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GREATEST LEADERS ASIA-AMERICAS-AFRICA 2023



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Presents





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STRATEGY, BRANDING PLATFORMS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH

URS business research practice specializes in providing a full suite of qualitative and quantitative market research, business advisory and consulting services. This practice boasts of some of the largest corporate houses, leading consulting firms and government agencies, and we derive a significant portion of our business through our research-based IPRs.

A global business model, language capabilities and highly motivated researchers with deep domain expertise allow us the capability of execution of projects ranging from simple company profiles to complex strategic market-entry projects. Our research capabilities supported by flexible engagement models allow us to nurture relationships with clients, which may be from entry level to brand enhancement platforms.

The approach of URS is to arrive at a solution with a blend of both primary as well secondary research. We have subscription to as well as experience of working with various proprietary and public databases. Through primary research, we assist our clients across B2B and B2C surveys (online and face-to-face), Focus Group Discussions and Expert Interviews.

URS MEDIA CONSULTING INTERNATIONAL

We are a leading International Media house with a Business & News publication, named "URS-AsiaOne", which has presence in electronic and print media. Our reader audience is in twelve countries of Asia and the Middle East, namely India, the UAE, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman, with a highly professional network of a full-time editorial team and some of the best authors in the region.



Research Methodology

**10th Edition – World's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2023,
8th Edition – Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2023 and
9th Edition – India's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2023**

The 120 World's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2023, Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2023 and India's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2023 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 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 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 2023, Asia's Greatest Leaders 2023 and India's Greatest Leaders 2023

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 & 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.



URS-AsiaOne Magazine strives to deliver news and analysis on business, policy and lifestyle covering Asian and African continents, with participation from Europe and South America. We also do six special research-based issues in a year, with process advisory and evaluations by one of the big four consulting firms, and create and finally have an individual IPR – intellectual property – on the same. A few pieces of research, we have conducted across the continent of Asia, have been multiple industry features and then industry-specific researches on Education, Real Estate, Healthcare, Services, Infrastructure and Manufacturing sectors. The core has been to create par excellence print products in terms of magazine issues and coffee table presentations, along with Business Summits and Brand & Leader awards recognizing some of the greatest companies in the Asian and African continents. We endeavour to present business news from Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and create perceptions and provide thought-provoking content and stories, not only recognizing the established brands and leaders but also bringing forward influential and emerging stories on companies and their business owners. In short, we provide ... for the acclaimed leadership and the esteemed readership.

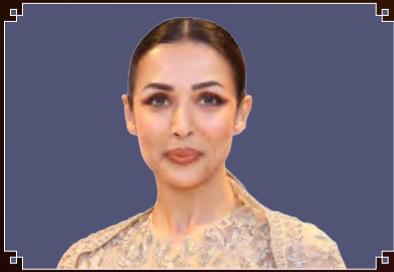
TENTH EDITION – WORLD'S GREATEST BRANDS AND LEADERS 2023, EIGHTH EDITION - ASIA'S GREATEST BRANDS AND LEADERS 2023, AND NINTH EDITION - INDIA'S GREATEST BRANDS AND LEADERS 2023

The goal of World's Greatest Brands & Leaders, Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders, and India's Greatest Brands & Leaders is to identify those brands, which perform above and beyond others within the global businesses and markets. It identifies and honors exceptional brands by recognizing, rewarding, and reinforcing leading brands from all over Asia. Only those brands which are highly rated, approved and validated by independent World's Greatest Brands & Leaders, Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders, and India's Greatest Brands & Leaders Jury Council are eligible for inclusion in any World's Greatest Brand, Asia's Greatest Brands & India's Greatest Brand of the Year program. Those brands accepting the call to participate for the year 2023 program, after being scrutinized, with focus on both primary and secondary data, enjoy a comprehensive package of promotional benefits covering print, portal and broadcast media, which vary depending on the market needs in each individual country. Attaining the status of World's Greatest Brand, Asia's Greatest Brands, & India's Greatest Brand strengthens a brand's position, adds prestige, spotlights a brand in a competitive market, and positions it as a success model. Qualifying Brands are automatically invited to become members of the international network and can take part in a PR and media campaign.

GUESTS OF HONOUR

At

19th ABSQ : Awards & Business Summit



Ms. Malaika Arora

Co-Founder, Diva Yoga and
Actress, The Indian Film Industry



Dr. Bina Modi

Chairperson and Managing
Director, Godfrey Phillips India



**Ms. Jareerat (Baitong)
Petsom**

Miss Earth Thailand 2021 and
Environment and Sustainability
Champion



**H.E. Ms. Itzel Karina
Chen Chan**

Ambassador of Panama
to Thailand



**H.E. Mr. Waldemar
Dubaniowski**

Ambassador of Poland to
Thailand



**H.E. Mrs. Millicent Cruz-
Paredes**

Ambassador of Philippines to
Thailand



**H.E. Mr. José Borges dos
Santos Júnior**

Ambassador of Brazil to Thailand



H.E. Mr. Hun Saroeun

Ambassador of Cambodia to
Thailand



H.E. Mr. Khamphan Anlavan

Ambassador of Laos to Thailand



H.E. Mr. Abderrahim Rahhaly

Ambassador of His Majesty the
King of Morocco to the
Kingdom of Thailand



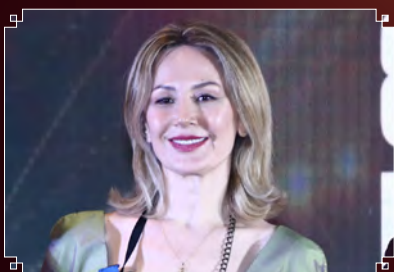
**H.E. Ms. Muna Abbas
Mahmood Radhi**

Ambassador of Bahrain to
Thailand



H.E. Ms. Orna Sagiv

Ambassador of Israel to
Thailand and non-resident
Ambassador to Cambodia



H.E. Ms. Ulpiana Lama

Chargés d'affaires a.i. of
Kosovo



H.E. Mr. Sandor Sipos

Ambassador of Hungary to
Thailand



Ms. Sophida Jiratritarn

Miss Universe Thailand 2018



**H.E. Mr. Tumur
Amarsanaa**

Ambassador of Mongolia to
Thailand



**H.E. Mr. Kiptiness Lindsay
Kimwole**

Ambassador of Kenya to
Thailand



H.E. Mr. Arman Issetov

Ambassador of Kazakhstan to
Thailand



**H.E. Mr. Ovikuroma
Orogun Djebah**

Ambassador of Nigeria to
Thailand



H.E. Mr. Vikorn Srivikorn

Consul General of Georgia in
Bangkok, Thailand

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Jeff Bezos
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Rishi Sunak
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Dr. Mallika Nadda
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AZADI KA AMRIT KAAL: TOWARDS A NEW INDIA

The Golden Era Begins

IN THE 76TH YEAR OF ITS INDEPENDENCE, INDIA STANDS PROUDLY AS THE FIFTH BIGGEST ECONOMY OF THE WORLD AND THE MOST PROMISING ECONOMY SET TO GROW FOR YEARS. THE COUNTRY THAT ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE GLOBAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN THE 18TH CENTURY HAS BECOME ONE OF THE DRIVERS OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY, UNDERLINING THE IMMENSE POTENTIAL IT HOLDS. THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SHRI NARENDRA MODI ENVISIONS THE NEXT 25 CRUCIAL YEARS – TILL THE 100 YEARS OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE FROM THE COLONIAL RULE – TO BE A GOLDEN PERIOD OF INDIA'S GROWTH, AND WHEN IT SHOULD AIM TO BECOME A DEVELOPED NATION. HE HAS NAMED THIS PERIOD AMRIT KAAL, A TERM FROM VEDIC ASTROLOGY THAT DESCRIBES THE CRITICAL TIME SLOT AVAILABLE TO ALL FOR ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST HUMAN POTENTIAL. TO PRIME MINISTER MODI, THIS ERA OF GROWTH NOT ONLY PROMISES INNUMERABLE OPPORTUNITIES OF DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT TO 1.3 BILLION INDIANS, BUT ALSO TO EVERY HUMAN WORLDWIDE

BY JYOTI VERMA AND RICHA SANG

The Prime Minister, in his address on India's 75th Independence Day on August 15, 2021, unveiled a national blueprint for Amrit Kaal. The plan focuses on limited State interference in the everyday life of citizens; empowering small farmers and rural economy; energy independence with programmes such as National Hydrogen Mission; a boost to manufacturing, technology, infrastructure and start-ups; employment generation for the youth with a Rs.100 lakh crore PM GatiShakti National Master Plan; equality for women and vulnerable sections of society; and balanced local development with a focus on Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and the Northeast.

Shri Narendra Modi believes that all of the said objectives are possible with citizens' resolve and strength with which the country accomplished freedom in 1947, and crossed the milestones of becoming open defecation free and accomplishing 200 crore COVID-19 vaccinations in recent years.

In the third article in our series on India's glorious 75 years of independence, we move on from Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to enter the Amrit Kaal – ushering in of a new era of prosperity and equity by lowering social barriers and transforming lives with knowledge, competence, technology, inclusion, infrastructure and sustainability. With the first year of the Amrit Kaal also being the time when India stands as the only economic oasis amid global slowdown, year 2023 is when the world will observe the key moves of the country and tap the many opportunities these moves open for the nations across the globe

"IN RECENT DAYS, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY HAS SUCCESSFULLY ADVANCED INDIA'S FOOD SAFETY NET TO 800 MILLION INDIANS. MORE THAN \$300 BILLION OF BENEFITS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED DIGITALLY; 400 MILLION PEOPLE GET FOOD REGULARLY"



SHRI JAGDEEP DHANKHAR,
VICE PRESIDENT
OF INDIA

"A few months back our country completed 75 years of Independence and entered the Amrit Kaal, the period of golden centenary of Independence and making of a developed India.

In the last nine years of the government's term, people witnessed many positive changes. The country is on the rise, and it is when the citizens, especially the youth should rightfully take pride in its technological achievements, economic development and welfare initiatives. They should practise and follow Fundamental Duties, while exercising their Fundamental Rights. India has become the fifth largest economy, and will be the third largest economy before the end of the decade. India looks up to its citizens, depends on them and wants them to become the catalyst of change in the journey towards a developed India"

An incredible story of human civilisation, growth, and potential for centuries, India, in the 18th century, accounted for about a quarter of the global GDP. It took India 60 years since its Independence to become a one trillion-dollar economy, but the country added the next trillion dollars in seven years only. The third trillion was added in the next five years in 2019. The growing momentum could help India add on average \$1 trillion to its economy every two years for the next 14-15 years. According to a report by British consultancy, Centre for Economics and Business Research, India will become a \$10 trillion economy by 2035.

However, the glorious journey of India cannot only be mapped in trillions of dollars. It must be mapped in terms of lives impacted and empowered during this journey. The country's development rests on an expansive digital public infrastructure designed to promote that no one is left behind. From the success of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana – which completed eight years in 2022 and made a material difference to financial inclusion, from covering 17.9 crore households in August 2015 to 46.25 crore households in August 2022 – to the recent COVID-19 vaccinations, India has proved that technology can not only be a stabilising factor in a changing world, but also a great equaliser.

“In recent days, digital technology has successfully advanced India's food safety net to 800 million Indians. More than \$300 billion of benefits have been distributed digitally; 400 million people get food regularly; and the country has administered over 2 billion vaccinations,” shared Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in his speech at India@75 Showcasing India-UN Partnership in Action in New York on September 24, 2022.

With landmarks like these, India aims to move ahead on a journey of transformation not only for its people and economy, but for the whole world. By 2047, the country dreams of digitising its remotest villages and landing on the moon, perhaps even digitising it, added the External Affairs Minister.

PANCH PRAN

In his 76th Independence Day speech, the Prime Minister spelt out

the five pledges for Amrit Kaal. Called *Panch Pran*, these are a resolution for *Viksit Bharat* (Developed India). The goals are to accomplish the dream of Developed India, remove any trace of colonial mindset, take pride in our legacy, stay united, and fulfill the duties of citizens.

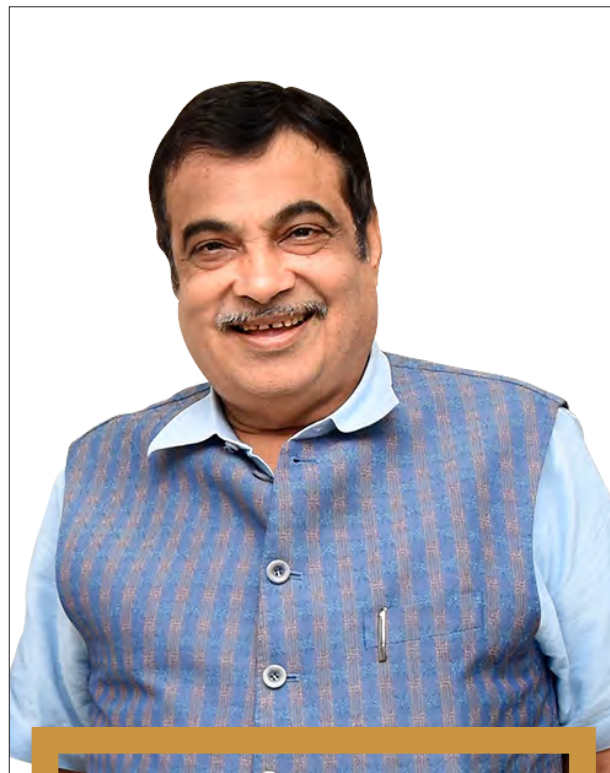
Primarily, the Government of India plans to improve the lives of Indian citizens, lessen the rural-urban divide, reduce its interference in people's lives, and welcome the latest technologies in the run up to 2047. Delivering the first budget of the Amrit Kaal, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2023, shared the seven guiding priorities for the government during the period. Named *Saptarishi*, the seven priorities — inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infrastructure and investment, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power, and financial sector — complement each other, she said.

The Union Finance Minister highlighted that the Centre's vision for the Amrit Kaal includes a technology-driven and knowledge-based economy with strong public finances and a robust financial sector, and to achieve this, *Jan Bhagidari* (people's participation) through *Sabka Saath Sabka Prayas* is essential. The economic agenda for achieving this vision would focus on three priorities: facilitating ample opportunities for citizens, especially the youth, to fulfil their aspirations; providing strong impetus to growth and job creation; and strengthening macro-economic stability.

JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE

The first objective of Amrit Kaal is to build a self-reliant India. The Government plans to focus on optimum utilisation of India's capacity resources to serve more at home and globally, and achieve self-sufficiency in every sector.

The Centre has been driving the idea of Make in India since 2014. The scheme is an open invitation to potential investors and partners across the globe to participate in the growth story of 'New India'. The scheme, in the last eight years, has shown good results. The foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in India increased from \$45.15 billion in 2014-2015 to the highest ever at \$83.6 billion in the year 2021-



SHRI NITIN GADKARI,
UNION MINISTER OF
ROAD TRANSPORT AND
HIGHWAYS, GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA

“I congratulate AsiaOne Magazine for publishing a trilogy on India's 75 years of independence. The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is based on five pillars of freedom struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at 75, Actions at 75 and Resolve at 75. The Mahotsav is dedicated to the people of India who have been instrumental in transforming the country into a global force. We have now entered into Amrit Kaal. The next 25 years are when India will move forward on the path of becoming a developed economy and sustainable and inclusive society. This government, with better coordination and synergies among various Union ministries and state governments, aims the country to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25. An important need for this is building world-class infrastructure and we are working dedicatedly in this direction”



SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL,
HON'BLE MINISTER FOR
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD
& PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
AND TEXTILES,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

"I am delighted to learn that AsiaOne Media Group is publishing a magazine with a theme of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India exudes a strong sense of confidence and pride. The economy is now on the path of self-reliance through the Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The Government of India is already working towards development of quality infrastructure, paving the way for India to emerge as the fastest growing major economy and soon to become a \$5 trillion economy. I urge all citizens to think big and set accelerated targets, with a vision to achieve transformative changes in the Amrit Kaal"

22, and are on track to attract \$100 billion in the financial year 2022-23.

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme that was launched across 14 key manufacturing sectors in 2020-21 gave a big boost to the Make in India initiative in the pandemic years.

In addition, the Centre launched various other initiatives to support smooth sailing of its Make in India vision. It soft launched the National Single Window System (NSWS) in September 2021 to improve the Ease of Doing Business by providing a single digital platform to investors for approvals and clearances. The next month, on 13th October 2021, the Prime Minister launched the GatiShakti programme for multimodal connectivity to manufacturing zones in the country, to ensure logistical efficiency in business operations. Another important programme has been One District One Product (ODOP), which aims at facilitating the promotion and production of indigenous products from each district of the country and providing a global platform to the artisans and manufacturers of handloom, handicrafts, textiles, agricultural and processed products, thereby encouraging the socio-economic growth of various regions of the country.

A terrific example of the success of Make in India is the toy industry. The import of toys in the financial year 2021-22 was reduced by 70% to \$110 million (Rs. 877.8 crore), while the export of toys registered tremendous growth of 636% in April-August 2022 over the same period in 2013. The toy industry in India has historically been import-dependent due to lack of raw-material, technology, design capability and other reasons, leading to huge imports of toys and its components. The Centre with some key, focused initiatives such as increasing the Basic Custom Duty from 20% to 60%, implementing Quality Control Order, mandatory sample testing of imported toys, granting more than 850 BIS licenses to domestic toy manufacturers, and developing toy clusters has changed the story.

THE GOAL OF "SATURATION"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 15 August 2021 independence speech called the nation to re-dedicate itself to unfinished tasks. He said there is a

need to "hand-hold" sections that are lagging, and set a goal of "saturation" or 100% coverage of beneficiaries of schemes such as bank accounts for the poor, health cover under Ayushman Bharat, and clean fuel under Ujjwala Yojana.

Speaking to District Magistrates (DMs) of various districts in January 2023, the Prime Minister again reiterated the need for 100% saturation of services and facilities in every district of the country. He told the DMs to take every government welfare scheme to each doorstep and implement it in a time-bound manner. He called for a two-year vision for every district, and suggested that every district can identify 10 tasks to be completed in the next three months to improve ease-of-living for common people. He said that no district should be left behind in the digital revolution, as it can become a means of door-step delivery of services and facilities.

With the saturation level accomplished in all the welfare schemes, the poor and the socially excluded will no longer need elaborate and complex safety nets in terms of sops and subsidies. They will only need a state that ensures that their human and social capital is steadily and consistently expanded over long periods of time to eventually help them participate in wealth creation. With steady budget support to ongoing schemes, monitoring the implementation of these schemes and performance standards of the executives, and engaging citizens in the process of their own development, the State and the Centre can together work as a team to achieve minimum acceptable level of social progress.

MISSION KARMAYOGI

In the Amrit Kaal, among the many areas to be benefitted from transformative digital technologies are governance and social justice. Technology will help governance become transparent and accountable, and welcoming to every Indian national, whether living in a big city or in a remote village. With data being the cornerstone of creating new knowledge and insights, technology will also help policy-makers build localised digital solutions.

Two noteworthy programmes launched under Centre's good governance vision are Mission Karmayogi and Jan Vishwas Bill.

The Government launched the National Programme for Civil Services and Capacity Building (NPCSCB) - Mission Karmayogi in September 2020. It aims at building a future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills and knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India. Under the programme, sessions and modules are being created for government departments to not just respond to grievances in the most efficient and effective way, but also give a human touch to the interface with the public.

Presenting the Union Budget 2023, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Lok Sabha that for furthering trust-based governance, the government has introduced the Jan Vishwas Bill to amend 42 Central Acts for enhancing the ease of doing business. In this, more than 39,000 compliances have been reduced and more than 3,400 legal provisions have been decriminalised.

The other key initiatives announced under good governance in the latest budget include property tax governance reforms and ring-fencing user charges on urban infrastructure, to help cities with incentives to improve their creditworthiness for municipal bonds. Amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, the Banking Companies Act and the Reserve Bank of India Act have been proposed to improve bank governance and enhance investors' protection.

The Government will also launch a National Data Governance Policy to unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia. This will enable access to anonymised data, which will preserve private or confidential information by deleting or encoding identifiers that link individuals to the stored data.

THE ERA OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The Amrit Kaal will witness a

boost in the adoption of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), augmented reality (AR), blockchain, drones, Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, 3D printing and virtual reality (VR) in everyday life and governance.

"India has been focusing much on acquiring, developing and expanding these technologies, which can well be understood by the increasing use of drones, big data analysis, AI, block-chain and other innovative technologies in all sectors," said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology in September 2022. The government wants the private sector to be part of this vision, he added.

Beginning 2022, the government has been promoting digital economy, fintech and technology-enabled development to achieve goals during Amrit Kaal, where digital and hi-tech services will be delivered to farmers involving public sector research and extension institutions along with private agri-tech players and other stakeholders through public-private partnerships. 'Kisan drones' are being used for crop assessment, digitisation of land records, and administering insecticides and other nutrients for healthy crop management and growth. The Centre is also promoting 'Drone Shakti' through start-ups and Drone as a Service (DrAAS) to scale up the use of drones in several application areas.

The Budget 2023 has added more programmes to the government's vision of Digital India. An important area of work is using data to serve citizens better.

The Centre will set up 100 labs for developing applications using 5G services in engineering institutions to realise a new range of opportunities, business models, and employment potential. "The labs will cover, among others, applications such as



SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI,
HON'BLE MINISTER
FOR PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

"People across the Country joined in the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to commemorate the accomplishments of our motherland, our people and our heritage in the last 75 years. Now, our Country will witness the Golden phase over the next 25 years in Amrit Kaal. Under the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a new path has been laid to make India one of the strongest and most Developed Nations in the world in Amrit Kaal.

The platform for achieving this ambitious vision was sown nearly a decade ago and people are reaping the benefits of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The signs are ominous with India now becoming the 5th largest economy in the world. We must all come together to play our part in ushering the most glorious and productive phase in India's history"

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED THE JAN VISHWAS BILL TO AMEND 42 CENTRAL ACTS FOR ENHANCING THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, REDUCING MORE THAN 39,000 COMPLIANCES AND DECRIMINALISING MORE THAN 3,400 LEGAL PROVISIONS"



DR. SANJEEV BALYAN,
HON'BLE MINISTER OF
STATE FOR FISHERIES,
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND
DAIRYING

"I happy to state that as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav,' the MOFAHD signed an MoU with Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MoFPI) for extension of benefits to dairy entrepreneurs or industries through convergence of various schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), MOFAHD. The DAHD and MoFPI will work together to achieve the goal for income generation for sustainable development of the rural poor through extension of benefits of various schemes to the beneficiaries whenever they require credit support for establishment/extension/strengthening of quality control, dairy processing and other objectives. I congratulate AsiaOne Magazine and Mr. Rajat Shukal for coming up with a magazine and coffee table book to celebrate "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav"

smart classrooms, precision farming, intelligent transport systems, and health care applications," said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget 2023 speech.

There has been a strong emphasis on the development of AI, Machine Learning, and the Internet of Things. The Union Finance Minister in the 2023 Budget announced the establishment of three centres of excellence for AI to promote the creation and use of AI in India. The focus on AI is aimed at encouraging the growth of the technology and ensuring that it benefits the country, i.e., 'Make AI for India' and 'Make AI work for India'.

To promote financial inclusion, introduction of a new digital payment system and the expansion of digital financial services to rural areas have been done. The goal is to tap into the potential for new business models and job opportunities that 5G technology can bring. The creation of a national e-commerce policy and the development of a digital industrial policy will encourage the growth of digital economy. The eCourt project will be launched with a budget of Rs.7,000 crore (\$854 million) to modernise the delivery of judicial services and provide a more streamlined and accessible system for citizens. The initiative is aimed at improving the efficiency of the administration of justice through technology.

JAI ANUSANDHAN

Adding the term *Jai Anusandhan* to the earlier slogan of *Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan* – given by former Prime Ministers Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee – Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for a push in the areas of research and innovation, to support self-reliance among private entities and grassroots' small and medium businesses, and farmers.

While the Prime Minister gave the term *Jai Anusandhan* in his 76th Independence Day speech, the spirit has long been there. Research and innovation led to over 75,000 DPIIT-recognised start-ups in existence across 653 districts of India as of August 3, 2022. The country has seen a massive jump in its global ranking at the Global Innovation Index (GII) from 81st in the year 2015 to 46th in 2021 among 130 economies of the world. India ranked 2nd among 34

lower middle-income economies and 1st among 10 Central and Southern Asian economies in terms of GII. The consistent improvement in the GII ranking is owing to the immense knowledge capital, the vibrant start-up ecosystem, and some outstanding work done by the public and private research organisations.

An important contribution of these start-ups has been job creation, a reason enough for the government to support it through dedicated programmes, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. "The Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) program was carved out in a record time by the Department of Science and Technology just when Covid hit to support startups working on Covid products and solutions," said Dr Jitendra Singh, adding, "Overall, the impact and outcome of DST's program on innovation and entrepreneurship has been significant: promoting 160 incubators, nurturing 12,000 start-ups, including 1,627 women-led start-ups, generating 1,31,648 jobs."

The pursuit of innovation is leading to the rise of disruptive technology and bringing about greater and qualitative socio-economic changes in the lives of people. Ground-breaking technologies such as big data analysis, AI, block chain, and communication-related technologies have become norms of the day. A number of technological innovations have been brought into picture for agriculture, healthcare and disaster management, helping the government in facing grave challenges of drought, rain, pest, cyclone, and waste, among others.

Going forward, innovation would be the strongest pillar that would help build a developed India in the Amrit Kaal, said Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, as the country climbed to 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index of World Intellectual Property Organization in 2022, jumping six places from a year before and 81 places seven years ago. Describing innovation to be a catalytic force for both economy and social and public good, the union minister called for the creation of an international network of mentors, investors and entrepreneurs to strengthen the global start-up ecosystem.

A game-changer, innovation can

also lead the way in solving global problems, from climate change to poverty and inequality, as the success of digital public goods such as CoWin, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) shows. While tackling problems and ensuring inclusive growth by redefining social innovation, these digital services have witnessed growing participation from tier 2 and 3 markets that are swiftly embracing latest technology and pushing the envelope for local start-ups with new ideas to succeed.

The Government has been nurturing the innovation spirit right from the school level onwards through Atal Innovation Mission. Addressing the inaugural session of the Inception Meeting of the Startup 20 Engagement Group of G20 in Hyderabad on January 28, 2023, Piyush Goyal said that India also has an active programme for supporting start-ups with many nations around the world. "Some of the prime examples are the Indo-US, Indo-UK, Indo-Australia partnerships where we explore supporting deep tech start-ups that contribute to the circular economy, and address basic needs like health, water, agriculture, education, financial inclusion, etc," he added.

BOOST TO MSMEs

Amrit Kaal is the period that will see focused planning and action for the empowerment of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The MSMEs account for 30% of the country's GDP, 48% of overall exports, 95% of industrial units, and 40% of employment. "During the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal', our MSMEs are a great means of achieving India's colossal goal of self-reliance," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 30, 2022.

To ensure that India's exports increase continuously and the products reach newer markets, the government is trying to create a local supply chain for Make in India, which can reduce India's dependence on foreign countries. Unprecedented emphasis is being laid upon the expansion of the MSME sector. In July 2022, the Government launched a World Bank supported Central Sector Scheme called Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) worth about Rs. 6,000 crore. The scheme

aims at strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State levels, improving Centre-State linkages and partnerships and improving access of MSMEs to market and credit, technology upgradation, and addressing issues of delayed payments and greening of MSMEs.

Another government scheme is to encourage first-time exporters and a decision to expand the scope of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, which has provided employment to more than 40 lakh people through MSMEs in the past few years.

More importantly, in the budget of the first year of the Amrit Kaal, the Finance Minister has announced that the revamped credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs, proposed in the Budget 2022, will take effect from 1st April 2023 through infusion of Rs. 9,000 crore in the corpus. "This will enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of Rs. 2 lakh crore. Further, the cost of credit will be reduced by about 1%," she said.

In the Budget 2023, the MSMEs have been given relief under Vivad Se Vishwas I and II schemes in cases of failure to execute contracts during the COVID period. A voluntary settlement scheme with standardised terms will be introduced to settle contractual disputes of government and government undertakings. An Entity DigiLocker will also be set up for the MSMEs, large businesses and charitable trusts to store and share documents online securely, whenever needed, with many authorities, regulators, banks and other entities.

HIGHWAY TO SUCCESS

Investments in infrastructure and productive capacity have a large multiplier impact on growth and employment. The Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been boldly pushing for capex investments and creating the much-needed mobility infrastructure in roads, rail, airports and heliports. It is expected that these will not only enhance the participation of the private sector and distribute the gains across all sections of society, but also provide much-required connectivity for movement of people, goods and services.

The Budget 2023 has allocated 16.6% of the total expenditure and 2.5% of GDP to infrastructure. The allocation is higher than Budget



SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT,
HON'BLE MINISTER FOR
JAL SHAKTI, GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to AsiaOne Media Network and Shri Rajat Shukal for commemorating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an endeavour to celebrate and highlight all major achievements of India since independence. At the same time, we aim to showcase our accolades and strength of the last 8 years, on the global level, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Capitalising on the strength of 140 crore Indians, we aim to create an environment which will take us towards the Amrit Kaal. Under the aegis of Jal Shakti Ministry, the Jal Jeevan Mission has successfully installed tap water connections in over 10 crore Indian households. Looking at the current pace, we are slated to reach our goal before 2024 and promote sustainable development"



**DR. MAHENDRA
NATH PANDEY,**
UNION MINISTER OF HEAVY
INDUSTRIES

"I congratulate AsiaOne Media Group for bringing out a series of features dedicated to the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The Ministry of Heavy Industries is focused on developing a globally competitive, green and technology-driven manufacturing sector, which propels growth and job creation. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has said that environment security has the same importance as national security, and that India is making all efforts towards becoming energy independent. Under our FAME-1 scheme, the nation is building a network of Solar-based Electric Vehicle Charging stations that will prove to be an important step in this direction. My best wishes to AsiaOne Magazine for promoting the stories of Indian growth and excellence and our greatest business leaders and entrepreneurs across the world"

2022, which allocated 14.1% of total expenditure and 2.15% of GDP to the infrastructure sector.

Urbanisation will be the biggest driver of India's growth story in the next 25 years. The latest budget has announced an Urban Infrastructure Development Fund, and plans to build sustainable cities. The Centre has proposed to launch '100 critical sustainable infrastructure projects' to boost last-mile connectivity and play a crucial role in improving the delivery of food, fertilisers, coal, and others.

To create sustainable cities of tomorrow, states and cities will be encouraged to undertake urban planning reforms and actions. This will include efficient use of land resources, adequate raw material for urban infrastructure, transit-oriented development, enhanced availability and affordability of urban land, and opportunities for all.

The budget has also allocated Railways Rs 2.40 lakh crore under infrastructure growth – the highest ever capital outlay for railways. The government has launched the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, which envisages the development of railway stations on a continuous basis with a long-term vision. The scheme aims at preparation of Master Plans of the railway stations and implementation of these plans in phases to enhance the facilities. The government will reform 1,275 railway stations under this scheme.

WATER VISION 2047

The Centre's water vision towards 2047 will be a big contribution to Amrit Kaal, believes the Prime Minister.

The Government of India launched the Jal Jeevan Mission on August 15, 2019 to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all rural households by 2024. On April 24, 2022, the government launched Mission Amrit Sarovar with the resolve to build 75 Amrit Sarovars in every district of the country to overcome the water crisis in rural areas. To date, the Jal Jeevan Mission has provided tap water connections to 49.22% rural households, and Mission Amrit Sarovar has constructed 25,000 Amrit Sarovars across the country.

The Prime Minister emphasised on the need for awareness, public

participation and use of technologies in water conservation to make the vision a reality forever. He called for a new chapter of *Jan Bhagidari* to begin with multiple stakeholders from all sections of society, from common people to social organisations and civil society, and start-ups. An important component in the area of water conservation will be technologies like geo-mapping and geo-sensing that are already playing an important role.

The Prime Minister envisions that once the system of water conservation is in place, the Gram Panchayats should lead the Jal Jeevan Mission. Every Gram Panchayat can submit a periodic report online stating the number of houses that are getting tap water in the village. He also insisted on a system of periodic water testing to be developed to ensure water quality.

AMRIT PEEDHI

According to Reliance Industries Limited's Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani, India can become a \$40 trillion economy by 2047 in a sustainable and stable manner.

"This goal (\$40 trillion economy) is realistic and achievable because India is blessed with the power of young demography, mature democracy and the newly acquired power of technology," Ambani said while speaking at the Reliance Family Day Function in December 2022.

With a young population, India is strongly placed to become a talent powerhouse and the largest contributor to the global workforce. The extraordinary opportunity is extremely crucial during the Amrit Kaal, making the young of the country, *Amrit Peedhi* or 'youth power'. According to a CII report, if India's demographic dividend is efficiently employed, growth prospects will brighten, helping it to take ahead its GDP from the current \$3 trillion to \$9 trillion by 2030 and \$40 trillion by 2047.

Demographic dividend in India brings better economic growth and a rapid increase in economic activities due to this large working-age population. It contributes to an increase in the labour force that increases the economy's overall productivity. Investing in the country's young population and keeping their interests in mind, building future-looking skill development centres,

supporting start-ups and policy moves like Jan Vishwas will boost their participation.

The Union Budget 2023 has responded to this call of the industry and experts by unveiling a youth-inclusive and youth-empowering budget. The Budget 2023-24 focuses on Amrit Peedhi, who would be supported through courses in the areas of AI, robotics, 3D printing, IoT, and drones, among others. It focuses on revamping India's education system to make it more practical and industry-oriented, besides emphasising on vocational and skill training. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 will be launched to skill lakhs of youth within the next three years. On-the-job training, industry partnership, and alignment of courses with needs of the industry will be emphasised. The scheme will also cover new-age courses for Industry 4.0 such as coding, AI, robotics, mechatronics, IOT, 3D printing, drones, and soft skills.

To skill the youth for international opportunities, 30 Skill India International Centres will be set up across the country.

A Unified Skill India Digital Platform will also be launched to further expand the digital ecosystem for skilling. This platform will enable demand-based formal skilling, linking with employers, including MSMEs, and facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes. To provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth in three years, Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme will be rolled out.

The allocation of Rs 3,000 crore for the National Recruitment Agency to streamline the recruitment process for government jobs will aid employment opportunities for the youth.

The focus is also on upskilling programmes for 3.5 lakh tribal students. Additionally, 38,800 youth will be recruited for 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools. The commitment to recruit teachers over the next three years is a major boost for tribal students who will now have access to quality education and opportunity.

WOMEN, THE GROWTH ENGINE

An important driver of India's accomplishments in the Amrit Kaal, as says Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

will be women-led development. In a tweet on Surekha Yadav, the first woman loco pilot of Vande Bharat Express, the Prime Minister said, "These achievements of women in every field of life today give us the assurance that the resolutions of Amrit Kaal will be realised."

A 2018 report by the McKinsey Global Institute found the contribution of women to India's GDP to be at 18%. By simply offering equal opportunities to them, the country could add US\$ 770 billion to its GDP by 2025. The country, under the leadership of Narendra Modi, has begun covering this gap.

Speaking at the post-budget webinar on Economic Empowerment of Women in March 2023, the Prime Minister underlined women's determination, will power, imagination, ability to work for goals, and extreme hard work to be playing a major role in increasing the speed and scale of India in this century.

The results of increasing women participation are visible in the new social life of the country. The number of girls studying up to high school and beyond had tripled in the last 9-10 years.

"Girls' enrolment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics is at 43 percent today, more than countries like the US, UK, and Germany. In fields like medical, sports, business or politics, not only the participation of women has grown, but they are leading from the front," the Prime Minister added.

Another major leap has come from women entrepreneurship, as 70 percent of Mudra loan beneficiaries are women. Today, one of five non-farm businesses is run by a woman. More than 7 crore women have joined SHGs in the last 9 years. Their value creation can be understood by their capital requirement, as these SHGs have taken loans worth Rs. 6.25 lakh crore.

Today, Indian women are not only contributing as small entrepreneurs, but also as capable resource persons from banking to natural farming, cooperatives and rural development. Government's initiatives such as Bank Sakhi, Krishi Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi are helping them scale new dimensions.

"Similarly, GeM and e-commerce are becoming ways of expanding their business opportunities," the Prime Minister added.



SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL,

HON'BLE MINISTER FOR
PORTS, SHIPPING &
WATERWAYS AND AYUSH
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

"Greetings and congratulations to the entire AsiaOne family for bringing out a magazine and coffee table book commemorating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. In 2047, we will mark 100 years of Independence. As we enter the nation's Amrit Kaal, we have been presented with a unique opportunity to become the Vishwaguru under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji. Led by his vision, we are striving towards energising our vast network of inland waterways to unlock the huge potential of growth and economic prosperity of India. Our Amrit Kaal will be driven by PM GatiShakti, a mission that will transform the economy and open unprecedented avenues of employment for youth. I am certain that together we will fulfill all our dreams"



SHRI ARJUN MUNDA,
HON'BLE MINISTER FOR
TRIBAL AFFAIRS

“India today has been able to make a mark in the World platform as a country that is leading in all spheres of economy and has put in place effective measures to ensure welfare of its citizens. The giant strides being made under the dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji in sectors like Science, Technology and promotion of “Vocal for Local” ethos has put our nation firmly on path to reaching a milestone of \$5 trillion economy in few years. The current year of G20 Presidency by India embracing the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or “World is One” further reinforces our belief of welfare for entire humanity.

The AsiaOne Magazine has strived to be at the forefront of putting across all relevant issues and creating public opinion. I convey my best wishes for its endeavours”

A HYDROGEN-PO

The Amrit Kaal will be the era when India will take giant steps towards cleaner, greener fuels, the foremost being hydrogen.

The fuel of the future, hydrogen is the lightest and most abundant element of the universe, which holds the potential to change our dependency on fossil fuels. A game-changer here is the green hydrogen, which is hydrogen extracted without generating any net carbon emissions. Produced through the electrolysis of water, using renewable energy sources, green hydrogen is an essentially limitless and clean source of energy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Hydrogen Mission on India's 75th Independence Day, i.e. 15 August 2021. The Union Cabinet on January 4, 2023, approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an initial outlay of Rs. 19,744 crore.

The outlay of the mission includes Rs.17,490 crore for SIGHT programme, Rs.1,466 crore for pilot projects, Rs.400 crore for R&D, and Rs.388 crore towards other mission components. The expected mission outcomes are development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (million metric tonne) per annum, renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the country, over Rs. 8 lakh crore in total investments, creation of over 6 lakh jobs, over Rs. 1 lakh crore cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports, and abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions.

The mission will provide benefits such as creation of export opportunities for Green Hydrogen and its derivatives; decarbonisation of industrial, mobility and energy sectors; reduction in the dependence on imported fossil fuels and feedstock; development of indigenous manufacturing capabilities; creation of employment opportunities; and development of cutting-edge technologies.

GREEN HYDROGEN/GREEN AMMONIA POLICY

Another important emerging fuel is ammonia, a chemical used mainly in the manufacture of nitrogenous fertilisers such as urea and ammonium nitrate, but can be put to other uses too, such as to run engines.

Hydrogen and ammonia are envisaged to be the future fuels to replace fossil fuels. Production of these fuels by using power from renewable energy, termed as green hydrogen and green ammonia, is one of the major requirements towards environmentally sustainable energy security of the nation.

The Government of India is taking various measures to facilitate the transition from fossil fuel or fossil fuel based feedstocks to green hydrogen or green ammonia. The notification of this policy is one of the major steps in this endeavour.

The policy provides as follows:

- Green Hydrogen/Ammonia manufacturers may purchase renewable power from the power exchange or set up renewable energy capacity themselves or through any other developer, anywhere.
- Open access will be granted within 15 days of receipt of application.
- The Green Hydrogen/Ammonia manufacturer can bank his unconsumed renewable power, up to 30 days, with a distribution

POWERED FUTURE

company and take it back when required.

- Distribution licensees can also procure and supply renewable energy to the manufacturers of Green Hydrogen or Green Ammonia in their States at concessional prices, which will only include the cost of procurement, wheeling charges and a small margin as determined by the State Commission.
- Waiver of inter-state transmission charges for a period of 25 years will be allowed to the manufacturers of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia for the projects commissioned before 30 June 2025.
- The manufacturers of Green Hydrogen or Ammonia and the renewable energy plant shall be given connectivity to the grid on priority basis to avoid any procedural delays.
- The benefit of Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) will be granted incentive to the hydrogen/ammonia manufacturer and the distribution licensee for consumption of renewable power.
- To ensure ease of doing business, a single portal for carrying out all the activities, including statutory clearances in a time-bound manner will be set up by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- Connectivity, at the generation end and the Green Hydrogen or Ammonia manufacturing end, to the Inter-State Transmission System for renewable energy capacity set up for the purpose of manufacturing Green Hydrogen or Ammonia shall be granted on priority.
- Manufacturers of Green Hydrogen or Green Ammonia shall be allowed to set up bunkers near ports for storage of Green Ammonia for export or use by shipping. The land for the storage for this purpose shall be provided by the respective port Authorities at applicable charges.

The implementation of this policy will provide clean fuel to the common people of the country. This will reduce dependence on fossil fuel and crude oil imports. The objective also is for India to emerge as an export hub for Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia.

The policy promotes renewable energy generation, as it will be the basic ingredient in making green hydrogen. This, in turn, will help in meeting the international commitments for clean energy.

Green hydrogen energy is vital for India to meet its nationally determined contribution (NDC) targets and ensure regional and national energy security, access and availability. It can act as an energy storage option, which would be essential to meet intermittencies (of RE) in the future. It can be used in railways, large ships, buses or trucks, etc. Hydrogen has the potential to be the key renewable target in supporting infrastructure as well.

With most countries globally looking for ways to achieve their net zero goals, alternate sources of energy such as wind and solar have picked up steam. Companies are building the biggest wind turbines ever and increasing the size of solar farms rapidly, but both of the energy forms do not always generate power continuously or on demand, making the world again turn to fossil fuels for energy security. Until RE scales up to meet demand, a carbon-free fuel could be used to fill the gap or act as a backup when renewables do not deliver. Hydrogen can fill this gap.



SHRI KIREN RIJJU,
HON'BLE MINISTER FOR LAW
AND JUSTICE, GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA

"It gives me immense pleasure to learn that AsiaOne Magazine is coming up with a Republic Day Special edition of its magazine to commemorate "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav." The Mahotsav is an initiative to commemorate 75 glorious years of progressive India. It is dedicated to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far in its evolutionary journey, but also hold within them the power and potential to enable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. I congratulate and express my sincere appreciation to the AsiaOne Group for their initiative and efforts in the publication of this highly informative and useful book. I am sure the book will motivate the youth to dedicate their lives to the cause of nation-building and Atmanirbhar Bharat"



**HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. NAGESH SINGH,**
AMBASSADOR
AND PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE TO
ESCAP, EMBASSY OF INDIA,
BANGKOK

"I extend my greetings and good wishes to the AsiaOne family for bringing out the special issue on India's 74th Republic Day.

The celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav under various themes including 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' has inspired and motivated us to work towards building a stronger and evermore confident India. The nation assumed the G20 Presidency in December 2022, under the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakum' or 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. In this context, our country will play an increasingly important role in addressing global challenges. I am confident that the people of India will continue working collectively in this golden phase of Amrit Kaal"

SURPLUS ENERGY, STEADY GROWTH

Shri Narendra Modi on the country's 75th Independence Day announced to make India an energy-independent nation by 2047 through a mix of electric mobility, gas-based economy, doping ethanol in petrol, and making the country a hub for hydrogen production. Under his leadership, the country achieved the target of 100 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity ahead of the target. His Cabinet in January 2023 announced the National Hydrogen Mission to increase the use of Green Hydrogen as a cleaner alternative fuel and make India a global hydrogen hub.

Global experts also see India's transition to clean energy as a once in a lifetime economic opportunity. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), India has the potential to become a world leader in renewable batteries and green hydrogen; that, along with other low-carbon technologies, could create a market worth \$80 billion by 2030. The IEA also estimates that \$160 billion investment will be required every year between now and 2030, which is three times today's investment levels, in order to achieve 'net zero' by 2070. Going down this path will be rewarding as India's GDP can get a boost of 4.7 per cent by 2036 and 15 million jobs can be created by 2047.

Industry champions are also sure about India's success. RIL Chairman Mukesh D. Ambani has said that three game-changing revolutions will govern India's growth in the decades ahead – the Clean Energy Revolution, the Bio-Energy Revolution and the Digital Revolution. "Together, they will transform lives in ways unimagined. While the Clean Energy Revolution and the Bio-Energy Revolution will produce energy sustainably, the Digital Revolution will enable us to consume energy efficiently," he said.

The Union Budget 2022-23 highlights the Centre's focus on energy transition, which is expected to fuel "green growth" in the country in the coming years. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman listed "green growth" among four opportunities that can be transformative for India in the run up to 2047. The other three are economic empowerment of women, integrating traditional artisans with

the MSME sector, and tourism. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has been allocated Rs. 10,222 crore, a 48% hike from the last budget of Rs 7,033 crore.

The Budget 2023 provides Rs. 35,000 crore for priority capital investments towards net zero transition and energy security by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, she said.

India formally updated its nationally determined contribution (NDC) to fight climate change, confirming to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in August 2022 that it will reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030, and source about 50% of its energy requirement from non-fossil fuel-based sources the same deadline. The country also underlined that its NDC would help achieve the long-term goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2070.

Compared to the previous years, various projects within the MNRE received a huge boost. Among them is the increase in the money allocated towards off-grid solar projects. Green bonds is another focus area.

"As a part of the government's overall market borrowings in 2022-23, Sovereign Green Bonds will be issued for mobilising resources for green infrastructure," Sitharaman said in last year's budget.

From 2017 to September 2022, 15 Indian corporates issued green bonds worth Rs 4,539 crore, says SEBI's data on green debt securities. Most of these are related to renewable energy generation, the Economic Survey 2022-23 said. The Reserve Bank of India conducted two auctions on January 25 and February 9, 2023, for Rs 8,000 crore each, the survey added.

TOWARDS A SHARED FUTURE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that an important component of the Amrit Kaal of India's independence will not only be a period of national development and glory, but also an occasion when the country will play an important role in giving direction to the world.

India stands as the way forward for the world stuck in the disruption of global supply chains due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation in China. With global supply chains looking to move out of China, India

has emerged as a natural destination of choice.

To deliver on this opportunity, in September 2022, the country introduced the National Logistics Policy to further bolster the supply chain and add fresh impetus to India's manufacturing sector. The policy will help reduce the logistics cost in India and improve the competitiveness of Indian goods both in domestic as well as export markets. Reduced logistics cost will also improve efficiency across sectors of the economy, encouraging value addition and enterprise.

India's foreign trade with countries across the globe would become a truly defining feature in the years to come, believes Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. "The world wants Free Trade Agreements with us. It wants to expand trading relationships and friendship with India, looking at the potential in terms of a large market and the potential we have to help their economies survive and grow," he said.

India will also take forward the legacy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* – the World Is One Family – as India's foundational belief is that its own development is inseparable from that of the rest of the world. The country believes that development is a public good, open sourcing is the best way forward, and the UN can be an even bigger force multiplier in advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by pooling global knowledge. Multilateralism is important to the shared goals of the world.

India also recognises that its progress and growth have benefitted from its interface with the United Nations and its agencies, and so aims to strengthen initiatives such as the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, which is the first-ever single country South-South Initiative at the UN. The Fund was established by the Government of India in June 2017 to work with fellow developing countries in a spirit of South-South cooperation by providing support to projects that aim to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, as per their request. It currently extends to 66 development projects in 51 countries, informed External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

India has also enabled two major initiatives for global climate action: International Solar Alliance, which India pioneered with France in 2015 on the sidelines of COP 21, and

the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure founded at the COP-26, in which India is the founder member. India then helped to launch further initiatives under the two platforms, namely the Green Grids Initiative – One Sun, One World, One Grid, and the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States initiative.

India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has also been quick to respond to global challenges. The country, during the COVID-19 pandemic, responded first with vaccines for countries in Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and South Asia.

In the light of the conflict in Ukraine and resulting food and energy inflation, India responded by supplying food grains. In recent years, the country has given grant assistance to Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Yemen, and several countries in Africa. In February 2023, under "Operation Dost," India sent a field hospital, medicines, materials, and search and rescue teams to earthquake-hit Turkey and Syria that suffered massive losses of life and property.

The year 2023 is important in India's journey as a global leader. The country has the presidency of the G20 and the rotating presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. India on 12–13 January 2023 convened a virtual summit of developing countries, Voice of the Global South Summit, where 125 nations participated.

During its G20 Presidency, India aims to amplify the voice of the global south. The nation has chosen the theme of One Earth, One Family, One Future. "We believe the path to realising 'oneness' is through human-centric development. People of the Global South should no longer be excluded from the fruits of development. Together, we must attempt to redesign global political and financial governance. This can remove inequities, enlarge opportunities, support growth and spread progress, and prosperity," said the Prime Minister in his address at the opening session of Voice of Global South Summit 2023.

Through its various global alliances, India is working towards promoting the universal sense of one-ness. In the era of Amrit Kaal, the country is proudly forging new definitions and creating new order.



**HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. SUNJAY SUDHIR,**
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO
THE UAE

"My heartiest greetings to all, in India and abroad, on the 74th Republic Day! It was on this day in 1950, India was established as the largest democratic republic and 'we the people' put into effect a constitution that is an inspired document of our collective vision. As we celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, commemorating 75 glorious years of Independence, I am confident that India and Indians will only go on from strength to strength in Amrit Kaal. It is time to reinforce the future with our collective resolve and efforts. It is only befitting that India has taken over the G20 Presidency at a critical juncture. "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One World, One Family, One Future" has never been more relevant and at this Republic Day, we are at the forefront of making the world a better place for coming generations"



DR. J.C. CHAUDHRY



JEFF BEZOS



AMANCIO ORTEGA



SUDHIR GUPTA



ABHAY BHUTADA



DR. HEMA DIVAKAR



GAUTAM B. BODA

GLOBAL LEADERS OF THE YEAR 2023

With their years of relentless work and doggedness, AsiaOne Magazine's Global Leaders of the Year have established themselves as true super stars of the world of business. These leaders have sophisticatedly navigated the path to success with knowledge, skills and abilities, determination, extraordinary vision, innovation, and courage to transform their vision into reality. In the process, these leaders have not only given new directions to the economy and society, but also to the younger generations of aspiring entrepreneurs and professionals, setting benchmarks in business, leadership, sector growth, building a healthy and active workplace culture, and social responsibility. Our latest list of Global Leaders of the Year has been put together after a thorough selection process, taking into consideration their invaluable efforts towards business and growth globally



DR. MARK MABHUDHU



LAL ABDUL SALAM



JAYESH SAINI



PRABHAT NAGARAJ



DR. NIKHILESH TIWARI



NIREN ANAND



PARVEZ SULTAN RUPANI



RICHARD SAMUEL EDWIN



K MADHAVAN



RONALD COLACO



SANJAY AWASTHI



SANJIB SAHOO



VSN RAJU



BISWANATH PATNAIK



DR. VIJAY KALANTRI

The Ultimate Disruptor

American businessman, entrepreneur, philanthropist, media proprietor, investor, and commercial astronaut, Jeffrey Preston Bezos is the Founder and Former CEO of the largest internet company by revenue, Amazon and one of the richest men walking the planet. The web entrepreneur who taught the world the real power of internet is now focusing more of his energy on his new initiative Blue Origin, envisioning a time when people can tap into the limitless resources of space and enable the movement of damaging industries into space to preserve Earth

To a world that needs no introduction of Jeff Bezos, the American businessman has been busy introducing the world to out-of-this-world ideas. For example, he developed the Dream Institute – a centre that promoted creative thinking in young students – while still in high school. Today, he believes that we should build artificial space pods to augment the resources we need for our technology-driven life. It is these actions and beliefs that make one look beyond his billions of dollars to focus on the new paths he has shown the world, impacting millions of lives along the way.

Born in Albuquerque in 1964 and raised in Houston and Miami, Bezos spent most of the summers of his youth working with his grandfather, who owned a 25,000-acre ranch at Cotulla, Houston. Together, they fixed windmills, laid water pipelines, built fences and barns, and even repaired the bulldozer. He learnt early in life that it is important to be resourceful. “If there is a problem, there is a solution,” he said in an interview.

Bezos fell in love with computers in the fourth grade. In 1986, he went to Princeton University to study physics, but graduated with a degree in computer science and electrical engineering. His first job after graduation was on Wall Street at a time when computer science was increasingly in demand to study market trends. He stuck to the finance realm, rising to become a Vice President with Bankers Trust. While working for D. E. Shaw – a company into applying computer science to the stock market – he met MacKenzie Tuttle, also a Princeton graduate, whom he married in 1993. He worked on Wall Street in a variety of related fields from 1986 to early 1994 when a

discovery changed his life.

In 1994, Bezos observed that Internet usage was rising by 2300% annually. He saw an opportunity for a new sphere of business. He reviewed the top 20 mail order businesses and contemplated which business could be conducted more efficiently over the Internet than physically. The answer was books! He also realised that books is one commodity for which no comprehensive mail order catalogue existed, as any catalogue would be too big to mail, making its case perfect for the Internet, which could send a huge catalogue to unlimited people virtually.

THE INTERNET ENTREPRENEUR

In 1993, Bezos quit D. E. Shaw to set up an online bookstore by taking financial help from his parents and other investors. Amazon was founded in his garage in Bellevue, Washington, on July 5, 1994. He initially named the company Cadabra, but later renamed it after the largest river on Earth. Within two months, Amazon's sales reached \$20,000 a week, growing faster than Bezos had envisioned. Amazon.com went public with an initial public offering in 1997. The online bookstore soon expanded to other products, such as CDs and videos, and clothes, electronics, toys and more through retail partnerships, to eventually become “The Everything Store”. Bezos moved forward with values of customer obsession, ownership, bias for action, frugality, high hiring bar, and innovation. By 2018, the growth in Amazon's stock price had made its founder and principal shareholder the wealthiest man in history.

In the next few years, Amazon expanded to a variety of other e-commerce products

and services, including video and audio streaming, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence. Today, it is the world's largest online sales company, the largest Internet company by revenue, and the largest provider of virtual assistants and cloud infrastructure services through Amazon Web Services.

In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic rocked the world's economy, making the whole world stay at home, the demand for Amazon's online services and stock price skyrocketed. By August 2020, Bezos' personal stake in the company helped him with an estimated net worth of more than \$200 billion, making him by far the wealthiest individual in history.

A LEADER OF LEADERS

A beacon of modern leadership, Bezos was able to transform his startup into a billion-dollar household name globally. Though his journey, he has established himself as a transformational leader, who motivates and inspires team members to become consistent achievers. He ensures that everyone on his team is committed to Amazon's vision, to be Earth's most customer-centric company.

The astounding success of Amazon helped Jeff Bezos to explore his lifelong interest in space travel. In 2004, he founded an aerospace company, Blue Origin, to develop new technology for spaceflight. The goal of the new venture was to establish a lasting human presence beyond Earth. From its 26-acre research campus outside Seattle and a private rocket launching facility in West Texas, Blue Origin began testing New Shepard, a multi-passenger rocket-propelled vehicle designed to travel to and from suborbital space at competitive prices. In



“JEFF BEZOS DONATES TO INNUMERABLE CAUSES AND MISSIONS, SUCH AS THE FRED HUTCHINSON CANCER RESEARCH CENTER. IN JANUARY 2018, HE MADE A \$33-MILLION DONATION TO THEDREAM.US, A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS BROUGHT TO THE US AS MINORS”



2021, the richest person on Earth travelled beyond it. Bezos launched into suborbital space with three other people on the first crewed mission of the vehicle.

On the way from books to space, Bezos introduced a handheld electronic reading device, the Kindle, in 2007. The device used “E Ink” technology to render text in a print-like appearance, avoiding the eyestrain that came with television and computer screens. It had adjustable font size to make reading easier, wireless Internet connectivity to help the reader buy and download books, and storage for hundreds of books. With the launch of the Kindle, Amazon’s sales jumped by 38% and its profits more than doubled. By mid-2010, Kindle and e-book sales had reached \$2.38 billion. The Kindle helped Amazon quickly capture 95% of the US market for e-books.

In 2012, Bezos launched Amazon Studios, crowdsourcing the development of feature films and television shows. In 2013, he purchased the newspaper division of The Washington Post Company for \$250 million. In next few years, he purchased national grocery retailer Whole Foods for \$13.7 billion and added Amazon Prime Video, Amazon Music, Twitch, Audible, Amazon Publishing, and film and television studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to his business.

COMMITTED TO CHARITY

Jeff Bezos donates to innumerable causes and missions, such as the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. He has pledged \$500,000 to Worldreader, an NGO set up by a former Amazon employee. In January 2018, he made a \$33-million donation to TheDream.US, a college scholarship fund for undocumented immigrants brought to the US as minors. He has also donated to Bill Gates’ Breakthrough Energy Ventures fund, which aims at promoting emissions-free energy. The same year, he launched the Bezos Day One Fund, which focuses on “funding existing non-profits that help homeless families.” In 2020, Bezos offered \$690,000 to help Australia recover from the worst bushfires in its history. In 2021, he launched the annual Courage and Civility Award, which includes \$100 million to be distributed to other non-profit organisations.

In 2022, Bezos shared his plans to give away the majority of his \$124 billion net worth during his lifetime. In an interview to a channel, he said that he will devote the bulk of his wealth to fighting climate change and supporting people who can unify humanity in the face of deep social and political divisions.

The Fast Fashion Genius

One of the wealthiest fashion retailers in the world, Amancio Ortega is not a usual billionaire. The octogenarian entrepreneur and pioneer of fast fashion is the force behind famous global fashion brand Zara. The Spanish businessman, after disrupting the global fashion retail industry, in last few years has diversified into sectors as diverse as real estate, insurance, energy and healthcare. Despite the highs, he prefers to maintain a low profile, maintaining his pace in business and philanthropy

The youngest of four children, Amancio Ortega was born to a railway worker in Busdongo de Arbas, Spain in 1936. He dropped out of school at the age of 14. For many, this may be a bad beginning of a life, but not for the man who had to become one of the first and most successful pioneers of fast fashion—a retail concept based on the swift production and distribution of inexpensive versions of designs picked from fashion runways or pop culture icons. Shortly after leaving school, he entered the world of garment business as a delivery boy and as an assistant in a men's shirt store. He learned to make clothes by hand and for the next 10 years, he worked at multiple jobs in the garment industry. His work experience at both front end and back end of the garment business helped him gain a rich, versatile experience of the trade.

The men's shirt store where Ortega worked catered to a wealthy clientele. He saw an opportunity to expand his client base by using less-expensive materials and more-efficient manufacturing systems, and competitively pricing the garments. In 1963, he founded a small family workshop in his home in Spain, making women's bathrobes by hand. In 1975, he opened the first Zara store in A Coruña, Spain with his wife, making a leap from production to retail.

A BRILLIANT BREAKTHROUGH

Ortega learned everything about the garment business from scratch. The jobs at the local shirt maker, Gala helped him understand the basics of the business, such as the costs of manufacturing and

delivering clothing directly to customers. He also had important observations on the industry, like people put in extra money for things that are status symbols, such as fashion. The second observation was that very few women cared about the quality of clothes as much as they cared about their variety and design.

Ortega believed that a breakthrough is always possible. His breakthrough was the concept of taking fashion garments from the idea stage to the retail floor within two weeks. The model was so successful that it shook up the entire fashion retail industry. In the forthcoming years, new Zara stores opened across Spain, its parent company Inditex was incorporated in 1985, a series of stores opened internationally beginning with Portugal in 1988, and the business leader made several brand expansions and acquisitions throughout the 1990s.

In total, within four decades, the 86-year-old entrepreneur grew his business into one of the largest fashion retailers in the world. It's impressive that Ortega, who briefly became the richest man in the world for a short period in 2015, did not have his career breakthrough until the age of 39.

CREATING BOTH DEMAND AND SUPPLY

Ortega grasped the key concept of fast fashion driving the market. He continues to run Zara on this concept, wherein trend spotters pick up design ideas from fashion shows, in-house designers reproduce the best concepts, and the company's highly efficient manufacturing operations make and deliver new fashions to stores in just a few weeks. His stores never wait for arrivals during the traditional fashion

seasons of fall, winter, spring, and summer, but receive fashion collections all through the year, on a weekly basis. The styles that fail to not find takers are quickly removed from stores.

The concept has become so popular with customers that its more than 1,000 outlets worldwide spent reasonably little on advertising and promotions. Even in the current times, where most clothing manufacturers outsource production to China and other low-cost manufacturing hubs, Inditex produced two-thirds of its garments in Spain and surrounding countries.

Ortega focuses more on trending styles than on volume. For Zara, his company manufactures more than 12,000 styles every year, creating more demand and shortage of a particular trending fashion. The lesser the availability, the more is the desire of the product. In addition, as it produces less volume it cuts down on its discount as well. The entrepreneur also opens its stores near high-end fashion stores that attract customers without spending much on marketing.

A BELIEVER OF SIMPLE LIVING

The success story of Zara helped the simple life Ortega preferred to live. In an industry that runs on public images and publicity, he has enjoyed tremendous international success while living a strictly private life away from shutterbugs.

Humble, thrifty, retiring, and almost anonymous perfectly describe Amancio Ortega, the man behind one of the most-buzzing fashion retail brands in the world. He is private about his personal life, and as



“THE SUCCESS STORY OF ZARA HELPED THE SIMPLE LIFE ORTEGA PREFERRED TO LIVE. IN AN INDUSTRY THAT RUNS ON PUBLIC IMAGES AND PUBLICITY, HE HAS ENJOYED TREMENDOUS INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS WHILE LIVING A STRICTLY PRIVATE LIFE AWAY FROM SHUTTERBUGS”

of 2012 he had only given three interviews to journalists. Until 1999, no photograph of the businessman had ever been published.

As of 2017, despite owning a huge real estate portfolio, Ortega mostly lived with his wife in his apartment in A Coruña, Spain. On the day of Inditex's public offering in 2001, he preferred to follow a regular work schedule despite the fact that his net worth had risen by \$6 billion. In 2008, Inditex became the world's largest fashion retailer, with about 4,000 stores in 70 countries, and Ortega had become one of the world's top billionaires.

In 2011, the genius behind fast fashion stepped down as Inditex Chairman, while remaining involved with the company and retaining his majority stake. For a brief period of time in 2015, he became the richest man in the world, beating Bill Gates when his net worth peaked to \$80 billion with the peaking stock of as Inditex.

LIFE BEYOND FASHION

Today, Amancio Ortega owns eight brands, namely Zara, Massimo Dutti, Oysho, Zara Home, Kiddy's Class, Tempe, Stradivarius, Pull & Bear and Bershka, and 7,500 stores around the world. The senior entrepreneur has created a fortune worth \$76.7 billion and earned more than \$400 million in dividends per year, which he primarily invests into real estate in prime cities such as Madrid, Barcelona, London, Chicago, Miami, and New York.

In November 2021, the billionaire founder also entered the renewable energy sector by buying a 49% stake in a wind farm operated by Spanish energy group Repsol through his family investment company, Pontegadea, for 245 million euros (\$280.70 million). In addition to 59.29% stake in Inditex and core business of real estate, Pontegadea has interests in energy infrastructure, with 5% stakes in Spanish power grid operator Red Eléctrica and gas utility Enagas.

La Fundación Amancio Ortega was set up in 2001. In 2015, Ortega donated \$18 million towards screening and radiotherapy equipment for public healthcare in Galicia and Asturias.

In 2017, Ortega's charitable foundation donated \$344 million to purchase and supply the latest 290 of the latest machines in breast cancer screening technology for public hospitals across Spain.

The Amancio Ortega Foundation set a process in motion in March 2020 of purchasing medical material for the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and donating it immediately to health centres around the country.

SUDHIR GUPTA

LED BY PURE PASSION

An entrepreneur and a proud collector, creator and curator, Mr. Sudhir Gupta is also a Guinness World Record holder. The CEO of Eau De Luxe Ltd. — a New York based fragrance house specialising in niche and discontinued fragrances and skincare and cosmetics — is led by pure passion of collecting factices, which are oversized display bottles once made by perfume makers for promotions

Mr. Sudhir Gupta became a connoisseur by chance. He came across his passion by accident, but just then realised it to be a reason enough to drive him throughout his life. One of the rare few who get the chance to turn their passion into their vocation, Mr Gupta today has successful businesses that are out-of-the-box and still tied to bottles — from niche, discontinued fragrances to outstanding factices. Today, he has the biggest collection of factices in the world. His passion has not only driven him to make a world record, but also helped him accomplish his ventures, right from the fragrance house to the new store and museum. Committed to the preservation of these bottles, the entrepreneur aims to expand his projects to support his unique collection of factices.

Eau De Luxe initially explored the most exclusive boutique perfumeries producing some of the world's most captivating scents. It was everything about niche and discontinued fragrances, but later diversified to skincare and cosmetics. Today, the online retail platform is devoted to selling luxury perfumes and skincare products for better value. Eaudeluxe.com comes with a great look focusing on simplicity, better navigation, and promotions on a daily basis and on special occasions.

Mr. Sudhir Gupta also runs a retail perfume store, Maison G, and a factice museum,





Facterie: The Factice Collection, which opened in Hackensack, New Jersey, in October. The avid collector of oversized, custom-crafted glass bottles manufactured by fragrance houses for purely marketing and display purposes believes that each of these bottles is an eternal expression of a lost art as unique as its fragrance. While pursuing these bottles, he also realised that as the retail fragrance industry was growing, these amazing replicas of iconic fragrance bottles were becoming rare artifacts, as perfume makers were no longer producing these labour of love. The realization set him on the path of preserving these bottles for the future generation of admirers. He made contact with antique dealers and auction houses all over the world to collect these glass bottles. Today, he has been successful in conserving more than 3,000 factices.

A COLLECTOR ALWAYS

Mr. Gupta moved to the United States from India in 1992. He only had an engineering degree and plans to work tirelessly in the US to earn money and study for a master's degree. His goal was to build a future his humble background in India could not provide. To sustain himself in New York, he took up a low-paying, entry-level cleaning job in a perfume shop on Canal Street. As luck would have it, he came across a factice in the basement of the store. It was an oversized Nina Ricci L'Air du Temps perfume glass display bottle with ornately entwined frosted doves on top. The extraordinary bottle was one of the most beautiful things he had ever seen. The enchanted man was obsessed with possessing it and started saving money from his meek weekly paycheck of \$200. He was finally able to pay the shop owner \$2,000 to buy his first factice perfume bottle.

But then, the collector did not stop at just one bottle. The fascination of owning factices soon grew over him and he now needed a way to fund his passion. He moved on from the thought of accomplishing a master's degree to buying and selling extraordinary, niche perfume brands from home, and used the profit to collect more factices.

BIGGEST LESSON OF LIFE

In 2008, Mr. Sudhir Gupta opened his first business, a retail store in Westchester, New York. The time of the Great Recession proved to be a bad time to launch any business. The shop had to close down, as Mr. Gupta could not pay his loans. But, he also refused to sell his factice collection to come out of debt, and instead decided to give the business another try. He took



"LOOKING BACK ON HIS JOURNEY, MR. SUDHIR GUPTA HAS ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS – TO FOLLOW THEIR PASSION. "ONLY PASSION CAN KEEP YOU GOING. FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS, DO NOT LOOK FOR RESULTS. YOU HAVE TO KEEP FAILING TO RISE AGAIN," HE SAYS"

more loans and ventured into the wholesale perfume business.

Mr. Gupta worked relentlessly for his new business, giving 80 to 120 hours a week. He was the only employee of his company, and so, bought the products, took their pictures, and catalogued them for sale. In due course, the sales of perfumes to wholesalers on online platforms reached \$1 million, and he could finally hire more people and give

power to his venture. He also made a name for himself through his niche business, as resellers and customers admired his venture and difficult-to-find fragrances. Eau De Luxe took off with word of mouth and soon became the company recognised as one of the most successful companies in America by Inc. 500 five times in a row, from 2014 to 2018. This year, Eau De Luxe was recognised in the Inc. 500 Honor list.



Looking back on his journey, the leader has one piece of advice for the young entrepreneurs – to follow their passion. “Only passion can keep you going. Follow your dreams, do not look for results. You have to keep failing to rise again,” he says.

THE WORLD TITLE HOLDER

Mr. Gupta’s first collectible, the Nina Ricci L’Air du Temps factice has led to an exquisite collection of factices. The collection includes more than 1,400 rare and historic factice fragrance bottles valued up to \$1,00,000 from world-renowned fragrance houses such as Hermès, Nina Ricci, Donna Karan, Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, Gucci and others. The collection features a 1920s Caron urn, “Les Fontaines Baccarat,” from the estate of Madame Alexander, created by Baccarat,

and estimated to be worth \$1,00,000. The treasure also includes a PARERA Tentacion factice from 1927. One of only two in the world, the other is on display at the Museu del Perfum in Barcelona. The oldest factice in the collection is a unique 1920s bottle for Gardenia by “the first American perfumer,” Richard Hudnut.

In September 2022, his rich collection of factices helped Mr. Gupta enter the Guinness World Records title for the largest collection of factices in the world. The honour was celebrated with a reception thrown at Bergdorf Goodman’s BG Restaurant, with guests such as Miss Universe Harnaaz Sandhu and official Guinness World Records adjudicator Michael Empric present. The restaurant was ornately decorated by Mercedes Acosta, the creative director of

Facterie: The Factice Collection.

More such occasions are expected, as Mr. Gupta vows to strengthen his collection further. He believes that these bottles made throughout the 21st century by artisans of fragrance houses mostly based in France are part of our heritage. The collector and curator initially kept his exquisite collection private and safe at home, warehouses and other storage spaces.

This, however, changed in October, when the entrepreneur launched the perfume store Maison G and factice museum, Facterie: The Factice Collection, in Hackensack, New Jersey. The objective of the exhibition space is to create awe for factices and drive sales at the store. It has been aesthetically designed for the tasteful collection using bits and pieces from the interior of the iconic Upper East Side pharmacy, Lascoff Drugs that closed in 2012 after 113 years in operation.

The pharmacy store was frequented by dignitaries like Albert Einstein. Mr. Gupta was able to retain all the wooden fixtures and cabinets of the store to maintain its old-time appeal and showcase his collection of bottles appropriately. Every time any admirer visits the store, the proud collector picks each of his acclaimed bottles affectionately and shares the story of its origin and journey to the collection.

NEW AVENUES OF BUSINESS

After launching a fragrance house, store and museum, Mr Sudhir Gupta now plans to re-launch his fragrance line, Ode Paris Love Potion. This range was launched in 2019 when he signed an exclusive one-year contract with Lord & Taylor — America’s first department store that is making a comeback as a modern-day digital collective store. However, the American retailer went out of business during the pandemic.

For the existing business, he plans to widen his marketing approach. Unlike his previous approach of marketing by word-of-mouth, he is keen to add social media marketing to attract Generation Z for promoting both his brands, Maison G and Ode Paris.

While the entrepreneur goes on an expansion spree, he has not shifted his focus from his passion of life. He still gets calls from antique houses and individuals in possession of factices world over to contribute to his collection. After giving 30 years of relentless service to these bottles, the man only has words of gratitude to everyone who was part of his amazing journey.

Fuelling the Momentum

Mr. Abhay Bhutada, the Managing Director of Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, has garnered widespread recognition within the Banking and Financial Services sector. His exceptional leadership qualities are exemplified by his outstanding decision-making skills and visionary approach, positioning him as a highly respected professional within the industry. With resolute commitment, vision, and determination, he has fostered the growth of enterprises. His successful track record, spanning three ventures, attests to his ability to navigate complex challenges, capitalise on opportunities, and steer businesses to sustainable growth

Abhay Bhutada, an experienced Chartered Accountant, showcased his lending expertise through the establishment and successful operation of TAB Capital Limited, a digital-lending Non-Banking Financial Company specialising in retail loans, MSME financing, and consumer lending. Serving as the Founder, Chairman, and Managing Director, he propelled TAB Capital's growth for three years. Later, in 2019, the Poonawalla Group acquired TAB Capital, leading to the formation of Poonawalla Finance Private Limited. As MD and CEO, he played a pivotal role in building the lending business for Poonawalla Finance, adopting a digital-centric lending approach. In 2021, he orchestrated the acquisition and integration of a renowned financial services conglomerate, rebranding it as Poonawalla Fincorp. By implementing technology-driven and digital-first lending strategies, he significantly bolstered Poonawalla Fincorp's business in the past two years.

