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INTERNATIONAL — OCT-NOV 2026



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INDIA.....INR200
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JAPAN.....¥1,600
KOREA.....WON14,000
MALAYSIA.....RM60

NEPAL.....NR1,400
NEW ZEALAND.....NZ\$30
PHILIPPINES.....PESOS70
SINGAPORE.....S\$20
SRI LANKA.....RS3,100
TAIWAN.....NT\$350
THAILAND.....BAHT400
VIETNAM.....VND2,60,000
CANADA.....CAD20

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LETTER

from the EDITOR

THE NEXT CHAPTER OF GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

The world is entering an era that will test the quality of leadership across governments, businesses and institutions. With changing economic priorities, rapid technological advances and stronger international ties, global partnerships are becoming increasingly important. Success today is measured not only by growth or influence, but also by the ability to create value and respond to diverse social and economic needs.

This edition of AsiaOne International brings together individuals and organisations who embody the many dimensions of leadership today. Our Changemakers section shines a light on those who have transformed conviction into meaningful action and turned ideas into lasting impact. The Global Leaders and Greatest Leaders sections celebrate individuals whose vision, courage and decisive leadership have created meaningful change across industries and borders. Likewise, the Women Achievers of the World section honours women whose accomplishments are breaking barriers, opening doors and inspiring new possibilities for others. Alongside these inspiring stories, the World's Greatest Brands section highlights organisations that have earned solid trust through innovation, consistency and a commitment to excellence.

The special stories in this edition dwell on some of the developments that are likely to define the next phase of global growth. COP30 places renewable energy and climate responsibility high on the international agenda. India and Malaysia are building stronger avenues for cooperation, while Malaysia is strengthening its position within ASEAN's entrepreneurial landscape. Bitcoin is creating new possibilities for financial inclusion and international remittances. Artificial intelligence is also entering a significant phase, with its greatest promise perhaps found in its ability to enhance human capability. The India-UK Growth Corridor presents another important opportunity for greater trade, investment and economic cooperation.

At first glance, these developments may seem unrelated. Yet each points to a larger shift in how we think about progress and responsibility. The decisions being made today will shape opportunities and outcomes for years to come. Technology must remain grounded in human needs while economic partnerships should extend opportunity beyond a select few. Leadership, while driven by ambition, must also be anchored in responsibility.

The pages that follow offer a closer look at the people, institutions and ideas that are contributing to this conversation. Their journeys remind us that meaningful progress rarely comes from one decision or one individual. It is built through vision, perseverance and the willingness to take responsibility for what comes next.

Leadership is also a way of understanding the world around us. This edition is a reflection of that world, the opportunities it offers, its challenges and the people with the courage and conviction to shape its next chapter.

Monalisa Choudhury
Editor





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Parijat Industries

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CEO - Domestic Business,
Parijat Industries

Stephan Schnabel,
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Combining 125 years of HELM's global reach with Parijat's manufacturing, distribution, and ag-tech strength.



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COP30

A FIRM PUSH TOWARDS THE RENEWABLE FUTURE

The outcomes of COP30, held from 10–21 November 2025 in Belém, Brazil, have reinforced a powerful global message that the race for renewable energy is not just necessary but already gathering steady momentum across the world. At a time when climate concerns have intensified, the conference brought together nearly 200 countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to advance collective action and renew commitments to a cleaner and more sustainable future

BY **MONALISA CHOUDHURY**



One of the most encouraging takeaways from COP30 is the renewed global focus on expanding renewable energy capacity. Building on the foundations of the Paris Agreement, nations have once again acknowledged that scaling up clean energy is essential to meeting climate goals. The widely discussed target of tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030 reflects a sense of urgency and growing confidence in the sector's potential. Solar and wind power, in particular, are emerging as reliable and affordable ways to meet rising electricity demand while significantly reducing emissions.

Recent global data lends strong support to this

optimism. Solar and wind together now generate 17.6% of global electricity, while all low-carbon sources combined have reached 43%. Renewable energy sources have already begun to meet a substantial share of new electricity demand worldwide. This demonstrates an important turning point, where clean energy is now seen as the primary growth driver of the power sector. Even major economies are moving away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy, driven by technological progress and steadily decreasing costs.

LEADING COUNTRIES DRIVING CHANGE

India and Japan played constructive roles in

“COP30 INTRODUCED AMBITIOUS INITIATIVES AIMED AT FAST- TRACKING HIGH-IMPACT CLIMATE SOLUTIONS”

the deliberations. India emphasised practical implementation, equitable climate finance, the importance of expanding forests, and strengthening of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The country urged developed nations to deliver predictable and concessional climate finance while highlighting its own confidence in its climate action pathway. Japan, on the other hand, expanded its Joint Crediting Mechanism partnerships and backed the Belém 4X pledge to quadruple sustainable fuel use by 2035, while also promoting low-carbon technologies and broader clean energy transition initiatives.

Meanwhile, African nations collectively advocated for climate justice, stronger adaptation support, and direct access to climate finance. They highlighted the continent’s vulnerabilities as

well as its vast renewable energy potential. These varied contributions from emerging economies and industrialised nations highlighted that real progress depends on inclusive collaboration across regions.

INCLUSIVE ENERGY ACCESS

A key highlight of COP30 was inclusive energy access, driven by Brazil’s partnership with the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet to bring renewable energy to remote Amazon and other underserved regions for improving clean energy availability and equity. This initiative goes well beyond climate mitigation, as it aims to improve livelihoods, support education, healthcare, and local enterprise. It serves as a strong reminder that clean energy can directly enhance quality of life while addressing pressing environmental challenges. Another positive outcome is the increased focus on climate finance and adaptation, with commitments to scale up funding for vulnerable communities facing climate impacts. Although resource gaps persist, there is noticeable progress in aligning global financial systems more closely with sustainability goals.

COP30 also introduced forward-looking initiatives such as the Global Implementation Accelerator, aimed at fast-tracking high-impact climate solutions. This effort focuses on translating commitments into tangible results on the ground. By concentrating on critical areas like methane reduction, nature-based carbon removal, and accelerated renewable deployment, it strengthens implementation efforts. Advancements in battery storage, digitalisation, and grid modernisation will likely provide a crucial backbone to this ongoing transition.

Communities, businesses, and local governments are increasingly driving climate action alongside national efforts. Initiatives now span from grassroots projects to major infrastructure development. This wider participation helps distribute clean energy benefits, including jobs, enhanced energy security, and economic resilience, more equitably.

Discussions on reducing fossil fuel dependence showed national differences but also growing global awareness. Despite slow consensus, more countries are committing to stronger action and showing that momentum toward climate goals is steadily increasing worldwide. That said, COP30 is gradually reinforcing confidence in the global shift towards clean energy. Through innovation, investment, and international cooperation, the transition is no longer a distant possibility but a tangible pathway toward a more sustainable world.

BITCOIN DRIVING FINANCIAL INCLUSION

BY REVOLUTIONISING GLOBAL REMITTANCES

For millions of families, money sent from abroad is more than support; it is a lifeline. Every month, migrant workers send small amounts back home to cover food, school fees and medical needs. In countries like India, the Philippines, and across Africa and Latin America, these remittances keep households running and local economies active. But for years, sending money across borders has been expensive, slow and dependent on banks or agents

BY **MONALISA CHOUDHURY**

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Traditional remittance channels such as banks or money transfer operators often charge high fees, sometimes up to 6% or more. On a small transfer of \$200, this means a noticeable loss for families. The challenges do not end there. These transactions are often subject to unfavourable exchange rates, which further reduce the amount that finally reaches the recipient. Also, slow processing times, especially when payments are routed through multiple intermediary banks make traditional remittance systems both expensive and time-consuming for those who rely on them the most.

BITCOIN - A SIMPLER ALTERNATIVE.

Bitcoin allows people to send money directly to each

other, without relying on banks. More importantly, with the help of the Lightning Network, a layer 2 payment protocol built on top of Bitcoin, transactions can be completed almost instantly and at very low cost. In many cases, fees are just a fraction of a dollar.

This has already started making a real difference in many emerging markets. In the Philippines, where remittances form a major part of the economy, Bitcoin-based transfers are helping families receive more of what is sent. In parts of Africa, where banking services are limited, people are using mobile phones and crypto wallets to receive money directly. Likewise, in Latin America, especially in countries facing currency instability, Bitcoin is not just a payment method but also a store of value.

One of the biggest advantages of Bitcoin is access.



“Bitcoin is based on energy. It is impossible to fake energy.”

*Elon Musk, CEO, Tesla and the CEO
& Chief Technology Officer, SpaceX*

Many people around the world do not have bank accounts, but they do have smartphones. With just an internet connection, they can send and receive money securely. This opens the door for financial inclusion, while allowing more people to participate in the global economy without needing traditional banking infrastructure.

Another benefit is speed. Emergencies do not wait for bank processing times. Whether it is a medical need or an urgent expense, Bitcoin transfers, especially through the Lightning Network, can reach families within minutes and make a meaningful difference in difficult situations.

Of course, Bitcoin too has its own peculiar challenges, such as price fluctuations, security concerns, and the need for basic digital literacy. However, these issues are gradually being addressed. User-friendly mobile apps are simplifying the

experience by offering intuitive interfaces, inbuilt security features, and guided onboarding.

The global remittance market is presently valued at over \$800 billion and has been growing substantially. As this market expands, the need for faster, cheaper and more accessible solutions will become even more important. As more migrant workers send money home to support their families, Bitcoin could step in as a practical solution by making cross-border transfers faster and affordable.

WRAPPING UP

Bitcoin is not just a digital asset. By reducing costs, increasing speed, and expanding access, it is redefining how money moves across borders. For millions who have long been excluded from the formal financial system, this could mark the beginning of a more inclusive financial future.

THE NEXT AI WAVE

IS ABOUT EMPOWERING HUMANS, NOT REPLACING THEM

Every major technological shift in history first replaced muscle. The steam engine reduced physical strain in factories. The electric motor eased manual effort. Mechanised farming transformed agriculture by reducing the need for relentless human labour in the fields. These advancements were initially met with anxiety and uncertainty, as people feared job loss and disruption of familiar ways of life. Yet every time, productivity increased, industries expanded, and new opportunities emerged alongside the change. Artificial intelligence (AI) represents a different kind of transformation; it enhances the mind instead of replacing the muscle. This distinction is crucial for millennials, who form the backbone of today's corporate workforce

BY **MONALISA CHOUDHURY**

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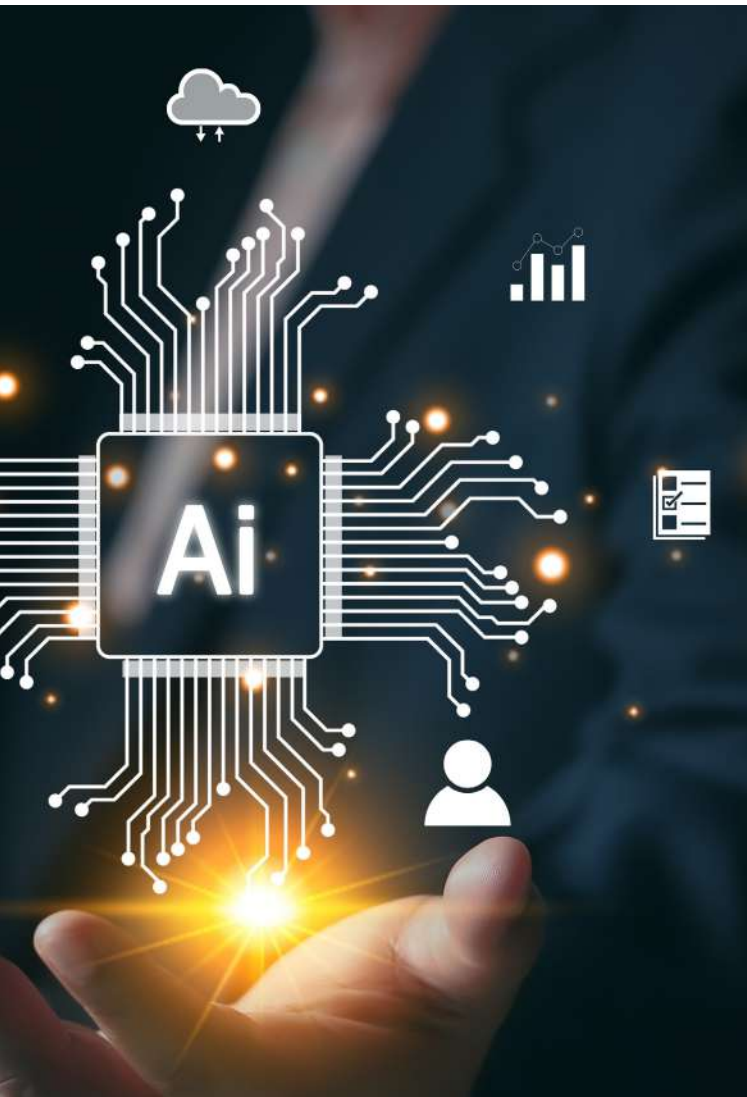
Several studies claim that nearly half of millennial employees worry that AI could take over their jobs within the next three to five years. This statistic reflects a deeper emotional current running through corporate India. Millennials, aged 30 to 45, are mostly mid-level managers, team leads, specialists, and entrepreneurs. Many began their careers around the global financial crisis and faced hiring freezes, slow salary growth, and unstable startup ecosystems. As a result, job stability has been unpredictable for them.

AI tools are now being deployed across more than half of surveyed organisations. According to McKinsey's 2024 AI survey, almost two-thirds of

respondents said their organisations are regularly using generative AI, almost double the share reported ten months earlier. Automation supports decision-making, generates content, analyses data, optimises workflows, and assists customer service. In such an environment, fear is understandable. But when AI is introduced thoughtfully, with structured training and transparent communication, employee anxiety drops sharply. The real challenge lies not in AI itself, but in how it is integrated into daily work.

HISTORY OFFERS USEFUL PERSPECTIVES

When machines took over heavy lifting during the Industrial Revolution, they did not eliminate



human contribution. Workers moved from brute labour to operating, maintaining, and improving machines. Productivity expanded, industries grew and entirely new professions emerged. AI follows a similar pattern, but on the cognitive front. In customer service, AI can instantly retrieve knowledge articles and suggest responses. This allows human representatives to focus on empathy and efficient conflict resolution. In marketing, AI can draft campaign ideas or analyse audience segments, while humans refine messaging and ensure cultural relevance. In software development, AI can write routine code snippets, allowing engineers to focus on architecture and innovation.

With AI support, teams get to spend more time brainstorming and sharing ideas, while repetitive work like fixing drafts and tedious corrections

requires far less attention. More significantly, as productivity rises, so does the calibre of creative output. AI amplifies human ingenuity while giving people greater space to think, refine, and innovate.

AI agents today handle scheduling, document processing, data sorting, and basic analytics. These time-consuming but low-value activities, when delegated to machines, enable employees to focus on analysis, innovation, and leadership. AI agents today manage routine tasks like scheduling, document processing, data sorting, and basic analytics. By delegating these time-consuming activities to machines, employees can focus on analysis, innovation, and leadership, which lets them concentrate on higher-value tasks that drive growth.

SO WHY THE FEAR?

For millennials, anxiety about AI stems from their early experiences with economic instability. Having faced unpredictable career paths and financial responsibilities like home loans, children's education, and elderly care, they view automation as a personal and impactful threat during their peak earning years.

ROLE OF LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONALS

Leadership plays a decisive role in how AI is perceived and adopted. Clear communication, transparency, and investment in upskilling can build trust and confidence, while positioning AI as a productivity partner. Conversely, a lack of explanation or context can heighten uncertainty and the fear of being replaced rather than supported. The most valuable employees will be those who guide intelligent systems, interpret results, challenge assumptions, and improve usage, rather than competing with machines on speed or output.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Every major technology began by replacing muscle. AI, in contrast, enhances the mind by handling routine cognitive tasks, while enabling humans to apply judgment and insight to critical problems. The next AI wave won't lead to job losses but will drive the evolution of work, where humans and intelligent systems will collaborate to create value. The real choice lies in whether organisations and individuals respond to it as a threat or embrace it as an empowering tool. History suggests that when humans invent advanced tools, they ultimately expand their own potential. AI is just the latest chapter in that long story.

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The India–UK Growth Corridor

A FRESH CHAPTER IN TRADE, INVESTMENT AND SHARED PROSPERITY

The India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) heralds a new phase in the evolution of one of the world oldest and strong economic relationships. More than a conventional free trade agreement, it reflects the growing partnership between two economies with complementary strengths and whose ambitions are not limited to traditional commerce. By creating new opportunities for businesses, investors, innovators and skilled professionals, it lays the foundation for one of the most significant bilateral economic partnerships of the 21st century

BY MONALISA CHOUDHURY





When India and the UK formally brought the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement into force on 15 July 2026, they

ushered in a new chapter in bilateral relations that seeks to transform decades of strong institutional ties, vibrant people-to-people connections and expanding commercial engagement into a future-oriented partnership driven by innovation, investment, manufacturing and shared prosperity.

For decades, Britain has remained one of India's largest sources of FDI, while India has emerged as one of the UK's fastest-growing investment partners and a significant contributor to employment through Indian companies operating across Britain. These strong economic fundamentals, along with the demands of an increasingly competitive and rapidly evolving global economy, encouraged both governments to pursue a more ambitious framework capable of capturing the opportunities of the future.

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That ambition has now taken shape through the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and the accompanying Agreement on Social Security, also known as the Double Contributions Convention (DCC). Together, they form a comprehensive framework that extends beyond trade in goods to encompass services, investment, digital commerce, professional mobility, research collaboration and more resilient supply chains, creating an enabling environment for enterprises of every size to expand across both markets.

According to the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM),

bilateral trade, estimated at approximately US\$58 billion in 2025–26, could nearly double to US\$115 billion by 2030. The industry body also estimates that the agreement could generate between 700,000 and one million new jobs, particularly across engineering, manufacturing, textiles and other labour-intensive sectors. Beyond higher trade volumes, these projections point to stronger industrial ecosystems, increased entrepreneurship and broader prosperity for both economies.

From Vision to Reality

The foundation of this landmark agreement began several years before the treaty entered into force. In May 2021, Hon'ble PM of India Shri Narendra Modi and then British PM Boris Johnson launched the India–UK Enhanced Trade Partnership and adopted the ambitious Roadmap 2030, setting out a shared vision for deeper cooperation across trade, investment, defence, technology, climate action and education.

As global supply chains were disrupted by the pandemic and geopolitical uncertainty, India and the UK recognised the need to diversify trade and strengthen economic partnerships. Against this backdrop, the Enhanced Trade Partnership paved the way for formal negotiations on a comprehensive free trade agreement, which began in January 2022. Over the next four years, the two countries held several rounds of negotiations, even as they navigated political changes, elections and evolving economic priorities. While the pace of discussions occasionally slowed, the strategic

Shri Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

"Under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi ji, the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Agreement on Social Security have come into force, delivering zero-duty access to the market for nearly 99% of India's exports, covering almost 100% of trade value"



importance of the agreement remained unchanged.

Successive British Prime Ministers, beginning with Mr. Boris Johnson, followed by Mr. Rishi Sunak and Mr. Keir Starmer, each reaffirmed the UK's commitment to concluding a mutually beneficial agreement with India, even as negotiations encountered delays arising from elections in both countries.

Throughout this period, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi consistently highlighted the importance of strengthening India's economic partnership with Britain as part of the country's broader vision for global trade and investment. The agreement eventually entered into force on 15 July 2026, during the tenure of British Prime Minister The Rt. Hon. Andy Burnham. It marked the culmination of years of sustained political commitment, diplomatic engagement and complex negotiations.

A Milestone Welcomed by Leaders

The agreement has been welcomed by political leaders on both sides as one of the most significant milestones in contemporary India-UK relations. PM of India, Shri Narendra Modi, announcing the agreement's implementation, described it as 'a significant moment' in bilateral ties and said the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and the Double Contributions Convention would deepen the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership by catalysing trade, investment, innovation and employment while creating new

opportunities for businesses, workers and farmers. Likewise, UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham pledged to elevate the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to "new heights" and unlock the full potential of the newly operationalised trade agreement.

Following the agreement's implementation, India's Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal described the occasion as 'a defining milestone' in India-UK ties. He said, "Under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi ji, the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Agreement on Social Security have come into force, delivering zero-duty access to the market for nearly 99% of India's exports, covering almost 100% of trade value."

Shri Goyal further highlighted that the agreement would create unprecedented opportunities across textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, marine products, chemicals, processed foods, agriculture, manufacturing and MSMEs.

He also emphasised that the agreement is expected to benefit India's IT, financial, professional, education and business services sectors, while the Double Contributions Convention will enhance the global competitiveness of Indian professionals in the UK.

The optimism expressed by policymakers reflects the breadth of opportunities the agreement is set to unlock across both traditional industries and emerging sectors.



Mr. Rishi Sunak, Former British PM

"It is great to see the trade deal being signed, something I started working on, and I'm really pleased that the new government concluded it"

More Than a Free Trade Agreement

Although widely referred to as the India–UK Free Trade Agreement, the pact is officially known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Unlike traditional trade agreements that focus primarily on reducing customs duties, CETA establishes a comprehensive framework covering trade in goods & services, investment, digital commerce, intellectual property, professional mobility and regulatory cooperation. It is designed to simplify cross-border business, strengthen investor confidence and create greater certainty for enterprises operating in both markets.

One of the agreement's most significant achievements is the substantial reduction in tariffs. Nearly 99% of Indian exports to the UK, representing almost the entire value of India's exports to Britain, will now enjoy zero-duty market access.

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Meanwhile, around 90% of British exports entering India will either become duty-free immediately or benefit from phased tariff reductions.

Lower duties will likely to enhance price competitiveness, reduce business costs and widen consumer choice in both markets. Indian exporters of engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, textiles, leather products and processed foods are likely to gain improved market access, helping them compete more effectively in the UK while opening further scope for trade expansion across key sectors.

At the same time, British businesses stand to benefit from greater access to India, one of the world's major fastest-growing economies, with scope for trade expansion, investment and stronger commercial partnerships across sectors. CETA is complemented by the Agreement on Social Security, also known as the Double Contributions Convention (DCC), which addresses social security contributions for employees on temporary overseas assignments.

Under the convention, employees and their employers will contribute to only one country's social security system for up to five years, eliminating the burden of dual contributions. For Indian professionals working in the United Kingdom, the arrangement aims to reduce employment costs while enhancing the global competitiveness of Indian talent. Similar agreements already exist between the UK and countries including Japan, South Korea and the United States. Taken together, CETA and the DCC establish a comprehensive economic architecture covering merchandise trade, investment, services and skilled mobility. By reducing costs and easing cross-border movement for professionals, the India-Uk Trade Agreement can support greater business collaboration and encourage companies of all sizes to explore lucrative opportunities in both markets.

More importantly, they provide a stronger foundation for stronger economic engagement while helping India and the UK build a deeper, more resilient and mutually beneficial partnership across industries and services.

Mr. Keir Starmer, Former British PM

"This is the biggest trade deal that the U.K. have done since we left the EU, and it's the most ambitious trade deal that India has ever done"



16 Industries Stand at the Threshold of Opportunity

By substantially lowering tariffs and improving market access, the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement is expected to unlock fresh opportunities across a wide range of industries. From manufacturing and engineering to financial services and digital technology, the agreement has the potential to deepen commercial engagement while encouraging businesses to expand their presence in each other's markets.

Engineering goods, automobiles and auto components, electrical machinery, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, chemicals, marine products, textiles, apparel, leather products, gems and jewellery, processed foods, agriculture, renewable energy, consumer goods, financial services and information technology are among the sectors expected to benefit from stronger market access and closer economic cooperation.

For India, the timing could hardly be more favourable. As global companies diversify supply chains and seek reliable manufacturing destinations, India has reinforced its position through policy reforms, expanding industrial capacity and improved infrastructure. Initiatives such as Make in India and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme have supported domestic manufacturing and deeper integration into global value chains. The agreement builds on these

efforts by providing greater access to the UK market while creating opportunities for British businesses to expand in India.

Rising consumer demand, a skilled workforce and an increasingly competitive business environment further strengthen the prospects for investment and sustained economic growth. While the benefits will vary across sectors, the agreement is expected to deepen industrial collaboration, encourage technology transfer and stimulate investment, reinforcing the foundations for economic growth in both countries.

Yet, greater trade has been accompanied by safeguards for sensitive areas of India's domestic economy. India has kept dairy, poultry, sugar, edible oils, apples, walnuts, gold bars, select smartphone categories and certain information technology products outside the scope of tariff concessions.

These exclusions have been put in place to help protect vulnerable agricultural sectors while preserving policy space for strategic manufacturing. They also support national initiatives such as Make in India and the PLI programmes.

These measures strike a balance between greater market access and domestic priorities, enabling India to benefit from increased trade, investment and economic opportunities while protecting vulnerable sectors, strengthening key industries and preserving the policy space needed to build domestic capabilities and safeguard its long-term economic interests.



Mr. Boris Johnson, Former British PM

I'm thrilled that it's happened. It's a great deal, and yet, if I've achieved nothing else in my life, my friends, I have cut the tariffs where I've given, persuaded, helped to persuade the brilliant, bounty, remorseless Indian negotiators to cut the tariffs with exorbitant 150% tariffs on Scotch whisky for 75% and going down and going down further, and going down further to 40% in the next few years"

India's Manufacturing Story Finds Fresh Momentum

The manufacturing sector best captures the transformative potential of the India-UK FTA. The agreement comes at a time when global businesses are redesigning supply chains, reducing dependence on single-country sourcing and seeking trusted manufacturing partners. Backed by a large industrial base, competitive production costs and an increasingly skilled workforce, India is well positioned to benefit from this global realignment.

Reduced tariffs on a broad range of industrial products are expected to enhance the competitiveness of Indian manufacturers in the UK market. Engineering goods, automotive components, electrical equipment, industrial machinery, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and medical devices are among the sectors likely to witness stronger export demand as lower trade barriers improve price competitiveness without compromising quality. Recent policy initiatives, including Make in India, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, the National Logistics Policy and the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, have already strengthened India's

manufacturing ecosystem by encouraging investment, modernising infrastructure and improving supply-chain efficiency. CETA complements these domestic reforms by creating new export opportunities at a time when Indian manufacturers are steadily expanding their global footprint.

The engineering sector is also expected to emerge as one of the strongest beneficiaries. From heavy industrial machinery and electrical equipment to precision engineering products and capital goods, Indian manufacturers have steadily developed capabilities that compete successfully in international markets. Easier access to the UK is expected to encourage fresh investment, expand production capacity and create employment across India's industrial clusters.

The automotive sector is also poised for significant growth. India has evolved into a major global manufacturing hub for automobiles and auto components, supplying products to leading international manufacturers. Reduced trade barriers are likely to encourage closer collaboration between Indian suppliers and British automotive companies, particularly as the industry accelerates its transition towards electric mobility, lightweight materials and sustainable manufacturing.

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Apart from trade, the India-UK FTA creates opportunities for innovation, healthcare collaboration, life sciences, medical technology, education, and skills development. As a healthcare leader, I see immense potential for accelerating research, digital health solutions, women's health initiatives, and capacity building through stronger academic and industry partnerships. The FTA can also facilitate greater investment in healthcare innovation. When two nations with shared democratic values and scientific excellence collaborate, the benefits extend beyond commerce to improving lives and creating a healthier, more prosperous future for both countries

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Dr. Hema Divakar
Senior Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist; CEO, ARTIST for Her; FIGO Division Director – Well Woman Healthcare



The pharmaceutical industry is another area of considerable promise. Indian pharma leaders have hailed the India-UK FTA as a catalyst for global collaboration. As one of the largest producers of affordable generic medicines and vaccines, India brings substantial manufacturing capabilities, scientific expertise and a well-established pharmaceutical ecosystem to the partnership. Improved market access could create new opportunities for Indian companies, particularly in generics, biosimilars, vaccines and other healthcare products. At the same time, the agreement is expected to encourage greater cooperation in research and development, clinical research and life sciences.

For British businesses, India offers far more than a large export destination. It represents one of the world's fastest-growing manufacturing ecosystems, supported by a sizable domestic market, competitive production capabilities and a strong pipeline of engineering talent.

Growing demand for technology and infrastructure is creating opportunities for companies with expertise in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, electrical machinery, medical technology and clean energy.

Under the agreement, UK businesses also gain access to India's public procurement market, covering goods, services and construction, with around 40,000 tenders valued at least £38 billion a year.

While large corporations are likely to lead many of the headline investments, the broader impact of the India-UK Trade Agreement is expected to extend across India's extensive network of suppliers, component manufacturers and ancillary industries.

As production expands and supply chains deepen, these businesses will play an increasingly important role in strengthening India's manufacturing competitiveness and export capabilities.

Manufacturing, therefore, is not merely one of the sectors expected to benefit from the agreement; it is likely to become one of the principal drivers of the next phase of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement.

With bilateral trade between the two countries already valued at £48 billion in 2025, the CETA provides a wider framework for companies to move beyond traditional exports and build stronger commercial links across industries.



The India-UK FTA can reshape bilateral economic relations by creating significant opportunities for MSMEs across technology, IT-enabled services, engineering, finance, cybersecurity, healthcare & consulting. Indian technology MSMEs can benefit from improved UK market access, lower deployment costs, source-code protection, and recognition of e-contracts and digital signatures. UK technology MSMEs can gain access to India's skilled talent, digital infrastructure and government procurement opportunities through local partnerships. By reinforcing digital trade and cross-border collaboration, the FTA can drive innovation, employment, investment and sustained economic growth



Mr. Manoj Bisht
MD - MK Infosystems Pvt. Ltd.



MSMEs Could Be the Real Winners

MSMEs form the backbone of India's manufacturing economy. With over 60 million enterprises contributing significantly to production, exports and employment, the sector is well placed to capitalise on the opportunities created by the India-UK FTA.

For many MSMEs in India, expanding into international markets has traditionally been a challenging proposition. High compliance costs, complex documentation, tariff barriers and unfamiliar regulatory requirements have often limited their ability to gain global exposure. By reducing trade barriers and improving market access, the free trade agreement will likely create a more favourable environment for smaller businesses to explore new export opportunities and compete globally.

Traditional export sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather goods, footwear, handicrafts, processed foods and gems and jewellery are expected to benefit from stronger demand in the UK market.

Beyond increasing export revenues, these industries support millions of livelihoods across semi-urban and rural India, making the agreement's impact particularly significant for

employment and inclusive economic growth.

Digital commerce is expected to further accelerate these opportunities. Cross-border e-commerce platforms, digital payment systems and more efficient logistics networks are making it easier for even small enterprises to reach overseas customers directly. As customs procedures become more streamlined and supply chains more efficient, many MSMEs could find themselves participating in international trade for the first time.

The agreement also opens new avenues for Indian MSMEs to build technology partnerships, collaborate on design and access knowledge from British businesses. Greater exposure to advanced manufacturing practices, innovation ecosystems and global best practices can help enterprises improve productivity, strengthen product quality and adopt more efficient processes.

These opportunities can support a shift from cost-driven competition towards greater value creation, enabling businesses to develop differentiated products.

By embracing technology, innovation and international standards, Indian MSMEs can strengthen their competitiveness, access wider markets and position themselves as reliable producers of high-quality, value-added products capable of succeeding on the global stage.

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The India-UK Free Trade Agreement is more than a trade pact; it is a bridge between two dynamic economies, unlocking a new era of innovation, investment and shared progress. For Arul Group, it presents powerful opportunities to build cross-border partnerships, strengthen advanced manufacturing and deliver sustainable, world-class infrastructure. By combining India's scale, talent and energy with the UK's technology and global expertise, this partnership can reshape industries, create quality employment and set a compelling benchmark for inclusive economic growth



Mr. Arul Vajravel
Managing Director, Arul Group of Companies



Technology, Services and the Knowledge Economy

India has established itself as a global leader in IT, digital services, engineering solutions and business process management. British businesses have long relied on Indian expertise in software development, consulting, fintech, cybersecurity and professional services. The agreement builds on these strengths by providing greater certainty for businesses operating across borders and creating a more predictable environment for trade in services.

Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal has highlighted that India's IT, financial, professional, education and business services sectors stand to benefit significantly from the agreement.

Improved market access and enhanced mobility provisions for skilled professionals are expected to create new opportunities for businesses while strengthening collaboration between the two countries.

The partnership is also expected to deepen cooperation in emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, fintech, cybersecurity, digital healthcare, climate technology and advanced data analytics. Britain's globally recognised strengths in

research, higher education and financial services complement India's expanding technology ecosystem, engineering talent and one of the world's largest digital economies, creating a strong foundation for future growth.

Education and research are likely to emerge as equally important areas of collaboration. Partnerships between universities, research institutions and industry can accelerate skills development, encourage joint research and support the commercialisation of new technologies.

The India-UK Trade Agreement also opens new opportunities for professional services, including legal advisory, accounting, architecture, consulting and financial services.

Demand for specialised expertise will likely grow in the coming years, creating additional scope for businesses and professionals in both countries. Ultimately, these partnerships extend beyond commercial gains.

By bringing together complementary capabilities in technology, research and innovation, India and the UK have the opportunity to develop solutions to shared global challenges ranging from healthcare and clean energy to digital security and sustainable development.

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The India-UK FTA is a timely and transformative step that can deepen trade, attract investment, and strengthen supply chains between two major economies. With biological agriculture in focus, it opens real opportunities for sustainable farm innovation, value-added agri-exports, and greener collaboration in food, biotech, and climate-smart farming. By protecting sensitive farm interests while expanding market access, the agreement can help Indian producers reach premium UK consumers and build a more resilient, future-ready agricultural partnership



Mr. Debabrata Sarkar
President-Asia Pacific, Alga Energy



Consumers Stand to Benefit

While businesses are expected to drive much of the economic impact of the agreement, consumers in both countries are also likely to experience tangible benefits.

Lower tariffs are expected to make a wide range of British products more affordable and accessible in India, offering greater choice across healthcare products, specialised machinery, premium food and beverages, cosmetics, lifestyle products and advanced consumer technologies. At the same time, British consumers are likely to enjoy improved access to competitively priced Indian goods, including textiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering products, processed foods, handicrafts and jewellery.

Additionally, greater competition will encourage businesses to improve quality, invest in product development and enhance customer service.

