATTACHARYYA

Kolkata's Illustrator Extraordinaire

Upamanyu Bhattacharyya, the animation director and illustrator behind Otter Studios, emerges as Kolkata's inspired chronicler. A National Institute of Design alumnus, Upamanyu's sketches breathe life into the city's streets, capturing the nuances of everyday life. His creations, from the award-winning 'Paperplanes' to the soulful depiction of Kolkata's street scenes, showcase his unique lens. With a repertoire that reflects Bengal's artistry and global influences, Upamanyu, through Otter Studios, promises to weave animated narratives that resonate with the heart and soul of diverse audiences.



ARVIND SINGH JEENA

Creative Maestro

Arvind Singh Jeena, Director and Founder of Totem Creative, thrives on simplifying complexity and infusing humor into serious narratives. With over 8 years in animation, Arvind crafts captivating stories. His acclaimed work, 'Paperplanes,' resonates with global audiences, transporting them to the charm of Indian classrooms. From Ancey to Stuttgart, the film's journey is a testament to Arvind's creative vision.



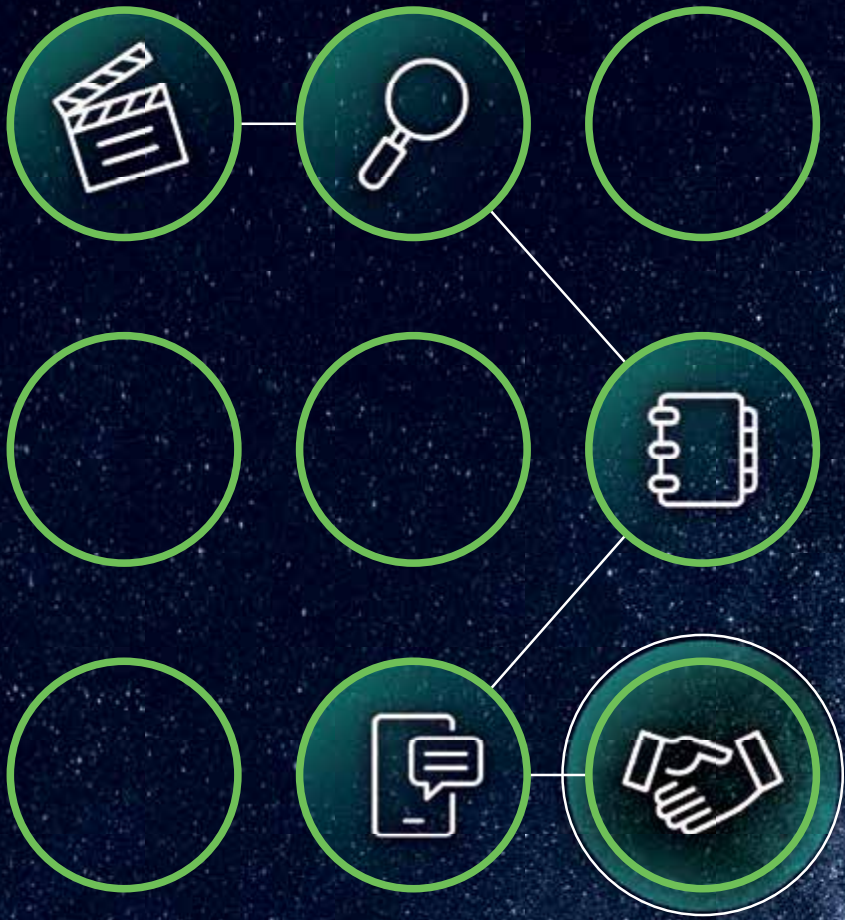
VIREN PATIL

Architect of Animated Dreams

Viren Patil, Founder & CEO of Zebu Animation, commands over two decades in the animation industry, emerging as a creative powerhouse. Co-founder of Paprikas Animation Studios and

Xentrix Studios, Viren's journey transformed him into a seasoned visionary. Now, at Zebu Animation, his lifelong dream unfolds as he shapes original IPs and elevates storytelling. This global animation

studio, under his creative stewardship, combines technology and talent, producing animated content that etches everlasting memories.



unlock the film industry_

Powered by



MARCHÉ DU FILM
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Co-funded by the
European Union



Creative
Europe
MEDIA

CINANDO
Join & Connect



EMERGING
TECH

C V RAO, DEEPAK BAKSHI, G SENTHIL, RAJIV MALIK, RAVI VELHAL, SAMIT
SHETTY, SHRUTI VERMA, VISHAL DHUPAR



Vishal Dhupar, Managing Director at Nvidia India, spearheads the mission of empowering the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) sector. With over 30 years of industry experience, Vishal has driven strategic business growth for leading technology companies. At Nvidia, he plays a pivotal role in redefining the future of Media and Entertainment with cutting-edge AI, hardware, software platforms, and networking solutions. Under his leadership, Nvidia contributes to transforming the industry by optimizing content production, data analytics, and software-defined infrastructure.