Under Abhay's sterling leadership, Poonawalla Fincorp has experienced an extraordinary surge in the financial industry. This non-banking financial

institution, valued at nearly \$3 billion, has witnessed unparalleled quarterly profits, net income, and loan disbursements over the past two years. It has experienced significant growth in assets under management, which have risen by an impressive 37% year-on-year to reach Rs. 16,143 crore. Loan disbursements have also seen a remarkable increase, reaching Rs. 6,371 crore, a growth of 151% compared to the previous year. Currently, Abhay is leading Poonawalla Fincorp to embark on a new trajectory by targeting a range of customers, offering innovative products, and embracing digital transformation.

CUSTOMER-CENTRIC LEADERSHIP

Abhay's unrelenting focus on customer-centricity lies at the very core of his strategic approach, transforming visions into tangible realities with astounding precision. While he relentlessly pushes the boundaries of conventional finance through technology, he remains deeply committed to nurturing a people-centric environment at Poonawalla Fincorp, where the ethos of productivity, dedication, and hard work is richly rewarded. The approach has helped in creating an environment where the

workforce not only thrives amid conducive work dynamics, but also flourishes with ample opportunities for skill enhancement and self-discovery.

A FORWARD-THINKING ENTREPRENEUR

Abhay believes that the integration of fintech, non-banking financial institutions, and traditional banking services is vital to effectively address industry's future needs. He is spearheading Poonawalla Fincorp's efforts to significantly transform the financial landscape and empower customers by providing them with their preferred lending solutions. He describes this endeavour as the "intersection of technology and finance," where technological advancements disrupt conventional lending practices. Focused on growth through tech-led businesses and a branch-lite model, he wants his company to lead the market in consumer and MSME financing. He also emphasises the importance of selectively targeting customer segments, a strategy that helped in building their MSME lending business. As a goal-driven leader, Abhay has set his sights on establishing the company



“AS A GOAL-DRIVEN LEADER, ABHAY VISUALISES HIS COMPANY AS INDIA’S FOREMOST TRUSTED FINANCIAL SERVICES BRAND, GUIDED BY ITS MANAGEMENT VISION 2025. HIS MISSION IS TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES BY PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL, CUSTOMER-CENTRIC PRODUCTS AND SOLUTIONS”

as the foremost trusted financial services brand in India, guided by its Management Vision 2025. His mission is to empower individuals and businesses by providing exceptional, customer-centric products and solutions.

A COMPASSIONATE INDIVIDUAL

Under Abhay’s leadership, Poonawalla Fincorp actively contributes to the betterment of society. It has implemented projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life, such as promoting education and providing essential support in areas like food and healthcare. During the pandemic, it contributed Rs. 5 crore to PM CARES Fund. It also played a significant role in various construction projects, including a 120-bed super specialty hospital, shelter home, old age home for women, and schools for marginalised children in West Bengal and a digital lab for underprivileged children in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Abhay’s exceptional leadership has garnered numerous accolades for his company, including titles such as the Economic Times Future Ready Organization 2023-24 and the Marksmen Daily’s Most Preferred Workplace 2022-23. Its dedication to customer-centricity was recognised with the Economic Times CX Awards 2022 for the Most Customer Centric Brand, and digital prowess led to the title of Best Digital NBFC of the Year at the 4th Annual NBFC Summit 2022. The company bagged the Gold Award at the 37th Annual Convention of Quality Control Forum of India 2022 and the Cybersecurity Financial Team of the Year 2022 Award by Quantic India.

Abhay’s personal achievements include being named The Economic Times Most Promising Business Leader of Asia at the Asian Business Leaders Conclave 2020, The Economic Times Promising Entrepreneurs of India 2020, and the Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2017.

Uplifting Women's Healthcare

Blessed with an inherent sense of healing, Dr. Hema Divakar is easily one of the most renowned gynaecologists in India. Having received her education from some of the world's premier institutions, she has been rendering her services at the Divakar's Specialty Hospital. She has been successful in spearheading some ground-breaking healthcare movements and programs with her initiative – the Asian Research and Training Institute for Skill Transfer. Driven by purpose and tireless in her efforts, her work has benefitted thousands of women and girls in India and beyond

Dr. Hema Divakar has been committed to providing exceptional healthcare services to women for the past 30 years. Her efforts have included ground-breaking research that has been translated into tangible solutions, playing a pivotal role in shaping a nationwide shift that impacts women's health. After completing her MD at Wadia Hospital in Mumbai in 1989, Dr. Divakar joined forces with her husband, Dr. G.V. Divakar, a respected ophthalmologist, to establish the Divakar's Speciality Hospital in Bengaluru. The hospital was founded with the objective of providing a one-stop-shop for all women's health-related needs. It caters to new-borns, girls, and women of all ages with a wide range of services. She also Chairs the FIGO Committee for Well Woman Health Care (international obgyn organisation considered as the global voice for women's healthcare). Moreover, she is a National Convener for Health Sector Skill Council and a leader for FemTech and Digital Skill Transfer in India and Asia. Over the past 25 years, she has set new standards in healthcare and positively impacted countless women's lives.

A TRUE CHANGEMAKER

Driven by her passion for healing, Dr.

Divakar aspired to go beyond simply treating patients who came to her for medical assistance. To achieve a sustainable and lasting change in healthcare, she started the Asian Research and Training Institute for Skill Transfer (ARTIST), which serves as a platform to train frontline healthcare workers to provide well-researched and accurate information.

Under ARTIST, Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) specialists undergo training and upskilling through short and smart modules. Postgraduates, medical officers, staff nurses, health counsellors, health educators, and women also receive knowledge-based seminars and training to increase awareness. The program conducts skill transfer training across the country in various phases.

Dr. Divakar has brought together a team of expert healthcare professionals, leaders of professional organisations (both national and international), key opinion makers, researchers, academicians, and leading clinicians in practice. This unique blend of top resources works together under one umbrella to design and deliver these trainings. The program is a one-of-a-kind initiative that is making a positive impact throughout India.

In Bangalore, there is an institute called ARTIST Skill Gurukul, which focuses on

enhancing the skills and competencies of obstetricians, gynaecologists, and healthcare providers in India. With Dr. Divakar at the helm, the specialists at ARTIST have conducted extensive surveys on the Knowledge, Attitudes & Practices (KAPs) of ObGyns throughout India. Their findings have identified significant gaps in KAPs, which they leverage to design training programs and modules to provide education where it is most needed.

POWERING PROGRESS

Dr. Divakar is a highly respected figure both in India and abroad, occupying prominent positions. She was earlier the head of the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI). Under her leadership, the FOGSI adopted a four-pronged approach to tackle four different issues: ABCD – anaemia among adolescent and pregnant women; building contraceptive choices; cancer cervix; and diabetes.

Dr. Divakar played a lead role in conducting outreach services, including anaemia detection and treatment, deworming, menstrual hygiene, and health awareness camps for 50,000 girls every year for the last ten years. Furthermore, she led an instrumental role in handling anaemia during pregnancy which included



“WHAT SETS DR. HEMA DIVAKAR APART IS HER ABILITY TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH NGOS, INSTITUTES, MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS, AND CORPORATES, WELCOMING ANYONE WILLING TO JOIN HER MISSION. SHE HAS TRANSFORMED HEALTHCARE INTO A GENERATION-DEFINING MOVEMENT”

study and operative research on the use of intravenous iron sucrose. She has also pioneered a revised health scoring system for Indian women that takes into account post-partum depression. She has collaborated with many leading universities like Columbia University, IIM, and Indian College of O&G to pioneer new systems and methodologies for multiple causes.

AWARDS GALORE

Dr. Divakar's exceptional work has been recognised on multiple occasions. In 2015, she received the FIGO Women Achievers Award for her remarkable contributions to the advancement of science and research in O&G, both internationally and domestically.

Her other prestigious awards include the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Governing Council of Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India, two separate Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Karnataka State Gynaecologists Association and the Bangalore Obgyn Society; and the Global Award for Music Therapy from Medscape India and the Social Entrepreneurship Award from USAID and MSD for Mothers. She has also been conferred with the 'Icons of Healthcare' Award in Singapore. She is dedicated to providing accessible healthcare for women and raising awareness through education initiatives aimed at patients, caregivers and medical practitioners. What sets her apart is her ability to work collaboratively with NGOs, institutes, medical associations, and corporates, welcoming anyone willing to join her mission. She has transformed healthcare into a generation-defining movement.

Expertise with Humility

Mr. Gautam Boda is a true example of building a business through strength, patience, and humbleness. Joining the family business and not being overshadowed by its legacy is a commendable feat. He has shone like a beacon of freshness in the business started by his grandfather many decades ago. His story outlines the perseverance and importance of traditional virtues in the modern era of start-up culture. A staunch believer of team work, he believes in motivating everyone around and working together towards a common goal

Mr. Gautam Boda, Vice-Chairman and MD, J.B. Boda Group joined the family business in the year 1994. His constant efforts and unwavering determination towards the company's success earned him the rank of Vice-Chairman.

J.B. Boda Group, a renowned name in insurance & reinsurance broking, was started by Mr. Gautam Boda's grandfather late Mr. Jagmohandas Bhagwandas Boda, together with his brother, Late Mr. Dhirajlal Bhagwandas Boda, way back in 1943. They started this business when reinsurance broking was unheard of in India. Both founders worked diligently to build a legacy from scratch. Under their powerful vision, the J.B. Boda Group has established itself as a pioneer of reinsurance broking in India by insuring the Professional Indemnity (P&I) policy of engineers on behalf of the Indian Insurance Company.

Since Mr. Gautam Boda joined the company, his responsibility has been in driving sustainable business growth, devising group strategy, and guiding to execute, explore and evaluate new areas of opportunities. He has around 28 years of experience in the insurance and reinsurance industry and is an eminent risk management consultant. A distinguished thought leader, he has extensive experience in broking, risk management, and other allied services. At the Boda Group, he has also been instrumental in managing the Group's branding and global marketing initiatives. Under his supervision, the company has seen tremendous growth and success in brand building. His strategic vision and ability to think outside the box have been

instrumental in taking the company to new heights. The organisation, in its business activities, is currently associated with over 550 insurance and reinsurance companies in more than 90 countries.

A CONSISTENT DRIVE TO IMPROVE

Mr. Boda is known to have an insatiable drive to do better. It is his permanent zeal to constantly improve his work and conduct. In his view, being a leader is a huge responsibility towards his people and, thus, is a never-ending process. He always lends a willing ear to any feedback his team might have for him. It is, in fact, one of his biggest strengths the way he is able to adapt to changing circumstances, an attribute that greatly distinguishes him as a leader.

He also puts a great deal of importance on creativity and humility in a leader. "To be able to inspire is essential for effective and inspirational leadership." He strongly believes that teamwork is the most important component of any successful business. He is a strong team player who believes in motivating everyone around and working together towards a common goal.

As a leader, he never fails to encourage his team members and ensures that they do not get burdened by failures and mistakes. In his team, everything is an opportunity to grow and learn. It has been a long road but for him, the rewards have been sweet. This allows him to lead by example in different situations. The recognition that J.B. Boda has received globally has been immensely gratifying for Mr. Boda and everyone at the company. Under his leadership, the Group has continued to build upon the legacy created by the founders. For Mr. Boda,

this success has been driven by personal involvement. He has ensured that the family legacy is carried forward without any compromise on the core ethics and values.

During his tenure with the Group, Mr. Boda established the Ports & Terminal Vertical, Employee Benefit Vertical, Empanelment of the Group with international insurers or reinsurers for designing or supporting complex global programmes of MNCs in India, groomed the Group's leaders, set up a specialised team to cater to the requirements of Indian companies who are investing globally, partnered with International Brokers across the globe for MNC exposure in India, and developed various technology platforms. He also introduced the Risk Management Society to India. He took knowledge-sharing initiatives such as in-house publications and webinars, and has been the guest speaker at various events. He has gone out of his way to contribute towards the company's expansion and diversity. His efforts have also been recognised by the industry time and again. As a testimony to his in-depth knowledge & vision, he is appointed to be the Board of Directors for the largest independent insurance brokers network, Assurex Global and also the Chairman of Asia Pacific Region (APAC) for over 11 years. He was invited to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) National Committee on Insurance and Pensions, to undertake constructive dialogue with the Government and the Regulators for the creation of a conducive regulatory environment for the growth of the Insurance and Pensions Sectors. He was also invited as the first Indian broker to speak and partner with the



“MR. BODA’S STRATEGIC VISION AND ABILITY TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN TAKING THE COMPANY TO NEW HEIGHTS. THE ORGANISATION, IN ITS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, IS CURRENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH OVER 550 INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE COMPANIES IN MORE THAN 90 COUNTRIES”



German Insurance Industry.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

In 2019, Mr. Boda was conferred with the CNA Award for being a valued partner and for showing excellence in International Solutions. He was also awarded the ‘Indian Achiever’s Award’ for Business Leadership in 2021. He has been featured in some of the finest publications in the insurance and business fraternity such as *Asia Insurance Review* and *Leader’s Edge Magazine*. He was also featured in the special ‘Collector’s Edition’ of the magazine *Passion Vista*.

All these industry awards and mentions only affirm his strengths as a leader and his dedication towards not only his business, but the whole industry.

Mr. Boda is also a committed philanthropist and has been a consistent supporter of many charitable institutions. The J.B. Boda Group has been a staunch supporter of the environment, and through the in-house CSR wing, has been contributing to the betterment of society since its inception.

TOWARDS AN EXCITING FUTURE

Mr. Boda’s vision for the Group is to become the preferred partner for various stakeholders across the board from clients, insurers, reinsurers, surveyors, and all stakeholders. In the near future, he sees consistent growth for the J.B. Boda Group. He is hoping to gain market share as they look into expanding the product offerings. The journey has truly just begun and with the ever-expanding product portfolio, the future is exciting for Mr. Boda and his team.

STANDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

Respect for others, professionalism, and fairness are at the heart of everything Mr. Boda does. Humility fosters authenticity and a never-ending desire to learn and Mr. Boda’s childhood was rife with these lessons in humility and being true to one’s virtues. These characteristics were the foundation of his personality and he has taken them with him throughout his professional journey. The values learned early on in life have resulted in better outcomes for him and his entire team.

Mr. Boda is a humble person who does not seek any recognition or fame for his good deeds. He believes that it is our duty to help others in need and he does so with a caring and thoughtful attitude. As a leader, he believes that he has a huge responsibility to the community and he takes it very seriously.

Leading A New Beginning

Dr. Mark Mabhudhu is a leader who needs no introduction in the mining and metallurgy industry. He has spent over three decades in the sector and has seen every possible growth phase. He has led several initiatives and spearheaded many prestigious projects. With his determination and hard work, he has managed to become an unquestionable leader in the industry. A learned scholar and a renowned name in the field of metallurgy, he is currently serving as the CEO of Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company Private Limited (ZCDC)

Dr. Mark Mabhudhu is a professional engineer armed with a B. Sc. (Hons) degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Zimbabwe. He has a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Studies (2000), an MBA from New Buckinghamshire Chilterns University (UK), and a Master of Philosophy (Information and Knowledge Management) degree (Stellenbosch, 2008). He is currently working on completing his DBA degree.

In addition, Dr. Mabhudhu holds a D. Eng. Metallurgical Engineering (Honoris Causa) from Commonwealth University in collaboration with the London Graduate School of Business (2022).

A professional with vast knowledge and rich experience, it is not possible to mention the global mining industry and not take his name. Dr. Mabhudhu has almost three decades of experience in this sector.

Most of his experience has been with new mining operations from inception, for example, Auridiam Zimbabwe Private Limited's River Ranch Diamond Mine, BHP Minerals Private Limited's Hartley Platinum, Diamond operations in Botswana, and the ZCDC's Chiadzwa Diamond Mines. He has also done significant work across the globe, in countries like Angola, DRC, and RSA on brownfield diamond projects across the diamond value chain as well as in countries like the UAE (Dubai), Belgium, England, Israel, India, and the USA.

Dr. Mabhudhu is one of the few diamonds industry leaders who have witnessed the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) develop from its foundation years in the early 2000's to its current form and state to date.

SETTING NEW BENCHMARKS

Dr. Mabhudhu was roped in as the new CEO at ZCDC in September 2020 with his tasks chalked out. The organisation was in a dire state financially, operations had stopped, and employees had gone for nearly seven months without being paid salaries. Dr. Mabhudhu was faced with the herculean task of getting the organisation back on its feet.

Under his aegis, ZCDC has now become one of those state-owned organisations that are performing extraordinarily well. It is his unwavering hard work that made the company exceed the diamond production targets by 300% – a clear demonstration of leading from the front. He also incorporated several new initiatives that further enhanced the business performance. A new-age state-of-the-art ore processing plant with remote security surveillance system that include drone surveillance technology, as well as integrated CCTV monitoring, resulted in zero security breaches and zero diamond pilferage incidents. These milestones resulted in ZCDC performing extraordinarily well in 2022 and all is set to achieve its targets for the coming years.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Mabhudhu has been recognised for his hard work many times. He won special recognition for outstanding optimism, patience, understanding, and bravery under stress at the Megafest National Business Awards in 2020. He was chosen the 'CEO of the Year' under multiple categories. He was also named 'Zimbabwe CEO's Network Outstanding Public Sector Leader and Outstanding Leader in Business.' In 2021,

he was also chosen the 'Outstanding CEO of the Year.' He has been featured in CEOs Network's Top 20 Outstanding Leaders in Business Category. These are just a few awards that Dr. Mabhudhu has won for his business ethics, professionalism, and vision.

LEADER OF THE PEOPLE

For the past three decades, Dr. Mabhudhu has been diligently serving in the mining industry. He has witnessed the industry going through different phases and has been an active part of the progress. As he grew in ranks, he found himself leading new projects and initiatives. He has seen many new projects from start to finish.

Dr. Mabhudhu believes that people management is the hallmark of successful organisational management. To him, a leader must excel in people management to achieve the desired goals. One of his key differentiating skills as a leader is also people management. As a CEO, the biggest challenge one can face is to bring in the right talent to the organisation, and this Dr. Mabhudhu has overcome through people management. He has in fact excelled in this department and that is attested by the resounding success of the organisation.

Dr. Mabhudhu's communication style is open and transparent. He thrives on making sure that the employee base fully understands where the organisation wants to go in terms of its vision and aspiration. He ensures he has a solid relationship with his colleagues and employees. As a CEO, he does everything to ensure he is approachable, and every team member, regardless of their level in the



organisation, finds him accessible. Sound decision-making capacity is one of the most coveted skills for any leader, and Dr. Mabhudhu believes that he has brought that successfully to ZCDC. Through his distinct leadership style, he brings maturity, stability, and overall positivity to the whole organisation.

WORKING FOR THE GREATER GOOD

Dr. Mabhudhu has an insatiable drive to fulfil his goals. He derives inspiration from people who achieve success through sheer hard work, innovation, and commitment to the cause. In his case, his cause is not only a successful business, but also improving the quality of life of the general population. He has charted out his path for himself where he leads various initiatives that result in the greater good of society and not just the business.

At a personal level, although bound by the limitation of resources, Dr. Mabhudhu has been a part of many initiatives to assist schools in the areas where he went for his primary and secondary education. His other social initiatives have included equipping schools with building materials to fix dilapidated classroom blocks and joining up with old classmates to purchase COVID-19 related materials for school children in affected schools. Such initiatives might be modest but they touched the hearts of many.

Dr. Mabhudhu also leads numerous initiatives at ZCDC for the long-term benefit of the communities in which the company does business. He believes it is the responsibility of the organisation to take great care of these communities. His approach is to make sure that as a company ZCDC is unflinchingly focused on community empowerment initiatives.

These initiatives include local enterprise development, health, education, infrastructural development, and general care for the disadvantaged. Under his leadership, the company has committed up to 10% of its revenue to community development initiatives. As a company, ZCDC has also developed a community-based consumables buying framework whereupon all their edibles are sourced locally. This has created a co-existing ecosystem where even the local businesses benefit from the big companies.

Dr. Mabhudhu envisions a great future for ZCDC Pvt. Ltd, where it emerges as a world-class diamond producer for the long-term benefit of the nation, and he is right on the path to achieving this goal.

“DR. MABHUDHU HAS BEEN A PART OF MANY INITIATIVES TO ASSIST SCHOOLS. HE HAS EQUIPPED SCHOOLS WITH BUILDING MATERIALS TO FIX DILAPIDATED CLASSROOM BLOCKS AND PURCHASE COVID-19 RELATED MATERIALS FOR CHILDREN IN AFFECTED SCHOOLS”

Creating His Own Story

Mr. Lal Abdul Salam is an inspiration to many. Hailing from a small village in Kollam, Kerala, he has come a long way. As the CEO and Managing Director of Smithline Composites, he leads many new innovative business practices. Mr. Salam is passionate about building an equitable, sustainable community, and is working diligently for it. His efforts and passion have been recognised many times all over the industry. His new-age initiatives are also a testament to the fact that every entrepreneur has to move with the times

Mr. Lal Abdul Salam is a great example of how hard work and patience can take you places. He is an accomplished entrepreneur who has carved a niche for himself and paved the way for others as well.

Hailing from the quaint village of Kannanallur in Kollam, Kerala, Mr. Salam attained a B.Tech in Chemical Engineering from TKM College of Engineering, Kollam. After completing his education, he began his professional journey in Kerala. He started at the bottom-most rung as a Junior Engineer at Kerala State Pollution Board and after gaining four years of work experience, he moved to Abu Dhabi to work as a Sales Engineer at Testron International.

In the UAE, Mr. Salam moved gradually up the ladder and worked at many organisations. One of the longest stints of his career was at the Abu Dhabi Pipe Factory where he spent around 14 years. This experience was vital in shaping the next decade of his career. At present, he is the CEO and Managing Director of Smithline Reinforced Composites in Ras Al Khaimah. Smithline is an industry leader in fiberglass pipes and fittings, and his previous experience have earned him a coveted role in the company. His role has been instrumental in the company's growth.

Mr. Salam brings a certain uniqueness to the table and that's what makes him different from other leaders. He believes that a team that works together and is on the same page is better positioned than others to grow. This is the reason he always believes in taking his co-workers into confidence for any field of application that he might be planning. He has successfully

developed a new technology of composite pipe manufacturing with topology concepts, which are indeed adding great value in upholding technological changes for the future. Under corporate social responsibility (CSR), he diversified business activities by implementing proper waste management. He also created an innovative new methodology for manufacturing non-metallic as an alternative to the metallic product, which reduces the carbon footprint to half.

Another important trait that has taken Mr. Salam places is his honesty and uprightness. He has worked as an employee for over two decades and learned a lot of lessons along the way. The most important lesson has been gaining the trust and confidence of clients and co-workers. He has held these virtues in the highest place and it has helped him carve a name for himself in the industry.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Mr. Salam and his efforts as a virtuous entrepreneur have been recognised in the industry many times. Under his vision, Smithline has been honoured by the Abu Dhabi Municipality and chosen to be a part of the team of the 2030 vision of Abu Dhabi. They are also a part of the Green Energy Team of Sharjah Electricity and Water.

The manufacturing methodology that Mr. Salam has pioneered at Smithline has won many accolades, including a mention in the *JEC Composite Magazine* – a world-renowned composite industry publication. He was named the 'Best Businessman 2022' at the World Wide Achievers Forum conducted by the Global Media Hub in the

UAE. In 2022, he won the Master Vision International Excellence Award, and the prestigious Golden Achievement Award held in Dubai in association with the Kerala Chamber of Commerce & Industry, presenting a strong testimony of his leadership skills and vision for the industry.

A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE LEADER

The underlying idea behind all of Mr. Salam's endeavours has been to create an ecosystem that is sustainable and does not compromise on the needs of the current or future generations. "To meet the needs of the present generations without compromising the needs of the future generations," has been the motto and vision that leads all his initiatives. He has always tried to follow the principle of 'Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle' while creating new technologies and solutions for manufacturing.

Some other ways in which Mr. Salam has made a social impact is by playing an active role in building an inclusive society. He ensures diversity in the workforce, works with local communities as much as possible, and takes appropriate measures to reduce the environmental impact of the industry. He has worked diligently to implement a sustainability practice at Smithline Composites in a way that it has managed to significantly reduce its carbon emissions.

"To improve the quality of life of the community we serve has been our motto," he shares. During the COVID-19 outbreak, he and his team optimised the use of resources, lowered the cost of operations, and increased employee productivity. The strategy not only created an increased



“MR. SALAM HAS MADE A SOCIAL IMPACT BY PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY. HE ENSURES DIVERSITY IN THE WORKFORCE, WORKS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND TAKES APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE INDUSTRY”



investor interest and a subsequent rise in the output, but also led to the kind of corporate governance Mr. Salam had tried to introduce.

The sustainability practice involved reducing emissions and creating value from waste, which proved to help the business overall and not only the environment. His multi-pronged approach has always been appreciated by the business community. Today, Mr. Salam is known for his far-sightedness and vision for overall growth and prosperity for everyone.

ON THE PATH FOR FUTURE GROWTH

Mr. Salam is passionate about what he does and he wants to take it forward with a certain zeal. He envisions an even stronger business that faces the competition head-on and gets the better of them. He wants to build a resilient business that achieves superior returns without compromising on quality or client satisfaction.

In terms of business, Mr. Salam is looking to build a sustainable future. He wants to achieve this by gradually transitioning from metallic to non-metallic composites all to be in line with international standards. This approach will help him build the sustainability that he wants. The non-metallic composites offer more durability than the metallic composites, and are better for the environment, as they reduce the company's carbon footprint, all at lower operational cost.

The attention to detail in Mr. Salam's business plans is a clear demonstration of his passion as an entrepreneur and substantiates the fact that he has a very lucid vision not only for his business, but also for the community. His futuristic bent of mind is laudable and so is his commitment to the business.

AN ARDENT BELIEVER OF WORK-LIFE INTEGRATION

As the Sun sets, Mr. Salam is just another homebody who likes to spend time with his wife and two children. Leaders like him who are grounded in their roots are inspirational for all budding entrepreneurs. He proves that patience, determination, and an eye-on-the-goal attitude are all non-negotiable for eventual success in any field.

Mr. Salam's new-age initiatives are also a testament to the fact that every entrepreneur has to move with the times. Embracing technology and building something beneficial for the whole community is not only a goal, but at times a responsibility for large business owners. His efforts to build a sustainable future are truly commendable.

Leaving A Lasting Legacy

Mr. Ronald Colaco, the Managing Director of Clarks Exotica Convention Resort & Spa, is an NRI businessman based in Dubai. He is also a renowned philanthropist known for renovating important community structures such as churches, police stations, mosques, and schools. A firm believer of selfless service, Ronald has demonstrated his belief in the importance of investing in the future of our communities. A beacon of light and hope for those in need, he is also an inspiration for those who want to lead a more fulfilling life

Ronald's ancestors originally hailed from Moodbidri in Mangaluru taluk of Karnataka. Starting as an accountant, he has demonstrated his exceptional skills and hard work, rising through the ranks to become the Head of Accounts and Administration, and finally, the Financial Controller. His dedication and passion for the field have earned him a reputation as a talented and experienced professional, and his contributions to the industry are truly commendable. The well-versed leader was also appointed as the CEO of a consortium comprising three multinational corporations: CCICL (based in Athens, Greece), Mannesmann (based in Germany), and Saipem (based in Milan, Italy). The consortium is involved in turnkey projects such as building petro-refineries, gas processing and re-injection plants, townships, and airports.

Gradually, Ronald leveraged his extensive experience from his previous positions to establish himself as an entrepreneur. Since then, he has registered continuous success in his venture through his strong business acumen, hard work, commitment and disciplined approach.

A VISIONARY

Ronald's relentless passion and dedication to his vision have been exemplary, and his achievements are a testament to his hard work and determination. The ambitious leader has consistently demonstrated an unwavering determination to reach the highest peaks in his career. He works tirelessly to make Clarks Exotica one of India's most celebrated hospitality hubs today. Known for his sharp intellect and

desire to continue learning, he is highly respected among his peers, who recognise him as an innovator and leader, always striving to better himself and others.

A PEOPLE PERSON

Ronald's success and commitment to helping others have been apparent in his professional and personal life. As a people person, he takes special care of the staff at Clark and maintains a cordial relationship with them. He respects their ideas and treats them like family. He goes out of his way to ensure everyone is cared for. He takes the time to get to know everyone and their needs, wants, and opinions. He also makes sure to give them the time, respect, and appreciation they deserve.

Ronald prioritises skills development as it can enhance the earning potential of individuals. Over the years, he has contributed Rs. 1 million per year and, lately, Rs. 0.5 million, to conduct skill development workshops and training sessions for the youth of Karnataka under the Karnataka Regional Youth Commission. He has also provided the youth of the state with invaluable support in helping them to access the resources they need for their career growth. Additionally, the socially aware leader regularly makes financial contributions to encourage minority community youth to participate in political and administrative exams.

HIS INSPIRATION

Ronald cites his father, Febian Colaco, as a significant source of inspiration in his journey as a philanthropist. Febian Colaco was known for his selfless acts of kindness

towards the poor and needy, and it was through his example that young Ronald learned the importance of giving back to society.

Through his noble efforts, Ronald has honoured his father's legacy and has helped to build stronger and more vibrant communities. Ronald's wife, Jean, has also been an excellent source of support and inspiration in his journey as a philanthropist. She constantly keeps him focused on his goal of making a positive difference in people's lives. He says, "Having a supportive partner like Jean has been instrumental in helping me stay committed to my endeavours. Her unwavering support and encouragement have been a source of strength for me."

LEADING WITH HEART

Ronald's generosity has endeared him to many people around the world. He has been actively involved in various charitable and philanthropic activities and has demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting socio-cultural, educational and health initiatives, among other causes. By doing so, he has become a role model for others and has helped to create a better world for those in need. His charitable works include furnishing a 5000x3000-square-foot police station in Frazer Town, Bengaluru. In addition, he has built an ultra-modern building near Bangalore International Airport for lawyers.

His other noteworthy initiatives include setting up a fully equipped taluk office in Devanahalli and providing furniture for the Mini Vidhana Soudha near Bangalore International Airport. He also took the initiative to complete a half-built and



abandoned Kannamangala Gram Panchayat Building and the Jalige Panchayat Building.

Ronald's philanthropic activities have not been limited by considerations such as caste, creed, race, religion, or language. He has helped people and organisations in need, regardless of their background. His inclusive approach to giving has earned him widespread respect and recognition, and set an example for others. His efforts to give back to society have positively impacted and inspired other corporations and multinational companies to take on their corporate social responsibility. His efforts will be remembered for generations to come, inspiring others to strive for excellence and the betterment of their communities.

REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ronald has been awarded multiple national and international accolades for his philanthropic and charitable efforts. London's World Book of Records recently awarded him a Certificate of Excellence for his contributions to social and philanthropic causes. This recognition was conferred on him for providing infrastructure support to the Karnataka government for the welfare of society. During the Indo-UK Leadership Summit, the Certificate of Excellence was announced under UID 00318 in September 2022 in the House of Commons of the British Parliament, London.

He was conferred Professional Doctorate Certificate in Global Leadership and Management by the 75th World Ranking European International University of Paris, France, on 21st December 2020, and was awarded the NRI of the Year 2018 by Times Group in Mumbai.

The compassionate leader was also honoured with the "2015 International Recognition Award for Leadership in Service Excellence" from the Office of the Prime Minister of Australia through the CSIA. This award was given at the Australian Service Excellence award ceremony held in Melbourne in 2015. Ronald was the only person selected for the prestigious award from 80 countries.

Ronald also joined the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, for breakfast at the Washington Hilton, Washington DC, twice in 2017 and 2018. He was among the specially chosen delegates from over 140 countries. The humble leader felt privileged to be chosen to represent his country among the other delegates from around the world.

"RONALD'S PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES HAVE NOT BEEN LIMITED BY CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS CASTE, CREED, RACE, RELIGION, OR LANGUAGE. HE HAS HELPED PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS IN NEED, REGARDLESS OF THEIR BACKGROUND. HIS INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO GIVING HAS EARNED HIM WIDESPREAD RESPECT"

Committed to Excellence

Mr. VSN Raju, the Director and CEO of Coempt EduTeck Pvt. Ltd., (COEMPT), a renowned technology solutions provider in the learning and examination sector, possesses over two decades of experience in sales, marketing, and operations. His astute business acumen has propelled the company to a prominent position nationwide. With a strong foundation in business management and a penchant for technology and innovation, Mr. Raju is recognised as a visionary leader. His comprehensive industry knowledge and academic background make him an invaluable asset to the organisation

Hailing from a humble background of agriculturists, Mr. VSN Raju draws profound inspiration from the indomitable spirit of farmers. Witnessing their relentless dedication, optimism, and commitment to providing the best for their families and communities has profoundly shaped his values and approach to life and work. Drawing from these intrinsic values, he strives for excellence, maintains resilience during challenging times, and prioritises quality in all endeavours.

Leveraging his profound industry knowledge and academic background, Mr. Raju has successfully undertaken numerous large-scale turnkey projects aimed at enhancing teaching, learning, and examination processes within major educational institutions. These initiatives have been instrumental in empowering these institutions to adopt transparent governance practices for benefitting key stakeholders, including teachers, students, and parents.

Under his sterling leadership, COEMPT's unparalleled solutions have made a substantial impact, reaching over 2,500 education institutions, including prestigious government universities and educational departments. Through its innovative offerings, the company has

positively influenced the lives of over 5 million students.

CAREER MILESTONES

As an accomplished Engineer, Mr. Raju has accumulated extensive experience collaborating with leading industries, esteemed academicians, and renowned universities. As a frontrunner in his profession, he has spearheaded the creation of outcome-driven teaching, examination and assessment solutions. With his expertise, he has successfully conceptualised, designed, and implemented technical courseware and technology-enabled examination solutions.

Furthermore, as the driving force behind the 'Nation First Program,' the leader has empowered many engineering students to assess their academic and non-academic skills, discover their career potential, and facilitated job placements for specially abled individuals through the 'Employment Generation Program.'

A trailblazer in his field, Mr. Raju has received accolades and embraced diverse roles along his professional journey. Presently serving as the visionary Director and CEO of Coempt EduTeck Pvt. Ltd., he relentlessly propels the company's triumphs and pioneers groundbreaking

endeavours in the realm of education technology related to examinations. The goal-driven leader envisions fostering innovation through the infusion of Artificial Intelligence in COEMPT's ingenious products and solutions. Coupled with the company's zeal for scalability via the SAAS model, the move will empower it to transcend boundaries and become a pioneer in the domain of examination services.

With a strong portfolio of more than 10 large clients, COEMPT efficiently processes over 15 million answer-books annually through its technology-enabled examination solutions. With a remarkable track record of 23 years, it has amassed extensive experience and expertise. Its operations and projects are skillfully managed by a team of highly competent techno-commercial professionals, collectively boasting an impressive cumulative experience of over 500 man years.

QUICK TO EMBRACE CHANGE

During the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Raju displayed remarkable adaptability and responded promptly to the market's changing needs. Presently, he is leading the organisation to direct



“MR. VSN RAJU IS DEDICATED TO EMBRACING SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN PRACTICES, FORGING PARTNERSHIPS WITH SUPPLIERS WHO SHARE THIS COMMITMENT. REGULAR WORKSHOPS ARE ALSO CONDUCTED TO RAISE EMPLOYEE AWARENESS REGARDING RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS”

its efforts towards the facilitation of its state-of-the-art end-to-end examination platforms, OneX and Onmark that offer a comprehensive suite of modules for every aspect of seamless examination procedures.

The visionary believes in the power of technology interventions as game-changers in modern, outcome-based education, and upholding transparency, ethics, and honesty in all his interactions. His resolute commitment to innovation, creativity, risk-taking, and bold thinking has played a vital role in taking his company to new heights.

COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY

Mr. Raju recognises sustainability as a defining element in the process of evolution, particularly in light of mounting concerns surrounding climate change and environmental degradation. He emphasises the importance of integrating sustainability into daily life practices and making conscious efforts to preserve the environment, ensuring responsible resource management for the betterment of future generations. According to him, sustainability starts at the individual and community level, manifesting in diverse forms such as reducing the use of single-use items, embracing eco-friendly transportation options, sourcing locally produced food, and practising sensible waste management. Similarly, in the workplace, sustainability can be promoted through energy-efficient practices, reducing paper consumption, and implementing recycling programs.

He and his team are dedicated to embracing sustainable supply chain practices, forging partnerships with suppliers who share a commitment to sustainability goals. Regular workshops are also conducted to raise employee awareness regarding relevant laws and regulations. The ecologically conscious leader strives to create a culture where sustainability is ingrained in every aspect of work, ensuring a brighter future for all.

A compassionate leader, Mr. Raju has taken on the responsibility of sponsoring a government school. He has also facilitated the provision of necessary educational resources, including contemporary digital learning materials and computer systems. Moreover, he has prioritised the professional development of the teachers by training them in modern pedagogical techniques.

A Force to Reckon With

Mr. Biswanath Patnaik, a global Indian investor, is the Founder of the FinNest Group UK— an early-stage private equity investment firm. With a wealth of experience as a serial entrepreneur, investment banker, legal counsel, and philanthropist, he has carved a niche for himself as a true visionary. His business interests span a dizzying array of sectors, from finance and healthcare to start-ups, renewable energy, real estate, home appliances, fintech, manufacturing, and beyond. He has made it his mission to invest in the most promising and game-changing ideas around the world

Mr. Biswanath Patnaik's unwavering dedication to academic excellence is a true reflection of his limitless potential. His fascination with the world of business and finance began at a young age and has continued to grow. In 1997, he embarked on his academic journey by graduating with a degree in Economics from Utkal University in Bhubaneswar, Odisha (India). Two years later, he obtained an MBA from the university, cementing his reputation as a scholar and a leader. Determined to broaden his horizons further, he went on to pursue a degree in Law from Arunoday University, New Delhi.

UNIQUE LEADERSHIP STYLE

Mr. Patnaik's leadership style is nothing short of extraordinary. Drawing on his wealth of experience, he embodies a unique combination of transformational, charismatic, participative, and entrepreneurial leadership qualities, which enables him to inspire and motivate others to reach their full potential. As a firm believer in the power of mentorship and guidance, he is committed to nurturing young leaders and fostering a culture of innovation and creativity. He encourages new initiatives, trusts in delegation, promotes teamwork, and provides incessant support to ensure that his team

is empowered and motivated to achieve their goals.

The leader believes that a skilled leader acknowledges the significance of celebrating individual differences and has the flair to synergise those distinctions to derive the finest results from the team. This approach fosters a culture of ceaseless enhancement, originality, and go-getting in the workplace.

A MULTITASKER

Mr. Patnaik's impressive investment portfolio extends well beyond his home country of India, as he has strategically acquired controlling stakes in a diverse array of companies located in key global markets such as London, Warsaw, Zurich, Singapore, the UAE, Mauritius, and Ghana. As a member of the board in several sectors, including publicly-traded stock exchange listed companies, he brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his role. In addition, his position as Director of the Afrinex Clearing House, a prominent stock exchange in Mauritius, underscores his reputation as a astute investor and financier. He is currently spearheading an ambitious expansion strategy that will bring these companies into new markets across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the GCC region, Japan, Switzerland, and the

United Kingdom.

CUSTOMERS COME FIRST

Mr. Patnaik emphasises the importance of customer-centricity to all members of the organisation, urging them to continually seek ways to provide greater value to their customers. He holds the belief that highly satisfied customers are instrumental in attracting new customers, generating repeat business, and driving up revenue and profits.

The leader draws inspiration from multiple sources, including Lord Jagannath, his family, and the renowned financial expert Warren Buffett. Emulating Warren's philosophy, he acknowledges that in the world of investing, there are no predetermined limitations, but only obstacles that arise when one fails to take action. When investing in a company, he scrutinises its annual reports, observing its progress and strategic outlook. He carries out a comprehensive investigation and executes decisions with great caution and deliberation, preferring a less frequent trading approach.

A BENEVOLENT LEADER

Mr. Patnaik is highly regarded for his charitable contributions across domains, from education and healthcare, to the



“HE DOES NOT PLACE HIS TRUST IN BUSINESSES THAT RELY SOLELY ON THE EXCEPTIONAL ABILITIES OF INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES, NOR DOES HE SUBSCRIBE TO THE BELIEF THAT A TEAM OF OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS CAN COMPENSATE FOR THE INADEQUACIES OF A POORLY MANAGED BUSINESS”

welfare of underprivileged girls. His most notable contributions include a substantial donation towards building a five-storey hostel for underprivileged girls, Shrimati Mamata Devi Chatrawas. He sponsors the education of 500 underprivileged girls, empowering them with vocational and nursing skills.

He also serves as the Chairman of the International Committee of Social Action Foundation, a Delhi-based NGO committed to advancing social causes, and contributes to religious institutions, such as the Swaminarayan BAPS Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi, the Vishv Umiya Mata Temple in Gujarat, the Shree Jagannatha Temple in London, and the Iskcon Temple in Mauritius.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Mr. Patnaik's entrepreneurial acumen and investment prowess have earned him several accolades and recognitions, such as the prestigious Economic Times Award for Best Investment Banking in 2022. His commitment to social causes has also led to awards, including the esteemed 'Mahatma Gandhi Samman' conferred upon him at the House of Commons, British Parliament, Westminster, London.

His impressive feats have been highlighted in various top-tier international publications, earning him a spot in the esteemed '10 Unstoppable Business Leaders' of 2022 and recognition in the Forbes Achiever's World. Also, he was bestowed with the 'Pride of the Nation' award in the Emerging Investment Banking category. His achievements have also been lauded in the esteemed chambers of the UK Parliament multiple times.

A Fintech Success Story

Dr. Nikhilesh Tiwari started Spay India in 2018. While the market was mature with multiple players in the race, Mr. Tiwari had a niche that he wanted to cater to. He wanted to focus on the underserved. Spay India is focused on bringing customised solutions to the rural market. Through his venture, Dr. Tiwari has made efforts towards accomplishing an equilibrium in the mobile payments' sector and helping the rural population enjoy the perks of going cashless. He now wants to expand Spay's reach to every Indian city, town, and village

Dr. Tiwari was born and brought up in Lucknow. He came to Delhi as a dreamy-eyed boy who wanted to make it big. While he did have large ambitions, he also always remained grounded.

During his professional journey, Dr. Tiwari worked with several big brands such as M-Pesa (by Vodafone) and Suvidha Infoserve – another fintech company – as a sales professional. In these stints, he gained an unmatched perspective of the market and where the gaps lay. Working directly with retailers made him aware of the market from the inside out. He had many ideas on how the trade could be made better for both customers and retailers and that is how the idea of his own company was seeded in his mind.

Dr. Tiwari knew that the market was already crowded with many fintech companies, but he had something in mind that was not done before. He waited a few years till the market was ready for what he was proposing. He continued to work at many leading brands for 15 years and after that, he finally took a plunge into entrepreneurship to start Spay India.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

A man of few words, Dr. Tiwari focused all his energies into building Spay India. He waited for the market to be fully digitized and online payments to be mainstream and then began building his dream venture. Dr. Tiwari along with his co-founder Mr. Sunil Dhawan started building Spay India with a common aspiration – to be the best service provider in the fintech industry.

As the market was rife with many different

players, each offering its own distinguished services, Dr. Tiwari built a clear strategy for Spay India. He decided to focus on the migrant population and other underserved sections of the economy. Spay India is built on the premise that it will cater to this audience and offer innovative solutions that will benefit them.

Many people in the country's lower middle and lower class are unbanked. Spay India enables money transfers to these people. It has built a massive network of distributors, working at a community level and not depending entirely on technology to improve their financial condition.

Over time Spay India has added many such solutions that have made life easier for the underserved sections. Its range of services includes money transfers, Aadhar-enabled payment systems, utility bill payments, travel, recharge, and insurance, to name a few.

Since the beginning, Dr. Tiwari has followed one principle, which is to offer services where customers need them, when they need and in whatever manner they need them. All his solutions have been designed with the customer in mind and with an aim to make their lives simpler.

Dr. Tiwari put all lessons learned as an employee to good use when he became an entrepreneur. He saw a lot of gaps in the trade in his days as a salesperson and with Spay India he decided to work on those. At Spay, he trained his team to understand the consumer's language and recognise what the retailers want. There is a certain balance that he wanted to create in the market with Spay.

With his vast knowledge of the trade, the

entrepreneur has managed to build a strong network of agents and merchants spread far and wide in rural areas and who are all working to provide a seamless experience to all Spay customers.

Dr. Tiwari's biggest strength is his undeterred focus and his unwavering dedication to his goals. As a leader, he stands out as he is using his venture to bring about change. For him, Spay India has always been about bringing financial inclusion to the people who have been ignored thus far. This is clearly indicated in the kind of services he has been offering over the years, such as micro-ATMs, domestic money transfers, PoS, and more.

MARCHING AHEAD

Under Dr. Tiwari's perceptive leadership, Spay India has grown to be an award-winning fintech company with incredible success. Even during the pandemic when most businesses suffered the wrath of an unprecedented global shutdown, the entrepreneur managed to stay afloat without any layoffs and continued steady growth.

Under his leadership, Spay India has grown to become one of India's fastest-growing fintech companies. It boasts of a strong national presence with more than 25,000 branches which has enabled it to reach a coveted milestone of over Rs. 1,000 crore in transactions on a monthly basis. In just a few years, Spay India has become one of the 'Top 10 Fintech Companies of India' in a list curated by the business publication *CIO Insights*.

Till last year, the company had already served over 16 million customers and



“INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT ARE AHEAD OF THE CURVE, A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE CUSTOMER, AND LISTENING INTENTLY TO WHAT THEY WANT HAVE BEEN THE REASONS FOR THE UNMATCHED SUCCESS OF MR. TIWARI AND HIS VENTURE SPAY INDIA”



crossed an annual revenue of Rs. 100 crore; this is a strong testimony to its hold on the market.

The main reason that this growth can be attributed to is the determination and vision of Dr. Tiwari. He has ensured that every transaction is smooth and gives an excellent customer experience. Innovative solutions that are ahead of the curve, a deep understanding of the customer, and listening intently to what they want has been the reason for the unmatched success of Dr. Tiwari and his venture Spay India.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Tiwari's zealous leadership has gotten Spay India to the big leagues in just a few years of inception. Under his leadership, the company has achieved multiple milestones. Apart from being named as one of the Top 10 Fintech Companies, Spay India was also included in the Top 20 BFSI Companies for the years 2021-22 by *CEO Magazine*.

Dr. Tiwari, on the other hand, has been named in the 'Top 40 Under 40 Leaders' by the Times Group and 'Most Iconic CEO of the Year' by *Mid-Day* magazine in Dubai. The Founder and CEO of Spay India was also awarded as the Young and Dynamic Fintech Entrepreneur of the Year at India Iconic Awards 2021-22. His commitment to financial inclusion has earned him an undisputable top spot in the fintech industry.

A first-generation entrepreneur, with no background in business or any extravagant degrees, Dr. Tiwari has managed to make a dent in a crowded sector only with the help of his honest work and determination. He might have seemed like an underdog in the beginning, but he has managed to turn things around and how.

For him, the journey has just begun. Dr. Tiwari and his team are looking at a bright and action-packed future for Spay India. They have lots of plans and new ideas in their pockets to make Spay India one of the most renowned names in the fintech industry. For now, Dr. Tiwari wants to expand Spay's reach to every corner of India's tier 4 and 5 cities, towns, and rural areas. He wants to build a network of millions of exclusive stores – each of them operating as a mini bank for his customers.

This may sound far-fetched now, but every novel idea is just an idea before it becomes a reality. A dream takes shape and with persistent hard work and grit, it is transformed into a reality. Dr. Tiwari's vision is clear and he has been charting his own route to success.

Riding The Wave

Dr. Vijay Goverdhandas Kalantri, the Chairman of MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, is a seasoned, versatile and eminent business magnate who has made remarkable strides across domains, from industry and trade promotion, infrastructure development, growth acceleration in micro, small, and medium enterprises, provision of financial services, to expansion of Indian businesses on a global scale. His visionary leadership skills are evident from his exceptional collaborations with governments in India and beyond to facilitate trade and commerce

The success saga of Dr. Vijay Kalantri is nothing short of inspiring. Despite being a first-generation entrepreneur, his boundless energy and entrepreneurial drive have enabled him to diversify his business portfolio from power projects and textiles to port development and logistics. His innovative business acumen has allowed him to revitalise the financial position of WTC Mumbai, and optimise the use of its resources and channel them towards trade promotion and corporate social responsibility.

A GROWTH-DRIVEN LEADER

Under Dr. Kalantri's guidance, WTC Mumbai, established in 1970, has emerged as a pivotal trade support centre, offering a range of multifaceted trade facilities and services to businesses. His strategic vision and tireless efforts have led to the establishment of WTCs in various regions of the country, including Goa, Jaipur, and Bhubaneswar. Furthermore, through his thoughtful insights and expert guidance, many other WTCs in India have flourished, with 37 centres now spanning the length and breadth of the nation.

With his adeptness in various domains such as business management, public

speaking, networking, trade promotion, team building, and strategic thinking, he has demonstrated remarkable leadership as the helmsman of WTC Mumbai, steering the organisation towards the attainment of its mission and vision. From his formative years, he has ardently championed the advancement of trade and industry, evident from his affiliations with numerous industry associations and bilateral chambers of commerce, and his successful businesses.

Dr. Kalantri's exceptional leadership has not only helped promote trade and commerce in the country, but also helped India establish its position as a major player in the global business arena. His invaluable aptitude in networking and economic diplomacy has been instrumental in transforming WTC Mumbai into a preeminent enabler of India's international trade, with robust connections to diplomatic missions, chambers of commerce, multilateral organisations, and other like-minded global entities. With his strategic acuity, he has adeptly steered discussions and shaped decisions on the board of WTC Association (WTCA), New York, and expanded the WTC brand across new frontiers. He has repeatedly been elected

as Director on the board of WTCA, New York, a testament to his hard work and visionary leadership. Dr. Kalantri's visionary initiatives have facilitated India's trade relationship with Poland, Uzbekistan, Latin America, CIS countries, and the European Union.

Dr. Kalantri also places a strong emphasis on fostering innovation, cultivating creativity, and promoting skill development by organising various events, workshops, and personalised guidance for industries. This approach is aimed at empowering businesses to adapt to the rapidly-evolving trends and technological advancements while ensuring sustainability.

DONNING MULTIPLE HATS

Dr. Kalantri also serves as the President of the All India Association of Industries, the promoter of Dighi Port Ltd., which is Maharashtra's pioneering private sector port, and port-based Special Economic Zone. He is associated with the Indian Council of Foreign Trade and the Indo-Polish Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and is a member of many Reserve Bank of India committees. His contributions to international business bodies such as the International Labor Organization and



“IN 2014, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CONFERRED UPON DR. VIJAY KALANTRI THE PRESTIGIOUS ‘PUSHKIN AWARD.’ IN 2005, THE GOVERNMENT OF POLAND BESTOWED UPON HIM THE HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOUR, THE ‘COMMANDER CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT,’ FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE”

UNIDO-India Industries Council deserve a special mention.

A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE LEADER

Under Dr. Kalantri's leadership, WTC Mumbai has made significant strides towards adopting sustainable practices and reducing its carbon footprint. His strong commitment to sustainable development has led to the establishment of the M Visvesvaraya Center of Excellence for Business Acceleration and Skill Development, which supports MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, and start-ups to enhance their global competitiveness and provide skilling programs for the economically weaker sections of society.

Under his sterling leadership, WTC Mumbai conducts regular research on emerging trade opportunities and geopolitical developments. It maintains a close bond with its members to understand their challenges and aspirations. It also maintains dynamic government relations to facilitate ease of doing business and coordinate with state governments to provide localised solutions to the industry.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Dr. Kalantri's tireless commitment to excellence has earned WTC Mumbai the coveted “Premier Accreditation” by the WTCA, New York, for its outstanding business services and facilities in 2022. Throughout his illustrious career, he has been a leading advocate for social welfare and has earned recognition from both private institutions and government bodies for his outstanding contributions. In 2014, the Russian Federation conferred upon him the prestigious ‘Pushkin Award.’ In 2005, the Government of Poland bestowed upon him the highest civilian honour, the ‘Commander Cross of the Order of Merit,’ for his exceptional service.

Ahead of The Game

Mr. K Madhavan is the Managing Director of LPFLEX – a globally renowned technology-enabled branding and retail marketing solutions company based in Dubai. Over the years, he has demonstrated exceptional business acumen, guiding the company towards unprecedented levels of innovation and distinction. His journey from a small village to the upper echelons of the professional world is a testament to his tenacity and dedication to his profession. His expertise and proficiency make him a paragon of leadership, revered by his colleagues and competitors alike

From humble beginnings in an agricultural family in Kankol in the Kannur district of Kerala, Madhavan's journey to success is nothing short of remarkable. He embarked on his professional journey in 1988 in the electronics industry, followed by becoming the Managing Director of TULEC in Adyar, Chennai, laying the foundation for his illustrious career in the corporate world. His association with LPFLEX dates back to 2005 when he joined the company as a Network Partner. In 2011, he became its first Indian employee, thereby carving a niche for himself in the German company's legacy.

EXPANSION STRATEGY

Madhavan's passion for excellence and commitment to providing cutting-edge solutions has established LPFLEX as a reliable partner for clients worldwide. Under his able stewardship, the company has emerged as a formidable brand, catering to diverse clientele across the globe. It boasts an extensive portfolio of products and solutions that encompass a broad range of capabilities, including design and engineering, and caters to diverse industries such as retail, education, entertainment, advertising, oil and gas, hospitality, infrastructure,

shopping malls, real estate, corporates, communities, government, and the service sector. Widely acknowledged for their unparalleled quality, its products, coupled with innovative branding solutions, have made a significant impact in over 100 countries.

Madhavan's vision and exemplary leadership skills were instrumental in establishing LPFLEX MENA and India regional offices and manufacturing facilities, which strengthened the company's foothold in the global market. He is now setting his sights on expanding these facilities in key strategic locations such as KSA, India and Dubai. The move is aimed at keeping pace with the growing demand for digital, retail and lighting solutions, and bolstering the company's bottom line. It is also a testament to his visionary approach, as he seeks to multiply the company's turnover in 2023 by leveraging the burgeoning demand for sustainable, renewable energy-aligned products that showcase latest technology advancements.

A TECH-SAVVY LEADER

Madhavan has fostered a work environment that welcomes and cultivates innovation, sparking a new era of cutting-edge technological advancements at

his company. Under his guidance, the team is exploring uncharted territories, blending hardware with the cutting-edge technology of AI and VR, to offer clients the latest and greatest solutions.

To the leader, the key to any successful business is the ability to adapt to new technologies and changing market conditions. He says, "The market moves at an accelerated pace, and to remain globally competitive, we must accelerate even faster by strategically embracing the latest technology and adapting to the ever-changing landscape."

He also believes in placing customers at the forefront. To him, his company's distinguishing achievement lies in its ability to cultivate customer loyalty spanning decades. He believes that in the service industry, the retention of clients is paramount, and this is only achievable by upholding exceptional standards of quality, steadfast delivery commitments, and top-notch after-sales support.

A HUMBLE INDIVIDUAL

Madhavan is a true embodiment of humility and grace. He attributes his success to the dedication of over 350 team members who provide 24/7 after-sales and online support to the company's global clientele. It is his spirit



“THE MARKET MOVES AT AN ACCELERATED PACE, AND TO REMAIN GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE, WE MUST ACCELERATE EVEN FASTER BY STRATEGICALLY EMBRACING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND ADAPTING TO THE EVER-CHANGING LANDSCAPE”

of teamwork and collaboration that has been driving LPFLEX towards new frontiers of innovation and excellence. He holds the visionary Steve Jobs in high esteem and embraces his ethos that “extraordinary accomplishments in business are never the result of a solitary individual, but rather the concerted effort of a dynamic team.”

Reflecting on his career highpoint, he identifies a particular milestone that stands out as a source of personal pride. Born and raised in a small village in Kerala, he is delighted to have been able to work with several global brands and elevate their visibility further. This achievement attests to his commitment to excellence, as he has consistently demonstrated an ability to deliver impactful solutions that resonate with diverse audiences.

Despite LPFLEX’s accomplishments to date, Madhavan is not one to rest on his laurels. He believes that this is only the beginning for LPFLEX. He is committed to pursuing new avenues of growth and innovation, building on the company’s successes, and striving to make an even greater impact in the years to come.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

LPFLEX, under Madhavan’s stewardship, is committed to various CSR initiatives such as organising blood donation camps and promoting the welfare of differently-abled children and young adults. This is in complete alignment with the overarching vision and values of both Madhavan and the company, which aim to facilitate individual success and enrichment, while contributing to the betterment of the wider community. These efforts are geared towards building a brighter future for all.

Building A Legacy

An accomplished international footwear designer and entrepreneur, Mr. Niren Anand has been known to lead a humble life. He has built a successful brand from scratch in a new land with no knowledge of how things work there. From learning the local language to mastering the ways of business, he has done it all. He has truly carved a name for himself and built a lasting legacy. The new-age ambitious entrepreneur with matchless business acumen after crafting his way to success in China is now repeating the success story in India

It has often been said that good things come to those who wait, but, in reality, even greater things come to those who work determinedly and relentlessly. The story of Mr. Niren Anand, Founder and Managing Director, Evertrade India is of perseverance and hard work. It is an inspiring journey that will move aspiring entrepreneurs globally for years to come.

Mr. Anand belongs to a simple middle-class family. He was born and brought up in the small city of Darbhanga in Bihar. After completing his education, he armed himself with a specialised degree in footwear design from Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI).

Mr. Anand's keen interest in sports took him to work for the renowned sports merchandise company Yonex. He then went on to work for Singapore-based Sports Ultimate Private Limited. He gained rich experience in sports footwear manufacturing and marketing, and decided to venture out on his own. He established his first venture Evertrade Group in China in 2011.

Evertrade Group is a prominent footwear design and manufacturing company. Under Mr. Anand's leadership, it has become a renowned name in the B2B circle, and many leading brands have associated with it. Owing to Mr. Anand's keen interest in sports since childhood, his venture also has a specialised focus on sports footwear.

SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

Evertrade has been scaling new milestones since its inception. Apart from being one of the few successful India-owned ventures based out of China, Evertrade has also

been the first-ever factory to be approved by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Mr. Anand has also ensured that his company stands apart not only because of the high-quality products that they manufacture, but also because of the organisation's ethos, values, and best practices. He ensures that only the most high-end technology and machinery are used to produce world-class products.

It was not an easy achievement for a native Indian to move to China and start a business there from scratch. With no knowledge of the local language or the business community, Mr. Anand set out on the mission to build a brand that reflects his passion as well as affinity to sports. "It was the best decision I ever made," he says. Another notable feat that Mr. Anand has to his credit is that at Evertrade, 80 percent of employees are women – a commendable effort by him to ensure employability for more women. "Our aim is to make women more empowered and financially independent," he shares.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

The brand he has built has won many accolades from the community and industry organisations. It won the 'Excellence Brand' award in China by the Brand Association of China's Import & Export Department. At the Odisha Conclave held in 2022, Mr. Anand was a Guest of Honor. One of India's renowned manufacturing magazines *Machine Maker* featured Mr. Anand on its cover page and in a book written on various Indian manufacturers.

For his undeterred efforts and commitment, he was appointed Senior Advisor at UNCTAD India. He was also nominated for the HIERRA Award that is presented by Empretec to High Impact Entrepreneurs. Empretec is UNCTAD's program for India that promotes entrepreneurial competencies in start-ups, scale-ups, and stakeholders.

SETTING AN EXAMPLE

Being an Indian-origin businessman in China puts a huge responsibility on Mr. Anand. He represents the country in a foreign land and his efforts will eventually get translated into fostering the Indo-China relationship and promoting Indian culture. Mr. Anand takes this responsibility very seriously. Over the last decade, he has built strong ties with the local community in China and carved a niche for himself in the country.

Mr. Anand always offers a glimpse of India's culture and festivals by organising events locally. Evertrade sponsored an Indian classical music event for the very first time in Xiamen in collaboration with the Consulate General of India, Guangzhou, Philippines and Thailand. The event garnered immense praise from the Minister and Chairman of the China Council of Industry and Trade. In 2018, Mr. Anand organised 'Diwali Meet' on the medical campus of Xiamen University and a Holi event at the charity market in 2019. These efforts collate into a much larger movement to form a strong foundation for Indians in China and to sensitise the Chinese about the Indian culture and values.



“AT EVERTRADE, 80 PERCENT OF EMPLOYEES ARE WOMEN – WHICH IS A COMMENDABLE EFFORT BY MR. ANAND TO ENSURE EMPLOYABILITY FOR MORE WOMEN. “OUR AIM IS TO MAKE WOMEN MORE EMPOWERED AND FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT, HE SHARES”

Mr. Anand is fully committed to working for the upliftment of rural communities and working through Empretec India Foundation and many other UN agencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic was hard for Mr. Anand's business and his sales declined by 20 percent year-on-year. However, he was positive about his business and started actively seeking new opportunities. He sought out time to plan for the coming years and chose to invest in a new factory back home.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Mr. Anand is now looking to build a manufacturing unit similar to the one in China, in Odisha, India. With this new unit, he plans to bridge the demand and supply gap in the footwear segment and put India in the lead among top footwear manufacturers. With a whopping investment of ₹62.44 crore, Mr. Anand is setting up this manufacturing unit spread over 10 acres. The new manufacturing facility will be a single unit responsible for generating employment opportunities for more than 1200 people. Like his unit in China, the Indian manufacturing unit will also work on women empowerment by employing as many women as possible.

It is estimated that the Indian manufacturing unit will have the capacity to produce 2.5 million pairs of shoes annually. This ambitious venture began taking shape after Evertrade signed an agreement with the Government of Odisha in 2019 during the 'Invest in Odisha' event.

A GLOBAL INDIAN

Mr. Anand is also working on some novel ideas such as biodegradable packaging, and setting up a bamboo fibers factory in Nagaland in collaboration with the state government and aid from the United Nations. Among other plans, he is ready to explore more countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, and Korea for raw materials and other resources.

What Mr. Anand has built in a decade requires passion, determination, and resolve in abundance. He is a great example of what one can accomplish if one sets one's mind to. Leaders like him do not stop at creating one successful venture. The fact that he is now working even harder to replicate his success in his homeland says a great deal about his commitment to his roots. He is truly a Global Indian working diligently to strengthen his country's position on the world map.

Taking The Lead

Mr. Parvez Sultan Rupani, the Chairman of the UAE-based tax reporting company DGTX Holdings, exemplifies a remarkable blend of entrepreneurial prowess, philanthropic endeavours, and visionary leadership. With an extensive background spanning over 15 years in the financial services sector, he has played a vital role in guiding the company towards its current position as a prominent provider of tax solutions in the region. His commitment to innovation has propelled DGTX Holdings to the vanguard of technological advancements, cementing its status as a leader

Born and brought up in Pakistan, Mr. Rupani pursued his education in the USA. He relocated to the West for higher education. To finance his studies, he actively pursued different part-time job opportunities, including working at school stores and gas stations.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

In 2009, Mr. Rupani and his brother and partner, Asif Ahmed, made the decision to move from Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). At that time, they did not have an established business in place. Beginning with a modest operation consisting of six individuals, they embarked on a journey of perseverance and dedication. By 2016, their relentless efforts propelled them to become the leading partner of Etisalat, earning multiple prestigious awards within a remarkably short span of time. Subsequently, their team expanded significantly and currently comprises over 200 talented professionals. They also successfully developed their own product, DGTX, which is now being marketed and sold by Etisalat.

Determined to succeed, Mr. Rupani delved into the realm of entrepreneurship, encountering both triumphs and challenges along the way. The experiences served as invaluable lessons, equipping

him with the resilience necessary to overcome life's obstacles. Under his stellar leadership, DGTX has achieved remarkable success by addressing a critical challenge pertaining to compliance with new taxation laws faced by small businesses in the Middle East.

An acronym for Digital Taxation, DGTX emerged as a comprehensive solution, offering an all-encompassing approach. For a mere 500 Dirhams, it provided a wide array of services, including a point-of-sale system, tax calculation, document archiving, representation in case of issues, and access to a tax agent.

Bolstered by an impressive clientele of over 4,000 actively engaged customers and fortified by FTA certification, DGTX is currently in an advantageous position to venture into the area of corporate taxation, scheduled for implementation in June 2023. Furthermore, it aims at capturing a customer base of 10,000 within this domain, leveraging its groundbreaking infrastructure, advanced software system, and highly proficient customer service team to deliver an unrivalled back-office framework of the utmost quality.

Additionally, with a valuation of \$56 million in 2021, Mr. Rupani envisions expanding the company's offerings beyond taxation solutions over the next

five years. Plans include venturing into data mining and diversifying its services. The company also aspires to extend its presence beyond the UAE to other GCC nations. The primary objective is to facilitate the growth and prosperity of businesses by equipping them with the necessary tools and expertise to navigate regulatory compliance and achieve their aspirations.

EXCEPTIONAL TRACK RECORD

Mr. Rupani brings a wealth of vast and diverse global experience to the table. Throughout his career, he has led multiple businesses, overseeing teams ranging from 300 to 400 people across different regions. "The experiences I have gained over the years have provided me with a distinct advantage in foreseeing market fluctuations and adapting surefire strategies accordingly," says the leader.

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS

Driven by a commitment to facilitating the advancement of others, Mr. Rupani has dedicated himself to the noble cause of guiding individuals towards their desired destinations. Presently, the Dubai-based entrepreneur leverages his acquired wisdom to inspire and mentor others, drawing upon his personal triumphs and tribulations. He has undertaken



“MR. PARVEZ SULTAN RUPANI LEVERAGES HIS ACQUIRED WISDOM TO INSPIRE AND MENTOR OTHERS, DRAWING UPON HIS PERSONAL TRIUMPHS AND TRIBULATIONS. HE OFFERS COMPREHENSIVE GUIDANCE TO ASPIRING INDIVIDUALS THROUGH HIS INSIGHTFUL PODCAST TITLED ‘POWERPRENEURS’”

the ambitious endeavour of offering comprehensive guidance to aspiring individuals through his insightful podcast titled “Powerpreneurs.”

Mr. Rupani champions the notion of embracing calculated risks and mustering the courage to take decisive action in pursuit of success. For him success is a journey not a destination. He also expresses that knowledge alone is insufficient; instead, it is the profound impact of one’s actions that lays the groundwork for accomplishing personal aspirations. Concurrently, he emphasises the significance of self-confidence and acknowledging one’s inherent capacity for attaining success in life.

The leader intends to dedicate his life to philanthropy and to help others achieve their dreams, aiming to empower young people through knowledge, funding, and opportunities. He hopes to inspire the upcoming business leaders to make a positive impact on society and lead meaningful lives.

GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr. Rupani’s visionary leadership and his adeptness in foreseeing and adapting to emerging trends have played a pivotal role in catapulting his company to new heights. The esteemed Arabian Best of Best Award presented to him for digital transformation stands as a testament to his dedication and relentless efforts. A distinguished honour, the award holds a position of prestige, honouring exceptional individuals and organisations that have made noteworthy strides in advancing the digital transformation landscape within the UAE.

Taking On The World

Mr. Prabhat Nagaraj is a seasoned veteran who has been charting a course to success for decades with his unparalleled expertise and unbridled passion. As the Managing Director of HSO India and Philippines, he has proved his mettle time and again by building global teams that deliver nothing but excellence. Mr. Nagaraj's demonstrated success in various roles attest to his versatility and adaptability in meeting deliverables. His transformative vision makes him the perfect leader to spearhead HSO's ambitious growth and development initiatives

Mr. Prabhat Nagaraj's career journey has taken him through a voyage of discovery, navigating through diverse regions, organisations, and roles, amassing a treasure trove of invaluable experience. He has had the honour of being mentored by esteemed global leaders, which has left an indelible imprint on his leadership style. He has played a pivotal role in driving HSO's phenomenal growth.

After his MBA in Strategic Management from the University of Chicago - Booth School of Business, Mr. Nagaraj began his professional journey at Microsoft US. The extensive leadership portfolio that he has built during his 20-year tenure in the United States is truly impressive. His ability to lead and manage diverse teams across renowned organisations such as Microsoft, Hitachi, DXC, Amazon, and RSM is a testament to his exceptional leadership qualities. Starting out as a consultant, he climbed the ladder and eventually reached the top rung at Hitachi, donning the hat of Vice President for the Americas. With his sharp-witted approach to problem-solving, he quickly scaled new heights and went on to manage the entire Microsoft Dynamics services team at DXC Americas. His unrivaled 17-year tenure in

Microsoft Technologies also imbued him with unparalleled leadership qualities.

A VERSATILE LEADER

As the Managing Director of HSO – a world-renowned business transformation powerhouse and esteemed Gold Microsoft Partner that has been empowering businesses since its inception in 1987 – Mr. Nagaraj spearheads an impressive array of key responsibilities, ranging from Mergers and Acquisitions, Vendor Management, and P&L Management to International Business Development. His leadership approach is centred on fostering a conducive environment for personal and professional development at HSO. His talent for problem-solving, combined with his tenacity to drive projects to fruition, has earned him a formidable reputation.

Mr. Nagaraj views his current role as an opportunity to tap into the immense potential of a region close to his heart. Having gained an insider's view of large-scale team management during his tenure in the Americas and Europe, he is well-versed in the complexities of facilitating collaboration among contributors spread across different geographical locations and time-zones. He remains determined

to tackle these challenges head-on and leverage his expertise to create an inclusive work environment.

SUCCESS COMES WITH STRATEGY

The charismatic leader is hailed for his remarkable knack of turning ideas into tangible realities, especially on a grand scale. He has spearheaded Microsoft Dynamics teams for esteemed global partners, with his exceptional leadership skills driving the successful establishment of offices in India, Europe, and the Philippines. This first-hand exposure to the interplay between North America and Europe with India and the Philippines has endowed him with profound insights.

The seasoned business leader has a keen understanding of the importance of strategic marketing and high-quality services in building a strong brand. He has implemented rigorous quality control measures across HSO's operations, ensuring that every client engagement is delivered to the highest standards. His customer-centric approach is deeply ingrained in the organisation's culture and is embraced by his team of professionals who prioritise customers above all else. He views every customer interaction as an opportunity to evaluate their experience.



“MR. NAGARAJ’S MANTRA FOR SUCCESS IS “LEARNING BY DOING,” WHICH HAS HELPED HIM HONE HIS SKILLS AND ADAPT TO NEW CHALLENGES. THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN SHAPING HIM INTO A DYNAMIC LEADER WHO IS CAPABLE OF NAVIGATING THROUGH COMPLEX BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTS”

At HSO, Mr. Nagaraj ensures that the customers receive the utmost value from the services provided.

LEVERAGING GLOBAL EXPERTISE

The COVID-19 pandemic marked a pivotal juncture for Mr. Nagaraj, as it presented him with a momentous opportunity to play a role in shaping the future of HSO. Amid the throes of the pandemic’s peak, he deftly assumed the mantle of steering the business towards transformation.

In 2021, he made a deliberate decision to return to India, leveraging his extensive experience of working with clients across diverse geographies. It was his passion for creating a business venture where people have the opportunity to grow and learn continuously for the long term that led him to move to India.

Despite encountering intellectually challenging situations, he launched HSO, a boutique shop with an astute consulting mindset. Its employees benefit from the valuable corporate ethos that includes accelerated career growth, direct interaction with global customers, and the opportunity to work on cutting-edge technology.

A PRAGMATIC INDIVIDUAL

Mr. Nagaraj’s mantra for success is “learning by doing,” which has helped him hone his skills and adapt to new challenges. This approach has been instrumental in shaping him into a dynamic leader who is capable of navigating through complex business environments with ease. Through his indomitable spirit and steadfast commitment to excellence, he has carved a niche for himself in the business world, inspiring many with his unwavering pursuit of success.