Competitiveness Will Determine Success

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The true beneficiaries of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement will be businesses that can adapt quickly to evolving market expectations, invest in innovation and consistently deliver quality.

The UK is a highly discerning consumer market, with buyers prioritising quality, sustainability, ethical sourcing and regulatory compliance. For Indian exporters, preferential market access is only the beginning. Long-term success will depend on advanced manufacturing, research, branding and strong customer experience.

Sustainability is now a key differentiator, with buyers prioritising environmental performance, lower carbon emissions and responsible sourcing. Renewable energy, efficient manufacturing and circular practices can strengthen competitiveness as global supply chains increasingly emphasise sustainability.

Consistent improvements in India's logistics and business ecosystem will also play a critical role. Dedicated freight corridors, multimodal logistics parks, digital customs and streamlined regulations are reinforcing export competitiveness.

Sustaining this momentum will help businesses meet global demand, reduce costs and improve delivery timelines. British companies must also understand local dynamics, invest for the long term and build partnerships aligned with India's growth ambitions.

Ultimately, the agreement will favour businesses of both the nations that are prepared to innovate, invest and evolve.

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The India-UK FTA is a statement of intent about the kind of growth India wants to build: inclusive, resilient, and led from the ground up. By eliminating tariffs on most Indian goods and simplifying export compliance, it gives MSMEs access to over 65 million UK consumers—an opportunity previously dominated by large enterprises. This agreement can empower India's next generation of entrepreneurs compete confidently in global markets. I see this agreement as a defining catalyst that will transform India's small-business ecosystem into a formidable pillar of global trade

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Mr. Dipak Choudhary
Director, Sula Infotech India Pvt. Ltd.



Investment Beyond Trade

By providing greater certainty for investors and reducing commercial barriers, the agreement creates favourable conditions for sustained cross-border investment. The UK has long been among India's leading sources of foreign direct investment. British companies have established a significant presence across banking, insurance, infrastructure, renewable energy, healthcare, education and advanced manufacturing. As implementation gathers pace, investor confidence should strengthen further, encouraging businesses to expand their presence in one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

India, meanwhile, has emerged as one of the largest investors in the British economy. Indian companies have created thousands of jobs across sectors ranging from information technology and pharmaceuticals to automotive manufacturing, hospitality and financial services. As bilateral confidence deepens, Indian enterprises are expected to pursue further acquisitions, strategic partnerships and greenfield investments across the UK.

The agreement also creates new opportunities for innovation-led enterprises. India's vibrant start-up ecosystem, combined with Britain's strengths in research, financial services and venture capital, offers fertile ground for collaboration. Partnerships involving businesses, universities, research institutions and investors can accelerate the commercialisation of emerging technologies while opening new avenues for entrepreneurship and knowledge exchange.

Equally promising are opportunities in clean energy, life sciences and advanced technologies, where the complementary strengths of both countries can support joint initiatives in renewable energy, green hydrogen, healthcare innovation, biotechnology, digital technologies and advanced manufacturing.

Rather than viewing one another solely as export markets, India and the UK are increasingly positioned to become long-term partners in investment, innovation and value creation. The agreement provides the framework to transform

that shared ambition into deeper economic cooperation.

The Road Ahead

By expanding market access, encouraging investment and strengthening collaboration across manufacturing, services, technology and innovation, the India-UK FTA creates a strong foundation for shared prosperity.

The success of the agreement will be measured not merely by how much the two countries trade, but by what they build together. Its real value will lie beyond higher trade figures, reflected in the growth of companies, the flow of investment, the exchange of technology and the business relationships that develop between the two countries.

Indian companies will have the opportunity to establish themselves more firmly in the British market, improve the quality of their products and move into more sophisticated areas of business. British companies, in turn, will gain greater access to India's expanding market, its growing industrial base and its considerable pool of skilled manpower. This will create fresh avenues for mutual growth and greater commercial understanding between the two countries. There is considerable scope for the two countries to build upon their existing economic ties.

As businesses on both sides seize the opportunities it presents, the agreement has the potential to redefine one of the world's most significant bilateral economic relationships, measured not simply by the value of goods traded, but by the partnerships forged and the shared prosperity created for generations to come. It can also bring the two business communities closer and create new avenues across a wide range of sectors.

If businesses, investors and institutions make full use of the framework, the India-UK partnership can evolve from a strong trading relationship into a broader and more integrated economic partnership. It can also create greater value and deliver shared prosperity for both countries over the years ahead.



Global Leaders

2026

In an era characterised by significant transformations in economics, technology and geopolitics, the world needs leaders who can read complexity, explore opportunities and respond with conviction and perspective. Global leadership is not simply about prominence but about exercising sound judgement and contributing to conversations that enrich the lives of people and strengthen economies across borders.

The Global Leaders 2026 section recognises individuals whose influence carries international significance. Their accomplishments reflect years of enterprise, judgement and perseverance, while their work offers valuable perspectives on the defining challenges confronting societies and industries today. These are individuals whose voices command attention, whose decisions carry consequence, and whose achievements have earned them a respected place among the most influential figures of our time



ASH SHAH

PIONEERING THE ART OF EXCELLENCE

Mr. Ash Shah, the Founder of IMPEX Capital Group, is a name that commands significant respect within the high-stakes corridors of international commerce and real estate. Starting from the solid foundation of the Shah Family Office three decades ago, he has steered his Houston-based firm toward becoming a formidable titan in the American investment landscape today





ver the years, Mr. Shah has built a massive portfolio exceeding \$2.1 billion, spanning nearly 20 states in the USA. From the bustling streets of Texas to key markets across the US, his footprint is visible in over 10,000 multifamily units and millions of square feet of industrial and retail space. Whether it is a sleek high-rise condo or a niche storage facility, the seasoned entrepreneur believes in hitting the nail on the head when it comes to identifying off-market opportunities that others might overlook in the mad rush for visible assets.

Before becoming a heavyweight in property, the leader proved his mettle in the manufacturing sector. As the erstwhile Founder and CEO of Impex Global, he took a packaging business to the top of the ladder, expanding across North America and into international markets. When he eventually sold the venture to a private equity firm in 2012, it was

stable even in tough times. This disciplined approach of balancing ambition with practicality has helped his legacy grow across different market cycles.

PEOPLE- HIS REAL ASSET

Mr. Shah's philosophy is driven by a strong belief in human capital. "A company should run like a well-oiled machine where every part works in harmony," he often remarks. He has always maintained that no enterprise, regardless of its scale or success, can rise above the strength of its team. That strength, he believes, is built through a healthy work culture driven by mutual respect, which in turn creates a high-performing, loyal team.

He often remarks that while finding good talent is one thing, retaining the talent is the real litmus test for a leader. To him, a company should function like a well-oiled machine where every part feels valued. He champions a "family-type togetherness,"

"MR. SHAH DRIVES SUSTAINABLE GROWTH THROUGH DISCIPLINE, VISION, AND FORESIGHT"

evident that he knew exactly when to strike while the iron was hot. This transition from plastics and paper to brick and mortar demonstrates a versatile business brain that refuses to be pigeonholed.

A HUMBLE LEADER

A sharp-eyed entrepreneur, Mr. Shah brings a sincere and purposeful approach to every opportunity he pursues. He has never believed in chasing trends or fleeting market excitement. Where others may get carried away by fleeting trends or quick returns, the far-sighted leader has always preferred focusing on substance over spectacle. By choosing off-market deals, good assets, and thinking long term, he has shaped his decisions carefully. To him, growth is not a race to be won in haste, but a journey that must be sustained with care and foresight. In a fast-moving industry, he believes that slow and steady wins the race.

DRIVING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Mr. Shah is also a staunch advocate of "responsible growth." He warns against the perils of growing too fast, which can often lead to a firm biting off more than it can chew. By closely monitoring finances and doing regular checks, he keeps the business

asserting that while money is a motivator, the real secret sauce is a culture where people actually look forward to their Monday mornings.

He also holds that leadership is not a one-sided exercise. There are moments when a leader must stand firm, and others when flexibility and understanding are required. By maintaining this balance of give and take, he ensures that his team remains cohesive, aligned, and resilient, even in the face of challenges.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Over the years, Mr. Shah's dedication and commendable efforts have drawn recognition from both industry bodies and his peers. His ventures have frequently featured in the Inc. 5000 and the Houston Business Journal's "Fastest Growing Companies."

The seasoned leader has previously been honored as the "International Entrepreneur of the Year" by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce. He is also a respected member of the Forbes Finance Council. Most recently, his peers have tipped their hats to his leadership by naming him a 2025 Finalist for Executive of the Year – Investment at the REDnews Texas Real Estate Awards.

DARPAN KALE

LEADING INDIA'S INTELLIGENT INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLUTION

Mr. Darpan Kale is a seasoned business leader in the AI-enabled urban infrastructure and smart city solutions sector. As Founder and Managing Director of DPIFS Solutions Pvt. Ltd., he has demonstrated a sharp understanding of the evolving requirements of modern cities and has led the development of innovative solutions that enhance safety, mobility efficiency and civic engagement





As cities grapple with the growing demands of urbanisation and the need for more efficient public services, Mr. Darpan has established himself as a forward-thinking leader in the urban infrastructure sector. An Electronics Engineer by qualification, he possesses extensive expertise in IT systems and infrastructure execution. His professional journey includes significant assignments with TATA, ONGC and AAI, experiences that have contributed greatly to his practical understanding of large-scale infrastructure deployment.

At DPIFS Solutions, Mr. Kale provides strategic direction for AI-enabled urban infrastructure programmes, intelligent traffic management systems and signal-based digital information platforms. By focusing on innovation, accountability, and sustainability, he has developed effective frameworks that deliver measurable public benefits while maintaining operational efficiency.

story was achieved in January 2026 when DPIFS Solutions, under his leadership, signed a MoU with the Government of Uttar Pradesh during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Executed under the Invest UP initiative, the agreement represents one of the most significant developments in the field of AI-enabled urban infrastructure in recent years. The proposed investment of approximately ₹3,800 crore is aimed at designing, developing, installing, integrating, operating and maintaining advanced smart traffic management systems and urban surveillance infrastructure across multiple cities in the state. The project will likely create over 500 direct and indirect employment opportunities while strengthening urban management capabilities.

A SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION

Mr. Kale emphasises both economic growth and responsible development, with a focus on future-

"MR. KALE SHAPES RESILIENT CITIES THROUGH AI-ENABLED INFRASTRUCTURE & INNOVATION"

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A defining feature of Mr. Kale's leadership is his commitment to harnessing advanced technology for public benefit. As the visionary behind STTS technology, he has championed solutions that address some of the most pressing challenges facing urban administrations. For instance, the intelligent traffic management systems developed by DPIFS help optimise traffic flow, strengthen road safety measures and improve the overall commuting experience for citizens. Equally significant are the company's signal-based digital information platforms, which facilitate effective civic communication and support informed decision-making. These initiatives demonstrate how technology can serve as a practical instrument for improving governance and public service delivery.

Mr. Kale has also played an influential role in advancing sustainable Build-Operate-Transfer models and Public-Private Partnership frameworks. His expertise in governance and stakeholder collaboration has helped deliver complex urban infrastructure projects across multiple cities. Such efforts have helped build stakeholder confidence besides advancing urban modernisation.

LANDMARK INVESTMENTS

A major milestone in the company's growth

ready infrastructure that has established DPIFS Solutions as a trusted contributor to India's smart city ecosystem. Under his stewardship, the organisation has earned widespread recognition for delivering projects on schedule and within budget while maintaining the highest standards of regulatory compliance. These qualities make the company as a trusted partner for governments and institutions seeking reliable infrastructure solutions.

RACKING UP ACCOLADES

Mr. Kale's leadership has earned DPIFS Solutions several awards, including the title of Best Intelligent Infrastructure Solutions Company in India for 2025. His efforts align closely with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, which emphasises modern infrastructure, technology-driven governance and sustainable urban development. Through intelligent mobility solutions and AI-enabled public infrastructure, he is contributing to the creation of smarter, safer and more efficient cities that support India's long-term growth aspirations. As cities increasingly adopt technology-driven solutions, Mr. Kale and DPIFS Solutions are well positioned to contribute to the future of India's infrastructure development.

DR. EMMANUEL V. DALAVAI

STANDING TALL IN THE LEADERSHIP ARENA

Dr. Emmanuel V. Dalavai, Executive Coach, Leadership Strategist and Practitioner-Scholar, brings together corporate experience, academic scholarship and a human approach to leadership. Through EVD Enterprises LLC and Live Out Loud! Coaching, he works with executives and organisations to help them strengthen emotional intelligence, sharpen influence and lead with authenticity in complex environments. His career reflects a distinctive saga of service, resilience and transformation. Through EVD Enterprises LLC and Live Out Loud! Coaching, Dr. Dalavai offers leaders more than conventional development. He serves as a mirror and catalyst, and encourages executives to examine who they are, how they influence others and the kind of leadership legacy they intend to create. His philosophy is captured in a belief that “leadership is not about power, but about presence”





dynamic leader, Dr. Dalavai holds that true influence begins with self-awareness, authenticity and a willingness to serve others. he seasoned leader's professional journey has taken him through some of the world's most recognised organisations. At Boeing Distribution Inc., he led global training and talent-management initiatives spanning 42 international offices. He also contributed to Boeing's Organisational Change Management team while supporting the establishment of the company's Global Services division. Earlier leadership roles with AT&T, SBC Communications and major healthcare organisations gave him further opportunities to champion human-capital innovation, leadership development and organisational change. In 2003, Dr. Dalavai founded EVD Enterprises to establish a platform through which his corporate experience, behavioural insights and academic research could be applied to the challenges facing senior leaders. Today,

with clarity and empathy while embracing the responsibility that comes with influence.

ACADEMIC BRILLIANCE

Dr. Dalavai's academic background reinforces his practitioner approach. He holds dual bachelor's degrees in Chemistry and French from the University of Kansas, an MBA from Texas Christian University and a Master's in Telecommunications Management from the University of Dallas. He also holds an Executive Ph.D. in Business, specialising in Emotional Intelligence and Servant Leadership, and has completed the course requirements for Stanford certification in Advanced Project Management. As a keynote speaker, Adjunct Professor and Guest Lecturer, he has addressed audiences on leadership, executive presence, emotional intelligence and cross-cultural communication. His international perspective has been driven by academic engagement and a lifelong interest in cultural exchange.

In May 2026, following a difficult period in

"DR. DALAVAI CHAMPIONS AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP

THROUGH EMPATHY, RESILIENCE AND PURPOSE"

under his leadership, the firm focuses on executive coaching, leadership development and organisational transformation, for leaders working in high-stakes, multicultural environments.

THE H.E.R.O. WITHIN

Dr. Dalavai capitalises on the work of Luthans et al. (2007) and the H.E.R.O. framework to bring together four psychological facets of leadership: Hope, Efficacy, Resilience and Optimism. Grounded in Positive Organisational Scholarship and Positive Psychology, the framework provides leaders a practical approach to strengthen their inner resources and to tackle volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. His approach also places emotional intelligence at the centre of executive effectiveness. He encourages leaders to understand how they show up, how their communication affects others and how authenticity can become a source of influence rather than simply a personal quality. Through Live Out Loud! Coaching, clients work on executive presence, interpersonal communication, influence and self-awareness. The philosophy behind the coaching practice is deliberately bold. "Live out loud" represents the courage to be visible, purposeful and intentional. It encourages leaders to communicate

which he and Mrs. Dalavai were stranded in Dubai during the Iran conflict, Dr. Dalavai joined a panel at Oxford University to discuss the roles that emotional resilience and optimism played in their journey back to the USA via Oman and Frankfurt. Then, in August, he delivered a presentation at Harvard University (sponsored by LOSD) on Positive Psychological Capital and its relevance to leaders facing increasingly difficult and challenging situations. His forthcoming book, *The 6 EMMANUELs of Influence: Six Factors to Transform Leaders & Organisations*, is expected by December 2026. The work expands his research into emotional intelligence, leadership presence and servant leadership.

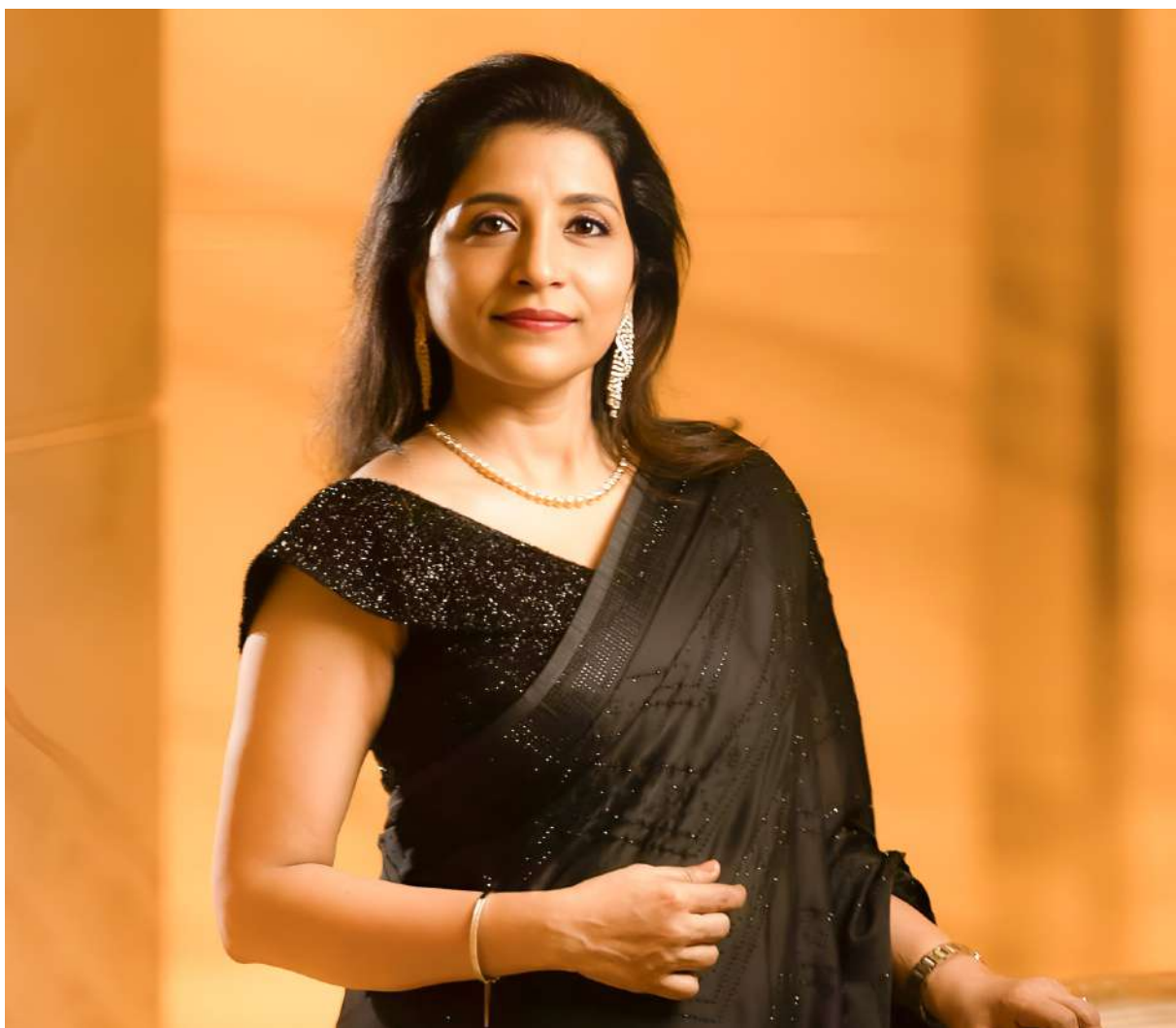
RACKING UP ACCOLADES

Recently, Dr. Dalavai has been honoured with the Excellence in Executive Coaching & Leadership Development Award at the Global Excellence & Leadership Awards, Singapore 2026. With cultural roots spanning India and the US, Dr. Dalavai credits his mother, Jaya, for instilling empathy and perseverance. Together with his wife, Julie, he enjoys international travel and experiencing different cultures.

DR. (H.C.) MAMTA BINANI

DRIVING EXCELLENCE WITHOUT COMPROMISE

Dr. (H.C.) Mamta Binani's career is a saga of determination and disciplined effort. Her journey reflects more than the positions she has held. It embodies the barriers she has surmounted with resolve. In a traditionally male dominated profession, she has earned recognition for her integrity, substantial contributions, and consistent record of achievement, while inspiring generations of aspiring professionals





An accomplished leader, Dr. Binani assumed the National Presidency of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India in 2016, marking a defining moment, not only for her but for the profession at large. Being only the second woman to hold this office in over five decades, she carried the weight of expectations and responsibilities with graceful composure. Her tenure reflected clarity of thought and a deep commitment to strengthening the profession's ethical and academic framework.

ACADEMIC BRILLIANCE

A commerce and law graduate, Dr. Binani demonstrated early brilliance by securing the All India top position among women in the ICSI Intermediate examinations, along with an impressive national rank. These accomplishments were more than milestones as they reflected the leader's disciplined mindset that later helped

approaches governance with accountability and balance. Her measured and firm contributions reflect her belief that corporate conduct must align with broader societal good.

A VERSATILE INDIVIDUAL

Equally noteworthy is her commitment to sharing knowledge. A prolific speaker and mentor, she has addressed thousands of students and professionals across the country. Her insightful sessions are known not for rhetoric, but for clarity and relatability. Through platforms such as her webcast series, she reaches out to young and ambitious aspirants who look for practical and principled guidance. In an era where information is abundant but wisdom is scarce, her voice carries unquestionable credibility.

LEADERSHIP BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Dr. Binani's association with global and national

"DR. BINANI INSPIRES THROUGH INTEGRITY AND IMPACTFUL CORPORATE STEWARDSHIP"

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her steer through intricate legal and corporate challenges with clarity, focus, and remarkable precision..

TACKLING COMPLEXITY WITH ETHICS

Dr. Binani's professional life reflects depth rather than display. Her work demonstrates a nuanced understanding of how law, finance, and ethics intersect in real-world scenarios. As one of the earliest practitioners in corporate and insolvency laws, and notably the first registered Insolvency Professional with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, she stepped into a domain that demanded both technical expertise and moral judgement. Over the course of more than two decades, the dynamic leader has effortlessly handled complex and high-stakes cases involving distressed businesses, where each decision often carries far reaching economic, organisational, and human consequences.

PURPOSE-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

Apart from her courtroom and advisory roles, Dr. Binani's influence in boardrooms has been equally significant. Serving as an Independent Director across several respected Indian companies, she

forums further reflects her standing in the professional community. Whether representing India in international discussions on governance and sustainability, or contributing to domestic policy dialogues, she brings a perspective shaped by experience and grounded understanding. Her involvement with professional bodies and chambers of commerce highlights her willingness to engage beyond individual success.

SCOOPING UP ACCOLADES

Dr. Binani has received numerous prestigious accolades, ranging from the Bharat Nirman Awards to international honours in insolvency and restructuring. She became the first Indian woman to receive the IWIRC Women of the Year in Restructuring (Asia) Award in 2021. Yet, she never rests on her laurels. What stands out most is her ability to remain grounded, consistently placing purpose above publicity.

Dr. Binani's success story offers a lesson in strength and consistency. It shows that success does not demand noise, but preparation, integrity, focus, and sustained effort. In choosing competence over convention, she has not only advanced her own career but also opened doors for countless others.

FARAJ JAFFAR

THE ARCHITECT OF INTEGRATED GROWTH

Mr. Faraj Jaffar, Director of ASAS Group of Companies, is building a new model of corporate success in East Africa through a forward-thinking approach. Driven by patience and passion, he has built ASAS into an organisation that not only delivers high-quality products but also contributes meaningfully to community development

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In his current role at ASAS, Mr. Faraj champions Deep Vertical Integration that connects every stage of the value chain, from farm to customer. This approach shields the business from market volatility and currency fluctuations while ensuring strict cost control, consistent quality, and operational efficiency, particularly in sensitive sectors such as dairy production. By maintaining oversight across all stages, the Group ensures a dependable supply chain and uncompromising standards.

EXCELLENCE WITH LOCAL INSIGHT

Mr. Faraj strongly believes that international standards should be adapted to local realities. He emphasises that while governance, accounting, and product quality must align with global norms, operations should be tailored to suit the local market. He notes that rural areas, often difficult to access, can be effectively served through flexible

and 500 employees, moves goods efficiently across East Africa. Its clearing and forwarding operations serve over 100 major clients, ensuring reliability and timely delivery. This robust logistics network not only drives business growth but also reinforces the promise of dependable service to customers.

Mr. Faraj leads ASAS Energies, which runs five fuel stations and plans to expand to eleven by 2026. A joint venture with Pedretech to build an LPG facility reflects his focus on growth, diversification, and meeting regional energy needs.

IMPACT ON FARMERS AND COMMUNITIES

Mr. Faraj believes that business success is truly meaningful only when it creates a positive impact on people's lives. This philosophy is reflected in his dairy business, which supports 1,500 cows and over 10,000 partner farmers. Farmers benefit from stable incomes and access to quality feed, while

"MR. FARAJ DRIVES INTEGRATED GROWTH WITH VALUES, RESILIENCE, AND IMPACT"

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transport networks. By adjusting methods to match infrastructure conditions, he ensures both efficiency and accessibility. For Faraj, this approach is about making global standards meaningful at the local level.

A bold leader, Mr. Faraj embraces challenges as opportunities to build resilience. During periods of currency depreciation and rising commodity prices, instead of cutting back, he chose to invest in strengthening the business. Processes were digitised, operations restructured, and technology was embraced as a strategic enabler. As a result, ASAS emerged stronger, more efficient, and more profitable.

DRIVEN BY VALUES

Mr. Faraj leads with values, guided by trust, discipline, and accountability. In markets where contracts are not always easy to enforce, he believes trust helps business move faster. Discipline ensures that every process meets its standard, while accountability creates a culture where mistakes are observed, learned from, and corrected. According to him, these principles have kept ASAS steady even in uncertain times. Under his leadership, ASAS Transporters Limited, with a fleet of over 1,000 trucks

the company secures a reliable milk supply. This model not only strengthens rural livelihoods but also generates employment, improves incomes, and contributes to the growth of local economies, creating a sustainable cycle of shared prosperity.

TECHNOLOGY FOR INTEGRATION

A tech-savvy leader, Mr. Faraj invests in advanced technology systems that reduce dependence on intermediaries and connect directly with customers. These digital solutions enhance efficiency, streamline supply chains, and ensure consistent service delivery, positioning the Group for future growth in a region increasingly focused on localised sourcing and distribution.

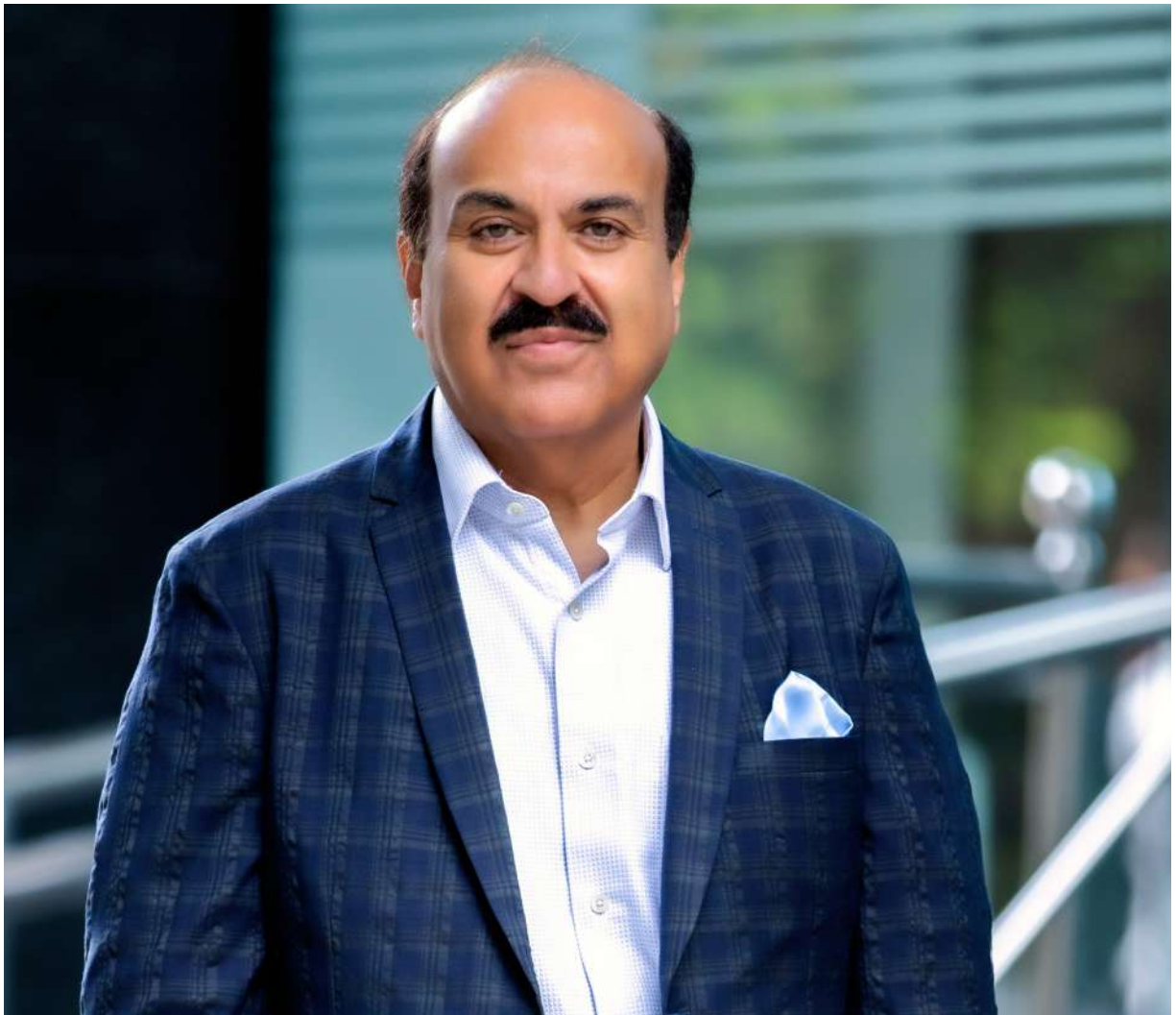
GARNERING ACCOLADES

In 2025, Mr. Faraj was honoured with the CEO Award in Logistics and Transportation in 2025 for his leadership and contributions to the sector. Under his leadership, the organisation was awarded the "Customers' Friend" certification by ICERTIA for 2025–2026 for its commitment to customer satisfaction and service excellence.

HARISH KOHLI

WINNING THROUGH INNOVATION

Mr. Harish Kohli, President & Managing Director of Acer India, has led a decisive transformation of the organisation through disciplined execution, strategic clarity, & deep market understanding. Under his leadership, Acer India has evolved from a highly competitive PC player into a diversified technology enterprise with strong, future-ready growth engines





Recognising the need to future-proof the business, Mr. Kohli led a strategic shift in how Acer India engaged with the market. He sharpened focus on portfolio clarity, strengthened channel partnerships, and elevated the overall customer value proposition. The approach moved towards deeper, solution-led engagement across consumer and enterprise segments, aligning closely with evolving user needs. This transition enhanced the quality of customer interactions, strengthened brand relevance, and built a more resilient, future-ready business model.

A defining outcome of this strategy has been Acer India's emergence as one of the fastest-growing PC brands in the country. This growth has been driven by a calibrated shift towards premium notebooks, gaming systems, and AI-enabled devices, alongside a transition from specification-led communication to experience-led storytelling. By helping customers

generation data centres and AI-driven applications, these servers reinforce Acer's commitment to enabling sovereign AI capabilities, strengthening domestic manufacturing, and contributing to India's evolving digital infrastructure ecosystem.

BUILDING LONG-TERM TRUST

Mr. Kohli has repositioned Acer India as a long-term solutions partner through Altos, strengthening enterprise engagement with scalable, reliable solutions. Investments in partners and deployments have enabled large digital transformation projects, shifting relationships from transactional deals to outcome-driven partnerships.

Under his direction, Acer India has built a robust omnichannel presence with consistent customer experience, supported by data-driven marketing and agile strategies to adapt quickly to market changes.

Mr. Kohli's leadership philosophy places equal emphasis on people and performance. By fostering

"MR. KOHLI HAS TRANSFORMED ACER INDIA

WITH HIS LEADERSHIP & BUSINESS ACUMEN"

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better understand real-world performance across education, gaming, and professional use cases, the brand has strengthened both preference and value perception.

EXPANDING BEYOND PCS

A key pillar of Mr. Kohli's vision has been Acer India's expansion into adjacent, high-potential categories. Under his leadership, Acer has—successfully built a multi-category portfolio through:

- **Acerpure** – establishing a strong presence in consumer appliances and home technology, spanning air conditioners, televisions, air purifiers, and lifestyle devices, supported by a growing omni-channel footprint.
- **Altos** – strengthening Acer's enterprise play through servers and workstations, positioning the company as a credible infrastructure partner for institutions and businesses.

This diversification has been achieved while preserving Acer's core identity as a technology-led brand, ensuring coherence across both consumer and enterprise ecosystems. Building on this foundation, Acer India recently marked a significant milestone with the launch of its Made-in-India AI server portfolio under Altos. Designed to power next-

generation data centres and AI-driven applications, these servers reinforce Acer's commitment to enabling sovereign AI capabilities, strengthening domestic manufacturing, and contributing to India's evolving digital infrastructure ecosystem.

leadership depth, clear accountability, and continuous learning, Acer India has strengthened organisational capability. Structured training programs for employees and partners, particularly in AI computing, gaming, and solution-based selling, have enhanced productivity and readiness for future opportunities. Equally, Acer India's partner ecosystem has been a cornerstone of its success, with transparent engagement models and a focus on long-term value helping expand market reach and strengthen its retail presence nationwide.

Acer India aligns with national priorities by supporting Make in India, expanding access to technology, and advancing social impact initiatives across education, healthcare, and accessibility, reinforcing its role as a responsible organisation.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Looking ahead, Mr. Kohli aims to accelerate India's shift to AI-led computing, scale Acerpure as a consumer brand, and strengthen Altos as a key enterprise and AI infrastructure enabler. With a strong focus on capability building, partner empowerment, and execution excellence, Acer India is well-positioned to lead the next phase of technology-driven growth.