VISHAL DHUPAR

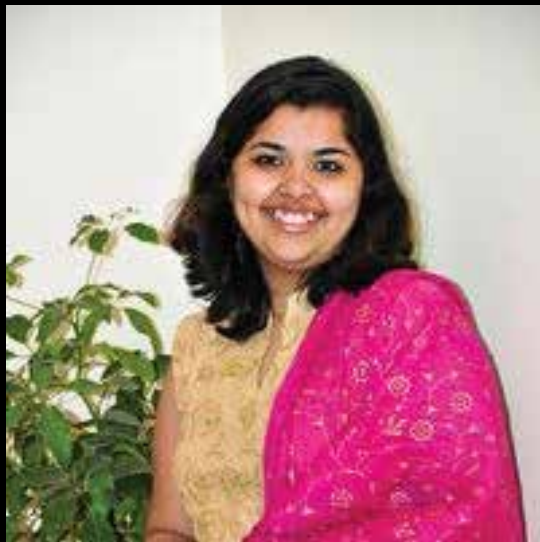
Empowering AVGC with AI



RAVI VELHAL

Immersive Pioneer

Intel's Global Immersive
 Content Technologist, Ravi Velhal, elevates storytelling through groundbreaking technology and transforming global media industry from "Lights, Camera, Action" to "Lights Compute, Action". A pioneer in 8K OTT live-streaming for global events like the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, and a co-producer of award-winning Hollywood VR Cinemas, he's a luminary in Immersive Virtual Reality. Recognized with prestigious awards, including Hollywood accolades and Emmys nominations, Ravi's contributions extend globally, shaping the intersection of technology and narrative. His leadership in 8K live-streaming and collaboration with creative visionaries mark him as an Innovator in cinematic experiences.



Shruti Verma, as Business Lead for India/SEA/Africa at Epic Games, is a seasoned professional with 20+ years in marketing and business development. Her passion lies in connecting communities and building lasting relationships across diverse sectors. At Epic Games, Shruti is instrumental in expanding

brand awareness and adoption, demonstrating Unreal Engine's transformative potential. With a track record at Unity Technologies and NASSCOM, Shruti brings strategic vision to foster strong ecosystems, showcasing how technology, like Unreal Engine, can redefine industries and unleash creative possibilities.

SHRUTI VERMA

Transforming Unreal Engine in India



SAMIT SHETTY

Solution Specialist

Samit Shetty, a Technical Solutions Specialist at Autodesk, stands as a go-to person for Animation & Visual Effects technologies. With over a decade of industry experience, Samit collaborates with top studios, optimizing technology workflows for quality output and efficiency. His role involves working closely with VFX Supervisors and Heads of major studios in India, showcasing his expertise in cinematic procedures, cutting-edge technologies, and animation-VFX workflows.

G SENTHIL

AVGC Tech Innovator

Senthil Kumar, Founder of WorkTrak and Steelsonic Software, is a pioneer in AVGC technologies with 15 years of rich experience. A designer of crucial IT and Network management software, he stands out as the creator of animation and VFX pipeline management solutions. A visionary in employee productivity and analytics software, he founded WorkTrak, aiding HR managers in boosting company productivity. Senthil's journey spans leadership roles at major animation studios and contributions to open-source projects. With expertise in software architecture, electronics, and database design, he continues to drive innovation in the intersection of technology and creative industries.





DEEPAK BAKSHI

Digital Commerce Maestro

Deepak Bakshi, the Managing Director and Founding Partner at Accenture Song, is a luminary in digital commerce transformation and data-driven marketing. Leading the Digital Commerce practice in India for the world's largest technology-powered creative group, his 19+ years' expertise spans Digital Strategy, e-Commerce, and User Experience design. Deepak's passion lies in leveraging data-driven insights to propel business growth. With a global footprint across 15+ countries and diverse industries, including Consumer Goods, Retail, Automotive, Life Sciences, and Travel, Deepak orchestrates transformative journeys. His leadership at Accenture Song reflects a commitment to human craft, technical prowess, and inspired connections, fostering innovation that delivers tangible business results.



C V RAO

Post-Production Maestro

C. V. Rao, the CTO at Annapurna Studios, boasts a prolific 20-year journey in the entertainment industry. Leading 100+ technicians, Rao steers the post-production realm, offering comprehensive services from data storage to the final release. His role extends to managing a virtual production stage, shaping the future of storytelling. Rao's influence is evident in Annapurna Studios and Qube Cinema's state-of-the-art virtual production facility in Hyderabad, propelling filmmakers and content creators to realize their visions on a global scale.



RAJIV MALIK

Strategic Growth Leader

Meet Rajiv Malik, the adept Senior Director at Wacom India Pvt. Ltd., renowned for spearheading high-growth businesses and fostering top-tier teams. With a remarkable career spanning 25

years, he excels in establishing business verticals, orchestrating distribution networks, and navigating the realms of Broadcast, Film, Video, digital content creation, IT, AV, and media

& entertainment technology. Having collaborated with leading brands and talent, Rajiv is driven by purpose and passion, consistently achieving excellence through high-quality execution.