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JULY-AUG 2021 / VOL.18 / ISSUE 2

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## **GREATEST BRANDS & LEADERS 2020-21** **ASIA MIDDLE EAST AFRICA**



SAVITRI JINDAL



SANKEY PRASAD



KARTIK SHETHIA



DR. SURESH MENON



TALAL AL AJMI



DR. VINOD SEKHAR



AMITT NENWANI



RAVINDER PAL SINGH

## **INDIA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL REAL ESTATE BRANDS & LEADERS BY WEALTH 2020-21**

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RAJIV KUMAR PAL



DINESH CHANDRA KOTHARI



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K.G. BABURAJAN



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PRADEEPKUMAR NAIR



PRAKASH GOENKA



RAVINDRANATH VENKATESH GUMASTE



RAJESH JEJURIKAR



RAKESH RATHI



RAMESH AWTANEY

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K.G. BABURAJAN



MAHENDRA VORA



MANEESH TRIPATHI



DIPAK CHOUDHARY



NARESH KUMAR DINODIYA



RAMESH GOPAL



S. DURGAPRASAD



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PRAKASH GOENKA



S. VENKATACHALAM



SREE BALAJI

## SETTING AN UNPRECEDENTED BENCHMARK OF EXCELLENCE



PRESENTS

# GREATEST BRANDS & LEADERS ASIA MIDDLE EAST AFRICA 2020-21

*AsiaOne Media Holdings LLC brings to you the "Greatest Brands and Leaders" Television Series featuring success stories of Brands and Leaders from across the globe. These top Brands & Leaders would be showcased to the Business community of India, Asia, Middle East and Africa through a special television series on leading English business & news channels of the region namely ET NOW, CNBC Africa and ZEE TV Middle East, North Africa & APAC.*

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→

**MOHAN KUMAR SUNDARAM**

# JOINING HANDS FOR SAILING THROUGH THE UNCERTAIN TIMES

**H**umanity is the common link which binds the world together. The faith in humanity has been reaffirmed in the recent times as the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic is not limited by geographic boundaries. Thus, the Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which means that the whole world is one family, acquires all the more relevance. In line with this notion, India extended help to the world by exporting PPE kits and COVID-19 vaccines to more than 75 countries of the world. No wonder help poured in from all across the world when the nation battled a severe second wave. On the world front, G-7 leaders have pledged one billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to poor countries in support of global equitable access and to help end the acute phase of the ongoing pandemic.

In these uncertain and unprecedented times, innovation is the need of the hour. Setting a unique example by turning adversity into opportunity, AsiaOne Magazine made a grand foray into the digital realm with the first episode of AsiaOne Greatest Brands & Leaders – Asia & GCC broadcasted on 6th June 2020. With a total of 11 monthly episodes, the series has earned a unique distinction of being 'the Most Broadcasted Business Brands and Leaders TV Series 2020-21 in Asia, Middle East & Africa – watched by around 39 million viewers in 79 countries, and was honoured by World Book of Records, UK. The series showcases a unique mix of greatest leaders from varied spheres including the Union Government ministers, Business and Social Leaders, changemakers, and celebrities from cinema and sports.

The greatness of a nation is directly proportional to the merit of its great leaders. Suzy Kassem has rightly said, "To vastly improve your country and truly make it great again, start by choosing a better leader." AsiaOne Magazine is pleased to feature exclusive interview features of enthusiastic, energetic and diligent leaders like Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat; the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath; and the Hon'ble

Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur.

The unceasing and dedicated efforts of some extraordinary torchbearers have paved the way for making this world a better place. Such exemplary leaders have contributed immensely towards empowering the economies and societies of the World, Asia and India. They have been featured under separate sections namely Person the Year, Global Asian of the Year and Global Indian of the Year, respectively.

A growing number of empowered women will eventually lead to an empowered world! One such leading lady who has donned multiple roles with élan is Smt. Savitri Jindal who is sharing 'Words of Wisdom' about her life journey. Her interview feature precedes our Women Empowerment Leaders section which showcases encouraging stories, of prominent women leaders such as Ananya Birla and Sania Mirza, which are bound to inspire umpteen others to excel.

From garnering international laurels for the nation as a popular Indian Cricket team player to an admired people's representative and a dedicated social worker, 'the Young & Enthusiastic Changemaker' Gautam Gambhir has come a long way. In a 'Face-to-Face' interview feature he throws light on the various socially beneficial endeavours undertaken by The Gautam Gambhir Foundation, under his able leadership.

We, at AsiaOne, recognize the fact that Youth are the driving force behind the growth of the Asian economy and are bringing in collective social and economic benefits to the region. Our Young Asian Entrepreneurs section attempts to throw the spotlight on their indomitable spirit, dedicated efforts and vision to reform the world. Their undying entrepreneurial spirit, ingenious and brilliant ideas, and skillful execution lead organizations to unprecedented growth and success.

The entrepreneurial endeavours of some of the greatest leaders have paved the way for the establishment of some of the best brands. While some ambitious brands have acquired the unique title of World's Greatest Brands, some others rule the roost in Asia and India as Asia's Greatest brands

and India's Greatest brands, respectively. They have not only carved a distinct niche for themselves but have also inspired numerous others to follow their lead.

A Readers' Page is being introduced in our subsequent issues. It will be an open arena, where readers may pour their hearts out on any topic of national, international or personal importance (social, economic, political or emotional). You may send your articles to me for the Reader's Page and some constructive feedback on our endeavours and the features. I'm available at richa@asiaone.co.in for all that you feel is valuable and intend to share.



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Shri Yogi Adityanath has been consistently ranked as one of the most popular Chief Ministers in India. Dedicated to the selfless service of the nation with his unswerving dedication and relentless persistence, he has been leaving no stone unturned in turning the wheels of progress and prosperity in Uttar Pradesh

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## ARTEMIS PROGRAMME -NASA TO LAND FIRST PERSON OF COLOUR ON THE MOON



The Artemis program of NASA is going to land first woman, and the first person of colour on the moon. The Biden-Harris administration sponsored program is going to complete the program by 2024. The ambitious international spaceflight program endorsed by Biden administration aims to land astronauts on the Moon's South Pole and to create sustainable missions by 2028. The program named after the Greek Goddess of the Moon and the twin sister of Apollo, the inspiration behind the NASA's first mission of moon landing. Last year in 2020, NASA selected 18 astronauts including 9 women and several people of colour. However, it is yet to be decided who is the actual 'first woman' or the 'first person of colour'. NASA's administrator Steve Jurczyk said that the program aligns with

President Biden's commitment to pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all. NASA is going to use its Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft and U.S. commercial partnerships with the human landing system along with Gateway lunar outpost to send astronauts. The program will serve as a ground for the returning astronauts who will be sent to Mars. The \$24.7 billion program demonstrates the President's commitment to NASA and its partners. The president's discretionary request increases NASA's ability to better understand Earth and further monitor and predict the impacts of climate change. It also gives us the necessary resources to continue advancing America's bipartisan moon to Mars space exploration plan, including landing the first woman & first person of color.

## ASEAN INITIATIVE ON MYANMAR

An emergency summit in Jakarta was attended by the ten member states of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) including Myanmar addressed the ongoing crisis in Myanmar since February 2021 coup by its military. Since the coup, the junta has taken over the country's governance, over 700 people had lost their lives, thousands of civilians have been arrested, & the country has



been trying to disintegrate the civil conflict. Consensus reached by the participating countries in the emergency summit is for 5 key points. It is an important way forward for dealing with the fallout of military coup.

Firstly, the initiative calls for immediate cease of violence in the country. Secondly, a discourse among the stakeholders is required for the peaceful solution of the crisis through constructive dialogue. Third, appointment of special envoy by ASEAN Chair to mediate in the country's crisis. Forth, the ASEAN organization will offer humanitarian assistance to the country & last, the special envoy & a delegation will be allowed to travel to meet all the stakeholders in the crisis.

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### SOME OF OUR PROMINENT RECRUITERS



## BAFTA AWARDS: NOMADLAND WINS FOUR PRIZES



**D**irector Chole Zhao’s meditative drama depicted in her Hollywood movie ‘Nomadland’ emerged as a winner at the 74th British Academy Awards popularly known as BAFTA Film Awards 2021 by garnering four major awards, including the Best Film.

At the event Oscar equivalent in Britain, it was named as the best film beating the likes of ‘The trial of the Chicago 7’ by Aaron Sorkin and much acclaimed ‘Promising Young Woman’. Film maker Zhao was named as the Best Director and Frances McDormand won the Best Actress award. The Director was also only the second woman to get the felicitation after Kathryn Bigelow who won the award in 2010 for ‘The

Hurt Locker’. The film, a tale of itinerant Americans, living in vans and moving through picturesque landscapes, seeking temporary jobs to make their ends meet, was highly acclaimed by critics for its delicate and incisive portray of a nomadic life of people. The film also took the award for Best Cinematography. The legendary octogenarian actor Anthony Hopkins won the Best Actor award for his iconic performance as a patient coping with dementia portrayed in ‘The Father’. Moreover, the award also paid tribute to Prince Philip who served the organization as its first president. By outplaying others and garnering four awards at the BAFTA, the film is consolidating its chances as the frontrunner at the Oscars.

## G7 LEADERS SIGN CARBIS BAY DECLARATION

**G**7 nations Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US have decided to sign the ‘Carbis Bay Declaration’, a historic statement setting out a series of concrete commitments to prevent any repeat of the human and economic devastation wreaked by coronavirus. G7 leaders are going to commit to using all their resources to prevent a global pandemic from ever happening again. The presidency for G7 Leaders’ Summit 2021 is held by the UK and has invited India, along with Australia, South Korea and South Africa, as guest countries. The agenda of this declaration is for global action to end the pandemic and prepare for the future by intensifying efforts to vaccinate more number of people, reinvigorate

the economies by providing necessary support, securing the future, protection of planet, strengthening partnerships with others around the world and embracing values as a foundation for harnessing the power of democracy, freedom, equality and respect for human rights. Under the periphery of Carbis Bay Declaration, the United Kingdom will establish a new centre to develop vaccines to prevent zoonotic diseases spreading from animals to humans. The leaders agreed that in the event of a future outbreak, G7 nations would act rapidly, with the aim of making vaccines, tests and treatments available within 100 days. Recommendations for this 100 days plan were given by the UK’s chief scientific adviser, Patrick Vallance, & Melinda French Gates.



## JAPAN TO HOST FIRST JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE WITH US AND FRANCE

Japan is going to hold a military drill with U.S. and French troops in the Southwest region of the country. It is confirmed by the country's defense minister Nobuo Kishi. This comes at a time when China's presence in the regional waters raised country's concern. The military exercise which will be conducted from May 11 to 17 is going to be Japan's first large-scale drill involving ground troops from 3 countries. The growing presence of Beijing in the East and South China seas had resulted Tokyo to seek defense cooperation beyond its US ally.

The joint military exercise will be held at the Japan Ground Self Defence Force's Kirishima training ground and Camp Ainoura in the Kyushu region

which includes amphibious operation exercises.

China's military presence in the regional waters has strained the international relations and created ripples in the international political arena. The Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga & US President Joe Biden has agreed to stand firm together against China by stepping up their cooperation including technology.

China justifies its claims by invoking what it calls its nine-dash line covering majority of South China Sea & says they are historic rights to the key trade waterways. Other countries including Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei & Taiwan are contesting for the parts of China's declared territory in the sea.



## 75+ NATIONS INTERESTED IN INDIA'S CoWIN

Nearly 76 countries have shown interest in having a CoWIN like system to run their vaccination drive. According to Dr. R.S. Sharma, Chairperson of the Empowered Committee for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, PM Modi has directed officials to create an open source version of the platform and give it free of cost to any country that wants it. Countries like Canada, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Nigeria,

Uganda & nations from Asian continent have showed interest in having a system CoWIN like system Dr. Sharma said at the second Public Health Summit 2021 organised by Confederation of Indian Industry. To demonstrate the capabilities of the software, the government is set to hold a virtual global conclave. 196 officials from foreign countries & 116 private individuals from 41 countries have registered for participation in this conclave.

## MOST POWERFUL CLIMATE-CHANGE FORECASTING SUPERCOMPUTER



Microsoft company has teamed up with the United Kingdom's Meteorological Office to develop the world's most powerful supercomputer that will help in weather forecasting and climate change. As per the report from the UK's Met office, the supercomputer is going to be functional in 2022 and will provide a forecast for severe weather.

The predictions provided by it will also help in protection from the impacts of severe floods, snow, and storms in the country. The datasets generated by this supercomputer will endow the highest quality accurate weather forecasts. For this, the UK government had announced funding of 1.2 billion pounds in February 2020 which is expected to be among the top 25 supercomputers in the world.

The device will help to improve the climate change modeling and

projections for risk-based planning. Among other uses, its forecasts are also used in the aviation and agriculture industries.

In addition to this, it will enhance emergency preparedness for various natural calamities. The partnership between Microsoft and the UK's Meteorological Office is an endorsement of the country's initiative in protecting the environment.

The new supercomputer will help ensure government, industry and communities by preparing them for severe weather changes through more detailed models combined with an increased number of model scenarios and growing amounts of environmental and social data, better forecasting of local-scale weather, increased access to weather and climate data and ever more accurate forecasts of wind and temperature information.



احمد محمد امين الخاجة واولاده

AHMED MOHAMED AMIN ALKHAJA & SONS

*Congratulates*

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an emotional  
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Think Ahead



## US - FIRST COUNTRY TO AUTHORIZE VACCINATION FOR 12 - 15 YEARS OLD

The United States of America has become the first country to authorize the usage of COVID-19 vaccine to children between the age group 12-15 years. The USFDA has allowed administering the COVID-19 vaccine Pfizer-BioNTech for emergency use to adolescents. The US President has instructed the states to make immediate arrangements for vaccine availability for adolescents. Being one of the worst hit countries with the pandemic with a record infections to over 3.27 crore infections including 5.81 lakh deaths, the US allowed Pfizer's vaccine. Currently, around 2 million people in that group

have already received at least one shot. With the trial results announced by Pfizer on adolescents indicating that the vaccine is effective in that age group, it becomes necessary to raise the immunity in the population and bring down the number of hospitalizations and deaths.

The expansion is a major development in the USA's vaccine campaign and comes at the right time when parents are worried to protect their children during summer activities and before the start of new school session. Pfizer's vaccine is being used in multiple countries for teens as young as 16, and Canada recently became the first to expand use to 12 and up.

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S E-2025 INITIATIVE

The 'E-2025 Initiative' of World Health Organization has identified 25 countries across the globe including 3 from African continent with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025. This comes ahead of World Malaria Day which is marked annually on 25th Apr. The WHO congratulated the growing number of countries that are participating and achieving zero cases of malaria. The new initiative launched aims to stop the transmission of the

disease in 25 more countries by 2025. In 2019, 46 countries, out of 87 countries, reported fewer malaria cases as compared to 26 countries in 2000. Launched in 2017, the E-2020 initiative of WHO. Following the success of E-2020, the WHO has launched the E-2025 initiative where it has identified 25 countries that have the potential to eliminate malaria with the 5-year timeline. These countries will receive technical and on-ground support by the WHO and its partners.

## ZHAO: 1ST ASIAN WOMAN TO WIN BEST DIRECTOR OSCAR

Filmmaker Chole Zhao, the first person of Chinese origin and the first Asian woman made history by winning the Best Director at the 93rd Academy Awards. She is also the only second woman ever to win the Best Director Award after Kathryn Bigelow who won it for the first time ever in the Academy Awards history in 2010 for a thriller film based on war. With this Zhao also become the second person from Asia to bag the coveted award, the first being given to director Ang Lee for his 2006 romantic drama film Brokeback Mountain.

The 39 year old filmmaker's Nomadland is an American recession era drama of financially stretched van dwellers in which she featured real-life nomads alongside actress Frances McDormand, who is also a Co-Producer. The film was based on Jessica Bruder's 2017 book, Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century. Her film also won the Best Picture and the Best Actress Oscar. The film show the lives of Americans who travel from one job to another and trying to scrape together a living.

Zhao was also nominated for



the Best Film Editing and the Best Adapted Screenplay but didn't win.

It was her third film which also won Golden Globe Awards, Directors Guild of America Award and BAFTA. "I am extremely lucky to be able to do what I love for a living, and if this means more people get to live their dreams, I'm extremely grateful," she

said backstage afterwards. However, the Chinese media regulators also decided in March not to air the Oscars live on its streaming platforms. The decision not to air the Oscars has raised concerns about dwindling freedoms in Hong Kong, which has taken an authoritarian path since China imposed a sweeping national security law last year.

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# Leading the Nation

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**SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT**  
HON'BLE UNION MINISTER FOR JAL SHAKTI  
THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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# Serving the Nation with Relentless Dedication

*The learned and well-read leader, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has been dedicatedly working towards providing safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households in rural India by 2024, under the Jal Jiwan Mission. Through various schemes and initiatives, he has been efficiently leading the nation towards sustainable development*

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BY RICHIA SANG



**Q.** Hon'ble Minister Sir, we, at AsiaOne, appreciate the initiatives undertaken by your ministry to strengthen the water resources of the country. Be it the 'Clean Ganga Mission' or taking water to even the remotest of the areas, your ministry has been a great support to the central government. Please throw some light on the initiatives that you are undertaking to contribute to the sector further.

**A.** Thanks and I would like to thank AsiaOne Magazine for its continuous support. The topic of water has become extremely important for mankind and the whole world. And it's more important for all of us in the context of India as out of the total potable water available in the world, only 4% of it comes in our share. India has 18% of the world population and almost the same percentage of cattle population. So the percentage proportion of water as compared to the proportion of the population is less. And along with it, due to the clear and present dangers of increasing climate change, our challenges have grown even more.

**Q. Sir, what are your thoughts on the “vocal for local” initiative of the Modi-government? How is your ministry planning to contribute to that?**

**A.** The world is going through a period of pandemic and all the big and small economies of the whole world are shaken by this Coronavirus. All the big economies of the world are trying to get back after the initial bolt from this pandemic. But we are all fortunate as the way India managed and handled the natural calamity, under the leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, and have helped other countries of the world, our country's image has enhanced and we have emerged as a global champion.

Whether it is related to managing the impact of this pandemic to prevent its spreading to reducing the death rate to increasing the recovery rate to strengthening the infrastructure to increasing the testing facilities to ensuring the supply of gears needed such as PPE kits or masks to ensure the supply of oxygen and along with manufacturing of medicines and vaccines, no one could imagine that a developing country which is facing such a big disaster with an even bigger challenge of one of the largest population at the time when all those countries that were boasting upon the strength of their infrastructure started stumbling, that country can handle this situation and become the first to make the most affordable and effective vaccine and also efficiently drive vaccination campaign and the world will be looking towards it to fulfil their needs for the vaccine. This is definitely a big step towards making India self-reliant.

As far as the economy is concerned, the impact of the economic package that Hon'ble Prime Minister gave for self-reliant India, the package of 27 lakh

crores of rupees, which is 20% of the GDP, is now available. All the parameters for measuring the economy or improving the health of the economy such as PMI index, tax collection, growth of exports, toll and freight collection, consumables like power or electricity or consumption of hydrocarbon fuels, indicates that on every scale from every point of view, India's economy has recovered the fastest in the world. Considering this disaster as an opportunity with the Prime Minister's vision to work based on vocal for local in global markets, we have started working on this ideology.

As far as the Ministry is concerned, the exercise of providing drinking water to every house, first for the rural area and then for the urban area after this budget, an investment of about Rs. 700000 crores is going to be done in this direction in the next 4 years. When such a program of drinking water operates at such a wide scale, many activities happen at the same time.

Pipe manufacturing, cement required for making water reservoirs, steel, plastic or HDPE material for making pipes, digging of pipelines, construction works, creating of reservoirs, strengthening and augmentation of resources, manufacturing of motors, commissioning of pump sets, manufacturing of taps, operation of ancillary industries for tap manufacturing, and thereby leading to the creation of market buzz and due to the work done at the base level, employment is created.

Therefore, employment generation and manufacturing of the country is going to get a huge boost through it. When the Prime Minister, on August 15, 2019, announced Jal Jeevan Mission in the series of action plans to bring about a change in the lives of common people in his speech at the ramparts of the Red

Fort, he quoted that the work done by the previous governments of the country for the last 70 years, whether regional or local governments, only 16% of the rural housing has the facility of potable drinking water. For the rest 84%, women have to go out of the house to fetch drinking water. If we talk about figures, out of 19 Crores rural families, drinking water had reached only 3 crore 23 lakh families across the country. We all know water is a matter of state and being a matter of state, the responsibilities in the form of design to DPR preparation to implementation to augmentation to operation and maintenance lies with the state government.

We realised the challenges in India, being a country of different geographical conditions, divided into various states, and the different circumstances in different states. Thus, we issued guidelines, after discussions and extensive consultations for 3 months with states, on 25th Dec 2019 on the eve of Good Governance Day, under the exemplary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

So we started working from December 25, 2019 and exactly 3 months later, on March 25, the lockdown was imposed. All of a sudden everything came to a halt. We also thought that maybe our work will be interrupted. We used the time of lockdown to complete all the work that could be done over the table. We discussed issues with states, repeatedly connected through video conferencing, discussed at the level of engineers, secretaries, ministerial level, and with Chief Ministers and it resulted in our preparation at the ground level. The moment the process of unlocking started, we started working at a fast pace.

Today, I can say with great pride that, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, in this 15-month period, from December 25, 2019 to February 26, 2021, we have been able to give 3 Crore 70 lakh new connections as compared to the total connections of 23 million households or 16% of the population in the last 70 years.

I am proud to say that more than 2 lakh connections are being given every day, the coverage which was 16% has increased to 35%, and two states, Goa and Telangana, have a hundred percent saturation rate. I am proud to say that out of 700 districts of the country, there are 52 districts that have become 100 percent saturated and

*“THE TOPIC OF WATER HAS BECOME EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR MANKIND AND THE WHOLE WORLD. AND IT'S MORE IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US IN THE CONTEXT OF INDIA AS OUT OF THE TOTAL POTABLE WATER AVAILABLE IN THE WORLD, ONLY 4% OF IT COMES IN OUR SHARE”*

in more than 75000 villages, not a single mother or sister has to go out of her house to get water. We are working with the goal of 2024 but many states have set for themselves the goals of 2021, 2022, and 2023. Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the path we are moving forward, we are sure to succeed.

**Q. Hon'ble Minister Sir, India's rich water resources can be tapped efficiently for a lot of industrial uses and have a lot of scope for entrepreneurial opportunities around it. What is your message to the entrepreneurs who are either working or are aspiring to work in the sector?**

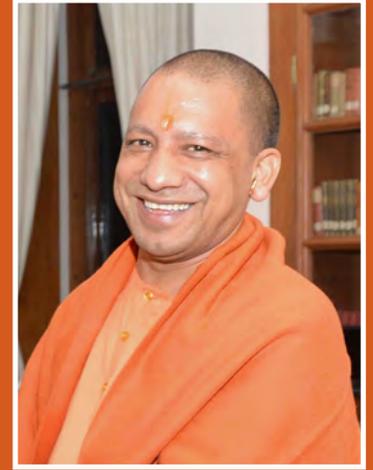
**A.** As I said in response that about Rs.7 lakh crores investment is to be done by the central and state governments in the coming 4 years and when the work starts in the water infrastructure sector, then the multiple industries get benefitted like the core industries including cement, steel, but also plastic, and pipe manufacturing, tap manufacturing, motors manufacturing, and motors ancillary manufacturing.

If we roughly calculate the capital cost is viz-a-viz labor cost, both of them have more than 60-40 ratio. So, if the investment is of Rs. 7 lakh crores, then surely an industrial opportunity to the tune of Rs. 4 lakh crores is going to be created. A golden age has come for people who are working in this field, and the people who are interested in work in this field.

**Q. Sir, would you like to give any message to AsiaOne Magazine?**

**A.** I am thankful to AsiaOne Magazine for the efforts, for giving recognition to the people who have brought the change in the lives of the people of Asia and I suggest that there is only one name which can be considered for that, that is our beloved Prime Minister Modi ji. He has brought a change in the behavior of 60 Crore people through sanitation mission and has enlightened more than 4 Crore households by providing electricity, and has reinforced the dignity of the women (almost 30 Crores) by giving them toilets in their homes and is working to bring life to almost 16 Crore households or I may say 64 Crore people of the country by giving them tap water and indirectly ensuring a better life for all of them.





*Yogi Adityanath  
Hon'ble Chief Minister  
Uttar Pradesh*

# *Turning* Uttar Pradesh *into* Uttam Pradesh

*Starting his political career by becoming the youngest Member of Parliament from Gorakhpur to be elected to the 12th Lok Sabha at the age of 26, Shri Yogi Adityanath has been consistently ranked as one of the most popular Chief Ministers in India. Dedicated to the selfless service of the nation, he has been leaving no stone unturned in turning the wheels of progress and prosperity in Uttar Pradesh with his unswerving dedication and relentless persistence*

**BY RICHA SANG**





## STRIKING FAST-PACED DEVELOPMENT

**Q. Sir, we, at AsiaOne, appreciate the fact that under your able leadership, the Uttar Pradesh government has achieved a drastic improvement in law and order, investments, and infrastructure development in the state over the last four years. Your efforts to promote spiritual tourism with focus on Ayodhya, Prayagraj, Mathura and Varanasi are appreciable so are the various upcoming infrastructure projects such as 354-km Bundelkhand-Purvanchal Expressway project and 1050-km Ganga Expressway from Meerut to Prayagraj – the largest**

expressway in India. We also appreciate your goal of making Uttar Pradesh a \$1 Trillion Economy.’ Please throw light on some of the other sectors on your government plans to focus with the agenda of making Uttar Pradesh as ‘Uttam Pradesh.’ In fact, it is a matter of great pride that Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji lauded you and your government for the pace of the development despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

**A.** You have aptly mentioned about our government’s effort in transforming the law and order situation, tourism and industrial sector of the state. In the coming 5 years we will have completed the construction of the Noida International Greenfield Airport and half the work on Ganga Expressway. We have further boosted the health infrastructure and education infrastructure in the state.

## ALIGNING STATE GOALS WITH NATIONAL GOALS

**Q. Sir, what are your views on Hon’ble PM Modi ji’s call for ‘vocal for local’ and ‘Aatma Nirbhar Bharat’? How is your government planning to further this agenda?**

**A.** “One District One Product (ODOP)” launched in 2018 is the flagship programme of Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP). The objective of the programme is to preserve, develop and promote local arts, crafts and traditional skill of communities spread across each district of Uttar Pradesh. For example, the artisans’ of the old wood carving industry of Saharanpur needed training. Now under the ODOP initiative, we are providing training facilities to them. This will not only improve the products, but will also improve efficacy. Additionally, the programme aims to add to the income and local employment and is in line with Hon’ble PM’s clarion call of ‘Vocal for Local’ and ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’.

Loans to the tune of Rs 10,390 crore

to 3,54,825 MSME units and tool kits to 5,000 artisans under ODOP were given during a special online loan mela organized by the government. 3,24,911 new MSME units have been given loans of Rs 9,074 crore under various central and state government schemes like PM Rozgar Srijan Yojana, CM Yuva, Swarozgar Yojana, ODOP, Mudra Yojana and Atma Nirbhar Bharat. Under Atma Nirbhar Bharat, 29,914 existing units were given Rs 1,316 crore in loans.

## BOOSTING EMPLOYMENT

**Q. Sir, owing to your dedicated efforts, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the biggest contributor to employment generation in the country. The state has ensured employment to more than 57 lakh unskilled workers who are now engaged in various projects under MGNREGS – contributing 18 per cent of the total employment in the country under the scheme. In fact you are a role model for the youth of the nation who identify with you and look up to you for inspiration. What’s your message to them?**

**A.** My message to the youth is to keep working hard, take pride in being from Uttar Pradesh and become brand ambassadors of the state. I would further like to encourage them to not just be a job seeker but also be a job generator i.e. learn about entrepreneurship.

The Uttar Pradesh Government is focused on generating employment and achieving its goal of reaching \$1 trillion economy. Our special campaign “Mission Rojgar” aims at providing jobs to 50 lakh youth by March 2021 and so far has employed 21,75,443 youth in the state. In the past 4 years, more than 4 lakh youths have been given employment within the government. Uttar Pradesh has been ranked first in the country for generating 10 crore man days under the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan to support migrant labourers who came back to the state during the pandemic.

The Uttar Pradesh government did not only manage the return of about 40 lakh migrants from all over the country but also took up the onerous task of providing them employment. In a first, the state government did skill mapping of about 36 lakh migrant labourers/workers to enable them get job as per their skill set. 4 lakh youths have already got government jobs and about 15

*“THE IDEA BEHIND THE FILM CITY IN NOIDA IS TO DEVELOP UTTAR PRADESH AS AN IMPORTANT CENTRE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FILMS AND PROMOTE OUR TOURIST DESTINATIONS”*



crore youths got self-employment by way of various schemes of the Centre and the State.

Uttar Pradesh has also found place among top five states of the country for providing employment under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) during Corona pandemic. In a recent report of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Uttar Pradesh has secured a place ahead of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana and Telangana in the list of top 10 states.

The state government also signed MoUs with various industries for creation of 11 Lakh jobs within a year. While FICCI and IIA will account for three lakh jobs each, realtors' body NARDCO and the Laghu Udyog Bharti have agreed to provide jobs to 2.5 each to migrant labourers.

### **PROMOTING TOURISM**

**Q. Your government has been promoting tourism with the tagline of “UP nahi dekha, toh India nahi dekha” (If you have not seen UP, then you have not seen India too). Please elaborate.**

**A.** Uttar Pradesh has a myriad of tourism attractions spread across wildlife & nature, historical monuments, heritage & culture, vibrant cities, cuisine, art & craft, music & dance, adventure, spirituality and religion. Such diversity spread across all districts of Uttar Pradesh makes for an unforgettable tourism experience. And therefore, the

tagline because Uttar Pradesh is a must visit place. Uttar Pradesh emerged as the top destination for attracting the highest number of domestic tourists in 2019. The Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS), 2020 announced that as many as 53.6 crore domestic tourists visited Uttar Pradesh in 2019 which was much higher as compared to 2018.

With the objective of improving the basic tourism infrastructure across all our destinations (popular and new), development projects to the tune of INR 630.45 Crore are being implemented under the ‘Swadesh Darshan & PRASAD Scheme’. In addition, infrastructure development projects of INR 857.20 Crore are also being implemented from the state government funding.

The projects sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme includes the:

- Development of Sravasti, Kapilvastu and Kushinagar under the Buddhist Circuit;
- Development of Kalinjar Fort (Banda), Maghar Dham & Chauri Chaura under the Heritage Circuit;
- Development of Ayodhya, Chitrakoot & Shringverpur under the Ramayana Circuit;
- Development of Gorakhpur, Devipatan, Dumariyagunj, Banda & other tourist sites across the state under the Spiritual Circuit. Mathura and Varanasi are also being developed under the PRASAD Scheme, along with new ‘River Cruise’ project at Varanasi.

Major works include development of tourist facilitation centre, façade lighting of monuments, signage, landscaping, drinking water kiosks, solar lighting and toilets. In addition to the above, Uttar Pradesh Tourism Policy was launched in February 2018, to attract private investments and develop tourism infrastructure.

Till now, the state has received multiple project proposals for new hotels, resorts, convention centres, wellness centres, adventure tourism projects and other facilities with investment intent of approximately INR 18,753 Crore. Tourism destinations have been categorized across 12 tourism circuits like Ramayana, Braj, Buddhist, Wildlife & Eco Tourism, Bundelkhand, Mahabharata, Shakti Peeth, Aadhyatmik, Sufi, Jain, Craft and Swatantrata Sangram.

244 tourism investment proposals have been received in these tourism circuits, which will assist in the overall tourism infrastructure development of the region. One of the major fiscal benefit offered under the tourism policy is the ‘Capital Investment Subsidy’ in the range of 10-20% of the eligible capital investment, which encourages the private entities to establish new tourism units. Furthermore, the state government is planning to develop camping infrastructure and adventure activities at various eco-tourism sites. As part of public & private sector collaboration to train local young community, over 200 young people in Ayodhya were trained

by sector specialists, under the 'Ayodhya Guide training Program'.

## DEVELOPMENT OF FILMCITY & JEWAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

**Q.** Your Government has recently announced a film city of over 1,000-acre plot located just about 6 km from the proposed Jewar International Airport. The latter will be the first net-zero emissions airport in its class, setting a new standard for sustainable aviation. Please throw light on the vision behind these initiatives.

**A.** Uttar Pradesh has played a pivotal role in the rise of Indian cinema. The idea behind the Film City in Noida is to develop the state as an important centre for the production of films and promote our tourist destinations. We already provide huge subsidies to film makers and lately, UP have been buzzing with film shooting activities in the past few years. The Uttar Pradesh government last year cleared subsidy worth over INR112.4 million for 16 Hindi and six Bhojpuri films.

The Noida International Greenfield Airport will become a global brand and the pride of India and will cater to 12 million passengers. The site clearance for the airport has already been done. Over the past three years, various clearances, including security, environment, bidder, etc followed and international organisation Zurich Airport International AG will be developing the airport.

Architecture firms Nordic Office of Architecture, Grimshaw, Haptic and consultants STUP will design a carbon-neutral terminal. A goal of carbon net-zero and a LEED Gold standard certification has been set for the airport terminal, which will have the capacity to serve 30 million passengers per year. Carbon net-zero, also known as carbon-neutral design, is a term for buildings that seek to remove as much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they put in.

## MISSION SHAKTI INITIATIVE FOR THE SAFETY, DIGNITY & EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

**Q.** Please throw light on the Mission Shakti initiative launched by your government for boosting gender equality in the state.

**A.** Mission Shakti is working aggressively



*"EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO HELP THE MOST UNDERPRIVILEGED WOMEN OF THE GROUPS THROUGH THE WELFARE SCHEMES SO THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES"*

for empowerment of women. Notable steps have been taken for success of the Mission Shakti campaign that aims at ensuring women security, self-reliance and dignity in Uttar Pradesh. Distribution of dry ration among women is being done by Bal Vikas Evam Pushtahaar Vibhag and Food and Civil Supplies at the anaganwadi centres in the state. And to raise awareness about several welfare programmes of the government and also about the helpline numbers such as 1090, 1076, 1098, 108, 102, 112 and others. The SHGs also used rangolis as a means to spread the message

about women empowerment and helpline numbers among the villagers.

Efforts are also being made to help the most underprivileged women of the groups through the welfare schemes of the government so that they are able to support their families. The police officers make it a point to interact with the women to inform them about their rights. Under the welfare schemes, the women are told in detail about the Kanya Sumangala Yojana, Ujjawala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, how to open bank accounts, Pradhanmantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, and Pradhanmantri Suraksha



#### Beema Yojana.

The Mahila Shakti Kendra team of Rupapur, Pratapgarh reached out to women and girls to spread the message of women empowerment under the Mission Shakti campaign. The WCD department has sensitised more than 5 crore citizens of the state about issues women face. Platforms like Shakti Samvad and Haq Ki Baat are being used to redress the grievances of both rural and urban women. To acknowledge the contribution of women and girls in different fields, events such as Nayika Mega Event, Gender Champion are being held on regular basis. The government has helped 27.95 lakh women through the Nirashrit Mahila Pension scheme while 5.80 lakh girls have received the benefits of Kanya Sumangala Yojana. As many as 51,25,579 girls have got the direct benefit of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme. Through the Rani Lakshmi Bai Mahila Evam Samman Kosh Yojana, 4,937 victims of violence

have been supported.

The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition Of Unlawful Conversion Of Religion Ordinance 2020 was passed as well. The ordinance was passed as in recent times a lot of cases were being registered where the women complainants complained about how they were being forced to change their religion and on refusing to convert, were being harassed. We realised that this situation had to be dealt with in order to protect the interest of women/minors and ensure safety and justice to them by giving them the right to complaint against any deceit and harassment. It is a duly constituted law and law per se isn't discriminatory. The law isn't a means to stop any inter-faith marriages from happening but rather to protect the marriages whereby the woman has been duped/ lied by the man into an inter-faith marriage.

The law aims to prohibit unlawful conversion from one religion to another by misinterpretation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurements or by any fraudulent means or by marriage. The law aims to make inter-faith marriages null and void if, upon investigation, they have been found to involve forced conversion or harassment. The law also looks to impose a jail term of between two and seven years where forced conversion involves minors or women belonging to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe.

### **SAFEGUARDING THE INTEREST OF FARMERS**

**Q. Please shed light on some of the initiatives related to welfare and the growth of the agriculture sector in Uttar Pradesh. Please state some of the measures undertaken by your government for the welfare of farmers during the lockdown and the various schemes launched for the prosperity of farmers.**

**A.** Farmers are the backbone of the Uttar Pradesh economy and their welfare and the growth of agriculture sector has been the state government's top priority since 2017. Prior to 2017, farmers in Uttar Pradesh faced innumerable challenges and were distressed as government procurement was low and realisation of MSP was low and therefore, the income was meagre.

The new government in 2017 under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath realised the distress which farmers were facing and

immediately waived off farmers' loans worth INR 36,000 crore that benefited more than 56 lakh farmers and chartered a holistic strategy which established long-term goals and guided the intervention which included providing new technology and other complementary farming assets. Yogi Adityanath's deft knowledge of farming methods (at Gorakhnath math he was responsible for 'farm to shop' sale of the produce) has proved as an asset.

The agriculture budget of the state registered a record hike from INR 4,096 crore in 2017-18 to INR 10,378 crore in 2018-19 and settled at INR 6,231 crore in 2019-20 afterwards.

About 58 percent of the population is dependent on the agriculture sector but agriculture and the allied sector contribute only 26 percent to the state's gross domestic product (GDP). On the basis of the data, the focus of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was to increase agricultural production in the state and to give the farmers a fair price for their crops via farmer-friendly policies. In order to empower farmers economically, the underlying causes were addressed by the government.

Uttar Pradesh remains the top state when it comes to sugarcane production. Over 47 lakh sugarcane farmers in Uttar Pradesh have been paid overdue payments of the last government of more than INR 1,15,000 crore between 2017-2020. This cane price payment is much more than the cane price payment of INR 95,215 crore paid during the five year tenure of the previous government from 2012-2017. The previous government sold 21 sugar mills at throw away prices in Purvanchal wherein the current government has opened sugar mills in Gorakhpur and Basti which were closed in 1999 and can now process four times more sugarcane. The government currently operates 119 sugar mills in total.

Previously, water wouldn't reach till the canal tail end and farmers were forced to draw water from tube wells. The state's irrigation department ensured that the water reached till canal tail end to help farmers. The irrigation projects which were stalled for past 10-15 years were restarted and completed. Water has reached every farm under the Prime Minister Agriculture Irrigation scheme.

Also, the government decided to empower farmers by ensuring power in the villages for 18-20 hours. Furthermore, PM Gram Sadak Yojana has completed

several phases and most of the villages have been connected via this scheme which has eased the commuting of the farmers. Recently, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also inaugurated various projects under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

## TECHNOLOGY UPTURN

The state already has four agricultural universities. Recently, a central agricultural university was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji in Jhansi. Presently, 89 Krishi Vigyan Kendras are working in Uttar Pradesh with a resolve to double the income of farmers with the help of new concepts and technologies. The previous government had refused to take these 20 Krishi Kendras from the center.

More farmers have been provided 'Kisan Credit Card'. In 2016-17, 100.42 lakh farmers had KCC but as of October 30 this year, 161.08 lakh farmers have the KCC.

A centre of the International Rice Research Centre, Philippines, has been opened in Varanasi and efforts are also being made to open a centre of International Potato Research Centre. In the last three

years, about INR 300 crore has been given to Krishi Vigyan Kendras and other agricultural institutions.

Weather-based crop insurance for protection of crops is being provided at a mere 5 percent premium and mandi fee has been reduced from 2 percent to 1 percent. At least 50 percent grant is also being provided on construction of poly houses.

In addition, 80 percent subsidy is being provided on agricultural equipment like sprinklers under the 'Per Drop More Crop' scheme. Such equipment saves water and also increases the production of crops.

With the aim to promote horticulture, vegetable and fruit farming in the Purvanchal region as it is very effective in doubling the income of farmers of this region, the government has given vegetable seeds free of cost to over 20 lakh farmers.

The horticulture sector has immense potential in Purvanchal. In this region, while cereals are ready in six months, vegetables take 2-3 months to reap. Farmers are being made aware of such technology so that they can earn maximum income from horticulture.

## Boosting Farm Exports

The UP Export Policy 2020-25 has been approved by the state cabinet which aims at doubling the income of farmers and increasing exports from the agricultural sector.

Chandauli, known as the rice bowl of the Purvanchal, is now exporting black rice to countries, including Australia and New Zealand. Two mango packaging houses have been constructed in Amroha and Varanasi at a cost of INR 9.90 crore each. During the coronavirus times, about 2,000 quintal mangoes have been exported from this region.

Eastern Uttar Pradesh is one of the potential areas for export of fresh fruits and vegetables, such as green chillies, okra, bitter guard, green peas, brinjal and mango and guava etc. and they have been exported to countries like Dubai and Europe.

Under 'One District One Product' initiative of the government 45 districts have been identified. Agricultural products will be selected on the basis of agro-climatic zone, product quality, taste, aroma, nutritional and medicinal properties, and export potential. Farmers of the respective districts have been recommended about growing specific crops.

Products like 'Kalanamak rice' of Siddharthanagar, banana fibre of Kushinagar, banana of Kaushambi, jaggery of Ayodhya, aamla of Pratapgarh, pulses of Balrampur and Gonda, desi ghee of Auraiya, handicraft made of wheat stalk in Bahraich, wooden toys of Chitrakoot, wooden artifacts of Saharanpur, Basti, Bijnor, Rae Bareilly etc. are included in the ODOP scheme.

The government is working to ensure global branding of Kala Namak variety of rice on the lines of Basmati rice. A project for promoting Kala Namak rice had been prepared in association with the International Rice Research Institute at Varanasi, Indian Agriculture Research Institute and Acharya Narendra Dev Agriculture University of Ayodhya.

## Attracting Industries

UP is the largest potato producing state in the country. Potatoes are sown in an area of 6.1 lakh hectares in the state. Last year, UP produced 147.77 lakh tonnes of potatoes till November 2020 and farmers received a good price of potatoes. It is predicted that this time the state will set a new record in potato cultivation.

*"THE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF YOGI ADITYANATH IMMEDIATELY WAIVED OFF FARMERS' LOANS WORTH INR 36,000 CRORE THAT BENEFITED OVER 56 LAKH FARMERS"*





*“THE UP GOVERNMENT IS ENSURING WELFARE FOR ITS CITIZENS & HAS CREATED A RECORD OF GIVING ASSISTANCE TO 51 LAKH SENIOR CITIZENS UNDER VRIDDHAWASTHA PENSION”*

It has been estimated that at least 26.50 to 27.50 tonnes per hectare of potatoes have been cultivated. The figure is expected to reach 30 tonnes per hectare next year.

Till a few years ago, potato farmers did not get fair prices for potatoes, but now potato farming in UP started to be a profitable deal for the farmers as the quality of the yield has improved. Not only here, multinational Food and Beverages company ‘PepsiCo’ is also going to set up a new (greenfield) potato chips production unit in the state with an investment of INR 814 crore.

The unit will be set up on about 35 acres of land provided by the State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) in Kosi-Mathura. Starting in 2021, over 1000 people will get direct and indirect

employment from this chips factory. This is the first time that a greenfield project is being set up by PepsiCo itself in Uttar Pradesh and by the time production starts from this factory, Uttar Pradesh will also become the first state in the country in terms of potato production.

During the COVID19 lockdown when globally farmers suffered, farmers produce procurement was carried out directly from their homes by the government and it was made sure that shop selling seeds and other farming items remained open. As the Rabi crop in UP got ready for harvesting amid the lockdown, the state government set up 6,000 procurement centres to help farmers sell their produce and these centres functioned successfully adhering to all precautions. These centres procured 36

lakh metric tonnes of wheat.

Even during the corona pandemic, when all the industries were facing closure, the sugar mills of the state continued crushing operations. It was the commitment of government for safeguarding the interest of farmers, that the supply of their sugarcane remains uninterrupted during the lockdown period. Though the sugar sale remained negligible during the lockdown, but in spite of that, cane price payment of Rs 5,953 crore was made to farmers in that period.

#### ***Farmer-friendly Initiatives***

Soil health cards were provided to millions of farmers by the state government. Thousands of farmers have been provided 40 to 90 per cent subsidy through a custom hiring centre for purchasing agricultural machinery — this amount has been transferred directly to the farmers’ bank accounts. The government has already announced a policy for FPOs (farmers producers organisation) and the process of constituting the FPOs at block level was underway.

Farmers also needed assistance to develop the capacity necessary in order



to increase their incomes. For this, a vital first step is to provide them with training as well as agricultural inputs and credit so that they can produce more, aggregate their crops, and market them collectively. It is noteworthy that through “The Millions Farmers’ initiative farmers have been given training in improved farming at the Nyaya Panchayat level. MFS, also popularly known as Kisan Pathshala, is an extension program that the government of UP initiated in 2017 with a view to encourage the use of modern farming techniques, to make farming more profitable, sustainable, and resilient.

Unlike traditional extension services, MFS integrates various facets of agricultural knowledge into a packaged format, and delivers it through village-level trainings across all districts in the state. Printed materials—booklets, pamphlets—with such information are also distributed among participants.

The key objective of the MFS is to impart agricultural knowledge and techniques to farmers, which in turn can enhance agricultural production, improve soil health, and promote integrated and diversified farming systems.

Fourteen new Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been established in the state. Six new science centres are proposed. The minimum support price, which was a far-fetched

dream during previous governments, has been implemented and farmers have been given benefits at the grassroots level for pulses and oilseeds along with wheat and paddy.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, INR 22,000 crores has been sent directly to the accounts of farmers. During the lockdown, the government ensured proper channels where they could sell their produce as well. Generally, around 5 to 6 lakh metric tonnes of wheat/paddy sale happened in UP annually but as soon as we came into power, we put a system in place and within 4 months there was a sale of 35 lakh metric tonnes.

During the last 3.5 years of Yogi’s tenure, the state government has bought 180 metric tonne of paddy and 162 metric tonne of wheat from the farmers, transferring more than 60000 crores to their accounts on accounts of these purchases. We have also included Battadars (share croppers) also in the beneficiaries list of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

Previously, farmers were being used as ‘vote banks’ but after assuming power, my government has been working on ensuring ways to ‘double farmer’s income.’ The UP government has reduced the Mandi tax and has strengthened government procurement as the leadership understands that only if the state’s rural economy is strong, the

state can become strong. Moreover, the government has continued its outreach program and has reverberated its willingness to always resolve any issues faced by the farmers of the state. The cobwebs of lies and misinformation which the opposition is trying to constantly impose on the innocent farmers of our state are being removed now. Our government recently launched the Kisan Kalyan Mission for farmer welfare to double the farmers income of the state.

## ENSURING SOCIAL SECURITY

**Q. Please state some of the schemes and initiatives launched by your government for senior citizens, destitute and differently-abled and needy sections of the society.**

**A.** The state government is committed in ensuring welfare for all its citizens especially those who need special attention. Uttar Pradesh has created a record of giving assistance to 51 lakh senior citizens under Vriddhawastha pension.

Furthermore, we are planning to link workers and labourers with the Ayushman Bharat Scheme and CM Jan Aarogya campaign to ensure a social security net for them. 27.95 lakh women have availed the benefits of the Nirashrit Mahila Pension Scheme.



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# Inspirational Leadership

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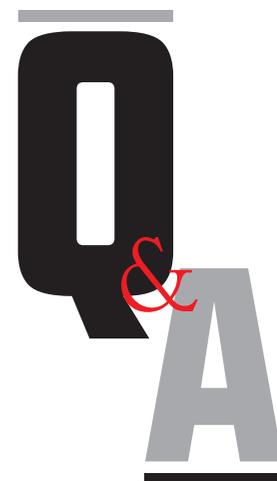
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# Inspiring a Positive Change in the Nation

*The popularity of the young, energetic and multitalented leader Shri Anurag Singh Thakur can be assessed from the fact that he has been elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) from Hamirpur constituency for 4 times in a row. He has been working day and night to support India's economic growth. Leading by example, he inspires the youth of the nation to rise and shine in their chosen spheres*

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BY RICHIA SANG



**Q.** Sir, your ministry has done a commendable job to manage the financial crisis that our country could have faced because of the COVID-19 lockdown. In fact the Aatm Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan ('ANBA') package has been a big relief for the business community and the common man in general. We, at AsiaOne, appreciate the fact that your ministry has been working tremendously well to support India's economic growth and have introduced a people-friendly budget with no Covid Cess. Please throw some light on the various initiatives that your ministry has undertaken to boost the economy under the current Modi Government.

**A.** Let me first thank you for recognizing the efforts taken by the Modi government. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it wasn't an easy task. The world was facing a challenge of COVID-19 pandemic. The choice was whether to save lives, livelihoods or the economy. Now in that situation, our first priority was to save lives. After the lockdown, we built our capacities, whether it involved manufacturing PPE kits, or through the COVID-19 vaccine. From net importer of PPE kits, we have become the largest exporter of PPE kits, as well as the COVID-19 vaccine to the world! At the same time, the steps taken during the COVID-19 was the Pradhanmantri Garib Kalyan Yojna, which involved providing food grains, pulses, to the poorest of the poor, to around 800 million people, for eight months free food grains, pulses have

## INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR

been provided by the government of India that is the Modi government. At the same time, thousands of crores of rupees have been transferred to the accounts of needy people who required it. At the same time to help the business houses, the small entrepreneurs, we have asked the banks to come forward and we have given more than three lakh crore rupees under the emergency credit line guarantee scheme, which has held the entrepreneurs. At the same time, we have refunded more than two lakh crore rupees from the income tax refund.

We have also reduced the TDS and TCS by 25%, which has actually helped the small entrepreneurs to have more capital in hand, to more cash flow in hand. You see the steps taken by the Modi government were the largest reforms which have taken place in India during the COVID-19 pandemic – opening up more sectors, coal mining, agriculture, defense production,

and the space sector. When others were thinking what will happen, we brought out more reforms and opened up more areas. Now the effect of that, as you could see in the GST collection in the last six months, the average collection is more than 1 Lakh crore rupees, which is the highest ever in the month of March and has grown to 1,30,000 Crore rupees. In the recent budget, we have again focused on the capital expenditure. There is an increase of 34.5% on the capital expenditure. That means it will see additional two and a half times more on the capital expenditure. It could see the investment coming at the same time, the government is focusing more on the healthcare. The budget has been increased by 137%. We have given more funds to the road, rail, and water infrastructure. At the same time we have come out with the production linked incentive schemes for the manufacturing units, so that more manufacturing takes

place and more export happens, and India should become the hub of exports. As a hub for manufacturing, India should become the world's largest skilled workforce. So our focus is on that. So on one hand we're looking at economic revival and most of the agencies globally and locally have predicted that India is going to grow in the financial year 2021 to the tune of 12%. It is highest among all the big economies in the world.

**Q. What are your views on the Hon'ble PM Modi ji's call for being "Vocal for Local" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat"? In which ways has your ministry been furthering these objectives?**

**A.** I think you have raised a very important question. 'Vocal for Local, self-reliant India, Atmanirbhar Bharat' – now everyone is talking about it. Why so? Because, India has the capacity to do anything. And we see a lot of entrepreneurs in India, and your magazine features them as well. AsiaOne has been featuring a lot of entrepreneurs who have done extremely well. You recognize their efforts, their achievements. And in that line, Prime Minister Modi also took a decision that we are not going to import the PPE kits and that we will manufacture these in a couple of months time from nowhere, we started manufacturing more than five lacs PPE kits every day, rather than looking at the world for PPE kits or for the COVID vaccine. We have built the COVID-19 vaccine in India, manufactured it and supplied it to more than 75 countries that clearly showcase our efforts and what India can do. And that is why in that area, we have taken all these steps 'vocal for local,' whether it is 'kadha', our other Ayurveda products or self-help groups involved in the handicrafts, handlooms or maybe the pharmacy of the world, India has been engaged everywhere. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have provided Hydroxychloroquine to more than a hundred countries and at the same time PPE kits, now we are providing COVID-19 vaccine. We are coming out with such plans to have the bulk drug parks here, mobile devices and diagnostic centers, manufacturing units here, and a lot of parks will come up in that area and the production linked incentive scheme to boost more manufacturing in India. And also we have cut down the corporate tax rate from 30% to 15% for the new manufacturing units. That clearly gives



*"IF INDIANS CAN GO ABROAD AND LEAD THE TOP-MOST COMPANIES IN THE WORLD AS CEOs & HOLD OTHER TOP-MOST POSITIONS, WHY CAN'T THEY DO IT IN INDIA? PM MODI GAVE A PLATFORM OF STARTUP INDIA, & WE HAVE SEEN YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS HAVE STARTED DOING SO WELL"*



an opportunity for companies to come in and invest in India and to make India grow in the manufacturing sector and take the advantage of lower corporate tax rate.

**Q. Sir, you are an extremely popular youth icon and many young entrepreneurs and investors besides others look up to you for inspiration. What is your message for them?**

**A.** I think they should look at the possibilities available in India and globally. You know, 10 years back, when I used to go to Israel or other countries, I used to see a lot of young entrepreneurs. They are into research development, come out with the startups and all. And I always used to think we have such bright brains in India, why is this brain drain happening? If Indians can go abroad and can lead the top-most companies in the world as CEOs and other top-most positions, why can't they do it in India? Prime Minister Modi gave a platform of StartUp India, and we have seen young entrepreneurs started doing so well. So many companies from being startups have become unicorns. This in the past three months, we have seen many coming to that level. And what I'm trying to say for the younger generation today is that they don't look up for the government jobs only. They want to become entrepreneurs.

Through self-employment they want to look at various options or the possibilities available locally and globally. And they're making a big mark in that. We are so proud of the young Indian generation from Paytm to Byjus, to Ola, to other companies who have done extremely well. And there are many coming up Flipkart, Snapdeal and all they have done extremely well. We have so many youngsters who are looking at these areas from nowhere. They are becoming the billionaires, from Zerodha to others. I can name many companies, but all I'm trying to say that in every sector, we are seeing a huge opportunity – from yoga to Ayurveda, from IT to other sectors. These are the soft powers of India. From meditation to religious activities, I think India can heal the world, not only through the medicines, through this meditation and other practices as well, from Ayurveda to others. And I see huge possibilities and potential in these areas.

**Q. AsiaOne attempts to bring to fore Indian leaders in particular and Asian leaders in general and show how they are helping not only the economy of the world but the society as well. So what is your message for AsiaOne Magazine in this regard?**

**A.** Through AsiaOne magazine, I would

like to say to the people that India, as Prime Minister Modi says, Vasudeva Kutumbkum, that is 'the world is one family.' During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have given medicines, we have given PPE kits. We have given the knowledge and we have given the COVID-19 vaccine as well. We have not restricted it to ourselves to treat only Indians. We have given a helping hand to our neighbors and to other countries of the world. And when we see other countries shying away to share the technology or technology transfer, I mean, they should look at India as an example where we are talking about self-reliant India, Atmanirbhar Bharat for the greater economy and for the more facilities in India, making India their manufacturing powerhouse, but at the same time, creating wealth, not only for India, but for the entire globe, for the future generations. And that is why India has given a leadership when others failed or shied away during the inter Solar Alliance or during the Paris agreement time. And again, India under the leadership of our Prime Minister Modi ji has shown the courage and rarely leadership, which the world admires today. And that is why Prime Minister Modi is one of the top rated leaders in the world today, and is among the finest leaders and most popular leaders today.

**ALIKO DANGOTE**



**DR. VINOD SEKHAR**



# PERSON OF THE YEAR 2020-21

**RAJIV KUMAR PAL**



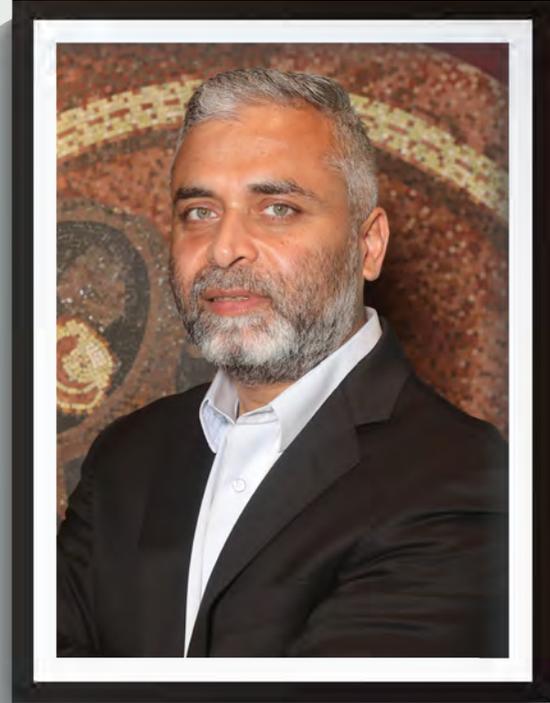
**DAMODAR R. KATTI**



**GRAHAM BRIGHT**



**RAVINDER PAL SINGH**

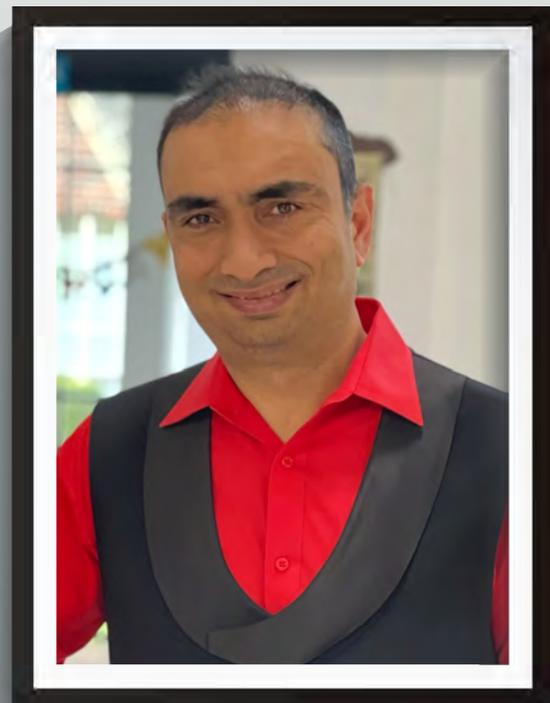


*To reach the pinnacle of success at the global level in any field is highly challenging, at the same time, it is also highly satisfying and glorious. Carefully scrutinizing their dreams, passions, odysseys, visions and the ways in which these global leaders have been motivating and inspiring others and facilitating their success sagas, AsiaOne Magazine carefully prepares a prestigious annual list of AsiaOne Person of the Year. By evaluating each leader on several parameters including growth, vision and compassion towards the society in general, and downtrodden communities and the less fortunate in particular, the final list comprises leaders who are a perfect blend of greatness and humility and certainly an inspiration for other human beings, and are most rightfully deserving of the prestigious title, AsiaOne Person of the Year 2020-21*

**KARTIK SHETHIA**



**PARVEZ JASANI**



ALIKO DANGOTE

# CREATING FUTURE FOR MILLIONS

*A Nigerian billionaire and the President and Chief Executive Officer of Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote is the richest African with an estimated wealth of \$13.5 billion. He intends to utilize his wealth to build one of the world's biggest oil refineries to meet the energy needs of his country and the neighbouring nations*

BY RICHASANG



**A**liko Dangote GCON (Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger) is a Nigerian billionaire and the founder of Lagos headquartered Dangote Group with the designation of President and Chief Executive. He is also a member of the board of the Corporate Council on Africa and the Steering Committee of the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative, the Clinton Global Initiative, the McKinsey Advisory Council, and the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum. Though he was born in a wealthy business family of Nigeria - his great grandfather, Alhaji Alhassan Dantata, was the richest African at the time of his death in 1955 - he was so interested in business that even in his primary school he bought cartons of sugar boxes and sold them to make money.

This gentleman's reputation precedes him, worldwide. The richest in Africa, he also surpassed in 2013 Saudi-Ethiopian billionaire Mohammed Hussein Al Amoudi by over \$2.6 billion to become the world's richest person of African descent.

## DECLARING DOMINANCE

Starting in 1978 as a trader of rice, sugar and cement with a loan of \$3000 by a family member, he soon ventured into full-scale manufacturing. Focusing on meeting the basic needs of the Nigerian population by providing local, value-added products and services, he expanded the Dangote Group by leaps and bounds.

Today, he heads the multi-trillion-naira industrial conglomerate that deals in cement manufacturing, sugar refining, salt refining, oil refinery, polysacks, beverages, flour, pasta, seasoning, real estate, telecommunication, steel and fertilizers with a presence in 18 African countries and employing more than 30000 people. In the late 1990s, Dangote forayed into manufacturing consumer goods such as sugar refining and flour milling and then in cement manufacturing. One of his subsidiary companies is listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange whose market capitalization is

accounts for almost 20 percent of the total capitalization of the stock exchange. The visionary leader also signed a contract for the installation of a large underwater offshore pipeline with CNOOC Group.

### **CONCLUSIVE CONVINCING**

Dangote takes a no neither easily, nor seriously. In 1990s, he got a yes from the Central Bank of Nigeria to be allowed to manage at cheaper rates their fleet of staff buses through his transport company. In July 2012, he approached the Nigerian Ports Authority and received the rights of an abandoned piece of land on lease to build facilities for his flour company. These approvals are not easy to get, but Dangote is capable of convincing others decisively.

### **LEADER OF PEOPLE**

He is passionate about doing everything for the people of Nigeria. He encourages them to invest within the country and keep their profits or rewards with themselves. Dangote's telecommunications project resulted in building 14,000 kilometers of fibre optic cables to supply in entire Nigeria. For this, he was honored as the leading provider of employment in Nigerian construction industry in 2009.

Acknowledging his extensive efforts towards manufacturing and employment in Nigeria, in 2010, President Goodluck Jonathan appointed him as the Chairman, National Job Creation Committee to assist the government in creating employment opportunities for Nigerians.

As a result of his global impressive contributions, recently in June 2021, he has been honoured with Cameroon's top civilian award - the Commander of the National Order of Valour.

In 2015, he was also among "50 Most Influential Individuals in the World" list by Bloomberg Markets and also won 'the Guardian Man of the Year 2015' award. Additionally, he is the Chairman, National Partnership Committee of Government and Private Sector on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET); Member, Honorary International Investor Council (HIIC); a Malaria Ambassador; and Founding Board Member and Patron, Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria (PHN), thus contributing towards various aspects such as skill development, good governance and reengineering of the economy, to name a few.



**“DANGOTE IS NOT ONLY A FOREMOST INDUSTRIALIST IN AFRICA, HE IS EQUALLY LOVED & RESPECTED ABROAD. HE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT DOING EVERYTHING FOR THE PEOPLE OF NIGERIA. HE ENCOURAGES THEM TO INVEST WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND KEEP THEIR PROFITS OR REWARDS WITH THEMSELVES”**

### **INTERNATIONAL LOVE**

In 2013, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, along with six other eminent Nigerians, was conferred Honorary Citizenship of Arkansas State by Governor Mike Beebe, who also declared May 30 every year as Nigeria Day in the US. Dangote is not only a foremost industrialist in Africa, he is equally loved and respected abroad. He is a member of several national and foreign organizations through which he contributes to the growth and development of people of several countries.

He has been quite active in philanthropic activities including the United Nations' World Food Programme, Clinton Global Initiative, World Economic Forum, United Nations Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Corporate Council on Africa, and many others thus contributing towards global education and eradication of polio. Dangote entrusted a \$3.3 million complex to Bayero University Business School. He also donated 150 fully kitted operational cars to the

Nigeria Police Force and 200 housing units to Boko Haram victims - mostly women and children. He was also associated with the board of directors of the Clinton Health Access Initiative. In addition to this, he had contributed N50 million (US\$ 500,000) to the National Mosque under the aegis of "Friends of Obasanjo and Atiku" and N200 million to the Presidential Library. In 2014, Dangote had donated N150 million for stopping the spread of Ebola virus.

Moreover, to speed-up the work in health, education, economic empowerment and disaster relief sectors, Dangote made an initial offering of \$1.25 billion to the Dangote Foundation which now has become the largest private Foundation in sub Saharan Africa. On behalf of his foundation, he also supports stand-alone projects which have potential for significant social impact and works with state and national governments and national and domestic charities. Recently in 2020, he donated N200 million towards the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

*DR. VINOD SEKHAR*

# RADIATING MULTIPLE HUES OF BRILLIANCE

*An entrepreneur, social capitalist, green tech advocate and functional dreamer all rolled into one, Datuk Dr. Vinod Sekhar is a multifaceted personality who has been successfully spearheading The Petra Group as the President & Group Chief Executive and has been associated with numerous socially-responsible initiatives*

BY **RICHA SANG**



**A**n achiever through and through, Datuk (Dr) Vinod has many firsts to his credit. He was one of the first Malaysians to venture into the former Soviet Union after its dissolution and was a part of the privatization of its second largest petrochemical plant. He was also the first Southeast Asian to own both Formula 2000 and Formula 3 Championship motorsport teams, and he founded Malaysia's first sports car company. He started East Asia's largest fruit and vegetable farm in Malaysia, 3 years before the PM called for the development of commercial vegetable farms.

## **AN ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER**

Starting his career at a nascent age while he was still in college, Datuk Vinod established Vincent Siefer Clothing Co. and formed the Sitavani Foundation, which works dedicatedly for the education of children and conducts child development programs. In 1990, he co-founded the STI Group and was responsible for some groundbreaking businesses such as the world's smallest optic engine, Southeast Asia's first commercial Internet company, and a variety of other technological innovations. The multimedia arm of the group was behind the first Malaysian joint venture to produce a movie at Disney MGM Studios in Orlando, Florida (Tarzan: The Epic Adventures). After 1997, STI merged with other international interests and The Petra Group was created. Petra is a technology conglomerate responsible for several global technology developments related to Elastomer recycling (Green Rubber), deproteinization, HIV treatment programs, innovative financial software, biophotonics and biofuels.

Talking about his career high point, he elaborates, "There are two. The first being the innovations and technologies we have introduced over the last three decades and what they have achieved. I started the first Southeast Asia commercial internet company in 1993. At that time, there were only 700 internet users in Malaysia. No one really understood what the internet was. But now, the internet is everything."

He adds, "Another business I'm very proud

of is Green Rubber (GR). The revolutionary DeLink technology was invented by my late father, Tan Sri Dr B.C. Sekhar and his friend, Dr Vitaly Kormer, one of Russia's leading scientists. I took what they started and worked on a commercial version and kept developing it. It took me 15 years and over US\$50 million (RM216.5 million) to get it right. We are now on DeLink 4.0, and ready to take on the world."

### A SOCIAL CAPITALIST

Datuk Vinod is a great advocate of 'Social Capitalism' which rests on the premise that business interests and societal concerns must work hand in hand. He has been vocal for "simple principles of a civilized society" where all businessmen must involve themselves in their own society's positive development. As he puts it, "I have been called a 'Social Capitalist' by the late Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, and I humbly accept the moniker as I truly believe that social capitalism is the only true form of capitalism. The spirit of social capitalism (for-profit enterprise in which wealth creation and social good are motivators) is how I lead and do business." He further adds, "I put just as much emphasis on the way I do business as I do on the outcomes of my entrepreneurial endeavours. All the companies under PETRA Group in one way or another contribute towards wealth creation and bettering lives. Everyone in the PETRA team, from my senior executives to our support staff, understand and believe in the idea of doing it right by doing something good. That starts with me ensuring my employees and their families are well taken care of, and then empowering the communities around us." He considered his father as a guiding light and has been deeply inspired by his ideals and values. As he puts it, "The biggest inspiration of my life is my father, Tan Sri B.C. Sekhar (1929-2006). From leading an organisation that held sway over tens of billions of dollars of income for Malaysia, he retired as a normal pensioner. No big directorships, no big cash hoard in banks, no private businesses. What he felt more important than anything was the love of his family, the respect of his peers & his integrity."

### MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT

Always inclined towards giving back to society, Datuk Vinod is of the view that "Our companies must create products or deliver services that enrich communities by creating



Dr. Vinod Sekhar with his family; wife Datin Dr. Winy Sekhar and daughters Petra and Tara - the pillars of strength in his life.

**"I HAVE BEEN CALLED A 'SOCIAL CAPITALIST' BY THE LATE CUBAN LEADER, FIDEL CASTRO, AND I HUMBLY ACCEPT THE MONIKER AS I TRULY BELIEVE THAT SOCIAL CAPITALISM IS THE ONLY TRUE FORM OF CAPITALISM. THE SPIRIT OF SOCIAL CAPITALISM IS HOW I LEAD AND DO BUSINESS"**

wealth. It may be in the form of creating jobs and providing entrepreneurial opportunities, or through education, healthcare & economic empowerment." Throwing light upon his various socially beneficial initiatives, he says, "The Sekhar Foundation has impacted the lives of over 12,000 children globally. We have built and funded schools and orphanages in Malaysia, India, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In Armenia, Colombia, we were involved in rebuilding the city after a devastating landslide, and built an orphanage, the Petra-Valentina House. I am also the Chairman of the Pelita Harapan for terminally ill children, Co-Chairman of the Innocent Child Appeal Fund Board for abused children, and the Chairman of the Sitavani Foundation." He adds, "The Vinod Sekhar Foundation contributed PPE and test kits for medical front liners, while the food and medical aid were for the low income group during the pandemic. We have also funded a special Malindo Air charter flight to bring home 40 Malaysians who were stranded in

Kerala, India, during Malaysia's Movement Control Order (MCO)."

### AWARDS GALORE

The World Economic Forum named him as one of its 40 "New Asian Leaders" (NAL). For his outstanding contribution to the world of business, Grant Thornton named him the Malaysian Corporate Leader of the Year in August 2008. In 2008, he received the prestigious Global Green Award from Global Green USA for Green Rubber. He was the youngest, only Asian, & the third ever non-American, after President Mikhail Gorbachev & Giorgio Armani, to receive the award. He has received several other awards such as Global Indian Award presented by the Minister for Overseas Indians in Delhi, Global Indian Origin Magazine's 50 Most Influential Business Leaders of Indian Origin in the world, the Outstanding Global Entrepreneur by the SME Association, & The Societe Award from the Asia Pacific Brand Foundation, to name a few.

**GRAHAM BRIGHT**

# BANKING ON SUCCESS & COMMITMENT

*Graham Bright, Head - Compliance & Operations at Euro Exim Bank (EEB) Ltd. is a man of dreams & convictions. He possesses over 35 years of core domain experience in banking & finance. His strategic brilliance, foresight, & tremendous abilities have earned him a place among the banking industry's top magnates*

**BY MONALISA BISWAS**



**G**raham has a BA (Hons) in Business Studies and is a UK Justice of the Peace (JP) in the Magistrates Court, where he presides over Criminal and Proceeds of Crime trials as well as Crown Court appeals. Over the years, the influential leader has been raising the bar of excellence and innovation in the banking industry. His analytical and strategic mindset and his in-depth industry expertise are his greatest assets. Graham has served in several leadership roles over the last three and a half decades. His role involves consultancy, partner/channel management, and collaborating with industry utilities, regulators, and Central Banks.

## **A LEADER EXTRAORDINAIRE**

Graham embodies the persona of an ambitious individual whose unwavering efforts and high aspirations have propelled EEB to new heights of achievements. Under his quintessential leadership, the bank has witnessed record-breaking growth. Headquartered in St. Lucia (West Indies), EEB, has a representative office in London that deals exclusively with registered corporates and clients in active markets such as the UAE, China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Africa. The dynamic leader has effectively established a robust network of extremely competent agents, affiliates, and associates in key regions who support the import and export businesses all over the world. Graham is currently concentrating on expanding his business by setting up offices in Singapore, Dubai, and Chennai (India) to capitalize on the burgeoning trade relations between the Middle East and the Far East.

When asked about his career highpoint, the poised leader says, “It is difficult to pinpoint a specific high point as every turning point in my career has been a step closer to the direction of the next pivotal moment.” He adds, “If I had to pick one such high point, it would be my stint at the EEB, as the organization has provided me with multiple shining moments over the last six years — each unique and meaningful in its

own way.”

Graham believes that effective leadership calls for good communication skills, whether it’s giving a presentation in front of a group, developing and writing a corporate strategy, or engaging with staff and clients. “I strive to be a good listener and believe in listening with intent while engaging with my colleagues and clients,” says the leader. For him, leadership requires the ability to listen to those who work with and for you.

Like a true leader, he recognizes the importance of resilience even in the face of disasters. “From hurricanes and floods that damaged our offices in the Caribbean and India to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have always been more agile, focused, and flexible than before, and used our expertise efficiently,” says the bold leader. “In any decision-making process, I always hope for the best and plan for the worst, backed up by critical data, creative thinking, and my experienced teams.”

#### **CULTURE-DRIVEN GOVERNANCE**

Graham lives by the rule of doing the right thing at the right time. The CEO works hard to uphold corporate practices that serve consumers fairly and politely. “With so many clients around the world, we deal with a variety of nationalities, business philosophies, and regulatory requirements, many of which are starkly different. We are conscious of both individual and national obligations, and we strive to not only meet but also exceed customer expectations,” says the proactive chief.

Graham, who is always upbeat and optimistic, also goes to great lengths to keep his staff motivated. The honest leader strives to create a work culture that has high standards of governance. “Our teams are continually updated, constantly reminded of rules, regulations, international, national, and local consequences of health issues, as well as trade impacts,” says Graham. According to him, such ethical practices enable him and his team to remain alert in the fight against fraud, double billing, scams, and money laundering.

#### **VISION FOR GROWTH**

Owing to his outstanding vision, EEB has achieved many feats. On being asked about his long-term plans, he says that he aspires to build the largest and the most competent sales team in the industry and become the world’s preeminent trade finance issuers



**“IF I HAD TO PICK ONE CAREER HIGH POINT, IT WOULD BE MY STINT AT THE EEB, AS THE ORGANIZATION HAS PROVIDED ME WITH MULTIPLE SHINING MOMENTS OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS — EACH UNIQUE AND MEANINGFUL IN ITS OWN WAY”**

universally. To that end, the bank has already begun recruiting in India, with other key locations to follow. Under his guidance, EEB is also gearing itself to take advantage of new markets and locations where large banks are withdrawing their services.

On being asked about the importance of sustainability in business, the leader says, “The term ‘sustainability’ to us is about profits, the environment, and people and ensuring that today’s well-maintained resources do not jeopardize the needs of the future generations.” As a proponent of sustainability, the ecologically conscious leader is working with buyers in emerging countries that are transitioning from agricultural to industrial economies, with an emphasis on emissions reduction and low energy use, as well as free and fair trade to enable global competition.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE**

Graham’s vigorous efforts have been duly recognized and acknowledged in the form

of the awards and accolades bestowed on him as well as EEB. In 2020, the accomplished leader was honored by the prestigious Business Worldwide Magazine (BWM) Awards program for his client-centric revolutionary approach to global trade finance. In 2019, he was awarded the “Most Innovative Executive in the Trade Finance Industry” at the BWM 2019 Global Corporate Excellence Awards. He was also named the winner of the highly prestigious CFI Co’s Best Global Trade Services Bank award in 2018 and 2019.

Recognized as the “Most innovative executive in Trade Finance,” he regularly contributes to multiple trade journals. His experience and trustworthiness are demonstrated by the insights he offers in his thought leadership pieces. He is also a keynote speaker at international trade industry conferences. What’s more, the versatile leader has also appeared as a supporting actor in amateur theatre, television, and cinema.

*RAVINDER PAL SINGH*

# HAILING NEW PARADIGMS IN TECH FOR A BETTER WORLD

*An Award winning Technologist, a Rescue Pilot and a Monk Investor; there are numerous ways to delineate the multitasking leader Ravinder Pal Singh, who is above all a humanist who passionately undertakes varied social welfare initiatives and is dedicated to nurturing the youth for building a better world*

**BY RICHA SANG**



**R**avinder or Ravi, as he is fondly called, is a C-level Leader and Award winning Technologist with over 2 decades of global assignments in 5 continents with his base in the USA, Europe and Asia. His achievements in the professional sphere diverge into different spheres; ranging from Airlines, Aviation MROs, Aerospace organizations, Management consulting practices, award winning E-commerce ventures and brands, Robotics and AI-driven factories in the area of Forest Products, Retail, Semiconductor manufacturing, Aluminum smelting and Sports Marketing. Ravi has built trillion dollar information networks for governments and his technology frameworks have transformed domains ranging from microfinance to the largest postal services in the world.

A Harvard alumnus, Ravi is a celebrity Innovator with several patents, and is a Non-Executive Advisor to the board to several enterprises where incubation & differentiation is core necessity and challenge. He brings in technology sanity, brutal honesty and no-nonsense management thinking to facilitate rapid profitable business growth and transformation via digitization. He sits on the advisory council of many global research firms where he contributes in predicting practical future automation use cases and respective technologies.

## **INNOVATING EXCELLENCE**

An inventor par excellence, Ravi has recently created 4 types of respiratory systems ranging from Ventilators to Oxygen Concentrators; 7 types of affordable Robots for healthcare, hospitality, aviation, automotive and citizen services; and a multipurpose Drone for security & civil services. In the year 2020, he created algorithms and products for direct democracy, future airports, business value of customer emotions, and others based on Blockchain, IoT and Artificial Intelligence. He has invented several systems ranging from cross-compilers to encoders to machines to modern software in diverse domains namely Aviation, ITeS, Manufacturing (Forest products, Semiconductor, Automobile),

Mining, Public Services (Postal, Citizen, Finance), Retail, Sports & Fitness and Technology.

### INCUBATING STARTUPS

Quite recently, Ravi has incubated 2 startups, 1 global institution and has helped in maturing 3 startups to profitability. He actively contributes through advisory, & co-creation services, Hackathons and innovation funding to create mass-entrepreneurship at grassroots across rural, towns and cities in India, USA, Singapore, Scotland, Mexico and Africa. As an angel investor, he has mentored and managed more than 60 startups over the last decade.

### A LEADER IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD

True leaders motivate and inspire others to do the right thing by charting a visionary course and, in turn, create something new out of the familiar. Ravi is one such leader who believes that leadership is the ability to map out the best route to success and is always dynamic, inspiring and designed to excite others into action. Describing himself as a leader and sharing some of the unique aspects about his leadership style, he elaborates, "I have always been associated with an organization or institution where incubation or change is the core necessity and challenge. This has enhanced my natural ability to apply art and science to solve today's problems and build a sustainable foundation for tomorrow. Hence, my professional persona is focused on creation, influencing my social style, management philosophy and leadership virtues."

He further adds, "Change has been constant in my professional life. My management philosophy has evolved over the years and leadership style as per the situational practicality and environmental context of time and space. But if it has to be classified into conventional buckets, I would say that my management philosophy has been in the range of autocratic to democratic, but always leading and never controlling. There are nine commonly defined leadership styles, mine oscillates and varies from transformational to servant and laissez-faire to democratic."

Ravi takes failure in his stride and believes that "Failure is critical to Creative Leadership." He is of the view that "Depiction of Future is essential for Meaningful Leadership" and vehemently believes that



**"OVERALL AS AN INVENTOR AND A RESCUE PILOT, LIFE HAS PROVIDED ME WITH AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE LIFE AND DEATH BOTH FROM CLOSE QUARTERS; HENCE WISDOM TO FOCUS ON GOOD KARMA IS CENTRAL TO MY EXISTENCE"**

"Compassion and Courage are mandatory to bring change." He aptly concludes, "Overall as an inventor and a rescue pilot, life has provided me with ample opportunities to see life and death both from close quarters; hence wisdom to focus on good Karma is central to my existence."

### DEDICATED TO SERVING HUMANITY

As a leader who believes in leading from the front, Ravi feels that "An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching." He rightly asserts, "Loud speech, profusion of words, and possessing skillfulness in expounding scriptures are merely for the enjoyment of the learned. They do not lead to liberation. Among the contributory factors of liberation, devotion stands supreme, and it is the search for one's own true nature that is meant by devotion."

In his bid to connect with his true self, Ravi has been inventing products and services to serve humanity, save lives and enhance the civilization. As a rescue pilot,

he has saved lives across the globe. He has served various international agencies by flying several hundred hours as emergency response expeditions ranging from COVID to floods to earthquakes.

Owing to his ground zero experience as a frontline leader, he has some useful tips for the industry. He stresses, "COVID lockdown has exposed several flaws especially great versus good i.e. great government, great domains, great companies, etc. versus the good. Good is not good enough. Everyone needs to learn. Irrespective of the status of the lockdown, the speed of change will continue. Companies will have to use this momentum and fully embrace agile strategy and the resultant operating shift."

In this regard, he vehemently asserts that companies must "learn fast and reflect continuously." Alluding to the changed business scenario in the post COVID-19 world, he strongly feels that "leveraging technology is the key to smooth sailing through the troubled waters."

RAJIV KUMAR PAL

# TURNING ADVERSITIES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

*Rajiv Kumar Pal, the CEO of Qatar-based S'hail Shipping and Maritime Services, exudes confidence and zeal for attaining success in every endeavor he undertakes. The ambitious leader has never rested on his laurels. He continues to push boundaries and forge ahead to reach the pinnacle of success*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



**R**ajiv started his career in the year 1992 as a graduate engineer trainee at Essar Shipping Limited in Mumbai (Maharashtra), India. Since then, he has remained in the shipping and maritime industry, studying, implementing, and pioneering new ways for this centuries-old industry to adapt to modern-day trends.

One of the most astonishing characteristics of Rajiv is his zeal to make S'hail Shipping and Maritime Services outshine everyone in the competition. Within four years of its inception in December 2016, the company had grown to become Qatar's largest owner of Dry Bulk Ships, with operations on six continents. From being the largest dry bulk ship-owner in Qatar, the company is on track to become the largest in the Middle East Region within the next few years owing to his relentless efforts.

He has a track record of enhancing organizational efficiency while growing sales and profit, earning him a reputation as one of the industry's most renowned personalities. On being asked about his career highpoint, the elated leader says, "In 2016, Mr. Mohammed Khalifa Al-Sada, a veteran of Qatar's maritime industry and the current Chairman of S'hail Shipping and Maritime Services, asked me to take on the task of establishing a non-oil and gas company in Qatar for sea transportation of dry bulk commodities. It's been a fascinating journey for me since then."

Rajiv considers his father as his mentor, guiding light, and pillar of strength. For him, his father's guidance has been the source of his motivation to become a successful entrepreneur. "His best advice that has remained with me in my entrepreneurial journey is to march ahead with perseverance, productivity, and passion," says the leader.

## A RISK-TAKER

For Rajiv, entrepreneurship is all about taking risks because opportunities and risks are inextricably intertwined. Therefore, the optimistic leader consistently embraces



new opportunities every day, along with the associated risks. He thinks that a company's rewards are determined by the risks it takes. Therefore, as a leader, he takes, manages, and turns risks into rewards for the stakeholders.

For instance when S'hail Shipping and Maritime Services was established in December 2016, he was tasked to buy Ships for sea transportation of aggregates (stones used in the construction industry) from UAE to Qatar. With the abrupt economic embargo implemented by the UAE on Qatar in June 2017, that goal became a mission impossible in the next 6 months.

Since he was adamant about making the best of the situation, he decided to move his ships into international seas for dry bulk commodities. The success that followed demonstrated the leader's organizational know-how, and determination to succeed. Presently, as Qatar's largest dry bulk ship-owner, the company is naturally one of the top contributors to Qatar's 2030 vision of promoting the non-oil and gas service industry.

The bold leader says, "Identifying a worthwhile risk and then having the fortitude to take it is the unforeseen edge for successful entrepreneurship." He believes that every move an entrepreneur makes is intimidating since nothing guarantees 100% success, no matter how brilliant your idea is. "You must take a leap of faith frequently and from higher altitudes to create and maintain a thriving business," he adds.

### **UNIQUE LEADERSHIP STYLE**

Rajiv not only preaches but also follows through on his words. His management approach is direct and to the point. His straightforward approach appears to be paying off for the company, which has experienced massive growth in the recent years. When asked about his leadership style, he says, he strives to drive constant due diligence and optimize the value chain to deliver worthwhile results for all parties involved.

### **SERVING THE SOCIETY**

CSR, for Rajiv, is a norm rather than a duty. He says, "We are well integrated into our local and global societies for creating a meaningful and positive impact in various aspects." The generous leader is involved in a variety of CSR efforts, including donating money to deserving local people



**"IDENTIFYING A WORTHWHILE RISK AND THEN HAVING THE FORTITUDE TO TAKE IT IS THE UNFORESEEN EDGE FOR SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURSHIP. YOU MUST TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH FREQUENTLY AND FROM HIGHER ALTITUDES TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A THRIVING BUSINESS"**

in need, and investing in the maintenance and enhancement of global marine water quality. He also actively participates in developing decarbonization solutions.

He believes in making a significant difference in people's lives in several ways. He says, "One of our major aims is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We take part in Rightship's GHG rating, which uses one of two sources to determine a ship's design efficiency: the Existing Vessel Design Index (EVDI) or the Efficiency Design Index (EDI).

He ensures that the company maintains the highest possible rating for the existing vessel index. He also strives to improve the rating by adding cutting-edge new propulsion technologies to improve the environment, thereby assisting in the reduction of large losses caused by poor weather as a result of environmental degradation. During the COVID-19 outbreak, the leader ensured that preventive measures were put in place as soon as possible so that none of its 185

seafarers become COVID-19 positive. The leader asserts, "We maintained a policy of reaching out to and assisting any of the family members of our seafarers who had been left behind onshore, including, if necessary, repatriating the seafarer whose presence was requested by their family back home. He adds, "This method has aided in keeping our seafarers' morale up, even as they work in seas far away from their homes."

### **WELL-EARNED PRESTIGE**

Rajiv has been bestowed with honors and recognitions for his groundbreaking achievements. The most valuable endorsement of the organization's achievements and growth capabilities came from Qatar Development Bank, which allocated QAR 70 million from its fund to Rajiv's leadership at S'hail Shipping and Maritime Services to acquire ships to expand its business for the development of Qatar's economy.

**DAMODAR R. KATTI**

# DESIGNING A BETTER WORLD WITH UNCEASING PASSION

*The Founder and Managing Director of Design Group Engineering Consultants LLC, Mr. Damodar R Katti is an exceptional leader who believes in leading from the front. A talented young man, he looks at things differently and passionately with a bent of mind to do good for society and the world at large*

**BY RICHA SANG**



**A**n accomplished professional with extensive experience in specialised architectural and engineering services, including BIM (Building Information Modelling) as well as project & construction management, he has successfully completed numerous Indian and international projects. He appreciates the fact that India has acquired a position of prominence in the post Covid-19 world under the quintessential leadership of PM Modi. He reposes faith in the immense potential of the country and its people and is looking forward to not only expanding India operations but also making it an Engineering Consultancy Back-office of the world by attracting, recruiting, retaining and utilising millennial talent from the industry. He also intends to collaborate with the big players in India through mergers / acquisitions / Joint Ventures / Consortium and bid for mega projects not only in India but worldwide.