KALPESH KINARIWALA

REDEFINING AFFORDABLE LUXURY

Mr. Kalpesh Kinariwala, Founder of Pantheon Development, is a seasoned entrepreneur known for his long-term vision. His journey from humble beginnings to becoming a respected name in international business reflects persistence, smart decision-making, and the determination to overcome challenges. Over the years, he has built businesses focused on trust, value creation, and consistent delivery





Mr. Kalpesh faced a significant personal setback early in life with the loss of his father at the age of 13. The experience changed the direction of his life and instilled in him a deep sense of resilience and responsibility. He stepped into his family's business in India, where he learnt the fundamentals of trade and discipline. Over time, it became evident that his aspirations were far greater than the path laid before him.

In 2001, with limited capital of \$2,000 and a compact operational base, he established Pantheon Group. Through astute market positioning and a high-impact partnership with a Chilean iodine producer, he secured a dominant share of India's iodine market. Within a year, the business controlled approximately 67% of the segment, and by 2008, it had scaled into the world's largest iodine distribution platform. This phase of growth speaks volumes about his ability to identify opportunity

Mr. Kalpesh has also introduced innovative financial frameworks, including extended payment plans of up to 10 years and structured return models offering up to 12% net ROI in recent projects. His early belief that affordable luxury would become a strong-performing segment, something he spoke about in a 2018 interview with Arabian Business, has since proven accurate, driven by steady investor interest and solid rental returns.

His developments, such as Pantheon Boulevard and Elysee, demonstrate practical design, timely delivery, and attention to community living. New ventures like VOXA in Jumeirah Village Triangle and One RAK Central further highlight his intent to integrate residential, commercial, and retail spaces into cohesive environments.

RACKING UP ACCOLADES

Mr. Kalpesh is widely recognised for his disciplined approach to delivery. Known as the "Delivery Man

"MR. KALPESH CREATES INVESTMENT-DRIVEN

COMMUNITIES, FOCUSED ON QUALITY LIVING"

where others saw uncertainty.

An ambitious leader, Mr. Kalpesh's success in chemicals did not confine him. Instead, it reinforced a belief that growth comes from exploring new arenas with courage and preparation. His transition into finance and later into real estate was guided by careful analysis and understanding of evolving market needs.

THE BIRTH OF A NEW VISION

In 2016, he established Pantheon Development in Dubai with the purpose of making quality living accessible to all without diluting standards. He recognised a gap in the market where aspiring homeowners sought comfort and quality but were constrained by affordability. He responded by delivering premium homes at accessible prices, without compromising timelines or standards. This belief translated into tangible results. Under his leadership, the company has delivered over 1,000 residential units in Jumeirah Village Circle, with an additional pipeline exceeding 1,600 units. The company's expansion into Ras Al Khaimah, including projects valued at AED at over 1.9 billion, signals both ambition and confidence in emerging markets.

of JVC," he has built a reputation for completing projects on time. This consistency has strengthened trust among buyers and investors. His efforts have earned several honours, including CEO Middle East Awards and recognition from Gulf News, Construction Week, and Arabian Business Real Estate Awards 2019. He was also featured on the cover of Arabian Business as "The Rebel," that highlighted his transition from chemical trading to real estate development. In 2024, Gulf News acknowledged him for his delivery timelines, innovative payment structures, and customer-focused approach, and now in 2026, Gulf Business honoured Pantheon Development with the Luxury Developer of the Year award.

Apart from business, the humble leader guides young entrepreneurs and mentors the next generation of business leaders. He regularly shares his experiences and encourages them to pursue growth with discipline and resilience. As Pantheon Development expands its presence across Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah, Mr. Kalpesh remains focused on making quality living more accessible while creating reliable investment opportunities, and developing communities designed to stand the test of time.

SHIRISH NIMGAONKAR

FROM MELODIES TO MACHINE INTELLIGENCE

Shirish Nimgaonkar, Founder & CEO of eBlissAI, an AI-native autonomous IT operations platform, stands out as a leader driven by intent, discipline, and deep empathy. A rare hybrid of technologist, strategist, and artist, he builds systems that replace digital noise with clarity. His work reflects the simple belief that people perform best when systems offer clarity, calm, and confidence





forward-thinking leader, Shirish Nimgaonkar is known for his academic brilliance and consistent professional achievements. An alumnus of IIT Bombay, Stanford University, and Harvard Business

School, he was named an ITC Management Scholar, a distinction given to only the top six students in India.

Before building software, Shirish Nimgaonkar used to build melodies. Music was his first classroom in leadership and entrepreneurship. A trained classical musician with a bachelor's in Indian classical vocals, he won the Indian Idol (Sa Re Ga Ma Pa) Northeast US competition and performed extensively across India and the United States. Years of training in classical music instilled in him a sense of discipline and patience. These experiences have shaped him into a leader who balances structure with creativity, precision with empathy, and rigour with rhythm. "Music taught

and organisations to operate with greater efficiency, focus, and calm. For Shirish Nimgaonkar, technology should not compete for attention; it should amplify human potential by supporting human ability.

UNIQUE LEADERSHIP STYLE

Leadership, for Mr. Shirish Nimgaonkar, is about creating energy that aligns people toward a shared purpose. Driven by authenticity, transparency, and trust, he focuses on empowering his teams to think independently while staying accountable to outcomes.

The dynamic leader is also engaged with global entrepreneurial ecosystems. Through his work with Harvard, TiE, and founder communities, he mentors emerging entrepreneurs to build with authenticity, responsibility, and long-term vision. His leadership philosophy centres on energy, empathy, and execution, where trust is earned through contribution and impact, not titles.

"SHIRISH NIMGAONKAR LEADS WITH EMPATHY

AND VISIONARY TECHNOLOGICAL INSIGHT"

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me to hear before I act, feel before I decide, and create coherence from chaos," he often says.

ENDING DIGITAL FRICTION

Professionally, Shirish Nimgaonkar's career spans global organisations such as Intel and Alantra, along with multiple successful exits in VC- and PE-backed technology ventures across the US, Europe, and Asia. Whether in engineering, investment banking, or entrepreneurship, his work has consistently focused on solving complex, high-impact problems. His driving principle—"ideas without action are hallucinations"—reflects his emphasis on execution as the true measure of innovation.

Leveraging this solid experience, he set up eBlissAI, a company focused on reducing digital friction through AI-driven predictive solutions. Noticing that even highly skilled professionals were losing time dealing with reactive IT issues, the leader developed "predictive autonomy," an AI layer that anticipates problems and adjusts to individual work styles while reducing digital noise and restoring workflow continuity. This groundbreaking platform empowers individuals

RACKING UP ACCOLADES

Shirish Nimgaonkar's dedication has earned widespread recognition. The forward-thinking leader has been honoured as a Global Icon of Innovation for his ability to align creativity with technology. Additionally, his deal-making expertise in investment banking earned him a place among the 40 Under 40 top M&A bankers by M&A Advisor. Yet, the humble leader never rests on his laurels. "Recognition is a milestone, not a destination; discipline is the real differentiator," he says.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Shirish Nimgaonkar believes excellence comes with a responsibility to give back to society. Apart from his professional and artistic accomplishments, the benevolent leader directs his musical endeavours toward fundraising. Through his entrepreneurial music venture, Kashish, he uses music as a platform to support nonprofits working in education and social welfare. By bringing together creativity and purpose, he demonstrates that art can be a powerful instrument for social change.

INDIA &
MALAYSIA:
**FORGING
NEW
PATHWAYS
OF MUTUAL
PROGRESS**

India and Malaysia are both vibrant, multicultural parliamentary democracies in Asia, sharing a commitment to democratic values, the rule of law, and a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both nations possess deep historical ties, with Malaysia housing the second-largest Indian-origin community, fostering strong political, economic, and cultural links

BY **RICHA SANG**





Ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations in the year 1957, Malaysia and India have been nurturing a strong bond based on mutual respect and shared values, which was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in August 2024. Both the nations elevated their ties to CSP, focusing on enhancing trade, digital economy, and defense. Bilateral trade reached nearly \$20 billion, with a push to diversify beyond palm oil into semiconductors and technology.

The warm India-Malaysia relations have recently got a major fillip with the official visit of the Indian Prime Minister, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi to Malaysia from February 7-8, 2026. This visit has marked a transformative moment in India-Malaysia relations. This engagement in Putrajaya reaffirmed the CSP, showcasing both nations' commitment to building a relationship that extends beyond traditional diplomatic ties.

PUTRAJAYA SUMMIT 2026: A MOMENTOUS MILESTONE IN BILATERAL COOPERATION

The visit served as a platform for operationalizing the CSP through concrete institutional mechanisms. During the summit, both sides exchanged 11 bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding that provide a framework for cooperation across strategic sectors including semiconductors, digital economy, disaster management, security, and healthcare. The Leaders agreed that regular dialogue and exchanges, including high-level visits, have strengthened mutual understanding and coordination across various areas of bilateral cooperation. They reaffirmed the importance of sustaining engagement on bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest. In this regard, the Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) and Joint Commission Meetings (JCM) remain key platforms underpinning Malaysia-India relations.

STRATEGIC AGREEMENTS: SHAPING BILATERAL FUTURE SEMICONDUCTOR AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION

Currently, Malaysia contributes approximately 13-15% to the global semiconductor back-end value chain, while India is scaling its electronic manufacturing capabilities. One of the key outcomes of the summit was the Exchange of Notes on Semiconductor Cooperation. This agreement

facilitates joint research, workforce development, and technology transfer, combining Malaysian industrial expertise with Indian design capabilities and market scale. The Exchange of Notes on Vocational Education and Training (TVET), which addresses the human capital requirements of the semiconductor and digital sectors, complemented the above cooperation. Both the nations are committed to creating a labour corridor for 21st-century industries by standardizing training certifications and ensuring skilled worker mobility.

DIGITAL ECONOMY AND FINANCIAL INTEGRATION

The collaboration between NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) and Malaysia's PayNet to establish bilateral digital payment linkages is a landmark achievement in India-Malaysia relations. This integration will enable seamless, low-cost remittance and payment solutions for tourists, students, and small businesses through QR-based systems like UPI and DuitNow.

Both the leaders unequivocally emphasized the importance of promoting local currency settlement in bilateral trade. The Reserve Bank of India and Bank Negara Malaysia are working to facilitate invoicing and settlement of trade in Indian Rupee (INR) and Malaysian Ringgit (MYR), reducing dependency on the US Dollar and enhancing macroeconomic resilience for businesses, particularly Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

SECURITY AND COUNTER-TERRORISM

Security cooperation acts as a fundamental pillar in strategic partnerships. Both the countries condemned terrorism in all its forms and agreed to strengthen cooperation in countering radicalization, terror financing, and the use of emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. The Memorandum of Understanding on Combating and Preventing Corruption between India's Central Bureau of Investigation and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission facilitates information exchange and best practices in financial forensics. The Exchange of Notes on Security Cooperation between the two National Security Councils provides a consultative mechanism for addressing transnational threats, including cybercrime, maritime piracy, and violent extremism.

India and Malaysia are co-chairing the Counter-Terrorism Working Group under the ASEAN

Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) framework for 2024-2027, with Malaysia set to host a Table-Top Exercise on counter-terrorism in 2026.

ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS: TRADE, INVESTMENT, AND CONNECTIVITY

In 2025, bilateral trade between India and Malaysia reached approximately \$18.59 billion, reflecting the economic engagement between both countries. The leaders emphasized the importance of the Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (MICECA) and welcomed the ongoing review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) to make it more trade-facilitative and relevant to current global practices.

The 10th India-Malaysia CEO Forum, held in Kuala Lumpur on February 7, 2026, further boosted the governmental efforts to strengthen trade and investment relations. Both sides encouraged greater cooperation across priority sectors including infrastructure, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, fintech, artificial intelligence, and green technologies.

ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY

Energy cooperation is one the major growth spheres in India-Malaysia relations. The Malaysian energy giant PETRONAS and its subsidiary Gentari are making investments in India's renewable energy and green hydrogen landscape. Both the nations emphasized the potential for collaboration in large-scale solar energy initiatives, leveraging Malaysia's expertise to drive clean energy solutions and achieve mutual net-zero ambitions.

In terms of food security, Malaysia reaffirmed its commitment to remain a supplier of sustainable palm oil, while both sides agreed to deepen collaboration in oil palm cultivation, value chain development, and downstream palm-based products. Regular dialogue and information exchange will help ensure stable, resilient, and sustainable supply chains.

DEFENSE AND MARITIME COOPERATION

The defense cooperation between India and Malaysia continues to strengthen through regular exchanges, joint exercises, training courses, and defense industry collaboration. The conduct of the fifth edition of the India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise, Harimau Shakti, in December 2025 in Rajasthan demonstrated the operational interoperability between both armed forces.



**H.E. MR. ANWAR IBRAHIM,
PRIME MINISTER OF
MALAYSIA**

"I grew up with neighbours, teachers, and colleagues from the Indian community, whose dedication shaped everyday life. We went to school together, played sports together, and celebrated festivals together. That is how nations are truly built. Not through grand policies alone, but in the classrooms, in workplaces, and in our shared life. Under your premiership (PM Modi's), our bond of friendship, both of us as brothers and our two nations, have grown much stronger. Thank you. Bilateral trade reached almost nineteen billion dollars in twenty twenty-five. Bharat is among Malaysia's top trading partners, and Malaysia is one of India's leading partner in ASEAN. And it is not only goods that move between us. Palm oil, electronics, manufactured goods, petroleum products, engineering goods, and pharmaceuticals flow. In 2025, over one and a half million Indian visitors came to Malaysia. This has surpassed pre-pandemic levels. Now, as we mark Visit Malaysia Year 2026, and amazingly, Prime Minister Modi Ji is one of the first visitors from India."

Maritime collaboration between the nations has been enhanced with regular goodwill visits by Indian naval vessels to Malaysian ports. The establishment of the Strategic Affairs Working Group (SAWG) and Su-30 Forum reflects the defense-industrial collaboration, particularly in aerospace maintenance and technical expertise sharing.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES: 'THE LIVING BRIDGE'

The concept of "People-to-People Ties: The Living



**H.E. SHRI NARENDRA MODI,
PRIME MINISTER OF
REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

“The warmth of your (PM Anwar’s) greetings reflects the beautiful diversity of our shared culture. PM Anwar Ibrahim and I have been friends even before he became PM. I commend his focus on reforms, his great intellect, and able chairmanship of the ASEAN in 2025. Malaysia has the second-largest Indian origin community in the world. There is so much that connects Indian and Malaysian hearts. Our relationship with Malaysia is scaling new heights each year. In 2024, during the visit of PM Anwar Ibrahim to New Delhi, we elevated our ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership. Today, we walk hand in hand as partners towards progress and prosperity. I was touched by PM Anwar Ibrahim’s good wishes on the historic success of Chandrayaan-3. I agree with you, my dear friend, India’s success is Malaysia’s success. It is Asia’s success! That is why I say the guiding word of our relationship is IMPACT. It means India-Malaysia partnership for advancing collective transformation. Together, we can benefit the entire humanity.

Bridge” is a cornerstone of Indian diplomacy, frequently used by PM Modi to describe the Indian diaspora as a vital, organic connection between India and their host countries. This “living bridge” strengthens bilateral relations, drives economic collaboration, and fosters cultural exchanges, transforming diplomatic ties into heartfelt connections.

Approximately 2.9 million people of Indian origin reside in Malaysia, constituting the third-largest Indian diaspora globally. The operationalization

of the Thiruvalluvar Chair of Indian Studies and the establishment of the Thiruvalluvar Center at Universiti Malaya honor the shared cultural heritage, particularly the Tamil language spoken by 90% of the Indian diaspora in Malaysia. The establishment of an Indian Consulate General in Malaysia will further strengthen consular outreach and community engagement. The announcement of Thiruvalluvar Scholarships for Malaysian nationals will facilitate greater educational exchanges. Both leaders welcomed ongoing visa liberalization and agreed to streamline the mobility of workers and professionals, strengthening the people-to-people connect that forms the foundation of bilateral ties. Tourism cooperation received due attention, with both sides committed to enhancing the two-way visitor flows. India welcomed Malaysia’s Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign, while Malaysia appreciated the ‘Incredible India’ tourism initiative.

Enhanced air and maritime connectivity between the nations is likely to boost tourism, trade, and cultural exchanges.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL COOPERATION

Both nations are leveraging their bilateral partnership to shape regional and global governance structures. Malaysia welcomed India’s 2026 BRICS Chairmanship, while India reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Malaysia’s role as a BRICS Partner Country and noted Malaysia’s aspiration to become a full member of BRICS. India appreciated Malaysia’s ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025 and thanked Malaysia for its support in strengthening the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

THRIVING ON STRONG BONDS OF TRUST & MUTUAL RESPECT

The 2026 Putrajaya Summit has strengthened the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Malaysia, moving from a framework of intentions to concrete institutional outcomes. The 11 agreements signed across diverse sectors from semiconductors and digital payments to disaster management and peacekeeping reflect the breadth and depth of bilateral cooperation. India-Malaysia relations have evolved into a partnership characterized by strategic trust, mutual benefit, and shared commitment to regional stability and global governance reform.

RYAN PINTO

STRENGTHENING ACCESS, QUALITY, AND STRUCTURE IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

Mr. Ryan Pinto, the CEO of the Ryan International Group of Institutions, represents a new generation of leadership within India's private education sector. He oversees a large network of schools in India and abroad that serve students across multiple curricula. His work focuses on expanding access to structured schooling while introducing modern learning methods and strengthening the organisation's long standing commitment to affordable quality education for diverse communities



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orn into an education-driven family, Mr. Ryan Pinto is the son of Dr. A.F. Pinto and Dr. Madam Grace Pinto, who founded the Ryan Group in 1976. The organisation began with the goal of providing affordable English-medium education and has since developed into a widespread network of schools across India and abroad. Today, the group operates 150+ schools across 18 states and 40 cities, educating over 250,000 students with the support of nearly 18,000 teachers. The schools follow various national and international curricula, including CBSE, ICSE, IGCSE, IB, and SSC. From a young age, Mr. Pinto observed the effort needed to run schools that support students from different social and economic backgrounds. This helped him understand how schools work beyond classrooms. He also learned how discipline, daily routine, and personal attention influence a student's growth.

ACADEMIC BRILLIANCE

Mr. Pinto completed his undergraduate studies in Management & Strategy at the esteemed Aston University in Birmingham, where he gained a strong foundation in business principles and analytical thinking. He further advanced his expertise by earning a Master's degree in Finance and Entrepreneurship from Cass Business School in London, where he enhanced his understanding of global financial systems and entrepreneurial practice abroad.

TAKING CHARGE OF A LEGACY

When Mr. Pinto stepped into a leadership role within the Ryan Group, he inherited an institution that had already established itself across several Indian states. Instead of treating it as a finished structure, he viewed it as an evolving responsibility. The group had grown steadily over decades, but he focused on strengthening its internal systems, improving coordination, and ensuring consistency across schools.

The leader's early responsibilities included overseeing operations and supporting expansion planning. He spent time understanding the differences between schools in various



**MR. RYAN PINTO IS
SHAPING FUTURE-
READY EDUCATION
WITH VISION &
GLOBAL ACADEMIC
LEADERSHIP**



regions and how local requirements shaped administration. This hands-on approach helped him identify gaps in communication and infrastructure. Over time, he became more involved in strategic decisions, including curriculum planning and school development models.

DRIVING GLOBAL EXPANSION

Under Mr. Pinto's leadership, the Ryan International Group has grown substantially. A notable milestone in this journey has been the Group's expansion into the UAE. Driven by his vision, the organisation established four successful schools across Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Sharjah. The first of these institutions, Ryan International School in Sharjah, was launched in 2009—an initiative conceptualised by Mr. Pinto during his final year of undergraduate studies at Aston University. Today, these institutions reflect the Group's strong commitment to delivering world-class education across the globe. Each school has earned recognition for its academic excellence and holistic approach. This includes Ryan International School Sharjah among the top CBSE schools in the emirate, Ryan International School, Masdar in Abu Dhabi among leading CBSE schools, Safa Community School rated



‘Outstanding’ by KHDA, and Safa British School rated ‘Very Good’ by KHDA in Dubai.

Mr. Pinto is also the founder of Safa Community School, an all-through British curriculum institution in Dubai, known for its strong academic outcomes and high rankings. It has also been recognised among the top schools in the UAE and Dubai’s premium school segment. Another key achievement under his stewardship was the Group’s first brownfield acquisition in 2019, when he successfully led the acquisition of the managed school platform previously owned by Pearson Education. This move expanded the Group’s reach, benefiting 18,000+ students across India by enhancing access to quality education. In addition, Mr. Pinto launched the Ryan International Academy brand of schools, designed to offer a progressive and holistic learning experience. These schools emphasise an innovative curriculum built on the three pillars of outcome-based experiential learning, the Ikigai Centre for Learning, and the Sports Academy of Excellence, aimed at

nurturing well-rounded, future-ready learners.

Under Mr. Pinto’s direction, the Group has also demonstrated its strong commitment to growth through the consistent launch of new schools in India year after year. Recent establishments include Ryan Shalom Montessori in Ulwe, Mumbai; RIS Nakodar, Jalandhar; RIS Bikaner; RIS Bavdhan and RIA Bavdhan in Pune; RIA Hinjewadi; RIS Dombivli and RIS Ambarnath in Mumbai; RIS GT Road, Amritsar; RIA Kondapur, Hyderabad; RIA Yelahanka and RIA Sarjapur in Bengaluru; RIA Kanakapura and RIA Horamavu in Bengaluru; and RIA Wagholi, Pune. These expansions have not only strengthened the Group’s footprint across India but have also enhanced access to quality education while shaping the leaders of tomorrow. Mr. Pinto places equal attention on maintaining teaching standards and staff training. He works closely with academic teams to ensure that the core philosophy of accessible education remains intact even as the organisation expands into new locations and formats.

FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Under Mr. Pinto's leadership, the Ryan Group has undertaken several pioneering collaborations aimed at enriching student learning experiences. One such milestone was the Penn Hub Collaboration, where Mr. Pinto's foresight led to a landmark agreement between The Ryan Group of Institutions and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This initiative was designed to provide students with a global platform to explore higher education opportunities and gain greater international exposure. Another innovative initiative introduced under his guidance was India's first-ever Toy Library in collaboration with TAITMA. Launched at Ryan International School, Kharghar, the initiative promotes play-based learning through innovative and locally manufactured toys, strongly aligning with the 'Make in India' vision. The concept allows children to borrow toys, experience them at home, and return them. It makes experiential learning more engaging and accessible.

Mr. Pinto also spearheaded the launch of the "Ryan Creative Studio" powered by Faber-Castell at Ryan International School, Chembur. The studio serves as a dedicated creative space within the school. It encourages artistic expression and nurturing creativity among students through workshops and year-round activities.

He also fortified the group's curriculum through Atal Tinkering Labs for promoting curiosity, creativity, computational thinking, and adaptive learning among students while nurturing future-ready skills and problem-solving abilities.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Mr. Pinto actively contributes to social welfare. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he spearheaded the launch of Ryan OS, an innovative Learning Management System that ensures uninterrupted learning for students across the country while equipping teachers with advanced digital teaching tools. He also promotes initiatives that encourage students to become socially conscious individuals. The Food Bucket Challenge, launched in 2014, witnessed participation from thousands of students and parents, resulting in the distribution of over 7,50,000 kg of food to underprivileged children across India. Ryan

**MR. RYAN PINTO
CHAMPIONS
ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE AS
WELL AS SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY**

International School also earned recognition from Guinness World Records for collecting and donating more than 295,000 clothing items to those in need. Mr. Pinto has further contributed towards nurturing global exposure through initiatives such as bringing the prestigious World Scholar's Cup to India, thereby giving students an international platform to showcase their knowledge and talents.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Mr. Pinto has received several honours for his contribution to education, including the Visionary Leader in School Education Award at the Outlook Business Spotlight Awards 2026, Bronze Trailblazing Leader in K-12 Education at the Economic Times Annual Education Summit 2025, and the K-12 Edupreneur of the Year 2024. He was also awarded the Global Leaders Award at the India-UAE Partnership Summit. Under his leadership, the Ryan Group has also received recognition such as Education Excellence Awards 2024 – Elets World Education Summit – Dubai, Most Respected Education Brand Award 2023 by the Mid-Day Newspaper, Navabharat CSR Awards for Child Education and Upliftment 2023, Best Education Brand in 2023 by The Economic Times, and many more.



BLC Global Holdings



An Enterprise of Chaudhary Group

BLC Global Holdings stands as one of Nepal's most respected and diversified business groups, built over 150+ years of enterprise and long-term value creation. The group has evolved from its heritage roots into a modern enterprise with a growing presence across healthcare, FMCG, agriculture, lifestyle, packaging, education, philanthropy, marketing, and strategic investments.

150+
YEARS

15+
VERTICALS

Multi-Sector
PLATFORM

A Diversified Ecosystem of Industry

With a footprint spanning 15+ verticals, BLC Global Holdings operates as a premier conglomerate of industry-leading entities. Its reach is both broad and deep, ensuring that every business unit benefits from a century and a half of shared expertise:

FMCG



Pashupall Biscuit Industries
BLC Instant Foods

AGRICULTURE



Mahalaxmi Maida Mills
CONS Seeds and
Hetauda Dairy

LIFESTYLE



Reaa: Ariisanal
Midas Day Spe-Salon and
CC Entertainment

GROWTH



Aahana Food and Beverage
BLC Hospitality
Global Supply Chain

BRAND



The Branding Company

HEALTHCARE



Norvic International Hospital
Norvic Pharmacia

PACKAGING



CG Flexi Pack

EDUCATION



Norvic College of Health Science
and Technologies

IMPACT



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SUNNY VERMA STYLED FOR SUCCESS

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A celebrated hair artist and entrepreneur, Mr. Sunny Verma has earned recognition for his innovative approach to hairstyling and hair colouring. In this exclusive interview, he discusses his 20-year creative journey, the importance of lifelong learning, and his commitment to nurturing future talent through Sunny Hairport School and professional mentorship

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Great leadership
is about creating
opportunities for
others to grow.
When your team
succeeds, your
vision becomes
a legacy

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Q. Sir, what inspired you to enter the hairstyling industry, and how did your journey begin?

My journey into hairstyling was not something I had planned from the beginning. While my father was a respected professional in the hair and skincare industry, I initially thought I would pursue a completely different career. However, life had other plans. During my school and college years, I would occasionally spend time with my father during holidays and observe the dedication and hard work he put into his craft. Watching him closely gave me a new appreciation for the profession.

A turning point came when I had the opportunity to witness the backstage environment of Wills Fashion Show at Hyatt Delhi, where my father worked. Seeing the glamour, creativity and energy of the fashion world fascinated me. I realised that hairstyling was much more than a job; it was an art form that allowed people to express themselves. My father then trained me from the ground up and taught me the fundamentals. He encouraged me to instil discipline, flexibility, and professionalism in everything I do. From working in local salons to pursuing advanced education in India and abroad, every step strengthened my passion for the industry.

Q. You have trained internationally and invested heavily in your education. How has continuous learning shaped your success?

Continuous learning has been the foundation of my career. From the beginning, I understood that talent alone is not enough in an evolving industry like hairstyling. After completing my initial training in India, I felt there was still much more to learn. This led me to pursue advanced education through prestigious academies and international programmes in countries such as Singapore and the UK. One of the biggest challenges I faced abroad was the language barrier. Understanding different accents and technical theory was not always easy, but those experiences taught me resilience and adaptability, besides exposing me to global innovative trends and diverse approaches to hairstyling. Rather than spending my earnings on luxury, I chose to invest in education and self-development.

Every course, workshop and international training programme helped me refine my artistic skills and broaden my perspective. Those experiences not only elevated my own career but also inspired me to bring world-class knowledge back to India. Today, I strongly believe that learning never stops. The beauty industry evolves constantly, and staying relevant requires consistent growth and development.

Q. What inspired you to establish Sunny Hairport School?

The idea behind Sunny Hairport School came from a very personal experience. Throughout my learning journey, I travelled to different countries and trained with some of the finest academies. While those experiences were invaluable, I also realised how difficult it was for many talented Indian students to access that level of education. The costs were high, travelling abroad was not always possible, and international languages often became a barrier to understanding technical concepts. I remember facing similar challenges myself. There were moments when I understood practical demonstrations perfectly well but struggled with certain theoretical concepts because I was unfamiliar with the accents of French, Arabic, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, Turkish, or Japanese speakers. These experiences made me reflect on how many aspiring hairstylists in India might be missing valuable opportunities simply because they lack access to the right platform.

Sunny Hairport School was created to bridge that gap. I founded Sunny Hairport School in 2022 to provide world-class hairstyling education that Indian students could easily understand. We conduct training in both English and Hindi while emphasising practical learning to help students develop real-world skills. Today, the school also welcomes international students and offers a diverse learning environment where aspiring hairstylists from different backgrounds can learn and grow together.

What truly sets us apart is our industry-focused approach. Students are introduced to multiple global brands and learn how different products interact with Indian hair types. We also provide strong career guidance. To date, I have personally trained over 1,500 students, many of whom have gone on to establish successful salons, academies and professional careers. Seeing their growth is one of the most rewarding aspects of my journey.

For me, Sunny Hairport School is not just an educational institution but a mission to empower the next generation and elevate the standards of the hairstyling industry in India.

Q. Having personally trained more than 1,500 students, what has been the most rewarding aspect of being a mentor?

Without a doubt, the most rewarding part is witnessing the transformation of my students. Some of my students have gone on to establish their own salons, while others have become successful educators, academy owners or leading hairstylists in their respective cities and states. Whenever I hear about their achievements, I feel a sense of pride that is difficult to put into words. As a mentor, I believe my responsibility extends beyond teaching techniques. I aim to instil discipline, professionalism, confidence and a passion for lifelong learning. Seeing students carry those values into their careers is perhaps the greatest achievement of all.

Q.What is your vision for the future of Sunny Hairport and the Indian hairstyling industry?

My vision has always been bigger than building a successful salon brand. I want Sunny Hairport to become a globally recognised name that represents excellence, innovation and education in hairstyling. Over the years, I travelled abroad to learn from international experts because I believed there was always new to discover. Today, I want to take that journey a step further by empowering the next generation of professionals and showcasing Indian talent on the global stage.

I strongly believe that Indian hairstylists are among the most creative and adaptable professionals in the world. We work with diverse hair textures, understand a wide range of client needs and constantly innovate to achieve outstanding results. Through Sunny Hairport and Sunny Hairport School, my dream is to create opportunities where international professionals can also learn from Indian expertise.

We are also working on launching our own professional haircare and hair colour brand after extensive research and development. At the same time, we plan to expand our presence steadily while maintaining quality and consistency.

Q.What were some of the biggest obstacles you faced while building your career, and how did those experiences shape you as a professional?

One of the biggest challenges I faced was proving myself in an industry where experience and reputation matter greatly. I had to work from the very basics, learn every aspect of the profession and constantly improve my skills.

When I travelled to different countries for advanced training, I had to adapt to different cultures, teaching styles and languages, such as Arabic, French, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, Korean and Turkish. Understanding foreign accents and technical theory was difficult at times, but those struggles taught me the importance of persistence and adaptability. When I went to London for advanced training at Toni & Guy, I was asked to arrange models for my practical sessions. At that time, I was young, new to the city and did not have a network there. Convincing people to trust an unknown hairstylist with their hair was extremely difficult. That was when I found a creative solution. Even before social media platforms like Instagram Reels became popular, I had already started recording and documenting my work. I used those videos as my portfolio. I would stand outside places like supermarkets, clubs and public areas with a board offering free haircuts and approach people. Many times, I met people from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and local citizens. I would show them my before-and-after videos to demonstrate my skills and build their confidence. Those videos opened the door for me to connect with people and share my work with

a broader audience. Slowly, I started finding models and gained valuable experience. That phase taught me that opportunities do not always come to you; sometimes, you have to create them yourself.

Q. What qualities do you think make a successful hairstylist?

A successful hairstylist should be a good human being first. The person should have honesty, respect, dedication, and a strong work ethic. They should never compromise on quality and must keep customers as their top priority. Passion, patience, creativity, and the willingness to continuously learn are essential qualities that help a hairstylist build trust and achieve long-term success in the industry.

Q. How do you stay updated with changing hair trends and techniques?

I believe in creating and adapting techniques rather than just following trends. I developed my own highlighting technique years ago, which later became a trend. I continuously modify my methods according to changing styles and teach my team the same approach. Innovation, learning, and sharing knowledge help us create modern looks that suit Indian personalities, hair types, and lifestyles.

Q.What message would you give to aspiring hairstylists?

My message to upcoming hairstylists is to work with honesty and never make fake commitments. Always appreciate other artists because everyone puts in hard work. Focus on delivering the promised results instead of only creating expectations through social media. Success comes when your work speaks for itself, and when customers trust your skills, dedication, and professionalism.

Q. Who has been your biggest inspiration in life?

My biggest inspiration has always been my father. I saw him work extremely hard and face challenges boldly. His dedication taught me the value of patience and determination. Additionally, my mother, my wife, my sister, and my brothers have also been a constant source of inspiration as they support and balance my journey. Seeing my brothers walk shoulder-to-shoulder with me, looking up to me as an inspiration, has made this team effort possible. Their belief in me and their willingness to learn, grow, and build alongside me have made this journey even more meaningful. Together as a family, we built Sunny Hairport from the ground up.

I am also deeply inspired by Mounir Sir, the celebrated Lebanese hairstylist whose passion and dedication to his craft first inspired me through his work on social media. I learned a great deal from him, attended his seminars, and even travelled to Lebanon to meet him personally.



Black Swan

Women Achievers of the World 2026

Behind every remarkable achievement is a story of a woman who chose to step forward when it would have been easier to step back.

The **Women Achievers of the World** segment brings together women whose ideas, decisions and determination have left an indelible mark across business, science, governance, entrepreneurship and society. Their stories are not tales of success handed on a silver platter; they speak of judgement tested by adversity, ambition tempered by purpose, and courage exercised when the odds were anything but favourable. Each has challenged the conventional wisdom of her time, turned obstacles into openings and transformed influence into meaningful impact.

