

Management Profiles

HARINDER S. SIKKA

Group Director – Strategic Business, Piramal Group

Mr. Harinder Sikka is Group Director – Strategic Business at the Piramal Group. He is a former Lt. Commander from the Indian Navy and has been with the Group for nearly three decades. As head of Strategic Business, he has been instrumental in handling and resolving issues pertaining to all verticals of the Group.

Mr. Sikka has been awarded by the Global Anti-Counterfeiting Group, Paris and is also recipient of ‘The Indira Super Achiever Award’, besides other prestigious recognitions. He is trained on Intellectual Property Rights from AOTS, Tokyo, Japan.

He is a prolific writer and an acclaimed film-maker. He went to the Kargil battle theatre in 1999 as a freelance embedded journalist and has written over a hundred articles in leading newspapers. He produced the multiple National Awards winning film ‘Nanak Shah Fakir’, directed short films and authored two best-selling books ‘Calling Sehmat’ and ‘Vichhoda’. Blockbuster film ‘Raazi’, led by Alia Bhatt was based on his best seller book ‘Calling Sehmat’, published in six Indian languages.

RUPEN JHAVERI

Group President, Piramal Enterprises Limited

Rupen Jhaveri is the Group President at Piramal Enterprises Limited (PEL). In his role, Rupen is responsible for business development, strategy, M&A, capital allocation and corporate finance.

Rupen has close to two decades of experience across private equity and investment banking. Prior to joining PEL, he was the Managing Director of KKR India, a global investment firm. As part of the founding team in India, Rupen has led investments in Jio Platforms, Reliance Retail, Alliance Tires, Magma Fincorp (Poonawalla Finance), Dalmia Cement, Max Financial Services, Emerald Media, SBI Life Insurance, Bharti Infratel, HDFC Ltd and RE Sustainability.

Prior to KKR, Rupen has worked with Goldman Sachs & Co. in its Principal Investment Area (PIA), Warburg Pincus and Merrill Lynch.

Rupen is a member of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) - Corporate Governance Council and the Global Investor Council of Indian Private Equity & Venture Capital Association (IVCA). He holds a B.S., magna cum laude, from Leonard N. Stern School of Business of New York University. He has also been the recipient of The Economic Times and Fortune 40 under 40 Business Leader awards. An avid cricketer and tennis player, Rupen pursuits also include social work in rural India.

JAIRAM SRIDHARAN

Managing Director, Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd

Jairam Sridharan is the MD of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited. He has over two decades of rich domain experience and specializes in setting up and scaling new businesses.

Before joining Piramal, Jairam was the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Axis Bank. He has handled a variety of roles at the Bank and was previously President, Retail Lending & Payments. In this role, he was responsible for driving growth in the retail lending and payments businesses comprising retail lending products (home, car, personal & other loans), cards business (credit, debit & prepaid) and the agriculture & rural lending business. In his 5 years in this role, Axis Bank saw industry leading, 6X growth and emerged as one of the top 5 retail lending institutions in the country.

Prior to Axis, Jairam served Capital One Financial, a consumer bank based in Richmond, VA (USA) as Head – ‘New to Credit’ Card Acquisitions in the US Cards Business. At the start of his career with ICICI Bank, he played a key role in their initial foray into the retail lending businesses, serving as Head – Business Intelligence Unit.

Jairam holds a Bachelor of Technology degree in Chemical Engineering from IIT Delhi and Post Graduate Diploma in Management from IIM Kolkata where he was awarded a Roll of Honour for academic excellence.

In 2022, he was awarded the 'FE Pillar of the BFSI Industry' award at the FE BFSI Summit. In 2019, Institutional Investor magazine named Jairam “Best CFO” in their All-Asia Executive team for Banks, based on Sell-Side analyst votes. In 2015, he was chosen by The Economic Times as a part of their “40 Under 40” list of India’s hottest business leaders.

YESH NADKARNI

Chief Executive Officer, Wholesale Lending, Piramal Enterprises Limited

Yesh Nadkarni is the CEO of Wholesale Lending at Piramal Enterprises Limited (PEL). He has over two decades of investing experience across debt, equity and special situations spanning India, Australia, and Southeast Asia.

As CEO of Wholesale Lending, Yesh is responsible for further expanding PEL’s wholesale lending business, building a high-quality granular book across different real estate/corporate segments, establishing, and strengthening key client relationships and using data analytics/AI to enable superior underwriting.

