



### **Ms. Fauzia Reyaz**

*Supervisor, Bird ExecuJet*

With over 14 years of expertise spanning aviation, hospitality, marketing, and operations, I have established myself as a resilient, detail-oriented professional committed to excellence.

I began my aviation career with Cambata Aviation Private Ltd., thereafter worked with esteemed aviation organizations such as Cathay Pacific Airways and British Airways. I expanded my expertise in managing customer interactions, ticketing, and team mentorship.

Transitioning into the hospitality industry, I joined InterContinental Hotels Group, where I further broadened my scope in executive coordination, administration, and high-level support.

My career trajectory took a strategic turn when I assumed a marketing role at Aditya Infotech Ltd (CP PLUS), where I was instrumental in devising marketing strategies, enhancing brand visibility, and supporting event-based marketing initiatives. My journey from aviation to hospitality and marketing, culminating in a leadership role at Bird ExecuJet Airport Services, strengthens my adaptability and continuous pursuit of growth.

I'm drawn to Women in Aviation India's mission to promote gender diversity and inclusion in the industry. Women in Aviation India provides a supportive community that empowers women to pursue their passions and break down barriers in this male-dominated field.



### **Ms. Pratima Thakar**

*Vice President, Airline Contracting*  
**MakeMyTrip.Com**

With over a decade of experience in the aviation and travel industry, I've had the privilege of leading high-impact teams across airline supplier management, strategic procurement, and financial planning. Currently serving as Vice President Airline Contracting in MakeMyTrip.com, I specialize in driving cost efficiencies, elevating product offerings, and building strong commercial partnerships that contribute to organizational growth.

What drew me to Women in Aviation India is the inspiring community of trailblazing women who are shaping the future of aviation. I believe in the power of shared knowledge, mentorship, and collaboration, and I'm excited to contribute, learn, and grow alongside such remarkable professionals. This platform aligns perfectly with my passion for empowering others and fostering inclusive leadership in our dynamic industry.

Looking forward to meaningful connections and impactful conversations!



**Ms. Anjali Pranavkumar Chitte**

*Director and Accountable Manager, PBC's Aero Hub*

My journey began in 2012 when I started conducting aeromodelling shows and workshops for a diverse audience, including media houses like Lokmat and Sakal, NGOs, and even political figures. These events allowed me to share my expertise in aviation and drone technology while fostering a deeper understanding of aeromodelling among participants.

In 2016, leveraging the success and experience gained through such events, I co-founded a partnership company that provided a wide range of drone services. These services included aerial photography and videography for sectors like real estate, smart city planning, and municipal corporations.

With the advent of the Drone Rules in 2021, I saw an opportunity to further contribute to the growing drone industry. In 2022, I established PBC's AERO HUB, a DGCA-certified Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) aimed at shaping the RPTO's vision and training programs. We conducted training of over 800 remote pilots and more than 200 remote pilot instructors, many of whom have gone on to work in critical sectors such as government, police forces, defense, scientific research, and agricultural universities. I was delighted to be able to lead NaMo Drone Didi training program for women from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Orissa.

PBC's AERO HUB has become the only DGCA-certified RPTO authorized organization in India to offer a comprehensive range of courses.

I stay committed to my strong values and principles, ensuring that her RPTO delivers not only technical training but also in stills professionalism and a deep sense of responsibility in its students. As a leader in the rapidly evolving field of drone technology, I would like to strengthen my resolve towards women empowerment by associating with WAI.



**Ms. Rekha Lahon**

*Founder, Charaideo Gram Janani Welfare Foundation*

From being a physiotherapist to working in international marketing within major corporate hospitals, I've been fortunate to have a unique combination of expertise. My educational background from esteemed institutions like Assam Medical College, Apollo Med varsity, and Amity University have provided me with a strong foundation for my diverse roles.

I would like to utilize the wealth of knowledge and experiences that I have accumulated across different fields of healthcare to inspire the women in aviation and various industries to do their best.



**Ms. Sangeetha C.R.**

*Head-Corporate Communication*  
**GMR Hyderabad International Airport**

"Working in the aviation industry as a communication professional has been an incredibly enriching experience—one that has deepened my understanding of both the complexity of operations and the importance of safeguarding brand reputation in a high-stakes, fast-paced environment.

From managing passenger expectations to ensuring timely and accurate information is shared during both routine operations and critical moments, my role has been centred around building trust—both internally and externally.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my work has been managing Brand, Brand Reputation and Crisis Communication. I've learned that how we communicate in those moments can make all the difference—not just in resolving immediate concerns but in preserving long-term loyalty and credibility.

What drew me to Women in Aviation India—and continues to inspire me—is their unwavering commitment to inspire, empower, and elevate women in every corner of this industry. In a space that has historically been male-dominated, WAI has created a platform that not only recognizes achievement but fuels ambition. Their work ensures that the next generation of women sees a place for themselves in the skies—and beyond.

Being part of this community is more than a membership—it's a movement. One that celebrates resilience, champions diversity, and continues to amplify voices that have too often gone unheard."