Taken together, their journeys offer not only inspiration but a glompse into leadership, resilience and the power of women who chose to make a difference rather than merely make their mark





In her leadership role at the Dr. Dathu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust and Pathway India,

Dr. Chandra has devoted her life to the welfare of individuals with intellectual disabilities. Renowned for her disciplined work ethic and compassion, she has spent decades creating opportunities for those often sidelined by society. As a respected figure in disability rehabilitation, Dr. Chandra's success story demonstrates the power of patience and the courage to transform systemic challenges into meaningful opportunities.

DR. CHANDRA PRASAD

A LIFE DEVOTED TO DIGNITY AND SERVICE

Dr. Chandra Prasad, an honorary doctorate holder, Co-Founder, General Secretary, and Chief Functionary of the Dr. Dathu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust and Pathway India, has dedicated her life to the welfare of individuals with intellectual disabilities. Known for her disciplined work ethic, compassionate outlook, and practical thinking, she has spent decades building opportunities for children and adults who are often left behind by society.

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A WELL-VERSED LEADER

Dr. Chandra studied at Oak Grove School in Mussoorie and later in Bengaluru. She secured a First Class in the All India Higher Secondary Examination in 1977. She completed her graduation in Home Science from Bangalore University in 1980, where she secured 9th rank and received a gold medal. She then pursued an M.Sc. in Home Science (Food and Nutrition) at Mysore University, Manasagangotri, driven by her interest in nutrition and applied sciences.

After joining the Dr. Dathu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust and Pathway India, social work became her life's sole mission. To better support her beneficiaries, she enhanced her expertise by earning a Diploma in Mental Retardation from the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped in 1990 and a B.Ed. from Annamalai University in 1992. She proved that with vision and determination, one can integrate education, therapy, and vocational training under one roof to ensure that individuals with intellectual disabilities receive equal opportunities and societal acceptance.

Under her stewardship, Dr. Dathu Rao Memorial

Charitable Trust and Pathway India has introduced diverse vocational units to promote financial independence. Training methods are simplified to suit different abilities, and quality is maintained so that products can be sold in markets and exhibitions. From bakery production and artificial jewelry making to crafting eco-friendly products from recycled newspapers, these initiatives have helped build self-confidence and work discipline.

The leader has also launched design-based vocational methods by utilising customised tools and specialised looms tailored to varying abilities. By improving product quality and market appeal, the institution, under her guidance, was able to connect with exhibitions, retail buyers, and corporate supporters. The charitable trust today produces over 1,000 handmade greeting cards every day, along with several other marketable products.

LEADING FROM THE FRONT

Dr. Chandra has always believed in leading from the front. From program planning and infrastructure development to staff training and



therapy assistance every month. Furthermore, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she directed the distribution of relief supplies worth ₹18 lakhs to 2,000 struggling families.

A SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION

Dr. Chandra also prioritises environmental responsibility. Under her stellar stewardship, recycled newspaper products, low-waste production methods, and agro-based rehabilitation programs have become an integral part of the charitable trust's daily functioning. Additionally, the organisation has planted over 3,000 teak saplings to encourage green living and environmental awareness among children and staff.

Dr. Chandra's leadership style is both caring and well-organised. She works closely with her staff and beneficiaries while also ensuring that systems, planning, and accountability are maintained. This balance of empathy and structure has helped the organisation grow in a stable and effective way.

The humble leader draws inspiration from her husband, Dr. A.D.S.N. Prasad, and the resilient spirit of the individuals they serve. Her work focuses on building systems that empower individuals rather than creating dependency, while ensuring a sustainable path toward inclusion.

GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Chandra has received several national awards for her selfless contributions. Recently, she was honoured with the WCAEPC Nobel Peace Achievement Award 2026 and the Bhartiya Padma Bhushan Samman Award. She has also received the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities from the Government of India and the

"DR. CHANDRA LEADS IMPACTFUL DISABILITY

REHABILITATION WITH COMPASSION & VISION "

beneficiary welfare, she is actively involved in every area. Her leadership style is driven by empathy and accountability. She values discipline, transparent administration, and measurable outcomes.

Under her care, the Dr. Dathu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust and Pathway India has touched the lives of over 40,000 individuals with disabilities through rehabilitation, education, and vocational support. Over 4,500 patients receive medical and

Best Social Worker Award from the Government of Tamil Nadu. Additionally, she has been conferred the 2025 Leadership Excellence Award, the 2024 ASSOCHAM HR Trailblazer Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award by Puthia Vanigam Publications. Due to her longstanding, dedicated efforts, the Dr. Dathu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust and Pathway India have also earned recognition, and is now listed among the Top 20 Most Trusted NGOs in India.



well-versed leader, Dr. Reshma's achievements reflect her strong academic background and understanding of educational administration. Qualified in commerce, law, and management, she developed the academic knowledge and administrative skills essential for effective institutional leadership. Her practical outlook and sound judgment have helped the Guru Nanak institutions earn credibility and public trust. Since 1998, Dr. Reshma has been serving as the Vice Chairperson of the Guru Nanak Group of Institutions, with a firm belief that education must go beyond textbooks and examinations. "True education helps build character, social awareness, and confidence among young citizens," she says.

BRIDGING GAPS IN EDUCATION

The educational scenario of Bidar district witnessed significant improvement following Dr. Reshma's active involvement in institutional work in 1998. During that period, many students from rural and economically weaker backgrounds faced serious limitations in accessing higher and professional education. Considering this challenge, Dr. Reshma took a proactive approach to address the educational needs of the region and established institutions that could fulfil the aspirations of the youth. Her initiative was driven by a sense of social responsibility rather than personal recognition. Through perseverance and disciplined administration, she contributed to the development of educational centres that created new opportunities for thousands of students.

Under Dr. Reshma's stellar stewardship, nearly 19 institutions have flourished in the fields of education, healthcare, and social welfare. These institutions have earned recognition for academic standards, disciplined management, and student

DR. RESHMA KAUR

A PILLAR OF EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT

Dr. Reshma Kaur is one of the highly revered educationists and social leaders of Bidar district, known for her devotion to public service and academic progress. As Vice Chairperson of the Guru Nanak Group of Institutions, Bidar, she has advanced the mission of quality education for students from rural and poor families. Her work reflects discipline, compassion, moral conviction, and a desire for advancement in the region

welfare. She also encourages modern teaching methods and technological awareness without neglecting moral values or cultural heritage. She also encourages teachers, administrators, and staff members to participate in institutional planning and policy decisions. Such collective participation has created an atmosphere of mutual respect and dedication within the campuses.

BUILDING FUTURE LEADERS WITH STRONG VALUES

Dr. Reshma regards students as future custodians of the nation. She therefore emphasises ethical conduct, patriotism, discipline, and compassion in every educational activity. Simultaneously, she ensures that equal importance is given to cultural programmes, national celebrations, and literary events alongside academic pursuits. She also motivates her students to value Indian traditions and social harmony. Her educational philosophy seeks to nurture responsible citizens who possess intellectual competence, moral strength, and a strong sense of responsibility.

Another admirable aspect of Dr. Reshma's leadership lies in her tireless commitment to



and personal example she has earned respect within educational and social circles.

A STEP TOWARDS HEALTH EQUITY

Dr. Reshma's contribution also extends into the sphere of public welfare. Realising the hardships faced by rural families in obtaining medical treatment, she played a major role in the establishment of the Guru Nanak 100-Bedded Multi-Speciality Hospital. This healthcare institution offers affordable healthcare facilities to people from weaker sections of society. Many families in Bidar and nearby areas have benefited from quality treatment and compassionate medical support through this noble initiative.

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE TO SOCIETY

The benevolent leader also demonstrates deep concern for elderly citizens through her association with the Guru Nanak Vruddha Ashram Sewa Sangh. The institution provides shelter care and dignity to senior citizens who require support during the later years of life.

Her humanitarian outlook is also seen in several charitable activities undertaken for disadvantaged communities. Through these efforts, she has consistently demonstrated that true leadership is driven by efficient administration, empathy and social responsibility.

GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Reshma has been honoured with several prestigious awards for her outstanding contributions to education, social service, and institutional leadership. She was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Literature by

"DR. RESHMA KAUR DRIVES PROGRESS IN EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE & SOCIAL WELFARE"

work. The principle "Work is Worship" guides her professional as well as social life. She values sincerity, courage, honesty and accountability among colleagues and students alike. Her administrative style reflects a balanced approach of firmness and humanity.

Faculty members and employees often acknowledge her ability to inspire confidence during difficult situations. Through calm guidance

Akkamahadevi Women's University in recognition of her significant contribution to education and society. The leader has also received the NALPAD "Women of Worth" Award along with several other honours for her work in social service and educational development. Her appointment as a Syndicate Member of Gulbarga University, Kalburgi, further reflects the trust and confidence placed in her leadership and judgement.

LEENA JAIN

CROWNED IN FRAGRANCE

Ms. Leena Jain, Founder, Fraganta Perfumes, is a seasoned corporate professional-turned-entrepreneur who built her path from real estate leadership to creating a Made-in-India fragrance brand for everyday use. Guided by discipline and a grounded vision, she aims to make quality perfumes affordable and accessible across India, while maintaining strong focus on detail





s. Leena's extensive experience in real estate helped her develop discipline, structured thinking, and strong management skills. As a Vice President, she handled multiple responsibilities that required solid judgment and consistent decision-making. While the corporate world provided stability and valuable exposure, she always had a strong desire to build something more personal and connected to everyday life.

Fraganta was created from this vision, with the aim to bring a sensory revolution in the fragrance space. Ms. Leena wanted to make perfumes more affordable and accessible in a market where quality fragrances were often considered luxury products. She recognised the gap between people's desire for good perfumes and their affordability, and worked to bridge it through a brand that delivers quality without losing the overall experience.

Building Fraganta involved careful work on formulation, sourcing, packaging, and pricing. The

against quality. She aims to keep the product accessible while maintaining a sense of refinement in both scent and presentation.

DRIVEN BY VALUES

Ms. Leena's understanding of success is driven by life-long learning rather than fixed milestones. She believes real progress comes through consistent effort, thoughtful reflection, and the ability to learn from past experiences. This perspective has driven her corporate as well as entrepreneurial journeys, where decisions are driven more by consistency than urgency.

She believes mistakes are an important part of growth, as long as the same lessons are not repeated. Over the years, patience became one of her strongest qualities, shaped through real-life experience and responsibility rather than theory alone. While building Fraganta, she focused on honest communication, practical planning, and staying open to feedback from both customers and

"LEENA CREATES AFFORDABLE FRAGRANCES

FOCUSED ON EVERYDAY SENSORY EXPERIENCES"

early phase demanded patience, repetitive testing, and close attention to how customers responded. Over time, these efforts helped shape the brand's identity.

SCENTS THAT FIT EVERYDAY LIVING

Ms. Leena believes fragrance should be a part of everyday life rather than something saved only for special occasions. Her approach comes from observing how people use perfumes in real situations, such as at work, while travelling, or during social gatherings. Instead of presenting fragrance as exclusive or distant, she has focused on making it familiar, comfortable, and suitable for daily use.

She creates every fragrance with a focus on balance. The scents are carefully designed to be pleasant without feeling too strong. They are made to suit different Indian climates and perform well in both heat and humidity. She also pays close attention to how a fragrance changes on the skin over time, ensuring it stays comfortable, consistent, and wearable throughout the day.

Affordability is another crucial aspect of this thinking, but it is never treated as a trade-off

her team.

PRIORITISES WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Alongside her professional commitments, Ms. Leena places equal importance on family, as she believes it helps her maintain balance and clarity in her work. During moments of self-doubt, she relies on preparation and clear intent to stay steady and focused in her actions.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Ms. Leena's stellar leadership has earned her several prestigious awards. The leader was honoured with the Women Empowerment Award at the Character Tree Awards 2025 for her contribution to entrepreneurship and efforts in making quality fragrances accessible through Fraganta Perfumes. She also received the Best Entrepreneur Award for her work in building a consumer-focused Indian fragrance brand and for her active involvement in social initiatives through organisations such as the Lions Club.

These recognitions reflect her professional journey driven by consistency, responsibility, and a steady commitment to purposeful work.



he Chaudhary name carries weight in Nepalese trade. It started over 150 years ago with Ms. Megha Chaudhary's great-grandfather Bhuramal Chaudhary, grew under her grandfather Lunkaran Das Chaudhary and took firm shape under her father, Basant Kumar Chaudhary who built BLC into a major force that aligns business success with a commitment to the nation. Growing up in this environment, Ms. Megha imbibed a belief that business should serve people as much as profit.

MEGHA CHAUDHARY

INSPIRING PROGRESS AND POSSIBILITIES

Ms. Megha Chaudhary exemplifies how family legacy can drive real progress in business and society. As Co-Chairperson of BLC Global Holdings, founded by her father Mr. Basant Kumar Chaudhary, she oversees a diverse portfolio of industries. In Nepal's corporate world, where established names often rest on past glory, Ms. Megha's work shows that strong roots, coupled with forward-looking strategies, can drive sustainable growth and create lasting value for the nation and its people

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LEARNING THROUGH LEADERSHIP

Ms. Megha earned her growth within the group through rigorous exposure to all operational areas. Today, she manages healthcare, education, FMCG, agriculture, and manufacturing with disciplined strategy and close attention to execution. Regular visits to factories and hospital units keep her close to staff and daily realities. Reports matter less than the energy on the ground, in her opinion.

PURPOSE-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

Under Ms. Megha's stewardship, BLC Global Holdings has grown into a diversified business hub. In healthcare, she has modernised Norvic International Hospital by upgrading cardiac, oncology, and hemodialysis facilities while introducing AI-based diagnostics and mobile critical care units to extend treatment to underserved regions. In FMCG, she has upgraded production lines at Pashupati Biscuit and BLC Instant Foods, with the latter focusing on fortified blended nutrition for infants. These products are designed to deliver safe, high-quality, and affordable nourishment aligned with global standards. In agriculture, she has

strengthened Sarvottam Seeds to support farmers with sustainable, high-yield solutions. In education, she supervises Norvic College of Health Sciences and Technologies, aiming to train skilled medical professionals within Nepal and reverse the country's brain drain. Each initiative reflects a careful balance of business growth, innovation, and community impact.

SERVING AS CONSUL GENERAL

Ms. Megha has recently been appointed as the Honorary Consul General of the Kingdom of Morocco to Nepal. This is a recognition of her stature and experience in both business and public service. The appointment was approved by Morocco's Foreign Minister, Mr. Nasser Bourita, and formally conferred by Nepal's Foreign Secretary, Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, in a ceremony held in Kathmandu.

In this prestigious diplomatic role, Ms. Megha is committed to strengthening bilateral relations between Nepal and Morocco. She aims to promote closer collaboration in key areas such as trade, tourism, and cultural exchange, while facilitating business partnerships and promoting mutual understanding between the peoples of both nations. Her appointment reflects not only her stellar



she actively participates in CSR activities to empower people and support local communities. Her leadership encompasses thoughtful planning as well as genuine compassion. Through the Basant Chaudhary Foundation, she has launched programmes for women's empowerment, including micro-grants for female entrepreneurs and scholarships for girls in rural Nepal.

During times of national crisis, including devastating earthquakes and major health emergencies, she has consistently stepped forward to mobilise hospital services, company resources, and infrastructure to ensure timely relief reaches those in urgent need. From coordinating medical teams and deploying mobile care units to providing essential supplies and logistical support, her interventions are deeply empathetic. Additionally, through her Mission Save Heart, mobile cardiac units reach patients wherever help is needed.

For Ms. Megha, compassion is an integral part of leadership. She firmly believes that serving society is not an optional activity, but an inherent duty in running a responsible business. Her hands-on approach demonstrates that true corporate leadership balances operational excellence with social conscience and creates meaningful impact for communities while sustaining organisational growth.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Ms. Megha's achievements reflect not just success, but true substance. The dynamic leader was awarded the globally recognised Executive MBA Certificate in Leadership & Management at the Dubai Leadership Conference & Awards, an honour that celebrates both her strategic vision

"A DYNAMIC LEADER, MS. MEGHA LEADS WITH VISION, INTEGRITY & COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY"

leadership credentials but also her vision for leveraging economic and cultural diplomacy to create sustainable opportunities and long-term goodwill.

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

Ms. Megha leaves a lasting impact wherever she is involved. Social responsibility is an integral aspect of her leadership. A benevolent leader,

and her commitment to societal betterment. These accolades highlight her stature as a leader who honours heritage, embraces modernity, and insists that enterprise and social conscience advance together. Additionally, under her able stewardship, Norvic earned NABL accreditation, the first for any hospital in Nepal. This game-changing step raised Nepal's healthcare standards and even attracted patients from abroad.



seasoned leader, Mrs. Ramya has been playing a crucial role in shaping SGI into one of India's most integrated and community-oriented education and healthcare institutions. Her leadership has also enabled Saraswathi Institute of Medical Sciences (SIMS) to emerge as a large-scale institution, effectively integrating academic excellence with tertiary healthcare services.

A WELL-VERSED LEADER

Ms. Ramya's academic background complements her professional and social undertakings. She holds an MBA in Hospital Management, a postgraduate qualification in Public Administration, and a diploma in Business Administration. Currently, she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Hospital Administration. Her academic brilliance, experience, and governance expertise positions her as a leader who leverages her knowledge, management skills, and social responsibility to benefit multiple sectors.

COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

Under Mrs. Ramya's stewardship, SIMS has become a model institution in Uttar Pradesh. Addressing critical gaps in quality healthcare and professional medical training, SIMS, under her stellar leadership, now accommodates 250 MBBS students annually to provide India with skilled doctors capable of serving communities in need. The 1,250-plus bed tertiary-care teaching hospital attached to the institution delivers high-quality, affordable medical care, equipped with advanced diagnostic, surgical, and specialty facilities.

Considering the need for a wider spectrum of healthcare professionals, Ms. Ramya has expanded SGI's operations into allied health education. For instance, the Saraswathi College of Nursing offers B.Sc., Post-Basic B.Sc., GNM, and ANM programs with an annual intake of 190 students, while the

RAMYA RAMACHANDRAN

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF IN HEALTHCARE

Mrs. Ramya Ramachandran, Vice Chairperson of the Saraswathi Group of Institutions (SGI), is a distinguished educationist, healthcare institution builder, philanthropist, and entrepreneur whose work over the past two decades has left a lasting impact on medical education and healthcare delivery in India. Her initiatives have strengthened both academic and clinical infrastructure, while building community welfare and inclusive growth in semi-urban and rural regions

Saraswathi College of Pharmacy provides D.Pharm, B.Pharm, and M.Pharm courses for 150 students yearly. The Saraswathi Institute of Paramedicals further strengthens the system by training professionals in operation theatre technology, CT scan technology, optometry, and allied health sciences. This comprehensive approach ensures a continuous supply of competent healthcare personnel to India's medical workforce while addressing both immediate and long-term human resource needs.

Mrs. Ramya has also prioritised institutional quality, accreditation, and governance. She has implemented robust systems that meet international benchmarks, including NABH accreditation for clinical excellence and patient safety, NABL accreditation for laboratory precision and compliance, and ISO certifications for academic and administrative processes. These measures reflect her commitment to accountability, transparency, and excellence across every facet of institutional operation.

In addition to education and healthcare, Mrs. Ramya contributes to public health through entrepreneurial initiatives. As Director of Arokyam Catering Services Pvt. Ltd., she provides hygienic



as well as societal responsibility. She also serves as Trustee of Saraswathi Ammal Educational & Charitable Trust in Chennai and Academy of Maritime Education & Charitable Trust in Chennai.

As Managing Trustee of Shri Ayyanar Educational & Charitable Trust in Ghaziabad, she oversees programs that serve around 400 beneficiaries daily through nutrition. She is also the Director of Arokyam Catering Pvt. Ltd. in Uttar Pradesh. These positions show her deep involvement in running big organisations with care and responsibility. As a benevolent leader, she guided SIMS to rise to the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, emerging as a pillar of hope and care for countless families.

Mrs. Ramya's philanthropic initiatives, including scholarships for underprivileged students, rural and peri-urban medical camps, women's empowerment and livelihood programs, and literacy drives, reflect her deep commitment to sustainable and dignified social impact. Her approach prioritises long-term value creation and community upliftment over short-term relief measures and temporary interventions.

GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Through institution-building, entrepreneurship, and sustained philanthropic efforts, Mrs. Ramya has carved an indelible mark on India's knowledge economy, human capital, and public welfare. Her relentless contributions have earned widespread national recognition, including the Best Medical Excellence & Philanthropist Award 2025 at the HT Bharat Nirmaan Conclave, the Best Educationalist & Philanthropy Award 2025 by Dainik Jagran, and the Notable Personality of the Year 2024 by Business Talkz Magazine.

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"MRS. RAMYA CHAMPIONS EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE & PHILANTHROPY"

and nutritious food to educational institutions, enhancing student health and supporting learning outcomes. This venture demonstrates her ability to align enterprise with societal well-being, while creating measurable impact beyond conventional healthcare delivery.

MAKING A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE

Mrs. Ramya is known for her professional excellence

Under her leadership, SIMS has also garnered significant institutional accolades, including being named the Best Affordable Medical Institution of the Year 2024 at the Six Sigma Excellence Awards and securing a top ranking among medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh. Through SIMS, she has demonstrated how strong governance and long-term vision can translate into meaningful advancements in public health and education.



fter spending nearly a decade in the IT sector, Ms. Shweta chose entrepreneurship at a time when

personal responsibilities were equally demanding. With a young child to care for, she did not allow circumstances to limit her aspirations. Instead, she strengthened her foundation by pursuing professional courses in gemology and jewellery design. Her early exposure to gemstones through her father's interest sparked curiosity, but it was her determination that transformed that curiosity into a meaningful and lucrative enterprise.

SHWETA PATHAK

POLISHED BY PASSION

Ms. Shweta Pathak, Founder of Aakarshan Gems & Jewellery, is a striking example of courage, conviction and clarity of purpose. An engineer by training and a double MBA by qualification, she is known for her analytical ability and creative vision. Her decision to move from the structured IT industry into the world of gems and jewellery is a carefully considered step driven by passion and purpose

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UNFAZED BY CHALLENGES

Ms. Shweta started her entrepreneurial journey in 2011. With modest capital, she established Aakarshan Gems & Jewels with the vision of creating jewellery that reflects individuality, fine craftsmanship, and emotional significance. The initial years were challenging, especially while operating from Bhopal, where awareness about designer jewellery was limited and customers were hesitant towards premium pricing. Additionally, the lack of industry background and absence of mentorship added to the difficulty. However, she remained confident that her hard work would eventually find appreciation.

Despite these hurdles, Ms. Shweta remained determined and committed to her vision. She travelled extensively across the country to gain in-depth knowledge of the industry, visiting gemstone mines in Panna, cutting centres in Surat, and trading hubs in Mumbai. This hands-on exposure not only strengthened her understanding of the craft but also helped her establish trust and credibility in a highly competitive and relationship-driven industry.

ARTISTRY ROOTED IN PHILOSOPHY

Ms. Shweta's brand stands apart because of

its strong philosophy. Instead of focusing on mass appeal, the dynamic leader chose to create exclusive, handcrafted pieces that reflect artistry and emotion. Each creation at Aakarshan Gems & Jewellery carries a distinct identity, driven by fine workmanship and thoughtful design. She also ensures that artisans are respected and fairly compensated, while encouraging them to deliver their finest work.

Her exposure to international markets and participation in global exhibitions have added a broader perspective to her work. While she keeps herself updated with global trends, she remains committed to incorporating Indian craftsmanship into her designs. This balance between global awareness and local tradition gives her creations a unique appeal.

Ms. Shweta also seeks to influence how people perceive jewellery. She believes that jewellery should not remain locked away as a mere investment or stored away for special occasions alone, but should be worn, enjoyed, and lived with as a reflection of one's personality, mood, and moments. For her, every piece carries meaning only when it is adorned and becomes part of the wearer's journey.



are evident in her work and relationships. She has managed to balance ambition with responsibility, ensuring that success does not come at the cost of ethics or family.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Ms. Shweta holds strong core ethics of honesty and believes in a symbiotic system where society grows with empathy and values. She is deeply committed to social responsibility and artisan welfare.

Aakarshan Gems and Jewellery, under her guidance, has actively collaborated with Smile Foundation to support meaningful causes. Being based in Bhopal, a tier-2 city with limited exposure to advanced jewellery skills, Ms. Shweta focused on nurturing local karigars (artisans) instead of sourcing from metros like Mumbai or Delhi. These artisans were gradually trained to adapt to more innovative and intricate jewellery designs. To encourage excellence, fair making charges were offered so as to motivate the artisans to go the extra mile and consistently deliver their finest work. Through Aakarshan Gems & Jewellery, she also extends support during industry slowdowns and aims to further collaborate with skill development initiatives for sustaining traditional craftsmanship.

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ON A WINNING STREAK

Ms. Shweta's success story is an inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs to believe in their vision and take that first step despite uncertainties. Her achievements have earned wide recognition. She was named among the Top 7 Jewellery Designers of the Year in 2016, received the Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2020, and was honoured as an Inspirational Brand of India in the same year. The

"MS. SHWETA PATHAK INSPIRES THROUGH HER VISIONARY LEADERSHIP IN FINE JEWELLERY"

Her philosophy reflects a deeper appreciation of beauty in everyday life, where jewellery is seen not just as mere ornamentation, but as an intimate extension of identity and celebration.

DRIVEN BY VALUES

Ethics and values play a significant role in Ms. Shweta's life. The lessons of integrity, resilience, and self-respect that she learned from her parents

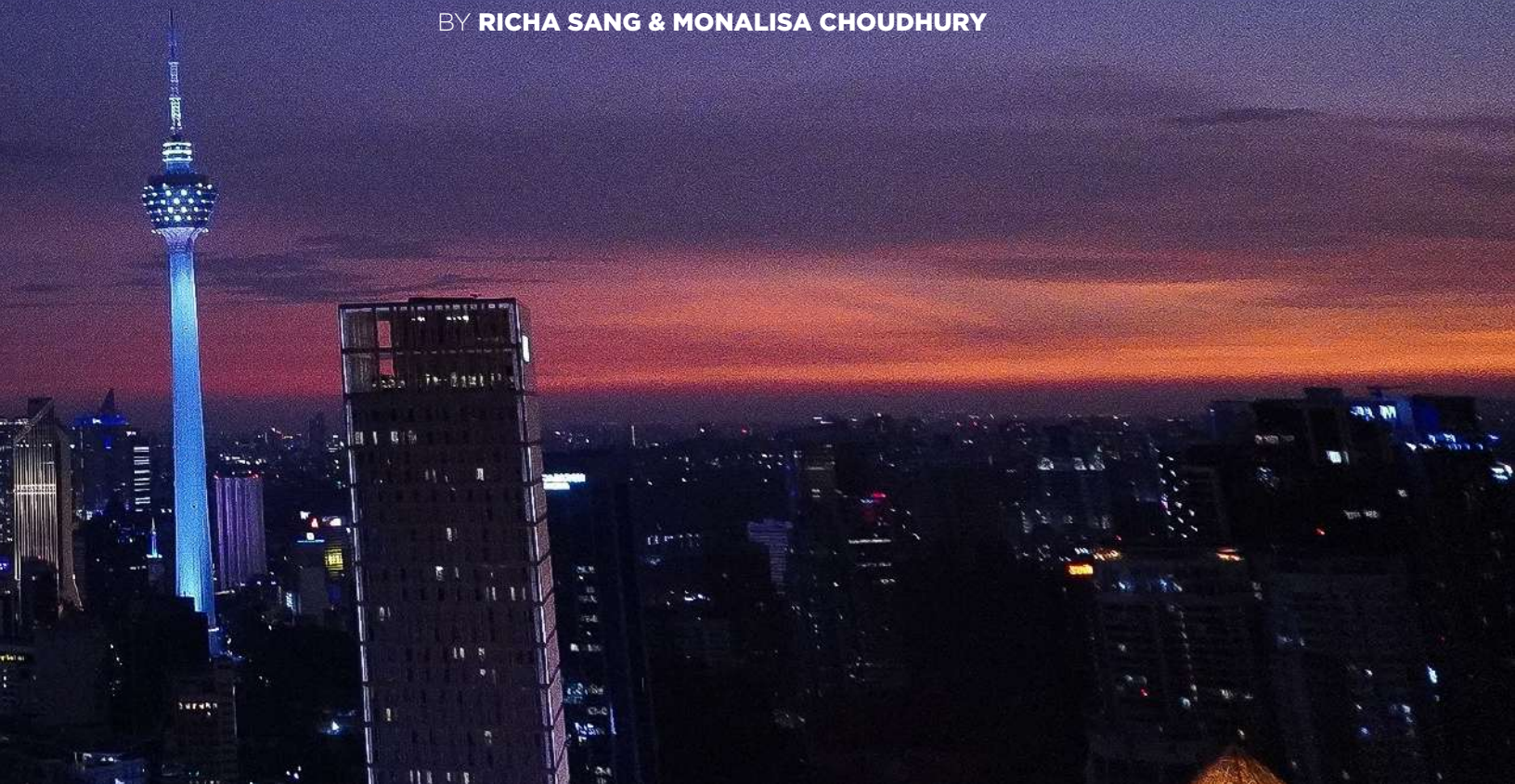
leader was also recognised as the "Most Inspiring Face of Innovations in Jewellery Design 2024" at the 13th India Leadership Conclave, along with winning the "Precious Coloured Gemstone Ring of the Year" at the 2019 Retail Jeweller India Awards. She aims to earn through best practices while building a meaningful value chain. Her vision is to position Aakarshan among global luxury brands like Tiffany and Harry Winston.



MALAYSIA AND THE MAKING OF ASEAN'S ENTREPRENEURIAL FUTURE

Malaysia has long been recognised as a steady and constructive member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Since helping establish the organisation in 1967, it has played a consistent role in driving regional cooperation through pragmatism, dialogue, and a shared sense of purpose. Today, a more dynamic dimension of its influence is gaining prominence. Apart from diplomacy and policy, Malaysia's entrepreneurial energy is emerging as a powerful force within ASEAN and positioning it as one of the bloc's most effective drivers of growth and innovation

BY **RICHA SANG & MONALISA CHOUDHURY**





Leadership dynamics within ASEAN are undergoing a significant evolution. Influence is no longer defined solely by political mediation or institutional participation, but increasingly by the ability of member states to generate forwardlooking ideas, mobilise economic networks, and respond creatively to shared challenges such as digital disruption, climate change and shifting global power dynamics. Malaysia has demonstrated a distinct capacity in this regard by positioning itself as one of the architects of ASEAN's future.

The country has always been an important player in Southeast Asia's regional trade ecosystem, but with new economic sectors growing in prominence, its appeal to businesses and investors has become even clearer. As a founding member of ASEAN, the country plays a key role in promoting regional economic cooperation while strengthening its own position as a commercial and investment hub.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs), once described simply as the backbone of national economies, due to their domestic employment and production roles, are now evolving into cross-border actors. A new generation of businesses is moving beyond domestic markets, engaging regionally, and redefining what it means to be an ASEAN enterprise. Malaysia stands at the forefront of this transition while providing both the environment and the momentum for such growth.

Malaysian businesses have shown how agility and innovation can outweigh size. Across sectors such as digital technology, logistics, manufacturing, and lifestyle industries, companies are expanding their reach into neighbouring markets with increasing confidence. Geography is no longer viewed as a constraint but as an opportunity for connection and collaboration. Increasingly, firms are leveraging digital platforms and regional supply chains to integrate more deeply into ASEAN's economic ecosystem.

ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS OF REGIONAL INFLUENCE

From its earliest involvement in ASEAN, Malaysia realised that economic cooperation would be essential to regional stability. Established during a period of geopolitical tension, ASEAN sought to promote interdependence among member states as a means of reducing conflict. Malaysia supported this vision not only through policy but also by strengthening

its domestic economy, besides creating a foundation for regional engagement.

Today, Malaysia's trade performance reflects this regional centrality. Total trade has reached record levels in recent years, with strong growth in both exports and imports. ASEAN remains Malaysia's largest trading partner, accounting for around 30% of exports and a significant share of imports, demonstrating the depth of regional integration. This trade momentum is supported by Malaysia's strategic location, modern infrastructure, and strong manufacturing base, which together make it a natural gateway to Southeast Asia.

The country's participation in major trade agreements has further strengthened its regional role. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which brings together 15 Asia-Pacific economies representing around 30% of global GDP, has expanded opportunities for cross-border trade and investment, reinforcing Malaysia's position within global value chains.



**DR. KIRAN
MAZUMDAR-SHAW,
EXECUTIVE
CHAIRPERSON,
BIOCON GROUP**

Women-led organisations across ASEAN demonstrate stronger community outcomes in healthcare, education, sustainability, and inclusive growth. As more women step into leadership roles, businesses are performing better, institutions are becoming more responsive, and societies are growing more resilient. Expanding women's participation is both a powerful moral commitment and a smart priority. Recognising women's achievements inspires the next generation and reminds young women that their ambitions truly matter. When we create environments where women can grow, contribute, and lead with confidence, we take meaningful steps toward a better future.

At the same time, Malaysia's diversified economy—spanning manufacturing, services, finance, agriculture, and digital industries—has reduced vulnerability to external shocks while encouraging innovation. Entrepreneurs benefit from established infrastructure, supportive regulatory frameworks, and improved access to regional markets through ASEAN agreements.

The rise of digital entrepreneurship deserves a special mention. Investments in digital infrastructure and innovation ecosystems have enabled startups to scale beyond national boundaries while contributing to ASEAN's growing role in the global digital economy. Cross-border e-commerce, fintech, and digital services are increasingly crucial to how Malaysian firms engage with the region.

At the regional level, Malaysia has supported initiatives that facilitate business growth. Its participation in the ASEAN Economic Community has advanced trade liberalisation and investment flows while enabling enterprises to operate more easily across borders. This has allowed Malaysian companies to expand into neighbouring markets while attracting foreign investment.