## **BUILDING THE BRAND**

It is a widely acknowledged fact that determination is the key to successful leadership. Without determination, nothing comes to fruition. Mr. Damodar is one such determined leader who believes in carving his own path to success. As he puts it, "There was always fire in the belly to set up a business of my own. Early in my career, I learnt the skills to handle the 3Cs (major players in any construction industry) Client, Consultant & Contractors. Coming to Oman in 2005, I left my job in 2010 and started off with my own firm – Design Group Engineering Consultants LLC (DGE) in Muscat, Oman with two employees. Within 10 years the company has offices in Oman, UAE, Uganda & India with over 150 employees."

Owing to his exemplary leadership, "Several stalled projects in Education & Hospitality sectors were re-engineered and delivered by DGE in Oman." He adds, "The recent financial situation in the Middle East did not deter us but encouraged us to diversify into Roads & Highway design services. Converting a challenge into an opportunity has always been my forte."

He takes pride in the fact that “Today DGEC is one of the fastest growing engineering consulting firms in the region with an unparalleled reputation for professionalism. Strategic alliances with several leading consultants worldwide enable us to offer specialized Architectural and Engineering services, including BIM (Building Information Modelling), and Project Management Consultancy Services. We also offer solutions in various sectors and on variety of projects, including iconic buildings, healthcare and educational buildings. DGEC is also active in logistics warehousing, industrial, roads and infrastructures, multi-level car parking and project management.”

### **MOTIVATING EMPLOYEES**

A true leader knows how to bring out the best in others. He is an exemplary leader who motivates his team to put their best foot forward every time. He feels “Leadership qualities may be inborn to some extent. But these can be developed by accepting challenges & responsibilities.” Sharing his leadership mantra, he says, “I encourage my team to take responsibilities and motivate them to take the lead. Although, I take the responsibility initially, I hand over the baton to others to lead and work towards achieving the collective goals and progress.”

He further elaborates, “At DGEC – if someone has the capabilities, credentials, and the right attitude, we give them the right environment, encouragement, mentoring, support to grow professionally, and of course the right emoluments. There’s hardly anything worse for company morale than leaders who practice the ‘Do as I say, not as I do’ philosophy. When this happens, there is loss of enthusiasm and goodwill among the staff. It’s like watching the air go out of a balloon – and cynicism and disappointment usually take its place. Being in a leadership position, my team look up to me for inspiration. That’s part of what being a leader is. And a big part of my responsibility is to lead them with my own actions. Employees are given deadlines but are free to decide their own priorities. Rarely, if ever, I have seen a project milestone getting delayed.”

### **MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE**

According to Mr. Damodar, “Corporate Social Responsibility, or CSR, is an important factor in establishing company’s public image and reputation and is a great



**“I ENCOURAGE MY TEAM TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITIES AND MOTIVATE THEM TO TAKE THE LEAD. ALTHOUGH, I TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY INITIALLY, I HAND OVER THE BATON TO OTHERS TO LEAD AND WORK TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE COLLECTIVE GOALS AND PROGRESS”**

way to give back to society.”

Sharing his philanthropic vision, he elaborates, “We believe in our potential to make an impact on society; we also have the ability to bring ideas to life that are beneficial for everyone. We understand our social responsibility towards our clients and the projects we handle. We have a responsibility to the communities our work touches – from the way a building looks to the social impact it makes. Environmentally, we have an enormous role to play as guardians of the future, because the things we build today will have a lasting impact tomorrow.”

### **GAINING GLORY**

For his outstanding contribution to business and society, Mr. Damodar was recognised as CEO of the Year at Dossier Construction Infrastructure Awards & Summit, Muscat in December 2020. He was recognised as one of the 100 Most Influential CEOs in Oman by Oman Economic Review Magazine in August 2019. Owing to his dedicated efforts,

DGEC was awarded the Best Engineering Consultant at Dossier Construction Infrastructure Awards & Summit, Muscat for 2 consecutive years – 2019 and 2020. DGEC was awarded the Brand Leadership Awards – Oman by CMO Asia in July 2019. The event was endorsed by World Sustainability, World CSR and World Federation of Marketing. DGEC was also awarded “Excellence in Engineering Services” at the International Business Awards 2019, Dubai, UAE by Observer Dawn in September 2019.

“I humbly dedicate my achievements to my parents and family who have always been a source of inspiration and unflinching support. I am grateful to my teachers and the Almighty without whose blessings this would not have been possible. My thanks also goes to all the thousand others who are a part of what I do – the clients, consultants, suppliers, end-users, media and of course my colleagues without whose vision, dedication and efforts par excellence, this success would not have been possible,” he concludes.

KARTIK SHETHIA

# WEAVING A SUCCESS SAGA WITH PASSION & PANACHE

*By the virtue of his unceasing optimism and focused enthusiasm for innovation, Kartik Shethia has been leading by example and swiftly climbing up the success ladder as the Vice President for APMEA region at Herman Miller – one of the leading manufacturers of office furniture and furniture systems in the world*

BY RICHA SANG



A postgraduate in Business Management from XLRI Jamshedpur and in Marketing from Symbiosis, Kartik is a software programmer by qualification. He is a thorough professional who believes in continually upgrading his knowledge and skills and has recently attended a few executive courses with INSEAD at their Singapore and Fontainebleau, France campuses. In July 2019 Kartik completed his certification in Digital Business strategy from MIT Sloan School of Management.

Having started his journey with Herman Miller as the Country Manager for India in 2009, Kartik has contributed immensely to its success and growth. In fact he has grown with the organization. He quickly went on to become the Director of the company followed by Strategic Business lead to manage China and Hong Kong and within a year was entrusted with the opportunity of leading the Contract business for APAC. In 2015, he moved to Hong Kong for this new role and in 2016 was promoted as Vice President for APAC region. In early 2020, he was given the responsibility of HM Internal Business Unit in India and during COVID-19 period Middle East and Africa were added to his existing region, resulting in an extended region called APMEA.

He has played a significant role in expanding the Online and Retail business for the organization from Japan and China to rest of the region. He has been largely responsible for creating the Korean entity and growing the business at a CAGR of 41% in 4 years.

Kartik is full of gratitude for Herman Miller, which gave him ample opportunities to grow and evolve as a leader. When asked about his career high point, he delineates, "It is difficult to contextualize high point in one's career, as every high point is a step in the direction of the next high point. So, if I were to call out one such high point, it would be joining this wonderful organization Herman Miller because this job has given me several such high points in the last eleven years – each special and significant in their

own way.”

### AN EXEMPLARY LEADER

An autonomous leader, Kartik emphasizes upon individualism, independence and autonomy. He intends to make people feel strong, capable and committed so that they perform to the best of their capabilities. He asserts, “I am someone who has believed in giving autonomy to my people and the key to put that trust in the people is to hire well. 90% of your job is done if you recruit the right person for the job and then granting autonomy is easy. The most important thing while hiring is not to hire someone who is like you, because if you clone yourself you are not going to get freshness of ideas and new routes to meet your business goals.”

Kartik very well understands the significance of harbouring trust among his teammates. He rightly emphasizes, “Ours is a matrix organization, a model which has worked very well for us. The matrix leads typically have been with the organization for over 10 years and so the familiarity, understanding and mutual respect between the leads has helped in fostering an environment of trust leading to everyone, including the team members of each matrix organization, working in a cohesive manner towards a common goal. And the very people centric nature of the organization takes out the sense of insecurity amongst the employees allowing them to focus on the given task. (We have in the past been rated as the top 100 companies to work for by Fortune).”

### TURNING ADVERSITY INTO OPPORTUNITY

An enthusiastic and optimistic leader, Kartik envisions COVID-19 as an opportunity to explore and look beyond the current offerings of the firm so as to seek fresh avenues to diversify and expand. Talking about his vision for the future growth of the organization, he elaborates, “In the current scenario, my short term goal will certainly be to keep our flock together and to keep them motivated, to think about what new product offerings and solutions we will need to be ready with for this new and altered world and to keep the engagement going with influencers in the market. Mid to longer term would be to tap the opportunities that we have generated with these new solutions and engagements.”

Talking about some of the measures he



**“I AM SOMEONE WHO HAS BELIEVED IN GIVING AUTONOMY TO MY PEOPLE AND THE KEY TO PUT THAT TRUST IN THE PEOPLE IS TO HIRE WELL. 90% OF YOUR JOB IS DONE IF YOU RECRUIT THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB AND THEN GRANTING AUTONOMY IS EASY”**

had undertaken to cope with the challenges faced in the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation, he says, “First and foremost was to ensure the safety of our colleagues. Protocols were set to sanitize the offices at regular intervals. Strict travel protocols have been put in and stay in place even today with very few exceptions. These protocols have been appreciated by our employees and they feel safe and proud to work with a company that puts the interest of the employee first.”

He adds, “We took up several initiatives where we offered counselling to our employees to help them in dealing with these tough times as they are first on our list to give back to the society.”

“Several community activities were undertaken and continue to be undertaken where we are getting food or other necessities delivered to people most affected by this pandemic. In addition, Work From Home initiatives taken up by our corporate customers were supported by us by extending deep discounts to their employees

so as to enable them to equip their homes with ergonomic high quality furniture to ensure that their body is supported well when working from home,” he says.

### BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

He truly understands the significance of CSR and enthusiastically participates in giving back to society. As he puts it, “In 1953 our founder D. J. De Pree made a statement that ‘We will be good stewards of the Environment,’ – at a time when there was no apparent environmental threat or for that matter no carbon credits or hole in ozone, but he had that vision for the earth. This direction is ingrained in every Herman Miller employee & pursued at all levels and all products have been designed keeping in mind the environmental impact. Beyond that, Herman Miller Cares – our division which is very active in giving back to the society engages with all our locations across the world to make sure that we are contributing more than our share to the society.”

*PARVEZ JASANI*

# TURNING ADVERSITY INTO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH

*An industry leader with over 15 years of experiences in IT and Telecom industry, Parvez Jasani is the man behind the success story of CELLPAY, a company which connects 15 domestic carriers and 160 countries with 600 mobile carriers and is a one-stop shop for all digital payments*

**BY RICHA SANG**



It is a well known fact that over the last few years, the mobile phone industry has witnessed a huge spike in demand due to smart phones. Today, consumers are more inclined towards smart phones. This transformation occurred with the change in the lifestyles and requirements of the consumers. The fast paced life demanded remote calling service. Alongside, there was a rise of the telecom industry supporting the need for the smart phone market. Several telecom operators also entered the market with their unique range of services and offerings. However, the payment mode or the payment method was not particularly secure while the transaction was taking place. It needed companies like CELLPAY to provide a fast and secure mode of payment.

Furthermore, the digital landscape has widened its reach to suffice its benefits to customers at large. Additionally, it has leveraged numerous companies to connect with its customers to provide its services and offerings. Today, customers are relying heavily on branded payments to control their budgets. “Digital payments have become a substantial category within the alternative payment methods space, chances are you’ve probably used a form of digital payment at some point in your life, either for yourself or someone else — you’ll recognize them in the likes of gift cards, mobile top-up or prepaid payment cards,” states Parvez Jasani (President of CELLPAY).

## **ADDRESSING THE CUSTOMERS’ ISSUES**

An experienced leader, Parvez saw digital transformation as an opportunity to transform a top cell phone company to DDS (DIGITAL DELIVERY SERVICE) firm. While the transformation was happening around, he motivated himself to learn more about telecommunication. As he went further, his passion made him realize that using Prepaid Platforms and Mobile Telephones in the U.S. does not offer a one-stop-shop to make payment online. Also, the services were inconvenient for making payments. This was soon countered by CELLPAY through its customer-centric and problem-

solving approach. CELLPAY not only offers convenience and top-ups but is also the finest payment platform including unbanked/underbanked, underserved wireless customers by providing a convenient, secure, instant, and one-stop solution for all their needs 24x7. Parvez understands that secure payment is one of the crucial issues for any customer. Addressing the issue, CELLPAY has developed unique no-pin top-up delivery which converts every PIN to a direct top-up and makes recharge convenient.

### ENHANCING THE SECURITY

Under his able leadership, CELLPAY has introduced three different ways for payment which include online payment, IVR, and text 2 pay in order to further enhance the security. It has also developed a number validation to protect the consumer from choosing the wrong carrier, an added protection against double loading. The distinct features of CELLPAY are as follows:

- Protection from online hackers: CELLPAY's Unique Cellphone Number Validator (Patent process to be initiated)
- Protection against double-loading (single payment and multiple recharges): restricting double loading for a pre-defined period
- Fraud protection: 160-point verification (the type of card, POP/POS device, IP address tracking, Country of origin for the request, etc.)

### HIS SECRET RECIPE TO SUCCESS

Owing to Parvez's dedicated and focused efforts, CELLPAY has been recently ranked #5 on Inc. 500 list. Sharing his success mantra, he says, "Have a Great Idea. All businesses start as an idea, whether they end up as successful businesses or not. Some businesses are successful as soon as they launch based solely on the strength of the ideas behind them."

He is of the view that the sole purpose of any entrepreneur or business is to create a customer and hold the customer with unique solutions and services. The majority of the time, energy, and money should be applied to creating customers for the business.

Further, he advises, "Your strategy should Be Continuous Improvement: The business world is rapidly changing, and competition is both aggressive and plentiful. Focus on ways to improve yourself and your business. If a day goes by when your business is not getting better, then you can be sure it's getting worse."



**"LISTING UNIQUE FEATURES OF CELLPAY, PARVEZ ASSERTS, 'WE ARE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PAYMENT WEBSITES BECAUSE WE ARE SIMPLE AND AIM TO OFFER A SECURE, FAST, AND EASY WAY TO MAKE PAYMENT'"**

### INEVITABLE TRANSFORMATION

For the entire world, 2020 was the year of many startling changes. We all have witnessed businesses shutting down and also a few businesses changing their strategies to adapt and keep the ball rolling. Another major transformation that took place was forced digitalization. Every company was pushed towards online and remote working. This also meant that there was a huge surge in digital payment methods. Conversing about these changes and their aftermath, Parvez asserts, "The first is, we had no choice. We all were quarantined in our homes. We needed to buy things, and everybody had to buy things online. Eventually, this necessity turned out to be convenience. Soon people realized the benefits of digital payments which ensure that they no longer have to wait in long lines at a cashier; the products can be delivered whenever and wherever they want."

### A PIONEER IN DIGITAL PAYMENTS

Transformation is a part of the business

world. Those who understand business understand how transformation helps the business to push beyond its limits. Parvez is one such leader who has been efficiently enabling CELLPAY to emerge as a pioneer in digital payments sector. Furthermore, he is also thriving to make it a one-stop-shop for all your digital payment needs including top-up, international top-up, gift card, sim card, crypto payment, bill payment, lotto, and anything and everything can be digitally delivered. CELLPAY understands that there is a constant change in the demands of the customers. The company is in the process to make its own POS serve B2B store (convince store).

Currently, 80 million people in the US are underbanked and 20 million undocumented and most of them pay by cash. CELLPAY is developing a platform, which will be deployed in convenience stores where they can make cash payment for phone bill, utility bill, & buy a gift card. It is also adding bitcoin so that the customers can also buy bitcoin with cash.



# GLOBAL ASIAN OF THE YEAR 2020-21

Asia is a land of diverse civilizations, cultures, and businesses. Being an epicenter of global economic activities, it is also a home of powerful and industrious business communities. Dynamic and competent Asian leaders have been revolutionizing the industries and facilitating skyrocketing growth with their distinct and ingenious ideas, radical innovations, grandiose vision, and entrepreneurial outlook. They are the contemporary think-tanks who have transformed the industries with their unique out-of-the-box creations. Trailblazers for their respective industries, they have been paving the way for the new and young generations by inspiring and supporting them.

This year's list of Global Asian of the Year 2020-21 recipients have not only positively impacted the economy of Asia but its society as well

**MADAM HO CHING**



**DR. SUKANTA  
KUMAR JENA**



**SANKEY PRASAD**



**TALAL AL AJMI**

MADAM HO CHING

# THE WOMAN WHO BROUGHT EARTH AND SKY TOGETHER

*Disseminating sublime and luminous energy, taking farsighted and insightful decisions, Madam Ho Ching has been instrumental in transforming Singapore, a small island-city with acutely limited natural resources, into a technologically advanced electronic market of the world*

BY PAOLA MARTANI



**M**adam Ho Ching is the Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Holdings for the last 15 years, and is also the wife of the current Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong. Her inherent strength, influence and status can be judged from the fact that she is considered the 28th most powerful woman in the world. Believing in the powerful philosophies of Confucianism, Madam Ho Ching has led Singaporeans respect cultural values, honour authority, be loyal to good leaders, prefer order & hard work, and focus on education. She is regarded as a highly reverent leader in Singapore, whose guidance and management have helped this strip of land emerge as a centre of opportunities. Always calm and balanced, she reflects an aura of fascination, sincerity and earnestness, and in her pursuit to develop Singapore as a symbol of purity and growth for the rest of the world, she has helped create a magical synchronicity with the skyscrapers and the speed of entrepreneurial life. Keeping the devotion of the people intact towards their ancient philosophy while adding the flavor of the modern life and modern values, she has offered not only the women a direction and motivation towards reaching the zenith, but also the men a sense of entrepreneurial white heat of desire, where everyone has been equally contributing to national growth. She is a symbol of women power and gender equality in Singapore, and her ingenious initiatives in the spheres of education, healthcare and welfare & development of children have offered everyone a chance to do their best and achieve the most desired.

## FINAL EQUILIBRIUM

Madam Ho Ching has actively contributed in creating an equipoise where every Singaporean is committed to endeavour towards nation building, despite diversity of race, language, and religion, which has actually brought more opportunities of growth and harmony. Understanding and promoting diversity in her organization and beyond, she has guided Singapore to seize a powerful role on the world stage of business and opportunity, leading to better

business outcomes. Grasping the fact that there are more than 7,000 multinational companies in Singapore, and more than 1.1 million foreigners are living and working in Singapore, which is almost one-third of the overall workforce of 3.4 million people, she has accorded due respect to this diversity, and facilitated all to be a part of the fabric of Singapore. Her focus on diversity has led to development of talent, creativity and innovations, as everyone gets a chance to grow and try & deliver better results. This is actually one of the reasons why people find Singapore attractive for business and jobs, because diversity is part of Singapore's DNA now and differences actually create chances of improvement, higher productivity and growth. Her efforts have delivered the desired results, and Singapore is poised to become the world's first smart nation. She led Singapore to celebrate SG50, i.e. 50 years of their independence in 2015, and she is already on course to SG100, tearing down barriers to growth and harnessing Singapore's strength in diversity. For this she has taken initiatives to make the quantum leap in productivity and ensure that every individual in Singapore feels appreciated and his/her sense of diversity is respected. Madam Ho Ching has been leading from the front to remove any dissonances that may have existed in Singaporean economy by focusing on harmony and nation building, and she has truly corrected the errors of the past, leading the people of Singapore back into a Golden Age.

#### **GIFT OF MIDAS**

She possesses the gift of Midas, a touch that turns everything into gold. Every time she was given an assignment, she succeeded in repositioning and growing her organization or the country. She began her career as a simple engineer at the age of 23 with the Ministry of Defense of Singapore, and quickly climbed up the success ladder to lead the defense procurement agency of the ministry as the Director of Defense Material Organization and Deputy Director of Defense Science Organization. She is a distinguished Engineering Alumnus of the National University of Singapore and an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Engineering, Singapore. She received a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical, 1st class Honours) and the Master of Science (Electrical Engineering) from Stanford University. She has also served as the Chief Executive Officer and President



**“SHE POSSESSES THE GIFT OF MIDAS, A TOUCH THAT TURNS EVERYTHING INTO GOLD. EVERY TIME SHE WAS GIVEN AN ASSIGNMENT, SHE SUCCEEDED IN GROWING HER COMPANY & HER COUNTRY. HER EFFORTS HAVE ENABLED SINGAPORE TO EMERGE AS THE WORLD’S FIRST SMART NATION”**

of Singapore Technologies Pte. Ltd., as the Chairman of Global Foundries Singapore Pte. Ltd., as a Director of SembCorp Industries Ltd. and has been the Chairman of the Board at Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing Ltd. Her academic and career achievements are attributed to her willingness to take calculated risks, and under her leadership, Temasek Holdings invested in a \$14 billion dollar fundraising round by Ant Financial, an affiliate of Alibaba. An ever-dynamic leader, she has transformed Temasek Holdings from a Singapore-focused firm into an active investor in Asia and the world, and under her directives, it has grown to a net portfolio of S\$ 308 billion (US\$ 235 billion) as on 10 July 2018.

#### **DEEP RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

Madam Ho Ching has been personally and professionally active in community service and charitable organizations, and in her public service over the years has served on various statutory boards and agencies,

including as the Chairman of the Institute of Molecular Agrobiotechnology, in the Economic Development Board, the National Science & Technology Board, the Singapore Institute of Standards & Industrial Research, and the Productivity & Standards Board. For her public service, she has been awarded the Singapore Public Administration Medal and the Public Service Star Award by the Singapore Government.

She is the Patron of Assisi Hospice, and the founding Chairman of Trailblazer Foundation Ltd, which is a charity organisation providing funding for education, health, sports and community welfare. To respect her various contributions for her country, she was also inducted into the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations' Singapore Women's Hall of Fame, which honors outstanding women of Singapore in all fields of endeavor. Madam Ho Ching has been living her professional success supporting various community service and charitable organizations.

*DR. SUKANTA KUMAR JENA*

# ON A GLOBAL EXPANSION SPREE

*Dr. Sukanta, the CEO of Inovaantage, a Singapore-headquartered IT & OT solutions and service provider, has an illustrious career that has been marked by his outstanding contributions to the IT sector. The visionary leader has been making giant leaps with great agility, a winning attitude, and a futuristic vision*

**BY MONALISA BISWAS**



**W**ith a Ph.D. in Geographic Information Systems from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Dr. Sukanta has also obtained an Executive Management degree from the McIntire School of Commerce, University of Virginia, USA. The spirited leader has over two and a half decades of professional experience and has held a variety of challenging managerial responsibilities in IT, OT, and consulting in various large projects and programs in Electricity, Telecommunication, Transportation and various other engineering fields around the world. What's more, he has worked for numerous multinational IT giants in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Owing to his earnest and determined efforts, Inovaantage is continually charting new trajectories of success. "The company began as a utility software solution company and has since expanded to include two other verticals: telecommunications and transportation. The healthcare solution is the next vertical we want to focus on", says the future-focused leader.

Dr. Sukanta is noted for his brilliant strategic thinking skills, which aid in his long-term planning. Inovaantage has successfully expanded its global reach under his charismatic leadership. In just a few years since its inception, the IT solutions company has established a presence in multiple countries, including Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Europe, Africa, India, and the Philippines. The company is currently preparing to establish a presence in the United Kingdom.

## **EYEING OPPORTUNITY IN ADVERSITY**

Dr. Sukanta is a forward-looking visionary leader who is always prepared to deal with any crisis. Even a global crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic, which has dampened the spirits of many industrial bigwigs, could not stop him from achieving his goal of global business expansion. "Even during the outbreak of the coronavirus-induced pandemic, we have successfully made good progress in Australia. Also, we managed

to build a strong client base wherever we launched the business during the pandemic.” The ambitious leader adds, “With all of our previous achievements, we have now upped our ambition of becoming a global leader, something we never imagined when we first started.” Dr. Sukanta is a goal-oriented leader whose unwavering efforts have helped Inovaantage earn the boundless trust of hundreds of consumers around the world. “I view consumer trust as my accomplishments and career highpoint,” he says. The confident leader adds, “Every year, we set a goal for ourselves and successfully achieve it. With that confidence, we have raised our goal proportionately more than the previous years and achieved success once again despite the pandemic. We have gained the trust of hundreds of customers worldwide and the number is getting bigger with time. We now believe we can be global leaders and are in discussions with potential investors to take that dream forward.”

#### AN ACTION-ORIENTED LEADER

Dr. Sukanta believes in leading by example and promotes an action-oriented leadership culture. He is motivated by a strong sense of urgency, concentrating on the task at hand and ensuring its timely completion. The proactive leader holds daily meetings with his team for better communication and workflow. He also enthusiastically leads his team in moving a vision forward to achieve goals and make impressive progress. Under his motivating leadership, his team has been creating products and services that are innovative and ahead of the competition. “Being a good leader entails many distinctive aspects. Leading by example and at the same time encouraging individuals to make decisions and accept ownership of the roles assigned to them are both important for the growth of an organization, and I ensure that I do my best to keep my team motivated,” he says.

#### PRIORITIZING EMPLOYEES

Dr. Sukanta considers his workforce as the company’s first stakeholder, followed by customers. Like a true leader, Dr. Sukanta emphasizes the growth and involvement of his team. “Most significantly, I have kept my focus on being very people-oriented, since people are the heart and soul of Inovaantage,” says the CEO. He continues, “We’ve come a long way since investors launched Inovaantage in 2017 to being one of Southeast Asia’s most



**“LEADING BY EXAMPLE AND AT THE SAME TIME ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE DECISIONS AND ACCEPT OWNERSHIP OF THE ROLES ASSIGNED TO THEM ARE BOTH IMPORTANT FOR THE GROWTH OF AN ORGANIZATION, AND I ENSURE THAT I DO MY BEST TO KEEP MY TEAM MOTIVATED”**

recognized brands. Our people have played a critical role in the development of a company from its inception to the present day, and we attribute our success to their unwavering efforts.” The empathetic leader also ensures his company gives adequate space to each employee so that they can manage their workload and maintain a healthy work-life balance. Even during the Covid-19 outbreak, the leader encouraged everyone to work from home. He affirms, “Even though the coronavirus outbreak triggered pay cuts, and layoffs across industries, we have been sensitive to our workforce and have not laid off a single employee. There haven’t been any salary cuts either.”

#### DEDICATED TO SOCIAL WELFARE

In addition to being an astute businessman, Dr. Sukanta is also a good samaritan taking care of society. The compassionate leader says, “CSR is in our DNA. It is an important aspect of providing our customers with sustainable value. By keeping CSR at the forefront of our

minds, we can ensure that we are always thinking about our company’s place in and influence on a rapidly evolving world. We are also focusing Tier II cities as outsourcing hub to generate more employment for less privileged.” On a local and national level, we at Inovaantage are constantly striving to strengthen our focus on social responsibility, whether it’s championing women’s rights, preserving the environment, conserving wildlife, or eradicating poverty,” he adds.

#### WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION

Dr. Sukanta’s sincerity and unmatched capabilities have earned Inovaantage, a lot of recognition in the form of awards. In April 2021, the company was awarded the SBR (Singapore Business Review Technology) Excellence Award for software – Energy Category for Volt Var Optimisation (VVO). The Technology Excellence Awards, presented by SBR, was held via studio award presentations and video conferencing sessions throughout the second and third week of April 2021.

SANKEY PRASAD

# EFFICIENTLY LEADING BY EXAMPLE

*Mr. Sankey Prasad, the Chairman and MD (India) of Colliers, is one of India's most successful entrepreneurs. His progressive mindset, unparalleled thought process and proclivity towards generating novel ideas have helped him propel the firm to a monumental stance in the real estate sector*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



**S**ankey Prasad, FRICS, founded a project management company in 2003, which went to become the number one project management firm in India. The firm delivered exceptional projects not just across the country but other geographies as well. In 2019, Colliers acquired the firm and merged operations to create a top player in project management and positioned itself as a force to reckon with in the Indian real estate market. Since the merger, Colliers' combined business is led by Sankey as the Chairman & Managing Director.

Sankey leads a team of over 2500 professionals in India spread across 11 offices. Colliers offers Office Services; Project Management Services including design services, interior design services, fit-outs, technical due diligence; Real Estate Management Services (REMS), Capital Markets & Investment Services (CMIS), Valuation & Advisory and Industrial & Logistics Services.

## ACCELERATING THE SUCCESS OF CLIENTS AND PEOPLE

Sankey is responsible for leading the client strategy and growth for Colliers' India business. With over 35 years of real estate experience, Sankey has played an instrumental role in delivering numerous landmark real-estate projects across India and abroad. He has worked in various real estate sectors across India, UK, Africa, and the Middle East. Sankey is a highly respected industry leader and is an inspiration and a role model to many young entrepreneurs. He believes in leading from the front and has created high-performing teams that delivered some of the most complex and challenging projects for investors, developers, and real estate occupiers.

Sankey has won numerous accolades, both in India and internationally, for his contribution to the real estate sector, including "Most Aspirational Leader in India" by White Page International. Under his leadership, Colliers has been conferred several industry accolades like the Most

Admired Brand in 2020 by the White Page International and most recently as the Best Brand in India by the Economic Times group. He is a firm believer in empowering people and values relationships above business. His courage in surviving the challenges makes him a leader one can rely on to provide game-changing solutions. Sankey attributes his success to his dynamic team of professionals and invests time and efforts in mentoring and creating future leaders.

### **INVEST IN RELATIONSHIPS TO DRIVE EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS**

At Colliers, we invest in our people and clients to drive exceptional results. Under Sankey's leadership, Colliers has become a place where market leaders are made. With strong dynamic leadership, enterprising solutions driven by a great execution plan, our people are empowered to deliver greater, enduring value for clients with a shared vision of taking the company to the leading position in India.

The brand's investments will continue to be around being preferred advisors for our clients, creating a diverse culture with world-class talent, and leveraging our best-in-class integrated real estate services to grow our business faster than the competition. Sankey's vision is to surpass the growth target within the next three years and be recognized as the country's number 1 real estate management and investment management firm.

### **DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY**

Reiterating Colliers' global commitment to Environment Sustainability and Governance (ESG), Sankey in India has enabled the business to do what's right for our people, clients, and community. Colliers has partnered with the IGBC and CII to be Net-Zero by 2050, supporting the country's sustainability plans. He has initiated several COVID 19 vaccination camps across Bengaluru to spread awareness and empower people. In addition, Colliers' workplaces are created on the concept of PACE to ensure that our employees receive a collaborative and flexible work environment prioritizing their health and well-being. Sankey is an inspirational and fearless leader who believes in walking the talk and seizing opportunities despite challenges. Sankey has created an



**“WHAT A LEADER DOES & HOW HE/SHE DOES IT SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR EVERYONE ELSE. BUT, TO MAKE AN EVEN GREATER INFLUENCE, DEMONSTRATING TO YOUR TEAM THAT YOU CAN ACT ON A PARTICULAR CHALLENGE SETS A FAR BETTER EXAMPLE TO EMULATE THAN ANYTHING A LEADER CAN SAY”**

enterprising work culture where our people are empowered to maximize the potential of property for our clients. At Colliers, it is not just what we do but how we do it. Under his leadership, Colliers is operating as a leading diversified professional services and investment management company. Over the years, Colliers has built a well-known and highly respected global brand and operating platform. Colliers' entrepreneurial culture and partnership philosophy attract the best talent to lead the industry into the future. Colliers has a disciplined growth strategy with a focus on growing faster than the overall market. Additionally, under his direction, Colliers India is following the Global Sustainability Solutions Group's Environmental, Social, and Governance standards. The goal is to implement governance policies that will provide the clients access to practical and finest energy and sustainability expertise, allowing them to increase operational performance and resource productivity

while lowering their carbon footprint.

### **AN UNENDING SERIES OF AWARDS**

For his contribution to the Indian real estate sector, Mr. Prasad has garnered numerous awards in India and abroad. He has been honored with the Most Inspirational Leader award in Real Estate in 2020 by White Page International. The Realty Plus group has recognized him as one of the Top 100 Real Estate Influencers. Owing to his unwavering efforts, Colliers has been awarded as India's Most Admired Brands in 2020 by White Page International and the Best Realty Brand by the Economic Times Group. His vision is to develop organically over the next 3 years, surpassing growth targets and emerge as the country's leading real estate management and investment management firm. With a clear vision, confidence, and passion, he has been making an indelible mark in the field of entrepreneurship. He is someone you can look up to and strive to be!

TALAL AL AJMI

# BEING A LEADER THAT THE WORLD NEEDS

*Highly ambitious yet mindful, Talal Al Ajmi is a farsighted Kuwaiti businessman who has made quite an exceptional name for himself in the industry. As an extremely popular youth icon, he inspires the youth to dream big and achieve big. His unique personality and strong work ethics add to his charisma*

BY SONAM GULATI



**T**alal was born and brought up in Kuwait. Hailing from a simple, middle-class family; he always had big dreams. He wanted to start his own business and reach great heights. However, his family was not very supportive of the idea since trading was seen as a risky business back then and not something to be pursued as a career. After doing a few jobs here and there, Talal realised his lifelong dream of owning a business. From being an employee to donning the hat of an employer, he has made quite a journey. A journey that should be shared and celebrated!

## HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Even though Talal graduated from Philadelphia University with a degree in Information Technology, his interest was always in the finance sector. To gain knowledge about the financial industry, he worked with a few financial companies. This allowed him to gain some knowledge about the investment business and the experience needed to take that plunge into his entrepreneurial journey.

He founded VI Markets in 2010 and his company went on to become the most recognized and leading Trading platforms in the Middle East. In the past 11 years, VI Markets has achieved great success. It was the first Kuwaiti company to get the licence from the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and Talal worked hard to get that. Today, VI Markets is one of the few companies that is regulated by the FCA and offers a global presence as a tailored online trading company. Vi Markets has also won the best partner in the World for five consecutive years with One Financial Market based in the UK. "I'm proud of my company VI Markets and what it had achieved in the past 11 years," says Talal.

## SKY IS THE LIMIT

Talal is a believer of this saying – 'sky is the limit.' In his words, "I always aspire to achieve greater things. I do achieve goals and set millions after it." Achieving goals is what motivates him to go beyond. This is the reason he didn't stop even after VI Markets was well-established. He started

another initiative called Yasmeen. A forum exclusively for women, designed specifically to support women empowerment in business and the world of financial investment, through structured training and education on commerce and the world's financial markets. It is a program in which presenters, workers, and the target audience are all women.

Although the primary focus of the program is on financial management and broking it is not solely focused on it because the research showed Talal that many women who entered the financial sector usually got into loans or banks without any basic foundation. This program thereby focuses on laying a strong foundation of the financial industry and educating women to choose the right path most suited for them.

It is a program dedicated to providing women in the Arabic world with services tailored specifically to their individual needs. Created for women, by women, Yasmeen focuses on the increasing number of financially active women in the Middle East who run their own businesses or manage their own investments. Yasmeen has social networks that allow women to share their experience in business with other women and that leads to more women getting inspired to pursue their career ambitions. It makes for an open, safe space to discuss challenges faced by the women.

### EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION

Educating and promoting awareness in people has been one of the main goals of Talal. Education has been important to him because when he entered the financial sector he also learnt by educating himself through whatever channel he could. He believes in educating not only those people who want to enter the financial sector as professionals but also masses who want to start trading and manage their portfolios.

At VI Markets, there is a huge array of educational resources that Talal offers in a bid to help aspiring people who want to enter this industry. "We strive to provide all those interested in online trading to join our free seminars and workshops held every week," he shares. Due to the pandemic, most of the courses are now available online to accommodate the demand.

To further his reach and aid his awareness mission, social media has also been his ally. He has a follower base of over 64,000 followers on the social media platform Instagram, which mainly comprises Kuwaiti



**"I BELIEVE IN LEADING THROUGH EDUCATING. EDUCATING MY STAFF, MY CLIENTS & ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN THE FINANCIAL MARKETS WAS & WILL ALWAYS BE MY MAIN MOTTO IN LIFE. THROUGH EDUCATION, YOU ARE EMPOWERING PEOPLE & THAT IS THE MAIN TRAIT ANY LEADER SHOULD POSSESS"**

and Middle Eastern traders. He shares his daily trades and educates them on portfolio management through his account. "I believe in leading through educating. Educating my staff, my clients and all those interested in the financial markets was and will always be my main motto in life. Through education, you are empowering people and that is the main trait any leader should possess," he asserts.

Mr. Talal believes in giving back to the society and helping the underserved get access to quality education. To further his cause of educating masses, he has built schools in Indonesia and even helped building schools and compounds to serve hundreds of children in India.

### VALUING VALUES

VI Markets is a name to reckon with and it can all be credited to the business ethics of Talal. He believes in his team and they work together to provide the best-in-class services to all their clients. Talal swears by a few values that he has also ingrained in all

his team members. These are transparency in carrying out deliverables, accountability in handling projects and fairness through the evaluation process.

Talal is a family man at heart. He credits his brother for wherever he has reached today. "My elder brother Mohammad is my biggest inspiration in life. He was my main supporter when I began this journey and I owe most of my success to him. He supported me by all means."

### GLORY ALL THE WAY

Talal has won many honours owing to his charismatic personality and his business ethics. He was chosen the 'Most Inspiring Man' by CP Magazine in 2018. He also earned a place in 'The Arab Power List 2021' among others. The future looks quite promising for him as he looks to build on his work and grow his business globally. He has a well-established name in Kuwait and the Middle East and now would like to expand all across the globe.



Anup Agarwal



Ash Anand



Amitt Nenwani



Arvind Goel



Arun Kar



Chetan Hayer

# GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE YEAR 2020-21



Birendra Sasmal



Himansu  
Mohapatra



Dr. Biplab Kumar  
Biswal



Dr. Suresh Menon



Dinesh Chandra  
Kothari

Dipak Choudhary



K. Shyamprasad



Dr. Krishan  
Kishore Mathur



Dr. P Shyama Raju



K.G. Baburajan

*Mahendra Vora*



*Maneesh  
Tripathi*

*Mohan Kumar  
Sundaram*



*Naresh Kumar  
Dinodiya*



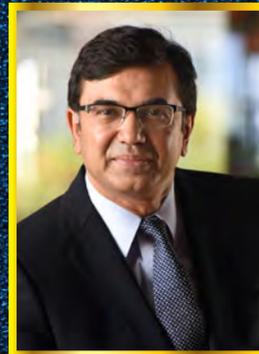
*Parveen Goyal*



*Rakesh Rathi*



*S. Durgaprasad*



*Rajesh Jejurikar*



*Ravindranath  
Venkatesh  
Gumaste*



*Pawan K. Sharma*



*Pradeepkumar  
Nair*



*Ramesh Awtaney*



*Ramesh Gopal*



*S. Venkatachalam*



*Sree Balaji*

*Prakash Goenka*



Reaching the pinnacle of success and achieving the desired goals is surely exhilarating, but it comes with huge responsibilities. Only the best of the best global leaders rise above their personal desiderata and do the larger good for their organizations, communities, and nations. Their distinctive vision to create globally competent and sustainable organizations, the prowess of taking everyone together, and the fervour of overachieving by outperforming others is what makes them Global Leaders in the true sense of the word.

Through extensive research, AsiaOne Magazine carefully brings together a list of a few distinguished and exclusive luminaries after reckoning various parameters including their progress, innovative ideas, and philanthropic initiatives which enable them to qualify for the coveted title of Global Indian of the Year 2020-21

AMITT NENWANI

# SURGING AHEAD, UNFAZED BY CHALLENGES

*Business runs in the blood of Amitt Nenwani, the Managing Director of Shiva Group, who hails from a family of entrepreneurs. Following in his father's footsteps, he has been taking the business to new heights of success. His inspiring entrepreneurial journey reveals his gusto to seize possibilities, which has kept him going strong*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



**A**mitt, a qualified engineer, has also pursued business management courses to hone his entrepreneurial expertise. Using his cutting-edge ideas, he has been instrumental in restructuring his company's business operations, expanding its market reach, and improving all aspects of profitably running the business. He is a sharp observer who is constantly one step ahead of the curve when it comes to utilizing technology. Under his stellar leadership, the Shiva Group of Industries has managed to enhance business profitability by five times in the last one and half years. In a short period, he has successfully achieved INR 500 crore topline with a lot of zeal. Nevertheless, the humble leader can't rest on his laurels. He says, "This is just the beginning, we are all raring to grow and go further."

To embark on the route of entrepreneurship takes persistence, and Amitt is a live example of this. The leader credits his fast-rising success to his father and mentor, Mr. Shiv Kumar, the Founder and Chairman of the Group. He reveals that the best leadership lessons he ever learned came from his father who is his inspiration. "I had to struggle a lot in my initial days. My father made me learn the ropes from the ground up, just like any other employee. I wasn't granted any preferential treatment, not even a private cabin." He recalls, "I used to sit with the sales staff and had to go on customer visits and wait for hours for appointments. These challenging lessons provided me with the opportunity to examine and experience things from different angles, and they served as the foundation of my learning."

## VALUES CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Amitt plays a crucial role in shaping the corporate governance of the Shiva Group. The responsible leader ensures that the company has the best processes and policies in place to deal with concerns related to how it is administered and operated daily. The honest leader also ensures that the company facilitates ethical and responsible decision-making conforming with all relevant policies, rules, regulations, and codes of

best business practices, all while adhering to the ethics and operating principles of the Shiva Group. Stressing on the importance of sound corporate governance, the leader says, “I believe business ethics and corporate governance of an organization must go hand in hand. Shiva Group implements the best corporate governance principles as a firm that follows ethical principles in all of its activities.”

### ALWAYS ON THE GO

Amitt is riding a wave of success and has grand plans for his company. His short-term plan is to grow exponentially and invest in an IPO. In the next three years, he plans to expand the reach of his company to over 15 countries. When asked about his long-term objectives, the focused leader says he wants to explore all possibilities by offering personalized chemical solutions to businesses while maintaining the highest levels of safety, quality, environmental protection, and community involvement.

Amitt is known among his peers for his curious intellect. It is curiosity that fuels his desire to learn new things and grow as a person. “It’s not just having curiosity that matters. What matters is how you follow your curiosity. My curiosity keeps me going and helps me to connect ideas better,” says the leader.

### PRIORITIZING EMPLOYEES

Keeping his employees at the core of his thoughts, Amitt strives to build a positive work environment. He strongly believes that if you take care of your employees, they will take care of your business. He says, “Our continuous achievements are fueled by our employees’ devotion, zeal, and brilliance across a wide range of disciplines, and we owe our success to them.”

As the captain of the ship, I just give the direction and the team drives the organization,” says the enthusiastic leader.

The empathetic leader also values employee safety as well as their physical and emotional wellness. The leader adds, “Though business growth is a crucial metric for evaluating a company’s success, the happiness and prosperity of our people is the most important metric for us as we consider our employees as our extended family.”

For Amitt, wellness comes before business. Under his stewardship, the company has sponsored vaccination efforts to immunize staff in order to ensure their safety. What’s



**“THOUGH BUSINESS GROWTH IS A CRUCIAL METRIC FOR EVALUATING A COMPANY’S SUCCESS, THE HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY OF OUR PEOPLE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT METRIC FOR US AS WE CONSIDER OUR EMPLOYEES AS OUR EXTENDED FAMILY”**

more, there were no layoffs or salary cuts in his company amid the pandemic.

### PREPARED FOR THE WORST

Amitt is a true visionary who can see around corners and make the most of what he has. The strategic leader strongly believes that if you don’t have a solid strategy in place to quickly resume your business operations, even a minor disruption can have a huge impact on your organization. He is skilled in taking decisive actions despite chaos, complexity, and ambiguity. It is his strategic mindset that has helped the company thrive through the ongoing pandemic. He says, “The coronavirus crisis demanded quick and resourceful planning to keep the business going. Despite the COVID-19 crisis and its short-term economic impact, our corporate goals remain intact. “

### PAVING WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE

A socially responsible leader, Amitt leaves no stone unturned in making the

world a better place. “Philanthropy is the heart of our organization. We want to be a responsible business that adheres to the highest standards of ethics and professionalism,” says Amitt. “Being in the petrochemical business, we feel responsible for not harming our planet. Therefore, we are consistently making moves to create an environmentally friendly business. To this end, we have set up zero-emission plants and are proud of the fact that we do not contribute to air or water pollution. Also, we regularly organize tree-planting drives in all the locations where we have a presence,” he elaborates.

Through SHIVASOUL, the CSR wing of the Shiva Group, he offers free education and medical facilities to the EWS of India. When the second wave of COVID-19 hit India, and it was facing an acute shortage of oxygen cylinders, Amitt stepped up to help people in need. He has also been initiating sanitization drives to supply sanitizers to underprivileged people free of cost.

ANUP AGARWAL

## LEADING FROM THE FRONT

*An exceptional leader, Anup Agarwal has come a long way from his humble beginnings as a Co-founder of a trading company dealing in mobile phones to making great strides in the Skincare, Cosmetics and FMCG sectors as the Chief Executive Officer of Bright Diva International Limited*

BY RICHASANG



Owing to his boundless dedication to excel and immense passion to make it big, Anup has swiftly climbed up the ladder of success. Bright Diva International is a very young company which was co-founded by him in the year 2015; merely within two years of its operation the firm has achieved 10% of market share within the K-Beauty (Korean Cosmetics) category in Hong Kong thereby emerging as the Top K-beauty distributor in the region.

### A TRUE VISIONARY

Driven by passion to excel in every endeavour he undertakes, Anup is an excellent communicator, and possesses the qualities of decisiveness, flexibility and risk-taking appetite. He vehemently believes that “Every effective leader must have the ability to make sound decisions in any given situation. Decisiveness is one of the characteristics which an effective leader must possess.” As a leader who leads by example, Anup feels that “Leaders must possess the ability to lead by example. If you want your employees to follow you, then you have to lead them by example and enthusiasm. As a leader, it is up to you – not to tell, but to show and set example.”

He is of the view that “A business leader must be an Effective Communicator and be able to explain the team members the company goals clearly and succinctly, in particular the specific task as to what the company expects from them. If the people do not understand or are not aware of your expectations, they will fall short in delivering the result.”

He vehemently believes that exceptional leaders are the driving force behind a firm’s success as they inspire employees to succeed by boosting their morale. Talking about the traits of Exceptional leaders, he elaborates, “Exceptional leaders have the ability to look into their company’s future and make clear, concrete goals that will benefit their organization. They are confident and optimistic. They are open-minded and have a flexible approach and

are ready to experiment with new ideas.”

He feels, “Compelling leaders motivate their employees to strive wholeheartedly for their company goals. They are able to create lasting relationships with varied network of people, leaders, partners, clients and even competitors.”

He concludes, “Every business comes with a risk; it is the risk-taking appetite in such a competitive world that defines a leader.”

### REAPING THE SWEET FRUITS OF SUCCESS

Despite having tasted success quite early in life, Anup feels that he has a long way to go. As he puts it, “Well there is still more to achieve in terms of career. But until now my career high point I would say is achieving the top position in K-beauty Distribution within just 2 years of our operation. K-beauty in Hong Kong in the year 2019 was 1 billion USD market, out of which we have captured 150 Million USD. We are already present in 9 countries and have successfully built an organisation of almost 250 people.”

He asserts with pride, “To be able to reach here was not easy and it did take a lot of hard work and passion. Each member of Bright Diva family has contributed to the growth and all the success would not have been possible without the great team that we have.”

Talking about the significance of his role models in his success, he elaborates, “I have been inspired by a lot of people in my life, but the contribution of my uncle has been immense in shaping up my career. They taught me how to ‘believe in yourself’ and respect every work. I learned that one needs to just have the three basic qualities to grow in life – Trust yourself, Ownership of responsibility, and Passion in your work (T.O.P).”

He doesn’t believe in sitting back and resting on his laurels but feels that he has a lot to achieve. Sharing his vision for the future growth of his company, he stresses, “My aim is to work towards the recognition of Bright Diva as the best distribution company in Asia and maybe globally in future within the FMCG, H&B industry. We want to be the most preferred and strategic partner for great brands wanting to have their footprints within the countries where we are present. Even though a lot of challenges are there, but we are very confident that we will be able to achieve



**“K-BEAUTY IN HONG KONG IN THE YEAR 2019 WAS 1 BILLION USD MARKET, OUT OF WHICH WE HAVE CAPTURED 150 MILLION USD. WE ARE ALREADY PRESENT IN 9 COUNTRIES AND HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BUILT AN ORGANISATION OF ALMOST 250 PEOPLE”**

these goals.”

### GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Possessing a heart of gold, Anup has been continually inclined towards making the world a better place. “At Bright Diva we have always believed in returning back to the community; corporate social responsibility is at the heart of Bright Diva and we participate in every possible opportunity to engage in paying back to the community,” he asserts.

Sharing his views on CSR, he states, “Social responsibility is part of everyday life for everyone; one biggest social responsibility I believe for any organisation is to create jobs. It is our responsibility to be able to keep our employees’ lives as balanced as possible; then to train and nurture them to be able to become future business owners so that they can also start their own business and create further jobs. With success comes responsibility, we have been trying to help the needy as much as

we can. We have partnered with the Cancer Fund of Hong Kong to help women in fighting breast cancer.

Stating some of the measures undertaken by him to combat the pandemic, he says, “At the peak stage of COVID-19; we procured around 500,000 face masks from Korea and sold them at cost to major local retailers and brought crucial supplies to the people of Hong Kong; and part of the proceeds was donated to the Hong Kong Cancer Fund.” He adds, “To meet the demand and give the city a further boost in fight against ongoing pandemic, we are currently importing USD 4 Million worth of sanitizing supplies; including hand sanitizers, antibacterial hand wash and body wash. We have partnered with Unilever to import products by Lifebuoy and made them available at over 3,000 retail location across Hong Kong; enabling to ease out the demands and panic buying. Together with this we have also donated big quantity of surgical masks and hand sanitizers to every section of society.”

ARUN KAR

# ACING THE GAME FROM BATTLEGROUND TO BOARDROOM

*Fiercely-driven is the perfect word to describe the soldier-turned-entrepreneur, Arun Kar — the Co-Founder of UK-based multinational digital innovation organization, Xpertnest. He has not only passionately served the Indian Army, but has also excelled in the realm of business*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



Arun hails from a humble family based in the state of Odisha, India. The adventure of his life began with an Atlas Goldline Super bicycle and culminated with the possession of multiple Tesla cars and super-luxury cars in the UK. Motivated by the Kargil war of 1999, the young and determined Arun joined the Indian army as an officer in the year 2000 after clearing Combined Defence Services interview (conducted by the UPSC), & Service Selection Board interview. After serving seven years in the Artillery Division of the Indian Army, he opted for early retirement owing to injury & medical concerns. Following his retirement from the Indian Army, Arun decided to take the entrepreneurial plunge after finishing management studies at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. The military veteran is now the Co-Founder of the Nest Group of companies, which is designed across five subsidiaries, including Multinational Digital & Technology Innovation companies specializing in Information Technology & Environment Sustainability.

## **SURGING AHEAD WITH DETERMINATION**

Arun believes that the qualities of courage, determination, and leadership imbibed while serving in the Indian Army have given him the confidence to embark on large-scale projects. The confidence he drew from the armed forces has also helped him deal with the hurdles of running a business. The Nest Group was founded by Arun and his partner Chintan Panara to develop game-changing solutions across industries & thereby creating a more intelligent world for humanity. Today the Nest Group has five subsidiary companies, including Xpertnest. Through Xpertnest, the duo aims to bring together technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, IoT, & sophisticated analytics for forecasting trends & optimizing processes to provide more value.

## **UNIQUE LEADERSHIP STYLE**

Arun is inspired by many world luminaries, including Mr. Dhirubhai Ambani, Mr. Elon Musk, and Mr. Jack Ma, to name a few. He considers these business titans to be his

pillars of strength, as their philosophy has helped him in developing a distinct leadership style of encouraging others, offering direction, and putting plans into action. Arun also has extensive expertise in developing & directing high-performing teams in multiple jurisdictions around the world. Like a true leader, he has built a healthy work culture where his team can perform at their best. Backed by a motivated team, the ambitious leader has successfully delivered multi-million-pound projects for clients in the United Kingdom, Europe, & the United States.

### AN ENTREPRENEUR PAR EXCELLENCE

As a Global Leadership Cadre professional, he is proficient at engaging with C-level officers and decision-makers of Tier 1 companies in Europe, and the US. He is also fascinated by innovative ventures led by young entrepreneurs and enjoys collaborating with them. The dynamic entrepreneur has worked for numerous notable clients over the years, including the largest Telco in the UK, Big 4 consulting firms, Utility companies, Councils & Public sector authorities (at the National Level in the UK), world's second-largest CSP, Global Banking & Financial markets clients, and smart city development projects. Arun is also relentless in his pursuit of exceptional customer experiences through the integration of utility and technology. Arun is an action-oriented individual who intends to bring the economy & society to a state of progress and prosperity. He has created numerous job opportunities in India, the UK, the Netherlands, Ireland, and Dubai. What's more, the self-motivated leader presently contributes significantly to the overall growth of India's economy and employs over 100 people around the world, especially in India.

### SOUND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Arun considers corporate governance as the cornerstone of any successful business. When it comes to corporate governance, the ex-Indian army officer goes above and beyond to ensure the company runs smoothly. Emphasizing the importance of integrity in corporate governance, Arun says, integrity underpins the principles of fair, transparent, ethical, & equitable business dealings. Good corporate governance, he says, is based on integrity, trust, honesty, & responsibility. "At Xpertnest, we take corporate governance seriously and are devoted to ethical practices that guarantee the best results and value for us as well as our customers," he adds.



**"A CSR INITIATIVE NOT ONLY DEMONSTRATES THAT A COMPANY CARES BUT IT ALSO HELPS BUSINESSES GROW AND SET AN EXAMPLE. EVERYTHING XPERTNEST DOES IS CENTERED ON PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, AND THE PLACES THEY WORK AND LIVE"**

Committed to Bringing a Positive Change in Society Arun says, "CSR activities are inbuilt in our business concept." He explains, "A CSR initiative not only demonstrates that a company cares but it also helps businesses grow & set an example." The socially aware leader strives to make the world better, greener, & more prosperous by leveraging advanced technologies to solve the needs of real people & their communities. "Everything Xpertnest does is centered on people, communities, & the places they work and live," he asserts. Under Arun's leadership, Xpertnest has made significant investments in corporate social responsibility by establishing Earthnest (Xpertnest's sister company), to assist consumers in achieving a more sustainable future. It is revolutionizing the packaging industry by creating sustainable bio bags & sheeting made entirely of starch & other natural ingredients that are completely plastic-free. TÜV Rheinland (Germany) & UKAS (the United Kingdom) have verified Earthnest's bio bags as biodegradable. The

products have also been endorsed by CIPET, the Indian Institute of Plastics Engineering, & the Indian Institute of Packaging.

### GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Arun has achieved significantly in his entrepreneurial venture at a young age. His tireless efforts & phenomenal value creation in the industry have been duly acknowledged. His relentless efforts helped Xpertnest win the Most Impacting Company of the Year in 2021 awarded by the DotCom magazine of the United States. The company was also the finalist at the U.K's National SME Awards 2020 – Business Innovation Category. In 2019, Arun was honored with the Young Entrepreneur Award for his valuable contributions to the Odia society in London. Arun is also an Official member of Forbes Business Council, and featured on International Media like Mobile World Congress, Telegraph, BBC and Smart City Expo. In 2019, the company has also won 'Company of the Year' title in Smart City Solutions Category.

*ARVIND GOEL*

# TURNING THE WHEELS OF SUCCESS WITH ÉLAN

*Mr. Arvind Goel is the MD & CEO of Tata AutoComp Systems Limited, a leading global auto component manufacturer & services conglomerate. With a rich experience of nearly 4 decades in the automotive industry & passion for automotive technology, he has been driving Tata AutoComp towards the path of success*

**BY RICHA SANG**



**H**aving joined Tata AutoComp as President in 2008, Mr. Goel got an opportunity to head a group of business units within the organization. Owing to his dedicated efforts towards organizational growth and exceptional leadership skills, he was elevated to the position of MD & CEO in 2018. During his tenure, he has headed several important portfolios including Technology, Operations, and Strategic Growth, where he has facilitated significant Mergers and Acquisitions. Under his exemplary leadership, Tata AutoComp has entered into 6 new Joint Ventures, 2 MoUs, and acquired TitanX – a global leader in Engine and Powertrain cooling systems, based in Sweden. The acquisition of TitanX has enabled Tata AutoComp to boost their global footprints beyond China. Today, Tata AutoComp operates 6 businesses on its own and 10 Joint Ventures with Global Tier 1 majors. Keeping the current megatrends in mind, Mr. Goel has ensured future readiness by realigning the focus on Electric Vehicles components. With his relentless efforts, today Tata AutoComp offers solutions in the entire value chain of Electric Vehicles and for all segments ranging from Two Wheelers to Buses. Prior to joining Tata AutoComp, he was the President and COO of Man Trucks where he initiated a greenfield project having a capacity of 24,000 trucks per annum. He has also been associated with Force Motors, Bajaj Tempo and Kirloskar Oil Engines at various leadership positions and has actively worked in functions like Engineering, Manufacturing and also headed several business units.

## **RIDING THE WAVES OF SUCCESS**

Mr. Goel has played a significant role in steering Tata AutoComp to a growth path by acquiring TitanX, having 6 plants serving all leading Truck brands. He has facilitated successful collaborations to expand Tata AutoComp's portfolio and to offer cutting edge technology to customers for conventional ICE vehicles as well as the entire range of products for EVs. Today Tata AutoComp has the largest portfolio of products to serve the emerging EV segment. The entire expansion of product portfolio was based on a sound

understanding of the voice of customer. Today, Tata AutoComp's portfolio includes Interior & Exterior Plastic Components and Aggregates, Kinematic Plastic Parts, Components made from Glass Fiber reinforced Sheet Moulded Composites, Sheet Metal Components & Aggregates, Engine and Powertrain Cooling Solutions, HVAC, Exhaust & Aftermarket Treatment solutions, Seating Systems, Rear View Mirrors, Reverse Park Cameras & ADAS, Park Brake Levers, Gear Shifters, Washer Systems, Clutches, Automotive Batteries & Suspension Systems (for commercial vehicles). Specifically for Electric Vehicles, the portfolio includes Li-Ion Battery Pack & BMS, Battery Thermal Management System, Motors, Controllers, Integrated Drivetrain, Chillers, e-Compressor as well as AC and DC Chargers. He is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that "By 2026, Tata AutoComp will be amongst the Top 5 auto-component firms in India by enabling mobility solutions with safe and sustainable products and services, exceeding customer expectations."

#### LEADING FROM THE FRONT

A result-oriented leader, Mr. Goel sets aspirational targets, gives directions and then leaves it to the team to achieve their best. The growth & development of employees is his primary concern & he gives opportunities to young employees to prove their leadership qualities. He also has a very high customer connect. He is always in touch with the senior leadership team of all customers & constantly augments product offerings to suit their needs. He believes highly in Total Quality Management & hence drives it at the firm. During the pandemic, he was constantly in touch with all the employees & workforce. He ensured that there was no manpower rationalization or salary cut at employee & workforce levels. He established strict protocols & SOPs to ensure smooth & safe re-opening of operations once the lockdown ceased. He himself made sure that all employees & workforce were engaged and motivated them by involving each person in at least one project as well as instituted internet-based training & skill enhancement programs for them. Supported the government & medical fraternity by leveraging the firm's global supply chain to import & distribute PPE kits across multiple hospitals.

#### GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Mr. Goel is in sync with the Tata Group's



**"UNDER MR. GOEL'S EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP, TATA AUTOCOMP HAS GROWN TO BE A GLOBAL AUTO-COMPONENT CONGLOMERATE WITH 49 PLANTS SPREAD ACROSS INDIA, US, MEXICO, BRAZIL, EUROPE AND CHINA. TODAY, TATA AUTOCOMP SERVES MOST OEMS IN THE AUTO INDUSTRY"**

Founder, the late Mr. Jamsetji Tata's vision – "Society is not just a mere stakeholder of any business. It is the very purpose of its existence." Taking cue from the fact that social responsibility is part of the DNA of every Tata Group company, Mr. Goel actively engages in varied CSR initiatives at Tata AutoComp that contribute towards developing the health & education of children, skill development, programs that can enhance the quality of life of specially enabled people, contributing to Tata cancer hospital, & many such programs. He also encourages voluntarism amongst the employees. He has also served as President of Rotary International where he actively worked towards community service aiming at poverty alleviation. Under his guidance, the firm contributed significantly in procuring PPEs & N95 masks during the initial phases of the pandemic when there was acute shortage of PPEs and other protective equipment.

#### GARNERING GLORY

Mr. Goel has been an active member of

various industry bodies and currently serves on the Executive Committees of Automotive Components Manufacturers Association (ACMA) and Maratha Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA). He is the serving Chairman of CII Maharashtra State Council for the year 2020-21, and is also associated with CII Western Regional Council. Owing to his outstanding contribution to the automotive industry, Mr. Goel has been felicitated with numerous awards and accolades at reputed national and international platforms. He has received Amity Corporate Excellence Award for Business Leadership in 2021. He was awarded "India's Most Inspirational Leader 2020" and Tata AutoComp was awarded "India's Most Admired Brand 2020" by White Page International and UK Asian Business Council. Under his quintessential leadership, Tata AutoComp Systems Ltd (Interior Plastic Division) was adjudged as Winner in Automotive-Exteriors (Large Enterprise) at The Economics Times Polymers Awards.

ASH ANAND

## MAKING WAVES IN MULTIPLE SECTORS

*With a burning desire to create his own enterprise, Ash Anand has worked passionately towards starting a business from scratch and transforming it into a successful conglomerate. He derives satisfaction from building a brand that positively impacts the community, adds value to the clients and transforms lives*

BY RICHA SANG



**F**or Ash Anand real success and achievement is not about piling up wealth but making a positive change in society and the world. A self-made entrepreneur, he has built the conglomerate with his sheer dedication and passion. With similar zeal, he has initiated 'Lotus Loves Literacy,' a scholarship which is awarded to graduating seniors for several years. In future, he intends to set up a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility and launch adolescent educational initiatives.

He contributes by being a member of Workforce Investment Board 2021, Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties; and Warrensburg School Board 2021. He has been listed among top 40 under 40 businessmen of the year in 2018 and has received Telecommunications Award of Excellence in 2013. Despite achieving huge success, he feels that "the best is yet to come."

### CLIMBING UP THE SUCCESS LADDER

A self-made and self-driven leader, Ash has carved his own path to success. "During initial years, my life was full of struggle and disappointments that actually helped me to imbibe courage and motivated me to turn all these challenges into a great success," he says. Delineating the early years of his distinguished career, he elaborates, "I started my career with an average job which involved lots of hard work, long days and busy weekends. But this hard work enabled me to learn important aspects of diverse workforces as well as helped me to earn many promotions during my initial career. I outperformed in all my jobs, achieved several milestones, dozens of awards, trophies, and certificates. My life was going smoothly with a decent job and happy family. But in 2008, I took one big decision to start my own company, Lotus – a multi-faceted conglomerate based out of Warrensburg, New York." Having sown the seeds of hard work with passion, he is reaping the sweet fruits of success. As he puts it, "Today, as the President and CEO of Lotus Group of Companies, I own and operate Lotus Analytics, Lotus Property Management, Lotus for Life Nutraceuticals,

The Grist Mill restaurant, Small Tales Early Learning Center and Daycare (now operating as an NPO), Lotus Auto Xperts, Ashes Pub & Ocho Cinco Cantina (Mexican restaurant), The Bond 1786 (Restaurant, Inn, Event Venue), NAPA Chester, and Warrensburg Auto & Truck Supplies. In the very beginning, I launched Lotus Analytics, the first business unit which later became a part of the broader Lotus Group of Companies. The business started in my home office only, and then it rapidly grew enough to now be in a historic and iconic three-story building at 101 River Street in Warrensburg, which houses all Lotus corporate employees. Shortly after starting the business, I acquired eight other businesses that make up the Lotus Group of Companies.” Under his leadership, the Group takes pride in its over 250 employees across the globe. Lotus Analytics is a powerhouse tech company offering services and solutions for businesses of any size across the globe.

#### REDEFINING SUCCESS

According to Ash, success is a saga of growth with purpose, which involves development of healthy, fair, and successful organizations and communities. As he puts it, “If I have been able to nourish an awesome relationship with my colleagues and have the time to sit with them and see how things are, I think I am successful. If my kids don’t complain about spending enough time with me, I think I am successful. If health and wealth factors are in control in my life, I think I am successful. If my plans, goals and mission path are set and my progression is good, I think I am successful. Most importantly, if people around me have respect for me, I am certainly successful.” For him, success is all about how much value you provide to your clients and associates. He asserts, “We create solutions using cloud based custom software that allows people to dream again about next year while we solve the problems of today and tomorrow; and lower expenses and increase bottom lines. We believe in providing an unparalleled suite of services that are all scalable, affordable, high quality and secured – which historically were only available to the rich companies.”

#### BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN OTHERS

It is a widely acknowledged fact that great leaders bring out the best in employees, which in turn, leads to organizational success. Ash is one such leader who inspires excellence. “I build up my family, community, and each staff member to meet their individual goals



**“IT’S SIGNIFICANT TO KNOW HOW TO WORK THROUGH SETBACKS AND FIND SOLUTIONS. THE KEY TO HAVING HAPPY EMPLOYEES IS, NEVER PUT YOURSELF ABOVE YOUR EMPLOYEES, OR ASK THEM TO DO SOMETHING YOU WOULD NOT DO YOURSELF. ALWAYS LEAD BY EXAMPLE”**

and align these with the organizational goals. Each interaction is with the big picture in mind (the long game),” he asserts. His advice to the budding entrepreneurs is to always be persistent. In his own words, “Persistence is definitely the key. There will be good times, bad times and times when you want to give up. Never give up. Always strive to remain positive and not be too dispirited when difficulties arise. It’s significant to know how to work through disappointments and setbacks and find solutions as these moments occur. The key to having happy employees is, never put yourself above your employees, or ask them to do something you would not do yourself. Always lead by example.” Brimming with zeal, he intends to learn something new every day and treats each day as a new opportunity to learn from his colleagues. “Most importantly, ethics, integrity, and morals should always guide your actions. You should not only strive to be successful in business but also to be successful in a way that never compromises your integrity or

ethics,” he adds.

#### MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Ash vehemently asserts that CSR “is the backbone of every decision” he undertakes. Under his able leadership, the Group undertakes various socially beneficial initiatives in various sectors like education and healthcare. He has been contributing to the welfare of society “through helping children and the next generation through workable lifelong programs designed by Lotus such as Lotus Literacy, Senior Class IT mentoring, Financial support to over 400 children in India, stocking food banks, blood banks and keeping our vital businesses open and operational during COVID-19.” Under his guidance, Lotus Group “strives to move forward to make a change, and expects others to join it to bring change in a bigger perspective.” Ash believes in “Doing the right thing always.” No wonder his upcoming book has been aptly titled “Giving but not giving up.”

BIRENDRA SASMAL

# ALWAYS ON THE UP AND UP

*Many people have enormous aspirations, but only a few can transform their dreams into reality. One such person is Mr. Birendra Sasmal. A visionary with unyielding resolve to reach the summit of success, he has proven to the world that you can forge your own destiny despite your humble beginnings*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



**B**irendra's journey can leave anyone awe-inspired. He was born to a family of poor farmers and grew up in a remote village in West Bengal (India), where there was no electricity till 2010. He pursued his graduation from outside of his village. He was always passionate about working in IT sector. After completing engineering, he started one of the finest technology companies of that time – Tandem, which was later acquired by Compaq and is now a part of HP. He has been in the technology domain for a long time, working for large corporations such as HP.

The successful entrepreneur attributes his accomplishments in the entrepreneurial world to the virtues instilled in him by his father, which enabled him to reach the pinnacle of success.

## AN INSPIRING JOURNEY

Following his stint in the IT sector, Birendra ventured into the entrepreneurial realm, by launching an IT consulting firm Fusion Tech with his American colleagues. The company quickly expanded from a small team of a few people to a workforce of 360 people. Fusion Tech was acquired by a venture capitalist in 2006, after which it merged with Alliance Consulting, a US-based firm. It is now part of EPAM, one of the largest companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

The launch of a company called Subah, based in West Africa has been one of the highlights of his career. Under his direction, the company focused on how to generate revenue for the West African government so that the revenue can be utilized for the welfare of the people. "We started Subah with five people and soon it became a 1500 people team within five years, with over \$100 million turnovers," says the leader.

Birendra recently co-founded Science4Data, a FinTech and media analytics firm in New York. Currently, the leader is spearheading GreenFinch in India which provides digital transformation, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and

Internet of Things (IoT) solutions to various telecom operators, financial institutions, and federal agencies in the United States, Africa, and India.

### SPREADING ROOTS & WINGS

Birendra has been instrumental in the development of businesses in various parts of the world, including the USA and Europe. The technologist-cum-investor is currently focusing on spreading presence in Asia, especially India to empower the Indian farmers in particular and support the Indian economy in general. He believes that India is witnessing remarkable growth in terms of IT. Therefore, he intends to concentrate his efforts on agricultural technology in India and surrounding countries. "That, I feel, is the one area in which the APAC countries have been battling for a long time to improve their output, productivity, and yield", says the thoughtful leader.

### INNOVATION RUNS THROUGH HIS VEINS

Birendra is a forward-thinking leader who stays on top of industry trends and innovations. As a growth enabler, he prioritizes two things--innovation and continuous improvement. Over the years, he has built a strong foothold in the IT industry. His mission is to provide businesses with a cutting-edge set of tools to help them grow faster. He also wants to assist his clients in achieving their organizational goals. At the same time, he believes in empowering his team for greater business success. He is quite adventurous and eager to explore uncharted terrains. From inventing solar base stations for remote African villages to empowering Indian villagers through Fintech, he has done it all. For example, he founded a financial services company for people residing in rural villages more than a decade ago, when only a few Indian villagers had a basic mobile phone. Birendra came up with the breakthrough idea of doing banking transactions utilizing a simple mobile phone. His goal was to provide financial tools to underserved businesses in India, particularly in the last mile, where no financial services had previously been available. That was a remarkable concept, which was implemented in over 100 villages across India.

### A GEM OF A PERSON

Birendra's commitment to society is



**"I'VE BEEN A RISK-TAKER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MY CAREER, & I HAVE ALWAYS WELCOMED CHALLENGES WITH OPEN ARMS. I CONSIDER MYSELF A LIFELONG LEARNER, WHICH IS WHY I HAVE FAITH IN THE YOUNG GENERATION, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF HOW QUICKLY THE WORLD IS CHANGING"**

unshakeable. He believes that it is important that we use our earnings to benefit the society that has invested so much in us. "It is our duty that when we become capable of earning a living, we should give back to society for the welfare of the less fortunate," says the benevolent leader.

He adds, "Every person has a unique value chain. So one of my value chain principles is that everything I take, I must give back." The leader established almost six basic IT training schools and trained over 6000 children from various countries and remote areas on the African continent.

Birendra also emphasizes the need for waste management. "One of the areas in which we made significant contributions has been waste management. We created a solution that can track your garbage bin and identify whether it is empty or full. It also sends you notifications about how long it has been empty. It can also keep track of the types of raw materials that are derived

from garbage," says the C-suite leader.

### GAINING PROMINENCE AS AN INDUSTRY LEADER

For his outstanding contribution to the IT sector, Birendra has been honored with European Business Award. He is also the recipient of the UK Asian business person of the year. What's more, he has also received the President Award from Ghana for his voluntary services to Africa's army in various security areas, which have been highly beneficial to their security issues. Additionally, he was also honored with the Falcon Award in Africa for his work on innovative revenue tracking tools for the government. He was also a guest speaker in the United Nations ITU programs several times. Birendra has quickly ascended the success ladder as a result of his unwavering commitment to succeed and enormous desire to make it big. He sees an exciting future ahead of him, full of new adventures and possibilities that will help him grow as a person.

CHETAN HAYER

# BUILDING MASTERPIECES WITH BONDS OF TRUST

*With a firm belief that the quickest way to succeed is to help others succeed, Chetan Hayer has been efficiently building bonds of trust in the realm of realty. Under his leadership as Managing Director, Hayer One has been consistently transforming the way people perceive quality in the real estate market in Kenya*

BY RICHA SANG



A typical day in Chetan's office is always buzzing with activity. He can be seen sitting behind a well-ordered desk in his corner office on the 22nd floor of 'The Address,' considered by many to be one of Nairobi's finest commercial buildings. It is a gleaming black tower completed by his company a little over a year ago. He is surrounded by floor to ceiling glass windows. On the ground to his left, work continues on the Waiyaki Way overpass, the main artery through the city. Over his right shoulder, through the morning mist spreads the ever-expanding Nairobi skyline. The glass wall in front of him looks out to an open plan office space, where his team is energetically going about the business of the day. The door to his office is open and there is a constant flow of people coming in and out. This is transparency in motion.

## DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET

Chetan grew up in the suburbs of Mumbai in a joint home occupied by many aunts and uncles, cousins and siblings. The family was in construction business. He recalls how on many evenings his grandfather would sit with him and explain the intricacies of the business. In this way, he was exposed to and developed an appreciation for the risks and benefits of entrepreneurship. It also taught him when to be competitive and when to be forgiving. This flexibility is on full display inside his office today. As team members arrive at his desk one at a time or as a small group, his leadership style adapts to the situation at hand. Sometimes he is inclusive, giving encouragement, seeking to inspire. Other times, he softly insists on compliance – behaviour learned in childhood.

His father, a builder, was the major influence in his life. To this day, he gets excited about visions grown in his imagination, sharing it with his team, putting it down on paper, then onto a construction site and eventually leaving behind an important building.

## AN ENCOUNTER WITH DESTINY

Chetan moved to Nairobi after visiting the

city during his honeymoon – a trip paid for by his sister. He recognized at the time that there was a gap in the real estate sector. There were very few affordable developments under construction that were being built to international standards.

Buoyed with the confidence that comes from growing up in a construction family, dealing with day labourers on the one hand, and bankers, investors, contractors on the other, Chetan decided to take the plunge. Hayer One's first project was a relatively small one – 15 residential apartments. The learning curve, he says, "was very steep." While there were similarities to the construction industry in India, there were also significant differences – new rules and regulations, building materials to name a few. Yet, Chetan is nothing if not a persistent leader. Mistakes were made and he learned from them. He was transparent, owned up to them, fixed the problems and never took short cuts.

#### LAYING A SOLID FOUNDATION

His no-nonsense, issue-oriented approach put him in good stead during the years and projects that were to follow. Owing to his exemplary leadership, Hayer One has developed long-standing relationships with a loyal team of contractors, engineers, designers – on mutual trust – a precious commodity in a tough business. And it is trust that has created consumer confidence in the market. Many of Hayer One's clients are repeat customers. As he puts it, "Growth can only be sustained if it's inclusive and approached with a long-term mindset."

#### BRIMMING WITH GRATITUDE

Trust, transparency, and humanity define the corporate culture. It has to be that way. Chetan began operations from a small, 100 sq. ft. office that he shared. It was a one man show. He dealt with the investors, contractors, construction workers, customers, everyone. Hayer One now has more than 60 full time employees and produces over 500 direct employments. On the glass walls of his penthouse office are plans for one of Nairobi's biggest and boldest residential developments, 'The Marquis.' When complete next year, 'The Marquis' will consist of more than 250 luxury apartments built to uncompromising standards.

Looking out towards his highly motivated and busy team, Chetan says, "I had to decentralize my approach to management.



**"WE HAVE SKILLED PROFESSIONALS HEADING UP KEY DEPARTMENTS. WE HAVE REGULAR TEAM MEETINGS, WHERE WE SET SPECIFIC GOALS. SOMETIMES, THERE ARE DISAGREEMENTS BUT IN THE END WE STICK TO THE ISSUES, & PROGRESS. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE TEAM I HAVE AT HAYER ONE"**

The company grew too complex for me on my own. Now we have skilled professionals heading up key departments: Operations, Marketing, Finance, Property Management, etc. We have regular team meetings, where we set specific goals. Sometimes, there are disagreements but in the end we stick to the issues, and progress. I am grateful for the team I have at Hayer One."

Chetan is also grateful to be living and working in Kenya. The scenery and the wildlife are spectacular. The people are warm and friendly. He is confident of seeing a day in the near future when Nairobi will be one of the most significant cities in the world. Clearly, Hayer One will play a major role in developing this vision into reality.

#### MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

Corporate social responsibility has always been a part of the culture for Chetan. The general objective has been to support education for the needy. He has supported free schooling activities for kindergartens in

India. He has extended consistent financial support towards organizations in Nairobi that build and run schools for the needy.

During COVID-19, he particularly expanded his interests from education to food. He provided support to active organizations in the community in order to provide food packages to thousands of families. At home, in his own company, he ensured that there were no pay cuts so that the families of the employees, who may be suffering from job cuts elsewhere, can balance their household incomes. At his construction sites, wherein the labour force was forced to be cut into half due to regulation requirements of COVID-19, his company initiated a food supply drive to ensure that the labour that's not being employed can have respectable food supplies for their households.

His ambitions for future include greater initiatives for education for the underprivileged, and also in the field of healthcare including initiatives of dialysis centers.

DINESH CHANDRA KOTHARI

# TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY WITH SHEER GRIT

*A Chartered Accountant by qualification, Mr. Kothari is a serial entrepreneur who possesses a rich experience of over 46 years. His vision to give back to society and an unceasing quest for laying a strong foundation for tomorrow motivated him to establish a chain of schools in India and the UAE*

BY RICHASANG



**M**r. Kothari's career span reflects a wide range of experience in financial services, corporate and financial structuring and analysis of projects for financial assistance and initial public offering. He started his career with Merchant Banking Division of ICICI Limited. Thereafter, he joined Bukhatir Group of Companies, Sharjah, U.A.E. and worked his way up to achieve the position of CEO before setting-up his corporate consultancy and advisory services.

Eventually, he diversified his business to Merger & Acquisition (M&A) practice, bringing foreign investment in Dubai. Inspired by his late grandfather Shri Shugan Chandra Kothari, he set up DPS at Jodhpur in India. With an aim of providing quality education to the children of expatriates in the UAE, he established DPS (CBSE) in Sharjah and Dubai and Victory Heights Primary School (VHPS) and South View School (a British curriculum secondary school), was launched in 2018 in the Remraam Community, Dubai (British curriculum) to engage and contribute to a wider section of Western European expatriates. Recently, he has laid the foundation of Delhi Private School in Ras Al Khaimah (RAK), which will be functional from April 2021 onwards, to serve the Indian community based there.

For his noteworthy contribution to business and society, Mr. Kothari has been conferred 'Pride of India' Award by IBPC and honoured with the prestigious Mother Teresa Award for excellence in the field of Education.

## CREATING A SURE SHOT RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Mr. Kothari carved his own route to success with sheer determination and passion to make it big. He kept marching ahead with big dreams in his eyes and determination to turn them into reality. In the process, he has set an example for others to follow. As he puts it, "When I arrived in the UAE, I was a 24-year-old young man with \$8 in my pocket and big dreams. I started out as the Finance Manager for a company under the Bukhatir

Group in Sharjah in 1974 and by March 1978, at the age of 28, I was made the CEO of the Group which employed over 5000 persons in around 15 different companies. It was the most wonderful learning phase for me, and I could not have asked for more. I had created financial stability for my family and myself. My salary and bonus together fetched me an annual pay of a million dirhams. I could afford to buy a house in India, educate my children and more. But I wanted to give back to society somehow, and that was how my foray into education happened. In 1998, I set up first not-for-profit school – Delhi Public School in Jodhpur, my home town, in memory of my late grandfather. There was no looking back after that.”

Sharing his success mantra, he elaborates, “My mantra for achieving success is simple – see a dream, add grit, stir in hard-work and wrap both these up with focus, and you’ll find yourself getting closer to your visualised goal. While travelling towards your goal, you will experience hiccups on the way, but your fortitude and resolve are what will keep you going.”

He further adds, “My life was inspired by the profound advice I got as a youngster. The best advice I ever got was from my father and it was: ‘Man gives his best only under pressure, and once you commit to do something, do not renege.’ However, it is not just one golden rule that I follow. What really pushed me towards success was that I was honourable in my commitments. One should not simply chase mirages but have faith in oneself and be sincere. It was this mindset that helped me achieve the goals I had set. I’m yet to achieve all my targets; this is what keeps me moving in life. Having said that, I also feel completely satisfied with my achievements so far.”

### **A LEADER WHO INSPIRES EXCELLENCE**

A great leader, Mr. Kothari leads by example and inspires commitment and engagement in his team, augmenting performance and productivity. Throwing light on his leadership style, he says, “The people management skills that I apply as a leader today are something I imbibed from my first boss, back in the 70s. I believe in being a leader who sees the potential in every staff. I am proud to say that we barely have a one per cent attrition of staff across our schools. Yes, education is a business but we take it that it is our business to provide the best to students and



**“SEE A DREAM, ADD GRIT, STIR IN HARD-WORK AND WRAP BOTH THESE UP WITH FOCUS, AND YOU’LL FIND YOURSELF GETTING CLOSER TO YOUR GOAL. WHILE TRAVELLING TOWARDS YOUR GOAL, YOU WILL EXPERIENCE HICCUPS, BUT YOUR FORTITUDE AND RESOLVE WILL KEEP YOU GOING”**

respect all stakeholders. However, I firmly believe that to be associated with education sector requires passion – one that is not necessarily driven by money alone.”

### **MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY**

Mr. Kothari is of the view that education has the power to transform societies. He is deeply concerned about disseminating education to students from the economically weaker sections of the society so that they rise up from poverty and exploitation and are able to reach their full potential.

In his own words, “I strongly believe in giving back to society. I am on a journey of nation-building, in a small yet significant way. Every school that I chair offers a very generous Scholarship policy to benefit students whose families express the need for financial support. DPS Jodhpur is a completely non-profit school with 5,000 students. It is a fee-paying school but I do not take any of the school’s profit. I prefer to

stay as the Trustee of the school.”

He further elaborates, “We take great pride in integrating social and environmental concerns to our educational establishments. Our schools in the UAE have adopted villages in India and are distributing solar lanterns to the rural population under the initiative, ‘Light a Billion Lamps.’ Our schools have also initiated endowment programs such as, ‘Aao Sangh Paden’ to support the deserving students of economically weaker sections in India.”

He concludes, “We provide financial aid to the needy families by fee waivers, offer help to bereaved staff members, extend contributions to various charities, impart training to the ancillary staff in Computer skills, English and Arabic. We support parents and the community by wellness programs: free yoga classes and counselling. We also offer free e-library and hobby classes to students after school. We also have enrichment and remedial classes after school for students, free of charge.”

DIPAK CHOUDHARY

# CARVING HIS OWN ROUTE TO SUCCESS

*With a mission to provide innovative and sustainable products, Mr. Dipak Choudhary brought PMD Chemicals Ltd. UK, one of the largest independent manufacturers & suppliers of process chemistry, to India. As the Director & CEO, PMD Chemicals India, he has been driving the firm to newer realms of success*

BY RICHA SANG



**M**r. Choudhary has been efficiently spearheading the first wholly-owned overseas facility of PMD Group UK. Under his exemplary leadership, the firm offers a complete range of electroplating and surface treatment processes to the automotive, electronic, printed circuit board and jewellery industries in the country. He has played a significant role in the appointment of distributors in key strategic markets. Owing to his dedicated efforts, the company has received India 5000 Best MSME Award.

## WORKING HIS WAY TO THE TOP

After completing his studies as an aeronautical engineer, Mr. Choudhary made a drastic shift in his career path and ventured into the chemical industry. He elaborates, “When I passed out in the year 1992, at that time, there was not much scope for aeronautical engineers. The career options were restricted to the Indian Airlines, Air India or the Defence. So, I entered into the chemical industry and especially the electroplating, I found it challenging. Today, I am into this industry and I’m really enjoying it.”

An expert in Business operations, he possesses excellent Problem Solving skills, values Customer Service and holds rich domestic and international experience. Talking about how he began his journey with PMD Chemicals and bringing their operations to India, Mr. Choudhary elaborates, “I am an aeronautical engineer by qualification, but I ventured into the chemical industry, and worked in various positions. It was in the year 2011 that I decided to bring one company to India. There were so many companies in the pipeline but I went to the PMD UK, and we finally decided to start the operation in India during 2012.”

Having achieved remarkable success in the chemical industry sector, he declares with pride, “I started this company from scratch. In 2012, no one knew about the PMD in India, but now this company is so much popular. In the UK, we were supplying to Rolls Royce and all the big companies over

there. This is a great achievement. I'm very proud to say we are a profitable company in India."

Sharing his success mantra, he says, "Our excellence mantra is that your future requires our liquid. Because whatever our products are in liquid, and anything starting from the needle of the aeroplane or the BrahMos all require our chemistry. Our main mantra is processing chemistry, and obtaining the metal finishing deposit."

### **CONSIDERING THE CUSTOMER AS KING**

Mr. Choudhary is of the view that businesses must not hesitate in treating their customers as king. He vehemently believes that customers should be given topmost priority in every business. According to him, the USP of PMD Chemicals which differentiates it from the others in the industry is its customer-centricity. He asserts, "We develop our products after discussion with customers and their requirements. We understand what their needs are. They should be user friendly. In addition, all our products are environmentally friendly. In the chemical industry, being environmentally friendly is very much important and our company takes proper care of that."

### **TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES**

Mr. Chaudhary has faced numerous challenges in his career journey. For instance, building the brand PMD in India required a lot of consistency, focus and dedication. Talking about some of the challenges he faced, he elaborates, "One of the major challenge during this situation was to make sure that your colleagues and everyone associated with your business should not be affected by the downfall of the business and one of the major problems I faced was the cash flow. Thus, we have to take stock of numerous factors that affect the market. For instance, if you realize that the cost of raw material has gone up even if ample amount of raw material has been coming from the UK, it could be because the Sterling Pound is at a very high value. So, we need to manage all the tough times and challenges without affecting our customers."

Sharing some of the steps that he has undertaken to overcome these challenges, he says, "We have discussed the issue with our Parent company in the UK and have suggested that the raw material can be



**"ONE GOOD LESSON THAT I HAVE LEARNT FROM LIFE IS TO WORK HARD AND PLAY HARDER. AN ENTREPRENEUR IS BOUND TO WORK HARDER, I WOULD SAY, EVEN WORKING MORE THAN OTHER PEOPLE DO. BUT DON'T SACRIFICE YOUR SOCIAL LIFE. WE HAVE TO ACCOMPANY BOTH THE THINGS TOGETHER"**

procured from the UK in bulk so that the discount could be obtained. Also, I have received the credit period of more than 90 days so that the cash flow will not get too much affected over here and I can manage the business, my staff and my customers will also not get affected by the price increase."

### **FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTABLE**

Referring to the present day changing global scenario, Mr. Choudhary feels that a leader must possess the qualities of flexibility and adaptability. Sharing about the future plans for the company and himself, Mr. Choudhary tells us, "In the school we are taught to make the five year plan but right now it will not work because the landscape changes. The reality over here is everyday one has to pay for new things. Whatever ventures we have, we have to plan accordingly. Also I don't want to waste valuable time on drafting the five years plan rather I believe in sticking to the short-term or near future

plans, so we are working on the six months or a year plan."

### **STRIKING THE PERFECT WORK-LIFE BALANCE**

The proverb 'all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy' holds true for Mr. Choudhary. For him, hard work is necessary to achieve our goals in life, however, he puts an equal emphasis on rejuvenation. He strongly believes that concentration on work alone with no recreation tends to make a person dull and unsociable. Reminiscing some of the life's lessons, the biggest advice that he would like to give to young entrepreneurs is to strike an effective balance between work and personal life. He rightly elaborates, "One good lesson that I have learnt from life is to work hard and play harder. An entrepreneur is bound to work harder, I would say, even working more than other people do. But don't sacrifice your social life and the family life and fun. We have to accompany both the things together."