Leading By Example

Mr. Richard S. Edwin is a perfect example of a leader who takes his team along. He is someone who does not believe in growth unless the prosperity is shared amongst all contributors. There are successful entrepreneurs and then there are people who truly make a difference to society – Mr. Richard falls in the latter category. From an employee to a successful entrepreneur, he undertook the most pivotal journey of his career under the direst circumstances – the COVID-19 pandemic. It is his undeterred passion that helped sustain his venture during difficult times

Armed with an engineering and MBA degree in Instrumentation and Control Engineering, Mr. Richard moved to the Gulf in the year 2000 with dreamy eyes and a dream to change the world. He started his career in 2000 in Muscat and then came to UAE in 2003. He dabbled in a lot of roles until he realised that sales is where his passion and calling lay. He then stuck to the sales sector and worked in different organisations until 2012 when he joined Garlock, a leading sealing products manufacturer headquartered in the United States.

The position at Garlock proved to be a turning point in Mr. Richard's career, as it is here that he was exposed to a global work culture and explored various leadership programs. He got many reality checks about his professional journey and got attuned to his career goals – where he lies and what he wants to achieve.

TRANSITIONING FROM AN EMPLOYEE TO AN EMPLOYER

He worked through the ranks at Garlock, started as a Sales Manager and went on to become General Manager for Middle-East and Africa. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Garlock decided to close down the physical offices in the Middle East. This proved to be the biggest pivot in Mr. Richard's career. This is when he decided to start his own company and Erith was born. He offered Garlock to run their Middle East business under Erith and the rest as they say is history.

Interestingly, Garlock had offered him a position in the US, but he turned it down because he did not want to abandon his

team in the UAE. He chose to stay back and start from scratch and help whomever he can. This perfectly describes his character and commitment to his people.

He followed his passion and built a company when most of the companies were either downsizing their scale of operations or shutting down. Established in August 2020, with just nine employees, Erith Group grew in no time. The advantage of starting under extreme circumstances is that the worst was already over. When Mr. Richard and his team overcame the pandemic, it made the company recession-proof, sustainable and a responsible business. Since its inception, the Group has been forthcoming in hiring the right individuals and now has over 30 professionals.

Mr. Richard recently opened an office in Chennai, India – the Group's first overseas office and that reflects a strong growth trajectory. This new office is the company's fifth office apart from three regional offices and its headquarters in the UAE.

A PEOPLE'S PERSON ALL THE WAY

When Garlock shut down its Middle East operations, Mr. Richard was acutely aware of its effect on the people who worked there. The loss of livelihoods and stranded families was a disheartening thought and that is the reason Mr. Richard offered to take over their operations – to support the employees.

It was at that time that he decided to help whomever he can by taking them on board at Erith Group. His belief was clear – to work together in a transparent manner for a common goal. He is a believer in

teamwork and clear communication and that is what is followed at the Erith Group. "If we tell the team the 'why' and 'what' we want to achieve, the qualified professionals will work to figure out the 'how', the right team will do it better than I can," he says.

Mr. Richard values clarity of thought more than anything else. As a leader, he leads his team by communicating his vision clearly time and again. The ambitious and inspiring leader leads by example and shows the team that the ultimate vision of the organisation is what guides him.

PRIORITISE AND MOVE FORWARD

The Erith Group is now a leading supplier of high-quality, high-end sealing products and solutions to the key players in energy, power, chemicals, nuclear, metal, mining and other vital sectors. There are three business units – manufacturing, industrial engineering and healthcare segment. Mr. Richard believes, it has only been possible by believing in himself and his team together.

Another vital piece in the puzzle was to be aware of the overall strategy of the country they were operating out of. For instance, in the UAE, local manufacturing is given priority and companies that contribute to the GDP by exporting more and importing less are valued – these factors were crucial when Mr. Richard was formulating his company's overall vision and goals. Prioritising the country's strategy and aligning his goals with that has really been instrumental in achieving whatever he has done so far.

Another important factor that has



“MR. RICHARD EDWIN IS A BELIEVER IN TEAMWORK AND CLEAR COMMUNICATION, AND THAT IS WHAT IS FOLLOWED AT THE ERITH GROUP. “IF WE TELL THE TEAM THE ‘WHY’ AND ‘WHAT’ WE WANT TO ACHIEVE, THE QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS WILL WORK TO FIGURE OUT THE ‘HOW’, THE RIGHT TEAM WILL DO IT BETTER THAN I CAN,” HE SAYS”

contributed to his success has been keeping a customer-centric approach. Not only did he successfully turn over the business from Garlock, but also made sure that none of the customers felt any disruption during the transition. He always ensures that the customers feel valued and feel a sense of growth when they are attached to Erith. “Be closer to your customer and always hear what they are saying and you will achieve great results,” he says.

HERE’S TO THE FUTURE

The transition from an employee to an entrepreneur was the greatest gift for Mr. Richard. “It was the high point of my career,” he shares. He believed in himself and the people who went along with him and together moved on to create something great.

Only a couple of years into the business, the journey for Mr. Richard and Erith Group has just begun. It is his dream to make it into a name that is one of the most trusted advisors in the industry.

From being a product supply company, Mr. Richard wants the Group to become a manufacturer of all high-quality products. He has already started this transition and has brought in the best available cutting-edge machinery. He started his own manufacturing plant in October 2022.

In the near future, Mr. Richard wants to make Erith a 360-degree firm that gives customers an end-to-end experience. He started by providing high-quality products, added manufacturing and now plans to add servicing as per the customers’ requirements. This will attain his second goal – to become a group advisor for the customers’. At the end of the day, Mr. Richard is a humble man who finds inspiration in the simplest of things. He counts his wife as his biggest support system for standing by him in all circumstances. He draws inspiration from his parents who always instilled the right values in him and feels indebted to Mr. Mike Faulkner from Garlock who acted as a guide and mentor to him during his time at the company.

It is the trait of a true leader who values people, be it his family, employees, or customers. A true leader knows that it’s the people who make or break any enterprise.

Mr. Richard’s story is one of inspiration, passion and determination, but one aspect that stands out in his entrepreneurial journey is his cause. He started the journey to support others in need and as they say, what goes around always comes around.

Boosting Kenya's Healthcare

Mr. Jayesh Saini is the Founder and Chairman of Lifecare Hospitals & Group, Kenya's leading network of multi-speciality hospitals. His remarkable leadership and expertise have earned him the status of a visionary leader. With his vast experience in the medical field, Jayesh has brought about groundbreaking advancements revolutionising Kenya's healthcare landscape and touching the lives of millions of Kenyans over the years. A catalyst in transforming the healthcare sector, he strives to ensure that every Kenyan receives top-notch healthcare at affordable prices

Holding an Advanced Finance Management qualification from Oxford University (the United Kingdom), Mr. Jayesh Saini has become a revered figure in the healthcare industry with his purpose, passion, and exceptional leadership skills. He believes that every individual deserves access to proper healthcare, regardless of their circumstances. He recollects a heart-wrenching experience where he witnessed the plight of diseased individuals from Kenya's rural areas. These unfortunate individuals had to endure long, arduous journeys to Nairobi in search of adequate medical facilities. Tragically, some lost their lives or experienced severe complications due to the prolonged travel times. This deeply moved him, as he realised that these issues could have been easily resolved at the local level if there were accessible medical service providers. This realisation motivated him to make comprehensive and affordable healthcare services available to all.

A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Africa's history of epidemics serves as a reminder of the crucial need for high-quality healthcare services. More particularly, Kenya's healthcare sector has its own set of challenges, including the scarcity of skilled medical experts. Mr. Saini recognised the pressing issues and made it his mission to find concrete solutions. He firmly holds that by addressing the prevailing challenges and emphasising on training programs and capacity building, Kenya's healthcare sector can be reinforced.

Mr. Saini has dedicated the past two decades of his life to fortifying the foundation of his companies through his knowledge and investments. His brainchild, Bliss Healthcare, stands as Kenya's largest network of outpatient medical centres. Over time, the company has earned the trust and support of the Kenyan public, due to its extraordinary performance.

In addition, the leader has made

significant investments in Medicross Limited, a network of 11 medical centres across the nation. In 2017, he worked on setting up LifeCare Hospitals to give voice to the unheard needs of Kenyans seeking inpatient care. Today, LifeCare Hospitals is a classic chain of multi-specialty hospitals serving people with primary and secondary care, multi-functioning clinics, surgical services, critical care unit, child care, CT scan, MRI, radiology, and pharmacy, amongst others. Its vision is to revolutionise the healthcare sector through the betterment of communities across Africa.

Mr. Saini's objective is to establish a system that aids in promoting preventive healthcare. According to him, the investments in the sector can only be successful if they result in efficient operations, digitalization, and responsible use of available resources. He underlines the potential of IT in accelerating the Universal Health Coverage Agenda. Thus, his team actively works on aligning their



“MR. JAYESH SAINI IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH THE LIFECARE FOUNDATION, WHICH AIMS TO ENHANCE THE OVERALL WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE IN KENYA AND AFRICA. EVERY YEAR, HIS GROUP ORGANISES ABOUT 100 FREE MEDICAL CAMPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY”

technology and staying competitive in the market with an added advantage. Furthermore, his company has hired over 4,000 Kenyans directly and indirectly, which has had a positive impact on the country's economy.

HIS FATHER, HIS INSPIRATION

Mr. Saini draws inspiration from his father Dr. Umesh Saini, who was a dedicated medical professional with a strong desire to make a difference. He established the Nairobi West Hospital – the first private and largest tax-paying hospital in Kenya – in the 1980s, with the objective of prioritising humanity above everything. Today, Nairobi West Hospital has 400 beds in a cutting-edge facility that offers top-notch medical care and sophisticated tertiary care. Dedicated to innovation and excellence, the hospital recently achieved a groundbreaking milestone by performing the first-ever bone marrow transplant in Kenya.

HUMAN-FIRST HEALTHCARE

Guided by the teachings of his father, Mr. Saini is committed to building upon the legacy of humanity-first healthcare and making a positive impact on the lives of people in Kenya and beyond. In 2017, with his wife Dr. Shalya Saini, he took a significant step forward by establishing two hospitals under the brand name LifeCare Hospitals Limited.

Amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, he took immediate action to ensure the safety of the TSC associates by strictly adhering to the guidelines issued by the Insurance Regulatory Authority of Kenya. He also provided adequate coverage and protection to his team.

Mr. Saini is also actively involved in community engagement through the Lifecare Foundation. This foundation focuses on various CSR activities to enhance the overall well-being of the people in Kenya and Africa. Every year, the healthcare group organises about 100 free medical camps across the country for those in need. It also contributes to children's homes and supports underprivileged people through many philanthropic organisations. During the COVID-19 crisis, the group also supported orphaned children by covering their school fees.

Mr. Saini strongly advocates for cooperation between the government and the private sector to improve healthcare delivery and outcomes, aiming for a united nation where no one suffers due to financial limitations or lack of accessible services.

Forging A Winning Mindset

Mr. Sanjay Awasthi, the Chairman and Founder of Tembo Steels Uganda Limited, forged his way into the steel industry in the year 2000. His unwavering commitment to excellence, unrelenting pursuit of innovation, and profound understanding of the industry earned him a hallowed place in the pantheon of steel magnates. With a bold vision and a resolute spirit, he has transformed Tembo Steels into a formidable force to be reckoned with. His journey from owning a scrap melting business to becoming a respected steel magnate is a testament to his spirit, resilience, and pursuit of success

Mr. Sanjay Awasthi, a native of North India, was the owner of Vaibhav Castings – a scrap melting business – prior to establishing Tembo Steels in Uganda.

The company's furnace may have been small in size, but it was mighty in its capabilities, breaking records in the region as the most efficient and productive steel plant around. His experience in the scrap melting business equipped him with a comprehensive understanding of the steel manufacturing value chain, from raw materials to finished products. Now, as the chief of Tembo Steels, he brings his vast experience and expertise to bear, propelling the company to new heights of success.

A 100% INDIGENOUS STEEL MAKER

Mr. Awasthi takes pride in identifying his company as “the most diversified and integrated steel producer in the continent” which makes Tembo Steels a company with the largest product portfolio in Africa through primary route, covering all four verticals of steel with 1.8 million tons of varied integrated steel product capacity. Tembo Steels adheres to the Buy Uganda, Build Uganda (BUBU) initiative,

which promotes local production and consumption.

Mr. Awasthi, being the first generation, embarked on his entrepreneurial journey in Uganda in 2000, and with unwavering courage and determination, he set forth to establish a formidable enterprise without any roots or family/friend connections in Africa. In 2001, he laid the foundation stone for Tembo Steels, a visionary project situated in the picturesque town of Lugazi. In 2002, under his astute leadership, the production of ribbed bars commenced at the Lugazi facility, setting the stage for a revolutionary leap in the steel manufacturing industry in Uganda.

MANY FIRSTS TO HIS CREDIT

Never one to rest on his laurels, Mr. Awasthi's visionary spirit led him to commission yet another pioneering endeavour in 2004. This time, he spearheaded the establishment of the first-ever structural mill in the region, located in Iganga. The state-of-the-art Structure Mill was designed to produce light sections, representing a groundbreaking advancement in the field of structural steel production.

Remarkably, this facility is known to

create the lightest sections in the world, translating it to a world benchmark. In 2005, Tembo Steels achieved a ground-breaking milestone by successfully installing the world's first mini converter capable of converting cast iron into liquid low-carbon steel for Africa. The initiative was a response to the need at the time as despite having abundant Cast Iron across Africa at the time, there was no user. Mr. Awasthi and his team's innovative approach and determination led to the development of this cutting-edge technology right in Uganda, positioning Tembo Steels at the forefront of steel manufacturing advancements.

Following this breakthrough, in 2006, Tembo Steels initiated the production of hot-rolled sheets (HRC) in Uganda from the primary steelmaking route. To this day, it remains the only primary steel producer of HRC in the region. Tembo Steels was the first company in the world to produce 0.7 mm HRC through continuous configuration. In 2008, the company introduced Thermo Mechanically Treated (TMT) – a great initiative that delivers higher strength and helps users save up to 20% on steel consumption. In 2012, it introduced wire rods production



“MR. SANJAY AWASTHI BELIEVES IN WORK-LIFE BALANCE. DESPITE HIS BUSY SCHEDULE, HE MAKES TIME FOR HIS HOBBIES. HE FINDS SOLACE IN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS COOKING AND GARDENING, WHERE HE CAN IMMERSE HIMSELF IN HIS THOUGHTS AND CONNECT WITH NATURE”

using a cutting-edge block mill – a first in the entire East African region.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Mr. Awasthi remains passionately committed to learning and innovating for the better. He sees every challenge as an opportunity to learn, grow, and push the boundaries of what is possible. By constantly challenging himself and his team to think outside the box, he has been able to foster a culture of innovation and excellence that has propelled Tembo Steels to unprecedented heights in the steel manufacturing industry.

Mr. Awasthi leads by example, staying updated with the latest management practices worldwide and industry insights, and encourages his team to do the same. His management style reflects his simple yet powerful philosophy of staying ahead of the competition through cutting-edge technology and innovation, and constantly refining management strategies to achieve organisational success. He is also a firm believer in empowering his team and fostering a collaborative work environment. He understands that innovation is the cornerstone of success, and encourages his team to think creatively, take calculated risks, and push boundaries.

PRIORITISES WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Mr. Awasthi understands the importance of maintaining work-life balance. Despite his busy schedule, he recognises the importance of making time for his hobbies. As an introvert, he finds solace in activities like cooking, outdoor sports and gardening, where he can immerse himself in his thoughts and connect with nature. But that's not all – Mr. Awasthi also has a thirst for adventure and loves to travel and explore new places. Uganda holds a special place in his heart, as it is his home country. Nevertheless, he often takes his family along on his journeys to remote and unexplored corners of the country.

A Leader of Substance

Mr. Sanjib Sahoo serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Digital Officer of the \$54 billion US-based tech behemoth Ingram Micro Inc. With over 20 years of experience in leading enterprise IT strategy and services, digital platforms, application deployment, and technology operations, he brings an extensive global perspective to the company. Many trials and tribulations marked his journey, but it was Sanjib's tenacity, commitment, dedication, and preparedness that brought him to where he is now

Sanjib is a digital innovator renowned for developing a more comprehensive strategy for digital transformation. The award-winning leader is a graduate from the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program. He also holds a Master's Degree in Computer Applications from the Institute of Management Technology in Ghaziabad, India, and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Calcutta University.

Sanjib was born into a humble family. Throughout his student life, he was more interested in knowing the "why" than just following the herd. Born and brought up in a small town in India, he lost his father at a young age. To support his family, he had to start working at an early age. He studied computers before continuing higher education to develop his operational leadership abilities. He also studied economics – influenced by his inspiration, Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen – to learn about macroeconomics and concepts that can help developing economies.

As there was limited career scope in this field, Sanjib eventually left his hometown in his youth to pursue a career in transforming businesses. His journey took him worldwide and through several sectors, finally bringing him to his current role at the \$54 billion Fortune 100 Company Ingram Micro, which operates across 200 countries. The organization is undergoing a massive transformation under his leadership and in close collaboration with the company's CEO Paul Bay to modernize the entire technology ecosystem with the introduction and global adoption of its Ingram Micro Xvantage™ digital experience platform. Sanjib had no

experience in technology when he left his birthplace. Building his IT acumen required a lot of effort for over two years. However, as a finance and computer application graduate, he had a unique perspective on business and technology. Over the years, his perseverance and passion have motivated the leader to take on challenges with constant effort and interest. He says, "I never intended to work as a Chief Digital Officer. However, I wanted to mould myself into a leader of substance and leave an impact in everything I did."

GROWTH-DRIVEN MINDSET

Over the years, Sanjib has forged an impressive career as a revolutionary and inspirational technology executive, and company leader who consistently develops and delivers actual value. He became a financial firm's Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at a very young age. It was the beginning of a rewarding journey for him. In the initial stages of his career, he built applications for various financial services companies, including Deutsche Bank, Citibank, and Charles Schwab (then Xpresstrade). He has also served as the CIO for XPO Logistics' Transport Division as well as a member of the senior management team. Before joining XPO Logistics, he served as TradeMonster's (now E*Trade/Morgan Stanley) CIO and CTO, overseeing the creation of a groundbreaking online trading system for both web and mobile. Rather than taking a career path, the leader adopted a growth mindset and worked tirelessly to hone his skills. He always saw his failures as life lessons instead of reasons to give up. As a CIO and CTO, he focused

on business and took a keen interest in revenue, margins, and efficiency. Sanjib joined Ingram Micro Inc. in June 2021. As the Executive VP and Chief Digital Officer, he directs Ingram Micro's strategic initiatives to swiftly produce cutting-edge, world-class customer and user experiences that will help the company differentiate itself from the competition. His responsibilities include overseeing the company's customer-facing infrastructure, such as applications, subscriptions, and billing consumption patterns, through digital transformation and modernisation.

A LIFELONG LEARNER

Sanjib is a lifelong learner. He believes that effective leadership is not about ego, attitude, or making unrealistic commitments. True leadership, according to him, is about inspiring others to join a noble cause they believe in, and providing an opportunity for everyone to succeed. After serving as CIO/CTO for many years, Sanjib's desire to know more motivated him to get more involved with the business. He decided to return to Harvard for an advanced management degree, which gave him a lot of new insight into many business sectors. In addition to building world-class platforms with his teams in several industries, he wanted to be a business leader with a solid technology background. He believes everyone needs to be a full-stack professional in the competitive IT sector. Every technology leader must strive to become a business leader. The leaders must grasp how the industry operates, how customers interact, and how their firm generates revenue. In addition to having business acumen and

technological prowess, leaders must also be emotionally intelligent and culturally adept to become truly value-generating CEOs. No matter their position or area of responsibility, if they develop these attributes, they will accomplish outstanding achievements in their career.

A PROACTIVE LEADER

Sanjib believes one must accept responsibility for one's actions, especially influential executives, who must take immediate action instead of waiting for the outcome. According to him, this is essential to attain success. Leadership, he says, is not about being perfect but about being vulnerable. It involves owning up to your mistakes, seeking assistance, enlisting the support of your colleagues, and working as a team.

A GOOD LISTENER

Sanjib believes in leading through his ears more than through his mouth. He actively listens to his employees, which helps him learn many things. Rather than chasing perfection, he advises budding leaders to be practical and humble. He highlights the necessity of communication in today's competitive environment and emphasises situational communication since leaders are expected to employ a distinct tone when addressing different gatherings or situations. The leaders must figure out how to communicate in different circumstances. He advises them to focus on the art of storytelling and communicate with compassion. He is also known for his excellent team spirit. "Your team must understand and execute your vision as a leader. Also, a leader and their team must embark on the same success journey to achieve concrete results," he says.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

For his outstanding leadership abilities, Sanjib has received numerous prestigious accolades, including "ET Global Icon for Technology" and "Pride of India 2022". The well-versed leader has also authored several technological models and white papers on leadership, risk and innovations, leadership training, creative marketing, open-source architecture, and mobile strategy. He owns several patents related to streaming for mobile devices and dynamic communications. He contributes to *Wired* and the *Harvard Business Review*, and is a part of the Forbes Technology Council.

An excellent orator, Sanjib has spoken at several national conferences organised by Computer World, *CIO Magazine*, TEDx and others, on a range of topics, including leadership, mobility, innovation, talent, risks, and CIO issues.

"SANJIB BELIEVES EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IS NOT ABOUT EGO, ATTITUDE, OR MAKING UNREALISTIC COMMITMENTS. TRUE LEADERSHIP, ACCORDING TO HIM, IS ABOUT INSPIRING OTHERS TO JOIN A NOBLE CAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN, AND PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE TO SUCCEED"



भारत 2023

INDIA'S G-20
PROMOTING UNIVERSAL
'ONE EARTH, ONE FA



23 INDIA

PRESIDENCY:
UNIVERSAL ONENESS WITH
FAMILY, ONE FUTURE'

At a time of heightened uncertainties for the global economy, India's strong performance remains a bright spot. So, India's Presidency of the Group of 20 (G20) in 2023 is set to bear fruits for the global economy, believe political and economic observers across the globe. Despite the current times being challenging due to conflicts, food insecurity, debt distress, and inflation, the year is set to be a turning point not only for the economic bloc, but for the world, as India aims to take along countries beyond the group members on its mission of 'global progress' with 'universal brotherhood.' The G20 has as its members other 18 countries of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK and the US, and the European Union. One of the most important blocs, the G20 contributes 85 percent to the global GDP and 75 percent to world trade, and houses 64 percent of the world's population.

With the theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future,' India plans to share its success story of technology-led financial inclusion and the new idea of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) with G20 members, and making both critical components in assuring global economic growth and prosperity. The largest democracy and fastest-growing major economy stands committed to the primary goal of the G20, to recognise the significance of collective action and global collaboration among major developed countries and emerging economies throughout the world. Its role is also critical in making the forum more relevant in an otherwise declining era of multilateralism. With the message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India's G20 presidency aims to be "inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented."

BY JYOTI VERMA AND RICHA SANG

On December 1, India took over the mantle of G20 presidency from Indonesia. A significant moment, the G20 presidency offers New Delhi the opportunity to anchor a powerful global bloc that comprises both developed and developing nations. The opportunity becomes more important in a fractured and crises-affected world, where India promises to take everyone along when it hosts the leaders of the member countries at the final G20 summit on September 9-10, 2023 in New Delhi.

For a nation deeply committed to democracy and multilateralism, the G20 Presidency is also a watershed moment for India, as it seeks to play an important role by finding pragmatic global solutions for the well-being of all, and in doing so, manifest the true spirit of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (World is One Family).

The year 2023 is also a time when the world is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and facing global economic instability. At the helm of framing the platform's priorities, India has the chance to play an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues. The year also marks the beginning of India's "Amrit Kaal"—the 25-year period to the centenary of the nation's independence from colonial rule—towards a futuristic, prosperous, inclusive and developed society, distinguished by a

SMT. DROUPADI MURMU
PRESIDENT, THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

"This year, India holds the presidency of the Group of 20 (G20) nations. With our motto of universal brotherhood, we stand for peace and prosperity of all. Thus, the G20 presidency is an opportunity to promote democracy and multilateralism and the right forum for shaping a better world



and a better future. Under India's leadership, I am sure, G20 will be able to further enhance its efforts to build a more equitable and sustainable world order. As G20 represents about two-thirds of the world population and around 85 percent of global GDP, it is an ideal forum to discuss and find solutions for global challenges. To my mind, global warming and climate change are the most pressing among them. Global temperatures are rising and incidents of extreme weather are increasing. We are faced with the dilemma: to lift more and more people out of poverty, we need economic growth, but that growth also comes from fossil fuel. Unfortunately, the poor bear the brunt of global warming more than others."

human-centric approach at its core.

WHY DOES THE G20 MATTER?

A premier forum for international economic cooperation, the G20 nations together account for around 80 percent of global economic output, about 75 percent of global exports, and nearly 60 percent of the world's population. The statistics have remained comparatively stable while the corresponding rates for Group of Seven (G7) nations – a smaller group of advanced democracies – have dropped, as larger emerging markets take up a relatively greater share of the world's economy.

The intergovernmental forum of G20 comprises 19 countries with some of the world's largest economies, as well as the European Union (EU). The countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States. Spain is invited as a permanent guest.

The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss global economic and financial issues. The group was later upgraded to the level of Heads of State/ Government and was designated the 'premier forum for international economic cooperation.'

The G20 initially focused on broad macroeconomic policy, but later widened its ambit to include trade, climate change, sustainable development, energy, environment, anti-corruption, among other global agendas. It is not a permanent institution with a headquarters, offices or staff. Instead, its leadership rotates on an annual basis among its members, its decisions are made by consensus, and implementation of its agenda depends on the political will of its members. Since 2011, the G20 Summit has been held annually under the leadership of a rotating Presidency. After India, Brazil will take over the presidency of the G20 in 2024, followed by South Africa in 2025.

"DURING ITS G20 PRESIDENCY, INDIA HAS INVITED BANGLADESH, EGYPT, MAURITIUS, THE NETHERLANDS, NIGERIA, OMAN, SINGAPORE, SPAIN, AND THE UAE AS GUEST COUNTRIES. THESE NINE GUEST COUNTRIES TO THE G20 SUMMIT IN SEPTEMBER WILL BE ULTIMATELY GUIDED BY 'CONTINUITY' OF G20"

SHRI NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER, THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

"India, on the one hand, maintains close relations with developed countries, and at the same time understands and articulates well the point of view of developing countries. On this basis, we will outline our G20 Presidency with all the friends of the 'Global South' who have been India's



co-passengers for decades on the path of development. Our effort will be that there should not be any first world or third world in the world, but only one world. India is working on a vision to bring the whole world together for a common objective, for a better future. The logo of the G20 is not just a symbol. It's a message. It's a feeling that is in our veins. This is a resolution that has been included in our thinking. The spirit of universal brotherhood that we have been living through the mantra of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' is being reflected in this logo and the theme. In this logo, the lotus flower is depicting India's mythological heritage, our faith, our intellectualism, all these together. The contemplation of Advaita here has been the philosophy of the unity of the living being."

In addition to the 19 member countries and the EU, each G20 Presidency invites other guest countries and international organisations (IOs) to participate in the G20 meetings and Summit. During its G20 Presidency, India has invited Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the UAE as guest countries. The nine guest countries to the G20 summit in September will be ultimately guided by 'continuity' of G20. It presents these nations an opportunity to come and be an equal partner in the G20 process. For Guest IOs, the invitees are ISA, CDRI and ADB in addition to the regular G20 IOs, UN, IMF, WB, WHO, WTO, ILO, FSB and OECD, and chairs of regional organisations, AU, AUDA-NEPAD and ASEAN.

The president of the G20 steers the grouping's agenda that is split into two

tracks—the Finance Track and the Sherpa Track. Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors lead the Finance Track, while Sherpas lead the Sherpa Track. Within the two tracks, there are thematic working groups in which representatives from the relevant ministries of the members as well as from invited/guest countries and various international organisations participate.

The G20 process from the Sherpa Track is coordinated by the Sherpas of member countries, who are personal emissaries of the Leaders. The Sherpa Track oversees inputs from 13 Working Groups, 2 Initiatives—Research Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) and G20 Empower—and various Engagement Groups, all of whom meet throughout the year and develop their issue notes and outcome documents. The substantive discussions then provide consensus-based recommendations to the Sherpa Meetings. The outcome document of the Sherpa-level meetings finally forms the basis of the Leaders' Declaration, which is debated and signed after a consensus is achieved, at the final G20 summit by the Leaders of the member countries.

The Engagement Groups bring together civil societies, parliamentarians, think-tanks, women, youth, labour, businesses, and researchers of the G20 countries. The Startup20 Engagement Group has been established under India's G20 Presidency

AJAY BHATT
MINISTER OF STATE FOR
TOURISM AND DEFENCE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

"I am happy to learn that AsiaOne Magazine is coming up with a special feature showcasing India's presidency at G20, titled 'India's G-20 Presidency: Promoting Universal Oneness with 'One Earth, One Family, One Future,' in its upcoming issue. I strongly feel that an important chapter in India's role as a world leader is the G20 presidency. In these times of global challenges, the G20 Presidency gives India a unique opportunity to strengthen its role in the world economic order. With the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' India is steering an ambitious, people-centric agenda to address global challenges and facilitate sustainable economic development. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has invited all of us to come together

to make India's G20 Presidency 'a Presidency of healing, harmony and hope.' I invite every Indian to come forward and become a part of this change. I also extend my best wishes to the AsiaOne team and look forward to many more inspiring articles in its forthcoming editions."



for the first time, recognising the role of startups in driving innovation that responds to a rapidly changing global scenario. Active consultation with the Engagement Groups forms an integral part of India's "inclusive ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented" G20 presidency.

During its term, India is hosting more than 200 meetings across 50 cities involving ministers, officials and civil society, leading up to the final summit in New Delhi in September 2023. The 43 Heads of Delegations – the largest ever in G20 – will participate in the final summit.

INDIA AS THE G20 PRESIDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India's theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' for its G20 Presidency, signals the need for unity of purpose and unity of action.

Addressing the opening segment of G20 Foreign Ministers through a video message on March 2, 2023, the Prime Minister pointed at the deep global divisions in the world. He remarked that G20 member nations have their own positions and perspectives on how these tensions should be resolved. He emphasised that as the leading economies of the world, the responsibility lies with G20. He added that the world looks upon the G20 to ease the challenges of growth, development, economic resilience, disaster

resilience, financial stability, transnational crime, corruption, terrorism, and food and energy security. He remarked that G20 has the capacity to build consensus and deliver concrete results in all these areas. Underlining that the meeting is taking place in the land of Gandhi and the Buddha, Narendra Modi urged the dignitaries to draw inspiration from India's civilisational ethos of focusing not on what divides us, but on what unites us all.

The most important factor of India's G20 presidency is its pitch of One World – a leap from the world that was earlier either First or Third. The theme of India's G20 Presidency—*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* or "One Earth One Family One Future"—is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the *Maha Upanishad*. It affirms the value of all life—human, animal, plant and microorganisms—and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe. The theme also spotlights LiFE, with its associated, environmentally sustainable and responsible choices, both at the level of individuals and nations, leading to globally transformative actions resulting in a cleaner, greener and bluer future.

India's G20 logo is an extension of this message. It draws inspiration from the vibrant colours of India's national flag—saffron, white, green and blue—and juxtaposes planet Earth with the lotus,

India's national flower that reflects growth amid challenges. The Earth reflects India's pro-planet approach to life, one in perfect harmony with nature. The logo and the theme together convey a powerful message of India's G20 Presidency, symbolising striving for just and equitable growth for all in the world navigating through these turbulent times, in a sustainable, holistic, responsible and inclusive manner.

India's G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant believes that G20 is a platform to take India's growth story to the world. In an interview, he reiterated how India has been able to successfully build a digital architecture with public service as its core motive and how the private sector has been given the space to innovate.

"India has done some unique things. It has built up the digital identity, it has ensured bank accounts, it has brought in the digital empowerment protection architecture, it has driven the CoWIN app, it has ensured fast payments which are seven times of what the US, Germany, France and Canada do together, it is three times of what China does, and, therefore, this is a very unique model of building railway tracks on the top of which private sector can innovate. So, India is the only country where PhonePe and Google Pay compete, and because innovation is taking place by the private sector on top of the railway track, there's a huge, huge new model," he explained.

The eminent bureaucrat added that if the world wants to eradicate inequality and bring about transformation, the world needs to replicate the India model. "There's an open API and this is interoperable. It is not costly and safe, and it has been transformational in India. Since it is transformational, the lessons learned from here of size and scale can then be implemented," he said.

INDIA'S PRIORITIES FOR THE G20

Green Development, Climate Finance & LiFE: Climate change is a key priority for India's G20 presidency, with a particular focus towards climate finance and technology, and ensuring just energy transitions for developing nations globally. Understanding that the issue of climate change cuts across industry, society and sectors, India offers the world LiFE—a behaviour-based movement that draws from its ancient, rich, sustainable traditions to nudge consumers, and in-turn markets, to adopt environmentally-conscious practices.

Accelerated, Inclusive and Resilient Growth: Accelerated, resilient and inclusive growth is a cornerstone for sustainable development. During its G20 Presidency, India aims to focus on areas

"THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR OF INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY IS ITS PITCH OF ONE WORLD – A LEAP FROM THE WORLD THAT WAS EITHER FIRST OR THIRD. THE THEME OF INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY—VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM—IS DRAWN FROM THE ANCIENT SANSKRIT TEXT OF THE MAHA UPANISHAD"

that have the potential to bring structural transformation. This includes an ambition to accelerate integration of MSMEs in global trade, bring in the spirit of trade for growth, promote labour rights and secure labour welfare, address the global skills gap, and build inclusive agricultural value chains and food systems, among others.

Accelerating Progress on SDGs: India's G20 Presidency collides with the crucial midpoint of the 2030 Agenda or the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As such, India acknowledges the detrimental impact of COVID-19, which changed the current decade of action into a decade of recovery. In line with this perspective, India wants to focus on recommitting G20's efforts to achieving the targets laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Technological Transformation and Digital Public Infrastructure: India can foreground its belief in a human-centric approach to technology, and facilitate greater knowledge sharing in priority areas such as digital public infrastructure (DPI), financial inclusion and tech-enabled development in sectors ranging from agriculture to education.

Multilateral Institutions for the 21st Century: India's G20 priority will be to continue pressing for reformed multilateralism that creates a more accountable, inclusive, just, equitable and representative multipolar international system that is fit for addressing the challenges in the 21st century.

Women-led development: India hopes to use the G20 forum to highlight inclusive growth and development, with women empowerment and representation at the core of India's G20 deliberations. This includes a focus on bringing women to the fore, into leading positions, in order to boost socio-economic development and achievement of SDGs.

THE ERA OF HUMAN-CENTRIC GLOBALISATION

While unveiling the logo of the G20 on November 8, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that it reflected the notion of universal brotherhood, where

it will strive for not only the country's progress, but also global progress. He stressed that India's G20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive. "Let us join together to make India's G20 Presidency a Presidency of healing, harmony and hope. Let us work together to shape a new paradigm – of human-centric globalisation."

The Prime Minister also dwelled on the democratic heritage of Indian civilisation. "Democracy, diversity, indigenous approach, inclusive thinking, local lifestyle and global thoughts, today the world is seeing solutions to all its challenges in these ideas," he said.

There are many reasons for India to be pushing the message of inclusion and democratisation with its G20 presidency. Today, many Indians travel to different parts of the world for work and to

travel. In 2022, the number of students travelling abroad for higher studies increased by 68.79 percent from 2021 to a total of 7,50,365, Union Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar told the Indian Parliament in February 2023. Given the significant presence of Indian workers, students and diaspora in various parts of the world, the consequences of international conflicts are immediately felt within the country.

Whether it is about Indian students stuck in Ukraine or workers in Sudan, any conflict anywhere in the world affects India. It also underlines the fact that international politics is no longer a far-away phenomenon that a handful of people in big Indian cities discuss in English. Rather, the subject is now pursued by common people on their phones in their languages.

Thus, it makes sense for every Indian state and union territory to be part of India's G20 presidency, to which the government has responded well by hosting the forum meetings throughout the country, from Arunachal Pradesh in northeast to Kerala in the south. Many state governments are proactively using these meetings to showcase the economic opportunities in their respective areas. For example, hosting a tourism-related G20 dialogue in Srinagar presented an opportunity to showcase the tourism

EKNATH SAMBHAJI SHINDE CHIEF MINISTER, MAHARASHTRA

"I am happy to know that AsiaOne Magazine is showcasing a special feature on India's presidency at G20. I hope that the upcoming feature, 'India's G20 Presidency: Promoting Universal Oneness with 'One Earth, One Family, One Future,' will give its international readers an insight into the country's vision of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and the objective of representing the 'whole world as one' at the G20 Summit in India. With India as the president of the forum this year, it is our golden opportunity to connect with most of the world."

The Hon'ble PM, Shri Narendra Modi ji has said that India's G20 Presidency belongs to the entire nation, and is a unique opportunity to showcase India's strengths to the entire world. Maharashtra is proud to

welcome the visiting G20 delegates and other international guests for deliberations, and investments in industries and tourism. The state will host 14 meetings of the G20 summit. I am delighted that the whole country is working as a team. Jai Hind! Jai Maharashtra!"



potential of Jammu and Kashmir.

In addition to democracy and diversity, the Prime Minister said that many of India's achievements can be used by other countries of the world. The use of digital technology in development, inclusion, eradication of corruption, improving ease of doing business and ease of living, can be templates for many countries. He also highlighted India's women empowerment and women-led development and financial inclusion through Jan Dhan Accounts. Given its natural strengths in information technology and building digital public goods, India is rightfully making technology governance an important agenda item of its presidency through the paradigm of "data for development," first articulated by Prime Minister Modi at the G20 summit last year.

THE YEAR OF SOLIDARITY

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF), in a blog written on February 22, 2023, recognised India's unique position to be able to bring countries together. "In a world facing multiple challenges and rising geopolitical tensions, this leadership is critical—and beautifully captured in the theme of India's G20 presidency: One Earth, One Family, One Future. In my view, this spirit of "one" represents policymakers and for all of us as a global community," she added.

To the eminent economist, first, 'one family' means solidarity and protecting the vulnerable; second, 'one earth' means protecting our planet, our home. She underlined that about 15 percent of low-income countries across the world are in debt distress and an additional 45 percent are at high risk of debt distress. Among emerging economies, about 25 percent are at high risk and facing "default-like" borrowing spreads. "Here, solidarity means better mechanisms to restructure debt. Under the G20's Common Framework, Chad reached an agreement with its creditors at the end of last year, and Zambia and Ghana are progressing toward debt resolution. But the ground rules need to be clarified and the processes

made more efficient and effective," she remarked.

To accelerate debt-restructuring efforts, the IMF, World Bank, and India's G20 presidency convened a new Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable in Bengaluru in February 2023. The meeting paved the way for creditors, both public and private, and debtor countries to work together, and assess the existing shortcomings and best ways to tackle them.

"In this more shock-prone world, some emerging and developing economies will also require additional financial support. So, a well-resourced global financial safety net, with the IMF at its centre, is more important than ever. Think of how the Fund has stepped up to support our family of nations since the start of the pandemic. Over \$272 billion for 94 countries of which about \$34 billion was

BHUPENDRA PATEL CHIEF MINISTER, GUJARAT

"India has vital stake in the stability of the international economic and financial system. Participation of India in G20 has always been important as India is one of the major emerging economies which cannot be ignored. Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai



Modi has unveiled the logo of India's G20 Presidency with a theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' that reflects the wider perspective on India's long standing stance of cosmopolitanism. It is really heartening to learn that the AsiaOne Media Group is coming up with a special feature titled "India's G20 Presidency: Promoting Universal Oneness with 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'" in the upcoming issue of the AsiaOne Magazine.

I am delighted to learn that this magazine believes that for India, G20 Presidency would be a watershed moment in the history. I hereby extend my heartiest best wishes to the editorial team of the AsiaOne Magazine for a bright future ahead."

fast-disbursing emergency financing. The historic SDR allocation of \$650 billion to boost our members' reserves. And a new Food Shock Window provides fast access to resources for countries hit hardest by the food security crisis," explained the IMF MD.

The economist called for further solidarity to stand as one with the low-income and vulnerable members to ensure they can still access concessional IMF financing in times of distress and to guard against future crises. Others with the strength and capacity to do so need to stand up and help address fundraising shortfalls—especially on subsidy resources in the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust—and deliver additional contributions to the new Resilience and Sustainability Trust.

FOCUS ON GLOBAL SOUTH

In the year of its G20 presidency and beyond, India is committed to give voice to the countries of the Global South—including countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America that are poorer and less developed, and many with a colonial history—over the Global North—the wealthy and economically developed countries such as the US, Europe, and Canada. The commitment becomes particularly important amid a global economic crisis that is hampering post-

"TO ACCELERATE DEBT-RESTRUCTURING EFFORTS, THE IMF, WORLD BANK, AND INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY CONVENED A NEW GLOBAL SOVEREIGN DEBT ROUNDTABLE, WHICH PAVED THE WAY FOR CREDITORS AND DEBTOR COUNTRIES TO WORK TOGETHER, AND ASSESS SHORTCOMINGS AND WAYS TO TACKLE THEM"

pandemic recovery and ongoing shocks such as climate-induced disasters and war on Ukraine. Then there are the “grey rhinos” – the highly probable and highly impactful but neglected threats – such as climate change, uncontrolled migration, maritime security, changing nature of terrorism and radicalisation due to the rise of social media, economic inequality between and within nations, resilience of global supply chains, demographic imbalances and disruptive technologies. None of these challenges are new, but their urgency and intensity has become more powerful since 2008 when G20 first rose to prominence.

The developing countries are particularly vulnerable to current food shortages, debt crises, and problems of inequality and poverty. In an important statement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said, “Most of the global challenges have not been created by the Global South, but they affect us more.”

The Global South has always been a focus area for India. In the years after its independence, India pioneered the Non-Alignment Movement to bring wider options to developing countries to help them avoid getting entangled in the power politics of the era. After a month of assuming the G20 presidency, the country convened a virtual summit

bringing together 120 countries of the Global South, to involve nations that are not part of the G20 but are equally affected by global challenges. It sent out the message that even countries beyond the G20 members have a voice in India’s presidency. It also helps the Global South that the current troika of G20 presidencies comprises emerging economies Indonesia, India, and Brazil.

With the messages of “universal brotherhood” and “collective leadership,” India is pushing for better relations between the Global South and Global North and working towards unified solutions. For a number of reasons, the country is exceptionally positioned to assume the role of a bridge between the two, as it enjoys close partnerships with most countries in the Global North, while its challenges resonate with those facing the Global South. “India is a South Western power with very strong bonding with the developed world, which would enjoy as it goes up in the international order, the degree of trust and confidence of other developing states,” said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

India is part of several multilateral groups such as the QUAD, I2U2, and BRICS, which have countries from both the groups. The country also has the brilliant experience of maintaining close

cooperation with both sides of conflicting nations, and collaborative approaches to global issues such as its vaccine and drug diplomacy.

India has overtaken the United Kingdom to become the fifth-largest economy in the world, and it remains the fastest-growing large economy amid looming recession in other regions. Considering its credentials as an emerging market and a “pillar for global economic revival,” regional positioning and emerging global leadership, India finds itself in diplomatic favour as a desired political, economic, and strategic partner, across both advanced economies and developing countries. India understands that this privilege comes with great responsibility.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi once pointed out that the world is looking with hope towards collective leadership, whether it is G7, G77 or UNGA. In such a situation India’s presidency of G20 assumes a new significance. He elaborated that India maintains close relations with developed countries on the one hand, and at the same time understands and expresses the views of developing countries well. “It is on this basis that we will build the blueprint of our G20 Presidency together with all the friends of the Global South, who have been India’s co-travellers on the path of development for decades,” he added.

Amid the global tumult, India is in a unique position where it shares cordial relations with almost all the stakeholders. It has maintained a non-partisan stand and continues to engage without fear or favour. This trust accords it a position where it can bring warring sides to the negotiation table. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, President of Mexico, went as far as to suggest the creation of the Commission for Promotion of World Truce to be composed of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Pope Francis and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The aim of the commission would be to present a proposal to stop the wars around the world and reach an agreement to seek a truce for at least five years.

India’s G20 presidency wishes to leverage this strength for the benefit of the Global South. While the country can afford to bypass sanctions, not many countries are in that position, leading them to a lack of sources such as food, oil and other basic necessities. By pushing the agenda of depoliticisation of global food supply chains, India is taking forward the cause of many such countries. If the country succeeds in bringing Global North to a consensus on the matter, it will have positive implications for the basic livelihood of billions of people across the

MANOHAR LAL CHIEF MINISTER, HARYANA

“I am glad to know that AsiaOne Magazine is highlighting numerous initiatives planned during India’s presidency at G20. This upcoming feature ‘India’s G20 Presidency: Promoting Universal Oneness with ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future,’ will give its international readers

an insight about a new India which is emerging as a global leader. Mahatma Gandhi had once said, ‘One must care about the world one will not see.’ Indeed, humanity has progressed when it has collectively risen to its obligation to the world and responsibility to the future. G20 is one of the initiatives towards the same direction. It was the vision of the PM, Shri. Narendra Modi, under whose guidance the nation has got the presidency of G20. The theme ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ aims to encourage global solutions, inclusive collaboration among major developed and emerging nations, and recognise the significance of united actions. I extend my best wishes to the entire team of AsiaOne Magazine. I wish the summit and publication enormous success!”



world.

INITIATIVES FOR GLOBAL SOUTH

In line with India's support to the Global South, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced several new initiatives for the benefit of the Global South at the Voice of the Global South Summit in January 2023.

The Voice of Global South Summit aimed at achieving "Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose" and to shape a positive G20 agenda through consultation with G20 countries and members of the Global South. The summit, organised virtually over two days, saw the attendance of delegates from over 120 countries as well as seven Heads of State. At the summit, India introduced three projects to aid the Global South in sectors ranging from technology to health.

The Prime Minister announced that India would establish the Global South Center of Excellence for research on development strategies that could be scaled up and applied globally. The centre will undertake research on best practices of many nations, which can then be scaled and implemented in others.

Another new institution, Global South Science and Technology Initiative will be formed to share its expertise in the fields of science and technology such as nuclear energy and space technology.

India's Vaccine Maitri initiative – launched during the COVID-19 pandemic when Indian-made vaccines were supplied to more than 100 nations – will be converted to a new Aarogya Maitri project, to provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis.

The Prime Minister also proposed the establishment of a Global South Young Diplomats Forum, in order to enable young officers of foreign ministries to connect and "synergise our diplomatic voice" through an official channel. He also announced the founding of Global South Scholarships to allow bright young minds from developing countries to pursue higher education in India.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND FINANCING, A PRIORITY

With G20 nations grappling with a growing number of disasters and climate change-related risks – amounting to an estimated annual average loss of \$218 billion or 9 percent of average annual investment in infrastructure – disaster risk reduction assumes great significance.

The G20 under India's Presidency has endorsed a new working group on disaster risk reduction. This makes it well-positioned to prioritise disaster risk

financing to achieve the targets set by Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The Sendai Framework outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks: understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster reduction for resilience and; enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

By prioritising disaster risk financing for the first time, the G20, under India's presidency can convert good intentions into opportunities for investment. The country has extensive experience dealing with natural disasters and can lead in promoting awareness of the financial impacts of disasters. It can also lead the way in establishing a regulatory framework to enhance the financial capacity of insurance companies to cover disaster losses. Through the systematic and granular approach of the new Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG), the G20 will make a significant contribution to global efforts to manage disaster risks and build resilient economies and societies.

This is absolutely important for the world as recent years have seen an

increase in both natural and human-made catastrophes across the globe. The 2021-22 Human Development Report shows that disasters do not merely aggravate poverty and stop development, but also generate social polarisation across communities and countries. Absence of able financial risk management and insurance has helped these risks to grow and deepen, affecting society and the economy drastically. Annual disaster losses make a momentous share of GDP in many low-income countries.

The G20 has a crucial role to play in supporting countries, especially the low-income economies, to strengthen their financial risk management abilities. Before a disaster strikes, states must have in place and boost their capacity to understand risks and integrate them into government planning and budget processes. Another important factor is to empower the insurance sector with better regulation, legislation, and supervision. One must take along the private sector, as alliances with the sector need to be enabled to transfer sovereign risk to the capital markets. Last but not least, financing for response, recovery, and reconstruction needs to be improved by shifting from cure to prevention mode.

To address these pressing issues, the G20's new DRRWG has recognised the importance of prioritising disaster risk

DR. PRAMOD SAWANT CHIEF MINISTER, GOA

"I am pleased to share a message with the readers of AsiaOne Magazine at an opportune time when India has the presidency of the G20. The G20 is a unique platform, as it brings together the developed and the developing nations to discuss and create solutions to overcome



many, grave global challenges. India with its message of "One-ness" can effectively bridge the divide between these groups of nations by forging consensus on key universal issues. It is a moment of immense pride for Goa, as it has been chosen as the host of eight G20 meetings. This decision reflects the recognition of Goa's potential to host and organise international events of such magnitude. It is a testimony to the state's progress and development in terms of infrastructure, connectivity, and tourism. The people of Goa take pride in this achievement and are looking forward to showcasing our culture and hospitality to the world. I extend my best wishes to AsiaOne Magazine for its endeavour to present a special article on India's G20 presidency."

financing, which was the focus of its second meeting in Mumbai in the last week of May. By emphasising the importance of disaster risk financing, the G20 can help governments worldwide to manage risk more effectively and ensure sustainable development.

The DRRWG aims to offer an extensive overview of disaster risk assessment and financing practices across countries. Right from data collection and analysis to improve access to international insurance markets, to disaster risk assessment and modelling, affordable and comprehensive insurance coverage of disaster risks, financial assistance and compensation for affected individuals and businesses, and risk transfer mechanisms, including catastrophe bonds and insurance, for management of fiscal risks, the DRRWG will strive to address all the key components of disaster management.

The working group on disaster risk reduction in the Sherpa Track of G20 will help issuers, investors, and other stakeholders to identify and classify disaster-resilient investments, assets, and entities in a more effective and evidence-based manner. By providing the screening criteria for investments in various areas — projects, assets, activities, entities — it could channel more capital towards disaster risk reduction investments, while creating new opportunities for innovation in sectors less commonly associated with disaster resilience, such as health, social protection, and natural capital.

Over 300 potential hazards identified by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction can significantly impact the financial services industry and hinder progress towards the SDGs. The industry must incorporate material disaster risk into its investment decisions. The world needs to move beyond treating disasters as singular events and adopt a multi-hazard approach, taking into consideration various emergencies and risks in financial decision making. The second G20 DRRWG meeting in Mumbai strived to create vital links between public and private actors' investment and financial decision making.

"THE G20 MEMBER COUNTRIES TOGETHER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF GLOBAL EMISSIONS. AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE GROUP HAS RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLECTIVE ACTION IN ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND CLIMATE CHANGE"

YOGI ADITYANATH CHIEF MINISTER, UTTAR PRADESH

"I am happy to know that AsiaOne Magazine is publishing a special feature on India's G20 Presidency titled 'India's G20 Presidency: Promoting Universal Oneness with 'One Earth, One Family, One Future,' in its upcoming issue. In the year of Amrit Mahotsava, India has been bestowed the honour of presiding over the G20 group of leading nations of the world, under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji. India is shaping new paradigms of human-centric globalisation encompassing the sublime spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam.' India's G20 Presidency has brought immense possibilities for UP. Eleven events are being organised in Lucknow, Agra, Varanasi and Gautam Buddha Nagar during the period of one year of G20

chaired by India. This global event is a great platform to introduce 'Brand Uttar Pradesh' to the world. We are committed to make the most out of this prestigious opportunity. I extend my greetings to every Indian, as we welcome G20 delegates. My best wishes for the entire endeavour!"



TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

The G20 member countries together — including the world's major advanced and developing economies — are also responsible for about three-quarters of global emissions. After the COVID-19 pandemic, the forum has recognised the importance of collective action in addressing environmental challenges and climate change. It started focusing on green growth, climate-resilient infrastructure, doing away with fossil fuel subsidies, green finance and investment and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), among the many crucial areas that need cooperation.

The G20 recognises the importance of collective action in tackling environmental challenges and climate change, while promoting transitions towards more flexible, transparent and cleaner energy

systems.

The first Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting of G20, held in Bengaluru on February 9-11, 2023, witnessed extensive deliberations on sustainable development and climate resilience. Speaking at the meeting, Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change said that with India taking over the G20 presidency, the discourse around sustainable development in the United Nations Decade of Action (2020-30) goal has caught global attention. The minister in February had said that the concept of 'Green Growth' in the Union Budget validates how sustainable development has been mainstreamed in the Indian policy-making process.

"India has already submitted its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) document at COP 27 in Sharm El Sheikh which is premised on two major pillars of climate justice and sustainable lifestyles alongside principles of CBDR-RC. With this India has joined a list of 58 countries who have submitted their new or updated LT-LEDS," he said.

Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) is a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It acknowledges the different capabilities

MANGAL PRABHAT LODHA
MINISTER, TOURISM, SKILLS, EMPLOYMENT,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION,
WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT, MAHARASHTRA

"I am delighted to learn that AsiaOne Magazine is showcasing several initiatives planned during India's presidency at G20. I hope that the upcoming feature in the magazine, "India's G20 Presidency: Promoting Universal Oneness with 'One Earth, One Family, One



Future," will give its international readers an insight into the country's vision of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and the objective of representing the 'whole world as one' at the G20 Summit in India. I will first express my gratitude to our Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, under whose guidance the nation has got the presidency of the G20 Council. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Eknath Shinde Ji and the Deputy Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadanvis Ji have emphasised on the beautification of the cities in Maharashtra with the repair of roads, beautification of squares, and lighting. We are also implementing the concept of 'responsible tourism,' and striving to improve the sector by adopting more sustainable and inclusive tourism."

and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change.

An equally important statement came from US economist and Director, Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University, Jeffery D. Sachs that with India taking the Presidency at G20, there will be four years in a row where countries representing the voice of the real world are at the head of the G20.

"It was Indonesia last year, India this year, Brazil next year, and South Africa, the next year. You have the power to make the change. The BRICS countries are now larger than the G7 economies. The world is in your hands," added the world-renowned economics professor and a global leader in sustainable development.

"The most positive news by far on this occasion is that the G20 Presidency is in India's hands. This is a fundamental change of global politics that is underway. It is extremely important. It is not an accident that we have not had progress politically. The biggest obstacle to progress by far in the last 25 years has been the US government and a few other high income countries. We need India to be in the lead, we need China to be in the lead, we need Brazil to be in the lead. What is remarkable about global politics right now is that we are in the midst of fundamental change. We are at the end of the North Atlantic world and at the beginning of a true multilateral world," Sachs said.

GIVING DIRECTION TO BUSINESSES

India's G20 presidency has come at a crucial time, when the world has never been in a bigger economic turmoil. While we struggle to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic fully, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and China's supremacy over supply chains have forced countries to look inwards and take more protectionist measures. In addition, the world faces an intimidating global recession, climate change and energy transition. There is a strong need for a resilient global healthcare system, digital transformation, and to overcome unemployment and a

rising poor-rich divide.

Amid these uncertainties, India stands as a bright, hopeful spot. It is one of the world's fastest-growing economies that is buzzing with economic activity, with tens of millions of aspirational consumers with a growing propensity to spend, a young labour force, and a huge start-up ecosystem, along with a pro-reform government keen to bring in investments and scale-up manufacturing.

Given this scenario, India's G20 Presidency is a brilliant opportunity for the nation to boost the partnership between businesses of the world's largest economies. Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue forum that provides practical recommendations from the business community to G20 leaders, to shape policy.

B20 India has strategised its agenda and priorities based on the earlier dialogues in previous G20 summits. The agenda is to drive these further through seven task forces and two action councils that will take ahead these priorities for the year. The task forces in the B20 India include trade and investment, skilling, technology and innovation, energy, climate change, and ESG. Each task force has a Chair and several Co-Chairs. A task force develops a policy paper with practical proposals for the forum. Through these task forces, businesses regularly exchange, consolidate interests, and promote joint positions on matters that build trust and interconnectivity. Businesses can address their challenges and needs through broader consensus and multi-country cooperation.

One of the most important engagement groups is the Startup20 Engagement Group. It is the first-of-its-kind official engagement group initiated under the Indian presidency of the G20.

Startup20 aims at creating a global narrative for supporting ventures along with



"THE IMF IN APRIL 2023 SAID THAT INDIA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY HAS LESSONS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES EMBARKING ON THEIR OWN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION. ITS APIS ENABLE ONLINE, PAPERLESS, CASHLESS, AND PRIVACY-RESPECTING DIGITAL ACCESS TO A VARIETY OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SERVICES"

easing contact and improving synergies with more established businesses. It is well-equipped to put forth far-reaching ideas, making policymakers to simplify complex processes and regulatory obstacles, and forge ahead from "ease of doing business" to "getting business done".

Apart from the engagement groups, the G20 has Working Groups under the Sherpa Track encompassing experts and officials from relevant ministries, representatives of G20 member nations, special invitee countries and prime international organisations. These forums actively discuss a range of internationally relevant issues and existing frameworks such as digital economy, environment and climate sustainability, education, health, and agriculture, among others.

The Working Groups also reflect India's priorities such as India's commitment to making LiFE a global movement. There are special campaigns, programs, and initiatives being launched, such as the G20 Digital Innovation Alliance under the G20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG).

DIGITAL ECONOMY AGENDA, A KEY FOCUS OF INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY

India's digital public infrastructure, which includes the Aadhar, eKYC, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Digilocker (an online storage platform), come under the 'India Stack'. It is a set of open APIs and digital public goods that aim to unlock the economic primitives of identity, data, and payments at population scale. Launched by the Prime Minister on July 4, 2022, the India Stack portal is available in all six United Nations official languages and provides a window to any country interested in examining these solutions. "Although the name of this project bears the word India, the vision of India Stack is not limited to one country; it can be applied to any nation, be it a developed one or an emerging one," says the Government of India on the India Stack website.

India's world-class DPI has many admirers across the globe, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In a working paper released in April 2023, the IMF said India's digital transformation

journey presents lessons for other countries embarking on their own digital transformation. Together these APIs enable online, paperless, cashless, and privacy-respecting digital access to a variety of public and private services, the paper noted.

The IMF paper, titled 'Stacking up the benefits: lessons from India's digital journey', argued that India's digital infrastructure helped the people during the pandemic. "India was able to quickly provide support to an impressive share of poor households during the pandemic. In the first months of the pandemic about 87 percent of poor households received at least one benefit," the paper said.

Thanks to the robust digital infrastructure across India, the Government of India could save an estimated 1.1 percent of the GDP in expenditure up to March 2021. The paper particularly noted how the government pushed for financial inclusion

through the Jan Dhan scheme, which provided low-cost zero-balance accounts to millions of poor Indians by linking their accounts to Aadhar. Under this initiative, 462.5 million bank accounts were opened in both urban and rural areas, as of August 2022. In addition, India Stack has digitised and simplified Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures, lowering costs. Banks that use e-KYC lowered their cost of compliance from \$12 to 6 cents, the IMF paper said.

The digital infrastructure has also helped overcome logistical challenges during the COVID-19 vaccination process. "Using a digital backbone allowed India to scale its vaccine delivery quickly and overcome challenges such as large-scale internal migration. The technology underlying CoWIN has been deployed in Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Jamaica to help facilitate their vaccination programmes," the paper noted.

To Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this digital transformation should not be confined to a small part of the "human race," and its greater benefits will be realised only when digital access becomes "truly inclusive." Speaking at the G20 summit on November 16 in Bali, Indonesia, the Prime Minister strongly pitched for a pledge by the G20 leaders to work for bringing digital transformation into the life of every human being in the next 10 years so that no person is deprived

H. E. MR. FEDERICO SALAS LOTFE AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO TO INDIA

"This year, while India is holding the G20 presidency, Mexico is working very closely with India to make sure that the goals, the objectives, that have been set out for this year's G20 summit in September are met appropriately.

In the past number of years, the



trade between Mexico and India has grown and has continued to grow. In spite of the pandemic, we are India's number one trading partner in Latin America. India has become the tenth largest trading partner of Mexico in the world. We are also the first Latin American investor in India.

We are working very closely with the India presidency of the Group of 20 to assure that the workings of the group are successful. The G20 is a group that is not only setting very much the agenda for the main topics that are of concern to all the nations of the world, but also contributing to make the multilateral system more effective, more accountable, more responsive to the needs of the world's population. I also wanted to say that I'm very proud to be doing this in the context of AsiaOne."

of the benefits of new technologies. India's G20 presidency is an opportunity to drive the message ahead.

As G20 president, India now has the opportunity to extend its digital revolution to low and middle-income countries, which still face a significant digital divide. On 28 December 2022, Union Minister of Communications, Electronics, and Information Technology (MeitY) Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the G20 Global Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA) and the Stay Safe Online campaign. "Solutions springing from India will not be solutions for 1.4 billion people of the world, but for the next 5 billion people of the world who will move from poverty to middle class," said G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant at the launch in New Delhi.

During India's G20 presidency, MeitY – the nodal ministry for the G20 DEWG – will focus on three priority areas, namely DPI, cyber security, and digital skill development, together with the Stay Safe Online campaign and DIA programme. MeitY aims to carry forward the vision of the digital transformation of the global digital economy for public service delivery through innovation and a future-ready digitally skilled workforce in a secure cyber environment.

The Stay Safe Online Campaign aims at raising awareness among citizens about the importance of staying safe online due to the widespread use of social media platforms and the rapid adoption of digital payments. The G20 DIA, on the other hand, seeks to identify, recognise, and facilitate the adoption of innovative and impactful digital technologies developed by startups from G20 countries as well as invited non-member nations. This can address humanity's needs in critical sectors such as agritech, health tech, edtech, fintech, secure digital infrastructure, and circular economy. As G20 president, India now has the opportunity to accelerate its digital transformation for the benefit of all humanity.

ENGAGING EVERY STAKEHOLDER

Besides their main business, companies can make an impact in a number of areas through Engagement Groups. These groups not only aim to add value to the economy, but also society, making them necessary to be part of the dialogue.

The Civil20 (C20) Engagement Group provides a platform for civil society organisations (CSOs) around the world to bring forth a non-government and non-business voice to G20, and give them space through which global CSOs can contribute in a structured and sustained manner to the G20.

Labour20 (L20) Summit convenes

H.E. MR. ALEJANDRO SIMANCAS MARIN AMBASSADOR OF CUBA TO INDIA

"Cuba and India established bilateral relationship in January 12, 1960. We have just accomplished 63 years of bilateral relationship. It has been based on friendship, cooperation, dialogue, respect. We have been always together in the history, and now in the present, in defending the



best values, the best causes of the world, defending the international law, the multilateralism, the rights of the people. Today, the challenges have changed, but in the essence, we are defending the same right – a better world for everybody based on social justice, equality of all the nations, multilateralism, and law. In that way, we celebrate the growing political and economic role that India is playing internationally.

This year, we are chairing the Group 77 plus China – the biggest group of countries that represent the real Global South. In reality, there are not 77 countries, but 134 countries, including India, in the G77+China. We are working together with India, particularly this year, to reinforce the Global South, to strengthen its voice and interest."

trade union leaders from G20 countries and provides analyses and policy recommendations aimed at addressing labour-related issues. Meetings under the Parliament20 (P20) Engagement Group aim to bring a parliamentary dimension to global governance, raise awareness, build political support for international commitments, and ensure that these are effectively translated into national realities. The Science20 Engagement Group, comprising the national science academies of the G20 countries, presents policymakers with consensus-based science-driven recommendations formulated through task forces comprising international experts.

A recent addition to the list of engagement groups under the G20 came last year. The Supreme Audit Institutions 20 (SAI20) as an Engagement Group was introduced by the Indonesian Presidency in 2022. It is a forum to discuss the important role played by SAIs globally in ensuring transparency and accountability, and in promoting cooperation among the G20 members.

Engagement groups such as Think20 (T20) and Urban 20 (U20) aim for far-reaching objectives. The T20 serves as an "idea bank" for the G20 by bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to discuss relevant international socio-economic issues. T20 recommendations are synthesised into policy briefs and presented to G20 working groups,

ministerial meetings, and leaders' summit to help the G20 deliver concrete policy measures.

The U20, a city diplomacy initiative, comprises cities from G20 countries. The group strives to establish a lasting practice of engagement among cities to develop a collective message that emphasises the role of cities in taking forward the sustainable development agenda. It plays a vital role in contributing perspectives, concerns, and ideas from cities to inform and enrich the overall G20 negotiations.

Buenos Aires, Tokyo, Riyadh, Rome and Jakarta have previously chaired the U20. This year, Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarat, is the Chair for the 6th edition of U20. Resonating with India's G20 theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', U20 Ahmedabad emphasises that actions at the city level can drive lasting positive global outcomes underscoring the interconnectedness of the world and our shared future. The National Institute of Urban Affairs is working with the city as the U20 Technical Secretariat.

There are six priority areas of this year's U20 that are critical for inspiring city-level actions to respond to global agendas. India aims to further develop these by collaborative deliberations among the U20 cities. The priorities are encouraging environmentally responsible behaviours; ensuring water security; accelerating climate finance; championing 'local'

"AN IMPORTANT INITIATIVE, PRADHAN MANTRI GRAMIN DIGITAL SAKSHARTA ABHIYAN AIMS TO BRIDGE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN THE COUNTRY. IT SPECIALLY TARGETS THE RURAL POPULATION, INCLUDING THE MARGINALISED SECTIONS OF SOCIETY, WOMEN AND GIRLS, AND AIMS TO COVER 6 CRORE RURAL HOUSEHOLDS"

identity; reinventing frameworks for urban governance and planning; and catalysing digital urban futures.

WOMEN AS DRIVERS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

One of the most important engagement groups is the Women 20 (W20), which focuses on gender equity. This is crucial as empowering women is no longer a choice, but a necessity. It is also smart economics. Women's involvement is needed for not only improving outcomes, but is also about investing in healthier communities and stronger economies. Closing gender gaps benefits countries as a whole, not just women and girls.

The primary significance of W20 is to ensure that women are included in the G20 discussion. The engagement group provides that the Leader's Declaration of G20 promises policies that move towards

women's empowerment and development. Its vision is to create a world where women share equal space and live dignified lives, and its mission is to create an enabling environment without any hindrances to women-led development.

The W20 agenda prioritises women-led businesses, and women at the grassroots level, bridging the digital divide. Furthermore, it facilitates conversation around climate change and women's skill development and education. W20 and its women-driven goals also support SDGs that lead to a greener and bluer earth.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi says, women empowerment is important for India's development during Amrit Kaal. "We cannot achieve success if 50 percent of our population, being women, is locked at home," the leader said in Bali, Indonesia in December 2022. Under his leadership, the Centre has been taking

measures for women empowerment. The country themed this year's International Women's Day, 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality.' From computing to virtual reality and artificial intelligence, women have made untold contributions to the digital world. Still, a persistent gender gap in digital access – either in the form of cyber threats in the digital ecosystem or its restricted reach to women altogether – keeps them from unlocking the technology's full potential. While supporting women socially, educationally, economically and politically, the Government of India is implementing several schemes to bridge the gendered digital gap.

An important initiative is Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan under Digital India programme that aims to bridge the digital divide. The programme specially targets the rural population, including the marginalised sections of society, women and girls, and aims to cover 6 crore rural households.

Another important programme is Mission Shakti. The integrated women empowerment programme is being rolled out as an umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period. The programme has two sub-schemes, namely "Sambal" for the safety and security of women and "Samarthya" for empowerment of women.

Under the 'Samarthya' sub-scheme, a new component i.e. Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) has been included to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at the Central, State/UT and District levels. Digital literacy of women at districts/ Blocks/Gram Panchayats level across the country is one the major components of this scheme.

National Commission of Women also has a series of initiatives under its Digital Shakti Campaign – a pan-India project on digitally empowering and skilling women and girls in cyberspace. The programmes are run in collaboration with CyberPeace Foundation and Meta.

While taking the mantle from Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked at the G20 Summit in Bali in December 2022 that "global development is not possible without women's participation."

Moving forward, India needs to focus on three critical areas, namely, women in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), women-led enterprises, and women at the grassroots level. These will have an encompassing impact on women's empowerment and help G20 economies reduce gender gaps

H.E. MR. SINISA PAVIC AMBASSADOR OF SERBIA TO INDIA

"Today's Serbia as tourist destination could be identified very easily if you search on the internet. Belgrade is a popular weekend destination. During the COVID period, in Serbia we spoke first about importance of India providing us quantity of vaccines against COVID in first

period. We had situation that in one moment we are a safe country in the frame of COVID-related rules, and then we had wonderful situation to have thousands of Indian families – mostly friends and families of Indian students – in some far countries who came there in Belgrade to spend a period before reaching the country of their final destination. Even in the most difficult period for both of our countries and humanity, we had a very positive and good result.

During the Indian presidency of G20, being based on 3D – development, diversity, and democracy, sharing the same values, we expect to have more similar occasions to share with our friends and talk about the importance of mutual understanding and contact between our two nations and with other nations in the world."





and inequality in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Agenda.

A key concern of W20 is to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed in the G20 discussions and translated into G20 Leader Declarations as policies and commitments that foster gender equality and women's economic empowerment. During India's G20 presidency, some of its priority areas are women's entrepreneurship, raising women's participation in the labour force, women's leadership at the grassroots level, bridging the gender digital divide, education, and skill development. Companies already running women empowerment programs or are eager to do something new under their CSR programs can contribute to improving women's lifestyles, especially from marginalised communities or those with different abilities.

FUELLED BY YOUNG ENERGY

Another crucial group is the Youth20 (Y20). An official engagement group of the G20, this group comprises young leaders from the G20 countries. It serves as a bridge between youth and the forum, providing a space for young people to share their ideas and perspectives on issues impacting their communities and the world. This year, the Y20 engagement group will be holding more than 500 outreach events with participation from more than 100 global leaders and target outreach to 350 million Indian youth population and 1 million global youth population – a grand opportunity for any youth-focused brand or anyone keen to make a valuable contribution to the youth.

As of 2021, a staggering 1.2 billion people, or 16 percent of the global population, belong to the age group of 15 years to 24 years. In just 7 years, by 2030, the number of youth is projected to

rise by 7 percent, reaching 1.3 billion and making up nearly a quarter of the world's population. In India, the data shows that the age group between 15 years to 29 years makes 34 percent of the population. Even as this number declines over time, around 24 percent of the Indian population will still be considered youth in 2030. The participation of all citizens in formal political and governance processes is the backbone of a healthy and meaningful democracy. People aged 14 years to 29 years represent the largest generation in history, and it is crucial to take this

significant section of the population into consideration and include them in the power structure for making decisions and the overall functioning of democracy.

As the United Nations Youth Strategy has stated, "Young people are connected like never before, they want to and already contribute to the resilience of their communities, proposing innovative solutions, driving social progress, and inspiring political change, in urban as well as rural contexts. Therefore, young people constitute a tremendous and essential asset worth investing in."

DR. HEMA DIVAKAR

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & CHAIRPERSON
ARTIST**

"As the largest democracy in the world, and the fastest growing economy, India's G20 presidency will play a crucial role in building upon the significant achievements of the previous 17 presidencies. We as healthcare professionals seek to play an important role by finding

pragmatic global solutions for the well-being of all. Being inspired by technology transformation, we at 'ARTIST for Her' have declared our mission of transforming women's healthcare through digital skill transfer.

The initiatives will use technology for spreading awareness on preventive healthcare to the community, building capacity of frontline healthcare providers to deliver quality care, and providing affordable healthcare through teleconsultations to the last mile, reaching every girl, every woman. Since we believe that "Women's Health is Nation's Wealth," all these steps taken will accelerate progress towards the SDGs and secure a better future for generations to come."