Malaysia's approach to regional partnerships reflects its belief that global engagement strengthens both national and regional resilience. Through participation in major trade agreements and ASEAN-led economic initiatives, Malaysia has expanded market access, encouraged investment flows, and created greater opportunities for businesses across Southeast Asia. At the same time, inclusivity remains a key pillar of its development model. Small and medium-sized enterprises, which form the backbone of Malaysia's economy, are supported through financing schemes, digital adoption programmes, and entrepreneurial training. This ensures that economic growth is more broadly shared while also supporting ASEAN's wider objective of reducing development gaps among member states.

SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION

Sustainability is another defining feature of Malaysia's entrepreneurial ecosystem. With growing environmental concerns, businesses are increasingly integrating responsible practices into their operations. Malaysia has been actively promoting green technology, renewable energy, and environmentally conscious policies, thereby aligning economic growth with long-term responsibility. This commitment extends to regional cooperation. By supporting



**DATUK NITESH
MALANI,
CHAIRMAN,
YAYASAN
USAHAWAN
MALAYSIA
GROUP CEO,
ENVIRO GROUP**

ASEAN is no longer an emerging bloc—it is a defining force in the global economic order, and Malaysia stands firmly at its strategic core. As we navigate an era shaped by shifting geopolitics, digital acceleration, and sustainability imperatives, Malaysia must lead with conviction, clarity, and collaboration. Our nation is uniquely positioned—bridging markets, cultures, and capital flows across the region. Through platforms like SEBA and the collective strength of our entrepreneurs, we are not just participating in ASEAN's growth—we are shaping it. The future of ASEAN will be written by those bold enough to lead, and Malaysia must answer that call—decisively and unapologetically.

initiatives in energy security and sustainable infrastructure, the country contributes to collective efforts that require shared solutions. Innovation in clean energy and resource management is further helping ASEAN move towards a more sustainable future.

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY

Malaysia's multicultural society further enhances its entrepreneurial capacity. Its diverse population brings varied perspectives, skills, and networks, while strengthening creativity and facilitating cross-border connections. Entrepreneurs often operate with a regional outlook, viewing ASEAN as a connected economic space rather than separate markets. This perspective encourages collaboration, supports resource-sharing, and reinforces the goal of building a cohesive economic community.

Malaysia's leadership during its 2025 ASEAN chairmanship highlighted the growing importance of entrepreneurship in regional development. At a



**MR. SURAJ ARORA,
MD & CO-FOUNDER,
KL TECH CITY
AND SECRETARY
GENERAL,
CONSORTIUM OF
INDIAN INDUSTRIES
IN MALAYSIA (CIIM)**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a critical platform for regional stability, economic integration, and geopolitical coordination in Southeast Asia. With over 650 million people, ASEAN drives trade liberalisation, supply chain resilience, and collective bargaining power amid US–China tensions. Malaysia plays a pivotal role as a founding member, leveraging its strategic location, diversified economy, and diplomatic neutrality to bridge differing member interests. Malaysia often champions economic cooperation, digital trade, and sustainability initiatives, positioning itself as a pragmatic middle power that strengthens ASEAN cohesion and external partnerships.

time of global uncertainty, it prioritised inclusivity, innovation, and sustainability, with initiatives focused on digital connectivity, small business support, and emerging sectors. Additionally, the advancement of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 marked an important step in long-term planning. The framework outlines ambitions for deeper economic integration, technological progress, and sustainable development. Malaysia played an important role in shaping this framework while ensuring that entrepreneurship and innovation remain a central focus of ASEAN's future growth. The inclusion of Timor-Leste as ASEAN's 11th member further reflects a commitment to inclusivity and expanding economic cooperation.

Malaysia has also maintained its role as a dialogue facilitator between advanced and emerging economies. This balancing approach has helped ASEAN remain open, adaptable, and economically resilient amid growing geopolitical competition and global economic uncertainty. Its trade and development partnerships, which

create access to newmarkets and encourage the exchange of knowledge and technology. At the same time, initiatives focused on strengthening digital infrastructure, logistics connectivity, supply chains, and energy cooperation are improving regional resilience without undermining openness.

Energy cooperation has emerged as another important area of focus. Malaysia has advocated for greater regional coordination in energy security, grid connectivity, and resource efficiency. These initiatives are particularly significant in the context of global energy transition challenges. By promoting collaboration in this sector, Malaysia contributes to both economic stability and environmental sustainability across the region.

LOOKING AHEAD

Malaysia's influence within ASEAN will be characterised by reliability, pragmatism, and collaborative engagement rather than dominance. Its entrepreneurial sector reflects this approach, focusing on innovation, expansion, and collaboration. Looking ahead, the role of entrepreneurship in ASEAN is set to become even more significant. Rapid technological change and shifting global dynamics will demand innovation and adaptability. Malaysia is wellpositioned to meet these demands, supported by its experience, infrastructure, and commitment to cooperation.

Its strength lies in aligning national priorities with regional goals. By promoting innovation, supporting inclusivity, and maintaining openness to global engagement, Malaysia provides a model for sustainable growth within ASEAN. Its entrepreneurs are not only driving economic expansion but also shaping how the region understands itself — as a connected and collaborative economic community.

In this sense, Malaysia stands as one of the new architects of ASEAN, not through dominance but through its ability to shape direction, strengthen institutions, and enable cross-border economic collaboration. As a middle power, its influence is exercised through practical engagement—advancing regional frameworks, supporting SME internationalisation, and fostering innovation ecosystems that link ASEAN economies more closely together. As ASEAN keeps evolving amid technological disruption and global uncertainty, Malaysia's commitment to cooperation and enterprise will remain crucial to its progress and long-term stability.



Sri Lanka

Peluwatte

**Nourishing
the nation
with pure dairy
goodness**



ROGER KUMAR

LEADING INDIA'S INDIGENOUS ENERGY TRANSITION WITH INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

As India accelerates its journey toward energy security, sustainability, and economic expansion, coal gasification is emerging as a transformative technology. In this exclusive conversation, Mr. Roger Kumar, Founder and Managing Director of CASE Group, shares his insights on how coal gasification can reshape India's energy landscape, strengthen its economy, and position the country as a global leader in clean industrial innovation





Q. Sir, as you are aware, India's vast coal reserves present a strong opportunity to drive energy security, industrial self-reliance, and improve the macroeconomic position of the country. How can coal gasification contribute to strengthening India's economy, particularly in reducing import dependency, lowering the fuel import bill, and improving the balance of payments?

You are right in pointing out that India imports roughly 80% of its fuel. This looms large on our balance of payments. The dent has become significant due to recent geopolitical situation in the world. On the other hand, India has over 300 billion ton of known coal reserves that could be gasified to replace expensive fuels like Natural gas, LPG, Aviation fuel, Diesel, Petrol, and furnace oil etc. adopting coal gasification as a national policy could significantly improve the country's balance of payments.

Q. Sir, CASE Group has been actively contributing to India's Atmanirbhar energy vision through indigenous coal gasification technologies. Please explain how do you see coal gasification technologies, such as those developed by CASE Group, contributing to India's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat?

Well, CASE Group entered coal gasification technology about 20 years back to help industries reduce dependence on costly fuels like furnace oil and natural gas. By installing over 300 fully indigenous coal gasifiers across India and Africa, the company has promoted cleaner thermal applications, reduced reliance on expensive conventional fuels, strengthened industrial self-reliance, while supporting the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Q. Hydrogen is a key driver of India's clean energy shift. Please explain what role does coal gasification play in advancing hydrogen production & supporting India's hydrogen economy?

Hydrogen is widely used in industries for generating power through fuel cells and replacing conventional fuels like natural gas, furnace oil, and LDO in heating applications. Since it produces little to no carbon emissions, it helps India move toward carbon neutrality and net-zero goals. The problem is that producing green hydrogen using existing technologies currently costs over ₹300 per kg. However, if produced via coal gasification, it can cost less than ₹100 per kg. The

carbon released in the process can be captured and converted into Urea or other useful chemicals. This way we can have cheap hydrogen and still contribute to zero net carbon.

Q. Sir, how can coal gasification support the production of high-value products such as ammonia, methanol, and synthetic fuels, and what economic advantages does this create for India?

That's a very good question. India today is importing urea and ammonia for domestic consumption. This requirement will only increase with time. The reason private companies have not entered this sector so far is that urea is produced in countries where natural gas is very cheap and they export at very economical rates. However, when exports are restricted due to geopolitical reasons, India finds itself in a difficult position, as is the case currently. Therefore, it is imperative for Government of India to realise this issue and give special subsidies on coal and give attractive off taking agreements so that entrepreneurs come up and manufacture Urea, Ammonia and methanol, synthetic fuels from coal and make India energy and fertilizer self-sufficient.

Q. Sir, could you please explain how coal gasification



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**"AT CASE, WE
MANUFACTURE &
OPERATE GASIFIERS
WITH COAL
CONTAINING OVER
50% ASH"**

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differs from conventional coal-based power generation in terms of reducing harmful emissions like SPM, SOx, and Nox?

In conventional power plants, coal is burned to produce steam that drives turbines for electricity generation, and pollution is controlled using systems like ESPs for particulate matter, FGD for SOx, and other methods for NOx reduction.

Coal gasification converts coal into coal gas, a cleaner fuel that can be used in boilers, gas turbines, or combined cycle systems to improve efficiency. It reduces NOx due to its lower calorific value. Sulphur can be easily treated at the coal gas stage in the form of H₂S, resulting in low SOx emissions. SPM is also taken care of, as there is no dust or ash in the gas.

Q. Please elaborate on the role of Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) in making coal gasification a more sustainable energy solution?

Luckily, modern technologies can convert CO₂ into useful chemicals like urea and methanol, shifting focus from costly carbon storage to carbon utilisation. When combined with coal gasification, this enables production of hydrocarbon-based chemicals, supports environmental protection, and helps achieve carbon neutrality. In a country like India, this is a blessing in disguise, as it can improve the balance of payments, enable low-cost chemical production, and help us achieve carbon neutrality while supporting the COP Paris net-zero goal by 2070.

Q. What technological innovations, do you think, have

been critical in making coal gasification viable and efficient for Indian industrial conditions?

When we started working with coal gasification almost 20 years back, our technology partners in China specified that gasifiers would not work over 20% ash content in coal. Today, at CASE, we manufacture and operate gasifiers with coal containing over 50% ash! So, Gasifiers which we make today are already tuned to Indian coal. It will be little challenging for other variants of gasifiers which are high-pressure and high-temperature gasifiers and make chemicals downstream. But I think these challenges can be overcome with time.

Q. Sir, in your view, what policy interventions/govt. incentives are needed to accelerate the adoption of coal gasification and IGCC technologies in India?

Government can help in three ways. It can subsidise coal cost, give attractive off-taking schemes; and give attractive subsidy on the investments.

Q. India has set a target to gasify 100 million metric tons of coal by 2030. How achievable do you consider this vision, and what are the key challenges that need to be addressed?

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister set this target in 2020, clearly defining 10 years aim. Significant progress has already been made, particularly in the field of thermal gasification. With recent government schemes, few companies have come forward for coal-to-chemical projects. These plants will start commercial production in another 2 to 3 years. With this accelerating momentum, India is well positioned to meet its 2030 target, while coal gasification is increasingly emerging as a key pillar of the country's future industrial and energy ecosystem.

Q. CASE Group is exploring global opportunities, including Africa. How can India leverage its indigenous coal gasification technologies to expand global industrial footprint and improve export-led economic gains.

Few countries in Africa and Asia are blessed with vast coal reserves. Like India, these nations can use their coal reserves indigenously and lower their import bills. CASE has installed many gasifiers in Africa and earned forex for India. This can multiply multifold with more awareness for coal gasification down the line. So CASE and India today has this opportunity to strengthen their global industrial foot print and emerge as global leader in this field.



Greatest Leaders 2026

What makes a leader truly great? It is not the power to command, the courage to make difficult choices, or the wisdom to see beyond the moment. It is the ability to inspire others to believe in a purpose. Great leadership is ultimately measured not by the position one holds, but by the difference one makes.

The Greatest Leaders 2026 section celebrates individuals who embody this deeper understanding of leadership. With vision grounded in experience, conviction driven by wisdom, and a relentless commitment to excellence, they have risen to meet the complexities of their time. Their journeys are shaped by hard decisions, valuable lessons and the determination to keep moving forward.

More than their positions or achievements, it is the impact they have made on people, organisations and communities that sets them apart. These are leaders whose legacies are being shaped not merely by what they have accomplished, but by how they have chosen to lead



MADAM HO CHING

A TRAILBLAZER IN BUSINESS & NATION BUILDING

Madam Ho Ching, Chairman of Temasek Trust, stands as one of Singapore's most influential business leaders, known for her engineering expertise, courage and a deep commitment to public service. As the former CEO and Executive Director of Temasek Holdings, she transformed the investment company into a globally diversified institution while championing philanthropy, innovation, sustainability and opportunities for communities





seasoned leader, Madam Ho Ching began her professional journey in 1976 as an engineer with Singapore's Ministry of Defence. Her technical abilities and commitment to public service soon brought greater responsibilities.

She served as Director of the Defence Materiel Organisation and Deputy Director of the Defence Science Organisation, contributing to Singapore's defence capabilities and technological development.

In 1987, she joined Singapore Technologies, where she held several senior positions before becoming President and CEO in 1997. During this period, she played an important role in the formation and listing of Singapore Technologies Engineering, which developed into one of Asia's major defence engineering companies. Her career demonstrated that technical knowledge, when combined with determined leadership, can become a powerful force for national development.

philosophy encouraged Temasek to look beyond immediate gains and consider the wider forces shaping economies and societies.

Her tenure also coincided with significant growth in Temasek's portfolio value. More importantly, the organisation strengthened its position as a globally recognised investment institution. Ho Ching's leadership illustrated the importance of diversification, disciplined decision-making and the courage to enter challenging markets.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Madam Ho Ching's legacy extends beyond business and investment. She has consistently emphasised the relationship between economic progress and social responsibility. Under her guidance, Temasek developed a substantial philanthropic framework, including Temasek Trust and several foundations supporting education, healthcare, community development, innovation and environmental causes.

"MADAM HO CHING TURNED ENGINEERING EXPERTISE INTO A LEGACY OF IMPACT"

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Her academic background further strengthened this foundation. She earned a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering with first-class honours from the National University of Singapore and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University. Her willingness to take calculated risks and her ability to understand complex industries became defining features of her leadership.

CREATING GLOBAL IMPACT

Madam Ho Ching's most prominent leadership chapter began at Temasek Holdings. Under her stewardship, Temasek expanded beyond its traditional Singapore focus and developed a broad international investment portfolio. Its interests extended across banking, telecommunications, technology, transportation and other strategic sectors, with investments in companies such as major Chinese banks, Alibaba, Standard Chartered, Lloyds and Singapore Airlines. Her approach reflected a belief that long-term investment requires more than financial returns. Strong institutions, responsible governance and stable social and economic systems are essential to sustainable prosperity. This

Her philosophy is driven by the belief that prosperity should create opportunities for those who might otherwise be left behind. Temasek's philanthropic initiatives have supported communities in Singapore and across Asia, helping build capabilities, strengthen institutions and improve lives. Her emphasis on endowments also reflected a desire to create sustainable sources of support rather than relying solely on short-term charitable contributions.

Madam Ho Ching has additionally served on numerous public boards and institutions, contributing to Singapore's economic, scientific and industrial development. Her service has earned national recognition, including the Public Administration Medal and Public Service Star. She has also been recognised by the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame.

A LEGACY OF COURAGE & SERVICE

Madam Ho Ching's career represents a distinctive combination of enterprise and public purpose. From engineering and defence to advanced manufacturing, global investment and philanthropy, she repeatedly accepted demanding responsibilities and pursued long-term objectives.

MOHAMED ALABBAR

ARCHITECT OF MODERN DUBAI

Mr. Mohamed Alabbar, Founder and Chairman, Emaar Properties, is one of the most influential business leaders in the Middle East and the visionary founder of Emaar Properties, the company behind some of the world's most iconic urban landmarks. Widely regarded as a visionary of modern Dubai, Alabbar has played a defining role in shaping the city's global identity





orn in Dubai, Mr. Mohamed Alabbar grew up during a period when the emirate was still in the early stages of its economic transformation.

He pursued higher education in the United States and earned a degree in business administration and later a master's degree in finance. Upon returning to the UAE, Mr. Alabbar joined the Dubai government, where he worked closely with the country's leadership on key economic and development initiatives. His exposure to large-scale national projects laid the foundation for his entrepreneurial journey and inspired his vision of building world-class cities that could compete on a global stage.

BUILDING A GLOBAL REAL ESTATE GIANT

Mr. Alabbar began his journey in 1997 by founding Emaar Properties, a Dubai-based real estate development firm. With a focus on creating world-

delivering high-end apartments, hotels, and retail spaces across ten countries on three continents, reinforcing his reputation as a visionary with a global perspective.

Apart from real estate, Mr. Alabbar has strategically diversified his business portfolio. He holds a significant stake in Americana Restaurants, the Middle East's leading food franchise operator, which includes international fast food brands. Additionally, he has invested in the digital economy, holding stakes in Riyadh-based e-commerce platform Noon.com and Dubai-based digital bank Zand Bank. These ventures highlight his understanding of emerging markets, technology, and consumer trends besides adding multiple dimensions to his entrepreneurial achievements.

GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr. Alabbar's achievements extend far beyond corporate success. Under his leadership, Emaar's projects have won numerous international awards

"MR. ALABBAR BUILDS ICONIC GLOBAL LANDMARKS WITH INNOVATION AND VISION"

class developments, he led the company through rapid growth, ultimately listing it on the Dubai Stock Exchange in 2000. Under his leadership, Emaar delivered some of the most celebrated urban projects in the world, including Downtown Dubai, which became home to the Burj Khalifa, the tallest tower globally, and the Dubai Mall, one of the largest retail and entertainment destinations. These projects exemplify his vision of combining architectural excellence, functionality, and lifestyle appeal, while creating destinations that attract millions of visitors and residents from across the globe.

GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Mr. Alabbar's influence is not limited to Dubai. Over the years, his ventures have spanned more than 18 countries, encompassing regions such as the Middle East, South Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa. Through Emaar and later Eagle Hills, he introduced premium residential, commercial, and mixed-use developments, while shaping urban communities that balance modernity with cultural and environmental considerations. Eagle Hills, founded in 2014, extended his global footprint,

for design, sustainability, and innovation. Mr. Alabbar has also played a key role in the growth of regional e-commerce through ventures such as Noon, one of the Middle East's largest online marketplaces. His leadership style is characterised by speed, scale, and strategic risk-taking, with a strong emphasis on execution and long-term economic impact. Today, he is recognised as one of the most powerful figures in global real estate and urban development.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Through the Emaar Foundation and various social initiatives, the benevolent leader has supported education, healthcare, humanitarian aid, and community development across the region. He is also actively involved in sustainability initiatives. He focuses on green buildings, energy efficiency, and responsible urban planning. He strongly believes that businesses must contribute to society beyond profits and views corporate success as a platform for positive social transformation. His vision aligns commercial growth with national progress, making him not just a business leader but a key architect of modern Dubai's future.

PHAM NHAT VUONG

A LEADER DRIVING NATIONAL GROWTH

Mr. Pham Nhat Vuong, Founder and Chairman of VinFast and Chairman of Vingroup, stands among Vietnam's most influential business leaders. His journey reflects ambition, discipline, and national pride. Over the years, the leader has shaped a new economic identity for Vietnam through large-scale enterprise, global vision and long-term industrial leadership





born on 5 August 1968 in Hanoi, Mr. Vuong grew up during a period of economic hardship in Vietnam, when opportunities were limited and resources were scarce, particularly in the years following the country's economic struggles. These early circumstances played an important role in shaping his personality and outlook towards life. Growing up in a modest environment, he learned the importance of discipline, resilience and perseverance at an early age. The challenges he faced helped build a strong work ethic and a practical understanding of long-term effort. These values played a substantial role in shaping his leadership style.

Mr. Vuong's entrepreneurial journey began in the early 1990s when he moved to Ukraine. At that time, Ukraine was transitioning from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented one, creating new opportunities for entrepreneurs. Recognising a gap in the market, he founded Technocom, a company that produced instant noodles. The product quickly

gained popularity among consumers due to its affordability and convenience. Within a few years, Technocom became one of the most successful food brands in the region. The company's growth attracted international attention, and it was eventually acquired by Nestlé. This deal marked Mr. Vuong's first major global business success and provided him with the capital and experience to pursue larger ambitions.

VINFAST VISION

Among his most ambitious initiatives is VinFast, Vietnam's first global automobile and electric vehicle manufacturer. Entering a highly competitive industry dominated by established international brands, VinFast represented a bold step for Vietnam's manufacturing sector. The company quickly expanded its operations and began introducing electric vehicles to international markets, including the United States and Europe. Through VinFast, Mr. Vuong aimed not only to build a successful automotive brand but also to showcase Vietnam's

"MR. VUONG HAS BEEN DRIVING VIETNAM'S

GROWTH WITH VISION, INDUSTRY & INNOVATION"

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growing technological and industrial capabilities.

GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr. Vuong's leadership has earned widespread recognition. He is frequently listed among Southeast Asia's wealthiest individuals, while VinFast's global presence has reshaped perceptions of Vietnam as an emerging innovation-driven economy. His efforts have attracted international investors and strengthened Vietnam's role in global supply chains.

BUILDING VINGROUP

After returning to Vietnam, Mr. Vuong began building what would become one of the country's most influential business groups, Vingroup. Initially focusing on real estate development, Vingroup launched premium residential and commercial projects that transformed urban landscapes in major Vietnamese cities. These developments introduced modern infrastructure and set new benchmarks for quality and planning in the country's property sector. Under his leadership, the group steadily expanded into several other sectors.

Two important pillars of this expansion were healthcare and education. Through Vinmec hospitals, Vingroup aimed to improve access to high-quality

SOCIAL IMPACT

Social responsibility forms a key part of Mr. Vuong's leadership approach. Under his guidance, Vingroup has actively supported healthcare, education, disaster relief, and innovation-led development. His focus on electric mobility and clean technology reflects a forward-looking approach aligned with global sustainability priorities.

Through determination, strategic risk-taking, and national commitment, Mr. Pham Nhat Vuong has built institutions that extend beyond business success. His leadership serves as an inspiration to entrepreneurs and professionals across Vietnam and other emerging markets.

SANTI BHIROMBHAKDI

GUARDIAN OF A THAI BUSINESS LEGACY

Santi Bhirombhakdi is as one of Thailand's most influential business figures, representing the third generation of the Bhirombhakdi family that built Boon Rawd Brewery into a national institution. As the long-serving leader behind the iconic Singha beer, he has guided the company through shifting market forces while broadening its presence across industries and international markets





born in 1946, Santi Bhirombhakdi inherited not only a business legacy but also the responsibility of sustaining a pioneering enterprise founded by his grandfather, Phraya Bhirombhakdi, in 1933. The brewery, Thailand's first, emerged during a period when domestic production was gaining importance in the country's economic development. Raised within this environment, Santi Bhirombhakdi was exposed early to the workings of a family business deeply tied to national identity and consumer culture.

LEARNING THROUGH THE BUSINESS

Santi Bhirombhakdi's early years were shaped by practical exposure to the family enterprise. Like many heirs of prominent Southeast Asian business families of that era, he learned through direct involvement rather than public academic distinction. By the 1970s, he had entered the operations of Boon Rawd Brewery alongside his brother, gaining experience during

its core operations. A major step in this direction was the development of Singha Estate, which established the family's presence in real estate and hospitality. Through this venture, the group invested in residential projects, commercial properties, and an international portfolio of hotels and resorts, including partnerships linked to global brands such as Mercure.

This diversification reduced reliance on the beverage sector and positioned the group to benefit from broader economic trends, including tourism and urban development. Investments in logistics, such as collaborations with Linfox, further strengthened the group's infrastructure and supply chain capabilities. These initiatives reflect a pragmatic approach aimed at long-term stability rather than short-term gains.

PROMOTING SPORT & TALENT

Santi Bhirombhakdi has also played a notable role in promoting golf in Thailand. His active involvement with the Thai Professional Golfers' Association helped raise the profile of the sport and support

"SANTI BHIROMBHAKDI STEERS LEGACY

BUSINESS THROUGH GROWTH & RESILIENCE"

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a time when the company was consolidating its position in Thailand's growing beverage market.

The turning point in his career came in the early 2000s, when he assumed leadership of the business following the passing of the second-generation head. This period was marked by intense competition, particularly from Thai Beverage, whose Chang beer disrupted Singha's long-held dominance. Market share declined sharply and presented one of the most difficult phases in the company's history.

During these turbulent times, Santi Bhirombhakdi responded with internal restructuring and renewed market focus. Greater attention was given to consumer preferences, branding, and operational efficiency. Partnerships, including collaborations with Carlsberg Group, opened doors to international markets and strengthened production capabilities.

Marketing initiatives, including high-profile sports sponsorships, reinforced brand visibility both domestically and abroad. Over time, these measures helped restore the company's competitive position.

Apart from brewing, his leadership has been defined by a deliberate effort to diversify. The group expanded into food production, packaging, and logistics, building an ecosystem that complemented

emerging talent. Through training programmes and sponsorships, he has contributed to building a more structured pathway for professional golfers in the country.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Philanthropy has also formed an integral part of his work. Through the Phraya Bhirombhakdi Foundation, the group has supported education, community development, and cultural preservation. Its initiatives include scholarships, school construction in rural areas, and programmes aimed at improving access to education for underprivileged communities. Additionally, the establishment of the Singha Museum in Bangkok further reflects his effort to preserve the heritage of the family business and its role in Thailand's industrial history.

Today, Santi Bhirombhakdi is regarded as a respected figure within the group's leadership, while the next generation steadily assumes greater responsibilities, following his path. His journey reflects the transformation of a family-run business into a diversified enterprise, shaped by evolving market dynamics and sustained through a careful balance of tradition, innovation, and strategic vision.

PRAJOGO PANGESTU

HOLDING ALL THE ACES

Mr. Prajogo Pangestu is one of Southeast Asia's most influential business leaders and Indonesia's wealthiest individual. As the Founder and Chairman of Barito Pacific Group, he has built a diversified business spanning petrochemicals, energy, mining, and renewable sectors. Known for his quiet demeanour and long-term vision, his journey stands as one of Asia's most inspiring leadership stories





orn in 1944 into a humble family, Mr. Pangestu grew up in modest circumstances as the son of a rubber trader in Indonesia. Financial limitations meant that he had to discontinue his formal education at an early stage and begin working to support himself. His early years were shaped by perseverance and hard work. He took on a variety of roles, including working as a public transport driver and engaging in small trading activities. These experiences built in him a strong work ethic and a practical understanding of business and survival in challenging conditions.

A turning point came in 1969 when he was introduced to the timber business through the Djajanti Group. Starting from the grassroots level, he gained hands-on experience in the industry and steadily progressed through dedication and commitment. Over time, he rose to become the general manager of a plywood factory. This exposure to the timber trade gave him valuable

through consolidation in petrochemicals and by investing in emerging areas such as geothermal energy. These strategic investments created a strong foundation for sustainable and long-term growth.

LAUDED MILESTONES

Over the years, Mr. Pangestu's investments and leadership have generated remarkable financial success. Today, he is widely recognised as one of Asia's most influential business leaders and the richest person in Indonesia.

At the age of 81, his net worth has risen significantly, reaching approximately \$36.7 billion after increasing by more than \$20 billion since April. His business interests through Barito Pacific and Barito Renewables remain strong, particularly in petrochemicals, energy, and mining.

A VERSATILE LEADER

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Pangestu has held several key leadership roles. He served as

"MR. PANGESTU'S JOURNEY REFLECTS RESILIENCE, VISION AND DETERMINATION"

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knowledge of the sector and encouraged him to take a bold entrepreneurial step. In the late 1970s, with financial support from a bank, he acquired a small timber company and laid the foundation of what later became Barito Pacific.

BUSINESS EXPANSION

During the 1980s, Barito Pacific expanded rapidly under his leadership. The company focused on strengthening its presence in the timber industry and gradually built a strong business reputation. In 1993, the company went public, marking an important milestone in its journey and making it one of Indonesia's largest listed companies at the time. Mr. Pangestu demonstrated remarkable strategic foresight by recognising the need to diversify the group's business interests beyond timber. As global market conditions evolved, he guided the company into higher-value industrial sectors.

A defining moment in the company's transformation came in 2007 with the acquisition of a majority stake in Chandra Asri Petrochemical. This move positioned Barito Pacific firmly within Indonesia's growing industrial and petrochemical sector. The group further strengthened its position

President Commissioner of PT Tri Polyta Indonesia Tbk from 1999 to 2010, a member of the Board of Commissioners of PT Astra International Tbk from 1993 to 1998, and President Director of PT Chandra Asri from 1990 to 1999. Earlier in his career, he worked as Director of Djajanti Timber Group from 1969 to 1976 and as President Director of Barito Pacific from 1977 to 1993. His journey from humble beginnings to leading major industrial enterprises highlights his determination, vision, and sound business judgement.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Beyond business success, Mr. Pangestu is also known for his commitment to giving back to society. Through his companies and family foundations, he supports initiatives that promote sustainable development and social welfare.

His investments in renewable energy, particularly geothermal projects, contribute to Indonesia's transition toward cleaner energy sources. By combining business growth with environmental responsibility, he demonstrates how corporate leadership can contribute to long-term national progress and sustainability.

NATARAJAN CHANDRASEKARAN

A LEADER OF GLOBAL CALIBRE

Mr. Natarajan Chandrasekaran is a seasoned business leader who currently serves as the Chairman of Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group. He also chairs the boards of major companies such as Tata Steel and Tata Motors. Having started his career at Tata Consultancy Services, he rose through the ranks with steady leadership and clear decision-making. Today, he is widely respected for strengthening the group's long-term growth and values





ew corporate leaders in India today show as much vision and strength as Mr. Chandrasekaran, who plays a key role in leading major Tata Group companies like Tata Steel and Tata Motors. Born on 2nd June 1963 in a small village in Tamil Nadu, he grew up in a simple and disciplined environment. He completed a Master's degree in Computer Applications from the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli.

LEADING WITH PURPOSE

Mr. Chandrasekaran joined Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in 1987, kicking off a career that spanned over 30 years. He rose through the ranks to become CEO and Managing Director of TCS, where his leadership turned the company into a global IT leader. Under his leadership, TCS grew in size and reputation, and emerged as one of India's most valuable companies.

In 2017, he became Chairman of Tata Sons, the

Tata companies to align their strategies while remaining agile and competitive in a fast-changing global market. During his tenure, the group's turnover crossed US\$179 billion, with a market capitalisation reaching US\$328 billion by March 31, 2025.

DONNING MULTIPLE HATS

Apart from corporate leadership, Mr. Chandrasekaran holds several influential positions globally. He is Co-Chair of the US India CEO Forum, a member of the International Advisory Council of Singapore's Economic Development Board, and part of Mitsubishi's International Advisory Committee. His contributions to academia include chairing the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, and serving as President of the Court at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

He is also on advisory boards at Stanford University and MIT, demonstrating a commitment

"MR. CHANDRASEKARAN DRIVES TATA GROUP'S GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION AND IMPACT"

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first person from within the Tata Group to hold this position. Since then, he has led the group with a focus on unity, long-term growth, and innovation. His "One Tata" approach encouraged collaboration across companies, strengthened core businesses like Tata Steel and Tata Motors, and supported new initiatives in aviation, digital platforms, and advanced manufacturing.

As Chairman, Mr. Chandrasekaran has directed the Tata Group's focus towards technological advancement, sustainable growth, and resilience in global supply chains. The group has ventured into industries such as electronics manufacturing, semiconductor production, electric vehicle battery manufacturing, and mobile technology for 5G networks. His guidance has also led to a strategic expansion in aviation, most notably with the acquisition of Air India, positioning the group to develop a major global airline.

ALIGNING VISION WITH EXECUTION

A proponent of what he calls the "One Tata" approach, Mr. Chandrasekaran encourages simplification, scale, and synergy across the conglomerate. This approach has enabled

to shaping global knowledge ecosystems.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Chandrasekaran's contributions have been widely recognised both in India and abroad. The leader was awarded the Padma Bhushan, one of India's highest civilian honours, in 2022 for his remarkable contributions to trade and industry. Additionally, France conferred upon him the Légion d'Honneur in 2023, acknowledging his role in strengthening Indo-French economic ties. In 2025, he was named an Honorary Knight of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. He has also received the President Eisenhower Global Award for Leadership from the Business Council for International Understanding. Several universities have awarded him honorary doctorates, and he continues to serve on important international forums such as the US-India CEO Forum.

Mr. Chandrasekaran has also authored Bridgital Nation, a book that explores how technology can transform the lives of millions of Indians. His work reflects the innovation, responsibility, and social commitment he has brought to the Tata Group.

DATO' KHAIRUSSALEH RAMLI

BALANCING GROWTH, INNOVATION AND PURPOSE

Dato' Khairussaleh Ramli is a leading banking figure in Southeast Asia and the President and Group CEO of Malayan Banking Berhad (Maybank). As the head of Malaysia's largest bank, the leader oversees operations across Asia, the Middle East, and key global markets





Born and raised in Malaysia, Dato' Khairussaleh built his career on a strong foundation in finance and economics. He pursued higher education in business and finance, which prepared him for a career in banking and corporate leadership. He joined Maybank early in his professional journey and steadily rose through the ranks over more than three decades.

Dato' Khairussaleh was appointed President and Group CEO of Maybank in 2016, taking charge of a bank with a strong presence across ASEAN and beyond. Under his leadership, Maybank focused on strengthening its core markets while improving digital services and operational efficiency. He led the bank's "M25" strategy, which aimed to sharpen customer focus, build digital capabilities and ensure sustainable returns. His approach balances traditional banking strengths with modern digital needs, ensuring the bank remains competitive in a fast-changing financial world.

Association of Banks in Malaysia further highlights his leadership beyond the organisation, where he led a nationwide anti-fraud campaign that resulted in a 40% reduction in scam cases in 2024.

