

CFONEXT100

THE STARS OF TOMORROW

THURSDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2025 | HOLIDAY INN, DELHI AEROCITY

The 14th Annual CFONEXT100 Conference & Felicitation Ceremony

Navigating Headwinds: *Calibrating Near-Term Volatility with Long-Term Value Imperatives*

In an increasingly volatile environment, finance leaders face a defining duality, the urgent demand for tactical agility against the persistent need of strategic constancy. Near-term headwinds such as market uncertainty, capital constraints and operational disruption demand decisive management. Yet continued success requires disciplined investment in sustainable enterprise value.

The 14th Annual CFONEXT100 Conference will bring together distinguished finance minds, economists, and thought leaders to focus on how finance leaders can navigate immediate pressures without compromising long-term positioning. The Conference will deliberate on how finance leaders can align near-term actions, from rigorous cost discipline to optimal capital allocation, with the foundational pursuit of resilient growth and competitive advantage. It will also shed light on what lies ahead in the 2026-27 business landscape and how future CFOs can cultivate a strategic foresight to successfully play the long game.

AGENDA	
HOURS	ACTIVITY
Till 1030 hrs	Registration and Networking
1030 - 1040 hrs	Welcome and setting the context Anuradha Das Mathur , Director, IMA India
1040 - 1130 hrs	Sailing Through Global Headwinds: <i>What Lies Ahead for India?</i> As global headwinds, ranging from trade to geopolitical tensions, intensify; what can India do to balance robust domestic demand and government spending against the shifting tides of global trade and economic uncertainty? The questions are as numerous as the speculations they fuel. While a cursory glance at the growth numbers might suggest a deceleration of the Indian economy this fiscal, compared with the last two years, a deeper analysis reveals a more nuanced and positive picture. In this session, Aditi Nayar , Chief Economist, Head – Research and Outreach, ICRA, will explore the potential outcomes of emerging economic trends for this fiscal year. She will also examine how these trends will reshape the current business environment and identify key factors the Office of Finance should be cognisant of.

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1130 – 1215 hrs	<p>Leading the Leap: <i>Lessons for the Next Generation</i></p> <p>Expect a deep dive into evolving beyond traditional finance. You will also discover how to become a strategic enabler and value architect, driving innovation while managing risk. Gain actionable insights on influencing strategy, fostering resilience and building agile, future-ready organisations. Prepare to navigate disruption and shape tomorrow's success.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dev Tripathy, CFO for Indian Subcontinent, Philips • Sunil Sayal, Advisor – GBS Middle East & Africa, Nokia • Mayaenk Jain, CFO, Highway Roop Industries (Carlyle)
1215 – 1230 hrs	<p>Oracle NetSuite</p> <p>CFO Roadmap: <i>Building Financial Resilience with AI</i></p> <p>In today's fast-paced world, financial resilience determines whether organisations thrive or falter. Traditional expertise is no longer enough; modern finance teams need AI-driven tools for real-time insights. By revolutionising reporting, forecasting and planning with AI, you can boost efficiency, navigate volatility, ensure compliance and unlock opportunities, from securing loans to attracting investors.</p> <p>In this engaging fireside chat led by Padmanaban SP, Head – GTM Channel and Direct Marketing, NetSuite India, with Harshit Goel, Director-Finance, Atlan, we will explore how organisations can transform their finance operations into a dynamic, agile and transparent powerhouse.</p>
1230 – 1300 hrs	<p>The AI-ROI Paradox: <i>Measuring the Immeasurable in Finance Transformation</i></p> <p>Finance leaders face a critical contradiction: while many believe AI generates business value, some cannot quantify its ROI due to non-linear returns, probabilistic outcomes and invisible costs like data cleaning and talent gaps.</p> <p>This session explores unexplored angles paralysing ROI measurement: assigning monetary values to 'soft savings' like employee satisfaction or faster decisions; exposing how poor data governance causes 90% of implementation failures; and navigating regulatory blind spots in AI-driven forecasts. You will also learn how to do a forensic breakdown of why traditional ROI frameworks fail for AI, exposing hidden risks and cultural dependencies that stall funding.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nipun Bansal, CFO, Hughes Communications • Richa Bathla, Head of Finance – India, Steelcase • Prabin Dokania, CFO, GSTN
1300 – 1400 hrs	<p>Lunch</p>
1400 - 1420 hrs	<p>SAP Finance and Spend Management Group</p> <p>Finance Rewired: <i>Harnessing AI to Navigate Headwinds and Unlock Long-Term Value</i></p> <p>In today's volatile environment, CFOs face the dual challenge of staying agile in the near term while keeping their eyes firmly on long-term value creation. Finance is undergoing a fundamental rewiring; powered by AI. From generative insights that sharpen decision-making to intelligent agents that automate and accelerate processes, AI is reshaping the way finance leaders operate.</p> <p>In this session, we will explore how these capabilities are not only helping leaders navigate ongoing headwinds but also laying the foundation for the enterprise of tomorrow.</p> <p>Speaker: Amit Verma, Regional Vice President, Head of CFO Solution Advisory, Asia Pacific, SAP</p>

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1420 - 1500 hrs	<p>Wolters Kluwer</p> <p>From Insight to Impact: <i>Transforming Finance with Intelligence & Integration</i></p> <p>Finance leaders are constantly navigating a fast-evolving landscape, where decisions can no longer be based on hindsight alone. The power lies in using intelligence, integration and innovation to move from insight to impact, enabling finance to be the driver of enterprise-wide transformation.</p> <p>The session will focus on how finance can integrate intelligence into its core processes to accelerate growth, build resilience and unlock strategic value.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahima Arya, Associate Director – Presales, CCH Tagetik India, Wolters Kluwer • Nishant Vyas, General Manager, CCH Tagetik India, Wolters Kluwer
1500 – 1515 hrs	<p>Introduction to the CFONEXT100 Felicitation Ceremony</p> <p>Anuradha Das Mathur, Director, IMA India</p>
1515 – 1600 hrs	<p>Chief Guest Address</p> <p>Calibrating Near-Term Volatility with Long-Term Value Imperatives</p> <p>This will set the tone for the day by highlighting a thought-provoking perspective on how finance leaders can balance near-term agility with building long-term resilience. Drawing from real experiences and industry insights, the address will highlight the evolving role of the CFO in navigating uncertainty, embracing innovation and shaping sustainable value creation. This keynote will inspire participants to reimagine the finance function as a driver of transformation and trusted leadership in today's volatile environment.</p> <p>Chief Guest: Manoj Chugh, Independent Director & Chairman, CARE Analytics and Advisory</p>
1600 – 1620 hrs	The 14th Annual CFONEXT100 Felicitation Ceremony
1620 – 1625 hrs	Group Photo
1625 – 1700 hrs	High Tea and Networking

**Topics, schedule, and speakers are subject to change*

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