It's important to empower and involve the youth in democracy to create a strong foundation for the future, said Swami Vivekananda. The renowned spiritual leader and social reformer had a global vision for the youth. He believed that the youth of any nation possess the power to shape its destiny.

The five themes of the Y20 in the year of India's G20 presidency are: Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills; Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life; Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance; and Health, Wellbeing and Sports: Agenda for Youth.

INDIA, THE CENTRE OF GLOBAL BUSINESS

In an era of unmatched multidimensional crises, India has proved itself to be resilient. The G20 presidency not only gives India the opportunity to share success stories with the world, but also brings global businesses to India. The IMF's latest projections underline that emerging markets and developing economies are expected to contribute around 80 percent of global growth, with India accounting for more than 15 percent. Having recently become the world's fifth-largest economy, India is also the only large economy predicted to grow at over 6 percent in coming years.

The Government of India has been providing the right policy climate over the past few years to help the country steer through various crises, allowing for domestic capacity building and giving a necessary push to further propel India on the path of economic growth. This includes building the right environment for attracting foreign direct investment, engaging in deeper and freer trade and global value chain integration, improving infrastructure (including digital), reforms in the banking and renewable energy sectors, and promoting entrepreneurship.

While the G20 presidency aims to tackle issues like climate change, economic vulnerabilities, reform of multilateralism,

"This year, G20 has come to India. Its theme is One Earth. One Family. One Future. In India, we say this as Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. And that is exactly where India comes in from. I think we have completed in more than 40 cities, more than 100 meetings of G20."



DR. SATYA VADLAMANI
CHAIRPERSON AND MANAGING DIRECTOR,
MURALI KRISHNA PHARMA PVT. LTD.

As a platform to address global issues, it has been aligned towards women thought leaders, conservation, and sustainability. We have some top thought leaders in India who are working on all these areas. Healthcare is one of the key areas for the world, especially for women.

Sustainability and energy conservation have also been a major focus of discussion worldwide. We, at Murali Krishna Pharma, are working on sustainability, saving energy, and conservation. Primarily, we work on Go Green.

We are an aqueous company. When you talk about aqueous, you do not talk about solvents. When you do not use solvents, you do not create seepage into the earth. So, you are actually saving the earth."

lack of finance and embracing sustainability and green transition through collective efforts, India's economy can be boosted through international trade, international collaboration and sharing of best practices in technology to help the country build innovation, and the inclusion of MSMEs in deliberations to open new opportunities for them. The G20 deliberations through the year are also helping India showcase its technology prowess and initiate new partnerships. The Trade and Investment Working Group of G20 has been engaged in promoting resilient trade, enhancing MSME participation in trade and expanding logistics, among other issues.

Furthermore, directly engaging with global businesses can act as a catalyst for new investments, believe experts. Alongside the G20 meetings, leading businesses of the world are undertaking dialogues on the B20, which is the largest among

all G20 engagement groups. During the year, B20 India is organising more than 100 policy discussion initiatives across the country that are attracting noteworthy participation from other countries.

As the designated B20 secretariat, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has outlined nine priority areas with the theme of RAISE – Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, and Equitable businesses. Through seven task forces under B20, global businesses as well as think tanks and international organisations are working on building inclusive global value chains for resilient global trade and investment; the future of work, skilling, and mobility; energy, climate change and resource efficiency; digital transformation; financing for global economic recovery; technology, innovation, and research and development; and financial inclusion for economic empowerment. Further, two action councils are focusing on ESG in business and a collective dialogue on African economic integration.

As the G20 countries engage intensively with India during this year, India's economy is expected to receive a significant thrust that will enable many new jobs and investment proposals.

BOOSTING PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

India has put forth several priorities for the health sector in its G20 Health Working Group meetings. The priorities

"THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE RIGHT POLICY CLIMATE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS TO HELP THE COUNTRY STEER THROUGH VARIOUS CRISES, ALLOWING FOR DOMESTIC CAPACITY BUILDING AND GIVING A NECESSARY PUSH TO FURTHER PROPEL INDIA ON THE PATH OF ECONOMIC GROWTH"

CHINTAN PATEL
MANAGING DIRECTOR
DEESAN GROUP

"It is a great achievement of the Government of India to preside over G20. Delegations from G20 countries are meeting in various cities and states. So, they will be aware of progress India has made which may result in more investments, large numbers of tourists and may generate more employment opportunities. Our group is working on sustainability, technology upgradation and waste recycling with waste reduction. Ever since we started textile manufacturing, we have paid full attention to sustainability. We started a large project of water harvesting, free education to poor children, solar power installation, reduction in the use of water in processing, use of agro waste in boiler, among others. The Shirpur Pattern project — a water conservation project — is

highly recognised for its sustainable irrigation, increase in cropping, and minimising soil erosion. Similarly, most of the company's operations are powered by solar energy, thereby enabling us to reduce carbon footprints."



include health emergencies' prevention, preparedness and response; 'One Health' approach; antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance; strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector with focus on access to and availability of safe, effective, quality and affordable medical countermeasures such as vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics; and digital health innovations and solutions to aid universal health coverage and improve healthcare service delivery.

Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, is of the opinion that India's cordial relationships with both Global South and Global North can bring several advantages to the world, such as in the area of primary healthcare.

In a column published in an Indian daily on May 13, 2023, the Union Health Secretary wrote, "The COVID-19 pandemic has affirmed that health is a global public good. It has also underlined the critical role of the State in shaping and delivering a public health vision, especially because market forces often fail to address the medical needs of people, particularly the poorest and the most vulnerable, in full measure. It also highlighted the centrality of the WHO in shaping the contours of responses to disease outbreaks. The blueprint framed in the process can apply to national governments and multilateral institutions such as the G20. Its critical

elements include helping countries to respond promptly, providing accurate information, ensuring vital supplies reach frontline healthcare workers, training and mobilising medical professionals and developing and delivering vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics."

To health experts like Bhushan, strengthening primary healthcare is crucial to the roadmap ahead for health emergencies. And, India's G20 presidency would facilitate synergy with the WHO's 10 "bold proposals" for a safer and more equitable world, he said. Effective and timely strengthening of Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience (HEPPR) will require deepening the agreement and convergence amongst stakeholders. "The three pillars of HEPPR are governance, collaboration, and financing. India has played key roles and demonstrated political commitment in some of the recent initiatives on strengthening global health governance — these include the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) for the pandemic treaty, the Muscat Manifesto on AMR in Oman (2022), and the Friends of Medical Countermeasures Platform in South Africa (2023). The operational readiness of five interconnected multi-sectoral HEPR systems — collaborative surveillance, community protection, safe and scalable care, access to countermeasures, and emergency coordination — is another

priority area that India's G20 presidency is focusing on," he emphasised.

G20 has already contributed to the WHO and World Bank Pandemic Fund that was launched during the Indonesia presidency in November 2022. The Fund has secured more than \$1.6 billion in donations, mostly from G20 members, and will strengthen the HEPR in several countries of the Global South, the union health secretary highlighted.

MISSION LIFE

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) was first introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 in Glasgow, UK. It was officially launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 20 October 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat.

Mission LiFE focuses on bringing about behaviour changes in individuals for combating climate change. The objective is a global movement for transitioning from a model of destructive and mindless consumption to deliberate and mindful utilisation of resources.

The nodal ministry for national-level coordination and implementation of Mission LiFE, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has mobilised central ministries, state governments, institutions, and private organisations to align their activities with LiFE and spread awareness about the sustainable actions



that individuals can undertake. Activities such as street play, painting, and essay writing competitions are being carried out with a focus on sustainability, at district, state, and national levels under LiFE.

The initiative aims to create a global network of individuals called Pro-Planet People (P3) committed to adopting and promoting eco-friendly lifestyles. It envisions replacing the prevalent ‘use-and-dispose’ economy—governed by mindless and destructive consumption—with a circular economy, which would be defined by mindful and deliberate utilisation. The Mission intends to nudge individuals to undertake simple acts in their daily lives that can contribute significantly to climate change when embraced across the world.

LiFE plans to leverage the strength of social networks to influence social norms surrounding climate. The mission plans to create and nurture a global network of P3, who will have a shared commitment to adopt and promote environmentally friendly lifestyles. Through the P3 community, the Mission seeks to create an ecosystem that will reinforce and enable environmentally friendly behaviours to be self-sustainable.

Mission LiFE seeks to translate the vision of LiFE into measurable impact. It is designed with the objective to mobilise at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting and conserving

the environment in the period 2022–28. Within India, at least 80 percent of all villages and urban local bodies are aimed to become environment-friendly by 2028.

LiFE and SDGs

The Government of India reiterates that Mission LiFE contributes directly and indirectly to almost all SDGs, the prime ones being focused on sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), responsible production and consumption (SDG 12), climate change (SDG 13), life on land (SDG 15), and life under water (SDG 14), which together emphasise that all individuals ensure that their lifestyles are in sync with the resources available on the planet. Further, research from the New Climate Economy highlights that bold environmental action could create as many as 65 million jobs by 2030, serving SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

SDG 12 entails decoupling economic growth and environmental degradation and demands more efficient and environment-friendly management of resources, including improving energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, access to basic services, and providing green and decent jobs to ensure a better quality of life for all. The societal responsibility towards SDG 12 goes beyond businesses, to involve individual consumers as active participants in the process of achieving this goal.

Meri LiFE App

On May 15, 2023, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change launched the Meri LiFE app. The app will help in creating a structured way to track

DR. P. SHYAMA RAJU CHANCELLOR REVA UNIVERSITY

“REVA has aligned with G20 presidency right from the time the announcements of G20 presidency were made. The G20 Summit theme, — One Earth, One Family, One Future, which is on the principles of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — has been the key to all our activities



at REVA. The spirit of the NEP 2020 has already begun gaining momentum at REVA. Keeping the theme of G20 in mind, REVA went ahead and hosted in several states, a dance performance by the REVA School of Performing Arts and Indic Studies called Pancavaktram. The production blended perfectly with the Indian Knowledge System of the NEP and the theme of the G20 summit. Thereafter, at the campus, REVA hosted, Khel Khoj, a new way to play traditional games in limited spaces. This was our effort to revive the indigenous games of India. REVA University is responding to G20 Presidency by promoting links between universities and the environment in a sustainable, holistic, responsible and inclusive manner.”

the progress being made on Mission LiFE.

As a build up to June 5, the World Environment Day, the union minister launched the app to catalyse youth action for climate change. It will showcase the power of citizens, especially young people in saving the environment, and understand the impacts of simple actions in daily lives that can have a larger climate impact.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Government of India also has two dedicated portals for LiFE. The missionlife-moefcc.nic.in is an open access portal and can be used to download more than 100 creatives, videos, and knowledge materials developed for the mission.

The portal, merilife.org has been developed for ministries and institutions to upload event reports and capture the progress of the mass mobilisation drive.

In the run up to Environment Day, the central ministry organised more than 1,00,000 LiFE-related events across India, mobilising over 1.7 million individuals to take pro-planet actions.

The events included cleanliness drives, bicycle rallies, plantation drives, LiFE marathons, plastic collection drives, composting workshops, and taking a LiFE pledge. Many schools and colleges also organised cultural competitions such as street plays, essays, paintings, and youth parliaments.

Upon successful sign up on the app, the users were guided to participate in a series of LiFE-related tasks under five themes of Save Energy, Save Water, Reduce Single Use Plastic, Adopt Sustainable Food Systems and Adopt Healthy Lifestyle. Through a gamified experience, the app nudged people to take the 5-for-5 challenge.

The Meri LiFE app is available on Google Play Store. The theme of this year's mass mobilisation campaign, which ran till June 5, was Solutions to Plastic Pollution. The important topic aligned with one of the seven themes of Mission LiFE, i.e., "reducing the use of single-use plastic items." These plastic products are used once, and are responsible for causing massive plastic pollution across the world.

VSN RAJU
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COEMPT EDUTECK PVT. LTD.

"Coempt EduTeck Pvt. Ltd. (COEMPT) operates in education sector. We are making our small contribution in transforming education by empowering educational institutions in India with robust technology enabled examination solutions and user-friendly platforms that they can use to break away from traditional and erroneous means of assessing students. Our digital tools and user-friendly platforms help educational institutions to efficiently assess students in their academics and provide transparency to all stakeholders, be it students, teachers or parents. The solutions have been developed using the latest technology that reduces barriers and help us to easily expand across geographies. COEMPT is keen to collaborate with academic institutions, policymakers,

and other stakeholders across nations to conduct research, pilot innovative solutions, and share best practices that advance the objectives of the G20 2023 agenda. Edutech companies like ours are poised to play a significant role in contributing to achieve the G20 objective."



THE JOURNEY SO FAR

From April 17-19, 2023, India hosted its 100th G20 meeting in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The milestone of 100 meetings was successfully achieved across 41 cities in 28 states and union territories, with more than 12,300 delegates from 110 nationalities. These meetings included three ministerial meetings, 36 workstreams, more than 150 cultural events, and 7,000 artists.

In the four months since India assumed the mantle of the G20 presidency, all 13 working groups under the Sherpa Track, 10 out of 11 Engagement Groups, and four G20 initiatives had completed their first meeting.

The G20 Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (G20 EMPOWER), Research & Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG), Chief Scientific

Advisers Roundtable (CSAR), and the Space Economy Leaders Meeting (SELM) had successfully hosted their inception meetings.

Space economy has been a relatively new entrant to the G20, being introduced in 2020. Under its presidency, India is expected to make all attempts to lobby for making space as a formal element of G20 discussions for future. Various governments present at the Space Economy Leaders Meeting, held from April 17-18, 2023, in Shillong, Meghalaya supported the idea of boosting the sector.

On the occasion of accomplishing 100 meetings successfully, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant highlighted the inclusive pan-India approach of India's G20 presidency, which is centred on Jan Bhagidari or citizen's engagement.

"It underscores our commitment to making the G20 a platform that is truly representative of and responsive to the people's needs. In line with our values, India has long held active public participation at the core of its policy formulations. As such, our G20 ambitions are in tune with a human-centric approach to development. The G20 engagement groups form the bedrock of constructive civil engagement within the ambit of high-level multilateral negotiations and have a significant share of voice in shaping India's G20 agenda," said Amitabh Kant.

The leader also shared the significant

"INDIA'S TRADE AND INVESTMENT WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN DRIVING ITS EXTENSIVE LIST OF PRIORITIES, INCLUDING TRADE DIGITISATION, DEVELOPING HINTERLAND LOGISTICS, FINANCING NEEDS OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AND BUILDING RESILIENT GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS, TO NAME A FEW"

progress made by the various G20 working groups in addressing critical global priorities. The Agriculture Working Group has proposed solution-based approaches for food security and nutrition, focusing on climate-smart agriculture, inclusive value chains, and digitisation for agricultural transformation.

Digital transformation has been a cross-cutting priority, with the Health Working Group proposing initiatives such as the global initiative on digital health and an IT-enabled pandemic-management platform.

The Digital Economy Working Group is shining a spotlight on India's innovative, open-source, and interoperable DPI that has empowered billions of people and led to significant financial and social transformation. This presents a unique opportunity for India to impart best practices, having successfully developed and deployed ground-breaking initiatives such as Aadhaar, CoWIN, UPI, e-KYC, and ONDC, at an unprecedented scale, the senior official said.

The Education Working Group is adopting digital inclusion for inclusive and collaborative tech-enabled learning, focusing on universal foundational literacy and numeracy.

India's new Engagement Group, Startup20 to provide a major impetus to innovation, has received overwhelming support, shared Amitabh Kant.



Climate action is a key priority. India's G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group is focusing on finance and technology, and the Energy Transitions Working Group is spearheading fair energy transitions, including setting the foundations for India as a green hydrogen hub.

The Development Working Group is coordinating efforts to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting India's behaviour-based

movement, LiFE, which incentivises communities and markets to adopt environmentally conscious practices. The group has also engaged with other fora, including the Conference of the Parties (COP) presidency of the United Arab Emirates, upcoming G20 presidencies of Brazil and South Africa, and Japan's G7 presidency, to further India's developmental priorities.

India has also established the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group for the first time to encourage collective research and the exchange of best practices on disaster risk reduction.

The Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) has seen strong participation from member countries, as India hosted its first-ever in-person ministerial meeting in March. On the first day of the ACWG, a side event was held on Leveraging ICT to curb corruption in the public sector, an area in which India's recent initiatives like the GEM Portal and DBT were globally recognised. During this event, leading experts from India showcased how India has adapted the power of ICT to curb corruption in public service delivery.

India's Trade and Investment Working Group has also been driving its extensive list of priorities, including trade digitisation, developing hinterland logistics, financing needs of micro, small and medium enterprises, building resilient global value chains, and reforming global financial institutions such as the World Trade Organization. The group has also focused on women's economic empowerment and promoting sustainable trade.

Finally, the Tourism and Culture Working Groups are working hard to boost green tourism as a driver of growth, and preserve and promote traditional cultures and cultural properties, respectively.

DR. MINNIE BODHANWALA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
WADIA HOSPITALS

"My visionary aspirations lay a profound long-term objective of fostering an affordable and universally accessible healthcare landscape, steadfastly upholding unwavering standards of quality and treatment. Aligned with the esteemed vision of India's G20



Presidency, my endeavour is to forge a comprehensive framework that mitigates disparities in healthcare availability across the globe, fostering a future where the doors of healing remain open to all, regardless of their origins or circumstances. My vision is not just limited to providing easily accessible and affordable quality healthcare, but also on the well-being of all which includes social and emotional well-being. Similarly, being a proponent to leverage digital technologies to improve access to health services, I am also supporting it by providing various digital tools, through my hospitals, to expand access to health services in remote and underserved areas. My focus is on providing value-based healthcare system to all."

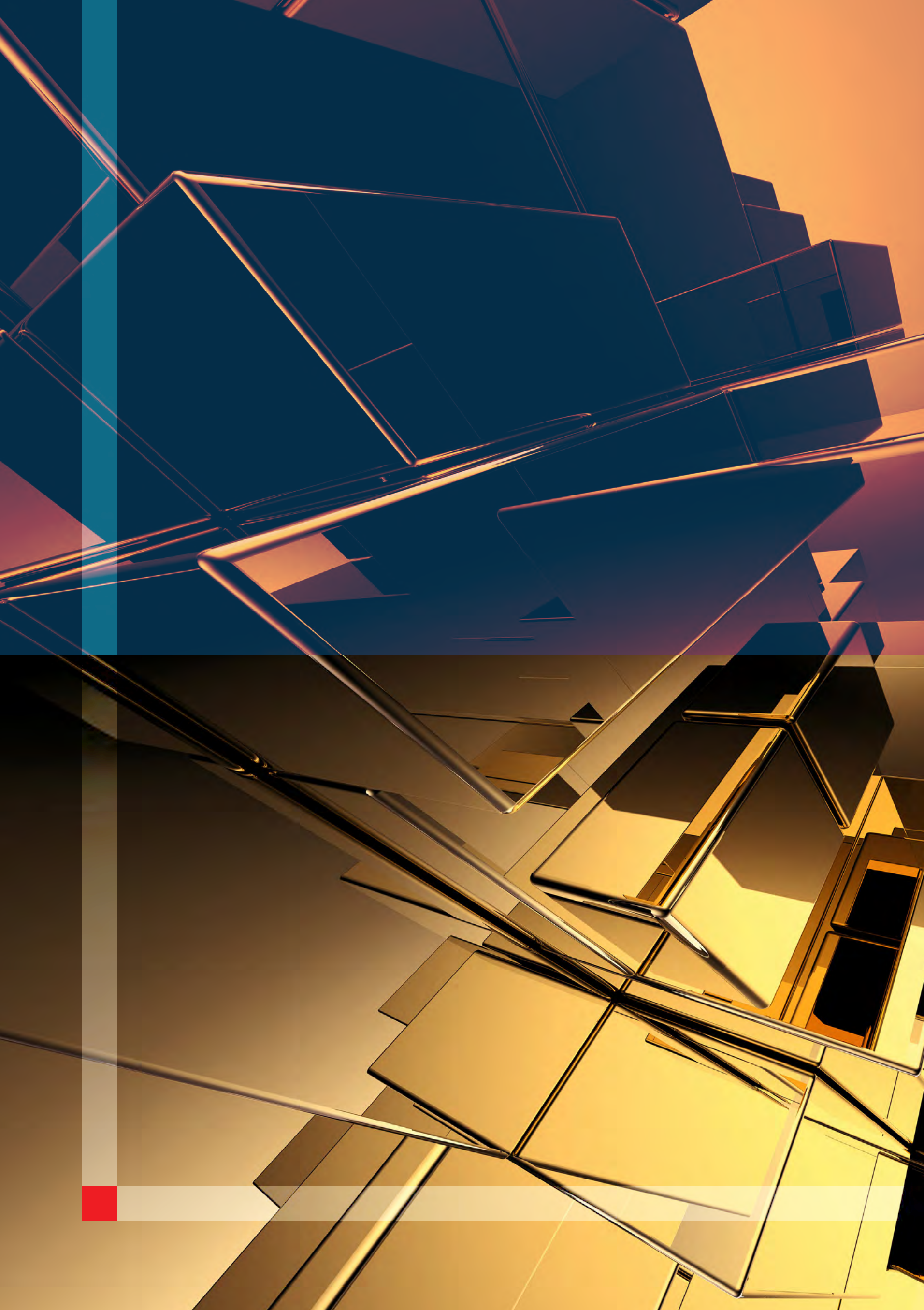
For some, the success of a great business leader is measured by the bottom line. For others, it is estimated by the company culture, connection and purpose one has built. For the Greatest Leader, it is a sum total of all these factors. A step ahead from the rest, the Greatest Leaders are known for key leadership styles of visionary, coaching, affiliative, democratic, pace-setting, and commanding. Our latest collection of Greatest Leaders brings to you success stories of a handful of such leaders. The compilation encapsulates the interesting journeys of the leaders, who have not only established themselves in business, but also contributed to the economy and social development of the country. An inspiration to many today, these industry captains through their commitment to excellence, best practices, innovation and global outlook, coupled with respect for society, have become the embodiments of ideal leadership. AsiaOne Magazine salutes the indomitable spirit of these leaders





Presents

GREATEST LEADERS 2023





ICONIC

STUDIO

A Versatile Humanitarian

Indian yoga guru Jagadish Vasudev, popularly known as Sadhguru, is a proponent of spirituality and yoga. Since 1982, he has been teaching yoga in Southern India. A renowned speaker and opinion-maker, Sadhguru has been ranked among India's 50 most influential people. One of the most distinguished citizens of India, he is the only Indian to be honoured with three presidential awards from three different presidents – including India's highest annual civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan

Sadhguru was born in 1957 in Mysore, India. He was a fearless rebel since his childhood. Snake catching and venturing into the wilderness used to be his favourite pastimes in those days. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in English from Mysore University. The profound mystic rethought the purpose of his life at the age of 25 after undergoing a spiritual experience. He eventually discovered his true calling and became a yoga teacher. With his ability to make ancient yogic sciences relevant to contemporary minds, the spiritual leader has transformed how young people view yoga and spirituality. According to him, yoga can help mortals generate happiness from within and mould their destinies.

THE 'UNEDUCATED' GURU

Sadhguru is known for his razor-sharp intelligence, unstoppable passion and dedication to spreading yoga and spirituality among the youth worldwide. His life's mission is to promote the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of everyone. Moreover, his profound experience of the Self has enabled him to master the mechanisms of life. Millions of followers worldwide seek his guidance on spirituality, meditation, and the "realm of mysticism." As a leader, he is credited with creating the historic Dhyanalinga – the mission of three lifetimes.

The spiritual leader has devised a unique set of activities to promote universal values and religious harmony through this meditation technique. His life experience is not based on teaching, philosophy, religion, or belief system. His scientific methods for self-transformation offer a direct and

effective alternative to mere customs and rituals. The humble leader says, "The word 'Sadhguru' is not a title. It is a description. Sadhguru means 'uneducated Guru.' I don't know any scriptures. I come only from my inner experience. The only thing I know is this piece of life from its origin to its ultimate."

THE ISHA FOUNDATION

In 1992, Sadhguru founded the Isha Foundation near Coimbatore. With human well-being as its primary objective, the non-profit organisation operates an ashram and a yoga centre that carries out educational activities. A total of 16 million volunteers support its 300 centres worldwide.

Through Sadhguru, the Isha Foundation is dedicated to exploring the ancient science of yoga in its entirety. The Foundation offers several programmes to help individuals achieve physical, mental and spiritual well-being. These programmes have powerful transformational effects on the human body. Among the most crucial flagship programmes he offers to help people gain a balanced life are the Inner Engineering programmes.

A MULTI-TALENTED INDIVIDUAL

With his absolute clarity of perception, Sadhguru has a unique position in the worlds of spirituality, business, the environment, and international affairs. He is a voracious writer and the author of two New York Times bestsellers – a rare feat in the publishing genre of spirituality and mysticism. He has a very strong social media and digital media presence. Over 2.44 billion views of his videos on social media in 2021 made him the world's most

popular spiritual guide.

In addition to being a delegate to the United Nations Millennium World Peace Summit, Sadhguru is also a member of the World Council of Religious and Spiritual Leaders and the Alliance for New Humanity. He has been invited to the Australian Leadership Retreat, Tallberg Forum, and Indian Economic Summits 2005-2008. He also attends the World Economic Forum regularly. Sadhguru's gentle side can bring tears of gratitude and laughter to even the most hardened hearts. He is adored by ash-smearing yogis, cheerful village children, and top-tier executives alike.

THE VISIONARY

A celebratory participant in all aspects of life, Sadhguru's interests span architecture, visual design, poetry, painting, aviation, driving, sports, and music. His insights have led to the establishing of the Sadhguru Center for a Conscious Planet at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, the teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School. The Yogi believes that insight, integrity and inspiration are the essential attributes of a leader. The wise and witty leader has been interviewed by BBC, Bloomberg, CNBC, CNNfn, and Newsweek International for his vision and understanding of modern social and economic issues. Additionally, the leading national newspapers in India regularly publish his insights. His public talks and *satsangs* (group meditations) regularly draw crowds of over 3,00,000 people.

AN IMPECCABLE ORATOR

As an international speaker, Sadhguru is sought after by several prestigious global



“SADHGURU HAS UNDERTAKEN MASSIVE ECOLOGICAL INITIATIVES TO DEAL WITH BURNING ISSUES SUCH AS SOIL, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE. THERE ARE NOW 3.91 BILLION PEOPLE INVOLVED IN SADHGURU’S SAVE SOIL MOVEMENT, MAKING IT THE LARGEST PEOPLE’S MOVEMENT IN THE WORLD”



forums around the world. Aside from human rights, he also addresses issues related to business values, social issues and environmental concerns. He has also spoken at the UN General Assembly, the UNCCD COP15, and other international forums. In addition, he has spoken at institutions such as the World Economic Forum, the World Bank, the House of Lords, the University of Oxford, MIT, Google and Microsoft. The in-depth knowledge and incisive approach that Sadhguru brings to current issues and world affairs have made him a constant favourite among his listeners and followers.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

With the goal of reviving the human spirit, re-establishing communities, and preserving the environment, Sadhguru carries out several sizeable human service initiatives through the Isha Foundation. To date, the Foundation has assisted 1,32,000 farmers in growing 62 million trees, provided healthcare to 7 million clients in rural areas, and educated over 10,000 rural children.

The Foundation and its various initiatives have received worldwide recognition, including Observer status at the UN Environment, membership in the IUCN, accreditation by the UNCCD, and UN Climate Change Compendium inclusion.

Sadhguru has undertaken massive ecological initiatives to deal with burning issues such as soil, water and climate change. The visionary humanitarian launched Rally for Rivers in 2017. With 162 million people backing the campaign, it became the most significant environmental movement in the world. Likewise, the Cauvery Calling initiative was launched in 2019 to restore the severely depleted river Cauvery in South India. Over the next 12 years, this movement aims to plant 2.42 billion trees through agroforestry in the river basin.

During his 30,000-kilometre motorcycle journey from Europe to Southern India, Sadhguru inspired citizens, influencers, business and government leaders to prioritise soil revitalisation. There are now 3.91 billion people involved in Sadhguru’s Save Soil movement, making it the largest people’s movement in the world. The movement has so far attracted 81 nations, which is indeed a commendable achievement.

Sadhguru has received numerous prestigious awards for his wisdom and unwavering efforts to save the environment. In 2008, the Padma Vibhushan recipient received the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar for his contributions to the Isha Foundation’s GreenHands Project.

A Serial High Achiever

Handling one of the most difficult jobs in the world, Rishi Sunak in February 2023 completed 100 days in 10 Downing Street, London. There are multiple reasons for him to be there, the prime being his vast experience, which began from working in his mother's small pharmacy shop and went onto building large businesses and managing the economy of the country. In his own words, he has the first-hand experience of how politicians should support free enterprise and innovation to ensure future prosperity

The youngest leader of the United Kingdom in two centuries, most importantly its first prime minister of South Asian heritage and a Hindu, Rishi Sunak says that accepting the role of UK PM was his *dharma* – “about doing the things that were expected of you and trying to do the right thing.” The Conservative leader is well versed in economics, and UK citizens appreciated his role as the finance minister, and at this moment of the financial crisis, he is an excellent choice to manage the country's economy and make a stunning comeback. As the Prime Minister of the UK Rishi has to tame soaring inflation, make the sluggish UK economy grow, ease pressure on its overburdened healthcare system, and “restore the integrity back into politics”.

What it takes to make the cut is right decisions and risk taking ability, which the 42-year-old world leader is known for. He quit a dream career as an investment banker in Goldman Sachs to go for an MBA and then employment. He also knew that following his faith publicly may make him a target for western media, but did not change his stand. He has always stood up for what he thought to be correct. He took a stand for his traditional and religious values, and was strong and determined about his economic policies and ideas.

HUMBLE ROOTS, GREAT EDUCATION

Rishi Sunak was born in Southampton on May 12, 1980, to Indian immigrants, with roots in Punjab and East Africa. They met and married after their families migrated in the 1960s to Southampton in southern England. Rishi's father became a general

practitioner for the National Health Service. His mother, a pharmacist, owned and operated a small pharmacy, for which Rishi, the eldest of their three children, would eventually keep the books. Later, during his political career, he would underline this fact to relate his experiences working in the family business and the values he gained from them with those of Conservative Party idol Margaret Thatcher, who was the daughter of a grocer.

Rishi was fortunate to embark on a path travelled by the most privileged in society. He grew up watching his parents serve the local Indian community, and wanted to make that same positive difference to people as their Member of Parliament. He was first elected to the UK parliament in 2015 and was re-elected in 2017 and 2019. A game-changer in his life was good education. Rishi's parents worked hard to give their children the best of education. Their sacrifices enabled him to attend private school at Winchester College, where he became the head boy. He went on to study philosophy, politics, and economics at Lincoln College, Oxford, where he was president of the Oxford Trading and Investment Society that helped students with opportunities to learn about financial markets and global trading. While at Oxford, Rishi also had an internship at the headquarters of the Conservative Party. During his student life, he volunteered his time to education programmes that unfolded opportunities. In his summer vacations, he also waited tables at a Southampton Indian restaurant. Today, as a politician, he aims to ensure that every individual gets the benefit of good education.

After graduating from Oxford in 2001, Rishi became an analyst for Goldman Sachs and worked for the investment banking company until 2004. He quit the job and pursued an MBA at Stanford University as a Fulbright scholar. At the Stanford University, he met his future wife, Akshata Murthy, daughter of the Indian billionaire and cofounder of technology giant Infosys, Narayana Murthy. After Stanford, he began a successful business career that included stints at Goldman Sachs and as a hedge fund manager.

In a successful business career, Rishi co-founded a large investment firm, working with companies from Silicon Valley in the US to Bengaluru in India. He used this experience to help small and entrepreneurial UK companies grow successfully. From working in his mother's small chemist shop to building large businesses, he realised how policies could support free enterprise and innovation to ensure future growth.

MAKING OF A WORLD LEADER

By the time Rishi switched to politics in his early 30s, he was already wealthy on his own. In 2010, he began working for the Conservative Party. During this period, he also became involved with Policy Exchange, a leading Conservative think tank, for which he became head of the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Research Unit in 2014. In the same year, he was chosen as the Conservative Party's candidate for the House of Commons from Richmond in North Yorkshire, a safe Conservative seat in the north of England long represented by one-time party leader William Hague.

In his first speech in the UK Parliament,



“DURING HIS STUDENT LIFE, RISHI VOLUNTEERED HIS TIME TO EDUCATION PROGRAMMES THAT UNFOLDED OPPORTUNITIES. IN HIS SUMMER VACATIONS, HE ALSO WAITED TABLES AT A RESTAURANT. TODAY, AS A POLITICIAN, HE AIMS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE GETS THE BENEFIT OF GOOD EDUCATION”



Rishi shared a story from the days of his first campaign. It is about a farmer in Yorkshire who remarked, when Rishi was introduced to him as “the New William Hague”. “Ah yes Haguey! Good bloke. I like him. Bit pale, though. This one’s got a nice tan.” William Hague himself praises him as “down to earth – a non-ideological Conservative”.

In May 2015, Rishi was elected by a commanding majority to the Parliament from Richmond, North Yorkshire, a seat he still holds. He joined the “leave” camp on the issue of Brexit, which he said would make the United Kingdom “freer, fairer, and more prosperous.” He was re-elected to Parliament in 2017 and 2019, and he voted three times in favour of Prime Minister Theresa May’s Brexit plans. In January 2018, he entered Government service as the Minister for Local Government, became Chief Secretary to the Treasury in July 2019, and was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer in February 2020 and stayed on this position till July 2022.

Almost immediately after becoming the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi faced the challenges posed by the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic. As the British economy was clobbered by the shutdowns to stem the spread of the virus, his office tried to offset about £330 billion (\$400 billion) in emergency funds for businesses and salary subsidies for workers to retain talent and ease the burden of the lockdown on people and businesses. His rescue programs became widely popular, helping him become a welcome face of the government at daily media briefings.

MAN OF THE MOMENT

Rishi Sunak resigned from the cabinet on July 5, 2022, and declared his intention to replace then UK PM Boris Johnson as leader. He lost to Foreign Secretary Liz Truss for the top job, which she could not sustain beyond 45 days, and paved the way for Rishi to become the first person of colour and first Hindu to lead Britain.

The journey as the UK PM so far has been a mixed bag for Rishi, but he is doing better than his predecessors, say observers. “Since Sunak has taken over, the polls have stabilised and the Labour lead has narrowed...,” said British polling agency YouGov on his 100 days in the office. On his personal rating, the agency assessed, “The Prime Minister’s personal favourability rating is comparatively better than those of his predecessors, sitting at -29 compared to Boris Johnson’s final score of -40 and Truss’s rock bottom -70.”

Numbering Life Path

Dr. JC Chaudhry, the Chairman of Chaudhry Nummero Pvt. Ltd. (CNPL) — a numerology consultation & auditing company — is an accomplished veteran in the realm of numerology with over 38 years of expertise under his belt. He has established benchmarks in entrepreneurship and leadership, wielding his influence with dexterity. Moreover, he has successfully steered the renowned coaching institution, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) for more than 35 years, showcasing his unwavering commitment and fervour for education. Indeed, he is a true maestro who boasts an impeccable track record in his domain

After obtaining his M.Sc. (Botany) from BITS Pilani in 1972, Dr. JC Chaudhry embarked on a distinguished career in academia as a lecturer at Vaish College, Bhiwani, and later joined the esteemed Hansraj Model School in Delhi. His passion for teaching and imparting knowledge led him to a government job in a school, where he dedicated two decades to shaping young minds. However, he realised that his true potential could not be fully realised within the confines of a job, prompting him to venture into entrepreneurship.

With a vision to create a unique educational institution, Dr. Chaudhry founded the Aakash Institute with just 12 students. The first year yielded remarkable success, with seven of these students achieving their dream of becoming doctors. This early achievement proved to be a turning point in his life, igniting his motivation to continue with relentless dedication. Over the course of 35 years, he tirelessly built Aakash Institute into one of the country's largest and most successful test preparation institutes. He is recognised as the driving force behind AESL. In 2021, he divested the institute to Byju's, while retaining the

position of Chairman of the entity.

THE BIRTH OF A PASSION

Dr. Chaudhry, a fervent believer in the power of numbers, turned his passion into purpose by establishing CNPL in 2018.

In 1984, the leader had embarked on a journey of self-discovery through numerology, under the guidance of a relative. This new-found knowledge ignited a deep passion, prompting him to immerse himself in extensive self-study and research, delving into numerology books authored by renowned writers from the US, Britain, and Australia. For 39 years, he honed his skills and expertise in numerology, providing free consultations to relatives, friends and others, deriving joy and motivation from the positive feedback he received. His passion for numerology and expertise in the area eventually propelled him to embark on a mission and a new career journey with CNPL.

Through CNPL, Dr. Chaudhry intended to spread awareness and empower individuals with the wisdom of numerology to overcome challenges and achieve success in their lives. He has even authored his own books on numerology, further solidifying his

mastery of the fascinating science.

With his ability to decipher the hidden language of numbers, he has performed countless name corrections, guiding both ordinary people and distinguished personalities towards an elevated lifestyle. His numerological expertise has been a beacon of transformation, illuminating the paths of those seeking positive change through the power of numerical vibrations.

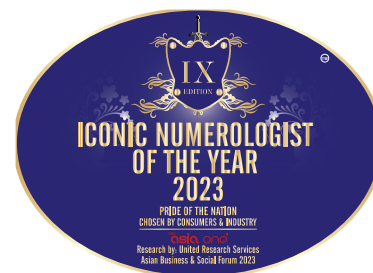
Dr. Chaudhry says, "Numbers are the fundamental language of the universe, predating the existence of human beings. They vibrate with their own unique frequencies, and they communicate a language that can be deciphered by those who are attuned to their wisdom." He has discovered that numbers follow a cyclical pattern, repeating every nine years, and hold valuable insights about the future. For him, numbers are not just tools of calculation, but profound guides that reveal the mysteries of life itself.

HARD WORK AND COMPASSION

Dr. Chaudhry emphasises that while numbers are significant, hard work is the cornerstone of success. "Numbers can provide insights into favourable and unfavourable periods



“NUMBERS ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL LANGUAGE OF THE UNIVERSE, PREDATING THE EXISTENCE OF HUMAN BEINGS. THEY VIBRATE WITH THEIR OWN UNIQUE FREQUENCIES, AND THEY COMMUNICATE A LANGUAGE THAT CAN BE DECIPHERED BY THOSE WHO ARE ATTUNED TO THEIR WISDOM”



of business decisions, but they cannot replace the value of dedicated effort,” he says. To him, Karma, or the law of cause and effect, is paramount. By understanding the significance of numbers, individuals can optimise their time and energy, and avoid potential failures resulting from mismatched numbers, he adds.

Driven by a compassionate heart, Dr. Chaudhry established Aakash Healthcare Private Limited, a premier super specialty hospital in Delhi in 2017. Today, it stands as one of the top multi-specialty hospitals. It provided exceptional healthcare services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its outstanding efforts have earned recognition at the national and international level.

Having achieved exceptional success in his life with the blessings of MaaVaishno Devi, he made a humble offering at the Lotus feet of Maa through the establishment of MaaVaishnoDham in Vrindavan, UP. This pious place is decorated with the tallest statue of Goddess MaaVaishno Devi (about 141 ft. high) in lush green surroundings. In continuation of the spiritual journey, he is now operating three more dhams, dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Shani, and Lord Radha Krishna, and will be known as ChaarDhaam. The Mahadev statue at the ChaarmDham stands 165 ft. high amidst serene and beautiful surroundings.

MILESTONES ACHIEVED

Over the years, Dr. Chaudhry has expanded his services across borders, catering to clients in the USA, UK, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, South Africa, Amsterdam, Canada and Dubai. He is also the visionary behind International Numerology Day, celebrated annually on his birthdate, November 18th. He has also launched the International Numerology Forum as a global platform for numerologists to exchange ideas, and founded the Indian Institute of Numerology to integrate numerology with modern science and technology.

The leader has been honoured with numerous prestigious national and international awards for numerology. In 2023, GLA University conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa). He received the BITS Pilani Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2022. He was granted the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa) by Mewar University in 2022, and received the Entrepreneurship Award from PHDCCI in 2020. In his honour, J.C. Chaudhry NAB Auditorium was inaugurated in BITS Pilani in 2023.

Rethinking Education

Dr. P. Shyama Raju, the esteemed Chancellor of REVA University, established in 2013, has been igniting the spirits of millions with his boundless enthusiasm and commitment to excellence. Driven by passion and enriched by a vast experience, Dr. Raju's remarkable journey is a testament to his indomitable spirit. His resolute dedication to academic excellence has established him as a thought leader and change-maker in the world of education, and propelled REVA University to new heights in global rankings

Born on 6 January 1950 in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. P. Shyama Raju began his journey from humble beginnings. After obtaining a degree in Commerce from SGS Arts College, Tirupati, AP, he took the reins and founded Shyama Raju & Company Pvt. Ltd. in Bangalore, with a vision to undertake public projects. Demonstrating his tenacity and perseverance, he approached the Bengaluru City Corporation and was entrusted with two of the most challenging developments under its purview. This marked a turning point in his career, and he rose to the occasion with aplomb.

With the inception of DivyaSree Developers in 1997, a real estate development company, Dr. Raju embarked on a journey that established him as a stalwart in the field. His entrepreneurial spirit was instrumental in propelling the company to great heights, and it continues to flourish under his able guidance.

DRIVEN BY A VISION

REVA (Rukmini Educational Vision Academy) University, a unit of DivyaSree Group is the result of Dr. Raju's unwavering determination to fulfil his late wife, Mrs.

Rukmini Shyama Raju's cherished dream of establishing world-class educational institutions. With years of relentless toil, resilience and commitment, REVA University has become a paragon of excellence and quality. Under the aegis of the REVA Group of Educational Institutions, which was initiated by the Rukmini Educational Charitable Trust, the university is firm in its resolve to provide world-class education to the Indian youth. Under Dr. Raju's stewardship, the university has evolved from 150 students to over 15,000 students enrolled annually. "The transformation of REVA from a recognised college to a distinguished university has been a challenging yet rewarding journey. It was a moment of immense pride and admiration when the Government of Karnataka extended an invitation to bestow the University status upon REVA," expresses Dr. Raju.

EMPHASISES PERSONAL ATTENTION

REVA University diligently fosters a culture of discipline, where regular attendance in classes and active engagement in the academic pursuits within the campus are consistently encouraged. The edupreneur

ensures that the programs offered by University are meticulously designed and developed by eminent professors and industry experts. With a keen understanding of their social relevance and the demands of the job market, these programs are crafted to equip students with the necessary skills for success. He says, "REVA University is not just an institution, but a melting pot of creativity, innovation, and excellence, where students are encouraged to dream big and unleash their potential to make a positive impact on society."

A TECH-SAVVY LEADER

Dr. Raju is a firm believer in the power of technology and is driven by the principle of "Learning Unlimited." He emphasises that technology is not just an enabler but a necessary medium in today's rapidly changing world. With a research-driven mindset, he aims to transform the university into a globally acknowledged hub of research and innovation.

He also ensures that the institution's ecosystem is not only technology-centred, but also designed to foster students' overall development. Its exclusive executive programme RACE (REVA Academy for



“REVA HAS OVER A DECADE TRANSFORMED AS A SOCIAL IMPACT UNIVERSITY. THROUGH OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS ALIGNING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SDGS AND OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMMES, WE HOPE TO TRANSFORM OUR YOUTH TO BEING SENSITIVE AND RESPONSIBLE GLOBAL CITIZENS”



Corporate Excellence) has been ranked 2nd in India for MBA in Business Analytics, and initiatives like REVA NEST, the Start-Up Incubator, are aimed at making students corporate-ready.

PROMOTES LIFELONG LEARNING

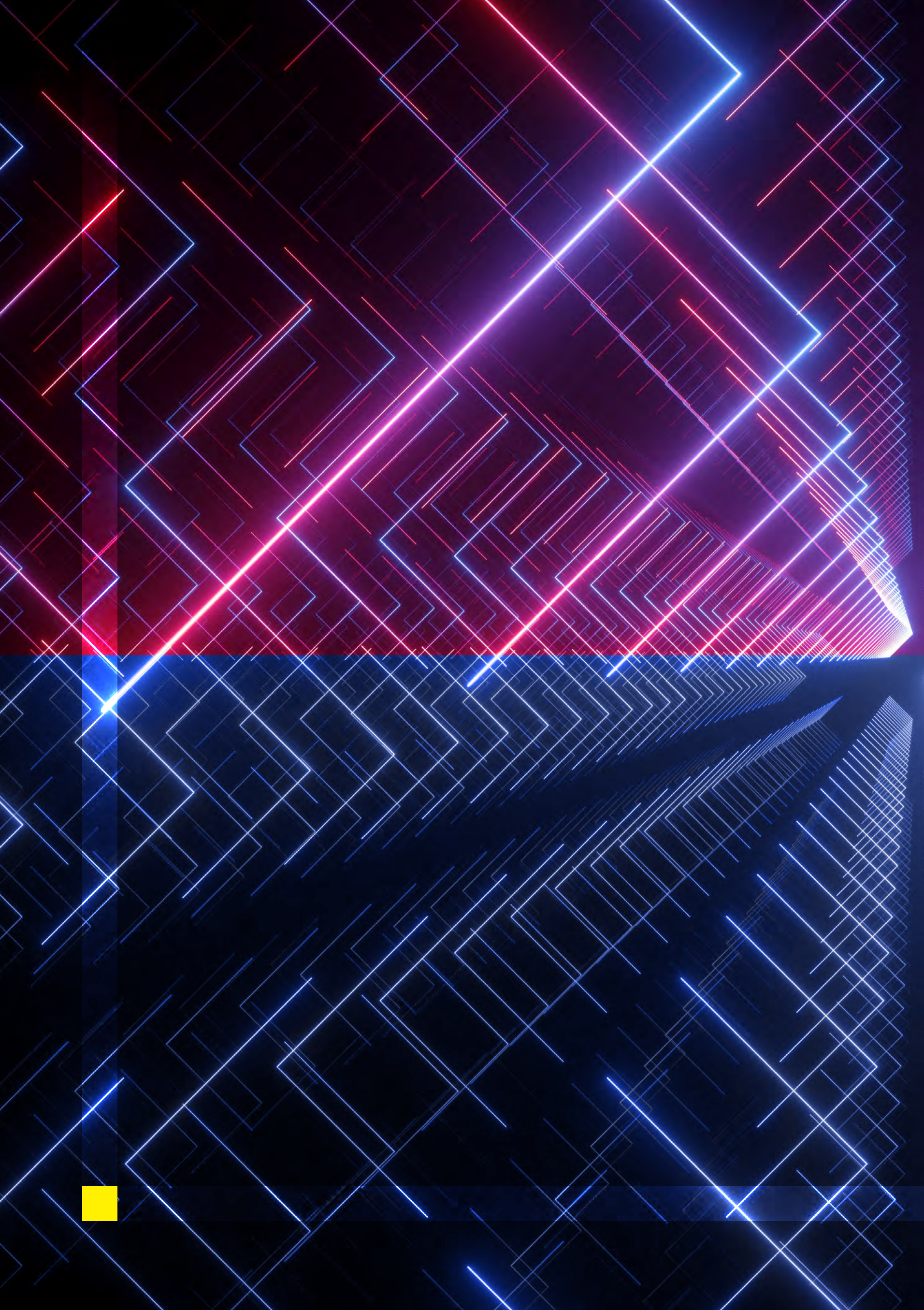
Dr. Raju believes that the true essence of education lies in fostering innovative ideas that hold value for society and equip the youth to confront challenges head-on. His priority is to prepare the youth with value-based and skill-centric education to deliver to the world's dynamic demands. Through SDGs and other University Social Responsibility activities, he ensures students evolve as emerging global citizens.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

As a distinguished humanitarian and philanthropist, Dr. Raju has spearheaded numerous initiatives for the betterment of society. He has ran various rural projects in Karnataka through REVA, and played an active role in 'Jagruti', a voting awareness campaign executed by REVA students and faculty members. He has also championed environmental sustainability at REVA by fostering a culture of conscientiousness, resulting in the mass movement and participation of students in Vanamahotsava.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr Raju has been the recipient of the Education Leaders' Award for 2023, conferred by the Commonwealth Education Conference. He is also the proud recipient of the 'Global Sustainability Awards 2022' for his professional commitment towards Global Sustainability by the GCPTT (Global Council for the Promotion of International Trade). Apart from this, he has been recognised as the 'Edupreneur of the year' by R-World Institutional Ranking 2022 and as 'Edupreneur of the Year' by ET Now.





POWERFUL

POWERFUL

AN AMBITIOUS START

Malaika Arora is an Indian actress and model. Addressed as “Malla” by her loved ones, Malaika was born in Thane, Maharashtra. Following the early separation of their parents, Malaika and her sister were brought up by their mother. Malaika attended Holy Cross High School in Thane until the ninth grade. She completed her secondary education at Swami Vivekananda School in Chembur, Mumbai. She then enrolled at Hind College in Mumbai. Malaika wished to pursue a degree in Economics with a minor in Communications. Still, her professional difficulties began when she was much younger, even before she received her degree, and as a result, she had to leave college to complete her professional obligations.

THE WILL TO WIN

Malaika began her career as an MTV VJ when the channel first debuted in India. “Club MTV” was the first program she hosted. MTV India saw potential in her and gave her roles in its prime-time programs “Love Line” and “Style Check.” She also hosted award presentations and concerts on TV, and did numerous trade ads for various brands. She tried her hand at modelling and excelled there as well.

In the Indian film industry, Malaika has landed several item numbers. Songs such as *Chaiyya Chaiyya*, *Kaal Dhamaal*, *Maahi Ve*, and *Munni Badnaam Hui* brought her a lot of fame and recognition. Likewise, she also got featured in many TV commercials. In 2008, she played the lead role in the film *EMI*. She next appeared in numerous music albums and films such as *Happy New Year*.

Malaika has also hosted the show *India's Next Top Model*. She has been a judge on television dance competitions, “Nach Baliye” with Saroj Khan and Farhan Akhtar, “Nach Baliye 2” with Saroj Khan and director Kunal Kohli, “Zara Nachke Dikha” with actor Chunky Pandey, and “Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa” with actress Madhuri Dixit and choreographer Remo D'Souza.

CHARISMATIC AURA

Malaika has captured the hearts of millions with her dance skills, fashion sense, and penchant for fitness. She has a powerful magnetic pull on those around her and exemplifies living life on one's own terms.

A single mother and one of the top Indian film performers, she is another face of liberation for women. Her expertise in fashion, modelling, and beauty propelled her to global fame in these fields. She was a Taiwan Excellence Celebrity Endorser

in 2012 and supported Dabur's 30-plus campaign.

A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSWOMAN

Recently, Malaika partnered with the food technology start-up Rebel Food to establish her delivery-only service, Nude Bowls. She previously worked as the fashion editor for the e-commerce company Label Life. She has also supported the SARVA Yoga wellness brand. With SARVA Yoga, she founded Diva yoga studios – a space for women to unleash their full potential through yoga.

Malaika turned an investor with global artisanal accessories brand Ahikoza in 2022. In January 2023, she became an investor and brand ambassador with healthy dessert brand Get-A-Way. One of her noteworthy project is Malaika Arora Ventures (MAV). Launched in September 2021, it would actively invest in lifestyle, health, and wellness brands. MAV aims to become one of the major players in the “comprehensive wellness” sector and invest in the wellness brands' long-term growth to help them become companies worth more than Rs 100 crore. It plans to invest in start-ups from all over India before moving to international markets.



MALAIKA ARORA

A MODEL, ACTOR, ENTREPRENEUR, AND MUCH MORE

INDIAN FILM INDUSTRY'S TIMELESS DIVA, MALAIKA ARORA, IS ENDOWED WITH A BRILLIANT MIND, INQUISITIVE NATURE, AND MULTIPLE TALENTS. SHE IS COMPETITIVE, BRAVE, WITTY, AND DEDICATED TO HER WORK. HER BALANCED APPROACH TO LIFE AND A NEVER-SAY-DIE ATTITUDE MAKE HER DESERVING OF ADMIRATION AND RESPECT

RISHAD PREMJI

MASTER STRATEGIST

RISHAD PREMJI TOOK OVER AS CHAIRMAN OF WIPRO FROM HIS FATHER AZIM PREMJI IN 2019. HE HAS BEEN THE CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER AND MEMBER OF THE BOARD, RESPONSIBLE FOR SHAPING WIPRO'S STRATEGY TO DRIVE SUSTAINED AND PROFITABLE GROWTH

PASSING OVER THE BATON

In a transition that was on expected lines and set in motion more than a decade ago, the change of guard at Wipro was an absolute case study on how succession needs to be planned. Rishad Premji has taken over reins of Wipro at a challenging time, and has tough calls to make. He has large boots to fill and inherits a rich legacy of growth and achievement. His father Azim Premji not just built Wipro, but also committed Rs 50,000 crore to charity, the largest contribution in the country to date. Azim Premji is one of the most respected business icons in the Indian corporate landscape. Under him, Wipro went from a small vegetable oil company to a multibillion dollar IT giant. Along with the technology business, Wipro has significant presence in sectors of FMCG, infrastructure engineering and medical devices.

STEPPING UP IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Rishad had the right credentials to take on this humungous responsibility at a time when the IT industry was battling a period of slow growth. Wipro's 1.75 lakh employees looked towards him for his leadership and vision in those testing times. His diverse and cross-industry experiences gave him the benefit of a broad view of global business. Even today, he is firmly rooted in the values that are the bedrock of the company.

GROOMING OF A LEADER

After his schooling at Cathedral and John Connon School, Rishad went on to graduate in Economics from Wesleyan University, followed by an MBA from Harvard University. Rishad worked with Bain and Co. for two years across multiple industries, including consumer products, automobiles, telecom and insurance.

He then worked for four years with GE Capital in the US across several businesses. Interestingly, he got his first job at Wipro after going through a series of rigorous interviews, a fact which speaks volumes for the core values at Wipro. He joined Wipro in 2007 as Business Manager in the financial services division.

In the year 2010, Rishad was elevated to the position of Chief Strategy Officer. He was the person behind conceptualizing and setting up of the venture capital fund – Wipro Ventures – a \$100



million fund that invests in startups developing technologies and solutions. He led a few of acquisitions, including the purchase of Danish design firm Designit, San Francisco based cloud tech firm Appirio and German IT consultancy Cellent. He has also invested \$65 million in 18 start-ups.

FOSTERING PHILANTHROPY

Just like his father, Rishad also takes keen interest in philanthropy. He is on the boards of the Azim Premji Foundation and Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives. He has been recognised as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum for his outstanding leadership, professional accomplishments and commitment to society.

In a recent development, he led the company that is keen to partner startups in India to drive innovation and digital transformation for clients. According to him, "working with smaller companies is a significant change in strategy for Wipro as its customer base consists of large enterprises in the range of \$2-10 billion." Rishad is driving Wipro to work with smaller companies not only as customers, but also by partnering with them or leveraging their capabilities to bring them into his sphere of innovations. He is keen on harnessing the different sectors of innovation in various parts of the broader ecosystem.



CHARTING UNMATCHED SUCCESS

Mr. Kohli boasts an impressive professional background that includes stints at renowned organisations such as HCL, Pertech Computers, and Tata Elxsi. In 1999, he joined Acer India, adding another feather to his cap of accomplishments. With his exceptional leadership skills, he has been the driving force behind Acer India's remarkable growth in both commercial and consumer markets. Under his stewardship, the company has successfully diversified its product portfolio to cater to a wide spectrum of markets, ranging from consumer electronics and gaming to creative industries, government entities, financial services, educational institutes, SMBs, and SOHO set-ups.

Furthermore, his unwavering commitment has helped the company to emerge as a shining example of success in the IT hardware category, qualifying under the prestigious "Make in India" initiative. By setting up a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in India, capable of producing a whopping 400,000 units, he has demonstrated Acer India's unwavering commitment to innovation and quality. This impressive feat has truly set the company apart, enabling it to produce laptops that meet and exceed global standards.

Since 2016, Mr. Kohli has been at the helm of the Acer PAN Asia Pacific (PAP) regional commercial task team, deftly steering the financial strategy planning and implementation for the entire PAP region. Under his stewardship, the task team has emerged as a powerhouse of strategic initiatives, setting new benchmarks in financial planning and implementation.

SETTING NEW STANDARDS

Mr. Kohli possesses a remarkable talent for building and elevating businesses to new heights. At Acer India, he shoulders the weighty responsibility of driving revenues and bolstering profitability across the nation. Not one to rest on his laurels, he constantly strives to break new ground and push the boundaries when it comes to building and fortifying the brand.

The industry leader recognises the importance of emotional intelligence and believes that mentors must prioritise the development of their emotional quotient. The mentors must shoulder the responsibility of shaping the culture of a team or an organisation and exhibit a high degree of integrity if they seek to cultivate the same attribute in their employees.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Mr. Kohli's commitment to social responsibility is evident through his numerous initiatives, which have positively

impacted the lives of thousands of people across various fields, including health, education, and livelihood. He has always been dedicated to closing the gap between technology and people. With his guidance, Acer developed Visionova, a ground-breaking software and hardware solution that supports individuals with visual impairments. This remarkable technology has provided these individuals with new opportunities and allowed them to participate in society more fully than ever before. Under his leadership Acer also launched 'Heal on Wheels' programme where a medical van equipped with trained doctors provides healthcare at the door steps for tribals and villages living in remote locations. This will impact over 25000 tribals in getting better healthcare and uplift the community as a whole.

PRIORITISES WORK-LIFE BALANCE

The seasoned IT industry veteran recognises the importance of prioritising his personal life alongside his professional commitments. He finds time for his various hobbies to unwind and recharge. He is also an avid reader. One book that holds a special place in his heart is the timeless classic, *Make Your Bed* authored by the illustrious Admiral William H. McRaven.



HARISH KOHLI

ACHIEVING SUCCESS WITH FINESSE

MR. HARISH KOHLI, THE PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ACER INDIA—THE FOURTH BIGGEST PC MAKER OF INDIA, IS AN IT INDUSTRY VETERAN KNOWN FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL MENTORSHIP STYLE. WITH A DISTINGUISHED CAREER SPANNING OVER FOUR DECADES, HE IS AN EXPERT IN DIVERSE INDUSTRY SEGMENTS, CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT MODELS, AND PARTNERSHIPS

MANEESH TRIPATHI

A FORMIDABLE FORCE

MR. MANEESH TRIPATHI, GROUP CEO AND FOUNDER DIRECTOR, MARBLE ROCKS VCC FUND, SINGAPORE, IS AN ESTEEMED FIGURE IN THE CORPORATE REALM. HIS TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS IN VARIOUS LEADERSHIP ROLES AND MULTINATIONAL SETTINGS SPEAKS VOLUMES OF HIS EXPERTISE AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

TOWERING INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEY

A true leader, Mr. Maneesh Tripathi embodies the adage, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

A native of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Tripathi has risen to become a formidable public figure whose inspirational endeavours have emboldened countless small-town youth to pursue their aspirations. For over two decades, he has strived to transform himself into a towering icon, blazing a trail of glory and excellence. A global citizen with a diverse professional background spanning across 10 countries, he has conducted businesses and held senior management assignments in Japan, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Saudi Arabia, and the Middle East. Based in Singapore for over 24 years now, the visionary leader has seen stints in multinational corporations such as IBM Asia Pacific, Philips, Sun, TCPL, and Olivetti.

DONNING MULTIPLE HATS

Mr. Tripathi has a wealth of experience and a commendable track record that makes him a highly valuable asset to any organisation. In his impressive career spanning over 25 years, he has held a variety of senior management and executive positions. Till 2022, he managed the operations of SEVAK Limited, a Singapore-based SGX-listed company operating in telecom, information technology, system integration, and electric vehicles, overseeing a total of S\$900 million. Presently, as the Group CEO and Director at Marble Rocks VCC, he oversees a diverse investment portfolio and potential business funds in collaboration with various partners. He also holds the position of CEO at Delteq Pte Ltd, a thriving IT/Blockchain Services company with a 30-year legacy.

Furthermore, Mr. Tripathi's leadership extends to his roles in esteemed organisations such as the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), where he serves as a board member. He also chairs the SME Centre, Singapore Chamber of Commerce, and holds key positions, including the role of finance member on the board and MC member of the esteemed Singapore Indian Association, and as an esteemed member of the Executive Committee, holding the position of Honorary Secretary at SGTech CDC, formerly known as the Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation (SiTF). His participation in a business delegation with Singapore Business Federation (SBF), where the Singapore Prime Minister visited India in



2017, highlights his commitment to advancing Singapore's business landscape.

The leader is a member of esteemed organisations, such as the Singapore Institute of Directors, Singapore Computer Society, Singapore Venture Capital & Private Equity Association, and Singapore Manufacturing Federation, underlining his unwavering commitment to professional excellence and dedication to advancing the dynamic business landscape of Singapore. He has exemplified his unwavering dedication to societal betterment through his active involvement in leading social organisations. As Group CEO and Director/Chairman, Global Schools Foundation, he has demonstrated his deep-rooted commitment to contributing positively to society.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Mr. Tripathi has garnered numerous accolades on the international stage, including prestigious awards for his exemplary leadership. The notable achievements include "Innovation Awards" for his outstanding performance in the CEO position, as well as being honoured with "CEO Insight Awards". He has also been recognised as one of the most promising Asian leaders, lauded for his remarkable contributions to social services, and applauded for his innovative endeavours.



A WELL-VERSED LEADER

A Harvard Business School alumnus, Mr. Dharmesh Shah also has an engineering degree from the highly esteemed VJTI, along with an MBA in Marketing from ICFAI. In addition to being an outstanding maths genius, he has consistently demonstrated good grades throughout his academic career. He has earned numerous accolades at the State Level, including the highly coveted Sir Ratan Tata Scholarship, which speaks volumes about his extraordinary abilities.

A SEASONED PROFESSIONAL

A virtuoso in financial planning, Mr. Shah has nearly a decade of experience working for some of the most renowned financial services brands in the country, including the HDFC Bank. He honed his management skills through his tenures with illustrious brands such as Purvankara and Adani Realty before joining Hero Realty in 2022. With a wealth of experience in driving business growth, he has successfully managed annual sales of a staggering Rs. 3000 crore.

Mr. Shah possesses a formidable arsenal of skills to lead large teams, shape their thinking, foster alliances, and build consensus. His remarkably well-structured career trajectory is a testament to his self-motivation, creativity, and proactivity in pursuing and surpassing his goals. The leader's brilliance lies in his ability to forge key partnerships and dealer relationships, unlocking new channels of revenue and driving exponential growth. His visionary approach has earned him a reputation as a pioneer in his field, always at the forefront of cutting-edge developments.

Under Mr. Shah's sterling leadership, Hero Realty has been nurturing a flourishing community, by constructing sleek, elegant, modern, and eco-friendly homes that are the talk of the town. Additionally, his strategic vision has enabled the company to expand its operations and venture into plotted spaces in Delhi NCR in 2023, thereby strengthening its presence in the real estate market.

OPTIMISING BUSINESS OUTCOMES

Having amassed over 20 years of stellar achievements in the management of business operations, Mr. Shah possesses a remarkable proficiency in conceiving and executing competitive strategies aimed at propelling sales, augmenting market share, and attaining revenue and profitability objectives. With a seasoned approach to generating sales and expanding market presence, he is recognised for his aptitude in conceptualising

and implementing winning strategies for optimising business outcomes.

CUSTOMER COMES FIRST

Mr. Shah's business philosophy is perfectly aligned with Hero Realty's vision, and together, they're a force to be reckoned with. The real estate company believes that customers deserve nothing but the best, which is why it strives to offer value-driven services that are both hassle-free and highly sought-after. With Mr. Shah at the helm, this mission is set to soar to even greater heights.

The leader tirelessly strives for continuous product innovation, improvement, and streamlining of SMC processes to uphold the "customer first" principle paramount. He works hand-in-hand with the architect, project, finance, legal, and other teams to ensure the organisation's overarching objectives are achieved. His ultimate objective is to boost the bottom line and EBITA, seizing every opportunity that arises. In a nutshell, he is always on the lookout for ways to go the extra mile and deliver outstanding results. His commitment to excellence and innovation promises to take the company to new heights.



DHARMESH SHAH

CHARTING WINNING STRATEGIES

MR. DHARMESH SHAH, THE CEO OF NEW-DELHI-BASED HERO REALTY PVT. LTD., IS AN ENTREPRENEURIAL LUMINARY WITH OVER TWO DECADES OF EXPERIENCE. HIS RELENTLESS PASSION FOR TECHNOLOGY AND UNBRIDLED SPIRIT OF INNOVATION HAVE HELPED HIM CARVE A NICHE FOR HIMSELF IN THE REAL ESTATE SECTOR



ANAND MODI

A DYNAMIC TRAILBLAZER

MR. ANAND MODI IS THE FOUNDER OF MODISPACES, A RENOWNED REAL ESTATE ENTITY IN INDIA. HE HAS ASCENDED TO GREAT HEIGHTS BY LEADING HIS COMPANY WITH A FIRM VISION. HE HAS SINCE ADOPTED THE SOBRIQUET, ANAND MODI INSPIRZZ, USING HIS PERSONAL NARRATIVE AND WISDOM TO EFFECTUATE CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

As a leader, Anand prioritises leading by example, setting the standard through solid actions. He fosters a sense of organisation and clarity within his team, ensuring that all members are aligned and contributing equitably towards their collective goals.

Anand started his business at the young age of 19. Having embarked on numerous entrepreneurial endeavours, he has devoted extensive time and effort to carve out a distinctive niche for himself in the realm of business. Right from the outset, he has been unwaveringly committed to the principles of valuing people and fostering a sense of community.

With his astute leadership at the helm, the business operates in strict adherence to the regulatory frameworks governing the regions in which it conducts its operations. Moreover, his steadfast focus on continual refinement and optimization has streamlined the organisational procedures, resulting in a more efficient and effective operation. By maintaining an unwavering commitment to compliance and embracing a culture of constant improvement, he has positioned the organisation for sustained success and enduring growth.

A DETERMINED INDIVIDUAL

Anand has undergone a journey that has strengthened his resolve in the possibility of achieving success in all aspects of life. Having experienced the stark contrast of abundance and destitution, he has traversed the entire spectrum of life's extremes. Enduring a life-altering stroke that brought him to the brink of death, he faced the depths of despair and uncertainty. However, he has emerged from this ordeal with renewed vigour and an unyielding sense of determination.

The serial entrepreneur, strategist, survivor, mentor, life coach and a people manager, Anand is committed to promoting a culture of achievement imbued with purpose in his company and beyond. Through his work, he strives to empower individuals so that they can thrive in their lives.

A GOALS-DRIVEN LEADER

Anand firmly believes in the principle of "you reap what you sow." He strives to cultivate a mindset of compassion, courage, and curiosity, which serves to fuel his personal growth. He is committed to continuously improving himself and inspiring others to do the same. He aims to leverage his



unique experiences and narrative to make a positive impact on individuals across the globe.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Under Anand's visionary guidance, Anand Modi Inspirzz and its diverse range of sub-brands have remained steadfastly committed to collaborating with the local community, their families, and society at large, with a shared goal of enhancing human-life quality and overall well-being. Through a firm dedication to this noble cause, they have fostered a culture of continuous improvement and progress, driving positive change across all facets of society.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Anand has been bestowed with various prestigious accolades, including the Mid-Day International Real Estate & Infrastructure Icons Award in 2022, the Iconic Redevelopment Developer Award in 2018, the Construction Times Builder Award in 2016, and the Realty India Expo Award from *The Times of India* in 2015.

These recognitions serve as a testament to his outstanding contributions and remarkable achievements in the field of real estate and infrastructure.

AN AMBITIOUS START

Dr. G.V. Divakar earned his MBBS degree in 1979 from Bangalore Medical College. In 1981, he joined Minto Hospital for his DOMS (Ophthalmology), and pursued MS (Ophthalmology) in 1983. He taught as an Assistant Professor and Associate Professor in Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Medical College from 1987 to 1997, and worked as an examiner for undergraduate and graduate students in 1996. He continued with his teaching and became a Professor in M.S. Ramaiah College, Bangalore, in 1997. In 2007, he became the HOU and HOD in the college.

Dr. Divakar founded the Divakar's Specialty Hospital – an all-inclusive women's healthcare facility – in 1990 out of concern that Indian women lack access to high-quality healthcare facilities. Today, he is a famous ophthalmologist with more than three decades of experience in the medical sector. He specialises in general ophthalmology, retinal treatments, corneal and diabetic eye examinations, and glaucoma treatment. He has held key positions in prestigious medical facilities, including Vasan Eye Care Hospital, and now serves as a consultant ophthalmologist for Dr. Malathi Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru. He also serves as a Managing Director of Asian Research and Training Institute for Skill Transfer (ARTIST), a platform for training healthcare workers and Managing Trustee, Divakars Service Trust, Bangalore.

CARING FOR HIS PATIENTS

Dr. Divakar believes in providing the finest possible care to his patients. He has handled all hospital-related obligations admirably and managed his patients gracefully and efficiently. He understands the importance of trust between patients and medical practitioners. In addition, the leader strongly emphasises offering unique treatments for Indian women, making the process simple and convenient. His extensive medical experience and pleasant attitude are valuable qualities that aid him in developing connections with his patients.

PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICES

Dr. Divakar ensures that patient service meets highest standards. He uses the latest and best-suited instruments and equipment for diagnostics and treatments at the hospital. Under his direction, the hospital upgrades the standards frequently to address the latest challenges faced by the healthcare industry. His hospital has also implemented the APM concept, which provides care to women at different stages of life, including adolescence, pregnancy, and menopause. This is a unique

notion since it ensures that each lady receives age-appropriate treatment. As a result, the gynecologists and pediatricians in Dr. Divakar's team have made women's lives healthier and better. In addition, his staff is always dedicated to providing services with ethical values and professional integrity, while maintaining a sense of social responsibility.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Dr. Divakar has attained prominent positions in several disciplines due to his hard work and expertise. He is a member of the Karnataka Ophthalmic Society, the Bangalore Ophthalmic Society, and the Indian Medical Association (IMA). He serves as the Secretary of the Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association, which has over 500 private hospitals as members.

The Divakar's Specialty Hospital became Karnataka's first private hospital to acquire the ISO accreditation in 1998, just eight years after its foundation, courtesy to Dr. Divakar's commitment to guaranteeing high-quality care and the wellness of his patients. The leader has also been honoured with an honorary professorship by the IMA for his 34-year service in the medical field.



DR. G.V. DIVAKAR

REFORMING WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE ECOSYSTEM

DR. G.V. DIVAKAR, MANAGING DIRECTOR, DIVAKAR'S SPECIALTY HOSPITAL, IS AN EXPERT OPHTHALMOLOGIST WHO BELIEVES IN PROVIDING HIS PATIENTS WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE CARE. HIS FOCUSED COMMITMENT TO MEDICINE AND REMARKABLE ATTITUDE HAVE HELPED TO ESTABLISH THE HOSPITAL AS ONE OF INDIA'S BEST WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

DR. MINNIE BODHANWALA

EMPOWERING HEALTHCARE

DR. MINNIE BODHANWALA, THE CEO AT WADIA HOSPITAL, STANDS AS AN EXTRAORDINARY TESTAMENT TO THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF WOMEN. THROUGHOUT HER AWE-INSPIRING PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY, SHE HAS ASCENDED THE RANKS WITH ASTONISHING SWIFTNESS, IMPRINTING HER INDELIBLE MARK UPON VARIOUS FACETS OF BUSINESS

EMBRACING CHALLENGES AND RISKS

Dr. Minnie Bodhanwala is a true visionary, who possesses an innate talent for nurturing nascent ideas and transforming them into realities. In November 2012, amidst a daunting crisis at Wadia Hospitals, she fearlessly embraced the role of CEO, recognising the magnitude of the challenge before her. Embracing this formidable test with steady fortitude, she commenced a meticulous journey of streamlining transformation of the two charitable Wadia hospitals. She fearlessly embraces a realistic mindset as she navigates the intricate web of everyday challenges. It is this resolute disposition that serves as her firm compass, guiding her to triumphant victories over the most formidable tasks with unyielding precision.