Before joining Piramal, Yesh was the Managing Director & CEO of the India Real Estate lending business at global investment firm KKR, where he built a leading India real estate credit franchise.

Prior to KKR, he has held senior leadership roles at J.P. Morgan where he led Asia-ex China franchise of the balance sheet investing group, and ICICI Prudential, where he set up and led real estate / corporate investing business.

Yesh has a Masters in Finance from the London Business School and is a Bachelor in Engineering, from University of Pune, India.

KALPESH KIKANI

CEO, Piramal Alternatives

Kalpesh Kikani is the Chief Executive Officer of Piramal Alternatives. In his current role, Kalpesh drives profitable growth across all Piramal Group’s alternative asset funds across multiple asset classes.

Kalpesh has over twenty-five years of expertise in investing and financial services including a decade as the founding Managing Director at AION Capital, a joint venture between Apollo Global Management and ICICI Group to invest in buyouts, distressed and hybrid capital solutions.

At AION, Kalpesh led both fund raising and deployment of over \$1.25 billions of capital and served on the boards of several its portfolio companies.

Prior to AION Capital, Kalpesh spent over 15 years at ICICI Bank. Kalpesh played a significant role in building the bank’s commercial banking business to over \$10 Billion in assets and the structured finance business to over \$ 5 billion in assets. Kalpesh setup and built the bank’s corporate and investment banking business in London to \$ 4 billion in assets. Earlier, Kalpesh was part of the retail banking team at the time of the merger of ICICI Limited and ICICI Bank Limited. Kalpesh started his career at ICICI Limited in project finance where he led multibillion dollar corporate and infrastructure financing.

Kalpesh holds a Bachelor of Engineering Degree in Computer Science and an MBA in Finance from Bombay University.

SHANTANU NALAVADI

Managing Director, India Resurgence Fund (IndiaRF)

Mr. Shantanu Nalavadi is the Managing Director at India Resurgence Asset Management Business Private Limited (IndiaRF), a Piramal Enterprises Limited and Bain Capital Credit Partnership. A Chartered Accountant by profession, Mr. Nalavadi carries with him over two decades of experience in financial services, banking, and corporate finance.

In his role at IndiaRF, Mr. Nalavadi invests primarily in mid-sized businesses, providing customised capital solution for a controlled lead transformation in the businesses. IndiaRF invests across growth sectors such as industrials, infrastructure, manufacturing, consumer businesses etc., targeting India’s burgeoning demand growth and exports. He spearheads an on-ground team that is not only well-positioned to execute diligence and deals but also engage in deep operational turnaround with all stakeholders (creditors including lenders, promoters, management, financial sponsors, minority shareholders).

Previously, he was Co-Head of the Structured Investment Group of Piramal Enterprises Limited, with over US\$ 350 Million in assets under management. Prior to this, he was a Partner at New Silk Route Advisors Pvt. Ltd., a Private Equity Fund with over US\$ 850 Million in assets under management. His vast tenure of work experience includes global multinationals such as ANZ Grindlays Bank, Star TV and Walt Disney with P/L and business development responsibilities.

Mr. Nalavadi brings with him an experience of investing, creating value and monetising investments across several sectors, including financial services, consumer retail, infrastructure, cement, media, logistics and manufacturing. In creating value for his portfolio companies he actively participated in partnering with strategic / managements for operational improvements, competitive marketing positioning and sustainable expansion.

Mr. Nalavadi articulated with Arthur Andersen, India, before qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1993.

UPMA GOEL
CFO, Piramal Enterprises Limited

Upma Goel is the CFO of Piramal Enterprises Ltd. and is responsible for the finance function of PEL and all its subsidiaries. She played a key role in the integration of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) into Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd.

She is a Chartered Accountant with three decades of post qualification experience in the financial services industry. Her core competencies lie in business strategy, financial control, capital restructuring, M&A, tax, risk management and regulatory compliances. Upma joined Piramal as CFO – Retail Finance Business of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. and was subsequently elevated to CFO of PEL.

Prior to Piramal, she was the CFO & Key Management Personnel at Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited and played a critical role in upscaling the finance function, successful transition of the NBFC MFI into the Bank. She successfully led the primary market fund raise from domestic/overseas market. She also spearheaded the finance and account function, Procurement, Liabilities management, business strategy and planning, regulatory compliances and investors relations. Prior to Ujjivan, Upma was the Group Deputy CFO at L&T Finance Holdings Limited.

Upma holds a Master’s Degree focused in Chartered Accountant from The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

In September 2022, she was felicitated by The Financial Express at the FE CFO Connect Conclave for her exemplary contribution to the industry and to the Piramal Group.