DR. BIPLAB KUMAR BISWAL

# CHALKING OUT WINNING STRATEGIES

*Dr. Biplab Kumar Biswal, the Director of Karnataka-based Kirloskar Institute of Advanced Management Studies (KIAMS), has been consistently taking firm steps towards building a platform of quality higher education for his students by ensuring transparency and high ethical practices through and through*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



**D**r. Biswal has held a variety of distinct and distinguished positions throughout his career, amassing a wealth of experience & knowledge. The well-versed leader has over 22 years of experience in corporate & academic settings, managing research initiatives for government bodies and international funding agencies, as well as handling business operations. He has worked in a variety of top positions & has mastered the art of leading challenging projects from concept to completion. Besides holding an academic leadership position, Dr. Biswal is also a life member of the Indian Economic Association. Under his exemplary leadership, KIAMS has grown into one of India's best B-Schools. Quality matters to him more than quantity. He is committed to make the institute a close knit community of students, faculty, staff, & stakeholders. With his ceaseless efforts, the leader has succeeded in establishing a transparent & efficient administrative structure where everyone has a voice & everyone pays attention to and appreciates each other's viewpoints.

## AN ILLUSTRIOUS ACADEMIC CAREER

Dr. Biswal has a brilliant academic career. He holds a Ph.D. in Management, the highest academic degree awarded in the study of management science, from Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar. He has also pursued M.Com in Accounting, Post Graduate Diploma in Industrial Relations & Personnel Management in 2003, LLB in 2000, GNIT from NIIT, New Delhi in 2001, and B.Com (Hons) from G.M. College, Sambalpur (India) in 1995. The humble leader is a perpetual learner who believes that life is an unceasing process of learning. As he puts it, "My life's inspiration is knowledge, which I attempt to obtain from all of the sources available in this natural ecosystem. I believe that is what keeps me going every day." He adds, "I aspire to instil the same spirit into my students so that they can thrive in their professional and personal life."

## A LEADER WITH A GROWTH MINDSET

Dr. Biswal is an open-minded leader.

According to him, having a mind that is closed to innovative ideas has only one consequence – definite failure. The pragmatist leader believes that sometimes the finest learning comes from viewpoints that are diametrically opposed to your own, as long as you are prepared to embrace them with an open mind. What’s more, as a wise leader, he always takes criticism in stride & implements a transparent, cohesive, & empathetic system. He is also a good listener who believes that listening carefully to others is critical to creating a positive work/learning environment. He asserts, “It is crucial to listen to everyone because intelligence is not dependent on age, gender, or social status of an individual. Sometimes the most valuable lessons are learned from the people you least expect it from.”

#### LEARNING FROM ADVERSITY

Dr. Biswal is a bold leader who is constantly ready to take on new challenges. It’s the different challenges that have taught him the biggest lessons in his leadership journey. During the initial stages of his career, he spent days in tribal villages without roads, water, education, basic health care, or electricity, while he was working as an independent researcher for a disputed mining project. It was an entirely different world for him which he had never ever imagined. Despite all the hardships, he did not give up and continued his studies with zeal. Because of his tenacity, his findings were well received and earned irrefutable goodwill, resulting in additional research and consulting projects from large industrial houses. Likewise, when the pandemic presented its own unique set of obstacles, the optimistic leader embraced the hindrances as golden opportunities. The entire education system in the country underwent a substantial upheaval during the coronavirus-induced pandemic. He views the disruption as Education Revolution 2.0 and an opportunity for the educational system to evolve. Dr. Biswal believes that a leader should be able to identify and overcome all the challenges, while also seizing all the opportunities that lie ahead of them. He says, “In preparation for the new normal, we have persevered and succeeded in creating Hybrid classrooms, one where both physical & online classroom sessions take place simultaneously, prioritizing student-teacher interaction & active participation and engagement among students.” Dr. Biswal also helped the community by distributing



**“THE WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES A LEADER CAN HAVE. LISTENING TO YOUR STAFF AND STUDENTS, AND THEN ACTING ON WHAT YOU HEAR, IS OFTEN THE KEY TO MAINTAINING A MOTIVATING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT”**

masks, hand sanitizers, & food to needy people in the time of crisis. He encouraged small scale entrepreneurs in the surrounding neighbourhood.

#### STELLAR ACHIEVEMENTS

His experience and zeal for excellence have helped KIAMS earn several awards and recognitions. Under his leadership, the institution has been recognized as Business Sight’s 10 most trusted brands of the year 2021. Also, Academic Insights ranked it as one of the top ten B-schools in the country for business analytics. Additionally, CEO Insights has ranked KIAMS among the top ten B-schools in the country for business analytics. Even during the stupefying times of the pandemic, the institute witnessed an extraordinary placement season. Where other institutes were barely managing to place their students, KIAMS was able to place 99% of its students with a 15% growth in the Average package offered compared to the previous year. What’s even more exemplary

is the fact that over 40% of their students joined the BIG 4. Under his guidance, KIAMS has been the only higher education institution to remain open full-time during the epidemic. Furthermore, the institute followed the original academic calendar without making major changes. The students were cautiously kept inside the campus and supplies were strategically managed for them. He made sure that the institution was fully operational during the lockdown. Term examinations were also organized keeping the social distancing norms in mind. Additionally, interviews and admissions were scheduled online and the newly admitted batch was also on-boarded with caution and exceptional care. Due to these stringent measures, the institute remains virus-free to this day. He is not only a successful leader but also a genuine role model for the next generation of budding entrepreneurs. His unshakeable moral principles, coupled with his refined, well-articulated, and cohesive vision are a source of inspiration for everyone.

DR. KRISHAN KISHORE MATHUR

# IMPACTING LIVES FOR A BETTER WORLD

*Hailing from the historic desert city of Jodhpur in India, the innate leader, Dr. Krishan Kishore Mathur has carved a brilliant career in the desert country of Bahrain in the Gulf. His ambition and deep-rooted community vision have transformed not just his company but also the people who work with him*

BY RICHA SANG



**D**r. Mathur truly embodies the spirit of global business leadership combined with a new humanitarian approach. A successful business leader and a recognized corporate trailblazer, he takes pride in his humble background. As he puts it, “I always had big dreams. When I finished school, I decided to follow in the footsteps of my grandfather and uncles and become an engineer. But I saw that only as the beginning – later, I added business and project management to my qualifications to take my career to a different and higher level altogether.”

## A GLORIOUS BEGINNING

Armed with a degree in mechanical engineering from Jodhpur, he set his sights on the wider world outside his state of Rajasthan. In 1990, after a stint with Indian big names such as Bajaj and Birla, he arrived in Bahrain as a young engineer and worked in a couple of high-profile engineering projects, including Aluminium Bahrain – one of the world’s largest aluminium smelters. Seeking a larger canvas for his professional growth, he soon joined Ahmed Mohammed Amin Al Khaja & Sons (AMAK) Group of companies. The rest, as they say, is history.

Dr. Mathur is quite meticulous and technical in his approach. His unquenchable thirst for new knowledge has facilitated his participation in many workshops and courses that helped him to bring new skill sets to his work including an MBA and a doctorate study in project management from the USA. No wonder under the joint leadership of AMAK’s Managing Director Mr. Mohammed Al Khaja and Dr. Mathur, AMAK emerged as the first contracting company in the Kingdom of Bahrain to be ISO-certified – ISO 9001: 2015; ISP14001: 2015 and ISO 45001: 2018 – denoting excellence in quality management, health and safety and environment.

In his own words, “I learnt very early on that quality control is not just about the right tools and technology but also about people-management. In 1996, I was entrusted with leading our company’s certification for the globally recognized ISO quality control label.

We succeeded in installing a management system that is responsive to the strict requirements of the certification process – we were among the pioneers in getting the certification in this field in Bahrain and we focused not just on technical expertise but also on aligning the management experience and deliverables as well because a strong, committed and excellent management automatically guarantees a great end-product.” He adds, “While quality standards and environmental standards were laid down, we also implemented several world-class health and safety measures so that workplace accidents were cut to minimum and working conditions improved.”

### **PRIORITIZING CUSTOMERS**

A game changer, Dr. Mathur has always emphasized on uncompromising quality when it comes to offering goods and services to the customers. This has led to a prestigious track-record that stretches from government contracts to blue-chip companies such as the brand-new Bahrain International Airport, Bahrain Petroleum Co. (Bapco), Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA), Gulf Petrochemical Industries Co. (GPIC) and some VVIP clients who engage the company for palaces, private resorts and industries. It has also spurred a growth of new business ventures in the Group: from decorative wrought iron, marble contracting to industrial car park shades in a country that faces harsh climatic conditions for most of the year.

### **AN INFALLIBLE SUCCESS MODEL**

Over a 27-year period, he has helped to grow the business of AMAK by a stunning 1700% with exports representing a major portion of the total business. This is very good news as Bahrain seeks to recast its business model and move more actively into engineering services and goods, promoting itself as an emerging technical hub for the busy United Arab Emirates and the Northern GCC, especially the giant neighboring markets of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In recent times, Indian technology and expertise has increasingly been chosen by Bahrain to pace its development and CEOs and professionals like Dr. Mathur are at the vanguard of the new Bahraini boardroom. He has found a responsive business environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain, widely celebrated as the best place in the GCC to do business because of its cosmopolitan and inclusive lifestyle, transparent and strong legal



**“YOU SEE, OUR BUSINESS IS POWERED BY A WORKFORCE THAT IS MOSTLY EXPAT. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT FOR A BUSINESS TO SUCCEED, WE MUST HAVE A STRONG EMOTIONAL RESONANCE WITH ALL OUR STAKEHOLDERS – AND OF COURSE, OUR WORKFORCE IS OUR PRIMARY STAKEHOLDER”**

framework and relatively low business cost. He rightly points out, “The Kingdom of Bahrain is very welcoming of new ideas and we all know that a successful business thrives on diversity.” “Bahrainis are highly educated and hard-working. They are open to innovation also. This makes it easy for expats like me to share our expertise and be a part of the progress of the nation,” he adds.

He is particularly appreciative of the vision of the leaders of the Kingdom. As he puts it, “One must also pay respects to the late Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa who was a stalwart leader and laid the foundation for modern Bahrain in the early ‘seventies,” he says. He further elaborates, “India and Bahrain share a historic and warm relationship that stretches back 5,000 years and that warmth continues to this day.”

### **GARNERING GLORY**

Dr. Mathur’s winning streak began in school when he won the President of India’s President’s Scout Award. Of the

hundred-plus awards that he has won, he is particularly proud of the Standard Chartered Asian Businessman of the Year Award 2012 which he received from the Deputy Premier of Bahrain in recognition of his powerful role as a partner in Bahrain’s progress. He is a tireless community leader with key roles in the Lions Club movement, the community Indian School which is the largest single-shift school in the GCC, serving 13,000 students and in the business-oriented Bahrain India Society.

Going forward, Dr. Mathur, like most senior businessmen, is keen to realign priorities in the company’s growth. He says, “We are working to position ourselves as front-runners in the regional solar energy shift. We have already invested in a factory manufacturing solar energy panels and have implemented plans that bring together our existing business in car parking shade solutions and solar panels that generate solar energy electricity. We see this as the future, especially in a region where solar heat is in abundance and untapped.”

DR. P SHYAMA RAJU

# SHAPING THE DESTINY OF THE NATION

*The Chancellor of REVA University, Chairman of Rukmini Educational Charitable Trust & CMD of DivyaSree Developers Pvt. Ltd., Dr. Raju belongs to a rare breed of leaders who are born to make their mark. He has been efficiently building the nation with his entrepreneurial acumen, academic prowess & philanthropic acts*

BY SONAM GULATI



An aspiring boy from a village in Andhra Pradesh to an entrepreneur, philanthropist and an educationist - Dr. P Shyama Raju has carved his name into the city of Bengaluru. From his early days, Dr. Raju has been a seeker of excellence. He dreamt of having a business to his name. After graduating from Andhra University in Commerce, he moved to Bengaluru to find his calling. Instead of settling with a secure income of a routine job, he chose to embark on an entrepreneurial journey. Many challenges awaited him but he rose to the occasion. In 1975, he established DivyaSree Developers. He started humbly with small construction activities and public work related projects but his vision and foresightedness made DivyaSree a name everyone knows.

With the passage of time, Dr. Raju moved from government projects to development of software parks and integrated commercial enclaves. He pioneered the Public-Private sector partnership with the first integrated state-of-the-art IT office in Bangalore, DivyaSree Chambers, which has become a prominent landmark in Bangalore CBD. The Group, under his leadership, has executed several international standard projects (commercial, residential, etc.) which have garnered immense praise from all quarters. Each project of DivyaSree was completed with utmost sincerity and diligence that became a legacy. His vision is reflected in all his projects that illustrate a perfect balance of art, technique and technology.

## LAYING THE RIGHT FOUNDATION

Dr. Raju arrived in Bengaluru from Andhra Pradesh to make a living. But, it is his sheer brilliance and dedication that made him into a name that resonates with architectural brilliance in the city of Bengaluru.

He had achieved what many only dream of with DivyaSree Developers, but, he wanted to do more. He had a strong urge to give back to the society. What better way to give back than to educate? And thus was laid the foundation of Rukmini Educational Charitable Trust in the name of his beloved

wife the Late Smt. Rukmini Shyamaraju. She strongly believed in the value of academics to be imperative and something that should be available to all. "When the business was at its peak in DivyaSree Developers, we were thinking of what we can give back to society. My wife, Rukmini suggested starting an educational institution but I was reluctant to start one. Later, I felt that I must fulfil her wish and decided to start the educational institution in her name. Therefore we named it as REVA which means Rukmini Educational Vision Academy."

Dr. Raju not only honoured his late wife's wish but also aced the area of academic administration in which he had no previous experience. Under his able guidance and leadership REVA become a front-runner in the field of education where thousands of youth come each year to fulfil their dreams and become future leaders. It had started getting recognised for its technical education even in the starting stage and with time it has gained more recognition. It is one of the top universities in the state of Karnataka. One of the most innovative initiatives that the university took under his guidance is to go paperless during exams. From a mere thought to a working university to an apex institution that is sought for its education system, Dr. Raju proved his mettle once again with REVA.

### UPHOLDING MORAL VALUES

Be it in his real estate venture or his education institution, Dr. Raju has ensured excellence by entrusting his instincts and values. Dr. Raju abides by a few key qualities like integrity, humility, transparency, honesty. As a Chancellor at REVA or as the chairman at DivyaSree, Dr. Raju is always approachable, open to new ideas and approaches.

Through his educational ventures he aims to prepare youth with ethical and moral values and social commitment. He is thinker, go-getter with a penchant for learning. Even after achieving so many milestones, he has the same exuberance of a newbie. If a new idea comes to him, he will make sure to share it and make it happen. Dr. Raju is a first generation entrepreneur, who built everything from scratch and perhaps that is why he values hard work and dedication even more.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dr. Raju is a humanitarian and a philanthropist. He has undertaken numerous



**"DR. RAJU IS THINKER, GO-GETTER WITH A PENCHANT FOR LEARNING. EVEN AFTER ACHIEVING SO MANY MILESTONES, HE HAS THE SAME EXUBERANCE OF A NEWBIE. IF A NEW IDEA COMES TO HIM, HE WILL MAKE SURE TO SHARE IT AND MAKE IT HAPPEN"**

initiatives that stand for the larger good. Apart from leading many educational projects for rural Karnataka through REVA, he was also actively involved in 'Jagruti' a voting awareness campaign by students and faculty of REVA. He was also felicitated by the State Election Commission for leading Jagruti Campaign to create voting awareness among people. Under his guidance, not just altruistic, but environmental challenges are being battled at REVA by building environmental conscientiousness; he has made a macrocosmic eco-friendly utopia in REVA.

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Raju has earned many awards in his career spanning decades. The most recent was in January 2021, The Economic Times Asian Business Leaders Conclave 2020 recognized him as 'The Most Promising Business Leader of Asia' for his exemplary leadership qualities. Earlier, he has been conferred 'Indian of the year 2019

(Education)' Award by Indian leadership conclave 2019, and has been nominated as the Karnataka Education Board Mentoring System Committee Member in June 2020.

He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Realty South and Swachata Award from MHRD in 2018. Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi, aptly conferred him with the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) on the occasion of the 14th Annual Convocation of the University in recognition of his service to the higher education.

Dr. Raju is truly a leader in every aspect of the word. He leads by example and personifies hard work, grit and excellence. One of the beliefs is 'To labor is to pray.' Despite having reached the pinnacle of success, he is a grounded man who has never forgotten his humble beginnings. 'A true leader must be able to empathize with every level of society' and he has been perfectly doing just that. His brilliance is a legacy that will remain till the end of time.

DR. SURESH MENON

# WORKING TIRELESSLY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*Forward thinker, philanthropist, environmentalist and a determined entrepreneur – Dr. Suresh Menon dons many hats. With 100 patents and trademarks, he has succeeded in creating ground-breaking technologies with Menon International, making the world a safer, cleaner, and more sustainable place to live*

BY SONAM GULATI



**D**r. Suresh Menon hails from the beautiful town of Vengali, Calicut. He belongs to the Meempat Malappuram families. After finishing his graduation in Science from Mumbai University in India, he went on to complete a doctorate in engineering science from Pennsylvania State University. He is the man behind the path breaking agri-tech company Menon Renewable Products. A serial entrepreneur, he has more than 100 patents and trademarks under his belt.

## WORKING FOR A BETTER WORLD

Deeply concerned about the collective welfare of the planet, Dr. Menon asserts that “We have only one planet.” From the beginning of his journey his aim has been to make the world a better place for humans as well as the animals. He has worked to find sustainable methods of improving the condition of animals, eliminate trade practices that harm the ecosystem and in turn make a viable difference in the preservation of renewable resources.

He has pioneered two very successful and mindful ventures – Menon Renewable Products, that makes disruptive animal feed technology and Menon Biosensors, which provided confirmatory technology for detecting bio-weapons for the US government and is currently expanding applications to population-scale testing for COVID-19, and other viruses and bacteria in animals and humans.

He had a keen interest in improving the condition of animals and thus he started Menon Renewable Products in 2007. When he noticed increased density in farm animals and a number of unintended consequences for the animals associated with that, he decided to jump in. “We need to understand what the animal needs from a nutritional perspective in order to enhance their immune system. I understand that we need to have an adequate food supply, but we cannot just randomly increase usage of chemicals and antibiotics to treat the disease just to have more produce. We need to look at the whole situation holistically,”

he explains.

He established Menon Renewable Products to discourage the use of antibiotics in animal feed. It may sound simple, but it certainly wasn't; he pioneered a now-patented technology that reduces infection and improves digestibility for animals without antibiotics. He did this by inclusion of a spectrum of unique pre-biotics, nucleotides and peptides. His technology became disruptive animal feed technology yielded unprecedented results. He named it MrFeed®. Today, MrFeed is a market leader in its niche and sells worldwide, promoting animal health while reducing waste and environmental impact.

### ENSURING SUCCESS WITH GRIT & DETERMINATION

It might all sound meant-to-be now, but Dr. Menon worked unstintingly to prove the merit of this product. He adds that it all was possible because he and his team had an irrefutable faith in their product. He went all out to validate his product so that it was unquestionable. He believes to first have a product that sells itself and then work tirelessly to execute. "As a team, we knew for sure that technology is positively disruptive and can protect animals. This is what propels me and the team forward." With the help of untiring work of Dr. Menon and his team, Menon Renewable Products now sells to the largest players in the world-including Tyson, Pipestone, and Costco in USA, National Aquaculture in Saudi Arabia, Walmart supplier in Indonesia and Martec in Costa Rica among others.

### GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Dr. Menon is a self-confessed philanthropist. He has dedicated a major part of his life to innovation and activities that improve food sustainability, preservation of endangered species, and enhance human nutrition to improve immunity against infection and disease.

He gives back always and in whatever ways possible. In addition to their on-going work to fight COVID-19 through rapid testing and bringing sustainability to the animal feed industry, Dr. Menon and his team contributes equipment and funds to groups responsible for safeguarding endangered species and animals in the wild. To him, "Giving back to the community brings about a satisfaction unlike any other."

Through his other company Menon



**"WE ARE BRINGING A SOLUTION TO HELP SCREEN EVERYONE TO CORNER THE VIRUS IN EFFICIENT MANNER. FAST, AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE TESTING IS CRUCIAL TO CONTAINING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC & SAFELY REOPENING SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES & OTHER VITAL INSTITUTIONS THE WORLD OVER"**

Biosensors, Dr. Menon is also helping the elephants in India. "In the wild there are many health issues such as TB infection in elephants. We were happy to provide our technology at no cost to help the elephants get the right treatment in time." Their technology is now being promoted to help other animals in that country, and could eventually help endangered wild animal populations worldwide.

"Social responsibility is very important to me. If I have a position of advantage, I would use it to make an impact on how we take care of the urban versus nature conflicts," says Dr. Menon. He added that it is pertinent to balance both - protect the needs of human population for food and nutrition and prevent extinction of the precious plants and animals in the wild. "Reducing waste and even going further by converting the same to fulfill the need for humans and animals should be top priority," he adds.

He is also proud of their work in the Covid-19 testing. "We are bringing a solution

to help screen everyone to corner the virus in efficient manner. Fast, affordable and accessible testing is crucial to containing the Covid-19 pandemic and safely reopening schools, businesses and other vital institutions around the world," he shares.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

Dr. Menon started his entrepreneurial journey when he was all of 16. The experience gained at that time in starting and building a business has made him realise the significance of innovation. There are a few lessons that he learnt on the way and swears by. Firstly, one should avoid thinking that they know everything and that any mistakes will not be made along the way. Instead, find innovative solutions to those problems, he believes. Secondly, he is of the view that success is often due to what you know and others don't. Once you have the initial idea then work tirelessly to put together a most motivated team around you to execute it.

HIMANSU MOHAPATRA

# MARCHING ON THE GOLDEN PATH OF GROWTH

*The Group General Manager of Al Tamman Investment LLC, Muscat Overseas Group, Himansu is a multitalented leader who has efficiently set up, acquired & led multiple new businesses for the Group in Realty, Education, Healthcare, Industrial, Aquaculture, Media & Communications, Entertainment & Hospitality sectors*

BY RICHASANG



Armed with a Masters Degree in Commerce and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management, Himansu has a rich experience of around 2 decades spanning into Investment Banking, Portfolio Management, Private Equity, Real Estate Development, Strategic Management and Organizational Development.

His key fortes are investment evaluation, fund raising, deal structuring and negotiation, strategic tie-ups, setting up new ventures and executing exit strategies. He has worked with a sovereign wealth fund in Oman and other leading financial institutes in India in the past.

He was featured among 100 influential CEOs in Oman by Oman Economic Review (OER) Magazine in December 2020. He is inspired by the values of his late father and feels that his guidance has played a significant role in his success.

## REAPING SWEET FRUITS OF SUCCESS

Himansu is of the view that by working diligently, with focus and passion, one is bound to achieve success. Having sown the seeds of hard work, he is reaping the fruits of success. As he puts it, “Currently, I lead investments, strategy and organizational development for Muscat Overseas Group, and manage various operating businesses under Al Tamman Investments. I count my achievements in successfully setting up and managing of seven new business verticals for the Group including Retail & Shopping malls business, Hospitality – F&B business, Education services & facilities, Entertainment business, Pharmaceutical manufacturing, Healthcare services, and Technology business.”

He adds, “I play strategic role by holding directorship in companies including Oman Investment & Finance Co. SAOG, Muscat Thread Mills SAOG, Computer Stationery Industry SAOG, Al Sahab Al Zomardy SAOC, Deepak Oman LLC, Al Tamman Group Limited, MOG Holding Limited, English Education Management Company LLC, Modern Healthcare LLC, Drug Manufacturing Company LLC, and Oman Aquaculture

Company LLC. I am also a member of the Executive Committee of Muscat Overseas Group of Companies. I am privileged to work for this group and take pride in the fact that we are in the forefront of economic development of Oman, creating employment opportunities and successfully participating in the wellbeing of the society.”

Talking about his leadership initiatives and business innovations, he elaborates, “Traditionally, Muscat Overseas Group was into trading, real estate businesses and local security investments and used to run as a typical family office. I joined the Group in late 2011, and with the blessings of our Chairman and Vice Chairman, I led the path of restructuring, diversifying and renovating the Group on various fronts. I started with devising a corporate structure and governance to the family office by constituting the board/executive committee; including setting up an independent internal audit department, legal department, organizational development department, and renovating the market perception with new logo and strong identity for the Group. During the process, I also diversified the group portfolio by adding new business verticals and investing globally in equity, fixed income and private equity portfolios.”

#### **A SKILLFUL LEADER**

As a leader, Himansu believes in making a real difference. He excels at leading from the inside out. Describing himself as a leader and sharing the uniqueness about his leadership style, he says, “I am an optimistic person; I believe every situation has its own opportunity and positivity, only we need to have the right strategy to achieve it. I believe nothing is impossible, sometimes it might not be possible by current actions but definitely it will be achievable by adopting and changing parameters. I am quite determined in my action plans; I put my best efforts until I get success.”

He further adds, “I believe in shared vision and collective efforts. I pursue participative management, completely trust my team, delegate the responsibilities, and keep them accountable, at the same time I take the burden of any failure, so that the team has the freedom to work on new ideas and practices. We give chance to the people to experiment and yet support them to abort in right time any unsuccessful ventures and invigorate them for new assignments. I adopt continuous improvements policy,



**“I AM PRIVILEGED TO WORK FOR MUSCAT OVERSEAS GROUP AND TAKE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT WE ARE IN THE FOREFRONT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OMAN, CREATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND SUCCESSFULLY PARTICIPATING IN THE WELLBEING OF THE SOCIETY”**

encourage betterment everyday whether in marketing strategy or in service innovation or new business practices; we always brainstorm for new avenues and ventures. I lead from front, inspire by example, walk the talk, accept the challenges and hold myself accountable for failure, and yet aspire for success. I treat my team as family – sharing responsibilities and giving them adequate comfort, respect and recognition.”

He is leaving no stone unturned in making the Group “a leader in the social infrastructure and services businesses by enabling new technologies and focusing on customer orientation.” He aims “to add value to people’s life and contribute actively towards social wellbeing and sustainable development that spur economic growth.”

#### **PAVING THE WAY TO A BETTER WORLD**

Himansu is of the view that “CSR is the key for a successful and sustainable company” and feels that “it should be integral part of conducting business.” He asserts, “We are

committed to provide smart and quality education facilities and services in different locations of the country as well as through eLearning platforms to build the future generation of the nation.”

Throwing light on the Group’s various social initiatives, he says, “We offer quality and specialised healthcare facilities, worship facility (Mosque) for the community, social and entertainment facilities for wellbeing of the people. Moreover, we create many employment opportunities for local as well as expat communities and groom them for being future ready. We also support SMEs by providing them with various business opportunities, and offer support to the weaker section of society.”

He concludes with satisfaction, “We have created many employment and business opportunities during this pandemic in spite of all the hurdles. I believe that we have quite actively contributed in sustaining, reviving and giving back to the society and economy at large.”

K. SHYAMPRASAD

# SCRIPTING HIS OWN SUCCESS STORY

*A first-generation entrepreneur, Mr. Kodimule Shyamprasad is a man of his word. After starting his career as a chemist, he went on to establish Vidya Herbs from scratch and made it a global brand that is known for its superior quality products all over the world*

BY SONAM GULATI



**M**r. K Shyamprasad pursued his education in Natural Product Chemistry. He started out as a chemist after that in 1990. Soon after he started working in a pharmaceutical company; his interest piqued and he wanted to start his own firm. In 2001, he set up Vidya Herbs and set foot into manufacturing botanical products and there has been no looking back ever since.

## STARTING HUMBLE, BUILDING RIGHT

Vidya Herbs had humble beginnings. Mr. Shyamprasad started by establishing a trading firm that was dealing in botanical extracts and exporting to only limited geographies like the US and Japan. Slowly he realized that there is a huge market for good quality botanical products and that's why he started his own manufacturing company. It started as a small manufacturing facility on a 10,000 sq ft land with a shed. It is with consistent work and improvisation that Vidya Herbs gained its reputation of an herbal extraction company that doesn't compromise on quality. It is a firm that employs over 600 people and has reach in advanced markets like the US, Europe, Korea and Japan.

Mr. Shyamprasad made the bold move of quitting his secure job and putting all his time and energy into building this company. He made sure that every milestone the company achieved was based on extensive research, customer feedback and quality products. Under his leadership, Vidya Herbs has recently opened its new marketing office in London, Russia, Dubai, and Mumbai to expand its customer base and penetrate new markets. Today, Vidya Herbs takes pride in its 5 manufacturing units in India, 5 warehouses globally, 12 global locations and over 10,000 customers.

## QUALITY OVER EVERYTHING

A quality product is of tremendous importance for Mr. Shyamprasad. Being in the business of health and nutrition, he is extremely cognizant of the fact that the products needs to be authentic and unadulterated.

To make sure that each product meets global standards, he has invested heavily in research and development. He utilizes novel research and production methods, such as supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>, and conventional extraction processing and practices strict quality control at all facilities.

His focus has always been on organic growth. Be it in terms of size or reach, he has always emphasized on Vidya Herbs getting bigger by the virtue of the top quality products it manufactures. He always had the penchant for growth but also possessed the patience to attain it. Owing to his dedicated efforts and noble vision, the company has achieved remarkable success.

Mr. Shyamprasad has also undertaken initiatives like taking farmers to the factories to sensitize them about the ill-effects of adulteration in raw materials. They even ask farmers to charge them a premium but to not compromise on quality in any way.

#### LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Mr. Shyamprasad is committed to nature and practicing sustainable policies. He truly feels grateful to nature for providing all that he has built his business on. Be it farming, production, processing, exporting or sales he tries to be as ecologically friendly as possible. He has introduced policies and programs that are scientific in nature and are backed by thorough research. These policies help him and his team to scale their business in the most sustainable manner. "We actively seek to reduce dependence on synthetics, chemicals and their derivatives in all our processes," he asserts. In fact it is their pragmatic approach to be as close to the natural source for their products that sets them apart and provides them with the distinction the need to compete in the natural products market.

He also actively participates in the development of the local community. The company closely works with local farms, committed to the economic development of the local farming populations and provides them with agricultural inputs and farm equipment for better agricultural practices.

Mr. Shyamprasad has tried to imbibe all of these commitments to nature and environment as part of his company's culture. All employees and team members are expected to practice a certain way or working. For his contributions, Mr. Shyamprasad also received the Bharat Nirman Award for "Industry Development"



**"TO MAKE SURE THAT EACH PRODUCT MEETS GLOBAL STANDARDS, HE HAS INVESTED HEAVILY IN R&D. HE UTILIZES NOVEL RESEARCH & PRODUCTION METHODS SUCH AS SUPERCRITICAL CO<sub>2</sub> & CONVENTIONAL EXTRACTION PROCESSING, & PRACTICES STRICT QUALITY CONTROL AT ALL FACILITIES"**

from the Indian Trade and Industry Organisation.

#### GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR CUSTOMERS

Mr. Shyamprasad is committed to not only to meet, satisfy and exceed customer expectations, but also to 'walk the extra mile' to ensure customer success. His definition of customer care is not the usual reactionary approach where resolution is needed but he makes sure to actively seek what the customer needs and makes it his responsibility to work for that. He takes customers' feedback very seriously and ensures that every customer feels heard. He has established a code for all his employees where everyone knows that the key is to establish personal relationships with the customers for an empathetic understanding of each other's needs and work towards a mutually satisfactory relationship. For him, business is all about relationships. All his clients become returning customers

because of his transparent working culture.

Mr. Shyamprasad leads by one motto, "To deliver 100% natural high quality products for healthy living ethically and contribute back to the society." Under his guidance, Vidya Herbs has scaled many milestones. Vidya Herbs has recently started its Coffee Curing works in Chickmanglur, India and is already listed in the top 10 coffee bean exporters within 2 years. With the new expansion plan in place, Vidya Herbs is all set to bring in Rs 1,000 crores in revenue in coming years.

All of this has not been an easy feat. It took every ounce of hard work, determination and consistency from Mr. Shyamprasad and all his team members. When Mr. Shyamprasad started Vidya Herbs around 2 decades ago, he wanted to build a business that put quality and customers ahead of everything else. Even today, many milestones later, his basic philosophy hasn't changed and that is what makes Mr. Shyamprasad and his venture stand out from the crowd.

**K.G. BABURAJAN**

# FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO PINNACLE OF SUCCESS

*Mr. K.G. Baburajan is a Bahrain-based entrepreneur who has made significant contributions to the nation's development over the last four decades. He is currently serving as the Chairman & MD of BKG Holding. The meteoric rise of this dynamic leader and his glorious success saga commands respect and applause*

**BY MONALISA BISWAS**



**M**r. Baburajan was born in Eraviperoor, Kuttoor, in the Alappuzha District of Kerala (India). He is the son of Mr. K.K. Divakaran, a Hindi school teacher, and Ms. Bharathy. From a young age, he believed that one should step out of one's comfort zone and challenge oneself to make an impact. He spent a year working in India after completing his degrees in Chemistry, and Civil Engineering from the College of Engineering, Trivandrum, (Kerala). In the year 1980, he left for Saudi Arabia to take up an assignment with a joint venture partner of Harry Stanger Inc. UK and Al Houthi of KSA. He was tasked with overseeing the Bahrain-Saudi Causeway Project from beginning to end, which prompted him to establish a base in Bahrain. Being involved in such a massive undertaking so early in his career put him on a fast route to expertise, competence, and fame.

## **A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS STORY**

An expert in foundation design and piling, Mr. Baburajan has been instrumental in the development of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Beginning with the Saudi-Bahrain Causeway, he has transformed the Kingdom's infrastructure with prestigious projects such as the Shaikh Khalifa Port, Airport Terminal Modernization, Almoayyed Tower, Shaikh Isa Bridge, Sitra Bridge, and others.

He has worked on a spectrum of projects over the years, including high-rise buildings, dredging and reclamation, offshore installations, causeways, bridges, power plants, aluminum smelters, and refineries, demonstrating his expertise in soil studies. The accomplished business leader has also proven his abilities in failure analysis, material testing, non-destructive testing, metallurgy, pipeline services, piling, and other ground improvement works.

He became an entrepreneur in 1992 when he founded Fast Flow Services, a company that specializes in calibration services, corrosion monitoring, and maritime structure development. In 1999, he formed a dedicated team of Structural Engineers, Project Engineers, Piling Engineers,

Project Managers, Operators, etc., under the banner of Bahrain Foundation and Construction Company W.L.L., to implement the construction of various piles foundations and other substructures.

In the years that followed, the versatile entrepreneur established several companies in the region, including Qatar Engineering Laboratories in Doha, Gulf Engineering Laboratories in Sohar, Oman, a foreign branch of Qatar Engineering Laboratories in Bahrain, and Quality Piling and Construction Company in Bahrain. Currently, Mr. Baburajan is the Chairman and MD of BKG Holdings, the umbrella organization of all the companies he has set up in Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman.

#### **A LEADER PAR EXCELLENCE**

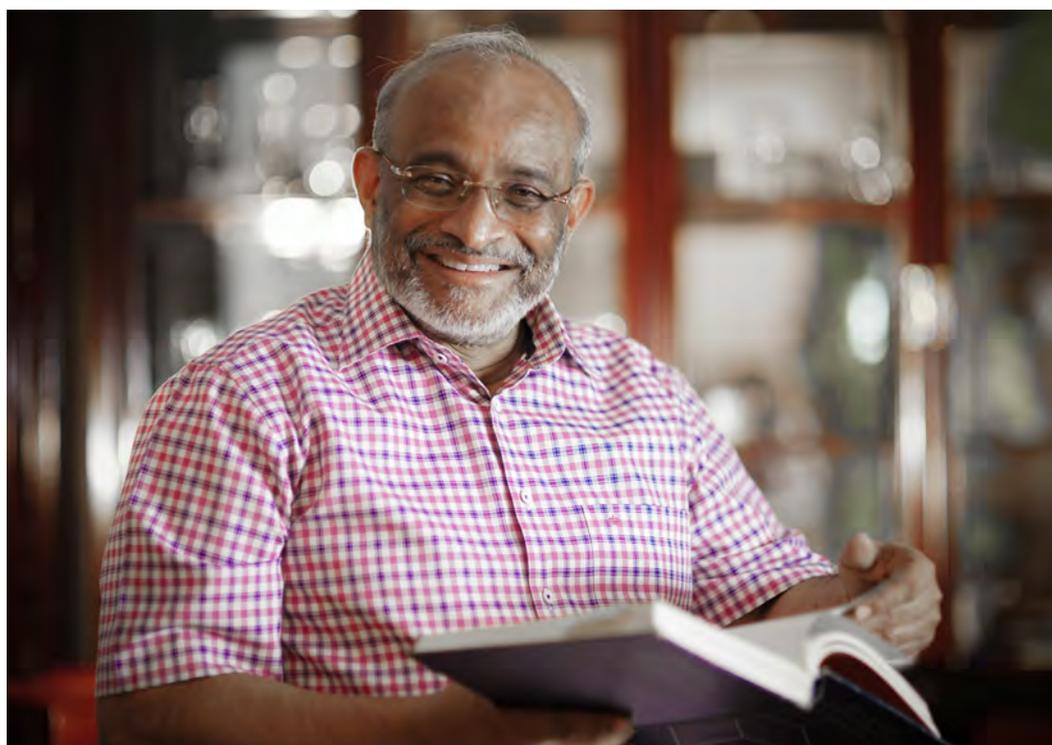
Mr. Baburajan has carved out a remarkable niche for himself in both the national and global markets. He is a proud member of prestigious organizations such as the International Accreditation Service, which is responsible for the accreditation of calibration and testing laboratories all over the world. He is also the only Indian member of the Accreditation and Technical Evaluation Committee of this distinguished scientific organization. Mr. Baburajan also serves as a technical expert to the Bahraini courts on a variety of civil engineering issues, including building collapses, failure analysis, client-consultant disputes, as well as contract disputes.

Mr. Baburajan has high hopes for the new generations and believes that the development of any country mainly depends on the youth of that country. He says, "It is very inspiring to see that a large number of educated youth are stepping up to help establish the Kingdom of Bahrain." He adds: "This is indeed a hopeful sign for Bahrain as the youth of the nation are on the right track and the government is also encouraging them to come forward and participate in this development.

#### **ON A NOBLE MISSION**

Mr. Baburajan has never forgotten his humble roots, even in the midst of his success. He has imbibed the spirit of charity at an early age from his grandfather who taught him about the joy of giving.

As a model citizen presently residing in Bahrain and Qatar, he has impacted the lives of thousands of people all around the world. The compassionate leader says, "Because I



**"I VALUE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO OUR BUSINESS & GROWTH. IT IS ONE THING TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD WITH BRILLIANT ENTREPRENEURIAL IDEAS, BUT THE SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT A CHARITABLE ACT BRINGS IS JUST BEYOND COMPARE"**

value social responsibility, I believe it should be integrated into our business and growth. Only by working together can we attain a specific level in society."

He strongly believes that helping the poor & destitute is the same as serving God. "It is one thing to transform the world with brilliant entrepreneurial ideas, but the sense of accomplishment that a charitable act brings is just beyond compare", says Mr. Baburajan.

The empathetic leader has been in the vanguard of humanitarian causes, such as offering educational assistance to the poor and deprived, providing medical support to the sick, and the construction of houses for those living below the poverty line and those impacted by natural disasters in Bahrain and India. The leader is also actively involved in Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam's social initiatives. He helped build the main building, which can accommodate around 2000 people. He has also set aside a community hall for the use of society.

#### **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS**

Mr. Baburajan has received numerous awards and accolades in his career. The Central Government of India has recently honored him with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award - the highest civilian award bestowed on Indians living abroad. He has also been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Sivagiri Trust (Kerala).

He has been the recipient of the BKS Outstanding Business Icon Award, along with a couple of business excellence awards. What's more, the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam honored him by naming one of its community halls as KG Baburajan Hall.

The flexible yet focused leader has experienced success and reached milestones simultaneously. He is a firm believer that the more you achieve, the more you want to do and the higher you want to soar in life. This conviction has helped him in making a substantial mark in the field of construction and material testing.

MAHENDRA VORA

# HOLDING ALL THE ACES IN BUSINESS

*The Chairman of Cincinnati-based Vora Ventures LLC, Mr. Vora is a popular serial entrepreneur who has established numerous IT firms over the last 25 years. An alumnus of the University of Michigan, he possesses a rich experience of working with and designing IT solutions for multibillion-dollar firms all over the world*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



**M**r. Vora comes from a humble Jain family with a solid business background. His strong desire for success from a young age, combined with his excellent upbringing and education, has shaped him into a successful individual. The astute and enthusiastic leader holds a Master's degree in Computer Science from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronics and Communications from Gujarat University (India). The success of the programmer-turned-innovator is genuinely remarkable, and it can be credited to his years of hard work and professionalism. Under his inspiring leadership, Vora Ventures is taking giant strides and has been showing remarkable business growth consistently on a year-by-year basis.

## HIS JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

Mr. Vora has been based in Cincinnati since early 1988 after graduating from the University of Michigan. The high-tech industry veteran considers his relocation to the Blue Chip City as propitious because it allowed him to join a friend and fellow student who was launching a business in the same city. Mr. Vora has spent the last 29 years in the Tri-State area, co-founding and selling multiple profitable technology ventures to Fortune 500 companies. In 2005, he sold his first tech start-up for more than \$100 million in Ohio.

In 2006, Mr. Vora founded Vora Ventures as a private equity holding company for 11 businesses, including Ascendum, Ascendum KPS (India), AssureCare, Aquire (sold in October 2018), CenterGrid, KoncertIT, Zakta, Bluespring, Open Commerce, Vora Technology Towers, and Vora Technology Park. In 2014, Vora Ventures became the largest self-funded tech group – a remarkable achievement. In 2017, the ambitious leader purchased Sourcebits, a cutting-edge digital solutions firm headquartered in Ohio. In 2018, Mr. Vora purchased ShakeDeal, India's leading B2B Online Marketplace. In addition, he bought Hinge Global in 2019. It is a digital commerce startup based in

Cincinnati that works with Fortune 1000 companies to enhance their eCommerce revenue. Additionally, he has set up over 25 tech start-ups in Tier-II cities.

### PROGRESSIVE IDEAS

According to Mr. Vora, obstacles and hurdles are an inevitable part of entrepreneurship, particularly in the IT industry, where one must learn to come to terms with constant change. The optimistic leader believes that each challenge reveals a key opportunity to grow. He says, "If you see an obstacle as a challenge, it is indeed a challenge. But if you are motivated by the obstacle, then it turns into an opportunity. I believe that impediments should always be viewed as opportunities." It is his vigorous optimism that drives him to stay focused on the future while dealing with today's obstacles. Mr. Vora is renowned for his innovation, speed of execution, sound business principles, and concern for his employees. His business strategies are based on five core values - frugality with flair, aggressiveness with ethics, humility with confidence, quality with speed, and creativity with the process. Throughout his career, he has spearheaded advanced and powerful information technologies in the domain of distributed (client/server) and Internet-based computing, as well as advanced search engines and text-mining. The visionary leader has also pioneered the design of numerous leading-edge software projects, including Pioneer Systems (bought by Unisys), ICC (bought by Attachmate), SecureIT (bought by VeriSign), and Intelliseek (merged with Nielsen-Buzzmetrics).

### LEADING WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY

Mr. Vora is a bold leader who dares to deviate from the herd mentality. He believes that common sense provides a safe haven for those who do not want to venture outside of their comfort zone. As a focused leader, he undoubtedly observes common sense, but does not follow it. He's on a mission to discover uncommon senses so that he can present his clients with unique solutions that the rest of the world hasn't thought of yet. Mr. Vora believes in creating a sense of spirited and engaged urgency with his team for success. Embracing and instilling a genuine sense of urgency enables him to do tasks more quickly and rationally. As a dynamic motivator, he constantly exhibits and conveys the importance of urgency via his actions, conduct, and words. He says,



**"IF YOU SEE AN OBSTACLE AS A CHALLENGE, IT IS INDEED A CHALLENGE. BUT IF YOU ARE MOTIVATED BY THE OBSTACLE, THEN IT TURNS INTO AN OPPORTUNITY. I BELIEVE THAT IMPEDIMENTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE VIEWED AS OPPORTUNITIES"**

"The world is moving at a faster pace as a result of technological advancements; thus, moving slowly could prove disastrous for my business. Thus, I believe in working with a sense of urgency to achieve my goals."

### COMMITTED TO SOCIAL WELFARE

Mr. Vora is well-known for his active involvement, and dedication to the local and global communities. He believes in leaving a lasting impression by reinvesting in people and communities. The compassionate leader gives 2% of his profits to Vora Foundation, which has partnered with Green Light Foundation to help children, teens, and families in high-poverty urban areas better their lives. He also supports the Ekal Vidyalaya campaign – a movement that aims at providing education to every child by establishing one-teacher schools in the most remote rural and tribal villages in India. What's more, he encourages his employees to participate in charitable activities through The Vora Charitable Action Committee.

To deal with the challenges of the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, he ensured that there have been no layoffs or pay cuts during the pandemic, not even for hourly employees. What's more, Ascendum Solutions has also launched SafeReturn, a health screening app for students and workers in the US, for improving safety and driving actionable intelligence to reduce COVID-19 incidences.

### TOWERING ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr. Vora's experience and zeal for excellence have won him several international accreditations. The exuberant leader, also known as the Midwest's high-tech poster boy, is the youngest winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Innovation at Midwest Awards in 2014. He added another feather to his cap when he was awarded the 2019 "Entrepreneur of the Year" at the ACG Deal Maker Awards. He has also been the finalist for the 2001 and 2002 "Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year" Award.

MANEESH TRIPATHI

# THE TURNAROUND SPECIALIST

*Maneesh Tripathi's life is perfectly summarized by Maya Angelou's classic line, "Nothing can dim the light that shines from within." His success saga is indeed an exemplary one as he stands at the pinnacle as a Director in a Singapore listed company after serving there for 10 years as Group CEO*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



**M**aneesh has been based in Singapore and various countries in Asia Pacific for the past 2 decades. He is a global citizen who has worked in several multinational firms spanning 10+ countries, including the US, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Singapore, Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India. He is an Engineering Graduate with a Degree in Electronics & Telecom and is also a PGCGM (Management graduate) from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta, (India). Not only does the leader has a strong academic background, but also has a practical and straightforward attitude towards business matters. His sharp vision and diverse skill set enable him to execute his plans flawlessly.

## AN INTRIGUING JOURNEY

Over the course of 28 years, this dynamic leader has amassed a wealth of experience in key leadership roles such as Chairman, COO, Group CEO, and Technology Head in various prominent global corporations, viz., Philips, IBM, Olivetti, Spice International, and so on. Currently, Maneesh is the Director and Board member of Digilife Technologies Limited (SGX Listed) which was formerly known as SEVAK Limited, a 250 million dollar plus listed company in Singapore that operates in the areas of telecommunications, IT/system integration, and electric vehicles. He joined SEVAK Limited as Group Chief Executive Officer in 2010 and was promoted as Executive Chairman in September 2019 by the Board. His role as Chief Executive Officer of Sevak Limited ended in March of 2020 when he handed over the Chairmanship to the promoter group and was given the additional key responsibility of Chairman and Group CEO of Affinity Capital Pte Limited, a 100% owned subsidiary of the Indonesian company Seluar Global Networks, which operates a S\$ 250 million telecom business in Indonesia. Maneesh also served on the boards of over 10 subsidiaries of SEVAK Limited. He serves on the honorary board of Global Schools Foundation, a 15000 students' nonprofit organization that holds a special place in his heart. He has been the Group CEO and Director of Sevak Limited, a Main Board - SGX listed firm, for over 10 years.

As the linchpin of the company, he is well-versed with the SGX listing standards, MAS guidelines, and all International business and financial compliance rules governing how to conduct multi-country trade.

### SHIFTING FROM INFORMATION TO INNOVATION

To prepare for the future EV innovation and revolution in autonomous electric vehicles (AEV), Maneesh played a pivotal role in shifting the company's focus from "Information to Innovation." The proactive chief also took the initiative of reorganizing his company with the help of his shareholders and promoters. Consequently, an additional innovation unit within the company was entrusted with investigating emerging technologies. This spawned a new business unit, Singapore Electric Vehicles Pte Limited (a subsidiary of SEVAK Limited), one that would go on to become a pioneer in Singapore and ASEAN. His role in propelling the new business unit to become Singapore's first 100% commercial electric vehicle fleet company deserves special mention. Maneesh is also the one behind the invention of Singapore Vehicle Advanced Keylogger (SEVAK) Software, which is a product of his ingenuity. Developed by an internal engineering team, it has been architected, coded, developed, and deployed on the cloud as a SaaS. As a strategic leader, he has overseen the acquisition, integration, transition, and growth strategies of at least 10 projects for his group firms. He was also in charge of the \$250 million Affinity Group and the Selular Group (an Indonesian company that is a subsidiary of SEVAK Limited).

### INDUSTRY AND SOCIAL WORK

Maneesh has been recently elected as Vice Chairman of Singapore Indian Chamber Of Commerce (SICCI) in 2020, and the Chairman of Committees leading "Incubation and Startups" and "Bilateral and Multilateral Trade relations" for Singapore via SICCI. He is the Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee of SGTech formerly known as Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation (SiTF) and a member of Singapore Institute of Directors (SID), Singapore Computer Society (SCS), Singapore Venture Capital & Private Equity Association (SVCA), Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF). He is also a Hon Governing Board member of Global Schools Foundation at Singapore. Maneesh was also involved in key events as



**"LEARNING IS THE ONLY THING THE MIND NEVER EXHAUSTS, NEVER FEARS, & NEVER REGRETS. I HAVE A PASSION FOR LEARNING. RECENTLY, I NOTICED THAT BLOCKCHAIN IS REVOLUTIONIZING DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES; THUS, I ENROLLED IN A COURSE ON BITCOIN & CRYPTOCURRENCY FROM UC BERKELEY"**

a core committee planning and executing member for G2G (Singapore and India) large events, and bilateral trade and connectivity discussions, where both High Commissions were involved, and firms like SICCI and SGteck were also involved. He was a part of a business delegation with SBF where Singapore PM also visited India in the year 2017. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Maneesh was a senior member of the Singapore Indian Chamber's COVID Relief task force to raise funds and worked tirelessly to provide aid and support via Red Cross and the High Commission to various states and cities in India.

### MASTERING CHALLENGES WITH ZEAL

Maneesh believes in leading by example. When his company Sevak Limited plunged into losses in 2015, he became the first CEO in Asia-listed businesses to willingly accept S\$1 salary. Consequently, many board members, as well as members of the management team, followed suit. With his unwavering efforts and tenacious spirit, he

pushed the firm back into profit the following year and then off the watch list with clear audit opinions in consecutive years. Profits have been flowing since then and there's been no turning back.

### AN ALL-ROUNDER

Sport has always been a driving force in Maneesh's life. He is an ardent cricket player and has represented State teams in U-22 Col CK Naidu Trophy. He has also captained College and University teams in India, viz. R.D.V.V. University team in Jabalpur (India). He also captained Ceylon Sports Club Singapore and the Singapore Indian Association during his 15 years of playing Division 1 cricket in Singapore. He says, "Sport trained me how to lead, and I found myself at ease in that role." For him, the analogies between sport and business are quite relevant. A hobbyist at heart, he has a 4-year diploma in the percussion instrument called Tabla. He also has a Certificate in Film Production & Planning from Singapore Media Academy.

MOHAN KUMAR SUNDARAM

## RIDING HIGH ON CLOUD NINE

*The Chairman & Co-Founder of Singapore-based Plintron Group, Mohan Kumar Sundaram has illustrated the practicality of the term "sky's the limit" in a quite spectacular manner. His entrepreneurial endeavors have provided him with not only a wealth of experience, but also the vision to see the world in a new light*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



**W**ith over 30 years of professional experience, Mohan knows what it takes to run a company and to build one, too. Under his stewardship, Plintron has jumped from strength to strength over the years. The dynamic leader is currently making waves in the telecommunications and IT industry and has earned a remarkable position for himself in the national as well as global market.

Mohan is a thought leader in Telecom as a Service (TaaS) for Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOS), Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), Enterprises, IoT services providers & connected Devices. In his previous roles, he had worked in the telecommunications, financial services, and information technology industries, where he headed global operations and held leadership positions. Security, M2M, and smart devices are some of his other areas of expertise. The visionary leader believes that the future will be dominated by smart devices, Crowd-Sourced Networks, and related services that will empower the average man to live a contemporary lifestyle.

Mohan specializes in bringing a commercial perspective to technology and service delivery. He also has international expertise working with regulators and network service providers of different countries to develop the full MVNO model and commercialize network sharing.

### EXPANDING GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

When asked about his greatest achievement in life, Mohan said it was Plintron's global reach across all six continents, which was achieved through strategic planning and execution. Due to his unwavering efforts, Plintron has grown into the world's largest multi-country end-to-end MVNA & MVNE, providing CPaaS services to MNOs, MVNOS, Enterprises, and IoT services. With the help of 1000+ telecom specialists, the astute strategist has led the company to build over 140 MVNOS and connect over 150 million mobile subscribers with mobile

network services in 30 countries across six continents.

Over the years, Mohan has been helping businesses grow their revenue by providing top-notch products and services, as well as cost savings through network sharing and outsourcing. He can guide nearly any business toward obtaining tangible results in the world of cloud computing.

### **ONE TEAM, ONE SPIRIT, ONE GOAL**

Mohan always puts his people first. He is a powerful motivator who loves boosting the morale of his employees. He also goes to great lengths to ensure his team feels valued. The enterprising leader believes in fostering an inclusive environment to empower his team and foster a productive and healthy workplace culture.

Like a true leader, Mohan listens with the intention of understanding. He values suggestions from his employees. “I place a high value on collective success. To me, success happens when everyone feels like they have a stake in the firm. Therefore, every suggestion coming from my team members is listened to and taken into account,” he asserts.

### **A GOAL-ORIENTED LEADER**

Mohan is a hands-on leader with significant domain knowledge of both business and technology, as well as regulatory awareness, which helps him to be directly involved when solution design and monetization are required. He thrives because of his focus, attention to detail, and refusal to make assumptions without verifying facts. Understanding the nitty-gritty of every project is a quality that is well pronounced in his personality. Additionally, his sense of curiosity inspires him to seek new opportunities and explore new horizons. “My curiosity never wanes and I am always receptive to fresh ideas,” says the forward-thinking leader.

Eternally optimistic, Mohan sees limitless possibilities for the Plintron Group as it continues to witness significant growth across the globe. Looking ahead to the future, the ambitious leader says Plintron Group will focus on becoming the largest Telecom as a Service (TaaS) and Cloud Communications Platform as a Service (CPaaS) player in the world with a presence in 52 countries by 2025. “Company efficiency is the most essential aspect for us to focus on,” he said when asked how



**“I PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON COLLECTIVE SUCCESS. TO ME, SUCCESS HAPPENS WHEN EVERYONE FEELS LIKE THEY HAVE A STAKE IN THE FIRM. THEREFORE, EVERY SUGGESTION COMING FROM MY TEAM MEMBERS IS LISTENED TO AND TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT”**

he and the company as a whole plan on hitting those targets. “Because there is so much rivalry in the market, we tend to remain as competent, proactive, and cost-effective as possible,” he explains. Mohan wishes to transcend beyond horizons, through a strong desire for innovation, focus on quality, high emphasis on human resources, rigid compliance, and efficient risk management.

### **BRACING UP FOR EVERY CHALLENGE**

Amid the COVID-19-induced epidemic, the Plintron Group has handled the challenges of corporate governance admirably under his dynamic guidance. Mohan says, “The COVID-19 pandemic caught everyone off guard, and everything seemed to change abruptly.

Despite the uncertainty looming large over the industry following the COVID-19 outbreak, we geared up to overcome even the most difficult challenges that were thrown our way.” He adds, “Even during

the pandemic, we have been hiring for new positions to help the sluggish global job market and economy.” Thus, despite the nationwide lockdowns imposed by the governments of different countries, he made sure the company continues to grow. Every new challenge is an opportunity for Mohan to learn something new, and he uses each setback as a launching pad for himself and his organization.

### **WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION**

Mohan’s dedication and ceaseless endeavors have helped Plintron receive the Best Companies in India Award – CPaaS category 2020 from Berkshire Media. What’s more, in 2019, Forbes Technology Council approved Mohan as a member of its exclusive community of world-class CIOs, CTOs, and technology executives. As one of the members of the prestigious Council, he has access to approved business service partners, membership-branded marketing collateral, and its member concierge staff.

NARESH KUMAR DINODIYA

# SOWING THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS WITH ELAN

*With a vision of 'bringing the world together' by dispersing surplus resources around the globe, the visionary Mr. Naresh Kumar Dinodiya has enabled P.L. Global Impex Pte Ltd. to establish a prominent presence in India, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Singapore*

BY RICHASANG



Possessing an extensive experience of more than 4 decades, the Managing Director of P.L. Global Impex Pte. Ltd., Mr. Dinodiya has been efficiently carrying forward the legacy of excellence established by his father, the late Shri Pyarelal ji, a pioneer in pulses trade in Myanmar. Under his able leadership, the firm has established a stronghold in the Indian and South-East Asian markets. Owing to his dedicated efforts, the organization has diversified into numerous infrastructure-based projects and has developed a wide distribution network. It has been successfully running well-established restaurants such as The Corriander Leaf, Fire and Ice, Delhi Deli in Yangon and Shiv Shakti Restaurant in Cambodia. It also has a presence in the manufacturing and service industry besides excelling in the Import and Export Trading Business.

They have four divisions in Distribution network Pharma, Consumer, Hardware and Textiles. They have been dealing with more than 100 multinational companies in the distribution network. The distribution network itself is supported by an experienced and loyal workforce of over 1000 employees. Under the guidance of Mr. Dinodiya, the firm has been effectively catering to the needs of the South-East Asian market. Moreover, they also have a Leather products manufacturing unit in Kolkata, India.

A versatile leader, Mr. Dinodiya associates with various organizations and shares his rich insights as the President of the Indian Association of Myanmar, Founding Member of OATAM, and Founder and Vice President of the Indian Myanmar Chamber of Commerce. He initiated the establishment of Myanmar Cricket Association. He is also a member of various initiatives like the Rotary Club, FICCI, CII, IPGA, GPC, Merchant's Chamber, SICC, SAM, and Pulses Association.

He has been deeply inspired by his father who charted his own route to success.

## A UNIQUE LEADER

With a go-getter attitude, Mr. Dinodiya drives the team towards ambitious goals by aligning various models of business in line

with the organizational goals. He very well understands the difference between a leader and a boss. He is adept at the art of retaining staff and co-workers and considers them as an extended family. He is the one who initiates new paths so that others can follow. He takes calculated risks and is always bent on working on new initiatives for the growth of the company and its diversification in various segments.

#### **HUMBLE & GROUNDED**

A self-made leader, he considers acknowledgement of his hard work by his friends, competitors and family to be quite rewarding. He attributes his success to the support and special sacrifices made by all his family members. Even though he has received numerous awards and accolades in life but he feels that he still has a long way to go. As he puts it, "My hard work, and dedication are the main determinants of my success. Starting from the scratch to where I am today, gives me a sense of achievement."

#### **OPTIMISM PERSONIFIED**

An innately-optimistic leader, Mr. Dinodiya perceives every adversity as an opportunity for growth. He has never shied away from challenges and believes in facing them with courage. He is of the view that one needs to constantly adapt and evolve to match the changing times. He asserts, "There will be challenges always, like you have seen the COVID-19 pandemic has changed all the lifestyle and business practices – virtual meetings, work from home, online businesses, home deliveries, etc. have become a necessity in life, hence one has to adapt accordingly."

Sharing his piece of advice for the aspiring entrepreneurs, he elaborates, "For short term growth, I feel we should work to save and grow what is in hand, try to adopt modern ways of working to get the maximum output with least cost. You should depend on your own finances rather than borrow from a bank." Despite competition, he has been mentoring and extending help to young entrepreneurs and new business entrants to South East Asia market to establish successfully and set up businesses. He adds, "For long term, I feel that despite the ongoing pandemic, there are opportunities for growth in various sectors. One must select carefully and make an entry with precaution, don't go overboard. People should not go for too much external borrowing rather have shareholders



**"I ALWAYS THINK OF THE BEST WAY FORWARD TO WIN OVER A SITUATION WITHOUT HURTING ANYONE'S FEELING. FOR THIS, ONE HAS TO BE HONEST, HARD WORKING & WITH CLEAR GOAL, & TAKE OTHERS ALONG TO MAKE A GOOD TEAM. ONE NEEDS TO BE A LEADER AND NOT A BOSS TO HIS SUBORDINATES"**

in the company so that the cost stays under control. To sum up, one must have a cautious approach, not stretch too much, and diversify as much as possible within control."

#### **WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION**

Under his visionary leadership, PL. Global Impex Pte. Ltd. has received multiple awards and accolades at various national and international platforms. Owing to his dedicated efforts, the organization has been constantly growing, evolving and reaching greater heights by consistently providing quality services to its customers at affordable prices. The firm has received Best Exporters Award from the Council of Leather Exports in India continually from 1978 to 1992 – from the Union Ministers and the Hon'ble President of India. It has received Asia Pacific Award in Singapore organized by SICCI & DBS, from the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore for the years 2006 and 2008. Mr. Dinodiya has received Rajasthan Pravasi Divas Award from the Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

#### **GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY**

The Group, by tradition, undertakes environmental, philanthropic, ethical and socio-economic responsibilities. For Mr. Dinodiya, CSR is a "way of Life." He stresses, "We at PLG strongly believe in giving back to society at large, after all, if the society is strong then your business will prosper too, it also makes the people around you, more comfortable and loyal to you. If we get something, we must also give back to society." He adds, "CSR activities develop the community. They help in the growth of society through better facilities, better healthcare, better education, & work for all in the locality, etc. It leads to a better business environment because if all are healthy and prosperous then good business sense prevails." During the COVID-19 pandemic, he undertook various measures to protect and restore the mental health of the employees and donated food, medicines and essentials to the needy. He also donates regularly to schools, hospitals, temples, monasteries and orphanages.

PARVEEN GOYAL

# RISING HIGHER AND HIGHER

*Parveen Goyal, the MD and linchpin of Dubai-based Sun Corporation General Trading LLC, brings a unique perspective to the table to thrive in a highly competitive business world. His exceptional business acumen, coupled with his dynamism and foresight, has propelled Sun Corporation to new heights of glory*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



**A**n MBA in International Business and HRM, Parveen has experience of over two decades in the domain of general trading. He established Sun Corporation in the year 2013. Under his headship, the company is growing at a faster pace and catering to the demand for Basmati Rice from major buyers in many countries, including the UAE, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, Somaliland, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kuwait, Turkey, the UK, Australia, and many more. The farsighted leader initially created a niche platform to meet the needs of sellers and buyers. He has a database of over 100 products acquired over 25 years of trade expertise in the international markets of about 37 countries. Owing to his ceaseless commitment, the the company is now growing at a faster pace.

## EXPLORING DIFFERENT HORIZONS

Parveen has transformed Sun Corporation into a multi-business conglomerate making a mark in different business segments. For example, the company has also ventured into the readymade garment business to serve its clients in the Middle East and Africa. Additionally, Sun Corporation also meets the needs of its Indian clients by sourcing a wide range of used and new branded textile machinery from the UK, Europe, Hong Kong, China, and Middle Eastern countries, used for producing all types of textiles & clothing. Moreover, to meet the demands for marble blocks from its Indian, Australian, and Nepalese clients, the firm sources them from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Europe, & other countries. The firm has also carved a niche in the solar energy business. This is evident from the fact that one of the major Indian government corporations has granted it the sole agency contract to sell solar & other projects and products in Africa on behalf of Sun Corporation's subsidiary firm. Last but not least, Sun Corporation has also assisted its European clients with their IT hardware needs, which were previously sourced from China. The deftness with which Parveen has been handling responsibilities & various

projects is indeed admirable.

### **CUSTOMERS COME FIRST**

The leader believes in adhering to a customer-centric strategy and the highest ethical standards. With his unwavering efforts, he is turning Sun Corporation into an organization that is not only efficient and successful, but also the most desirable and sought after by consumers. “During my time as a professional, I made some wonderful and deep relations with my customers and those relationships guided me through my initial years of entrepreneurship, helping me reach where I am today. ‘Relationship’ thus became a guiding principle or let’s say the way of life for us at Sun Corporation. We are genuinely a customer-centric organization that places a strong focus on comprehending the needs of clients to offer customized solutions,” says the forward-thinking leader.

### **BACKED BY A PROACTIVE TEAM**

The humble leader attributes the success of Sun Corporation to his employees and considers his team the biggest asset for his company. “The company is at its peak today because of a dedicated team of hardcore professionals with passion, dreams, hard work, vision, and expertise in their respective fields,” says the humble leader. The leader also ensures that he hires qualified employees who are capable of managing responsibilities & offering solutions that can improve the customer experience. As a mentor to his team, he always keeps them motivated & strives to transform the work environment into a powerhouses of innovative ideas, where all members are considered equal participants in the process of growth. Parveen believes in implementing excellent corporate governance to maintain transparency between his firm & its stakeholders. He says, “We stay true to all governance standards, as well as all other regulatory requirements, along with our self-avowed corporate brand values. The ethical leader adds, “Corporate governance & accountability serve as a focal point for business initiatives that enhance honesty, ethical conduct, integrity, and clarity.”

### **DRIVEN BY CHALLENGES**

Parveen is an embodiment of deliberate calm & boundless optimism. Even the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic & the worldwide health crisis could not dampen his entrepreneurial spirits. Under his leadership, the firm recorded



**“OBSTACLES AND FAILURES ARE THE PART AND PARCEL OF AN ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY; IT IS HOW YOU DEAL WITH THE CHALLENGES THAT MATTER. NUMEROUS CHALLENGES HAVE TAUGHT ME THE DYNAMICS OF BUSINESS AND LIFE IN GENERAL”**

the best performance & growth in the year 2020, even when the Covid-19 pandemic situation was in place. “The outbreak of the pandemic has been a constant source of anxiety for all of us, but we managed to sail through the COVID-19 storm with our surefire business strategies,” said the leader. During the pandemic, Parveen also helped to stimulate the economy by encouraging Basmati rice exports from India & sending foreign reserves to the country for these exports as soon as the clients’ orders were fulfilled. He believes in finding wisdom even in challenges that come his way. For him, challenges, more than anything else, keep him going, no matter how difficult they can be at times. The bold leader says, “Obstacles & failures are the part and parcel of an entrepreneurial journey; it is how you deal with the challenges that matter. While challenges sometimes end up distracting us, they also give us hope & a chance to improve ourselves. Numerous challenges have taught me the dynamics of business and life in general.”

### **MARCHING ON THE GROWTH PATH**

Parveen’s professionalism and unrivaled abilities have earned Sun Corporation a huge amount of recognition. The leading business houses & brands in numerous countries have recognized Sun Corporation General Trading LLC for meeting their demands on time. Additionally, different credit rating firms gave the company an A grade shortly after it was created.

As a result, the business became well-known in a short time frame. When asked about his vision for the future growth of his firm in both short & long terms, the leader said, “I intend to provide world-class quality of the products we deliver, value for money, timely deliveries, and a transparent & streamlined business approach, as well as something innovative that has never been executed by a general trading company.” He believes in competing with himself rather than with others and feels that daily improvements can make a big difference in achieving one’s goals.

**PAWAN K. SHARMA**

# USHERING IN AN ERA OF PROGRESS & PROSPERITY

*Always leading by example, Pawan K. Sharma understands his social responsibilities and has been dedicatedly working towards empowering people and making a difference in the society. An alumnus of Harvard Business School, he possesses a rich experience of over 20 years in the realm of CPG industry*

**BY RICHA SANG**



**P**awan was born in Faridabad, Haryana to Chaggan Lal Sharma and Kusum Sharma and has 2 elder siblings Poonam Sharma and Rajani Dixit. He is married to Jannat Sharma and has a 9-year-old daughter Menaha Sharma. He has been with Tolaram Group since a very young age. Over the last many years, he has grown along with the company. Owing to his versatility and business acumen, he was entrusted with the responsibility to run West Africa operations for its CPG vertical. Pawan has come across as an embodiment of perseverance whose success story is an inspiration for umpteen aspirers who aim to make a mark for themselves. As he puts it, “As a person who has been a part of the CPG industry in Africa for more than 20 years, I’ve been a fortunate witness to the evolution of the market, and consumer behaviour trends. Ever since Pawan assumed his role as CEO-West Africa, the Group has seen a rise in the diversification of its segments. The business which started with one product in CPG category has diversified to more than 10 categories and 7 countries in West Africa.

## **SETTING HIGH BENCHMARKS**

Pawan’s entrepreneurial spirit has been the driving force and the reason behind the establishment of many successful brands. His education at the Harvard Business School has provided him with a global perspective and a multicultural approach towards work. He strongly believes that the only way to succeed in a developing market is through economic independence and self-sustenance. Owing to his dedicated efforts, today, Tolaram Group has emerged as one of the fastest-growing CPG companies in emerging markets and it’s changing the lives of millions through their offerings and fully backward integrated operations. A brand is not built in a day and enormous efforts are required in making it see the light of day. Describing the tremendous sweat and toil which went behind establishing so many popular consumer brands, he asserts, “I strongly believe that our brand’s success story defines us, just as much as our struggles to make the brand a

success, which is why, to my mind very few stories have matched the magnanimity of the success that our brands owns.” With a humble beginning in the year 2000, Pawan rose to the leadership position in just 2 years and continued to lead the pack in terms of innovation and product quality.” Being extremely involved and enthusiastic about driving the growth of the group to the path to success, he elaborates, “I’m happy to be the hand that was chosen to rewrite history and make group a resounding success. In recent times, we’ve upscaled our portfolio to include beverages and personal care products, and have 20 manufacturing plants and serving more than a billion consumers.”

### **RIDING THE SUCCESS HORSE**

It is a universally acknowledged fact that a man’s true strength can be assessed by the way in which he deals with adversity. Besides talking about some of the challenges which Mr. Pawan faced, he also shares the techniques which he employed to overcome those challenges, “The market has evolved greatly over time and has grown exponentially in terms of the number of competitors, the expectations of the consumers and the calibre of both the talent and technology employed in product development and innovation facilities. It was, admittedly, an uphill task, but not something we couldn’t handle.

We realized early on that the success of any venture is the result of the single-minded and concentrated effort of an entire team of like-minded and passionate individuals which is aligned with the vision of Founders. So we started at the very base, got the right team on board, identified our strengths and played to them.

Our legacy of 2 decades brought the best of the best on board and set the ball rolling. We explored uncharted territory both in terms of the landscape to establish our facilities and the mindset of the team that led to some of our path-breaking innovations.” He addresses tough situations with fresh strategies that are purely guided by the mantra of ‘Passion and Commitment.’ He has always understood the importance of guiding values, empathy and liberty to dream.

### **BANKING ON THE SUPPORT SYSTEM**

Pawan owes his happiness and success to a strong support system, “While I have been on the quest for innovation, my entire family has been a pillar of support that I could always lean on, especially my wife. My father and



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mother have inspired me in innumerable ways specially how not to give up to adversity and pave your success path from nothing. Banking on the efficient support system of his family, he elatedly expresses, “My wife & daughter always gave me that boost & support when I was entangled in solving business issues and spending long hours at work.”

He adds, “When it came to making hiring suggestions and decisions for talent to assist with back-office operations, choosing and deploying the right technology and IT resources to ensure a hassle-free production process, we always went for the best. We are implementing the SAP ERP model, for efficient resource management. With an efficient and competent R&D Team, we were able to tap into the evolving needs of the user base and devise innovative solutions to fulfil those needs.”

### **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

From the very beginning, Pawan has been more than just a CEO. Amidst the COVID-19

pandemic, he motivated the employees at Tolaram to contribute towards relief work. Serving and helping people with food for days, this support drive continued for over 6 months across the country. As an expression of gratitude, Tolaram gifted hampers to the frontline heroes, doctors, nurses and healthcare workers for their selfless service to the nation during the pandemic.

Pawan also ensured that even with reduced work hours the quality of service was never compromised. Continually bent on improving lives, Pawan has been leading by example and continues to inspire many more so that everyone in need of help is touched and benefited positively.

He asserts, “Our CSR initiatives are closely driven and largely motivated by our Founder’s sentiments, as a Tolaram family, we have always centered each of our initiatives around the act of giving. In 2015, the Group restructured into a trust and created a Tolaram Charity Foundation – a beneficiary of 25% of its profits.”

PRADEEPKUMAR NAIR

## FOCUSING ON GREEN ENERGY FOR A CLEAN TOMORROW

*The CEO and shareholder of Sebacic Oman S.A.O.C., the largest Bio-Refinery in the world to manufacture Bio-Nylons from Castor Oil, Mr. Pradeepkumar Nair is a leader par excellence who is deeply committed to sustainable development and consistently encourages innovations for a greener future*

BY RICHA SANG



**A**n Electrical Engineer by qualification, Mr. Nair possesses around 2 decades of experience in Engineering Procurement and Construction of Chemical Industries, Development of Real Estate and Agriculture pan India & the Gulf. Under his leadership, Sebacic Oman S.A.O.C. was established in 2016 and has been continually charting newer trajectories of success. It is the first Indo-Omani Investment in the Special Economic Industrial Zone of Duqm, for manufacturing Green Chemicals from Castor Oil. His vision was well understood and accepted by His Excellency Hilal Bin Khalid Al Maawali from Oman. With an Investment of 62 Million USD in partnership with His Excellency, the plant is built over an area of 200,000 Sq. mtrs. The project is the first of its kind in MEENA region and has been designed in advance to facilitate the firm's expansion into Nylon and Sebacic Esters as forward integration. This plant provides employment to 250 people and has a target to employ 700 people with the expansions in pipeline.

### INNOVATING FOR A BETTER WORLD

Mr. Nair is a leader who emphasizes on the significance of innovation and encourages all to explore into new ventures. In fact, the USP of Sebacic Oman S.A.O.C. is that it manufactures Bio-Nylon from Vegetable Oil – Castor Oil. He aims to promote the use of Oleochemicals (chemical compounds derived from natural fats & oils that can be used as raw materials or as supplemental materials in a variety of industries. They can be used as a substitute for petroleum-based products known as petrochemicals) in the industrial sector. He is of the view that the use of Bio-Chemicals & Oleochemicals should be encouraged to boost sustainable large scale farming and reduce the carbon footprint. He takes pride in the fact that he is a pioneer in promoting large scale castor farming in Oman. Sharing his vision for the future growth of the company, he asserts, "Oleo-chemistry is the need of the next generation. We now understand the need to shift to renewable energy; we similarly need

to focus on Agriculture and Oleo-chemicals. The future is in making the earth greener again.”

### REIGNING SUPREME IN REALTY

Besides being a Green Leader who has been successfully working towards a greener tomorrow, Mr. Nair is also passionate about the realty sector and is a developer of distinctive, high-profile residential and commercial properties worldwide. He is the Promoter & Managing Director of ‘Sky Line Duqm LLC,’ the first Integrated Tourism Complex to come up in Duqm. Sharing the significant aspects of the project, he says, “Oman is one of the best countries in the world for investment. Oman has a 5000 years long history and has been neutral in the geo politics. India and Oman share a long history and hence its one of the best destinations for investment. Duqm is one of the largest free zones of Gulf spanning 2000 Sq kms. Sky Line Duqm LLC is a mix-use Integrated Tourism Complex (ITC), to be developed in phases within the Duqm special economic zone. The project spread over an area of 600,000 square metres of land and will be the first ITC project in Duqm. The master plan, designed by internationally renowned architect Sanjay Puri, comprises a wide range of real estate projects, including beach-front villas, resort, apartment units, a five-star hotel, restaurants, marina, commercial buildings, mall, etc.” He further elaborates, “According to the master plan, the whole project will be developed over a period of 15 years, with a total investment of \$750mn and generating 8,000 jobs. Work on the first phase of the project — The Elite, with 18 beach front villas and a 72-unit apartment complex — has already started. Purchasers of property in the Sky Line Duqm LLC complex will receive Omani residence visas.

### CREATING LEADERS

Mr. Nair is of the view that a position, title or financial strength doesn’t make you a leader – how many “leaders” do you create is what makes you a leader. Throwing light on his leadership mantra, he elaborates, despite coming from a humble background of a family of government servants, I have reached to a level of owning businesses across continents. This has been achieved by trusting and understanding the capabilities of each human being and their limitations. I believe in erasing the limitations & creating leaders by providing them with all the



**“OLEO-CHEMISTRY IS THE NEED OF THE NEXT GENERATION. WE NOW UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO SHIFT TO RENEWABLE ENERGY; WE SIMILARLY NEED TO FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE AND OLEO-CHEMICALS. THE FUTURE IS IN MAKING THE EARTH GREEN AGAIN”**

opportunities to perform and taking the risk on my shoulders. This is how we create more leaders.” “Being the owner of Sebacic Oman and Sky Line Duqm LLC – Oman,” is his one of the great achievements till date.

Talking about his inspiration in life and how has it helped him to succeed, he says, “My father has been my life’s inspiration. His lessons of honesty, Ethics & commitment have helped me overcome ups and downs of business.”

### GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Mr. Nair is dedicated towards creating a responsible business that benefits society, people and planet. As he puts it, “Our social responsibility commitment is evident from the fact that we are complimenting the whole value chain – from green to clean chemicals. Our commitment is ‘Green chemicals for a clean tomorrow. He further adds, “the world has to understand the need for developing new technologies for large scale farming. Every corporate entity has to commit on investment

into green revolution as a corporate social responsibility. As our commitment contract farming has been initiated in remote villages along with promoting the SMEs. We have initiated empowering females in remote villages to manufacture soaps and cosmetics from vegetable oils. The farming initiative also provides bio-Gas to local villagers ensuring clean energy.” Talking about his contribution during the Covid-19 pandemic, he says, “Our first commitment was to ensure that the employees are financially safe. We had launched our own sanitizers and distributed to the community free of cost as a CSR initiative.”

### WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION

Owing to his outstanding contribution to the industry, he has been voted as one of the 100 most powerful CEOs in Oman for 2 consecutive years, 2017-18 & 2018-19 by Oman Economic Review. He has also received the Most Innovative Industry in Gulf Award – 2019 by Al Roya.

PRAKASH GOENKA

# A BEACON OF HOPE AND LIGHT

*Mr. Prakash Goenka, the MD of Telangana-based Devashree Ispat Pvt. Ltd. is a dedicated entrepreneur who has been efficiently driving his firm towards new horizons of growth. A perfect guiding light, he has created a glorious saga of outstanding accomplishments with his dedication, generosity, and optimism*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



**M**r. Goenka's relentless vision and exquisite finesse for detail have earned him the most prominent position in India's iron and steel business. He holds a B.Com. (Hons.) from St. Xavier's College in Kolkata, India. As the Managing Director of Devashree Ispat, he is making giant leaps in the sector with great agility, which is evidenced by the company's 500% growth over the last 15 years. Making Shree Xtra TMT the most trusted brand was a shining moment for Mr. Goenka. The brand is regarded as a premium one, with the biggest market share in Telangana's secondary steel market. The goal of the focused leader has always been to create the highest amount of product at the lowest manufacturing cost & with the least amount of investment while maintaining the highest quality. Under his direction, the existing plant of the firm was renovated rather than being discarded or shut down as part of the modernization & capacity expansion. This is a historic exercise in & of itself!

## A MAN OF PRINCIPLES

Mr. Goenka has not only preserved the ethos of the company but has also strengthened it with time. His steadfast adherence to the company's values & ethics has laid the groundwork for his successful journey besides helping him win the hearts of his coworkers, associates, & clients. Because of his ceaseless efforts, Devashree Ispat is currently revered as a leader by his peers. It has been possible due to the leader's vision for futuristic development, a positive and aggressive approach to modifications, modernization, & innovation in the areas of cost-cutting, production enhancement, & quality improvement. He attributes the success of his firm to the vision & guidance of his uncle Shri Sajjan Kumar Goenka & unflinching support & hard work of his brother Shri Neeraj Goenka, his son Siddhartha & nephew Karan. He also owes it to the employees & workers who have been giving their best to the firm. Mr. Goenka, like a true leader, believes in learning from his mistakes and not repeating them. "Mistakes

are bad, but failing to learn from them is even worse”, he says. Failures are embraced as pillars of success by the daring and optimistic leader. In failures, he is never despondent or depressed. “Accepting failure drives me to explore different things I’ve never tried before, paving the way for me to win big.”

#### QUALITY COMES FIRST

For Mr. Goenka quality is of paramount importance. He leverages innovations in quality improvement and perfection to help the company climb the ladder of success. For example, he pushed the firm to move from traditional rib patterns in TMT bars to “XXX” in order to make the company’s TMT bars 10% stronger than regular TMT bars. He is a responsible & honest entrepreneur, employer, & citizen. Sound corporate governance, he believes, is vital to enhancing & maintaining investor trust, as it reflects the firm’s culture, policies & values commitment. He says, “Corporate governance’s significance in today’s dynamic & cutthroat business environment cannot be overstated. Thus, we have a solid corporate governance framework in place & we strictly adhere to the principles of transparency & accountability in our firm.” The leader adds, “Whether it’s financial institutions or our suppliers, the firm has never failed to pay its financial commitments. This reflects the company’s greatest level of morality & integrity.”

#### SAILING SMOOTHLY THROUGH ODDS

Mr. Goenka has the readiness and flexibility to cope with new circumstances regardless of how challenging they may be. He knows how to tackle challenges sagaciously. The leader has taken some impressive initiatives to address the issues posed by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. As soon as COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, he made sure his organization adheres to the lockdown guidelines issued by the government earnestly and strictly. The organization’s supervisory teams were directed to educate the workers on the necessity of wearing masks, using hand sanitizers, and practicing social distancing. Buses were also provided to make it easier for workers to commute safely and avoid taking public transportation. What’s more, full salaries and wages were paid to all the employees and workers during the Covid-19 lockdown of 45 days in 2020. Under his direction, workers were also provided with private transportation services, allowing them to travel to work from their hometowns



**“MISTAKES ARE BAD, BUT FAILING TO LEARN FROM THEM IS EVEN WORSE. ACCEPTING FAILURE DRIVES ME TO EXPLORE DIFFERENT THINGS WHICH I HAVE NEVER TRIED BEFORE. THUS, PAVING THE WAY FOR ME TO WIN BIG”**

& resume their jobs. It was done to reduce rail travel and unnecessary virus exposure.

#### AN ECO-MINDED ENTREPRENEUR

Mr. Goenka is a proponent of green entrepreneurship. Under his direction, Devashree Ispat has carved out a distinctive niche for itself over the years. There is no tolerance for any kind of pollution, whether it is the pollution of the air, water, or the dumping of waste on the land. He has always blazed the trails in the field of fuel economy. Under his leadership, the firm remained far ahead of its competitors by spearheading the timely shift from furnace oil to the gasifier to coal pulverizer & finally to direct hot charging of billets. It also achieved the rare feat of recycling 100% of its waste products for other commercial activities & value creation. Furthermore, he has pioneered measures to reduce emissions from furnaces.

#### A BENEVOLENT SOUL

Besides being a successful businessman, Mr.

Goenka is a philanthropist who believes in promoting the well-being of humanity. With his CSR initiatives, the leader aspires to have a lasting impact on society besides making his life meaningful and worthy. “We are highly aware of our corporate social responsibilities & are always zealous to fulfil them,” the compassionate leader says. He asserts, “Our villagers admire us because we always come forward to resolve their problems & concerns. For the last 10 years, we have been providing free drinking water on a daily basis to all the residents of Elkatta viillage & surrounding villages by installing and operating an RO water plant. When bore-wells dry up in the summer, we supply free water to the villagers for the entire summer.” He always makes sure that his firm is conscientious of its social obligations. “We make a sizable monthly contribution to charitable institutions in the state for the education of girls,” he says. He also donates regularly to government entities during disasters such as COVID-19 and helps in raising funds for martyrs’ families.

RAJESH JEJURIKAR

# LEADING WITH DETERMINATION & GRIT

*Rajesh Jejurikar is a name that needs no introduction in the automobile industry. Currently, the Executive Director of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., he leads the Automotive & Farm Equipment Sectors & is associated with many award-winning product launches & campaigns over the last three decades*

BY SONAM GULATI



**R**ajesh, an Economics & Statistics graduate of Mumbai University, is also an alumnus of S.P. Jain Institute of Management & Research, having completed his Master's in Marketing in 1986. He was awarded with the British Chevening Scholarship to study at the Manchester Business School, UK and later attended the Advanced Management Program at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

## AN EXEMPLARY LEADER

After his illustrious stints with Voltas, FCB Ulka and Marico, he joined Mahindra in 2000 as Vice President – Marketing of the Automotive Sector and went on to hold senior positions, including Managing Director of Mahindra Renault, before becoming the Chief Executive of the Automotive Division and Member of the Group Executive Board in 2010. He briefly worked as President of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. and served as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and Chairman of MediaPro (Distribution JV between Zee & Star Networks) during his tenure there.

He re-joined Mahindra in 2013 as the Chief Executive of Farm Equipment Sector (FES), and in April 2014, his role extended to include the Mahindra Two-Wheeler Business. He became the President of the Farm Equipment Sector in 2015. Under his able guidance, M&M's tractor business witnessed a never-before demand. Rajesh as his team at Mahindra went beyond just sales. For them FES wasn't just a company selling tractors and farm machines, but rather a solution provider who wants to help their customers achieve their outcomes, enabling them to rise.

They wanted to enrich the livelihood of the small land holding farmers by democratizing technology to deliver a more productive, profitable, and sustainable agricultural approach. Today, Mahindra has an ecosystem of services with their Farming as a Service "Krishe" which is a path-breaking business model to advance the

Indian farmer and Indian agriculture with the benefits of superior agronomy, access to advanced farm equipment rentals and new-age precision farming solutions. He has led Mahindra's two brands – Mahindra & Swaraj, to become the leading players in the Indian tractor market.

Rajesh today serves as a Director on the Board of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., several other Mahindra Group companies in India as well as overseas and is as an Independent Director on the global Board of Aliaxis Group SA, Belgium.

### GOING BEYOND THE NORM

Rajesh's taking over the baton as Executive Director coincided with the pandemic and lockdown in India. But that's when he outlined his famous "Walk – Run - Fly" phased approach of managing today, while investing for the future. The framework delivered strong financial returns in FY21 and also helped turnaround of global subsidiaries in FES along with a robust automotive demand momentum.

Now his bold new focused strategy for Automotive is setting the ground to accelerate to fly, where Mahindra will concentrate on its true DNA, i.e. "Authentic SUVs". It's a déjà vu situation, as two decades ago, he, in a similar environment, had repositioned the entire brand for a completely new customer. The transformation had led to the birth of category-creating SUVs, the Scorpio and the XUV500, that leapfrogged the brand into a new era of products.

The All New Thar launched last year, was a hint of the Authentic Core SUV strategy, and it is no surprise that it has won 20+ awards already. The XUV700 slated for launch this year, is an all new, authentic, global SUV set to redefine benchmarks in the SUV segment.

Today under his leadership, the Automotive and Farm Equipment businesses have a clear set of purpose and commitments along with a robust financial position. The Auto Sector is committed to leveraging global design and product development capabilities to bring to customers authentic SUVs, EVs and CVs, while the Farm Sector is focusing on growing its core domestic and global businesses, along with new tech opportunities and farm machineries. All of this sets Mahindra up for a bold and aggressive growth trajectory.

