



Hamilton Evans “Tony” James

Former Executive Vice Chairman, Blackstone

Tony James is the former Executive Vice Chairman of Blackstone, one of the world’s largest alternative asset managers. Over nearly two decades at the firm, he played a pivotal role in shaping its growth, institutional culture, and strategic direction.

He joined Blackstone in 2002 as President and Chief Operating Officer, where he led the expansion of the firm’s platform across private equity, credit, real estate, and hedge funds. He was instrumental in major milestones, including the \$39 billion acquisition of Equity Office Properties and Blackstone’s landmark IPO in 2007.

In 2018, he stepped into the role of Executive Vice Chairman, continuing to advise on firmwide strategy. He retired in January 2022, concluding 20 years of transformative leadership.

Before Blackstone, James served as Chairman of Global Investment Banking and Private Equity at Credit Suisse First Boston, following its merger with Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette. He spent nearly 20 years at DLJ in senior leadership roles.

He holds a BA magna cum laude from Harvard College and an MBA from Harvard Business School, where he was a Baker Scholar.

James currently serves on the boards of Costco Wholesale and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He remains active in civic and philanthropic causes across the U.S.



Prof. P.G. Apte

Former Director & Professor of Finance, IIM Bangalore

Prof. P.G. Apte served as Director of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore from 2002 to 2007 and was a senior member of its Finance & Control area. He played a foundational role in shaping IIMB's international standing, finance curriculum, and research orientation, particularly in the areas of derivatives, risk management, capital markets, and international finance.

Before his directorship, he held the UTI Chair in Capital Market Studies at IIMB. He also taught at institutions including Columbia University and EDHEC Business School. His academic leadership extended to building institutional collaborations and promoting applied financial research.

He authored several widely used textbooks, most notably International Financial Management, which became a standard reference across Indian business schools.

Prof. Apte held a B.Tech from IIT Bombay, an MBA from IIM Calcutta, and a PhD in Economics from Columbia University.

He served on committees for SEBI and other regulatory bodies and contributed to corporate governance reforms. His career combined academic rigor with deep public policy engagement and his influence remains visible across financial education in India.



Dr. Prasanna Chandra

Former Professor of Finance, IIM Bangalore

Dr. Prasanna Chandra served as Professor of Finance at IIM Bangalore and Director of the Centre for Financial Management. He taught finance and valuation to MBA students, executives, and public-sector leaders. He is also credited with building one of the most comprehensive financial education programs in India.

Earlier in his career, he served as a Visiting Professor at Southern Illinois University. He also advised several regulatory and policy bodies including SEBI's Derivatives Committee and the Capital Issues Advisory Committee and played a role in shaping India's capital market norms. Over the years, he has provided consulting support to companies such as Tata Motors, Infosys, Microsoft, and Wipro.

He has authored over 10 widely used textbooks including Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management, Financial Management: Theory and Practice, and Strategic Financial Management: Managing for Value Creation. These works have been adopted by business schools in India and abroad. At IIMB, he was recognized with the Best Teacher Award for his teaching excellence.

Dr. Chandra earned his B.Com, MBA, and PhD in Finance from Osmania University. He received gold medals at each stage of his academic journey.

He served on the boards of Torrent Pharmaceuticals, IFCI, PFC, Templeton Mutual Fund, and ICFAI. He remains one of the most influential figures in Indian finance education.



Prof. S. Sundararajan

Former Professor of Finance & Executive Education Head, IIM Bangalore

Prof. S. Sundararajan served on the IIM Bangalore faculty for over 18 years and was Head of Executive Education. During his tenure at IIMB, the number of executives trained at IIMB increased from around 100 candidates in 1991 to over 2000 candidates in 2004. He was a recipient of multiple “Best Professor” awards from students.

Before joining IIMB he was a consultant for 16 years and was also in service with a bank and a mining company. He continues to provide multifunctional and holistic inputs and advisory services to family businesses and growth stage companies.

At IIMB, Prof. S. Sundararajan taught financial accounting and corporate governance. He was also instrumental in setting up the entrepreneurship and incubation center in IIMB, with the objective of promoting entrepreneurship in emerging and sunrise sectors and was the center’s first chairperson.

Prof. Sundararajan is a graduate of the Chartered Accountancy program and holds a degree in Mathematics and Law.

He served on several key committees of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India including the Accounting Standards Board, the Committee for Review of Education and Training, and the Task Force on IFRS Convergence. He has also been on the boards of multiple companies.



Prof. George Varughese

Managing Director with Alvarez & Marsal Restructuring & Turnaround in New York, CEO of A&M Securities, and Former Professor of Finance, IIM Bangalore

Prof. George Varughese taught finance at IIM Bangalore from 1993 to 1995, after which he transitioned to a global career in investment banking and financial restructuring. He is currently a Managing Director with Alvarez & Marsal in New York, where he leads the firm's Corporate Finance activities.

Before joining A&M, he served in senior roles at Drexel Burnham Lambert, Kidder Peabody, Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, and Credit Suisse. His work includes providing advice on restructurings, financing, and M&A.

He has held leadership roles in investment committees, institutional funds, and cross-border private capital initiatives.

Prof. Varughese holds a BA in economics from Harvard University and an MBA from Stanford University.

He currently serves on the boards of Birch Family Services, the Vellore Foundation, and Gokaldas Exports. He is also a member of the investment committee of the GEO PEP S.C.A., the fund investment program of Quilvest.



Sanjiv Mehta

Executive Chairman of L Catterton India and Chairman of L Catterton Asia

Sanjiv Mehta is Executive Chairman of L Catterton India and Chairman of L Catterton Asia, where he leads the firm's consumer-focused investment strategy across the region. He joined L Catterton in 2024 through a joint venture partnership following a 32-year global career at Unilever.