Dr. Bodhanwala firmly upholds the belief that embracing challenges and calculated risks, fostering cohesive teamwork, and adopting a pragmatic mindset are indispensable qualities for success. She asserts that these qualities are not innate but rather acquired through experiential learning and the wisdom gained from one's own mistakes.

A GOAL-ORIENTED LEADER

At the crux of Dr. Bodhanwala's visionary aspirations lay a profound long-term objective of fostering an affordable and universally accessible healthcare landscape, steadfastly upholding strong standards of quality and treatment. Aligned with the esteemed vision of India's G20 Presidency, she endeavours to forge a comprehensive framework that mitigates disparities in healthcare availability across the globe, fostering a future where the doors of healing remain open to all, regardless of their origins or circumstances.

The inspirational and visionary leader firmly upholds the notion that presenting advancements and progress in the realm of healthcare to the global stage serves as a chance of paramount significance.

It presents one the opportunity to share knowledge, resources, and experiences with others, helping to make healthcare more accessible and equitable. It also encourages the development of new techniques and treatments to better serve the needs of all people.



GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Dr. Bodhanwala also assumes the esteemed position of Advisor to the Chairman of Wadia Group, offering her expertise in overseeing and shaping the Group's CSR initiatives. Furthermore, she serves as an Advisor to Impact India Foundation, an organisation dedicated to making a significant societal impact. As a trustee of the esteemed Modern Education Society, which manages seven reputable colleges in Mumbai and Pune, she actively contributes to the advancement of education. Her philanthropic endeavours extend further as a Trustee of the Britannia Nutrition Foundation, Sir Ness Wadia Foundation, FED, FEDT, and FEDC, where she plays a key role in fostering positive change and promoting the well-being of communities.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Dr. Bodhanwala's remarkable journey has garnered international acclaim as one of the eminent leaders recognised by Globes India. Additionally, she has earned a coveted place among the 25 Health Leaders in India, further solidifying her eminence in the domain. Her exceptional prowess has even captured the attention of prestigious institutions like Harvard TN Chance School, where she was invited to participate in the distinguished "Women on Board" program.

DR. SATYA VADLAMANI

A CATALYST FOR GROWTH

DR. SATYA VADLAMANI IS THE CHAIRPERSON AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MURALI KRISHNA PHARMA PVT. LTD. [MKPPL] – A NOVEL DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEMS COMPANY IN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA. WITH HER RESOLUTE DETERMINATION AND COMMITMENT TO SUCCEED, SHE HAS REVOLUTIONISED THE INDIAN PHARMA LANDSCAPE, POSITIVELY IMPACTING COUNTLESS LIVES. HOLDING A DEGREE IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING, DR. VADLAMANI BRINGS TO THE TABLE ALMOST 30 YEARS OF INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN GLOBAL MARKETING OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS. HER VISIONARY LEADERSHIP HAS PROPELLED MKPPL TO UNPRECEDENTED HEIGHTS, MAKING IT ONE OF THE IMPORTANT PLAYERS IN THE INDUSTRY



THE BIG LEAP

Dr. Satya Vadlamani, hailing from the esteemed IIT Bombay campus, was raised in an environment of academic excellence. Her father, Dr. Challa R Sarma, an Emeritus Professor at IIT Bombay, and her mother, an Economics postgraduate, instilled in her a passion for education and excellence. Growing up amid academic excellence, she developed a strong desire to pursue engineering like her peers. She enrolled at the prestigious Gandhi Institute of Management (GITAM) in Visakhapatnam, where she embarked on her journey to become an accomplished professional. She recently achieved a significant milestone by obtaining a Ph.D. in Strategic Management from the Indian Management School and Research Centre, further enhancing her qualifications and expertise.

DYNAMIC ROLES

The leader began her professional career in 1992 in the area of marketing at Armour Chemicals Ltd., where she demonstrated her mettle and swiftly garnered recognition for her exceptional abilities. Subsequently, she ventured into a new professional chapter with Biochem Synergy Ltd., where her trajectory remained steadfastly upward. With each role she assumed, she exhibited a remarkable blend of expertise, earning accolades, and solidifying her reputation as a force to be reckoned with. She reached the pinnacle of her career, attaining the esteemed position of General Manager, International Marketing at Ajanta Pharma Ltd.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

It was 1997, when Dr. Vadlamani embarked on her entrepreneurial journey with the establishment of Murli Krishna Exports Pvt. Ltd. Initially functioning as an indenting operation, the company facilitated trade in pharmaceutical products. Sensing the potential for growth, in 2003, she transitioned the company from indenting to trading, a strategic move that proved instrumental in its expansion. Under her visionary leadership, Murli Krishna Exports flourished, specialising in the export of bulk Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and semi-finished formulations, specifically in pellet form.

Leveraging her profound understanding of the pharmaceutical landscape, she identified an opportunity to further capitalise on the industry's demands. In 2004, she ventured into a new endeavour, by establishing MKPPL—a 100% export-oriented unit. This innovative enterprise,

commissioned in 2005, focused on the manufacturing of semi-finished formulations.

Starting as a Regulatory Compliant prefinished formulation intermediates facility in 2004, the company evolved into a finished dosage firm specialising in FTF formulation. Initially, MKPPL focused on leveraging microencapsulation as a drug delivery system. However, the company constantly evolved and focused on innovation. Today, it has expanded its capabilities to encompass cutting-edge technologies such as nanoparticles and nano encapsulations. Its expertise extends to diverse therapeutic areas, including ophthalmology, corticosteroids, oncology, transdermal applications, and oral solid dosage products. The transformational journey showcases its relentless pursuit of progress.

Dr. Vadlamani further highlights the company's focus on research and development that has helped it amass a significant number of patents, underscoring its prowess in intellectual property. Moreover, its emphasis on aqueous-based technologies has further propelled its advancements.

The entrepreneur envisions MKPPL as a formidable force in the domains of nanoparticles, niche developments, and niche delivery systems. She wants MKPPL to attain global recognition as a leading provider of innovative drug delivery systems. She emphasises that the organisation's aim is to establish itself at the pinnacle of the field worldwide. Rather than competing with others, the focus is on surpassing its own achievements.

Looking ahead, she sets a long-term goal for MKPPL to become a frontrunner within the next five years. The company's strategy revolves around introducing a plethora of cutting-edge technologies to the market. A key aspect driving these developments is the objective to enhance patient compliance, provide superior products, and reduce the dosage impact on vital organs such as kidneys and liver.

Dr. Vadlamani's visionary approach encompasses prioritising patient well-being and advancing drug delivery systems to ensure optimum efficacy and safety. Her commitment to continuous improvement and transformative solutions underscores MKPPL's mission to deliver enhanced healthcare experiences. With a steadfast dedication

to innovation and a focus on patient-centric solutions, the focussed leader is paving the way for MKPPL to be a trailblazer in the industry, making a profound impact on the lives of patients worldwide.

ON AN EXPANSION SPREE

She has outlined ambitious expansion plans for the company. It is poised to establish a scientific office in Dubai, known as Murli Krishna Pharma FZELLC. In addition, there are plans to set up corporate offices in the United States, the Netherlands, and Germany through collaborations with major German companies. This strategic move reflects the company's global growth strategy, aiming to transform from a single entity in India to a multifaceted organisation with a global presence. The expansion will create a multilingual and multicultural work environment, offering diverse opportunities for employees.

A BENEVOLENT LEADER

Under her leadership, MKPPL initiated its CSR activities in 2018, focusing on areas such as the girl child, water, education, and healthcare. Its efforts extend to various villages near its facilities, including involvement in doorstep schools and providing financial support for orphaned children's education. Her commitment to CSR goes beyond mere compliance to regulations; it stems from a personal dedication to giving back to the community.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Today, MKPPL's accomplishments have garnered accolades from distinguished authorities, solidifying its position as a notable player in the industry. It was honoured with the prestigious Make in India Award in 2016, both in the biopharmaceutical and pharmaceutical categories. Notably, the award was presented by Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, who then held the position of the Union Minister of Industries. The recognition underscores MKPPL's outstanding contribution to the pharmaceutical sector and commitment to the principles of the Make in India initiative.

A HUMBLE BEGINNING

Mr. Bhatia commenced his professional journey with modest beginnings at the tender age of 17, engaging in the trade of MS Scrap in Delhi after the untimely demise of his father in 1978. He shouldered the dual responsibility of his family and business with remarkable fortitude, imbued with an unwavering determination to succeed. With sheer grit and resolve, he forged a path for himself and progressively climbed the rungs of success through his diligent and assiduous efforts, emerging as a paragon of perseverance and resilience.

A WELL-VERSED LEADER

With an Honours degree in Economics and over four decades of experience in the steel industry, Mr. Bhatia specialises in sourcing high-quality raw materials at competitive rates. Renowned for his impeccable precision and unwavering commitment to meeting stringent project deadlines, he is known to leave no stone unturned when executing his meticulous approach to project management. His reputation for delivering exceptional results with accuracy is a testament to his unwavering dedication and unrivaled skill set.

AN ASTOUNDING BUSINESS JOURNEY

In 1990, Mr. Bhatia relocated to Chennai, where he established ARS Metals Pvt. Ltd. Subsequently, in 1992, he began manufacturing ingots at Gummidipundi, with the corporate headquarters stationed in Chennai. He diversified his operations into TMT Bars in 2005 and further expanded to billets in 2010. In 2013, he ventured into the power sector by establishing a 60 MW Power Plant at Eguvarpalayam, demonstrating his acumen in identifying lucrative business opportunities and successfully diversifying his portfolio.

In a strategic move, the renowned enterprise ARS Metals Limited underwent a significant demerger in 2013, effectively segregating its steel and energy divisions into two distinct entities – ARS Steels and Alloy International Pvt. Ltd. and ARS Energy Pvt. Ltd., respectively. This restructuring demonstrated Mr. Bhatia's visionary leadership, which enabled him to optimise the performance and growth of his diverse business interests.

PUTTING CUSTOMERS FIRST

Mr. Bhatia's unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction has driven him to cultivate a robust and diverse client base, both for procurement and sales. By focusing on the needs

and expectations of all stakeholders, he has forged strong and enduring relationships built on a foundation of trust and mutual respect. His unrelenting pursuit of excellence has enabled him to build a reputation for delivering high-quality products and services that exceed the expectations of his customers, ensuring their continued loyalty and satisfaction.

A TALENT NURTURER

A robust team of talented and seasoned professionals has aided Mr. Bhatia's indomitable spirit and remarkable achievements in managing various facets of the business, including factory operations, accounting, taxation, banking, and sales. This team is a harmonious blend of experienced veterans and dynamic young talent, and ensures that the business runs smoothly without any hindrances. The cohesiveness of the team reflects his ability to nurture and develop talent and his ability to lead.

Mr. Bhatia wishes to bring his brand closer to the common man. He envisions a world where everyone, regardless of social status, can access the best-in-class steel products that his brand offers. He believes that the common man is not just a consumer but a partner in his journey.



ASHWANI KUMAR BHATIA

THE STEEL MAGNATE

MR. ASHWANI KUMAR BHATIA'S PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY IS MARKED WITH MILESTONES ACCOMPLISHED WITH UNPARALLELED FINESSE. THE FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ONE OF INDIA'S LEADING INTEGRATED STEEL PLANTS, HE HAS INVALUABLE EXPERTISE IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND A FIRM COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

DHAVAL J. SHAH

ILLUMINATING THE FUTURE

MR. DHAVAL J. SHAH, THE FOUNDER OF LANCE LED, IS AN EXPERIENCED DIRECTOR WITH A PROVEN TRACK RECORD IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES. SKILLED IN NEGOTIATION, PLANNING, SALES, RESEARCH, AND MANAGEMENT, DHAVAL HAS EMERGED AS A MARKET LEADER WITH HIS OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

ESTABLISHING A NAME

Mr. Dhaval J. Shah graduated from the Dharmsinh Desai Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Communications Engineering. He saw an opportunity to use his expertise and passion for sustainability to make a difference in the lighting industry. He learned the trade under the expert guidance of one of his close relatives, Mr. Sanjay Shah and launched his own company, Lance LED, in 2011 under the corporate banner of Lance Energy Solutions Private Limited (LESPL). Lance LED is a group of professional engineers with over 30 years of combined experience dedicated to providing energy-efficient solutions using LED technology.

COMMITTED TO CUSTOMERS

Dhaval has established his company as a national leader in the lighting industry with Fortune 500 clients and a reputation for excellent after-sales service and dependable products. One of the keys to his success is his emphasis on providing comprehensive solutions to architects and project management consultants. The young leader and his team handle everything, from designing customised lighting plans to installation and maintenance, to ensure clients receive the best service possible. The five-year warranty on all products demonstrates the company's commitment to quality.

Under Dhaval's leadership, Lance LED has established a pan-Indian presence with a sizable customer base and a solid supply chain network. The company's manufacturing facility is in Ahmedabad, and its products are sold in seven Indian states, primarily in the south and west. The organisation intends to expand its operations in the country's north and east.

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Dhaval's technical knowledge and leadership help his team stay ahead of industry developments and advancements. The company's vision is to make profits and create a brighter and more sustainable society for future generations. By 2020, Lance LED had accomplished significant energy savings of 102264 KW, demonstrating its commitment to improving the environment.

Dhaval and his team are dedicated to encouraging sustainable and eco-friendly practices in the industry and providing high-quality, sustainable lighting solutions that meet clients' needs, save money, and contribute to cutting carbon emissions in



India.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dhaval has won numerous honours for his business, including the Credit Suisse Award for the CS IT BDC Project Udaan and the Brand of the Year Award, which was chosen by WCRC's process assessors and consumer-voted research. Lance LED's product offerings show his dedication to excellence and innovation. The company's commitment to sustainability ensures a brighter future for all.

TOWARDS A RADIANT TOMORROW

Dhaval's business significantly changed India's lighting industry by raising awareness worldwide and offering energy-efficient lighting solutions. Nowadays, Lance LED is a flourishing company creating benchmarks for innovation and sustainability. The young leader is enthusiastic about the future of his business and the Indian lighting sector. He is focusing on maintaining his company's expansion and its impact for many years to come, with a mission to combat power shortage. He plans to create and commercialise LED solutions that offer highly energy-efficient lighting and alternative energy resources to reduce the global carbon footprint.

A HOPEFUL BEGINNING

After completing his graduation from Mumbai's Mithibai College, Mr. Chintan Patel, at the age of 26 set out on his adventure. He decided to build a bedsheet weaving plant and founded Deesan Group with his father in 2004. With only 24 looms, the young textile entrepreneur had a single spinning mill that was used to make yarn for nearby factories. Today, with over 1,500 looms, the company is the leading manufacturer of premium monogrammed bath and hand towels. It is also one of the top three largest manufacturers and suppliers of ready-to-dye fabric (greige fabric) in the country. It produces bed sheets, terry towels, and clothing for both domestic and international markets. The company's ability to produce at a more affordable price than others is due to its vertical integration. It pays fairly to local cotton farmers and employs 21,000 people.

QUALITY COMES FIRST

Mr. Patel's key to success in a cut-throat market is his dedication to organised schedule, time management, and quality. Quality is always the first aspect that the entrepreneur considers. It sets his company apart from other players in the industry not only in India, but across the world. The company has launched a line of kids' towels – started by Mr. Patel's wife, Hiral – that is made without using unnecessary chemicals.

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Patel also aims to improve the environment. He ensures that his company recycles water from its weaving and dyeing units. The water is not thrown away untreated because it contains harmful chemicals. As part of another environmental project, Deesan Group has planted nearly a million neem trees around its factory locations. The leader assists his father's dream project of rainwater harvesting, called Shirpur Pattern of Water Conversation. The objective of the project is to conserve rainwater and thereby increase groundwater table, in turn helping farmers grow three crops a year.

CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION

Along with exercising leadership in the textile industry, Mr. Patel has broadened his horizons in education. As the Vice President of Shri Kelvani Mandal, he oversees the Mithibai College, Narsee Monjee College of Commerce and Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, three well-known institutions among the nation's top colleges and universities, and does not receive any funding from the education industry.

To develop the next generation of forward-thinking individuals who will increase employment prospects nationwide, Mr. Patel is steadfastly devoted to granting students access to transformative learning opportunities throughout India. His family founded the Shirpur Education Society (SES) in October 1979. As the trustee of SES, he has been bridging the gap by supporting education of children for over 40 years. In his opinion, education is the key to success in life. He recommends students to have the perfect combination of education and experience to earn more opportunities in life.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

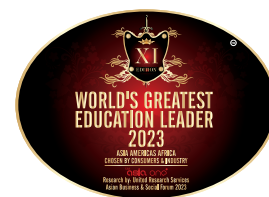
Mr. Patel has received numerous honours for his business accomplishments and social contributions. He received the Philanthropist of the Year Award at the Iconic Gold Awards in 2021, the Met Connect Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award for his work in water conservation, and the Global National Stardom Awards in 2022 for his work in the education sector. Along with his father, Mr. Amarish Patel, he received the Maharashtra Ratna Award in 2023 for their contributions to social and educational fields.



CHINTAN PATEL

AN AMBITIOUS ENTREPRENEUR

MR. CHINTAN PATEL IS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF DEESAN GROUP, A LEADING TEXTILE COMPANY BASED IN SHIRPUR, MAHARASHTRA. THE MULTIFACETED BUSINESS MAGNATE, WHO HAS ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS ONE OF THE SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS, IS EQUALLY DEDICATED TO PHILANTHROPY AND MAKING A CHANGE IN SOCIETY



DR. R. BALAJI

THE DOYEN OF EDUCATION IN INDIA

A WELL-KNOWN FIGURE IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, DR. R. BALAJI IS A MAN OF STRATEGIC VISION. HIS LIFE HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO PROVIDING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A TOP NOTCH EDUCATION AND BUILDING SUCCESS STORIES. HIS VISION HAS IMPROVED THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM BY DEVELOPING THE IDEAL CURRICULA AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SPEARHEADING ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. R. Balaji's association with SBOA School & Junior College began in 2008. He served as the Deputy Treasurer in 2008, and with it, he was appointed the management committee member of the trust. Adding to the prestigious positions, he held the office as the Associate Secretary for three consecutive years, from 2014-2017. He also served as the President of the SBIOA Educational Trust for one year, between 2018 and 2019. Notably, he has held the position of Secretary and Correspondent of SBOA Schools since 2019.

With the feathers of many coveted positions in his cap, Dr. R. Balaji serves as the General Secretary of the prestigious SBI Officers' Association (Chennai Circle). He has been elected as Chairman of All India State Bank Officers Federation and Vice President of All India Bank Officers' Confederation. He is known for motivating peers and people associated with him to reach great heights in their professional lives. He encourages students and teachers to explore, research and experience new technology tools for solving problems differently and uncovering something new, making education an interesting domain.

ENLIGHTENING YOUNG MINDS

A renowned name in the education sector, Dr. R. Balaji is dedicated to creating success stories and enlightening young minds with world-class education. He is a man of principles and believes in optimism, which could be seen in his approach towards managing the delivery of education during the pandemic. Under his able guidance and seamless leadership, his team had a paradigm shift from taking offline lectures to online classes with ease.

Dr. R. Balaji helped each faculty, student, and their parents learn technology with finesse. This dynamic shift was not an easy task at hand, but with his extreme passion to seek new things and experiencing new ideas, the stakeholders of the school glided into the new mode of education with ease.

His love for learning and teaching creates enthusiasm and desire in the young minds. His fine management skills have become a hallmark of excellence in the education sector. A firm believer in teamwork, Dr. R. Balaji takes pride in his team of dedicated teachers and staff, and enables them to sail effortlessly through challenging times. Dr. R. Balaji is a strong believer that parent's participation and involvement shape the students' lives. He is an inspiration to many. With his well-researched ideas and clear thinking, the school has been topping the merit list every academic session. This far-sighted



approach, with inventive and prescient foresight is enterprising for everyone associated with him at the professional level.

REACHING THE ZENITH

Strong principles and ideologies in making education reasonable with students have been the mantra for this education stalwart. Holding several prominent positions in his career has been a milestone. Adding to his success story, Education Today recognized Dr. R. Balaji with 'The Education Icon of the Year 2020' Award for his phenomenal contribution to the sector. Under his leadership, SBOA School and Junior College received the Indian School Merit Award for six consecutive years. SBOA School and Junior College is ranked No.1 in India, Tamil Nadu, and Chennai among India's Top 20 CBSE Schools.

Dr. R. Balaji is a visionary with a clear and coherent approach to education. A man of great morals, integrity, and righteousness, his vision has improved the educational system by developing the ideal curricula and co-curricular activities. Thousands of students have reached the zenith of success with his encouraging words. To the senior leader, their success is his real reward.

LIFE-LONG PASSION FOR FRAGRANCE

Growing up in a family steeped in the perfume trade, Mr. Al Qurashi imbibed the intricate workings of the industry from a tender age. After completing his education, he joined the family business – founded by his father Abdul Samad Al Qurashi in 1932 – and began to make significant contributions to its growth and development.

Under his sterling leadership, the Abdul Samad Al Qurashi Group has attained an unrivalled position as a premier producer of traditional Arabian fragrances. Today, its reach extends far beyond the Middle East, reflecting the company's resolute commitment to excellence and innovation in the industry. His astute leadership has also earned him the admiration of his peers in the industry. Taking forward the legacy of quality and innovation, he has crafted a myriad of legendary, award-winning fragrances.

ON AN EXPANSION SPREE

Mr. Al Qurashi's leadership has propelled the Abdul Samad Al Qurashi Group to remarkable growth both domestically and globally. His in-depth understanding of the perfume industry, combined with his innate entrepreneurial skills, has enabled him to play a pivotal role in the expansion of the business, solidifying its position as a leading producer of traditional Arabian fragrances.

Over the years, the company's traditional fragrances have earned a loyal following, expanding its presence to over 40 countries. His strategic business acumen has been instrumental in driving the firm's success, making it a sought-after brand among customers. Under his leadership, the company has achieved significant milestones, firmly establishing its position in the global market.

QUALITY AND INNOVATION ARE PRIME

With a grip on the reins of the enterprise, Mr. Al Qurashi has ensured that the organisation maintains its pre-eminence, crafting olfactory masterpieces of outstanding quality that surpass all other existing brands. He ensures that only the finest natural ingredients sourced from around the world are used in their traditional production methods to craft authentic and opulent fragrances. His commitment to excellence has earned him a loyal and devoted following around the world.

Mr. Al Qurashi's innovation-centric mindset has also been instrumental in driving the company's success. By fostering an environment of experimentation and encouraging his team to

ideate novel fragrances and products that cater to a broader demographic, he has spearheaded the inception of various fragrance collections. Notably, the company's Oud and Bakhoor perfumes have emerged as coveted favourites – a testament to his trailblazing approach.

The leader remains resolute in upholding his family's time-honoured customs and principles. He ardently espouses the preservation of traditional perfume-making practices that have been bequeathed over generations, and endeavours to guarantee that the enterprise consistently curates premium fragrances that embody the opulent cultural legacy of Saudi Arabia.

LEADING WITH HEART

Mr. Al Qurashi is a prominent figure in philanthropic circles. He advocates for the significance of altruism and has channeled his energies towards various benevolent undertakings aimed at aiding the less privileged. His endeavours are concentrated on augmenting educational and healthcare initiatives, and he has been an active participant in several charitable endeavours aimed at this noble objective.



MOHD. ABDUL SAMAD AL QURASHI

UPHOLDING A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

MOHAMMED ABDUL SAMAD AL QURASHI IS THE CEO OF ABDUL SAMAD AL QURASHI GROUP, A RENOWNED PERFUME MAKER KNOWN FOR ITS PRODUCTS ACROSS THE WORLD. A TRUE EXEMPLAR OF BUSINESS ACUMEN AND STEWARDSHIP, HE HAS ADROITLY UPHELD THE GROUP'S RICH HERITAGE DATING BACK TO 1852

HARISH POOJARI

BUILDING TOMORROW'S INFRASTRUCTURE

MR. HARISH POOJARI, FOUNDER, INNOVINC ASPIRE INFRATECH SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED, HAS A VIBRANT PERSONALITY FUELED BY DISCIPLINE AND DETERMINATION. WITH HIS EXCEPTIONAL BUSINESS ACUMEN, HE IS SUCCESSFULLY MANAGING CUTTING-EDGE TOLL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO BRIDGE TECHNOLOGICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL GAPS

SUPERLATIVE CREDENTIALS

Mr. Harish Poojari holds a master's degree in Human Resource Management from Mumbai University. Before commencing his entrepreneurial journey, he began his career in human resources. He focused his attention on bridging the gap between employees and the organisation, which grew his interest in operations.

Today, Mr. Poojari, the Founder and CEO of Innovinc Aspire Infratech Solutions Private Limited, is known as an expert in developing the latest innovations in the industry. As a result of his vision, the company saw significant financial and business growth. The entrepreneur has set a precedent in infrastructure development by delivering exceptionally for the turnkey tolls and road construction projects allocated by the state governments.

A FUTURISTIC APPROACH

Due to his strategic abilities, solid competence, and great business sense, he stands tall in the infrastructure sector. His organisational and leadership abilities set him apart from the competition. Owing to his dedicated and unwavering efforts, the business quickly expanded to four states.

Currently, the firm is operating in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, with ongoing and upcoming projects. Possessing true entrepreneurial skills, Mr. Poojari introduced technologies to the firm for building smooth roadways connectivity that are safe and reliable.

The visionary leader was able to achieve significant milestones by constructing high-quality roads and a toll collection system throughout India's western and southern regions.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Poojari is committed to sustainable construction and adapting to future changes by placing it at the centre of his business's expansion plan. Under his direction, the firm aims to be a turnkey provider of renewable energy resources and end-to-end infrastructure deployment by 2025.

The firm recently launched Innovinc Aspire Renewable Energy Solutions Private Limited under his leadership. Assemblers, fabricators, and dealers will be based with this subsidiary company specializing in lithium batteries, lithium-ion batteries, and other renewable energy systems based on solar energy.

A relentless pursuer of perfection, Mr. Poojari did not leave any stone unturned in making his companies succeed. As a



result, both companies have received ISO certifications for implementing top-notch standards in their operations.

MOVING WITH THE TIMES

According to Mr. Poojari, it is teamwork and superior processes that make an organisation successful in the fast-paced and ever-changing environment. He also dedicates time to create an organic work environment in his company.

He believes in fostering a culture of social responsibility and creating a business that will shape our future. With a rich experience in HR and operations, he possesses excellent leadership skills, and strives to enhance employee performance and foster higher growth rates.

The entrepreneur prioritises the fulfilment and well-being of employees at Innovinc, while maintaining his position as the company's public face with a great deal of responsibility towards clients.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Mr. Poojari has received recognitions from the ET Inspiring Indian and Darwin Group of Companies. The company felicitated him in August 2022 for his notable contribution to the infratech industry.

STEERING TOWARDS SUCCESS

Mr. J.K. Arora, the recipient of the prestigious Udyog Ratna Award by the Institute of Economic Studies, is the driving force behind everything that the company has achieved. Working on the principles of safety, quality, and service, he has achieved massive success for the SOM Group of Companies. Realising the potential of the 'AlcoBev' industry, he decided to set up a distillery in Central India in the 1980s.

Mr. Arora began with a small bottling unit with the production capacity of 5,000 cases per month. With his precision and perseverance, he took his Group to a business empire worth Rs. 3,500 crore. His company became a market leader in the popular beer category. In Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and many other states, its brand HUNTER is listed among the top 3 brands. Today, the Group has the largest single-location brewery in India and the largest distillery in Central India.

An innovator, Mr. Arora came up with the idea of introducing White Fox Refresh, the first vodka-based ready-to-drink beverage in aluminium cans in India. In addition, he became popular among Indians for providing quality liquor at affordable prices.

Today, the SOM Group of Companies is operational beyond India. The organisation is present in 22 other countries, including the UAE, Germany, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, and West Indies. As a leader, he motivates his teammates to market the company products through multiple channels to gain maximum traction. He simply believes in enjoying his work and doing it with great passion, and motivates everyone in the team to do the same.

MOTHER AS A MENTOR

Mr. Arora considers his mother, Late Mrs. Asha Rani Arora, his guiding light. She had a profound influence on his life and moulded him into a man of morals. He believes that the confidence and dedication that he has is inculcated in him by his mother.

Late Mrs. Asha Rani Arora taught Mr. Arora to strike a balance in every situation, best or worst, and filled him with calmness. Her emotional support paved the path to success for him. She kept him grounded and motivated him to walk on the path of righteousness with clear intentions. That is why he gratefully dedicates his fame and success to her.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

A true leader imbibes the philosophy of humanity.

Understanding his responsibility towards his community, Mr. Arora started the Asha Mohan Foundation in the early 1995 which undertakes various welfare programmes. He has set up a school in Raisen, Madhya Pradesh which provides free education, books, and clothing to almost 500 students.

The Asha Mohan Foundation also runs a hospital that helps the factory workforce and people living nearby to have free medical treatment. Mr. Arora also conducts various wellness programs, such as health camps, labour rights, charity programs, etc., for the betterment of society.

FUTURE ENDEAVOURS

Mr. Arora primarily aims to make his brand a preferred choice over other multinational brands. To achieve this target, he has some concrete and big plans for the future of the SOM Group of Companies. He is hopeful about launching a new brandy line and introducing super-premium whisky in the coming months. His vision is to increase the Group's sales and distribution network in Southern markets, majorly in Kerala and Karnataka. He is also keen to boost his company's growth through expansion into export markets.



J.K. ARORA

WINNING THROUGH PERSEVERANCE

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE SOM GROUP OF COMPANIES, MR. J.K. ARORA, HAS A METICULOUS AND STRATEGIC VISION THAT GAVE HIS COMPANY THE RIGHT SHAPE AND DIRECTION. WITH A RICH EXPERIENCE OF 30 YEARS IN THE BUSINESS, THE SEASONED LEADER TAKES CARE OF THE GROUP'S SALES, MARKETING, AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

OTHMAN A. IBRAHIM

SHAPING THE FUTURE

MR. OTHMAN A. IBRAHIM, CEO OF RAWABI HOLDINGS AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF MAGNOM PROPERTIES, PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN LEADING ITS OPERATIONS' STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION. THE VALUES OF QUALITY, RELIABILITY, TIMELY DELIVERY, AND SUSTAINABILITY ENABLED HIM TO MAKE MAGNOM PROPERTIES A MARKET LEADER

WORKING HIS WAY TO THE TOP

Mr. Othman A. Ibrahim has a Master's in Finance and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. He has experience in managing COBOL programming, finance, law, and strategic planning. He joined Rawabi Holding in 1989, and since January 2009 has been serving as its Group President and CEO. He has held several significant positions over his long tenure with the organisation, including Group Vice President of Finance and Administration and Group Executive Vice President. The accomplished leader also oversaw the mergers and acquisitions department of an Egyptian consulting firm before joining Rawabi Holdings.

MANAGING GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. Ibrahim is the Chairman of several other successful companies, including United Safety Limited, Canada; Singaporean-listed Vallianz Holdings Limited; Equatoriale Energy, Singapore; PT VOM, Indonesia; Rawabi Vallianz Offshore Services; Rawabi Archer; Rawabi CETCO; Rawabi Pason; Rawabi Geolog; and Rawabi United Safety Services, to name a few. He is also a Director on the boards of Wildcat Oil Tools in the United States, Redland Industrial Services (Arabia) Limited (RISAL), and Kalaam Telecom in Bahrain.

In addition, he is the Chairman of the Audit Committee at Rawabi Human Resources Company and a Member of the Boards of Directors for all Rawabi Holding joint ventures and connected firms.

KEY TO SUCCESS

Mr. Ibrahim believes that success results from solid dedication to one's principles. He appreciates commitment and excellence, and believes these principles will help Magnom Properties succeed. The organisation treats its clients with quality and commitment. It is concerned about the community on both social and business levels.

The leader believes that Magnom Properties is defined by diversity not only due to its multicultural personnel and services, but also due to its multicultural nature and customers. Each company project delivers a distinct viewpoint that enables Magnom Properties to address issues, overcome obstacles, and offer cutting-edge services to its diverse clients.

A BIG LEAP AHEAD

Mr. Ibrahim has grand ideas and wants to grow his business



significantly. His commitment led to Magnom Properties and Forbes revealing collaborative plans to build a cutting-edge, environmentally friendly tower in the centre of Cairo, Egypt's New Administrative Capital, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The company is building the zero-carbon tower to help combat climate change. A solar panel rooftop, automated HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) field devices, and a slew of ultra-modern building technologies will be used in the project. His company wants to develop its next commercial real estate project in Saudi Arabia, followed by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

FUTURE GOALS

Mr. Ibrahim aspires to make his company a leading regional group, providing the basic needs of society through integrated solutions for projects, while continually improving its performance. The enterprising leader is committed to fostering long-lasting relationships with clients, delivering outstanding services by assuring their work's accuracy and effectiveness, enhancing his staff's skills to help them reach their full potential, and ensuring excellent, sustainable financial performance.

THE BIG LEAP

Md Golam Sarwar pursued engineering and law from the United Kingdom, MBA from Canada, and completed coursework from MIT. He spent 15 years working his way up from a cadet to a Chief Engineer sailing merchant vessels. Five years before stepping away from the sea, he noticed that certain services were lacking in Bangladesh's maritime market. This led him to venture into ship repair and ultimately establish Prantik Group in 1998. Today, the company is synonymous with excellence in the maritime industry. It has earned its place by providing tailored solutions that meet the industry's unique needs. For more than two decades, the firm has achieved great success. The International Salvage Union has acknowledged it as the number one provider of marine salvage services in Bangladesh and Southeast Asia. It has procured specialised vessels, tugboats, cranes and barges, among others, and has naval architects, marine engineers and ship captains among its 160 experienced experts.

The organisation has worked with major shipping companies from Europe, Japan, China, Singapore, Korea and India, and is associated with big projects such as Jamuna multi-purpose second bridge operations, and Matarbari Coal Power Project. It has also served as the Marine Emergency Response provider of the Bangladesh Navy and Chittagong Port Authority for a long time. For the last six years, it has been working with International Finance Corporation for corporate governance, and recently started with PwC for family governance and constitution, aiming to make the company flourish even in the leader's absence.

MAJOR CAREER MILESTONES

Mr. Sarwar's focus on achieving business success is evident from Prantik Group's varied marine projects, such as the construction of LPG terminals in Chittagong, double pipelines subsea project in Chittagong, and Critical lifting operation of heavy loads in Bangladesh. It is currently working on the Totalgaz/LPG project, involving activities such as pipeline works 15 metres deep into the soil. It has worked on diving services for two FSRUs (Floating Storage Regasification Units) — a feat no Bangladeshi company has achieved before — at Moheshkhali, Chittagong, despite the moist atmosphere, while maintaining strict regulations and security protocols. Additionally, it tackled a major collision with a Container Vessel at Chittagong Port last year, thereby preventing its closure. It also salvaged a huge barge from a sensitive coral island, Saint Martin last year when

the barge got aground due to a typhoon. The team members ensured safety of the environment and underwater species in the region.

The leader's unrelenting quest for knowledge and the latest technologies is remarkable, even after 25 years in the industry. He believes learning should be a lifelong pursuit, even if it's just a bit every day, as inspired by his father — a lawyer, politician, and conscientious individual. He also strives to contribute to society and the nation by selflessly helping those in need.

FUTURE ENDEAVOURS

Mr. Sarwar is committed to taking Prantik Group to new heights and making it a billion-dollar business. His primary focus is on the front-line maritime and offshore industries, integrating various technologies and assessing the marine and engineering sectors. He plans to steadily build up the business towards his goal. The leader also wants his team and the next generation to know that the company should consistently seek success such as a few Indian companies that have been built and managed by generations after generations. He hopes to be one such leader and make his firm an enterprise that inspires.

MD GOLAM SARWAR

THE MARITIME SPECIALIST

MD GOLAM SARWAR, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PRANTIK GROUP, SET UP THE COMPANY TO CATER TO THE NEEDS OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY. IT HAS SINCE CREATED SOLUTIONS TAILORED TO THOSE NEEDS, EARNING PRANTIK GROUP A RESPECTED PLACE IN SHIPPING, SHIPBUILDING, ENGINEERING, OFFSHORE WORK, MARINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE, AND RELATED SERVICES



MOAZZAM HOSSAIN

A SELF-MADE MAN

MR. MOAZZAM HOSSAIN, THE FOUNDER OF THE HOSAF GROUP OF COMPANIES, IS A NOTABLE AND SUCCESSFUL BANGLADESHI ENTREPRENEUR. WITH HIS EXCELLENT BUSINESS ACUMEN, VISION AND ACTIVE LEADERSHIP, THE GROUP HAS MADE A BENEFICIAL AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A HUMBLE BEGINNING

Mr. Moazzam Hossain graduated from the University of Dhaka and moved to Nagoya University, Japan, for further studies in 1968. He later opened an English school in Japan and expanded into other enterprises. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, he travelled extensively, which exposed him to new economic opportunities. After returning to Bangladesh, he established the first joint venture firm for deep-sea fishing – an area that was relatively untapped.

EVERLASTING SUCCESS

Mr. Hossain made significant contributions to Bangladesh's trade and industry, paving the way for economic progress. His company's primary efforts are in the electrical sector. To alleviate the crippling problem in the sector, he developed a power plant in Raozan, Chittagong, in collaboration with China's CMEC.

The plant played a crucial role in resolving the national issue. With investments in the energy, finance, LED lighting, electric meter, and real estate industries, among many others, Hosaf Group has grown to be one of the country's top commercial organisations over the past few decades.

SEARCH FOR NEW IDEAS

Mr. Hossain always looks for new commercial ventures and alliances, especially with organisations in Asia, Europe, Middle East and the United States, to learn or introduce new technologies and business ideas. For example, his company pioneered the introduction of used automobiles to the nation. It also entered the garments industry in the 1980s.

Later, the visionary leader helped to form the National Bank Limited – a private bank that is one of the top lenders to the nation's private sector today – and ventured in the insurance sector, forming Pragati Insurance Limited, one of the leading non-life private insurance company.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The visionary entrepreneur has always been committed to the welfare of the Bangladeshi people. He used to visit less affluent villages to recruit young people with strong academic credentials and assisted many youngsters in becoming professionals. The company has built Amirabad Anowara Girl's High School and Bokter Munshi Moazzam Hossain High School in Shonagazi, Feni, that has competent headmasters, well-trained teachers, and over 1,200 and 900 students,



respectively.

The Bhor Bazar Advocate Belayet Hossain High School was also established there. Mr. Hossain has consistently supported the schools with all required financial and logistical support, and annual scholarships to the deserving students.

TAKING ON RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. Hossain has led many distinct organisations, and currently serves as Chairman of the Hosaf Group and its subsidiaries. Together with these positions, he serves as the Chairman of Hosaf Meter Limited, Hosaf Proficient Energy Limited, and as the Managing Director of Energy Prima Limited, Citi Link Apartment Limited, Hosaf International Limited and HF Power Limited. He has served on the boards of Euro Knitting & Dyeing Industries Limited, Pragati Insurance Limited and National Bank Limited.

With his ardent efforts, he made Hosaf Group one of Bangladesh's largest and fastest-expanding private sector companies, providing value to clients. It has a sizable turnover and more than 800 employees. Supported by a market-oriented corporate strategy, he has led the company to become successful and establish trust and good reputation. Businesses consider factors of quality and pricing, and Mr. Hossain delivers both.

MALAY PIT

MAN ON A MISSION TO ERADICATE SOCIAL DISPARITY

MR. MALAY PIT HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE CAUSE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL SOCIETY OF WEST BENGAL. A SOCIAL WORKER AND A DEDICATED HUMANITARIAN, HE HAS LED MANY ENTREPRENEURIAL INITIATIVES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION

A CHANGEMAKER

A social entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and a committed philanthropist, Mr. Malay dons many hats and each with equal determination. His leadership persona and vision is such that he envisions equality and growth for all. Rural economic development and quality education have been his biggest missions all through the years.

AN ACCLAIMED EDUPRENEUR

Amongst his various initiatives, his most notable one is the Swadhin Charitable Trust, which he started in the year 2009. Swadhin refers to Society for Welfare & Development of Human Initiatives, and has been Mr. Malay's painstaking initiative to drive his mission of offering education to the youth. The objective of this trust is to develop medical colleges, organise training and development programmes, and drive social development through education.

Since 2009, Mr. Malay has been involved in the development of rural areas of West Bengal through the Swadhin Charitable Trust. The prime objective of his social activities has been to protect the minority people and tribal communities of West Bengal. He has partnered with more than 67 institutes to impart various interpersonal skills, technical skills, education and more to rural children, right from primary education to higher studies. The government and private ITI institutes that are involved in this partnership belong to the first 20 ITI institutes pan India. Polytechnics, skill development centres, B.Ed colleges, and other institutes are a part of these social development initiatives by Mr. Malay.

SERVICE WITH SINCERITY AND PASSION

Another feather in Mr. Malay's cap is the Santiniketan Medical College (SMC). Established in 2020, the SMC is India's first medical college built through a public-private partnership under the National Medical Commission Act. It was started by Mr. Malay to offer transformative learning experiences. The college is the first one to come up after the Centre's decision to open a path for private players to partner with government hospitals and build medical colleges. Set up under the supervision of NITI Aayog, the teaching hospital is affiliated to Bolpur Sub-divisional Hospital.

Under Mr. Malay's guidance, the medical hospital-cum-institute has been a frontrunner in providing world-class medical services with compassionate care and at affordable cost. It is also dedicated to producing globally competent medical professionals with a strong urge to serve humanity with the core values of sincerity and passion towards quality patient care guided by ethics.

Mr. Malay has made sure that the medical college has an array of modern laboratories, state-of-the-art equipment, and highly trained staff. To make medical education an enriching experience, he has introduced a few museums at the college. These museums have on display over 300 dissected specimens, 500 models, and other items from the

world of surgery. His idea is to present to people key, lesser known medical facts about human bodies.

MANY INITIATIVES, ONE MISSION

A not-for-profit organisation started by Mr. Malay is Gobindapur Sephali Samaj Seba Samity. Through this institute, he offers efficient technical and non-technical training to people, which enables them to run educational institutions successfully. This institute also conducts training programmes under various livelihood sectors to help in socio-economic uplift of many people in need.

SWATIRTHA CHARITABLE TRUST

Mr. Malay also started Swatirtha Charitable Trust during the pandemic to offer services to rural people. The unprecedented pandemic and its aftermath were particularly harsh on the rural people whose livelihoods got affected. Under his guidance, Swatirtha Trust engaged in expanding plantation and agricultural activities to sustain the livelihood of rural people. The trust increased its services to feed rural people



inside the campus during the pandemic. It also provides classes of physical activity and motivational lectures so that people from the rural community get interested in engaging with their jobs. This trust also provides e-learning study materials for students from different resources.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

By participating in many skill development projects, Mr. Malay has managed to improve the lives of over 3,500 people.

His vision and determination to see a visible change in society has often been recognised.

In 2020, Mr. Malay was recognised at the Leadership Innovation Excellence awards held by the Institute of Economic Studies (IES). He was also conferred the 'Innovative and Excellence Award' by the National Economic Summit in the same year.

Driven by benevolence for society and

strong social conscience, Mr. Malay is an insightful and inspirational personality who has devoted his life to the uplift and sustainable development of the rural society of West Bengal. His philanthropic work for the marginalised communities of the state has led to an improved life and livelihoods for thousands of people. It is this kind of selfless work that makes a leader transform into a visionary.



EARLY EXPOSURE TO PERFUMERY

Born in Saudi Arabia, Abdul Majid grew up in a family that was steeped in the traditions of perfumery. Gradually, he developed an exceptional aptitude for the art and science of perfumery. With a discerning nose and an unfaltering passion for the craft, he soon became a connoisseur of fine perfumes. Today, his expert knowledge in the subject and leadership acumen have helped him become an outstanding leader in the industry.

REMARKABLE BUSINESS ACUMEN

Abdul Majid pursued his education in the United Kingdom before returning to Saudi Arabia to continue the legacy of his esteemed grandfather, Abdul Samad Al Qurashi, who founded the eponymous family business in 1932. Leveraging his astute business acumen, he ascended the ranks with remarkable alacrity, culminating in his appointment as the Chief Commercial Officer at the Abdul Samad Al Qurashi Group.

As the CCO, he leads the charge in managing the company's sales and marketing endeavours. Under his visionary leadership, the company has witnessed global expansion, driving growth through the establishment of new distribution channels and retail outlets in several countries, including the United States and Canada. His keen ability to inspire and manage teams of professionals has enabled the company to promote its exceptional perfumes and incense to a worldwide audience, making him a leading figure in the fragrance industry.

EMPHASISES CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

As a seasoned leader, Abdul Majid is dedicated to ensuring that customers receive the highest quality service. His unwavering commitment to providing an exceptional customer experience has led him to implement several innovative initiatives aimed at improving customer satisfaction. From providing comprehensive training to customer service representatives to developing new online resources to help customers explore the company's exquisite products and services, the visionary leader's forward-thinking leadership has revolutionised the company's customer service operations. His steadfast focus on enhancing customer service has made the Abdul Samad Al Qurashi Group a renowned brand in the global fragrance industry.

Abdul Majid also spearheads the company's product development initiatives. Driven by a passion for creating new and unique fragrances that meet the dynamic demands of the market, he has led the successful launch of several new

fragrance lines, including the acclaimed Oud and Bakhoor fragrances.

The leader's commitment to fostering innovation has been instrumental in the company's continued success, both locally and globally, as it continues to solidify its position as a leading producer of high-quality perfumes and incense.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Abdul Majid is a committed philanthropist who actively participates in his family's philanthropic endeavours. He is a strong believer in the importance of community involvement and has been an active participant in various charitable projects that focus on critical areas such as education, healthcare, and social welfare.

The leader's commitment to giving back is reflected in his passionate support for initiatives that empower women and children, especially through education and training programs that promote personal and professional growth. His dedication to philanthropy underscores his deeply ingrained sense of responsibility towards the community and his desire to make a positive impact on society.



ENG. ABDUL MAJID AL QURASHI

PASSION FOR PERFECTION

ENGR. ABDUL MAJID AL QURASHI IS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER WITH AN IMPRESSIVE TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS. THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER OF THE FAMOUS PERFUME PRODUCER, ABDUL SAMAD AL QURASHI GROUP MANAGES THE ROLE WITH UNMATCHED PRECISION, FINESSE, AND EXPERTISE, EARNING WIDESPREAD ADMIRATION AND RESPECT

MUPPALA SREEDHAR

FUELLING DREAMS OF EXCELLENCE

SOME PEOPLE DREAM, AND OTHERS STRIVE HARDER TO MAKE THEIR DREAMS A REALITY. MUPPALA SREEDHAR BELONGS TO THE SECOND CATEGORY. THIS SPIRITED EDUCATIONIST AND ENTREPRENEUR HAS REDEFINED ACADEMICS BY BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM SUPPORTING HUNDREDS OF YOUNGSTERS' CAREER AND LIFE GOALS

MAN ON A MISSION

Muppala Sreedhar, fondly addressed as CA Sridhar by his contemporaries, is a renowned educationist, chartered accountant, and entrepreneur from Telangana. He established the Tapasya College of Commerce and Management and the Tapasya Educational Institutions in 2009 to offer excellent pedagogy training to enrich students.

Within a short period, Muppala Sreedhar has turned the institute into an institution of repute in commerce and management education. Today, the group has seven branches in Hyderabad and four in Bengaluru. Simply put, the entrepreneur has marked a strong presence in the field of education in South India.

The educational institute is one of the many ways through which Muppala Sreedhar aims at achieving his vision. His aim is greater, and for that, he has founded several other firms, such as Tapasya Infra-Ventures, Tapasya Financial Corporation, and Tapasya Agri Feeds.

Today, he is a proud founder of some of the best-performing companies in South India. The way he has taken each of the firms towards success has earned him respect from both young businesspeople and industry veterans.

STRONG ROOTS

Success did not come to Muppala Sreedhar overnight. He strived hard since childhood to be where he is today. Coming from a farmer's family, he realised in his childhood that only education could help him grab the best opportunities. His parents, Shri Venkaiah Muppala and Smt. Aruna Muppala, too ensured that Muppala Sreedhar gets all the attention and support to grow higher in life. All these efforts and support paid off when Muppala Sreedhar not only qualified as a Chartered Accountant, but also emerged as a topper.

This milestone changed his entire life. Muppala Sreedhar later joined Deloitte and worked as a Deputy Manager for three years. But, over time, he realised that his passion was somewhere else. Thus, he switched to teaching and founded the Tapasya Educational Institutions.

In the past 12 years, he has taken pride in imparting commerce education to over 55,000 students. His institute has also acquired three more colleges, namely, Ideal Degree College, Ushodaya Degree College, and Rachnoutsav College of Commerce and Management, to train more and more students for a brighter future.



A GOLDEN HEART

Muppala Sreedhar has also invested significant time and resources in giving back to society. He has initiated several programs at Nellipaka's Gram Panchayat. For instance, Muppala Sreedhar started 'NTR SevaSamithi' to elevate the gram panchayat in terms of education, health, and employment. He also founded a high school with an integrated library facility for poor children. The initiatives also include donation drives of sports kits to the children in the area and the organisation of tournaments to encourage a competitive spirit.

In terms of healthcare, Muppala Sreedhar has organised free mega health camps in association with Care Hospitals, Prabhu Diabetic Research Centre, and Vasan Eye Clinic. Similarly, he undertook the repairs of water tanks and the construction of solar panels, toilets, and dustbins to show his support under the Swachh Bharat Mission. The list of social initiatives of Muppala Sreedhar continues. He had been driving excellent initiatives during the COVID-19 crisis as well. For all the work he has done in the field of education, business, and social activities, he has been felicitated with several honours and awards. He received the 'Leadership Award' for excellence in education from the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in 2013. He also received the 'Times Education Icon Award' in 2017 and 2019.

A SOLID KICKSTART

Armed with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University, Nikhil is adeptly utilising his proficiencies and erudition to facilitate the accomplishment of Campus' goals. In 2007, he availed himself of the opportunity to participate in the Summer School Programme at the esteemed London School of Economics. Furthermore, he demonstrated his competence by satisfactorily completing the TPG-INSEAD C-Suite Workshop Programme and the Leading The Effective Sales Force INSEAD Executive Education Programme held at the prestigious INSEAD campus in Singapore. His accomplishment attests to his exceptional acumen and shows his commitment to professional development.

Under Nikhil's astute guidance, the brand has exhibited exponential growth that outpaced the market and surpassed all competitors, with an impressive 2X to 3X advantage over its closest rival. Over the past decade, it has maintained a formidable trajectory, boasting an outstanding 27% growth rate and a remarkable record of success.

Even in the face of daunting challenges posed by the macro environment, the brand has achieved a dazzling performance in FY 22. Its Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) approach has been soaring high on a robust growth trajectory, showcasing a staggering year-on-year growth of over 150% in FY 22. Also, the company's distribution channels, product categories, and financial metrics have all displayed resounding growth, with a staggering volume of 19.27 million pairs and exceptional value – a testament to his visionary leadership and business acumen.

AN IDEA-DRIVEN INNOVATOR

Nikhil's resolute dedication has fortified the company's ability to connect with its target audience through various channels, including D2C sales and e-commerce platforms. His keen focus on delivering exceptional value to customers has allowed the company to leverage global design and colour trends, tailored to local tastes. He has expanded the company's capabilities in innovation and design to introduce premium products that cater to discerning customers willing to pay a premium price for quality. He continuously pushes the boundaries of innovation, keeping in mind the affordability metrics and overcoming accessibility and distribution-related challenges.

As a visionary CEO, Nikhil proudly steered his organisation to new heights by securing a pivotal partnership with TPG Growth and QRG Enterprises. He has deftly crafted a compelling vision, breathing life into his company's potential and translating it

into a tangible reality through inspirational leadership. His unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical governance has instilled trust in potential investors, propelling his company to new heights. His ability to listen and empathise with his team members is an indispensable asset, cultivating a culture of camaraderie and collaboration that fuels productivity and fosters innovation in the organisation.

With his visionary leadership, Campus has aligned its CSR efforts with the national development goals to foster genuine philanthropy. It has formed meaningful partnerships with NGOs like Goonj, Clothesbox, and Prayas, and prioritised healthcare initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WINNING ACCOLADES

Under Nikhil's dynamic leadership, Campus has been bestowed with numerous accolades. From bagging the coveted ET Best Brands Award to earning the prestigious Rising Brand of Asia 2022-23 title, the company has been at the forefront of excellence. The Best Outdoor Plan - E4M Neons Award, E4M Pride of India: North Bharat Award, and the North India Best Employer Brand Award are just a few more feathers in his cap!

NIKHIL AGGARWAL

WALKING THE TALK

THE WHOLE-TIME DIRECTOR AND CEO AT CAMPUS, MR. NIKHIL AGGARWAL IS A LEADER WITH A MIDAS TOUCH. HE HAS TURNED CAMPUS INTO A SHINING STAR IN THE SPORTS AND ATHLEISURE FOOTWEAR SPACE. WITH HIS EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP DEFINED BY AN UNWAVERING SENSE OF EQUANIMITY, HE HAS NAVIGATED STORMS AND SUNSHINE WITH POISE AND CLARITY



PRIYA ANAND DAKLE

CARVING HER OWN ROUTE TO SUCCESS

MRS. PRIYA ANAND DAKLE IS THE CHAIRPERSON OF DAKLE INDUSTRIAL PLASTICS, A COMPANY STARTED BY HER FATHER-IN-LAW AS A SMALL-SCALE BUSINESS IN 1984. WITH HER INNOVATIVE THOUGHT PROCESS AND RELENTLESS EFFORTS, SHE HAS MADE THE COMPANY GROW TREMENDOUSLY

UNWAVERING DETERMINATION

Ms. Priya Dakle's business acumen and strategic management helped Dakle Industrial Plastics achieve new milestones. With her exceptional abilities, she has not only played a decisive role in transforming this small firm into a world-class manufacturer, but also made a prominent place for her in the male-monopolised business world. Today, she is a great inspiration for all women who want to achieve something significant in their lives.

Among Ms. Dakle's important projects has been the planning and execution of 500 cubic meter tanks at the new Maldives International Airport. The project included the installation and commissioning of these tanks. She also helped in planning and executing the first ocean fish farming project in Sri Lanka, wherein she successfully handled the complete supply and installation of fishing tanks.

Today, Dakle Industrial Plastics has three state-of-the-art workshops of 1 lakh sq. ft. area for manufacturing customised fibreglass reinforced plastic tanks and other pollution control equipment. Its list of multinational clients includes Bayer, Unilever Corporation, and Fosroc & Syngenta. It will not be wrong to say that Ms. Dakle is the backbone of the company, and has transformed the company by bringing in numerous additions. She is a focused leader who is always ready to take the extra mile for the client's satisfaction.

FRUITFUL EFFORTS

Ms. Dakle considers her father and father-in-law as her mentors. She has learned the importance of perfection, trust, and commitment from them, and strives hard to deliver the best in business. She emphasises that this is the only way to grow enormously in one's career. Her praiseworthy work has brought laurels to her company. The leader was awarded the "Social Entrepreneur Award 2020" on Women's Day by Startup Vapi. She was also nominated for the prestigious Vyapaar Jagat Convention & Awards 2020 in the category of "Education Hero of the Year 2020." In addition, she has been appointed as the Chairperson of JITO, Ladies Wing, Vapi.

A BUSINESS THAT CARES

A leader should always think of one's employees before anyone. Ms. Dakle follows the principle by constantly trying to improve



the quality and efficiency of her employees. Being aware that this industry is highly labour-intensive, she actively conducts mental and physical health workshops and safety programs for them so that they can handle fire accidents or any other calamity. For example, during the pandemic, she decided not to lay off any staff member and ensured that each person working for her firm did not fear job loss and psychological trauma.

Ms. Dakle provides free education to the children of company workers in Smt. Madibai Sardarmal Dakle School. Here, high-class facilities for English-medium education are given at a significantly subsidised cost. During the pandemic year, she did not take any fees from the students and paid 100% salaries to all her teaching and non-teaching staff every month.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

As a true leader, Ms. Priya Anand Dakle imbibes the philosophy of humanity. She strongly supports the Indian government's 'Vocal for Local' and 'Self-reliant India' campaigns, and encourages the maximum use of local products from local suppliers, who meet the prescribed standards. She also understands her responsibility towards nature and, therefore, makes constant efforts to improve the health of the planet by planting trees around all the manufacturing units.



BEGINNING OF EXCELLENCE

Mr. Shafiqul Alam's one-of-a-kind combination of dynamism and expertise deserves full credit for his consistently outstanding performance. He is determined to strive for excellence. When Mr. Alam began working for the Chittagong Port Authority as a stevedore, he noticed that the cargo pattern changed frequently. He also observed the recurrent use of novel handling techniques. This gave him the idea to launch a logistics services company.

With sheer tenacity and foresightedness, Mr. Alam made his company AMMS Logistics work on all shipping-related matters to the complete satisfaction of its clients, both domestically and internationally.

VISION AND MISSION

Mr. Alam envisions being Bangladesh's top shipping service provider. He strives to provide fair value to customers, create rewarding careers for employees, and earn a profit that corresponds with the value his company provides. The visionary leader also wishes that his business be run like a family that cares for its workers and upholds moral principles and integrity. His mission is to deliver dependable, timely, and responsive maritime and shipping services throughout Bangladesh that meet his client's needs. Moreover, he wants to establish long-lasting, mutually beneficial relationships with the stakeholders, including clients, staff, suppliers, and port authorities.

Mr. Alam conducts his entire business following social responsibility and global industry standards. His philosophy is to earn clients' trust by embracing two-way communication and transparency in work. Furthermore, he constantly looks for new ways to improve his services to make them more contemporary and pragmatic while remaining cost-effective.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Mr. Alam keeps a close eye on all business activities; he thoroughly monitors the critical activities for fine-tuning and innovating new requirements, such as establishing a jetty on the river site and using equipment appropriately. During project execution, he establishes close contact with the management to direct the work process, provide analytical descriptions, and handle technological issues. He ensures that all the tasks are accomplished in time and smoothly. In case of problem, he maintains a helicopter view of the situation to implement the proper solution immediately.

SHAFIQU ALAM JEWEL

THE MAN BEHIND SUPERIOR LOGISTICS AND SHIPPING SERVICES

MR. SHAFIQU ALAM IS PROUD OF AMMS LOGISTICS' REPUTATION AS A RELIABLE, PROMPT, AND ACCOMMODATING MARINE AND SHIPPING COMPANY THAT SATISFIES THE NEEDS OF ITS CLIENTS GLOBALLY. UNDER HIS GUIDANCE, AMMS LOGISTICS HAS BECOME A LEADING PROVIDER OF INTEGRATED LOGISTICS SOLUTIONS AND END-TO-END SERVICES

According to Mr. Alam, transformation is the key to staying ahead of the competition in an increasingly expanding logistics market. Throughout his career, he has consistently achieved high productivity levels through knowledge transfer and efficiency improvement. It is his objective from day one that his logistic services are cost-effective and profitable.

A BELIEVER OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

AMMS has prospered under Mr. Alam for one more reason. He places a high value on corporate social responsibility, as it helps keep the humane aspect of businesses alive. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the leader instructed all his workers and employees regarding safety. He suggested working online so that the team could perform from home, avoiding physical presence and possible infections.

In addition, he implemented several corporate governance practices as the leader of his organisation. The practices include creating a competent board, aligning strategies with goals, being accountable, demonstrating high ethical standards, defining roles and responsibilities, and managing risk effectively.



SOLIPURAM VENKAT REDDY

SCRIPTING A SAGA OF EXCELLENCE

WITH A HUGE PASSION FOR REVOLUTIONISING THE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY, MR. SOLIPURAM V. REDDY STARTED HIS OWN COMPANY, INTERCITY TRANSPORT, IN 1988. IT IS ONE OF THE LEADING BUS AND CAR RENTAL COMPANIES THAT HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED THE AUTOMOBILE MARKET

AN INSPIRATION TO MANY

What makes Mr. Solipuram Venkat Reddy a successful first-generation entrepreneur is his belief in himself. Born in a farmer's family, this commerce graduate had no automobile industry experience, but with self-belief established one of the leading passenger bus and car rental companies in the South Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Today, he is an inspiration to all those passionate about achieving something big in life. With integrity, discipline, and enthusiasm as his strengths, Mr. Reddy has made his business accomplish success, trust and fame. Taking learning as a never-ending process, he learns something new every day and tries to incorporate it into his work. This openness to learning something new gives him an edge over others in the market.

A CLIENT-CENTRIC APPROACH

A company becomes successful when its customers are satisfied, and the quality output provided to customers makes it a known name in the market. Intercity Transport Company has been providing pick-and-drop facilities to employees, meeting client requirements in terms of shifts, number of employees, and packages per kilometres, among others.

His company generates employment for around 1,600 people, and has a turnover of over Rs. 200 crore. As the firm's founder, Mr. Reddy oversees automobile servicing, passenger transportation, construction, power station, and hospitality services. The business leader provides these services with competitive advantages. He is committed to providing services all 365 days of the year, irrespective of any problem, and this dedication and thirst for success make him an exemplary leader. Mr. Reddy motivates his team to maintain a regular clientele. Renowned names like Toshiba, TIDC, and Green Needle in the automotive sector and Tata and NRSC in the aerospace industry are a few of his clients. His pharma clients include Aurobindo Pharma, NATCO Pharma, Hetero Pharma, Mylan Pharma, Sai Life Sciences, Dr. Reddy's, Gland Pharma, and Suven Pharmaceuticals.

VALUING TEAM EFFORTS

A true leader never hesitates to acknowledge the hard work of his teammates. Mr. Reddy appreciates the efforts of his 1,600-strong workforce and accredits his success to them. He believes that whatever he has achieved professionally is all



because of his supportive employees and their constant efforts. He treats his team members as a family and motivates them to grow with the company. He strongly believes that a happy, collaborative and engaging working environment is always rewarding. He, therefore, leaves no stone unturned to keep the people around him content and satisfied. His team passionately works as per the clients' requirements and timely delivers their customised contracts. With their leader's support, the team has been going to great lengths to deliver projects.

A LEADING SOCIAL CONTRIBUTOR

Apart from growing his business, Mr. Reddy works for the betterment of society and country. He envisions introducing new technologies and developing skyscrapers to make India a better place for all the people.

Mr. Solipuram Venkat Reddy is actively involved in contributing to charities such as the Raja Bahadur Venkata Ram Reddy Educational Society (RVBR Educational Society). His benevolence can also be seen in the fact that he funds the education of many employees' children. He also contributes to various social causes and community development initiatives such as road widening and water purification in the Bhongir town of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district of Telangana.

A JOURNEY OF DETERMINATION

Mr. Srinivasa Rao Veluvolu hails from the West Godavari district in coastal Andhra Pradesh. He completed his post-graduate degree in Commerce and followed it up with a Masters in Business Administration. He moved to Hyderabad to pursue a professional career. He joined as a Trainee and, in a short period, went on to lead the Commercial function in Linkwell Telesystems, a pioneer in the Telecom domain.

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CHAPTER

Mr. Rao's passion for becoming an entrepreneur led him to venture out on his own despite having a thriving professional career. His entrepreneurial venture started with becoming a distributor for Tata Cellular.

Through his hard work and determination, he became the leading distributor in the circle. He soon expanded to other districts of Andhra Pradesh and later broadened his business and reach by becoming a Partner for Tata Indicom, ICICI Home Loans, and Iqara Broadband.

In 2004, Mr. Rao ventured into Real Estate and began trading in land. A year later, he officially established his company Nikhila Constructions and Developers (NCD), which over the years has become a trusted brand in the realty landscape in Hyderabad. The founder's vision and hard work took NCD to greater heights and contributed in building its position as a preferred builder known for quality homes.

Mr. Rao has believed that unlike any other product category, building and selling a home brings along certain additional responsibilities to the builder. Hence, it is important that the home is built with quality and delivered in time. The Best Customer Testimonials for NCD have always been its customers choosing to purchase their second home again in an NCD-developed gated community. Additionally, almost 25% of the sales in every company project happens through references of existing customers.

GROWING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Under Mr. Rao's leadership, NCD has earned a reputation for delivering projects within stipulated timelines. He wants to develop communities with modern features and facilities where homeowners can lead a happy life. To date, NCD has delivered over 1,500 homes.

Over the next few years, the company plans to develop around 5,000 additional homes. It has identified the fast-growing Mokila/Shankarpalle belt in the Western Corridor of Hyderabad as the area where it will execute its plans.

SRINIVASA RAO VELUVOLU

LAYING THE RIGHT FOUNDATION

MR. SRINIVASA RAO VELUVOLU IS A LEADER WHO LEADS FROM THE FRONT. IN THE TWO DECADES OF HIS ENTREPRENEURIAL CAREER, HE HAS SUCCESSFULLY BUILT A BUSINESS OF SCALE IN THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY AND EARNED AN UNSHAKEABLE REPUTATION FOR DELIVERING QUALITY HOMES WITHIN COMMITTED TIMELINES

To accomplish the goal, Mr. Rao has brought together a strong team of professionals from various industries with cumulative rich experience of over 250 years. The rich experience has helped the leader in implementing best practices and processes in running the organisation. The team ensures that the company projects are delivered to customers in time.

FOUNDATION OF THE NCRD

Mr. Rao wanted to make a difference in the lives of the poor and needy, and, therefore, founded Nikhila's Centre for Rural Development (NCRD).

Through NCRD, the visionary has been providing the deprived people support and access to basic requirements such as education and medical facilities, among others, as he believes education can change their lives and fortunes. Since NCD operates in the Mokila/Shankarpalle belt, Mr. Rao has begun NCRD's work with the people of the area, by providing them facilities and support to lead a better life.

In the financial year 2023-2024, the company aims to provide ambulance and medical camps in the villages. In addition, distribution of books and conducting tuition camps are being planned to ensure that the education of the next generation of the villagers does not take a back seat.



SUNIL DESAI

TRANSFORMING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

MR. SUNIL DESAI, THE INDOMITABLE FORCE BEHIND DEXTRA INDIA, IS A MAN OF IMMENSE WISDOM AND UNFLINCHING DETERMINATION. AS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE MUMBAI-BASED CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS COMPANY, HE HAS LED THE ORGANISATION TO NEW HEIGHTS, PIONEERING THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE INDUSTRY

LEADING THE CHARGE

Mr. Sunil Desai, who holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Construction Management from NICMAR, as well as an MBA, was driven to enter the construction sector due to the significant technological disparity that existed between the Indian and the international construction industry during the 1990s. His idea was to introduce indigenous products with local manufacturing to enhance cost competitiveness, particularly in applications such as mechanical splices, Groutec splices for Precast connections, and prestressing systems.

To bring this idea to fruition, he approached key decision makers in the industry, including consultants, end users, and professional bodies. He demonstrated the techno-commercial benefits of his offerings, prepared mock-ups and product trials, and conducted several tests for clients. These efforts helped in building a strong foothold in the industry.

BOOSTING 'MAKE IN INDIA'

Mr. Desai developed an indigenous Pre-stressed system in India in early 1990s and was instrumental in developing HDPE ducts in 1995 in association with M/s Rex to replace metallic ducts. He next manufactured mechanical couplers – a much reliable connection system that replaced lapping joints of rebars and, thus, reduced time and cost for clients.

Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) components were yet another alternative material offerings in the form of Soft eyes for TBM tunnels, Rock bolts for NATM tunnels, AAA anchors for UG metro station, among others, that flourished under his leadership. Products like couplers, GFRP and Sonic tubes for foundation testing and other purposes played a key role in Dextra's commitment towards sustainability and reducing carbon footprint. His active engagement in professional bodies such as BIS, DFI, and ICI, Mr. Desai contributed to setting high standards for engineered products. He also promoted Make in India by setting up Dextra's manufacturing plant in India.

A GOAL-DRIVEN LEADER

Mr. Desai is a dynamic leader with a clear vision of the future. He is driven by his goals and constantly strives to take Dextra India to new heights. In the short term, he has set his sights on expanding the company's manufacturing capabilities. His plan is to introduce GFRP production in India and upgrade the technology to ensure zero wastage in the production of



threaded splices, and eventually position Dextra India as the go-to solution provider for the construction industry. By innovating with products like Ultrasonic testing tubes and GFRP components in place of steel, he is leading the charge towards a greener and more sustainable future for the industry.

Mr. Desai's vision and leadership have been instrumental in shaping the company's culture of customer-centricity, and his unwavering commitment to excellence has inspired the team to consistently raise the bar.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Mr. Desai has been the recipient of several prestigious awards and recognitions. A few among them are the Udyog Bharati Award by Indian Achievers Forum in 2010-11, the Karwar Konkan Maratha Welfare Association Award in 2011, and the recognition of Dextra India Private Limited as the Best Company in Innovative Construction Methodology in 2011.

The company's innovative product, Groutec Splices, was also recognised as the Best Innovative Product in 2020. With Mr. Desai at the helm, Dextra India is poised to continue its journey of growth and success, as it strives to be the go-to partner for customers seeking customised, innovative, and reliable solutions.

VIKASH KUMAR

VIKASH

MAKING A LASTING IMPACT

MR. VIKASH KUMAR VIKASH'S CHANGEOVER FROM WORKING AS A BUREAUCRAT TO LEADING A GOVERNMENT-BACKED BUSINESS IS A TESTAMENT TO HIS VERSATILITY AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS. AS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MYSORE SALES INTERNATIONAL LTD. (MSIL), HE HAS AMBITIOUS PLANS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF KARNATAKA. THE LEADER CONSISTENTLY STRIVES TO REVOLUTIONISE THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF GOVERNMENT-RUN ENTERPRISES. HIS DEDICATION IS REMARKABLE AND DRIVE TO ESTABLISH MSIL AS ONE OF THE MOST COVETED, NATIONAL CONGLOMERATES IS HARD TO BEAT

An officer of the 2004 batch of Indian Police Services, Mr. Vikash Kumar has had a prolific run in the Indian Police force after starting as the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Bhatkal in Karwar district of Karnataka. Hailing from a small town in Bihar's Munger district, Kumar had a passion in him to make it big. After completing graduation from Delhi University, he pursued a Master's degree from the Delhi School of Economics. He also has a Junior Research Fellowship from the UGC. After joining the force, he steadily worked his way up. Additionally, he held positions in various other government departments, such as Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department and Commissioner, Social Welfare.

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF

In March 2021, Mr. Kumar was assigned to the Commerce and Industry Department of the Government of Karnataka and he joined MSIL as the Managing Director. Established in 1966 to cater to the marketing requirements of Karnataka, MSIL provides an extensive array of products and services using innovative marketing strategies. With multiple divisions spread across the state, it deals in several domains such as beverages, pharmaceuticals, paper, chit funds, and solar energy.

Mr. Kumar began his MSIL stint with spending time on taking stock and planning the future of the organisation. He charted out the growth areas and made note of all possible opportunities. Beginning with a well-laid-out plan and an unmatched business expertise, he has successfully preserved MSIL's originality

and brand reputation to the highest degree since assuming the position of Managing Director. During his tenure, he has made some fundamental changes in the processes that have helped a great deal in the holistic growth of the company.

ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE

Under Mr. Kumar's dynamic leadership and business acumen, MSIL has achieved exceptional growth through assertive marketing strategies and promoting the adoption of renewable energy. MSIL expanded its business into the tourism and hospitality sector, and has reaped immense profits. The feat also helped the leader being named as one of the 75 'Pride of India' awardees earlier this year. In the post-pandemic era when all businesses were struggling, he led MSIL towards consistent growth and profit. For example, MSIL's Chit Funds Division recorded a growth of approximately 15% in the previous fiscal year, and has been successful in serving as both a financial instrument and a social tool to support small businesses and the unorganised sector. Additionally, it was honoured with the SKOCH 2022 Award for its financial and societal contributions.

Upon taking over as the MD of MSIL, Mr. Kumar was able to steer the company towards a profit of nearly Rs. 32 crores (A\$5.8 million) in 2020. The company continued with the growth spell and achieved an astounding profit of Rs.