Recently M&M was ranked No.2 in



**“IT IS A STRONG TESTAMENT OF HOW ITS CULTURE AND VALUE SYSTEM INSPIRE TRUST AMONGST THE EMPLOYEES, INSTILL PRIDE IN THEM, CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTE CAMARADERIE AND FAIRNESS, AND DELIVER A GREAT WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL THE EMPLOYEES”**

“India's Best Companies to Work for 2021” by the Great Place to Work Institute®. It is a strong testament of how its culture and value system inspire trust amongst the employees, instill pride in them, create an environment that promote camaraderie and fairness, and deliver a great workplace experience for all the employees.

### SPINNING A GLORIOUS SUCCESS SAGA

Rajesh's talent has been recognized and rewarded many times by the industry. He has won the Award for the Launch of the Scorpio at the India Leadership Summit in 2002. He was also conferred an award for Marketing Excellence by the Indian Express & Indira Group of Industries in 2003 and was featured in the book titled 'India's Most Powerful Brand Builders' released at Asia Brand Congress 2008. He was also a part of the cover story on 'Young Leaders' in Outlook Business in 2009.

In 2009 and 2010, he was part of the Campaign India A-List which features 500

top professionals in advertising, media, and marketing. In 2013, he made it to a list of 50 Young Leaders of India, compiled by the British High Commission, India. He also held an honorary position on the Enactus India National Advisory Board. He currently serves on the Governing Council of S. P. Jain Institute of Management and Research. He is a member of the World Economic Forum's Automotive and Autonomous Mobility Governors community.

He is also a Member of the Executive Committee of The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and has represented the Tractor Manufacturers Association (TMA) in India as its President on the National Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in 2016 & 2017. Beyond work, his interests include teaching, reading and fitness. He has been managing the pandemic with an optimistic attitude. He likes indulging in yoga and spending meaningful time connecting with friends and family.

RAKESH RATHI

# AGING BUSINESS WITH PEOPLE, PROCESS & TECHNOLOGY

*Rakesh Rathi is a digital and business transformation leader, based in Zurich, Switzerland. Possessing a rich international experience (EMEA, Americas, APAC) of over 3 decades and an MBA/Engineering qualification, he has been recognized by C-suite executives of large global firms for his expertise*

BY RICHA SANG



**M**r. Rathi is a humanitarian supporting rural schools for underprivileged children in providing them on-line mainstream education using remote digital tools and has received state recognition for his initiative. He has also received a Presidential Award for his engagement with C-suite executives. His core areas of expertise include transformation (business and technology), IoT (Internet of Things), SMAC (Social, Mobility, Analytics, and Cloud), Robotics and Wireless (Wifi6, 5G).

## TAKING A BALANCED APPROACH

Rakesh believes “Business transformation is a long-term marathon, not a sprint. Companies require to balance innovation and technology with enhanced and new business models to gain competitive edge, revenue and customer experience.” According to him, this facilitates “operational efficiency resulting in better management of working capital / OPEX and inventory / CAPEX, maturing customer experience (CX).” Sharing similar viewpoints of some of the top business leaders, he elaborates, “During a recent interview, Mark Schneider (CEO, Nestlé) said ‘...when it comes to safety in the pandemic, we want no stone unturned if we send hundreds and thousands of people to work every day.’ Similarly, Vas Narasimhan (CEO, Novartis) has advocated ‘unbossed leadership’ at Novartis which resonates well given healthcare sector has accelerated significantly due to the pandemic.

He rightly concludes, “So, clearly while Revenue and Profitability is important for any business, leaders nowadays also look at the holistic ecosystem across corporate ethics, fairness to their employees, D&I, empowering talent, inspiring workers, creating a purpose-driven workplace and having empathy, which has taken a precedence in their narrative and is now the accepted norm as compared to controlling by ‘old-style’ power.”

## CARVING A DIGITAL ROUTE TO SUCCESS

His vision for future is that “technology has evolved from a business enabler to a critical driver for all organizations. Organizations

that understand this fundamental shift must learn to navigate such challenges as modernizing platforms, leveraging data and analytics to improve operations and products, building capabilities, creating a software engineering culture. Business and IT leaders have to deliver end-to-end tech-enabled transformations by focusing on IT infrastructure, architecture, operations, and overall tech strategy. Every company wants the power of insights-driven by machine learning and artificial intelligence. But like any complex undertaking, making that wish a reality involves specialized expertise and a lot of investment ... unless someone else will do the heavy-lifting for you”

He vehemently asserts that “IT (Information Technology) is the backbone of all business functions and we are looking at a seismic shift in the scaling of digitization, at a pace never seen before. Technology spend is expected to increase to more than \$2.9 trillion by 2021, so clearly IT will be key for any business to drive competitive edge since every company now is a technology company driven by customer centricity (CX) and this resonates across B2B and B2C.” He further elaborates, “Role of a CIO (Chief Information Officer) and CDO (Chief Digital Officer) have moved beyond being a cost-center and their point of view are being discussed in board-rooms as part of corporate strategy. Cloud is at the center of digital transformation and in parallel we have to build a strong infrastructure for a digitally empowered ecosystem”.

An ardent advocate of customer centricity, he believes in aligning customer service with organizational goals. In his view “there will be 50 billion connected devices in the world in the near future. As such, high speed network and internet mobility (Wifi6, 4G, 5G) and an automated ecosystem ‘technology as a service’ around PaaS/SaaS/IaaS (i.e. IoT, Cloud, Data Centers, Robotics, Mobility, Analytics, Computational power et al) to accelerate transactions in every business will be the centre stage of digital revolution where innovation has become the norm as a game-changer. A customer-centric firm is the catalyst on how new technologies are deployed as such it is imperative we listen to our customers & ensure we align to their objectives.”

#### **SPINNING A GREAT SUCCESS SAGA**

He derives his motivation to excel from his close and active engagement with CXOs of large global MNCs around their corporate



**“WHILE REVENUE AND PROFITABILITY IS IMPORTANT FOR ANY BUSINESS, LEADERS NOWADAYS ALSO LOOK AT THE HOLISTIC ECOSYSTEM ACROSS CORPORATE ETHICS, FAIRNESS TO THEIR EMPLOYEES, D&I, EMPOWERING TALENT, INSPIRING WORKERS, & CREATING A PURPOSE-DRIVEN WORKPLACE”**

strategy driving innovation. He believes that Covid-19 pandemic is a monumental change-over for business as usual and a launching pad for organizations to become virtual, digital-centric, and agile – and to do it all at lightning-fast speed. As leaders look ahead to the future, they ask: How do we keep this momentum going? How do we take the best of what we’ve learned and put into practice through the pandemic, and make sure it’s woven into everything we do going forward? Speed is of essence and is unleashing a wave of innovation unlike anything we’ve ever seen before! Even before the pandemic, over 85% of the companies surveyed thought that this business model would not remain viable at the rates of digitization. The pandemic just put that whole scenario on steroids. The companies that are leading the way from the crises, the ones that will grab market share and set the tone and tempo for others, are the leaders. The fundamental reality is that the accelerating speed of digital means that we are increasingly living in a winner-take-

all-world. However, simply going faster isn’t the answer. Rather, winning companies are investing in tech, data, processes and people to enable speed through better decisions and faster course corrections based on what they learn.

#### **DEDICATED TO SOCIAL WELFARE**

Rakesh considers CSR as an important attribute for every firm. He asserts, “Leaders today look beyond Revenue & Profitability. They have the advantage of being in influential positions of large firms with abundance of resources (financial, manpower, expertise) and are socially obliged to use these resources to empower those with limited means.” A humanitarian at heart, Mr Rathi has been involved with ILO, Switzerland and World Bank for the development of Re-insurance in India & Philippines. In his free time, he also supports development of schools for underprivileged children in rural country-side using on-line digital technology and has received state recognition for this.

RAMESH AWTANEY

# BUILDING A BETTER WORLD WITH BOTH HANDS

*The Founder & Chairman of iSON Group, Ramesh Awtaney is an Indo-African business magnate, serial entrepreneur and philanthropist with deep business interests across Africa & the Middle East. He possesses a rich experience of more than 3 decades across IT & Telecom and Finance sectors*

BY RICHA SANG



**B**orn in the Indian city of Agra in Uttar Pradesh, Ramesh was brought up in Rajasthan. He graduated from MBM Engineering College, Jodhpur with a Bachelor's degree in Engineering and obtained a Master's degree in International Trade from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). He has undertaken a number of executive programs at leading institutes such as Harvard University, Wharton Business School and INSEAD. He has also taught IBM course, "Major Deal Maker" during his tenure at IBM. An avid cricket enthusiast, he delineates his professional life in two innings:

## FIRST INNINGS

Ramesh started his career with SAE India Limited and his first project was in the sphere of transmission lines. Later he moved to Escotel for a brief period as a Senior Manager. Thereafter, he joined Ericsson India Private Limited where he worked his way up to the big league. As his Swedish boss Olof Wassvik puts it, "We promoted him and he was ready for the next promotion." He adds, "In two years, we promoted him 4 times to eventually become Director, Business Management, managing pan India Sales and Operations." In 2000, Ramesh moved on from Ericsson to join a start-up providing Free Internet, however it did not work, and he joined IBM in 2001. His passion for "selling" helped him craft a milestone agreement between Airtel and IBM valued at over 750 MUSD on the basis of revenue sharing. This was the first time in the history of the IT industry that such a large outsourcing agreement was signed without an offshoring element. This business deal then went on to become a benchmark for the entire industry and is now a Harvard Business case study that has been discussed globally in umpteen boardrooms. Ramesh then went on to sign 7-8 Billion USD agreements for IBM with various telecommunications companies. He evoked such confidence that all top three Telcos in India outsourced to IBM. In the later part of his career at IBM he moved to Singapore as Vice President and GM Asia Pacific Communications Sector – IBM GTS.

On his last working day at IBM, he signed an outsourcing agreement with Maxis in Malaysia.

## SECOND INNINGS

Ramesh bid adieu to IBM in 2009 and started iSON along with his long-term friend and colleague Vivek Gupta. As he fondly puts it, “the name iSON is a tribute to my two major employers – IBM and Ericsson.” Owing to his dedicated efforts, “today, iSON is a Pan Africa, Middle East and India, service provider for Customer Experience Management and IT Services & employs over 15000 people across 32 delivery centres with 20 plus languages. It serves over 450 Mn customers on behalf of its clients & is a major employment provider in Africa. In South Africa, they are a BBBEE level 1 Creditor company.” iSON Client list includes, geographically diverse customers such as MTN, Airtel, Vodacom, Vodafone, Etisalat, Emirates National Oil Company, National Water Company, Bajaj, Standard Chartered Bank and several other marquee clients who have outsourced business critical processes to iSON in the MEA region. iSON is backed by marquee financial investors such as AfricInvest, Gulf Capital, Dhavi Investments. He is extremely passionate about technology, & has been supporting budding entrepreneurs as a seed & VC investor and mentor. Under his exemplary leadership, iSON has made over 15 early-stage investments including some successful exits in the tech sector. Some of these include Mventus – a leading mobile self-care company which ran the platform of large Telco customers in Africa and India, Flytxt – a leading marketing analytics firm, Connectiva – one of the world’s largest revenue assurance, data analytics & fraud management companies, U2opia – developed a technology that provides Facebook & social media access on feature phones in markets where smartphone penetration is low.

## DELIVERING EXCELLENCE

Extremely passionate about the art of selling, Ramesh exudes confidence when he asserts, “My education is average, but I can tell stories and I can work a proposition which may sound propitious. Ultimately, it will be an equation which works for you and me. Arriving at & selling a mutual viewpoint is my passion.” He believes in delivering nothing but excellence. As he puts it, “When client businesses want Customer Experience Solutions that are par excellence, they don’t go to big names, but come to iSON. The same



**“MY EDUCATION IS AVERAGE, BUT I CAN TELL STORIES AND I CAN WORK A PROPOSITION WHICH MAY SOUND PROPITIOUS. ULTIMATELY, IT WILL BE AN EQUATION WHICH WORKS FOR YOU AND ME. ARRIVING AT AND SELLING A MUTUAL VIEWPOINT IS MY PASSION”**

goes for IT projects whether implementing IT or managing IT. Similarly, when you need money for early-stage tech funding, you connect with iSON, because we help fulfil your visualised dreams.” He further adds, “It all starts with a conversation & along the way we find how to match expectations & aspirations. Each requirement is unique & needs the passion of our iSON teams to make it work. If you want something done with detail and perfection you come to iSON. As our tagline says “We are You.” Customer Xperiences – Guaranteed.” He concludes, “While I don’t say it much, but I do this job as my passion. Now, I enjoy enabling it.”

## GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Ramesh sees tremendous opportunity in impact investments in Africa and is currently partnering in initiatives like Girl Effect (‘GE’) which work to bring adolescent girls out of isolation. Under his able leadership, iSON and GE have launched project ‘Girl Connect’ which provides information, entertainment,

counsel and help to adolescent girls using technology and online mentors using the iSON BPO platform. In 2018/19, Girl Connect successfully completed a program called “One Million Unheard Voices” in Nigeria.”

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the years, iSON & Ramesh have been recognized at various forums. He was conferred with the Entrepreneur of the Year Champion in Biz Awards at 2016 ASSOCHAM India Africa Trade & Investment Forum. He was also bestowed with “Technology Company CEO of the Year” during 2016 Nigeria Technology Awards (NiTA). iSON has been identified as a leading Service Provider by Gartner and has received awards from the Great Places to Work Institute.

Sharing his success mantra he says, “My own experiences taught me that entrepreneurship is more about audacity, agility & also ability. I believe that it is a cycle of failing and learning; but ‘continue playing’ is my message to the entrepreneurs of today.”

RAMESH GOPAL

# CHARTING A CONTINUAL GROWTH TRAJECTORY

*Efficiently leading Deutsche Bank AG as the Chief Risk Officer (UAE) & Regional Head (Credit) – Middle East, North Africa & Turkey, Ramesh Gopal has not only been contributing to its growth but has also been teaching the varied aspects of leadership, corporate culture, and the tricks of the trade to future leaders*

BY RICHASANG



**A** prudent risk management leader in the region, Ramesh is majorly responsible for the reduction in credit risk losses for the bank thereby leading to a very healthy portfolio. This has directly contributed to its growth and no wonder, Deutsche Bank is headed for growth in the MEA region. Under his able leadership, the bank registered the lowest NPL (Non-Performing Ratio) in Turkey in the years 2018 and 2019 (Source: SNL) amidst the most turbulent period for Turkish economy in decades.

Ramesh possesses a rich experience in Risk Management (Corporate, FI, Sovereigns, Structured financing, Investment Banking & Retail Banking) and Relationship Management (Corporate Banking) covering conventional and Islamic Banking. He has efficaciously handled all tiers of corporate business including SMEs, mid, large and very large corporates.

By virtue of his varied roles with Multinational and Regional Banks in Managerial capacity, he has gained exposure of handling credit risk of 28 different countries across Middle East, Africa, Europe (Spain, Portugal, Italy, Turkey & France) and India.

## WORKING TOWARDS GROWING AND ENABLING GROWTH

Ramesh is extremely passionate about teaching and training and contributes by sharing his knowledge and experience by teaching management level students so that he could bring theory and practice together. "I teach various management and finance subjects to students in Dubai as part of my inner drive to impart education in the field of finance," he says.

According to him, the 3Ps of growth on which every leader should focus are People, Productivity and Performance. He has introduced multiple initiatives for people development under the vision 'Grow & Enable Growth.' He asserts, "Holistic development of an individual is always at the forefront of my priorities."

He brought about various initiatives for

knowledge and skills enhancement of his team in the organisations he has worked with. By virtue of various training programs initiated by him, his teams have shown significant improvement in self-awareness, emotional competency, self-motivational skills, empathy & social skills.

### A TRUE-BLUE VISIONARY

According to Ramesh, the acid test of a good leader is whether he or she can survive the adversities posed by the changing market scenario. According to him, “How a leader navigates or saves his ship during rough weather is the most important.” He asserts, “Challenge the challenge, else you will be challenged.”

Ramesh is of the view that a true leader should have empathy for his people, be a crisis manager and a good communicator. Describing his leadership style, he asserts, “Participative, People-focused hands-on leadership” has been my style. Leaders either micro manage or have a laissez-faire approach, both of which prove counterproductive. Finding mid-way leaders in today’s world where results delivery is the key KPI, has become difficult. In such an environment, while no micro management is resorted to, I believe in knowing the way to do every function within my remit. This has helped in managing manpower planning, succession planning, workload analysis and employee coaching in an effective manner.”

His earnest efforts, dedication and passion have enabled Ramesh to come a long way. He vehemently believes that “being appointed as the Vice Chairman of the UAE Banking Federation’s Risk Committee was the career high point. This was a risk consultative committee chosen amongst risk professionals from 52 different banks within the country.”

He further elaborates, “This was achieved through gaining the confidence of the fellow bankers in the country which in turn was gained through consistent practice of effective risk management during my tenure in risk management in this country.”

Sharing his vision for the future growth of the organisation, he delineates, “Facilitating risk management to achieve a near zero credit risk loss in the Middle East and Africa region in the next 2-3 years is the short term goal.” “Establishing an industry-best business and risk model across the region is the long term vision,”



**“PARTICIPATIVE, PEOPLE-FOCUSED HANDS-ON LEADERSHIP’ HAS BEEN MY STYLE. LEADERS EITHER MICRO MANAGE OR HAVE A LAISSEZ-FAIRE APPROACH, BOTH OF WHICH PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. FINDING MID-WAY LEADERS IN TODAY’S WORLD HAS BECOME DIFFICULT”**

he adds.

### DEDICATED TO BUILDING A BETTER SOCIETY

Ramesh is an altruist by nature and is deeply dedicated to making this world a better place. He emphasizes, “CSR is key not only to my company but also to me in my personal capacity. Deutsche undertakes multiple CSR initiatives not only in UAE but in other Middle Eastern countries as well through the Bank’s Middle East Foundation. CSR is core to our values in the Middle East, we have a separate department for this, and a regular budget is allocated annually.”

He further elaborates, “In my personal capacity, I have been involved in teaching and supporting Refugee mentorship programs. I have focused on the needy segment of the society and have personally coached them for various professional exams over the years and as a result, it is gratifying to have built a pool of professionals in UAE and India”

He adds, “We have distributed free hygiene kits to hundreds of workers in the country. For those rendered unemployed without shelter and waiting to be repatriated back home, free clothing and food was collected and distributed.”

### A GLORIOUS SAGA OF AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Ramesh has garnered numerous awards and accolades in his illustrious career spanning around 2 decades.

He was felicitated with ‘Excellence in Finance Industry – Leaders’ award for his rich contribution to the finance industry in the Middle East. He is also the recipient of the ‘Hichki Teachers’ Award’ for his outstanding contribution to the field of education in the UAE.

Amongst various awards recognizing his holistic contribution, the ‘EMEA Paragon Award for Leadership’ in the MEA category stands a testament to his leadership in many walks of life.

RAVINDRANATH VENKATESH GUMASTE

# MASTERING THE ART OF SUCCESS

*The MD of Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Ltd., Mr. R. V. Gumaste is a turnaround maestro who has been instrumental in effecting change, implementing systems and quality development in the firm. His dedicated efforts have resulted in more than 100 times improvement in the firm's share value during the past 2 decades*

BY RICHASANG



**A** graduate in Metallurgical Engineering from Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal, Mr. Gumaste joined Kirloskar Group in July 1981. In 1993, he joined Kirloskar Ferrous project team in the early stages of project implementation. Mr. Gumaste took over as Executive Director in July 2002 and as Managing Director in 2003. Under his leadership, the firm has witnessed improved profitability and has been in a continuous profit-making mode since the last 16 years. As Executive Director, he played a significant role in turning it around to make it an enviable organization.

By virtue of his visionary leadership, he turned around the 100+ year old foundry unit (a sick unit) – Shivaji works LTD Solapur in 2007 – into a profit-making firm and helped in creating infrastructure for manufacturing export quality castings to Global OEMs. The organization has also invested in coke oven with power plant, power generated by using the Waste Heat Recovery technology thereby achieving a near self-sufficiency in the power requirement at Koppal plant at a marginal cost of power generation. Similarly, the company has invested in Solar power plant in Koppal as well as Solapur to achieve green energy and also benefit on the power cost. The company has acquired a Pig Iron asset to achieve business growth. To enhance bandwidth in line with Business growth, Technology adaptations in manufacturing process including Robotics and 3D printing were successfully implemented. Owing to his dedicated efforts, KFIL was listed among the Fortune 500 companies in the year 2019 under the category of mid-size company.

## NURTURING LEADERS

A leader par excellence, Mr. Gumaste has been efficiently steering the organisation to glory by walking the talk and establishing a climate of trust and transparency, and creating adequate facilities for nurturing and honing technical and managerial skills of employees. Thus, many of them have taken up higher responsibilities with ownership and empowerment. His business acumen, analytical skills, strategic thinking, cool

composure and empathy cast a positive influence on the people working with him. No wonder, a few of the employees who have grown under him, are holding responsible positions like Functional Heads, SBU Heads, and Plant Heads. He is a true leader who believes in creating leaders. His focus is to inculcate and balance technical skills with soft skills including managerial and business skills by facilitating various internationally-renowned managerial development programs in the organization. He strongly believes and demonstrates “people first” in all KFIL actions. Under his leadership, KFIL regularly carries out assessment for people competencies and skills, with an aim to identify fast trackers and future business leaders. Based on the inputs from expert trainers, assessment focused training programs are evolved and are monitored at defined intervals. For people development activities, the inputs are taken from Employee engagement surveys by 3rd party; Focused groups interviews, Business Excellence assessment feedbacks, Thomas Profiling (DISC profiling), 360 degree feedback, Emotional intelligence, inputs from other stake holders and so on. Mr. Gumaste has built an Ecosystem involving key stakeholders in communicating the Purpose, Vision and Strategy and building transparency, mutual trust and mutual growth by arranging vendor meets where KFIL business plans and preparedness of the vendors are discussed and necessary technical and other related helps are extended.

#### **INNOVATING FOR CONTINUAL GROWTH**

To cater to continuous business growth, he has brought transformation in the areas of Technology, People and Processes, and has introduced contemporary technologies in Foundry: conventional to advanced technologies like robotics in many of the processes, simulation and 3D modelling to process design and latest technology like 3D printing (Industry 4.0), and UG 3D modeling Software for 3D model designing. This has enabled the organisation to bring in international customers like Volvo, Hino and Daimler – serving Euro VI engine blocks – for the first time from India. With regard to the Pig Iron Plant, he has introduced Shaft-less stoves – Russian technology which resulted in increased gas temperature, thereby leading to reduction of coke consumption and further commissioned Coke Oven plant to gain advantage of cost with quality Coke. KFIL is the first company to set up Sinter



**“A LEADER PAR EXCELLENCE, MR. GUMASTE HAS BEEN EFFICIENTLY STEERING THE ORGANIZATION TO GLORY BY WALKING THE TALK AND ESTABLISHING A CLIMATE OF EXCELLENCE BY NURTURING K-GROUP VALUES”**

plant in MBF category to reduce the cost by utilising iron ore fines and thus reducing the cost of production.

#### **WORKING TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD**

Under his exemplary leadership, KFIL is committed to K-Group’s purpose of “Enriching Lives” and aims “to be a preferred Employer & responsible neighbour.” Since inception, KFIL is engaged in societal development, through various programs aimed at improving quality of life of community in vicinity. It has integrated social concerns with business approaches respecting the needs and expectations of all stakeholders including society and “values the opportunity and responsibility to make a meaningful difference in people’s lives.” Kirloskar Ferrous Rural Development Trust has been established to cater to the requirements of Koppal, Hospet & Solapur region. People in the nearby villages and the surrounding region are beneficiaries of his dedicated social endeavors. They include setting up a

health center and offering specialist medical services. Multispecialty health check-up camps and blood donation camps are being conducted every year. Preventive health-care awareness & vaccination drives are being conducted on a regular basis. He also works towards nutrition support to pregnant women & old people, financial assistance for treatment of major illnesses, water management in the nearby villages & providing drinking water facility and so on. Constructed “Sthree Shakthi Karyalaya” to empower women by giving training on tailoring, beautician, food processing etc. His focus areas are Health & Hygiene, Community Development, Education & Environment. He has been creating awareness about Water, Sanitation and Hygiene through the WaSH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) initiative. 54 schools and around 14 thousand children have benefited from this initiative. Through Vasundara Film Festival, every year, movies related to environment conservation in Hospet, Koppal and Solapur are screened.

S. DURGAPRASAD

## DRIVEN BY ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT & COMPASSION

*Mr. S. Durgaprasad (popularly known as DP), the Co-Founder, Director, and Group CEO of Chennai-based Bahwan CyberTek Group, believes that integrity is the key to success. His success story is a reflection of true value creation. With 3+ decades of extensive experience, DP exudes extraordinary brilliance as a business leader*

BY MONALISA BISWAS



**D**P is a qualified Engineer from the College of Engineering Guindy (CEG) in Chennai, India. He has also pursued management programs from the Kellogg School of Management (Illinois, USA) and XLRI (India). The proactive leader has an illustrious track record spanning over three decades of accomplishments in leadership roles at diverse business organizations.

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

DP founded Bahwan CyberTek (BCT) in 1999 to develop pioneering products and solutions to meet the specific requirements of industrial segments such as Oil & Gas, Power, BFSI, Government, SCM & Logistics, Telecom, and Retail. Soon the company emerged into a global provider of digital transformation solutions in the areas of Predictive Analytics, Digital Experience, and Digital Supply Chain Management. The leader's outcome-driven mindset and aptitude for exploring, and establishing new markets have been instrumental in propelling the BCT Group to its current position of prominence and prosperity.

Under his determined leadership, BCT's revenue has surpassed \$290 M. What's more, he has established nine subsidiaries and two joint ventures with DHL (Bahwan-DHL) and TelBru (Comquest). Both the joint ventures have been successful to date, serving customers in the region and around the world. Additionally, he has established numerous commercial initiatives in the United States, the Middle East, India, and the Far East over the years.

DP is an upbeat individual and a fearless entrepreneur who believes in remaining positive even in the face of adversity. He claims that fear is the greatest impediment to success; thus, he never lets it get the better of him. He says, "Successful entrepreneurship necessitates risk-taking. If you are afraid to take risks, then entrepreneurship is perhaps not your cup of tea."

### COMPETING IN THE GLOBAL MARKET

DP is a focused leader who has worked hard to expand his business globally. He holds

integrity, persistence, and improvisation as his guiding principles. These attributes have not only enabled him to grow personally but have also assisted him in carving out a niche in a competitive global marketplace.

The proactive leader consistently aims at investing and expanding IP portfolios across sectors and verticals leveraging the most cutting-edge and futuristic technologies to provide his global client base with distinct, value-driven solutions. Additionally, he takes a customer-centric approach to everything he does, which has earned him the trust of his clients all over the world. Partnerships have always been a crucial strategy for the leader, and he is consistently looking to build new synergies with new partners while also strengthening old ones.

#### A PEOPLE-CENTRIC LEADER

DP emphasizes the significance of fostering a people-centric workplace culture that prioritizes employee happiness. He believes in investing in people, relationships, and developing an inclusive work culture. BCT currently has over 3000 members and serves over 1000 global customers.

DP says, “We are proud to employ top individuals who can contribute to the success of the company. It’s not just about whether or not they’ll be able to execute the job; it’s also about what they can contribute to the team.” In this age of perpetual disruption, the focused leader takes every measure to ensure that his workforce is future-ready.

Soon after the COVID-19 outbreak, DP immediately came up with a solid plan to keep his business afloat. To cope with the challenges faced in the prevailing COVID-19-induced pandemic situation, his company leveraged Cloud communication tools and virtual platforms to stay connected with employees at all times and facilitate efficient remote working and seamless collaboration.

Additionally, to take care of the mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing of the employees, a host of HR initiatives have been adopted, along with technology initiatives, such as Mood-o-Meter for capturing each employee’s mood at various points throughout the day. Additionally, to maintain agility during these tough times, a blended office model has been adopted while complying with local regulations and safety precautions. For example, Flexi-Seating, a post-COVID tool has been designed to allow employees to book their seats in advance at the workplace. With this tool, employees can



**“WE ARE PROUD TO EMPLOY TOP INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE COMPANY. IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY’LL BE ABLE TO EXECUTE THE JOB; IT’S ALSO ABOUT WHAT THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE TEAM”**

choose the seat or meeting room of their choice while also knowing that the location has been sanitized before their arrival.

#### DOING HIS BIT FOR SOCIETY

Under the leader’s direction, BCT regularly engages in several CSR activities of national and global impact. From adopting a Municipal School in Chennai (India) for supporting the SMILE initiative aimed at distributing healthy meals to underprivileged children, especially those who are at the crucial stages of their Board examinations preparations, to prioritizing senior care by providing financial support for the treatment of COVID-19 patients in an old age facility in Chennai, (India), the compassionate leader’s CSR ethos demonstrates his unwavering commitment to giving back to society.

As a clean energy entrepreneur, DP is known for his efforts to develop market-driven climate change solutions. BCT’s flagship AI-driven predictive analytics platform, Retina360, has been assisting

renewable energy producers with predictive maintenance remedies that promote long-term sustainability besides boosting ROI.

#### RACKING UP ACCOLADES

DP has been bestowed with several entrepreneurship awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award in Technology at the Oman Banking & Finance Awards hosted by OER Oman Economic Review. In 2015, he was honored as an “Illustrious Alumni” by his alma mater, CEG Chennai. He was also lauded by the Who’s Who Historical Society for demonstrating exemplary professional achievements and his distinguished contribution to the IT community.

Furthermore, the leader was also featured in the ‘30 Top Business Leaders of Oman’ by the Oman Establishment for Press, Publication, and Advertising (OEPPA). He has also been consistently ranked among Oman’s Top 100 Most Influential CEOs for several years.

S. VENKATACHALAM

# CARVING MYRIAD TRAJECTORIES OF GROWTH

*A qualified Chartered & Cost Accountant with more than 3 decades of experience in Finance and Insurance sectors in the GCC region, Mr. S. Venkatachalam is an inspirational leader who has efficiently turned around National Life & General Insurance Co. SAOG (NLG) from a GWP USD 10 Mn to a USD 385 Mn company*

BY RICHASANG



A dedicated professional, Mr. Venkatachalam has been efficiently driving NLG towards new horizons of growth. He took over the reins of the company in 2003 and facilitated its growth into the largest insurance company in Oman and a major insurance player in the region with business operations in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait, in addition to Oman. From a pure Life insurance company, he diversified its product portfolio to General and Medical Insurance; today NLG offers a wide range of insurance solutions, customized as per market needs. He also ensured the expansion of its business operations into other countries in the GCC region.

Owing to his dedicated efforts, today NLG is listed in the Muscat Securities Market and has grown into one of the largest insurers with a market share of around 65% in health insurance in Oman and is amongst the top players in the UAE. NLG also has a large personal lines portfolio, especially motor insurance where it is one of the top 2 insurers in the country. With its more than 190 sales/service touch points and over 500 dedicated insurance professionals, it touches the lives of about 1 Mn customers.

## INNOVATING FOR SUCCESS

A leader who continually encourages innovation, Mr. Venkatachalam personally reviews all the innovative ideas and concepts put forth by the employees and devises varied strategies and interventions for the growth and expansion of the organization. By virtue of his sheer dedication, NLG has emerged as a pioneer in Digital Transformation in insurance sector and provides a comprehensive online sales and service platform through website, mobile app and web-based General Insurance Management systems. He also established bidding process for motor insurance claims to provide transparent, fast and best price claims management.

Under his leadership, NLG has acquired TPA company 'Inayah' in the UAE to further strengthen claims management. He also ensured the establishment of back office support in India to provide faster and

economical business operations.

He has also been actively involved in the conceptualisation of ALFA – an online training platform that offers a wide range of knowledge and skill enhancement program for employees.

### **BUILDING A BETTER WORLD**

A socially-responsible leader, Mr. Venkatachalam leaves no stone unturned in making the world a better place. He asserts, “As leaders in the insurance industry, we understand that it is our moral duty and responsibility to give back to society. Every year we mark a part of our earnings for CSR. We make various efforts especially in the field of health, education, environment and cultural heritage. Be it distribution of school kits, books or conducting health camps, blood donation camps or constructing facilities and providing aids for differently-abled. We also participate strongly in various cultural activities of the local markets/countries that we operate in and be a part of the developing society.”

Talking about some of the measures he had undertaken to cope with the challenges faced in the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation, he says, “We have done a good job so far in terms of managing the crisis due to the prevailing COVID 19 pandemic situation and could very well run our business operations smoothly in all the markets that we operate, which includes Oman, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait. We have done well in terms of navigating through the challenges from the start as we were business ready for any such eventualities through our well-structured Business Continuity Plan. Not just the company’s management, but the employees at all levels and across departments responded well and responsibly as a large part of our operations was being done online and virtual with the lockdown that was put in place.”

He further elaborates, “We could manage to do business as usual even while keeping in line with Government directives of lock down and social distancing to keep our customers as well as our business partners and employees safe. It was a challenge, but every-one in the company rose to the occasion and we could achieve good results which is evident from our first half financial results. Another positive thing is that we did not have to reduce our operating staff by even one and we have retained all our employees. Some of the innovations/initiatives that we undertook



**“A LEADER WHO CONTINUALLY ENCOURAGES INNOVATION, MR. VENKATACHALAM PERSONALLY REVIEWS ALL THE INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND CONCEPTS PUT FORTH BY THE EMPLOYEES AND DEVISES VARIED STRATEGIES AND INTERVENTIONS FOR THE GROWTH AND EXPANSION OF NLG”**

were promoting online/digital sales through multiple channels – website, social media, online GIMS, mobile app, encouraging the use of digital Medical card instead of the usual plastic card in order to maintain social distance and reduce contact, providing VPN based Work From Home facilities for our employees, formation of COVID 19 committee to ensure the safety and health of all our employees which included Doctors, teams from Infra/admin and HR. We also reached out to our customers and business partners through digital media and informed and updated them regarding the situation and the measures we were taking to cope with it. We also facilitated claims management digitally, with least personal contact so that customers do not face any difficulty and are able to benefit from the insurance cover they have taken from us.

He adds, “All in all we have contributed \$455,000 towards endowment fund supporting government initiatives to overcome the threat of COVID 19.”

### **A LONG SAGA OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

For two consecutive years – 2018 and 2019, Mr. Venkatachalam was recognised as The Best CEO of the Year and NLG was adjudged the best company in large cap segment at AIWA Awards. Under his able leadership, NLG has won various awards and accolades for its outstanding growth and business achievements namely ‘Best Life Insurance Company’ at Insurance Awards by World Finance, and ‘Bizz Awards’ by World Confederation of Business for three consecutive years – 2015, 2016, 2017. NLG also received ‘Innovative Digital Services-Insurance’ Award at The New Age Banking and Finance Awards 2019 and was recognised as the ‘Most Trusted Brand in Oman – 2019.’

For its outstanding contribution towards the growth of Oman, the company was recognized by Forbes Middle East. It received the title of ‘Best Insurance Company – Oman 2020’ under the category of ‘Digital Transformation’ from Global Banking & Finance Review 2020.

SREE BALAJI

# GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

*With his great vision, out-of-the box strategies, & unceasing passion for excellence, Sree co-founded iLink Systems in the year 2002, despite the prevailing Dotcom bubble. He possesses a rich experience of over 2 decades in the High-Tech industry and has been efficiently driving iLink towards the path of sustainable growth*

BY RICHA SANG



Sree has played a significant role in iLink's success as a profitable, sustainable and socially conscious business. His deep understanding of the new digital age has helped the organization to establish itself as the go-to service provider for digital transformation across technology spheres like BI, IoT, NLP, AI and cloud services. Owing to its dedicated efforts, iLink has established its customer base in the US, Middle East and South East Asia. Under his leadership, the firm has won a place in the Inc 5000 list of fastest-growing companies 4 times in a row. It has also been recognized as one of the top 50 technology solutions providers in the Seattle area. He is currently focused on the firm's "expansion across continents to achieve a diverse client portfolio and gain the right talent in our team." He intends to target "inorganic growth in countries like Mexico and Sri Lanka; and grow into eastern Europe to acquire talent and business."

## EARLY LEANINGS

Possessing an innate passion for entrepreneurship, Sree has had various plans during his school days but his ideas culminated in an actual business when he was pursuing his studies from BITS-Pilani. He established iLink with Sridhar Mahadevan. Despite facing initial challenges, today, the firm has emerged as one of the top technology solution providers. In his own words, "iLink is my first full-time business venture. I have always been excited about starting a business venture right since my childhood even though my parents did not have any business background. Business ideas entered my mind during school days and culminated in an actual business during my college days in BITS-Pilani."

Besides his strong technology management and consulting background which helped iLink translate its business objectives into effective software products and solutions, Sree's unceasing optimism also played a significant role in iLink's success. As he puts it, "Tremendous positivity kept me going. Not a single thought of taking a U-turn ever

touched my mind. I kept believing in the fact that iLink would sail through every crisis. I have always believed that iLink will continue to grow.”

#### A UNIQUE LEADER

Sree embodies the spirit of a true leader and always tries to bring out the best in others. Describing the uniqueness of his leadership style, he says, “My leadership style is based on developing consensus and building a strong partnership with my immediate team. I empower my team, in their respective streams of work, to be successful and help them to express and realize their entrepreneurial potential. In my opinion, a successful leader works along with his/her team, granting them the necessary authority to express themselves freely and actualize their potential in their roles.”

#### WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS

Sree is a leader who practices and preaches good ethics in business. His passion, values and beliefs have resulted in building the firm on a triple bottom line premise. Under his able leadership, iLink determines success holistically, not only on its financial impact but also on the basis of its social and environmental responsibilities as integral parts of its overall organizational wellbeing. He asserts, “Success to me is creating value for all our stakeholders around me, which includes clients, teammates, the society and the environment. Triple Bottom Line (TBL) has been part of the culture at iLink Digital. We have been striving to focus on social and environmental concerns just as much on the financial aspects.”

#### PROMOTING EMPLOYEE WELFARE

Sree always prioritizes the happiness of employees. He very well understands the challenges faced by them during the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation. Talking about some of the measures undertaken by him for employee welfare during the current scenario, he says, “One thing we have been stressing about is wellness while people work from home during this pandemic. Wellness is a multi-faceted concept with dimensions across physical, mental and spiritual well-being. We have done several sessions for our employees on these various facets of wellness. We are inviting experts to provide our teams with advice on prophylactic



**“MY LEADERSHIP STYLE IS BASED ON DEVELOPING CONSENSUS & BUILDING A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH MY IMMEDIATE TEAM. I EMPOWER MY TEAM, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE STREAMS OF WORK, TO BE SUCCESSFUL & HELP THEM TO REALIZE THEIR ENTREPRENEURIAL POTENTIAL”**

approaches. We are even looking into hiring a Chief Wellness Officer to monitor the overall health of the organization and help the folks improve their well-being. Other than that, we have facilitated flexible work from home arrangements for all employees and we are still encouraging them to continue working from home.”

#### BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

Sree vehemently believes in giving back to society. Elaborating upon the various CSR initiatives undertaken by iLink under his guidance, he says, “I believe CSR is really important. iLink is a triple bottom line company and is involved in various societal as well as environmental responsibility-based programs such as planting saplings, adopting villages, and donating to various organizations. We are also involved in helping children with education. As a holiday season gift, we have sponsored education for some schools in India on behalf of our clients. They’ve liked the idea and have highly

appreciated the initiative. As a technology provider, iLink not only aims to help human society and improve their standard of living but also make sure to play our part in protecting the environment and making the best use of the natural resources.”

He adds, “Individually, I am involved in tree plantation programs, organic farming, and in helping save native breeds of cows. I also am one of the founding members of an angel funding group called Kuber Network, which helps entrepreneurs contributing to a social cause and India’s self reliance.”

Throwing light on the relief measures initiated by him during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, he says, “The COVID-19 pandemic has created a huge demand for medical grade oxygen. Right now, I am working with volunteers to see how we can arrange for oxygen cylinders and concentrators from the United States.” “We have also made financial contributions in helping patients in India for oxygen supplies, medicines, and treatment,” he adds.





SAVITRI JINDAL

# SERVING HUMANITY WITH **KINDNESS & COMPASSION**

*The Chairperson Emeritus, OP Jindal Group, Smt. Savitri Jindal is not only renowned in Haryana and India but in the whole world as a popular leader. She has lead with grace the life of a successful wife, a successful mother, a successful politician as well as a successful entrepreneur. Even though all of her four sons are successful businessmen, they are rooted in values and their philosophy of life is of Gandhism – simplicity is their special identity. She has also successfully handled the responsibility of Ministry of Revenue and Urban Local Bodies in Haryana, in the past. She is contributing to the field of education as the Chancellor of Jain Vishwabharati, Ladnun, Rajasthan. Her role as the President of Maharaja Agrasen Medical College, Agroha, a symbol of medical service in Southern Haryana, is being appreciated far and wide. A philanthropist to the core, she is extremely passionate about serving the society. Donning many hats with élan, Smt. Savitri Jindal is a living legend, whose life is an inspiration for one and all!*

BY **RICHA SANG**

**Q. You have played an important role in taking Jindal Group to great heights. Please share your experiences with our readers on how you went from being a successful housewife to a successful entrepreneur.**

**A.** I was taking care of the house but after the sudden demise of Jindal sahib, I had to come forward to handle the business. If the shadow of a father suddenly removed from the head, then the mother has to play the role of the father. Jindal sahib left behind a legacy of keeping the society and family together in the thread of love. He had an amazing ability to take everyone along,

so taking inspiration from him, I played my part as a link – both with the kids and also with the Hisar-Haryana family. I am very proud of my children, who have not only successfully handled the business following the path shown by Jindal sahib but are also living together lovingly and operating their business and family together.

In today's environment it is difficult for two brothers to live together but it is a big thing for us that all my children are living together with love. Jindal sahib also thought that everyone should live together and our children respected his wish. We are all together. In my view,

love and mutual trust are the keys to success.

**Q. You are an inspiration to those women entrepreneurs who are trying their luck in various fields and aspire to achieve big goals. What is your message to them?**

**A.** Knowledge, hard work, honesty, patience, mutual love and trust are the basic formulas of success in business. Jindal sahib used to say – “Each one belongs to us. All employees are ours, like family members.” I believe the same and my children also believe that employees are members of the family. I



want to tell my entrepreneur sisters that you need to be always up to date about your businesses. Do your business with hard work and honesty; if you do not cheat on anyone, then God also helps you and you move forward.

**Q. Despite having reached the pinnacle of success, you remain grounded and humble. We, at AsiaOne, appreciate your remarkable efforts to give back to the society. Please share some of the social causes which are close to your heart.**

**A.** As a child, I have seen my grandfather, parents, uncles and aunts and both

brothers and sisters – how they used to come forward to help the needy. After marriage, I got inspired by Jindal sahib as he used to take a great interest in social work. He used to say, “God has given us a lot, so we should also do something for the society.” He laid great emphasis on education because he believed that education is the right way to attain prosperity. He always used to inspire everyone for girl child education. He used to say, “If a girl studies, then two houses will prosper and if a boy studies then only one house.”

Education and health & wellness are subjects that are very close to my heart.

I would also like to share one thing that wherever we have factories, we have built schools, colleges, and hospitals for the kids of workers so that they can study. Basically, our aim is to ensure that they can learn employable skills so that they may get employment after completion of their studies.

Vidyadevi Jindal Residential School, OP Jindal School, OP Jindal Global University, OP Jindal University - Raigarh, OP Jindal Community College are some of the initiatives through which we are trying to promote the talents of the country. Similarly, Acharya Shri Mahashraman ji has entrusted me with the responsibility of being the Chancellor of Jain Vishwabharati, which I am trying to fulfil sincerely.

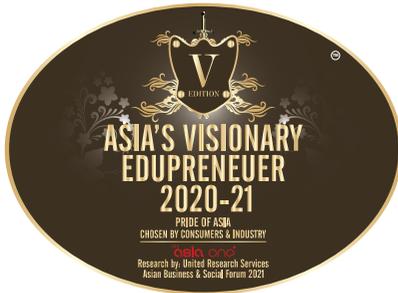
As far as health is concerned, right now my focus is on the development of Maharaja Agrasen Medical College, Agroha. Apart from Haryana, people from Punjab and Rajasthan also come there for treatment. Our team did a commendable job in the COVID-19 pandemic.

I believe that only a healthy and educated person can contribute to nation building.

**Q. AsiaOne Magazine, through its “Greatest Brands and Leaders Asia GCC” series, endeavors to publish the inspirational success stories of top Asian brands and leaders from around the world who have enabled Asia to acquire a special place in the world. This series will highlight the contributions of top Asian leaders, who have contributed in making this world a better place. What is your message to Mr. Rajat Shukal, Global Head and Principal Partner, AsiaOne Magazine and AsiaOne Media Group for this endeavour?**

**A.** I congratulate Mr. Rajat Shukal ji, and your entire team for the success of this series. I also thank you all as the initiative has given me an opportunity to connect with the world community. I am very much sure that I will definitely get an opportunity to learn from all of them.

Keep doing positive journalism like this, which changes the lifestyle of people and makes them happy, healthy and prosperous.



# RUSTOM KERAWALLA

## **MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE THROUGH EDUCATION**

*An entrepreneur par excellence, Rustom Kerawalla started his entrepreneurial journey with the establishment of one private school, which has eventually grown into 40 schools with 50,000 + students and has become a network in itself*

**T**he flagship brand of Ampersand, VIBGYOR Group of Schools, marked the genesis of Mr. Kerawalla's métier in education and the zeal to serve the nation at an individual level. He elevated various entities that provided end-to-end school management services and technology-backed solutions to assist pre-schools and K-12 in schooling, activities, and learning along with ensuring the skill development of teachers across India.

### **BUILDING THE NATION**

His significant leadership and prowess are highlighted by the fact that within a short span of just over a decade, the Ampersand Group has impacted approximately 350,000 beneficiaries ranging from school students to the adult youth both in the private and public space. The impact of Ampersand delivery is felt across India and significant delivery channels are in place for imparting education in private schools, Government Schools and Balwadi & Anganwadi pre schools. Recent forays have also been made with Jammu & Kashmir where the Ampersand Group is powering a transformation in education delivery.

Mr. Kerawalla's vision integrated skilling and vocational education as a service initiative along with his already established education services and significant skilling programs such as DDU GKY helped many a youth in Bihar, J&K get skilled and vocational education for school students through NSQF framework were established to make a positive impact to more than 75,000 school children across 26 states in India. Recent entry into the Telemedicine and Virtual Doctor services reflects Mr. Kerawalla's seriousness toward nation-building and sustainable development in the key sectors of education, skilling and healthcare through a dedicated team of committed professionals empowered by Technology.

### **EXPEDITING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Kerawalla has worked towards the development of the nation by primarily focusing on refining the crucial parameters of Human Development, which are Education, Skilling and Healthcare. He holds a vision that quality education to all at an affordable price is the need of the hour. Through his numerous business entities, Mr. Kerawalla focuses on Human Development initiatives in India and other potentially developing economies through 'technological intervention' in skill-development, education, and healthcare.



An accomplished leader, he possesses 30+ years of experience in policy, social development, and philanthropy. The cruciality of quality of education and skilling is emphasized by his entrepreneurship. Mr. Kerawalla considers technology to be the supreme catalyst in ensuring advancement in ways that cannot be established by mediocrity. This sphere of work is not merely an occupation to him but it can be undoubtedly defined as his passion.

He uses technology to facilitate the development of underserved markets and aids the government's vision to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. He has triumphantly launched diverse Indian and global government partnerships and has worked jointly with policymakers and governments across Asia and Africa for decades.

### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

His business leadership and exemplary vision have been recognized through numerous prestigious awards & accolades. He has received The Future of Tech Congress Awards; The Internet Entrepreneur Award; 7th Edition of the National Awards for Marketing Excellence; Extraordinaire Award by Brand Vision; India's Most Admired Business Leader Award by White Page International; Edupreneur Award by World Education Summit 2017; Award for Outstanding Contribution to Education by World HRD Congress; Innovative Education Award by DNA and the ET Best Education Brands 2018.



# *Black Swan Women Entrepreneurs 2020-21*

Women have been an important and integral part of human civilizations globally. Nations and economies and societies grow steadily where women are given equal opportunities and contribute substantially. Their innovative & progressive approach, distinct & revolutionary ideas, heroic perseverance, exceptional and uncanny ability to lead and achieve the unattainable makes them trailblazers. Through AsiaOne Magazine, we offer such Women leaders & entrepreneurs a global dais to acknowledge, honour, and showcase their monumental achievements. The following pages feature a few of the distinguished and celebrated Women Entrepreneurs who have left their indelible impressions on the world





# Jalpa H Vithalani

*DRIVEN, DISTINGUISHED AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE*

*Many jobs, many interests, many passions — one woman. Jalpa H Vithalani is a lady who has tapped into the world of aviation, logistics, art, farming, healing, philanthropy and emerged successfully in every venture. Jalpa spontaneously takes opportunities to their highest potential and creatively weaves them into something extraordinary*

**J**alpa dons many hats and does so with great skill. She attributes her success to following her passions and seeing every opportunity to its complete fulfilment.

She is Director onboard Global Aviation founded by her father Mr H K Vithalani, 45 years ago. Today, The Global Group is an organisation that enjoys tremendous goodwill — for quality customer care, business relationships and ethical practices. With a widespread presence in the country spanning 40 offices in 16 cities, it has a comprehensive range of services: Airline Representation, Airport Handling Services, Air & Ocean Freight Forwarding and Travel. The Group represented the Finnish Tourist Board and Jalpa took the helm of Marketing & Promotional activities being the people's person that she is. She also heads a logistics business: JTB Jupiter Express Services, a market leader in courier consolidation and air freight forwarding. It is a joint venture with Jupiter Global Ltd, a Hong Kong-based subsidiary of Japan Airlines.

Her penchant for the creative fields gets showcased through her thriving art gallery in South Bombay. Launched to translate her passion for the arts, she has made Cosmic Heart Gallery a platform that is open to emerging artists as well as veterans in art, photography, music and film. The Gallery is also a space that enables Jalpa to share the frequencies of Reconnective Healing: a gateway to accelerated Life Progress. Scientific studies show that Reconnective Healing has the ability to restructure DNA that results in cells emanating more coherent levels of bio photonic light. Jalpa is one of the first and few Reconnective Healing Practitioners in India and has conducted sessions for people across the

world. The Gallery has hosted 200+ events dedicated to all things art & healing for its patrons and has established itself as a one-of-a-kind spiritual art gallery. It is a space where thoughtful curation, exquisite art and the artists' expression come together to result in meaningful exhibitions which create unique experiences. They have collaborated with several organisations with the vision of creating a world without borders and Jalpa has been appointed on the Task Force for Arts for Peace & Intercultural understanding of a worldwide committee by BPW International. Cosmic Heart Gallery was one of the 16 international galleries invited to showcase their work at Art Bahrain Across Borders 2019, held under The Patronage of Her Royal Highness, Princess Sabeeka Al Khalifa.

Recognition & grace has come from many quarters - Jalpa was one of the delegates invited to attend a Peace conference initiated by 'United States Institute of Peace' with Youth Leaders from 50 countries at The 14th Dalai Lama's palace in Dharamshala. She presented a beautiful portrait to His Holiness, who blessed the gallery and its journey of spreading the message of love and peace through the medium of art.

Jalpa and her father Mr Vithalani have nurtured their connection with His Holiness and actively sponsor & conduct Tibetan Medical Camps for His hospital: Men Tsee Khang. The Tibetan medical system offers a scientific and holistic approach and has shown immense benefits. The aim of these camps is to offer affordable healthcare to people from all backgrounds.

Holding a deep connection to the Earth, Jalpa founded Global Agritech in 1998 — a pioneer enterprise in rose cultivation and was one of the first to bring greenhouse

technology to India. It represented the world-renowned Dutch breeder Schreurs and provided quality employment, to rural youth especially women from the neighbouring villages. Jalpa is the Vice President of Western India Floriculture Association and was appointed on the APEX body of APEDA by Shri Kamal Nath — the then Minister of Commerce & Industry, the Government of India. Jalpa was on the Organizing Committee of FLOREX 2017 — International Agriculture Exposition and was felicitated by the then Chief Minister Shri Sharad Pawar, in recognition of her 'Outstanding Contribution to Floriculture.'

## **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT — A NEED, A DUTY AND A PERSONAL MISSION**

Born in a household where women were encouraged to achieve their dreams, Jalpa has always believed that women have the ability to transform the world and bring about change. She has been taking her mother Indira Vithalani's example forward, as she has witnessed the power of a woman's innate abilities. This belief has only become stronger with every task, every project and every decision of hers. She is very conscientious of the importance of uplifting women, upskilling them, providing employment & bringing awareness so that the community can stand together and build a society that is equal. This translates into every phase of her life.

Jalpa has been an active part of organizations that work towards women's empowerment. Young & emerging female artists find a nurturing space in Cosmic Heart Gallery and wings to fulfil their dreams. Jalpa is actively involved with BPW (Business & Professional Women)

***“TO BE AWARE OF YOUR UNIQUENESS AND  
CHANNELLING IT IN EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO,  
IS WHAT LEADS TO SUCCESS”***

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International, the largest organization in the world empowering women since 1930 and present in 100 countries. She represented India at the 29th BPW International Congress 2018 in Cairo and is the President of BPW South Mumbai. Jalpa represented India at The United Nations Headquarters in New York at the CSW62 Session on the ‘Commission on Status of Women.’ She was recently invited to address an esteemed panel on the International Day of Girl Child with special focus on ‘The New Charter of the Girl’s Rights’ where H.E. Marie Louise, President, Republic of Malta was the keynote speaker.

As the State Director for the NGO Humans for Humanity that works to upskill women and bring awareness towards menstrual hygiene, Jalpa has taken the WASH (Women Sanitation & Hygiene) project to the ground level in Maharashtra. The project has covered 1.5 million women in India. She has also been a force behind holding cloth-pad-making workshops for women to make them self-reliant and help them build their small-scale business.

Right from building that humane connection, wanting to contribute back to life and society at large, Jalpa has a simple philosophy that family is beyond biological family, that life is much more meaningful when we create enriching experiences and touch & transform people’s lives. She does what makes her happy and engages in what feeds her soul. Jalpa is a forward-thinking optimist who believes that when you put everything you have into something, it is bound to translate into joy and success.



**“HER SUCCESS AS A FASHION CURATOR DROVE HER TO LAUNCH THE FASHION EDIT”**

# ADITI PAREKH

POPULARISING LUXURY FASHION

*Aditi is the founder of The Fashion Edit, a one-stop e-commerce website that showcases the works of renowned Indian fashion designers. Started 7 years ago in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, she launched her brand at a prestigious trunk show, which featured some of the best designers*

**A** Commerce graduate from Delhi University’s prestigious Hindu College, Aditi also holds a post graduate degree in International Business Management from the Fore School of Management. In addition, she is an IATA-certified professional and has completed corporate training in Nottingham, England.

She belongs to a business family in Delhi and is married into an industrialist family in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. With such a deep-rooted business background, Aditi had business adeptness and entrepreneurial skills inculcated in her since a young age. Contributing to her family business, Aditi has dabbled in myriad roles, donning various hats in diverse fields such as shipping, travel and logistics. A keen learner, Aditi took up online courses from Harvard Business School to further refurbish her business sensibilities. The insights she learnt while pursuing MBA have helped her achieve greater heights in the ever-dynamic Indian fashion industry.

She possesses enriching experience in managerial positions. From her first job at the Thar Dry Port to working in the hospitality industry in Jodhpur, Aditi’s experience in varied fields opened a world of opportunities for her. But Aditi chose to hold on to her dreams of carving a niche in the fashion industry. Eventually, after working for 12 long years in the corporate sector, she moved on to cherish her dreams by launching her multi-designer store named TESORI in 2013.

## LIVING THE DREAM

With a dream to create a platform for the most preferred Indian designer outfits, thereby making luxury fashion affordable and easily accessible,

she launched a fashion store in Ahmedabad in 2013. It brought multiple talented designers under one roof. By organizing sophisticated trunk shows and large format luxury showcases, she became a prominent name in the city’s fashion circle. Her massive success as a fashion curator in Ahmedabad drove her to launch The Fashion Edit (TFE). The vibrant new online fashion store has a widespread reach and followers from all over the country.

Being someone who always wanted to craft a name for herself, Aditi realises the importance of timely opportunities for new people to grow. In line with this thought, she has introduced a platform called the White Lily. It endorses the works of the talented upcoming designers and provides them a platform to showcase their designer outfits in Ahmedabad.

Her venture, The Fashion Edit, aims at giving center stage to the exquisite combination of evergreen Indian heritage and contemporary fashion trends. Her initiative aligns with the ‘Make in India’ campaign too. This year TFE has also gone international by expanding its base to Singapore.

## REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Due to her unrelenting efforts and business acumen, she has been conferred with the Udgam Women Achiever Awards 2020 and the Most Admired Global Indian 2020 by Passion Vista. Her overall contributions and endeavors to bring about a change in the Indian fashion scene have been well awarded and recognized by one and all.

Lately, Aditi has been handling multiple key roles that include EO spousal chair 2019-2020 for Gujarat. She has also been associated with the Young FICCI Ladies Organization as its Founder-Chairperson in Ahmedabad.

# ANANYA BIRLA

A TALE OF MIND, MELODY & MIGHT

*The multifaceted personality, Ananya Birla is not only a successful entrepreneur, singer & songwriter but also a quite popular youth icon as well. Besides successfully launching her first start-up Svatantra Microfin, she has been making great strides in the international music industry*

**A**part from being a karmayogi, who is living the dream, she is driven by the vision to bring about a positive change in society. Her venture Svatantra Microfin supports women entrepreneurs in the rural areas to grow and become financially more secure.

## PLAYING PLEASANT NOTES

Ananya always chose to do things differently. A quiet, observant and introspective child, she had an interest in music since an early age. She learnt to play santoor when she was just 11 years old. As she grew, so did her interest in music. She taught herself to play the guitar with the help of video tutorials on the web. This was the beginning of a passion that continues to grow even today. She is an acclaimed singer who writes her own songs. 'I Don't Want to Love' is her much acclaimed song which first brought her to the music scene. She was signed as an artiste by the Universal Music Group (India). Her debut single 'Livin the Life' was launched worldwide in November 2016. 'Meant to Be' is the second international single to be released in July 2017 & has been certified 'PLATINUM' as per the standards followed by the Indian music industry, which makes her the first Indian artist to go Platinum.

## EMBRACING LEARNING FROM ALL DIRECTIONS

Ananya studied at the Oxford University, UK, where she pursued degrees in Economics & Management. As a student, she developed keen interest in music & started singing & playing the guitar; while still managing her microfinance venture Svatantra over Skype calls with a capable team back

home in India. During her stay in London, Ananya also worked as a counsellor for a student welfare charity. She met & interacted with many young people of her age who were suffering from anxiety & depression. This experience shook her from within & after returning to India, she set up a mental health initiative called MPower along with her mother Neerja Birla. MPower works to stamp out the stigma towards people with mental illness in India. It also sensitizes people towards mental illnesses like anxiety & depression that are so common in our society today & can be controlled with family's cooperation. She felt a greater need to start Mpower because in India, it is difficult to change perceptions related to mental health, so she decided to take up the challenge of repairing the innate conditioning of the people which perceive mental illness as an evil. Her venture MPower is a timely step in this direction as it is high time to fight for rights of people with mental illness & help them to be understood & treated supportively like any other person who is unwell. Under her able leadership, The MPower centre provides holistic mental health care solutions to children, young people, and adolescents, & their families. The foundation helps people with psychological difficulties lead meaningful lives without social exclusion. It also helps create awareness by organising workshops for the youth. Ananya's entrepreneurial instincts led her to start an e-commerce platform - Curo Carte - which is a global ecommerce platform that provides handmade & high-end luxury products, curated from nine countries. The online portal is an amalgamation of design, beauty and lifestyle & offers around 1500 products across 70 categories. An inspiration to today's youth, Ananya Birla exemplifies the courage to let go of the comfort zone and pursue one's dreams by working hard to be the best at each & every endeavour, and light up the way for others simultaneously.



**"SHE  
EXEMPLIFIES  
THE COURAGE TO  
LET GO OF THE  
COMFORT ZONE  
& PURSUE ONE'S  
DREAMS BY  
WORKING HARD"**





**“SHE WON THE  
TIMES OF INDIA’S  
‘THE BEST  
RESTAURATEUR  
OF THE YEAR  
2021’ AWARD”**

# APARNA GORREPATI

**BRINGING SWEETNESS INTO YOUR LIFE**

*One of the finest chocolatiers in the country, Ms. Gorrepati has dexterously mastered the art of chocolate making. She moulded her lifelong passion for the culinary arts with the training she received from the best in the business to bring to life her entrepreneurial dream – ZUCI Chocolates*

**M**s. Gorrepati has been driving the vision of ZUCI Chocolates as the first exclusive chocolatier in Hyderabad. An alumnus of the Chocolate Academy (Belgium) and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Pâtisserie (ENSP, France), she has extensive experience of over 13 years in diverse cuisines. Born out of her untiring passion, knowledge and experience, Ms. Gorrepati’s venture is a natural manifestation of her skills, dreams and vision for excellence. Derived from the Sanskrit word Shuchi (Pure), ZUCI Chocolates is true to its name as it offers its customers the purest of products made from the best ingredients sourced from across the globe. In addition, it also delivers a finely curated chocolate and artisanal bakery experience to its customers.

## **BRAVING ALL ODDS**

Established just before the country went into lockdown in 2020, she meticulously laid out plans and created a business model, all of which hit a massive roadblock within a month of the ZUCI Chocolate Studio’s launch. During the launch, she had multitasked as a leader, visionary, decision-maker and manager as well as finalized menus and recipes. The pandemic and subsequent lockdown had turned everything topsy-turvy but like a true fighter, Ms. Gorrepati reworked business strategies, adapted and courageously held her ground. She kept her excellent team motivated and focused on her core vision of offering nothing but the best to her customers and created exclusive ZUCI experiences that left them wanting for more. She had to change her business model from a walk-in to a direct-to-customer one. The priceless life lessons during this initial

rough experience have taught the team to set a high bar for performance, focus on customer interactions and feedback.

## **AN ATTITUDE FOR EXCELLENCE**

Her formal training and certification from internationally reputed institutes, working with Master Chefs and interning with the world’s best chocolatiers, has helped her excel in the art of chocolate making. She maintains a strict quality and freshness policy. She has a production setup that uses the latest technology and equipment, as well as a team of world-class experts who help her create small batches of the best and most flavorful products for its customers.

The ZUCI portfolio covers an extensive range of Truffles, Bonbons and Dragees along with other chocolate products. They also make artisanal bread including sourdough, focaccia, and flavor-infused breads along with the most extensive range of desserts available in Hyderabad. There is something for everyone, every palate and every age group. She has also incorporated a flagship studio and café at Hyderabad, which offers the most delicious F&B range along with the entire range of ZUCI products.

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

She has been awarded ‘The Best Restaurateur of the Year 2021’ by the Times of India – Food and Nightlife Awards. Her flagship venture Artisanal Chocolate Studio and Café has also been recognized as the ‘Best Restaurant of the Year 2021.’ This is a well-deserved award, which is going to pave the path for future accolades and milestones. Her multiple accolades within a short span is a testament to her fine skills, foresighted vision and dedicated efforts.

# CA VEENA ABHAYKUMAR DAHOTRE

EMPOWERING PEOPLE THROUGH FINANCIAL FREEDOM

*Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, financial growth and security have become necessities. In this context, Veena (Associate Partner at Dahotre & Dahotre Chartered Accountants) has been guiding people to set & achieve financial goals & be equally focused on investments and saving*

**V**eena completed Bachelor of Commerce from BMCC Pune in 2015 and Chartered Accountancy in 2019. She has been associated with Dahotre & Dahotre Chartered Accountants as Associate Partner since 2019. Her life inspiration has always been her family and maternal grandfather who encouraged her to read books, pick up good qualities and skills, and keep evolving as a person and a true professional day-by-day.

## BRINGING HER COMPANY'S VISION TO REALITY

Veena believes that a true leader inspires others to follow the right path and guides them to emerge as new leaders. She has always worked hard towards earning the leadership role that she proudly fulfils today. She is appreciative and empathetic towards her team, and also believes in creating a healthy and disciplined yet competitive work environment for maximum results. She is an inspiring leader who nurtures team spirit and supervises the overall operations of the company.

The high point in her career has been to remotely manage the entire team operating from different parts of the country successfully during the pandemic. Under her synchronized efforts, the company proactively supported the new ways of working and the IT team also lends a helping hand in familiarizing everyone with the new processes. Under her guidance, the company was able to grow even during the COVID-19 crisis.

## SPEARHEADING A DEDICATED TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS

Veena believes that the company's guiding principles – Innovation, Teamwork, Integrity, Respect and Achievement – have been the keys to achieving the company's vision and developing a safe, satisfying and fun work culture that they're proud of. She values her team's contributions and rewards their efforts from time-to-time.

She ensures that the highest-quality service is delivered to her clients through goal-setting sessions, understanding their requirements, raising finances and timely complying with various laws to align them with the market. Besides, a special CRM is used for team management and research purposes.

## VALUING VALUES

Veena emphasizes that inculcating good values in the youth through education and awareness can make a huge difference. She is of the view that strong education support can help turn the youth of India into responsible citizens who truly understand the meaning of social responsibilities and don't shy away from fulfilling them. Under her exemplary leadership, the firm has adopted technology-friendly practices, and the tech teams have devised specific procedures, practices and systems for faster approvals and controls, Segregation of Duties (SoDs) coupled with strong review mechanisms to avoid potential frauds within the company, and to improve accuracy. These are just a few among the many steps taken by the company to maintain good corporate governance and improve customer satisfaction.

For the short-term and long-term growth of the company, Veena wishes to make a difference in the lives of ordinary people by making financial issues and financial compliances stress-free and easier to deal with. Under her able guidance, the company is already on the road towards rapid growth, and envisions expanding its network both domestically and internationally.



**“UNDER HER GUIDANCE, THE FIRM WAS ABLE TO GROW EVEN DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS”**





**“DEEKSHA BELIEVES THAT INSPIRATION IS EVERYWHERE; ONE JUST NEEDS TO LOOK AROUND FOR IT”**

# DEEKSHA S KUMAR

*SCRIPTING AN INCREDIBLE SUCCESS STORY*

*Leading the way with élan, Deeksha S Kumar's exceptional business acumen & dedication has earned her the position of a Managing Director at a young age. Having successfully transformed Sparsh Foods India Private Limited, she stands tall with a praiseworthy & inspiring journey behind her*

**A**s a leader, Deeksha is well-known for maintaining a fine balance between authority and empathy. Holding on to employee welfare as one of the primary business ethics, she always stands by her team and offers them the guidance whenever required. Always ready to lend an ear and offer help, she is a source of support for her employees and therefore, has been able to make the most of their abilities to ensure enhanced productivity. The result has been shining bright with the majestic success of Sparsh Foods. Her approach is directed towards achieving two objectives — employee satisfaction and the trust of customers through dedicated endeavors.

## **ADMIRABLE PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE**

Being a woman-entrepreneur, Deeksha has had to face challenges in the male-dominated corporate world. However, she knew that the terrain is bound to be a bit turbulent and was prepared to achieve her dreams no matter what. Deeksha moved ahead with confidence and diligence and took all the challenges in her stride, overcoming them one by one. Tactfully dealing with the abrupt and unexpected situations, she has actively been instrumental in generating favorable results for the company.

## **DRAWING INSPIRATION**

Aiming for a sustainable and well-rounded business, Deeksha has not shied away from taking inspiration from other women leaders who have excelled in their respective careers and fields. Be it the woman officer in the army or a police constable carrying out her duties while taking care

of a young baby, Deeksha believes that inspiration is everywhere; one just needs to look around for it. Besides, Sudha Murthy and J.K. Rowling are among the women achievers who have inspired her since she was young.

## **CSR AND BEST PRACTICES**

Despite the pandemic creating chaos all around, Deeksha takes pride in the fact that her enterprise has responsibly taken care of its employees, collected adequate funds for society welfare, and created a better environment. Without any pay-cuts and lay-offs, the company has consistently rolled out payments for all its employees. Paid leaves, provision of medical facilities and insurance cover for COVID-19 treatment were all duly ensured.

Showing excellence in corporate governance, she maintains transparency within the team, stands up for the lows, and delegates work evenly to ensure maximum efficiency and proficiency in all tasks. Rather than strictly going by division of power in the corporate hierarchy, she believes that in times of taking crucial decisions, all the team members play an important role and each employee's opinion count, irrespective of their designation.

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION RECEIVED**

Various business firms have recognized Deeksha's prominent contribution and her devotion towards her work. Some of the prestigious awards she has received include the Times Business Award 2018 in the MSME sector and Times Power Women Award 2019 - Young Entrepreneur. She has also been felicitated with the Karnataka's Leading Women Award - 2019 (Business Category) and the Times Business Award - 2020 (Emerging Women Entrepreneur Category).

# DR. MASOOMA RIZVI

SHOWCASING INDIAN CULTURE THROUGH ART

*Dr. Masooma Rizvi is the Founder and Managing Director of Belita Design Solutions Pvt. Ltd., one of India's premier interior design firms founded in the year 2007. The Delhi-based interior designing firm has become an incredibly successful company under her leadership*

**D**r. Masooma aims at contemporizing traditional Indian art to suit modern interiors. For instance, with her ceaseless efforts, she has succeeded in creating demand for an extinct art form of 'Kavad', thus making it popular across the globe. Her mantra is to design interiors that are synonymous with functionality of the space. Under her leadership, Belita Design Solutions has implemented numerous prestigious projects, including the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Manekshaw Centre, Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and a number of top class museums. Two of her recent projects have been inaugurated by the President of India, four by the Hon'ble PM of India, two by the Hon'ble Home Minister, and three by Chief Ministers of states.

## A VISIONARY LEADER

Dr. Masooma has all the traits of a visionary leader in her. Her vision of creating, innovating, and showcasing Indian culture through art drives her short-term and long-term goals. What's more, her vision also drives her to travel to the remotest Indian villages in search of Indian artisans whose art forms are on the verge of extinction. Additionally, she aspires to explore green and smart spaces to cater to her environment-conscious and tech-savvy clients, respectively.

She is a perfectionist who spends hours analyzing a finished drawing. She does not hesitate to alter the complete design if she feels something is not right. She is also very particular about the projects that she takes up. Every space she designs is well-researched, innovative, well-planned and unique. She builds her team with clear communication and consistent goals

and believes in setting common achievable targets for all to ensure a coherent business direction. She also believes that when employees keep common goals in their mind, they become more focused and productive.

Despite the fact that the ongoing pandemic has adversely affected art projects, she has kept her permanent workforce on the rolls besides retaining most of them. She also took the initiative of teaching new skillsets to artists and making them computer-savvy during the pandemic.

## POWERING SOCIAL PROGRESS

Dr. Masooma takes every possible measure to employ and empower all segments of society. She continually strives to provide women artisans with ample opportunities and resources to be successful. At the same time, she ensures women artisans get direct employment to become financially independent. She also runs workshops to train them to become entrepreneurs. She is associated with 'Aakar Asha' – an NGO set up by the "N Swain Memorial Trust" from its inception. In addition to offering financial assistance, she has provided themed artwork for this charity hospital free of cost.

## GARNERING AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Dr. Masooma was presented with the 'Atal Samman' at the Parliament of India in 2020. She was also honored with the 'Jijabai Award' by the Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand in the same year. In 2019, she was presented with the 'PHD Chamber of Commerce Award on Women's Day'. She was also honored by Sanskar Bharati as 'Eminent Artist of India' in 2018 in Gonda for her outstanding contribution to art. What's more, Dr. Masooma was adjudged as one of the "15 Most Powerful Women in Architecture and Interior Design" in the Country by Vogue Magazine in August 2018.



**"DR. MASOOMA WAS PRESENTED WITH THE ATAL SAMMAN AT THE PARLIAMENT OF INDIA IN 2020"**





**“DR. SRIDHAR  
AIMS AT  
IMPROVING THE  
STANDARDS OF  
PALLIATIVE CARE  
IN INDIA”**

# DR. REPUBLICA SRIDHAR

**MAKING PALLIATIVE CARE AFFORDABLE FOR ALL**

*A renowned Family and Palliative Care Physician, Dr. Republica Sridhar is the Founder of RMD Pain Relief & Palliative Care Trust. Under her exemplary leadership, the healthcare facility offers high-quality pain relief and palliative care to terminally ill patients and their families*

**D**r. Sridhar aims at offering ethical service and improving the standards of palliative care in India. She opines that India's palliative care scenario is transforming dramatically; therefore the leaders in this sector have to gear up to evolve accordingly. After having graduated from Sri Ramachandra University in 1992, she has been practicing as the Medical Director & Founder of RMD Nursing Home for over 25 years. Apart from providing medical care at RMD Nursing Home, she currently looks after the administration of the 120-bedded healthcare facility in four different locations at Chennai, Sriperumbudur, and Madurai. She is also the Founder Medical Director of RMD Specialties Hospital, a 50-bedded hospital that offers oncology, palliative, and geriatric care services at Amarambedu, Kundrathar, & Sriperumbudur District. Through RMD Pain Relief & Palliative Care Trust, she offers palliative and hospice services to patients from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Moreover, to make palliative care viable in India, she regularly conducts sensitization and training programs for healthcare workers to integrate pain management, palliative care, and geriatric care with hospitals. What's more, the patients and their attendants are provided with a welcoming and relaxed environment to ensure that they get the best care.

## **PROVIDING BETTER LIVELIHOODS TO THE NEEDY**

Dr. Sridhar is the daughter of Mr. Ram Dave, the ex-Sheriff of Madras who was also a renowned philanthropist. Right from her childhood, she was exposed to philanthropic activities that inspired her to pursue her own philanthropic ventures as she grew up. Dr. Sridhar has been taking regular

initiatives to train rural as well as urban youngsters from socio-economically disadvantaged families so as to employ them as caregivers and geriatric nurses. Under her guidance, women from rural parts of Tamil Nadu are educated, trained, and absorbed immediately in hospices and other palliative centers so that they can find their feet and become financially independent. Dr. Sridhar is a member of the Women Empowerment Forum. She is a strong advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment. Moreover, as a member of the Anti-women Domestic Violence Association, she takes measures to assist women who suffer silently in their homes. Other than spreading palliative and hospice care awareness, she regularly participates in CSR activities such as cancer awareness, Pink Movement, AIDS awareness, the Anti-tobacco movement, and much more.

## **REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS**

Dr. Sridhar is the winner of many awards and accolades including the Mayan Award for Health and Fashion from Hon'ble Dr. Kiran Bedi (the ex-Governor of Puducherry), Vasavi Ugadi Puraskar Award for exemplary contribution to society and humanity, Rajiv Gandhi Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievement, Justice Dr. K. S. Sanjivi Award for Home Care and Elderly Patients Care Service in 2016, Spirit of Humanity Award 2015 for contribution in the field of livelihood, Global Achievers Award 2015 for Excellent Performance and Outstanding Contribution for the Progress of the Nation and the World, among others.

She has been dedicatedly contributing as a faculty in the Indian Association of Palliative Care, Umajal Achi College of Nursing, Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre, Balaji Nursing College, MAC Nursing College, and Skill Development MES Course, among others.

# DR. VIDYA SRAVANTHI

*SERVING THE NATION WITH UTMOST DEDICATION*

*A renowned personality in the education sector in Hyderabad, Dr. Vidya Sravanthi has founded 5 successful educational institutions. Her outstanding contributions to the fields of education and women empowerment are noteworthy*

**D**r. Vidya Sravanthi is the Founder and Principal of the Reqelford International School, Hyderabad. She has founded educational institutions in Hyderabad, affiliated to the SSC, CBSE, and IGCSE boards. She is also a member of the Board of some reputable educational institutions. Currently, she fulfils her role as the Head of the CBSE Cluster Schools in Hyderabad.

Thanks to her several years of experience in the field of education, the institutions led by Dr. Sravanthi have been able to tide over the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic comfortably. Institutional Online Student Portals have been made more efficient. Student Assessments, Virtual Experiments, Online Interactive Sessions, and other webinars and workshops have been held to ensure open communication between the teaching staff and the students. In addition to online teaching, the institutions have also made it a point to conduct creativity and fitness sessions to nurture students' talents. Motivational lectures were also organised for students and parents. She has also taken great interest to ensure that the morale of students and teachers remains high.

## **COMMITTED TO SOCIAL WELFARE**

Dr. Sravanthi is a skilled leader with experience in working at the grassroots level as well as the management level of organizations. She ensures research and development are established as an important part of educational processes. She also works towards tailoring the curriculum and syllabus to contribute to the holistic development of her students. Her aim

is to create a conducive environment that encourages students to be lifelong learners. Dr. Sravanthi has always been passionate about teaching. She started her first institution, St. Peter's Model School, for students from average and middle-income families. Even now, CSR is a vital part of the institutions founded by her and she makes it a point to reach out to students from underprivileged backgrounds with educational kits and monetary assistance.

She has been an active figure in the women empowerment efforts in the country. She has been associated with various microfinance institutions for over a decade now and has participated in designing the capacity building programmes for nearly 4 million Indian women.

She helped the underprivileged people in Hyderabad by donating groceries, blankets, and other provisions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **GARNERING NUMEROUS AWARDS & ACCOLADES**

Dr. Sravanthi has received a variety of accolades for her work in the education field. In 2019, she received the Education Stalwart Award from Education Today. She was also presented with the FAPCII Award for Outstanding Contribution for Welfare of Society. For her entrepreneurial brilliance, she was presented with the International Achievers Award for Business Excellence.

Under her leadership, Reqelford International School bagged the British Council-conferred International School Award for the third consecutive year in a row for 2019-20. Reqelford International School has also received the first rank for being the Top Day-Cum-Boarding School by Education Today, along with a top rank in the Individual Attention to Students category. In the Preschool segment, the school was ranked second in the North Zone by the Times Group.



**"SHE HAS DESIGNED CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES FOR 4 MILLION INDIAN WOMEN"**



**“SHE MOTIVATES  
THE GEN-NEXT TO  
PURSUE A CAREER  
IN ACCOUNTANCY  
AND FINANCE”**

# FAZEELA GOPALANI

**NURTURING THE GEN-NEXT OF ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS**

*Ms. Fazeela is the head of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Middle East, the global body for professional accountants. She oversees its operations in 11 nations, serving 20,000 students, associates, & representatives from varied industries in the Gulf*

**A** member of ACCA since 2004, Ms. Fazeela possesses over 18 years of experience in accounting and finance. Her mission is to increase the awareness of the importance that highly trained accountants bring to companies and economies across the world.

## EARLY LIFE

Ms. Fazeela, who was born and raised in the UK, completed her Bachelor's degree and MBA from the University of Birmingham and the University of Strathclyde, respectively. Before moving to the UAE, she managed and operated an accounting firm in the UK, where she offered specialised financial services to a variety of clients. She was also a Senior Manager at PwC in Dubai.

It's no surprise that accounting is in her blood, thanks to her father, who was an ACCA member and ran a successful accounting practice in the UK, offering professional financial services to a wide range of customers, including private individuals, small companies, and large corporations. She decided to follow his footsteps as she grew up. The determined leader was constantly mindful of the ACCA qualification from an early age.

## THE CONVERSATION STARTER

Ms. Fazeela's role is to act as a conversation starter, to make people aware about the critical role that accountants play in businesses and economies, especially in the Middle East, through the implementation of VAT, IFRS changes, the incorporation of Islamic finance, business sustainability, and much more. Her position entails managing and developing strategic

relationships with regulators, business leaders, stakeholders, and the ACCA Middle East stakeholder network in order to influence dialogue and discussion about key issues affecting the region's ongoing economic growth.

## FORGING KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Ms. Fazeela collaborates with a variety of educational institutions and government agencies in the region to help new generations recognise not only the value of the pandemic-proof profession, but also the critical role that a professionally trained accountant plays in the development of economies.

## CONSTANTLY MOTIVATING YOUNGSTERS

With her ceaseless efforts, she has been successfully motivating the next generation to consider and pursue a career in accountancy and finance, while also emphasising the importance of financial literacy being ingrained at an early age. She believes that mentoring can assist young aspiring accountants in achieving career success. Her goal is to empower young people with the required skills such as creativity, communication, and collaboration, along with emotional intelligence, and empathy so that they can navigate effectively through whatever situations arise in this ever-changing global environment.

She regularly designs interesting campaigns to challenge youngsters interested in Finance or Accountancy. 'Take the Challenge' campaign, launched in January 2021 has been specially designed to challenge children aged 13 to 16, particularly those interested in accounting and finance.

She lives in Dubai with her husband and two children. She loves spending quality time with her family and maintains a healthy work-life balance.

# GEETHA NAGPAL

LEADING WITH COMPASSION & KINDNESS

*Efficiently spearheading Krupanidhi Group of Institutions, Ms. Geetha Nagpal has been ensuring that the students are nurtured to become conscientious citizens. She has dedicated her life to the betterment of society & actively engages in numerous philanthropic activities*

**M**s. Geetha Nagpal is the Co-founder of Krupanidhi Group of Institutions, which was established in 1985 with the primary aim of nurturing young minds in the country. Under her able guidance, Krupanidhi Group of Institutions has grown from a fledgling institute into a global institution that constantly works towards the goal of ensuring that its students obtain a holistic education that grooms them into the leaders of tomorrow. The institution is now responsible for moulding over 6,500 unique young minds under the watchful guidance of Ms. Geetha Nagpal.

An MBA graduate, she is a thorough professional. She is known for her grace, humility and love for people and nature. Her creative approach to all the problems in the personal and professional spheres sets her apart from her contemporaries.

## A ROLE MODEL

Known for her humility and kindness, Ms. Geetha Nagpal is an entrepreneur with a high emotional quotient. Under the banner of Krupanidhi Group of Institutions, she has started several social welfare programmes and awareness drives for a plethora of issues. She is a passionate believer in gender equality and women's entrepreneurship and is a member of several initiatives promoting the same. She makes sure to spend time with the staff at all levels at the Krupanidhi Group of Institutions and as a result, has won their goodwill. She is also actively involved in student-centric activities on campus. In addition, she provides a free counselling service to ensure the mental wellbeing of employees of Krupanidhi Group of Institutions.

She strongly feels that the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. She is of the view that all those who are capable and possess the resources to mentor and guide the youth of today must take up the responsibility of doing so in the best possible manner so that as a society we may be led to the path of greater good. No wonder she is a role model for umpteen others who intend to serve the society.

## GLORIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For her outstanding contribution to the field of education and betterment of society, Ms. Geetha Nagpal has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards such as the Wholesome Leadership Award. She has been a panellist at many illustrious events like the education policy debate held by Asia Today Research & Media, which was telecast on the India Today news channel. She was also a speaker at the Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (WICCI). Under her leadership, the Krupanidhi Group of Institutions has won several awards. It was listed in the Forbes list of Great Indian Institutes for the year 2018-19. It was also awarded a Platinum rating by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for four consecutive years. In addition to this, the institution has been awarded the 'Innovation Award for Exemplary Student-Driven Innovation Ecosystem' for its Krupanidhi Research Incubator Program (K-RIC) at the Melting Point 2020 Innovation Summit. Krupanidhi Group of Institutions has also received the award for 'Best Institution for Research and Innovation' by India Didactics Association's (IDA) Education Awards 2019. It has received two awards from the World Education Congress for being the 'Educational Institution with the Best Infrastructure' and the 'Educational Institution with the Best Academic & Industry Interface'.



**"SHE STRONGLY FEELS THAT THE YOUTH OF TODAY ARE THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW"**





**“SHE POSSESSES  
A RICH EXPERIENCE  
OF AROUND 3  
DECADES IN INDIA &  
THE USA”**

# K. RENUKA RAJU

**A RESOLUTE CHANGEMAKER**

*The Chairperson and Managing Director of Kovida Limited and the Founder of the chain of Lotus National Schools, Ms. K. Renuka Raju is a seasoned academician who strives to bring changes at the policy level to improve the quality of education*

**R**enowned for exemplary leadership in education and entrepreneurship, Ms. Raju is a veteran educationist. She completed her Master's in Education from the College of Education and Allied Professions, University of Toledo, USA and also pursued Executive Education programme in Marketing Management from the Columbia University. She spearheads the chain of Lotus National Schools in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. With a rich experience of around 3 decades in the education sector in India and the USA, she has undertaken various programmes for engaging school students. Her ideology and actions are evidently inclined towards transforming the quality of education at the district level. Her publications are a testimony to her commitment towards striving for change at the grass-roots level.

## **PROFOUND EXPERTISE**

As one of the key contributors in drafting the National Education Policy, 2019, she has advocated for revamping the educational norms. In 2014, she also engaged in the NEP dialogue initiated by the NDA Government as a part of the nationwide extensive consultations. As the Founder & Promoter of Lotus Learning Systems Society (LLSS), she facilitated the advancement of four CBSE-affiliated schools in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Until 2012, she was also the member of the prestigious Strategic Communications Group of National Literacy Mission Authority and The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

As the Counsellor and Job Development Representative at Duval County Public Schools, Florida, USA, she planned and implemented vocation-bound

programmes for the disadvantaged as well as the differently abled. She conducted a National online poll in partnership with the Logical Indian on instituting three levels in Mathematics. Actively engaged in policy formation, she participated in the Round Table Conclave on NEP, 2015 for Private Schools and Higher Education Providers. With various aims, including that of introducing and implementing structured learning at the workplace, she collaborated with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority — Victoria Certificate of Applied Learning and Assessment Research Centre, Melbourne Graduate School of Education. Possessing an outlook to bring change at the ground level, she has conducted numerous seminars, workshops, conferences and gallery walks. In addition, she has been training Anganwadi Workers in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

## **TRAILBLAZING IDEATION**

Ms. Raju promotes “district as a launch pad” for implementing education policies by the Government of India and proposes the development of District Education Office (DEO). In her view, establishing DEOs is crucial to NEP and has a paramount role to play in transforming education. She believes in implementation of the 12-sector oriented CBSE skill education course at the +2 level and Maths Assessment at two levels — standard and basic. Kovida Limited, under her leadership, has strived to provide a smooth shift from secondary to higher education. Ms. Raju favors raising the bar of the “Foundation, Preparatory, Middle and Secondary” model of education, its quality and affordability, teacher training for specific courses and skills. Unquestionably, she is one of the towering personalities working to reshape the education system in the present times.

