Priya **Singh**



Co-founder / CBO

Organisation
Chalo Mobility Private Limited

City, Country
Mumbai, India

Priya Singh is Co-Founder and Chief Business Officer at Chalo Mobility in Mumbai. Trained in social work, she has always asked one question before taking anything on: how will this touch millions of lives? That question led her from building for individual car owners to reforming how millions experience public transport, from live bus tracking to digital payments, at a company built on the belief that cars alone could never solve mobility for a country as dense as India.

Which moment prompted you to enter the field of mobility and infrastructure?

I found the canvas almost by accident, in a spreadsheet. I have always asked myself: **How will this touch millions of lives?** While building a business around cars, I realized that cars could not be the answer for a densely populated, rapidly urbanizing country like India. We needed better public transport, especially buses, which can move more people using less space and resources. That realization became the foundation for Chalo: using technology to transform how buses operate and how people experience public transport. For me, mobility became an opportunity to solve problems not just for individuals, but for cities, communities and millions of people at once.

What is your ultimate goal? Share your vision for infrastructure and mobility if everything turned out the way you imagine.

My vision is simple to say but hard to build: a country where taking the bus is a dignified, safe and rational choice, not something people are forced to use. I want women to feel safe waiting for buses, workers to spend less of their income and time on commuting, and cities to plan transport using real data rather than outdated assumptions. If we get this right, public transport can become the backbone of our cities, reducing congestion and emissions while giving millions of people back valuable time. **That is not just Chalo's business outcome; it is the purpose behind the work.**

Chalo runs a zero gender pay gap under her watch, bringing women into engineering and operations roles the industry once ruled out for them.

How does it feel to work in a male-dominated environment, and what would you like to change or (not) experience in that context?

Women are still underrepresented in transport and infrastructure, especially in leadership, engineering and decision-making. I've often been the only woman in the room, feeling the pressure to prove not only my ideas, but my right to present them. I want people and ideas to be judged on merit, without gender-based assumptions.

At Chalo, we promote this through equal pay and by bringing more women into engineering, operations and field roles. But representation also matters in **how systems are designed**. Safety, accessibility, lighting and digital payments can determine whether women feel able to use public transport. Women need to be involved before the blueprint exists, not as a checkbox, but because better transport requires diverse perspectives.

What would you tell someone in the transport sector to start doing differently from today?

Stop treating public transport riders as captive and start treating them as customers who have choices. People leave buses when they can because the system often lacks reliability, visibility and safety. The sector needs to invest in the essentials: **real-time data, predictable schedules, digital payments and safety features like live tracking and emergency support**. Reliability is not a nice-to-have; it is the product. Build it well, and buses can become the rational choice rather than the fallback.

"I want scrutiny on merits and not on how people see gender roles and come with preconceived notions about women."