

Nandita Bakhshi



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BIRTHDATE
August 18th, 1963

BIRTHPLACE
London, England

RESIDENCE
Moorestown, NJ, USA

PROFESSION
EVP, Head of Consumer Bank, TD Bank

Nandita has more than twenty-five years experience in the financial services industry. As executive vice president in the Consumer Deposits and Payments Division at Washington Mutual, she led efforts to grow the retail bank's transaction business and provided oversight of payments, while also defining the strategy for interest-bearing deposit product offerings. Her visionary nature led to the invocation of contactless technology through the creation of a critical mass of contactless cards.

Always the innovator, Nandita led the creation and implementation of mobile and micro payment solutions as managing director of Mobile Solutions with First Data International in Germany. She also spent many years with Bank of America/FleetBoston, where she introduced talking ATMs to the market and led the efforts for the consumer products merger.

A native of Calcutta, India, she earned a master's degree in international relations from Jadavpur University. Nandita is a recognized leader, known for her commitment to the customer and the community. Prior to joining TD, Nandita spent time in India working pro-bono on a microfinance program with a company funded by the Gates Foundation. Today she serves on the board of directors for the Consumer Bankers Association (CBA).

In 2002, *New England News* named Nandita the first-ever 'Woman of the Year.'

“He who wishes to be obeyed must know how to command” —Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Reflections

On Politics

Today's youth are tomorrow's future. Understanding the political environment and issues that arise today is important for our youth, since the impact of today's decisions is long-lasting.

On Her Career Path

I started in banking as a part-time teller when I arrived in the U.S. years ago. I learned that I loved impacting customers very early on, and I was hooked. Nothing is more satisfying than knowing that we make people's dreams come true—when we help them get into that first home, when we set them up to ensure financial independence in retirement, and when we do good in our communities – planting trees, making donations to worthy causes—all of it makes every day great. I also have the pleasure of working with a fantastic group of 26,000 TD Bank employees who bring the “Wow!” and make it fun!

On Societal Issues

There are so many issues I could reference that are really important to me. Two rise to the top of the list: equality and financial literacy.

As a woman and a minority, I use every available opportunity to share my insights about diversity and inclusion. Since I arrived in the U.S. more than 25 years ago, I've seen great progress on this front. But our work is far from done. We need more women in executive positions across the country—we need to be a greater force. The classic view of what an executive “looks like” must morph—that means hiring the right person for the job, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation. As a country, and as organizations, we are stronger when we feature teams made up of a diverse group of people; diversity of personnel leads to diversity of thought.

Far too many people get ‘in too deep’ financially, simply because they don't

understand some basic budgeting techniques. We simply don't have a consistent approach to getting our youth ready for being on their own and for managing their money. TD Bank has a wonderful financial education program, and we work with both young people and adults. But on a much larger scale, across the country, we have so much work to do. I won't claim to know the resolution, but even requiring financial education as part of the academic curriculum can make a positive difference.