Equally important has been his focus on building a future-ready workforce. He holds that people are the backbone of any successful organisation; therefore, he has prioritised upskilling employees in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, cloud and data. More than 18,000 employees have undergone structured training, supported by a comprehensive AI literacy initiative. This has not only strengthened internal capabilities but also fostered a culture of continuous learning and adaptability.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Over the years, Dato' Khairussaleh has received several prestigious accolades, including the UNGCMYB Forward Faster CEO Award 2026 and Best Bank CEO in Malaysia award by TAB Global

"DATO' KHAIRUSSALEH DRIVES DIGITAL BANKING GROWTH WITH SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION"

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A key highlight of his leadership has been the strong push towards digital transformation. Like a true leader, he has led the modernisation of Maybank's platforms and embedded agile ways of working across functions. This has resulted in faster product rollouts and improved service delivery. With active digital users crossing 10 million in 2024, digital channels have become the primary touchpoint for customer engagement. These efforts have significantly enhanced personalisation and convenience, strengthening Maybank's position as a leading financial institution in the region.

A SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION

Sustainability and inclusion have also been integral to his growth strategy. Dato' Khairussaleh has positioned sustainability as a core driver of innovation, enabling Maybank to mobilise MYR 115 billion in sustainable finance by the end of 2024, ahead of its target. At the same time, the bank has expanded its initiatives in financial literacy, education and community development, positively impacting hundreds of thousands of individuals across its markets. His role as chairman of the

leadership in transforming Maybank into a digitally advanced, customer-centric, and sustainability organisation.

Under his stellar leadership, Maybank has remained one of Asia's most trusted and stable financial institutions. The bank has consistently ranked among the top banks in ASEAN and has received recognition for its strong capital position, governance, and digital progress. Maybank has also been recognised for its leadership in Islamic finance and sustainable banking.

COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Social responsibility is a core part of Dato' Khairussaleh Ramli's leadership vision. Maybank places strong emphasis on sustainability, financial inclusion, and community development. The bank supports education, entrepreneurship, and environmental programs across the region through the Maybank. It is also active in green financing and climate-related initiatives. Dato' Khairussaleh believes banks have a duty to support society and the environment while driving economic growth.

TAN SU SHAN

ASIA'S BANKING VISIONARY

Tan Su Shan is one of Asia's most respected banking leaders and the Chief Executive Officer of DBS Bank, the largest bank in Southeast Asia by assets. After more than 15 years within the organisation, she now carries forward a legacy shaped by strong financial growth, digital innovation, and a strong focus on Asia's expanding economic potential

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seasoned banker, Tan's journey to the top role reflects decades of experience in global finance. Before joining DBS Bank, she worked with Morgan Stanley and Citigroup, where she gained exposure to major financial hubs such as Hong Kong, London, and Tokyo. At DBS Bank, she held several senior positions that gave her a wide view of the bank's operations. She led the consumer banking, wealth management, and institutional banking businesses during her tenure. This experience prepared her for her current role, while giving her a strong understanding of the bank's clients, internal systems, and growth priorities across Asia.

LEADERSHIP IN CRISIS

Tan believes leadership becomes most important during periods of uncertainty. Her philosophy is simple: when things go well, leaders should stay calm; when challenges arise, they must not lose

flexible to keep pace with rapid technological change. Artificial intelligence is evolving at a remarkable speed, transforming how businesses operate, analyse information, and deliver services. For financial institutions in particular, the ability to adapt quickly is becoming a key competitive advantage. Companies that hesitate to adopt new technologies risk losing efficiency, missing emerging opportunities, and falling behind more agile competitors.

COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Tan is a strong advocate for responsible banking. Under her leadership, DBS places a high importance on sustainability, financial inclusion, and social impact. The bank supports green financing, small business growth, and digital access for underserved communities. Through balanced leadership, she has been shaping DBS Bank into a bank that prioritizes both financial success and

"TAN IS KNOWN FOR DRIVING DBS BANK'S DIGITAL, SUSTAINABLE & STRATEGIC GROWTH"

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confidence. This mindset helped guide teams during financial volatility and global disruptions.

Another key principle for her is building the right team. Tan emphasises that no leader can succeed alone. Strategy experts, operational specialists, technology professionals, and governance teams must work together effectively. She believes a diverse group with different skills leads to stronger decision making. At the same time, she encourages open communication and clarity so that employees understand the organisation's priorities and direction.

DIGITAL BANKING FOCUS

Tan plans to build on the strong foundation of DBS Bank with a stronger push toward artificial intelligence and data-driven banking. The forward-thinking leader believes banks must move beyond traditional systems and embrace data-driven decision-making. She holds that AI will significantly reshape financial services, from customer support and risk analysis to fraud detection and investment insights, besides helping improve customer experience through personalised financial services, faster response times, and smarter digital support. Thus, organisations must remain

long-term social value.

Tan firmly believes that financial institutions must play an active role in society. Banks provide capital, financial access, and economic support that can improve livelihoods.

However, partnerships with governments, community groups, and businesses are equally necessary for her to create long-lasting, lucrative results. For her, the future of DBS Bank depends on three elements – strong leadership teams, advanced technology, and a clear commitment to Asia's growth story.

GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Tan's leadership has garnered strong recognition within the global banking industry. DBS Bank has consistently been ranked among the world's top banks for digital innovation, customer service, and sustainability. Under her direction, the bank has received multiple international awards for its achievements in digital banking and leadership excellence.

Her ability to manage large teams, complex systems, and rapidly evolving technology has established her as one of the most influential banking executives in Asia today.

ARUL VAJRABEL

LEADING WITH INTEGRITY, OWNERSHIP & PURPOSE

For Mr. Arul Vajravel, Managing Director, Arul Group of Companies, leadership begins with vision and gains strength through trust. By empowering people and turning ambition into purposeful action, he believes in creating value and building a business saga that is defined not merely by scale, but by substance and long-term impact





seasoned leader, Mr. Vajravel has carried forward his family's industrial foundation to build a diversified Group grounded in technical expertise, trust, and valuable partnerships. With a Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas, USA, he brings a strong technical perspective to Arul Group's growth and diversification. Today, he oversees five businesses spanning manufacturing, construction, interiors and electrical systems. Arul Rubbers and Arul Polymers form the Group's industrial backbone, while Neo Heights Builders & Promoters has evolved into an EPC and turnkey construction company. The Neo Studio specialises in interior design, and Vajra Panels manufactures electrical panels.

Mr. Vajravel champions a hands-on leadership style driven by mutual trust, operational discipline, and long-term value creation. As a people person, he

among civil, structural, utility, MEP, electrical and interior teams to minimise clashes, material waste and rework. Under his guidance, the Group is also developing measurable indicators covering material savings, waste reduction, water conservation, energy performance and avoided rework. His focus on responsible growth is reflected in the Group's expanding global presence, with its manufacturing products now reaching 11 overseas markets.

He also places strong emphasis on governance, with clearly defined responsibilities and disciplined reporting across the Group. His long-term vision is to establish Arul Group's manufacturing businesses as globally recognised facilities for heavy fabricated, rubber-lined and rubber-to-metal bonded equipment, while positioning Neo Heights as a one-stop provider of comprehensive EPC solutions.

RACKING UP ACCOLADES

Mr. Vajravel's commitment to business excellence has

"MR. VAJRABEL TURNS HIS VISION INTO ACTION THROUGH PEOPLE, PURPOSE, AND PERFORMANCE"

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places strong emphasis on building trust, maintaining close relationships and ensuring an approachable leadership style. He has built complementary businesses, each addressing specific customer needs, while driving coordination and knowledge sharing across teams. Rather than managing disconnected entities, his approach brings the manufacturing and construction verticals together, enabling teams to plan collectively, address potential challenges at an early stage and maintain accountability. This integrated approach has helped streamline project delivery for reputed clients such as Toyota, Volvo, Schaeffler India and Tata Electronics.

BUILDING END-TO-END CAPABILITIES

Mr. Vajravel sees the Group's transformation into an integrated industrial partner, capable of delivering complex projects from concept to completion, as a defining milestone. This progress reflects sustained investment in engineers, planning, safety and expertise, alongside close attention to customers.

Sustainability forms an important dimension of his vision, with responsible resource use embedded into project planning. He promotes close coordination

earned Arul Group several prestigious recognitions. SiliconIndia named The Neo Heights Civil EPC Construction Services Company of the Year 2026, while the MSME Global Diamond Business Excellence Award 2025 recognised it as Construction Company of the Year. Neo Heights also received India SME 100 recognition and was acknowledged by Toyota Kirloskar Motor for civil works delivered with zero incidents or accidents. Also, Arul Rubbers and Arul Polymers entered into an approximately ₹100 crore investment commitment at the Tamil Nadu Government's TN Rising Investment Conclave, with proposed employment for around 400 people.

Apart from business, Mr. Vajravel is passionate about sports, fitness and travel. Having travelled across more than 30 countries, he has experienced diverse cultures, perspectives and business practices. These experiences have broadened his outlook besides enriching his approach as an entrepreneur. He also places great importance on physical fitness and well-being and believes that an active lifestyle helps maintain the energy, focus and resilience required to excel in both professional and personal life.

ANU SHARMA

BUILDING WITH BELIEF

For Mr. Anu Sharma, leadership begins with responsibility and ends with results. As President of the Rashmi Group, he has driven exponential growth by building integrated industrial hubs from barren land, and creating workplaces rooted in trust, clarity, and discipline





steward of growth, Mr. Sharma consistently works to create healthy workplaces where individuals feel confident to speak, question decisions, and improve outcomes. By redefining his organisation's business strategy, Mr. Sharma achieved a 200-fold increase in production and sales. This success stems from well-defined priorities and deep market understanding.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Mr. Sharma is a well-versed leader armed with an MBA in Marketing Management from Kurukshetra University. He has driven remarkable growth through focused execution. A seasoned strategist, he prioritises long-term stability over short-term gains while building systems that consistently deliver excellence across functions and business units.

DRIVING EFFICIENCY

Mr. Sharma is known for introducing Six Sigma

GREEN INNOVATION

Under Mr. Sharma's stellar leadership, sustainability is embedded in every aspect of operations rather than treated as an external goal. At 1st Glove (Rashmi Group's sister company), India's first indigenously manufactured nitrile powder-free gloves, manufacturing practices have already reduced CO₂ emissions by 25% through the innovative use of bio-pellets. The plant now runs entirely on a closed-loop water system with zero groundwater dependence.

Additionally, automation has boosted efficiency by 15%, with future gains planned through AI-driven energy management, waste reduction, and predictive maintenance. This approach seamlessly integrates sustainability with operational excellence.

TECHNOLOGY WITH PURPOSE

As head of Koove IoT, a subsidiary of Rashmi Group, Mr. Sharma promotes technology only when it delivers practical value. Products such as 1st

"MR. SHARMA CONVERTS VISION INTO RESULTS WHILE PRIORITISING PEOPLE & SUSTAINABILITY"

principles across departments. By doing so, the leader has strengthened performance standards besides enhancing organisational alignment. By standardising processes and encouraging data-based decisions, he enabled smoother collaboration across functions. For him, efficiency is achieved not through pressure but through clarity. When expectations are transparent and waste is eliminated, teams work with confidence and ownership. This mindset has helped large, diverse teams move in unison toward shared goals.

BUILDING FROM NOTHING

A defining moment in the leader's remarkable career was converting 1,200 acres of barren land into a fully-functional industrial hub. With no water, power, or infrastructure, the challenge required exceptional determination and long-term vision.

Mr. Sharma established India's largest blast furnace, DI pipes and seamless tube units, along with a 100 MW power plant, while also building a township for over 1,500 employees. Today, the facility stands as a model of operational strength and thoughtful leadership, where human care and engineering excellence go hand in hand.

Glove are positioned as essential safeguards rather than ordinary supplies. His focus is on wide access across India, supported by reliable distribution, digital ordering platforms, and education-led awareness.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Over the past two years, products manufactured under Mr. Sharma's direction have received several key certifications and prestigious recognitions from globally respected standards bodies. These acknowledgements reflect a firm commitment to quality, safety, and strict regulatory compliance across every stage of production. Yet, despite these accolades, the leader remains humble and considers his greatest achievement to be the trust of employees, customers, and partners. He firmly believes that while awards and certifications are important, true leadership is measured by the respect one earns and the long-standing relationships one builds.

For him, this trust is not just a reflection of operational success, but also of ethical values, transparent practices, and the culture of care he has cultivated within the organisation.

CAPT. AJITH PEIRIS

A PILLAR OF EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Capt. Ajith Peiris is a formidable figure in Sri Lanka's modern higher education sector. As President and CEO of CINEC Campus, a leading private higher education institute in Sri Lanka, he has transformed his vision into measurable outcomes while strengthening quality, access, and international relevance across disciplines with sustained institutional impact. His meteoric rise has truly been a journey to watch out for





he CINEC Campus is the brainchild of its founder **Captain Ajith Peiris**, a distinguished Master Mariner and the institution's President and CEO.

Established in 1990, the campus has grown into one of South Asia's leading higher education institutions, offering globally recognised programmes across multiple disciplines. His leadership is defined by vision, innovation, and a readiness to take calculated risks to convert ideas into sustainable outcomes. From the outset, he identified critical gaps in maritime education and the wider higher education sector and addressed them with strategic clarity and determination. This commitment to excellence has been recognised through numerous prestigious awards. The Sri Lanka Standards Institution conferred the "Sri Lanka National Quality Award for Education" on CINEC Campus in 2014 and several years before. The Sri Lanka Export Development Board has awarded the institution the "Presidential Export Award for Best Exporter of

education to rural youth. The establishment of an international hotel school in Kalpitiya has further strengthened contributions to the hospitality sector by promoting skills development and generating employment locally and internationally. With high academic standards in education enhanced with special development initiatives like "Beyond the Graduate" and "Beyond the Mariner" have produced competent, hands-on, disciplined, work-ready youth to the society.

27 years of Quality Management System certification to ISO standards has enabled CINEC to extend its engagement beyond Sri Lanka through its involvement in international maritime education. Since 2013, the Seychelles Maritime Academy has been managed by CINEC Campus. Similarly, the Fiji Maritime Academy was managed by CINEC from 2014, with a structured transition that enabled its successful handover to local stakeholders after 10 years. These initiatives reflect a commitment to international collaboration and sustainable capacity-

"CAPT. PEIRIS HAS BEEN DRIVING INNOVATION, QUALITY & GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE"

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Education Services" in 2024/2025 and consecutive years before. International recognition includes the Asia Pacific Quality Award for Best in Class – Education in 2010 and the Global Performance Excellence Award (World Class category) in 2012.

Under Captain Peiris' stewardship, CINEC Campus has achieved significant institutional milestones. It has secured recognition from the Directorate of Merchant Shipping and degree-awarding status from the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka. The institution has developed into a multidisciplinary center comprising eight faculties and offering over 200 programmes. Its academic portfolio spans maritime studies, engineering, aviation, logistics, health sciences, science, business, English, education, management, hospitality, and computing, aligning closely with evolving industry demands. With more than 25,000 student registrations annually, CINEC contributes significantly to the development of skilled, work-ready graduates for both national and global labour markets.

CINEC Campus branches were established in Jaffna and Trincomalee reflecting his commitment to provide equal opportunities for affordable, high-quality technical, vocational, and higher

building. Captain Peiris transformed a small shipping manning agency into Sri Lanka's leading maritime recruitment company, generating employment opportunities for thousands of Sri Lankan seafarers across all ranks on foreign-going ships worldwide. In 2024, CINEC Campus contributed to the establishment of National Seafarers' Day in Sri Lanka in consultation with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation, including the issuance of a commemorative stamp and first-day cover. For his outstanding contributions, Capt. Peiris became the first seafarer honoured by the Government of Sri Lanka on 21 March 2025.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Captain Peiris has also received prestigious personal recognition. He was named among Asia's most inspiring founders and received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Business World International Awards in 2019. He has served on key advisory bodies, including the Presidential Committee on Maritime Affairs (2009–2010), and currently serves as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Educational Services of the Export Development Board for 2021–2026.

CHANDRANI PRASAD

THE LEGAL LUMINARY

Ms. Chandrani Prasad, Founder of C&V Associates, a prominent association of attorneys based in New Delhi, has carved a niche for herself in the legal profession through years of dedication, resilience and an uncompromising commitment to justice. As a seasoned legal entrepreneur and member of The Society of Indian Law Firms, she has built a reputation that transcends national boundaries





s. Prasad has been practising law since 1999 before the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts across the country. As one of India's most successful divorce lawyers, she has represented clients in several high-profile and celebrity cases. Widely recognised for her expertise in International Arbitration and International DDRS, Ms. Prasad has successfully represented clients in complex legal matters while consistently strengthening India's presence in the global legal fraternity. Her representations before the Royal Courts of Justice in London and the Wolverhampton Court in England, have further strengthened her expertise in International Arbitration and International Dispute Resolution. Her journey reflects professional excellence, visionary leadership, and passion for delivering effective legal solutions. Today, she stands among the most respected and influential legal professionals in her field. Ms. Prasad achieved her success through perseverance, determination, and an unwavering belief in her abilities. At the outset of her career, she encountered numerous professional challenges without the advantage of

EMPOWERING THROUGH LAW

Beyond the court, Ms. Prasad devotes herself to women empowerment and legal awareness. She actively participates in initiatives for women's education and legal rights, and has worked extensively to create awareness of women's issues in society. She believes that law should be seen not only as an instrument of justice but also as a means of empowerment, so as to enable individuals to lead lives with dignity, equality, and opportunity.

Throughout her career, she has balanced professional excellence with social responsibility, creating an impact extending beyond the legal fraternity. The confidence reposed in her by clients stems from a role that goes far beyond that of a legal practitioner. To many, she is a trusted adviser and a reassuring presence during the most challenging circumstances. Her ability to balance legal acumen with empathy distinguishes her as a professional who values justice and humanity. Ms. Prasad redefines leadership by breaking conventional barriers while continuously contributing to the advancement of international arbitration and dispute resolution.

"CHANDRANI PRASAD EXEMPLIFIES

LEGAL EXCELLENCE WITH GLOBAL VISION & INTEGRITY"

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influential support or established networks. However, these early experiences strengthened her resolve, sharpened her determination, and fuelled her ambition to carve a unique identity in the legal profession. Her resilience enabled her to transform adversity into opportunity, helping her earn recognition as one of the most celebrated experts in her field.

DRIVING EXCELLENCE

Under Ms. Prasad's guidance, C&V Associates has steadily evolved into one of the country's most respected legal consulting and practice firms. Through its commitment to excellence, attention to detail, and focus on delivering practical legal solutions to client's requirements, the organisation, under her direction, has positioned itself as a trustworthy firm for legal solutions. She believes that the true strength of any institution lies in the collective capabilities of its people. Guided by this philosophy, she has cultivated a culture of collaboration, integrity and continuous learning at C&V Associates. Under her stewardship, the firm has created an environment that encourages innovation, nurtures talent, and upholds the highest standards of legal practice.

GLOBAL HONOURS

Ms. Prasad has received several accolades for her exceptional contributions to the legal profession, leadership in international arbitration, and commitment to social impact. Her relentless pursuit of excellence was recently acknowledged at the Greatest Brands & Leaders 2026 Awards held in Malaysia. On this prestigious occasion, C&V Associates was conferred with the coveted title of Asia's Greatest Brand 2026 – Law Consulting & Practice, while she was honoured as "Asia's Greatest Leader for Contribution to International Arbitration 2026." The awards were presented to her on 10 June 2026. The honours bestowed upon her in Malaysia are not merely recognitions of individual achievement; they represent a celebration of a remarkable legacy built on perseverance, excellence, and commitment to the legal profession.

These accolades stand as a fitting recognition of her years of unwavering dedication to legal excellence, her invaluable contribution to international dispute resolution, and her success in building an institution renowned for its credibility, professionalism, and client-centric approach.

COL. RAJEEV MANNALI

A SOLDIER'S SECOND CALLING

Col. Rajeev Mannali's shift from the Army to healthcare reflects a sense of duty, where he applies his training and discipline with equal commitment in the healthcare domain. After decades in uniform, he now brings the same sense of responsibility to an area where the objective is not to defend borders, but to save lives and strengthen the health and well-being of the community





seasoned leader, Col. Mannali, MD & CEO, SUT Super Specialty Hospital, began his early grounding at Sainik School at the age of 11. The institution, well-known for its strong emphasis on discipline, leadership, and character-building, played a key role in shaping his outlook and personality. He steadily rose through responsibilities like School Prefect, House Captain, and NCC Under Officer, consistently displaying reliability, initiative, and a commendable sense of duty.

At 17, he secured admission to the National Defence Academy, marking an important milestone in his early life. He adapted well to the demanding environment, balancing both academics and rigorous physical training. He later graduated from Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1975. In 1976, he was commissioned into the Cavalry. This marked the beginning of a long and distinguished career defined by dedication, professionalism, and a strong sense of duty.

SECOND INNINGS IN HEALTHCARE

After his retirement in 2009, Col. Mannali remained actively engaged in professional work instead of stepping back. He joined the Bahuleyan Charitable Foundation, where he served as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director. In this role, he oversaw hospitals and educational institutions, introducing structured systems and improving overall efficiency, management practices, and service delivery.

He also initiated programmes such as a Women's Self-Help Group and a Youth Wing, showing his concern for the wider community. His work earned him recognition, including an award from the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation for excellence in healthcare management.

At Sri Narayani Hospital and Research Centre in Vellore, his efforts led to national recognition for the institution's charitable work. His association with Christian Medical College, Vellore, saw him involved in the commissioning of the Chittoor Complex, a task

"COL. MANNALI STANDS FOR DISCIPLINED

LEADERSHIP & HEALTHCARE INNOVATION"

YEARS IN UNIFORM

During his 33 years in the Army, Col. Mannali held several key appointments that reflected his capability and leadership. As a Squadron Commander with the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka, he was actively involved in operations under challenging and uncertain conditions. In later years, he served as Chief Logistics Officer in Jammu and Kashmir, where his role was to ensure smooth operational support. As Staff Officer (Operations) at Corps Headquarters in Tezpur, he managed critical and sensitive responsibilities with efficiency.

At the time of the Kargil conflict, Col. Mannali commanded the 13 Armoured Regiment. While armoured units were kept ready for possible expansion of operations, the responsibility required alertness at all times. In Military Intelligence, as Director (Foreign Division), he dealt with matters involving interaction with foreign armies.

At the School of Armoured Warfare, he headed Tactical and Strategic Studies, where he worked closely with young officers in training. In this role, he shared his field experience in a practical and engaging way, ensuring that his knowledge was passed on to the next generation of military leaders.

requiring careful planning and coordination.

At SUT Super Specialty Hospital, he took on the responsibility of reviving the institution.

VOICE BEYOND INSTITUTIONS

In addition to his administrative work, Col. Mannali actively contributes through writing and public speaking on healthcare and social issues. His perspectives are grounded in practical experience and demonstrate a clear understanding of ground realities in the sector.

Over the years, the leader has been honoured by several governmental and non-governmental organisations.

In 2026, he received the prestigious APJ Abdul Kalam Jana Mithra Award for Excellence in Healthcare Management from G. R. Anil, Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies. He is also a founder member of the Association of National Board Accredited Institutions, the Association of Healthcare Providers India, and the Vaikom Management Association.

These associations reflect his consistent engagement in professional development and institutional growth.

DANNY SAMUEL

RAISING STANDARDS IN ROAD MANAGEMENT

At a time when India's infrastructure sector seeks credibility and stewardship, Mr. Danny Samuel emerges as a steady and results-driven leader. As CEO of Roadstar Infra Investment Trust (RIIT) and IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd., he plays a key role in restoring confidence in distressed road assets. His structured and disciplined approach has strengthened confidence among lenders, investors, and end-users





forward-thinking leader, Mr. Samuel is known for his ability to resolve complex infrastructure challenges, especially in distressed road assets, through structured execution and effective stakeholder alignment. In infrastructure projects characterised by long gestation periods and regulatory complexity, this approach has delivered consistent results. By focusing on disciplined processes and clear coordination across multiple parties, he has helped ensure smoother execution even in highly challenging environments. His success story reflects how measured leadership and thoughtful innovation can address even the most complex challenge in infrastructure.

Over a career spanning 25+ years, Mr. Samuel has been associated with several notable achievements. Early in his journey, he led the public offering of IL&FS Transportation Networks, an exercise that demanded financial acumen and market understanding. Subsequently, his role in issuing

distributions while offering comfort to investors.

IMPROVING ASSET QUALITY

Equally noteworthy is the improvement in asset quality achieved under Mr. Samuel's stewardship. Loans that were once classified as non-performing have, in several cases, been standardised or repaid. This transition reflects his financial prudence and operational rigour. With plans to bring in new sponsors and expand the asset base, he consistently focuses on strengthening the platform while safeguarding stakeholder interests.

Mr. Samuel also places considerable emphasis on governance. A board with a majority of independent directors ensures strong supervision and balance. He also focuses on maintaining high standards of road quality and safety, considering the fact that user experience is essential for long-term sustainability. As a tech-savvy leader, he has demonstrated openness to adopting advanced technology. He has introduced AI-based monitoring systems to maintain and enhance

"MR. DANNY SAMUEL DRIVES DISCIPLINED

EXECUTION IN INFRASTRUCTURE RECOVERY"

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one of India's earliest rated and listed project bonds marked a significant development in infrastructure financing.

The most defining phase of his career came after the IL&FS crisis of 2018. At a time when uncertainty prevailed, he was closely involved in efforts aimed at resolution and recovery. The creation of Roadstar Infra Investment Trust emerged as a significant outcome of this period. Conceived as a mechanism to address stressed road assets, the InvIT structure enabled lenders to receive fair value through units, rather than distressed sales. The initiative required coordination with regulators, lenders and multiple stakeholders. It also involved navigating regulatory provisions and securing necessary approvals. The eventual listing of Roadstar Infra in March 2025 marked not just completion of a process, but restoration of confidence in a difficult situation.

The challenges, however, were considerable. Legacy concerns surrounding IL&FS affected perceptions among lenders and rating agencies. Securing regulatory approvals, aligning stakeholders, and achieving operational stability required persistence. Yet, under Mr. Samuel's watch, the platform not only stabilised but also began delivering

asset quality.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Mr. Samuel's leadership approach emphasises collective effort, where individuals are respected and encouraged to contribute meaningfully. His focus on commitment to organisational purpose, rather than mere compliance, has helped build cohesive teams capable of high-pressure situations. He believes leadership also requires the ability to listen, give credit, and carry people along, which has shaped his professional journey. He also places strong emphasis on employee well-being. By encouraging work-life balance, knowledge-sharing, and social engagement, he seeks to create an organisation that drives a culture of empathy and long-term excellence.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Mr. Samuel actively upholds social responsibility as a core aspect of his leadership approach. His initiatives in plantation, community development, and school infrastructure reflect his thoughtful contribution and demonstrate a deep, grounded understanding of the sector's wider social impact and long-term relevance to society.

DEBABRATA SARKAR

DRIVING THE FUTURE OF SMART FARMING

For Mr. Debabrata Sarkar, President-Asia Pacific at AlgaEnergy, leadership is not about predicting the future but preparing industries to meet it. His professional saga reflects the discipline and restraint of leadership at the highest level, where outcomes matter more than intent. In a business climate driven by immediacy, Mr. Sarkar's approach reflects a disciplined approach where calculated decisions outweigh impulsive moves





There are leaders who wait for certainty, and there are those who step boldly into the unknown with preparation and patience. Mr. Sarkar's career fits the latter mould.

Throughout his career, he has consistently entered uncertain, underexplored, or inconvenient spaces, taking on challenges that many considered too risky or unconventional. Whether in technology, agriculture, or biological sustainability, he chose paths that required long-term thinking, even when mainstream business looked for quick wins.

Trained in engineering, Mr. Sarkar's early years were defined by precision, systems, and process discipline. But what distinguished him was not technical skill alone but his ability to understand how complex systems influence people, markets, and long-term value creation. He was drawn to challenges that others considered too difficult or premature and approached them with patience and vision. When Mr. Sarkar saw agriculture

charge of AlgaEnergy's Asia-Pacific operations, particularly with India as a focus market, his role expanded again.

The task was no longer about growing a product line but about building an ecosystem. Agriculture was reframed as part of the climate solution rather than a climate burden. Carbon capture was treated as a biological opportunity, not merely an emissions accounting exercise. Sustainability, in his hands, became a source of business advantage, not merely a compliance duty.

DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

Mr. Sarkar's approach to carbon capture deserves special mention. The leader stayed away from moral posturing and created efficient working systems where carbon dioxide could be converted into biomass, waste streams into inputs, and circularity into a commercially sound proposition. Leadership, for him, is about delivery, not dialogue.

"MR. DEBABRATA SARKAR IS A PIONEER IN CIRCULAR, CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE"

struggling with tired soil, overuse of chemicals, and unpredictable weather, he realised small fixes wouldn't be enough. He understood that the sector needed a fresh, biology-based approach to how farming works with nature. This insight later guided some of his most important and impactful work.

INNOVATION IN ACTION

Mr. Sarkar entered the field of microalgae when it was mostly limited to labs and academic theory. While many considered it speculative, he recognised its potential to tackle carbon overload, soil degradation, and unprofitable chemical-heavy farming, while transforming experimental science into practical solutions ready for industrial application and scale. This was a turning point in his career.

Moving beyond observation, he focussed on building the structures to apply innovation practically. For him, results always mattered more than mere promises. Under his guidance, biological solutions moved from the lab to the fields, becoming reliable, tested tools that farmers and industries could trust. When Mr. Sarkar took

SCOOPING UP ACCOLADES

Between 2019 and 2021, Mr. Sarkar was honoured with awards such as the Technology Leadership Award, Global Technology Leader, Most Influential Agri Industry Professional, and CEO of the Year. From 2021 onwards, his work gained attention across India's leading business and agriculture publications—Forbes India, The Economic Times, Fortune India, Business World, and Outlook Business. By 2023, exemplified by his TEDx talk linking climate change, society, and mental health.

Additionally, global recognition, such as CEO of the Year at the Asia Business Leadership Summit in Singapore, the Global Indian Leaders Award from the University of Oxford, BioAg CEO of the Year, the T4D Converge Leadership Award, and inclusion in the Fortuna 100 signaled not an endpoint but a rise in responsibility. His inclusion in Forbes Councils reflects peer validation of his ability to articulate complex intersections between biotechnology, climate responsibility, and business viability. His insights now shape global discussions on sustainable industry and long-term value creation, influencing policy decisions and capital flows worldwide.

DR. MADHU SASIDHAR

A VISION IN HEALING

Dr. Madhu Sasidhar, President and CEO of Apollo Hospitals, is regarded as a physician-leader of remarkable ability. With US board certifications in internal medicine, pulmonary, and critical care medicine, he brings not only clinical expertise but also a global perspective on healthcare. His approach balances innovation, patient care, and operational excellence with thoughtful precision





well-versed leader, Dr. Sasidhar completed his medical education at JIPMER, Pondicherry, one of India's premier institutions. He also pursued a residency in Internal Medicine at St Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York City, followed by fellowships in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Yale University, New Haven, USA. To complement his clinical training, he earned a Global Executive Masters in Business Administration from INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France, which equipped him with insights to lead complex healthcare organisations.

By prioritising excellence and compassion in equal measure, Dr. Sasidhar has strengthened Apollo Hospitals' position as a leading healthcare institution across India. He firmly believes that medicine is not only about curing disease but about caring for the person.

Before joining Apollo Hospitals, Dr. Sasidhar held senior positions at the Cleveland Clinic in the

services. By improving coordination across these verticals, Apollo Hospitals, under his guidance, has been able to enhance patient care while also strengthening its operational performance.

Complex care areas such as cardiology, oncology, neurology, gastroenterology, and orthopaedics have been the major drivers of revenue. The leader has consistently encouraged investment in advanced medical technologies, specialised clinical teams, and modern treatment protocols in these areas.

COMMITMENT TO COMPASSION

Apart from numbers and operations, Dr. Sasidhar emphasises empathy and human connection in medicine. He recently spearheaded Apollo Hospitals' 'BEKIND' initiative, launched with the evocative film Empathy in Action, which celebrates the power of kindness in patient care.

Dr. Sasidhar believes that technology alone cannot define effective healing. In his view, while

"DR. SASIDHAR LEADS APOLLO HOSPITALS WITH INNOVATION, COMPASSION & GLOBAL EXPERTISE"

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United States and Abu Dhabi. He served as Chief Medical Officer at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi and led the Enterprise Section for Respiratory Care across the Cleveland Clinic Health System. Later, as President of Cleveland Clinic Tradition Hospital, he guided the organisation's growth while maintaining rigorous standards of patient safety and quality.

STEERING APOLLO HOSPITALS

Under Dr. Sasidhar's stellar leadership, Apollo Hospitals has achieved remarkable growth and strengthened its position as one of India's leading healthcare institutions. His focus on operational efficiency, clinical excellence, and expansion across high-value medical specialties has contributed significantly to the organisation's strong financial performance. In the quarter ending June 2025, the hospital group reported a 42% rise in consolidated net profit at ₹433 crore, with revenues growing 15% year-on-year to ₹5,842 crore. This remarkable growth reflects Dr. Sasidhar's emphasis on building a balanced healthcare ecosystem that integrates hospitals, diagnostics, pharmacies, and digital health

artificial intelligence and digital tools can diagnose a malady, it cannot provide the "Tender Loving Care" that defines the Apollo legacy. BEKIND reflects this philosophy besides reminding staff and patients alike that empathy, understanding, and respect are essential ingredients in medical practice.

A VERSATILE INDIVIDUAL

Dr. Sasidhar has built a distinguished reputation for his contributions to medical research, innovation, and knowledge sharing within the global healthcare community. The leader has authored numerous book chapters, peer-reviewed articles, and abstracts. His research contributions extend across internal medicine, pulmonary care, and critical care. These remarkable achievements earned him invitations to speak at international forums. He also holds a patent through Cleveland Clinic Innovations, which was commercialised successfully and reflected his inventive approach to medical technology. Alongside medicine, Dr. Sasidhar is a self-taught programmer, with expertise in big data platforms, bridging the worlds of technology and healthcare.

DR. SANJAY MUKAND PAITHANKAR

A LIFELINE FOR THOSE LEFT BEHIND

Dr. Sanjay Mukand Paithankar, Founder & Board Member of Right Health Group, is a seasoned physician whose selfless service has redefined healthcare access in the UAE. He has brought affordability to lakhs of blue-collar workers long overlooked by private healthcare systems. His success saga reflects a journey shaped by compassion and a persistent effort to serve those left out of mainstream care





he journey of this distinguished medical professional began in Nagpur, where he completed his schooling at Saraswati Vidyalaya followed by his medical graduation from Government Medical College, Nagpur. A record-breaking gold medallist, he was perhaps the only student in his college and state to win a gold medal every year of his medical studies. After securing his MD in General Medicine in 1981, Dr. Paithankar sought specialised training in Cardiology at the prestigious Jaslok Hospital in Mumbai. However, destiny had a different plan for him. In 1988, he arrived in the UAE, ready to begin a new chapter.

