

## **NIREN CHAUDHARY'S BIO**

I spent more than three decades leading global organizations across six countries and more than fifty markets. Along the way, I learned that leadership is a privilege and a responsibility to create value for others.

My career began in restaurant operations, learning the business from the ground up. Over time, I took on leadership roles across Yum! Brands, including serving as President of Yum India and later as Global President of KFC, working across developed and emerging markets. I went on to serve as President and Chief Operating Officer of Krispy Kreme and later as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Panera Brands, leading nearly 4,000 locations across 11 countries and more than 130,000 associates.

Across each role, the context changed, but a few things remained constant. Building global brands that are locally relevant and accessible. Leading and aligning teams across different cultures. Developing strong business models that can perform across geographies. And understanding how purpose, when done right, strengthens performance and creates long-term value.

Music has always been part of my life as well. Playing guitar is where I slow down, reflect, and reconnect with a different kind of creativity.

My leadership has also been shaped by experiences far beyond business. My wife and I lost two daughters. Tanya passed away as an infant. Aisha passed away at eighteen after living for years with chronic illness. Those experiences changed how I understand control, identity, and resilience.

Over time, I came to rely on a few simple disciplines. Accept what cannot be changed. Forgive yourself. Learn to love yourself again. And serve others.

For me, resilience is not the denial of pain. It is the decision to continue living with intention.

Aisha lived with extraordinary courage, gratitude, and clarity. Her words continue to guide me: "My soul would have no rainbow if my eyes had no tears."

Those experiences continue to shape how I show up as a leader. I believe leadership is not about power or position, but about being a force multiplier for good. The true measure of success is the value we create for all stakeholders. And while purpose matters, it must also translate into performance to be sustainable.

Today, my work is focused on helping others lead.

I work with CEOs, boards, and senior leaders who carry real responsibility. My role is to help them think clearly, make better decisions, and lead in a way that is consistent with who they are and what they stand for. I bring both operating experience and formal coaching training, and I

adapt my approach based on what serves the leader best. At times that means sharing perspective from experience. At other times it means helping them find their own answers. Often it is a combination of both.

When we work together, we walk shoulder to shoulder. We focus on the real situations in front of you, not theory. The goal is stronger judgment, clearer priorities, and performance that endures because it is rooted in character.

I also spend time working with the next generation of leaders. I serve as an Executive Fellow at Harvard Business School and have worked with students at Columbia Business School and Cambridge Judge Business School through teaching, mentoring, and guest lectures. Supporting future leaders is important to me because leadership is learned over time, often through experience, reflection, and guidance.

Writing has become another way for me to share what I have learned. I am currently working on two books. *Everything Changes* explores resilience and how we navigate loss, failure, and uncertainty. *The 3 of Life* focuses on personal mastery, trust with others, and the impact we create in the world.

In addition, I serve on the board of SIG Group and as an advisor to organizations across private equity, venture, and operating companies, including Sixth Street, Fireside Ventures, Invisible.co, and Ando. I am also involved with nonprofit and leadership organizations such as Akshaya Patra and the Peter Drucker Forum.

At this stage in my life, my focus is simple. To help people become the best version of who they can be, and to support leaders in building organizations that endure and create meaningful impact.