# MADHU JAIN

WORKING TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE

*The Director of IIFL Foundation, Ms. Jain is a versatile, dynamic, and optimistic leader. She supervises the CSR initiatives at the firm with a strong emphasis on impact-based social intervention in the fields of education, health, financial literacy, water conservation, and livelihood*

**W**ith a firm belief that education is the key to progress and prosperity of a nation, Ms. Jain has been dedicatedly contributing towards the education of the underprivileged children. Under her exemplary leadership, IIFL Foundation has launched the 'Sakhion Ki Badi' initiative, which is now one of India's largest girl child literacy programs that provide seamless education to over 36,000 girls in some of the most remote areas of Rajasthan. Sakhion Ki Badi community schools have also become the source of sustenance for nearly 1,220 women, mostly from the economically deprived as well as scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities. She has also initiated one of the most unique literacy initiatives in India – Rathshala – for the children of the migrant Rebari community, who migrate between Rajasthan and Gujarat for over eight months in a year. It is a mobile school set-up built on a cart and towed by a camel along with the moving caravan of the Rebari community. Another initiative for the children of migrant construction workers in the state of Maharashtra and UP is called 'Chauras'. Under her active supervision, the IIFL Foundation has supported the development of rooms and a fully equipped science laboratory in a government residential school for girls from the SC/ST communities. It has also facilitated smart board learning in another nine schools.

Under her guidance, the Foundation runs an expansive financial literacy initiative exclusively for women, spread across Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and Jharkhand to impart financial literacy lessons to women. It empowers them to connect with the banking system and benefit from the government welfare schemes.

## PROVIDING FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

Along with providing education to the underprivileged, health has also been a focus area for Ms. Jain. She has initiated 'Arogya,' a preventive health project for over 35,000 girl children in 11 districts of Rajasthan. The Foundation supports two annual mega medical camps at Pandharpur and Barsana, touching the lives of approximately 300,000 beneficiaries, facilitated by over 300 doctors.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation showed its support to the Prime Minister's efforts towards fighting it by contributing to the PM CARES Fund. It has also extended support to various hospitals by providing personal protective gears through the industry body FICCI along with oxygen concentrators to communities in Kashmir.

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Ms. Jain has bagged many awards for her exceptional social work. At the World CSR Congress, she was recognized as one of the top 'Women CSR Leaders.' She won the 'CSR Leadership Award' at the National Awards for Excellence in CSR & Sustainability for her contribution to girl child literacy, water conservation and health sectors. She was awarded the 'Best Innovative CSR Project Award for Financial Literacy' for IIFL's financial literacy program for women in eastern India and 'Best CSR Impact Award' for Wardhona Nullah Recharge Project. She has also received CSR Leadership Awards at Golden Globe Tigers International Awards 2020 and National Awards for Excellence in CSR 2020. She was recognised for the 'Best CSR Impact initiative' at National Awards for Excellence in CSR & Sustainability, and received ET Now World CSR Award for 'Best Support and Improvement in Quality of Education.'



**“AT THE WORLD CSR CONGRESS, SHE WAS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE TOP ‘WOMEN CSR LEADERS’”**





**“SHE SHARES  
HER KNOWLEDGE  
& EXPERIENCE  
AS A MEMBER  
OF VARIOUS  
INDUSTRY  
BODIES”**

# DR. MAMTA BINANI

**AT THE TOP OF HER GAME**

*With her unwavering focus, Dr. (h.c.) Adv Mamta Binani has earned the unique distinction of being India's 1st Insolvency Professional. She has also held the coveted position of the President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) in the past*

**D**r. Binani's versatile career and affiliations have inspired umpteen aspirants. At present, she serves as a fellow member of the ICSI and heads numerous boards as an Independent Director. Being her own boss was a dream that she triumphantly manifested through her arduous efforts and merit. She credits her family for the name and space she possesses at present, as they have consistently embraced her ambitions.

## SCHOLARLY DISTINCTION

Dr. Binani is the epitome of calibre and virtue. As a Law and Commerce Graduate, her inclinations and perseverance helped her come to light as an established Company Secretary and Lawyer. She secured the All-India 1st rank in the Intermediate Examinations of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, amongst all the lady candidates in India and ranked 14th on an All-India Basis.

She has exemplarily steered diverse business portfolios from the genesis of its planning to the execution stage. Facilitating programmes and speaking on interpersonal and communication skills is her forte. She conducts training in soft skills up to Chief Managerial level and serves as an empanelled trainer for ICICI Bank Limited.

## MULTIPLE AFFILIATIONS

Dr. Binani shares her knowledge and experience as a member of various industry bodies. Her honorary membership in diverse industry bodies and associations exhibits her tenacity and ardour for leadership. She was the

Chairperson of the Eastern India Regional Council of the ICSI in 2010 and served as the Vice President of ICSI in 2015. Over the years, she has held positions in esteemed chambers of Commerce, NGOs and Professional Associations. She is also a member of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation. She is the Executive Committee Member of INSOL India, All India Federation of Tax Practitioners, Direct Tax Practitioners' Association and Views Exchange CA Study Circle, Kolkata. Additionally, Dr. Binani is the Vice-President of Calcutta Citizens' Initiative, Shikshan Kendra, Maheshwari Sabha and Lions Club of Mother Teresa Sarani in Kolkata.

## SPLENDID ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Binani has been recognized with multiple accolades at reputed platforms. She was honoured with the 'Doctor of Excellence' certificate in Honoris Causa for excellence in the field of Management. For exceptional academic performance, she was awarded with the 'D.L. Majumdar's Silver Medal' and 'Mauji Ram Memorial Award' by ICSI. She was given the 'Women Excellence Award' by the World Peace and Diplomacy Organization for Women Empowerment and SDGs. She is the 1st Company Secretary to be conferred with the 'Bharat Nirman Award' for Excellence in Professional Services in 2010 and the 'KKMERS Award' for Excellence in Profession. In 2010, she was awarded the 'Tejaswini Award' for sizable beneficence in the Social Sector and Women Empowerment. As a result of her remarkable contribution in the social vertical, she was conferred with the 'Hello Kolkata Award.' In addition to an illustrious list of accolades, 'Wah Zindagi' made a telefilm on YouTube that portrays the voyage of her life.

# PRIYA ANAND DAKLE

MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

*Priya Anand Dakle is the Chairperson and Partner of Gujarat-based Dakle Industrial Plastics, established in the year 1984. Under her quintessential leadership and great vision, Dakle Industrial Plastics has been experiencing rapid growth over the years*

**C**urrently, the company has three state-of-the-art workshops of one lac sq. ft. for manufacturing customized FRP tanks and other pollution-control equipment. Priya is also one of the founders of Smt. Madibai Sardarmal Dakle School, Sanjan (Gujarat, India) — the CSR wing of Dakle Industrial Plastics, which is a pre and primary school and aims for imparting high-quality education to her employees' children at a very subsidized cost.

## ON AN EXPANSION SPREE

A perfect combination of ingenuity, foresight, and agility, Priya aims at taking the company to new heights of success with new products and innovative ideas. To expand the manufacturing of high-volume chemical storage tanks, she added the company's second unit in 2012 with a high-tech facility. This was followed by the third expansion in 2018 for manufacturing highly customized pollution control equipment and molding products. Priya further aims at expanding the company's manufacturing units by building its fourth workshop for high volume FRP tanks catering to the chemical, dyes, and pharmaceutical industries globally. She is a focused leader who believes in going the extra mile to ensure client satisfaction. She has been successfully handling renowned multinational clients such as Bayer, Unilever Corporation, Fosroc & Syngenta, besides handling site services for the last 12 years. Some of her momentous accomplishments include the planning and execution of the prestigious 500 cubic meters of tanks at the new Maldives International Airport, including their installation and commissioning. She also handled the first ocean fish farming project in Sri Lanka, including the supply &

installation of fishing tanks. She looks up to her father and father-in-law as her pillars of strength. Their guidance has been the root of her drive and inspiration to become a successful entrepreneur. She credits her success to her husband Mr. Anand Maganlal Dakle, who is her pillar of strength and the main reason behind the success of Dakle Industrial Plastics. Her biggest strength is her son who is a very simple, adjusting and non-demanding child, thereby making her journey as a working mother very easy.

## GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

As a staunch supporter of the Indian Government's 'Vocal for Local' and Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) campaigns, Priya encourages the procurement of local products from local suppliers who meet the standards. She also places the health of the planet at the forefront of her agenda and makes concentrated efforts to increase the green cover by planting trees all around the manufacturing units. During the pandemic, she waived off the annual school fees for all children studying in Smt. Madibai Sardarmal Dakle School and full salaries were paid to the schools' teaching and the non-teaching staff. What's more, instead of laying-off employees due to the pandemic, she has employed more workers keeping in mind the short-term challenges and the firm's long-term goals.

## GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Priya has been honored with prestigious laurels. She was awarded Social Entrepreneur 2020 Award at Women Entrepreneurship Awards 2020 by Startup Vapi on Women's Day. She was also nominated for the prestigious Vyapaar Jagat Convention & Awards 2020 in the category of Education Hero of the Year 2020. Recently, she has been appointed as Vice President, JITO, Ladies Wing Vapi.



**"PRIYA ANAND  
DAKLE HAS  
RECEIVED  
SOCIAL  
ENTREPRENEUR  
2020 AWARD  
FROM STARTUP  
VAPI"**





**“SHE HAS RECEIVED ‘THE EDUCATIONIST OF THE YEAR – FEMALE’ AWARD”**

# PROF. SASMITA SAMANTA

*PAVING THE WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE*

*Prof. Samanta, the Pro Vice Chancellor of KIIT (Deemed to be University), is a renowned leader in the Indian education sector. With her profound vision and great leadership qualities, she has been enabling the institution to secure a rank among the top 500 institutes in the world*

**A**n educator who is passionate about research and schooling, her focus is on the betterment of society. A popular leader in the realms of Education and Human Development, she has always embraced the duties she has towards society.

## **TURNING ADVERSITY INTO OPPORTUNITY**

As a leader who thrives in the face of challenges, she has brilliantly coped up with the challenges posed by the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic by initiating online classes from Day 1 of the lockdown in India. In fact, KIIT is the first institute in India that started online classes during the lockdown and conducted online semester examinations with proper proctoring, followed by timely assessment and evaluation. This became possible because of the guidance of Prof. Samanta, who also simultaneously implemented scholarship plans for the underprivileged and meritorious students.

## **STEPPING FORWARD IN TIMES OF DISTRESS**

Prof. Samanta has played a vital role in helping the institution establish four specialized COVID-19 hospitals with a total bed capacity of 1050 in Bhubaneswar as well as in the districts of Balangir, Mayurbhanj and Kandhamal along with quarantine isolation centers and post-COVID care facilities. Under her leadership, KIIT has distributed essentials like food items, groceries, sanitizers, masks and sanitary napkins among more than 3 lakh people. The institution has also conducted COVID-19 Awareness Programmes for over 50,000 people and organized 350+ webinars on topics like COVID-19 Awareness and Prevention. Prof. Samanta has also

contributed to the advancement of entrepreneurial opportunities during COVID-19. Under her guidance, the institution has set up a tele-counseling cell to provide the necessary support for stress management and ensure the emotional wellness of staff and students. She has overseen the implementation of the provision to provide free education to the children of those who succumbed to COVID-19 in Odisha. She is a powerful motivator who is brimming with positivity and is also a great leader. Prof. Samanta is a ray of light that continues to enlighten others with the power of her infinite knowledge.

## **GARNERING GLORY**

For her outstanding contribution to the field of education, Prof. Samanta has received ‘The Educationist of the Year – Female’ award. Over the past three years, her services to the field of education have been recognised through a series of awards. These include - India’s A List for Excellence in Education; Leadership 2020 by NewsX India; Innovative Leader Award 2020 by Meswa Foundation; Make in India Emerging Leader 2020; Educationist of the Year - Female, awarded at the 7th Asia Education Summit-2019 by APS Media Group; Chinta O Chetana, National Award – 2018 by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the Government of India; Social Innovation Award - 2018, from a list of 50 social innovators of India; and Women in Leadership Award, 2018.

In addition, she recently organized an International Webinar on the National Education Policy 2020, which was presided over by Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank,’ the Hon’ble Minister of Education, the Government of India. The event was attended by more than 25,000 participants across the globe.

# PROF. SUNAINA SINGH

AN EDUCATIONIST PAR EXCELLENCE

*The VC of Nalanda University, Prof. Sunaina Singh, a Professor of English & Comparative Literature, is a renowned educationist. Owing to her scholarly expertise & sterling leadership skills, she has been entrusted with the task of rebuilding the historically renowned ancient Nalanda University by the GoI*

**B**esides being engaged in the naissance task of reimagining this internationally acclaimed University, Prof. Singh has had the distinction of holding the chair of Vice President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), a renowned bastion of Indian cultural diplomacy abroad. With a strong persona and unmatched integrity, Prof. Singh is truly an epitome of the empowered woman of the 21st century.

## REINVENTING ACADEMIC CULTURE

Her dedication towards redefining the academic infrastructure, her out of the box initiatives, her integrity, and her courage in transforming institution, is perhaps the reason that she was elevated to lead this internationally renowned historical University. At Nalanda, Prof. Singh has initiated a slew of measures to reinvent and strengthen the edifice of this historically renowned University. It is creating innovative academic architecture and strengthening administrative systems as the University takes shape under her vigilant dynamism. With her resolute dedication Nalanda is emerging as a world class University with a culture of excellence.

## DYNAMISM ACROSS ROLES

A dynamic visionary and academician, Prof. Singh has adorned many key roles in diverse sectors in her career including that of a member-designate in some of the highly placed Boards such as a Member of Governing Council at the Association of Indian Universities; Comprehensive Language Policy of India; on the Executive Boards of a large number of Central Universities

nominated by the President of India; Bihar Audit Advisory board; Academic advisor, National Cyber Safety and Security Standards; India Foundation; and Board of Directors, Divi's Lab, to name just a few in her ever growing accomplishments. Prof. Singh has been engaged in the tectonic task of restructuring and redesigning the pedagogical and governance systems. Few academics can match her integrity, intellectual caliber, and dedication to teaching, research, and administration.

## GARNERING GLORY

Inspired by her sterling commitment to giving back to society and philanthropy, a group of citizens have established, as a tribute to her, a foundation in her name in the year 2015. The Foundation is primarily driven by her vision of building a better society through the education of girl child from the economically challenged sections of society.

Prof. Singh's immense contributions and out of the box thinking has been a testament of her excellence in leadership has been acknowledged by the prestigious awards conferred on her. Some of the recent ones include Vishwa Kavi Rabindranath Tagore Award, 2020 by Oriental Heritage; Most Admired Woman in Educational Sector 2019 by the Knowledge Review; Innovative Vice-Chancellor of the Year, 2020 by Asia Today. Being an exceptional Indian woman leader, she has also received the Bharat Gaurav Award 2016 (IIFS), Bharat Ratan Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Excellence Award, 2018 (IIFS); Bharat Shiksha Ratan Award, 2018 and Education Leadership Award, 2018, 2017 (World Education Congress). Her award file stretches far beyond the national boundaries. Recently in December 2020, she has been conferred the Honorary Professorship of Oxford Academic Union by Oxford Union, UK. As a dynamic teacher, she touches many hearts and inspires many minds.



**“WITH A  
STERLING  
LEADERSHIP,  
SHE IS TRULY  
AN EPITOME OF  
AN EMPOWERED  
WOMAN”**





**“AN EXPERT  
IN EDUCATION  
& TRAINING,  
RAVNEET HAS A  
RICH EXPERIENCE  
OF AROUND 3  
DECADES”**

# RAVNEET PAWHA

**RESHAPING THE FACE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

*As the Deputy Vice President and CEO (South Asia) at Deakin University, Australia, Ravneet has been driving fruitful collaborations between Australia & India with regard to international education. She has been triumphantly orchestrating strategies for the progression of the University*

**A**n expert in education and training, Ravneet has a rich experience of around 3 decades and has been advocating for numerous reforms in the education sector. A gold-medalist at the post-graduate level, she holds Master's degrees in Education and Training as well as Business Administration. Currently, she serves as an esteemed member of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the confederation of the Indian Sports Council. Her predominance in leadership and administration is at the zenith presently as she is also the Chairperson of BCF, Board Member of the India-Australia Business and Community Awards, an adviser at the Australia-India Institute, and a member at various national and international associations and forums including the Rajasthan Royals, Australia-India Chamber of Commerce, and the Australia New Zealand & India Business Association (ANZIBA). Formerly, she worked as the CEO (South Asia and the Middle East) and held senior management positions at various prestigious organizations such as IDP Education Australia, British Council, and Franchise Asia, where she effectively established and supervised the office networks across India for education and training purposes.

## NOTEWORTHY INITIATIVES

Ravneet's well-thought-out strategies have boosted and strengthened the ties between India and Australia and have facilitated global collaborations and strategic partnerships. Deakin University's office, the first-ever international 'University office' in India by a foreign education provider, was set up by her in 1994. Since then, she has seamlessly created roadmaps to

revamp the landscape of India-Australia partnership in education. Besides, she has spearheaded twenty strong holistic partnerships among the government, academia, industry, and research bodies, specifically for Deakin University in India/South Asia. The University owes its present stature and reputation of being a globally renowned avant-garde institution to Ravneet's passion and leadership. Along with wide-ranging international experiences, she advises the executives on innovative and unconventional models for international engagement in research and education. Contributing to the Australian Government's education strategy for India has been the apex of her career. She headed the Deakin India Research Initiative (DIRI), which bridged the gap between academia and industry. Through DIRI, Deakin has funded over 100+ projects with 100+ Ph.D. scholars and more than 50 industries, academic, and government partners in India. It comprises the AUD 15-million TERI-Deakin Nano-Biotechnology research facility in India, which serves as a distinctive and extraordinary specimen of the India-Australia alliance. She partook in the establishment of the Skill Framework and Platform by NASSCOM Future skills, Australia-India Skill Forum, and National Skill Development Corporation.

## GARNERING GLORY

Ravneet Pawha, through her demonstrable and exceptional diligence, has won numerous laurels. She was recognized as the Business Leader of the Year at the India-Australia Business and Community Awards 2018, the Exceptional Woman of Excellence at the Women Economic Forum 2019, and was honoured as the "Business Leader Professional of the Year" by the India-Australia Business & Community Awards.

# SEEMA BHATNAGAR

A SUPERB ALL-ROUND TECHNOCRAT

*Owing to the sincere and dedicated efforts of the Regional Business Director (South Asia) Ms. Seema Bhatnagar, Nexstgo has established itself as one of the fast-emerging laptops and IoT brands and has made its presence felt strongly in the tech gadgets sector*

**W**ith computer utility and internet becoming an integral part of the modern day lifestyle, firms dealing in laptops, desktops and other related products have seen a surge in their business. Seema, with her impressive adeptness, has been keeping up with these emerging market trends, identifying new opportunities, and working on making marketing strategies more aligned to the rapidly changing tech landscape. Her superior dexterity has been a driving force behind the success of the firm.

## REMARKABLE EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Seema's professional proficiency has been founded on the robust pillars of a great educational background. She completed her graduation in Arts from the University of Delhi, thereafter, she acquired an MBA degree from YWCA India. Further, she also obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Applications and Data Processing.

She has been at the helm of affairs in many globally renowned tech companies, including Sony India, TPV Technologies, and the United Network. Beginning with the role of Country General Manager at Nexstgo for India in January 2018, she was soon given an additional responsibility of being the Regional Business Director, within just 8 months after she joined the company.

## ACHIEVING SEVERAL PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES

With a solid experience of 25 years, Seema is an accomplished professional

and has been a part of a lot of business processes. At Nexstgo, she has been greatly instrumental in launching of new products and planning a detailed network across the country. The pecuniary and administrative revival of the nearly failed Operations Division is also attributed to her profound business sense. In fact, it is now a success in Philips Display & AOC TV. Furthermore, she also catalyzed and initiated the CDR OEM Project with Sony India, which now commands 70% of the total recording media business. With her stringent MOP control execution at Nexstgo, she has meritoriously aided to the establishment of efficient procedures and streamlined the operational control over the system.

## NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

Seema's wide-ranging excellence has been recognized and rewarded on numerous occasions. She received the Performance Award from the Singapore Head Office for her exceptional contribution in the year 2000 and 2003, along with Best Support Function Award in 2001. She was also awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Sony Management, the Rising Star Award, Best Achievement Award, and a Certificate of Appreciation for her stellar contribution to the company.

With the Best Settler Award in 2018, she has kept the wheel of awards and recognition in motion. Finally, she has also been honored with the ICT Woman Leader of the Year Award in 2019, and was featured in the esteemed list of Top 100 Tech Leaders of India.

Seema believes that self-care is important to stay physically and mentally fit to take care of the business as well as the family. A travel-enthusiast, she also loves listening to music, and cooking. She is actively involved with the Arushi Charitable Trust, a firm which works for providing quality education to the underprivileged children.



**“AT NEXSTGO, SEEMA HAS BEEN GREATLY INSTRUMENTAL IN LAUNCHING OF NEW PRODUCTS”**





**“SHE IS THE  
FIRST INDIAN  
WOMAN TO WIN  
A WTA TITLE &  
HAS RECEIVED  
MANY AWARDS &  
ACCOLADES”**

# SANIA MIRZA

**CHARTING A UNIQUE SUCCESS TRAJECTORY**

*Adjudged as the best Indian professional tennis player in both the categories – singles & doubles – Sania Mirza has left an indelible impression on the global sports arena by the virtue of her remarkable performance. She has inspired women, from all across the globe, to follow their dreams*

**B**orn to a sports journalist, Imran Mirza, Sania was introduced to the game by her mother Nasima Mirza. Touted as one of the finest doubles players in the world and without doubt the finest women's tennis player to have ever represented India, Sania Mirza's achievements also include laurels like Arjuna Award, WTA Newcomer of the Year, Padma Shri, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna and the Padma Bhushan to name a few. She has won 13 medals for the country. Sania is the highest ever ranked singles player in the men and women category in the last 30 years and has been ranked as 27th in singles and the world number 1 in doubles.

## **MAKING A MARK**

Her remarkable journey is replete with memorable singles wins over Svetlana Kuznetsova, Marion Bartoli, & Vera Zvonareva. The world number one tennis doubles player acquired this position by recording notable triumphs over the existing toppers of the sport, which included Martina Hingis, Victoria Azarenka, & Dinara Safina. Her powerful strokes and effective style of playing made Sania one of the highest paid & extremely successful high-profile public figures not only in India but internationally as well. As the first Indian woman to win six Grand Slam titles, she has set really high benchmarks.

## **TENNIS – HER CHILDHOOD PASSION**

Born and brought up in Hyderabad, Sania's journey began at the age of six at Nizam Club Hyderabad. She received her initial training in tennis by C.K. Bhupathi, father of another tennis ace Mahesh Bhupathi, for the initial training. After obtaining professional tennis training from Sinnet Tennis Academy,

Secunderabad, Sania joined the Ace Tennis Academy in the United States. As a junior tennis player, she won 10 singles and 13 doubles titles, which proved that she was meant to make it big in realm of tennis. Since then, there has been no looking back for the champion. In February 2005, she defeated the ninth-seeded Alona Bondarenko in the A.P. Tourism Hyderabad Open finals. This enabled her to grab a WTA title, making her the first Indian woman to have achieved this feat.

## **THE UNDAUNTED TRAILBLAZER**

Despite financial pressures and infrastructural constraints, she chartered her distinct course to success owing to her passion for the sport. While 2007 was the golden year for the tennis player as she was ranked the highest in her career as 27th singles player in the world; the year 2008 brought a brief halt to the player's career while she represented India in the Summer Olympics. She got eliminated from the singles tournament at the event because of a severe wrist injury. The injury led to her withdrawal from the famed tournaments. Although it was a major injury, she didn't stop & continued with the doubles championships.

## **GARNERING GLORY**

The 'Pride of the Nation', Sania Mirza has been featured by various national and international publications. An international magazine has named her as one of the '50 Heroes of Asia'. She was also listed among the ET's '33 women who made India proud'. Time magazine listed her as one of the '100 Most Influential People in the World' in 2016. Having played the singles, doubles & mixed doubles formats, she has chosen to share her wealth of knowledge and will join broadcasters Star Sports as an expert to analyze the day-to-day action of the ongoing Wimbledon for fans across the country.

# SHWETA RAVI

COOKING UP A STORM OF TASTE AND JOY

*Young & dynamic Shweta Ravi has been carrying forward the legacy of excellence established by her father Dr. Ravichandar, the Founder of Nandhana restaurants. Owing to her able leadership, Nandhana Group has emerged as the largest chain of Andhra restaurants in Bengaluru*

**S**hweta, after completing her graduation from Stella Maris in Chennai and a Master's degree in Finance from the Warwick University, trained at various hotels to broaden her knowledge horizons. She then joined her family-run Andhra restaurant in Bengaluru. Shweta brings with her a fresh innovative approach along with a strong and sound code of conduct. Shweta has taken the popular Nandhana multi-cuisine chain to the next level with her vision and command over the intricacies of the dynamic foodscape of the Andhra cuisine.

Nandhana Palace is now a notable stand-alone brand for Andhra cuisine in Bengaluru. It was one of the first Andhra chain of restaurants in the city and is now the largest chain of restaurants specializing in delicacies from Andhra. Shweta's dedication towards offering an outstanding customer experience at Nandhana is unparalleled.

## BRAND MANAGEMENT AT ITS BEST

Shweta has creatively promoted Nandhana's signature recipes such as Nati Chicken Biryani, Guntur Chicken, Amaravati Chicken and Andhra Chili Chicken. These delicacies are immensely popular and bring authentic flavors of the Andhra region to the customer's palate. Being an ingenious marketer, Shweta has created the Biryani Thali, a five-in-one package of unique and flavorful biryanis.

This iconic innovation has been a huge hit among the food lovers in Bengaluru, and is a testimony to the strategic creativity that has become the hallmark of Shweta's management style. Shweta's focus on customer

satisfaction has resulted in the creation of a patented meal package for Nandhana's customers. Delivered with a banana leaf, it gives customers almost an in-restaurant South Indian-style dining experience within the comfort of their homes.

Rising to the pandemic-led challenges and uncertainties for the food industry, Shweta showed her characteristic aplomb while dealing with the crisis. She has brought in a holistic cost-saving strategy for the business and also kept in mind the financial security of her employees and team. Focusing on maximizing business through existing outlets rather than expanding their footprint, Shweta has ensured that Nandhana Group rides this storm out without compromising on excellence in quality, hygiene, safety, taste and continues to delight their customers with authentic and flavorful delicacies.

She is of the view that innovation along with adaptability towards the global dynamic business environment is the crucial factor for any industry to progress. Under her leadership, Nandhana has emerged as the epitome of expertise and innovation in the food and hospitality business.

It is committed to connect all the dots of hospitality for a superior customer experience and satisfaction. Shweta is admirably and significantly contributing towards this goal.

## MARCHING TOWARDS A GLISTENING FUTURE

Shweta envisions taking the brand 'Nandhana' to more cities and states in the future. With her talent, skills, knowledge, traditional values, and a new age outlook, Shweta has been consistently driving the brand towards new horizons of success.

Shweta is indeed a promising and enterprising entrepreneur and an inspiration for many aspiring restaurateurs.



**"HER DEDICATION TOWARDS OFFERING AN OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AT NANDHANA IS UNPARALLELED"**





**“WITH HER LEADERSHIP, DETERMINATION & DEDICATION, SHE HAS STEERED AML TO GREAT HEIGHTS”**

# SUNILA YADAV

**MAKING GREAT STRIDES IN THE REALM OF LOGISTICS**

*The MD of Anil Mantra Logistix Pvt. Ltd., Ms. Yadav follows the principles of her father the Late Mr. Anil Yadav, an army officer who served the country with great determination. She learnt from him the ways to turn challenges into opportunities & carve a niche for herself in a male-dominated world*

**N**o matter where you come from, if you are a woman, you are expected to operate within the norms of society. But some women make history by choosing to take the path less travelled. Ms. Yadav is one such individual who stands out from the crowd. She believes that every person is bestowed with talent and people must put in the required efforts to bring out the best in themselves.

## **HAVING THE COURAGE OF HER CONVICTIONS**

In 2007, she started AML, a logistics company, in memory of her father. Leaving no stone unturned, she achieved her first milestone of managing a charter flight from Delhi to Almaty, a B777F of 100 tons, in 2011. Ingrained with qualities like leadership, devotion, determination and dedication, she has steered AML to great heights. Today, the company specializes in air freight as well as ocean imports and exports. It handles custom clearances and warehouse facilities and even provides door-to-door service.

As a frontrunner in the logistics trade, AML has been setting milestones under the guidance of Ms. Yadav. Since her childhood, she disliked boundaries and restrictions and this is one of the reasons why her firm remains free from the rigid bounds of software-oriented technology. She has believed in introducing tailor-made solutions to her clients rather than following a rule book. After reaching her first milestone in 2011, she was acknowledged as ‘The Best Partner in Logistics Network WPA’ in 2016-17 as the Most Valued Member from South Asia and CIS. Achieving another milestone in the journey, in 2018, the company elevated its value

by managing 3 more charter flights from the UK and Italy. In 2021, she was given the Business Leaders Award by the World Leadership Congress. She has also won awards in the category of Women in Freight and Cargo. An entrepreneur with big dreams, she wants to turn AML into the only proprietorship that caters to all the requirements of a client’s supply chain needs.

## **A COMPASSIONATE CHANGEMAKER**

The livelihoods of many people have been hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. A humanitarian at heart, she sprang into action after seeing the difficulties of others. Following her father’s principles of selflessly serving the country, she has endeavored to open doors for the needy.

During COVID-19 pandemic, she has contributed towards society’s welfare not from a corporate viewpoint but from a humanitarian perspective. She provided employment to some members of the tribal communities of Madhya Pradesh during the lockdown on the basis of their skill sets. The AML team, heroically, distributed food and water to the truck drivers who got stuck at Mumbai Airport due to the sudden lockdown. These small gestures have brought about a big change in Ms. Yadav’s life as she discovered the power of philanthropy. Additionally, extending help, nationally and internationally, during the Tsunami and Nepal floods are some of her major contributions. She firmly believes that as human beings everyone must contribute towards society, which eventually turns into the progress of our country. With the objective of giving back to society, she has also decided to help many poor children by sponsoring their education and distributing rations to the underprivileged during the time of crisis.

# TARUNA PRAYASVIN PATEL

CHARTING A UNIQUE SUCCESS TRAIL

*Taruna Prayasvin Patel is the CEO of EMTICI Engineering Limited and Madhuban Resort and Spa. Rather than travelling the most frequented paths, she believes in carving a unique path for herself and aspires to set an example for others to follow suit*

**T**aruna completed her schooling at London and did a Computer Programming Course from the London School of Computer Programming. Later, she joined the Trans World Airlines as a Flight Attendant based in the USA. Along with being a hands-on team player, she is astute businesswoman. She swears by the principle of empowering women to ultimately empower families.

## SCRIPTING HER OWN SUCCESS SAGA

She has been taking Madhuban Resort and Spa to greater heights through her global outlook and initiatives. Established in 2009, it continues to serve as the first and the only 5-star deluxe resort in Gujarat. As a socially responsible leader, she actively participates in CSR activities and constantly looks forward to serve the society through numerous social causes and initiatives. The apex of her career has been the launch of the Centralized Resource Cell (CRC), which streamlined and realigned procurement systems of the Elecon Group of Companies. This facilitated the establishment of a more structured and cost-efficient system conforming to various policies and manuals. She is the immediate Past Chairperson of FICCI FLO Ahmedabad Chapter and currently heading FLO Village and Industries Transformation Programme (VIT) Nationally.

## MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

She gives back to society by conducting various CSR activities and empowering women employees. EMCITI strives for good corporate governance by

implementing holistic corporate policies and strong ethics. Her vision of providing approximately 4000 employees with a Covid Insurance Policy of INR 3 lakhs per employee evidently portrays her intense sense of belonging towards her team. She was actively involved in offering help during the COVID-19 pandemic by donating INR 11 lakhs each to the Chief Minister Relief Fund and PM CARES Fund. Providing food to around 600 shelter home inhabitants in Vasad, Chikhodara, and Bedva, donating 1000 kits of ration to District Collector in Anand and conducting health check-ups of 28 elders of Jalaram Bapa Visharam Trust in Karamsad are a part of the many philanthropic initiatives by her. She also distributed 500 edible oil pouches worth INR 6 lakhs, dispensed PPE-kits, sponsored antigen Covid-19 tests for 1000 people by Health Department at Anand, and organized Bhandara (community kitchen) periodically. In addition, Madhuban Resort and Spa donated vegetables produced from its organic farm to the lesser fortunate and deprived people. Many of Taruna's enterprises work for the welfare of humanity through community development programs, blood donation camps, free eye-checkup camps, the opening of Specialty Heart Center in Sree Krishna Medical Hospital in Karamsad, establishing Special Women Educational College, adopting 11 villages in Kheda district, under the FLO banner, training women in diverse skills and much more.

## MULTITUDINOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Under her leadership, Madhuban Resort and Spa has won a number of awards such as "Excellence in Environmental Sustainability-Hotels" by Sattva Awards 2018; "Best Luxury Resort of the Year" by ET NOW 2018; "Green Hotel Awards" by ASSOCHAM India 2019; Silver Award under Medium Format Hotels by GreenOtels 2018 Awards, and Bronze Award under Medium Format Hotels by GreenOtels 2019 Awards.



**"MANY OF  
TARUNA'S  
ENTERPRISES  
WORK FOR THE  
WELFARE OF  
HUMANITY"**





Keynote speech by Rajat Shukal at 4th Edition Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2019-20



Rajat Shukal felicitating Ravi Sehgal, President, India Thai Chamber of Commerce, with Guest of Honour Award



Ravi Sehgal addressing the audience at 4th Edition

# 4th Edition Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2019-20 & 13th Edition – Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2020

4th Edition of Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2019-20 and 13th Edition of Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2020, were organized on 7th February 2020 at The Marriott Marquis Hotel, Bangkok by URS-AsiaOne Magazine & URS Media Consulting P.L. The magnificent event witnessed the gracious presence of Ms. Phetchompoo Kijburana, MP, Royal Thai Government; Mr. Ravi Sehgal, President, ITCC; and Ambassadors, Deputy Heads of the Mission & Consul Generals from Morocco, Austria, Cambodia, Maldives, Egypt, Ethiopia, Bahrain, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Timor-Leste, and celebrities from Indian & Thai cinema namely Ms. Sunny Leone and Ms. Cindy Sirinya Bishop, respectively



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Jinah and H.E. Mr. Abdelilah EL HOUSNI felicitating, Chetan Handa with Global Asian of the Year 2019-20 Award



H.E. Mr. Ouk Sorphorn and Mr. Tarek Ahmed Fouad Raslan felicitating Dr. Nahathai Thewphaingarm with Women Empowerment Award 2019-20



(Left to Right) H.E. Mr. Ouk Sorphorn, Manu Bhaskar, and another man holding awards



Presenter



The Good Life Partner





tion Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2019-20



Ravi Sehgal & Rajat Shukal felicitating H.E. Mr. Abdelilah EL HOUSNI, Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Kingdom of Thailand, with the Knight of Honour Award



(Left to Right) Ravi Sehgal, Ms. Judith Schildberger, Deputy Head of the Mission of the Republic of Austria to the Kingdom of Thailand, and Rajat Shukal



Nishita Shah and other eminent dignitaries unveiling AsiaOne Magazine Cover



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Jinah and H.E. Mr. Abdelilah EL HOUSNI presenting Ajay Harinath Singh with Entrepreneur of the Year 2019-20 Award and Brand of the Year 2019-20 Award



Ms. Huda Ali Sharaef and H.E. Dr. Kriengsak Chareonwongsak felicitating Cindy Sirinya Bishop with Women Empowerment Award



(Left to Right) Ravi Sehgal, Sunny Leone and Rajat Shukal



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Jinah and H.E. Mr. Abdelilah EL HOUSNI felicitating J.C. Chaudhry with Bharatiya Mahanatham Vikas Puraskar 2019-20



ardwaj and Mr. Tarek Ahmed Fouad Raslan



A panoramic view of the forum



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Jinah and H.E. Mr. Abdelilah EL HOUSNI felicitating Dr. Hema Divakar with Asia's Greatest CSR Brand and Leader 2019-20 Awards



**A**sian Business & Social Investor Forum 2019–20 was a high-level Business & Social Summit where the emergence of Asia as a leading continental economy in the world was celebrated and some of the greatest Asian and world leaders of our time were felicitated.

**AsiaOne Global Asian of the Year**

Those exclusive, exceptional, and extraordinary leaders who have not only worked to place their brands globally, but have also embossed Asia on the world map, including Mr. Raj Mallela, MD, Satra Group; Mr. Adityaraj Shah, Chairman & Group CEO, Shree Hatkeshwara Group; Dr. Vinodkumar Patil, Managing Director, Dyna Biotech; Mr. Chetan Handa, Founder Director, Glaze Trading India Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Sanjeev Chhibber, Founder Director, Glaze Trading India Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Safwan Sobhan, Vice Chairman, Bashundhara Group; Mr. Ghanshyam Sarada, Chairman, Sarada Group of Industries; Mr. K Shyamprasad, MD, Vidya Herbs; Mr. Ahmed Shayan Fazlur Rahman, Vice-Chairman, IFIC, Advisor to the Board of Directors, Beximco Group; Mr. Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury, Chairman & CEO, HRC Group; Mr. Harish Kohli, President & Managing Director, Acer India and Ms. Satya Vadlamani, Chairperson and Managing Director, Murlikrishna Pharma Pvt. Ltd. were felicitated at the Summit.

**Bharatiya Mahanatam Vikas Puraskar**

AsiaOne’s Bharatiya Mahanatam Vikas Puraskar (BMVP) is custom-made for such extraordinary leaders who have dedicated their lives to the greatest development of India. Exclusive winners of BMVP were Mrs. Manju Sharma, MD & Co-Chairperson, Eternal Hospital; Mr. Pyare Khan, MD, Ashmi Road Carriers Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Lakshmi Ram Thakuria, CMD, Charu Group of Industries; Mr. N. Sridhar, CMD, The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.; Mr. J.C. Chaudhry, MD, Aakash Institute; Mr. Dilip Surana, CMD, Microlabs Ltd., Mr. Sanjay Ghodawat, Chairman, SG Group, Mr. Ronald Colaco, MD, Clarks Exotica’s, and Sunil K. Agarwal, Wholetime Director, Kamdhenu Ltd.

**Main Brand Awardees include:**

Darwin Platform Group of Companies, ThaiBev, Al-Futtaim Group, ITC Hotels, Thai Airways, Bajaj Auto, Satra Group, Fozet - Sark Sanitech India, Shri Krishan Grit Co, Dyna Biotech, Rahim Group, Sandstone Constructions, Dr. Copper, Apex Insurance Consultants, Glaze Trading India, Muppa Projects, Macho, SHURWID Industries Ltd., NIPS School of Hotel Management, The Premier Bank, HRC Group, Powerpac Holdings, Green Chef Appliances, Green Metro & Infratech Projects, Senrysa Technologies, Metamorphosis, Shree Hatkeshwara Group, Indo Infra Developers, Kamdhenu Steel, Kamdhenu Paints, Hrishee Strategic Advisors, Paramita Schools, Tanvi Herbals, SchoolHandy, Samskar: The Life School, Priyadarshani Group of Schools, Blue Mount Appliances, Jay Storage Solutions, Planet Women IVF, Work Loft Spaces, Mr. Milk, Star Air, Vashkleen, Red Ant Media, Babu Builders, Dr. Rajeshwari Skin Clinic, Nutrezy Bars, Kanti Sweets, Assure Clinics (INDIA), The Address Coworking, Lapcare, Divakars Speciality Hospital, Singha Group & many more.

**Main Leader Awardees include:**

Dr. Hema Divakar, Mr. Raj Mallela, Mr. Ankur Jain, Mr. Ashish Shah, Mr. Mohammad Yasin Chowdhury, Mr. Jagadeesh Adasada, Mr. Praveen Kembhavi, Dr. Deepak Sharma, Mr. Deipakk Bawa, Mr. Moklasur Rahman Pinto, Mr. M.A. Hashem, Mr. Muppa Venkaiah, Dr. H.B.M. Iqbal, Md. Ebadul Karim, Mr. Nisha Bhakar, Mr. Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury, Mr. Mohammed Rabiul Hossain, Dr. G.V Divakar, Mr. Mohammed Mohsin, Mr. Namal Senaratne, Mr. Farid Khan, Mr. Haresh Abichandani, Dr. Jadapalli Narayana, Dr. Sushil Kumar Chaturvedi, Mr. Sanjay Mishra, Mrs. Sindhu Mendke, Mr. Chirag Palande, Dr. M. Malla Reddy, Dr. Rajnish Tyagi, Mr. Vijay Nirani, Mr. Akshat Malik, Mr. Mudassir Murtaza Moin, Md. Ramzanul Haque Nihad, Mr. Ashish Abraham, Dr. Jayakarthish, Mr. Tajwar M Awal, Mr. Bhushan Palresha, Mr. Nilesh Palresha, Mr. Kumar P. Saha, Mr. Pradeep Chakravarthy, Mr. Pavan Allena, Mr. Naren Kumar, Ms. Jadapalli Vineetha, Ms. Jadapalli Haritha, Mrs. Sindoor Mittal, Mr. Abheek Dutta, Mr. Yash Shah & many more.



Panel discussion 1 at the forum (Left to Right) Dr. Hema Divakar, Meryem CHFIRI, H.E. Ouk Sorphorn, H.E. Dr. Kriengsak Chareonwongsak, Manju Sharma and Deipakk Bawa



Ms. Huda Ali Shareef and H.E. Dr. Kriengsak Chareonwongsak felicitating Nishita Shah with Women Empowerment Award



Ravi Sehgal and Dr. Hema Divakar felicitating Sindura Arvind with Women Empowerment Award



Panel discussion 2 in progress (L to R) Paola Martani, Raj Mallela, Manoj Prasad, Dr. G.V Divakar, Komal Mahesh Kadaba, and Manu Bhardwaj



Presenter



The Good Life Partner



Preferred Partner



Health Partner





# VINESH MENON

**IMPACTING LIVES FROM CRADLE TO CAREER**

*As Ampersand Group's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Education and Skilling services, Vinesh Menon is accountable for shaping and executing the vision set by the Chairman and Founder to make a positive impact to lives in India through quality delivery of education, skilling and healthcare services*

**H**is long professional journey of 27 years across diverse sectors and industries and his varied roles ranging from business development to product management to operations is now being put to effective use at Ampersand Group, which he believes is perfectly poised to make a significant contribution to India's United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) in the coming decade.

## **APPLYING PROFESSIONALISM WITHOUT LETTING GO OF THE EMOTIONAL QUOTIENT**

Mr. Menon's previous assignments in the FMCG and BFSI sectors came in handy when he started his tryst with the education sector about eight years ago. His hands-on experience in channel management and delivery through partnerships led to enabling strong asset owner partner alliances in his first venture with the K12 education ecosystem which facilitated high-quality school education to tier-III towns of India at an affordable price. The school

management model through the 'Build and Operate mechanism' through infrastructure investors led to a highly innovative Asset Light Model to set up multiple schools in tier-II and tier-III towns of India where quality education at affordable prices was the need of the hour. The centrally-guided local delivery model well-crafted by the consuming branch banking sector was used effectively in establishing schools that catered to local education needs but powered through central guidelines in all areas that define the K12 ecosystem and included learning spaces design, academics and pedagogy delivery, technology and innovation, content development and delivery, teacher recruitments, training, student enrolments and marketing. Mr. Menon believes that the education sector needs to be powered by a combination of professionalism and technology-backed innovation but without compromising on the emotional and empathy quotient that is highly required for effective output in teachers and students.

## **PASSIONATE LEADER WHO BELIEVES IN COVERAGE THROUGH COLLABORATION**

At Ampersand, Mr. Menon is accountable for forging public-private partnership (PPP) models with Central and State government departments to enhance effective outcomes for children and adults through innovation and transformation of education and skilling services. High Impact programs, including driving higher enrolments of toddlers for early childhood care and education (ECCE) in Anganwadis, continuous professional development for government teachers, imparting education to children of construction workers, enhancing learning outcomes for children in Secondary and Higher Secondary Public schools and adult skilling programs for the youth of many states in India have been executed in less than four years under the guidance and inputs of the group Founder Chairman and in collaboration with colleagues who display high energy and capability. His ability to stay focused on the task at hand despite the socioeconomic and other geographical challenges, Mr. Menon remains committed to the cause given his strong belief that education to the masses is the key to get India its recognition as a key global influencing nation.

## **AN INDUSTRY THOUGHT LEADER AND INFLUENCER**

Mr. Menon is a prolific speaker and industry thought leader. He has shared the stage with many eminent industry influencers, delivered multiple keynote addresses and chaired many important panel discussions with them. His articles and quotes have appeared in many education-related publications. Mr. Menon has also been a jury member three times with Business World's 40 Under 40 initiative to identify and honor young business leaders who are under 40 years of age. Interacting with young and bright minds according to him has been one of the most satisfying experiences to date. Mr. Menon has also recently become a Lifetime Donor of 'Nexus of Good', a social impact non-profit initiative to amplify and spread unheard of best practices in the fields of education and social values that are replicable and scalable.



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Entrepreneur, Singer  
& Songwriter



**ASIAONE MOST  
INFLUENTIAL **YOUNG**  
**LEADERS** 2020-21**

40 Under 40 are Chosen Annually through a Passionate Research, Scouting across 16 Industries of Business and Leadership. Only the Most Worthy are Chosen. If You Also Feel You Have It in You, Then Apply for Open Nominations on [dubai@asiaone.co.in](mailto:dubai@asiaone.co.in) with 500 Words on Your Achievements

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**MANASI KIRLOSKAR**  
Executive Director & CEO,  
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**ADAR POONAWALLA**  
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# THE YOUNG & ENTHUSIASTIC CHANGEMAKER



**GAUTAM GAMBHIR**

**Q.** Sir, we at AsiaOne, really appreciate the various socially beneficial endeavors undertaken by your organization, 'The Gautam Gambhir Foundation' under your exemplary leadership. Please throw light on all the initiatives, which your organization has undertaken especially during the pandemic, especially the recent ones.

**A.** See, first I want to start off with from where we started this foundation, the base of this foundation was to serve the martyrs family – children, because as you all know, I've always wanted to be in the army. So we started this foundation supporting 16

*From garnering numerous laurels for the nation as a popular Indian Cricket team player to an admired people's representative (MP) and a dedicated social worker, the national youth icon Gautam Gambhir has come a long way. He believes in the notion that every change should begin from home and that we need to cultivate a positive mindset in children with regard to issues pertaining to gender equality. Under his able leadership, The Gautam Gambhir Foundation has been consistently undertaking various socially beneficial endeavours*

**BY RICHA SANG**

families of the Sukma victims, and then later on then, now we sponsor 100 children of all the paramilitary forces. So whether it is BSF, CRPF, CISF, all the paramilitary forces.

And at the same time, the second initiative which we took was to sponsor the 10 girls of the sex workers. And that is something which is very, very close to my heart, because the most important thing when you sponsor the education of a sex worker, the girl from the sex workers family is that you can't disclose the identity. I, myself, don't know the girl, to be honest. I don't even know the identity or anything. So that

is something which is very, very satisfying.

And then the third thing which we did was starting this community kitchen, which serves 1100 people every day at Rupee One. And the quality of food which we give is probably anyone can eat – I can eat, you can eat, all of us can eat. And I go there randomly just to check the quality of food. I believe that food should be served with respect. And that is the reason why we've kept one rupee. So, when someone enters that kitchen, or that canteen, he should feel proud of himself. Because self respect is probably the most important thing. Yes, you want to give free food you want to give



free water, free electricity, but you got to give it with self respect as well. So that is the reason why we had kept one rupee for community kitchen. And at the same time during the pandemic, the foundation actually gave around 50,000 ration kits. So we had distributed 5,00,000 kgs of ration, especially to people who were in desperate need of it. And then we had supplied PPP kits, we had supplied masks, sanitizers, all such essential things. All that happened through the Foundation.

So, I think that the base of the foundation is the Martyrs family. We try to support as many children as we can! Having started with 16, now, we have around 100-150 children, which we support from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. There are children from different places, and we look after their studies. Until the time they want to study, they can obtain education. Plus they can choose the school as well. You know, 90% of these children are studying in convent schools or public schools, and some of them are even studying in boarding schools. At the same time, we sponsor their stationary, we sponsor their uniform. At the same time, we counsel their mothers as well; because counseling the mother becomes equally important. So this is where this

Foundation started. And we are all very proud. It is not, again, my individual effort, it is the team effort, which has actually taken this Foundation to where it is now. But the most satisfying thing is that when we started these 2 community kitchens, and when we see people come out there and eat quality food, and with respect, that is something which is very, very satisfying.

**Q. Sir, you are a social icon, a youth icon, in fact, the national icon. The youth of the nation, look forward to you for inspiration! As a youth icon, and a young leader dedicated to nation building, what's your message to the youth of the nation?**

**A.** See, my message has always been very clear. I think when people talk about good people should get into politics, I absolutely believe in it. They should get into politics. Till the time good people will not get into politics, I think this country will not change. When you get into politics with only one mindset and the intent is to give it back and not taking anything from the people and that is something which is very important and then you get that contentment and satisfaction when you try and serve people because you can have loads and loads of

money, but this effort or this belief of giving it back to your own people is what makes you a true human being. This is what actual nationalism is all about when people talk about what is nationalism; I believe nationalism is everywhere. Nationalism is serving someone food, nationalism is probably when you're coming back from the airport at 2 o'clock in the morning or 2 o'clock at night, following the traffic rules, stopping on red light even when you know that there is actually no one looking at you. Not throwing litter on the road, respecting women, which is very important. Yes, we can make use of the CCTV cameras – all these technologies are very important. But behavioral change is far more important, I believe. We must respect women, whether it is at home. So all of us, we have to go to start respecting our mothers, grandmothers, wives, and children. So that is how behavioural change will happen. And that is when the crime against women will start going down.

So my message to all the young people is that I think nationalism is everywhere. Just follow it and be proud to be called as Indians because this country is giving you the biggest thing that's your identity, that's your name. And no one else can give you that. You go to anywhere in the world; you're not known by your name, you know, but by the name of your country. And you feel proud when you call yourself as Indians. Every minute of my life, I feel proud to be called as an Indian. And I'm very, very proud!

**Q. AsiaOne magazine has also forayed into the digital media from print during the pandemic, taking a cue from PM Modi ji's call of 'turning adversity into opportunity.' So what's your message for this "Greatest Brands and Leaders Series" by AsiaOne magazine in which we aim to bring to fore those leaders who have not only made an impact on the economies of India and Asia but also on their societies?**

**A.** First, I want to congratulate AsiaOne for this new venture at the same time, I feel that it's a great initiative when you try to bring leaders to the fore; interview them and get them into the main front, when they deliver for the people of this country, when they do something really impactful. So I really want to congratulate you all and I hope AsiaOne grows even stronger in future! And it's just the start hopefully, there's a lot of success in the coming years. Thank you so much!

# GAUTAM GAMBHIR FOUNDATION (GGF)



Owing deep regard and reverence to martyrs and taking responsibility to provide a bright future to their children, Gautam Gambhir has vowed to reach out to as many children of martyrs as possible to empower them to fulfil their dreams; dreams their proud fathers would have cherished for them. While this program remains the key project of the foundation. It has also identified other areas that needed immediate intervention including caring about adolescent girls from underprivileged homes and helping them in generating awareness on nutrition, health and hygiene.

GGF will also provide them with nutritious food. Last but not the least, it aims to plant unlimited trees in the cities to clean the air and give the future generation a better, healthy place, free of respiratory diseases. These areas of work have been chosen with careful consideration and research, focusing on critical issues where not much work has been undertaken. GGF needs your support in making a bigger mark on the lives of the children and the environment they breathe in.

## 1. A SALUTE TO MARTYRS

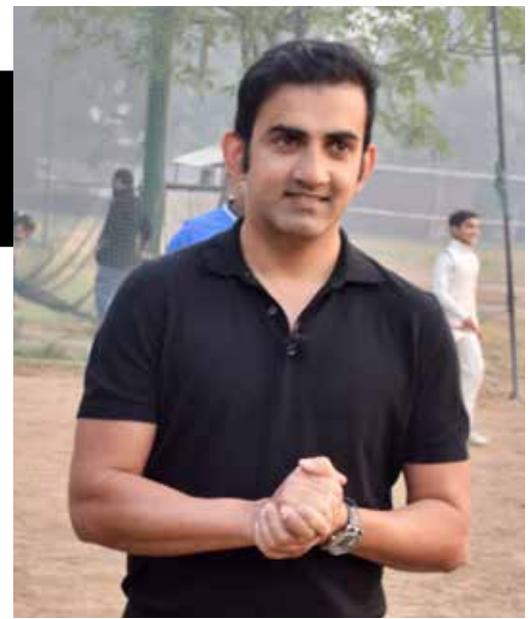
Behind every breath we take lie countless stories of valour and sacrifice by our soldiers. It is not easy task to leave behind your family to live in inhospitable areas to

safeguard the sovereignty of the nation, and freedom of its citizens. The least we can do is to safeguard the future of martyrs' children. It is an indeed a debt we owe for their sacrifice. The real identities of children and their families are not disclosed keeping their safety and privacy in mind.

## 2. EK ASHA, JAN RASOI: SERVING NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO THE NEEDY

In furtherance of the vision that the city's poorest of the poor should not be deprived of nutritious and hygienic food, Gautam Gambhir launched Delhi's first ever "Jan Rasoi" EK ASHA, a fully developed private community kitchen, which provides food to those in need for just Rs.1, on 24th December 2020 in the country's biggest wholesale market Gandhi Nagar, New Delhi. After the success of the first community kitchen, taking the implementation of the project ahead, the second EK ASHA JAN RASOI was launched on the 9th February 2021 in the hustling market of New Ashok Nagar.

Together, through both the kitchens the GGF is feeding 2000+ marginalized people like Daily wage workers, rickshaw pullers, rag pickers and all others in need on a daily basis. The rasoi is functional from 12 Noon to 2 PM from Tuesday to Sunday serving THALI EK RUPAY WALI. The menu varies everyday and we serve channa rice, kadhi rice, rajma rice, halwa, fruits, pulao, etc. The focus is kept on running the kitchen



abiding all the COVID-19 safety protocols.

The seed of this idea was sowed back on 31st July 2017 as a 7-month long drive by Gautam Gambhir himself as Ek Asha Jan Rasoi programme in West Patel Nagar market of New Delhi to make sure that the underprivileged people in the area don't go hungry.

The initiative aimed to feed the needy at free of cost from 1 PM to 3 PM, every day of the week with wholesome meal to eradicate hunger and malnutrition from the society. Every day more than 250 underprivileged received nutritious meal.

In its capacity as a Foundation, GGF is contributing towards the Sustainable Development Goal 3, regarding "Good Health and Well-being," being one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015 and to be achieved by 2030.

## 3. PANKH: GIVING WINGS TO THEIR DREAMS

The condition of the daughters of FSWs is adverse and they are forced into prostitution because of the environment and surroundings they are living in. Their kids due to lack of aspiration and opportunities are following their mothers and often pick the same path. These children don't have the access to quality education, nutritious food, and proper care and support from mothers which they require for their holistic development. Gautam Gambhir Foundation has decided to step in this process of development to provide the best environment possible for the growth of these kids. Gautam Gambhir Foundation will be working with 25 daughters of FSWs in Delhi under the programme "PANKH." This programme started in 2020 and involves working on the holistic development of Girls to break the loop.

GGF is committed to safeguard the future of FSW's daughters and break the loop for this generation. It continues to support their

*"DELHI DOESN'T NEED BLAME GAME, IT NEEDS INTENT. GGF IS ORGANISING FREE VACCINATION CAMP WITH HOSPITALS. THOSE INTERESTED CAN MESSAGE AT 8595785545, FILL SIMPLE FORM & GET YOUR JAB WITH ALL SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES. GGF WILL BEAR THE COST! WE ARE TYING UP WITH CERTAIN HOSPITALS TO PROVIDE VACCINATION WITH PROPER GUIDELINES AND THE COST WILL BE BORNE BY GGF. WE WANT TO MAKE OUR PRIME MINISTER'S VISION OF COMPLETE VACCINATION COME TRUE AND WE ENCOURAGE ALL DELHIITES TO COME FORWARD AND GET THE JAB. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TOWARDS A BETTER, SAFER INDIA. JAI HIND"*



Education, Health, Nutrition, Counseling, Shelter, etc. with the long-term objective to support them in making their future and becoming independent women.

GGF provides 100% funding support to the daughters of FSWs for their holistic development.

It empowers FSW's to support their daughters to break the loop.

#### ***Outcome of the Programme***

- 25 daughters of the FSW's will be benefited from this programme.
- They will receive complete academic support which can be monitored through their academic performance.
- Children will get Nutritious food which can be represented through their BMI Test.
- Children will receive Care, support, and Counselling for their mental, Emotional & Psychological development.
- Children will engage in Co-curricular activities which will develop their social skills.

#### **4. EXTENDING ALL POSSIBLE HELP TO COMBAT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The speed and scope of the coronavirus crisis poses extraordinary challenges for the poor and the needy. Gautam Gambhir Foundation, has been extending extending support to the marginalized by assuring that our healthcare workers stand at the first line of defence. GGF has been able to accomplish 'a drop in the ocean' by the support of its valued donors. These activities involve the distribution of Ration Relief Kits, Cooked Meals, Personal Protective Equipment Kits, N-95 Masks, Nourishment Supplements, Bedding Kits, etc. Gautam Gambhir stresses, "We believe 'Our Unity is Our Strength.' So, we must come together to fight this pandemic, as a brighter and healthier future awaits!"

Gautam Gambhir, through his foundation, has distributed various COVID-19 related items, including oxygen cylinders, concentrators & Fabiflu. He has been also organizing free COVID vaccination camps in a month-long drive. This vaccination program has been organised by the MP from East Delhi for all those above 18 years. The target is to vaccinate 10,000 people. Gautam Gambhir Foundation is purchasing vaccines from hospitals and the jab will be given free to all. On an average, 150 to 200 people will be vaccinated every day.



# PRUDENCE

## SCHOOL

Educate • Innovate • Create

**WE ARE THE  
ACHIEVERS**



**WE ARE**



**SHAPING THE FUTURE**

**WE ARE  
AIMING  
HIGHER**



**WE ARE  
UP FOR THE  
CHALLENGE**



**DEEPER UNDERSTANDING**

**JOY OF LEARNING**

**LIFELONG KNOWLEDGE**

**PERFORMANCE IN EXAMS**

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A dynamic and well rounded assessment system based on latest guidelines of CBSE. Personalized learning solution to address individual needs, skills and interest of each student

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### EXCELLENCE IN CO-SCHOLASTICS

#### EXCELLENCE IN CO-SCHOLASTICS - SPORTS

##### OUTDOOR



Dance / Music Studios managed by Genre professionals.

Student Council - A dynamic student body exemplifying responsibility, team work and leadership.

Theatre/Dramatics Academies managed by Genre professionals.

Photography/ Astronomy/ Robotics/ 3D Modelling Clubs.

#### EXCELLENCE IN CO-SCHOLASTICS - SPORTS

##### INDOOR





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UNDER 40



# **YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS 2020-21**

*Asia is an abode of some of the fastest growing economies in the world, thereby offering umpteen opportunities for youth to grow. Their uncanny ability to assess the situation, their passion to take on the challenges and considering them as opportunities, and offering feasible and sustainable solutions lead them to phenomenal growth. Their indomitable spirit to sail through the uncharted territories, and achieve the unimaginable, is inspiring millions.*

*The following pages feature these young guns, who rightfully deserve to be termed as Young Asian Entrepreneurs by virtue of their entrepreneurial spirit, creative vision, methodical planning and brilliant execution*





## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

**M**r. Shetty is an ex-banker, who has worked with Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch. His knowledge and grip over the equity markets in New York and Hong Kong gave him an edge in establishing his own entities. His entrepreneurial adeptness accompanied by his love for wines led him to start his first venture Myra Vineyards in 2011. A competent entrepreneur, he turned the company into one of the leading wine manufacturers in the country. He later sold it to a Singapore/French fund named VisVires Capital in December, 2018.

### A SOLID EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Mr. Shetty’s academic qualifications have provided him with a foundation which has facilitated his ingenious business moves. After a Bachelor’s degree from Christ College in Bengaluru, he acquired a Master’s degree from New Jersey Institute of Technology. His educational background has driven him to learn about different cultures. His exposure to diverse geographical locations has enabled him to understand people’s lifestyles. His capabilities have enabled him to explore the contemporary Food & Beverage choices that people love. He also has his finger on the pulse of the younger generation, helping him keep up with the latest trends. From establishing Myra Vineyards as a meritorious business and then selling it, Mr. Shetty moved on to becoming the Chief Lifestyle Officer in the same company that acquired Myra Vineyards. Shouldering essential responsibilities, he has strived

to develop the company as the second largest in India. In continuation with the success story, he created a first-of-its-kind beverage brand – Salud Beverages.

### BUILDING THE BRAND

Salud is an urban lifestyle brand that is distinguishing itself with unique, fresh and modern RTD (Ready-to-Drink) beverages in both the alcoholic and non-alcoholic sections. In so doing, it has opened up a unique market segment, successfully garnering mass attention. While the original idea was to launch it as a beverage, the team discovered the impact it could make when launched as a lifestyle brand. Through this excellent marketing strategy, the brand has been quickly picking up amongst gin consumers. Salud primarily translates to ‘Cheers’ with health, wealth and security being its other synonyms. It sets the objective on augmenting people’s lifestyle through its unmatched products. Salud began with India’s very first ready-to-drink gin and tonic – G&T 2.0. The brand’s ethos is giving people fresh and exciting ways to celebrate through its beverages. Aiming towards a global presence, Salud’s offerings will include beverages in the alcoholic, non-alcoholic and craft spirits categories. For greater outreach, the brand has introduced its own fashion and merchandise label as well as a musical vertical under its titles – Salud Live and Salud Sessions. All these work together to offer the larger-than-life Salud experience. Salud has been associated with some of the biggest and most popular names in India. From Prasad Vanga of Anthill Ventures to Urbanl, which is the speed scaling partner, these brands have helped in accelerating the growth of Salud. Rana Dagubatti, the acclaimed actor with a huge fan following, is also an active investor and advisor associated with the company. Thanks to Mr. Shetty’s talent and efforts, investors can find greener pastures that are waiting to be explored. An entrepreneur with an eye for detail, Mr. Shetty has been quick to recognize the growing market for a niche brand like Salud and has been successfully tapping it.



# AJAY SHETTY

INNOVATING EXCELLENCE IN THE F&B INDUSTRY

*The Founder-Director of Salud Beverages, Mr. Ajay Shetty possesses extraordinary capabilities of recognizing potential and generating successful business. A dynamic leader, he established this gin and tonic brand in 2020 with a fresh approach to bring premixed drinks to the Indian market*

**“HIS EXPOSURE TO DIVERSE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS HAS ENABLED HIM TO UNDERSTAND PEOPLE’S LIFESTYLES”**



## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

***“HE INTENDS TO MAKE  
REALTY ASSISTANT A GLOBAL  
PROPERTY CONSULTANCY  
WITH A 2% MARKET SHARE  
IN THE ASIA PACIFIC”***

**R**ecognized for his exceptional leadership skills, Ankit holds a B.Tech in Electronics and Communications. For him, the most important achievement of his career was to sell his first property while still in high school. Having more than 18 years of experience in the industry, he has developed a strategic way to channelize the knowledge and rich insights he has gained about the real estate sector. Moving ahead in his career, he takes great pride in pioneering the transformation of the unorganized real estate sector into one that is well-organized to sustain businesses, which is now expected to lead a new wave in the market. To bring corporate culture to the otherwise dispersed workplace, he conceptualized the payment plans for the subvention and balance of possession plans.

### **ATTRIBUTES HIS SUCCESS TO HIS EMPLOYEES**

Ankit considers his employees as valuable assets and constantly encourages them to think out of the box. He believes that it is his employees that drive customer satisfaction and better productivity. In his efforts to expand the business, he never fails to recognize the efforts of his employees. Ankit inspires his team members to come up with fresh ideas. He does not believe that communication should be stifled under the guise of hierarchy. Moreover, to support his workforce during the difficult times of the COVID- induced pandemic, he made sure that there was no slack in their salary. Instead, he supported his employees with raises and promotions to help them sail through the difficult times of the pandemic smoothly.

### **PRIORITIZING EMPLOYEES’ WELLBEING**

Since his employees form an important part of the business, health benefits are provided to them for their overall well-being. Likewise, under his guidance, the company has introduced FOP for female employees, granting them leave on the first day of the period. What’s more, under his guidance, Realty Assistant also sponsors Education Programs and certifications for workers as part of its initiative to help them take pride and ownership in the jobs they do.

### **AN AMBITIOUS LEADER**

As part of his immediate business objectives, he aspires to establish a strong presence across India, starting with metros and progressing to tier-2 cities, where he intends to provide 360-degree property management services, which is currently an untapped market in India. He also aims to be the best in strategic real estate development advisory for stuck ventures, ensuring fast execution and distribution to home buyers. In the

long run, he wants to establish Realty Assistant as an international property consultancy firm with a 2% market share in the Asia Pacific. He is also keen to ramp up his digital plans & achieve complete digitalization of the sales process, house hunting & project shortlisting with the use of cutting-edge technology.

### **GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY**

Ankit believes in giving back to the community by empowering and supporting the less fortunate. He has transformed Realty Assistant into a socially responsible firm that continually undertakes CSR initiatives under the banner of Pararthy NGO, a part of the Aditya Prakash Foundation that aims to reduce the carbon footprint through habitat management. As part of the endeavour, the firm encourages planting oxygen- enriched plants, & has also designed naturally lit office spaces to make a bigger & noticeable impact. Moreover, as a result of the efforts of the NGO, the Okhla Bird Sanctuary got the protected site status.



# ANKIT ADITYA PRADHAN

REDEFINING EXCELLENCE IN THE REALTY SECTOR

*Ankit is the CEO & Founder of Realty Assistant, an all-in-one realty platform based in Noida (UP), India. Under his leadership, it has been making waves by changing the landscape of Real Estate Advisory. Despite the Covid-19 disruption, it was able to generate a turnover of over 100 CR and expand PAN India*

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**W**ith his ceaseless efforts, Archit has been setting benchmarks of quality & operational efficiency in all sectors. He joined the integrated steel unit of Goel Group's flagship company Shri Bajrang Power & Ispat Ltd., soon after completing his education from Kingston University, London. Initially, the young leader was in charge of the Tilda Division's Iron Ore Pelletization Plant's process, operations, and techno-commercial activities. His interest in the family business grew during Pellet plant commissioning, even though he was very young then. As a result, he became well-versed in every aspect of pellet plant operations. He was also in charge of the Group's HR operations, marketing

& branding, technology implementation, and new project creation. Archit is a passionate and enthusiastic leader. His enthusiasm is what brings his visions to life. He represented Goel Group at the Round Table Conference on Hydropower, where the official commissioning of the 36 MW Run-of-River Hydropower Project Chanju-I in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district was announced.

**AN AMBITIOUS LEADER**

Archit is an ambitious leader. He is a consistent and resilient person who works hard to achieve his goals. His vision is not only to grow Shri Bajrang Alliance Ltd. globally but also to expand and diversify it into new ventures. To this end, he came up with a state-of-the-art ready-to-cook frozen food division under the brand name 'GOELD' in 2020 amid the pandemic-induced lockdown in India, which is indeed a bold step. Currently, Goeld has a strong presence in 18 cities, viz Ahmedabad, Anand, Bangaluru, Delhi, Faridabad,

Ghaziabad, Hyderabad, Jalandhar, Kanpur, Lucknow, Ludhaina, Mumbai, Noida, Pune, Rajkot, Tri City - Mohali & Panchkula included, Vishakhapatnam via online & offline channels. In the coming months, Archit hopes to expand into new geographies such as Baroda, Bhopal, Chennai, Guwahati, Indore, Mysore, Patiala, & Surat. What's more, he aims to establish Goeld as a leading processed food brand in India and overseas. Large consignments are already being sent to countries in Southeast Asia, such as New Zealand and Australia. The processed food brand, under his leadership, has also made firm commitments to join the UAE and has identified North America and Europe as main trading hubs.

**LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY**

Archit is an ardent admirer of technological developments. He always stays up to date with the industry's most recent technological advancements to stay ahead of the pack. Under his direction, Goeld's frozen food manufacturing facility leverages Spiral & IQF technologies, the most advanced freezing technologies to preserve all nutrients in the food while also offering a 12-month shelf life.

**GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY**

Archit, the 3rd generation of the Goel family, embodies deep-seated family values. He takes an active role in the Group's CSR activities such as health camps, scholarship projects for girl students of Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh, and building houses for orphan children in Chhattisgarh. His social initiatives reflect his deep-rooted aspiration for bringing a positive change in society.

**AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

Owing to his incessant efforts, Goeld has earned recognition within a short span of time. The brand has been honoured with the "India's Most Admirable Brand" award by the Brand Story for bringing 100% vegetarian products manufactured from state-of-the-art vegetarian kitchens equipped with world-class freezing technology that ensures nutrients, flavor, and texture.



**ARCHIT GOEL**

INNOVATING HIS WAY TO THE TOP

Archit Goel is the Director & CFO of Shri Bajrang Alliance Ltd., the flagship firm of Goel Group of Companies – one of the leading business conglomerates in Central India. He has played a major role in launching the brand 'Goeld' to offer 100% vegetarian, ready-to-cook frozen food, which is making waves in the FMCG sector

**"HE ALWAYS STAYS UP TO DATE WITH THE INDUSTRY'S MOST RECENT TECH ADVANCEMENTS TO STAY AHEAD OF THE PACK"**



**YOUNG ASIAN  
ENTREPRENEURS**

***“WITH A VISION OF  
BUILDING A BETTER WORLD  
ON THE GROUNDS OF  
SUSTAINABILITY, HE HAS  
REDEFINED CONSTRUCTION  
PRACTICES”***



# ARJUN AMIN

LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF INDIA'S ENGINEERING MARVELS

*Twenty-six year old Arjun Amin is the Founder and Managing Director of Urbanaac Infrastructures Pvt. Ltd.; he is setting unparalleled aesthetic standards for precast concrete construction in Gujarat. Through consistent efforts, he has steered the firm towards success by turning it into Gujarat's Largest Precast Solutions provider*

**W**ith a vision to create a better infrastructure by working relentlessly on the grounds of sustainability and quality construction in the fastest time possible, Mr. Arjun began his journey by redefining traditional construction practices. The leading entrepreneur endeavors to bring a change in the infrastructure field by delivering top-notch precast solutions provider through innovation, automation & value-engineering. According to Mr. Arjun, the sector & the economy has incurred wide losses due to prolonged timelines. He feels precast is the only path forward to rectify these problems plaguing the infrastructure & construction sectors. He vehemently believes that precast will not only provide effective & qualitative results but will also help in diminishing long timelines thus resulting in faster construction cycles. This option will create far more durable constructions, thereby, contributing to a solid future.

### ACHIEVING MILESTONES

It takes a lot of effort to turn imagination into reality. With the inception of Urbanaac in Gujarat, a sort of favorable revolution began that broke the monotony of infrastructure techniques. This became the first & foremost milestone in the history of the Gujarat. Its existing production capacity of 4.5 million Sq.ft. which they are expanding by 5 times PAN India, clearly signifies to the vision of the company. It has taken years of hard work & determination for Mr. Amin to get to this stage. He has received immense satisfaction in contributing towards some marvels of the country & other one-of-

its-kind-infrastructure projects. Urbanaac kick started by working towards the iconic Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, which is dubbed as the World's Largest Cricket Stadium. The stadium is built entirely in precast & is a world renowned structure. Under his guidance, the firm has successfully completed the Ahmedabad University project. He is also managing the development of the luxurious Fairmont Hotel at T2 - Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai. Along with these, Urbanaac is constructing Gujarat's first precast high-rise residential towers in the city of Ahmedabad. With these upcoming infrastructure projects, it aspires to emerge as the flag bearer of precast in Gujarat.

### A FAMILY THAT WORKS TOGETHER, SUCCEEDS TOGETHER

Urbanaac is a family that believes in strong planning for unparalleled designs and works together on those ideas for successful implementation. Every individual who is a part of the company is familiar with its vision and accordingly

contributes to this whilst setting qualitative benchmarks in the industry. The endeavor to create a brand that is recognized around the world enables Urbanaac to be one of its kinds in the industry. This is achieved not only with the combination of innovation and technology but also with dedication & hard-work of every employee. While delivering services or products, the company has incorporated certain guidelines to ensure high quality standards. Mr. Arjun believes that establishing the right approach path will provide the company as well as its clients with prosperous results.

### GARNERING GLORY

Mr. Amin has received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Infrastructure Development 2019 by All India Achievers Foundation (AIAF). He was also featured as "10 MOST INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS LEADERS TO FOLLOW IN 2021" in Business Connect Magazine. He owes his achievement to the blessings of his parents & the lessons he has obtained from the life of Lord Krishna.

**40 UNDER 40**

**M**r. Agneeswaran co-founded Vajro Inc. in 2016. It is a cloud-based platform that allows eCommerce stores to instantly create mobile shopping apps. Under his exemplary leadership, the organisation has transformed mobile app adoption for thousands of online businesses. Mr. Agneeswaran and his team's vision is to make it easy for businesses to create and deliver a mobile experience for their clients and help buyers perform transactions on the go.

**CLIMBING UP THE LADDER SUCCESS**

Mr. Agneeswaran is a Chartered Accountant by qualification and has

been an entrepreneur for nearly two decades now. His previous venture, a price comparison app, was not much of a success. However, the learnings that were born of that failure created the roots for the success of Vajro.

Through the experience gained in the e-commerce space, Mr. Agneeswaran understood the market gap that a no-code Mobile App Development Platform (MADP) like Vajro could actually fill. He applied the learnings from his previous venture to his new startup. One of his key takeaways has been that while the product-market fit is important, the founder-market fit is even more important.

After recognizing that his team's strength as well as his own lay in the B2B segment as opposed to B2C, he and his co-founder Niwin Santhosh chose to focus on mobile app development.

After gaining knowledge of the e-commerce market in North America,

their primary target audience, Mr. Agneeswaran finally decided to launch Vajro.

The organisation is currently aligned with Shopify, an e-commerce platform that helps people to sell online. It helps Shopify stores develop their own apps on iOS and Android operating systems without writing a single line of code.

**TURNING ADVERSITY INTO OPPORTUNITY**

When the pandemic hit and everybody was trying their best to conserve cash and funds, Vajro was advised to do the same. However, upon observing how people were actually responding to the situation, Mr. Agneeswaran noticed that mobile and internet usage was increasing. He was of the view that e-commerce would definitely pick up in the face of the pandemic and doubled Vajro's team size – a very daring risk to take while most other companies were letting their employees go. The Vajro team recruited people across sales, marketing, support, and technology functions. This calculated risk paid off and Vajro saw spectacular success during the year of 2020.

In the 16 months since Jan 2020, the company grew its revenues over 7 times and is now a multi-million dollar entity. Mr. Agneeswaran suggests that in addition to predicting buyer behaviour, it is important to back up your predictions with data and analyse that. All along he has focused on planning and strategizing, which has paid off in a big way.

For several e-commerce stores to try Vajro, Mr. Agneeswaran knew there should be a trigger. In this case, the trigger was that the 40 percent surge in mobile traffic due to the advent of the pandemic, which would mean it was a good time for Shopify stores to try out a mobile app.

Vajro provides a free sixty-day trial offer and it has helped the company gain a lot of new customers. Ultimately, Mr. Agneeswaran and his team successfully led Vajro to great triumph even in the face of the global pandemic due to their planning, strategy, and hard work.



**BASKAR AGNEESWARAN**

TREATING EACH EXPERIENCE AS A STEPPING STONE TO SUCCESS

*Mr. Agneeswaran's several years of entrepreneurial experience & insight have contributed to the success of Vajro Inc., a Chennai-based startup. This mobile app development platform stands out for helping store owners create their own e-commerce apps instantly without needing to write any code*

***"AFTER GAINING KNOWLEDGE OF THE E-COMMERCE MARKET IN NORTH AMERICA, HE FINALLY DECIDED TO LAUNCH VAJRO INC"***



## MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

**“THROUGH EDUKEMY, HE HELPS STUDENTS IN ACING INDIA’S TOP COMPETITIVE EXAMS BY MAKING SUBJECTS EASIER TO UNDERSTAND”**



# CHANDRAHAS PANIGRAHI

GIVING WINGS TO YOUR DREAMS

*A leader par excellence, Chandrahas Panigrahi ventured out to build India’s first non-STEM-focused EdTech start-up, Edukemy. He has strived to carve an efficient platform for liberal arts students by offering a personalized and evaluation-based learning model*

**T**he Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Edukemy, Chandrahas focuses on refining the skill set of liberal arts students and making non-STEM subjects easier to understand for acing India’s top competitive exams, which led to the foundation of Edukemy last year. It is India’s first evaluation-based learning model.

Chandrahas possesses a rich experience of over 2 decades and has worked with Acer as the Consumer Business Head. Under his leadership, many companies have achieved growth. In 2020, he Co-founded Edukemy along with his partners Deb Tripathi and Shabbir A Bashir. Their venture is aimed at bringing a paradigm shift and creating better learning platforms for liberal arts students in a country otherwise obsessed with STEM education.

Under his guidance, Edukemy has collaborated with subject matter experts to help students scale their learning experience. The self-funded start-up is piloting India’s first subjective evaluation tool with positive and benchmarked feedback.

### OFFERING HOLISTIC COACHING

The brainchild of 3 of the Co-founders, Edukemy offers digital courses to non-STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) students for cracking competitive exams. Since its inception last year, the platform has over 8000 aspirants taking interactive classes for several subjects such as history, geography, economics, polity, general studies, and essay writing. Their tech-enabled standardized evaluation model

focuses on pre-evaluation, consisting of subjective and objective tests that aid students assess and maximize their potential to crack competitive exams such as the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), one of the toughest exams in India.

Instead of following any marketplace business model, Edukemy offers quality courses tailored to meet the learning needs of non-STEM students in a remote and digitally connected environment. The highly experienced and qualified faculty members include co-founder and geography professor Mr. Shabbir A Bashir among others who guide UPSC aspirants.

In a highly competitive market of EdTech, with rivals like BYJU’s, Unacademy, and Testbook, the start-up expects to close its first year with INR 5-6 crore in revenue. Edukemy will soon turn to Full-Stack Test Platform to aid aspirants in their UPSC preparations and provide students in rural and more number of urban areas with greater access to learning. The start-up’s innovation

will drive personalized learning at scale and meet new success rates in future by using Advanced Evaluation methodology and technological tools.

### FOCUSING ON TIER II & TIER III CITIES

Unlike most of the EdTech start-ups that are focused on students in Tier 1 cities and metros, Edukemy is personalizing studies and preparations with their interactive, immersive, and live online education in Tier-II and Tier III cities. It includes pre-class, in-class, and post-class engagement models for courses on government exams preparation. This has helped address learning gaps for students who are either not exposed to proper guidance or have access to only offline institutions. Using their patented ed-tech 2.0 technology, Edukemy has curated special programs and launched scholarships for EWS aspirants.

With test prep series, aspirants from all over India can prepare well for their competitive exams and reach new heights of success.



## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

**D**r. Aditya brings a wealth of experience to Sahara EVOLS. With a clear vision and exceptional leadership abilities, he has made a name for himself among the forerunners of today. He has over 12 years of experience in managing, conceptualizing, and leading different types of businesses.

### AN ENTREPRENEUR AT HEART

Dr. Aditya is a determined person who takes every challenge in his stride. The young entrepreneur nurtured Sahara EVOLS right from its conceptualization during 2018 and launch later by the end of

2018. In a short span of two years, he has helped Sahara EVOLS to make a definitive mark in India's EV industry. Currently, Sahara EVOLS is one of the top 10 EV companies in India. Dr. Aditya has always been keen on innovating and transforming ways of doing business. His hands-on and practical outlook played a pivotal role in establishing Sahara EVOLS as one of the leading EV Brands of the nation. He organized the first-ever EV expo in Uttar Pradesh, India, and also established 250 plus authorized dealer networks, along with 350 authorized service points in 22 Indian states.

### A LIFELONG LEARNER

Dr. Aditya is always curious to learn from his surroundings. The enterprising leader believes that a good leader always leads by example; therefore, he ensures being on the learning curve always, so that he can encourage his team to do the same.

He always strives to bring something new to the table and generates result-

driven ideas proficiently. The dynamic leader exhibits a true entrepreneurial spirit. He believes in promoting the rights of his sales & service network, along with his esteemed customer. Throughout the last decade, he has been managing, conceptualizing, and leading businesses of various nature like dairy, agriculture, retail, hospitality, portfolio management, stock trading, EduTech, Meditech, blockchain, astrology, AI-enabled applications, and services, as well as electric mobility. Additionally, through Cosmo World, he is working on the fusion of the science of Astrology with emerging technologies like Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning.

### KEEPING EMPLOYEES HAPPY

He encourages a people-oriented work culture. Relentlessly focused on employee productivity, he continually looks for novel ways of managing his team. He believes that investing in people is vital to foster innovation. He efficiently led his team in the testing times during the COVID-19 period. During the lockdown, while other businesses were in a wait-and-watch mode, Sahara EVOLS was in full blast action mode, which helped the company earn an impressive revenue. The attrition rate of the employees in the company was zero during the COVID-19 lockdown period in India. The employees were given a salary hike and also promoted to higher positions during the lockdown phase.

### HIS INSPIRATION

Dr. Aditya credits much of his fast-rising success to his mentor 'Sahasri' Subrata Roy. The young leader got the opportunity to be personally mentored by the Sahara Chief during his initial learning years.

### AN ECOLOGICALLY CONSCIOUS LEADER

Dr. Aditya's yearning for saving future generations from the clutches of a deteriorating natural environment on the planet has led him to focus on developing and evolving a complete ecosystem in the e-Mobility and the Electric Vehicle (EV) space. At the same time, he regularly initiates tree plantation drives to create a greener world.



# DR. ADITYA BANERJEE

DRIVEN TO SUCCEED

*Dr. Aditya Banerjee is the Co-Founder, Director, and CEO of Sahara EVOLS, the fastest-growing brand in the Indian Electric Vehicle Industry. Under his able leadership, Sahara EVOLS has been growing rapidly and delivering a never-ending effort to stay ahead of its growth*

***"IN A SHORT SPAN OF 2 YEARS, HE HAS HELPED SAHARA EVOLS TO MAKE A DEFINITIVE MARK IN INDIA'S EV INDUSTRY"***



## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

***“OUR CATCHWORD IS TO  
INNOVATE & TRANSFORM TO  
BECOME MALLEABLE TO NEW  
CHALLENGES & EXCEED THOSE  
WITH FLAIR AND FLAMBOYANCE”***



# GAGAN ARORA

*DRIVEN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE*

*Gagan is the CEO & Strategic Growth Leader for Vertex Global Services. He also serves as Chairman – Foreign Investors Council (Delhi) & Director – Global Education, Asian Arab Chambers of Commerce. Vertex was founded by him in 2016 in Florida & today it is present in US, UK, India, Philippines & Nepal*

**G**agan founded Vertex Global Services in the year 2016. In a short span of four years, the visionary leader successfully expanded the company to five different continents. Gagan has more than 2 decades of expertise in Onshore & Offshore markets and a strong track record of achieving demonstrable results. His extensive industry knowledge, paired with his humble demeanor, has helped the company reach the pinnacle of success in no time. Currently, Vertex Global Services provides its services to over 3000 clients worldwide.

### **A MULTI-TALENTED LEADER**

Gagan has worked for several global brands and has experience in practically serving every sector, including Business Development, People Management, or P&L. With unrivaled strategy, creative, and technological capabilities, he provides unique ideas and adopts a pragmatic approach to assisting the world's largest organizations and Fortune 500 firms. He is the Chairman of India's Foreign Investors Council Delhi (FIC).

He has a wealth of experience in the arena of international business development, mergers and acquisitions, and joint ventures. His razor-sharp focus on the outsourcing sector and constant push to add value has enabled Vertex Global Services to emerge as a significant competitor in the IT & ITES industry.

He also keeps contributing to several industry forums, groups, and business

schools and has received several accolades at all levels. He is a great people manager who strongly believes in the concept of “Servant Leadership.”

He follows up with his employees frequently to ensure their well-being. He also believes in training and grooming young talent so that they can succeed in their carrier. Furthermore, he never fails to make judgments in the best interests of the team.

### **EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS**

Gagan founded the Vertex Academy to enter the INR 300 billion online education market and produce a variety of courses for professionals and students across many verticals. Since the beginning of his career, Gagan always had his sights set on the next big goal and worked tirelessly to attain it. He has risen to the top of the industry by undertaking ambitious endeavors and executing them with perfection, one after the other. It is his go-getter spirit that motivates him to take on new challenges and explore new vistas.

### **GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY**

He has been contributing towards the upliftment of society through a variety of programs. Recently, he donated \$40,000 for COVID support and helped 10,000 jobless people who lost jobs due to the pandemic to get jobs without any charge.

### **GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS**

He has been honored with several accolades for his remarkable excellence in areas such as ingenuity, social and professional accomplishments, financial performance, and personal devotion to business and communities.

Gagan was bestowed with the prestigious CNBC 40 Under 40 Top Influential Corporate Leaders Award 2020, Rated as Best CEO for three times in a row. Best People Managers Award 2020, by Great Manager Institute and Forbes India, and Most Innovative Young Tech-Entrepreneur 2020 by Brand Opus India, among others. Owing to his dedicated efforts, Vertex has been ranked 19th amongst the 50 most innovative companies across the globe.



## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

**M**r. Agarwal is the Managing Director of IITPL – Innovation Imaging Technologies Private Limited and Director, Co-founder of Innvolution Healthcare Private Limited. Coming from humble beginnings, he completed most of his schooling at some of the small towns of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. After completing a B.Tech degree in Biomedical Engineering from the Manipal Institute of Technology, & later, an executive MBA from IIM Kozhikode, he went on to work with some of the most reputable players in the MedTech industry. His impressive work experience includes working with

big names like Boston Scientific, Abbott Vascular, Meril Life Sciences, & 3M, where he occupied crucial leadership positions. In 2010, when he was a successful CEO, he made the risky decision of embarking on his entrepreneurial journey by establishing Innvolution Healthcare Private Limited, along with three co-founders. Since its inception, the firm has been providing the latest & best-in-class Cardio-vascular products to advance healthcare solutions.

### MAKING HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBLE & AFFORDABLE

Mr. Agarwal has more than 25 years of experience in the MedTech industry & has an excellent understanding of the cardiology space. The lack of quality cardio-vascular healthcare facilities at tier 2 & tier 3 cities motivated him to set up IITPL, a Cath lab manufacturing firm. His motto is to fulfil a socio-economic need to makes Cardiovascular care accessible to a larger segment of society. Another problem was the inaccessibility of the

required technology — only 20% of Indian cities had the facility & equipment to conduct an angioplasty in early 2010. In addition, each stent cost between 8-10 lakhs, and a patient would have to travel 600-700 miles to reach a medical facility where the procedure could be carried out safely. These concerns motivated Mr. Agarwal to create relevant solutions and equipment for angioplasty in India. It was a new and impactful move in the country’s MedTech industry as earlier a whopping 85% of the equipment for angioplasty and related procedures used to be imported. With its ‘Make in India’ agenda, IITPL came up with effective solutions for all these concerns.