He served as CEO and Chairman of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) from 2013 to 2023. Under his leadership, HUL's market capitalization rose from \$17 billion to \$76 billion, making it Unilever's most valuable business worldwide. He previously held CEO and Chairman roles at Unilever businesses in Bangladesh, the Philippines, and the MENA region and was also President of Unilever South Asia and a member of Unilever Leadership Executive, which is Unilever's global executive board.

Sanjiv is a Chartered Accountant and holds a Bachelor's in Commerce. He also completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

He currently serves as a Non-Executive Director on the boards of Air India, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, and Danone SA and as President Commissioner (Non-Executive Chairman) of Unilever Indonesia. He is a member of the South Asia Advisory Board of Harvard Business School and Chairman Emeritus of Vikaasa, a coalition of top Indian and multinational companies.



Vivek Pandit

Senior Partner & Global Co-Leader, Private Equity & Principal Investors, McKinsey & Company

Vivek Pandit is a Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company and Global Co-Leader of its Private Equity & Principal Investors Practice. He advises global private equity firms, sovereign funds, and long-term capital allocators on strategy, transformation, and value creation.

He has played a key role in building McKinsey's investment platform across Asia and globally. His work focuses on energy transition, emerging markets, and large-scale operational turnarounds.

Earlier in his career, he led the firm's Technology, Media & Telecommunications Practice. His advisory work spans infrastructure, financial services, technology, and consumer platforms. He is known for driving results through deep operating insight and long-cycle capital strategy.

He holds a Master's in Management and Electrical Engineering from Stanford University and a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California.

Vivek Pandit is a trustee of various education and healthcare non-profits including Magic Bus and a Fellow of the Aspen Institute. He previously served as a Trustee of Aspen India and Governor at The Doon School.



Subrata Mitra

Partner, Accel

Subrata Mitra is a Partner at Accel India, where he has led early-stage investments in some of the country's most successful startups across fintech, enterprise software, healthcare, and infrastructure. He joined Accel in 2008 following the merger of Erasmic Venture Fund, which he co-founded.

He has backed category-defining companies including Flipkart, Myntra, Mu Sigma, Cure.fit, Ninjacart, Moglix, Juspay, and others. Known for his product-first approach and long-term founder alignment, he remains a key figure in India's venture capital ecosystem. Before his venture career, he was the founder of Firewhite, a mobile software company acquired by Ubiquio and later merged into Mobile Planet. He also served as Managing Director of Tavant Technologies' India operations.

He holds a B.Tech in Computer Science from IIT Kanpur, a Master's from the University of Delaware, and a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

He is a board member at enStage, Kirusa, Perfint Healthcare, Flipkart, Myntra, Ninjacart, and LetsVenture. He also serves as a Fund Advisor to Jungle Ventures.



Amit Jain

Managing Director and Head, Carlyle India Advisors

Amit Jain is the Managing Director and India Head of Private Equity at Carlyle, one of the world's leading alternative investment firms.

Before Carlyle, Amit spent a decade at Blackstone India as Senior Managing Director, where he led private equity investments and served on the boards of EPL, FINO Payments Bank, Aakash Educational Services, and Sona Comstar. He previously worked at McKinsey & Company in India and was Manufacturing Head at Unilever.

Amit holds an MBA from the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, where he was a Gold Medalist and a B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Kharagpur, where he graduated with a Silver Medal.

He currently serves on the boards of several Carlyle portfolio companies including Quest Global, Piramal Healthcare, VLCC, Viyash Life Sciences, Highway Roop, and Strata Geosystems. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Private Equity & Venture Capital Association (IVCA).



ASHOK THAMPY

Professor Ashok Thampy is Professor in the Finance and Accounting Area at IIM Bangalore. His areas of interest are corporate finance, banking, financial markets, and regulation.

His current research is also in corporate finance and banking, examining the interplay between firms access to capital, credit growth, financial systems and systemic risk. Prior to joining IIMB, he was at the Department of Finance, Bilkent University, Turkey. He has held visiting positions at the Department of Economics at Santa Clara University, USA, and the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

At IIMB, he teaches Corporate Finance and Banking in the MBA and Executive Education Programmes. He has been coordinating the executive education programme on private equity, capital market financing, and mergers and acquisitions for several years.

He has published several papers and is the co-author of a textbook on Financial Management published by Pearson. He has provided consulting services in banking, risk management and corporate finance to various organizations. He has served on the banking and economic affairs committee of the Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), the Board of Governors of the Asia Pacific Risk and Insurance Association (APRIA), and more recently as member of the Board of Governors of IIM Bangalore (2022-24).

Professor Thampy studied at St. Stephen's College (BA) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (MA). He received his Ph.D. from the Krannert School of Management, Purdue University.



Mathew Cyriac

Executive Chairman, Florintree Advisors

Mathew Cyriac is Executive Chairman of Florintree Advisors, a private equity firm focused on emerging Indian companies. The firm invests across technology, industrials, healthcare and financial services. He leads Florintree's scale-up strategy and has backed several pre-IPO and growth-stage platforms.

Before founding Florintree, he was Managing Director and Co-Head of Blackstone India's private equity business. He led investments across multiple sectors during his time there. He began his career at Tata Motors and later worked in investment banking at Bank of America.

He is known for combining operational insight with long-term capital discipline. He is a frequent investor in founder-led businesses and an active mentor to startups.

He holds an MBA from IIM Bangalore, where he was awarded a gold medal. He earned his Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from the College of Engineering, Guindy.

He serves on the boards of Gokaldas Exports and ideaForge. He is also an active angel investor in several early-stage ventures.