54 crore (A\$9.8 million) the following year. In 2022, the leader introduced some stringent revisions and adopted a conservative approach to certain issues. As a result, MSIL recorded a profit of approximately Rs. 91.1 crore (A\$16.85 million), and is expected to raise it to Rs. 200 crore (A\$36.3 million) in this fiscal.

A TRUE LEADER

Mr. Kumar is a value-driven professional, who believes in leading by example. He ensures that the company adheres to all regulations and minimises the chances of any misconduct by implementing a robust and well-coordinated compliance strategy. For him, the key to success has been a thorough understanding of the company. He took his time to understand which business verticals were performing well and the challenges they faced. His analysis gave him a fair idea about where most of the growth opportunities lay and he tried to play to their strength. His second strategy was to launch new services aligned with what people need. His great perception skills helped him understand the pulse of





the people and usher in desirable changes.

A DISCIPLINED MIND

Mr. Kumar's background with the police force has made him a highly disciplined individual. Whether it is an organisational discipline or self-discipline of the officials, he likes to create a system that percolates on its own rather than being forced upon by individuals. Despite being a hard taskmaster and a stickler for systems, he is a people person. He understands the

needs of his team members well and is able to get the best out of them.

A passionate leader, Mr. Kumar is driven to take MSIL to even greater heights. He has made some fool-proof expansion plans for MSIL for the ongoing fiscal that are expected to generate even better and long-lasting outcomes in the years to come. One area where he is going to be active is collaborating with private suppliers to use each other's capabilities

and scale businesses rapidly. To him, private suppliers are outstanding in terms of quality and compliance. He says, "If they are falling short of reaching the level needed to take them forward, they have the option to join us. We strive to find a win-win solution."

It is his exceptional vision and relentless motivation that distinguish Mr. Vikash Kumar from his peers.

THE ROLE MODEL

Mr. Vineet Saluja credits most of his accomplishments to his father. A businessman, his father believed in working with utmost honesty and grit. He instilled in Mr. Saluja the spirit of commitment and upholding trust in the matters pertaining to business and personal life. He propounded that success is never a coincidence but the result of constant efforts, and Mr. Saluja lives by this priceless lesson. He attributes his recognition and success to the values he had learned from his father.

THE CAREER GRAPH

Mr. Saluja started his entrepreneurship journey with distributorship of Dow Corning sealants for construction division under his enterprise M/s. Silicone Concepts in 1999. He took the distributorship of AKEMI products in 2008 and with his future-oriented vision and hard work, spread the business to many Indian cities.

Akemi India provides stone solutions and impregnators, surface treatment products such as polishers and colour enhancers. Mr. Saluja works closely with the clients to identify their needs and recommends products accordingly. Completely aware of the fact that India is a growing market adopting new technology in construction industry, which will ultimately lead to high demands in stone and construction chemicals, he jumped into this sector and never looked back. In 2011, when Akemi opened its manufacturing facility in India, Mr. Saluja took the big step and bought a stake in the company in the year 2013. Led by his objective of providing the best solutions to clients, Akemi became one of the major brands in the stone industry in the country. After spending a decade in the industry, Mr. Saluja realised that most market growth lies in retail. Therefore, his primary focus today is to give services to retail clients and earn massive revenue. He also envisions multiplying his sales by 25-35% to meet this goal. The leader currently focuses on increasing the company's capital capacity and manufacturing capabilities. Akemi India has made its mark all over the world. Mr. Saluja's flawless work can be seen at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, wherein more than 2,50,000 square meters of natural stone was laid at the new terminal. Throughout his professional journey, he has received appreciation from his customers through word-of-mouth publicity and referrals.

ENCOURAGING TEAM SPIRIT AT WORK

As a leader, Mr. Saluja ensures a conducive working environment for his team. He firmly believes that his company's success

depends on the highly qualified chemical engineers and chemists working with him. He motivates his workforce to improve the quality of the existing products. They all work together to fulfil clients' requirements and offer them the best environment-friendly solutions. All the new ranges of company products are tested for their durability in freeze-thaw cycles and breakage tests. Like a dutiful leader, Mr. Saluja appreciates the efforts of his teammates, encouraging them to perform even better, and tries to keep the work atmosphere positive.

ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE ENTREPRENEUR

Being a conscious citizen, Mr. Saluja ensures that all his products meet the legal requirements for health protection, work safety, and labelling. He understands that it is imperative to consider the ecological, economic, and social aspects of the planning and construction process. Keeping the significance of sustainable building in mind, he uses natural stone – one of the most sustainable construction materials for floor coverings. His company has been a sponsor of the scientific study commissioned by the German Natural Stone Association, proving that his natural stones are sustainable and eco-friendly.



VINEET SALUJA

TENACIOUSLY CARVING THE ROUTE TO SUCCESS

BEGINNING WITH PROVIDING STONE CHEMICALS SOLUTIONS TO CLIENTS IN 2006, MR. VINEET SALUJA MADE STRONG BONDS WITH HIS CUSTOMERS AND GAINED EXPERTISE IN NATURAL STONE INDUSTRY. IN 2013, HE ENTERED INTO A JOINT VENTURE WITH AKEMI GMBH TO SET UP A MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN BENGALURU AND MADE IT A LEADING STONE-PROCESSING FIRM

VISHAL GUPTA

THE DATA GUARDIAN

MR. VISHAL GUPTA IS THE MASTERMIND BEHIND SECLORE, A US-BASED COMPANY THAT SPECIALISES IN PROVIDING TOP-OF-THE-LINE DATA-CENTRIC SECURITY SOLUTIONS. WITH A VISION TO SAFEGUARD ENTERPRISES FROM DATA BREACHES, VISHAL HAS DEDICATED HIMSELF TO THE CAUSE OF MAINTAINING ORDER AND STABILITY IN THE DIGITAL REALM

A WELL-VERSED LEADER

A graduate in Electrical Engineering from the esteemed IIT Bombay, Vishal has worn many hats over the course of his illustrious career. Whether it was laying the foundations of his own ventures or guiding newly established companies to success, he has traversed the continents of Asia, Europe, North America, the Middle East, and Australia, leaving a trail of success in his wake.

Due to his boundless versatility and visionary command, the goals-driven leader has earned a well-deserved reputation as a true global business leader. His keen instincts, razor-sharp intellect, and firm commitment to quality have propelled him to the very top of the corporate ladder, where he continues to inspire and motivate others with his entrepreneurial spirit and unparalleled work ethic.

AN INNOVATIVE THINKER

In 2011, Vishal, in partnership with Manjul Kubde and Abhijit Tannu, established Seclore, where he currently serves as CEO, driving corporate development, investor relations, and strategic vision. With over 11 years of sales, marketing, and business management experience across Mumbai, Singapore, and London, the leader brings a wealth of expertise and innovative thinking to the field of information security.

Vishal's unrelenting dedication to achieving excellence has propelled Seclore to the forefront of data security innovation. As a data champion, he has leveraged his diverse cultural insights and astute understanding of global business processes to navigate the intricacies of the industry. He has also made significant contributions to the evolution of information rights management, information usage control, data loss prevention, and enterprise software sales, showcasing his talent for bold and creative problem-solving.

BUILDING WINNING TEAMS

At the helm of Seclore, Vishal commands a team of thought leaders who are ceaselessly breaking new ground in the field of Data-Centric Security. With his visionary leadership, he inspires these brilliant minds to reach ever higher, constantly challenging them to stretch beyond the bounds of what was once thought possible. Together, they work tirelessly to develop cutting-edge solutions that empower enterprises to protect and secure their most valuable assets – their data. Driven by a shared



passion for innovation and a deep commitment to delivering world-class results, Vishal and his team are trailblazers in the field of information security, creating solutions that have the power to transform the way businesses operate and thrive in an ever-changing landscape.

BEYOND THE BOARDROOM

Vishal is a man of many interests. An avid traveller, he has explored some of the world's most breathtaking destinations, immersing himself in the local cultures and customs that make each place unique. In addition, he is a prolific blogger and speaker who loves sharing his expertise in information security solutions with audiences around the world. He has appeared at numerous conferences and events, captivating audiences with his insightful and thought-provoking presentations on the importance of data security in the modern age.

A keen sportsman, Vishal's competitive spirit drives him to push himself to new heights in swimming and squash. As a true tech aficionado, he is always on the lookout for the latest gadgets and technology innovations, eagerly exploring the latest trends and advancements in the industry. For him, staying ahead of the curve is not just a matter of professional obligation – it's a way of life.

URS
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UNDER 40 2023



The background is a dark, textured surface with a grid of thin, glowing lines. Scattered across the grid are numerous squares of varying sizes and colors, including orange, yellow, and blue. Some squares are solid, while others are outlined. The overall effect is a sense of digital data or a futuristic interface.

EMERGING
EMERGING

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Mr. Arif Fazlani, the Managing Director of Fazlani Realty, is a dynamic leader known for his outstanding tactical and analytical abilities to face challenges. Born, raised and educated in Mumbai, he belongs to a humble family and his lifestyle is defined by core values and a traditional outlook. With over three decades of experience in strategy planning, profit center operations, marketing, and commercial operations, he has rich experience in dealing with long and complex sales cycles, business development, and million-dollar project management.

THE UNFOLDING OF SUCCESS

Mr. Fazlani is an accomplished entrepreneur who specialises in strategic planning, profit center operations, marketing, and commercial operations. Renowned for his commitment to holistic wellness and environmentally sustainable initiatives in the real estate sector, his creative thinking and entrepreneurial drive enabled him to achieve success and inspire others. He has extensive experience in managing start-ups, transforming cost centers into profit centers, and turning around failing companies. He is also adept at corporate communication, brand building, sales cycle management, consultancy, business development, and project management.

The leader has been felicitated with numerous awards and accolades. Among his noteworthy projects are Rational House, Ismail Building, Fazlani Food Packaging and Processing Facility Mahape, Fazlani Nature's Nest Health Resort and Spa in Lonavala, Qasr-E-Aisha, Maker Maxity, and Nariman Point.

RECOGNITION ALL THE WAY

In the last few years, Mr. Fazlani has ventured and diversified into new businesses, ranging from packaged food to commodities to fresh-cut flowers. The Fazlani Group of Companies is proud of its numerous 100%-owned subsidiaries, each of which is regarded as one of the most trusted in its respective industry. With his determination and consistent efforts, the Group has become a name to be reckoned with in the corporate world.

The visionary leader has implemented a solid system to ensure efficient operation and rolled out the advantages of multi-site, multi-layered automated energy management techniques. He is a tech-savvy professional who has successfully implemented ERP in the firm. He also enthusiastically manages his real estate business, which is growing at an exceptional speed.

Mr. Fazlani takes care of the branding and public relations campaigns of his businesses and is in charge of setting up the

entire business infrastructure. His roaring success brought him awards in three categories at the prestigious Economic Times Real Estate Awards 2022. He was honoured with "The Emerging Developer" by the Economic Times Real Estate. He also received the Times Leading Icons Award for "Luxury Perfume" in 2019 for Lyla Blanc, the house of aromatic perfumes from the Group.

COMMITTED TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Fazlani believes that a business should not only be commercially viable, but also environmentally and socially conducive. He is committed to contributing to India's GDP by reducing imports and increasing exports. He leads his company in carrying out various social activities, such as sponsoring schools for underprivileged children in community, including but not limited to visiting less fortunate people in labour camps and providing them with essential items such as blankets and food, particularly during the winter and festive seasons.

Mr. Fazlani is an inspiration to many aspiring entrepreneurs. His humble beginnings and traditional outlook have not stopped him from achieving roaring success in the corporate world.



ARIF FAZLANI

CHRONICLE OF A PASSIONATE AND VISIONARY BUSINESSMAN

A MAN OF EXCEPTIONAL VISION, MR. ARIF FAZLANI IS INDUSTRIOUS, INNOVATIVE, SELF-DISCIPLINED, AND DOWN TO EARTH. HIS ABILITY TO RELENTLESSLY SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS AND FIND NOVEL WAYS TO IMPROVE THE WORLD IS THE KEY TO HIS SUCCESS AND POPULARITY

ASHISH AGGARWAL

PLANTING FIRM ROOTS

MR. ASHISH AGGARWAL, THE FOUNDER AND MD OF ANDD TECHSERVICES PVT. LTD., IS A VISIONARY ENTREPRENEUR, POSSESSING AN ENCYCLOPAEDIC UNDERSTANDING OF PIVOTAL ORGANISATIONAL ENDEAVOURS. WITH OVER TWO DECADES OF EXPERIENCE, HE HAS SPEARHEADED THE AUTOMATION OF BUSINESSES, DELIVERING UNPARALLELED CUSTOMER VALUE

A REMARKABLE PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY

Mr. Ashish Aggarwal's academic sojourn began at the prestigious Delhi University, where he attained a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science. He then set his sights on the Ivy League, embarking on an executive management degree at the revered Harvard Business School. Following this, he cut his teeth on numerous international projects at HCL Technologies before briefly joining Intel Corporation's ranks in Bangalore. After a brief stint with Intel Corporation, he spent six years in the US working for several bigwigs in the corporate world.

Mr. Aggarwal's stay in the USA proved to be a pivotal phase in his professional journey, for it offered him a plethora of opportunities to forge valuable connections, hone his technical acumen, and master the nuances of emerging technologies. He returned to India in 2011 and joined Tata Communications, the erstwhile Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited. As the head of Business Process Management and Integration, he led his team with aplomb and steered the organisation towards uncharted territories of success.

In 2015, the leader charted his course towards entrepreneurial glory after bidding adieu to Tata Communications. His visionary spirit culminated in the establishment of ANDD Techservices Private Limited, a company aimed at empowering organisations worldwide with right technology and processes to achieve digital transformation and automation.

Under his stewardship, the company stands unwavering in its commitment to delivering maximum value to clients and employing avant-garde technologies. Also, the team's 120-plus project completions reflect its devotion to excellence.

A TECH-SAVVY ENTREPRENEUR

Mr. Aggarwal has carved a niche for himself in the corporate world, with a specialisation in security and digital transformation programs. His extensive experience in the industry prompted him to embark on a journey of self-discovery, where he could utilise his acquired knowledge to establish a unique and independent venture. His vision to expand his company both in terms of employees and customers is a testament to his entrepreneurial prowess. Born and raised in humble beginnings, he learned the value of hard work and perseverance, which has been instrumental in managing his two businesses in California, USA, and India.



GARNERING ACCOLADES

Mr. Aggarwal's remarkable career has been adorned with numerous accolades, marking him as an outstanding professional in his field. As a member of the Merger and Acquisition team at Tata Communications, he was recognised for his exceptional collaborative skills, receiving the prestigious 'Collaboration Award' from the CIO and Legal team. Additionally, his ingenuity and creativity were on full display when he was named a semi-finalist in Tata Communications' Shape the Future competition, where he presented an innovative vision for the organisation's future.

The determined leader's exceptional business acumen and his ability to identify areas for improvement have resulted in significant savings, such as the \$600,000 reduction in software licences achieved through his thoughtful efforts.

Mr. Aggarwal's contribution to the latest addition to the digital transformation literature, the book – *Digital Transformation and Modernization with IBM API Connect on API Administration* – co-authored in 2021, has earned him further recognition as an authority in the sector.

Currently, Mr. Ashish Aggarwal leads a business program for a prominent financial institution in the United States, marking another milestone in his illustrious career.



A SPLENDID CAREER TRAJECTORY

Dr. Sudhakar's impressive professional journey showcases the unique combination of his scientific and business acumen. He began his career as a scientist at Wockhardt Ltd., a prominent pharmaceutical company, where he spent 12 years working his way up the ranks in marketing and business development. With his diverse skill set and technical expertise, he led the international and domestic operations for the business unit.

Motivated by the desire to shift the predominant use of chemical-based products and services to natural, safe, cost-effective and efficacious alternatives, the visionary leader founded Serene Envirotech Solutions Private Limited in 2020. Later, embarking on his mission of creating a healthier and more sustainable future, he introduced next-gen technological products for Human Healthcare and Wellness segment.

One emerging technology innovation is using Molecular Hydrogen as an anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Several scientific studies have revealed that inhaling hydrogen or consuming hydrogen-rich water has selective anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties and provides amazing health benefits to humans.

Serene Envirotech Solutions Private Limited has launched noteworthy products for preventive healthcare and wellness segment – Hydrogen Inhaler and Hydrogen Water Bottles under the brand name 'udazH.' The products are India's pioneering portable, personal wellness tools. Under Dr. Sudhakar's leadership, the start-up is actively pursuing the development of numerous other innovative products in the wellness segment.

AN INTELLECTUAL GENIUS

Dr. Sudhakar has obtained his M.Sc. and M.Phil degrees from the renowned APS University in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. He earned his Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Microbiology and conducted research at the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, for a project sponsored by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. His intellectual prowess and scholarly pursuits are reflected in his extensive research endeavours, as he has contributed to over 20 academic research publications in various esteemed national and international scientific journals, magazines and conferences.

The well-versed leader also possesses an illustrious background in the realm of business management and marketing. He has pursued diplomas in these areas from the prestigious institutes, JBIMS and NMIMS – affiliated with

University of Mumbai – between 1998 and 2000. For his outstanding academic achievements, he got many accolades, including the Foundation Day Award from NEERI in 1994-95, recognising his remarkable contributions to Research and Development excellence. Under his able leadership, the company garnered four awards within a year of its launch. It has been awarded the National Award of Fastest Growing FMCG Product in Healthcare and Wellness, and the Most Admired Entrepreneur for Leadership and Excellence in 2022.

A MULTITASKER

A real go-getter, Dr. Sudhakar strives to stay ahead of the curve and carve out new opportunities for himself and his companies. He has built a reputation of introducing world-class innovative products to the Indian market. The multitasking leader has his fingers in two more pies as the Managing Director of JENS Enviro Technologies Limited, a German partnership venture into water and wastewater treatment and related technologies, and SRIBS Biotechniqs Private Limited, a firm developing animal, aquaculture and agriculture healthcare products and marketing in India, Vietnam, and beyond.



DR. BABU SUDHAKAR

FOCUSED ON WINNING

DR. BABU SUDHAKAR IS A MAN OF MANY TALENTS AND A MASTER OF HIS CRAFT. AS THE FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MUMBAI-BASED SERENE ENVIROTECH SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED, HE IS A TRAILBLAZER IN THE FIELD OF CUSTOMER-CENTRIC AND ECO-FRIENDLY HEALTH-TECH PRODUCTS

DR. RAMI M BOULAD

SCRIPTING "SCENT-SATIONAL" SUCCESS

DR. RAMI M BOULAD, EXECUTIVE VP & CHIEF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ABDUL SAMAD AL QURASHI GROUP, IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE FIRM'S METEORIC GROWTH. HIS STRATEGIC PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP BUILDING, AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT HAVE HELPED IT BECOME SAUDI ARABIA'S LEADING PERFUME AND INCENSE MAKER

A PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Dr. Rami M Boulad's passion for excellence and unwavering dedication to success make him a true pioneer in the world of luxury fragrances. A seasoned business tycoon, with over two decades of expertise in business expansion, strategic mapping, and fiscal administration, he has served as a top-level executive in prominent corporations in the MENA region, such as Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Wyeth, Eli Lilly and Procter & Gamble. Due to his astute stewardship, Abdul Samad Al Qurashi (ASQ) Group has not only retained its status as a revered Middle Eastern brand, but also achieved remarkable progress, transforming into a worldwide sensation.

Dr. Boulad's chief responsibility as the Executive Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer at Abdul Samad Al Qurashi Group is to identify promising business prospects and devise strategies to leverage them. He keeps a watchful eye on emerging trends and unexplored markets, consistently exploring new horizons.

He closely collaborates with the company's research and development team to conceptualise, formulate, and deliver innovative fragrances and product lines that epitomise innovation and ingenuity besides catering to the needs of consumers worldwide. His relentless pursuit of growth opportunities and strategic insights make him an asset to the company's leadership team.

The leader's exceptional contributions towards expanding the company's product portfolio, enhancing its distribution network, and establishing key partnerships and collaborations have been commendable. Furthermore, his remarkable business acumen and visionary approach have been vital in positioning the company for long-term growth and prosperity in the fiercely competitive market.

EMPHASIS ON CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Throughout his career, Dr. Boulad has remained committed to the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and customer service. His unwavering commitment to fostering enduring relationships with customers and partners is evident in his leadership style. He values the virtues of trust and integrity in all his business dealings. He firmly believes that the company's success hinges on its ability to cultivate strong and lasting relationships with its stakeholders.

Consequently, Dr. Boulad dedicates himself to ensuring



that the company consistently delivers on its commitments and maintains its reputation for excellence. His diligent efforts towards upholding the company's values and building sustainable relationships make him an exemplar in the business community.

KEEPING PACE WITH TIME

Dr. Boulad's unyielding dedication to innovation and staying ahead of the curve has enabled the company to break new ground in the world of Arabian perfumery. His tireless pursuit of excellence and determination to stay on the cutting edge have helped establish the company as a trailblazer in the industry. With a finger on the pulse of the latest trends and a willingness to think outside the box, the leader has been guiding the company to stay ahead of the curve.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

A compassionate individual, Dr. Boulad strongly believes in giving back to the community. The benevolent leader has taken an active role in supporting initiatives that promote education, healthcare, and social welfare in the local community.

In a nutshell, Dr. Boulad is a game-changer who has left an indelible mark on the industry and the community.



CREATING REVOLUTIONARY PRODUCTS

With an enviable mix of expertise and experience of almost 25 years in engineering, real estate, alkaline water technology and renewable energy industry, Mr. Kandaswamy Murugesan decided to work towards 'Green Energy' and 'Green Technology, with a focus on 'Planet, People, and Prosperity.'

His significant achievements in this field include a 16 MW solar power plant in south India, manufacturing and installation of charging ports, manufacturing electric vehicles, and a blockchain-integrated organisation. Under his constant guidance, the technical team invented 'Frequency Chain,' an exclusive green blockchain for the global renewable energy industry. All these revolutionary products that help create a sustainable environment have resulted from Mr. Kandaswamy's learning.

AN EXEMPLARY LEADER

Mr. Kandaswamy emphasises more on learner-ship than leadership. He firmly believes that a business can grow only when the people working for it also experience personal growth. He welcomes new ideas and knowledge with open hands, does not hesitate to learn new things from his workforce, and tries to apply them to his latest projects. He categorically runs his business by maintaining quality standards and has a clear vision for all his products. His thorough knowledge of different subjects enables him to handle each project and market competition successfully. He transfers the same knowledge to his staff, making the company and employees grow simultaneously. To show the right path to his teammates, he makes himself aware of the minutest details of his business.

SOARING HIGH

Understanding that victory never comes easy and must be fought for and earned, Mr. Kandaswamy works with a never say-die attitude. Despite facing troubles in the initial years of his business, he did not stop and crossed all the hurdles to reach success. Staying positive and consistent, he established Thai Green Power Solutions Co. Ltd. and expanded it to five countries. Now, he plans to cover three more countries by the end of 2023.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when the world was completely shut down, Mr. Kandaswamy made his company even stronger by deciding not to stop working and providing work opportunities to many more people. He encouraged them to set up a home-based business and motivated students to

bring forward innovative solutions for the existing technical issues faced by the renewable energy industry.

A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN

Society and nature reward us in multiple ways. To pay back, one should fulfil social and ecological responsibilities. Considering this view, Mr. Kandaswamy started a trust named Green Carpet. It aims at organising activities to develop a sustainable environment for future generations and focus on sustainable financial growth. He also runs an academy that trains children and professionals to start solar businesses, and holds special internship programs to train people in leveraging web 2.0 and web 3.0. The trust provides business opportunities for financially dependent women by teaching them skills such as tailoring, sanitary napkin production, and starting home-based businesses.

Women Carbon Warrior, an exclusive forum for women started by Mr. Kandaswamy, empowers women by training them in green entrepreneurship and helps them to set up electric vehicle (EV) charging ports and join EV distributorship with special benefits.



KANDASWAMY MURUGESAN

MAKING TOMORROW GREENER AND SUSTAINABLE

MR. KANDASWAMY MURUGESAN, FOUNDER, THAI GREEN POWER SOLUTIONS, IS A BIG NAME IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR. STARTING HIS BUSINESS IN 2016, HE ENSURED THAT ALL HIS PRODUCTS AND PROJECTS ARE TARGETED TOWARDS ACHIEVING NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME

MOHAN REDDY

A PROUD SON OF THE SOIL

IN BENGALURU TODAY, NAGARJUNA IS THE TOP ANDHRA CUISINE SPECIALTY RESTAURANT CHAIN. MR. MOHAN REDDY'S NAME IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE NAGARJUNA BRAND. HE HAS BROUGHT HIS TIRELESS STRIVING AND IMMENSE PASSION TO THIS BUSINESS, AND HAS GROWN IT FROM A SINGLE RESTAURANT FOUR DECADES AGO TO A POPULAR CHAIN OF RESTAURANTS

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

In the early 1980s, Mr. Mohan Reddy's father relocated with his family to Bangalore from Nellore, Andhra Pradesh and started Nagarjuna as a small but authentic Andhra restaurant on Residency Road, a first in the city at that time. Nellore is known for its mouth-watering coastal cuisine, and offers a whole new taste palette to Bangaloreans.

Mr. Mohan Reddy, with his finger on the pulse of the people, learnt the ropes of the business, watered the initial seed diligently, and grew it into six successful outlets with his hard work and dedication, winning the love and loyalty of the locals. Even today with so much competition, there is no one to beat the authentic tastes of Nagarjuna, which offers sumptuous and satisfying freshly cooked homestyle fare with purest ingredients. It has been soaring in popularity, thanks to its true traditional Andhra fare, and consistency of quality and flavours.

SOUL-SATISFYING FARE, EVERY SINGLE TIME

Closely-held family recipes, consistency of taste, freshness of flavours, stringent quality standards, and pure love of the business are the secret ingredients that have gone into making Nagarjuna such a successful Andhra brand. Food lovers make a beeline for Nagarjuna hot meals and don't mind waiting to be seated, as they are assured of the best and only the best and most satisfying authentic Andhra fare at Nagarjuna. There are customers that have been coming to Nagarjuna since 1984 and even when visiting from overseas, they will not miss their favourite Andhra joint!

TRADITIONAL TASTES THAT STAND THE TEST OF TIME

The Nagarjuna menu is authentic and has kept alive the traditional Andhra cuisine, sticking to their original recipes from the interior regions with freshly ground spices and wonderful intense flavours. Mr. Mohan Reddy has maintained the authentic menu, focussing on quality and purity. Even in this era of fusion foods, Nagarjuna food is firmly rooted in the wholesome traditional Andhra fare, with a rare consistency in their cuisine.

QUALITY, PURITY, AND HYGIENE

Nagarjuna follows the most stringent practices of food hygiene,



sourcing only the finest and freshest ingredients, with purity and top-notch quality being the hallmarks of the chain.

During COVID-19, strict guidelines were observed and staff was trained for best practices for safety across the outlets, kitchens, dining areas, processes and protocols.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES, AND ADULATION

Mr. Mohan Reddy has led the Nagarjuna enterprise from the front, fully hands-on at every stage of the business, winning many awards and accolades from the industry as well as the general public. Among the prestigious awards are the Best Restaurateur Award received at the All India Achievers' Conference held in New Delhi; International Star for Quality Award received in Madrid, Spain; H&FS Award held in New Delhi; and the Times Food and Nightlife Award for several consecutive years, and many more.

Nagarjuna's popularity has also been recognised for its contribution to South Indian Tourism, through a ceremony hosted by Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association.

The Reddy Family has worked hard and earned these accolades and popular adulation, with each award serving as an inspiration to work harder and keep the Nagarjuna banner flying high.

STRIDING TOWARDS SUCCESS

An MBA in marketing from ICBM School of Business Excellence, Telangana, Mr. Navin Rajpal has been in the industry for around three decades. His expertise in the medical equipment industry is the driving force behind the success of Relisys Medical Devices Limited. His association with the company has helped it become one of the leading medical device companies on the world map.

Mr. Rajpal's immense understanding and diverse knowledge of the Indian healthcare system paved the way to deliver the finest medical devices to various hospitals and healthcare set-ups in India and overseas.

An expert and respected industry leader, Mr. Rajpal has a demonstrated history of working in the medical device sector and is skilled in Marketing Management, Vascular Medical Devices, Sales, Manufacturing, Production, and working with clinicians. His understanding of the medical equipment is a hallmark in the sector. His strong will to provide the finest quality of medical appliances and equipment has taken the company to its zenith in just a few decades.

Mr. Rajpal's association with Relisys Medical Devices Limited is 29 years old. He was previously associated with prestigious medical device manufacturers such as Medidyne, Medtronic, and CID Vascular, and joined Relisys at its development stage. With the rich, first-hand industry experience of 27 years and knowledge of fundamentals, dynamics and even unpredictable disruptions in this industry in particular, and Indian healthcare in general, the skilled CEO and Director of Relisys Medical Devices has taken the company to 28 countries.

Under Mr. Rajpal's leadership, the company began as a coronary device manufacturer, and is now evolving to become a trusted Vascular Access Solution Company. The leader is committed to provide the best healthcare facilities to people across the globe and guides his company to continuously innovate and deliver cutting-edge, quality, patient-centric cardiac devices.

CREATING AN EQUAL SPACE

Mr. Rajpal believes in creating an innovative space for his team and employees. A positive outlook with a creative bent helps him strive for the best in the business. He encourages his team and employees to collaborate, brainstorm ideas, and contribute innovatively to the company.

The leader prefers to be accessible to the employees, making it easier for them to reach out to him with their ideas and

views. He has created a safe and an open space for his team to communicate easily and freely.

Mr. Rajpal is a gem who understands, analyses situations, and acts accordingly. His organisational skills are unparalleled, which is evident in the company's success story. He has built a strong team of innovative minds creating equal space for sharing the ideas. His attention to detail shapes up the ideas with credibility. A man of strong principles, righteousness and a clear vision, he envisions to expand his company's reach further.

TRAVERSING ACROSS THE GLOBE

Mr. Navin Rajpal aims to expand the presence of Relisys Medical Devices to 20 more countries in the next three years. Under his supervision, the company is also working on adding new equipment types to the medical devices it makes every quarter.

Mr. Rajpal's consistent efforts to excel have helped the company win two prestigious awards from the industry, namely Best Cardiac Device Manufacturer Award and Leading Medical Device Manufacturer Award.



NAVIN RAJPAL

THE MEDTECH PIONEER

STEERING THE SHIP OF THE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY TO ITS ZENITH, THE CEO AND DIRECTOR OF RELISYS MEDICAL DEVICES LIMITED, MR. NAVIN RAJPAL HAS DONNED MANY HATS. WITH HIS SINCERITY, VISION, AND ZEAL TO PROVIDE WORLD-CLASS, SOPHISTICATED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, HE HAS SET AN UNINTERRUPTED PATH FOR HIS COMPANY TO GROW



MAGED MARIE

DRIVING EXCELLENCE

MR. MAGED MARIE, THE FOUNDER AND CEO OF EGYPT'S MAGNOM PROPERTIES, A SUBSIDIARY OF RAWABI HOLDING, HAS HAD AN IMPRESSIVE 20-YEAR CAREER IN THE REALTY INDUSTRY. HE IS ALSO THE FIRST EGYPTIAN COMMERCIAL ASTRONAUT WITH VIRGIN GALACTIC, A FEAT THAT SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT HIS AUDACITY AND DETERMINATION

A WELL-VERSED LEADER

Maged completed his graduate studies at Cairo University's esteemed Faculty of Commerce. In 2020, he earned an MBA in Strategic Management from the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport, where he is currently pursuing a DBA in strategic business administration.

He founded Magnom Properties in 2020. As its CEO, Maged has harnessed the potential of cutting-edge technology to spearhead highly ambitious projects in the Middle East. Among his current endeavours is championing the construction of the illustrious Forbes International Tower in the New Administrative Capital, a project that epitomises his unwavering commitment to realising monumental feats. He envisions a world firmly grounded in a sustainable and eco-friendly ethos.

Mr. Maged convinced Forbes to build their first tower, The Forbes International Tower, in the Middle East, with locations in Saudi Arabia and Dubai to follow. Designed by Mr. Adrian Smith and Mr. Gordon Gill, it is among the most prestigious business addresses in the region and will set new standards for environmentally responsive architecture. The tower will feature modern intelligent building technologies to provide a flexible work environment, as well as entertainment and leisure facilities. Moreover, it will be the first commercial building equipped with Leonardo Cyber & Security systems, ensuring the highest level of protection for critical infrastructure.

ARTISTIC FLAIR

The artistically rich upbringing that Maged received under the guidance of his mother has infused his very being with an inherent appreciation for the intricacies of art. To him, art is the elixir that imbues life into architecture. He eschews the conventional and seeks to infuse every project with a sense of artistic flair that elevates it beyond the mundane. This inclination is exemplified by his collaboration with the distinguished French artist and sculptor, Richard Orlinski, a visionary alliance that testifies to his firm commitment to artistic excellence.

BACKED BY A ROBUST TEAM

Maged attributes his accomplishments to the concerted efforts of his team of adept professionals. He harbours a steadfast conviction that their collective proficiency will culminate in establishing his company's pre-eminence within the regional



industry. He instils in them a sense of self-assurance and impels them towards ambitious yet attainable goals, with the aim of securing sustainable growth for the company.

COMMITMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Under Maged's visionary leadership, Magnom Properties has demonstrated an unfaltering commitment to empowering young girls and addressing the persistent gender disparities that exist within the labour force of the nation. He has facilitated collaboration with UNICEF to elevate the lives of youth and foster a meaningful impact on the next generation of society. His corporate social responsibility strategy is rooted in the goal of advancing local communities and aligned with the Sustainable Development Strategy on a global level, as well as Middle East and Africa's Vision 2030, which underscores the critical importance of creating a sustainable future for all.

In 2020, Maged was bestowed with the distinction of being a representative of Lurssen, the German manufacturer known for its opulent yachts and naval vessels. The purpose of this partnership was to promote local manufacturing and growth of marine industries in Egypt. Magnom also obtained the agency rights for the Belgian enterprise, Jan De Nul, which has the largest fleet of dredgers worldwide.



A WELL-VERSED LEADER

Raghava is an accomplished professional, holding a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, followed by a Master's in Business Administration. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills throughout his career, holding various prominent positions within diverse business organisations. After spending over 15 years in the corporate world, he transitioned into an entrepreneurial role in 2015.

The visionary leader was born in a farming family in Andhra Pradesh. From his early childhood, he observed his father's tireless efforts in the fields, instilling in him the core values of hard work, frugality, and discipline. The experiences cultivated his appreciation for rural life and the unspoiled beauty of nature, shaping his perspectives as he matured. The profound connection he developed with nature during his formative years inspired him to embark on an entrepreneurial path focused on promoting sustainable living and preserving the environment.

CREATING SELF-SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

Under Raghava's exceptional leadership, NSR Ventures has attained unprecedented levels of success. It is an emerging company that has undertaken transformative initiatives such as Green Woods – a groundbreaking project that exemplifies a model for fostering green and sustainable living. The organisation embodies the principles of Nature, Self-Sustainability, and 3R (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle), aiming to create a harmonious living environment that seamlessly integrates modern comforts with greenery, serenity, and a pollution-free atmosphere. Through his guidance, the organisation has not only achieved remarkable milestones, but also emerged as a frontrunner in promoting environmentally-conscious practices.

Raghava's entrepreneurial journey has been characterised by his unwavering commitment to honesty, integrity, perseverance, and a clear sense of purpose. Fueled by his passion to pursue his dreams and make a positive impact on people's lives, he achieved notable success in the initial stages of his career. This experience has instilled in him a heightened sense of confidence, propelling him towards his vision of establishing additional self-sustaining communities.

MOBILISING COLLECTIVE ACTION

With the inception of NSR, Raghava envisioned the creation of a self-sustained community, where residents would have reliable access to locally sourced resources such as water and power. Demonstrating his ongoing commitment, he actively

participates in national forums and associations, leveraging his influence to drive the positive change he aspires to bring about in society.

INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENTS

Raghava has recently been adorned with a cascade of prestigious awards. The ET Inspiring Leaders 2022 bestowed upon him the coveted accolade for Business Excellence in the realm of Real Estate, specifically recognising his remarkable contribution to eco-friendly and sustainable development. The Global Choice Awards 2022 honoured him for his outstanding accomplishments in the creation of eco-friendly homes. The APAC Business Awards 2022 has honoured NSR Ventures, recognising it as the Most Sustainable Community Development Company.

Raghava was also awarded with the distinguished Business Leadership Award at the prestigious 63rd National Summit & Awards for the Role of CSR in Nation Building. This recognition reflects his remarkable professional achievements and commitment to nation-building, a significant endeavour supported directly by the Government of India.



RAGHAVA RAO

TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE

MR. RAGHAVA RAO, THE MANAGING PARTNER AT NSR VENTURES, IS A DEDICATED ECO-WARRIOR AND AVID PROPONENT OF PRESERVING NATURE. WITH NEARLY A DECADE OF INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE, HE IS THE FIRST-GENERATION ENTREPRENEUR IN HIS FAMILY. RAGHAVA FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT SELF-SUSTAINED SOCIETIES HOLD THE KEY TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE LIVING

SAKET GAURAV

MAKING THE SUCCESS MANIFESTO

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN OF ELISTA AND TEKNODOME, MR. SAKET GAURAV MAKES BUSINESS DECISIONS PRUDENTLY. THIS ABILITY HAS HELPED HIM TRANSFORM A MERELY TWO-YEAR-OLD BUSINESS INTO A MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR BRAND EXPANDING BEYOND THE BORDERS

A GLOBAL CITIZEN

Mr. Saket Gaurav comes from a working-class background. He completed his initial schooling from Pilani, senior secondary from Bihar, and higher education from Russia, where he pursued Masters from the Moscow State Institute of Radio Engineering, in 1998. Thereafter, he returned to India and worked for 2-3 years. Later, he migrated to the UAE, where he found his calling – electronics business.

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Mr. Gaurav belonged to an orthodox working-class family. Therefore, starting a business required him to step out of his comfort zone. Initially, his business involved distribution and trading of electronics goods. He used to buy electronic goods from the Far East and sell to the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council), CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), and African markets.

At that time, he was into the distribution business of renowned brands such as Samsung, Sony, LG, and others. After being in the electronics business for several years, he planned to launch his own brand in India.

The country's huge consumer base for buying electronic products and manufacturing-friendly facilities motivated him to make and sell electronic goods. The motivation soon led him to deliberate and plan, and eventually lay the foundation of Elista in 2020.

Mr. Gaurav and his team worked for 2 years in India and understood brand-building, selection of models and equipment, R&D, and trade-related terms. They started with launching a full range of Smart TVs, dishwashers, and washing machines, audio and IT accessories.

Most of their products are made in India, in line with their tagline – 'Making in India, for the World' and Make in India – Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The Andhra Pradesh Government has allocated land to the company in Kopparthi, Kadapa district for manufacturing. In the first year of operations itself, the brand roped in ace cricketer Suresh Raina as its brand ambassador.

In addition to the plans of setting up manufacturing facilities in India, Elista has launched its operations in the UAE. Under Mr. Gaurav's leadership, the company has grown by leaps and bounds, covering distribution, retailing, service, and now manufacturing. Today, Elista is a \$200 million enterprise with a remarkable presence in India, the UAE, and other countries in the CIS, GCC and African markets.



MANAGING COMPETITION

Establishing a new brand in a competitive market is a gargantuan task, as it is no cake walk to keep pace with established giants. But Mr. Gaurav is moving ahead undaunted and unfazed because he believes in his decisions and pays heed to market insights.

The leader meticulously chooses a product line based on the research conducted by his team and acts proactively. Besides, a focus on the rural market is the differentiating aspect of his business strategy.

THE SUCCESS CONTINUES

With Mr. Gaurav's guidance, Elista, which started its operations in 2020, began to compete with established players in the consumer durables and home appliances industry. With an established network of channel partners, the leader expanded the business to the UAE and CIS. Under his supervision, the brand was honoured with several awards, including the BAARC Award for Marketing Meister (2022), the Device Next-Atmanirbar Award (2020), and the C&C Awards for Most Innovative IT Accessories (2022).

TRANSFORMING PASSION INTO A CAREER

Ms. Mehrotra had her heart set out to be a teacher since the very beginning. It was a childhood dream of hers to teach and as she grew she realised her dream was not just limited to becoming a teacher to students. Rather, she wanted to create a positive learning environment for students, to encourage their creativity and critical thinking so that they could develop skills and talent and could be inspired to do their best.

MAKING EARLY LEARNING INCLUSIVE

After a full-fledged career as a teacher and a stint as a corporate trainer, Ms. Mehrotra decided to take the plunge and started her own preschool in the heart of Bengaluru. Her preschool – Linden Montessori is her dream venture and a step towards making early years of learning inclusive.

The teacher-turned-entrepreneur is driven by her commitment to changing the way early learning is perceived. While 'Montessori' has become a buzzword lately, not many recognise the true relevance of this 100-year-old teaching pedagogy. Ms. Mehrotra's vision with Linden is to enable children and empower them to become mindful adults of tomorrow.

Under her leadership and guidance, the pedagogy followed at Linden Montessori is experiential and thinking-oriented. The school's aim is to kindle the children's natural desire to learn and invoke a love of learning.

Prior to starting Linden, Ms. Mehrotra worked as a teacher at Dr. Virendra Swarup School in Kanpur and as a corporate trainer at AXA Insurance company. Over time, she developed an inclination towards alternative learning methods and was eventually inspired to become an entrepreneur and change the paradigms of early learning.

LOOK WITHIN WITH 'LINDEN'

There is an interesting anecdote as to how she came upon this unique name – Linden for her dream venture. It is inspired by the Linden tree. If observed carefully, the leaves of Linden are rough on the surface and smooth on the inside. The same analogy can be applied to humans – we are all different in outer appearance, and must go beyond and look within to find our true self – and, thus, became the inspiration for the name.

The tree is also considered sacred in many cultures across the world and stands for wisdom and immortality.

An IIM alumnus, Ms. Mehrotra has a great passion for imparting distinct education to kids, and for that she did

not leave any stone unturned. In a city like Bengaluru, she searched for a space that would give her ample open spaces for the children, hired teachers and staff who would share her ideology, and set out on a path that she envisioned. From just three teachers to now a 60-member staff – Ms. Mehrotra and Linden Montessori have come a long way.

CHANGING THE EARLY LEARNING LANDSCAPE

Under Ms. Mehrotra's leadership, Linden Montessori has grown by a great measure. In 2014, she founded this preschool with an investment of Rs 50 lakh from her family. Today, it has a sprawling 15,000 square feet campus in the heart of Bengaluru.

With her years of experience as an educator, Ms. Mehrotra is ensuring that Linden stands a class apart in early learning. She is on her way to building a new-age, revolutionary education hub that is not just working to educate, but also raising a generation of students differently so that they are happier, instinctive and creative. The entrepreneur is fostering these changemakers of tomorrow who will grow up to find solutions to the various problems of the world.



STUTI MEHROTRA

FOSTERING TOMORROW'S CHANGEMAKERS

A TEACHER-TURNED-ENTREPRENEUR, MS. STUTI MEHROTRA IS PASSIONATE ABOUT REVAMPING EARLY LEARNING IN THE COUNTRY. HER NATURAL INSTINCT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT A CHILD NEEDS IN THE FORMATIVE YEARS HAS TRANSLATED SUCCESSFULLY INTO HER PRESCHOOL, WHICH IN ALMOST A DECADE HAS CARVED A NAME FOR ITSELF

TARAFDER MD. RUHUL AMIN

LEADING WITH EXCELLENCE

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, AND YOU CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF ACTION; THESE WORDS HOLD TRUE FOR TARAFDER MD. RUHUL AMIN, MANAGING DIRECTOR, SAIF POWERTEC LIMITED. THE DYNAMIC BUSINESS LEADER HAS INSPIRED THOUSANDS OF YOUNG MINDS, TAKING HIS EXPERTISE FROM THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE BANGLADESH

Tarafder Md. Ruhul Amin has been in the engineering sector for three decades and has become a well-known name among all the top-notch engineers in Bangladesh and beyond. Over the years, he developed his expertise in power engineering and propelled his company, Saif Powertec Limited to ride the high tides comfortably. Under his supervision, the company accomplished several prestigious projects, including the Patenga Container Terminal (PCT) of Chattogram Port Authority with the Bangladesh Army. Mr. Amin also guided Saif Powertec Limited to complete the Flood Defense Embankment to protect shelters of forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (FDMN) at Bhasan Char.

MASTER OF ALL TRADES

Mr. Amin established Saif Power Group in 1991. The company started with only six people, but their determination, hard work, grit, and sincerity helped the company to become the best name in the business. The visionary leader has donned many hats in these 32 years. He has been heading many portfolios with his excellent business acumen. He is the Acting Chairman of many companies, namely, E-Engineering Limited, Saif Plastic & Polymer Industries Ltd, Saif Port Holdings Limited, Saif Electrical Manufacturing Limited, Maxon Power Limited, Saif Global Sports Limited, Blue-Line Communications Limited, and Grihayan Limited.

Under Mr. Amin's leadership, Saif Powertec Limited became the finest, top-notch company for port operations in Bangladesh within two decades. With a sincere and vivid approach, he expanded his business from an energy-based business to a leading name in port operations in the last 20 years. His efforts led Saif Powertec Limited to become the first-ever company to operate in the shipping and logistics sectors abroad by signing an agreement with SAFEEN Feeders, a company under Abu Dhabi Port Group. His determination and hard work have helped the Saif Power Group become the leading provider of sustainable shipping solutions.

TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY

A visionary, Mr. Amin has turned his dreams into reality. He has worked extensively to achieve his objectives, while adhering to transparency and innovation. His ability to adapt to new advancements in the engineering sector helped Saif Power



Group to reach the pinnacle of success.

The leader has accomplished feats beyond business. He is well-known for his empathetic approach and love for his motherland, Bangladesh. The business icon is also a prominent figure in the sports arena and known for supporting many sports federations of Bangladesh. He picks amateur sportspersons from underprivileged areas and gives them a platform, and supports many teams through Saif Power Group. His company undertakes the selection process, grooming, and extensive training of these sportspersons for various national and international tournaments.

A proud patron of swimming, tennis, and chess, Mr. Amin is also the Vice-President of Bangladesh Swimming Federation and Bangladesh Chess Federation.

A MAN WITH A HEART OF GOLD

In addition to working for the FDMN, Tarafder Md. Ruhul Amin has gone out of his way to uplift many people in need. His social initiatives have brought him and the Group numerous awards. In 2022, Saif Powertec Limited received the prestigious Mother Teresa International Award in Kolkata, India. The valuable award was given to him for his outstanding contribution in the sports sector and other philanthropic service in Bangladesh.



DR. SULTAN AL JABER
COP28 President-Designate



UAE COP28 TO UNITE DIVIDED WORLD IN CLIMATE ACTION

The main aim of the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference is to push the world towards limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius, and cutting down on the exploration and use of oil and gas is one of the crucial means of achieving this. The UAE has a big role to play here for reasons more than one

BY JYOTI VERMA



The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 28th edition of the United Nations Climate Conference or Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP 28) at Expo City Dubai from November 30-December 12, 2023. A landmark event, the conference comes at a time when the world is struggling to save humanity from the worst of climate change's future damages. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), this requires slashing carbon pollution and fossil fuel use by nearly two-thirds by 2035. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres put it more bluntly, calling for an urgent end to new fossil fuel exploration and rich countries quitting coal, oil and gas by 2040.

The UN science panel, IPCC in its report released on March 20, 2023, calculated and reported that to stay under the warming limit set in Paris, at COP21 (also called the Paris Agreement), the world needs to cut 60 percent of its

greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, compared with 2019. The overarching goal of the Paris Agreement is to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and pursue efforts "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels."

The IPCC report said that the 1.5°C limit is achievable, but it will take a quantum leap in climate action. On his visit to New Delhi in February 2023, COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber said, "It is also clear that business as usual won't get us there. We need a paradigm shift in our approach to mitigation, adaptation, finance, and loss and damage."

WHAT COP28 ENTAILS?

In this crucial decade for climate action, the UAE COP28 seeks to unite the world towards agreement on bold, practical, and ambitious solutions to the most pressing global challenge of our time.

Expected to host over 70,000 participants, including heads of state, government officials, industry leaders, private sector representatives, academics, experts, youth, and non-state actors, the climate conference will deliver the first-ever Global Stocktake (GST) – a comprehensive evaluation of progress against climate goals. The UAE will lead a process for all parties to agree upon a clear roadmap to rush progress through a realistic global energy transition, with an inclusive climate action. "The GST will provide the foundation to build momentum for this and future COPs, and the UAE will look for an ambitious outcome in response to the GST from the negotiation process. This will be a critical moment to mobilise political will to respond to what the science tells us will need to be achieved to remain on target and limit global warming to 1.5C by 2050," said Dr. Al Jaber.

Sustainable cooling will be firmly on the agenda at this year's COP28



meeting with UNEP promising a Global Cooling Pledge and a Cool COP Menu of Actions. UNEP will publish a Cooling Stocktake report ahead of the COP28 that will assess implemented country actions on sustainable cooling, evaluate new opportunities and offer insights into political action that can reduce emissions from the cooling sector.

While the summit will deliberate on several issues, an agreement on a global goal for climate adaptation, and setting up a finance facility for loss and damage due to climate change, experts believe that UAE COP 28 has the potential to achieve even more. It can become a defining moment where the annual climate conferences transition from multilateral negotiations to bold, confident decision-making to hasten climate action.

TRANSFORMATIONAL PROGRESS

Dr. Al Jaber agrees. “The UAE COP 28 seeks to unite the world towards agreement on bold, practical, and ambitious

solutions to the most pressing global challenge of our time,” said the COP28 President-Designate in his speech at the Petersberg Climate Dialogue in Berlin on May 2, 2023. He called for transformative action and robust outcomes across the mitigation work programme, the global objective on adaptation and doubling adaptation finance, the fair transition work programme, the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance, and the implementation of the loss and damage fund and funding arrangements.

Dr. Al Jaber said that the UAE is committed to bring everyone to the table, particularly youth, women, Indigenous peoples, NGOs, and the Global South, and called every stakeholder – countries and cities, investors and industries and businesses of all sizes – to step up with ambitious, transparent, and accountable commitments. “We must accelerate cross-sectoral progress on mitigation. We must ensure countries have the resources and plans in place to

adapt to climate impacts. And, we must supercharge climate finance, making it more available, more accessible, and more affordable finance to drive delivery across every climate pillar. While doing all of this, we need to ensure a just and equitable transition,” the leader said.

In one of the most crucial statements on the pragmatic, just and well-managed energy transition, Dr. Al Jaber on May 2 said that the world must be laser focused on phasing out fossil fuel emissions, while phasing up viable, affordable zero carbon alternatives. “We know that the energies used today will continue to be part of the global energy mix for the foreseeable future. As such, we will work with the world to decarbonise the current energy system while we build a new one, capable of transitioning even the most heavy-emitting industries,” he said.

On May 9, the UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Mariam Almheiri too said in an interview that phasing out fossil fuels would hurt countries that depend on them for revenue or cannot easily replace them with renewable sources.

While many question whether a major oil exporter can lead the way in climate negotiations with the exigency they merit, one may have more context and clarity if one considers the actions the UAE has taken in the last few years.

UAE'S CLIMATE ACTION

The UAE has practiced an unconventional approach of completely decarbonising and diversifying its economy, as it exported its oil. It has also tried to shift its domestic energy mix towards renewable and nuclear energy sources, in turn saving and releasing more oil for export. The country focused on funding the economic transition, with investments in renewable energy projects around the world. It targets carbon neutrality by 2050, as its Abu Dhabi National Oil Company aims to increase its production capacity by 19 percent by 2027. With this strategy, it makes a case to be one of the last oil producers with one of the lowest production costs and carbon footprints.

The UAE's vision on sustainability is long term and goes well beyond the forthcoming climate summit. UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has announced that 2023 will be the Year of Sustainability. The year will include several initiatives, activities and events that draw upon the the nation's values of sustainability. It will also focus on environmental sustainability by inspiring collective action through a nationwide commitment towards sustainable practices.





Black Swan **Women** *Entrepreneurs* **2023**

It is no hidden fact that women have traditionally faced greater hurdles than men when it comes to fully participating in the economy. Across geographies and income levels, disparities between men and women persist in the form of pay differences, uneven growth opportunities, and lopsided representation in crucial decision-making. If given a fair chance to lead, women as powerful agents of change prove to be more competent to bring in far-reaching benefits of diversity and gender parity in leadership and decision-making, and building a world fair for everyone. In the latest series of BlackSwan Women Empowerment Entrepreneur Awards, AsiaOne Magazine brings to light the success stories of a few women leaders who with their indomitable spirit have placed capability and determination ahead of gender, setting examples for fellow women and society at large. With their self-trust, dedication, enthusiasm and prowess, these exceptional women have beaten all odds to achieve success



DR. MALLIKA NADDA

A DISABILITY RIGHTS' CHANGE-MAKER

A social worker with a difference, Dr. Mallika Nadda, the Chairperson of Special Olympics Bharat, has been dedicated to the mission of building an inclusive society. For the last 30 years, she has been associated with the cause of women welfare and empowerment, and the rights of the disabled. The Professor of History at Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, trusts initiatives like Special Olympics to help create awareness and remove barriers for persons with intellectual disabilities, and drive change in society

BY **MUKESH SHUKLA**



Born in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mallika Nadda got from her parents the inspiration to selflessly engage in social service. In particular, she learned a lot about Special Olympics Bharat from her mother, who was a politician. The inspiration not only helped her choose the path of service, but also a vision to empower many in need. She became associated with several causes during her student days. Her election as the Student President of Jabalpur College enabled her to associate with more causes and make real change. In 1991, she founded the Viklang Seva Bharti, a Jabalpur-based social welfare organisation that works for all-round development of the disabled. Even today, it serves children affected by mental disabilities, hearing impairment, bone disruption, and cerebral palsy.

Dr. Nadda's journey as a social worker was interesting, as there were visible and not-so-visible challenges, like coming from a political family. In India, it is not easy for the next generation of political families, as people have expectations and try to see one's potential and work on the basis of their families' influence and politics. But, Dr. Nadda refused to get disturbed by this pressure. Certain issues were always a priority for her, like the girl child, and she made a conscious decision to not get involved in active politics, but to build her grassroots work to enable change.

COMMITTED TO SOCIAL SERVICE

In 1991, after her marriage to Jagat Prakash Nadda — an Indian lawyer and politician now serving as the President of Bharatiya Janata Party — Dr. Mallika Nadda settled in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. In 1999, she set up in Bilaspur a non-governmental organisation called Chetna, with an aim to reach the inaccessible sections of society living in the rural areas of the state. She realised that the persons with disability (PwDs) are generally misunderstood because of their inconspicuous nature, and not even 2% of them are reached or covered by any kind of rehabilitation models. It presented an opportunity to her organisation to make a change.

Chetna began its operations with the goal of providing equal rights and opportunities to PwDs, also ensuring their full participation along with giving them a barrier-free environment through available rural resources to transform their lives. This organisation, which started from 10 Panchayats of Bilaspur in 1999, is working in more than 150 Panchayats today. In addition to Chetna, Dr. Nadda is associated with various social service initiatives with a number of organisations in Bilaspur,

Shimla, Delhi and other cities.

In 2002, Dr. Nadda established the Himachal Pradesh Chapter of Special Olympics (SO) Bharat. Special Olympics Bharat is a national sports federation recognised by Special Olympics for the conduct of sports and development programmes in India. Since 2006, the organisation has been organising sports for people with intellectual disabilities, and has more than 1.5 lakh registered athletes.

During her tenure at Himachal Pradesh Chapter of SO Bharat, Dr. Nadda played a prime role in organising snow sports and winter sports. Soon, Special Olympics encouraged differently-abled athletes to participate in competitions in the World Winter Games, where Indian sportspersons displayed their outstanding sporting talent.

In 2021, Dr. Nadda took over as the Chairperson of Special Olympics Bharat. She assumed the role with the challenge of preparing the SO Bharat contingent for the Kazan Winter World Games 2022 amidst a global pandemic. She believes that initiatives like Special Olympics help create awareness and remove barriers for persons with intellectual disabilities. Her vision is that India should have 750 accessible sports centres in all of its cities and at least one disabled accessible stadium in every state. To her, this is not overly ambitious, and can be definitely accomplished with the cooperation of state governments, public sector undertakings and grassroots training centres in every district.

A DISABILITY-RIGHTS ADVOCATE

Persons with disabilities have special functional abilities and a unique identity of their own. Such capable players of our country have time and again presented tough challenges to the players of the world with their talent. However, there are only a few who recognise their talent and dedication, and bring to light their relentless efforts to not only empower many like them, but also to give a bigger message that life is a constant struggle to beat the odds. Dr. Nadda is one of the rare few. In a world where most judge others by appearances and backgrounds, she gives the message of looking at a person's talent, confidence and hard work. She believes that the "abled society" needs the differently abled as the differently abled need the abled society.

As no two children are the same, it is wrong to expect all the children to perform uniformly. One must also know that children are emotional beings, and not only physical and intellectual beings.

"IN A WORLD WHERE MOST JUDGE OTHERS BY APPEARANCES AND BACKGROUNDS, DR. MALLIKA NADDA GIVES THE MESSAGE OF LOOKING AT A PERSON'S TALENT, CONFIDENCE AND HARD WORK. TO HER, THE "ABLED SOCIETY" NEEDS THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED AS THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED NEED THE ABLED SOCIETY"

The problem is not in their abilities, but our uniform expectations from them. The PwDs may simply require resources different from those required by the abled children – like Braille books for those with limited or no vision and hearing aids for those who cannot hear properly – to show their true abilities. The shortcoming is with our understanding, and not their capabilities. With this approach, Dr. Nadda attends to every need of these children. The meaningful steps she is taking for their welfare are commendable for every individual and a lesson that if we consider the disabled as an important part of our society, then we can also become a part of their happiness.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

An educator by profession, Dr. Nadda is working as Professor of History at Himachal Pradesh University. The dynamic leader dedicated to putting her vision to work also plays the role of a wife and mother equally well, becoming an inspiration for women of all walks of life.

For her relentless work for the welfare of underprivileged children and Divyangs, Dr. Nadda has been recognised with many national and international honours. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, awarded her with the Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award in 2010 for her exemplary work in the field of child development. She was also awarded the Derozio Award in 2011 for her exceptional contribution in the field of education, and the Rotary Shreyas Award for her exemplary services in the social sector in 2015-16.

Dr. Nadda ranks prominently in the Fame India – Asia Post Survey of 25 empowered women. ICFAI University, Sikkim, has honoured her with an Honorary Doctorate of Literature.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
PRINCIPLES LEADERSHIP
AWARD, ASIA, 2023



DR. BINA MODI

NURTURING APRECIOUS LEGACY

Dr. Bina Modi, the Chairperson and Managing Director of Godfrey Phillips India – a flagship company of Indian business conglomerate Modi Enterprises – is the epitome of women empowerment. The visionary leader lives by three fundamental principles for running a successful business: prudence, humility, and simplicity. With her trailblazing spirit, she has made incredible strides in establishing Godfrey Phillips as a leading organisation in the FMCG sector. She is a role model for many women through her words and decisive leadership

Dr. Bina Modi's description can't just be limited to a businesswoman. She is an institution unto herself. She is a leader, an entrepreneur, head of one of Indian industry's most illustrious business families, and the torchbearer of Modi Enterprises – KK Modi Group's unparalleled legacy. The Group is among India's successful business conglomerates with diverse businesses in FMCG, agro-chemicals, retail, fashion, lifestyle, direct-selling, food and hospitality sectors.

Along with being the Chairperson of the

Group, Dr. Modi is also the Chairperson and Managing Director of Godfrey Phillips India (GPI) and Indofil – the Group's flagship companies. In fact, she is one of the few women Chairpersons in the Fortune 500 India companies. But she wishes to be remembered most for the positive impact that her philosophy and efforts have made on society.

FIRST FORAYS IN BUSINESS

Dr. Modi married Mr. KK Modi, the late founder of Modi Enterprises in 1961. While the name Modi was already making huge waves in the Indian industry, the family was rooted in its traditions. Dr. Modi's creative fire and passion to make a difference was supported and nurtured by her husband. After acing the roles of daughter, wife, daughter-in-law and mother, she began her journey as an entrepreneur rather late at the age of 40. Her first foray into business was in the fashion industry. With Bina Fashions, she brought glory back to the complex and beautiful art of *Parsi gara* and *chikankari* work. With the success of her fashion house, her appetite as an entrepreneur grew stronger.

From fashion, Dr. Modi expanded to the food industry. She brought authentic Italian and Thai cuisines to India's national capital. Today, Ego is amongst the most popular and sought-after restaurant chains. She further established herself as a successful lifestyle entrepreneur with a luxury beauty salon.

PEOPLE-FIRST PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Modi's business acumen was appreciated further by Mr. KK Modi. Her partner in life made her his business partner as well by inducting her into Godfrey Phillips India's Board of Directors, in 2014. Soon after, she also became part of GPI's Executive Committee, actively participating in strategic business decisions, reconstruction of business processes, and strengthening of the business portfolio. Since her first foray into the world of business, reinforcing the human factor has been as important to her as strategising for building business.

A true leader, Dr. Modi credits her success to her people. Keeping people first is an intrinsic part of her business philosophy. She is determined to empower people for she strongly believes that businesses are successful only when the people involved are confident to do their best and explore their potential. The validation for it comes with the recognition that GPI is one of India's 'Great Places to



“WITH DR. MODI AT THE HELM, GODFREY PHILLIPS IS SCALING GREATER HEIGHTS. SHE BELIEVES THAT HER ROLE AS THE CHAIRPERSON AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY IS NOT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT BUT A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY WHICH SHE HANDLES WITH GRACE AND APLOMB”

Work' for four years in a row. With her "people first" philosophy, she also has a strong inclination towards community welfare and sustainability. She takes deep interest in the companies' corporate social responsibility initiatives too. As GPI strengthens its sustainability and ESG efforts, Dr. Modi leads from the front.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Modi has been conferred twice with Ph.D, Honoris Causa. Dr. K.N. Modi University presented her with an honorary doctorate for her contribution to the fields of arts, technology, management,

commerce, agriculture, fashion and hospitality. More recently, Jharkhand Rai University recognised her iconic and outstanding contribution towards society with an honorary doctorate too. In April 2022, she was awarded as 'Women Transforming India' by Indo-American Chambers at the '6th Entrepreneur Leadership Awards 2022'.

In 2020, she received an Award for Excellence in Business by the President of Egypt, at the Women Economic Forum 2020. She has also featured in *India's Most Powerful Women*, a book by Prem Ahluwalia. She was awarded the prestigious Achiever's Award in 2019, and has also been recognised among the 'Women of the Decade in Business & Leadership 2018' by Women Economic Forum. AsiaOne's 'Women Empowerment Principles Leadership Award, Asia, 2023' adds another feather to her elaborate cap.

MAKING A MARK

In a male-dominated industry, Dr. Bina Modi has made her mark. Along with being an inspiration for women around the world, she actively supports women in her Group of Companies by ensuring equal growth opportunities for them. With an impressive career that spans over three decades, and a philosophy that always puts people first, Dr. Modi is truly an institution.

Dr. Christina Rahm is a true polymath, with a diverse educational background from Harvard University. She has a comprehensive understanding of areas as diverse as nanotechnology, pharmaceutical management, nutrition, education, and philosophy. She has fortified her intellectual pursuits with a Master of Science degree, while attaining a doctorate in Strategic Sciences from Charter University in December 2014.

MASTERING MULTIPLE DOMAINS

Dr. Rahm established DRC Ventures to cultivate a collaborative environment that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries. Through philanthropic foundations, beauty and fashion brands, influential platforms, and reputable organisations, DRC Ventures facilitates widespread access to medical, supplementary, and environmental services.

Under her astute leadership, DRC Ventures has emerged as a formidable powerhouse. Through strategic investments in pioneering start-ups that challenge conventions, she leads the company to actively nourish the advancement of groundbreaking technologies, services, and paradigms in the business sphere. DRC Ventures actively shares its invaluable insights and experiences through compelling content, industry conferences, and impactful speaking engagements.

Furthermore, she champions diversity and inclusion in entrepreneurship, acknowledging its potential to spur innovation and propel success. Under her guidance, DRC Ventures actively promotes underrepresented entrepreneurs, providing opportunities for women, minorities, and marginalised individuals, thus cultivating an inclusive culture that breaks down entry barriers within the start-up landscape.

A serial entrepreneur, Dr. Rahm has also achieved remarkable success with The ROOT Brands, an esteemed social sharing community platform, which has swiftly amassed a substantial following across over 60 countries. The platform facilitates connections and engagement among like-minded individuals.

THE UPHILL JOURNEY

Despite grappling with formidable health obstacles, including Lyme disease and multiple instances of cancer, Dr. Rahm has displayed a remarkable embodiment of fortitude and determination. Her indomitable spirit has not only allowed her to surmount these challenges, but also glean profound insights along the way. Furthermore, through extensive global travels and interactions with individuals from over 80 countries, she has amassed a vast reservoir of academic, professional, spiritual, emotional, and intuitive wisdom, instrumental in navigating the intricate stages of her health journey.

CREATING A POSITIVE IMPACT

Dr. Rahm's dedication to philanthropic endeavours is deeply rooted in her upbringing, shaped by the values of generosity, compassion,

and selflessness imparted by her grandparents and parents. They taught her that a life of privilege and abundance comes with a corresponding responsibility to give back to others. She believes that philanthropy is not merely an act of benevolence, but a moral imperative that lies at the core of our shared humanity.

Her involvement in the Rahm Foundation has allowed her to champion various causes, including the promotion of women's rights and social, cultural, and academic empowerment programs. She is associated with the UN Women for Peace Association as a dedicated supporter. Additionally, as an ambassador to the European Women's Association in the USA, she has demonstrated her passion for promoting tolerance and respect for women by advocating for access to education, freedom, and protection for women. She actively supports other foundations in Africa and South Africa. Through her contributions to organisations such as Korah Kids, Rudolph College, Grace Bible University, and The Treasured Foundation, she has helped to improve the lives of women and children in multiple countries, including Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, and Korah, Ethiopia.

Dr. Rahm's dedication to advancing research and scientific institutions is truly remarkable. Through her tireless efforts, she has helped establish Medical School programs and Research Science Programs that have garnered significant acclaim and recognition. She has also been honoured with numerous awards, including Honorary Doctorate degrees and the naming of a building in her honour.

***“A SOUGHT-AFTER SPEAKER
AND A RELATABLE FIGURE,
DR. RAHM HAS DELIVERED
NUMEROUS SPEECHES
INSPIRING AND MOTIVATING
HER AUDIENCE”***

RACKING UP ACCOLADES

Dr. Rahm has received numerous accolades and awards for her contributions to the fields of product innovation, healthcare, and entrepreneurship. She was honoured with the

“Network-Karriere for Product Innovation Award in 2018,” and her products were recognised as the best in the MLM industry by the “European Award for Best Products” that same year. In 2014, she was recognised as a Healthcare Hero Judge and awarded the “Nashville Healthcare Hero Award.” She has also been a finalist for the “NEXT Awards” and was named the “Enterprising Women of the Year Winner in 2012.” In addition, she has been recognised as a “Top Entrepreneur by Business Leader and was named the #1 Specialty Pharmaceutical Representative in the Nation in 1998.” She has played a key role in healthcare innovation, having been involved in ventures such as DC2 Holdings, NOC2 Healthcare, and Clinical Care Continuum (C3), which seeks to revolutionise medical research and care.

Dr. Rahm is also a prolific author with numerous published books. Her notable works include *Cure The Causes* and her latest publication, *Cure the Causes Cookbook*, both of which cover topics such as nutrition and the environment. Furthermore, her oratory skills have made her a highly sought-after speaker, captivating audiences with her inspirational and motivational speeches. Her profound wisdom, infused with practicality and universal understanding, make her a relatable figure who resonates with individuals from all walks of life.

Dr. Christina Rahm is the Founder of US-based DRC Ventures—a forward-thinking venture capital firm dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs driving transformative change. A prominent figure in the areas of science, entrepreneurship, and humanitarianism, she is known for her outstanding contributions to society. Also, as the Founder of Rahm Foundation, she is committed to empowering women globally



DR. CHRISTINA RAHM

THE RENAISSANCE WOMAN



With a zeal to identify and address unmet needs in global healthcare, Ms. Jaya Subramaniam leveraged her decades of experience in global biopharma to become a founding leader of a successful healthcare analytics start-up Analytical Wizards and spearheaded its vision, growth, VC funding and successful exit to a large publicly held global healthcare intelligence entity, Definitive Healthcare in February 2022. She continues on the Executive Leadership Team of Definitive Healthcare, identifying and driving synergies across the integrated entity.

Ms. Subramaniam has an MBA from the Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania. She also holds a Bachelor's and Masters' in Economics from the prestigious Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University. She started her career in the CPG industry and worked for a decade in companies like Diageo Plc and its Indian subsidiary, the UB Group. She worked in various positions across corporate strategy, market research, and brand marketing.

Motivated by using her business skills towards a more meaningful purpose, Ms. Subramaniam made a successful transition to biopharma two decades ago. Her cross-industry global experience helped her gain a broader perspective and worldview, enabling out-of-the-box thinking in an industry that was and continues to experience unprecedented pace of change and transformation.

Her diverse experience enabled her to bring a fresh perspective, challenge status quo, and creatively problem-solve to help businesses, organisations, teams, and individuals successfully navigate change, to innovate, transform and succeed in uncharted territory.

In 2017, Ms. Subramaniam partnered with her husband Ram Sharma, Founder and CEO of Analytical Wizards (AW) and his Leadership Team to build a long-term vision and strategic plan for the company and seek VC funding and investment to turbo charge growth and realise its vision. Through 2017-18, she led the Strategic Planning and VC negotiations. In fall of 2018, she formally joined AW on its

Board of Directors and on the Executive Leadership team as Chief Strategy Officer. She executed the Strategic Plan and Vision by hiring, growing and mentoring a team of biopharma experts, developing the product roadmaps and analytical platforms and accelerators, and establishing the value proposition of its offerings. The company witnessed unprecedented growth with an enviable client base, including 4 of top 6 pharma and 6 of top 10 biotech companies worldwide.

In February 2022, AW merged with Definitive Healthcare, a publicly listed healthcare intelligence and data provider following a successful acquisition that led to financial success not just for the Founders and Leadership, but also for every single employee. The merger was a great strategic fit for the long-term potential and viability of AW's vision with immense synergistic potential for the combined entity.

Above all, AW's analytical accelerators have proven to bring scale, efficiency and accelerated speed to insights, as well as deeper, richer, real-time insights to enable bio-pharma companies to commercialise life-saving drugs faster and bring the right medicine to the right patient at the right time, thereby improving and potentially saving patient lives. So, the company built value for its employees, its eventual buyer, shareholders/investors, clients and to the

global healthcare ecosystem.

PURPOSE-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

Ms. Subramaniam is a visionary leader who inspires teams by establishing a meaningful aspirational vision and common purpose with potential transformational benefit for society, industry, clients, and employees alike. She strongly believes in the adage "Find purpose and the means will follow."

As a business leader, she has consistently tried to translate her vision into purpose with a clear business plan that is owned and aligned across every team member. She aims at hiring good talent with varied skills and experience that can collectively contribute to the larger purpose. She inspires cross-functional teams to achieve incredible success by inculcating a collaborative and innovative culture while striving for excellence within each functional unit.

Ms. Subramaniam is highly inspired by her parents and closely witnessed their tremendous professional success and social impact despite coming from humble backgrounds and growing up in pre-independence India in the midst of World Wars. They rose above the challenges of living in a country through turbulent times.