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOLADES

Mr. Agarwal has received numerous awards in his illustrious career. Under his leadership, IITPL was ranked among the Top Ten MedTech Start-ups in India. The prestigious Red Dot Award, which is often considered the top-most award for product design, communication design, and design concepts, was also awarded to the company. It is the only company in Asia to have won this award. The company also received the prestigious Good Design Award by the Government of Japan; a remarkable achievement for both the company and Mr. Agarwal. IITPL has also won the Industrial Design Excellence Award from the Confederation of Indian Industry, which has also featured the company in their list of Top 25 Innovative Companies. However, the most distinguished award won by the organization under Mr. Agarwal’s leadership is the Government of India’s ‘Medical Device Company of the Year.’ The firm is one of the youngest to have achieved this honourable distinction. Along with these IITPL has also won the Technology Start-up award (TDB) by the President of India and has featured in the Forbes Marquee Edition as one of the top 50 contributors in shaping modern India. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Agarwal also led his company Innvolution healthcare to design a model ventilator in association with IIT Bombay in just 33 days. The firm went on to win the MG Motors Ventilator Innovators Challenge from amongst 52 other entries.



# GAURAV AGARWAL

FAST-TRACKING THE MEDTECH REVOLUTION IN INDIA

*A highly successful MedTech entrepreneur, Mr. Agarwal has 2 reputable companies to his credit. His rich experience, diligence, and his ability to take calculated risks at the right time have ensured his success. His dynamism and ingenuity are the biggest contributors to the rise of his companies*

**“UNDER MR. AGARWAL’S LEADERSHIP, IITPL IS RANKED AMONG THE TOP TEN MEDTECH START-UPS IN INDIA”**



## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

***“HIS COLLECTIONS ARE ALLURING, ADMIRABLE AND WORN WITH PRIDE BY WOMEN GLOBALLY”***



# JATIN CHOKSHI

CARVING A GLITTERING SUCCESS SAGA

*Jatin Chokshi is a Co-owner of Narayan Jewellers, the luxury jewellery brand which has grown from its roots in Vadodara, Gujarat, to make its presence felt locally and globally. An immensely talented designer, he has been efficiently carrying forward the legacy of excellence established by his grandfather*

**N**arayan Jewellers dates to 1940, when the young Ambalal Chokshi chose to start a jewellery brand of his own instead of joining his father’s jewellery business. Narendra Ambalal Chokshi, his eldest son, restructured the company and took over the business in 1986. Jatin and his brother Ketan are now spearheading this journey of excellence.

Jatin joined Narayan Jewellers in 1999. Along with his brother, he established a lavish and independent high-end jewellery store in December, 2012. They added diamond and Jadau along with gold ornaments to their collections. Jatin specializes in diamonds and has a management degree. He has also completed the rough diamond course from International Gemological Institute. His strong foresight & excellent management skills have helped him to build the brand immensely. Under his able leadership, the brand is now catering to niche & elite clientele who deeply appreciate class and beauty. Exquisite craftsmanship & innovative jewellery designing have become the company’s hallmark.

### TIMELESS HEIRLOOMS

Hailing from Western India, which is traditionally associated with gold jewellery, Jatin has been able to successfully build a name for himself in the high-end and luxurious diamond jewellery space. A true visionary who believes in reinventing business models to stay ahead of the times, Jatin keeps his jewellery inventory distinctive. He creates royal, eclectic, and ethereal Jadau collections, exquisite gold

kadas / jhumkas designs, and glamorous diamond sets. His collections are alluring, admired and worn with pride by women globally. During the challenging pandemic scenario, Narayan Jewellers has managed to strengthen its digital presence. It is currently selling its jewellery pieces/sets through an ‘at-home’ service. The company is even planning to launch its own e-commerce portal soon. Jatin took the omni-channel approach, which is essential for the jewellery business, for its long-term sustenance in these altered circumstances. He leads an experienced team of in-house designers that understands the client’s requirements, conceptualizes and develops them into actual designs/collections. The company’s creative, eclectic and aesthetic jewellery pieces, especially the bridal jewellery collections, have earned tremendous popularity and appreciation.

### VISION WITH VALUE

Jatin’s vision is to make Narayan Jewellers a global jewellery chain that sets the industry benchmarks of excellence. To

achieve this empowering vision, he places emphasis on the creation and delivery of jewellery masterpieces with high aesthetic value, creative innovation and intricate engineering, all with a BIS Hallmark for excellence. He is a proponent of the philosophy - ‘Practice What You Preach.’ He promotes the values of trust, purity, passion, creativity, conviction, social responsibility, excellence, legacy, team spirit and ethics among all the members of his company.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Under Jatin’s able guidance, Narayan Jewellers has contributed immensely to various CSR initiatives. It has held multiple fundraiser events like Ramp for Champs – Smile Foundation 2016 (Girl Child Empowerment), CSR-Trunk Show with Smile Foundation 2018 (Girl Child Education), Emeralds for Elephants – Sotheby’s Auction 2011 (Saving Elephants) and Project Blossoming – Christie’s Auction 2014 (Girl Child Education). Jatin’s vision and diligence have enabled the brand to thrive in India and abroad.



## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

**K**etan Chokshi, is an ace Jewellery Designer & Co-owner of Narayan Jewellers. His forte is engineered designs in fantastical settings resulting in a visual masterpiece, showcasing a rare fusion of art, technology & expertise. With 2+ decades of hands-on experience from designing to manufacturing jewellery, under his leadership the brand has won many accolades.

### JEWELLERY – AN INHERENT PASSION

Fascinated by Jewellery at an early age, Mr.

Chokshi loved spending time in the R&D Department with a keen interest in the work of artisans & craftsman. Following his passion, to enhance his product development & design skills, he did his graduation from Gemmological Institute of America, California. He also completed the rough diamond course from International Gemmological Institute of Antwerp, Belgium. He took a conscious decision of joining his family business & applied his learnings & International exposure to implementing modern practices including designing & implementation of creative sales & marketing strategies, installation of leading-edge systems technology, resolving long-standing profit measurement problems, inventory & sales measurement problem, further creating an infrastructure to support growth. With strong ethics & a positive attitude Narayan Jewellers were one of the first family jewellery brand to introduce the concept of BIS Hallmark in Vadodara & the second

jewellery store to be licensed in Gujarat.

### A GLORIOUS SAGA

Led by the passion of this third generation – Ketan along with his brother Jatin further expanded their business with the launch of their lavish store in 2012, in the heart of Vadodara. In 2017, Narayan Jewellers expanded its flagship store adding a floor. The store was launched with a grand fashion show, with Actress Vani Kapoor unveiling their exquisite bridal collection. Under their aegis Narayan Jewellers won many accolades Nationally & Internationally. Since 2013 Narayan Jewellers designs have been a part of Forevermark Oscars Red carpet Zone consecutively for 8 years and styled celebrities like Mary J Blige, Olivia Wilde amongst others. One of the very few jewellery brands from India, Narayan Jewellers have been showcasing its collection at the NYFW for the last 5 years in collaboration with Designer Bibhu Mohapatra & Forevermark. In the past, in 2010 two of Narayan Jewellers masterpieces were selected and auctioned by Sotheby for the social cause of saving Elephants worldwide. In 2014, Narayan's designs registered the highest bid at an event by Christie's to raise funds for social charity Nanhi Kali. Narayan Jewellers luxurious jewellery pieces personify sophistication and elegance making them one of the preferred brands by Bollywood celebrities for red carpet appearances, weddings, events and magazine covers. From Styling Bollywood A-listers like Kareena Kapoor Khan, Sara Ali Khan, Tara Sutaria, Sonam Kapoor to designing the wedding jewellery of cricketer Harbhajan Singh and Actress Geeta Basra, television celebrity Kishwer Merchant and Marathi Actress Neha Pendse, Narayan Jewellers has earned the distinction of being recognized as amongst the best in India.

### THE FUTURE

An ethical jewellery brand with integrity, stand for a combination of values & dedication to quality & style, Narayan Jewellers encourages sustainable luxury, driven by a commitment to make a positive difference at all stages. With spotlight on luxurious quality, Ketan is working towards global & digital expansion.



# KETAN CHOKSHI

CARRYING FORWARD THE LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

*A third-generation entrepreneur, Mr. Ketan Chokshi believes that Luxury is more nuanced than most, creating aspiration value. Under his aegis, Narayan Jewellers has become one of the very few Luxury Indian Jewellery brands creating global designs!*

***“WITH SPOTLIGHT ON LUXURIOUS QUALITY, KETAN IS WORKING TOWARDS GLOBAL & DIGITAL EXPANSION”***

***“HE IS AN IRON FIST IN A VELVET GLOVE, & HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY SETTING NEW BENCHMARKS OF EXCELLENCE WITH HIS GREAT VISION”***



# MANISH NATHANI

A DYNAMIC LEADER BOLSTERING MARKET INNOVATION

*Leaders are born to lead, empower and influence. Mr. Manish Nathani, Director, M/s Airtec Electrovision Private Limited, is an iron fist in a velvet glove. He endeavors to set new benchmarks of excellence in the progressive business ecosystem with his great vision, determination, and extraordinary talent*

In his long career, Mr. Nathani has gained deep knowledge and insights to deliver innovative electronic solutions — a highly valued skill to understand and adapt to different challenges in this field. He has been seamlessly taking crucial decisions for ensuring the company’s continued success, maintaining its impressive record of accomplishments, and developing strategies for its rapid progress. In 2020, when the entire globe was hit badly by the COVID-19 outbreak and social distancing became the norm, he enhanced the existing workflow and reached excellence in customer service. With a mission to provide innovative products, he has been driving the firm to newer realms of success. With these sustained efforts, under his dynamic stewardship, his team has achieved the customer satisfaction rate of 98%. Being one of the stalwarts in the industry, he ensures that all his strategies are aligned with the vision for the company’s as well as the sector’s consistent growth.

## A BIG HIT IN THE WORLD OF BUSINESS

It is the truth universally acknowledged that the more a company adds value to the lives of its customers, the more it succeeds. Offering a comprehensive range of services and projects spread across various verticals and geographical locations, M/s Airtec Electrovision Pvt. Ltd. has become a distinguished name among the top private companies of India. Besides, Mr. Nathani lays emphasis on reaching out to more and more people every day as this helps improve the understanding

of demographics and psychographics of potential customer base. Therefore, the organization connects with more than 1 million people through social media posts and has already garnered over 1,50,000 views on its corporate videos.

## CREATING HIS TRAJECTORY TO SUCCESS

Mr. Nathani’s life is a lesson for the generations to come. He never gave up in the face of adversity and persisted hard to turn every adversity into an opportunity. With sincerity, dedication and determination, he embarked on his entrepreneurial journey and successfully completed various projects in diverse areas. His quest for perfection in every aspect of life has made ‘Airtec Electrovision Pvt. Ltd’ achieve great success in the Amazon marketplace. Providing standard trade name for different sizes of TV sets in lieu of products by popular brands such as Mi, OnePlus, Hisense, etc., his project management system brought a considerable transformation, which

has helped optimize and improve the ongoing scenario.

## AN EXEMPLARY LEADER

He shares a great rapport with his staff, who always look up to him for inspiration and guidance. He staunchly believes that employees should be continuously motivated and supported because innovation and excellence cannot take place in an environment of fear and submission. He lends a helping hand and a supportive shoulder to one and all at their time of need. He firmly believes that employee satisfaction goes hand in hand with the company’s ongoing and futuristic growth. Under his visionary guidance, every staff member undergoes an intensive training programme designed to equip them with all the skills and knowledge required to serve clients in today’s competitive marketplace. He reckons that a leader’s biggest strength is his team and it is important to nurture, collaborate, and promote the growth of every individual working with him.



## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

**N**iyati's distinct skills and efficiency are a result of the dedicated efforts she had put in while pursuing a Bachelors degree in Business Management, alongside an LLB from KC Law College in Mumbai. Her sharp business acumen and abilities to identify the best standards in the field of education have been the driving force which led her to create pathways of good education for the next generation. Being a curious and interested learner, she came forward with her group to provide exceptional education to the young learners.

### WORKING AT THE GRASS-ROOTS

Being closely associated with the field, Niyati had observed that there is a room for improvement in the way educational instruction is delivered to children; that is why she laid the foundation for Olive Trails. It is a preschool that offers exclusive play-based learning to toddlers and preschoolers. This method not only enables learning through fun and age-appropriate ways, but also empowers the kids to understand the concepts easily. Over the years, she has analysed meticulously to devise teaching methodologies for holistic development of the younger lot through various entertaining ways of learning. The schools aim at establishing an environment which is conducive to critical thinking, open-mindedness, and fostering imagination for a better growth. Under Niyati's aegis, RBK Institutes cater to over 10,000 students whereas Olive Trails preschool has around 1200 to 1600 toddlers and preschoolers.

### EXPANDING OPERATIONS

Niyati has been focusing on making the group expand its outreach to all the nooks and corners of India and aims to emphasize the relevance of education and thereby, bring a refined and redefined ecosystem of learning for the masses. Followed by the grand success of RBK institutions in prominent suburbs like Chembur, Dahisar, Mira Road & Bhayander in Mumbai, the RBK Educational Institutions has also spread its wings to Mahuva in Gujarat. All these schools have been imparting world-class education by implementing a comprehensive curriculum in their English medium schools. Under her leadership, RBK International Academy in Chembur has emerged as one of the few eminent International Baccalaureate World Schools which focus on developing skills that are prioritised in the internationally followed curriculum. Life skills such as problem-solving & creative thinking are imparted under this extensive program. There are numerous enriching programmes which the IB world school offers. These include the Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP) & Diploma Programme (DP). Besides this, it is also one of the few reputable institutions authorized for conducting the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). RBK institutes also provide Cambridge International Certificate of Teaching & Learning (CICTL) & Cambridge International Diploma of Teaching and Learning (CIDTL). The Mother Toddler Program from Olive Trails preschool is designed for children between 9 months -1.5 years to nurture their motor abilities, language, socio emotional skills and cognitive skills.

### NURTURING FUTURE LEADERS

Niyati has been envisioning to develop a 360 degree learning skills programme to inspire the young minds to grasp & learn new concepts conveniently. She has constantly tried to establish layouts of learning which help in unleashing and nurturing the potential of the students. Her efforts have consistently been directed at helping them to gain excellence as students as well as reliable and responsible citizens, and ultimately grow into the leaders of tomorrow.



# NIYATI KANAKIA

FACILITATING CREATIVE WAYS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

*Niyati Kanakia, the Director of RBK Educational Institutes and the Founder of Olive Trails, has been at the forefront in recognizing the significance of quality education and therefore, has been implementing some of the finest practices in the field of education*

***“NIYATI HAS BEEN FOCUSING ON MAKING THE GROUP EXPAND ITS OUTREACH TO ALL THE NOOKS AND CORNERS OF INDIA”***

**“OM HAS PERSONALLY CREATED 5,000+ BLOGS, ORGANICALLY RANKED 1,00,000+ KEYWORDS, & PUBLISHED 20,000+ ARTICLES”**



## OM THOKE

INDIA'S TOP BLOGGER TURNED SERIAL DIGITAL ENTREPRENEUR

*Om is a serial digital entrepreneur, who has been making waves in the Blogging and Digital Marketing industry since 2005. He's India's top blogger who started his career even before YouTube was acquired by Google, and there was no presence of FB, Twitter or LinkedIn in India*

**W**ith 16+ years of experience in the blogging industry, Om created Bloggers World, the only unified platform that assists all ambitious bloggers with live learning opportunities as well as all necessary resources, thus sparing them from falling prey to pointless theoretical courses. He enjoys digitally marketing every product, growing it from zero to \$1 million or more, thus, creating more success stories in India, and he has joined forces with the Green Man of India, Dr K Abdul Ghani, and Pratik Gauri, a serial impact investor, President of 5th Element Group, New York to transform Bloggers World into World's Largest Impact Blogging Network. Apart from Bloggers World, Om & Pratik have joined hands to launch Digital Scalers, helping startups, SMEs and global brands improve their digital footprint, and revenues through B2B B2C & B2G avenues. He also co-founded STM Doosra in January 2021 with Prateek Dwivedi, another veteran affiliate marketer based in Europe; STM Doosra is an official collaboration with STM Forum - the World's largest paid community of Affiliate Marketers. It serves as a guide to aspiring bloggers, SEO professionals, affiliate marketers, Indian/Asian eCommerce, etc. He also owns Xpress SEO Solutions, Apparels World, GlowWorms Ventures, and Sanshray Ventures.

### EARLY LEANINGS

Om hails from a middle-class family; he graduated from VTU, Karnataka, India with a B.E. in Electronics & Communications. Since his young days, he has shown a lot of promise. He embarked on the journey of blogging in 2006 & created a series of

car blogs until May 2011, when Google wiped out the majority of MFA (Made for AdSense) blogs, causing him to lose more than \$100,000 in AdSense revenue. But he didn't give up and continued creating blogs after blogs, eventually amassing a network of over 6000+ Blogs. He has also worked as the Global Hosting Guide for About.com from 2010-2015, which was part of NY Times, and now under DotDash Network, it has been rebranded as LifeWire.com. He has also authored articles on YourStory, BrightHub, DigitalJournal, and dozens of other leading publications.

### A START-UP MENTOR

Om is a digital and content marketing expert with 15 years of professional experience. Apart from having a decade of experience in digital marketing, web development, content writing, & managing global operations, Om also has experience in bootstrapping companies to success. He enjoys mentoring & encouraging young businesses by providing seed capital funding. By the end of this year, he intends to support more than 100 Indian

startups. With a view to assisting all aspiring bloggers and startup enthusiasts, he founded the Bloggers World University and eComm World University during the pandemic.

### SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

Om has earned several honors. He has been recognized as SEO Consultant of the Year 2017 by Silicon India, Top 10 Inspiring Leaders of 2020 by Insight Success, ETNow Leaders of Tomorrow in 2021 to name a few. He was also speaker at AdWorld 2020, and he's again speaking at AdWorld 2021, which will be the world's largest virtual digital conference of 2021, with 100+ elite speakers, and 50,000+ global audiences from May 3-5, 2021. He is also a public speaker who has spoken at prestigious international conferences such as AWA Bangkok 2019, and Payoneer Roadshow. He was also invited to Startup India, Stand Up India which took place in New Delhi in 2016 when the Hon'ble PM of India, Modi ji rolled out the Startup India Plan and a galaxy of stellar entrepreneurs had gathered.

**40 UNDER 40**

**P**ratik co-founded India Needs You, a youth-led leadership movement when he was 20 years old, and then kept launching a series of successful companies with multiple successful exits. He is currently the co-founder of 5th Element Group India, a global impact management consultancy based out of New York. He has recently launched Digital Scalers with The Green Man of India, Dr K Abdul Ghani, and India's leading blogger cum veteran digital entrepreneur Om Thoke, looking to help startups that are currently looking to grow their revenues and digital footprint through B2B, B2C, and B2G avenues. He has also created Bloggers

World - the World's Largest Impact Blogging Network with more than 6000 bloggers, giving an opportunity to aspiring impact bloggers who wish to enter this field and get live hands-on help, connect to brands and become impact millionaires. Additionally, he sits on the advisory board of multiple startups in India, the United States, Europe, and Africa.

**A FASCINATING JOURNEY**

Pratik holds an MBA from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and a Certificate in Strategic Management from the University of Chicago. He founded his first company in the education sector when he was only 16 years old. Since then, there has been no looking back for Pratik. He has come a long way and created eight businesses, all in diverse sectors and geographies. Pratik has also worked for several Fortune 500 companies, including Reckitt Benckiser.

**A MULTI-TALENTED LEADER**

Pratik is a public TEDx speaker; the

dynamic leader has delivered over 150 speeches in 30 countries. He is also a social media influencer with a huge fan base and verified profiles on Insta & FB with over quarter million followers. The multi-talented personality is also skilled in writing. His incredible works have been covered by Forbes, World Economic Forum, Entrepreneur, Real Leaders magazine, NASDAQ, The Climate Reality Project, etc.

**A SOCIALLY-CONSCIOUS CHANGE MAKER**

Pratik is creating the 5th Industrial Revolution where humans and technology will dance together to create positive impact. He intends to use his startups as a means of creating positive changes in society. In order to transform the world around him into a better place for all, Pratik aims at helping underprivileged people escape poverty by providing them with quality healthcare, clean drinking water, and education.

**AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

Pratik has received many distinguished awards and honors for his works and creating a positive impact. He was named Creative Entrepreneur of the Year 2020 - by Entrepreneur India magazine in the startup category. He was also named Entrepreneur of the year 2020 by the Indian Achievers' Forum in the same year. He has also been recognized as Entrepreneur 35 under 35, ETNow Leaders of Tomorrow, Greenbiz Global 30 Under 30, British Petroleum Scholar, World Economic Forum Global Shaper, Ambassador at One Young World, Al Gore's Climate Leader, Fellow at Startup Leadership Program, Winner of UNLEASH 2019, Asia's top 50 Voices by Earth Day Network, and Changemaker at Global Action on Poverty.

What's more, Pratik has also been invited to several prestigious convenings such as World Economic Forum in Davos, Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Oslo, Skoll World Forum in Oxford, BRICS Civil Forum in Moscow, and United Nations in New York. His works have been funded by One Young World, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Desmond Tutu, Justin Trudeau, Emma Watson, among others.



**PRATIK GAURI**

MAKING SOCIAL IMPACT THE CORE OF HIS BUSINESS

*An accomplished serial social entrepreneur cum investor from Delhi, India, Pratik is renowned as Creator of 5th Industrial Revolution. He is truly a global youth icon who has carved a niche for himself with his unwavering zeal and dedication. He has launched 8 startups that are making a positive impact in India and the world*

***“PRATIK INTENDS TO USE HIS STARTUPS AS A MEANS OF CREATING POSITIVE CHANGES IN SOCIETY”***

**“RAGHURAMAN HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN CONCEPTUALIZING RAP’S GROUNDBREAKING SOLUTIONS”**



# RAGHURAMAN RAMAMURTHY

GOING FULL STEAM AHEAD

*Raghuraman Ramamurthy is the Founder and CEO of Rapid Acceleration Partners (RAP), a full-service sales enablement company that offers practical Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled solutions for digital business transformation. Under his leadership, RAP has been making waves in the sector*

**A**n MBA in Finance and Marketing, Raghuraman founded RAP with his longtime friend and fellow serial entrepreneur Baskar Agneeswaran, and Ramesh Kumar who is a veteran in Silicon Valley and Indian startups. RAP is the first generic IPA platform to be fully developed by an Indian company. In addition to reducing market time for many solutions, RAP’s products are intended to democratize artificial intelligence for most SMBs.

Raghuraman has been instrumental in conceptualizing RAP’s groundbreaking solutions, driving the vision for the product. Owing to his relentless efforts, RAP is breaking ground in the developed market besides competing with several leading global Intelligent Process Automation (IPA) platforms successfully. RAP’s IPA platform has processed over 10 million transactions to date.

### AN EFFECTIVE TEAM PLAYER

Raghuraman believes that effective corporate governance begins with a consistent organizational strategy. While establishing the company, he and his partners agreed not to restrict themselves in terms of selecting and partnering with top-tier auditors, enforcement firms, lawyers, and other professionals.

He does not interfere with operational issues, which are solely managed by the finance and legal departments of the company. This way, he ensures he has little impact on matters pertaining to best practices. He also immediately acknowledges sound expert advice in his team and does not prevent them

from practicing emerging trends. He has given full freedom to his team to perform beyond what they think they are capable of performing.

He credits all his accomplishments to his team members who work tirelessly to make RAP a successful company. He never steps back from putting them in the forefront, allowing them to take on responsibilities. RAP’s positive work culture allows its employees to grow very fast and enhance their learning at a rate that they would have never imagined.

### GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Raghuraman places a high emphasis on corporate social responsibility. Under his leadership, RAP provides its platforms to NGOs and religious charities for free or at a very low cost. Additionally, RAP has worked together with several organizations on pro bono projects for social causes.

He also devotes some of his time to educating individuals, mentoring students in his network, and collaborating

with college students on employability and other industry-related activities. It is his way of giving back to society what he has learned from industry colleagues by exposing students to the knowledge so that they can become better individuals and secure jobs of their choice.

### TOWERING ACHIEVEMENTS

Several awards and accolades have been bestowed upon Raghuraman in recognition of his achievements. He has been recognized as CIO Insider’s 10 Most Recommended RPA Solution Providers 2021.

Under his leadership, RAP has been recognized by several prestigious publications, viz., Analytics Insights Magazine’s “Top 10 Most Valuable Digital Transformation Companies” (in 2020), and CIO Review Magazine’s “Top 10 Most Promising Robotic Process Automation Solution Providers (2020).” What’s more, Raghuraman was also honored as the Best Young Manager in the year 2008 by Madras Management Association.



## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

**R**ishab studied Business Marketing from Suffolk University, Massachusetts, USA. He had been quite keen from the very beginning to pursue his passion for aviation. Along with taking care of his father's tea business, he visualized a business in the Aerospace and Defense sector, offering benchmark quality and unique value. Establishing Rossell Techsys in 2011, he began working to set the Rossell brand synonymous with quality in the field of aerospace manufacturing.

### ACCOMPLISHING MULTIPLE GOALS

Rishab's passion and pioneering vision set him on the path to accomplish new challenges. Once he established the company, he embarked on his mission to set up a highly skilled team to help him achieve his goals. The journey started with appointing a CEO who could meet his criteria of having a similar passion and zest to bring about innovations in the aviation business. Together with the CEO, he had envisioned achieving the first-decade milestone of INR 150 - 160 crore revenue by the turn of 2021. Thanks to the dedicated teamwork and excellent management skills, the target was accomplished sooner than estimated- in the year 2020. He has now embarked on a high growth journey that includes expanding Rossell's global footprint in the USA, Europe and in some countries in the East. With so much on the anvil, the company aims to attain revenue of INR 2000 crore, by the turn of the next decade.

### ON AN UPWARD CURVE

With humble beginnings in a small nondescript building of 4,000 sq. ft., Rossell Techsys today has its office spread across 2,25,000 square feet. Efficiently continuing his exhilarating and truly gratifying journey, he looks forward to upholding the faith of his customers by working harder on his business. The company is never focused on commercials. It is always "finish and finesse" built on quality and in turn reinforcing credibility. He is a firm believer that credibility is the backbone for any successful business, the cornerstone for building higher value for customers and eventually tangible gains for shareholders.

### BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW

Besides accomplishing one business objective after another, Rishab ensures that they are in sync with nature and society. He believes that businesses need to be more responsible in how they treat the world, environment, resources and people. With the 'Go Green' initiative, the company instills awareness on conserving the environment. The company has been awarded the IGBC certification with the 'Gold' rating for its commitment to creating futuristic workspaces. Under the 'Skill India' program, the organization looks to strengthen employment in the region. By ensuring gender balance and work opportunities for the differently abled, the enterprise efficiently furthers its policy of inclusion. Apart from these initiatives, he has taken steps in the direction of welfare of the economically weaker sections of the society by tying up with NGOs to render healthcare services and education to the needy.

### AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

M Rishab's leadership skills and his drive for excellence have been recognized on many occasions. While he always knew his efforts would pay off, he may not have expected them to come together in such a huge way. He and his team were delighted to receive 'the Boeing Supplier of the Year' Award twice in 5 years. This makes them the only Indian company to have received this award, not once, but twice.



# RISHAB GUPTA

FRESH IMPRINTS IN AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE INDUSTRY

*Rishab Gupta is the Director of Rossell India Limited and takes personal interest in Rossell Techsys, the Aerospace & Defense division of Rossell India Ltd., in Bengaluru. With an empathetic & vibrant approach, he has championed the growth of the unit into a successful integrated engineering & manufacturing entity*

***"UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, ROSSELL TECHSYS HAS RECEIVED 'THE BOEING SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR' AWARD TWICE IN 5 YEARS"***



## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

***“A COMPASSIONATE  
ENTREPRENEUR, SHILPA  
SUPPORTS SOME OF THE  
HIGHLY SKILLED ARTISANS  
OF THE NATION”***



# SHILPA MITTAL

SHINING BRIGHT WITH GLORY

*Ms. Shilpa Mittal is a celebrity jewellery designer who is renowned for her impeccable and award-winning jewellery collections such as “Aakriti” and “Taraash.” The Jaipur-based entrepreneur and fashion diva was also the winner of Mrs. India Universe in the year 2019*

**S**hilpa began her career with a jewelry manufacturing company in Bangkok after completing her degree in jewellery designing from SNTD in Mumbai. She was very clear about the fact that she wanted to pursue jewellery designing over fashion designing because she adores the detailed, delicate, and meticulous handwork that goes into creating jewellery pieces.

She relied on her instincts and judgment to put her business ideas into action. She also worked tirelessly to foray into the jewellery design industry, eventually developing her brand and establishing a thriving company based on her passion and knowledge in the field. All the struggles have helped her evolve into a motivated, confident and humble person.

### INNOVATING EXCELLENCE

Shilpa claims that fear is the greatest impediment to success; thus, she never lets it get the better of her. The bold entrepreneur is never afraid of trying new things or experimenting with new ideas. She never sets limits for herself and is always looking for new opportunities to challenge herself. It is her courage and self-confidence that motivate her to stand strong even in the face of adversity.

She has always been optimistic about her aesthetic jewellery collections. She believes in her ability to innovate and create something truly extraordinary for her clients. A lot of thinking, planning, and hard work goes into each of her creations which does not cause her to question her ability or choices. Her collection “Aakriti”

is an example of a unique collection that grew out of sheer curiosity.

Shilpa places a high value on quality and honesty in her work, ensuring that each piece she produces becomes a priceless possession for its owner. At the same time, she ensures that her eye-catching creations make her clients feel exhilarated.

As a business owner, Shilpa is always looking for new ways to provide value to her customers. In response to the current pandemic situation and rising gold prices, she created the affordable “Shagun” collection wherein lightweight gold pieces in gorgeous geometrical patterns highlight the contemporary trends welded with India’s vibrant culture. She also emphasizes exceptional customer service to provide her customers with a one-of-a-kind purchasing experience.

The exquisite and delicate craftsmanship shown by Indian artisans never fails to fascinate her. Her collections – TARAASH” and “AAKRITI” – feature designs that reflect her unwavering commitment to ethnicity, values, and

tradition. Her designs never fail to represent India’s diverse cultures and art forms admirably. Additionally, she looks for beauty and inspiration in everything, even the tiniest detail of nature.

A compassionate entrepreneur, she supports some of the highly skilled artisans of the nation. Since many of them are falling behind in terms of technology and innovation, she works to empower them and provide them with more work and opportunity for growth.

### GARNERING GLORY

Shilpa’s designs have not only made an indelible impression on her clients, but also have helped her win multiple awards. Her first jewellery exhibition, which took place in Delhi, was a big hit. Many prestigious awards were bestowed upon her for her innovative designs, including the Best Jewellery Designer and Businesswoman award by India leadership awards. What’s more, her endeavors have also earned her the prestigious “Women Entrepreneur of the Year” by National Excellence Award.

40 UNDER 40

**A**fter completing his Honor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Liverpool in 2010, Tejas joined his family-owned business Jayalakshmi Group, which has a strong foundation in commercial real estate, warehousing, and renewable energy sector. When he joined the group, they had roughly 50,000 square feet of Commercial assets under management at the outset, with a couple of high-profile IT tenants.

Between 2010 and 2014, with his unwavering efforts, Tejas built and added 90,000 sq ft. of assets with clients

ranging from Fintech, Data Centers, Medical Research, and E-commerce. After establishing a foothold in the commercial real estate sector, the young leader focused on expanding into the coworking sector. Under his direction, JG began exploring the coworking segment in 2017, beginning with a 3,000 sq ft pilot project that has now grown to a massive 63,000 sq ft and is still growing. His coworking space strategy was to cater to 90% MNCs and 10% start-ups, allowing the group to secure consistent revenue in a turbulent industry.

**A GREEN LEADER**

Tejas is an ecologically concerned leader who seeks long-term solutions to reduce carbon emissions while shifting to a clean energy economy. Under his proactive leadership, the group entered the renewable energy industry as a separate wing of JG, where it produced 2MW of wind energy for captive and non-captive use, thereby, reducing the group's overall

carbon footprint. This thoughtful initiative not only aided in the creation of a diverse portfolio for the firm but also contributed to the profitability of this segment of the business within the second year of its inception. His desire to create and offer the best real estate product led him to blend sustainability and efficiency in his designs, resulting in a one-of-a-kind customer experience for the clients. His green initiative has aided in the development of a brand image for sustainable office space design besides setting the standard for all future projects.

**GARNERING GLORY**

His passion for green energy has earned the group nationwide recognition. In 2017, JG was nominated for Design & Architecture Award 2017 by NDTV in the interior office category. In 2019, Tejas took charge of the most ambitious project to date: the development of a 5,00,000-square-foot tech park in Bangalore to be known as JTP (Jayalakshmi Tech Park). "We made this a Gold standard LEED certified project due to our strong interest in environmental sustainability," he says. Around 350 trees will be planted inside the tech park as part of the project and ensure carbon positive environment.

**EMPHASIZES STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP**

Even though COVID-19 has impacted the realty sector, his flexible leasing strategies have helped JG to stay cash flow positive during these tough times. During the pandemic, the company not only maintained a steady revenue without shrinking but also successfully increased its client base by 18%, resulting in a 22% rise in overall revenue.

**A BENEVOLENT SOUL**

An accomplished business leader, environmentalist, as well as a philanthropist, Tejas never fails to stun us with his intriguing multifold characteristics. By making every aspect of the business sustainable, the leader has been driving positive change for all. He credits his success to his family members, who have always pushed him to follow his heart and value quality over profit margins.



**TEJAS NIRANJANI**

SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

*Tejas Niranjani, the Director of Jayalakshmi Group (JG), is a dynamic, results-oriented leader with a proven track record of performance forged over 12 years. Utilizing his insights and keen analysis, the young leader has taken the group to new heights of success by venturing into varied sectors*

***"UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, THE GROUP ENTERED THE RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY, MAKING ALL JAYALAKSHMI GROUP PROPERTIES CARBON POSITIVE"***



## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

**“HE HAS 15 + YEARS OF GLOBAL EXPERIENCE IN EXECUTING STRATEGIES IN ASSET MANAGEMENT, INVESTMENTS, & FINANCIAL SERVICES”**



# VARIS SAYED

MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT

*Varis Sayed is the Co-Founder and Group CEO at UAE-based FINCASA Capital, a global financial advisory firm offering Citizenship and Residency Investment Immigration Solutions. Under his exemplary leadership, the organization has been continually witnessing colossal growth*

**V**aris grew up in Vadodara, Gujarat (India). In 2011, he moved to Dubai (UAE) – the world’s most dynamic, future-forward business ecosystem. He possesses a Master’s Degree in Commerce & Business Administration, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Commerce.

The Certified Financial Planner is also a Wealth Manager, Investment Analysis & Portfolio Manager, Capital Market & Financial Market, Derivative & Securities, Mutual Funds Distributor & Insurance Advisor. Also, he has a CISI certification in UAE for rules & regulations for the Emirates Securities & Commodities Authority. He is also a Bloomberg Certified-Equity, Fixed income, Forex & Commodities professional.

### FOCUSED ON STRATEGIC EXPANSION

Varis is the Founder of Fincasa Ventures and also plays a vital role in giving FINCASA Capital an international presence. In less than 5 years, it has grown from one office to five offices including main office in Dubai, Branch offices in Cyprus, Canada, Peru and Greece. Fincasa has partnered with His Highness Sheikh Juma Bin Ahmed Bin Juma Al Maktoum, Member of Ruling Royal Family of Dubai. Global Women Empowerment Summit 2019 was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Juma, which was dedicated to the best female professional practices in the region. Fincasa Capital sponsored this event by supporting the “Woman everything” initiative. He believes that the firm’s incredible culture is the key to its ground-breaking success. The values-driven leader aims at developing and reinforcing a business model that

cares equally for its clients, workforce, stakeholders as well as partners. His priority is to create and sustain a business model that inspires everyone in FINCASA to build a client-centered business.

### RAISING THE BAR

Varis has over 15 years of global experience in developing & executing strategies in asset management, investments, & financial services. He demonstrates superior abilities in business development & management. He also has a strong skill set for investment banking, asset management, insurance, product & team management. The visionary leader is also known for his excellence-driven approach. His constant focus on excellence helps him raise the bar & maintain the quality of his work. He has extensive expertise in launching a variety of companies globally. He also fulfils his responsibility as the co-founder of Medley Capital & Key Investments. He promotes FDI & FII across North & Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, & the Middle East, & also specializes in

cross-border international investment & investment migration. He is also a serial entrepreneur and has started investing in new companies including Hollywood films and also expanding Fincasa Ventures. He is currently the board member in Medley Capital, Finco, FidentiaX, Bluechip Capital, Seguro Group, Arlo Associates, Key Investments, etc. What’s more, he also acts as a judge & an investor in various start-up events and competitions.

### A SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS LEADER

Varis is equally passionate about FINCASA Capital’s approach to CSR. He regularly initiates numerous philanthropic activities across the globe. He believes that improving communities has a direct bearing on the success of the firm and its employees. He also holds that he has a duty towards the people he works with within the it. Apart from contributing to social welfare activities, he also designs and implements several CSR initiatives. He stands tall among his peers for his stellar contributions. He is indeed a leader who walks the talk.

**40 UNDER 40**

**M**r. Nagaich, an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur (one of the most prestigious technical institutes in the country), began his professional journey in 2001. He has a rich and varied work experience of over 18 years across diverse streams in the education and technology sectors. For almost 9 years, Mr. Nagaich played a pivotal role in developing and designing software. It was then that he realized his passion for education could be fueled by his technical expertise and entrepreneurial acumen. Thus, he began a passionate journey into

the field of education. He started his first venture, Innovate Edu in 2009, which was designed to enhance the teaching and learning experience in engineering colleges in India. He developed a cloud-based, technology-enabled classroom that aided online lectures with high-end 2D and 3D multimedia animations. He multi-managed product design, development and sales as well as marketing at Innovate Edu. Three years later, he shifted his focus to transform K-8 education.

**E-DAC DIGITAL – AN ENHANCED LEARNING SYSTEM**

E-DAC Learning System (Now known as E-DAC Digital) was founded in 2016. Over a period of 5 years, it's scientifically designed and structured curriculum enhanced the teaching and learning experience across 1,400 schools, touching the lives of 500,000+ children and aiding the teaching process of 40,000+ teachers. E-DAC Learning

also uses the E-DAC Analytics System and E-DAC Parent Growth Initiatives. Mr. Nagaich also introduced the first ever Customized Experiential Implementation Road Map and The National iTeach Contest. It's pioneer work in K8 Education led to being awarded as "Fastest Growing K8 Curriculum Company" at Global Educators Fest.

**ADAPTING TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS**

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented an unprecedented challenge to the education sector. Mr. Nagaich invested his expertise and rose to the challenge by transforming E-DAC with the launch of E-DAC Digital, a cloud-based e-School. Now described as the 'brick school with a click-enabling affordable education for all students,' the e-school helps teachers with all resources to initiate a superior online teaching experience in just 60 minutes. E-DAC Digital is creating safe, engaging and exciting online learning experience for students, which helps them develop conceptual clarity, application and problem-solving skills. Mr. Nagaich and his dedicated team have empowered schools to continue quality teaching – learning processes in pure online, hybrid mode or pure classroom mode, as per the situation and requirement of the time. The focus is on giving children the opportunity to learn through their environment, express themselves and continue to enhance their life skills in these tough times. The E-DAC Digital Summer Programme 'Learning Safari' has created a buzz with thousands of enthusiastic students across the country participating and showcasing their creative skills. Online teaching has also been enhanced by platforms like 'Powerclass' and 'Teacher Skills Enhancement Programs.'

**WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION**

The education ecosphere has been greatly enriched by the expertise, vision and transformational initiatives of Mr. Nagaich. His journey of redefining the learning structure to bring out the inherent potential in each child and teacher is appreciable. His efforts have been acknowledged and E-DAC Digital was awarded with 'Most Promising e-School Platform' in 2021.



**VIKRAM NAGAICH**

FACILITATING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THROUGH E-DAC DIGITAL

*Vikram Nagaich, the Founder and CEO of E-DAC Digital, is an innovator par excellence. He has not only redefined the education sector but has effectively strengthened, enhanced and expanded it by making education enriching, accessible and affordable to all*

***"HE INTRODUCED THE FIRST EVER CUSTOMIZED EXPERIENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION ROAD MAP AND THE NATIONAL ITEACH CONTEST"***



## YOUNG ASIAN ENTREPRENEURS

**“UNDER HIS GUIDANCE, CARTULA INDIA HAS EXCEEDED A TURNOVER OF 500K IN ITS FIRST 2 YEARS OF OPERATIONS”**



# VIMAL PRAKASH V.

REMODELLING THE INDIAN HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

*Mr. Vimal Prakash V. is the Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Cartula Health India. Established in 2019, it is a part of the house of Cartula International, an organization offering services in the healthcare sector worldwide*

**M**r. Prakash has always been inclined towards contributing to the advancement of the healthcare sector in India. He has over 16 years of experience working across multinational organizations in the Asia Pacific region. He has extraordinary capabilities in business development and follows an analytical as well as methodical approach. A business leader with an excellent work history, he has successfully set up two factories in Sydney and Melbourne each. His firms have recruited over 2,000 staff for diverse corporate houses.

### LEADING BY EXAMPLE

It was on a visit to India that Mr. Prakash noticed a widening gap between the people belonging to rural backgrounds and good medical services. Although the healthcare facilities have improved over the years, the rural areas are largely underserved. Apart from being a motivated entrepreneur, he is also a changemaker who strives hard to construct a better world for all individuals. With the innovations at Cartula Health India, he aspires to offer medical support with the help of best-in-class applications and technological tools.

Mr. Prakash noticed that in India, 75% of medical care visits are to private providers of which 62% are in metros. He also realized that private medical care is costly, almost unregulated and inconsistent in terms of quality. Also, seeking private medical care is unreasonably expensive for the rural population. Through Cartula,

Mr. Prakash aims to fill this void in the healthcare space.

He believes that a better healthcare future can be made available for everyone through collective contribution. Cartula’s advanced applications and equipped arrangements provide telemedicine solutions that have been designed with a level of sensitivity. In the times to come, the company wishes to provide services like blood donation centers, emergency vehicles, pathology and a lot more. All these services will be accessible through the Cartula application. In the next five years, he visualizes millions of people utilizing these applications and carrying on with sound lives, which he views as an extraordinary accomplishment on a personal level.

### OFFERING SKILL-ENHANCING PROGRAMMES

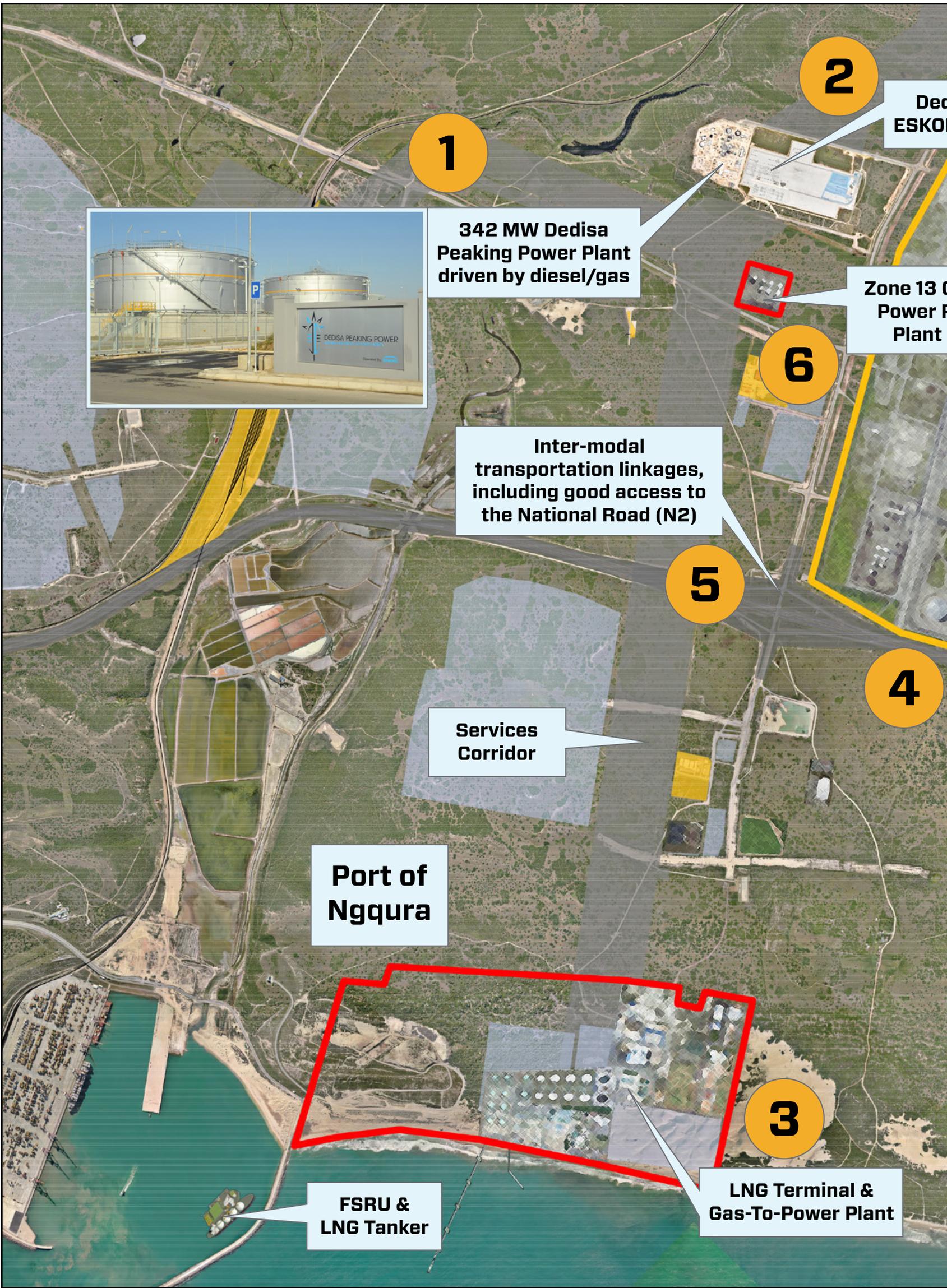
Mr. Prakash is extremely passionate about tutoring university undergraduates, showing them new abilities and offering help to them. He also offers student internships for providing additional support. Through

his established network in esteemed organizations based in Sydney, he also embraces work in helping individuals with disabilities. He considers this as his social responsibility.

He works intimately with both Australian and Indian colleges and universities to put up a multi-cultural backdrop for studying, empowering students to encounter different and new situations. He has been offering skill-enhancing projects and temporary positions to over 2,000 specialists. These efforts are targeted to provide ample job opportunities for as many people as possible.

### DRIVING GROWTH

Under his guidance, Cartula India has seen tremendous growth by exceeding a turnover of 500K in its first 2 years of operations. He has worked towards establishing eminent corporate relationships with some of the top names in the corporate world. He has managed projects from companies such as Fuji Electric, Sharp, Samsung, Nestle, Siemens, and JVC among other important names.



**1**



**342 MW Dedisa Peaking Power Plant driven by diesel/gas**

**2**

**Deco ESKOM**

**6**

**Zone 13 C Power Plant**

**Inter-modal transportation linkages, including good access to the National Road (N2)**

**5**

**Services Corridor**

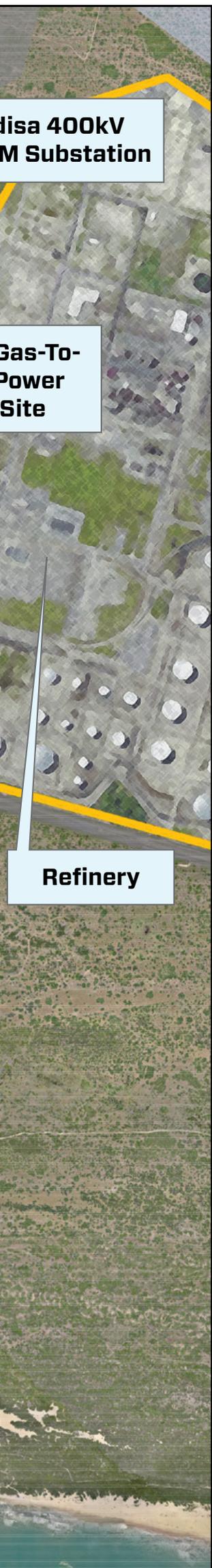
**4**

**Port of Ngqura**

**3**

**FSRU & LNG Tanker**

**LNG Terminal & Gas-To-Power Plant**



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asia one

Research by: United Research Services  
Asian Business & Social Forum 2021

**A**CCA is a global organization with 110 offices and centers, 7,571 Authorized Employers, and 328 approved learning providers that offer high-quality learning and development. The organization helps its 219,000 members and 527,000 students (including affiliates) in 179 countries build successful careers in accounting and business by providing them with the skills employers need.

### ACCA MIDDLE EAST

Headquartered in London, United Kingdom, ACCA's Middle East operations (11 Countries) are managed out of Dubai (UAE). ACCA Middle East has more than 20,000 members, affiliates, and students across the region working in all industries and at all levels of business in the region. ACCA Middle East, led by Ms. Fazeela Gopalani, serves as a thought leader and conversation starter for all things related to accounting and finance. The association

aims at raising awareness of the value that professionally qualified accountants bring to businesses and economies across the region.

### OFFERING MULTIPLE STUDY OPTIONS

ACCA provides a variety of full-time and part-time study options. Learning with ACCA Middle East is easy and flexible because participants get to study at their own pace and at a time that is convenient to them. It has implemented significant innovations to its flagship certification to ensure that current and potential members are the most valuable, up-to-date, and sought-after accountants in the world. The association has a strong partnership with regulators, corporate leaders, allies, and the ACCA Middle East stakeholder network. ACCA encourages appropriate regulation of accounting and performs relevant research to ensure accountancy continues to rise in reputation and impact.

### INSPIRING THE NEW GENERATION

ACCA inspires new generations to not only appreciate the value of the almost pandemic-proof profession, but also the significant role a professionally trained accountant plays in building economies, by working closely with many educational institutions and government bodies across the Middle East. It aims at inspiring the next generation to embrace and pursue a career in accountancy and finance, while also highlighting the significance of a financial literacy agenda being embedded at a young age. It also provides insights and tools that enable the next generation to learn some of the most important skills that employers seek, such as creativity, communication, and collaboration, as well as empathy and emotional intelligence; and the ability to collaborate across demographic lines to harness collective power through effective teamwork.

### PROMOTING GREEN FINANCE

ACCA is a staunch supporter of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. With its ceaseless efforts, it has been helping address the different global challenges the world faces. The association believes that it is through professional education that accountants can help accelerate the transition to a carbon-free environment. Sustainability and green finance are essential components of ACCA's world-class credential and members' ongoing professional development.



# THE ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS (ACCA)

## MOULDING NEXTGEN ACCOUNTANTS

*The world's largest professional accounting firm, ACCA provides business-relevant, first-choice certification to talented individuals who choose to work in accountancy, finance, or management. Since its inception in 1904, it has adhered to a set of core values including opportunity, diversity, innovation, integrity, & accountability*



# AL-SHAHEEN TECHNICAL CONTRACTING COMPANY

## CREATING RIPPLES OF PROGRESS ACROSS KUWAIT

*Al-Shaheen Technical Contracting Company, W.L.L (ASTC) is a renowned firm that works in the fields of engineering, management, construction and maintenance. It excels in electro-mechanical, civil construction and maintenance projects and is one of the fastest emerging companies in Kuwait*

**A**l-Shaheen caters to different sectors like Power, Oil, Gas as well as Industrial and Housing sector. It undertakes and executes civil and general construction work, electrical, mechanical works and trading.

Apart from being a renowned interior solutions and rental equipment provider, the firm is also involved in manpower supply services to companies. Through its services, the company has always aimed at providing the best solutions and has ensured quality outcomes for its clients. Its civil division has specialized in building projects for the government as well as the private sector including MEW substations, control rooms, process and utility stations.

Apart from its civil and mechanical expertise, the company has carved a niche for itself in outstanding electro-mechanical, HVAC and instrumentation works. From providing end-to-end

electrical installation to taking care of the maintenance and project management requirements, its adept team oversees every detail. Al-Shaheen's previous projects in Interior Design and Space Planning have been beautifully executed and completed. It provides end-to-end solutions including assessing client requirements and following it up with detailed data collection. It offers competitive prices and ensures the completion of the projects well within the stipulated timeline, which gives the organization an edge over its competitors.

### GOALS AND STRATEGIES

After successfully establishing itself in the region, Al-Shaheen's management aims to scale greater heights in the future. The company is looking forward to growing and expanding the business. By developing and strengthening the bond with its client companies, Al-Shaheen is keeping its focus on working with integrity and is setting the ground

for future prospects with new clients as well. Besides, the robust body of work that the company has built in the last 10 years speaks volumes about its efficiency and adeptness.

Al-Shaheen's strategies revolve around its core values and exceptional services, the adherence to which has led the organization as well as its clients towards profitability. To provide assistance to the best of its capabilities and exceed client expectations has been its vision since its establishment. The mission of the organization is to offer remarkable resources and facilities with the help of advanced technology and innovation.

### AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Over the last few years, Al-Shaheen has established its presence as an upcoming and efficient privately-owned contracting companies as well as sub-contracting and industrial service providers in the country. Al-Shaheen's efforts, to deliver only the best, have been recognized and rewarded at various platforms.

It was selected for the International Star of Leadership in Quality Award, Paris, in the year 2011. This award was given in recognition of its commitment to quality, leadership, innovation and technology. Many awards have followed ever since and many are on the anvil for this growing firm.

**B**anque Misr is among the world's most trusted and successful financial institutions, providing the fastest and most efficient services to customers. A pioneer of Islamic Banking, it is the first Egyptian bank to establish branches for conducting Islamic banking transactions (Kenana) throughout the Arab Republic of Egypt. It has the largest network of branches in Egypt, together with a global presence in the UAE,

Lebanon, France, Germany, China, Russia, South Korea (Seoul) and Italy (Milan). Banque Misr has set a plan, which entails expanding our global outreach to include Somalia "Mogadishu", Kenya "Nairobi" and some other African countries.

**FOCUSED ON NATION BUILDING**

Banque Misr has been working efficiently towards driving a positive change in the nation. It offers a dynamic suite of investment banking & advisory services to

microfinance projects in multiple sectors such as agriculture, livestock, poultry, fisheries & transportation. It is also the preferred financial ally of top commercial service providers, liberal professions & medical, clinical & pharmaceutical industries - among others. It supports environment-friendly activities & projects for clean energy transformation (natural gas). It also operates 8 funds & deals with the largest fund & portfolio management companies. It provides development-oriented and profitable investment & funding opportunities to customers & strives for excellence in customer service. Schemes like "Nilepreneurs" encourage promising young entrepreneurs to adopt innovative ideas and contribute towards nation-building. The Bank has partnered with the Ministry of Local Development to launch "Mashrouak" initiative and to finance small & micro enterprises via the 'one-window' initiative throughout Egypt. Banque Misr Foundation for Community Development (BMFCD) is a catalyst for effective CSR.

**LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY**

Banque Misr takes the lead in providing state-of-the-art digital services, being the first bank to supply the Chatbot service with artificial intelligence technology. It also introduced QR code technology for electronic payments, updated BM mobile, and Internet banking service (BM online), in addition to BM Wallet.

**WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION**

It achieved an advanced ranking on the list of best 1000 banks from The Banker magazine – "Financial Times"; and several awards from Global Brands magazine as follows: "Best Retail Banking Brand–Egypt 2020"; Best Customer-Centric Banking Brand – Egypt 2020" & "Best Corporate Banking Brand – Egypt" for 2019 & 2020. This is in addition to "Banking Brand of the Year –Egypt" from Global Banking & Finance Review; "Innovative Digital Bank of the Year – MENA 2020" from The European magazine"; "Most Innovative Bank – Egypt 2021" from International Investor magazine; "Most Innovative Digital Bank – Egypt 2020" & "Fastest Growing Banking Transactions Bank – Egypt 2020" from The Global Economics. It also received "Best Regional Bank of the Year" award for the Belt & Road Initiative 2020" for the third consecutive year from Asia Money–Euro Money.



# BANQUE MISR

**LEADING TODAY AND DEFINING TOMORROW**

*Since its inception in 1920, Banque Misr has grown into an innovative, progressive and trusted financial institution that offers in-depth services on investments, savings and socioeconomic development. It has been efficiently operating with an unwavering focus on everyone's greater good*



## DANGOTE CEMENT

**TRANSFORMING LIVES BY CREATING SUSTAINABLE VALUE**

*Dangote Cement is the rising star of African cement manufacturing industry. The company that started operations back in 1981 has now reached a stage where it is sub-Saharan Africa's leading cement company a production capacity of 48.6 million tonnes per year across ten countries*

**A**liko Dangote started Dangote Cement in 1981 as a trading business that initially only focused on importation of bagged cement and commodities such as rice, sugar, flour & salt. Under Mr. Dangote's able leadership it grew from a small setup to being the largest cement producer in the sub-Saharan Africa. Not only that, he made his way into the Forbes World's Billionaires List. Mr. Dangote, with his hard work & determination became Africa's richest man & made his company one of the most enviable brands in the entire sub-continent.

### GRABBING THE OPPORTUNITY

During a trip to Brazil to study the emerging manufacturing sector, Mr. Dangote was convinced to make a transition from trading-based business to a fully integrated manufacturing operation. There was a clear gap for a manufacturing entity at the time in the market which he sought to fill. This was the beginning of the ambitious

dream to become Africa's leading cement producer. The Group embarked on an ambitious construction programme, initially focused on the construction of flour mills, a sugar refinery & a pasta factory. In 2000 it acquired the Benue Cement Company Plc from the Nigerian government & in 2003 commissioned the Obajana Cement Plant; the largest cement plant in sub-Saharan Africa.

### BUILDING ON STRONG VALUES

Dangote Cement is high on values and ethics. The company's leadership devised 7 sustainability pillars in 2017 that dictate how the company should function to attain the best possible results and so that every segment benefits. These pillars were drafted with a mandate "operationalise sustainability". It was a vow to imbibe sustainability in every part of the business. The 7 ethos, as they are referred to internally, cut across all aspects of business. Some key values that form majority of these ethos include imbibed

at all levels of the firm include - selling high-quality products at affordable prices; strong governance; having cost-effective, modern production; ensuring teamwork, integrity, inclusion & meritocracy within the firm. The final sustainability pillar addresses the environment. It states that the firm shall optimize energy efficiency, water usage & emission control so as to address climate change.

### GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Dangote Cement is also known to be forerunner in philanthropy. Mr. Dangote founded his private charitable foundation in 1994. The Aliko Dangote Foundation (ADF) is dedicated to support health, education, and economic empowerment initiatives. It has grown to be the largest private foundation in sub-Saharan Africa. Dangote's Foundation also partnered with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2013 to eradicate polio & strengthen routine immunizations throughout the country. Recently, in August 2020, the entire African continent celebrated its official certification as free of wild polio. He is a name synonymous with hard work and ethical business standards. It is a company that stands for growth that takes everyone along with it. The leadership has ensured that when the firm progresses, the whole country prospers. With operations in 10 African countries, Dangote Cement has proven its allegiance to local communities. It is truly a name that has built its throne.

**O**wned by an industry expert, Manoj Reinsurance Brokers Ltd. has been progressing because of strong leadership and the efforts of its learned and dedicated team members. Owing to the valuable experience Mr. Manoj earned in his earlier roles at audit firms in India and 18 years in Bahrain as insurance/reinsurance broker, the company has been making great strides. After working as a reinsurance broker for nearly 10 years, he

established his brand in DIFC, Dubai. In 2020, he established Manoj Reinsurance Brokers Ltd, which is catching up with the industry and looking up with optimism to present its best to the world.

#### VALUING VALUES

Mr. Manoj believes in encouraging the young professionals and calls for investing in skill development and hiring freshers. As an experienced professional, he advises that clarity, discipline, and passion should

be the most valued virtues while setting on the journey of professional growth. Managing oneself with a clear vision combined with hard work and smartness are the key takeaways from his life. He believes that a right attitude and a great gratitude can be instrumental in going from strength to strength. He feels every goal can be achieved simply by implementing these aspects and being patient as success is not an overnight occurrence.

#### CRUCIAL STEPS AMIDST THE PANDEMIC

Despite the fact that many organizations got shut down because of the pandemic-led economic downfall, Manoj Reinsurance Brokers, managed to stay afloat and support its employees financially. The times have been tough for all sectors, yet the firm chose to hold its chin up, passing on the confidence to its employees as well. The company has been busy boosting the morale of its skilled teams by giving them bonuses and gifts throughout the year.

Some of the employees have also been rewarded with increased package, which has come as a big relief in the trying times. Moreover, the teams have received a unique New Year gift in the form of a life insurance program wherein the employee is the independent owner of the life insurance, and the company pays the premiums as long as they are working with them. Even when the employee leaves the company, they can continue the plan on their own, without any increase in the premiums. (Generally, companies give employees life insurance under the companies group cover, and it will get terminated when the employee leaves). Moreover, the firm has dedicated 5% of their annual profits for CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), as a mandatory item in their yearly budgets.

#### EXPANDING HORIZONS

With ambitious expansion plans, Manoj Reinsurance Brokers, is working zealously to set up regional offices in Asia, Middle East, and Africa. The strategies are in line with the firm's goal to gain a strong foothold in the Middle Eastern, Asian, and African markets by 2030. With its customer-centric values & principles, the firm aims to become an ideal for its competitors as well as supporters. With the industry veterans as its guiding light, Manoj Reinsurance Brokers, is anticipated to emerge as the most preferred partner for insurance companies on their reinsurance needs.



## MANOJ REINSURANCE BROKERS LTD., DIFC, DUBAI, UAE

**FURTHERING GROUND-BREAKING INNOVATIONS IN THE REINSURANCE SECTOR**

*Founded and headed by Mr. Zagariah Manoj, Manoj Reinsurance Brokers Ltd. is one of the fastest flourishing businesses in the reinsurance sector. In a short span of time, since the company's inception in 2020, his innovative vision and progressive stands have facilitated significant changes in the sector*



# AL RAWABI DAIRY COMPANY

## ENRICHING AND NOURISHING THE UAE

*A steadfast believer in 'Good health' Al Rawabi Dairy Company (ARDC), with a pious mission to promote & sustain healthy well-being of the people, started its operations initially in the UAE & Oman in the year 1989 with 500 imported cows at its cattle farm in Al Khawenjee, & has followed a growth alleyway that many aspire for*

**T**he company has been aggressively pursuing its passion for innovation and expansion. Consequently, it has been able to expand its livestock of cattle (cows) from just 500 to a whopping capacity of 16500, a 3300% growth in a span of 32 years. The company's huge growth includes a wide range of dairy products – milk, yoghurt, juice and many other health-promoting products such as Nutree Boost, Laban enriched with vitamins and minerals, super milk, and multi-vitamin milk. Today, the production facility operates around the clock and serves more than one million customers per day.

### CHRONICLE OF PROGRESSION & GLORY

The company is credited with many firsts in the field, for instance, it was the first company to introduce pasteurised juices in the UAE in 1995. It is also the first company to introduce functional

dairy products into the market. It commenced business with just 10 trucks for distribution, and has at present a distribution fleet of 250 trucks, has a tremendous cold storage facility and a production capacity of 3.5 lakh litres of dairy products and 1.5 lakh liters of juice products per day. Its fresh products can be found in more than 12,500 stores across the UAE and Oman, while its long-life items are regularly shipped further afield to countries including Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Ethiopia and Nigeria, with plans at an advanced stage to bring them to consumers in Pakistan and India, also. The firm is accredited to ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 22000:2005, HACCP and OHSAS 18001:2007 standards

### ASEPTIC, HYGIENIC & STANDARDISED

The milking process at ARDC is highly modernized and sophisticated. Milk is tested after every extraction for any infection or presence of bacteria or any other deficiency. Transportation of

milk to the plant is facilitated following important processes of pasteurisation, homogenisation, standardisation and fermentation, making products special and qualitatively ahead of others and much sought-after by the customers. With a high sense of professionalism, ARDC has requisitioned the services of veterinary doctors and veterinary assistants to keep a round the clock watch on cows' well-being and to ensure 100% infection-free livestock at the farm.

### SUSTAINING PERFORMANCE

The company has been widely acclaimed the world over for its environment-friendly approach. The dairy farm is located in the desert and survival in such a scorching hot temperature is tough. To keep cows clean and cool in such an atmosphere, the cows are regularly showered and cooled through automatic air conditioning process as soon as the temperature rises above 21 °C. The ARDC is a symbol of international goodwill in more than one way.

The juices supplied by the company are sourced from those countries of the world where they grow naturally to offer the best quality – mangoes from India; red grapes, lemon, pomegranate from Spain; red orange from Italy; apples from Australia; orange from Florida; guava from Egypt; carrot and orange from Germany.

# ASIA'S GREATEST



  
**ASIA'S GREATEST  
BRANDS & LEADERS  
2020-21**  
PRIDE OF ASIA  
CHOSEN BY CONSUMERS & INDUSTRY  
*asia one*  
Research by: United Research Services  
Asian Business & Social Forum 2021

# T BRANDS 2020-21



**D**eakin University uses digital technology efficiently to ensure a glitch-free and immersive experience in classroom as well as the distance education. The use of cutting-edge technological apparatus has been beneficial for both the teachers as well as the students, irrespective of their location. Deakin University recognizes the potential of technology in the coming times & takes a futuristic approach that

focuses on an increasing use of data-enriched capabilities.

**CREATING A POSITIVE IMPACT**

A farsighted approach is what fuels the vision of Deakin moving towards greater success. Meticulous planning and strategy have been put in place to prepare the youth of the country to be future-ready. The past two decades have been instrumental in benefiting over 13,000 Indian students and providing them with

the means to learn the right skills and get jobs that enable them to become a valuable part of the global community. The research & innovation funded by the university address community-related issues such as health, use of smart technology, establishing a sustainable environment, and propelling cultural identities.

The University offers trans-disciplinary & multi-disciplinary courses that address the five important themes. All the endeavors supported by the university lay emphasis on advancing society, culture, and economy, building safe & secure communities, improving overall health and well-being, & building a sustainable world.

**INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RESEARCH**

Universally acknowledged for its breakthrough researches on global social, economic, and scientific issues, Deakin University has earned name for its top-notch research quality and standards. An astounding 89% of its researches have been rated as brilliant by the Excellence in Research for Australia. With an adroit workforce and, an international network with a great outreach, Deakin University wishes to achieve the three I's: Institution, Industry and Impact. It aims to widen the scope of research and innovate in various areas.

**MAKING INROADS INTO THE FUTURE**

The Deakin India Research Initiative (DIRI) was established in 2010 with an aim to bridge the gap between industry and academia. The initiative facilitates working with a supervisor and placement of PhD students with a partner in India. Through this model, Deakin has forged some of the most synergistic collaborations in India. TERI Deakin Nano Biotechnology Centre (TDNBC) is one such ultramodern facility for research on using nanotechnology to solve issues such as food security and water availability in agriculture. It has collaborated with Tata Power and General Electric Company to develop and promote the use of sustainable energy. Similarly, Deakin's partnership with Madras Diabetes Research Foundation is aimed at offering affordable healthcare options for diabetes. Deakin IIT Madras Centre of Excellence, Education and Research in Sport, and Centre for Social Enterprise are its other important collaborations.



**DEAKIN UNIVERSITY**

**PIONEERING HIGHEST STANDARDS OF INNOVATION IN EDUCATION**

*Set up in 1974, Deakin is positioned among the world's top 50 Universities, which have been established in the last 50 years or earlier. With a spot among the top 1% universities in the world (as ranked by the Academic Ranking of World Universities), it is considered one of the best institutions in Australia*



## ANIL MANTRA LOGISTIX

### GOING FULL STEAM AHEAD

*Anil Mantra Logistix Pvt. Ltd. is a well-known logistics solutions provider based in Delhi, India. Established in 2007, it provides unparalleled logistics services to its customers while also building strong relationships with them. It has carved out a solid niche for itself in both the Indian and Kazakhstan markets over the years*

**A**nil Mantra Logistix has earned a reputable position in the logistics industry for offering all-inclusive logistics services, coupled with strong ethics, values, governance, and operational excellence. The company offers air imports and exports services, ocean imports and exports services, as well as door-to-door services.

One of the most important areas for the company's growth is air chartering. The logistics firm can air charter anything from India to anywhere in the world, as well as arrange door-to-door delivery in most locations. Even though door-to-door services were only recently added to their scope of services, the company has established a strong customer base worldwide who avail its services on DDU (Delivered Duty Unpaid) and DDP (Delivered Duty Paid) terms regardless of the destination/port in India.

Heavy lift freight, odd-dimensional cargo, and remote site installation services

are also available through Anil Mantra Logistix's forwarding and delivery services. The company has successfully completed a few of these project shipments to the United States and some remote locations in India. Its team is capable and experienced in handling project cargoes flawlessly.

What more, it also handles custom clearances for its customers. It has a team of trained professionals who are capable of managing all types of commodity documentation. It provides warehouses/transit warehouses as per the needs and requirements of its customers on demand.

### SPREADING WINGS OVERSEAS

Anil Mantra Logistics currently has a strong presence in Kazakhstan and Russia under the banner of Anil Mantra SPoint. To serve the CIS countries most efficiently with its long-standing logistics experience, Anil Mantra Logistix launched its flagship store Anil Mantra SPoint in 2018. The flagship company primarily serves Kazakhstan through a combination

of road, rail, air, and sea. In January 2021, the company also announced the opening of its Russia office under the flagship of Anil Mantra SPoint.

### INNOVATIVE TRENDS

To gain a competitive advantage, Anil Mantra Logistix believes in keeping up with the ever-changing market trends. Keeping in mind the trending innovations and needs, the company incorporated Anil Mantra Tradex Pvt. Ltd. in the year 2009 to cater to the needs of customers primarily in the areas of corporate gifting, home décor, and exclusive stand-alone décor items.

### OFFERING BESPOKE SERVICES

Anil Mantra Logistix takes pride in providing customers with high-quality services that are tailored to their specific needs. Whether its sea freight, airfreight, or exports to third countries, the company strives to provide timely and reliable logistics and supply chain services through a single point of contact to improve their responsiveness to clients. It has long been known for its expertise in air freight. Because of its long-standing business partnerships, almost all airlines offer the company priority on bookings. From its end, the organization ensures timely upliftments and daily updates to its customers. Whether it's regular freight or express cargo, on-time delivery is guaranteed.

**A** Padma Vibhushan awardee who has been enriching the society over 5 decades, Poojya Shri D Veerendra Heggade has been splendidly-serving as SDM University's Chancellor. Under his exemplary leadership, SDM University has established a firm footing in the educational realm. The SDM Educational Society, led by Poojya Shri Heggade, yearns to enhance the

quality of education in Karnataka. With over 55 educational institutes under its banner, the Society works tirelessly to offer flagship programmes across its many top-ranking academic as well as professional institutions in various disciplines including Medicine, Engineering, Law, Social Sciences, Management, and Ayurveda.

### SETTING HIGH BENCHMARKS

As an institution, SDM University has

undoubtedly set the bar high in terms of creating an environment conducive to learning for its students. Its exceptionally skilled and affable teaching faculty facilitates the process of teaching-learning as well as training and evaluation. The state-of-the-art infrastructure and availability of a plethora of resources have enhanced the quality of the campus experience. Practical training is aided by an abundance of clinical material made available to the students.

### WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE

It furnishes a realistic experience for students with superior infrastructure of over 1,200 beds in its parent teaching hospital. It also has qualified personnel with experience in stem cell isolation, in-vitro culture and maintenance. Its constant intent has been the provision of affordable education and healthcare to the students.

An up-to-the-minute library, hygienic food service, contemporary accommodation, recreational classes, clubs and other amenities are the jewels in its heavily embellished crown. No wonder the NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers) conferred SDM University with the 1st stage certification for teaching in medical hospitals.

### CHERISHING VALUES

SDM University aspires to constantly polish the intellect of its scholars and simultaneously set a benchmark in its pedagogical journey. The amalgamation of ancient wisdom and modern science at this noble institution has empowered it to cherish ingenuity and individuality. Through its crème de la crème faculty, it creates an enriching educational voyage filled with trust, love and spirituality for the students.

### WELL-DESERVED MERIT

SDM University has achieved 1st Rank in 'All-India Emerging Private Universities' category. In the IIRF 2020 Ranking, it has achieved the 12th rank in 'All India Emerging Private Universities' category. The FWA Industry Academia Conclave conferred it with the title of 'Best Emerging University for Medical Research 2021.'

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, SDM University and SDM Hospital collaboratively delivered service to society through its 'Corona Warriors.'



# SHRI DHARMASTHALA MANJUNATHESHWARA (SDM) UNIVERSITY

## PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

*SDM University is a premier institution that has been established to nurture the future leaders of the nation. Under the aegis of Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Educational (SDME) Society, it has been triumphantly imparting top-notch education and healthcare in Dharwad, Karnataka*



# SHIVA GROUP

## MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

*With 34 successful years & counting, Shiva Group has been rising steadily in the chemicals industry as one of the leading manufacturers of petrochemicals. Its strong focus on safety and quality has helped it garner appreciation from all quarters across the globe*

**O**n the last 34 years of its existence, Shiva Group has built a strong reputation in domestic and international markets, and emerged as the most favoured manufacturer and exporter of plasticizers and petrochemicals in Asia. This year it has achieved 75 Million plus USD topline and is all set to go and grow even further. The company is also proud of the innovations done related to new production techs, environmental care, alternative products and the creative solutions that it offers. Shiva Group envisions making available more possibilities by providing customized-chemical solutions to companies without compromising on the safety, quality, environment, and communities in which they operate. Founded in 1987 by Mr. Shiv Kumar, the company's initial production capacity amounted to 400 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) at their first unit in Bahadurgarh, Haryana. Later, it made quick progress and increased its production

capacity to 900 MTPA by 1989. During the period from 1992 to 1996, it focused on establishing a new plant and undertaking expansions at Panna, Madhya Pradesh. This resulted in a significant increase in the total capacity and it rose to 6,000 MTPA. In 2001, a new unit was established at Rajpura, Punjab, with a capacity of 7,200 MTPA. With this unit, Shiva Group became the first chemicals company in India to adopt environment-friendly techniques of manufacturing. In 2003, its total capacity increased to 18,200 MTPA. 2011 saw the Group establish a new unit in the state of Andhra Pradesh with a production capacity of 750 metric tonnes per month, thus resulting in a total capacity of 20,400 MTPA. In 2013, Shiva Group forayed into the export markets, and expanded the unit at Rajpura, Punjab, to a production capacity of 1200 metric tonnes per month. In 2018, after the establishment of a brand new unit at Dahej, Gujarat, the group reached an installed capacity of a whopping 60,000 metric tonnes per annum. During these

years, its customer-centric approach has kept its clients satisfied. Customization, on-schedule deliveries, competitive prices & its environmentally sustainable production process have facilitated its growth.

### ENSURING TOP-NOTCH QUALITY

Committed to providing top quality products, Shiva Group carries out strict quality control procedures for it. Raw material also undergoes a thorough quality check to ensure excellence right at the very first step of the production process. Standard laboratory checks, constant troubleshooting, timely upgrades of technology, and an in-house research and development facility are all part of the Shiva Group's Certified Quality Management Systems. It was awarded the Star Export House Certification by the Government of India in 2015. Shiva Group's policy of 'Best Quality Material at Lowest Possible Prices,' has cemented its reputation as one of the best in the business. Apart from India, it has footprints in Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Columbia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kazakhstan, KSA, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, UK, Ukraine, US and Vietnam.

**M**eenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research, also referred to as MAHER, is one of India's top educational institutions. It is a deemed to be university, run by a public charitable education trust and is currently spearheaded by Thiru. A.N. Radhakrishnan, an academician and visionary leader.

The excellent quality of courses is what sets MAHER apart from other

institutions. The institute currently offers medical, dental, nursing, and allied health sciences programmes. It is featured on the list of top hundred universities in India, according to the NIRF ranking in 2019.

#### SHARP FOCUS ON LEARNING

MAHER ensures a faculty to student ratio of 1:8, which enables the teachers to provide a high level of attention to the students. Due to this practice of providing

personalized attention to each student and their learning, the institute continues to attract some of the best students from the country and around the globe. The reputation of the institute is such that the best academicians also choose to join as members of the faculty.

Students are able to utilise the state-of-the-art labs at MAHER and gain practical experience at the in-house hospital, which has 1,100 beds and 14 fully functioning operation theatres. The hospital is equipped to take care of complex cases that require surgery and emergency care. Students who have graduated from the institution have so far comfortably transitioned into promising careers and evolved into responsible citizens.

#### INNOVATING EXCELLENCE

Research and innovation are given a lot of importance at MAHER. Its students and faculty are jointly involved in these ventures. It is considered one of the best institutes in the health sciences discipline due to its focus on these two pillars of learning. The institute has registered over 130 patents in only a few years' time. MAHER has established three central research laboratories and several research projects are currently being undertaken by the students and faculty here. These projects are funded by DST, DBT, and ICMR. The institution has registered over a thousand publications, 30 normal patents, 20 designed patents, 50 copyrights, and more than 40 textbooks with ISBN.

The research conducted here has been acknowledged by national institutions such as NAAC, NIRF, and UGC. MAHER also provides other allied health support services to patients. The hospital has received NABH accreditation and in addition to routine medicine, offers telemedicine, yoga medicine, music therapy, and travel medicine. There is also a separate section of the hospital dedicated solely to transgender patients.

A well-stocked library, with over 50,000 books along with the latest editions of national and international scientific e-journals, caters to the varied requirements of the students.

The institute successfully offers twenty-one smoothly run courses and houses a very large student community including both undergraduate and postgraduate students.



## MEENAKSHI ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

### A TRAILBLAZER IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH SCIENCES

*Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research is an institute which has been continually upgrading its standards for teaching and innovation. Founded in 1983 by the late Mrs. D Meenakshi Amal, the institute has provided its students with an excellent platform for research and learning for nearly 4 decades*



# SINGTEL

## REIGNING OVER ASIA'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LANDSCAPE

*Asia's leading telecommunications organization, the Singtel Group has been consistently offering a diverse range of services including fixed, mobile data, ICT, internet and TV along with other digital solutions. The organization has a 140-year-old-rich legacy in the telecom field*

**H**eadquartered in Singapore, the communications group has expanded its footprint across the world. It has massively invested in the other leading companies such as the Bharti Airtel in India, South Asia and Africa; Telkomsel in Indonesia; Globe Telecom in The Philippines; and Advanced Info Service in Thailand. Today, Singtel is one of the biggest companies to be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

### CLARITY IN VISION

Singtel is widely making use of the latest cutting-edge technology to better the lifestyle of people. Throughout its successful journey, the organization has always prioritized its main goals, which are to help people communicate easily and to deliver value to its stakeholders.

Singtel nurtures the dream to build a communications world that allows opportunities for creating sustainable long-term growth. The organization's

strong values have given it a major boost on its path to progress. Customer-oriented service is one of the primary factors that has prompted Singtel to deliver better offerings. It strives to connect with the customers by seeking their opinions and respecting their suggestions. The organization believes in tackling the challenges it faces head-on. A tenacious outlook helps it to overcome these challenges and convert them into opportunities. Teamwork and integrity anchor the organization into one big family.

### STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Optus, which was originally an Australia based communications service provider, is a wholly-owned Singtel subsidiary since August 2001. Having started its operations in 1992, Optus serves over 9 million customers each day. Similarly, the organization has other successful subsidiaries such as Singtel Digital Media, Singtel Innov8, Amobee, Trustwave,

Dataspark and NCS Pte Ltd.

### AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Singtel's rich legacy in the telecommunications space has made it a suitable contender for several recognitions and awards. It has been consistently receiving awards since 2007 and the latest feather in its cap is a listing on the Gender Equality Index of Bloomberg. It is listed as the top 100 most sustainable corporations in the world. It is also one of the highest-scoring telecommunications companies in Hong Kong and South East Asia at CDP Climate Change in 2019.

### A STRONG SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Singtel, being a communication services giant, understands the responsibility it has towards society and is engaged in services to cater to the needs of differently-abled children. Focusing on their well-being, education and safety, Singtel plans and develops programmes to better the lives of vulnerable groups. The company's community investment framework includes aspects like Capability and Competence, Digital Citizenship and Online Safety, Education and Employability, Staff Engagement and volunteerism along with Inclusion and Well-being. It has also created funds and helplines in Singapore.

**F**ounded in 1984 as Bharath Institute of Science and Technology, the institute's name was changed to Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research (BIHER) after it was awarded deemed university status by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in 2002. BIHER is approved by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) & accredited by the National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC) with the

highest grade of A.

### AN INSTITUTE PAR EXCELLENCE

With an aim to educate the youth and groom them into the leaders of tomorrow and to find solutions to the most pressing global challenges, BIHER has embarked upon many ambitious strategic initiatives through its International Advisory Board. The board consists of eminent scholars from 40 top universities across the world and eminent members of the corporate

world. A multi-dimensional institution that provides stellar research, innovation, learning and academic ambience to its students and faculty, BIHER also ensures that it inculcates in them the values of morality, human dignity and community transformation by initiating the process of their holistic development. It has 6 campuses spread across 603 acres, a 3000-bed hospital, 12 Centres of Excellence, 56 Research Labs, and a cutting-edge 5-lakh sq. ft. Research Park. It also has a world-class library with plenty of books and online journals and access to NPTEL, ICTI EDIJSAT and MOOCs. The virtual classrooms provide its students and faculty with easy access to various courses from top institutions.

### A VAST ARRAY OF PROGRAMMES

The university offers undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes in fields such as engineering, science, technology, medicine, arts, humanities and management. It constantly adapts to newer technologies and models to support its competent students and experienced faculty who intend to contribute to research. The institute currently has 900 faculty members and more than 10,000 students. BIHER strives to promote innovative and interdisciplinary learning with 12 different disciplines such as Health Economics, Data Sciences, Theology, etc. With this approach, it expects 50% of its programmes to achieve interdisciplinary status by 2023 and 100% by 2033. It also aims to increase its own student capacity and increase the ratio of foreign students to 25% by 2033 via new scholarships.

### AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Owing to its research and academic excellence, BIHER was ranked # 1 Private University in India, #1 University in research in India and World's Highest Ranked Indian University by Scimago Institutions Rankings, from the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CISC), University of Grenada, Extremadura, Carlos III (Madrid) & Alcala de Henares. It is the only private Indian University in the Top 10 and the only Indian University in top 300 of research. Along with this, it is also making consistent efforts in preparing its students to be socially conscious and develop relevant skills so that they are able to dominate their respective fields in the future.



# BHARATH INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (BIHER)

**PROVIDING HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION TO THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW**

*A pioneer in the field of education in South India, BIHER is one of India's first autonomous institutes situated in Tamil Nadu. It was established over 35 years ago by Dr. S. Jagathrakshakan, an academic visionary, politician, businessman and a noted educator, under the aegis of Sri Lakshmi Ammal Educational Trust*



# VERTEX GLOBAL SERVICES

## TRAILBLAZING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATIONS

*Vertex Global Services is one of the world's fastest-growing Business Optimization Solution providers, with offices in the US, the UK, Philippines, India & Nepal. It is a subsidiary of New York-based ILC Solutions. Under the dynamic leadership of the Founder & CEO Mr. Gagan Arora, the firm has reared considerably over the years*

**V**ertex Global Services is a NASSCOM-accredited quality-driven organization. Ranked 19th among the 50 most innovative companies in the world, it offers groundbreaking solutions; keeping the cost under control. The company, in collaboration with its technology partners, serves over 3000 clients through its delivery network and operations across the globe. Due to the innovative thinking and adaptability, Vertex Global Services has emerged as a transformative evangelist for numerous brands heading towards technological advancements.

The key strength being the ability to effectively integrate the power of technologies, and capitalize on data to provide the solutions and services with a minimized cost. Over the years, Vertex Global Services has deployed call centers, launched their own E-Learning platform, Smart IVR, Chabots, AI, ML, and cutting-edge HR solutions and made

businesses more efficient, effective, and profitable.

### A WIDE SPECTRUM OF SERVICES

NASSCOM accredited, Vertex Global Services is one of the leading Business Optimization Solutions provider globally-Ranked 19th amongst 50 most innovative companies across the globe. It is acknowledged globally for its extensive portfolio of services such as Managed services, HRO, Performance marketing, AI & Digital ed-tech platform, strong commitment to sustainability and culture.

Honored as the Best Place To Work, Vertex Global Services leverages the change to create value and shared success for its customers, people, shareholders, partners and communities. As the Most Innovative Tech Company in India, Vertex's protocol is to scale for clients by embedding customer service as prerogative into its business workflows.

### GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Vertex Global Services is intensely involved in practicing CSR. Bringing generosity to the society and being socially responsible have become the most substantive and long-lasting benefit of the pure delight and peace of mind. Masses were rendered unemployed during the corona virus-induced pandemic. Vertex Global Services launched a CSR Campaign as an endeavor to support the pandemic-affected career aspirants by amplifying the job opportunities. To accomplish this, Vertex Global Services has collaborated with over 3000 clients to create jobs and serve as a career accelerator for people who lost their jobs due to this crisis and provided 10,000 jobs across India. Failing to stop, it also contributed USD 40000 for the COVID-19 relief fund in May 2020.

### TOWERING ACHIEVEMENTS

Best Places to Work Certification Program recognized Vertex Global Services as one of the best places to work in India in the year 2020. This program allows global employers to learn more about the commitment and satisfaction level of their employees. Besides this, the program also recognizes those with an exceptional work environment whilst maintaining the highest standards in their working conditions.

**H**eadquartered in Muscat, Al Tamman Group has carved out an enviable niche for itself in various industries. The group of companies has built a solid reputation for putting in its best effort, as well as garnering the trust and goodwill of its customers. Its reputation has been the seed that has spawned a large corporate client base and excellence in all of its commercial activities.

**A STRONG PRESENCE ACROSS SECTORS**

The Group is managed by a professional team with diversified experience. They build and deliver market-leading projects throughout Oman, including hotels, shops, resorts, shopping malls, tourist destinations, and entertainment complexes. Al-Tamman is also committed to revolutionizing the pharmaceutical industry by introducing scientifically sound products and broad-

spectrum antibiotics to the market. Drug Manufacturing Business LLC, Oman's first API manufacturer, was also created by the Group. The Group also intends to create life-saving medications utilizing innovative production technologies and have them supplied securely with short lead times through its expanding supply chain.

The group also aspires to impart quality education through A'Soud Global School, which integrates the Cambridge international curriculum with local cultural values. Furthermore, the Al Tamman Group recognizes the value of quality treatment through the perspective of unprecedented complexities as well as an ever-evolving healthcare landscape. The Group's Modern Healthcare Company promises to provide excellent urology and nephrology health services in the near future with the help of a highly skilled workforce of doctors, nurses, and paramedics.

The multi-faceted corporation has also ventured into the tech domain. Its IT experts believe that next-generation technical solutions, common vision, and collaborative efforts are the keys to promoting innovation and brilliance. Last but not least, the Al Tamman Group's Grand Entertainment Company manages a variety of entertainment platforms to cater to the taste of different age groups.