**Ms. Anjali Nanda**

*Retired as Associate VP, Air India*

I recently completed my 36 year tenure with Air India & super annulated as AVP, Head of Loyalty Operations, Air India, on 31st Dec'24. I led the revamping of the legacy Loyalty program and the merger with Club Vistara. I was also a Trainer for Airport teams at various domestic & international airports.

Prior to Air India, I worked with Delhi Airport , Agency & Corporate Sales, Dubai Airport , Headquarters as a Corporate Policy expert & Web content. I've also had the opportunity to handle special projects like UN charter flights in Kigali, Rwanda. Performing various roles, I had a 36 degree view of Airline operations and hence I'm currently engaged in various Consultancy projects in aviation. By joining the Women in Aviation India, would like to contribute towards developing & mentoring young talent in this field.



**Capt. Poonam Devrakhyani**

*Flight Operations Inspector (FOI-A), DGCA India*

Aviation isn't just a career for me—it's a calling that took root in my childhood and has shaped every step of my journey. From flying high as a commercial airline captain to now serving as a Flight Operations Inspector at DGCA India, my mission has always been clear: to uphold safety, inspire excellence, and break barriers for women in aviation.

My academic path has been equally purposeful. I hold a Master's in Aerospace and Aviation Management from IIM Bangalore and a Master's in Aviation Law. I am also a published researcher in the field of Artificial Intelligence in aviation—an area I believe holds immense promise for the future of safe and intelligent skies.

At the heart of my journey is my biggest inspiration—my brother, Vijay Devrakhyani. Born with over 82% disability, Vijay is a world record holder in adventure activities and a living testament to resilience, courage, and the power of the human spirit. His unwavering determination has taught me that no sky is too high, and no dream too big. His story fuels mine.

Joining Women in Aviation India is deeply personal. It means belonging to a sisterhood of dreamers, doers, and leaders. It's about lighting the path for young girls who dare to dream of the skies but need to watch someone who looks like them in the cockpit—or the boardroom.

Through this community, I hope to share my story, celebrate others, and together build a more inclusive and empowered future for aviation in India. Thank you for welcoming me—I'm truly honoured to be here.



**Ms. Payal Satish**

*Commercial Director, Hunch Mobility*

With close to two decades of experience in the Indian industry, I have spent my career specializing in Commercial Functions that result in revenue generation, new customer development and leading the launch of new business verticals for the organizations I have worked with. I carry with me extensive passion for the aviation industry and a total of 20 years of experience in Sales, Marketing, Business Development, Alliances, Route Planning and Project Management.

I have spent over a decade in aviation, an industry I am most passionate about as part of the founding team at AirAsia India back in 2014 where I went on to lead Ancillary Revenue and Cargo for the airline. In 2017, I joined BLADE India, India's first heli taxi service connecting otherwise unconnected cities and towns as well as airports to city centres where I lead the Commercial Function.

My intent for joining Women in Aviation India is to learn from like-minded women from the Indian aviation industry and share knowledge and experiences.



**Ms. Ramya**

*R&D-Material Engineer*

As a 7 year old, I wanted to become a pilot and later an astronaut, thanks to the inspiration from astronaut Kalpana Chawla. I aspired to study aeronautical engineering, however since I didn't have the required scores, I pursued mechanical engineering. Missed out narrowly to join the Indian Air Force. So I really did want to see how I could contribute in the field of aviation.

I chose to be part of R&D aspects as a material engineer and followed that track to specialize in aerospace materials which is used in real time.

I would like to use my expertise and experience to inspire young girls who aspire to join the same field in aviation.



**Ms. Rekha Nair**

*Founder, SoloS Collective*

A pioneering visionary, renowned for her transformative impact on airport hospitality and customer-centric business strategies. With a career spanning over 28 years across diverse industries, I've always strived to excel in each role and field.

As the former "Chief Customer Experience Officer" at Adani Airport Holdings Ltd. I spearheaded ground-breaking initiatives that redefined the airport experience in India. I orchestrated significant operational enhancements and cultivated a culture of service excellence. Aimed at elevating standards across the industry.

A standout achievement in my career was the inception of "Pranaam Service," a pioneering Meet and Assist service designed to streamline airport travel experience. This innovative venture not only optimized efficiency and resource management but also generated substantial revenue, cementing its status as a trailblazer in the industry.

I was fortunate to be honoured as one of the "50 most influential Customer Experience Professionals" by BBC knowledge. Additionally, I also received the prestigious "Women Leadership Achievement Award" from the esteemed World HRD Congress, an acknowledgment of my achievements and commitment to empowering women in leadership roles.

Today, as the founder of SoloS Collective, I continue to work towards shaping the landscape of user experience design and consultancy. Through my firm, I strive to channel my expertise in seamlessly blending design, aesthetics, and services to craft comprehensive and innovative solutions.



**Ms. Archanaa Waghmare**

*General Manager – Administration Procurement and Accounts*  
**Bird Airport Service Mumbai Pvt. Ltd.**

For the past two decades, I have been deeply engaged in the dynamic and continuously evolving field of aviation. At the age of 48, my professional trajectory and journey is a testament to my unwavering dedication, sharp intellect, and passion for connecting people and places.