Her leadership skills were shaped by her early childhood experiences and exposure to governance, public policy and administration, as well as sensitisation

JAYA SUBRAMANIAM

VISIONARY LEADER WITH A PURPOSE-DRIVEN APPROACH

With an illustrious career across industries, Jaya Subramaniam is a name to reckon with as a successful global corporate executive of South Asian origin. From being a business leader to becoming a sought-after thought leader, she has broken many glass ceilings and set an example for future women corporate leaders



"MS. SUBRAMANIAM HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO LIVE, STUDY, AND WORK ACROSS CONTINENTS, AND HAVE A VERY COSMOPOLITAN UPBRINGING. THIS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR HER TO SEE DIVERSITY AND EMBRACE IT. LIVING IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES MADE HER TRULY VALUE THE COMMON THREAD THAT CONNECTS EVERYONE"

to issues of social inclusion, gender and women's empowerment. Besides, her parents were in transferable jobs that accorded her an eclectic childhood with lots of travel and learning.

Thanks to her parents, Ms. Subramaniam had the privilege to live, study, and work across cities and have a very cosmopolitan upbringing. This made it possible for her to embrace diversity and change. Today, she has lived, worked and studied across continents, and this diverse experience has played a huge factor in shaping her leadership skills and in her global success. It has also made her witness how change is brought about at the grassroots. Living in different places made her truly value the common thread that connects everyone.

ACCOLADES AND AWARDS

Under her leadership, the company has earned some remarkable accolades. In 2019, it was named one of the Top Predictive Analytics companies by the *CIO* magazine. In 2020, it was featured in the 'INC 5000 Fastest Growing Privately-Held Companies in the US' (ranked 1220 on the annual list of companies with three-year revenue growth of 368%). The same year, it was also awarded the 'INC 5000 NY Metro Regional Award' presented to the fastest-growing companies. In 2020, it was named the 'Top AI Solution Provider' by Retail Tech Media. Enterprise World recognised it for 'Transforming Healthcare Analytics.' In 2022, My Tech featured AW among the 'Top 10 AI' Healthcare Solution Providers.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Ms. Subramaniam draws inspiration from multiple sources, from her seniors, colleagues, partners and subordinates alike. She strives to learn and imbibe the best from all around, and believes in the ability of ordinary individuals to achieve extraordinary things. According to her, the power of a committed collective team working towards a meaningful purpose is greater than anything else.



“ANANYA EXEMPLIFIES THE COURAGE TO LET GO OF THE COMFORT ZONE AND PURSUE ONE’S DREAMS BY WORKING HARD”



ANANYA BIRLA

A TALE OF MIND, MELODY, AND MIGHT

The multifaceted personality, Ananya Birla is not only a successful entrepreneur, singer and songwriter, but also a quite popular youth icon. Besides successfully launching her first start-up Svatantra Microfin, she has been making great strides in the international music industry

Apart from being a *karmayogi*, who is living the dream, Ananya Birla 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 and

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 and Management. As a student, she developed keen interest in music and started singing and 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 and interacted with many young people of her age who were suffering from anxiety and depression. This experience shook her from within, and 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 sensitises people towards mental illnesses like anxiety and depression that are so

common in our society today and 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 and help them to be understood and 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, and 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 and high-end luxury products, curated from nine countries. The online portal is an amalgamation of design, beauty and lifestyle, and offers around 1,500 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 and every endeavour, and light up the way for others simultaneously.

Sushmita Sen, daughter of an army officer (now retired), was born in Hyderabad. After graduating in English Literature, she started her career in journalism but acquired a name for herself when in 1994, she won the title of Femina Miss India, and later that year, she added another feather in her cap when she was crowned Miss Universe.

Sushmita Sen was a young, 18-year-old girl when she earned the judges' admiration for her grace and wit and created history by becoming the first Indian woman to win the title of Miss Universe. She made the whole country proud through her achievement, and then there was nothing that could stop her.

CINEMA'S OWN CHILD

Sushmita Sen's career in acting started soon after winning the crown of Miss Universe. She has done numerous challenging roles and has proved her acting talent. Her first Bollywood movie was Mahesh Bhatt's *Dastak*, and her first blockbuster was David Dhawan's movie *Biwi Number 1*, a box-office hit.

She has been a part of many other movies like *Main Hoon Na*, *Aankhen*, *Maine Pyaar Kyu Kiya*, etc., and many of her movies performed well at the box office. Sushmita Sen has worked with almost all the leading movie actors like Shahrukh Khan, Salman Khan, and Amitabh Bachchan. Recently, she made a fierce comeback on screen and left everyone speechless with her role in the web series, *Aarya*. Her resurgence has been phenomenal.

AN EMPOWERED WOMAN, EMPOWERING WOMEN

Breaking the glass ceiling time and again, she boldly pushes the social constraints that stop women from being what they wish to be. She has always voiced her beliefs on women's rights, whether on bridging the pay gap based on gender or on the importance of educating a girl. She is associated with P&G's project Shiksha, which focuses on uplifting underprivileged children. Her effort and contribution towards social welfare and women's empowerment brought her the prestigious Champions of Change Award in 2020.

A BRAVE-HEARTED WOMAN

Everyone knows Sushmita Sen for her brutally honest take on marriage and children. She believes in speaking her mind and doesn't hesitate to make unconventional decisions. She challenges those social customs which are detrimental to the growth of women. In 2000, when she was just 24 years old, she took a bold step by adopting a girl child, whom she named Renee. It was quite challenging for her to adopt a baby as

she wasn't married, but she made it clear to everyone that a woman doesn't need a man to take responsibility for a child. After a decade, in 2010, she opened her heart and home again and adopted a girl, and named her Alisah. Since then, she has taken care of both her daughters and raised them to be great human beings.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Sushmita Sen has bagged several awards and appreciation throughout her journey as a star. She won a Filmfare Award in 2000 and 2003, IIFA Award in 2000, Zee Cine Awards, and Star Screen Awards. She was also felicitated with Filmfare OTT Awards in the category of the Best Actor in a Drama Series (Female) in 2020. In addition to this, she won the International Association of Working Women Award for outstanding performance by a female actor in a television series presented by DC South Asian Film Festival 2021 for *Aarya 2*. Sushmita Sen also received the Rajiv Gandhi Award for her contribution to cinema. In addition, she was given the Mother Teresa Award for her work toward the betterment of society.

SUSHMITA SEN

LIVING LIFE QUEEN-SIZE

Sushmita Sen, the renowned Bollywood actress, is a role model for many women across the globe. She is a strong, independent and intelligent woman who won the pageant of Miss Universe at the tender age of 18 and became a popular face in the country. She is a big sensation, living life on her terms



“SUSHMITA BELIEVES THAT WOMEN CAN ACHIEVE TRUE FREEDOM ONLY WHEN THEY ARE EMPOWERED”





**“THE DST HAS
AWARDED
PROFESSOR
SAMANTA THE
J. C. BOSE
FELLOWSHIP FOR
HER EXCELLENT
WORK”**



PROFESSOR SASMITA RANI SAMANTA

A VIRTUOUS ADMINISTRATOR

The Vice Chancellor of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology University, Professor Sasmita Rani Samanta is trying to make the varsity a socially conscious institution. The pioneering, inspiring and pragmatic leader is devoted to creating a sustainable ecosystem for everyone

An accomplished academician and administrator, Professor Sasmita Rani Samanta earned a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur in 1999. She later became a lecturer at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and worked her way up. In 2021, the leader was appointed the Vice Chancellor of the university.

As KIIT VC, Professor Samanta oversees all facets of academic and operational activities. She is dedicated to fostering a dynamic learning environment that supports the talents and aspirations of students and faculty, and equips them with the skills they need to succeed. She encourages them to get involved in initiatives that advance social welfare and sustainability, as she believes that universities can significantly contribute to solving urgent social and environmental problems. Under her direction, KIIT has launched many innovative academic initiatives such as interdisciplinary courses that combine

academic disciplines to give students a comprehensive educational experience. She is passionate about promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus, and aims at establishing a supportive atmosphere for all students. She also serves as the Chairperson of the KIIT Technology Business Incubator, which is assisting more than 235 aspiring technology-driven entrepreneurs in transforming their fresh ideas into business processes or products.

A SCIENCE ENTHUSIAST

Professor Samanta is committed to advancing both research and innovation. The acclaimed materials science and nanotechnology researcher has several publications to her credit. She works to set up a supportive environment that inspires teachers and students to pursue research and innovation. Under her direction, KIIT has created many research institutes and laboratories with cutting-edge equipment, to focus on varied scientific fields. She has also made contributions to other

professional bodies like the Indian Science Congress and the Indian Academy of Social Sciences.

CARING FOR SOCIETY

Professor Samanta is enthusiastically involved in several KIIT-DU social outreach programs, including Occupational Safety and Health and Kanya Kiran – a campaign to stop violence against female child. In the last ten years, she has interacted with and inspired 1.5 million children to pursue higher education through the Education for All project. Every year, under her direction, education summits on the theme of Education for All are held in every district of Odisha and 30 major cities and state capitals across the country.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Professor Samanta has won numerous national and international fellowships and honors for her notable contributions to academics and industry, social outreach and entrepreneurial initiatives, and innovations. The Department of Science and Technology has awarded her the J. C. Bose Fellowship for her excellent work.

Some of her recent recognitions include “Distinguished Scholar” on the Wall of Fame by Stanford LEAD, “India’s Most Emerging Educationist of the Year-Female” at the Make In India Emerging Leader Awards 2021, “Inspirational Leaders of India” at the White Page Leadership Conclave 2021, “Times Power Women 2021-Odisha,” and “Excellence in Education” Award at the XGRAD 2022 Higher Education Summit.

Ms. Vani Nades' 20-year tenure as a leader in an academic institution has aided Papua New Guinea's access to business skills and economic opportunities. In 1994, she graduated from high school. She graduated with a Certificate in Accounting in 1995, a Diploma in Accounting in 1999, and an Associate Degree in Business in 2001. In 2003, she received a Bachelor of Accounting from Southern Cross University in Australia, and in 2007, she received a Professional Certificate in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing in the United Kingdom.

Ms. Nades began working while still in school. She began her career as an accounts clerk, then as an accountant, before moving on to marketing, training, and development, where she led several teams before becoming the Institute of Business Studies' Associate Director in January 2014. Emstret Holdings Limited was founded in March 2014 by Ms. Nades.

It is a licensed Internet service provider that provides Internet connectivity and solutions to small and medium-sized businesses, schools, and rural communities, as well as developing solutions for both urban and rural areas. She also founded the Voices for Villages Foundation, Little CEO Pizza, Shoptmart PNG Limited (an online digital e-commerce company), and Emstret Space Limited (a coworking space that fosters an inclusive ecosystem for entrepreneurs).

HONOURS AND RECOGNITION

Ms. Nades's leadership enabled the company to win numerous awards at

the Westpac Outstanding Women Annual Awards, including the Exxon Digital Innovation Small Business Award, the NASFUND People's Choice Award, the Annual Alumni Entrepreneur Award, and the SP Entrepreneur Award.

In March 2019, Ms. Nades was chosen for the Canberra Women in Leadership Fellowship by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs. In 2013, she was named the PNG Institute of Directors' first female Young Director of the Year and won the MSME Digital Innovation Award for Best Innovative Small Enterprises. The businesswoman is also the Founder of the Melanesian School Debate Competition, an NCD ad hoc Member of the Citizenship Board, and a member of the PNG Games Management Team for the 2015 Pacific Games.

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Ms. Nades aspires to make a difference in her community and to brighten the lives of those around her. Her charitable foundation works to improve rural

communities through educational, health, and technology initiatives, as well as clean water and solar solutions. In addition, she is passionate about pushing for youth development and has facilitated the School Debates programs for the last 12 years. Her community projects include the Kamali School and Sanitation Project, sanitary pads for young girls in village schools, medical supplies and medical missions to aid posts in Rigo district, a water project for the Magautou Community in Rigo district, the maintenance of Hula Village, and a maternity ward.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

Ms. Nades aspires to make a difference in people's lives through her charitable work and career advancement initiatives. Her goal is to improve the lives of her fellow citizens, offer them hope, and continue to contribute excellently to Papua New Guinea's development. She creates her life as she goes through each day and believes that an outstanding existence requires discipline, effort, and sacrifice.

VANI NADES

SERVING HUMANITY

Ms. Vani Nades, Emstret Holdings Limited's Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer, is a visionary who has had a significant impact on the business world and the lives of people in Papua New Guinea. Along with her dedication to improving educational facilities and standards, she has demonstrated a desire to uplift the community and give people hope



**"PASSIONATE
ABOUT YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT,
MS. VANI NADES
HAS FACILITATED
MANY
PROGRAMS"**





“FOR EFFECTIVE CLASS DELIVERY, SHE CREATED A NEW DEPARTMENT TO TRAIN AND DEVELOP SKILLS IN TEACHERS”



DEEPITHA KOTHA RAMESH BABU

PRIORITISING QUALITY EDUCATION

Staying calm during crisis, determination, and mental agility define perfection for Deepitha Kotha Ramesh Babu. She believes that a team can perform any task when individuals have these qualities. She addresses any difficulty or issue head-on, with complete sincerity, honesty, and, most importantly, by making it enjoyable

Deepitha earned her MS in Management from the COX Business School at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She has been associated with industry pioneers, and utilised the *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* as a guide. The program was developed with Steven R. Covey's educational coaching division to instil leadership principles in students and teachers. At present, she is the Director and Brand Co-Founder of M S Dhoni Global Schools. The institution was incorporated with a mission to give students a comprehensive education to make them competent professionals and self-aware human beings. Mr. M S Dhoni, the superstar cricketer, has been all praises about Deepitha's excellence in the institution's management and nurturing students as a family.

DRIVING FORCE

Deepitha considers her father, Mr. Kotha Ramesh Babu, as her driving force, from

whom she has inherited her passion. Her father's management and leadership skills have positively impacted her, and she attributes her success to him.

DEXTERITY AND PERFECTION

An exceptional leader, she aims to empower people beyond their immediate environment and touch a larger section of society. In her quest to do so, she feels privileged to be part of the M S Dhoni Global School, which focuses on pan India and aims to mark its footprints worldwide soon. Her commitment to honesty, ethics, and putting the needs of her institution first has yielded enormous growth for the institution. With her ideology, she leads a solid team driven by the simple formula of inspiring students and creating a healthy, nurturing and encouraging work environment.

MODERNISING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Adhering to her commitment to delivering

the best, Deepitha and her team are working in partnership with Microsoft to train 1,00,000 students and 1,000 teachers. The institute also places a strong emphasis on CSR initiatives. She believes that students are the torchbearers of society, and leaves no stone unturned in her efforts to work as efficiently as possible. Year after year, she participates wholeheartedly in planning the school's future development. Moreover, to support effective class delivery, she created a new department dedicated to training and skill development of teachers.

FUTURISTIC APPROACH

In Deepitha's opinion, adapting to change is essential if you want to stay ahead in this era of technological innovation. She has accomplished this herself while facing many unforeseen challenges at different points. At M S Dhoni Global School, she has consistently been considered a motivator instead of just a Director. She strives to be an inspiration for the institution by delivering quality in execution and integrity in her conduct.

AWARDS AND ACCREDITATION

Her dedication to education and positive attitude of not settling for anything less than the best has earned her many accomplishments. She has brought to the institute titles such as Microsoft Showcase School status for the fourth consecutive year and awards like the Education-World School of Eminence Award and the Education Icon Award-Best School in India for Effective Implementation of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

Dr. Shilpi Mohan completed her super-specialization in cardiology at the renowned Army Hospital, Research and Referral, New Delhi. Her study on coronary stents is one of her memorable achievements. She has made a name for herself by working in numerous reputed centres nationwide. Along with continuing her practice of cardiology both offline along with online, she extended her role as Yoga Trainer, Psychic Healer, Tarot Card Reader, and Chakra and Crystal Healer.

In addition, she has a passion for writing. She writes as a guest columnist for *Hitavada*, a well-known publication. She had undertaken a Yoga Teachers' Training Course from the Patanjali Yogpeeth in Haridwar and obtained an internationally acclaimed certification in Chakra Healing Therapy and occult sciences. She has also been invited as a guest speaker at various national and international forums.

Dr. Mohan was felicitated with the award of the Most Prominent Cardiologist of the Year 2019 in Secunderabad by Prime Time Research Media and Enterprise Woman of the Year 2022 – Health and Wellness by BIZOX Media Network Private Limited. She was also awarded the Most Promising Holistic Healer Award in 2022 at the Zee Health Awards.

PASSION FOR PATIENTS' HEALING

Dr. Mohan not only believes in working on the physical illnesses of her patients, but also their mental health. With her healing centre, Ashvattha Cardiac Care Centre, she focuses on providing holistic health

and wellness – from physical to spiritual and psychic healing – to all her patients under one roof. She considers herself a conduit between the ultimate healer and the healed. One needs to take care of the unhappiness in life or other issues that are troublesome in order to have a proper healing. And that is what she is trying to do for all her patients.

Her patients have been connected with her for over a decade, which speaks volumes about her work. She considers all her patients to be her extended family and provides the best treatment for a positive impact on the psyche and soma of her patients. During the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, she came closer to her patients through a telemedicine platform, and many people connected to her and found solace in her healing process.

AN INSPIRATION TO MANY

Neither success nor fame comes easy, and it stood true for Dr. Mohan too. She had to stay away from her family for eight long years to pursue a super-specialization

in Cardiology. She accredits her success to her husband, and is grateful for his support and encouragement. A firm believer of work-life balance, she has maintained this balance and accomplished consistent successes in both her personal and professional life. Being married to an Army Officer, she has fulfilled her duties of a wife, and passionately brought a positive change in the lives of her patients in every possible way. She faced many hardships, but never allowed these challenges to become an excuse for her to quit.

Today, Dr. Mohan works relentlessly towards strengthening our country and economy by helping people become mentally and physically strong. She emphasises that India can become a superpower only when people focus on their wellness. Healthy people can only build a healthy economy.

Not allowing any societal stereotype to limit her potential, she moves forward to bring a difference in the lives of people around her. In short, she is a dedicated, inspiring woman who wants to achieve something valuable in life.

DR. SHILPI MOHAN

A HOLISTIC HEALER

An award-winning cardiologist, Dr. Shilpi Mohan is the founder and owner of Ashvattha Cardiac Care Centre in Secunderabad, Telangana. With an experience of over 15 years, she runs the holistic healing centre to provide preventive care to people, while striving to shift their focus from illness to wellness



"DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, MANY PEOPLE FOUND SOLACE IN DR. MOHAN'S HEALING PROCESS"





**“NEETI
CONTRIBUTED
TO INITIATIVES
LIKE GHAR
BHEJO AND
KHANA CHAHIYE
DURING
COVID-19
LOCKDOWNS”**



NEETI GOEL

LEADING WITH PASSION, PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

A versatile entrepreneur with diverse skills and accomplishments, Neeti Goel is an extraordinary restaurateur, renowned philanthropist, and much-admired TEDx speaker. Her exemplary work in the areas of business and social development has established her as an icon of women empowerment and the leader the world needs

The daughter of a renowned industrialist, the late Subodh Kumar Gupta, Neeti Goel, is currently based in Mumbai but hails from Chandigarh. She has founded and co-founded several successful business ventures as an entrepreneur.

Her passion for culinary arts and desire to innovate has made her a well-respected figure in Mumbai's fine dining circle and beyond. She has founded and managed successful restaurants in the city, each with a unique identity and menu that reflects her creative flair and love for flavours.

Her latest venture is House of KO (an all-day cafe serving world cuisine in a platter in a rustic ambience). Her other restaurants, Keiba, Madras Diaries, Madras Express and Ostaad too have received critical acclaim for their ambience, hospitality, and delicious food. The success has helped her name to be listed second among owners of the top 50 restaurants in the world. In addition, she was awarded “Restaurateur of the Year” in 2019 at the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Her entrepreneurial skills do not limit her to sticking to one business vertical. Instead, the enterprising leader is known for her ability to identify gaps in the market

and provide apt solutions to meet customer needs. She owns Amore Stays, a tourism venture for a luxurious staycation in Alibaug, near Mumbai.

STEPPING AHEAD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In addition to her entrepreneurial pursuits, Neeti is a dedicated philanthropist who has significantly contributed to various charitable causes. She has supported causes ranging from education and healthcare to women's empowerment, and her efforts have helped make a positive impact on people's lives.

Neeti's non-profit organisation, Lala Bhagwandas Trust has been working for various social causes for more than three decades. She co-founded the “Khana Chahiye” initiative during the COVID-19 lockdown through which she distributed more than 80 lakh free meals to the homeless and 60,000 ration kits, adopted 32 orphanages, supported 800 sex workers, and rebuilt 1,000 homes in Raigarh, among other works. She co-founded the “Ghar Bhejo” campaign along with Indian film actor Sonu Sood through which many migrant workers returned to their hometowns during

the lockdowns.

Her other noteworthy initiatives include a campaign to distribute sanitary pads in migrant camps across Mumbai's red-light areas and migrant centres, and among prisoners. She also distributed bicycles to girls in Mirzapur's Naxal-affected areas, as the way is through a forest. She founded the Green Army, a group of 25 women, to construct toilets in the backward areas in Uttar Pradesh. In the next five years, she plans to reach 25 villages in UP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand. In addition, she has been advocating road safety and supports the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill to provide harsher punishments and penalties for erring drivers. She has been spreading awareness on making the roads safer for all.

A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE

Neeti is a remarkable individual who has significantly contributed to business, philanthropy, and public speaking. As a TEDx speaker, she has shared her experiences and insights on entrepreneurship, leadership, and the power of community, inspiring many individuals to pursue their dreams and bring a positive change in their lives.

She was awarded the title of “Super Indian” for supporting 25 villages in Barmer, Rajasthan, the Society Achievers' Award for “Iconic Women of the Year” in 2022 – presented by Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis – and “Dare to Dream” by Zee Hindustan for philanthropic work and women empowerment initiatives.

A mother of two, Ms. Sonica Aron is a postgraduate from the prestigious institute, XLRI, Jamshedpur. Before setting up her HR firm, she worked with big brands such as PepsiCo, Vodafone, Roche Diagnostics, and ICI Paints. She began her professional career with a deep understanding of business that came from route-riding for Pepsico. She was an integral part of the team that launched 200 ml Pepsi for Rs 5, and was the first lady HR manager stationed at a factory in upcountry Uttar Pradesh. Her entrepreneurial journey began from this point onwards.

Ms. Aron established Marching Sheep to help other organisations drive profitability and productivity through HR operations. In the beginning, she started with just one client, and now manages several big companies in the country and abroad. Her constant efforts and persistence escalated her business in terms of clients and geographical presence. The road to success is often long, but Ms. Aron fulfilled her dreams by constantly working towards them and inspiring all aspiring women.

HELPING CORPORATE BECOME DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE GLOBALLY

Being a human resource and diversity and inclusion (D&I) specialist with a rich experience of nearly two decades in the industry and consulting, Ms. Aron has designed one of the most holistic Diversity and Inclusion Frameworks globally. It is based on a deep understanding of fundamental issues faced by women, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQ community.

Her observations and experiences on gender bias at workspaces prompted her to launch her diversity practice. Today, she works closely with clients across industries on gender, generational, and sexual orientation diversity.

A REWARDING JOURNEY

Working with versatile and experienced HR professionals, Ms. Aron is focused on providing measurable solutions to her clients and helping them move the needle. Her motto is not just to consult, but also to help these organisations implement HR policies.

Furthermore, her takes on important workplace issues such as anxiety and burnout, the motherhood penalty, unpaid work, generational diversity, inclusion of the LGBT community, and others, have been published by leading publications, including *The Hindu*, *The Times of India*, *Hindustan Times*, *The Statesman*, *DNA*, and *The Tribune*. She is also a frequent speaker and panelist at prestigious forums such as FICCI and Transformance.

Hard work certainly goes a long way, and

Ms. Aron's dedication and commitment to her work has helped her accomplish all the success. She was ranked among the Top 10 Women Entrepreneurs in 2020 and recognised as "India's Most Valued People" in June 2021 by Forbes India. She was listed among the Top 100 Digital Influencers by Yourstory, and recently received the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award by Indian Achievers Forum at the 75th Atmanirbhar Bharat Summit.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ON COMMITMENT AND TRUST

As a dutiful leader, Ms. Aron believes in maintaining transparency in her team. She also encourages her employees to share their views and welcomes everyone's opinions and ideas. As a result, each team member feels heard and seen, and delivers the best for the company.

When many head honchos were letting their employees go during the pandemic, she did not let go of any of her employees. In fact, she took a 100% pay cut until the pandemic was over to ensure a cash flow to meet the business's and the employees' needs.

SONICA ARON

DELIVERING TRAINED WORKFORCE FOR OPTIMAL OUTCOMES

Ms. Sonica Aron is the Founder and Managing Partner of Marching Sheep. The HR consulting firm, started in 2013, intends to deliver tangible and impactful business HR interventions that benefit both the organisations and their employees. With her strong-willed approach, Ms. Aron has taken her firm to great heights



"MS. ARON IS A SPEAKER AND PANELIST AT PRESTIGIOUS FORUMS SUCH AS FICCI AND TRANSFORMANCE"





**“SWARNALATHA
EMPOWERS
ECONOMICALLY
DISADVANTAGED
WOMEN TO EARN A
LIVING”**



SWARNALATHA ARUNACHALAM

CARING FOR HEARTS, SAVING LIVES

Swarnalatha Arunachalam is a name that resonates with empowerment, upliftment, and humanity. She strives to fulfil her vision and mission of raising cardiovascular health levels in the country. Her strong beliefs in the healthcare sector have led her to the pinnacle of success in this industry, with a human touch to it

Swarnalatha has been a scholar since childhood. She worked as an Assistant Professor in prestigious engineering colleges for two years. Swarnalatha's strong-willed character, sky-high sense of purpose, and aspirations carved her success story we hear today. A prodigy, she graduated with a degree in Electronics and Communication in 1997. She started her career in the corporate sector. While working in software companies, she developed a penchant for teaching. Helping and educating students instilled in her a dream of empowering entrepreneurs.

Swarnalatha also wanted to achieve more in developing our country's healthcare sector. Her admiration for medical science helped her pave a different path in her career. To make a difference in the sector, she got a doctorate in Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Healthcare Engineering Domain from Anna University. A special mention goes to her husband, Dr.

Arunachalam Esakkiappan, a renowned cardiologist who supported her in achieving her dreams.

HEARTILY WORKING FOR HEART HEALTH

Swarnalatha is the Managing Director and CEO of Arunas Heart Care Private Limited. She started her journey in the healthcare sector with an outpatient department clinic in Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu, India, a decade ago. From providing state-of-the-art medical facilities to patients to educating and empowering its staff, Aruna Cardiac Care has taken a giant leap from 2011 to 2022.

Today, Arunas Heart Care Private Limited is a 60-bedded hospital. Under Swarnalatha's leadership and guidance, the hospital has risen from a cardiac specialty to a much-sought-after multi-speciality hospital. It caters to a wide range of patients with varying economic backgrounds.

The entrepreneur aims to provide

healthcare services to patients from all walks of life. Her vision has made Arunas' Cath Lab Facility one of the finest in the country. She has guided her team to bring the best Laminar Flow modular twin operating rooms and CABG theatre to Tirunelveli. She practices what she preaches; her involvement in the healthcare sector is phenomenal, and her hospital is a testimony to this.

ONE NAME, MANY CROWNS

Swarnalatha has many titles to her credit. She also executes the role of Finance Director of Asvum Pharma Manufacturing with utmost sincerity. In 2012-2013, Swarnalatha held the position of District Secretary in the coveted Inner Wheel District 321. She serves as the Charter President of the Rotary Club in Tirunelveli Porunai and fulfills her duties as the General Secretary of the District Consumer Forum in Tirunelveli. She is also the proud Co-founder of Annai Nivedita Araneri Panpattu Miyam.

Supporting women entrepreneurs to help build their careers is a task at hand that Swarnalatha is passionate about. Her involvement in various organisations and NGOs has helped her develop a base that comes to aid the needy. She empowers economically disadvantaged women to earn a living, such as by providing them with raw materials to run catering businesses.

Notably, Swarnalatha supported 20 entrepreneurs in 2021, giving them successful careers. Her motto is to generate employment and empower women with successful careers and financial independence.

Miracle and belief are two crucial foundations of alternative healing practices. For Ms. Vandana Sharma, these have been inevitable parts of her journey as a healing professional. She unlocked the potential of “Powers of Powers” and dedicated her whole life to using energy, and bringing happiness and peace to others’ lives. She established Sekhem Healing Centre Pvt. Ltd. in Jaipur to touch as many lives as possible globally. The centre is now serving people from all castes and religions and healing them from cancer, blindness, autism, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, Thalassaemia, MS, OCD and other deadly diseases. Ms. Sharma’s strong belief in her ability to heal others comes from the success in treating her diabetes, heart problem, arthritis, fibromyalgia and hernia without medication or surgery. Her superpowers work equally great on humans, plants, animals and even machines. She has changed weather, flight timings, rescued people from flood and hurricanes and from crashing in stock market. The centre offers more than 50 services and programs, namely the SuperHuman / SuperKid Program, Parenthood with Power of Powers, SuperPowerBusiness Program, SuperSportsPerson Program, Employee Engagement Program, Spiritual Heart Connection, Manifestation Masterclass, Kundalini Awakening with Power Of Powers, and so on, to cater to different needs of her clients. So far, she has healed over 19,000 people, and the number is increasing day by day.

BEYOND HEALING

Ms. Sharma is not a Superwoman of the 21st Century just because of her extraordinary

healing powers. She is also known for her entrepreneurial spirit and philanthropy. She is the Chairperson of Astra Edutech Association, SaAstra Superkids Preschool, VanJay Digital, VanJay Business Strategic Consultants, Sky Tech Exports, Power Of Powers Foundation, and Indian Space Society Trust. She knows the dynamic nature of these times and keeps up with the recent market and technology trends. This is why her business grew even during the pandemic. Ms. Sharma invested her time in helping people during the pandemic. She started a mission called “Bring A Smile On Every Face On This Planet” and revived more than 7,500 COVID-19 patients with her healing powers. She also provided them with food, clothes, and shelter during that period. Her tireless humanitarian efforts encompass education for girls, marriage, woman empowerment, and healthcare. She has started schools for orphans and children with disabilities. Currently, she runs three NGOs, namely, Power of Powers Foundation (India), Indian Space Society Trust (India), and Bring A Smile On Every Face On This Planet Initiative (UK).

GARNERING GLORY

Ms. Sharma is counted as the most powerful energy healer of all times. Several platforms have recognised her fantastic work globally. The Governor of Rajasthan, Mr. Kalraj Mishra presented her with Emerging Business Icon Award for her entrepreneurial endeavours. She was Recognised as “Change Maker” by Economic Times and NavBharat Times for her extraordinary contribution to the field of healing, health and wellness. She received the Extraordinary Leadership Award in Health, Healing, and Wellness 2022 in Dubai. She has featured in top publications such as Fox, Khaleej Times, First India, Women Entrepreneur India, Economic Times, ZEE Business, Rajasthan Patrika, Daily Hunt, and Asian News. Earlier a homemaker, Ms. Sharma is now an inspiration to women as she has emerged as a leading entrepreneur and influencer. However, she is not ready to stop here. She is the daughter of The Divine Power of Powers, so her healing is a magical experience for everyone and so she has the courage and confidence to reach the zenith of success.

VANDANA SHARMA

THE DIVINE HEALER - MEET THE TIME HERSELF

Nurturing the power of healing, Ms. Vandana Sharma has illuminated the lives of thousands of people across the globe. This superwoman has shown her mettle in the world of spirituality and is now willing to extend her help to spread love and positivity. She has also forayed into the field of education and philanthropy to accomplish her mission



“VANDANA SHARMA REVIVED MORE THAN 7,500 COVID-19 PATIENTS WITH HER HEALING POWERS”







MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS 2023

A 2015 study by Harvard Business Review found that younger managers, under the age of 30, ranked more positively on all 49 leadership behaviours in contrast to older managers of 45 years and above. These young leaders tend to embrace change – which also means they typically have more ideas – skilled at inspiring employees, open to feedbacks, more open to challenge the way things are done and push for improvement, results-driven and focused on how to achieve their goals, not scared to tackle challenges, and more likely to set stretch goals as compared to more experienced colleagues. All of these factors have led the leaders featured in our latest collection to become the Most Influential Young Leaders of 2023. What's more admirable about them is the fact that these leaders are dedicated to continuous improvement, bringing laurels to not only their companies, but also to the country and the world



**MOST INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG LEADERS**

**“ANANT IS ONE OF
THE MOST VOCAL ADVOCATES
OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM”**

ANANT GOENKA

CHARTING HIS OWN ROUTE TO SUCCESS

Mr. Anant Goenka, Executive Director of The Indian Express Group, is an entrepreneur par excellence and a key figure in the field of journalism. The influential leader has a high degree of intellectual integrity and stands by his convictions

Anant has been fascinated with journalism since he was a child. During his college years, he was a noted blogger on The Huffington Post. The passionate leader graduated from the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California. He earned his Master's Degree from the Annenberg School for Journalism, USC, with Dean's scholarship. He has been efficiently carrying forward the legacy of excellence established by his father, **Mr. Viveck Goenka** and his grandfather, the **Late Shri Ramnath Goenka**, the Founder of The Indian Express Group.

A SUCCESSFUL PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY

Anant worked at Spenta Multimedia and with Bloomberg's commercial division in the UK before joining The Indian Express Group in January 2012 as the Head of New Media. He was appointed as Executive Director in July 2016. Since then, the tenacious leader has focused relentlessly on retaining the legacy of The Indian Express Group's uncompromising, independent journalism and growing its reach across print and digital media.

KEEPING THE LEGACY ALIVE

Anant has been guiding The Indian Express Group's digital growth following its enduring values of fairness, accuracy, and courage in a news environment dominated by political activism and yellow journalism. These values instilled by his grandfather continue to shape the group's investigative journalism even today. Under his leadership, The Indian Express Group has become one of the largest digital news groups in the world, with 190 million unique readers per month. It is now publishing in 6 languages including Malayalam, Tamil and Bengali. Mumbai's Loksatta has emerged as the most popular Marathi website in the country, surpassing the dominant regional media organizations. In the first week of its launch, Loksatta's Android app was downloaded 10000 times, which is quite an incredible feat. Additionally, Jansatta.com, India's largest Hindi news site, is also operated by The Indian Express Group. In 2017, Anant spearheaded the launch of ieMalayalam.com, a website dedicated to bringing quality journalism to Kerala. It was quickly followed by ieTamil. The Indian Express Group is a rapidly growing digital-first news entity with ambitious plans to grow in new markets both in India and globally along with a slate of exciting new products launching in emerging content formats. Anant's goal is to use technology as a catalyst to help perpetuate Ramnath Goenka's legacy of fearless and ethical journalism around the world. He's enthusiastic about expanding The Indian Express Group's reach into new markets and formats as he envisions the emergence of three distinct types of news media in India over the next decade.



A BORN LEADER

Like his grandfather, Anant is also one of the most vocal advocates of investigative journalism. A series of investigations conducted by The Indian Express Group under his direction, including the Panama Papers, Videocon-ICICI transactions, WhatsApp lynchings across India, and vacant engineering colleges, have shaped public discourse and sparked policy reforms.

STRIKING THE PERFECT WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Having been a teaching assistant in college to the course "History of News Media in America," Anant has a rare hobby of collecting old newspapers and magazines from around the world. He is also an aviation buff, flies propeller aircrafts recreationally. He makes time to play the drums and other percussion instruments and cherishes the time he spends with his 20-month old son Aarav Raam.



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

Mr. Bhasin founded Marmo Solutions in 2013 with a small fund. The company specialises in high-quality adhesives, polishing and post-polishing solutions, cleaners, stain removers, fillers, sealers, protectors, and strengtheners, as well as services to help its clients stay ahead of the competition. Over the years, the company, under his direction, has emerged as a market leader in marble adhesives, tile adhesives, and other stone cleaning products for residential and commercial buildings. Today, Marmo Solutions has earned the trust of renowned builders and architects. The company also has a reputation for innovation and staying ahead of trends.

A VISIONARY

Mr. Bhasin's entrepreneurial quest was inspired by numerous unresolved marble and tile repair issues that labourers experienced while executing a job. His unique vision was to educate the public about this unregulated market. He also aims to empower people to make informed decisions about their choices when purchasing adhesives and cleaners for marble and other stone-type substances used in construction.

He claims that international brands are currently dominating the marble adhesive/cleaners industry as Indian consumers consider European, German, or Italian brands to be superior to homegrown brands. This mindset contributes to the success of international brands in the Indian market, as they continue to capture the majority of the consumer base.

Mr. Bhasin's goal is to educate people that Indian products are just as good as international brands. His unwavering efforts have resulted in a shift in this mindset. Consequently, many Indian players are slowly starting to make a comeback, with more consumers recognising the quality and value of these products.

QUALITY COMES FIRST

Mr. Bhasin took his company to new heights of success based on the quality and performance of his products. He ensures that their products adhere to the highest safety and durability standards, making them ideal for use in various settings.

His honesty and commitment to excellence have earned his company a reputation for producing reliable, long-lasting products that customers can trust.

A PEOPLE PERSON

Mr. Bhasin believes that every experience can be a source of learning. He says every individual has a unique tale to tell, and he values learning from them.

The visionary is constantly inspired by the stories of those he meets. He is also an active listener who takes the time to understand the diverse perspectives of others. He draws

***"MR. BHASIN'S UNIQUE VISION WAS TO
EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE UNREGULATED
MARBLE AND TILE MARKET"***

inspiration from everyone he meets in life.

Being a people person, he believes in growing alongside his team. He takes pride in cultivating a sense of camaraderie and collaboration among his team members, creating an environment where everyone can thrive and succeed.

DRIVEN BY VALUES

Mr. Bhasin believes that honesty is the best policy and the foundation of a successful life and career. He always ensures he is honest with his clients and colleagues, and he holds himself to the same standard of honesty when dealing with personal matters.



ASHISH BHASIN

THE CHANGEMAKER

Mr. Ashish Bhasin, Director of Marmo Solutions, has built his company with sheer hard work and years of extensive research. A believer of collaboration and an environment of trust, respect and open communication, he has accomplished success through values-centered leadership



**MOST INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG LEADERS**

SOURAV GHOSH

STRIVING FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL

A renowned legal expert and a passionate leader, Mr. Sourav Ghosh is currently the Managing Partner at S Jalan and Co. – one of the oldest and most prestigious Kolkata-based law firms. He joined the company 19 years ago with only 3 years of experience and worked his way up to build an inspiring career

Mr. Sourav Ghosh joined S Jalan & Co. as an Associate Advocate and rapidly rose to the level of an Equity Partner within three years. He brought a fresh perspective to the company and proved to be instrumental in its pan-India expansion. During his years in the firm, Mr. Ghosh has expanded the business and set up branches offices in Delhi and Mumbai and is currently expanding the business in Chennai and Hyderabad. Mr. Ghosh has built a name for himself as a trusted solicitor in the legal fraternity. He advises on legal solutions, business-oriented legal issues, litigation, and transactional deals. His loyal clientele includes many multinational companies that have stayed with him for his legal expertise for over a decade.

LEADERSHIP PAR EXCELLENCE

With his entrepreneurial mindset, Mr. Ghosh started young and has managed to build his legacy. He envisioned the company's expansion soon after joining it and worked steadily to go about it.

With the help of his leadership skills, Mr. Ghosh formed a core team of Associate Partners and Equity Partners at the company who help run its offices. His core belief is to prioritise client satisfaction and provide them with the best possible solutions. He truly believes that this ability to manage client expectations efficiently is one of his biggest strengths. His legal acumen, vision, and leadership skills have been his aids in coming so far in his journey. His in-depth knowledge of legal structures and administrative skills has helped him provide state-of-the-art solutions to clients who have little or no knowledge about the legal process. Mr. Ghosh has also participated and represented the clients of the firm in international and commercial arbitrations in South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Vienna.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

It is his unmatched dedication and hard work that Mr. Ghosh has been recognised by the industry many times. Recently, he was named in the Legal Powerlist 2020 and 2021 by *Forbes* magazine in the category of Top Managing Partners of India. He was awarded the Lex Falcon Award, Singapore Chapter, for the '10 years' experience' category for 2022, in recognition of his contribution to the legal industry. In addition, in 2022, he won the Outstanding Leadership Award at Law 2.0 Conference, Dubai Chapter.

Mr. Ghosh also tries to serve the underserved using his legal prowess by working *pro bono*. He truly believes that justice is everyone's right. Therefore, he tries to promote justice through fair procedures that help him uphold the country's legal ethics

"UNDER MR. GHOSH'S AEGIS, A PRO BONO INITIATIVE, 'ACCESS TO JUSTICE,' IS MANAGED BY THE FIRM, AND HE ACTIVELY SUPPORTS IT"



and practices. Under his aegis, a *pro bono* initiative, 'Access to Justice,' is managed by his company, and he actively supports the initiative. Mr. Ghosh believes that the true purpose of doing *pro bono* work is to provide trusted legal services to the poor and needy and promote a culture where every legal professional thinks of *pro bono* as a standard norm. He believes that professionals like him must lead by example and make everyone aware of their legal rights irrespective of their socio-economic conditions. For *pro bono*, he supports the rights of senior citizens, children, differently abled, labour and workplace ethics, women, and environment. To further this cause, he plans to offer his legal services to social entrepreneurs and start-ups in the nascent stage. Leaders like Mr. Sourav Ghosh, who strive to bring about a certain balance in society, inspire the new generation. His hard work, tireless passion for his craft, and determination make him stand out from the rest.



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

Born in California, US, Adam completed his graduate degree from Norwich University – The Military College of Vermont, a private senior military college. He later did his Master of Arts in International Relations – Terrorism and Conflict, and Master of Business Administration. In 2010, Adam joined the United States Marine Corps (USMC) as a commissioned officer. After completing his active-duty requirement, which included a combat deployment to Afghanistan in 2012, he began visiting Myanmar. In 2013, he founded a security company in Myanmar, and has since been working relentlessly for the people of the country. His efforts helped him to become the Vice-President of the Board of Governors at the American Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (AMCHAM), where he is serving his second term presently.

The life lessons learned during his military service in Afghanistan made him dedicate his post-military, civilian life to the empowerment of people. The hardships faced in Helmand province of Afghanistan made him value humanity. He always aimed at empowering the people of Myanmar. His security company generated opportunities for the local people, training them to become skilled and updating them with recent technologies needed for the business. The pandemic taught him another important lesson — every person needs to be secure and safe in one's own space.

BUILDING A VALUE-DRIVEN TEAM

For the last 10 years, Adam's mission has been to build a powerful team of skilled workers. He is a notable personality among the people of Myanmar. He has worked tirelessly to uplift workers at the grassroots level to become reliable security professionals. His company has opened a gateway of employment opportunities for the local people, impacting their lives positively.

Adam set up MAC Security in collaboration with Scipio Services. His security company went global in 2016 after partnering with Atalian, one of the world's leading facility management companies. Under his professional mentorship, the security company excelled in the three main domains of Atalian Global Services: security, cleaning, and maintenance. His vision to make the company a household name created a niche in facility management in Myanmar.

Under Adam's guidance, Atalian Global Services Myanmar has reached the zenith. His vision to provide international standards and compliance through regular quality control and quality assurance targets colossal growth for the company. He strongly advocates for developing and empowering his workers to make them the finest in the industry.

INFLUENCING MILLIONS

In 2021, Adam Castillo received the Rising Star of the Year Award at the 2020 APAC Chamber of Commerce Awards. In 2022, White

***“ADAM, THROUGH HIS COMPANY, HAS OPENED A
GATEWAY OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR
THE PEOPLE OF MYANMAR”***

Page International selected him for their 100 Inspirational Leaders of Asia Award. He is also a distinguished member of the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) Steering Committee for the US Embassy in Rangoon since 2018.

Adam's idea of success is simple — work hard. There have been many instances in his life when the going got tough, but he did not give up. He made history by partnering with a French multinational facility management company and being the first in Myanmar to achieve such an acquisition. His knowledge of the local market has consistently enabled him to deliver to the requirements of the people of Myanmar.



ADAM CASTILLO

PIONEERING FACILITY MANPOWER

Adam Castillo has donned many hats. With his grit and determination to excel in life, he has traversed from the role of a marine to that of an entrepreneur known for building an empire in facility manpower. The strong will to succeed empowered him to set up Atalian Global Services in Myanmar



GLOBAL YOUTH ICON OF THE YEAR

Hersh, who holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Melbourne, founded Atisfy in 2018 when he was only 24 years old. At the time of its inception, Atisfy was a gaming consultancy with only two members. Over the course of four years, through his diligent efforts, the company has emerged as a groundbreaking influencer marketing platform that is redefining the industry through its innovative approach to data democratisation. As the world's first platform of its kind, the company is revolutionising the way businesses engage with influencers and target their audiences.

With its headquarters nestled in the vibrant city-state of Singapore and offices in Australia and India, Atisfy, under Hersh's leadership, is trailblazing the global market with its innovative solutions and unparalleled expertise.

A GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Born and raised in Singapore, Hersh's business acumen has taken him beyond its borders, particularly to Australia. His expertise and experience has helped Atisfy solidify its position as a major contender in the data-centric marketing solutions industry by serving clients worldwide. The company has emerged as a cutting-edge influencer marketing platform that has revolutionised the industry with its unique blend of programmatic and AI-based technologies. With a multi-million dollar investment, it has rapidly become the go-to platform for businesses seeking to capitalise on the power of influencer marketing.

A true global citizen, Hersh takes great pride in his Asian values and heritage. Yet, he is equally at home with clients from Europe, Canada, and the United States,

***"HERSH FOSTERED A CULTURE
OF EXCELLENCE AND IMBUED
THE TEAM WITH A FERVENT
PASSION FOR CREATING
SUBSTANTIAL VALUE,
PRIORITISING IT ABOVE MERE
PROFIT GENERATION"***

a testament to his ability to connect with individuals from all cultures.

AN AMBITIOUS LEADER

Hersh's exceptional business acumen and vision were instrumental in propelling the company's exponential growth from a modest 10-member team to a thriving workforce comprising over 50 individuals, dispersed across multiple offices situated in three distinct continents and four nations. He fostered a culture of excellence and imbued the team with a fervent passion for creating substantial value, prioritising it above mere profit generation. His indefatigable efforts have empowered a highly motivated and driven workforce, well-versed in the organisation's overarching philosophy and committed to realising its full potential.

Hersh believes in delivering exceptional customer service under his leadership. He holds that success is not just measured in terms of financial gain, but also in the ability to foster meaningful relationships with clients and to make a positive impact on the global community. With Atisfy, he has truly achieved both.

Hersh has also implemented ESOP plans to incentivise key team members, recognising their pivotal contributions. He has established a unique approach to identifying and nurturing individuals who possess an exceptional ability to tackle problems in a way that sets them apart from the rest.

DRIVEN BY INNOVATIONS

Hersh is a dynamic entrepreneur with a proven track record of creating innovative solutions that drive positive change in the digital landscape. His brainchild, Atisfyreach – an end-to-end influencer marketing platform – has revolutionised the influencer marketing industry by enabling businesses to launch multiplatform, multi-influencer, and global campaigns within 20 minutes or less of set-up time. It boasts of a predictive matchmaking algorithm that maximises ROI, real-time reporting, and measurement systems, and an interest/affinity-based targeting system based on a natural language processing model created in-house.

With a deep understanding of the complexities of the influencer marketing space, Hersh developed Atisfyre, an industry-

leading platform that leverages cutting-edge technology to offer influencers and creators a seamless path to monetisation. The platform provides creators with a powerful suite of tools enabling them to showcase their creativity and generate revenue on their own terms. Hersh has also devised a simple mathematical formula, subsequently refined by accomplished data scientists at Atisfy, that establishes a nexus between the highly efficacious products, Atisfyreach and Atisfyre, through real-time proprietary algorithms known as Atisfyreact. His pioneering contributions to the field have been hailed as an inspiration to many, and his expertise in this domain is beyond reproach.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT

Hersh has successfully garnered an extensive and engaged user base in over 180 countries, elevating the earning potential of creators and influencers hailing from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and communities, particularly in developing regions spanning Asia, Africa, and Europe. This outstanding feat stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to promoting inclusivity and creating a more equitable landscape for individuals from all walks of life.

Meanwhile, his personal favourite achievement has been the establishment of a system that harnesses cutting-edge efficiencies, enabling businesses to equitably remunerate large numbers of micro-influencers across the globe, facilitating widespread social and economic empowerment.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Hersh's outstanding achievements have been recognised through an impressive array of prestigious awards. His innovative prowess has earned him the coveted title of one of the 50 Innovators of the Year 2023, while his inspiring leadership has garnered him a spot among the Top 10 Most Inspiring CEOs in 2020.

Under his visionary guidance, Atisfy has also been showered with accolades, including the Best Game Marketing, Advertising, and PR Firm Award in 2020, as well as being named one of the 30 Most Innovative Companies To Watch, one of the 50 Smartest Companies of the Year 2020, and a Top Martech Provider in 2021.

HERSH BHATT

SHAPING THE DATA-DRIVEN FUTURE

Hersh Bhatt is the Founder and CEO of Atisfy Pte. Ltd., a prominent data-driven technology company powering global brands. Through his strategic vision and relentless pursuit of excellence, Hersh has cemented his reputation as a thought leader and innovator in the influencer marketing space, and continues to drive positive change for creators and brands alike. His success story is a testament to the power of perseverance and innovation in building a successful business

BY MONALISA BISWAS





**MOST INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG LEADERS**

SAMRAT SENGUPTA

ENSURING EXPERT LEGAL SOLUTIONS

Mr. Samrat Sengupta joined S Jalan & Company as a Junior Associate Advocate in 2008 and persevered his way towards becoming the Equity Partner. An architect of the firm's rise in the national capital and consolidation of its office, he has built a pan-India arbitration team that serves many industries

Mr. Sengupta has duly established his name in the sphere of General Commercial Litigation through his extensive experience in Arbitration before Tribunals and Commercial Litigations in different High Courts and the Supreme Court of India. His experience in the legal sector and dealing in corporate transactions, strategy making and litigations along with his optimistic attitude has always been favourable. A key part of the firm, he has provided legal advice on various subjects like bank guarantees matters, banking solutions, infrastructural project advisory, matters related to RBI and FEMA, international arbitrations and infrastructural arbitrations. He has also given legal opinion and advisory, and conducted several corporate documentation, including mergers, acquisition and drafting of mining leases and shareholders agreements; and real estate documentation. In addition, he has undertaken pro bono works as well as CSR activities beyond his scope of work so that legal amenities can reach those who need it the most. He has mostly dealt with causes like rights of senior citizens, children, differently abled, women, and labour, and matters of workplace ethics and environment. He has also assisted social entrepreneurs to enable them to carry out their missions of positive social change and improve the lives of the poor and disenfranchised.

IDEAS AND JOURNEYS

With his business acumen and a mind-set towards driving business growth, protect rights, minimise risk and assure compliance, Mr. Sengupta has ensured that the idea of leadership is not towards validation of designations, but towards creating an approach that meets both the ends of the spectrum. This approach will then lead to the well-being of the team and success of the firm. He believes in the formation of a compassionate team that not only ventures into different contemporary laws, but also creates impact through justice. According to him, it is significant to identify up-and-coming professionals who have the skill set and ability to lead. Investing time and energy in their training is what makes him certain that he is not only contributing to the company's collective growth, but also enhancing the quality of the legacy that the legal fraternity is about.

VISION

Mr. Sengupta has duly been committed towards the growth of the wider legal fraternity where he continues to contribute towards new avenues of law. His major contributions have been towards

***"UNDER HIS AEGIS, A PRO BONO INITIATIVE,
'ACCESS TO JUSTICE,' IS MANAGED BY THE
FIRM, AND HE ACTIVELY SUPPORTS IT"***



exploration on the Legal Domain of Sports Law and Art Law, and other growing legal avenues such as Brand Management Laws. He perceives that the growth of technology is an opportunity towards embittering the legal profession and continues to critically study and examine the effects of AI in the legal profession. He believes in collective growth and fostering the legal fraternity as a whole, and so aims to set up a professional institution which can provide practical training and orientation to law students, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practice.

AWARDS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

For his work, Mr. Sengupta has been awarded the Lex Falcon Award 2022 for the Singapore Chapter. He has been a part of various conferences and legal events to ensure that quality legal education continues to be imparted and opportunities are created for young lawyers. He has also been part of Lex Witness' webinar, and seminars and conferences.



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

The goal of bringing about a transformative change in the market of corporate training solutions was one of the major reasons Abhimanyu Khanna began his entrepreneurial journey. He is a college dropout as he was drawn to things that deviate from conventional thinking. Subsequently, he felt a lack of satisfaction in his work life despite progressing regularly. So, he teamed up with his better half, Priyanka Juneja, to do something greater, and founded TAB (Take a Break) Consulting, an all-inclusive destination for all essential requirements such as team building programs, team offsites, corporate events and more.

AN OUTSIDE THE BOX IDEA

The saga officially began in 2008 when Abhimanyu realised the real gaps an employee has to deal with when dealing with work-life balance. It was clear to him that a few straightforward, doable changes in a workplace could greatly increase employee productivity. He made Delivering Employee Engagement Solutions his focus and goal.

From then on, TAB conducts team building programs and various engagements which help in boosting employee morale and creates a sense of belongingness within the organisation. These activities further help to develop skills such as a positive approach to work, situational leadership, teamwork, time management, decision-making, effective communications, strategy planning and effective resource utilisation.

A NOVEL DESIGN AND ADVANCEMENT OF TAB

Abhimanyu strongly believes that innovation is a never-ending process, and TAB constantly comes up with state-of-the-art concepts to engage their clients. His team continues to innovate and dwells on learning about emerging market trends, practices, and technologies. The mission is to provide extraordinary and innovative engagement solutions to every client with excellent execution and phenomenal service with mutual respect and professionalism at all times. The team stays focused on the company's core values, thereby helping the clients achieve greater success. This enables them to enhance their services and experience sustainable growth in their business.

After conducting extensive research on various team-building activities, Abhimanyu comes up with the most effective conclusions for his clients based on their age group, demographics, culture, language, and other factors. Under his leadership, TAB has become one of the top businesses in India. The company manages more than 160 events annually as well as 70 game shows, while serving more than 185 clients across the country. It has built a wide variety of game shows and enlisted more than 2,79,000 participants.

***"TO ABHIMANYU, CHARITABLE WORK IS LIKE
VALUE CREATION AND VITAL IN BOTH PERSONAL
AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE"***

PHILANTHROPY AND ACCOLADES

Abhimanyu engages in numerous community service initiatives. The programs include cleaning up drives, plantation drives, and providing meals and other necessary items to the needy, such as medicines and concentrators during the COVID-19 pandemic. He intends to continue his charitable work in the future as well, as he believes value creation is vital in both personal and professional life.

Abhimanyu's consistent good performance has been acknowledged worldwide, helping the company get recognition from numerous media houses. It won the award of "Best Employee Engagement Solutions Provider in the World" from a reputed UK-based media house.



ABHIMANYU KHANNA

A PIONEER OF CORPORATE TRAINING SOLUTIONS

At 22, Abhimanyu Khanna had already started his own business and was assiduously working towards his objective. He wanted to make a difference by moving people away from meetings and closer to socio-practical training. His distinctive ambition and tenacity make him a remarkable entrepreneur



GLOBAL YOUTH ICON OF THE YEAR

Navin founded Parabellum International in 2010 while he was a university student with no experience. Nevertheless, he was optimistic that he could build a WA-headquartered company with deep resources that would provide compelling careers for its people and long-term partnerships based on service delivery that would add real value to its clients.

The company quickly gained traction and is now a thriving global leader in emergency response, healthcare, risk management, and training services. A well-defined strategy and inclusive leadership have allowed him to lead the company to become a market leader in the Emergency Services, Medical & Safety Industries. Today, the organisation provides its clients with a wide array of services, including firefighting and emergency response services, medical services, health, safety and emergency management systems, emergency response vehicle and equipment hire, sales, design & maintenance services, and emergency response and medical training. The leader spends equal time with his clients, the industry, and his business. With a broader peripheral vision, he strives to stay ahead of his competitors by ensuring Parabellum always adds value.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Navin started Parabellum International with just two people, and took only a few weeks to grow to 25 employees. With his unwavering effort, the ambitious leader catapulted the organisation to new heights of success. He says, “The strain was immense, but everyone tackled it together and worked hard to build our company, and Parabellum International was born as a result.”

Today, the company is a thriving business with offices worldwide and hundreds of employees. Its proven operational experience in high-risk and remote locations is unsurpassed in the onshore and offshore oil, gas, mining, resources, energy, government, defence and waste sectors.

Navin founded Parabellum on a set of core values and beliefs that form the foundation and guiding principles of the company. He emphasises the significance of agility, transparency, and making a difference in the lives of others, which sets him apart as a leader. These values also shape the organisation's actions, decisions, and overall culture. He recognises that agility is critical for success in today's fast-paced and constantly evolving business environment. Thus, he encourages his team to be nimble, adaptable, and open to new ideas and approaches. Likewise, by fostering an environment of transparency, Navin sets the tone for a positive and productive work culture.

Lastly, Navin and his team are driven by a desire to make a positive impact on the lives of others. Through his business practices, community involvement, and philanthropic efforts, he aims to make a difference and leave a lasting legacy. These core values also serve as a rallying point for his employees and help them create a sense of purpose and meaning within the company.

PEOPLE COME FIRST

Under Navin's leadership, Parabellum International's key priority is to ensure the safety of its clients' projects and deliver “measurable value” throughout the entire project life cycle so that its clients can meet their project deadlines and budgets. To ensure the successful

completion of projects, the team strives to continuously monitor and improve processes and communication while delivering value-driven results. This approach has led the company to emerge as a trusted partner for delivering top-notch results at any stage in the life cycle of a project. Parabellum's team of dedicated experts led by Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel, Jessica Keogh, support client's projects in all phases, from exploration to operations, in the short, medium, and long term. They go the extra mile to ensure that their client's requirements are met with the utmost dedication and precision. They are dedicated to bringing the highest levels of customer satisfaction and quality to their clients, providing the best outcomes for even the most complex tasks.

MAJOR CAREER MILESTONE

Navin is a shining example of success. Over the years, he has accomplished several milestones that have elevated his company to the top. His company was awarded its first contract based on its excellent service standards, demonstrating that its innovative approach was well-received and promising. While developing Parabellum, Navin cultivated an inclusive and diverse leadership style that is completely immersed with his workers and clientele. Navin appreciates the importance of teamwork and works closely with his team, collaborating on ideas while fostering a culture of open communication. He also strives to build solid relationships with clients, seeking to understand their needs and finding creative solutions to their challenges.

The young business leader had to take risks since he was starting from scratch. Navin, always the entrepreneur, understood the importance of measured risk taking from a young age which he used his savings as capital to start his own business. These savings allowed him to cover the initial costs associated with starting a new venture. He also borrowed money to buy the significant assets he needed to fulfil contracts. During the first two years, Navin did not collect a salary, ensuring the company had enough cash to grow. Instead, he invested his money to ensure the company had a bright future. He believes in setting realistic expectations to deliver the best possible product or service. “This mantra not only drives our operations, but also shapes our corporate culture,” he says.

A SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS LEADER

Navin's commitment to the community is a substantive part of his business strategy. Over the years, he has facilitated the development of state-based skills through indigenous collaboration. Furthermore, he took the lead in developing skills from the ground up in Western Australia to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Parabellum is deeply committed to minimising his organisation's environmental footprint by consistently selecting products and equipment that cause the least harm to the environment.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Navin has received acknowledgements regarding his leadership from his peers, clients, and colleagues. He is a winner of Western Australia's Business News 40 under 40, which is a recognition of the brightest young business leaders in Western Australia. Navin is now pursuing the top position in the APAC region for providing privatised services in emergency management, medical care, risk management and training services. He also aims to expand further into government and defence services where Parabellum can continue to make a difference in the lives' of people around the world.

*THE AMBITIOUS LEADER
CATAPULTED THE FIRM TO
NEW HEIGHTS OF SUCCESS.
“THE STRAIN WAS IMMENSE,
BUT EVERYONE TACKLED IT
TOGETHER AND WORKED HARD
TO BUILD OUR COMPANY, AND
PARABELLUM INTERNATIONAL
WAS BORN AS A RESULT,” HE
SAYS*

NAVIN VIJ

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Mr. Navin Vij, the Founder, CEO and MD of West Australia-based Parabellum International Pty Ltd., is a dynamic market leader lauded for his innovative approach to business. In addition to his insights and unique perspectives, the young leader's dedication, intelligence, and drive are known for bringing a new perspective to the market. Navin's philosophy of success is rooted in working hard and being creative, which enables him to stay ahead of the competition and provide the best solutions to customers





**MOST INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS
TRANSFORMATION LEADER**

ADITYA KEJRIWAL

THE TRANSFORMATION EXPERT

During his remarkable career spanning over two decades, Aditya Kejriwal has left no stone unturned to learn about customer experience and business transformation. Now, he is using his expertise and learning to upscale Cardinal Health's CX and business transformation strategies

In the last eight years, Aditya Kejriwal has been instrumental in making customer experience strategies that have worked wonders. Moreover, he has added new milestones to expand the company's focus on building a customer-centric culture. As a result, Cardinal Health has become a top choice in the healthcare space. It is no doubt that Aditya's strategies have turned fruitful.

He plans to improve the home-based patient experience by building a new program. He is leveraging technology to execute the transformational changes that would significantly impact their direct-to-customer business. In simple terms, he understands his customers' dynamic needs and is ready to launch solutions that address the challenges.

A TRAIL OF SUCCESS

What Aditya has done for Cardinal Health is more of a recent milestone. However, his trail of success is far longer.

Before entering the business world, he made sure he gained all the knowledge and credibility by studying in some of the finest colleges in India. He earned his degree in Electrical Engineering from the prestigious National Institute of Technology, Rourkela in 2000. He later shifted to the US to start his career with Cognizant.

However, he returned to India after five years to study again. This time, Aditya was surer of his career, which is why he pursued an MBA from the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. The course gave him an insight into strategic marketing, and he then began the journey of a bright future.

Aditya experimented a lot with his career for the next few years. From IT space and consulting to banking and healthcare, he worked in several industries to gain expertise in strategic management. He worked with and led several significant transformations in companies such as Credit Suisse, JP Morgan, Citibank, SwissRe, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, and many others. During these jobs, he also travelled extensively, which helped him get a global perspective of the field. Finally, Aditya joined Cardinal Health in 2014. Since then, he has taken many transformational roles ranging from program managing transformation of customer support services to the position of subject matter expert in cost optimization initiatives. Now, he is using all his expertise and experience to push the growth graph of Cardinal Health.

ESTABLISHING A NAME

Aditya Kejriwal's leadership is known all over the industry. This

***"A RECOGNISED SPEAKER AND PANEL JUDGE
AT MULTIPLE GLOBAL EVENTS, ADITYA ALSO
WRITES ARTICLES ON BUSINESS"***



is the reason he is often invited as a speaker at various events in the health space. In 2022, he was invited to the International Customer Experience Awards 2022.

The inspiration leader has also been invited as a key speaker at the Process Excellence Network World Summit 2023 to address business leaders across the industry. He is a judge at the International Business Transformation Awards 2023 and Stevie Awards 2023.

In addition to being an industry expert, Aditya is also a member of Mensa International (High IQ Society), American Mensa, and is a Certified Project Management Professional.

Like every remarkable leader, he does not shy away from sharing his industry insights on Customer Experience and Transformation. Thus, he often writes and publishes several blogs and articles on digital platforms such as the *Asian Journal of Advanced Research and Reports*.



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

Courtesy of Mr. Ali Kochra's diligence and consistency, Kochra Realty is a well-recognised company in the market today. His primary focus is to transform stressed projects into successful and profitable ones. He ensures timely delivery, quality lifestyle, and value creation. Each project is undertaken after a thorough analysis.

Mr. Kochra is one of the youngest entrants in the real estate sector. In a short period, he has spread his business in many upscale localities such as Bandra, Andheri, and other premium suburbs of Mumbai. He plans to start with the development of around seven projects this year.

The strength and credibility of the developer could be seen in the upcoming project, Aadhayay, which was stuck for ten years before Mr. Kochra decided to take it up. Now, after a decade, this first chapter, Aadhayay in their book of success, is due for delivery this year. Mr. Kochra's hard work helped him achieve the Best Emerging Realty Brands Award by ET Best Brands Awards in 2022. He also bagged the Emerging Real Estate Company Award by Lokmat-Network 18 Awards 2022.

COMMITTED TO CUSTOMERS

Mr. Kochra and his team have set a firm footing among the other reputed real estate agents in Mumbai by ensuring customer safety and customer satisfaction. He prefers to build a regular clientele and add new clients on the referral of his existing clients.

The team of Kochra Realty has insider knowledge of the workings of the Mumbai realty market and each project is approached keeping the end user in mind. Mr. Kochra is aware of the wide gap in the real estate market. Therefore, he takes up distressed projects and turns them into functional and aspirational spaces for living. He surpasses the customers' expectations by creating modern real estate marvels at affordable prices.

GOLDEN RULES OF INVESTMENT

Mr. Kochra helps his clients to invest smartly by following the real estate market's golden rules. He firmly believes that a reasonable investor must be thoroughly knowledgeable about the fundamentals of investment and aware of his assets, expenses, and income. Then, he emphasises on setting a specific investment goal for financial independence. Then, working on long-term goals with better value is always good.

In addition, Mr. Kochra advises that one should invest in properties with a positive cash flow and a higher rate of return. In his view, location also plays a significant role, as it is critical to attracting the right tenants. He follows these factors to achieve success in his professional and personal life.

***"MR. ALI KOCHRA TAKES UP DISTRESSED
PROJECTS AND TURNS THEM INTO FUNCTIONAL,
ASPIRATIONAL LIVING SPACES"***

A STRONG PILLAR FOR THE TEAM

Mr. Kochra has successfully built a team that can contribute to his vision and turn challenging projects into successful ones. The business model is designed around robust processes that can easily unlock potential from a difficult task. He has successfully negotiated with the government, developers, and customers, and other stakeholders.

As a leader, Mr. Kochra trusts his team and keeps things simple. He does not believe in enforcing his views and ideas on the workforce, but instead gives them the opportunity to think and ideate, and he stands by them as a pillar when solving their problems.



ALI KOCHRA

BUILDING SUCCESS BRICK BY BRICK

The Chairman and MD of Kochra Realty, Mr. Ali Kochra ventured into the real estate industry in 2020 to develop world-class properties across the globe. Within a short span, he has created a special place for himself in the industry, and made his firm a trusted name in the real estate sector



**MOST INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG LEADERS**

AMEY POROBO DHARWADKER

A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

Mr. Amey Porobo Dharwadker is an accomplished Machine Learning Technical Lead at Meta in California, USA. A key member of the Video Recommendations Core Ranking team, he is responsible for developing and implementing personalization models that are used by billions of users

AmeY has established himself as a prominent figure in the Machine Learning industry, owing to his exceptional academic credentials. After his Bachelor's Degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli (India), he pursued a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering at Columbia University, New York.

He began his career in 2011 at Analog Devices in Bengaluru, India, where he honed his skills in developing computer vision-based Advanced Driver Assistance System algorithms for the automotive industry. In 2015, he joined Facebook's Menlo Park office, where he has since played a pivotal role in advancing the company's key initiatives. His exceptional technical skills and leadership abilities have been instrumental in driving the overall growth and development of the company.

A VERSATILE LEADER

Amey is a highly respected and valued member of the Meta team. He is an excellent mentor to several Machine Learning engineers and data scientists. He works closely with his team to provide guidance and support in setting the vision, strategy, and direction for executing large cross-functional projects aimed at improving the accuracy and effectiveness of video recommendations. Not only does he lead the Video Recommendations Core Ranking team at Meta (Facebook) but he is also a sought-after expert in the fields of recommender systems and deep learning. He has been invited to serve on the program committee for some of the most prestigious international conferences and journals in respective areas.

But that's not all! Amey has also lent his expertise to various renowned technology competitions and hackathons as a judge. He has even taken on the role of mentor to early-stage companies in the artificial intelligence and machine learning space, playing a key role in their success. With his diverse skill set and impressive track record, Amey is truly a force to be reckoned with in the tech world.

EMPHASISES TEAMWORK

With Amey at the helm, the team is fueled by a spirit of collaboration and teamwork. The young leader champions the importance of open communication and fosters an inclusive and supportive work environment that prioritises growth and development over short-term gains. Because of Amey's visionary leadership, his team is more energised and their collective efforts yield remarkable results. The positive user experiences they are creating are a testament to the power of a culture that values teamwork, collaboration, and

**"AMEY IS A CELEBRATED THOUGHT LEADER IN
LARGE SCALE RECOMMENDER SYSTEMS AND
DEEP LEARNING"**



ongoing learning. This culture is built on the constructive feedback of clients and setting achievable milestones. Furthermore, the leader ensures that his team members remain focused on achieving their goals without compromising their personal and professional development. This approach not only helps boost team morale and job satisfaction, but also drives positive outcomes and impacts for the organisation.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

The profound impact that Amey has made in the areas of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence is nothing short of exceptional. His impressive professional achievements and contributions to the industry have not gone unnoticed. In recognition of his outstanding work, he has been honoured with the prestigious Business Mint Award for "Most Prominent Industry Expert of the Year - 2023" in the Machine Learning Category.



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

The value of experience reveals itself when a leader is faced with tough decisions. It becomes even more challenging when finances are involved. For Mr. Anish Maheshwari, such choices are no longer demanding. Instead, he uses his years of experience to create exciting plans and strategic initiatives to accelerate the growth of his firm. A tactical financial leader, he worked in the industry for more than two decades, and now the ease with which he handles complex relationships speaks for the expertise he had gained in these years.

Mr. Maheshwari's mastery over finance has earned him the position of Chief Financial Officer at a firm he joined in 2008. He is now known for his exceptional knowledge in finance verticals, accounts, governance, business planning, tax management, fundraising, and investor relations. He currently plays a vital role in all the key strategic initiatives, projects, and built capabilities of the company.

Under Mr. Maheshwari's leadership, the company delivered its IPO. The experience is one of the highest points of his career. He still recalls how challenging the task felt, but he knew nothing could shake his belief in what he was doing. He finally delivered Rs. 650-crore worth of IPO and FPO, and helped the organisation close worth Rs. 2,500 crore of debt through various mediums. Not only this, he spearheaded the deal of Vapi CFS of Navkar Group with Adani Ports. The deal was so huge that it made the Group debt free.

THE BACKSTORY

To be where he is today, Mr. Maheshwari worked exceptionally hard. He first attained the education qualifications. He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the International Business Management Institute, Germany. He also did his Diploma in International Financial Reporting Standards from the same institution. He then completed his Diploma in Infrastructure and Project Finance from the International Academy for Certification and Training.

As for his career journey, he first came to Mumbai in 1999 to work as an executive at a textile firm. After working for seven years in the same industry, he decided to start something of his own. Within two years, he understood that to achieve success, he needed the magic of knowledge and experience. So, Mr. Maheshwari restarted his career as an executive. This time, he applied the knowledge and experience, along with his skills and proficiency, to yield excellent results. As a result, today he is living the dream he aspires for. As the CFO of Navkar Group, he is leading a team of over 100 people, each of whom looks up to him as a kind and enthusiastic leader.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

For his contribution to the industry and outstanding progress, Mr. Maheshwari has been recognised by several organisations

***"MR. MAHESHWARI SPEARHEADED THE DEAL OF
VAPI CFS OF NAVKAR GROUP WITH ADANI PORTS
– A DEAL THAT MADE THE GROUP DEBT FREE"***

through awards and accolades. In 2020, he was named "CFO of The Year" by World Leadership. He was ranked among NationWide Awards 40 Under 40 – Top Influential Corporate Leaders, and Business Achievers Icon 2020. He was also honoured with the Rashtriya Vikas Ratan Award by the National Achievers Recognition Forum (NARF – Government of India) in 2021. He also received the Corporate Leadership Award from the National Achievers Recognition Forum the same year.

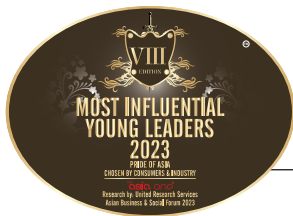
In addition to awards, Mr. Maheshwari has been featured in national and international magazines due to his inspiring success story.