**GARNERING GLORY**

The Al Tamman Group's A'soud Global School (Salalah Branch) received an award for "Building the Future in Educational Excellence" in 2020. The School was awarded in the - Dossier Construction - Infrastructure Awards & Summit 2020 held at Hotel Sheraton on 9th December 2020. Also, A'soud Educational Services LLC received an award in 2019 for "Excellence in Fast Track Project Development with Smart Use of Technology" for an Al Tamman Group School Project in Duqm, Muscat. It took only 6 months from laying the foundation to starting commercial operation.

It has come a long way as a business group. Its long-term strategy is to remain committed to perfection through dynamism and vitality. It also intends to keep up with technological disruptions and innovations by implementing surefire management strategies to successfully overcome all the impending obstacles.



**AL TAMMAN GROUP**

**POWERING TRANSFORMATIVE MARKET SECTORS ACROSS OMAN**

*Al Tamman Group, a subsidiary of Muscat Overseas Group, is a leading business conglomerate that is known for its diversified portfolio of operations in investment banking, real estate, insurance, construction, education, and manufacturing. It has been contributing to the economic growth of Oman since its inception*



## BASHUNDHARA TISSUE

### MAKING HYGIENE COUNT

*Bashundhara Tissue, a renowned Dhaka-based tissue brand, launched in the year 2000 by Bashundhara Paper Mills Ltd. is a household name in Bangladesh. Today, the company's name has become synonymous with quality, trust, and care. The popular brand is currently Bangladesh's largest tissue manufacturer*

**D**ue to the company's unwavering production capacity, world-class facility plant, and nationwide distribution network of over 350 exclusive and dedicated distributors supported by a fleet of over 500 carriage vehicles, Bashundhara Tissue can be found in every nook and corners of Bangladesh, from small tongs to high-end department stores. Presently, the Brand manufactures and distributes facial tissue, toilet tissues, paper towels, kitchen towels, paper napkins, pocket tissues, as well as clinical bed sheets.

### THE UNDISPUTED LEADER

Bashundhara Tissue has been the consumers' preferred Tissue product in Bangladesh spanning the past two decades. It controls more than 70% of the market. As the country's most trusted and preferred tissue brand, it has many firsts to its credit. It is the first-ever tissue brand to achieve clearance from BSTI (Bangladesh

Standard & Testing Institute). Also, it is the only tissue-paper manufacturing unit in Bangladesh having ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & FSC-CoC (mix) certification. What's more, the brand has confidently entered international markets to win the hearts of global hygiene enthusiasts. It is the only tissue brand of the country that is being exported to over 20 countries. Its products are known for their soft texture, affordability & superior absorbency.

### QUALITY COMES FIRST

Bashundhara Tissue focuses greatly on R&D to ensure high-quality products. It also continues to upgrade its manufacturing plant with technologically advanced machinery to stay competitive in the market. For instance, it recently installed a new Tissue Paper Machine from the world-renowned "Andritz" (Austria), which is a notable addition in South-East Asia. With a daily output capacity of 120 MT, the machine is the fastest in the region. This project has boosted Bangladesh's

image while also elevating the company to the top of the worldwide tissue market.

### GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Community initiatives form an integral part of Bashundhara Tissue. Its mission has always been to influence the community's lifestyle by encouraging people to adopt better hygienic habits. It always strives to make a positive change in society through its benevolent gestures. For instance, a portion of the proceeds from each Bashundhara Tissue Packet/Box/Roll is being donated to the Autistic Children School's development. The environmentally concerned brand is also a pioneer in producing eco-friendly products.

### ACHIEVEMENTS THAT MATTER

Bashundhara Tissue has gained immense superiority not only in the SAARC region but globally. The brand's outstanding local achievements include the coveted Superbrands Award for 2020-21. Moreover, it has also been honored with three consecutive Best Brand Awards in the Tissue Paper Category in 2018, 2019 & 2020. The Brand has also received worldwide recognition, including the largest exhibitor prize in the international category three years in a row in the "PaperEx Expo", the world's largest expo on paper and related sectors, in 2015, 2017 and 2019.

**K** Fintech has dexterously handled the 2 biggest mutual fund migrations. It services over 100 million investors, with over 120 Million transactions annually. Its immense dedication to attain excellence is a major factor in its incredible success.

**CREATING VALUE**

To create value for the clients through its pool of enterprising personnel has

been one of the main objectives for Kfintech. It also envisions to be the most preferred solutions provider for its valued investment managers and intermediaries. It provides an agile platform to enhance product innovation across the widest geographical reach and offers omni-channel investor services powered by the latest technology.

**CLIMBING THE LADDER OF SUCCESS**

Through its expertise in fintech,

motivation to do better every day, and an exceptionally gifted pool of ability, team Kfintech effortlessly achieves operational greatness. The client-driven methodology and user-friendly approach culminates into a thorough professional support network that guarantees functional finesse. The organization provides 350+ services supported by full flash storages that facilitate and host more than 250 TB of information.

Its well-spread business throughout the globe makes the firm an extremely well-accessible partner and a go-to solution provider for all its global clients. As the top-notch player in the fintech space, the company provides robust data security to its clients. An ISO 27001:2013 certified organization on information security in the R&T space, it provides fool-proof solutions for dealing with exigencies owing to the continuous threat of information replication.

**OFFERING SERVICES PAR EXCELLENCE**

Kfintech has kept the customer engagement quotient high with its wide variety of services, ranging from Mutual Funds services, Corporate Registry services to National Pension System. Apart from the nationalized services, it also offers Global business services and Global Fund Services. Its impeccable Portfolio Management services enable the users to get access to a single browser-based solution to manage operations, see improved profitability and increase efficiency.

For methodical wealth management, it offers end-to-end investment, portfolio, and wealth-management solutions through the latest cutting-edge tools. Furthermore, it is well-equipped with the superior technological platforms that make its entire operational process adaptive and result-oriented. Also, what more would an insightful investor long for than to have an alternative investment fund ready? Kfintech has made it possible for investors to mould their investment plans to get maximum returns in the market space.

With more than 3500 issuers, the firm has already set a benchmark of excellence in service and operational adeptness. This comprehensive range of services is attributable to the diligent and robust workforce which comprises of over 5500 experts in various disciplines.



**KFIN TECHNOLOGIES**

**OVERHAULING THE INVESTOR SERVICING SECTOR**

*Being the world's largest registrar and transfer agency, as well as the market leader in the financial sector, KFin Technologies operates through 180+ branches in India and 12 other countries namely Canada, the US, Oman, Malaysia, the UK, the UAE, Maldives, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Bahrain*



## UBERCORP INFRASTRUCTURE

### REVAMPING THE NOTION OF LUXURY

*Established in 2015, Ubercorp Infrastructure has based its foundation on the principles of uniqueness and quality. It is the epitome of affordable luxury to its customers in Bengaluru and other parts of South India. The trust and goodwill of its customers has enabled it to attain great success*

**U**nder the leadership of Mr. Raza Ali Mirza and Mr. Irtiza Ali Mirza, Ubercorp Infrastructure has become a well-known brand in the realty sector, especially in the South Indian region. Its projects have been well-received in Bengaluru and include refined residential properties, admirable commercial spaces as well as distinguished spas. It has come up with excellent projects one after another owing to its flawless operations and effortless project management. The passion for astounding designs, technical know-how and commitment to quality reflect in its beautifully designed living spaces in Bengaluru. No wonder it is a proud recipient of many awards including, the Best Realty Brands Award 2021 by the ET.

### FOCUSED & DRIVEN

Ubercorp Infrastructure has been serving the realty sector with sincerity. Its businesses are spread out in areas

such as property development, property management, leasing and renting, as well as facility management, along with maintenance service requests. The primary focus of the group is on property development. However, the company welcomes all its investors who would want to avail its services in the related areas. The company takes pride in the way its skillful team manages the processes in a step-by-step manner. From supervising to coordinating the aspects associated with realty such as licensing and approvals, as well as architecture and construction, the team ensures customer satisfaction. Having acquired over 3,50,000 sq. ft. of land for development, the company has expanded its horizons to other areas of property management. Its crucial ties with the builders in Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad have helped the firm to extend its base to other significant cities of India. With quality and deliverables being its foremost priorities, Ubercorp assists the investors and clients in each step of the

development process.

### MISSION AND VALUES

Focusing on the idea of 'Creating a tradition of excellence - in building, design & relationships', the Ubercorp Infrastructure family pays close attention to its deliverables and responsibilities toward the clients. The team lays emphasis on efficiency by deploying in-house project managers to handle all its projects professionally, both before & after the completion of projects. It ensures that customer satisfaction is of utmost importance &, therefore, aims to provide a comprehensive experience to the buyers. Moreover, its impeccable services even after the sale & completion of the projects set the company apart from others.

### BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

Despite having achieved immense success, UberCorp Infrastructure has been mindful about developing better infrastructure for the underprivileged. The company believes in enhancing the lives of underprivileged people. Its initiatives in the fields of education, health, hygiene, and sanitation have been gaining momentum in recent times. Ubercorp Infrastructure intends to help as many people as possible and influence their lives in the best possible ways.

**E**stablished in the year 2002, GM Modular is a leading switches and home automation company in India. Founded by Mr. Jayanth Jain and Mr. Ramesh Jain with six core values of innovation, integrity, passion, customer focus, teamwork & safety. The brand resonates class, excellence and trust. The key to GM Modular's success lies in extensive knowledge and understanding of the

market. The brand is known for its innovative electrical solutions that give exclusivity to the user without compromising on the functionality.

#### INNOVATING EXCELLENCE

GM Modular is always on the go to build the next latest technology in electrical solutions. The company is very focused on investing in research. A strong Research & Development team, a dedicated and capable product design team and high-

grade machinery make it possible to produce the finest quality products for the company. The firm has introduced some revolutionary products like new generation switches, Wi-Fi switches, Home Automation, LED lights, Fans, Bluetooth music players, Wires & cables, Pipes & fittings and much more, all with the common agenda of giving the best of design and comfort in every home. It is through this constant innovation that GM has become the market leader in switches and home electrical accessories in India. Today, the company can boast of a manufacturing facility spread around 2.5 lakh square feet with the latest and top-of-the-notch machinery. No wonder it calls some of the biggest names of the industry as its clients including Ajmera builders, Delta Realty, Globe Group, Future Group, Western Railway, Della Adventure and many more.

#### GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

The brand is mindful towards the environment as well. It invests in eco-friendly raw materials, minimum wastage and promotes sustainability at every step. It also actively participates in social missions and empowers local communities by promoting local initiatives. Recently, it launched Mission Sahayata - an initiative to support the electrician partners during the time of pandemic. With this mission, GM successfully delivered 1 month of groceries to over 15,000 households in Mumbai, Kochi and Kozhikode. In addition, GM contributed over INR 1 crore to PM CARES fund, INR 11 Lakhs to Maharashtra CM Relief Fund and various other organisations to fight the battle against COVID-19. It has also been associated with 'Mission Zindagi' - a nationwide COVID relief initiative to help people with regular updates with respect to availability of hospitals, oxygen cylinders, doctor on call, immunity kit, etc.

#### GARNERING RECOGNITION

GM Modular has witnessed tremendous growth across regions and has penetrated new markets within India and internationally across Africa, Middle East and Europe. It was awarded 'Brand of the Year' Award in the Electrical Solutions Category at the 4th Realty Plus Interiors & Exterior Conclave and Awards 2020. You can experience any of the GM products through 6,000 stores and 14 exclusive showrooms spread across India.



## GM MODULAR

### ADDING COMFORT, ELEGANCE & SAFETY TO YOUR LIFE

*With its path breaking innovations & research-oriented approach, GM Modular has redefined the switch manufacturing sector in India. Owing to its world-class products like new generation switches, LED lighting, Fans, Home Automation solutions and much more, it has carved a unique niche for itself*



## TEER

### A PREMIER FMCG BRAND IN BANGLADESH

*True to its name, like an arrow pointed at its goal, TEER consistently focuses on serving its consumers with excellent quality food products that are manufactured hygienically. It rules the hearts of gastronomes & homemakers alike with a variety of premium quality atta, flour, semolina, sugar, rice, lentils, edible oil and feeds*

**T**EEER is a prominent name among the several reputable brands launched by Bangladesh's leading consumer food product manufacturing and trading conglomerate — the City Group. It has a legacy of excellence and consumer trust spanning nearly 50 years. City Group started its glorious journey in the year 1972 as City Oil Mills, by the virtue of the dedicated efforts of its Founder Chairman Mr. Fazlur Rehman.

### GOING FROM SUCCESS TO SUCCESS

Mr. Rehman's vision, meticulous planning, and business acumen led to the phenomenal growth of the business. With time, City Oil Mills branch out into food production and other allied avenues. Today, the City Group comprises as many as 40 sister concerns. The company has successfully responded to changing consumer needs and demands via its excellent packaging units, sugar

refinery, drinking water unit and other assets. City Group's strengths lie in its adherence to uncompromising standards such as quality, teamwork, integrity, and customer satisfaction at all levels.

### MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

The journey of products by TEER begins in a world class, state-of-the-art manufacturing and processing facility, which is equipped with the fully automated latest European machinery. By employing the latest technologies for multi-stage quality checks, manufacturing processes, and packaging, superior products are created for the consumers.

TEER's core philosophy is to adapt products to dynamic consumer preferences and choices. This consumer-centred approach has helped the brand capture a lion's share in the market. The TEER range of flour products is made in the largest mill in South East Asia.

The new product categories comprising atta and soya bean oil fortified with

Vitamin A, D & E have a large footprint in the market. Products such as advanced soya bean oil and advanced whole wheat atta have garnered massive consumer interest and are immensely popular.

### CELEBRATING THE HOMEMAKER

TEER has launched 'The TEER Advanced Kitchen,' a first-of-its-kind kitchen renovation reality show in Bangladesh. The show aims to recognize the efforts of homemakers and bring them to limelight. A positive step towards sensitizing the society and improving perceptions about the value of doing household chores, the show is a step towards social change. This is just one of the steps in the direction of realizing the City Group's vision to bring about an economically sound, healthy and more mindful society it serves.

### PATRON OF SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Under its 'Go For Gold initiative,' TEER has signed an agreement with the Archery Federation of Bangladesh for a 5-year performance-based development support. The program is aimed at supporting the best sportspersons and helping them prepare to win gold in the upcoming Tokyo Olympics 2021 and the Asian Games in 2022. It includes financial aid for training, tournament exposure, infrastructure, equipment and nutrition needs of the team.

*INDIA'S  
GREATEST  
BRANDS  
2020-21*





**O**ne of the top 10 business houses in India, Bajaj Auto is ranked fourth among the top manufacturers of two-wheeler and three-wheeler vehicles of the world. Continuously upgrading its products since 1945, the company is a brilliant manufacturer that has an innovative automobile range instilled with world-class features. It has been manufacturing flawless products ranging from Bajaj CT (100cc engine) to

Bajaj Dominar (400cc engine) to meet the needs of every customer.

**A BLEND OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

By keeping itself updated with cutting-edge technology, Bajaj Auto continues to produce high-end products. Its two-wheelers are powered by the digital twin spark ignition (DTS-I) engine that unlocks incomparable power and reliability. It produces sturdy bikes with Nitrox mono-shock suspension

and twin-shock absorbers that turn riding into a comfortable journey. Its bikes have projector headlamps that enable the rider with remarkable visibility at night. Bajaj bikes are loaded with many salient features like the anti-lock braking system (ABS), fuel injector systems and rear disc brakes, which make them a popular choice in the market. Bajaj Auto is the largest exporter of two-wheeler and three-wheeler vehicles. It exports high-performance products to more than 70 countries and enjoys huge popularity around the world. During its progressive journey, the company has increased its share in KTM (Kraftfahrzeuge Trunkenpolz Mattighofen), an Australian motorcycle, from 14% to 48%. Presently, the company solely produces the Duke series of KTM bikes and exports them all over the world.

**AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**

The company is credited with introducing quadricycles, Bajaj Qute, in India that are loaded with exclusive features and utilities. Qute is a cross between an autorickshaw and an entry-level car, and has seating space for a driver as well as three passengers. It is highly fuel-efficient, has low maintenance cost and is powered by a DTSi engine and closed-loop fuel injection system. It is an all-weather friendly vehicle and navigates better in water-logged conditions. After partnering with Uber, it is all set to provide an affordable and smart urban commuting option to people. An eminent manufacturer of three-wheelers and quadricycles, Bajaj Auto is fuelling transportation services with unmatched products under the name of Bajaj Intracity. The company has a wide portfolio of vehicles compatible with all fuel types including petrol, liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas and diesel. It is working on making public transportation easier and cost-effective. Thanks to its relentless efforts and superior products, the company has gained a strong foothold in 36 countries.

**A ROLE MODEL IN CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

In CSR, Bajaj Auto is carrying the group's philanthropic legacy forward by making contributions to the field of education. Under the Bajaj Education Initiative, it takes care of 76 underprivileged schools in Pune & supports infrastructure development and capacity building.



**BAJAJ AUTO**

**SCALING NEW HEIGHTS IN THE AUTOMOBILE WORLD**

*Bajaj Auto of the Bajaj Group has transformed the automobile industry with its indigenous two-and three-wheeler vehicles. A globally acclaimed Indian brand that manufactures innovative & hi-tech automobiles, Bajaj Auto has a presence across the world, including Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, South & Southeast Asia*



## BELITA DESIGN SOLUTIONS

### GLAMMING UP SPACES WITH ÉLAN

*An award-winning interior designing firm located in New Delhi, Belita Design Solutions was founded in the year 2007 by Dr. Masooma Rizvi. The company offers comprehensive design services and has emerged as one of India's premier interior design firms over the years*

**U**nder the able leadership of Dr. Masooma Rizvi, Belita Design Solutions has done interior and exterior designs for some of India's landmark buildings, including the Rashtrapati Bhawan, Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, and Manekshaw Centre. It has also done projects at Manama in Bahrain and Luoyang in China. What's more, the company's unique work at Asia's first corridor museum at Amar Jawan Jyoti in Jaipur, Rajasthan (India) has won many prestigious global awards.

Since its inception, Belita Design Solutions has been shaping and transforming spaces to give each spatial layout a unique and thematic décor, reflecting its distinctive identity. The company has created innovative and top-notch design solutions which have impacted many projects and made them iconic. The company offers a host of services such as interior design of spaces, designing museums, curating art, conserving and renovating heritage

monuments/structures, along with other related turnkey projects.

With strict adherence to quality, Belita makes use of only the finest materials and finishes for each and every project. Every project undertaken by the company emphasizes the integration of art with Indian culture, architecture and interior design.

### CREATING MASTERPIECES

Offering services to government, corporate and private agencies, the company focuses on bespoke elegance, to provide each project with an unrivaled design identity that exceed clients' expectations. Creativity is the driving force behind its success and out of the box design outcomes are inspired by an innovative approach. The thoughtful and innovative interior design solutions offered by Belita Design Solutions are initiated by partnering closely with its clients.

The firm is backed by a robust and dedicated team consisting of highly skilled

and energetic architects, designers, museologist and project engineers with proven track records. Their sense of detailing and solid design statements which are never repeated, makes each project exclusive.

### FRUITFUL COLLABORATIONS

Belita Design Solutions regularly collaborates with renowned artists, stained glass artists, art galleries, and material manufacturing facilities that are equipped with advanced technology and the latest technology for providing clients with inventive, contemporary, and unique solutions. The company currently has a team of almost 80 artisans that are hired on project basis.

### TOWERING ACHIEVEMENTS

Belita Design Solutions' work has been applauded both nationally and globally. Having been published in several renowned magazines and online portals, the company's hands-on engagement in interiors of residential projects, corporate and government institutions, commercial setups, museums and hotels, have garnered enviable accolades. It is committed to raising the bar so as to remain at the forefront of the interior design industry. The company has come a long way and is all set to explore new horizons and reach new heights of success.

**R** EVA University is a co-educational university located at Bengaluru, Karnataka. It is governed by the Rukmini Educational Charitable Trust and is part of the prestigious REVA Group of Educational Institutions. It is a highly acclaimed, awarded and renowned temple of professional education. Situated in a lush campus covering 45 acres, REVA University offers nearly 75 courses

comprising Graduate, Postgraduate, Doctoral Degrees in diverse professional streams like Engineering, Management Architecture, Law, Commerce, Science, Humanities and Performing Arts. Its courses and curriculum are accredited and approved by UGC, AICTE, BCI & COA. Offering 33 courses at UG level and 26 at PG level, REVA University also facilitates research leading to doctoral degrees in almost 20 disciplines.

REVA University offers excellent

academic facilities and state-of-the-art educational resources backed by an extremely experienced, proficient and highly qualified teaching faculty. It has over 400 faculty members on campus and more than 15,000 students. The faculty at REVA University bridges the gap between industry and academia with their meticulously designed curriculum and teaching modules. The admission process is merit-based and begins through entrance examinations. Various scholarships and fee waivers are also offered to students based on merit and exceptional talent.

### A WORLD-CLASS CAMPUS

The lush green university campus, with its custom designed classrooms and a vast knowledge resource library equipped with the latest IT infrastructure, offers a seamless learning experience for the students. The campus also has world-class indoor and outdoor sports facilities for students. Students from around 24 nationalities are pursuing their studies at REVA University.

### PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

REVA University has a very well-coordinated training and placement cell with over 300 active recruiting partners, including prestigious names such as Deloitte, TCS, Phillips, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Infosys, and IBM. The placement record at the University is also enviable and admirable. It has a strong alumni network of more than 35,000 well-placed and highly successful skilled professionals, which is a great source of inspiration to the students.

### SERIES OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

REVA University's numerous awards and accolades honour its journey of excellence in the field of education. The University was ranked 3rd under 'The Most Promising Business Schools nationally (2018)', and is ranked number one among the top four emerging B-Schools by the Times B-School Annual Ranking (2019).

REVA University has been awarded the 'Best Education Brand 2020' by The Economic Times. REVA School of Architecture continues to be in the Super Excellence Category and among the top 7 in the country. REVA University was awarded the 1st position among Outstanding Engineering Institutions of Excellence in 2020.



# REVA UNIVERSITY

## SETTING UNPRECEDENTED BENCHMARKS OF EXCELLENCE

*REVA University is not only moulding the youth into proficient professionals but also empowering them with knowledge and skills for a progressive future. Its prestigious AICTE-approved courses groom the students into professionals who are greatly in demand in the business and industry ecosystem*



## PRIDE WORLD CITY

### TRANSFORMING CITYSCAPES WITH INNOVATIVE & FUTURISTIC DESIGNS

*Set across 400 acres of open space at Pune, Pride World City, a project from the house of Pride Group, exuberates lavishness and tranquility and enhances its customers' standard of living. Pride Group has been efficiently turning dreams to reality and transforming the lives of its customers since 1995*

**S**ituated at Charholi, Pride World City is a project where dreams meet reality. It offers well-designed premium 2, 3 and 4 BHK apartments & row houses, along with commercial shops and offices as well. For the people who prefer grander living, the twin-bungalows and luxury living offered by the Group could prove to be the ultimate option.

Pride World City is a project that offers a larger-than-life feel to its prospective buyers. It is spread across 400 acres in Eastern Pune and is one of the largest townships in the city.

With a focus on offering holistic living experiences, the project encompasses all the primary and extravagant amenities that a modern buyer would look forward to.

Offering space-efficient designs, the makers have ensured ample area for residents to experience fresh air and take leisurely strolls.

### OFFERING AN OPULENT LIFESTYLE

The project renders a sophisticated and international standard of living. It has been designed by keeping in mind necessities such as IT parks, hospitals, schools, multiplexes, bus stations, petrol pumps and a lot more. What is more is that apart from these facilities, the project also comprises a fitness center and quality playschools. It recently made headlines by selling 4 towers within just 2 months of the launch. Owing to the unsurpassed excellence in layout, creation & building design of residential and business spaces, it has been on a fast growth path. It's vision is to come up with new ideas consistently and to create more dwelling spaces. Having delivered more than 1600 apartments, the Group consistently rises to the expectations of its customers & matches world-class standards of excellence in the realty sector. Another positive aspect of it is that it is situated at an extremely strategic location. Surrounded by idyllic hills in Charholi, it

offers peace & solitude to its residents. When it comes to connectivity, the project is situated within PCMC limits and offers great accessibility to both PMC and PCMC and major localities in both the zones. The prime IT hubs in Kharadi, Viman Nagar, Shivaji Nagar, & Pimpri Chinchwad are all easily and rapidly accessible from the township.

### MARVELLOUS ARCHITECTURE

Every unit at Pride World City, including the bungalows and apartments, depicts European-style architecture laced with modern amenities. The customers' comfort has been kept at the forefront of major design decisions like double-height ceilings & sloping roofs. These detailed representations are symbolic of pleasant & congenial living. The buyers are instantly attracted to the close-knit township with as much free space that adds to its aesthetic appeal. Aptly named Brooklyn, Long Island, Manhattan, Kingsbury & Notting Hill, these living spaces provide a global lifestyle to its residents. It is a customer's delight not only in terms of living standards but also in terms of ROI. With a record of handing over possession always before time, it has been setting new benchmarks with each cluster. Thanks to the immense growth & the affinity that the project has shown, buyers can expect great returns on their investment not only in terms of appreciation but also in terms of the Rental ROI.

**U**nder the dynamic leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sunaina Singh, Nalanda University has grown considerably. The University remains true to former President of India, Late Dr. Kalam's vision of reviving the ancient Nalanda of the 5th Century AD, popularly known as 'the ancient seat of learning'. Since its inception, it has been focussing on imparting world-class education to students and providing them

with a concrete ground for research in Management Studies, Languages, History, Ecology, & Buddhist Studies.

### FOSTERING GLOBAL MINDEDNESS

One of the distinct hallmarks of ancient Nalanda University was its diversity and international outlook. To keep the tradition going, the new Nalanda University embraces global academic architecture and welcomes students from all cultural backgrounds. The institution has been

attracting scholars from all across Asia as well as other corners of the globe.

### AMBIENCE CONDUCTIVE TO LEARNING

Nalanda University is an abode of research-focused faculty members that provide students with the best possible learning opportunities. Additionally, to establish a productive and progressive culture for knowledge sharing, the University has been inviting luminaries to inculcate the Indian value system into students hailing from different parts of Asia and beyond. These expert lecturers include dignitaries such as Prof. Arvind Sharma, McGill University & Member of the Governing Board, Nalanda University; Prof. Antonino Raffone, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy; Prof. Yann Montelle, Canterbury University, New Zealand; Prof. Asanga Tilakartane, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, among others.

The University has a state-of-the-art campus with contemporary amenities. From a well-stocked library having 1886 e-books, 4571 e-journals, and over 9000 books to 8 smart classrooms and countless research publications, it offers an unmatched learning experience.

### TOWERING ACHIEVEMENTS

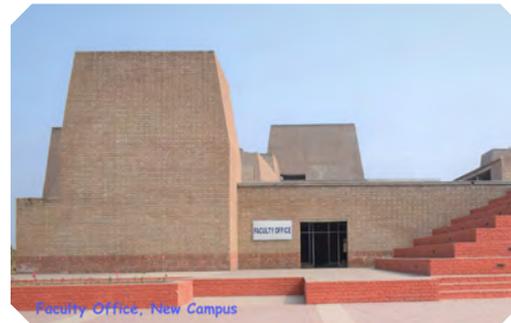
The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Sunaina Singh, has been conferred Honorary Professorship by the Academic Union, Oxford in recognition of her expertise in the fields of science, economy, and healthcare as well as her relentless efforts towards reviving the historical Nalanda University. Under her exemplary leadership, the university has been honoured with several awards and accolades, including the National Green Conference Award 2019 organized by the Gujarat Energy Development Agency; Excellence in Education Award-2018 by the Competition Success Review (CSR); Exemplary Performance Award in the category of Renewable Energy approach by GRIHA Council in 2018.

### GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Serving the community is an essential component of a well-rounded education. With the generous support of the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research, the University recently created and inaugurated 7 Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pits in Meyar and Nekpur in Bihar to help farmers deal with water scarcity in the winters.



Administrative Block, New Campus



Faculty Office, New Campus



New Campus, Nalanda University

# NALANDA UNIVERSITY

## REVIVING THE LEGACY OF ANCIENT NALANDA

*Nalanda University is an avant-garde research-intensive university located in Rajgir, Bihar (India). Founded in the year 2010, Nalanda University is the epitome of excellence and is counted among the most valued educational institutions in India and abroad*



## PMD CHEMICALS

### FORMULATING A UNIQUE SUCCESS SAGA

*Established in 2012 in Pune, Maharashtra (India), PMD Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. is the subsidiary of the UK-based PMD Group that provides the Metal Finishing, PCB, and Electronics Industries with world-class process chemistry backed up by unparalleled technical assistance and customer service*

**U**nder the exemplary leadership of the Director & CEO Mr. Dipak Choudhary, PMD Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. has established itself as a trusted brand with a huge base of satisfied customers. One of its finest strategies is that it has never stopped evolving. It is constantly focused on gaining strength and proficiency in numerous ways. The solutions the company offers to cater to its client's needs are based on years of rich expertise.

The firm is renowned for delivering excellent customer service in all the industries in which it operates. It aims for 100% client satisfaction and firmly believes that it is possible to flourish in the industry by offering timely and world-class service to clients.

#### FOCUSED ON ENHANCING QUALITY

PMD Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. is a BS EN ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 9001:2008 certified firm. It puts great emphasis

on meeting all relevant statutory and regulatory requirements. As a market leader in specialty chemicals, the company manufactures and supplies a comprehensive range of electroplating and electroless processes together with all necessary pre and post-treatments. The company aims at providing flawless yet affordable products and services to its customers. It operates a state-of-the-art Quality Management System.

The company's management team is fully committed to boosting the efficiency of the company's Quality Management System. They also take all possible measures to identify customer needs and ensure that customer expectations are fulfilled. They have also established quality policies and objectives that are strictly adhered to at all relevant levels and processes of manufacturing chemicals.

PMD Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. is committed to research and development. It has a dedicated R&D team of scientists and

chemical engineers that focuses on new product development and improvement of the existing manufacturing processes. Right from raw material procurement to the final delivery of finished products to customers, each phase of the supply chain is evaluated by skilled professionals.

#### ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE

A strong presence in India for nine years and a dedicated, pioneering, and flexible team has made PMD Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. a trusted source of specialty chemicals. The company has a team of industrious employees that are self-motivated to render high-quality services through the best-in-class expertise in the industry. They ensure a timely & continuous supply of high-quality products, thus generating considerable goodwill, which in turn has helped the company build excellent business relationships all over India.

#### REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

PMD Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. has carved a niche for itself in the industry over the years. It received the 2017 India 5000 Best MSME Awards. It has also received recognition from industry players because of its world-class innovations and excellence. PMD Group got featured in the 2018 Sunday Times Lloyds SME Export Track 100 as one of the fastest-growing SME Exporters.

**S**t. Paul's Degree College is affiliated to Osmania University and approved by APSCHE. It offers Commerce and Management courses that are taught by its outstanding faculty. It is the alma mater of some of the highly accomplished alumni. Tagged as the 'Best Degree College' in Telangana state in a survey conducted by a popular newspaper, it continues to set benchmarks in the field.

### NURTURING BRILLIANCE SINCE 1994

Established in 1994 at Himayatnagar, Hyderabad, St. Paul's Degree College has created a name for itself in the education vertical. It offers a range of courses like BBA, B.Com (General, Honours and Computer Applications), and M.Com. This institution spares no effort in amplifying the skills of its students by proffering certificate courses in Digital Marketing and Accountancy. Additionally, it is registered with the Telangana Academy

for Skill and Knowledge, which accords utmost importance to the refinement of soft skills among its scholars. Its national outlook and diversity have generated healthy competition and transmission of ideas among the students. A well-stocked library, highly qualified staff, classrooms, computer labs, sports facilities, Wi-Fi connectivity, LCD projectors, and other facilities enable the students to develop themselves. The college has triumphantly achieved 95% pass percentage, which evidently reflects the individual attention that it showers on its scholars. By gaining 90% pass percentage each year, it has secured a position among the top 5 ranks of Osmania University's commerce colleges. Since its inception, it has admitted 7000+ students and disseminated value-based educational skills to them.

What sets St. Paul's Degree College apart from others is its practical approach towards management. It offers ground-level experience of the industry, allowing the students to closely understand the nuances and intricacies of the sector obtained from practical industrial exposure. It conducts workshops led by experts from NIMSME, NSIC, TASK, etc. Seminars are conducted by entrepreneurs as well as the BSE, the banking realm and the finance industry. From time to time, educational tours to ISB (Indian School of Business) and IPE (Institute of Public Enterprise) are organized along with industrial tours. Each year, major recruiters like ICICI, Deloitte, Wipro, Genpact, etc. enable the scholars to prove their mettle professionally.

### AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

St Paul's Degree College has garnered due recognition for its outstanding contribution to the field of education. Along with dissemination of constructive knowledge, it strives to unfurl values and ethics among its pupils. This institution has carved a niche for itself by constantly revamping its teaching methodology. Over time, it has successfully gained titles like 'Best Degree College in Hyderabad' by Times of India and secured the 50th rank among top BBA institutes in India, according to the Times B-School Survey. India Today Magazine honoured it with 3rd rank among the Top Commerce Colleges in Hyderabad in 2001 and the 5th rank nation-wide. Recently, it has achieved 4th rank among the top BBA institutes in Hyderabad as per the Times B-School survey.



# ST. PAUL'S DEGREE COLLEGE

## UPHOLDING HIGH STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

*Hyderabad-based St. Paul's Degree College is an esteemed institution that is synonymous with excellence. In the last 28 years, it has emerged as an establishment that maintains high standards of teaching and has made its mark for flawlessly polishing the cognitive abilities and skills of its students*



## PATTON GROUP

### MAKING ITS MARK IN THE WORLD

*With clients all across the globe, Patton International Limited is a premier manufacturer of international - quality iron and steel electrical fittings. The company is well-known for not only the quality of its products and services but also giving back to the community through various channels*

**P**atton is a Government of India Recognised Star Export House founded by renowned industrialist Mr. H.P. Budhia. ably supported by his son Sanjay, having 6 Manufacturing locations in West Bengal having a covered shed area of more than 7 Lac sq ft. Recently, Patton has commissioned state of art plant at Uluberia, Howrah having covered area of almost 2 Lacs sq ft. Patton is one of the largest and most trusted manufacturer & exporter of High Precision Light Voltage Electrical Conduit Fittings catering to markets like USA, Canada, Mexico etc. All Patton products are manufactured & certified as per specifications laid down by World Renowned Quality Certifying Agencies like Underwriter's Laboratory & Canadian Standard Association. It manufactures & exports more than 200 products to USA & Canada using mild steel, Aluminium, Zinc, Malleable Copper etc. Patton has the most sophisticated State of the Art Plant & Machineries

imported from USA, Germany, Taiwan etc & reputed domestic sources. Patton also has in-house Product Development Team and fully equipped State of the Art Tool Room and certified testing laboratory. Patton is an ISO 9001-2015 & Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) company & compliant to the requirement of Customs Trade Partnership against Terrorism (CTPA, USA). It employs approx 2500 persons in its six plants & has never lost a single working hour due to strike / lock out. It is part of Global Supply Chain of companies like ABB, Emerson & Cooper & several other top Fortune 500 companies and caters to their requirement from its multi location warehouse in the USA. Patton is also in Plastic Manufacturing includes Water Storage , Tanks , Crates , Bins , Pallets & PVC Pipes.

### OFFERING BEST QUALITY & SERVICES

Patton has constantly reinvented itself in order to be able to meet the constantly changing demands of clients, increasing

costs of raw materials & fluctuating currency value. In order to deliver the product in accordance with the tightly scheduled delivery time, it has established warehouses strategically located close to client's location such as Jonesboro, Arkansas, & Norfolk in the USA. It has a special team of experts known as the "Alert Team" who monitors & manages the stock levels, & ensures that stocks are replenished in scheduled time & prescribed volumes are maintained at all times. Clients have been provided with an online portal integrated with the warehouse facilities & through this they can create product requisitions as per their convenience & track whereabouts of their shipment.

### A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FIRM

Patton has taken significant beneficiary measures for the community. The "triple bottom line" accounting framework is at the very heart of Patton. Its latest CSR Venture is the Swarnim International School in Kodalía, Kolkata. It has also established 3 schools in Rajasthan. It backs Caring Minds, a super speciality state-of-the-art mental health facility located in Kolkata to promote well-being across all age groups. ICANFLYY, a vocational & skill building institute for children & adults with special needs, Hospital at Tinsukia , Silai Center at Rajasthan, are its significant initiatives.

**S**ince its inception in 1984, IIHMR (Indian Institute of Health Management Research) has been constantly engaging in knowledge creation, health management education, research and training in India as well as the South East Asian Region. The University in association with Johns Hopkins University is moulding future administrators, researchers as well as public health Policy makers in the vital

health care sector.

### A VAST ARRAY OF PROGRAMS

With campuses in Jaipur, Delhi, and Bangalore, IIHMR University, Jaipur offers AICTE approved full-time courses in Hospital and Health Management, Pharmaceutical Management, and Development Management, Advanced Management Programs, Management Programs, PG Diploma Programs as well as Executive Programs are also conducted

on campus. The University is conducting more than 35 Programs annually and is training 600+ professionals every year. In addition, it has also conducted more than 600 research projects and has more than 25 collaborating partners and alumni who have brought laurels to their alma mater enriching the healthcare and allied sectors with their expertise.

### INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Masters of Public Health Program is one of its most sought-after courses. Since 2013, the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, USA in collaboration with IIHMR University has been offering Masters of Public Health Program in Jaipur. The students attend the Winter Institute at the Johns Hopkins University, USA. Presently, the program has a vast network of 20000+ alumni around the world. Johns Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health (1916) is the oldest and largest independent and most distinguished graduate school of public health in the world.

### RESOUNDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The unique organizational culture the University comprises core values and ethos of autonomy, accountability, openness and transparency. Under the strong leadership and guidance of Prof. Prahlad Rai Sodani, President, IIHMR University has witnessed enormous growth. The institution was ranked 1st amongst the cleanest higher educational institutions in India, in the category of non-residential Universities - UGC, Swachh campus ranking-2019 of higher educational institutions by the Ministry of HRD, GoI. It has been ranked 65th under the "Management Category" in India by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2020. Recently, the institution has also been accredited by NAAC. It is worth mentioning that IIHMR University has bagged 'Education Leadership Award' by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). The South East Asia Public Health Education Institutions Network (SEAPHEIN) awarded IIHMR University with the 'Public Health Leadership Award' for its significant contribution in promoting public health education in the region.

The university recently hosted its first E-Convocation where a total of 216 students were given their management and doctorate degrees.



# IIHMR UNIVERSITY

**NURTURING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW**

*With a vision to make quality healthcare more accessible and affordable, IIHMR University is touching lives by training students in health, pharmaceuticals, the development sector & its allied fields. It has been setting new benchmarks of excellence in India & abroad through its PG, Doctoral, and Executive programs*



## NARAYAN JEWELLERS

### PUTTING UP A DAZZLING SHOW

*Narayan Jewellers is one of the most renowned jewellers housed in Vadodara (Gujarat), India. It has been mesmerizing its customers for over 8 decades with its wide array of eye-catching jewellery designs. It designs each piece of jewellery with utmost care and precision to surpass customers' expectations*

**T**his heritage jewellery brand has grown into a design house catering to the research based innovative & distinctive jewellery design. It is one of the very few homegrown luxury designer jewellery brands showcasing luxe fine jewellery which is handmade, designed using rarest of raw material, and offering exclusivity.

### A GLORIOUS LEGACY

Incepted with the idea of crafting exquisite fine jewellery that is an amalgamation of class and tradition, Narayan Jewellers is the epitome of aesthetics, creativity and luxury. Established in 1940 by Mr. Ambalal Chaturbhai Chokshi, it is currently led by the third generation duo of Ketan and Jatin Chokshi and is known for its exquisite jadau, gold & diamond jewellery. Their 80 years journey has established Narayan Jewellers as a sustainable brand and a global icon of luxurious designs, legendary style and heirloom masterpieces.

### A HIGH-PROFILE CLIENTELE

Currently targeting global expansion, Narayan Jewellers luxurious jewellery pieces personify sophistication and elegance making them one of the preferred brands by Bollywood & Hollywood celebrities. From being a part of Forevermark Oscars red carpet Zone for the last 8 years and styling celebrities like Mary J Blige, Olivia Wilde amongst others, to showcase its exclusive jewellery collection at the NYFW with Designer Bibhu Mohapatra in association with Forevermark, it has successfully crossed borders to make its mark amongst the elite, across the globe. Narayan has been part of the prestigious LFW in association with DPA, FDCI Couture Week and styled celebrities including Sonam Kapoor, Shilpa Shetty, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Katrina Kaif, Parineeti Chopra, Vidya Balan, Aditi Rao Haydari, Taapsee Pannu and many more.

### NARAYAN'S BRIDAL STUDIO

It has been designing unprecedented

designs with emotional & sentimental value. The bridal pieces Narayan Jewellers creates stay relevant year-after-year, as they are styled with contemporary sophistication. One of the most popular bridal jewellery couturiers, Narayan Jewellers' bridal clientele includes people from elite families and celebrities including Harbhajan Singh & Geeta Basra, Kishwer Merchant, Neha Pendse amongst others. Ketan & Jatin Chokshi customise and craft the most dreamy jewellery looks; expressing and mirroring our rich culture, luxurious heritage and opulent lavishness.

### HONOURS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Along the glamorous way, Narayan Jewellers has won more than 25+ awards in the last seven years (2014 – 2020) including the prestigious Retail Jeweller India Awards, Ravishing Wedding Design Awards, The Gems and Jewellery Trade Council of India Awards, National Jewellery Award, JJS-IJ Jewellers choice awards, the Eminence Award by Divya Bhaskar amongst others.

### A SUSTAINABLE BRAND

At Narayan, all initiatives are divided into 3 pillars, social, environmental, & economic. It ensures fair wages to its "Karigars" (artisans). It prohibits child labour and the use of black gold, blood diamonds or gems. Through Smile Foundation, it supports 50 Girl Children under "She Can Fly."

**H**eadquartered in Bengaluru (Karnataka) in India, Samsidh Group of Schools currently has over 1500 students in its four schools in Bengaluru – HSR Extension, Electronic City, Horamavu, and Vidyanarayana. The Group also has a presence in Kanakpura, Vellore, Madurai, and Vizag. It offers a welcoming, balanced, calm, and learning-focused environment to its students.

The educational community at

Samsidh Group of Schools discourages rote learning and dismisses the idea of recognising students merely by their grades and marks scored in exams. The group aims at motivating students to apply the knowledge and skills they learn in school so that they can become work-ready.

#### MOULDING THE NATION'S DESTINY

Samsidh Group of Schools was founded to develop future leaders who can solve

21st-century challenges with ease. The schools have the best faculties for all disciplines. They take all possible measures to prepare today's students to tackle global challenges boldly and with confidence. Additionally, Samsidh Group of Schools believes that every child is unique; therefore, it ensures every student achieves academic excellence based on their strengths.

The group encourages student-centered learning to prepare its students as confident and compassionate individuals who are curious as well as creative. It also strives to cultivate a sense of commitment in its students so as to motivate them to become lifelong learners.

#### VALUE-BASED EDUCATION

To instil a humanitarian approach in students and help them see situations in the right perspective, Samsidh Group of Schools imparts value-based education to its students. The group adheres to three core values — Compassion, Humility, and Happiness in its curriculum where students learn values of compassion and humility as skills and happiness as Science.

Samsidh Group of Schools understands that humility is an important personality trait and a much-appreciated virtue in today's world. Thus, the group makes sure that it instills the trait of humbleness in its students. At the same time, it encourages students to develop positive emotions to broaden their attention and enhance resilience.

#### REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

The initiatives taken by Samsidh Group of Schools have been applauded over the years and have earned them numerous prestigious awards. They have been awarded Times Education Excellence Award in 2019, the International School Award from British Council for the years 2016 to 2019; The 12th National Education Summit & Award 2018, and Karnataka Educational Awards 2018 for Best Innovative & Creative Institute of the Year; and Education Today Award 2017-2018 for the Best Value for Money School.

In addition, Samsidh Group of Schools has been adjudged as Gold School by Gray Matters (2015-2018). Last but not the least, the first batch of Grade X appeared for the Board Exam in March 2016 and made it proud by scoring 100% results.



## SAMSIDH GROUP OF SCHOOLS

### NURTURING THE FUTURE OF THE NATION

*Under the leadership of the Founder and Chairman Mr. Vasa Srinivasa Rao, the Samsidh Group of Schools has successfully emerged as a chain of advanced K-12 co-educational schools across South India. Since its inception, the Group has been making relentless efforts to raise proactive and conscientious citizens*



## SHILPA MITTAL JEWELLERY

### PUTTING THE INDIAN JEWELLERY CRAFTSMANSHIP ON CENTER STAGE

*Her innate passion for jewellery designing motivated Shilpa Mittal to establish her jewellery brand in 2018. Today, her exquisite designs are receiving a lot of admiration and positive response from her clients and have enabled her to garner glory in the form of various prestigious awards*

**H**ailing from the Pink City of Jaipur, the land of spirited lifestyle and vast cultural heritage, Shilpa ventured out to bring authentic Indian art to the global stage. After completing a degree in jewellery designing from SNDT, Mumbai, she began working and mastered the art further at a jewellery manufacturing firm in Bangkok.

In a country where owning precious ornaments stands for tradition, culture, and status, Shilpa's aesthetic and well-crafted jewellery collections represent India's heritage, and appeal to her growing clientele. She acknowledges that the jewellery industry will continue to thrive with the growing demand for wearing jewellery.

#### CONTEMPORARY DESIGNS FOR ETHNIC MAKES

The story of Indian jewellery dates back to over 5,000 years, and every piece of Shilpa Mittal Jewellery portrays it

through the designer's connection with her roots, values, and ethnicity. Her brand employs craftsmen facing the threat of unemployment amidst rapid automation. Her deep sense of gratitude for artisans (karigars) and their works (karigari) guides her business and opens more avenues to provide them with means of sustenance.

Shilpa foresees a promising future for the Indian jewellery sector. Gold is no more just an asset or a gift for special occasions but a precious ornament for everyday style statement. With changing times and trends, the desire for owning and wearing jewellery is growing even stronger and is here to stay.

#### EXQUISITE JEWELLERY COLLECTIONS

With increasing demand and high valuation, the gem and jewellery industry is still resilient amidst the global pandemic. Shilpa Mittal Jewellery creates pieces that are a masterful blend of design, technique, and the Indian craftsmanship.

Her collections Taraash and Aakriti are handcrafted high-end jewellery pieces that reflect India's diverse heritage, art forms, intricate details of jewellery designing.

Aakriti, her award-winning jewellery collection, is a blend of indigenous art that embeds its classic design with royal lifestyles, religion, and folklore to complement the Indian as well as the western attire as statement jewellery. Set in 22 carats gold, the collection matches Indian women's love for jewellery and showcases miniature illustrations on ivory plates, beaded in exquisite gemstones with accents of polki and diamonds. Another prominent collection Taraash draws inspiration from the art of stone carving, where every creative expression honours the age-old Indian artistry.

#### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Shilpa's creativity in the sphere of jewellery designing has been recognized at many prestigious platforms. She has bagged numerous awards including India's Best Jewellery Designer and Businesswomen Award by India Leadership Awards in 2019. What's more, she has received the prestigious Women Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the National Excellence Awards. A multitasking person, Shilpa is also the winner of the coveted Mrs. India Universe 2019 pageant held in Pune.

**O**ther than asset management services Sundaram Asset Management Company offers financial planning, portfolio construction, and investment advisory services. As of November 30, 2020, Sundaram Asset Management had approximately INR 39,685 crores in assets under management.

The company's strong commitment to making mutual funds available to

everyone is the driving force behind its growth. Sundaram Asset Management Company manages funds for investors with varying risk, reward, and liquidity choices. With seventeen equity and eleven fixed-income funds, the company strives to meet a wide range of investors' needs.

**GLOBAL REACH**

Sundaram Asset Management is a global asset management firm that works with clients all over the world. It currently

offers 145 equity, 182 debt, and 36 hybrid mutual fund schemes. What's more, it also has an office in Dubai and a wholly-owned subsidiary in Singapore named Sundaram Asset Management Singapore Pte Limited.

With over 1.1 million active investors and 93 branches throughout the country, the company also has a strong retail focus, with customer loyalty built on the strength of long-term revenue growth in the mid-cap space and an investor-friendly dividend payout strategy.

**STRENGTHENING ITS MARKET POSITION**

In 2021, Sundaram Asset Management Company acquired the Indian business of the global financial services major, Principal Financial Group, for 338.53 crores to reinforce its market position with the addition of a spectrum of programs with an impressive long-term performance track record throughout the large and mid-cap segments. A solid research team and a reliable process serve as the backbone of the company's Fund Management team, which has an impressive track history of identifying "tomorrow's players" in the small and mid-cap segments.

**GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY**

Sundaram Asset Management Company aims at making the world a better place through its preventive healthcare, water and sanitation, education, employability, and livelihood enhancement programs. It also takes measures to conserve public libraries and heritage, besides promoting art, craft, and culture, along with national and rural sports, and Paralympics and Olympic sports.

**TOWERING ACHIEVEMENTS**

It has been honoured with numerous awards and accolades for its matchless service. It received the Economic Times Best BFSI Brands Award in 2018 & 2019. It is also the recipient of the Economic Times Best Brands Award (2019). What's more, the company has been recognized for the Innovative Launch Campaign of the year 2020 for Sundaram Bluechip Fund at the Global Marketing Excellence Awards by the World Marketing Congress. It was also honoured with the Best Brand Award at the Tamil Nadu Brand Leadership Awards 2020 by the World Marketing Congress.



# SUNDARAM ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY

**MAKING MUTUAL FUNDS ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE**

*Founded in 1996, Sundaram Asset Management Company is a joint venture of Sundaram Finance Ltd., one of India's oldest and most valued NBFCs, and Stewart Newton Holdings (Mauritius) Ltd. Based in Chennai (India), it has grown to become one of India's largest financial institutions, with around 3.3 million investors*



## VERTIV

### MAKING A LASTING IMPACT ON THE WORLD

*Vertiv is a leading provider of innovative power, thermal, and IT infrastructure solutions, and services for digital infrastructure. With its efficient future-focused solutions and many sustainability initiatives, Vertiv is making waves in the energy and IT sectors around the globe*

**V**ertiv (NYSE: VRT) brings together hardware, software, analytics and ongoing services to ensure its customers' vital applications run continuously, perform optimally and grow with their business needs. As Architects of Continuity™, Vertiv solves the most important challenges facing today's data centers, communication networks and commercial and industrial facilities with a portfolio of power, cooling and IT infrastructure solutions and services that extends from the cloud to the edge of the network. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, USA, Vertiv employs approximately 20,000 people and does business in more than 130 countries.

### PROVIDING SMART SOLUTIONS

Vertiv has a focus on data centres to enable reliable, efficient, and scalable service from the core to the edge of the system. Through their expertise

in design (based on construction and commissioning), and innovative solutions that reduce costs and improve management and speed, they provide world-class services that drive uptime and deliver insights into performance. With an emphasis on advancement of communication networks, Vertiv provides smart, flexible solutions for advanced holistic network management; thus, enabling flexible architectures, fast deployment, turnkey solutions, seamless service, and providing future-forward solutions supporting 5G and a variety of other sites. Vertiv also targets commercial and industrial aspects and is able to simplify complexity in these environments. The company provides robust protection to infrastructure even in the most extreme conditions, and offers customized solutions to suit different requirements and budgets. They provide promptly available expert technical teams to solve any problem that may arise, and products, solutions, services,

and expertise specific to several types of industries such as healthcare, transit, power generation, and oil and gas.

### WORKING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

By maximizing the benefits of ICT, Vertiv aims to solve environmental and social issues prevalent in these times. Its products are designed to help clients reduce energy usage and wastage of water. Its teams analyse mass balance (identifying mass flows by accounting for material entering and leaving the system) in the company's business operations and use it to develop measures to reduce their impact on the environment. By formulating countermeasures for environmental problems, Vertiv aims towards a sustainable society that coexists in harmony with nature.

In order to facilitate safe and sound management of e-waste, Vertiv has been collaborating with partners who support the channelization of the e-waste from the end customer to the recycling and dismantling zones, help establish collection centres, and run buy-back schemes wherever applicable. Another partner assists Vertiv with reverse logistics to transport e-waste from the collection point and also provides support for door-to-door collection of e-waste in an environmentally secure manner.

**U**nder the aegis of Mr. Shivakumaraiah, the Managing Director and Ms. Deeksha S. Kumar, the Chief Executive Officer, Sparsh Foods has been consistently making its mark as a prominent spices manufacturing organization in India. With its lip-smacking products gaining popularity consistently in the Southern India, the brand is zestfully anticipating a major expansion up North as well.

### EXTENSIVE VARIETY OF PRODUCTS

Sparsh Foods keeps its clients tempted with a range of spices, flavors, and food essences. From the essential spices such as red chilli powder, turmeric and coriander, to dish-specific spices like biryani masala, egg curry masala, fish masala, mutton masala, etc. the company has many appetizing flavors to bring to the table. For biryani lovers all around the country, Sparsh Biryani Masala is something without which the biryani is

all accounts fragmented.

Besides, seasonings such as the black and white pepper powder enhance the taste in different recipes. That is not all, for those craving for something sweet yet healthy; Sparsh Foods presents Badam Drink Mix— an almond-based milk powder suitable for both kids and adults. . With their Kitchen King masala, the regular recipes will undoubtedly turn out to be even more delectable. With such an all-encompassing collection of spices, flavors, and seasonings, the customers might not need to search for incredible flavors somewhere else.

### MISSION AND VALUES

With fundamental beliefs such as honesty, quality, improvement and nurturing relationships, the organization has stood by business ethics at all times. They deem the trust of their customers as the most valuable asset for business growth. Quality and authenticity of each of their offerings has helped the company to reach the position of prominence and popularity.

Widespread Availability Products by Sparsh Foods are available on different online stores and platforms, such as Amazon, Paytm, and Flipkart. Customers outside the Southern India can now buy the flavorsome products at their convenience. With the enthusiasm to continue offering tasty and aromatic tastemakers, Sparsh Foods has been genuinely making the way to customers' hearts through their stomachs.

### MAKING A DISTINCT MARK

Dedication towards its work and a commitment to provide quality products have enabled the brand and its CEO receive multiple awards. From winning the Karnataka's Hemmeya Mahila Sadaki Award to the Trusted Spice Brand Award at the Radio Mirchi Food Awards, Sparsh Foods has been time and again recognized for its distinguished taste and quality. The Pride of Karnataka - MSME Award is another feather in the cap for the masala brand. Besides, the organization was recognized as the Fastest Growing Kitchen Brand at the Times of India Business Awards 2018. Felicitated for her exceptional entrepreneurial skills, the CEO was also the proud recipient of the Times Power Women Award and the Best CEO Award, presented by the Chittara Awards in Bengaluru.



## SPARSH FOODS

### ADDING SPICE TO YOUR LIFE

*Established in 2006, Sparsh Foods is an FMCG brand that offers a wide array of spices and flavors to its customers. Owing to its outstanding focus on offering variety, it is one of the most trusted masala brands today and is the favored culinary partner at homes, hotels, and restaurants*



## LTG INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

### AN EPITOME OF INFRASTRUCTURAL EXCELLENCE

*Headquartered in Bangalore along with an expansive network of offices in Karnataka, LTG Infrastructure Ltd. has emerged as one of the most reliable construction companies in India by building efficient and cutting-edge infrastructure while generating large scale employment*

**E**stablished in 1999, LTG Infrastructure Ltd. has metamorphosed into a flourishing business under the able leadership of the Chairman and Managing Director Mr. H.P. Lakshmana. Despite hailing from a humble background, he has shown exemplary leadership by establishing five other companies under the LTG Group & has been consistently driving the Group towards the path of growth. His parents are his inspiration & he regards his wife, Ms. Tara B, as a notable source of strength for the firm. Quality infrastructure & township projects delivered by the firm authenticate its in-depth quality & system orientation.

### EXEMPLARY GROWTH

LTG Infrastructure Ltd. has been constantly engaged in bringing about business innovations. Along with delivering top-notch services & state-of-the-art infrastructure, it is actively venturing into diverse arenas like the agricultural

sector, rural water supply, & natural gas sector. Transparent operations & flawless execution of projects have allowed it to build colossal infrastructural bodies. Infrastructure development of a township of 100+ acres in association with KHB, warehouses for KSBCL & BIAL, & providing water supply in rural areas are some of the bright feathers in its heavily decorated cap. On-time deliveries, devotion towards quality, & error-free work have garnered trust for them in the infrastructure industry. It has seamlessly executed as an infrastructure service provider of high-end projects like KHB-L&C Silicon City, Rajalakshmi Residency, LTG BHEL Meadows, LTG-BRV e-city Greenwood, & BSNL Township. It looks forward to carve a niche in quality infrastructural projects such as affordable Group-housing, IT & BT parks, SEZs, & integrated townships.

### VIRTUOUS VISION

LTG Infrastructure Ltd. is undoubtedly an embodiment of social responsibility.

Besides laying emphasis on its quality, management, health & safety management system policy & ethics as a corporate body, it provides assistance to the underprivileged through the LTG Foundation Trust. Its prime focus is to enhance the quality of life at the grassroots level. It strives to evolve in such a fashion that it catalyzes our nation's growth simultaneously. The Trust has successfully constructed & renovated schools & other educational institutions. Granting scholarships to economically-challenged students, opening of dispensaries & old-age homes organising health camps, promotion of sustainable livelihood activities, & training of women in trade skills are its notable initiatives.

### PRESTIGIOUS COMMENDATIONS

It has bagged numerous awards namely India's Most Admired & Valuable Infrastructure Company 2020; Best Developer of the Year award at the 10th International Achievers Conference, Thailand; Outstanding Achievement Award for Affordable Housing; Outstanding Achievement Award for Infrastructure Development; India 5000 Best MSME Award for Quality Excellence – 2018 winner, Outstanding Contribution in Customer Satisfaction, Social Services, & Management; & 'Kannada Rajyotsava Prashasti' awarded by the Newspapers Association of Karnataka.

**C**ourtesy to the quality of its flavoursome offerings, Ansika Trade Private Limited has enjoyed double-digit sales growth in the last fiscal years. The company invests generously in the packaging to ensure freshness and a longer shelf life of cashew nuts.

The unprecedented turnover of 20 crores in 2018-19 shows the extent of preference for the brand among

the customers. From production and packaging to marketing and retailing, the firm stands as the best in every area.

#### A HISTORY ROOTED IN TRADITION

A company that has been set up with the universal idea that nuts can add days and years to your life, Ansika Trade Private Limited originates from a traditional background. The organization has been started with the intent to provide the finest quality of nuts at affordable

prices to individuals that face difficulties in ensuring nutritional food for their families.

Founded and based in Marthandam of Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu in the last four decades, the firm is considered as one of Asia's top-quality exporters and importers of cashews today.

With the goal of becoming a world-renowned company that provides natural, organic and flavorful snacks across the Indian subcontinent, Ansika Trade Private Limited is focused on the future. Although the organization has already made steady gains towards its goal and created an imprint in the industry, it looks forward to solidifying its position as an eminent market leader.

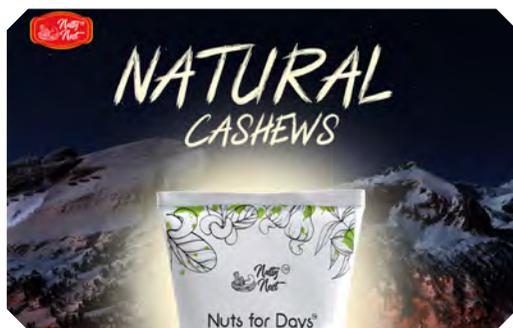
The vision of its novel brand, Nutty Nest by Ansika Trade Private Limited, is to meet the needs of the customers whilst maintaining international standards. Making wise decisions during the process of manufacturing like choosing vibrant colors for the company's packaging or picking the finest quality of nuts has set it apart from its competitors.

Nutty Nest products uphold the promise of providing an impeccable choice for all occasions. With unfathomable flavors and attractive packaging, the brand has created a unique identity in the market. The organization is ready to travel the extra mile for its valuable customers in order to deliver 100% nutritious and affordable meals to them that are within reach at any time of the day. The products are processed under the supervision of experts in three countries and are delivered across seven countries.

#### CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

The firm, which has created a vibrant brand like Nutty Nest, has become the epitome of generosity. With the increasing difficulties that people are experiencing during the pandemic, there are a few leaders who are extending their hand to help society.

Among those leaders and organizations is Ansika Trade Private Limited, which has gone out of its way to help those who have been adversely affected by delivering groceries to them. The organization has catered to many impoverished communities in Kanyakumari and Tamil Nadu. Additionally, the organization is working to ease food-related challenges in lesser-known towns and areas.



## ANSIKA TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED (NUTTY NEST)

### CREATING A CULTURE OF HEALTHY SNACKING

*In a world where consumers are looking for new experiences, Ansika Trade Private Limited has been selling roasted cashew nuts in various indigenous flavours. A popular snack, cashew nuts are a mix of nutrition and indulgence and enhance one's health when eaten in moderation*



## EMCER GROUP

### MERGING INNOVATION WITH AESTHETICS TO OFFER UBER TILING SOLUTIONS

*EMCER Group has emerged as the leader in the Indian ceramic industry owing to its world-class tiling solutions. With innovation, latest technology, intramural operations, and cutting-edge designs, the organization has carved a unique niche for itself in the infrastructure sector*

**E**MCER Group stands tall as a memento of integrity and indigenous manufacturing. Its "Made in India" stance has amassed copious amounts of appreciation both domestically and internationally. Its range of tiles is an amalgamation of traditional practices and modern ethos. Ever since its launch, the brand has been phenomenally transforming commercial, private and public spaces.

#### CONCERTED EFFORTS

EMCER Group is a joint venture between SOLTiles and Sanford Tiles. The invaluable expertise and unwavering ambition of both the companies accelerated EMCER's success. Its futuristic designs emanate a fresh wave of class and elegance.

It owes its success to valuing its workforce, which has been performing exceptionally and driving the growth of the company. During the

COVID-19 pandemic, the firm provided accommodation, food supply and other amenities to its workers and continues to take care of their requirements.

As a manufacturer, the company prioritizes superior output and uniqueness in all its designs. The company owes its widening presence in the Indian and international markets to its promise of top-notch quality and reasonable rates. By constantly assessing its standards and competitiveness, EMCER Group has now entered the international market too. Exporting tiles to 47 countries, the company has 2,000 skilled professionals that constitute its extensive human capital. Premium quality, strategic corporate efforts, and business ethics are the reasons behind the enterprise's glorious rise.

It has epitomized the revolution in the tiles and ceramics industry. Through constant endeavours, it has set new standards by creating a strong and trusted global brand.

#### DIVERSE RANGE

An extraordinarily versatile range of products allow the customers to choose from a comprehensive range of inimitable tiles designs and styles. Some of the ultra-modern and luxe tile collections comprise the Earth, Evolution, é Slab, Extrema, and Quartzite. The é Slab stands as a true testimony of a jewel in the crown of modern architecture. Alongside being marvellous, these collections are extremely durable and available in different types of finishes.

#### VALUING SUSTAINABILITY

At EMCER Group, the architects enable experimentation, builders never compromise with quality, and distributors ensure world-class customer service. As an annual member of Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), it follows environment-friendly practices. The production unit is equipped with biogas and solar energy plants, which equate to zero harmful emissions in the atmosphere.

A vision for excellence and an untiring determination enable it to soar high even in a highly-competitive arena. Its majestic industrial aura is reflected by its humongous building at the sprawling office premises and its annual production capacity of a whopping 17 million square metre per year. Sincere and sustainable efforts alongside transparency and accountability have furthered its existence as a global design partner.

**A** dedication to life Medanta – The Medicity is one of India's largest multi-specialty institutes located in Gurgaon, a bustling town in the National Capital Region. Founded by eminent cardiac surgeon, Dr. Naresh Trehan, the institution has been envisioned with the aim of bringing to India the highest standards of medical care along with clinical research, education and training. Medanta is governed under the guiding principles

of providing medical services to patients with care, compassion, commitment. Spread across 43 acres, the institute includes a research center, medical and nursing school. It has 1250 beds and over 350 critical care beds with 45 operation theatres catering to over 20 specialties. Medanta houses six centers of excellence which will provide medical intelligentsia, cutting-edge technology & state-of-the-art infrastructure with a well-integrated & comprehensive information system.

Medanta – The Medicity brings together an outstanding pool of doctors, scientists & clinical researchers to foster collaborative, multidisciplinary investigation, inspiring new ideas & discoveries; & translating scientific advances more swiftly into new ways of diagnosing & treating patients and preventing diseases.

A one-of-its-kind facility across the world, Medanta through its research integrates modern & traditional forms of medicine to provide accessible and affordable healthcare. "The Institute is governed under the guiding principles of providing affordable medical services to patients with care, compassion & commitment."

### WORKING TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW

The institution proudly says that, "Our mission is to deliver world class health care by creating institutes of excellence in integrated medical care, teaching and research. We aspire to create an ethical & safe environment to treat all with respect and dignity." Medanta Mediclinic is a multi- super speciality clinic and day-care facility set up by Medanta – The Medicity as an extension of our flagship hospital in Gurgaon. The Mediclinic is the outcome of our desire to extend Medanta's commitment to excellence in healthcare and will serve as an alternative location for patients to access Medanta's world renowned doctors.

Set up as a 'Daycare only' facility, Mediclinic will offer outpatient consultancy, wellness programs, dialysis, endoscopy, diagnostic testing and day care related surgeries across all specialties. Medanta - The Medicity brings together an outstanding pool of doctors, scientists and clinical researchers. Together they foster an environment, inspiring new ideas and discoveries, translating scientific advances more swiftly into new ways of diagnosing, treating patients and preventing diseases.

### WELLNESS PROGRAMMES

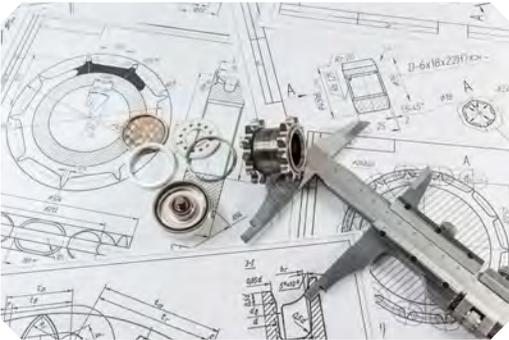
With today's pace, it is easy to overlook personal health until there is a medical crisis. Medanta Executive Health is committed to a proactive approach to health to avoid illness and optimize wellness. They regard health as a personal responsibility and strive to empower the customer to take charge of their wellness. They are delighted to introduce them to the various Medanta Health Programs.



## MEDANTA THE MEDICITY

### PIONEERING COMPREHENSIVE DIAGNOSTIC CARE IN INDIA

*Located at Gurugram, the multi-specialty medical institute, Medanta – The Medicity, is NABH and JCI accredited facility. Established in 2009 with the sole purpose of providing world-class healthcare at an affordable cost, it has now expanded to Delhi, Lucknow, Indore, Ranchi and Patna*



# TRUE BUILD TECHNOLOGIES

## BUILDING BONDS OF TRUST

*Headquartered at Hyderabad, True Build Technologies is a global infrastructure solution provider. Established in 2016 by a group of eminent infrastructure experts, the firm has been dedicatedly providing its customers with high-quality and cost-effective innovative building solutions using the latest technologies*

**T** rue Build Technologies (TBT) follows a customer-centric plan with the mission to form customer relationships based on honesty, trust and sincerity. The company understands the customer's needs, respects them and offers relevant services, coupled with the promise to give back to the community.

TBT brings innovation with a hands-on approach to every aspect of a project from pre-construction through completion. It strives to be a leading, trustworthy and the most-preferred EPC company in both national and international markets by offering the state-of-the-art, safe, green, cost-effective engineering and fast track construction solutions. It aims to be a pioneer in making ground-breaking changes in construction methods by offering an all-encompassing range of infra solutions under one.

### ADOPTING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

TBT offers an array of EPC services

including engineering, design, supply & fabrication, and on-site construction. It concentrates strategically on swiftness, efficacy, and employing a pre-engineered package using Green Technologies and Innovative Construction Solutions.

It specializes in fast-track construction through the assortment of technology, methodology, and material like structural steel and EPS composite panels with an equipped workforce, fast-paced scheduling, and coordination. Its emphasis on innovation and productivity has enabled it to emerge as a leader in the competitive BIM (Building Information Modeling) market.

### LEADING WITH EXPERTISE

True Build Technologies is established by industry experts holding decades of infra experience to deliver credible, resilient, and thoroughly engineered solutions. The Founder and MD, SS Raju, along with many other industry veterans with global construction experience of

more than three decades. It ensures that all client requirements are satisfied through its smart technology integration, lean construction, and commissioning expertise. The company adheres to the latest QC & HSE procedures to maintain its quality standards and ensures timely execution of the projects with safety. It is committed to achieving zero carbon emission through its construction technologies. It accomplishes this using a building steel frame, speed floor slabs, and EPS composite energy efficient panels. TBT also promotes industrialized construction to reduce on-site construction.

Despite the pandemic, TBT is working on new projects. It has completed Engineering Services for WIPRO SEZ Hayati – Bellagio, Bengaluru, and Visakhapatnam, Beach Villa Project, Visakhapatnam, Maldives Resort Projects and Ambedkar Vigyan Bhavan, Ramagundam and Peddapalli. It has also finished many projects on an EPC basis including Sandoor Roof Auditorium and Centre for Dalit Studies in Hyderabad. Overall, TBT has achieved up to 50 percent year-on-year growth since its establishment. It also promotes industrialized construction to minimize the on-site construction and almost halved the labor-force. It has entered into Steel Bridges Construction in Highways and Railways Sector for constructing bridges using Structural Steel by ensuring Right Quality and Finish.

**M**edicover Hospitals (India) has been making great strides in the healthcare sector under the leadership of the Chairman Dr. Anil Krishna, who is also a renowned interventional cardiologist in South India. The doctor-turned-medical-entrepreneur brings a wealth of leadership and healthcare experience to Medicover Hospitals. He founded Hyderabad-based MaxCure Group of Hospitals in 2015,

which was later branded as Medicover Hospitals (India) when the European healthcare provider Medicover picked up a 49% stake in the former in the year 2019. Medicover Group of Hospitals boasts 2500 beds, along with 16 fertility centers in India and Europe. It serves two million patients and conducts 93 million lab tests every year.

Medicover Hospitals (India) has successfully created a unique identity for itself in the healthcare sector. Its

footprint in India comprises multi-specialty hospitals, cancer institutes, and fertility centers. Medicover Hospitals (India) has 16 hospitals in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra with four more locations in the pipeline.

It strives to deliver exceptional care and treatment choices across numerous clinical specialties. Its team is supported by ground-breaking healthcare technologies for offering unmatched treatment in specialties like cardiology, interventional cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, surgical oncology, orthopedic oncology, neurosurgery, neurology, nephrology, joint replacements, dialysis, pulmonology, pediatrics, pediatric surgery, vascular surgery, spine surgery, urology, gastroenterology, ENT, endocrinology, diabetology, fertility treatment, and much more.

#### **PATIENT-CENTRIC ENVIRONMENT**

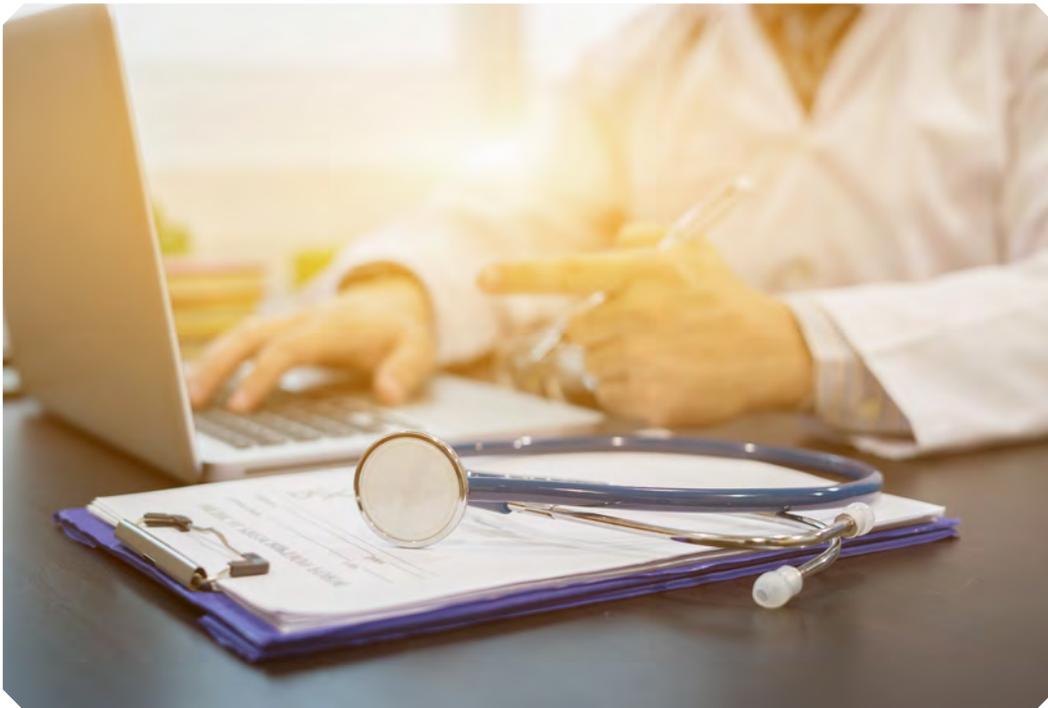
Enhancing the patient experience and delivering patient-centered care is at the forefront of Medicover Hospitals' agenda. The multi-specialty hospitals aim at creating a responsive healing environment for patients as well as their families. What's more, it offers affordable healthcare to patients with even the rarest conditions.

#### **BACKED BY A BRILLIANT TEAM**

Medicover Hospitals is home to some of the most renowned doctors and surgeons who are pioneers in their respective arenas and have also made world records. In September 2020, the doctors at Medicover Hospitals saved India's youngest COVID-19 positive patient (a two-month-old infant) using Plasma Therapy. The healthcare specialists at Medicover Hospitals make use of the most advanced surgical techniques with state-of-the-art equipment. They are backed by a well-trained and compassionate nursing team that plays a key role in boosting patient care quality.

#### **GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS**

Medicover Hospitals (India) was honoured with the 'Fastest Growing Multispecialty Hospital of the Year' Award at World Brand Summit Dubai, in 2016. It was also awarded the 'Best Hospital for Orthopedics' at National Awards for Excellence in Healthcare, and the 'Best International Healthcare Hospital in India in 2016.



## **MEDICOVER HOSPITALS (INDIA)**

### **CATAPULTING HEALTHCARE INTO A HIGH GROWTH ORBIT**

*Medicover Hospitals (India) is one of the fastest-growing multi-specialty healthcare chains in India. It is the flagship hospital of the Medicover Group, one of the largest healthcare groups in Europe and the most renowned healthcare brands in the world, with a presence in 12 countries across the globe*



## SAMARTH LIFE SCIENCES

### ADDING LIFE TO YOUR LIFE

*Samarth is an innovative Life Sciences firm that researches, develops, manufactures, & markets a broad range of life-saving critical care drugs. Its vision is to emerge as an innovative premier Health Care firm by delivering quality products to the medical fraternity with the highest level of operational excellence*

**E**stablished in 1963, over the years it evolved with an increasingly focused approach in defined therapeutic areas. It currently operates in the therapeutic areas of Critical Care, Anaesthesia, Gastroenterology, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Urology, IVF and Gynaecology, and Animal Healthcare. Samarth is gaining global footprints with export to 70 countries and plans to strengthen its presence across all continents for better access to affordable, quality medicines.

### CUSTOMER-CENTRIC ORGANIZATION

Its journey has been satisfying in its endeavour of 'adding life to life' and extending its portfolio from niche, unique, and exclusive offerings to a portfolio with a focus on specialties. It has a wide spectrum of operations comprising therapy specialties, corporate hospitals, and Animal Health business. It always

aims to deliver differentiated products to customers. It understands the customer needs with a seamless process of customer feedback which becomes the foundation for developing communication & building our brand strategies. It works as a cohesive team across all the functions. The whole process of meeting the customer needs does not rest only with the sales and marketing team but gets interwoven between various functions working towards a common purpose.

### ROOTED IN ETHICS

The enduring trust earned over the long heritage of 58 years is based on deep-rooted values which stem from the five pillars.

- 1. In-House Manufacturing** as 85% of products are manufactured in-house to offer consistent & high-quality medicines as per global standards.
- 2. Reliable Quality** in every dose it delivers to its customers and consumers with detailed attention to high-quality raw

material & robust manufacturing processes.

- 3. Evidence-based Medical Information** to benefit the patients the most. It has a dedicated team of Doctors, to help the medical fraternity in making informed decisions.
- 4. Uncompromised safety** since the patient always comes first for Samarth. It monitors safety at each step from manufacturing to delivery.
- 5. Customer First:** It communicates with the customer and listens to their needs to evolve customer-centric plans.

### STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

While its manufacturing capabilities have been its core strength, it is now strengthening its foray into Biotechnology. It started with isolating & purifying biological molecules from their natural sources like tissue sources and natural microbes. As a natural progression, it has started working on the r-DNA technology, which reduces dependency on scarce natural sources as well as providing desired safe products, as engineered by it. The rapid strides that Samarth is making in product development can be seen by its plan to start an anti-cancer facility & Plasma Fractionation facility. It is setting up a new state-of-the-art anti-cancer facility, built in compliance with PICS guidelines and a Biotech facility in Malaysia for manufacturing bio-similars by r-DNA technology.

# FASTEST GROWING BRANDS 2020-21

*Successful brands are the ones that proactively respond to the ever-changing business environment by acknowledging and addressing the expected and imminent changes, act accordingly, execute strategic plans and capitalize through first-mover advantage. Their out-of-the-box ideas enable them to derive benefits quickly and grow faster as compared to their counterparts. Their remarkable and tremendous growth is an inspiration for their contemporaries.*

*AsiaOne Magazine presents a list of such outstanding Fastest Growing Brands that deserve unanimous recognition*



# AIRTEC ELECTROVISION

**MAKING A MARK IN CONSUMER ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING SECTOR**

*Coalescing a path-breaking approach with a can-do attitude and implementing it in more than 500+ service centres across India, Airtec Electrovision Pvt. Ltd. provides timely and cost-effective solutions to entertainment buffs by identifying the specific needs of the customers and translating them into quality products*

**T**aking swift strides in the consumer electronics and entertainment industry, Airtec Electrovision Pvt. Ltd. has established itself as an innovative organization which has carved a place in the hearts of its customers and dealers through products like LED TVs, DTH receivers and multimedia speakers of unparalleled and unmatched quality. Its 24 inch TV set is the best seller on Amazon till date and is also the most affordable product in TV segment. Airtec offers innovative services and solutions and is on a mission to make its products more accessible, affordable and sustainable. As a result of its efforts, Airtec is now potent and influential player in the electronic industry, attracting some of the best and brightest people to help in creating the most durable products for future generations.

## OFFERING SUPERIOR SERVICES

In a competitive market landscape with increasing demands, Airtec has left no stone unturned in meeting global standards while producing its goods. It is setting the bar high with its customer-centric approach, speedy post-sales service, compact channel distribution, strong dealer network, sophisticated showrooms, and professionally managed staff that gives their best with unflinching enthusiasm.

## REACHING OUT TO THE MASSES

The firm has built a sense of pride, faith, and loyalty in the masses by manufacturing superior products in the country. Being a well-established name in the Indian electronic industry, it has an unwavering focus on product quality, consumer satisfaction and innovation — all of which form the pillars for its progress.

To reach out to more customers and build brand, the company has started its promotions and sponsoring sports events

like India-England Test Series 2021. Additionally, it's also the official sponsor of Pune Devils Team participating in the 2021 Abu Dhabi T10 Cricket League.

Airtec's happy and content customer base adds to its credibility as it continues to design, experiment, research and create strategic additions to the vibrant market of electronic goods.

Under the quintessential leadership of the Director Manish Nathani, the organization has written a glorious saga of success. Airtec's latest technological and highly innovative solutions, cutting-edge superior functioning as well as flexible and stylish designs give it an international touch. Its products are now making their way into international markets.

## ACCOLADES & RECOGNITION

One of the products of the company i.e. 24 inch TV has been the best seller on Amazon India consecutively for seven months. Celebrities such as Malaika Arora, Nora Fatehi, Hardik Pandya and Bipasha Basu are an integral part of the brand's grand advertisements and enhance its visibility.

## GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

In order to contribute to society, the firm has come out with various CSR initiatives. Besides contributing to various cultural events to uncover the hidden potential in people, the firm has also been taking new strides related to philanthropy.

It strictly adheres to the prevalent pollution control laws to eliminate the release of toxic electronic waste from its manufacturing units. It also urges its employees to contribute to the welfare of society.



# GOELD FROZEN FOODS

**OFFERING AN EASY ROUTE TO TASTE & HEALTH**

The Goel Group established in 1961 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh (India) is one of the most respected business conglomerates in Central India. The Group has carved a niche across sectors, including mining, power, iron & steel, education, and media. The Goel Group, through its flagship company Shri Bajrang Alliance Limited, entered the food industry in 2020 by establishing the first-ever advanced frozen food manufacturing facility in Chattisgarh named “GOELD” to offer 100% vegetarian, ready-to-cook and eat frozen food

**G**oeld, under the leadership of Director and CFO, Mr. Archit Goel, is poised to define the gold standard in the processed food industry. It has made significant contributions to the country’s FMCG market in a short time. In the coming years, the company hopes to expand into supercritical oils, nutraceuticals, & the full range of retail foods. The company will also be launching 3 New Products in the Entirety of its range which will give an even wider array of choice to GOELD Frozen Food Consumers. Currently, it has a strong presence in 18 Indian cities, viz., Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Vishakhapatnam, Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Anand, Tri City - Mohali & Panchkula included, Jalandhar, Ludhiana via online & offline channels. In the coming months, the brand intends to expand into new geographies such as Chennai, Mysore, Bhopal, Indore, Patiala, Surat, Baroda, & Guwahati as it sees an impressive growth in numbers of the current cities. It is also strengthening its international presence slowly but steadily. Large consignments are already being sent to New Zealand & Australia.

## QUALITY COMES FIRST

GOELD prioritizes quality over everything else. There are no added preservatives, colors, or flavours in GOELD’s processed food items. Moreover, they have an ultra-modern kitchen committed solely to the creation of 100 percent vegetarian food items. Quality vegetables are sourced from company-owned farms as well as dedicated farms that are subject to strict quality control. With several global food safety accreditations to its name, including FSSAI, FDA, FSSC 22000, Halal etc, GOELD ensures that every product is thoroughly evaluated in terms of flavor, presentation, and quality standards.

## LEVERAGING LATEST TECHNOLOGY

Goeld invests in cutting-edge manufacturing technologies to ensure that its processed food products retain their optimal texture, moisture, & flavour. Its dedicated factory has a production capacity of 6500 MT per year and is spread over 5 acres of the firm’s 100-acre land parcel. Its frozen food processing plant uses Spiral Technology & IQF technology, which are the two most advanced freezing technologies, to retain all nutrients in the food while providing a 12-month shelf life. World-class cold chain transportation and storage ensures that all nutrients and flavors are locked in, both in raw materials and in finished goods that reach customers.

## A VALUE-BASED BUSINESS

GOELD is a value-based business that adheres to four value pillars of the Goel Group: consistent quality, unwavering trust, relentless innovation, and cutting-edge technology. It seeks to make its customers’ lives easier and better through high-quality everyday food products that are preservative-free, affordable, delicious, and nutritious.

## GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

The Goel Group has always believed in giving back to society & is driven by the motto “Grow with the society by contributing more than you get from it.” The group has made robust contributions to “UTTARAKHAND RELIEF FUND” & “CM RELIEF FUND” to combat COVID-19.

It also donated 500 oxygen cylinders on a daily basis & donated 200 Oxymeters & 6 Ventilators till now.



# AVITA INDIA

**OFFERING TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS FOR GEN X**

AVITA is a US-based tech brand solely owned and run by Nexstgo Company Limited. It is popular for its reasonably priced laptops with various color option, which are primarily youth-focused and contemporary

**W**ith an aim to make user-friendly and economical 'tech' solutions available, AVITA offers a wide spectrum of conceptual technologies. It provides an ideal mix of design, performance & latest technological innovation that meet the needs of different types of consumers. The latest innovations in the worldwide technology market include AVITA's recent launched

laptop range COSMOS 2 in 1 and AVITA Essential Refresh.

## CATERING TO YOUNG TECHNOPHILES

With liberty, individuality and diversity as its core values, the brand has introduced products that combine usefulness and effectiveness. It has some of the most stunning and feature-loaded products lined-up to keep its young consumers interested. It is one of the primary reasons why the brand has grown immensely in a



short span of 3 years. Its light and portable laptops available in several eye-catching colors appeal to youngsters.

## MILES TO GO

AVITA has built a solid foundation in the computer and IT hardware industry. It aspires to capture a significant portion of the US\$181 trillion

IT industry in India. Despite a domestic capacity of 6 million units, the major part of the market is supported by imports. It aims to bridge this divide and become a leading manufacturer on online and offline channels. It is also looking at diversifying its portfolio by spreading its base to the tier-2 cities of India.



FACTOREAL

**F**actoreal understands that marketers today are plagued with tools that lack features and forces them to work directly within the social platforms, reducing their capacity and preventing them from being able to easily envision the brand's strategy. With its all-in-one approach, it empowers marketers to build lifelong engagement with their customers. It brings together email marketing automation, social media marketing, paid marketing, customer journey automation, e-commerce integration, personalization & segmentation, and a lot more into one simple, connected platform.

## USER-FRIENDLY SERVICES

An omni channel customer engagement and marketing automation platform, it delivers

high quality journey automation, channel coverage, & budget control. It is pre-integrated with popular e-commerce platforms like Shopify and very soon plans to expand its ecommerce integration capabilities to WooCommerce & BigCommerce. It allows turning your conversion and acquisition campaign directly out of Factoreal, including each product and customer. The resultant, easy-to-understand predictive analytics and recommendations help improve business by providing real time actionable insights. Factoreal automates the customer engagement lifecycle. It ensures seamless & engaging customer conversation every single time. The simple workflow model & ready-to-use automation templates are extremely user-friendly & provides a quick-start to your marketing campaigns.

# FACTOREAL

**ADDING UNIQUE DIMENSIONS TO OMNICHANNEL MARKETING**

Factoreal is an emerging startup that enables businesses to create end-to-end customer journeys in minutes. The startup aims to make customer journey automation **SIMPLE** and **AFFORDABLE** for all businesses



# FAST&UP

**SUPPLEMENTING NUTRITION THROUGH WORLD-CLASS PRODUCTS**

Established in India in 2015, Fast&Up has been swiftly rising up the popularity charts owing to its wide range of excellent products. It was first launched in Switzerland and has quickly spread its footprint in Europe and America

**U**nder the CEO Vijayaraghavan Venugopal, Fast&Up has come a long way. A well-rounded people management professional, he has played a significant role in the evolution of the brand.

