



FROM LUCKNOW TO WALL STREET

Leadership Lessons from Building a Global Research Powerhouse

**JAN
19
2026** MONDAY
6.00 PM - 7.30 PM
MMA MANAGEMENT CENTER



DEVINA MEHRA



CHANDU NAIR



SHYAM SEKHAR



DR. ASIT K BARMA

SYNOPSIS

From Lucknow to Wall Street: Leadership Lessons from Building a Global Research Powerhouse is an engaging leadership conversation with Ms. Devina Mehra, Founder & CMD of First Global, one of India's pioneering global investment and research firms.

In a fireside-chat format, Ms. Mehra will share her journey from her early years in Lucknow and her formative education at IIM Ahmedabad, to navigating the high-stakes, fast-evolving world of global markets. Drawing from decades of experience across research, investing, and institution-building, she will reflect on what it truly takes to build credibility, resilience, and a lasting competitive edge in a knowledge-driven industry.

The session will explore leadership beyond titles—covering decision-making under uncertainty, building high-performance research teams, embracing contrarian thinking, and sustaining excellence in a volatile world. Through real-life stories, pivotal moments, and lessons from global investing, Ms. Mehra will offer practical insights for professionals, entrepreneurs, and leaders seeking to build organizations that stand for clarity, discipline, and long-term impact.

This talk will be especially relevant for leaders aspiring to create institutions that outlast cycles, and careers that succeed not by luck—but by judgment, integrity, and sustained intellectual rigor.

PROGRAMME

5:15 PM	Registration & Hi-Tea
6:00 PM	Welcome & Opening Remarks Dr. Asit Kumar Barma Director & Professor Bharathidasan Institute of Management
6:10 PM	Address by the Speaker -"From Lucknow to Wall Street: Leadership Lessons from Building a Global Research Powerhouse" Ms Devina Mehra Founder & CMD First Global
6:25 PM	Special invitees Mr Chandu Nair Entrepreneur – Advisor & Facilitator
	Mr Shyam Sekhar Founder and CEO iThought Financial Consulting LLP
	In Conversation With the Speaker Ms Devina Mehra
7:10 PM	Q & A
7:25 PM	Vote of Thanks Gp Capt R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM Executive Director, Madras Management Association
7:30 PM	End of the Programme

PROFILE



Ms Devina Mehra

Founder & CMD

First Global

Devina Mehra, Founder & CMD of First Global, is a gold medallist from IIM Ahmedabad (one of the only two women in the institute's 55 year plus history) as well as from Lucknow University, where she broke several records and got 8 Gold Medals.

She spearheaded First Global's globalisation 25 years ago, making First Global the first Asian (ex-Japan) firm to become a member of the London Stock Exchange in 1999 and then the NASD.

First Global is now a Global Asset Management firm managing over USD 700 million in assets in India & Globally using a unique Human + Machine (Artificial intelligence and machine learning) model.

She has been quoted widely on Global as well as Indian markets by global financial media like Wall Street Journal, Business Week, Fortune, Forbes, CNBC, Financial Times etc.

She has been featured among the 50 Most Powerful Women in Business by Fortune magazine in 2025 and 2022. She has been featured as one of India's leading entrepreneurs by Outlook Business and Entrepreneur magazines.

She has been a prolific writer in various newspapers & magazines. Most recently she has written a book 'Money Myths and Mantras: The Ultimate Investment Guide' which has become a National best seller, even becoming the number one seller on Amazon across all genres of books. It is also the only business book that is on the shortlist for both the Jury and popular Crossword book awards.

PROFILE



Mr Chandu Nair

Entrepreneur – Advisor & Facilitator

Mr Chandu Nair, currently an advisor to entrepreneurs and entrepreneur driven businesses commercial and for profit social impact, investor, associated with two funds (healthcare and social impact) and involved in cross border M&A tech deals. Independent director, Shankara Building Products Ltd, Executive Committee Member of The Chennai Angels. Also teach at leading business schools and write on startups and entrepreneurship regularly.

Previously, was a Co-founder of a pioneering company, Scope e-Knowledge Center which specialised in data, content and research services. Highly skilled and experienced professional in knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) and IT enabled services. My key goal was to grow Scope into a respected global player in the knowledge services space.

Past experience in consumer marketing, business journalism, and consulting, and market research in well-known companies such as Asian Paints and BusinessWorld.

Specialties: Business development, building alliances and partnerships, client relationship management, crafting and designing business solutions, growth advisory services, VC/investor funding, entrepreneur mentoring.

PROFILE



Mr Shyam Sekhar

Founder and CEO

iThought Financial Consulting LLP

Mr Shyam Sekhar is also the Founder and CIO of ithoughtpms, he leads the management of six SEBI-registered PMS schemes with a combined AUM of Rs. 3400 Crores. His team focuses on delivering personalized investment solutions through innovative strategies, supported by robust forecasting and research.

With over 15 years of experience in investment management, he is committed to crafting incisive strategies that empower financial growth and security. At ithought, his mission is to transform personal finance by fostering financial wellness through education, investment management excellence, and future-driven investment processes.

PROFILE



Dr. Asit Kumar Barma

Director & Professor

Bharathidasan Institute of Management

Dr. Asit K. Barma is the Director and Professor at Bharathidasan Institute of Management, Trichy. He holds a B.Tech in Electronics Engineering from IIT Madras, an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, and a Ph.D. in Management from the University of Madras. A National Scholarship recipient, Dr. Barma brings over three decades of experience spanning industry and academia. He has held senior leadership roles in leading organizations such as CMC (formerly IBM, now TCS), Tech Mahindra, Hinduja Tech, and ValueLabs, and has taught at IMT Ghaziabad and the Jagdish Sheth School of Management (JAGSOM), Bangalore. He is also a Visiting Professor at IIM Kashipur.

Dr. Barma's work focuses on preparing students and institutions for the evolving business environment shaped by Industry 4.0. He has contributed to landmark initiatives such as the development of India's first Index of Service Excellence (ISEI) in collaboration with Dr. A. Parasuraman. His research and writing interests include Technology Readiness, Digital Business and Society, Platform Economy, ESG/SDGs, and Service Excellence. He is also associated with a Government of India-funded project on the National Voters' Services Portal, and writes regularly for Business World.

At BIM Trichy, he has championed sustainability and technology-led learning, establishing the Centre for Sustainable Development and several advanced labs that strengthen the institute's future-ready pedagogy.

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