While many physicians sought the comforts of elite city practices, Dr. Paithankar turned his attention toward the unsung builders of the nation—the blue-collar immigrant workers. In 1993, he established his first clinic and pharmacy in Ajman called Sanaya Medical Clinic to serve

its time. Long before insurance became common, he introduced basic group coverage for companies employing large labour forces, thus reducing the burden on workers while ensuring access to consultation, diagnostics and medicines. This low-margin, high-volume model has since drawn attention from management institutions and is now a case study in management schools and shows that humanitarianism and operational viability can coexist.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Dr. Paithankar organises regular medical camps in labour colonies for promoting preventive care among workers. At least 10% of services are offered free to those who cannot afford them. The compassionate leader's philanthropic reach extends far beyond the borders of the UAE.

A true son of the soil, the industry veteran has significantly improved the medical infrastructure of his hometown, Nagpur. He funded the construction

"DR. PAITHANKAR'S VISION ENSURES

ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE FOR ONE AND ALL"

those employed in the garment industry. Realising that these workers lacked the means to travel abroad for medical aid, he brought quality care to their doorstep.

Soon he established clinics near labour accommodations in Ajman, Sharjah, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi to provide consultations, tests, and medicines at minimal cost. A remarkable fact is that his consultation fees have remained unchanged for 30 years. A patient who paid 25 to 30 Dirhams in 1993 still pays the same amount today.

Over the years, Dr. Paithankar's medical network has expanded to 61 facilities, including 30 clinics and 28 pharmacies. These clinics serve approximately 1.5 million patients annually. Operating under the firm belief that "sickness has no holiday," these centres remain open 365 days a year. During the dark days of the COVID-19 pandemic, his team worked in tandem with the Dubai Health Authority and provided free screening and critical support to contain the virus within labour accommodations.

A FORWARD-THINKING LEADER

Dr. Paithankar's approach to healthcare was ahead

of a dedicated Chemotherapy Ward at the RSTM Cancer Hospital, ensuring free treatment for the indigent. Furthermore, he supports the education and marriage of underprivileged girls and has instituted various academic awards. In the UAE, he is a pillar of the Indian diaspora, having been instrumental in the formation of the Maharashtra Mandal to promote Indian culture and arts. His interventions during the pandemic included providing free air tickets to stranded workers and securing employment for over 300 expatriate nurses.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Dr. Paithankar's selfless efforts have been honoured with several prestigious awards, including the 2025 Healthcare Leader Award by Thumbay Group, Icon of UAE award 2025 by India Today, Living Legend Award at Global Entrepreneurs Conclave 2025 organised by Maharashtra Government, Emirates Love India 2025 award for outstanding contribution towards UAE's labour community, Dhanwantari of the Gulf Award, and Peshwa Award for yeoman service to mankind, among others.

DR. SURESH VENKATACHARI

LEADING THE DIGITAL FUTURE

Dr. Suresh Venkatchari is a renowned name in Asia's technology leadership echelon, with a professional journey spanning over three decades across banking, enterprise technology, cybersecurity, & digital healthcare. As Founder, Chairman & CEO of SecureKloud Technologies, Founder & Promoter of Healthcare Triangle Inc., and Founder, Chairman, Quantum Nexis Inc., he has built a strong reputation for transforming complex business challenges into valuable outcomes while creating lasting value across global markets





visionary leader and serial entrepreneur, Dr. Suresh is known for his corporate leadership as well as entrepreneurial acumen. Before establishing his own technology ventures, he held a senior leadership position with Deutsche Bank in Singapore, where he led the Electronic Banking Division. During this period, he played a key role in advancing digital banking capabilities, modernising enterprise systems, and strengthening technology frameworks within a highly regulated environment. The experience provided him with deep insights into governance, security, compliance, and large-scale technology execution. These foundations later proved invaluable when he embarked on building technology companies capable of serving highly regulated sectors such as healthcare, finance, and public services.

As Founder, Chairman, and CEO of SecureKloud Technologies, Dr. Suresh has positioned the

Among his most significant recent initiatives are Quantum Nexis India and Quantum Nexis Malaysia. These ventures reflect his ambition to build scalable healthcare ecosystems by integrating AI-driven platforms, digital health infrastructure, and interoperable care systems. By leveraging advanced technology with practical healthcare applications, Dr. Suresh is helping shape a new generation of healthcare services capable of meeting rapidly evolving regional demands. His strategic roadmap also encompasses the acquisition of healthcare-focused businesses, including the planned takeover of Cempaka Cahaya Sdn BHD, collaboration with Zi Care, and the advancement of the DR Solution Carepod. Together, these initiatives reflect a comprehensive strategy aimed at delivering technology-enabled healthcare solutions at scale.

Dr. Suresh has demonstrated a strong capability for identifying growth opportunities across international markets. His experience in mergers & acquisitions

"DR. SURESH LEADS GLOBAL INNOVATION IN AI-POWERED HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS"

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organisation as a trusted provider of cloud transformation, cybersecurity, and digital innovation services. His leadership is characterised by disciplined execution and a deep understanding of emerging technology trends. This approach has enabled his company to grow its global footprint while delivering sophisticated digital transformation programmes across multiple industries.

TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE

A crucial aspect of Dr. Suresh's leadership has been his commitment to reshaping healthcare through technology. Through Healthcare Triangle Inc., a Nasdaq-listed healthcare IT company, he has championed the integration of cloud infrastructure, artificial intelligence, analytics, and interoperability solutions designed to improve healthcare delivery and operational efficiency.

With a strong focus on the growing need for connected healthcare ecosystems, he has developed platforms that bring together patients, providers, and healthcare organisations through secure digital infrastructure. His vision extends beyond technology implementation, as he aims to create sustainable healthcare models that improve accessibility, efficiency, and long-term patient outcomes.

and corporate governance has enabled him to guide organisations through complex expansion phases while maintaining organisational discipline.

A major element of his current vision is the establishment of Malaysia as a regional headquarters for digital health innovation and healthcare technology expansion across Southeast Asia. He views the country as an ideal platform for growth due to its robust healthcare infrastructure, supportive regulatory environment, and strategic position within ASEAN. By leveraging Malaysia's advantages, Dr. Suresh aims to create a scalable model capable of serving both developed and emerging healthcare markets throughout the region.

GARNERING GLORY

Dr. Suresh has been recently honoured with the Asia's Influential Leader Award in AI, Enterprise Cloud Strategy & Cybersecurity Excellence for his contribution to enterprise transformation, digital innovation, and technology leadership.

He was also celebrated at the prestigious Business Icons of Asia 2026 in Phuket, Thailand, where he was recognised for his impact on healthcare technology, cross-border innovation, and regional business leadership.

MANOJ KUMAR BISHT

DREAMS THAT WENT THE EXTRA MILE

Mr. Manoj Kumar Bisht, Founder and Managing Director, MK Infosystems Pvt. Ltd., is a self-believing, target-oriented entrepreneur known for his integrity, communication skills and ability to turn ambitious ideas into reality. From a modest upbringing in Uttarakhand to building a renowned technology and security solutions brand, his journey reflects his patience, hard work and steadfast resolve





resilient leader, Mr Bisht's early life was shaped by simplicity and perseverance. Born and raised in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand, he grew up in a lower-middle-class family.

His father, a Junior Commissioned Officer in the Border Security Force, served in remote border areas, where life demanded resilience. As a child, Mr. Bisht walked nearly four kilometres to school as transport was unavailable. As the eldest in the family, he shouldered responsibilities from an early age, which instilled in him the discipline, resilience and sense of responsibility that later shaped his professional journey.

Despite coming from a remote village with limited opportunities, Mr. Bisht refused to let his circumstances define his future. He secured admission to Pusa Institute in Delhi and completed a three-year Diploma in Electronics and Communication from the Delhi Board of Technical Education in 1993. He later earned MCSE, Tyco and

DEWA and Dubai Smart Government Data Centre in the UAE, KOC in Kuwait, NBAD Data Centre, UAE Navy and Oman Broadband Company across Muscat, Salalah, Seeb and Sohar.

For Mr. Bisht, however, business has always been about relationships as much as technology. He takes pride in the loyalty of his workforce. Many employees have worked with his organisation for over a decade. He believes professional success is strongest when built on trust, quality and mutual respect. Driven by the philosophy of "Thinking Big and Dreaming Big," he encourages people to recognise their own achievements, as self-appreciation strengthens confidence and inspires greater ambition.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr. Bisht's relentless efforts have earned MK Infosystems' significant industry recognitions, including DQ Week's Best Upcoming Entrepreneur of the Year in 2008, CRN recognitions for

"MR. BISHT HAS PROVED THAT HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

CAN INSPIRE EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS"

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Cisco certifications, alongside security surveillance qualifications and management training.

Mr. Bisht began his career at the age of 20. He worked with small companies for the first eight years of his career. In 2002, he took the decisive step of leaving employment to establish his own venture, MK Infosystems Pvt. Ltd. His initial focus was LAN/WAN networking, but he soon realised the potential of security surveillance and expanded into the field.

TRUST BEHIND TECHNOLOGY

Building a company from the ground up was never easy. Yet the leader's persistence helped MK Infosystems develop strong roots and emerge as a renowned provider of networking and security surveillance solutions. Its project portfolio includes work for the Indian Parliament, ECIL, Delhi Safe City, Lutyens' Delhi, Delhi district courts, Hyderabad Metro, Uttarakhand Police, Air Force stations, Delhi Airport, BEL, BARC and NFC.

In networking, the company has delivered projects for UID, BITS Pilani, ICICI Bank, Reliance, BEL, BHEL, NTPC, IOCL, Flipkart, Wipro, Bharti Airtel, HFCL and HPCL. Its international work includes

networking solutions, ChannelWorld 100 Premier honours, CRN Channel Leader Awards in Security and Surveillance, the CRN Excellence Award, SME Channel's Surveillance Specialist of the Year, and awards from Worldwide Achiever, IBN, URS Media and Tech Plus Media. The leader has also received Asia Pacific Entrepreneur Awards recognition and Security Master of the Year honours.

Behind these achievements stands his wife, Mrs. Preeti Bisht, whom he describes as his most trusted partner and best friend. Her guidance and moral support have helped him tackle difficult moments and regain confidence when business challenges seemed overwhelming.

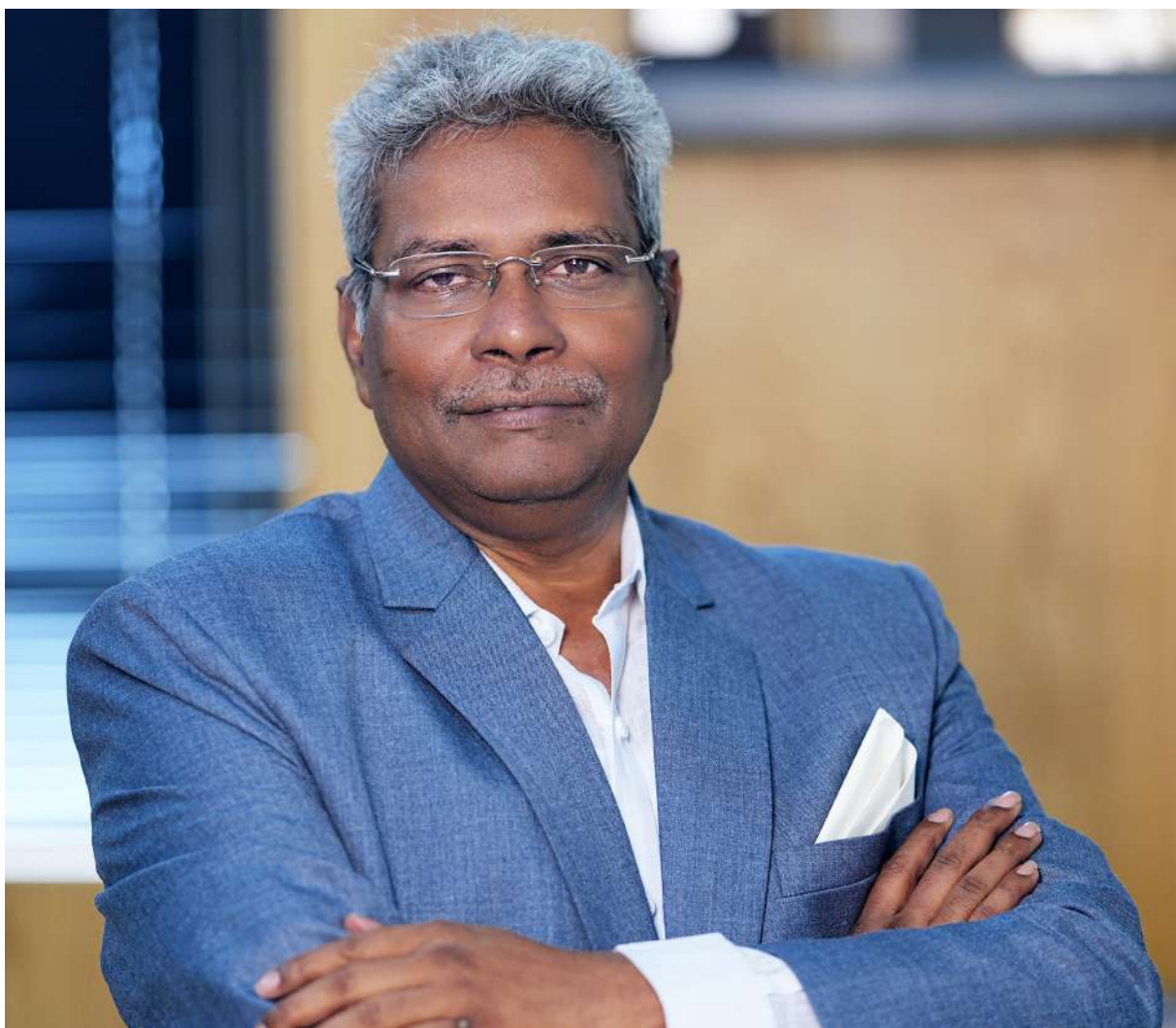
A BENEVOLENT LEADER

Looking ahead, Mr. Bisht plans to step back from daily operations within four years and take on a mentoring role, entrusting greater responsibility to long-serving employees. He also hopes to share company profits with employees and support society by creating educational opportunities for talented youth in remote areas. For him, true success lies not in accumulating wealth, but in creating possibilities for others to build better futures.

MUNAGALA SHYAM PRASAD

DRIVING INDIA'S FMCG REVOLUTION

For over 30 years, Mr. Munagala Shyam Prasad has played a key role in building one of South India's most respected FMCG brands. As Chairman and Managing Director of Tenali Double Horse Group, he has led the company with a clear strategy, steady growth, and a commitment to providing quality food. His success story is a saga of vision, perseverance, and purpose-driven leadership





tarting with a single product category, Mr. Prasad transformed his company into a multi-category food powerhouse. Today, Tenali Double Horse stands tall not just for its signature Urad Gota, but for a wide wrangle of ready-to-cook meals, ready-to-eat foods, chocolates, savoury snacks, and health-focused products that reflect the changing preferences of consumers. Under his guidance, the company has maintained a 20% compound annual growth rate, a rare feat in the intensely competitive FMCG sector.

Mr. Prasad's distinctiveness lies in his ability to anticipate market shifts, such as the move toward millets, demand for convenient cooking, or digital-first brand building. His decisions are always driven by data, insight, and instinct.

A true visionary, one of his important qualities is his people-first approach. Over the years, he has created a culture where employees feel empowered to think creatively, share ideas, and get involved. He

global growth. His vision is to make the brand synonymous with high-quality Indian food across the world, while remaining rooted in the values and traditions that define the company's origin in Tenali, a city in the Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh.

A SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION

Mr. Prasad has consistently championed responsible and sustainable business practices at Tenali Double Horse. For him, long-term success must align with environmental responsibility and ethical operations. One key initiative has been the adoption of green packaging solutions, including the use of thicker micron plastic that improves product durability while reducing packaging waste. Under his leadership, the company has also delivered measurable sustainability outcomes, including a 10% reduction in energy consumption, a 12% decrease in water usage, and the sourcing of 25% of raw materials from farmers practising sustainable agriculture.

"MR. PRASAD LEADS TENALI DOUBLE HORSE

WITH VISION, INNOVATION, AND PURPOSE"

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leads his teams with openness and inclusivity, and with a strong focus on seamless execution. Decisions are taken swiftly, and responsibilities are shared between teams so as to create a high-performance work environment.

STRATEGIC BRAND EXPANSION

Brand building is another area where Mr. Prasad has taken a proactive lead. He has been instrumental in strengthening Tenali Double Horse's visibility and deepening its engagement with consumers. Recognising the importance of strategic marketing in today's digital and entertainment-driven landscape, he has led collaborations with well-known personalities, major platforms and entertainment shows, such as Bigg Boss Season 8 and AHA's Unstoppable show. In addition, the company's association with large-scale events such as IPL 2024 has further enhanced brand recall and trust among consumers. Through such initiatives, he has ensured Tenali Double Horse connects with its core audience, not just through products, but through presence.

On the global front, Mr. Prasad has expanded Tenali Double Horse to 12 countries and plans further

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Over the past three years, Mr. Prasad has driven exceptional business growth besides earning significant recognition from across the industry. In 2023, the leader was honoured with the prestigious Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat award for his efforts in taking Indian culinary heritage to global markets while reinforcing unity through cultural commerce. The same year, he received the Vyapararatna award for his outstanding contribution to Indian entrepreneurship and his role in building a resilient and sustainable FMCG brand.

Under his stewardship, Tenali Double Horse was also named Best Food Products Company of the Year for its innovation, quality, and growing influence in both traditional and emerging food categories.

Mr. Prasad's success story reflects his belief that success in the food industry lies in understanding both tradition and transformation. While the brand remains deeply rooted in authentic Indian food culture, its evolution into modern product categories demonstrates a forward-looking mindset that drives sustained growth.

DR. NAVNEET VATS

ON TOP OF HIS GAME

Dr. Navneet Vats represents a new generation of Indian business leaders who balance ambition with accountability. His journey is a remarkable success saga driven by vision, perseverance, and sharp execution. In a short period, he has transformed Livexpo Ventures Pvt. Ltd. into a credible player in the cleaning and hygiene sector, driven by a strong sense of purpose





s Founder and CEO, Dr. Vats has led Livexpo Ventures from an early-stage venture to a fast-growing and profitable company. In just two years, the organisation has recorded a sharp rise in turnover, moving from ₹0.55 crore to ₹3.28 crore, while maintaining healthy EBITDA and PAT performance. This growth is backed by a clear strategy focused on quality, compliance, and market relevance.

MAJOR MILESTONES

A key milestone under his leadership has been securing institutional approvals from Indian Railways, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, and AIIMS. These approvals serve as strong validations of product performance in high-usage environments. Deployment across mechanised coach cleaning, onboard housekeeping, and laundry services reflects the confidence that large institutions place in the brand's reliability and

Livexpo has built a network of over 50 touch-points across India, enabling deeper market penetration while maintaining operational efficiency.

Another notable aspect of his leadership is the investment in a resource-efficient manufacturing facility. With features such as gravity-based filling lines, natural lighting, and rainwater harvesting, he has adopted a practical approach towards sustainability. These initiatives help reduce operational costs while also supporting long-term environmental responsibility.

Dr. Vats is known for his hands-on leadership style. He regularly engages with distributors, institutional partners, and on-ground teams for gaining direct insights into market needs and challenges. This approach supports quicker decision-making and ensures that strategies remain practical, focused, and result-oriented.

DRIVEN BY INNOVATION

Innovation and market readiness have also been

"MR. VATS DRIVES RESPONSIBLE GROWTH THROUGH RESULTS-DRIVEN LEADERSHIP"

effectiveness.

Dr. Vats places strong emphasis on building credibility through global certifications and standards. Livexpo Ventures holds certifications such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 14025, GMP, GDP, HACCP, HALAL, and KOSHER, along with the prestigious CII GreenPro Certification. These benchmarks ensure that products meet high standards of safety, quality, and environmental responsibility, besides strengthening trust among institutional and retail users.

His leadership is driven by the belief that growth should always align with responsibility. He has driven the development of cleaning solutions that offer strong performance while remaining safer to use, reducing dependence on harsh chemicals. This direction has helped establish the flagship brand FRESHER® as a dependable and trusted choice for both institutional clients and retail customers across markets.

Operational discipline has been a defining strength under Dr. Navneet Vats' leadership. He has implemented a distributor-led model with controlled credit exposure, ensuring financial stability even as the company expands its reach. Under his guidance,

key priorities. Under his direction, Livexpo has developed a diverse product portfolio catering to household, institutional, and industrial needs. At the same time, the company has initiated its entry into export markets with export-ready products, exclusive distributor agreements, and pricing models aligned with international expectations.

RACKING UP ACCOLADES

The leader's efforts have earned significant recognition. He has been honoured with the Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2025 and featured as an "Inspirational Icon to Look For in 2025." His dedication and relentless efforts have also earned his company several accolades for quality, innovation, and eco-friendly practices, strengthening its position in the industry.

Looking ahead, Dr. Vats is focused on expanding both domestic and international presence. With entry into GCC markets underway and plans to grow across Southeast Asia and Africa, Livexpo is steadily moving towards becoming a global brand. At the same time, the company aims to strengthen its footprint across railways, healthcare, and large institutions in India.

PANKAJ AGARWAL

LEADERSHIP THAT IS REDEFINING INDIA'S STEEL CONSTRUCTION LANDSCAPE

Mr. Pankaj Agarwal stands as a visionary force in India's steel construction industry. Since assuming the role of Managing Director at Apex Buildsys Ltd. in 2022, he has instilled clarity of purpose, accelerated execution, and fostered a strong people-centric culture at a pivotal stage in the company's growth journey

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seasoned leader, Mr. Agarwal brings over 27 years of professional experience, including 24 years in construction and three focused years in the Pre-Engineered Buildings (PEB) domain. When he assumed leadership, Apex Buildsys required strategic direction and renewed momentum. Through bold yet well-calculated decisions, he led a business turnaround that resulted in an exceptional 700% growth within a year. This growth was driven by diversification of PEB solutions into complex and high-value sectors such as refineries, metro rail projects, multi-storey structures, hospitals, and data centres. Equal attention was given to strengthening design, engineering accuracy, manufacturing quality, and on-site execution while ensuring rapid and resilient growth.

DELIVERING COMPLEX PROJECTS

Apex Buildsys, under Mr. Agarwal's direction,

of his philosophy. He ensures his company maintains transparent financial systems backed by independent audits, strong compliance frameworks, and employee training programmes.

SUSTAINABLY STRONG

Sustainability forms the core pillar of Mr. Agarwal's corporate strategy. In 2024, he led the rebranding of Apex to align the company's identity with global sustainability priorities and future-ready infrastructure needs. Under his direction, the organisation has expanded the use of recyclable and green steel, adopted energy-efficient designs that lower clients' operational energy consumption, and implemented ISO 14001-certified systems to reduce waste and emissions. As a result, 25% of steel procurement now comes from green sources, HVAC loads have been reduced by up to 20% across select projects, steel scrap recycling exceeds 90%, and site accidents have declined by 70%.

Equally important is the company's commitment

"MR. AGARWAL HAS BEEN POWERING INDIA'S

STEEL INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH WITH VISION"

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has established itself as a leading name in the PEB segment, supported by one of Asia's largest steel structure manufacturing facilities at Nagpur with an annual capacity of 1,20,000 MT. The recent operationalisation of the Pantnagar plant has further strengthened its manufacturing base, thus taking the total capacity to 2,00,000 MT per annum. Additionally, landmark projects such as the Nagpur Metro and refinery infrastructure for major energy hubs reflect the company's ability to deliver complex assignments under demanding timelines.

EXPERIENCE-DRIVEN INNOVATION

Mr. Agarwal's leadership philosophy rests on transformation with accountability. He shifted Apex from being a conventional PEB supplier to a complete turnkey steel solutions provider by offering services from concept design to final commissioning. Key initiatives under his guidance include adoption of advanced standing seam roofing systems, modular steel solutions for healthcare and data centres, and deployment of digital project management tools that enhance precision and cost control.

Corporate governance is another key pillar

to safety and responsible operations. Under his direction, project site accidents have been reduced by nearly 70% through rigorous safety protocols, advanced training programmes, and improved site management practices. Furthermore, the organisation ensures that more than 90% of steel scrap generated during manufacturing and construction processes is recycled, thereby enhancing material efficiency and significantly reducing environmental impact.

Looking ahead, Mr. Agarwal envisions Apex expanding aggressively into sectors such as data centres, healthcare infrastructure, and green industrial projects. His long-term goal is to position Apex as India's most trusted steel solutions provider with a growing global footprint across Asia and Africa. By 2035, he aims for Apex to surpass the one million metric tonne annual steel capacity mark.

GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr. Agarwal is the proud recipient of the prestigious ET Now Excellence in Prime Young Achiever's Award. His achievements affirm his vision and contribution to India's infrastructure development.

PROF. DR. AJAY K. JAIN

A GUIDING LIGHT IN MANAGEMENT LEARNING

Prof. (Dr.) Ajay K. Jain, Director and Professor at Management Development Institute (MDI) Murshidabad, has been redefining management education in Eastern India. In his current role, he emphasises not just expansion, but credibility and confidence, with the objective of charting a course that seeks to elevate a young campus into a higher echelon of purpose-driven growth with clarity and conviction





With a Ph.D. from IIT Kanpur and post-doctoral experience at Aarhus University, Denmark, Prof. (Dr.) Jain emphasises international exposure with a deep understanding of

Indian business and culture. Like a true educator, he emphasises academic excellence, and holistic student development. Under his leadership, MDI Murshidabad introduced three new AICTE-approved programmes in 2025: PGDM Online, Fellow Programme in Management (FPM), and Bachelors of Business Administration. The FPM launched its first batch with 10 students, while the PGDM Online is set to begin soon. He strengthened the flagship PGDM programme with electives like Rural Immersion, Leadership & Emotional Intelligence, Indian Thought & Management, and Dissertation to meet contemporary industry demands. New specialisations in Business Analytics, Strategic Management, and International Business were also added.

financially independent while maintaining a culture of trust, collaboration, and growth. His short-term priorities include academic quality, industry partnerships, and process consolidation. On the other hand, his long-term goals focus on research, executive education, international collaboration, and alumni engagement. He aims to establish the institute as a preferred management education hub for Eastern and North-Eastern India, while promoting Murshidabad's cultural and historical significance. His leadership style is driven by servant leadership and inspired by Indian epics. Through consistent efforts, innovative programmes, and strong governance, he has positioned MDI Murshidabad as a respected institution that prepares students to lead organisations responsibly and contribute to society.

A SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION

Sustainability is a key aspect of Prof. (Dr.) Jain's vision. MDI Murshidabad, under his direction,

"PROF. (DR.) JAIN LEADS MURSHIDABAD WITH INNOVATION AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE"

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The leader has significantly enhanced MDI Murshidabad's Management Development Programmes by delivering training to banks, corporates, and PSUs. Under his guidance, revenue from these programmes grew five-fold in 2025. He also improved governance, processes, and systems in admissions, academic administration, and campus operations, resulting in higher student satisfaction. More than 25 visiting professors, CEOs, and HR heads engaged with students through induction programmes and guest lectures, further enriching their learning experiences.

Prof. (Dr.) Jain has been instrumental in revamping MDI Murshidabad's identity and building strong regional connections with government officials, MPs, MLAs, and industry leaders. He established five academic excellence groups in AI & ML, Agriculture, Indian Wisdom, Case Research, and Entrepreneurship. He also inaugurated the Centre for Indian Wisdom and Management to integrate lessons from Indian scriptures into modern management practices.

DRIVEN BY GOALS

Prof. (Dr.) Jain aims to make MDI Murshidabad

integrates ESG principles, responsible leadership, emotional intelligence, and inclusive business practices into its curriculum. Live projects and fieldwork encourage students to address real-world sustainability challenges. On campus, waste management, resource efficiency, and digitalisation have led to cost savings of nearly Rs. 4 crore. Community engagement through rural immersion aligns the institute with broader social goals. One of his commendable initiatives include 'Maa Park,' where visitors plant trees in memory of their mothers, and a statue of Swami Vivekananda to inspire values among students.

SCOOPING UP ACCOLADES

Prof. (Dr.) Jain has been recognised for his contributions to management education. He received the "Most Charismatic Leader in Management Education" award from Education Post and ASSOCHAM in 2019. At Aarhus University, he was awarded for extraordinary research performance. Under his leadership, MDI Murshidabad secured State Rank 1 and Zone Rank 3 in IIRF rankings and was positioned 35th among top B-schools in India.

SAYED HABIB

MILES AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Mr. Sayed Habib, CEO, Danube Home, is a dynamic business leader known for reshaping modern home retail across the Middle East and Africa. With a sharp focus on customer clarity and operational excellence, he has positioned Danube Home as a solutions-driven, experience-focused brand delivering measurable growth and market leadership





n alumnus of FAU University Germany, IIM Ahmedabad, and IIM Bangalore, Mr. Habib brings global academic exposure and forward-thinking insight to his leadership

role. His education has shaped his analytical mindset and structured approach to business expansion. This strong foundation enables him to navigate competitive markets with confidence and clarity, ensuring steady and scalable progress.

PUTTING CUSTOMERS AT THE CENTRE

In an industry where offering endless options is often mistaken for better service, Mr. Habib helps customers decide rather than confuse them.

He has recalibrated Danube Home's retail strategy by systematically removing friction from the buying process. Store teams are trained to understand customer requirements such as family size, space constraints, and lifestyle patterns

CHAMPIONING COLLABORATION

A strong advocate of collaboration, Mr. Habib encourages cross-functional alignment across merchandising, operations, marketing, and digital teams.

He also promotes responsible sourcing and sustainable practices across the business, thus reinforcing the brand's long-term vision. At the same time, he focuses on building strong internal capabilities and robust operational systems that enable teams to respond efficiently to changing customer needs and market dynamics. This structured approach allows new ideas, technologies and processes to be implemented consistently, while ensuring innovation is effectively scaled across markets.

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

As a forward-thinking leader, Mr. Habib encourages cross-functional teamwork to drive

"MR. HABIB SIMPLIFIES CUSTOMER JOURNEYS THROUGH THOUGHTFUL RETAIL INNOVATION"

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before recommending products. This consultative approach builds confidence and long-term trust.

SPEARHEADING GROWTH

Mr. Habib spearheaded retail expansion across 14 countries in the Middle East and Africa while significantly strengthening the brand's footprint. By developing strong strategic partnerships, he has been instrumental in building a sustainable and scalable business model that balances growth with operational discipline.

DIGITAL RETAIL SYNERGY

Considering shifting consumer behaviour, Mr. Habib strengthened integration between online and offline channels so that customers can research online and purchase in-store, or the other way around. Under his direction, Danube Home created a consistent experience across platforms, while improving accessibility and brand reach. This unified ecosystem has enhanced customer satisfaction while generating deeper insights into purchasing patterns.

creativity and efficiency within the organisation. He also champions sustainability initiatives, ensuring adoption of responsible practices in sourcing and operations.

His leadership emphasises building capability, operational strength, and long-term value creation rather than short-term gains.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Under Mr. Habib's stellar stewardship, Danube Home has earned several prestigious recognitions.

Over the years, The organisation has received the Retail Excellence Award 2019, the Great Place to Work Award (2018, 2019), the Dubai Quality Award, and the Khaleej Times Best Place to Work award (2026), Most Admired Retailer of the Year - MENA (2025), and THE TAG Awards' Customer Experience Initiative of the Year (2026), among others.

These honours reflect not only commercial success but also excellence in employee engagement, operational quality, and customer satisfaction under Mr. Habib's leadership.

SATYA PRAKASH SANGWAN

STRENGTHENING INDIA'S PARALYMPIC ASPIRATIONS

Shri Satya Prakash Sangwan, Vice-President of the Paralympics Committee of India, & former officer of the Indian Revenue Service, is a leading contributor to the growth of para-sports in India. After rendering over three & a half decades in the IRS, he devoted himself to promoting para-athletes, thereby bringing to the sporting arena the same integrity and sense of national duty that marked his administrative career





When Shri Sangwan entered the Paralympics Committee of India, para-sports in the country faced many obstacles. Athletes of immense talent often lacked financial

support, scientific training, public recognition, and proper opportunities to compete internationally. Administrative systems required direction and stability. At such a time, he devoted himself fully to strengthening the institutional framework necessary for nurturing sporting excellence among persons with disabilities.

Shri Sangwan realised that talent existed in abundance across India, particularly in rural and economically weaker sections, but opportunity was unevenly distributed. He worked tirelessly to bridge this gap by supporting grassroots programmes, encouraging state participation, and helping athletes gain access to better coaching, infrastructure, and international exposure. Consequently, many para-athletes who later rose to international prominence

several prestigious competitions and sporting assignments. He has represented India in important capacities during the Rio 2016 Paralympics, the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games as Deputy Chef de Mission, Asian Para Games, and numerous international championships held across Europe and Asia. Such exposure enabled him to understand global standards in sports administration and advocate stronger systems for Indian athletes.

SPIRIT OF INCLUSION

Apart from administrative responsibilities, Shri Sangwan has consistently emphasised awareness, dignity, and social inclusion for persons with disabilities. He ensures para-athletes receive not only financial and infrastructural support but also recognition and respect within society. His contributions in editing the book “Paralympic Movement in India” reflects his desire to document and preserve the history of a movement that has inspired millions across the country.

“SHRI S.P. SANGWAN HAS ELEVATED INDIAN

PARA-SPORTS THROUGH INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP”

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received encouragement and support during difficult stages of their journey.

LEADING FROM FRONT

One of the significant moments of Shri Sangwan’s contribution came during the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, where he served as Chef de Mission for the Indian contingent. Under his guidance, India recorded its finest-ever Paralympic performance with a historic tally of 29 medals, including seven golds. The achievement reflects not only sporting excellence but also years of careful planning, administrative support, and athlete-focused development within the para-sports ecosystem.