ANISH MAHESHWARI

ACHIEVING DREAMS WITH PASSION AND DETERMINATION

Success tastes sweeter when someone achieves it when it is the result of hard work and perseverance in the face of adversity. It is a reality for Mr. Anish Sevaram Maheshwari, CFO, Navkar Corporation Limited, who has beaten several odds to lead one of the most esteemed firms in the logistics sector



**MOST INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG LEADERS**

ANKIT GOEL

BUILDING A GROWTH CULTURE

Mr. Ankit Goel, the Founder and Chairman of Space World Group, is a visionary who has brought better network connectivity to millions of people in India. Ankit's ability to lead with a compassionate heart, and to guide his team towards achieving their full potential, is truly commendable

With a B.Tech degree in Electrical Engineering, Ankit is an accomplished and well-versed leader. As the founder of Space World Group, he embodies a relentless drive to propel his organisation towards continual progress and advancement. It is his vision, focus on research and development, and indefatigable energy that his ventures have established themselves as go-to brands for industry needs for the present and the future. For him, his career's pinnacle is not merely attaining personal success, but leveraging his team's collective dedication and expertise to create something superior and meaningful and achieve success on a daily basis. His resolute commitment to excellence and ability to inspire and motivate his team towards accomplishing greatness are truly remarkable.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The visionary entrepreneur began his journey towards success by establishing a small manufacturing unit that has since blossomed into the thriving conglomerate, Space World Group.

Today, it stands as a proud, integrated player in the fields of Optical Fibre, Chemical Manufacturing, and various other manufacturing businesses, boasting an impressive AUM (Assets Under Management) of approximately \$250 million. Under Ankit's exceptional leadership, the companies hold a commanding presence in the industry due to their unwavering commitment towards excellence. His companies continue to drive the Group towards growth and success by evaluating potential opportunities in emerging sectors that align with its overarching business model.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Ankit attributes his father as his greatest source of inspiration. He gained a comprehensive understanding of the fundamental principles of business from his father. He credits his father's blessings and support to have helped him become a successful entrepreneur.

Over the years, his unwavering commitment to excellence have earned him a plethora of prestigious awards and accolades, including the award of "Entrepreneur of the Year" for four consecutive years, from 2020 to 2023, from *The Economic Times*. The esteemed business daily has also felicitated the young leader with the titles of "Promising Entrepreneur of India" and "Asia's Promising Business Leader." Additionally, Ankit has been honoured by Zee Business with "Transformative Trailblazing Leader" award and by *Marksmen Daily* with "Influential Leaders of India" Award.

***"DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ANKIT LED A
NUMBER OF IMPACTFUL INITIATIVES TO AID THE
PEOPLE IN NEED"***



FIGHTING THE PANDEMIC DOWN TO THE LAST MILE

Ankit's ethos emphasises the importance of contributing to the betterment of society. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, he spearheaded a number of impactful initiatives to aid those in need.

For a few struggling financially, the compassionate leader allocated funds through direct payments, grants, and loans. He prioritised the well-being of healthcare workers and first responders fighting the deadly virus by supplying them with crucial equipment and personal protective gear. Ankit's philanthropic endeavours also included the donation of essential resources, such as food and medical supplies, to support COVID-19 relief efforts. In addition, he emphasised the importance of public health guidelines and actively encouraged employees and customers alike to adhere to measures such as mask-wearing and social distancing.



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

Armed with an unparalleled passion for design, Arjun has always been at the forefront of the industry's ever-changing landscape. His keen eye for detail, coupled with his unwavering commitment to innovation, has made Kanz Jewels one of the most sought-after names in the world of jewellery.

Kanz Jewels was launched almost four decades ago by Arjun's father, Mr. Anil Dhanak. Its unmatched reputation is reflected in the seven stores it has in Dubai's prestigious Gold Souk, in addition to its presence in Meena Bazaar and Gold and Diamond Park. In 2013, the torch was passed on to the dynamic and enterprising Arjun, who infused the brand with a renewed sense of vitality after completing his studies in London. With his unwavering commitment to excellence and a passion for innovation, he has propelled Kanz Jewels to greater heights.

A FOCUSED LEADER

Under Arjun's leadership, the brand has transformed with the addition of two new stores, the refurbishment of existing ones, and the establishment of a fully-fledged production unit. Its design philosophy has also seen an overhaul, incorporating a fresh perspective that resonates with today's discerning clientele.

Arjun's keen sense of market trends has enabled Kanz Jewels to stay ahead of the curve, carving out a unique identity in the crowded jewellery space. He has now set his sights on taking the brand to new heights by leveraging cutting-edge digital tools to reach a wider audience, expand its reach, and connect with customers in innovative ways. Furthermore, he works tirelessly to introduce new lines of jewellery with bold designs that resonate with younger audiences. The ever-changing landscape of the industry keeps him on his toes, constantly pushing him to innovate and create new experiences for his customers. For Arjun, the pursuit of excellence is a never-ending journey, and he is more than willing to take on the challenge with passion and enthusiasm. He regularly engages with his staff to gain insight into customer needs and expectations. The team strives to serve their customers better and provide them with unforgettable experiences.

HIS INSPIRATION

Arjun looks up to his father, Mr. Anil Dhanak, as an awe-inspiring figure and guiding force in his life. His father's entrepreneurial spirit and unwavering determination to establish the business during Dubai's nascent phase have left an indelible imprint on his mind. Despite facing many challenges and experiencing highs and lows, his father's optimism and tenacity never faltered.

When Arjun encounters moments of self-doubt, he summons the spirit of his father. He wonders how his father would navigate through the situation and draws inspiration from his perseverance.

ARJUN DHANAK

ADVANCING A MULTIGENERATIONAL LEGACY

Mr. Arjun Dhanak, Director at Dubai-based multi-million dollar jewellery line Kanz Jewels, is a creative force to be reckoned with. With a finger on the pulse of the latest design trends, he is always on the lookout for new and exciting ways to elevate the art of jewellery making

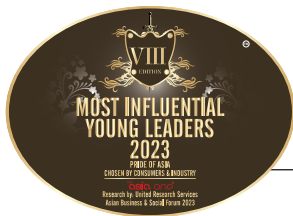
***"ARJUN MEDITATES TO DECLUTTER HIS
MIND AND CHANNEL HIS FOCUS AND
ENERGY TOWARDS HIS GOALS"***

A BELIEVER OF WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Arjun believes in maintaining a healthy balance between his personal and professional life. He relies on the therapeutic benefits of music to soothe his nerves and provide a much-needed respite from work. Likewise, he finds solace in meditation, which helps him to declutter his mind and channel his focus and energy towards his personal and work-related goals.

The young leader compensates for any missed family time by carving out time for reconnecting with loved ones and friends after the busy season has concluded. This may involve travel or other activities that allow him to decompress and recharge his batteries.





**MOST INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG LEADERS**

CA RAHUL MALODIA

THE BUSINESS CATALYST

As a business mentor and coach, CA Rahul Malodia's goal has always been to elevate an average vyapari (a regular Indian businessperson) to the position of a CEO. With this vision, he founded the Malodia Business Coaching Private Limited to address the key issues faced by the community

The alumnus of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Rahul Malodia founded Malodia Business Coaching in 2020, with courses offering specialisation in business automation, business consulting, business freedom advocacy, business management, employee management, finance mastery, sales mastery, and mindset management. The coaching that helps business owners achieve their goals has reached over 1,00,000 entrepreneurs nationwide, sparking a revolution in India. The training not only helps companies succeed in the face of intense competition, but also aims at closing the skills gap between them and employees by working on talent and skills.

THE WILL TO WIN

When Rahul began his career, he travelled without money from Jaipur to Mumbai for an internship. He worked for 12 to 15 hours and ate one meal daily to save money. He seized every chance to achieve his objectives while working with prestigious businesses like Raymond and Voltas to gain experience. Today, Rahul's content is read by entrepreneurs, investors, students, and others. He strives to provide accurate and reliable information to his audience and viewers by fact-checking and polishing his content. He has participated in over 200 business talks with a live audience and 1,000+ webinars. Rahul, a social media star has over 45 lakh social media followers and 500+ YouTube videos with views between 300 and 400 million. He also has 2.8 million Facebook followers, and has a presence on Instagram and LinkedIn. His YouTube channel has 1 million subscribers who puts their trust and faith in his guidance.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS

Rahul believes that the success of a company's leadership initiatives and commercial innovations determines how long it may survive and thrive. One of his projects is Vyapari to CEO, a course that focuses on tackling challenges of a normal Vyapari. Through his YouTube channel, he upskills students, businesses, investors, and others by providing business-related content. He has taught business digitalization to over 1,00,000 business people and transformed their firms and continued the flow of knowledge even during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also runs Advanced and BOOTCAMP courses to guide businesspersons take their businesses to newer heights.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Rahul's work has helped him gain numerous honors. The Economic Times named Rahul a Global Indian Leader 2022. He received the

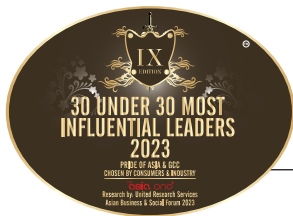
**"IN NOVEMBER 2022, RAHUL RECEIVED A
SECOND YOUTUBE SILVER BUTTON FOR HIS
YOUTUBE SHORTS CHANNEL"**



Southeast Asia Business Icon Award from *Dainik Bhaskar* in Dubai and earned the Excellence Services in Business Coaching Award at Shubh Business Icon 2022. He received the YouTube Silver Button in August 2022, and in November 2022, received a second YouTube Silver Button for his YouTube Shorts. His office space has now welcomed a YouTube Golden Button in May 2023.

ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES

Rahul is not just a business catalyst, but a human with a big heart and high vision. He runs Malodia Foundation for charitable work and focuses on social benefits. He also participated in a panel discussion sharing a stage with Mr. Shailesh Lodha about business mindset hosted by ZEE Rajasthan, and shared his learning and viewpoint at Josh Talk. Rahul lives up to his name and not just rules the business world, but also conquers the hearts of numerous people.



30 UNDER 30 MOST INFLUENTIAL LEADERS

Dr. Lizy Kalaga wears multiple hats, excelling as a certified therapist, accomplished author, distinguished and inspirational speaker, and Managing Director of Indian Aviation and Allied Management Studies (IIAAM). She brings the same level of enthusiasm and proficiency to each of her roles.

WRITING HER OWN STORY

Dr. Kalaga, who holds both an MBA and a degree in aerospace engineering, became disinterested in her corporate career at the young age of 29. She left her full-time job to focus on her passion – writing and being a thought leader.

She is a motivational speaker who believes in the effectiveness of smart work to attain success. She is also an adept communicator and lives by the maxim “Whenever you stumble, gather something!” With a remarkable history of delivering outcomes beyond expectations, and forging robust partnerships with clients and colleagues, she is a high achiever.

As an author, Dr. Kalaga has penned an exceptional motivational book titled *Hey, You!* that employs sharp wit, sarcasm, and humour to help readers contemplate the larger questions in life and promote their personal growth and well-being. The book stands out for its distinctive approach and has garnered widespread acclaim.

CREATING AN INCLUSIVE ECOSYSTEM

At IIAAM, Dr. Kalaga leads the development of training programs and curricula for institutions, universities, and colleges offering aviation courses. Under her leadership, IIAAM has been working on changing the face of the aviation industry by offering top-quality education and upskilling courses to students. She has been instrumental in setting up the IIAAM online school as well as the mobile app to make it accessible to more aspiring students.

In addition, Dr. Kalaga is actively involved in multiple capacities at various Bangalore institutes such as Presidency University, Teachers’ Academy Group of Institutions, Institute of International Media Studies, and Jagatsatyasai Educational Research Foundation, among others.

Beyond being an educator, she is devoted to creating a sustainable ecosystem that facilitates seamless interaction among all stakeholders in the aviation industry. Her vision is to establish a platform where industry players can collaborate, learn from each other, and drive collective growth. For instance, she co-founded the Indian Aviation Mobile App, a comprehensive platform that fosters connectivity among various members of the aviation community, such as airlines, airports, employees, and students. Additionally, she established the Indian Aviation Job Portal to identify gaps and opportunities in the aviation job market and facilitate connections between employers and job seekers.

“DR. LIZY KALAGA’S BOOK, ‘HEY, YOU!’ HELPS READERS PROMOTE THEIR PERSONAL GROWTH AND WELL-BEING”

GOING BEYOND

Dr. Kalaga has also done an extensive research paper, *Aviation Psychology and Its Impact on Human Factors for Substantial Reduction of Human Error through Crew Resource Management*, which focuses on the application of aviation psychology to enhance human factors and minimise the occurrence of human error through the implementation of crew resource management. She engages with key industry stakeholders to identify areas for improvement and ensure that the institute stays relevant and up-to-date with the latest industry trends.



DR. LIZY KALAGA

POWERING PROGRESS

With a decade of experience in educational leadership, entrepreneurship, and counselling, Dr. Lizy Kalaga is a highly accomplished professional. This author, educator, entrepreneur and innovator has set new benchmarks in the aviation management industry and beyond



**MOST INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG LEADERS**

GAGAN ARORA

ADHERING TO INNOVATION, INTELLIGENCE, AND DILIGENCE

As the legend goes, some leaders make a significant difference with their innovative ideas, execution strategies, and grit. Gagan Arora, a visionary leader, is one among them. With his decision to innovate, he ventured into the world of business technology, inspiring many budding entrepreneurs

Gagan believes in following his passion and working towards it. His interest in technology motivated him to be innovative and share his ideas with the world. In addition, his business acumen and intelligence have helped him to cut right to the core of the business. His affinity for technological advancements gave birth to Vertex (Group) Global Services, and in less than a decade, the firm has branched out into diverse portfolios and verticals.

Gagan's diverse knowledge of technological advancements made him top the charts and lead the trend. With his intelligence and business acumen, he steered his way to become a first-generation tech entrepreneur. As a result, he is quite sought-after in his field. A technological evangelist, a tenacious leader, and a visionary, Gagan has encouraged and enabled new entrepreneurs and businesses through technology adoption.

He is also the Chairman of the Foreign Investors Council, Director of the Global Education Committee Asian Arab Chamber of Commerce, The Trade Commissioner of The Indian African Trade Council, Senator for India at the World Business Angels Investment Forum, the Delegate for India at the Global Chamber of Business Leaders and a Board Member for Executive Council – Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce.

THE ANCHOR TO BUSINESSES

Gagan gave wings to his ideas, bid farewell to his high-paying job, and started the company in the garage of his house in Miami, Florida. With his determination, aptitude, and vivid knowledge of technological advancements, he made his dream come true. Under his leadership, the ship of Vertex (Group) Global Services has sailed towards the horizon. Their top-notch services to customers have made the organisation an unparalleled leader in the industry. The company firmly believes in increasing financial inclusion by enhancing digital inclusion. It shares ideas for making finance accessible for entrepreneurs with a vision, and stands for gender equality in business.

Started in a garage in Miami in 2016, Vertex Global Services has had its share of tough days, but the zeal to make a difference turned the tables to the ups and highs. With the addition of proficient professionals, the firm has grown from a couple of employees to a thousand globally. It has ventured into many verticals such as Research, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Events & Exhibitions, Managed Services, Consulting, HRO, 24x7 One-Stop Help Desk, and Virtual Reality.

Expanding its horizon, it now also operates in the domain of

***"GAGAN TREATS AN EMPLOYEE LIKE AN
AMBASSADOR, AND EVERY EMPLOYEE HOLDS A
SPECIAL PLACE IN THE COMPANY"***



business process outsourcing (BPO) and e-learning with the launch of Vertex Digital Academy (Now known as Vertex Learning). With the expansion, the company's market share has increased by 20%. Under Gagan's leadership, Vertex Global Services has won numerous customers, and its professional bonds have strengthened in less than a decade. An employee is like an ambassador, and every employee holds a special place in the organisation. The young leader works relentlessly for the growth of the company. Gagan's vision is unmatched and he aims to make Vertex Global Services the leading, result-oriented multinational establishment. There are numerous awards and recognitions that the founder can take credit for. The vision of the exemplary leader has helped him win the 'Best CEO Award' seven times in a row. Under his direction, the organisation was awarded as Best Place to work by BPTW institute and received recognition for the 'Most Innovative Tech Company' in India and 19th across the Globe.



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

Mr. Serai completed his BA (Hons) Education and Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and General Administration from the University of Lancaster, UK, in 1990. He has high aspirations for the students and the Satluj Group of Schools' staff. He strongly advocates the 'growth mindset' philosophy and believes that a person's intelligence depends not just on their DNA and luck. Mr. Serai arrived in India in March 2016, wondering whether he would be accepted as an educationist in India. Instead, he got the opportunity to be a part of the senior leadership team of Satluj Group and held the position of Co-Chairman with the right mentorship. A man of rich experience, he had led schools in the UK, turning many of them from the state of failure to success.

AN EXCELLENT LEADER AND MOTIVATOR

With the right mentorship by his brother Mr Krit Serai, who is also the Co-Chair of the Satluj Group and built upon the legacy set up by the former Co-Founder Mr P S Serai, Mr. Serai's leadership style is effortless yet effective. He believes in getting the best out of people and encourages continuous improvement in skill sets, growth mindset, delegation, and accountability. He believes that it is only and only hard work that can take you to newer heights. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the educationist ensured that the entire staff of Satluj Group of Schools was well-equipped and well-trained digitally so that the students got the best in teaching and learning. As a result, Satluj Group of Schools has become a model school in imparting knowledge through online classes and using the digital platform to organise various social events. The most prominent examples are the talent contests for different age groups and the 'Satluj Career Fest,' which linked Satluj's students with over 144 universities in India and abroad. Around the same time, Mr. Serai has also successfully grown the Group's franchise schools under Little Satluj and Satluj World School.

A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE

For Mr. Serai, corporate social responsibility is of utmost importance as he strongly supports the idea of 'giving back to society.' Satluj Group has always been at the forefront of conducting social initiatives by organising many activities at the district, state, and national levels. Under its socially responsible senior leadership, Satluj Group's work has been recognised and appreciated by several educational bodies such as World Education Summit, India Today, Franchise India Award, Great Place to Study, Top Gallant Media Awards, and The Tribune.

PLANS FOR THE GROUP'S GROWTH

Mr. Serai, his brother Mr. Krit Serai, and other members of the senior leadership team have extensive plans for the future short-term and long-term growth of the Satluj Group. He wishes the group

"MR. SERAI HAS SUCCESSFULLY GROWN THE GROUP'S FRANCHISE SCHOOLS UNDER LITTLE SATLUJ AND SATLUJ WORLD SCHOOL"

to be considered as North India's education powerhouse, imparting world-class education to young minds to transform into innovative visionaries. Satluj Group of Schools is already playing a leading role in imparting high-quality education in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab. He also aims to expand it in other parts of India and abroad in the coming years.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

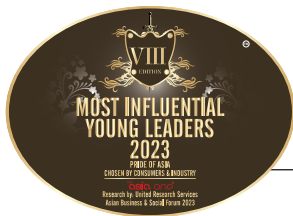
Under the able guidance and leadership of Mr. Serai, the Satluj Group has been ranked among the top 300 schools in the world. It has also been recognised as a 'Great Place to Study' by the House of Commons of the UK Parliament.



GUR K SERAI

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Gur K Serai is the Co-Chairman of Satluj Group of Schools, one of the largest chains of schools in Northern India. The impeccable educationist has around 29 years of experience in leading and managing schools in the UK, where he transformed many failing schools into success stories



40 UNDER 40
INFLUENTIAL LEADERS

MANISH RATHI

SETTING NEW BENCHMARKS

Mr. Manish Rathi, the astute CEO of Mangal Credit and Fincorp Limited (MCFL), has left an indelible mark in the ever-evolving BFSI sector. His profound knowledge, exceptional leadership skills, and unbridled passion have been instrumental in steering MCFL towards greater heights

A Chartered Accountant and a driven CFA Level 3 candidate, Manish is a dynamic leader who thrives on growth and innovation. Under his astute guidance, the company has broken its own records, achieving the highest ever top line and PAT with an impressive growth rate. Furthermore, because of his unwavering commitment, the company's balance sheet has grown by a staggering 50% in just one year, a feat that few thought possible. Also, under his stewardship, MCFL has become a preferred employer in the highly competitive BFSI sector, setting the standard for excellence in human resource management.

Manish has revolutionised the way gold loans are availed. By leveraging its cutting-edge mobile application, MCFL has introduced a hassle-free door-to-door service, bringing convenience to customers. This state-of-the-art process is fully digitised and automated, ensuring accuracy and reliability every step of the way. Customers can even keep tabs on the movement of their precious gold, as it is expertly handled by the company's trusted employees. With this innovative approach, the company has set a new benchmark in the gold loan industry.

A DETERMINED INDIVIDUAL

Despite coming from a small town with limited English language and computer skills, Manish has excelled with his determination, perseverance, ethical conduct, and a hunger to learn and grow. The positive attitude to succeed enabled him to secure his first corporate job soon after completing his CA degree, in his very first interview, in Mumbai. One of the notable highlights of his career was his successful corporate tie-up with Multi Commodity Exchange of India – the second largest commodity exchange in India and the largest in terms of bullion exchange – at the young age of 25. Additionally, his illustrious career saw him rise to the position of CEO of a listed NBFC, at the age of 38.

UNIQUE LEADERSHIP STYLE

As an effective leader, Manish recognises the importance of adapting his leadership style to suit different situations. In general, he places great emphasis on empathy, delegation, employee insights, coaching and training, and empowerment. His overarching goal is to develop the next generation of leaders and foster a culture of trust, empathy, and an ownership mindset within the company. He firmly believes in the “do more, earn more” concept, and instils a strong work ethic in his team members. These values and approaches enable him to lead his team with effectiveness and

**“MANISH DID A SUCCESSFUL CORPORATE TIE-UP
WITH MULTI COMMODITY EXCHANGE OF INDIA AT
THE YOUNG AGE OF 25”**



achieve sustained success.

EMPHASISES CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Manish's introduction of a state-of-the-art, customised CRM system has revolutionised the way the company interacts with its customers. This innovative technology has enabled MCFL to minimise customer queries and complaints, an impressive feat given that the company operates in the field of lending, where interactions with people are paramount. Due to his customer-centric approach, the company has achieved a remarkable 100% reduction in customer complaints over the past 12 months, with only one complaint raised to the regulator.

Under his leadership, MCFL has garnered prestigious accolades and industry recognition. It was recognised with the “Best Lending NBFC for SME of the Year” at the 4th Annual India NBFC Summit & Awards 2022, hosted by the SYNEX Group.



YOUTH ICON OF THE YEAR

Meghna MSC completed her Master's in Finance and Accounting from Bangalore University in 2012. She joined Goldman Sachs as a senior analyst and later joined Deutsche Bank. She worked at several organisations before joining HSO in 2021 and making her way up to the post of Head of Business Operations and Resource Management. The progress has been swift yet effective in the short months since she started working at HSO India and the Philippines. HSO is one of the powerful brands and highest-paying employers in India.

Due to her refined thinking and commitment to gender equality at the workplace, Meghna is frequently invited to discussions on leadership and women's participation in the workforce. The organisation's well-designed program enables workers to advance their skills and develop at their own speed. It offers training and certifications, pays attention to employees' aspirations, and offers professional advice.

A LEADER TO RECKON WITH

HSO has a solid reputation for being a reliable partner for corporate clients worldwide, helping them fully utilise Microsoft technology to improve their organisations. However, despite the strong global foothold, the pandemic brought significant volatility to start-ups in India and the Philippines. The organisation needed leaders who could comprehend the company's vision and contribute their unique skills and knowledge to achieve this goal.

Meghna provided the solution for critical choices that had a beneficial effect on the business and its operations. Especially in the current economy and demanding environment, she has taken on a significant and responsible role and changed it into exactly what the business and its people seek.

She leads by performing more and speaking less. She is a firm believer in continuing to educate oneself and has accumulated a wealth of experience during her career, which has prepared her to handle the demands of such a significant post with grace. She aims to create a culture built on mentorship for those who need it since she is aware of the responsibilities and sense of duty that come with her position. The visionary leader has developed virtual and real-life settings in recent months that reflect the company's fundamental principles and match the "new normal" working culture.

REWARDING WORK ENVIRONMENT

Meghna's emphasis was on establishing a pleasant and inclusive atmosphere for employee diversity and inclusion, encouraging people to express their opinions, and making them confident that if the business progressed, so would they. She places a high value on her early upbringing. She recalls that there was no distinction made between boys and girls.

MEGHNA MSC

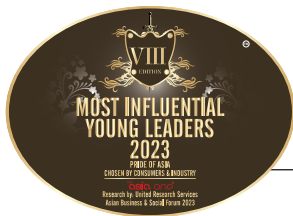
A LEADER WHO TRANSFORMS BUSINESSES

Meghna MSC, Head of Business Operations and Resource Management at HSO for India and the Philippines, is an associate with proven experience in the financial services sector. She is skilled in risk management, governmental oversight, commercial compliance, CRM, and surveillance

"MEGHNA HAS DEVELOPED VIRTUAL AND REAL-LIFE SETTINGS THAT REFLECT THE COMPANY'S FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES"

Today, the young, compassionate leader encourages women with varied work experience, including young mothers, to join her team. Meghna has been entrusted with implementing people-focused policies, such as proactive employee growth plans, including inclusive health insurance plans that cover not only the employees, but also their partners and families, sessions to motivate employees to improve their mental and physical health, as well as the development of support networks and a positive sense of community to establish a moral but compassionate work environment.





**MOST INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG LEADERS**

MEHDI CHERIF

REVOLUTIONISING MUSIC INDUSTRY WITH BLOCKCHAIN

Mr. Mehdi Cherif is the Founder and CEO of Pulse, a revolutionary social music discovery platform uniting and engaging users, artists, and brands. He is a Dubai-based entrepreneur and an early Metaverse champion who is passionate about technology, arts, and media

Mr. Mehdi has got amazing opportunities to work with some of the top brands in the creator and entertainment space. His first foray into the music industry was as a Senior Regional International Music Buyer for Virgin Megastore (MENA). Then, he tested his entrepreneurial skills with the launch of GrooveMaster (ME) in 2012, a music content management system, working alongside Under Armour, Air Jordan, Nike, and more. He has also been the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Tangou Digital, US (2017), Strategic Advisor and Partner at TBE Entertainment, UAE (2018), and Co-Founder of Studio Drops (2021). Mr. Mehdi has also been a consultant for key brands, including Samsung, beIN Media Group, and GT Bank. Thirty years of rich work experience in the creator and entertainment space has given him a solid foundation and vast knowledge of helping brands grow through integrated music services. He put all this knowledge into starting Pulse World, where he is the Founder and CEO (2019). Thanks to his work at Pulse, Mr. Mehdi is a vital part of the Metaverse and Blockchain Revolution in the Middle East. He has a successful record across music technologies, sound branding, content management, intellectual properties, and emerging and financial technology markets.

A TRUE CHAMPION

Mr. Mehdi's most important pillar of inspiration is his family that has been his biggest supporter and harshest critic. He believes in empowering the team to increase work efficiency by challenging them and letting them learn from their mistakes. A true team player, he loves helping others succeed, implements an open-door communication policy, and ensures positive behaviours and values within the business, and a constructive culture of inclusivity.

THE MASTERMIND BEHIND PULSE MUSIC

Through Pulse World, Mr. Mehdi has successfully tried to overcome most challenges by implementing self-sovereign identity for all actors within their platform, a four-layer SSI stack, with a governance layer to meet user data requirements, smart contracts to help simplify the IP/content licensing, and a new micropayment system (digital wallet) for creators (greater flexibility and faster payments). He strongly advocates using Blockchain and Metaverse to disrupt how brands can use music to engage with their followers more meaningfully by integrating the brands into the listeners' music discovery experience. For this, he invested three years in researching, reviewing, and fine-tuning Pulse World's concept before eventually launching it. Today, it is the world's first social-music entertainment application where

**"MR. MEHDI IS A VITAL PART
OF THE METAVERSE AND BLOCKCHAIN
REVOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST"**



artists can engage, thrive, and earn like never before. It also enables the users to immerse themselves in the Metaverse with complete access to an NFT marketplace and take advantage of its Subscription Model.

HIS PLANS

Mr. Mehdi plans to connect to more users locally while aiming to be a global brand. He has a keen eye on emerging markets/communities where the penetration rate for digital service providers is 'low' due to limited connectivity and non-affordability of subscriptions. He also plans to double Pulse's revenue and triple its profits in the next five years by launching high-quality products, establish Pulse World as the top player in the industry, and maximise the UAE's position as a new central hub for blockchain, decentralised technologies, and all Web3 businesses.



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

Mr. Saieed is a highly self-disciplined individual who obtained his degree in Computer Science from Swansea University. In his quest to become a well-rounded CEO, he fortified his knowledge base with an MBA, enhancing his skill set and expertise. A forward-thinking and visionary leader, his pursuit of continued education saw him obtain diplomas in Marketing from the esteemed American University in Cairo and Artificial Intelligence from the world-renowned Oxford University. With each day, he gains fresh insight not only on the business front, but also on a personal level.

A TECH INNOVATOR

Mr. Saieed's firm dedication to self-learning and exploration has led him down the path of entrepreneurship, where he finds joy in being his own boss and pursuing his dreams. As a tech innovator, he understands the challenges of educating his clients on the intricacies of the industry. For him, it's all about imparting knowledge and empowering those around him.

Under his stewardship, Potensia Systems has emerged as a leading global partner for innovative technological solutions. From data centres to security systems, Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation, the company offers a wide range of cutting-edge services tailored to meet the unique needs of each client.

With a focus on delivering exceptional results and exceeding expectations, Mr. Saieed and his team at Potensia Systems are blazing a trail in the tech industry. Their commitment to innovation and excellence has earned them a reputation as trusted partners and industry leaders.

A SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR

Mr. Saieed's entrepreneurial journey is a shining example of the resilience and determination required to achieve one's dreams. As a serial entrepreneur, he has co-founded multiple companies—each one a testament to his steady drive and entrepreneurial spirit.

Among his various ventures, Potensia Media stands out as a particularly significant achievement. This innovative start-up is dedicated to providing media solutions, a field that Mr. Saieed is particularly passionate about. Through Potensia Media, he has been able to bring his vision to life and make a real difference in people's lives.

Despite the challenges that come with juggling multiple businesses simultaneously, Mr. Saieed has proven to be a multitasker. He approaches each venture with the same level of dedication and enthusiasm. His entrepreneurial journey is a true inspiration to anyone who aspires to follow in his footsteps.

ADAPTABILITY, AGILITY AND ADVERSITY

For Mr. Saieed, a true gem of a leader, the well-being of his team is

***"FOR MOHAMED SAIEED, IT IS ALL ABOUT
IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE AND EMPOWERING
THOSE AROUND HIM"***

a priority. He treats his staff with the utmost care and respect. His team, in turn, regards him as a mentor. As the COVID-19 pandemic took the world by storm, his team rallied together with unyielding spirit, determined to deliver the best quality work in a safe and healthy manner. Even as the business landscape shifted, Mr. Saieed's astute leadership kept the team afloat, and they quickly adapted to new workflows and systems that kept them at the forefront of the industry. Under Mr. Saieed's visionary leadership, his team of empathetic and driven individuals has truly raised the bar for what it takes to be a team that can rise to the challenge in the face of adversity.



MOHAMED SAIEED

PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE

Dynamic and driven, Mr. Mohamed Saieed is the visionary CEO of Potensia Systems, a cutting-edge system integrator with headquarters based in the UAE. His commitment to excellence and his unwavering dedication to his profession make him a true industry leader



YOUTH ICON
OF THE YEAR

NIKHILA VELUVOLU

DETERMINED TO RISE AND SHINE

A post-graduate in Computer Science from the Western Illinois University, USA, Ms. Nikhila Veluvolu joined her family business, Nikhila Constructions and Developers in 2021. She aims to provide sustainable homes built in line with global standards and using newer technologies and design solutions

The daughter of business tycoon, Mr. Srinivasa Rao Veluvolu, Ms. Nikhila Veluvolu has brought a lot of process to the company. While pursuing her Masters in the USA, she decided to take her family business forward. When she saw the immense trust and regard that Nikhila Constructions and Developers (NCD) enjoyed among home buyers, she decided to widen the customer base and profile. So, a year after her Masters in the US, she took the brand to overseas customers to make it a preferred choice among the Indian diaspora. She achieved success in her endeavour with the U.S contributing 20% of the sales of the firm.

It was in 2022 when Ms. Veluvolu realised the enormous potential for growth in the Housing Market in India, and decided to come back to India to take her company to greater heights. Today, she drives operations at the company and oversees the HR vertical. The firm has been growing at a good pace over the past 3 years and from the day she took over these functions. She has carved a niche for herself with her innovative ideas and focus, to deliver nothing short of excellence in every project.

A NEW APPROACH TO BUSINESS

Being passionate about technology, Ms. Veluvolu firmly believes that in today's time, technology is of utmost importance for any business to succeed and grow. Hence, Nikhila Constructions and Developers drive towards embracing advanced technology to make home units the most living-friendly. She aims to provide the New Indian Quality Homes with a good mix of both amenities and affordability at prime locations.

Ms. Veluvolu launched a new business vertical towards providing Home Interiors solutions to the Home Buyers, both in NCDs as well as in external projects during mid-2022. This vertical has executed over 25 projects since its inception. She gives due importance to the people she works with, ensures business transparency, and keeps hiring good talent as people are there a backbone of a successful business. Her current focus is to build 5,000 houses over the next decade and make the organization the first choice of the home buyers in Hyderabad.

LUXURY LIVING SPACES

Ms. Veluvolu takes pride in her team that fulfills the statutory and regulatory guidelines prescribed by the authorities, including HMDA, RERA, Environment Ministry, Fire Authority, and Airport Authority. Professionals at NCD have been drawn from Top Corporates across Business domains. In addition, Team members

***"MS. VELUVOLU LAUNCHED THE INTERIOR
DESIGNING WING OF NIKHILA CONSTRUCTIONS
AND DEVELOPERS IN MID-2022"***



go through a continuous process of Training towards developing gated residential communities that offer the right balance between affordability and luxury. She is committed to high integrity, transparency, and quality, making her firm a reliable name in the market.

Ms. Veluvolu truly understands buyers' feelings, and is dedicated to providing them with a comfortable living space within the timeframe promised. She dreams of being among the best realtors in the construction industry and wishes to deliver landmark projects that cater to the unique needs of all type of Home Buyers. She believes that for any firm to excel, it is imperative to have a lasting relationship with the clients, and to meet their needs, she is guiding and working with a large workforce. Ms. Veluvolu believes in being one step ahead of her Customer's expectations. She has set many benchmarks in providing good quality housing to her Clients making her a happy and contended Business Leader.



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

He works as a guiding force behind his employees and constantly inspires them to grow and bring forward something innovative in the interior goods industry. Being the director of the company, Mr. Parth Parmar makes sure that all the products manufactured by his firm resonate with luxury and are reasonably priced for its customers. His out-of-the-box ideas have made him a celebrated name in the market.

Mr. Parmar ensures that his clients get products that match international standards. In the last two years, his company participated in several exhibitions and promotional events. With his intense knowledge and work ethics, the company received a few accolades from Acetech-Mumbai, IIID Lucknow, Infrastructure Development Architecture Construction (IDAC) and Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

PARÉ Innovations Private Limited manufactures one-of-its-kind products in the Indian decor space. Mr. Parmar started the company keeping in mind three major principles: innovation, speed, and growth of stakeholders. A people's person, he considers employees, distribution partners, customers, suppliers, government, and society as the stakeholders of his company. He acknowledges that each one of them is responsible for the company's growth and success. Hence, it is the responsibility of the firm to strive hard for their benefits. This outlook shows that he is a blend of passion, professionalism, and with an intention to create value for stakeholders.

ALL THINGS AVANT-GARDE

Mr. Parth Parmar is committed to bring innovation in interior goods category by manufacturing world-class products for Indian and global customers, thereby establishing PARÉ as market leader in India with an eye on global market.

Everything that is manufactured at PARÉ Innovations Private Limited is world-class quality and sustainability. He guarantees it to be a winning product, which can be used in both residential and commercial properties. PARÉ Soffit - Ceiling & Wall System is a revolutionary product that makes spaces luxurious, spacious, affordable, and with a long life. Under Mr. Parmar's leadership, PARÉ Innovations has launched three groundbreaking product categories, with one being a world's first and the other two being India's first. All of these products are manufactured at the organisation's cutting-edge manufacturing facility located in Gujarat. Some of these products have been conceptualised, designed, developed, and manufactured for the first time ever by the company, solidifying their position as original and genuine innovators.

HIS LIFELONG MENTOR

An ardent follower of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji, Mr. Parmar

***"UNDER MR. PARMAR'S LEADERSHIP,
PARÉ INNOVATIONS HAS LAUNCHED THREE
GROUNDBREAKING PRODUCTS"***

takes him to be his inspiration in life. "Purity in heart, clarity in mind and sincerity in action" is his mantra for life and success. The lessons imparted by the spiritual guru have been instrumental in making him a successful person. He strongly believes that Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji is the sole reason for his happiness and success, and after knowing him, he began manifesting his dreams and witnessing immense growth in his personal and professional life.

Mr. Parmar believes in running his firm on Indian ethos. He is convinced that the true growth of an individual or a company is only possible when they share the responsibility of making society grow. Thus, he gives back to society as a responsible corporate citizen.



PARTH PARMAR

AN EXEMPLARY LEADER PAVING WAY TO SUCCESS

Mr. Parth Parmar, Director, PARÉ Innovations Private Limited, is a die-hard fan of innovation and committed to bringing world-class building materials to Indian consumers. In two years of launching the company, he has become a top-notch player in the interior goods market



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADER

There are plenty of inspiring stories in the business world, but not all of them star an ordinary man who became a national name due to his hard work and sharp business acumen. Opesh Singh's journey is among those rare tales of success. He started his business career at the age of 21. Within a few years, his empire grew exponentially. Today, he is a proud founder of Opesh Group, which operates in India, Africa, Canada, and many more.

THE LEAP OF SUCCESS

Hailing from Jaipur, Opesh Singh is now a renowned figure in the business world in India and abroad. But all this was not there 15 years ago. Then, he was just a young graduate who wanted to make it big in life. Thus, after completing his Bachelor's in Computer Science, he decided to start his firm.

In 2005, he laid down the foundation of the Opesh Group. The venture was initially involved in the drilling and mining sectors. As the years passed, he tapped the global markets to expand his business. His hard work and never-give-up attitude helped him penetrate the African markets relatively quickly. He also partnered with Premium Consulting in Greece to build a strong foundation across international markets.

After 15 years, he runs his business in different countries with various ventures like Opesh International Private Limited, Opesh Consultancy Private Limited, Opesh Store Private Limited, Opesh Singh Foundation, Goldessa, Vyoma International Ltd., and Megha Nath Gold Field. The firms are involved in several businesses, such as mining, construction, consultations, export-import, and manufacturing. His company was also accredited for helping many start-ups and enterprises go 'local to global.' As of 2022, the Group has offices in 15 countries. In the upcoming years, the entrepreneur plans to expand his base to over 100 countries.

COACHING MILLIONS

Being a businessman is just one part of Opesh Singh's success. He is also known for his exceptional mentorship and consultation, which have helped him become a brand himself. Talking about this initiative, he expressed that he faced many hurdles when planning to expand his business internationally. That prompted him to offer guidance and mentorship to other companies and entrepreneurs who faced a similar issue.

Opesh Singh has curated numerous training and mentorship programs for business enthusiasts to guide them about market research, business strategy, business planning, overseas expansion, and so on. During the pandemic, he helped more than 50 companies in expanding their business overseas.

Looking at the rise of digital platforms, he started his YouTube channel to reach as many people as possible. He teaches entrepreneurs and business enthusiasts on creating export and manufacturing business and taking these to the global level. He also shares the secrets of his success with them.

CLIENTELE SPEAKS

Today, Opesh Singh's massive client list speaks the story of his success. Some of his best clients and associates are, A.V. Overseas, Abhiraj International SARL, Focus Mining Pvt. Ltd., Maalo International Ltd., Sonymon International SARL, Blackstone

Transcontinental SARL, Pankaj Ivory SARL, The Avenues, Bikaji, Globenex International SARL, Infrica BIZ, and many others. He has started multiple ventures to meet the needs of his clients, like Opesh Store to import and export products and merchandise through his Global Infrastructure and Team.

FOLLOWING A SIMPLE SECRET

The secret of Opesh Singh's growth is not unique. He follows the tried-and-tested methods, and that has worked incredibly for him. The only thing that has made a difference is his perseverance and hard work. The mentor believes that success can be achieved by simply sticking to the schedule and being religious about the roles and responsibilities. He also encourages entrepreneurs to stay up-to-date with the technology and branding techniques of the market. A positive mindset and broad perspective are two key characteristics that have made him one of India's top business people.

With such strong traits, he is leading a team of experts at Opesh Group while constantly juggling with his academy. But since he is a jack of all trades, Opesh wins in every field he steps in. The solutions that he offers are realistic and quantifiable. For this, he connects with the clients in daily sessions and provides tailor-made solutions based on their needs and business portfolio.

THE AUTHOR INSIDE

The entrepreneurial journey of Opesh Singh has been fascinating. And so has his journey as an author. Since he knows that everyone cannot afford personal coaching and guidance, he took the time to publish several books that turned out to be best-selling titles in no time. These books include *Setting up Business in Africa*, *Win Sales Game*, *Do Export & Become Rich*, *Let's Become A Ruling CEO*, and others. This young entrepreneur guides Indians to establish their businesses abroad through these books. His books have made complicated business topics easy to understand and taught how to apply them in the current economic environment.

He has also authored around ten business programs, specially curated for business people who wish to take their projects to international markets.

THE HUMANE FOUNDATION

Opesh Singh is one of those businesspeople who do not just aim at making profits. He also believes in giving back to society. Over the years, he has contributed selflessly to various social service activities. While working in African countries, he saw the dismal condition of children in terms of nutrition and education. He was deeply affected by the fact that many of these kids did not get proper food, clean water, and education. Thus, in 2021, he founded Opesh Singh Foundation with his business partner Megha Nath.

This initiative aims to help children in Africa get access to the best possible education for a better future. The foundation seeks to achieve this goal by collaborating with established partners to start educational programs in the country.

Recently, Opesh Singh launched foundation activities in Rwanda with the support of the non-profit organisation, Children's of Rwanda. Through this program, he is working towards financial literacy, education, entrepreneurial development, and mentorship programs for the youth.

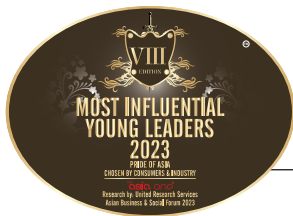
OPESH SINGH

MENTORING SUCCESS SAGAS

Young, pragmatic, and charming—Opesh Singh is that multifaceted businessman who has not only taken his career to great heights, but also guided hundreds of start-ups, budding entrepreneurs, and small and big companies. Today, this enthusiastic business owner is reaching significant milestones and expanding his name globally

“OPESH SINGH HAS CURATED NUMEROUS TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS FOR BUSINESS ENTHUSIASTS. DURING THE PANDEMIC, HE HELPED MORE THAN 50 COMPANIES IN EXPANDING THEIR BUSINESS OVERSEAS”





**MOST INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG LEADERS**

PRAVEEN DOKANIA

THE WINNING MINDSET

Mr. Praveen Dokania, Co-founder, TYASuite Software Solutions Private Limited, has been the driving force behind the company's meteoric rise in the SaaS industry where innovation and agility reign supreme. He has led the charge with aplomb and blazed a trail for others to follow

Praveen holds an MCA degree and boasts a robust skill set encompassing database administration, server management, app development, and IT development consulting. His extensive experience in software development and previous roles have equipped him with a wealth of knowledge in designing and developing various applications and software. Furthermore, he has successfully managed Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and Social Media Optimization (SMO) operations for a diverse range of online properties, cementing his expertise in the digital space.

He plays a pivotal role in driving the company's technological advancements, spearheading the digitization of decades of valuable knowledge and experience of finance professionals in the realm of business processes. His visionary leadership has led to the creation of the TYASuite Platform – a cutting-edge solution that offers a comprehensive suite of financial processes to the market. As the mastermind behind this innovative technology, he has empowered businesses with the tools they need to streamline their operations, boost efficiency, and drive growth.

WITH A RESEARCH-DRIVEN MINDSET

Praveen is committed to investing heavily in the Research and Development segment. By leveraging advanced technologies and fostering a culture of creativity, he aims at launching new and innovative functionalities into the market. The focused leader has set his sights on an ambitious target – to develop more than 10,000 Plug and Play features over the upcoming years. Moreover, he envisions creating an automation platform that can tackle various repetitive and mundane tasks across business functions, boosting efficiency and productivity.

Praveen's vision for TYASuite is nothing short of revolutionary! He plans to establish the company as the world's first-ever Plug and Play Cloud Procurement platform – a feat that has the potential to shake up the entire industry. By seamlessly integrating avant-garde ERP software and automating processes, TYASuite aims to take productivity levels to new heights. The goal represents a true paradigm shift in the way businesses approach procurement, and the determined leader is leading the charge towards a future that is more efficient, streamlined, and profitable than ever before.

A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS LEADER

Under Praveen's leadership, TYASuite has placed great emphasis on corporate social responsibility. The company's digital procurement platform, which is part of its ERP system, has been

***"PRAVEEN PLANS TO MAKE HIS COMPANY THE
WORLD'S FIRST-EVER PLUG AND PLAY CLOUD
PROCUREMENT PLATFORM"***



instrumental in helping clients transition to the cloud during the COVID-19 lockdown, providing much-needed support during these challenging times.

With Praveen at the helm, TYASuite has achieved remarkable success, with numerous accolades and awards for its outstanding enterprise software solutions. The company's commitment to excellence and innovation has earned it a spot on Software Advice's FrontRunners 2023 list. *CIO News* has named it as one of the 10 Most Promising Enterprise Software Startups for 2022. The company was recognised as a Momentum Leader by Software Suggest in 2022, a Quality Choice Top Ranked Solution by Crozdesk in 2021, and a Customer's Choice and Most Affordable Solution by Software Suggest in 2020 and 2021, respectively. In addition, TYASuite has been honoured as a Leader in the software industry by Crozdesk in 2020.



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

Mr. Puneet Gaur's way to being a global name rests on an outstanding education, impressive work experience, and lifetime learning. This business builder and operational leader has transformed small to large organisations across three continents of North America, Europe and Asia. He has been a crusader for social responsibility for companies and employees. He has been promoting the concept of Society As A Strategic Stakeholder (SAASS)TM. Ethics and corporate responsibility have been hallmarks of his personality.

He pushes for success for his vendors, sustainability of the ecosystem where the company operates, welfare and success for the employees, and meaningful contribution to the surrounding communities. His career spans from start-ups to large businesses ranging from Tata Consultancy Services, FMC Technologies, Avaya, DXC Technology, DMI, and Next Quarter. Currently, he is working as a COO at an AI B2B firm based in Virginia, USA. Mr. Gaur has two bachelor degrees in engineering and four masters degrees in Engineering, Business Administration, and International Relations. His final Master's degree is in International Relations from Harvard University. He also received Edward De Bono's Six Thinking Hats Instructor Certificate, after which he trained several thousand employees globally. Innovation, Process Improvement, EBITDA Management, and Customer Success have been cornerstone of his career.

THE GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

Mr. Gaur's global experience makes him an international thought leader. He has lived and worked across three continents – Europe, Asia, and North America. It enabled him to understand how the work culture differs worldwide and how he can help global teams overcome cultural challenges to harness the power of diversity. His efforts have resulted in accelerated performance and increased shareholder value.

He is an ardent lover of travel and books. The travel bug in him has taken him to more than 50 countries. When physical travel is not possible, he immerses himself in the vast world of books. His library holds a splendid collection of more than 6,000 books – a clear sign of his astute mind and rich knowledge.

EMPOWERING OTHERS

Mr. Gaur's work is not encompassed within the corporate areas. He has gone the extra mile to share his knowledge and expertise with the world. He regularly conducts workshops on product management, strategy management, leadership, analytics, science based meditation, lateral thinking, and ethics in business. He charges no fee when NGOs and educational institutions invite him to conduct such workshops. Knowledge sharing is a core mantra for him. He also mentors students from his alma maters in India

***"MR. GAUR CHARGES NO FEE WHEN NGOS AND
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS INVITE HIM TO
CONDUCT WORKSHOPS"***

and USA.

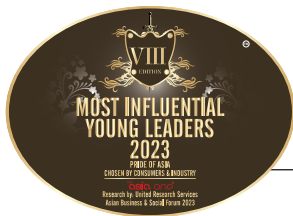
In addition, he is known for writing thought leadership blogs on famous platforms such as Forbes, where he talks about business, leadership, social causes, and animal protection. He has received several awards for his outstanding work and contribution. The list includes the IEEE award, Harvard Deans' award, and COO of the Year award from the Minister for Skill Development, Government of India. He is also invited as a speaker at global conferences. In 2022, he was given the Global Leadership Award in the House of Commons, UK.



PUNEET GAUR

PIONEERING THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

An international speaker, a global award winner, a published author, and a business leader, Mr. Puneet Gaur is a thought leader who has proven his mettle through his work. Working as COO of an AI-based B2B firm, he leads product development, information security, and customer delivery



**MOST INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG LEADERS**

SWETANG SINHA

CREATING BUSINESS VALUES

A visionary and dynamic leader, Mr. Swetang Sinha has made a significant impact in the corporate world. The Group CEO of Sun Multinational DMCC has played a crucial role in its growth and success. His passion for success is contagious, inspiring everyone around him to work harder and aim for the best

Swetang's education and training have been critical to his success as a leader. His Master's in Business Administration, with a specialisation in Marketing & Sales and International Business, has equipped him with the knowledge and skills to navigate the complex and dynamic business environment. Additionally, his Executive Management Program in Sales and Marketing from Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, has further honed his skills, giving him a broader perspective on business management. This extensive education and training has prepared him to tackle even the most challenging situations and make informed decisions.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Swetang believes in setting an example and improving the lives of those around him. He has demonstrated this through his impeccable leadership at Sun Multinational DMCC, where he has launched, and manages various apprenticeship programs designed to enhance the living standards of the communities where the company operates. Today, the Group operates in 12 countries across four continents with the mission to leverage the strengths of each brand and allied industry within the markets it operates to drive superior shareholder returns.

A FUTURE-FOCUSED LEADER

Swetang believes that innovation is what distinguishes "great businesses" from "good businesses". He views it as a driving force behind value creation, both for the business and its stakeholders. Under his guidance, Sun Multinational DMCC has adopted a philosophy of value addition, which is evident in its extractive businesses. His career highpoint has been steering Sun Multinational and maintaining profitability across the Group during the pandemic.

HIS INSPIRATION

Swetang attributes his success to his father and great business leaders who have inspired him throughout his journey. He considers himself fortunate to have stood on the shoulders of some of the most courageous and visionary leaders in the business world. The humble leader credits his professional growth to the generosity of his Group Chairman, KP Damji, and the Group Managing Director, Mr. Rahul Sood, who discovered and nurtured him, helping him to become the leader he is today.

LEADING WITH COMPASSION

Under Swetang's leadership, Sun Multinational DMCC has taken

**"UNDER SWETANG'S LEADERSHIP, SUN
MULTINATIONAL DMCC BUILT TWO MEDICAL
FACILITIES TO BENEFIT LOCAL COMMUNITIES"**



an active approach to corporate social responsibility. It has set up educational bursaries in over five countries, built three schools, and two medical facilities to benefit local communities.

The organisation has also partnered with health ministries and government entities to provide PPEs during the COVID-19 pandemic, and established apprenticeship programs in many countries.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Swetang has led and supervised Sun Multinational Group subsidiaries to receive numerous awards and recognition, including Exporter of the Year (Suzan General Trading (Pvt) Ltd.), by the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce, Top International Retail Operator – Sun Duty Free by Africa Tours & Commerce, and World Luxury Hotel Awards for Best Hotel Management Company by Sun Africa Hotels.



MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS

Tejpreet Singh Gill took up the company's responsibility as a second-generation entrepreneur. He focused on using his business skills and learnings to expand the business of the firm. With his futuristic approach, he brought digitalization into various activities, which helped in conducting all operations smoothly.

Committed to taking the company's legacy ahead, Mr. Gill believes in providing excellence with the best quality building development, real estate, and construction services to all clients. His focus is to build a profit-oriented business and a blueprint for the firm's growth.

The young leader values his reputation and image in the market. He believes that a good character contributes to earning great business and a regular clientele. Therefore, he works to impress the customers with his demeanour, disposition, and style of work. Working with an optimistic approach and the resolve to excel has won him many awards. He received the 'MY FM Excellence Award' in 2022 and 'The Young Entrepreneur Real Estate Award'. He was also felicitated with the prestigious 'Hindustan Times Real Estate Developer of the Year Award' in 2022. He envisions his organisation to be the leader in the real estate sector in the country and has concrete future plans for visionary projects.

A TEAM-ORIENTED MANAGER

As a competent leader, Mr. Tejpreet Singh Gill makes constant efforts to generate more growth opportunities for his employees. Different extracurricular activities and games are organised to create a stress-free working environment for the team. He ensures a platform for all the employees wherein they can have open discussions and debates related to work and ethics.

He wholeheartedly welcomes the innovative ideas of his workforce and even implements them for the company's and its employees' success, and advocates for a smooth and pleasing working environment in the office. He trains his co-workers to devise the most efficient solutions to tricky situations.

HIS GUIDING FORCE

Mr. Tejpreet Singh Gill takes his father to be his biggest motivation and inspiration. He religiously follows the principles and guidelines of his father. His father worked hard to build the company, and now, Mr. Gill works with the sole aim of taking the company to higher levels and turning it into a well-recognised brand.

Following in his father's footsteps, he motivates everyone at work and appreciates their work openly. He has learned to value the contribution of each member of the company, which makes him an exemplary leader. He believes that the success and growth he has earned are just because his father motivated him to walk on the path of righteousness.

"MR. GILL VALUES THE CONTRIBUTION OF EACH MEMBER OF THE COMPANY, WHICH MAKES HIM AN EXEMPLARY LEADER"

ADOPTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

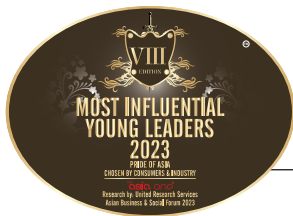
Mr. Gill understands his responsibility towards the environment well. Therefore, sustainability has always been their priority. He offers construction services using advanced technology and raw materials as per international quality standards. He ensures that all the equipment and services undergo regular checks to meet quality standards. Mr. Gill has plans to step into a new segment wherein his team will build structures with minimal or no adverse effect on the ecological balance and quality of life.



TEJPREET SINGH GILL

COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EXCELLENCE

Mr. Tejpreet Singh Gill, Managing Director, Gillco Developers and Builders Private Limited, has taken the company to new heights. His passion and dream to make a name in the real estate sector paved the way for him. Today, he is known as one of the most successful developers in Chandigarh



**MOST INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG LEADERS**

VIKAS MANDAWEWALA

A MAVERICK REDEFINING SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

A dynamic leader, Vikas Mandawewala is the Co-Founder of TYASuite. With his extensive experience in catering to a range of companies – from SMEs to MNCs – he has established himself as a leader. He envisions enhancing the accounting and finance processes with technology to suit every business

In 2018, Vikas Mandawewala realised a significant gap in the market for cloud-based solutions that catered specifically to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). So, with a deep understanding of the challenges faced by small businesses, he created a company to provide an innovative and customised solution to fit every business module. He co-founded TYASuite Software Solutions Private Limited, a business that increases productivity and efficiency by streamlining business processes. The cloud-based ERP software has benefits ranging from reduced overhead to easier accessibility and mobility. Under his leadership, TYASuite has grown to become a leading provider of cloud-based Procurement Automation and AP Automation solutions for every business.

WISDOM AND EXPERTISE

The young leader has a strong academic background. He graduated from Calcutta University with a degree in commerce. He is also a Rank-holder Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA), a Rank-holder Company Secretary, a Certified Public Accountant [US CPA (CO and NY)] and a Certified Internal Auditor (US) and a Certified Information System Auditor. He has gained experience in dealing with matters related to company law, income tax, and GST. Currently, the leader is managing multiple start-ups as a virtual CFO.

MAN ON A MISSION

Vikas aims to transform the global business landscape. With a career spanning over two decades, he has established himself as a decisive leader and a pioneer in the cloud-based industry. His vision for TYASuite is the belief that technology-driven solutions can unlock the enormous potential for businesses. With cutting-edge technology, he wants to enable companies to compete with prominent players in the market. His mission is to empower SMEs globally by helping them leverage the power of affordable technology. He is also committed to driving innovation and growth at TYASuite and make it the world's first plug-n-play cloud ERP solution provider that auto-scales with business and have the fastest implementation time.

EMPOWERING TEAM TO EXCEL

Vikas's leadership style is characterised by commitment to excellence and a focus on delivering value to his customers. He is a hands-on leader deeply involved in every aspect of the company's operations. In addition, he works closely with his team to ensure that they have the resources and support they need to succeed.

***"VIKAS'S MISSION IS TO EMPOWER SMES
BY HELPING THEM LEVERAGE THE POWER OF
TECHNOLOGY FOR GROWTH"***



One of the hallmarks of his leadership is his ability to stay ahead of the technology curve. He constantly explores better solutions in the industry to assure that TYASuite is always at the forefront of innovation. He has built a culture of inventiveness in the company, encouraging his team to think outside the box and come up with new and creative solutions to meet customers' needs. His dedication and hard work grew his company from 2 individuals to 50 employees.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Vikas has led the company to excellence, garnering many recognitions such as the Customer Choice 2020, Most Popular 2020, Best Value 2021, Most Affordable 2021 and Fastest Implementation Awards 2021 – by Software Suggest and Top 20 Procurement Software Globally 2020, Quality Choice 2021, Trusted Vendor 2021, Happiest Users Awards 2021 – by Crozdesk and Top 5 Inventory Management Software by Capterra 2023.



YOUTH ICON OF THE YEAR

Integrity, innovation, and constant learning are the hallmarks of Vivek's leadership philosophy. As the head of PL Global Impex Pte Ltd., he firmly believes that integrity is the foundation of any successful business, and he works tirelessly to maintain it in all aspects of his work. With a keen eye for potential risks and opportunities, he fosters an environment of calculated risk-taking and innovation. Most importantly, he understands that learning is a never-ending journey, and he approaches each day with a growth mindset, always looking for new ways to evolve.

TORCHBEARER OF A LEGACY

The business was originally established by Vivek's grandfather in India, and subsequently, his father relocated it to Myanmar in 1993. Vivek officially became part of the business in 2012, and has since been involved in various projects across Southeast Asia.

PL Global Impex Ltd is not just any ordinary import and export trading firm. It is a powerhouse that exudes excellence in all aspects of its operations, boasting an unrivalled expertise in numerous infrastructure-based projects, a sprawling global distribution network, top-notch restaurants, and a strong presence in the dynamic manufacturing and service industries.

With Vivek at the helm, the organisation has undergone a remarkable transformation, expanding its reach and influence. His leadership has seen the company boldly venture into new territories and markets, establishing a formidable presence in the West through strategic partnerships and ventures.

The young leader has set his sights on long-term growth for his business with a focus on expanding both its value and volume. He is exploring new opportunities in the western hemisphere to tap new markets and considering expanding the company's distribution network to two or three new countries. This will allow the business to expand its customer base and market share, while also building stronger relationships with suppliers and partners in these regions.

A VALUES-DRIVEN LEADER

Vivek believes that success can only be attained through relentless daily efforts. His hands-on approach and indomitable spirit serve as an inspiration to all those who seek to achieve greatness. As a leader, he has instilled in his team a deep sense of ethical awareness. With his inspiring enthusiasm, he has created a culture of loyalty and trust that is second to none. He ensures that everyone is treated fairly and with respect in the organisation. He has developed policies and practices that promote gender equality, eliminate racial bias, and ensure that promotions are based strictly on merit.

VIVEK DINODIYA

EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS

Mr. Vivek Dinodiya is the Director of PL Global Impex Pte Ltd., a global import-export trading firm based in the bustling city of Singapore. As a third-generation businessman, he possesses a rare blend of vision and passion, which fuels his tireless efforts to take his company to unprecedented heights

**"VIVEK BELIEVES THAT TRUE SUCCESS COMES
NOT ONLY FROM PROFITS, BUT ALSO FROM
MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON SOCIETY"**

A LEADER BEYOND BUSINESS


Vivek believes that true success comes not only from profits, but also from making a positive impact on society. With this conviction, he has integrated CSR activities into his business strategies. He has also built strong relationships with suppliers and customers alike, establishing the company as a frontrunner in the industry.

From "Achievement Awards" to "Volume-based Awards" to "Sales-based awards," PL Global Impex Ltd, under Vivek's leadership, has been recognised time and again for its outstanding performance and commitment to excellence. To him, these awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication of his team, and a reflection of the strong relationships that they have built with their partners and customers over the years.





FASTEST GROWING LEADERS 2023



AsiaOne Magazine is pleased to announce its latest set of fastest growing leaders that have made to our list with their consistent growth in a world witnessing turbulent economic times. These leaders have embarrassed economic recessions, pandemics and conflicts with their resilience and out-of-the-box business approach, in turn adding new milestones to their professional journeys. For them, obstacles are merely a detour to their ultimate goal. They believe in investing their time in dreams for a better tomorrow and basics of the business today to build long-term, sustainable, robust systems that are progressive for employees in the company and every other stakeholder beyond its walls. These extraordinary leaders have grown with pace not seen by many of their peers, yet continue their journeys with youthful enthusiasm. Our current series of features on these leaders is a salute to their vision, self-belief and leadership style



Dr. S. Saibabu

Ascending to New Heights

Dr. S. Saibabu, the Chairman & Managing Director of Pollucare Engineers India Pvt. Ltd.—a company providing comprehensive environmental and pollution control measures for industrial and infrastructure development projects—has given the company a strategic direction with his vision and astute decision-making prowess

BACKED BY AN EXPERT TEAM

Pollucare Engineers India, founded by Dr. Saibabu, boasts a highly capable team of experts with a wealth of international experience in the realms of environmental, sustainable, and social development. Under his guidance, the company has emerged as a thriving and dynamic environmental enterprise, seamlessly integrating its operations across the borders of India and Bangladesh.

Armed with a wealth of experience and vast knowledge, the leader has fearlessly led his team on a quest for excellence, resulting in the successful design, installation, and commissioning of a multitude of treatment plants. From sewage treatment plants (STP) to effluent treatment plants (ETP), water treatment plants (WTP), desalination units, reverse osmosis systems (RO), evaporative systems, and complete zero liquid discharge (ZLD) systems, there's no challenge

too great for his trailblazing team. With an impressive roster of clients, the company, under Dr. Saibabu's stewardship, has made a notable impact in its field, exemplifying a steadfast commitment to promoting positive change and progress. It's innovative solutions have earned it widespread acclaim, and the team's contributions to the infrastructure development projects in Asia have been nothing short of remarkable.

With a wealth of experience in environmental engineering and a keen understanding of project management on a global scale, Dr. Saibabu is an exceptional leader, entrepreneur, and environmentalist at the forefront of driving the company to success. Under his leadership, Pollucare Engineers India is entrusted with the responsibility of serving as the project management consultant for various government projects. The company's expertise in Environmental Pollution Control is deemed significant in these projects. One of the corporations in Tamil Nadu has entrusted the firm not only with project management consultancy, but also with monitoring all work being executed in the Solid Waste Management project.

A TECH-SAVVY ENTREPRENEUR

Driven by an unwavering passion for quality and technology, and armed with a formidable network of government connections, Dr. Saibabu has been tirelessly providing cutting-edge consulting and affiliation services that help mitigate industrial pollution at prices that will not break the bank. His unbridled commitment to excellence has helped him become an industry leader, with his innovative solutions being lauded by clients far and wide. With a firm grasp on the latest advancements in pollution control, Dr. Saibabu is a true pioneer in his field, and a beacon of hope for a cleaner, brighter future.

VISION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Saibabu is a trailblazer in the field of social development, and his visionary approach has earned him widespread acclaim. He has been a driving force in nation-building activities aimed at tackling one of the most critical issues in the country – wastewater management. Through his tireless efforts to reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover wastewater, the leader has been able to make a significant impact on the environment, and his innovative solutions have inspired countless others to follow in his footsteps. Currently the company has employed 1000 people and planning to give employment for 2500 people in 2026.

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Dr. Saibabu's steadfast dedication has garnered numerous accolades for Pollucare Engineers India, including the 2022-23 Start-up Award in the Pollution Control and Waste Management Sector from the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India. Additionally, his exceptional aptitude for leadership has garnered him extensive acknowledgment and admiration, culminating in his recognition as an Emerging Entrepreneur of India for the year 2021 by *The Economic Times*.





Soumya Acharya

Driving Business Excellence

A veteran IT professional, Soumya Acharya has spent the last 25 years spearheading digital transformation. While he has made Bangalore home, he has enabled businesses across the globe to embrace technological innovation. The leader has been recognised with many awards, including the Indian Achievers' Award 2021-22 for Business Leadership

FROM SALES TO STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Soumya Acharya is a technology pundit who has a deep understanding of technology and its potential applications. His ability to think strategically and architect complex solutions has enabled his organisation to develop cutting-edge solutions that address real-world challenges faced by businesses across various industries.

That is the quality that has driven him through the years and made him a thought leader in the industry. One of the keys to Soumya's leadership style is the emphasis on letting go of traditional conformity and transitioning from a control-based culture to one that is self-governed.

The business leader does not believe in hierarchical management styles and values his team's availability and reachability more than their physical presence. For him, the strength of the team lies in each member, and the strength

of each member is the team. This ethos is reflected in the company's culture and values, which are lived and exemplified by the leadership team.

EMBRACING SELF-GOVERNANCE

Soumya believes in building a workplace where people have fun and work feels like play. He believes that a free and fun work environment is the key to creative thinking, collaborative brainstorming, and out of the box solutions, and leads to innovation in technology. For him, success is about creating a workplace where people are happy, motivated, and inspired to do their best work. The leader believes that it is not so much about the employees' physical presence as it is about their availability and reachability. The team of over 50 has more than 100 years of combined CX experience and has completed over 50 projects in over 10 countries.

In addition to fostering a positive workplace culture, gender equality is the focus of his work culture, and recruitment is very value driven and organic. CXP Lab is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive workforce leading to better perspective, decision-making and problem-solving.

NURTURING FUTURE LEADERS

Soumya's leadership style is liberal and infectious. He is also passionate about nurturing and developing future leaders by encouraging everyone in the team to work with freedom, make mistakes, and learn from experience thereby empowering them to be decisive, and take ownership.

By providing opportunities for growth and development, he is helping create a pipeline of talent that will drive the success of the organisation in the years to come. CXP Lab has a dynamic team with more than 100 years of combined CX experience. The company has completed over 50 projects in more than 10 countries – a testament to the team's expertise and Soumya's leadership. Under Saumya's leadership, the CXP Lab aims at empowering companies to deliver more efficient and effective customer experiences using innovative technologies and design thinking.

EXPLORING UNCHARTED TERRITORIES

Led by a people-oriented leader, the team at CXP Lab has won several awards. Yet, what excites Soumya more is a day he meets an interesting industry peer, has an interesting conversation or comes up with a path-breaking disruptive idea.

Soumya Acharya is a leader who understands the importance of creating a positive workplace culture, fostering diversity and inclusion, and investing in the development of future leaders.

He understands that technology is a tool that can be used to simplify businesses. His enthusiasm for exploring uncharted territories is what always keeps him relevant.

Saumya's commitment to these values is reflected in the success of his organisation, and he serves as a role model for other leaders who seek to build successful, sustainable organisations that are grounded in strong values and a commitment to people.



Jury Council



DR. AMITA SRIVASTAVA

DIRECTOR, BRENCIS CENTRE FOR RESEARCH TRAINING & CONSULTANCY (BCRTC) EDUCATION

Currently 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, she 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, and 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, and KRIBHKO. She has also been the Chief Editor for management journal, *Attitude* and has been functional in organising many national and international conferences. She has widely experimented with new approaches to learning and creativity



DR. HIMANSHU RAI

DIRECTOR, IIM INDORE

Under Dr. Himanshu Rai's leadership, IIM Indore got the triple crown accreditation of AMBA, AACSB and EQUIS, becoming one of the 90 odd institutions in the world to have the honour. 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 area include Negotiation, Leadership, and Justice. His book titled "Negotiation" published by McGraw Hill Education is a bestseller on Amazon. 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



DR. PADMAKALI BANERJEE

*PRO VICE CHANCELLOR,
AMITY UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM*

Dr. Banerjee is a thought leader, public speaker and Life Coach, with over two decades of experience in research, teaching, training and academic administration. She has a doctorate degree from the University of Delhi and is a Fellow of the prestigious Somatic Inkblot Series (FSIS-US). In addition to her current role as Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean, Academics of Amity University Haryana and Director of Amity Business School, she heads the Centre for BRICS Studies—a centre of excellence. She is involved in strategic planning and leads the development and implementation of the university's academic processes. She spearheaded many innovative initiatives, including the introduction of a flexible credit system, industry academic integration and internationalisation. She fosters strategic changes in teaching and learning, and student affairs. She pioneered the skill development programme at the university and got Amity a prominent place on the skills map of the country.



NITIN D PAREKH

GROUP CFO, CADILLA HEALTHCARE

Mr. Nitin D Parekh, a holder of six qualifications, has a brilliant academic track record with ranks and gold medals in several exams, including CA, CFA and MBA from IIM, Ahmedabad. Mr. Parekh is serving as a Group Chief Financial Officer in Cadila Healthcare Limited, Ahmedabad, which has consolidated annual turnover of more than Rs. 15000 crores. He possesses 36 years of post-qualification experience in finance, legal and IT functions. An ace deal maker, a strategic thinker, an excellent coach and a person of razor-sharp commercial acumen, he has handled more than 15 M&A deals, including the Rs. 4600-crore acquisition of Heinz India Private Limited in January 2019 and divestment of India-centric animal health business for Rs. 2900 crores in July 2021. He was selected for the award of "Excellence in Mergers and Acquisitions" by CII in December, 2021. He was adjudged as India's Best CFO-Large Enterprises by Businessworld in August 2021.



SUNIL DAVID

REGIONAL DIRECTOR (IOT), AT&T INDIA

Sunil David has over 25 years of experience in the IT and Telecom industry. Currently the Regional Director (IOT) for AT&T India based in Chennai, he is responsible for building and executing the IOT strategy for India and the ASEAN regions. He is working on building a partner ecosystem for AT&T in the area of IOT devices, platforms and applications and a number of marketing initiatives to help build the AT&T brand in the IOT space. He 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. 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 and Inclusive workforce.

URS TEAM



SANDEEP KUMAR



DR. PAOLA MARTANI



MEENAKSHI KAKRAN



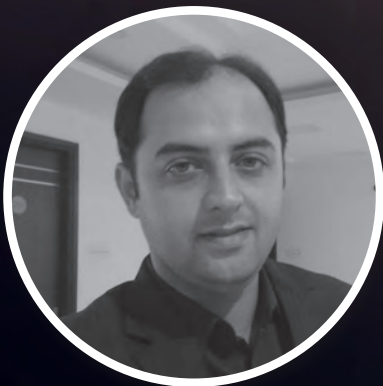
INDERJEET JAIN



ROMISA HASSAN



ALISH PEKHA



ROHAN GULATI



NASRULLAH KHAN



DIANA HORBATIUK



JYOTI VERMA



RICHA SANG



INDIA INR 6500 | UAE AED 500 | SAUDI ARABIA SAR 500 | SINGAPORE SGD 200
HONG KONG HK\$ 550 | QATAR QAR 500 | KUWAIT KWD 40 | OMAN OMR 45
BANGLADESH BDT 12000 | SRI LANKA SLR 25000 | INDONESIA IDR 1.25 MN
SOUTH AFRICA ZAR 2000 | THAILAND BDT 3000 | AMERICA USD 200

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