



Manning Modern Retail

3 September, 2026 | The Westin Mumbai Garden City

Programme Agenda

Time Slot	Session Topic
08:00 - 09:00	Registration and Breakfast
09:00 - 09:05	Inauguration
09:05 - 09:15	Welcome Address
	Kumar Rajagopalan , CEO, Retailers Association of India
09:15 - 09:55	Keynote Address
	Amit Chincholikar , Group President – Human Resources, Hinduja Group Limited
10:00 - 11:00	Panel Discussion: The CHRO Agenda 2026 - What's Changing , What Matters
	Chitra Padmanabhan , Head HR - Corporate Functions & Strategy, Reliance Retail
	Harsh Aparanji , CHRO, Landmark Group
	Lakshmi Krishnan , CHRO, Arvind Fashion Ltd.
	Manish Kumar , Head Human Resources, Trent Limited
	Manjula Rao , CHRO, Firstcry
	Nabamita Banerjee , Customer Care Associate & CHRO, Shoppers Stop Limited
	Sudakshina Ghosh , Head - Human Resources, Bata India
Moderator	Mukta Nakra , CHRO, CROCS India
11:05 - 11:35	Fireside Chat: The Trust Advantage: Building Great Workplaces in the New Age of Retail
	Kavindra Mishra , Customer Care Associate - Managing Director & CEO, Shoppers Stop
	Jordon Doppagne , CEO, Celio India
Moderator	Balbir Singh , CEO - India, Great Place to Work
11:35 -12:05	Marsh - The Frontline Advantage Study
	Adrish Singh , Cluster Leader - Lifesciences, Consumer, Retail & Chemical, Marsh
	Mansee Singhal , Partner and Career Business Leader, Marsh
	Nilanjana Dutta , Practice Leader - Talent & Transformation Consulting, Marsh
12:05 - 12:15	Felicitation: RAI HR Committee Members
12:15 - 13:00	Panel Discussion : Retail as a Career for a Generation That Has Options
	Prof. Pankaj Priya , Deputy Director & Dean, BIMTECH
	Prof. Poonam Kumar , Chairperson, MBA-Business Analytics & Chairperson-Certification, IIM Sambalpur
	R. K. Lawande , Executive Vice President, Universal SkillTech University
	Deepesh Sheth , Professor of Practice & Director, Dept of Retail Management School of Skill Sciences & Entrepreneurship, Galgotias University
	Dr. Mini Mathur , Director and Professor – School of Retail, Symbiosis University of Applied Sciences - Indore
	Dr. Sandip Sane , Professor and Director School of Retail Management, Symbiosis Skills and professional University - Pune
Moderator	Dr. Srinivasan. R. Iyengar , Professor & Former Director, JBIMS
13:00 - 14:00	Networking Lunch & Stall Visit
14:05 - 14:25	Rhythmic Connect with Body Percussion Session

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14:30 - 15:30	The Store Associate of 2030 – Does This Job Still Exist?
	Maresh Kudtarkar , Vice President - HR, Reliance Digital
	Nirav Jagad , Chief People Officer, SUGAR Cosmetics
	Parineeta Cecil Lakra , Vice President - Human Resources, Albertsons Companies India
	Priyanka Laddha , AGM- HR, Iconic Fashion Retailing Pvt Ltd
	Robin Sharma , Vice President - Human Resources, Infiniti Retail Limited (Croma)
	Sunny Kumar , Director - Total Rewards, Caratlane Trading Pvt. Ltd.
Moderator	B.Venkataramana , Strategic Advisor, Ramraj Cotton
15:30 - 16:10	HR Tech Stack for Retail- What Should You Invest In?
	Ajin Pisharody , Lead - Learning Technology Operations, Reliance Retail
	Binny Ashish , Head HR, Celio Retail Pvt Ltd
	Rahul Kashyap , National Lead-Retail Training, Vedant Fashions Limited
	Sampada Kulkarni , Chief People Officer, Cocoblu Retail Limited
Moderator	Nandini Mehta , CHRO, Metro Brands Limited
16:10 - 17:10	Retail HR Awards 2026 - Presentation & Felicitation
	Celebration of Best Retail HR practices
17:10 - 17:15	Vote of Thanks
	Dr. Lawrence Fernandes , Director - Retail Learning & Member Relationship, Retailers Association of India

— Presenting Partner —



— Knowledge Partners —



— Academic Partners —



— Event Partners —



— Gifting Partners —



— Charity Partner — — Magazine Partner — — Digital Marketing Partner —

