



Vatsala Padmanabhan

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Summary

Strategy professional with 6+ years across political consulting, risk advisory and ESG. Shaped campaign strategy, led policy reform and identified and addressed financial and operational inefficiencies. Brings analytical depth, stakeholder agility, mission-driven thinking and execution discipline to deliver actionable insights and results across complex, cross-functional environments.

Professional Experience

Policy and Political Affairs Research Assistant, Political Intelligence | Varahe Analytics | Chennai

- Shaped core **campaign strategy** for 2024 Parliamentary elections in Tamil Nadu by mapping voter trends and local issues, driving constituency targeting and message alignment for state and national leadership
- Built **predictive post-poll models** with 90% accuracy across 9 constituencies, enabling real-time feedback loops and efficient leadership-level resource decisions
- Synthesized political intelligence and voter sentiment into daily briefs and **strategic updates** for national and state leadership, driving rapid, aligned decision-making across campaign messaging and field operations

Consultant | Grant Thornton | Mumbai

- Led cross-country **SOX compliance** during SAP S/4HANA transition for a global CX firm across India, South Africa, Malaysia, Australia, and the USA, ensuring seamless control migration and multi-jurisdictional regulatory adherence
- Spearheaded enterprise-wide **risk workshop** for a logistics major, conducting peer benchmarking and building a strategic **risk heatmap** through probability-impact matrices for board-level action
- Led internal audit for an aviation logistics major, conducting Pan-India station reviews across flight operations, engineering, and inventory; flagged procedural inefficiencies and presented findings to the Audit Committee for operational reform
- Investigated high-stakes whistleblower complaint, leading internal inquiry and control reviews for an aviation major; findings escalated to board audit committee, prompting process overhauls
- Assessed finance, procurement, receivables, and administration for a chain of international schools; uncovered control gaps and process inefficiencies and recommended **governance enhancements**

Senior Assistant | BDO | Chennai

- Uncovered collusion in a corporate fraud investigation for a medical diagnostics firm through email forensics, background checks, and social engineering; findings triggered executive-level corrective action
- Conducted IBC transaction audit for an offshore logistics company, identifying preferential and fraudulent transactions under Sections 43, 45, and 66; findings formed basis for recovery actions and clawback proceedings
- Flagged suspicious fund diversion patterns in a distressed power company by analysing vendor payments and transaction thresholds for a public sector bank

Senior Analyst | Deloitte | Chennai

- Led end-to-end internal audit for a ₹2,000 Cr abrasives firm, uncovering ERP logic failures and scrap mismanagement, resulting in enhanced inventory accuracy and improved working capital control
- Identified ₹2.6M in revenue leakages and flagged subcontractor stock inefficiencies during audit of a ₹5000M auto components manufacturer; findings informed **incentive restructuring** and tighter vendor oversight
- Drove **financial and process transformation** for a southern food & hospitality chain by streamlining ERP readiness, restructuring payment workflows, and restoring discipline across receivables and payables
- Redesigned reimbursement cycle for UAE-based insurance shared services center by identifying ₹0.3M in overpayments; enabled tighter claims control and alignment with the Table of Benefits
- Supported setup of a ₹20B telecom company's finance shared services center in India; conducted P2P control reviews and supported stabilization phase

CCAP Associate | Crisil | Chennai

- Contributed to CRISIL's **Green Bond Rating methodology** by benchmarking 50+ global standards and validating alignment on 20+ bonds, supporting its ESG ratings framework launch

Education

Bachelor of Commerce (Information Systems Management) – *M.O.P Vaishnav College, Chennai* | India

Accomplishments

- 3x Spot Award Winner at Grant Thornton for independently leading client engagements and consistently exceeding expectations
- Move the Dot Award at Deloitte for delivery excellence on high-stakes internal audit and transformation engagements
- CRISILites Award for Performance for critical contribution to Green Bond Rating methodology
- Best Outgoing Student Award for academic and leadership excellence at M.O.P Vaishnav College

Certifications

Certified Fraud Examiner – Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Texas | USA

Extra-Curriculars

- Vertical Head (Consulting) in the Placement Committee of PGPX in Indian Institute of Ahmedabad
- Elected Home Affairs Minister in student cabinet modelled on Indian Parliament during Under-Graduation
- Trained Bharatanatyam dancer (18+ years); mentored students and performed on national stages, reflecting discipline and creative leadership
- Active long-distance runner and member of ‘Chennai Runners’, demonstrating endurance, discipline, and consistency