VIRAL GANDHI
President & Group CIO, Piramal Group

Viral Gandhi is President and Group Chief Information Officer, Piramal Group. As a Digital and Change leader, he is responsible for driving tech innovation and reinvention across the Group entities. He enables the businesses to gain competitive advantage by leveraging technology and digital-led platforms to boost engagement with all stakeholders, across touch points.

Mr. Gandhi is a Technology & Digital Strategist with deep expertise in building and implementing innovative technology solutions and establish strong technology culture to transform organisations and propel business growth.

Prior to joining Piramal Group, Mr. Gandhi served as Chief Information Officer at the Cox & Kings Group and was instrumental in driving business transformation through consumer tech solutions across the group companies, globally. Previously, during his tenure at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), he partnered with several Fortune 100 clients such as General Electric, NASDAQ, World Bank, HP and Procter & Gamble, in their technology transformation journeys.

With 28 years of rich experience, Mr. Gandhi has been conferred with several prestigious awards for his contributions in the field of technology and innovation.

Mr. Gandhi has completed an Executive Leadership Program from Harvard Business School, USA and a Strategy and Innovation Program from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering from VJTI, Mumbai, India.

S.K. HONNESH
Group General Counsel, Piramal Group

S. K. Honnesh, Group General Counsel at the Piramal Group, is responsible for overseeing the legal function across the Piramal Group. He also oversees the Secretarial, IPR, Trusteeship and Compliance functions of the Company.

Honnesh joined Piramal Group in 2013 and has helped set up and organise the legal function across the group. He plays a critical role in identifying, mitigating and managing legal risk across the group companies. Honnesh also plays an important role in executing corporate transactions, acquisitions, mergers, sale and transitions in the Company. He has worked on diverse deals through his tenure with the Group. Some of the major transactions include fund raising of USD 770 Million at PEL by QIP of Compulsorily Convertible Debentures (the first and largest by a non-banking company) and Rights Issue, investments in the financial services companies, Shriram Transport and Shriram Capital, acquisition of the product portfolio from Janssen, Mallinckrodt and setting up of IndiaRF, the company’s Distressed Asset Platform, sale of DRG, Carlyle investment in Pharma and acquisition of DHFL.

Honnesh is a qualified Corporate lawyer and holds a Degree in Law from National Law School of India University, Bangalore.

VIKRAM BECTOR
President & Group Chief Human Resources Officer, Piramal Enterprises Ltd.

Vikram Bector is the President and Group Chief Human Resources Officer for the Piramal Group. He holds an MBA degree in Marketing & Finance and is a Certified Human Resource Executive (CHRE) by the Human Resources Professionals Association, Canada.

Vikram has over 3 decades of experience leading HR transformation at some of India’s largest global corporations. His rich experience straddles diverse sectors such as IT, Consulting, Automotive and Healthcare. He has previously worked with large global Indian conglomerates and MNCs like – Reliance Industries Limited, Tata Motors, Deloitte, Satyam Computers and Aditya Birla Group.

He has worked on building world class e-enabled practices in the areas of Talent Acquisition, Leadership development, Succession planning, managing high potentials, Employee Engagement, Learning and Organizational Development. In addition to core HR practices, he has expertise in Mergers & Acquisitions and has lead change initiatives across cultures in geographies such as Brazil, United States, China, Japan and the Middle East. Under his stewardship many Piramal Group companies have made it to the top of the Best Employer Lists. Piramal Group has been featured as a top employer in the Forbes list in 2019, having been ranked at number 32 in the global list. The recent acquisition of DHFL by the Piramal Group was the first successful resolution under the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy code) route in the financial services sector and amongst the largest resolutions in value terms.

ADITYA NATRAJ
CEO, Piramal Foundation

Aditya Natraj is the CEO of Piramal Foundation. Aditya is a qualified chartered accountant, holds a master’s in economics and has an MBA from INSEAD. Aditya started his career working with KPMG for 5 years and then joined the start-up team of an internet company in Europe for 2 years. For the last 20+years, he has worked in the Development sector – first with Pratham in Gujrat for 5 years and the Piramal Foundation for the last 15+ years. Aditya is an Ashoka Fellow, an Echoing Green Fellow and an Aspen India Fellow.

Aditya also serves on the governing board of the Quality Council of India, the Akanksha Foundation and Bridge Span India. Aditya was awarded the Times Now Amazing Indian award in the Education category.