My foundation for success was laid with a strong academic background. After completing my schooling, I pursued a Bachelor's degree in Commerce from the prestigious University of Mumbai. My career trajectory within the aviation industry has been marked by consistent growth and increasing responsibility. I began my journey at Reliance Capital through their authorised counterpart as an Accounting Executive. With my quick learning approach, it wasn't long before I finally embarked on my career within the aviation industry. For seven years, I was a dedicated member of Globe Ground India, contributing my skills to aviation operations. My work within the aviation industry continued with a subsequent role at Combat Aviation. Today, I hold the esteemed position of General Manager of Administration, Procurement and Accounts at Bird Aviation Services.

Driven by a desire to contribute at a higher strategic level, I pursued an Executive Certificate Program in Project Management from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Raipur, which equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of the business and commercial aspects within the aviation sector.

I am a strong advocate for gender diversity within the aviation sector and have been a consistent participant in the various Women in Aviation India events. Recently, I had the privilege of attending the event in Srikakulam, where I got to passionately encourage young girls to explore opportunities and become a part of the aviation industry. I stay committed to contribute towards the burgeoning aviation industry.



**Ms. Juanella Colaco**

*Chief Manager*  
**Air India**

I started my career as a cabin crew with Jet Airways in 1993. I have a vast experience in training with aviation and hospitality since 1998. My experience as Cabin Safety Inspector with DGCA India has helped me grow and start-up airlines ensuring quality in training and operations. I was fortunate to have played a role in setting up the first practical training academy in India for crew providing training of international standards. I look forward to utilizing my experience with the various full service carriers such as Jet Airways, Kingfisher Airlines, Vistara and Air India to help more women in India reach great heights in the industry.





### **Ms. Pallavi Priya**

*Associate Manager*  
**DIAL**

I worked in the Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL) in the Airport Operations Control Centre (AOCC) for 9 years & 6 months wherein I significantly contributed in managing the operations at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), New Delhi.

Thereafter, I got transferred in Airside Planning, Airside Management in July 2020. During 14 years of my working experience in Aviation, I also had the opportunity to play a role in operations at IGI Airport as an Aerodrome Operator.

Women in Aviation India recognizes the contribution of women in the aviation industry and encourages women to make aviation their preferred choice of career. It was a great moment for me to receive an award from MOCA at the 'Giving Wings to Dreams – Awards' organized by WAI. I consider this achievement a significant milestone in my professional journey which will help me inspire and pave the way for more women.



### **Ms. K. Kasthuri**

*Deputy General Manager (Engineering-Civil),*  
*Airports Authority of India,*  
**Chennai Airport**

With a strong foundation in civil engineering and a passion for aviation infrastructure, I am proud to be a woman engineer contributing to the ever-evolving world of airport development.

As a passionate and driven civil engineer, I have carved my path in the aviation industry by contributing to key infrastructure projects that keep our skies connected and secure. My experience spans runway re-carpeting, construction of radar buildings for ASR (Airport Surveillance Radar) and MSSR (Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar) systems, development of CISF barracks for jawans, operational area maintenance including runways, taxiways, hangars and perimeter roads etc. ensuring both operational efficiency and security readiness.

Currently serving as a Maintenance Engineer for Terminal Buildings at Chennai Airport, I focus on sustaining high standards of functionality, safety, and passenger comfort. My role demands a balance of technical expertise and real-time problem-solving – qualities I've honed through years of on-ground experience.

Becoming a part of Women in Aviation India marks a significant milestone in my journey – one that celebrates not only technical excellence but also the power of representation and leadership in this dynamic industry.

I look forward to connecting, sharing, and inspiring as we continue to build a more inclusive and progressive future in aviation.

*"From concrete to confidence – crafting every corner of aviation."*



**Ms. Neha Dhani**

*Dy. CSO*  
**Air Charter Service**

With over a decade of experience in aviation security and administrative roles, I have had the privilege of working with reputed organizations such as Bird ExecuJet Airport Services, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, and currently as Deputy Chief Security Officer at Air Charter Services. My professional journey has been shaped by a commitment to excellence, strong organizational capabilities, and a focus on regulatory compliance in high-pressure environments.

What inspired me to join Women in Aviation India is the belief that representation and empowerment of women in this industry are crucial for its evolution. Having navigated various operational and leadership roles, I understand the value of mentorship, community, and visibility for women professionals. I am passionate about contributing to an ecosystem that uplifts and supports women in achieving their full potential within aviation and aerospace.



**Ms. Talish Ray**  
*Managing Partner*  
**TRS Law Offices**



**Ms. Anjali Guhare**  
*Coordinator*  
**Women in Aviation India**



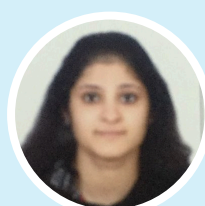
**Ms. Charulatha Pasupuleti**  
*General Manager*  
**GMR Airport Developers Limited**



**Ms. Sithara Chandaran**  
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**Ms. Surabhi Rana**  
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**Capt. Zoya Sapra**  
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**Air India**