

# PRAFFUL KUMAR

Engineering Manager - Full-Stack & Platform Engineering

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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**Hands-on Engineering Manager** with 6.4 years building high-scale B2B and B2C platforms from early-stage to production at the intersection of AI, distributed systems, and data engineering. Scaled and led engineering teams from scratch - **grew a team from 3 to 13 at VLCC while establishing culture, processes, and architecture from the ground up**. Full-stack across Python (Django), Go, and TypeScript (React/NextJS), with a strong bias for shipping fast without sacrificing quality. Proven track record of measurable outcomes: 82% API latency reduction, 80% RTO drop, report generation from 8 hours to 3 minutes, 100k+ notifications/day. Comfortable in ambiguity, working closely with founders, and building engineering organisations in early-stage environments.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Engineering Manager** | [VLCC](#), Gurugram, IN *Feb 2024 – Present (Feb 2024-Dec 2024- Senior Technical Consultant)*

- Established the engineering function from the ground up - **scaled the team from 3 to 13 engineers** across Product and Data squads, hiring for all roles, setting culture, defining processes, and building the org structure that now runs parallel initiatives.
- Led two cross-functional teams (Data and Product) - owning performance management, career development, mentorship, and end-to-end delivery across parallel initiatives.
- Established engineering best practices, code review standards, CI/CD tooling, and introduced AI-powered developer tools (Cursor, v0, OpenCode) - significantly improving team velocity and code quality across all squads.
- Architected and delivered the post-login consumer platform in Django (Python) for VLCC.com - a ₹50Cr+ annual revenue system handling 3.3M+ API calls/week - built for high availability, fault tolerance, and global scale on AWS ECS.
- Built Lakshay (Django, React/NextJS), an internal operations tool deployed across **170+ VLCC centers** - drove a **3x increase in sales** through workflow automation, owning the project from architecture through production.
- Owned the full engineering roadmap across product and data squads; translated business goals into technical plans, milestones, and resource allocation across workstreams.
- Architected a self-hosted Data Warehouse (ClickHouse on EC2/S3) with real-time ingestion via **Apache Kafka** and batch orchestration via **Apache Airflow** - serving analytics across all business units.
- Shipped LLM-powered products, including AI voice agents (OpenAI, Whisper), a RAG-based document chatbot, and a text-to-SQL interface - integrating AI capabilities directly into the consumer platform.
- Owned end-to-end DevOps on AWS (ECS, EC2, RDS, ElastiCache, S3, ALB); maintained self-hosted Jenkins CI/CD pipelines - ensuring smooth releases, production readiness, and **90% faster deployments**.
- Cut API latency by **82%** and DB load by **55%** via PostgreSQL query optimisation, advanced indexing, and Redis caching - overall platform performance improvement of **85%**.
- Built a multi-channel notification service in Golang (Email, SMS, WhatsApp, Push) - fully decoupled microservice delivering **100k+ notifications/day**.
- Implemented full-stack observability (Sentry, New Relic APM, structured logging) - reduced MTTR by ~50% and increased MTBF by ~35%; led incident management and root-cause analysis.

**Senior Software Engineer** | [Nykaa](#), Gurugram, IN

*Jan 2022 – Jan 2024*

- Led a **5-engineer team** to build Disha, a B2B field sales and logistics application - owning planning, architecture, execution, and production delivery across **350+ field agents**.
- Cut Return-to-Origin (RTO) rates by **80%** through data-driven optimisations in logistics workflows and order management pipelines.
- Reduced report generation from **8 hours to under 3 minutes** by re-architecting data pipelines, indexes, and queries - zero disruption to live systems.
- Delivered order management, geo-based beat tracking, and attendance features; led sprint planning, code reviews, and performance optimisation.

**Software Engineer** | [StayQrious](#), Bangalore, IN

*Apr 2021 – Dec 2021*

- Built payment infrastructure from scratch - achieved **90% faster** auto-closure of payment cycles.
- Built a real-time 1:1 parent-teacher meeting room using Agora; developed the company website in NextJS with SEO best practices.

**Full Stack Developer | FellaFeeds**, Gurugram, IN

*Jan 2020 – Mar 2021*

- Built a full-stack Email Campaign Management platform (ReactJS + Django) and a drag-and-drop Form Designer from scratch in ReactJS; led multiple projects from inception to production.

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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**Languages:** Python, Golang, TypeScript / JavaScript, SQL

**Backend & Frameworks:** Django, Django REST Framework, FastAPI, Celery, Django Channels, Node.js

**Frontend:** React.js, Next.js, Redux, GatsbyJS, PWA, React Native (familiar)

**AI / LLMs:** OpenAI APIs, Llama3, MistralAI, LangChain, LangGraph, RAG, Agentic AI, Prompt Engineering

**Data & Messaging:** Apache Kafka, Apache Airflow, ClickHouse (DWH), Redis, Data Pipelines

**Databases:** PostgreSQL (advanced indexing, query optimisation), Redis, ClickHouse

**Cloud & DevOps:** AWS (ECS, EC2, RDS, ElastiCache, S3, ALB), GCP, Docker, Jenkins, CI/CD, Linux

**Observability:** Sentry, New Relic APM, Grafana, ELK (structured logging)

**Architecture:** System Design, Distributed Systems, Microservices, RESTful APIs, GraphQL, WebSockets

**Leadership:** Team Building & Scaling, Hiring & Mentorship, Agile/Scrum, Roadmap Planning, Cross-functional Collaboration

## **EDUCATION**

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**B.Tech — Computer Science & Engineering**

*Aug 2016 – Aug 2020*

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi, IN

*University School of Information, Communication & Technology*

## **NOTABLE PROJECT**

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**Sahayata - SIH 2019 Winner:** Farmer assistance app with transport booking, storage management, and proximity-sorted real-time market price analysis.