**CHOICE OF SPORTPERSONS**

Fast&Up has provided the much-sought consideration to the Indian Sports by setting up various platforms for competing. The brand

has created a buzz and an awareness for opting the right products in the sports arena. The management has been working on educating the fitness enthusiasts to develop a better fitness and an overall improved immunity.

Although difficult, the leading brand has addressed itself with the responsibility to provide the best-in-class and innovative nutrition. The brand has not only inspired for a better living but has empowered the athletes to take on the world with their



well-equipped capabilities.

**INNOVATIVE SPORTS NUTRITION**

All Fast&Up products are developed using the innovative Swiss technology with an in-house research center. Backed by EU compliant manufacturing units, the products are an undeniable preference for

many athletes today.

It has also been associated with Chennai SuperKings as their nutrition partner. With exceptional products under the immunity booster segment and plant-based nutrition, Fast&Up is now the only brand to have achieved informed certified status across all its flagship products.



**I**n the scientific fraternity, Dr. Jack Kessler is much renowned and respected for his research over two decades now. His latest invention, I2Cure Bioshield is a savior in this pandemic. Its efficacy against viruses, especially SARS COVID 2, has been identified and is in compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Good Laboratory Practices (GLP). Now, the time has come to adopt molecular Iodine which has effectively shown to eliminate the viruses. It is a disinfectant which is not alcohol based and yet, has exhibited incredible effect in shielding the skin from the deadly viruses.

**BETTER THAN THE BEST**

The uniqueness of Iodine protection enables I2Cure

Bioshield to stand apart from the prevalent alcohol based disinfectants. Active Molecular Iodine (I2) based Bioshield has proved to provide almost a cent percent competence within 30 seconds of its application. I2Cure Bioshield is not only effective but is also remarkably easy to apply on lips, in nostrils and on the palms. Iodine once absorbed in the skin, releases vapours which act as a shield on the skin. The application starts taking effect within 30 seconds of its application and works for as long as 6 hours.

I2Cure Bioshield has an amazing effect on the skin as it hydrates and replenishes the skin unlike the alcohol based disinfectants which tend to dry up the skin. Besides this, the solution has shown great quality as a surface-disinfectant as well, which is the need of the hour.

# I2CURE

**OFFERING ONE-OF-A-KIND HYGIENE SOLUTIONS**

*FDA approved I2Cure Bioshield is a broad spectrum antimicrobial disinfectant, effective against viruses, bacteria and fungi. This technological breakthrough in the Molecular Iodine Technology is a boon for millions across the world*



# OMEGA SEIKI MOBILITY

**EXPLORING NEW PARADIGMS OF EXCELLENCE**

*When it comes to manufacturing electric vehicles, Omega Seiki Mobility rules the roost because of top-notch quality and durability of its products*

**O**mega Seiki Mobility is a part of the Anglian Omega Network, operational in six nations around the world. Incepted in 2018, the company is among the leading manufacturers of steel parts for automotive and engineering industries in India & across the world. The firm offers precision engineering solutions & has become synonymous with India's progress in sustainability. Backed by

years of capability in creating precision engineering solutions and its rich heritage in the auto components industry, it broke the grass ceiling by entering the commercial three-wheeler segment with its indigenously developed, lithium-ion powered Rage+. It aims to be the Tesla of the East for the cargo space with the aim of electrifying the last-mile delivery.

**WORKING FOR AN 'ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT'**  
Working on the lines of the PM



Modi's call for an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the company has joined hands with Indian suppliers and is working closely to develop motors and batteries which suit vehicles for driving on the Indian roads. It has recently launched the Rage+ Frost, a refrigeration equipped version of the Rage+. This electric 3-wheeler can

store vaccines, dairy, & poultry for an extended period, helping in safe delivery of these items to even small cities.

It can even store the COVID-19 vaccine. The project has been conceived, developed and manufactured fully in India, making it a true ambassador of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

**R**avindra Bharathi Educational Group has redefined learning by introducing experiential and experimental learning for all subjects. As a paragon of excellence, it inculcates the spirit of determination, aspiration, respect, tolerance & team spirit in the students. Following the CBSE & State syllabi, it spares no effort to put student-centric curriculum & principles into practice. Going by a tailor-made curriculum, the teachers focus on academic excellence, physical fitness, psychological development, & value education. In order to impart futuristic & global education, it established ITHAKA in 2013-14 to offer Cambridge & CBSE curricula in Nellore. It comprises subjects & extracurricular activities that promote international

exposure, scientific thinking, effective communication, & general aptitude among students. The school Director Mr. M. Revanth is a strategic decision maker, setting a prime example of pride, integrity & leadership. His vision is to spearhead as a leading educational institution setting new benchmarks for quality education offering a didactic experience.

**GARNERING ACCOLADES**  
The Chairman of the Group, Mr. M Subramanyam (Mani), was conferred the 'Gamechanger Award' by The Times of India. He was also conferred with The Business Leader Award in 2017. The group also holds records for bagging prizes for 10 consecutive years in the NASA-AMES. Its students have garnered laurels in many exams conducted by various national & international firms.



# RAVINDRA BHARATHI EDUCATIONAL GROUP

**SHAPING THE FUTURE LEADERS**

*Established in 1994 with a single school in Nellore, Ravindra Bharathi Educational Group now has a massive presence in the country's education landscape. With schools in 5 states, it has been effectively shaping the nation's future leaders*



# SAHARA EVOLS

**REVVED UP FOR SUCCESS**

Sahara EVOLS, a unit of Cosmoworld India, is an initiative of Sahara India Pariwar. Under the leadership of its CEO, Dr. Aditya Banerjee, the firm has been witnessing an upward-moving growth curve with each passing year

**S**ahara EVOLS offers the broadest range of electric vehicles, such as e-scooters, three-wheelers, motorcycles, and cargo vehicles, at fair and competent prices to facilitate sustainable and environment-friendly modes of transportation. In a short span of two years, Sahara EVOLS has emerged as a market leader and is counted amongst the top 10 EV companies in India. It has

over 350 authorized sales & service network spanning over 22 states and 150 cities across India. It also has tie-ups with over 35 original equipment manufacturers.

Moreover, in the year 2020, it has introduced 8 exclusive variants of e-Vehicles.

**POWERED BY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY**

Sahara EVOLS' e-vehicles are driven by highly reliable wheel-hub motors powered by advanced German Technology.



Additionally, the vehicles come with Li-ion power-assisted swappable batteries that are known for consistent performance. What's more, its intelligent BMS (Battery Management System), combined with Controller Area Network (CAN) Communication, enhance battery life.

**GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY**

Sustainability is in the DNA of Sahara EVOLS. The company regularly conducts tree-plantation drives to strengthen environmental sustainability. In the course of the last two years, Sahara EVOLS has planted 1008 trees for carbon footprint reduction.



**S**alud is a Spanish word, which means 'Cheers to Health' and Salud beverages is all about finding fresh new ways for the world to meet and celebrate life in its new reality. Life 2.0, as proclaimed. With an exclusive range of ready bottle-to-glass drinks and craft spirits, Salud beverages aspire to bring the best and freshest beverages to people across the world.

Ready-to-Drink beverages are rapidly gaining momentum and prevalence, and Salud beverages is poised to tap into this demand by combining modern, easy flavours and presenting them in a packaged form that is ready for consumption, starting with its G&T 2.0 range of pour-and-go gin and tonics.

These exciting concoctions are riding on a wave of

popularity right now, and the Salud beverages spirit of fine quality and the great flavour is packed into every bottle.

**UNIQUE PRODUCTS**

Salud beverages cater to its intended audience with an array of refreshing flavours – Gin & Tonic Original, Gin & Tonic Cucumber and Gin & Tonic Lavender – each carefully designed to appeal to different palates. Salud beverages also infuse its 'Celebrate Life 2.0' credo into an entire range of lifestyle products.

Salud beverages' new summer collection includes easy-to-wear T-shirts, cool trucker hats, crop tops and upcycled wooden coasters. With its niche beverages and exclusive lifestyle products, Salud beverages strive to transform how people celebrate life.

# SALUD BEVERAGES

**CELEBRATING LIFE 2.0**

Established in 2020, Salud Beverages has been swiftly turning into a distinguished beverage brand in India. It stands out by curating a series of classic RTD (Ready-to-Drink) beverages in alcoholic and non-alcoholic categories



# STAR STRUCK

TRENDSSETTING RANGE OF COSMETICS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Launched in 2018 by Bollywood diva Sunny Leone, Star Struck is a premier cosmetic brand offering an array of make-up products and cosmetics for fashionistas who want to look like stars

**B**eing one of the leading ladies of the glamour industry, Sunny already had an insight into the field of cosmetics and understood the customers' perspectives on what makes cosmetic brands preferable and safe. This motivated her to establish her own brand.

## BASICS TO EXTRAVAGANT

Keeping the popularity and penchant for make-up among the fashion-conscious, the brand offers something for

everyone. The wide range of cosmetics by Star Struck include make-up essentials like eye-liners and lip-gloss to products such as lipsticks, primers, eye-liners, lip-liners and mascara for elaborate grooming. At present, Star Struck cosmetics are available in India and the UAE. Global shipping facility has also been introduced to meet the growing demand of Sunny's brand in various other countries.

## VEGAN COSMETICS

The brand promises top-quality



vegan products. None of the products are tested on animals and are PETA-certified too.

Unlike many other cosmetic brands, Star Struck follows excellent quality control measures to ensure that no unwanted chemical or animal extract go into the making of its products. Besides, all products are dermatologically tested

and suit various skin tones and complexions.

Having received a warm welcome from its customers, Star Struck is all set to add more products to its catalogue such as translucent HD loose powder, face moisturizer, and color correcting sticks to expand the range of its offerings.



**W**ishgames11 is a cutting-edge gaming platform that provides users with regular income opportunities, especially those who have been seriously impacted by the pandemic.

By playing virtual games such as Cricket, Kabaddi, Football, Kushti, and others, users can get the opportunity to win cash prizes and other exciting rewards.

The app appreciates each registered user's time and efforts; thus, it provides participants with the option of earning rewards based on referral earnings, and bonus income. Additionally, the users also stand a chance to win prize money for winning daily contests. For example, users can choose their favorite players to create a team or they can also follow

the ongoing match and win significant rewards based on their game analysis. Furthermore, as a coach, a user has the opportunity to earn a lifetime bonus income on every closing.

## NEXT-LEVEL GAMING EXPERIENCE

Wishgames11 provides sports users with a next-level gaming experience by allowing them to create gaming tactics and defeat opponents using their analytical skills. The user interface of this fantasy gaming app is simple and intuitive.

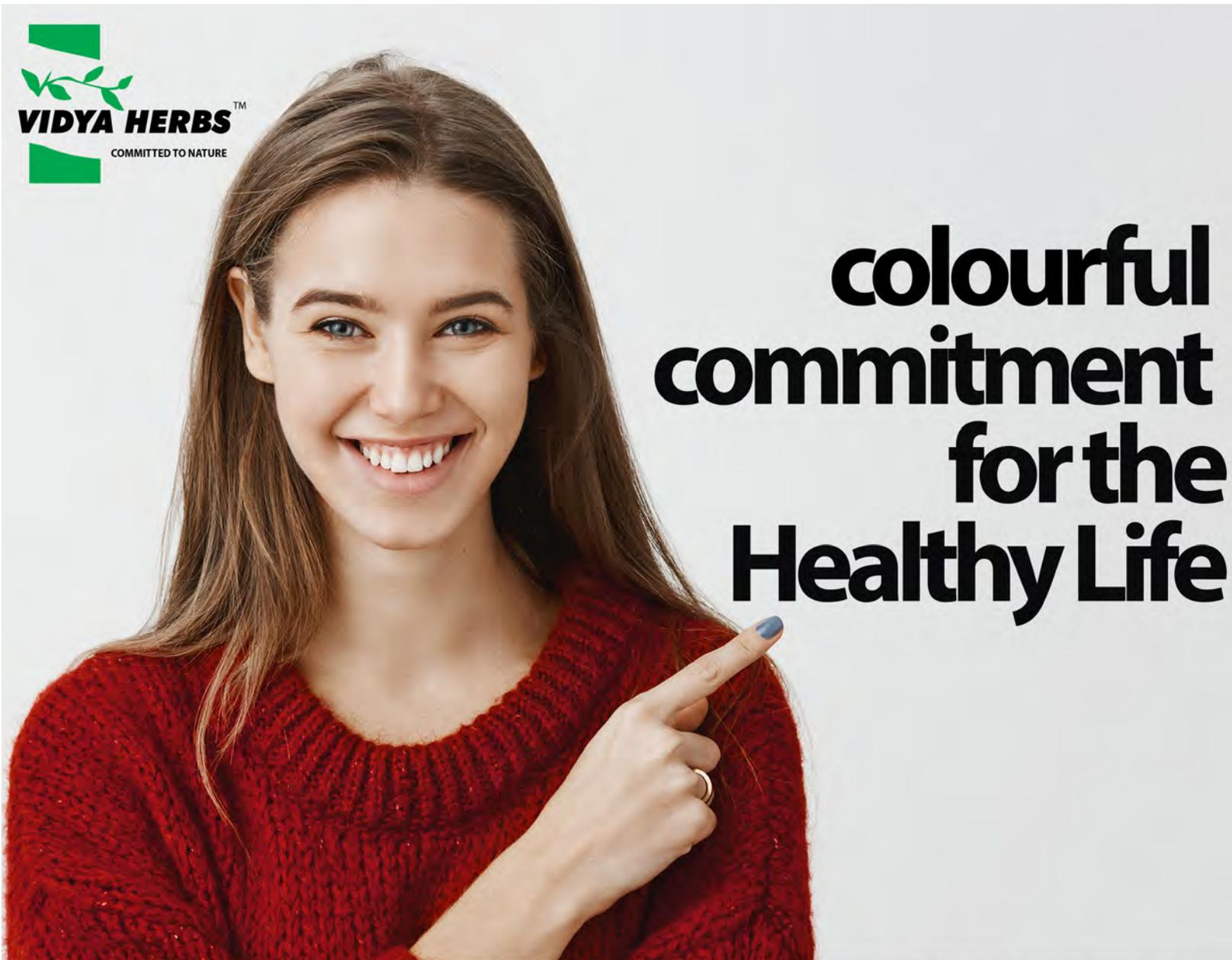
Wishgames11 has witnessed fast-paced growth within a short period. Owing to its efforts to provide an excellent gaming experience to the users, it has been felicitated with the title of India's Most Trusted Fantasy Gaming App.

# WISHGAMES11

A REAL-TIME GAMING APP WITH A DIFFERENCE

Wishgames11 is a brilliantly designed online fantasy gaming app created by the Wisdom Group — a multi-faceted firm with a presence in financial services, IT, and interests in the insurance and online gaming sectors





**colourful  
commitment  
for the  
Healthy Life**

# MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTS



## HERBAL EXTRACTS

Standardized higher grade of Herbal Extracts and oils with high flavor intensity and with a full spectrum of phytonutrients



## CAROTENOIDS

With over a decade of experience in the business of botanical and essential oils extraction, Vidya Herbs has established and carved a niche for itself in the industry.



## ORGANIC PRODUCTS

Organic food products are grown under a system of agriculture without the use of harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides with an environmentally and socially responsible approach.



## ESSENTIAL OILS

Essential oils are botanical liquid extracts of various plant materials that have numerous volatile compounds. Such oils contain the true essence of the plant it was collected from, therefore it is important to apply appropriate measures during harvesting and post harvesting processing.



## SCFE PRODUCTS

With the use of Supercritical Extraction Technology, it is possible to produce a higher grade of herbal extracts and oils with high A+ flavor intensity and with a full spectrum of phytonutrients.



## COFFEE

Own coffee estates in the heartland of Indian Coffee which is a part of Western Ghats, integrated coffee processing plant, instant coffee plant & coffee extraction plant with the capacity of over 20000 MT/Annum.

# Research Methodology

## **7th Edition – World's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2020-21, 5th Edition Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2020-21 and 6th Edition – India's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2020-21**

The 120 World's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2020-21, Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2020-21 and India's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2020-21 are a research-based listing of Brands using both primary and secondary data researched across sixteen industries and sixty-two sub-categories evaluating Brands from all over Asia.

World's Greatest Brands, Asia's Greatest Brands & India's Greatest Brands are a mission where brands are scanned, researched, understood and, after much deliberation by a competent team of experts, put on deserving pedestals for the admiration and veneration of the world. We delve into the history of the brands, let their beams of achievement play with us, feel the fire within these brands, and move along with their driving force. Finally, after the revelling in the process, we feature our humble yet expert insights into the making and rising of these brands that are truly the Greatest! For anyone who is interested in the success story of these Asia's greatest brands, or the fire within that made them succeed, or the driving force that put them on the path to great success, or finally the certitudes that make them great and the beacon of tomorrow that provides a hint and an insight into their future, we render in a transparent manner all the desirable information about these brands and more.

## **World's Greatest Leaders 2020-21, Asia's Greatest Leaders 2020-21 and India's Greatest Leaders 2020-21**

A few Leaders of the final 120 list of World's Greatest Brands, Asia's Greatest Brands & India's Greatest Brands may be recognized for their contribution in building the brand. A number of these brands have corporates, entrepreneurs, first-generation or inheritance entrepreneurs, cooperatives, CMDs, Board of Directors involved behind the brands. Hence a qualitative assessment would be done in the form of a research Leader Form which will have aspects of Vision for the company, Growth aspirations, and Corporate Social Responsibility. Finally, the Leader Forms with primary research data filled by the leaders will be sent to the jury for scoring along with the Brand scoring forms.

## The various phases of the Research Methodology will be as follows:

### Phase A

The first phase of the research will be initiated by generating a list of categories (to be covered under the purview of the survey mentioned at the end of this document). The entire research platform will be divided into: A list of about 1200 brands across 16 industries and 62 sub-categories will be drawn up through secondary research driven by the URS Media research team and AsiaOne editorial team using online surveys via:

- Google Analytics
- Market studies
- Industry white papers
- Category-specific brand reports
- Brand-specific scrutiny

\*Companies with net revenue exceeding US\$12 billion will not be considered. Group turnovers will not be considered but may be only that of individual companies.

### Phase B

The preliminary list of 1200 Brands generated of World's Greatest Brands, Asia's Greatest Brand & India's Greatest Brands will be scrutinized and graded on a scale of 1 to 10 (where 1 is the lowest and 10 is the highest) by the research and editorial teams to generate a list of the top 300 brands based on the following parameters:

1. Brand Popularity
2. Brand Innovation
3. Brand Growth
4. Brand Promise
5. Brand Impact

### Phase C

#### **JURY AND BRANDS & LEADERS SCRUTINY QUESTIONNAIRE:**

The list of the top 300 brands will then further be scrutinized by an independent jury. The brands will be rated on the parameters of Brand Popularity, Brand Innovation, Brand Growth, Brand Promise and Brand Impact on a scale of 1 to 10 (where 10 is the highest and 1 is the lowest).

#### **FINAL PHASE & LISTING OF THE TOP 120 BRANDS**

The final phase of the research will entail the analysis of the jury and editorial questionnaire ratings based on the abovementioned parameters and weightage assigned below by the research and editorial teams:

Analysis: The 120 World's Greatest Brands and Leaders, Asia's Greatest Brands and Leaders and India's Greatest Brands and Leaders list will be based on the cumulative scores of the shortlisted Brands received from the Jury Council and the research and editorial teams. URS Media's editorial team will shortlist from 1200 to 300 and then based on the weightage given to the independent Jury scoring a final list of 120 Brands will be created. The list of the 16 industries and their sub-categories covered under the purview of the study is as follows: Automotive, Education, Energy & Power, Finance, Food & Beverages, Healthcare, Household Products, Infrastructure, IT & Telecom, Lifestyle, Manufacturing, Media & Entertainment, Personal Care, Real Estate, Retail and Services.

#### **Disclaimer**

\*In addition to the above methodology, a few Brands with relatively competitive scoring may be part of the list due to their recent year-on-year growth and emergence as a brand, but, these companies would be featured, if any, under Editor's Choice feature and awards.

GALWAY  
GALVEDA™

GALWAY  
NATURAL TWIST™  
— A HERBAL WELLNESS RANGE —

GALWAY  
nutriflow™

*The Perfect  
Balance Between*  
**Food, Health &  
Nutrition, Beauty  
& Personal care,  
Home & Hygiene....**

*To be an  
Active Player  
of the  
Trillion Dollar  
Wellness  
Industry.*

*Every solution  
under one Roof*



GALWAY  
kalkim™

GALWAY  
srigunam™

GALWAY  
RUPABHAM™

GALWAY  
grihs horyam™

GALWAY  
clantauram™

GALWAY  
for MEN

There is a very famous saying, *Healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have.*

Glaze firmly believes in the aforesaid concept and have designed its unique range of FMCG product along these lines. The Galway Nutriflow, Natural Twist & Galveda range caters to Health, Nutrition, Fitness and Disease prevention, whereas an array of brands takes care of Beauty and Personal care needs of both men and women.

Home and hygiene requirement is met by the Galway Grihshoryam range whereas the Organic Food range comes under its Kitchen Shakti brand.

The fantastic and fabulous range of Galway products, not only provide Healthy Life but also an amazing treasure of Health, Nutrition, Fitness and Personal care.

The recently launched Galveda range of Ayurvedic products is a tribute to the wisdom of our sages who had designed the ancient system of Indian medicine with holistic treatment methods. The Galveda range intends to provide an alternate remedy and relief to people suffering from various health problems with a complementary and alternate medicine approach.

## Galway's Magnificent Range:



- A** ctivates our body & mind
- B** alances the body functions
- C** leanses our Inner body & its outer environment
- D** efends against disease & disorder



# Jury Council



## Himanshu Rai

**P**rofessor Himanshu Rai is the Director of IIM Indore. Under his leadership IIM Indore got the triple crown accreditation of AMBA, AACSB and EQUIS making it one of the 90 odd institutions in the world to have the honor. He is spearheading multiple initiatives at IIM Indore to create significant social impact and address challenges faced by the country. Prior to this he has been the Dean of SDA Bocconi India campus, Professor at SDA Bocconi, Milan, and has taught at IIM Lucknow and XLRI. He is an alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad and KREC Surathkal. He specializes in Negotiation and his core teaching areas include Human Resource Management, wherein he focuses on Negotiation; Mediation; Arbitration; Strategic HRM; and Leadership. His book titled "Negotiation" published by McGraw Hill Education is a bestseller on Amazon. He frequently conducts training programmes and workshops for executives as well as bureaucrats around the world. He had a stint of more than 8 years at Tata Steel, India, where he played a pivotal role in developing Quality Systems for his Departments and the Communication Policy for the Company. His TEDx talk on "Ethical Leadership: Lessons from the Vedas won him several accolades the world over. As the Convener of CAT 2010, he successfully led the largest format change in world's testing history exceeding all global standards of testing. Through his initiatives gender and educational background parity was achieved by IIMs. He has published extensively, and his current areas of research include Negotiation, Ethical Leadership, Cross Cultural Issues, Management and Religion, Spirituality, Gender, and Influence Tactics. He has trained over 20,000 professionals, both in the private sector as well as the government. Some of his training interventions include helping Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie to develop a training module on "Ethics and Anti-Corruption Strategies" for all Indian Administrative Services officers across career phases. A connoisseur of Sanskrit literature, he has also written about and given discourses on Indian and Western philosophy, which he avidly studies. Dr. Himanshu has trained over 20,000 professionals, both in the private as well as the government sector.





## Sunil David

**S**unil David has 25 years of experience in the IT and Telecom industry. Sunil is currently the Regional Director (IOT) for AT&T India based in Chennai. Sunil is responsible for building and executing the IOT strategy for India and the ASEAN regions, working on building a partner ecosystem for AT&T in the area of IOT devices, platforms and applications and on working on a number of marketing initiatives to help build the AT&T brand in the IOT space. Sunil has spoken at a number of Industry forums (CII, IAMAI, Cyber Media, NASSCOM, ASSOCHAM, Geospatia, IET organized) and Educational institutions including IIT Delhi in the past year and a half on topics related to IOT, Cyber Security and Digital Transformation. He has also written an article of Digital Transformation which was published in the annual edition of the Communications Today which was published in the May-June 2018 edition. Apart from his responsibilities with AT&T, Sunil is part of the FICCI TN Tech Panel and CII TN Manufacturing Panel working on initiatives to drive digital technology adoption within the Industry and Governments in Tamil Nadu. Sunil has been recently inducted into the IET IOT India panel, Telecom Working Group whose charter is multifold-multifold - to work with Academia to promote IOT and have curriculum that covers IOT, liaise with Govt bodies to create IOT awareness and support in policy creation, gather and mentor startups in the IOT space and participate in local conferences where relevance of IOT can be presented and awareness created. Sunil is also in the Advisory board of a Start up based in Chennai that is focused on Skills development and Cyber security services, training and consulting. He is also part of the NASSCOM Diversity and Inclusion Council, Chennai Chapter working on various initiatives to bring a greater awareness among Corporate India to build a Diverse & Inclusive workforce. He had a brief stint with Telstra India from Nov 2015 to Dec 2016 for a little over a year as their Country Sales Director responsible to grow the Enterprise business in India. He was also part of the Telstra India Senior leadership team.



## Dr. Amita Srivastava

**C**urrently helming the position of a Director at Brencis Centre for Research Training and Consultancy (BCRTC) in Ghaziabad, India, Dr. Amita Srivastava is a well-known expert in the fields of Management Philosophy, Strategic Management, Human Resource Development, Quality Systems, and Human Values. A gold medalist in her area of expertise, Dr. Srivastava has experience spanning more than 25 years in areas of Research, Training, Consultancy, Teaching, and Administration in Management. She has conducted many FDPs and MDPs. She has done assignments for some leading Institutions of National and International repute like IIM-(Lko), Nuvia (UK), UNIDO, Central Defence Academy, Syndicate Bank, IBA, Semi-Conductor Complex Ltd., ABCL, Kirloskar Brothers, WPIL Ltd., Jaipur Stock Exchange, KRIBHKO, etc. She has also been the Chief Editor for a management journal called Attitude and has been functional in organizing many national and international conferences. She has widely experimented with new approaches to learning and creativity. She helped many SMEs to organize the structure and processes of the organization, institutionalize innovative methods of work and inculcate healthy organizational Culture. She was instrumental in turnaround of many SMEs. She had successfully experimented in using Indian thoughts in management policies. She has held many responsible positions in leading Management Institutions. She is also holding honorary position as Prime Facilitator at Spandan- Foundation for Human Values in Management and Society. She has received many awards and accolades for her work in management Science. She had been jury member of various academic competitions conducted by management Schools. She is involved in board of studies of leading management Institutions and Universities. Dr. Amita is in advisory panel of prestigious The Center for Applied Social Sciences Research (CASSR). She is an active member and office bearer of various professional groups like Ghaziabad Management Association, Higher Education Management Forum, Management Teachers Consortium, Punjab Management and Commerce Education, World Wide Management Consultants, Professors in Management Studies, H.R and Talent Management Executives and Harvard Business Review.



# IN THE FIRST RAYS OF MORNING, A SHIVER OF HOPE

## THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD TRADITIONS RETURN TO LIFE

*In a historical moment like the one we live in, in which Mother Earth howls with pain and begs us to help her continue to live and to allow us life, my attention flies to 'the land of rising Sun', to that nation made of islands, lying on a strip of land at the edge of the eastern world. If the place can be defined, the same cannot be said of the time: it is located in a past so far away as to fall into legend. That period when magic still existed and fairies inhabited the world; it was a time when feudal lords did not make known the idea of peace to this land - Nihon - apart from in the forests, untouched by hatred and violence, characterized by perfumes, plants and animals*

**BY PAOLA MARTANI**

**A** paradise so pure that man does not dare approach it. If we had gone into those perfumes and those flowers that bloomed in harmony, if we had played with the wind and sung with the sound of the streams, we would have been amazed to see a tree that never bloomed: sad and lonely, it represented a detachment so acute with respect to its surroundings that the grass did not embrace it and the animals would not

play with it.

It was a different era from today's, and there, in the face of so much solitude, the heart of a fairy throbbing with compassion decided to donate its magic dust to this old and tired trunk: a spell that would last 20 years, a lapse of time in which the tree would have felt what the human heart feels, and thus would have perhaps experienced emotion and with it, flowering. The tree would have had the opportunity to find life in the guise of a man, so as not to fall into definitive death.

So it was; the tree became a man, and he began to wander the world in search of that emotion that would make his heart beat. At the beginning, however, he found only hatred and war, and that led him to feel darker than ever before, and to transform himself back into a tree, continuing to navigate the feeling that best suited him: sadness.

One day, however, as he walked

*"IKEBANA - AN ART THAT TEACHES THE ARRANGEMENT OF CUT FLOWERS, IS A PRACTICE IN BUDDHIST RELIGION & REPRESENTS A SPIRITUAL DEVOTION THAT ALLOWS MAN TO RECOVER INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIMSELF & WITH THE SURROUNDING WORLD"*

towards a green steppe where he could take root, he found kindness on his way - in the guise of a girl named Sakura.

The sweet movements and the calm smile of the young woman led him to choose Yohiro – hope – as his name, and to remain as a man.

The years began to pass quickly in the presence of the young woman, friendship and love; and so the 20 years that had been granted for the tree to live as a man came to an end. His last moments led him to confess his true nature to Sakura, and he told her how before their meeting the desert had characterized his life. In the silence, they took each other's hands, and looking each other in the eyes, beseeched the fairy to offer them another alternative. Sakura was asked to choose: to remain human or to merge with Yohiro in the form of a tree.

The two, continuing to hug each other and not letting their gaze melt in that infinite embrace, merged and became one.

The tree flourished, giving Japan pink clouds of blossom at every Springtime to come.

Fairy tales, however, are rarely forgotten, and so the name of the girl who had given real life to that dry trunk: Sakura - "cherry blossom" - became the name which defines that love that blooms and which aims, every Spring, to make the hearts of humans quiver with its beauty, as if to offer them the opportunity, previously seized by them, to 'blossom' into a new life.

For this purpose, the sakura is not only pink, but takes on different shades, as if trying to really touch all the different natures of humankind: a riot of colours ranging from pale pink, to fuchsia, to white.

In a thousand-year history, however, there is not only the description of the facts, but what these facts entail in the life of men. Thus, the sakura does not remain only a wonderful flower or a story for children, but teaches a technique, meditative, to ascend inwardly and really seek, through the contemplation of its beauty, to make your soul blossom. This skill is called hanami, and includes, in addition to

meditation on beauty, the ability to admire non-permanence - the sakura blooms and fades in a few days - the transience of life, fragility, and with them the desire to savor every moment, to enjoy and expand.

Cherry blossom viewing is easy in theory, less so in practice. If we want to achieve the real goal of the meditation, we must spend days immersed in nature, to witness the cherry blossom, to simply enjoy the intensity of the many blossoms by looking at a single tree or a group of trees.

The feelings that hanami give us are more complex to capture: yes, sadness, but also emotion and gratitude for new possibilities, for a hope that leads to birth; a warning sign of wealth, both internal and external, in the rice harvest; a wish for prosperity, and honesty, courage, loyalty and purity - qualities that the Samurai man must possess.

In this current age, when the Earth trembles - exhausted by the fatigue of such sudden climate change, exhausted from fighting pollution and the toxic substances that have poisoned it for too many years, the human body is also suffering from the pandemic of a new virus that knows no boundaries and triggers fear, terror, and malaise as

only a war can bring, my eye still runs through the land of the rising sun, and this time stops on another practice that evokes in itself all Japanese philosophy and his modus vivendi.

Also this time the roots of this art form lie in a remote past, the VI century AD. The origins extend outside the Japanese islands, up to India and Tibet, to the Buddhist monks and the noble class, but it is here that flowers once again teach man to expand deep within themselves.

It's the Ikebana - the art that teaches the arrangement of cut flowers to create floral compositions that not only appease the eye externally, but create a disposition in which the natural instinct, of who creates it, flows, provoking an outburst of emotion.

Born as a practice linked to the Buddhist religion, so much so that in the beginning branches always pointing upwards were used - to represent spirituality, it represents a real dedication towards nature, a spiritual devotion that allows man to recover a more intimate relationship with himself and with the surrounding world.

In this discipline, everything must symbolize balance and harmony in accordance with the surrounding



environment. To do this, all the elements of the plant world, not just flowers, can help: colors and shapes create a dance capable stimulating sensations and feelings.

An art that moves in people's subconscious and that, over centuries of dedication to nature, has created more than 1000 schools with different rules, the basic precept being the possibility and the invitation to make one's creativity speak, the main glue of the most intimate 'Self'.

All the elements are parts of us and of the nature that surrounds us, creating the whole a set of symbols: the highest stem represents the Sky (Shin), and is the key and main element of the entire composition; the medium height stem instead represents the Man (Soe) and generally has a length equal to 2/3 of the tallest stem; everything must always be arranged in an inclined manner, tending towards Heaven; finally there is the lowest stem, representing the Earth (Hikae). This should be placed in front of the other two or in a completely opposite position.

The dominant element is always the triangle: this means that there must be a connection of vertices, each of which has a specific meaning, while remembering to respect the three dimensions (depth, space and asymmetry), which represent the reality in which we live.

Plants are chosen based on the message the person wants to convey - bamboo, for example, symbolizes prosperity, while peach blossoms are a hymn to femininity -.

For the choice of flowers and leaves, newly emerged buds are generally preferred. This is because inserting an already bloomed flower or leaf prevents the viewer from admiring the birth process. On the contrary, a flower



that has reached maturity is already heading towards decomposition, thus evoking the sense of death.

These arts that through nature not only play a role of catharsis for those who observe it, they are also a relief valve to create, to understand oneself, and to see our own internal mechanisms. Furthermore, they are arts that teach how each plant is vital for the wellbeing, physical and mental, of man. Techniques using the beauty of nature underline the importance of the role that Mother Earth plays in our life. The art form creates a sense of well-being for man while teaching him the lesson of need for respect towards nature, and now they are prescribed as a means of treating internal negative energies, as well as medicines for the body.

It was a long time ago when, on the banks of the Himalayas, one morning in early spring, a lotus popped from that pot on my terrace giving me unexpected joy. It was in response

to that heartfelt sigh that a Tibetan woman said to me:

'It is said that whoever gives kindness to flowers in this life will have beauty in the next'

It is today that I understand that that phrase did not speak of a future life in the sense of reincarnation, but carried with it the meaning of inner beauty in this life.

In this time of pain in the natural world, I want to remember how much nature itself heals us, mentally and bodily, and I want to dedicate a hymn of love to accompany us in the peace of each day; in the flowers that seem to have lost color, in the atrocities of this period, I want to sing what the earth sings to us every spring, I want to sing hope. In a moment of fear I want to lean on the trees to find the peace and strength to always blossom, despite everything, to blossom.

In these days of uncertainty I want to ask you all to trust the perfumes, the shapes, and to remind you that beauty, after every winter, is ready to, on an unexpected day, overwhelm us again with new life; I ask you to look and love nature even in these difficult days because it is in this extraordinary simplicity, in that non-essential vase that we use to decorate our home, that flower that grows on a gray asphalt, we can see the mirror of what we could go back to being. In that strength, in that unexpectedness and in that thrill of love.

*"IT IS SAID THAT WHOEVER GIVES KINDNESS TO FLOWERS IN THIS LIFE WILL HAVE BEAUTY IN THE NEXT. IT IS TODAY THAT I UNDERSTAND THAT THAT PHRASE DID NOT SPEAK OF A FUTURE LIFE, BUT CARRIED WITH IT THE MEANING OF INNER BEAUTY IN THIS LIFE"*



***INDIA'S  
MOST  
INFLUENTIAL  
REAL ESTATE  
BRANDS &  
LEADERS  
BY WEALTH  
2020-21***

LISTING OF TOP 50  
REAL ESTATE BRANDS  
AND LEADERS

BY ASIAONE MAGAZINE & URS INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

**A**siaOne is an international media house and the only Business & News magazine with a pan-Asia presence. We are the pioneers, and now experts, of research-based listing of Brands & Leaders in Asia, Africa and the GCC. We supplement our listing with National & International Business & Social Summits and Awards functions.

As India has progressed to become the fastest growing economy in the world, our various research titles and awards represent a celebration of the indomitable spirit of India. We intend to bring to fore those eminent leaders and brands who have not only been contributing to the Indian economy but also to the society and world at large. For the fact that India has become a robust economic region, the credit goes to steely resolves, innovations, and consequent achievements of some of the greatest Indian leaders. With every Edition, we have been offering higher visibility to the Indian brands and leaders which are equally impactful as brands and leaders from the western developed countries, through our several prestigious mediums including our Magazine, Coffee Table Book, various websites, Android & iOS Apps.

AsiaOne magazine is now in its Fourteenth Edition of Awards along with over 8000 pages of original content with a B2B readership of over 1,50,000 in 12 countries of Asia Middle East & Africa, we have been successfully bridging an important gap between the actual presence of the Indian, Asian and African brands and their recognition and image in the minds of the general public, thus offering higher visibility to brands and leaders which are equally impactful as brands from the western developed countries, through our several prestigious mediums including our Magazine, Coffee Table Book, Television Broadcast, various websites, Android and iOS Apps. Our online versions are [www.asiaone.co.in](http://www.asiaone.co.in) / .me and [www.theindiastgreatestbrands.com](http://www.theindiastgreatestbrands.com). Now we are also available on Android & iOS mobile Apps with access to 2 billion smartphone users across the world.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on the socio-economic fabric of the world. However, despite the numerous challenges it has posed, the

adversity has also thrown open umpteen opportunities. We, at AsiaOne, intend to bring to fore and recognize such Leaders who have perceived the current challenging times as an opportunity to rise above the rest and have thereby led the Brands by their exemplary resolve and have also contributed to the revival of the economy and collective welfare of society, nation and the Asian and African continent at large.

### THE BOOMING INDIAN REALTY SECTOR: AN INTRODUCTION

The Real Estate sector in India holds immense potential and boundless opportunities for growth. In fact the real estate market in India is the second-highest employment generator in the country after agriculture. Interestingly, the sector accounts for 6-7 per cent of the economy and is interlinked to as many as 250 allied sectors. It is estimated that the Realty sector in India will contribute 13% to the country's GDP by 2025 and is expected to reach US\$ 1 trillion by 2030. DLF Ltd. and Macrotech Developers Ltd. (Lodha Group) have been consistently displaying a legacy of excellence in the real estate sector of India and are an inspiration for umpteen other players. Young leaders with a quest for excellence, like Manoj Namburu and Suneel Bommireddy of Alliance Group and Urbanrise have grown immensely in the last few years. Their magnificent projects in Chennai and Hyderabad are indicators of architectural excellence. Another brand which is rapidly rising up on the popularity charts is Emaar India Ltd. Having started its operations in India in 2005, Emaar has created a portfolio of world-class living spaces and work environments in Gurugram, Delhi, Mohali, Lucknow, Jaipur, Indore and Chennai and has developed over 11,500 residential and commercial units, and currently its 8,500 units are under development.

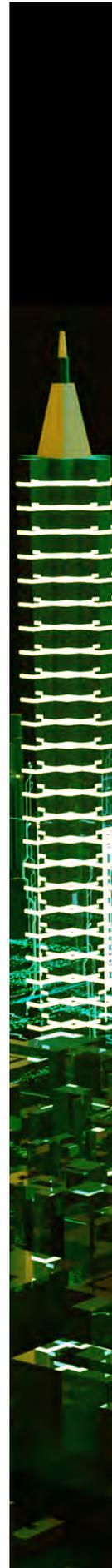
The sector is also expected to attract more non-resident Indian (NRI) investment, both in the short term and the long term. The city of Bengaluru is expected to be the most favoured property investment destination for NRIs, followed by Ahmedabad, Pune, Chennai, Goa, Delhi and Dehradun. In the second half of 2020, Housing

launches were 86,139 units across the top 8 Indian cities. Home sales volume across 8 major cities in India jumped by 2x to 61,593 units from October 2020 to December 2020, compared with 33,403 units in the previous quarter, signifying healthy recovery post the strict lockdown imposed in the second quarter due to the spread of COVID-19 in the nation. It is estimated that about 3 houses are built per 1,000 people per year as compared to the required construction rate of 5 houses per 1,000 population. The current shortage of housing in urban areas is estimated to be around 10 million units. Thus, to meet the requirements of the country's growing urban population, an additional 25 million units of affordable housing are required by 2030. With the increasing demand in the housing segment, the realty sector is projected to become a major wealth creator in the forthcoming decades.

### THE CURRENT SCENARIO

In the first quarter of the year 2021, the demand for India's residential real estate has surpassed pre-COVID levels. Cities such as Ahmedabad and Greater Noida have recorded 7 per cent and 13 per cent quarterly growth, respectively. Despite the pandemic, the City of Nizams, Hyderabad continues to witness consistent price growth in the realty sector. The average rate of newly-launched projects in Hyderabad increased 5 per cent, year-on-year during October-December 2020. Thus, due to a consistent increase in average rates, property prices are the highest in this pharmaceutical hub, presently. Hyderabad has also reported the maximum increase of 39 per cent year-on-year growth in housing sales during the January-March 2021 period. The cities of Bengaluru and Chennai have also witnessed a 2% annual increase in average values.

The supply has witnessed a growth of 8 per cent on a pan-India level. The residential real estate market has been recovering well from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and buyer-search volumes have been moving consistently upwards for both buy and lease since the last quarter of 2020. A plethora of factors such as reduced home loan interest rates, reduction in stamp duty,



## Pan India Findings

S.No	Leader Name	Company Name	Designation	Total Assets Value (in Crores INR)	City
1	Rajiv Singh	DLF Ltd.	Chairman	42,163.35	Delhi-NCR
2	Mangal Prabhat Lodha	Macrotech Developers Ltd. (Lodha Group)	Founder	31,967.86	Mumbai
3	Chandru L Raheja	K. Raheja Corp Pvt. Ltd.	Chairman	21,000	Mumbai
4	Niranjan Hiranandani	Hiranandani Developers Pvt. Ltd.	Co-Founder & Managing Director	20,600	Mumbai
5	Irfan Razack	Prestige Estates Projects Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	19,588.6	Bengaluru
6	Jitendra Virwani	Embassy Office Parks REIT Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	19,421.16	Bengaluru
7	Vikas Oberoi	Oberoi Realty Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	15,330	Mumbai
8	Adi Godrej	Godrej Properties Ltd.	Chairman Emeritus	14,941.61	Mumbai
9	Navin M Raheja	Raheja Developers Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	14,600	Delhi-NCR
10	Subhashchandra S Runwal	Runwal Developers Pvt. Ltd.	Chairman	11,800	Mumbai
11	P N C Menon	Sobha Ltd.	Chairman Emeritus	10,543.15	Bengaluru
12	M.R. Jaishankar	Brigade Enterprises Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	7,665.88	Bengaluru
13	Rameswar Rao Jupally	My Home Group	Chairman	7,300	Hyderabad
14	Mofatraj P. Munot	Kalpataru Properties Pvt. Ltd.	Chairman	7,300	Mumbai
15	Sameer Gehlaut	India Bulls Real Estate Ltd.	Chairman	6,862.78	Mumbai
16	Pradeep Jain	Parsvnath Developers Ltd.	Chairman	6,315.51	Delhi-NCR
17	Mohit Goel	Omaxe Ltd.	CEO	6,132.89	Delhi-NCR
18	Sushil Ansal	Ansal Properties & Infrastructure Ltd.	Chairman	5,747.2	Delhi-NCR
19	Ravi Puravankara	Purvankara Ltd.	Chairman	5,725.54	Bengaluru
20	Bijay Kumar Agarwal	Salarpuria Sattva Realty LLP	Managing Director	5,200	Bengaluru
21	SS Reddy	Aparna Constructions and Estates Pvt. Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	5,200	Hyderabad
22	C.V. Reddy	Aparna Constructions and Estates Pvt. Ltd.	Director	4,350	Hyderabad
23	Hemant M. Shah	Hubtown Ltd.	Chairman & Co-Founder	3,974.56	Mumbai
24	Atul Ruia	Phoenix Mills Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	3,948.93	Mumbai

## TOP 50 REAL ESTATE BRANDS AND LEADERS

25	<i>Avinash Bhosale</i>	ABIL Corporation Pvt. Ltd.	Founder & Chairman	3,600	Pune
26	<i>Mr. Vinod Goenka</i>	DB Realty Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	3,587.25	Mumbai
27	<i>Hadi Badri</i>	Emaar India Ltd.	CEO	3,463	Delhi-NCR
28	<i>Mr. R.S. Agarwal &amp; Mr. R.S. Goenka</i>	Emami Realty Ltd.	Founder & Joint Chairman	2,955.86	Kolkata
29	<i>Anand Piramal</i>	Piramal Realty Pvt. Ltd.	Founder	2,700	Mumbai
30	<i>Kamal Khetan</i>	Sunteck Realty Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	2,697.37	Mumbai
31	<i>Alla Ayodhya Rami Reddy</i>	Ramky Infrastructure Ltd.	Chairman	2,675	Hyderabad
32	<i>Urvi A. Piramal</i>	Peninsula Land Ltd.	Non-Executive Chairman	2,540.37	Mumbai
33	<i>Manoj Namburu</i>	Alliance Group & Urbanrise	Chairman And Managing Director	2,175	Chennai & Hyderabad
34	<i>Suneel Bommireddy</i>	Alliance Group & Urbanrise	Vice Chairman	2,150	Chennai & Hyderabad
35	<i>Arun Nanda</i>	Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd.	Chairman	2,033.01	Mumbai
36	<i>Aniruddha Patil</i>	Kolte-Patil Developers Ltd.	Founder	1,971.22	Pune
37	<i>Punit Beriwal</i>	Vipul Ltd.	Managing Director	1,645.74	Delhi-NCR

and discounts offered by developers have made home buying an attractive proposition in the country.

### SUPPORT OFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT

The structural reforms by the government such as GST and RERA and added liquidity in the banking system have restored buyer confidence in the real estate sector and the market has been making rapid strides in the past few years with these reforms. But mid-2020 posed a tough challenge for the industry with the imposition of the national lockdown. However, with support from the government and RBI, the real estate industry and developers eventually got back on the road to recovery by the end of the year 2020. Positive sentiment visible across the economy, and GDP showed visible signs of growth through a V-shaped recovery. Time and again, the government has been rolling out a number of measures to revive the sector and economy at large. In its bid to help the real estate sector survive this unprecedented health crisis, the Centre

did announce various measures. Some of these include invoking the 'Force Majeure' clause under the RERA to extend project completion deadlines by 6-9 months, the extension of interest subsidy for the middle-income group, and relaxing tax rules to allow sales of homes valued up to INR 2 crore at a 20% discount to circle rate. These measures by the government definitely enthuse positivity and the industry eyes growth ahead and is optimistic of an unprecedented recovery.

### INNOVATION: THE NEED OF THE HOUR

In order to attract buyers at large, the developer community should not only focus on creating projects with basic amenities but also provide additional features as per their changing customer requirements. The pandemic has changed homebuyers' expectations as many are working from home and preferring bigger houses with an extra room. Today, larger residences are in demand more than ever. In fact, there has been a more than 40% rise in



demand for three and four BHK units in H2, 2020 as compared to H1, 2020. The lockdowns have taught people the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and this aspect should be utilized by developers. Providing basic amenities focused on health and lifestyle would not only ensure the safety of the consumers, but would also enable faster decision-making in terms of buying a property.

In addition, realtors eyeing for an uptick in sales will have to lure the buyers with a host of offers. These may comprise zero stamp duty and registration charges at the time of home booking (to be recovered on possession), buy now and pay stamp duty later, attractive subvention schemes, EMI holiday scheme (involving no payment or EMI until possession of the project), and attractive home loan schemes from the developer. Further, developers' offers and discounts by way of consumer durables, home furnishings, modular kitchen, furniture, and gold coins on purchase of the unit may result in higher sales.

38	<i>Rajnikant Shamalji Ajmera</i>	Ajmera Realty & Infra India Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	1,569.68	Mumbai
39	<i>Arun Mn</i>	Casagrand Builder Pvt. Ltd.	Founder & Managing Director	1,490	Chennai
40	<i>Yuvaraajann Radhakrishnan</i>	Baashyaam Constructions Pvt. Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	1,450	Chennai
41	<i>Varun Manian</i>	Radiance Realty Developers India Ltd.	Managing Director	1,185	Chennai
42	<i>Vishal Gupta</i>	Ashiana Housing Ltd.	Managing Director	1,115.11	Delhi-NCR
43	<i>Mayur Shah</i>	Marathon Realty Pvt. Ltd.	Managing Director	1,092.92	Mumbai
44	<i>Dipakkumar G. Patel</i>	Ganesh Housing Corporation Ltd.	Chairman	1,077.93	Ahmedabad
45	<i>Bollineni Krishnaiah</i>	BSCPL Infrastructure Ltd.	Chairman	1,058.38	Bengaluru
46	<i>Nitesh Shetty</i>	NEL Holdings South Ltd.	Chairman	1,033.82	Bengaluru
47	<i>C. Subba Reddy</i>	CEEBROS Property Development Pvt. Ltd.	Managing Director	980	Chennai
48	<i>Sanjay Lalbhai</i>	Arvind Smartspaces Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	559.2	Ahmedabad
49	<i>Dipak Poddar</i>	Poddar Housing Pvt. Ltd.	Founder & Chairman	520.75	Mumbai
50	<i>Naresh Karda</i>	Karda Constructions Ltd.	Chairman	290.59	Nashik

### THE CONCEPT: HIGHLIGHTING THE MAESTROS OF REALTY SECTOR

India's Most Influential Real Estate Brands & Leaders 2020-21 by wealth is AsiaOne's attempt to showcase the extraordinary vision, unceasing optimism and matchless innovation of major real estate leaders across India through which they have been consistently turning adversity into opportunity and taking their brands to greater heights despite the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic. India's Most Influential Real Estate Brands 2020-21 and India's Top 50 Real Estate Leaders by Wealth is one of the most authentic listings by an esteemed jury panel comprising various industry experts and researchers from different industries. The criteria of selection of these top 50 winning Brands & Leaders (each) from the Real Estate Sector is the annual Revenue and Net Worth of the Leaders coupled with few other parameters like Brands' and

Leaders' Innovation, Impact, Growth, Promise and Popularity. The final list is obtained after the brands and leaders are thoroughly scanned, researched, understood and after much deliberation by a competent team of experts, put on deserving pedestals for the admiration and veneration of the world. All the selected brands and leaders will be featured in AsiaOne magazine, uploaded on AsiaOne's website and promoted through the top social media platforms namely Twitter, LinkedIn, Youtube, Facebook and Instagram.

### ASIAONE LIST OF TOP 50 REAL ESTATE BRANDS AND LEADERS 2020-21 BY WEALTH

AsiaOne List of Top 50 Real Estate Brands and Leaders 2020-21 by Wealth has been created on the basis of the valuation of top real estate brands and leaders. Despite the fact that there might have been inadvertent omissions, the list is the most authentic attempt to



identify India's top real estate leaders and to measure their holdings' value.

Both primary and secondary research has been conducted to arrive at the findings. Total assets value has been considered in many cases of listed companies. Also, declared net worth by the leaders and the companies in other prestigious forums and platforms have been considered after further discussions. The latest available financial reports were used to arrive at the valuation. AsiaOne List of Top 50 Real Estate Brands and Leaders 2020-21 by Wealth has been compiled on the basis of the valuation of real estate business owned by the leaders; the personal liabilities or debt of the leaders have not been considered for the net worth calculation. In certain cases, a comparative analysis and valuation have also been done on the basis of the last few years of business activities and transactions undertaken by the group and the leader for approximately

## TOP 50 REAL ESTATE BRANDS AND LEADERS

estimating the values.

- 1.** The first spot on the list has been occupied by Rajiv Singh, 61, of DLF (Delhi Land & Finance) Ltd. who encompasses a wealth of INR 42,163 crores. The internationally renowned firm DLF Ltd. was established in 1946 by Chaudhary Raghvendra Singh. Its first project involved construction of 22 urban colonies in Delhi. It expanded its operations to the then-unknown region of Gurgaon (present-day Gurugram) in the year 1985 and since then there has been no looking back! It has been efficiently creating exceptional living and working spaces for the new Indian global professionals. Today, DLF Ltd. has established itself as an organization to reckon with in the realty sector with its focus on customer-centricity, quality and sustainability.
- 2.** Mangal Prabhat Lodha, 65, of Macrotech Developers Ltd. (Lodha Group) stands second on the list with a wealth of INR 31,968 crores. With its headquarters in Mumbai, Lodha Group has a remarkable presence in India, Dubai, United Kingdom, Singapore and the United

States. Since its establishment in 1980, the Group has been efficiently creating landmarks that meet global standards. It has played a significant role in not only transforming the skyline of Mumbai but also crafting some of the most appealing residences in London.

- 3.** Chandru Raheja, 80, of K Raheja Corp Pvt. Ltd. occupies the third spot in the list, with a current wealth of INR 21,000 crores. Driven with a vision to be a trusted player in the realty industry, K Raheja Corp Pvt. Ltd. has been efficiently creating enduring experiences for customers, partners and employees alike. Committed to sustainable development, it signed an MoU with the CII-Green Building Council to construct green buildings, way back in 2007. Besides its eco-friendly constructions, it is committed to developing large, green expanses across the nation. For its outstanding contribution to the realty sector, the brand has been recognized with awards across various prestigious forums. In addition, its buildings have received Gold and Platinum LEED ratings.



- 4.** The fourth spot is taken by Dr. Niranjana Hiranandani, 70, Hiranandani Developers Pvt. Ltd., whose real estate business registered a valuation of INR 20,600 crores. Hiranandani Developers Pvt. Ltd. is renowned for creating luxurious, integrated, self-sustaining townships that combine prime location, sound infrastructure and world-class amenities, with an aim to enhance economic prosperity and generate tremendous value for all the stakeholders. Dr. Niranjana Hiranandani's 'Magic Mantra' for success is "sincerity and commitment with consistent efforts."
- 5.** Irfan Razack, 67, of Prestige Estates Projects Ltd. ranks fifth on the list with a wealth of INR 19,589 crores. Over the last decade, Prestige Estates Projects Ltd. has firmly established itself as one of the leading and most successful developers of real estate in India by imprinting its indelible mark across all asset classes. Founded in 1986, the firm has been rising up the success ladder under the leadership of the CMD Irfan Razack. By mid-2020, it had completed 247 projects covering 134 million sq. ft., and currently has 45 ongoing projects covering over 53 million sq. ft., 56 M sq. ft. of upcoming projects, and holds a land bank of 262 acres with potential developable area of 27 M sq. ft.
- 6.** With a wealth of INR 19,421 crores, Jitendra Virwani, 55, of Embassy Office Parks REIT Ltd. stands sixth on the list. Embassy Office Parks REIT Ltd. accords paramount importance to ensuring the safety, health and well-being and business continuity of its park occupiers. Thus, at Embassy, every effort is made to align its business activities with the global sustainability goals and the sustainability commitments of its occupiers. A large number of its parks are ISO 9001, 14001, 45001 certified and the firm intends to get the entire portfolio certified by the end of this year. A majority of its properties are Platinum or Gold certified Green building/campus. Presently, it is also ensuring that all its new developments are LEED Gold certified.



## Major City-wise Segregations

### A- Mumbai

S.No	Leader Name	Company Name	Designation	Total Assets Value (in Crores INR)	City
1	Mangal Prabhat Lodha	Macrotech Developers Ltd. (Lodha Group)	Founder	31,967.86	Mumbai
2	Chandru L Raheja	K. Raheja Corp Pvt. Ltd.	Chairman	21,000	Mumbai
3	Niranjan Hiranandani	Hiranandani Developers Pvt. Ltd.	Co-Founder & Managing Director	20,600	Mumbai
4	Vikas Oberoi	Oberoi Realty Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	15,330	Mumbai
5	Adi Godrej	Godrej Properties Ltd.	Chairman Emeritus	14,941.61	Mumbai
6	Subhashchandra S Runwal	Runwal Developers Pvt. Ltd.	Chairman	11,800	Mumbai

Popularly known as the ‘City of Dreams,’ Mumbai, the financial capital of India is its largest city. It is renowned for the iconic Gateway of India stone arch, built by the British in 1924. The real estate sector has played a significant role in the infrastructural development of the city. Greater Mumbai and Navi Mumbai are listed among the top 10 ranked cities among 111 cities, in the Ease of Living Index launched by the Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs. It is an indicator of the quality of citizens’ lives in major cities across four main pillars namely economic ability, sustainability, citizens’ perceptions and quality of life. These pillars encompass 14 different categories such as housing, economic opportunities, green spaces, and even city resilience. Thus, Mumbai fares reasonably well on these parameters and has emerged as one of the most sought-after metropolises. The top 6 real estate brands and leaders in Mumbai are described below.

**1.** With a wealth of INR 31,968 crores, Mangal Prabhat Lodha, 65, of Macrotech Developers Ltd. (Lodha Group) occupies the number one slot in the list. With a

vision of building a better world, Lodha Group has been creating landmarks which meet global standards. The brand has not only built one of India’s most iconic landmarks, but has also crafted some of the most magnificent residences in London. It takes pride in having delivered projects amounting to 7.7 crore sq. ft. of area. Currently, its 7.4 crore sq. ft. developable area is under construction and planning stage.

**2.** Chandru Raheja, 80, of K. Raheja Corp Pvt. Ltd. takes the second spot in the list with a current wealth of INR 21,000 crores. K. Raheja Corp Pvt. Ltd. has made a significant contribution in evolving modern-day living by building alluring residences, adaptive workplaces, magnificent hotels and convention centers and excellent retail destinations. Each of its offerings is unique as the firm focuses on delivering aspirational spaces with distinct characteristics and attributes. The company has performed exceptionally well in the green development sector as well.

**3.** The third spot is occupied by Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, 70, Hiranandani Developers Pvt. Ltd., whose real estate business



registered a valuation of INR 20,600 crores. A pioneer in developing global community townships, Hiranandani Developers Pvt. Ltd. has been efficiently transforming landscapes in Mumbai. Besides having redefined the real estate industry through its astonishing township projects, the company is accredited with beautifying skylines in Powai and Thane; and Panvel, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Pune are soon to follow suit.

**4.** With a wealth amounting to INR 15,330 crores, Vikas Oberoi, 51, of Oberoi Realty Ltd. ranks fourth on the list. Over the past 3 decades, Oberoi Realty Ltd. has developed over 42 projects aggregating about 11.89 M sq. ft. of space at strategic locations across the island city of Mumbai. Its upcoming projects in various parts of Mumbai and other regions encompass around 38 million sq. ft. of area. It focuses on innovation, contemporary architecture, strong project execution and quality construction to create spaces that enhance the lives of the inhabitants.

**5.** Adi Godrej, 79, of Godrej Properties Ltd. ranks fifth on the list with a wealth of INR 14,942 crores. Established in 1990,

## TOP 50 REAL ESTATE BRANDS AND LEADERS

Godrej Properties Ltd. has made its presence felt in the realty sector. The firm is currently developing projects that are estimated to cover over 89.7 M sq. ft. Its commitment to sustainability is explicit from the fact that many of its projects have received LEED Platinum certifications. Ahmedabad-based Godrej Garden City township project was selected as one of only 2 projects in India and 16 worldwide

by The Clinton Foundation to collaborate towards achieving a climate positive development.

6. The sixth spot is taken by Subhashchandra S Runwal, 78, Runwal Developers Pvt. Ltd., whose real estate business registered a valuation of INR 11,800 crores. Established in 1978, Runwal Developers Pvt. Ltd. is one of Mumbai's premier real estate developers. It primarily operates



in the residential, commercial and organized retail verticals. It takes pride in a robust track record of 51 delivered projects with over 20,000 happy families, and also owns and manages the largest retail mall chain in Mumbai with over 2 M sq. ft. of GLA. Presently, it manages a portfolio of 14 ongoing projects with almost 11 M sq. ft. under development across Mumbai and the MMRDA region.

## B- Delhi-NCR

S.No	Leader Name	Company Name	Designation	Total Assets Value (in Crores INR)	City
1	Rajiv Singh	DLF Ltd.	Chairman	42,163.35	Delhi-NCR
2	Navin M Raheja	Raheja Developers Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	14,600	Delhi-NCR
3	Pradeep Jain	Parsvnath Developers Ltd.	Chairman	6,315.51	Delhi-NCR
4	Mohit Goel	Omaxe Ltd.	CEO	6,132.89	Delhi-NCR
5	Sushil Ansal	Ansal Properties & Infrastructure Ltd.	Chairman	5,747.2	Delhi-NCR
6	Hadi Badri	Emaar India Ltd.	CEO	3,463	Delhi-NCR

*The historic city of Delhi is famous for architectural design and building during the period of the British Raj (known as Lutyens' Delhi). Delhi NCR covers the entire National Capital Region (NCR) comprising the neighbouring cities of Delhi namely Gurugram (erstwhile Gurgaon), Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad and Sonapat along with Delhi. It is one of the largest real estate markets in the nation, offering a varied mix of property segments and different micro-markets across the region. Of the 49 cities in the 'million-plus population' category, ranked on the Ease of Living index by the Union Government, Delhi figures at the 13th spot. The top 6 real estate brands and leaders in Delhi-NCR are given below.*

1. The first spot on the list for Delhi-NCR has been occupied by Rajiv Singh, 61, of DLF Ltd. who

possesses a wealth of INR 42,163 crores. Having started its operations in 1946, DLF Ltd. has passed the test of times and has evolved into a globally-recognized brand. DLF Ltd. is deeply committed to the health and prosperity of its customers, partners, employees, and shareholders – this is all the more explicit from the fact that it is the only company globally to have won 11 'Sword of Honor' awards from the British Safety Council. It has also received LEED Certification from the US Green Building Council for 2.64 M sq. m. area (around 80 percent of its rental portfolio). Its efforts towards consistent innovation for creating safer workplaces, smarter cities, and sustainable communities across the nation bore fruit when a number of its residential communities were recently awarded LEED Gold certification.



2. With a wealth of INR 14,600 crores, Navin M Raheja, 65, of Raheja Developers Ltd. ranks second on the list. Established in the year 1990 by Navin M. Raheja, Raheja Developers Ltd. has been bringing in new innovations and best construction practices to every project. With its commitment to deliver on time, and as promised, it has been successful in building a huge base of satisfied customers. For designing innovative green buildings, it has successfully collaborated with international construction and technology partners like Arabtec, ECC, Thronton Tomasetti, Peri, Aedas in India. The firm was also amongst the first ones to bring affordable housing in Haryana, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojana.

3. With a current wealth of INR 6,315 crores, Pradeep Jain, 56, of

Parsvnath Developers Ltd. occupies the third spot in the list. Established in 1990, Parsvnath Developers Ltd. has a pan-India presence in over 37 cities in 13 states, and has been building contemporary residential spaces, state-of-the-art office complexes, affordable housing, luxurious, shopping malls and hypermarkets, posh hotels, futuristic multiplexes, and high tech IT Parks and SEZs.

4. The fourth spot has been occupied by Mohit Goel, 31, Omaxe Ltd., whose real estate business registered a valuation of INR 6,133 crores. Established in 1987, by the visionary first-generation entrepreneur and civil engineer Rohtas Goel for furthering his construction and contracting business, Omaxe Ltd. diversified into the real estate sector in 2001. Since then it has come a long way and has established its presence in 27 cities across 8 states namely UP, MP, HP, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Delhi.

5. Sushil Ansal, 77, of Ansal Properties & Infrastructure Ltd. ranks fifth on the list with a wealth of INR 5,747 crores. Established in 1967 as a family business, Ansal Properties & Infrastructure Ltd. operates in a range of business verticals such as Integrated Townships, Condominiums, Group Housing, Malls, Shopping Complex, Hotels,

SEZs, IT Parks and Infrastructure and Utility Services. It has developed 19 existing townships across all major tier 2 cities in Northern India in Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab, including many high-rise residential towers in Delhi.

6. With a wealth of INR 3,463 crores, Hadi Badri, 39, of Emaar India Ltd. ranks sixth on the list (This assessment is based upon the valuation of Emaar India Ltd.'s projects only. Its valuation outside India has not been taken into account). Emaar India Ltd. was established in the year 2005 as a luxury real estate developer in the nation. Its exceptional projects have been spanning across the nation. It consistently delivers world-class projects that reinforce its competencies and commitment to quality. Its values are reflected in its continuous endeavours towards delivering unmatched quality, innovation and execution in shaping realty dreams. The firm has been consistently rising high on the popularity rating and establishing its stronghold in the Indian market.

## BENGALURU

*Serving as India's technology capital for over three decades now, Bengaluru boasts a robust heritage of premier R&D laboratories, academic institutions, and public*



*sector focused firms. The city has earned the well-deserved sobriquet of Asia's Silicon Valley. Its architectural landmarks bear witness to the grandeur of the royal dynasties that have ruled the 'Garden City.' Bengaluru has also acquired the distinction of being the top Indian city in the Million+ city category on the Indian government's Ease of Living (EOL) Index 2020 released by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry. Urban liveability comprises efficient public transport, neighbourhood walkability, access to open spaces, ample economic opportunities and access to infrastructure services. It is a significant factor in promoting citizens' health and wellbeing. The top 6 real estate brands and leaders in Bengaluru are given below.*

1. The first spot on the list has been occupied by Irfan Razack, 67, of Prestige Estates Projects Ltd. who encompasses a wealth of INR 19,589 crores. The CMD Irfan Razack, along with his brothers Rezwana Razack and Noaman Razack, has been efficiently driving the organization towards new horizons of success for the last 35 years. Over time, the company has diversified into various segments. For instance, interior designing services provided by Morph Design Company (MDC) and men's clothing line by Prestige Fashions

## C- Bengaluru (erstwhile Bangalore)

S.No	Leader Name	Company Name	Designation	Total Assets Value (in Crores INR)	City
1	Irfan Razack	Prestige Estates Projects Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	19,588.6	Bengaluru
2	Jitendra Virwani	Embassy Office Parks REIT Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	19,421.16	Bengaluru
3	P N C Menon	Sobha Ltd.	Chairman Emeritus	10,543.15	Bengaluru
4	M.R. Jaishankar	Brigade Enterprises Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	7,665.88	Bengaluru
5	Ravi Puravankara	Purvankara Ltd.	Chairman	5,725.54	Bengaluru
6	Bijay Kumar Agarwal	Salarpuria Sattva Realty LLP	Managing Director	5,200	Bengaluru

## TOP 50 REAL ESTATE BRANDS AND LEADERS

(P) Ltd. Its wide range of residential, commercial, retail, leisure and hospitality segments makes Prestige the only developer in South India to have such a diverse portfolio.

- With a wealth of INR 19,421 crores, Jitendra Virwani, 55, of Embassy Office Parks REIT Ltd. stands second on the list. Embassy has earned the unique distinction of being the nation's first publicly listed Real Estate Investment Trust. 8 infrastructure-like office parks and 4 city-centre office buildings are owned and operated by the firm in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, and Delhi-NCR. Its portfolio comprises 32.3 million square feet (msf) completed operating area, including 2 operational business hotels, 4 under-construction hotels, & a 100MW solar park supplying renewable energy to tenants and is utilized by more than 190 global companies.
- With a current wealth of INR 10,543 crores, P.N.C. Menon, 72, of Sobha Ltd. occupies the third spot in the list. Incorporated as Sobha Developers Pvt. Ltd. in 1995 by P.N.C. Menon, Sobha Ltd. has a presence in 10 cities, has completed over 150 projects, with 9 M+ sq. ft. under development, and over 58 Million sq. ft. delivered to more than 17,000 happy families. Having

altered the skyline in Bengaluru, created landmark developments in Kerala, the firm has stepped into Delhi NCR, Chennai, Coimbatore, Mysore, Pune and plans to expand its ambit in near future.

- The fourth spot is taken by M.R. Jaishankar, 65, Brigade Enterprises Ltd., whose real estate business registered a valuation of INR 7,666 crores. Instituted in 1986, Brigade Enterprises Ltd. has developed many landmark buildings and transformed the skyline of cities across South India namely Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kochi with developments across the Residential, Commercial, Retail, Hospitality and Education sectors. Since its inception, it has completed 250+ buildings amounting to over 70 M sq. ft. of developed space across a diverse real estate portfolio.
- Ravi Puravankara, 69, of Purvankara Ltd. ranks fifth on the list with a wealth of INR 5725 crores. Established in 1975 with a clear vision and mission to meet the aspirations of millions by offering quality homes, Purvankara Ltd. has established two distinct and successful brands. The flagship brand 'Puravankara' caters to the premium end of the spectrum, while 'Provident' serves the



premium affordable segment. It has completed 66 residential and 5 commercial projects close to 41 M sq. ft. Today, it has a Pan India presence in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi, Coimbatore, Mangaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune and Goa and overseas presence in the GCC and Sri Lanka.

- The sixth spot has been occupied by Bijay Kumar Agarwal, 56, Salarpuria Sattva Realty LLP, whose real estate business registered a valuation of INR 5,200 crores. Founded in 1993 in Bengaluru, the Salarpuria Sattva Group has made its indelible mark across the landscape of Bengaluru, Hyderabad and 5 other Indian cities. A first-generation entrepreneur, Bijay Kumar Agarwal has helped the brand to emerge as a front runner in the realty space. It takes pride in delivering 114 successful projects encompassing 48 M sq. ft. of area. Currently, its 24 ongoing projects comprise 32 M sq. ft. of area under construction.

### CHENNAI

*Nicknamed the 'Detroit of India' for its auto industry, Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, exhibits the architectural evolution over several centuries. The present day Chennai is an assortment of styles comprising*

## D - Chennai

S.No	Leader Name	Company Name	Designation	Total Assets Value (in Crores INR)	City
1	Manoj Namburu	Alliance Group & Urbanrise	Chairman And Managing Director	2,175	Chennai
2	Suneel Bommireddy	Alliance Group & Urbanrise	Vice Chairman	2,150	Chennai
3	Arun MN	Casagrand Builder Pvt. Ltd.	Founder & Managing Director	1,490	Chennai
4	Yuvaraajann Radhakrishnan	Baashyaam Constructions Pvt. Ltd.	Chairman And Managing Director	1,450	Chennai
5	Varun Manian	Radiance Realty Developers India Ltd.	Managing Director	1,185	Chennai
6	C. Subba Reddy	CEEBROS Property Development Pvt. Ltd.	Managing Director	980	Chennai

*ancient Tamil temples built by the Pallavas, the Indo-Saracenic form that pioneered in Madras during the colonial era, and the twentieth-century skyscrapers. Chennai has bagged the fourth place on the Union Government's Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020 under million plus city category. It is an indicator of the excellent quality of life and economic opportunities which Chennai offers to its inhabitants, and also its sustainability and resilience. The top 6 real estate brands and leaders in Chennai are as follows:*

**1.** With a wealth of INR 2,175 crores, Manoj Namburu, 51, of Alliance Group & Urbanrise occupies the top slot on the list in Chennai. Headquartered in Bengaluru, with operations in Chennai, Hyderabad, Alliance Group. is an integral part of India's high growth real estate story. With 42 M sq. ft. developed area and INR 24,000 crores of real estate portfolio, the firm is consistently moving towards the

zenith of success. The net worth of promoters of Alliance Group & Urbanrise is bound to increase manifold in the near future. They are the developers to watch with the likelihood of highest increase in net worth in the coming years.

**2.** With a current wealth of INR 2,150 crores, Suneel Bommireddy, 48, of Alliance Group & Urbanrise takes the second spot in the list of top developers in Chennai. A constant innovator to the core whilst beholding the title of a master deal maker, Suneel Bommireddy fuels the business development of the organization by acquiring the best of breed land parcels for project development in Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad.

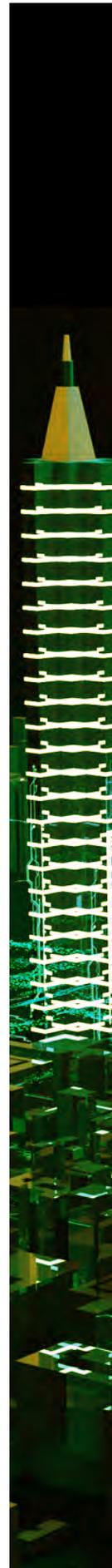
**3.** The third spot is occupied by Arun MN, 46, Casagrاند Builder Pvt. Ltd., whose real estate business registered a valuation of INR 1,490 crores. Established in 2004, Casagrاند Builder Pvt. Ltd. has developed over 22 M sq. ft. of prime residential real estate

across Chennai, Bengaluru, and Coimbatore. It takes pride in delivering more than 112 landmark properties and serving over 18,250 happy families.

**4.** The fourth spot has been occupied by Yuvaraajann Radhakrishnan, 36, of Baashyaam Constructions Pvt. Ltd., whose real estate business registered a valuation of INR 1,450 crores. Baashyaam Group has a strong three-decade-plus presence in the infrastructure and real estate sector of Tamil Nadu. It has successfully managed multiple projects across categories ranging from Affordable Housing, Independent Villas, Premium Living Spaces, Luxury Residences and Commercial Buildings. It is among one of the very few top developers with end-to-end capabilities, right from project inception to finish.

**5.** Varun Manian, 39, of Radiance Realty Developers India Ltd. ranks fifth on the list with a wealth of INR 1,185 crores. A third-generation entrepreneur from the eminent Manian family, Varun Manian is the man behind the success of Radiance Realty. In 1949, the Manian family established NAPC, a leading infrastructure company in Chennai, India and the Middle East. In 2012, NAPC Properties evolved and Varun Manian entered the residential real estate business with the inception of Radiance Realty Developers India Ltd. The latter has emerged as a successful property development firm which focuses on building both affordable and luxury residential projects.

**6.** With a wealth of INR 980 crores, C. Subba Reddy, 68, of CEEBROS Property Development Pvt. Ltd. stands sixth on the list. Established in 1978, CEEBROS Property Development Pvt. Ltd. is a leading developer of premier real estate. It has delivered over 300 successful residential and commercial projects over a span of around three and half decades. It ventured into the hospitality industry with The Raintree Hotels in 2005. It also intends to diversify into Professional Property Management Services in near future.



## E- Hyderabad

S.No	Leader Name	Company Name	Designation	Total Assets Value (in Crores INR)	City
1	Rameswar Rao Jupally	My Home Group	Chairman	7,300	Hyderabad
2	SS Reddy	Aparna Constructions and Estates Pvt. Ltd.	Chairman & Managing Director	5,200	Hyderabad
3	C.V. Reddy	Aparna Constructions and Estates Pvt. Ltd.	Director	4,350	Hyderabad
4	Alla Ayodhya Rami Reddy	Ramky Infrastructure Ltd.	Chairman	2,675	Hyderabad
5	Manoj Namburu	Alliance Group & Urbanrise	Chairman & Managing Director	2,175	Hyderabad
6	Suneel Bommireddy	Alliance Group & Urbanrise	Vice Chairman	2,150	Hyderabad

Spanning over 650 square kilometres, Hyderabad is the fourth largest city in India. A historical pearl trading centre and a multi-cultural hub, it has earned monikers such as 'The City of Pearls' and 'The City of Nizams.' But what seems to define the unique character of this city is its architecture fusion of ancient and modern architectural styles. It is renowned for the historic monument of Charminar, located strategically at its centre. The top 6 real estate brands and leaders in Hyderabad are described below.

- The first spot on the list has been occupied by Rameswar Rao Jupally, 65, of My Home Group who encompasses a wealth of 7,300 crores. With a rich legacy of over 35 years, My Home Group takes pride in completing over 21 Residential and Commercial projects, comprising 26 M sq. ft. of total built-up area and over 11 M sq. ft. under construction. It makes owning a home a good experience by stringing its 6 principles: Happy Communities, Superior Living, Clear Documentation, Timely Delivery, Desirable Destinations and Secure Environment and is a preferred choice of intelligent homebuyers.
- With a wealth of INR 5,200 crores, S. S. Reddy, 68, of Aparna

Constructions and Estates Pvt. Ltd. stands second on the list. With pioneering innovation in gated communities, the firm has been growing since 1996. Holding an unwavering vision to offer a sustainable balance between affordability and luxury, it builds homes of global standards of construction with a great sense of environmental responsibility. Its projects have been popular for offering perfect locations and world-class amenities in a clean and green environment.

- The third spot is occupied by C.V. Reddy, 68, of Aparna Constructions and Estates Pvt. Ltd., whose real estate business registered a valuation of INR 4,350 crores. Established in 1996, Aparna Constructions and Estates Pvt. Ltd. (ACEPL) is an OHSAS 18001:2007, ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 certified company. In more than 2 decades years of its successful operations, it has established itself as the epitome of construction excellence in Hyderabad. It takes pride in its customer base of over 16,000+ happy families. Recently, ACEPL also expanded to Bengaluru and the new state capital – Amaravati.
- Alla Ayodhya Rami Reddy, 57, of Ramky Infrastructure Ltd. ranks fourth on the list with a



wealth of INR 2,675 crores. An integrated construction, infrastructure development and management company in India, Ramky Infrastructure Ltd. (Ramky Infra) was established in 1994. It has been delivering a range of construction and infrastructure projects in various sectors such as water, wastewater, transportation, irrigation, industrial construction, parks (including SEZs), power transmission, power distribution, residential, commercial and retail property. Besides a Pan India presence in 23 states and 2 union territories, it has an overseas presence in the UAE.

- After leaving his indelible impression on Chennai and Bengaluru, Manoj Namburu 51, with a current wealth of Rs 2,175 Crores is making his presence felt in Hyderabad too. He occupies the fifth spot in the list of top 6 real estate developers in Hyderabad. Unlike any developer who enters into a new market with one project, Urbanrise has taken giant strides by starting operations in Hyderabad in 2018 with 6 large projects totaling to 14 M sq. ft. at one go – a first of its kind in the Indian real estate sector. With total development portfolio of 42 M sq. ft. and INR 24,000 crores, they are large format developers and are very likely to become the largest by

volumes in South India in the near future. The net worth of promoters of Alliance Group & Urbanrise is bound to multiply in the next few years.

6. The sixth spot is taken by Suneel Bommireddy, 48, Alliance Group & Urbanrise, with a wealth of INR 2,150 crores. With an eye for detail and strong business acumen Suneel Bommireddy along with Manoj Namburu have realized the potential of Hyderabad as the fastest growing market and have invested heavily in procuring 6 large land parcels in Hyderabad city and are aggressively scouting for more land parcels.

## CONCLUSION

India's Most Influential Real Estate Brands & Leaders 2020-21 List by AsiaOne is a comprehensive indicator of the top-performing real estate brands and leaders in the sector assessed at Pan India and regional level and resonates the overall positive sentiment in this thriving industry. It brings to fore not only some of the best performers in the real estate sector but also aims to highlight those emerging brands and leaders who are performing exceptionally well and are the contenders for the top slots in near future. For instance, the young and dynamic duo Manoj Namburu and Suneel Bommireddy of Alliance Group & Urbanrise have outshone their contemporaries at the regional level by registering a remarkable presence in Chennai and Hyderabad. With more and more projects coming their way, they are bound to rise and shine not only at the South India level but also rise up the success ladder at the Pan-India level in the near future. Similarly, one such remarkable firm is Emaar India Ltd. which is a part of internationally renowned, UAE headquartered Emaar Properties – one of the world's most renowned real estate development firms, popular for creating iconic architectural landmarks such as Burj Khalifa, Dubai Downtown and Dubai Mall, to name a few. Having started its operations in India in 2005, Emaar India Ltd. has been swiftly rising up the popularity charts with its customer-centric

approach. It has created a portfolio of world-class living spaces and work environments in the major cities of the nation. The popular brand is likely to register its presence on the top rung on the success ladder in the near future.

Out of the top 50 brands and leaders at the Pan India level, Rajiv Singh of DLF Ltd. has acquired the top slot on India's Most Influential Real Estate Brands & Leaders List 2020-21 followed by Mangal Prabhat Lodha of Macrotech Developers Ltd. and Chandru Raheja of K Raheja Corp Pvt. Ltd. The number one realty brand of India, DLF has been consistently developing ecosystems for the country's changing needs; as exemplified by its diverse verticals. The brand is also committed to driving sustainability across every vertical – from pioneering wastewater treatment systems to responsible recycling of its construction materials. It is turning no stone unturned in continuously innovating to create safer workplaces, smarter cities, and sustainable communities across India.

Mangal Prabhat Lodha, of Macrotech Developers Ltd., Chandru Raheja of K Raheja Corp Pvt. Ltd. and Niranjani Hiranandani, of Hiranandani Developers Pvt. Ltd. are the top three firms and leaders in the real estate sector in Mumbai. Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Hiranandani has been credited with the launch of the world's second-largest data center namely Yotta NM1 in Navi Mumbai.

DLF Ltd.'s Rajiv Singh, Navin M Raheja of Raheja Developers Ltd. and Pradeep Jain of Parsvnath Developers Ltd. are the top three achievers, in that order in Delhi-NCR. In a span of 3 decades, Raheja Developers Ltd. has pioneered various firsts in India. It has come a really long way from trend-setting luxury housing to providing homes for the poorest section of the Indian society. Besides being credited with building India's tallest skyscrapers, it has also earned the distinction of developing 165 acres of plotted township. In a nutshell, it has been efficiently changing the way people shop to changing the way they work.

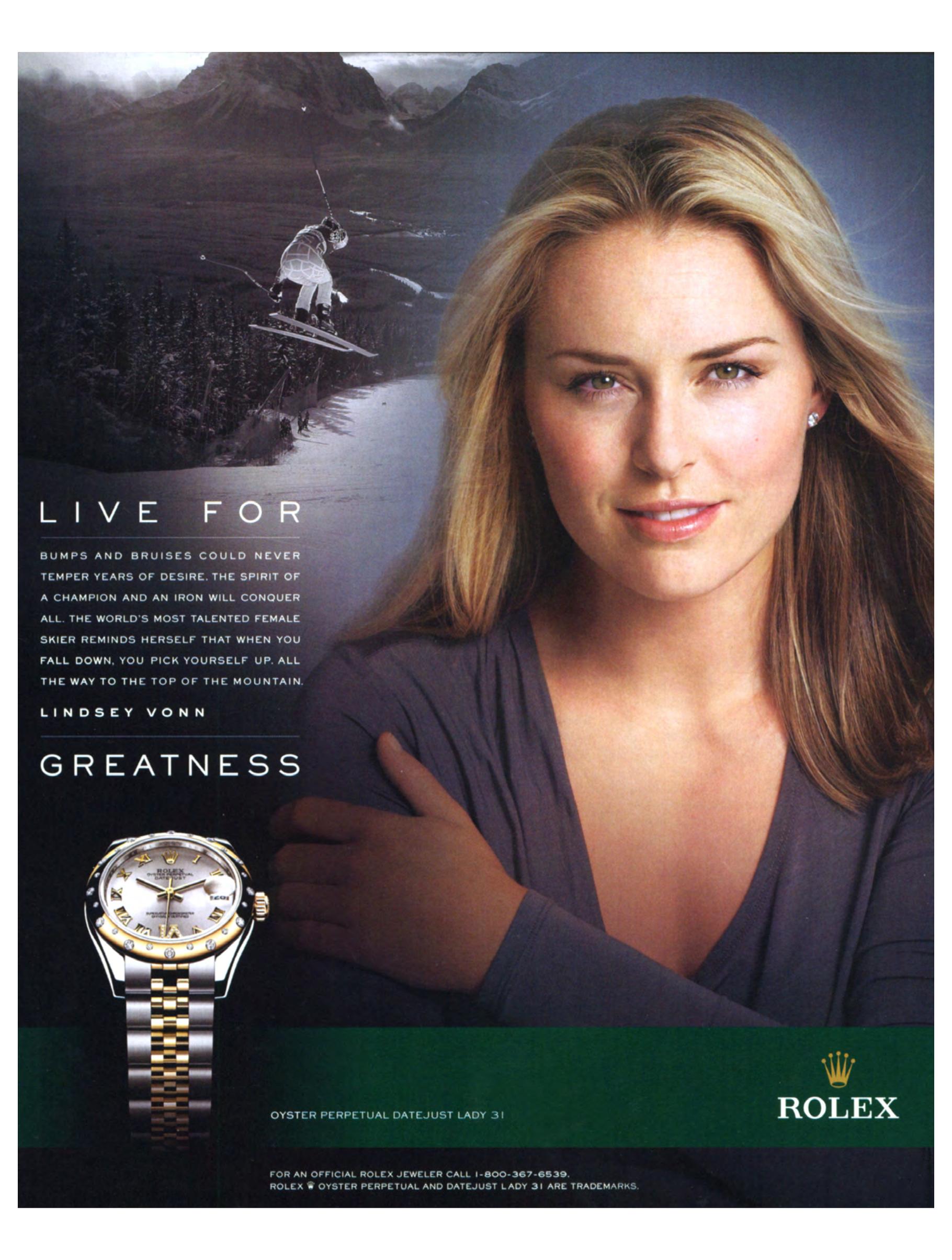


The real estate sector in Bengaluru is reigned over by Irfan Razack of Prestige Estates Projects Ltd., Jitendra Virwani of Embassy Office Parks REIT Ltd. and P.N.C. Menon of Sobha Ltd. The youngest of these three, Jitendra Virwani is a leader par excellence. Under his able leadership, Embassy Office Parks Pvt. Ltd. takes pride in its roster of multinational tenants such as Google, IBM and Warburg Pincus. The firm merged its residential and commercial projects with the listed Indiabulls Real Estate in August 2020.

The real estate sector in Chennai is ruled by young and ambitious leaders namely Manoj Namburu and Suneel Bommireddy of Alliance Group & Urbanrise, and Arun MN of Casagrand Builder Pvt. Ltd., respectively. The successful duo Manoj Namburu and Suneel Bommireddy is also a part of the top 6 real estate achievers of Hyderabad. The leaders possess immense potential and are bound to climb up the success ladder and make a mark at the Pan India level too in the near future.

Rameswar Rao Jupally of My Home Group, and S.S. Reddy and C.V. Reddy of Aparna Constructions and Estates Pvt. Ltd. are the major players in the realty sector of Hyderabad. Innovating excellence since the last 3 decades, My Home Group has perfected the rare art of blending great homes with great lifestyle. Its 21 iconic addresses are a testimony to its expertise in building gated communities and creating happy communities since 1981.

With an estimated total size of around INR 12,24,000 crores, the Indian Real Estate sector plays a significant role in driving the nation's economic growth. No wonder it is the country's second-largest employer. Despite the pandemic, the top real estate brands have performed exceptionally well and have successfully turned adversity into opportunity. Some emerging brands have been thriving, expanding their horizons and are likely to occupy the top slots in the times to come. The very fact that wealth creation in the sector continued to be robust, in spite of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, deserves a huge round of applause and is inspirational for other sectors to follow suit.

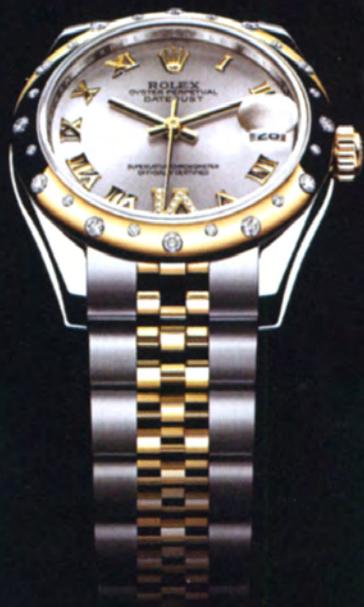


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