Shri Sangwan has also played a significant role in raising India’s stature in the international sporting community. The successful hosting of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Delhi demonstrated India’s growing capability to organise world-class sporting events. His efforts helped secure the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships for India, marking an important milestone in the country’s sporting history and a step toward hosting future Olympic and Paralympic Games.

His international experience extends across

What distinguishes Shri Sangwan is the sincerity and humility with which he has approached every responsibility. Having lived through many roles — as a farmer, civil servant, social worker, and sports administrator — he possesses an insightful understanding of hardship, resilience, and the value of perseverance. Even after achieving prominence in public life, the humble leader is devoted to the welfare of those who seek opportunity and recognition through sport.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

The honours conferred upon Shri Sangwan over the years stand as acknowledgement of his exceptional contribution. The leader was honoured with the Mother Teresa International Award in Dubai in 2023 for his service to sports and humanity. He has also received the Shri Surjit Singh Samman Khel Award and the Bhiwani Gaurav Samman in appreciation of his leadership and dedication towards para-sports. His frequent invitations as Guest of Honour at national sporting events and awareness programmes further demonstrate the esteem he enjoys among athletes, administrators, and the wider public.

SUDHANVA DHANANJAYA

WALKING THE TALK

Mr. Sudhanva Dhananjaya, Chairman and Managing Director of Mysore-based Excelsoft Technologies Ltd., brings 40 years of professional experience, including 25 years at the helm of the organisation he founded. At 62, the seasoned leader guides his company with the same tenacity and grit that marked its modest beginnings





Mr. Sudhanva Dhananjaya's entrepreneurial journey began in the early 1990s, driven by technical rigour and familial commitment to education. Son of the late Professor M.H. Dhananjaya, a distinguished educationist from Karnataka who strengthened Karnataka's academic institutions over six decades, he grew up in an academic environment that valued learning and discipline. He completed his Master's in Electrical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA, and a Master's in Engineering Management from the University of Mysore. He also worked on advanced research at MIT Lincoln Labs in the 1980s and later gained industry experience at Kirloskar and Wipro before starting his own venture.

What began in 2000 with a single computer, a floppy drive, and just one customer has grown into Excelsoft Technologies Ltd., now a public limited company and one of India's leading vertical SaaS platforms in education. A chance meeting in 1999

of AI-enabled tools for education that integrates personalised learning pathways, AI personas, remote proctoring, and smart analytics to support scalable, secure, and data-driven teaching, learning, and assessment. He emphasises that AI is intended to augment, not replace, human capability. "AI is a force multiplier. It enables every individual — educator, learner, developer, or product manager — to become more effective and helps the organisation become more productive, and growth-oriented," he says. He has led Excelsoft with a belief that innovation in education comes from balancing pedagogy, technology, and context. Under his leadership, the company has grown from a garage startup in Mysuru into a globally respected education technology company serving learners and institutions worldwide.

A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Mr. Sudhanva Dhananjaya actively participates in educational and social initiatives. He co-founded Excel Public School for supporting government

"MR. SUDHANVA LEADS EXCELISOFT'S

INNOVATION IN AI-POWERED EDUCATION"

with Kris Gopalakrishnan, then MD & CEO of Infosys, became a turning point in his life. The interaction encouraged a shift towards productisation at a time when India's IT industry was largely focused on services. Mr. Sudhanva Dhananjaya realised that schools, universities, examination boards and certifying bodies needed robust, domain-specific technology rather than generic tools. Thus, he set out to build the "tech" in EdTech with deliberate focus.

Over the past 25 years, he has led Excelsoft in developing cloud-based learning and assessment platforms for enterprise clients worldwide. These technology-driven solutions use open, industry-standard APIs to ensure scalability, security, performance, and support for diverse learning and assessment needs.

Mr. Sudhanva Dhananjaya holds that technology must strengthen, not supplant, the foundations of education. He has guided the company through changing market conditions by focusing on scalable, reliable, and education-focused product design. Over the past year, the visionary leader has led Excelsoft's shift to an AI-first strategy by investing in computing infrastructure, cross-functional AI Special Interest Groups, and the development of AI-Levate, a suite

of schools via the Excel Empathy Foundation, and established the Queen's School of Design for imparting vocational training. He has driven research collaborations such as the Prof. Dhananjaya Lab at IIT Ropar and a Mixed Reality Hub with UNESCO MGIEP & Karnataka Digital Economy Mission. Under Mr. Sudhanva Dhananjaya's leadership, Excelsoft recently sponsored & helped set up Mysore Quantum AI (MQI), a not-for-profit foundation & think tank dedicated to advancing Quantum Computing & AI within the Mysuru ecosystem.

SCOOPING UP ACCOLADES

The leader's efforts have earned Excelsoft's enterprise learning and assessment platforms multiple accolades, including wins at the e-Assessment Association Awards, Brandon Hall Awards, LearnX Awards and STPI Awards. It has also actively collaborated with leading industry bodies, including the Association of Test Publishers and eAA, to advance assessment standards and promote technology-driven evaluation. The company's diverse global clientele and active participation in international learning and assessment forums further demonstrate the respect and credibility it enjoys among global EdTech peers.

AR. TUSHAR MISTRY

BUILDING DREAMS THROUGH DESIGN

Ar. Tushar Mistry's love for construction and design began in childhood and has guided his journey ever since. As Founder and Principal Architect of Tushar Mistry Design Studio, he has transformed modest beginnings into international success. His projects reflect thoughtful design, functional elegance, and the vision and enthusiasm he has cultivated since his early years

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With more than 23 years of experience, Ar. Mistry has established TMDS with a vision to create bespoke, resource-efficient and soulfully crafted spaces. He trained and worked under renowned architects Alhad Raje and Reza Kabul, and he considers this phase to be highly significant in shaping his professional journey. Coming from a small town, he faced limitations in exposure and communication during his early years. Yet, his commitment to mastering construction and design ensured his steady growth.

ACADEMIC BRILLIANCE

An alumnus of CEPT University in Ahmedabad, where he earned his B.Arch, Ar. Mistry later completed his M.Arch from the Sydney School of Architecture and secured a Diploma in Interior Design from L S Raheja School of Architecture. This academic grounding strengthened his technical insight while sharpening his design sensitivity. 15

to position his firm among the top design firms in India and worldwide.

A TEAM PLAYER

Ar. Mistry strongly believes in teamwork. According to him, the real strength of the studio lies in the collective efforts of its designers, architects, and project managers, who work closely under his guidance to transform ideas into practical and functional spaces.

According to him, careful use of resources and attention to detail are essential in every project. From lighting solutions to space planning, Ar. Mistry views every assignment as an opportunity to enhance everyday living.

For him, interior design is not merely about decoration, but a thoughtful and practical response to the way people utilise and experience their spaces. Like a true leader, he encourages his team to think beyond visual appeal and focus on usability, comfort, and long-term value.

"AR. MISTRY TRANSFORMS SPACES INTO TIMELESS AND SOULFUL ENVIRONMENTS"

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years ago, Ar. Mistry founded Tushar Mistry Design Studio (TMDS) to build a practice rooted in clarity and commitment. He is a dynamic and visionary interior designer who has consistently redefined contemporary design standards through TMDS.

Over the years, TMDS, under his sterling leadership has delivered residences, aspirational flats, hospitality projects and commercial spaces across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Delhi. The studio's work has also attracted clients from Dubai, Belgium and Cameroon.

DRIVEN BY INNOVATION

As a forward-thinking leader, Ar. Mistry considers innovation a disciplined and continuous process rather than a passing trend. His approach is deeply client-centric. He begins every project by understanding the client's lifestyle, budget and expectations. Through meticulous planning and transparent communication, he ensures each design is practical, meaningful, and thoughtfully crafted.

He firmly believes in maintaining transparency at every stage, ensuring that each design not only enhances aesthetics but also improves day-to-day living. With ambitious global aspirations, he aims

RACKING UP ACCOLADES

Ar. Mistry was awarded the D/code Presents Design Ikons Award 2024 for Hospitality Interior Design. Under his leadership, TMDS has also received multiple prestigious awards for its excellence in interior design. The studio was honoured for its hospitality project 'Parosa' for functionality and design clarity and has also won accolades for Creative Excellence in Interior Design and Company of the Year. At the Realty+ Architecture & Design Fest 2025 – West Edition, TMDS was recognised in four categories: Interior Design Project of the Year – Offices (PLT Office), Residence (Horizon Glow), Show Flat (Adani Lush Land), and Hospitality (PJC Club House), reflecting the team's commitment to creating meaningful and high-quality spaces.

Deeply religious and fond of exploring mythology, Ar. Mistry also enjoys cooking and travelling, pursuits that influence his creative thinking.

With ambitions to rank among India's top five designers and feature in the world's top 100 within a decade, he is focused on purposeful growth by creating spaces that enhance everyday life.

VIJAY JESWANI

LEADING WITH HEART ALWAYS

Mr. Vijay Jeswani, Founder and CEO of Vijay Jeswani Builders & Developers, is not just a builder of homes, but a nurturer of dreams. In the growing property markets of Navi Mumbai and Panvel, he has built more than projects. Through thoughtful planning and sincerity, he has created homes that carry trust, comfort, and long-lasting value for families





For Mr. Jeswani, a home is more than bricks and mortar; it is where love, family, and memories flourish. Therefore, every residential project undertaken by him carries an “intent to give,” often exceeding commitments to delight homebuyers. By adding thoughtful amenities, he ensures each home reflects values and touches hearts, thus making Vijay Jeswani Builders & Developers a trusted and caring name in real estate.

One of the significant highlights of Mr. Jeswani’s career has been expanding the business without compromising on quality, commitments, or values. In an industry often criticised for delays and opacity, he has insisted on quality, ethics, and credibility. He believes that leadership is about building people as much as building business. His initiatives focus on creating transparent systems, encouraging progressive thinking, and strengthening a culture that embraces innovation with open arms. By aligning structure with

moments, his calm approach helps transform challenges into opportunities. Instead of reacting with pressure, he encourages patience, practical thinking, and collective effort. This quality helps his team remain focused even during demanding phases of business.

HEALTHY COMPETITION & MARKET OUTLOOK

Mr. Jeswani views competition as a healthy force that pushes organisations to grow and innovate. For him, competition is an opportunity to improve and set higher benchmarks, step by step. Like a true leader, he pursues every action with purpose-driven clarity. In the near term, he focuses on strengthening internal systems, embracing ideas and changes demanded by today’s youth and families, and deepening client relationships rooted in trust, values, and consistency. Further ahead, his vision is to build a resilient, innovative, and sustainable organisation that leaves a lasting impact on

“MR. JESWANI BUILDS THOUGHTFULLY DESIGNED HOMES THAT REFLECT VISION AND DEDICATION”

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forward-looking ideas, the thoughtful leader has created opportunities for steady growth without losing the human element of business. He places strong emphasis on ethics and credibility in every decision. For him, growth without values holds little meaning.

REDEFINING INNOVATION

Innovation, for Mr. Jeswani, is not only about technology or construction methods but about improving the experience of aspirational homebuyers. Whenever a residential project is planned, he and his team carefully think about how each space can truly enhance the lives of the families who will live there. This thoughtful mindset has inspired several meaningful features and improvements across their developments while making every home more homely, nurturing, and welcoming.

Mr. Jeswani is known for his approachable leadership. He has created a culture where team members feel comfortable sharing ideas, taking responsibilities, and growing into larger roles. He believes that when people feel trusted, they perform with greater confidence. Even during difficult

employees, partners, and communities, and sets a benchmark for ethical growth in real estate.

INSPIRATION AND VALUES

The strongest influence in Mr. Jeswani’s life comes from family values, integrity, humility, and perseverance. He often says that true character is revealed not during comfortable times, but during difficult ones. Standing by people when they need support the most is, for him, a true measure of leadership. These principles have shaped his outlook toward business and relationships. He leads his company to balance professional excellence with heartfelt connection while turning every project into a home.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

A man of strong ethics and high values, Mr. Jeswani sees corporate social responsibility as a natural extension of the principles he lives by—empathy, transparency and community support. Under his stellar leadership, Jeswani Builders & Developers actively contributes to social causes and the wellbeing of the community, especially during global crises like COVID-19.

MD. ZAHIDUL ISLAM

LIGHTING THE LAMP OF LEARNING

Mr. Md. Zahidul Islam, Chief Executive Officer of UK Management College (UKMC), has emerged as a revered name in the field of education in recent years. His approach to educational growth is based on discipline, access and quality learning for all. He has earned the confidence of partners and students by prioritising practical solutions and driving sustained growth and development of institutions across diverse sectors





well-versed leader, Mr. Islam has built his reputation through relentless dedication in the education sector, especially through his leadership at UKMC, a renowned UK-based private higher education institution and a core member of the Unibridge Group. Under his guidance, the institution has expanded its academic reach by serving over 7,000 students and forming partnerships with reputed universities, including University of Wolverhampton and Arts University Bournemouth. His background in Master of Business Administration in Strategic Management and Leadership further supports his decision-making abilities.

Mr. Islam has introduced several leadership initiatives to improve academic delivery and staff development at UKMC. New areas such as Health and Social Care, Event Management, Fashion Management, and Strategic programmes have been added under his guidance. He places equal emphasis on workplace training, including leadership

Postgraduate Courses, Chequers Academy for Health, ASIQUAL, an awarding body; Civil Ceremonies Ltd., specialising in funeral & marriage celebrancy training; & GAMTA for creative arts.

DRIVING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Looking ahead, Mr. Islam aims to expand UKMC across the UK and internationally. His long-term vision is to enhance educational access and create more learning opportunities across multiple regions by establishing additional campuses and developing Business Schools. International expansion is also being explored in regions such as Cyprus, Dubai, and Bangladesh. The leader believes in maintaining high-quality teaching standards while ensuring that opportunities are extended to a wider population through inclusive and responsive educational practices with strong community engagement focus.

A SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION

His approach to sustainability and governance reflects

"MR. ISLAM DRIVES EDUCATIONAL GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION & GLOBAL OUTLOOK"

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development, first aid certification, fire marshal readiness, and professional development through conferences and external courses, to strengthen institutional capability and improve service quality. He ensures staff and students receive relevant skills that match industry expectations and evolving professional requirements aligned with today's global standards.

Mr. Islam believes that education is a basic right and should be accessible to learners from all backgrounds. He focuses on improving access in creative arts, health and business education while maintaining a focus on practical outcomes for students with clear intent. His inspiration to establish UKMC came from a desire to remove barriers between learners and opportunity. He also draws motivation from his responsibility towards family and community, which guides his decisions in leadership and growth.

A major milestone in his career has been the expansion of educational initiatives under the Unibridge Group. Apart from UKMC, the group comprises diverse education & professional organisations, including Green Valley Academy for programmes in Computing, Fashion, Business &

a balanced view of responsibility and accountability. He promotes environmental awareness through staff and student participation in campus clean-up initiatives and community engagement activities. Operational practices include reducing carbon emissions by encouraging shared transport and minimising unnecessary travel between campuses. He also encourages the institution to follow structured financial governance with annual audits, transparent reporting, and board-level oversight. Decisions are taken through proper committees to ensure fairness and compliance.

SCOOPING UP ACCOLADES

Mr. Islam's contributions have been recognised through several honours in recent years. These include CIO Views Top 10 Education Leaders to Follow 2026, British Bangladesh Young Talent Award 2024, Matrix Accreditation recognition, Advance HE Membership, Inclusion UK acknowledgement, and UKRLP listing. These awards reflect his dedication to the education and institutional development sector. Additionally, his role as Trustee Chairman at Central University of Science and Technology, Dhaka (Bangladesh) adds depth to his professional profile.



★ MOST INFLUENTIAL YOUNG LEADERS 2026 ★

Gaurangi Desai

LEADING WITH PANACHE AND PURPOSE

Ms. Gaurangi Desai Mehra, Director – Marketing & Communications at APAR Industries Limited, is setting new benchmarks for leadership in India's industrial sector. She joined the company at the age of 23, and brought a fresh, design-led perspective to a legacy engineering enterprise. With vision, creativity, and a relentless focus on growth, she has guided APAR Industries through a remarkable journey by driving innovation, expanding markets, and strengthening the company's brand presence. Her journey demonstrates the impact of forward-thinking leadership in moulding the future of India's industrial ecosystem

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Under Gaurangi's guidance, APAR has grown into a globally recognised, purpose-driven brand. The company is the world's leading manufacturer of transmission and distribution conductors and the third-largest producer of transformer oils. In India, it ranks among the top five and fastest-growing cable and wire manufacturers, and the country's largest exporter and producer of Specialty and Renewable Cables.

Gaurangi played a key role in growing APAR's cable and wire business from ₹100 crore to over ₹1,000 crore within five years. This was achieved through portfolio expansion and the launch of differentiated brands like APAR Anushakti, Fire Protekt, and a new light-duty cable range for consumer, industrial, and utility segments.

BUILDING A GLOBAL BRAND

Leading a comprehensive brand transformation, Gaurangi positioned APAR as a forward-looking and solutions-oriented company. She established the company's marketing and communications function by introducing PR, digital campaigns, analytics, creative strategy, and global exhibitions.

This ecosystem connects its websites, social media, corporate films, trade shows, and investor channels into a cohesive narrative.

Her leadership brought a strategic reset to investor relations, anchored by APAR's first Integrated Annual Report and an Investor Day designed to deepen market confidence and transparency. APAR published its first Integrated Annual Report and conducted an Investor Day that improved transparency and understanding. "Strong performance is critical," she says, "but how the story is understood matters just as much."

PEOPLE AND CULTURE FIRST

Gaurangi's leadership style is people-centric and adaptive. Like a true leader, she empowers teams with expertise, ownership, and accountability. Known for her humility, she draws from specialists across engineering, design, sustainability, and capital markets to create unified strategies.

Looking ahead, she aims to modernise operations with AI, digitisation, and automation, while transforming factories into world-class benchmarks. Her short-term priorities include strengthening

“UNDER GAURANGI’S STEWARDSHIP, APAR INDUSTRIES HAS NOT ONLY ACHIEVED OPERATIONAL MILESTONES BUT ALSO UNDERGONE A CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION”

customer engagement, advancing ESG initiatives, and reinforcing governance.

SUSTAINABILITY AT THE CORE

Gaurangi treats sustainability as an integral part of how APAR operates. Guided by its belief in meaningful industrial contributions, the company, under her guidance, promotes sustainable manufacturing, expands renewable energy adoption, and develops greener, energy-efficient, eco-friendly products. These efforts reflect APAR’s broader intent: to create solutions that add value not only to customers but to communities and the environment at large.

Her CSR initiatives focus on long-term impact, touching lives through targetted investments in healthcare, rural development, and education. As she puts it, “Businesses must create value not only for shareholders, but for society, employees, and the environment. That is how lasting impact is built.”

RECOGNITION AND IMPACT

Gaurangi’s business acumen and relentless efforts have earned her several prestigious recognitions, including the ET Now Iconic Brand of India 2025 and Rotary National CSR Award 2025 for her exemplary leadership in brand building and creating meaningful social impact. Her contributions have also earned the brand multiple honours, such as the DET Hurun India Manufacturing Excellence Awards and consecutive Great Place to Work recertifications.



HARSHAVARDHAN PUSALA

DRIVING FINANCIAL INCLUSION WITH PURPOSE

Mr. Harshavardhan Pusala, Founder and CEO of Techurate Systems Private Limited, represents a new generation of Indian technology leaders building solutions with purpose. From Bengaluru, he has steered a homegrown fintech enterprise that supports banks and financial institutions across emerging markets worldwide with scale, resilience, and relevance at core.



With over 18 years of professional experience, Mr. Harshavardhan's career reflects depth in banking technology, consulting, and enterprise leadership. Before founding Techurate in 2015, he held senior roles at Oracle Financial

Services Software and Finonyx Software Solutions, where he gained strong exposure to global banking systems and regulatory environments.

This grounding helped him identify a gap where many banks in developing regions lacked affordable, practical digital platforms suited to local needs.

DRIVING DIGITAL INCLUSION

Mr. Harshavardhan's leadership has transformed Techurate from a self-funded startup into a trusted digital banking partner serving over 30 banks and financial institutions across 25 countries. Its flagship Tigiverse suite offers modular solutions for core banking, onboarding, payments, and self-service, enabling emerging-market institutions, including smaller banks, to modernise without disruptive system replacements.

UNIQUE LEADERSHIP STYLE

Mr. Harshavardhan's leadership style is driven by empathy, accountability, and clarity of intent. He believes leadership is not about control, but about enabling people to think independently and act responsibly. At Techurate, he encourages his teams to learn by doing, question assumptions, and take informed risks.

A defining high point of his career has been seeing Techurate's solutions deployed in remote and underserved regions. From Smart Branch implementations in parts of Africa to digital onboarding solutions in Latin America, these projects demonstrated how thoughtful technology can expand financial access.

DRIVEN BY VALUES

Mr. Harshavardhan is a values-driven leader whose life is rooted in his personal philosophy. Inspired by the belief that even small innovations can change lives, he has built Techurate around the idea of inclusive growth. Values drawn from Indian traditions such as dharma, karma, and seva guide his professional conduct, reinforcing ethics, responsibility, and service. Apart from business, he actively supports initiatives related to healthcare, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship, while mentoring aspiring founders.

MANISH GOYAL

CHANGING THE GAME OF FINANCE

Mr. Manish Goyal, Chairman & MD, Finkeda, is known for his hands-on expertise in finance. With 25+ years of experience across FMCG, telecom, and fintech sectors, the seasoned leader has built a solid reputation for driving operational efficiency and leading with vision



of customer engagement and channel management. His fintech journey began with organisations such as Ebix Cash, Dogma Soft Ltd., and Vodafone M-Pesa, where he strengthened his expertise in digital payments, financial services, and partner-driven business models. He founded Finkeda in 2019 to make digital banking simple and accessible in underserved regions.

Under his direction, the company has strengthened financial inclusion while helping businesses improve customer experience and operational efficiency. Looking ahead, Mr. Goyal plans to scale the company's network to over 3 lakh Finkeda Saathis across India and launch a unified super-app that offers multiple financial and utility services, including money transfers, AePS, Micro ATMs, bill payments, cash management, insurance, PAN services, peer-to-peer lending, and investment options. He also plans to collaborate more closely with NPCI and other financial organisations to boost digital banking infrastructure. With a team of 300+ professionals, he aims to expand Finkeda's presence across India while forming partnerships to boost its visibility.

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visionary leader, Mr. Goyal is committed to building inclusive financial

ecosystems that empower individuals, support small businesses, and bring modern digital banking services closer to every corner of India.

A WELL-VERSED LEADER

Before entering fintech, he gained extensive experience in sales, distribution, and supply chain management while working with leading FMCG brands such as Dabur, Rasna, Britannia, and others. He also worked with telecom giants, where he developed a deep understanding

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Mr. Goyal's efforts have been recognised by Gujarat Titans, Haryana Police, The Times of India, and 92.7 Big FM. He has also been honoured at prestigious platforms such as the Global Brand and Leadership Conclave. He also holds membership certifications from IAMAI & BCFI.

VISHESH KHATRI

STEERING REAL ESTATE INTO A NEW ERA

A sharp commercial strategist, Mr. Vishesh Khatri is driven by a mission to usher the Indian real estate sector into a new era. An alumnus of IIT Guwahati, he serves as the Co-Founder and Chief Business Officer of Convrse Spaces



tenure building a formidable network of strategic alliances, connecting with lead developers and channel partners across the country. These large-scale transactions have not only increased the company's footprint but have also proven that digital solutions can deliver a serious punch to the bottom line.

Mr. Khatri's leadership philosophy is refreshingly straightforward. He advocates for a "customer-obsessed" model, where the goal is to solve a client's commercial headaches rather than just pitching a new piece of software. By focusing on value over showy features, he has earned a reputation as a leader who understands that technology must serve merchants, not the other way around.

AN AMBITIOUS LEADER

Looking ahead, Mr. Vishesh envisions a real estate sector where immersive sales infrastructure becomes a standard practice rather than an exception. In the near term, the leader aims to focus on strengthening engagement with top-tier developers and strengthening existing partnerships. At the same time, he is committed to promoting responsible growth.

By encouraging the use of digital experiences over physical marketing materials, the leader supports more sustainable practices within the industry. His emphasis on transparency and ethical conduct further reflects a balanced approach to long-term success.



Mr. Khatri's primary objective has been to turn high-tech immersive tools into a source of power for business growth. By spearheading the company's go-to-market strategy, he has enabled developers to move property faster than ever before.

Under his stewardship, Convrse Spaces has evolved from a mere vendor into a vital ally for the nation's biggest builders.

DRIVING MARKET REACH

The secret to Mr. Khatri's success lies in his boots-on-the-ground approach to business development. He has spent his

ANSHUL PADYAL

TURNING VISION INTO SCALABLE REALITY

Mr. Anshul Padyal, Co-Founder & CTO, Convrse Spaces, is transforming real estate through technology. With a strong understanding of digital innovation, he helps create immersive virtual spaces that allow people to explore and connect with properties before they are physically built



An alumnus of IIT Guwahati, Mr. Padyal has approached his role with the discipline of an engineer and the instinct of a problem-solver. At Convrse Spaces, he has led the development of immersive platforms that allow

users to experience properties through virtual and augmented environments.

The forward-thinking leader has introduced a level of precision and interactivity to the industry through practical systems built for large-scale use. These are designed to meet enterprise needs without losing performance or reliability.

AN ENGINEER'S VIEW OF PROGRESS

Mr. Padyal's approach is rooted in strong engineering discipline and long-term thinking. He focuses on building reliable, scalable technology rather than chasing short-term trends. His leadership is driven by the belief that strong products create lasting growth. Known for developing an advanced immersive real estate platform in India, he has demonstrated both technical expertise and a clear understanding of local market needs. His work shows how digital innovation can be adapted effectively within the Indian real estate landscape while maintaining simplicity and user-focused experiences.

DRIVEN BY GOALS

Mr. Padyal's vision carries both ambition and responsibility. He aims to build an immersive commerce ecosystem powered by AI and spatial computing, focused not just on growth but on changing how people interact with digital spaces and experiences. In doing so, he brings a thoughtful dimension to technological progress, where innovation serves real needs. He places strong emphasis on sustainability by reducing dependency on physical infrastructure and promoting more efficient digital alternatives.

His idea of an immersive commerce ecosystem powered by AI and spatial computing is about redefining human interaction in digital spaces. Mr. Padyal's journey is driven by precision and purpose.

According to him, technology does not overshadow people but gradually improves and supports their experience.

VIKRANT SINGH

A CLASS APART IN PROPTech INNOVATION

Mr. Vikrant Singh, Co-Founder & CEO of Convrse Spaces, leverages his IIT engineering background and technical expertise to integrate innovation and business insight for developing modern, scalable solutions that address evolving challenges in immersive digital experiences



Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), and AI into the property buying journey. These solutions enable prospective buyers to experience properties interactively and realistically from any location. The addition of phygital experience centres strengthens this model by integrating physical and digital interactions, thus enabling more informed decision-making. He believes technology should simplify complex choices and build trust at scale.

A DEFINING MILESTONE

Mr. Vikrant's leadership style is driven by clarity of vision and disciplined execution. He has scaled Convrse Spaces into a category-defining enterprise with a valuation of around INR 400 crore. In the near term, he aims to expand immersive experience centres and AI-driven sales platforms across Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 cities. Over the longer term, he envisions Convrse Spaces evolving into a global immersive commerce infrastructure company, extending its applications beyond real estate.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Under his leadership, Convrse Spaces has made significant progress by digitally representing a large volume of real estate inventory and working with reputed developers across India. The company offers virtual tours, AI-based sales tools, and inventory management systems that help in faster decision-making and improved sales efficiency. Its contribution to the sector was acknowledged with the ET Real Estate Award 2025 for AR/VR Excellence in PropTech.



forward-thinking leader, Mr. Vikrant realised early that traditional methods of showcasing property via brochures, site visits, and sample flats often fall short in delivering a complete and engaging experience. This

understanding inspired him to establish Convrse Spaces, based on the belief that immersive technologies can enhance how buyers explore and evaluate properties. Under Mr. Vikrant's leadership, the company has developed a comprehensive ecosystem integrating Virtual

SUDEEP SAHA

DREAMS BUILT ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS

Mr. Sudeep Saha, Founder and Chairman of Avant Group, is a first-generation entrepreneur dedicated to creating value in business as well as in society. With a focus on affordable luxury housing and urban renewal, he has transformed communities by addressing India's growing housing needs with empathy, innovation, and sustainable solutions



born and raised in a modest teacher's household, Mr. Sudeep grew up valuing knowledge, discipline, and ethical conduct. The well-versed leader earned the CFA charter from the CFA Institute, USA, an MBA in Finance & Strategy from IIM

Ahmedabad, a BTech in Marine Engineering from Kolkata, and pursued advanced studies in economics in Finland.

With 25+ years of professional experience across banking, private equity, exports, real estate, construction, and social work, Mr. Sudeep brings a well-rounded entrepreneurial perspective.

His early career in finance and global trade developed his expertise in capital allocation, risk management and long-term value creation. In 2010, he founded Avant Group to redefine affordable luxury housing for India's growing middle class by delivering quality homes that balance comfort, accessibility and value. His key focus has been Slum Rehabilitation Authority projects, transforming unsafe settlements into planned neighbourhoods with improved sanitation, safety and infrastructure. Under his leadership, over 4,000 families have secured permanent homes, while over 25,000 former slum residents now experience improved living conditions. These efforts have contributed to urban renewal while restoring confidence among communities long marginalised.

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GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Mr. Sudeep's commitment to social responsibility deepened with the establishment of the Avant Sahaya Foundation in 2023. Supporting underprivileged children, orphans, slum residents and prison inmates, its initiatives include education sponsorships linked to apartment sales, medical assistance and learning support for vulnerable families.

GARNERING GLORY

Mr. Sudeep has established Avant Group as a frontrunner in affordable luxury housing. Celebrated for his vision and dedication, the leader has been honoured with several prestigious awards, including the Times Power Man Award, the CNN-IBN Award, and The Times Real Estate Iconic Developer for Affordable Luxury Living Award.

RAVINDER GROVER

BUILDING A NUTRITION- SECURE VIKSIT BHARAT

As India moves toward the vision of a Viksit Bharat, the focus is expanding beyond economic growth to strengthening health, nutrition, education, and human capital systems. In this exclusive conversation, Mr. Ravinder Grover, COO of HarvestPlus Solutions (HPS), shares his insights on how nutrition security, biofortification, and cross-sector partnerships can contribute to India's long-term development journey





Q. How have your experiences across sectors shaped your leadership approach?

My experience across Unilever, PwC, ADB, IFPRI, & HarvestPlus Solutions has shown me that sustainable impact emerges when evidence, markets, and institutions work together. Research sparks innovation, businesses enable efficiency, and public systems drive scale. My leadership focuses on building partnerships and execution models that transform promising pilots into lasting, scalable solutions.

Q. In your opinion, what are the essential leadership qualities required to build a Viksit Bharat?

A Viksit Bharat needs leaders who think systemically and execute with discipline. Development challenges are interconnected and require solutions that link nutrition, education, productivity, and growth. Leaders must stay grounded in people's realities, maintain a long-term vision,

Q. What is your long-term vision for embedding nutrition into India's food system?

My vision is to make nutritious foods part of everyday systems via school feeding, procurement, retail, and household diets. The recently launched SEHAT Mission is encouraging because it reflects the shift toward nutrition security and highlights the need for awareness, accessibility, and coordinated action to address malnutrition beyond calorie sufficiency.

Q. How do partnerships like ADM scale Nutri Pathshala and support the vision of Viksit Bharat?

Partnerships like ADM help transform nutrition initiatives into scalable models. Through Nutri Pathshala in Latur, over 2K children and 7K community members were reached with nutritious meals and nutrition education via Arogya Clubs, Nutri Diaries, and Nutri Buddies. More than feeding programs, schools become hubs for behavior change, influencing families and communities while generating evidence that supports integration into

"OUR LATEST CAMPAIGN #YAADRAKHO DRIVES

NUTRITION AWARENESS FOR A VIKSIT BHARAT"

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deliver impact through disciplined execution and measureable outcomes.

Q. How does HPS's biofortification approach stand apart from others?

We view nutrition as a food systems opportunity, not a standalone intervention. Biofortification works only when farmers adopt nutritious crops, markets create demand, institutions support scale, and consumers understand value. Globally, HPS has reached over 589 million people, enabled 440+ nutrient-enriched crop varieties across 40+ countries, and focuses on scaling innovation into sustainable nutrition solutions.

Q. How do you ensure market driven models translate into nutritional outcomes?

At HPS, our goal extends beyond reaching farmers; it is about creating an ecosystem where nutritious crops reach households and improve diets. By strengthening farmer adoption, market linkages, and institutional support, we create sustainable models where farmers benefit economically, communities access better nutrition, and consumers are empowered to make healthier food choices.

larger systems like PM POSHAN.

Children are future decision-makers and the foundation of Viksit Bharat. Investing in nutrition strengthens human capital, improving learning, productivity, and economic outcomes. Through partnerships like ADM, Nutri Pathshala uses schools as platforms for behaviour change, influencing families and communities while building healthier, more productive, and inclusive generations.

Q. How important is urban awareness alongside rural interventions?

Nutrition challenges span geographies, with urban consumers influencing food trends. For the same reason, we recently partnered with Chef Sanjeev Kapoor and launched the #YaadRakho campaign to build awareness around the Biofortified Mark and make nutrition easier to recognise and adopt in everyday life.

Q. Are there global lessons India can adopt?

One lesson stands out across countries. Sustainable change requires local ownership. Programs succeed when communities, institutions, and markets all have a stake in outcomes.



GREATEST BRANDS 2026



The background is a dark blue gradient. In the bottom left, a portion of a globe is visible, showing the Americas. In the bottom center, a city skyline at night is reflected in water. Overlaid on these are several thin, golden, curved lines that sweep across the upper half of the image. A dense, curved pattern of small golden dots is visible on the right side, suggesting a data stream or a constellation.

This section presents an exceptional curation of the greatest brands, each recognised for its vision, ingenuity, and excellence. Across Asia, the Americas and Africa, these names have risen above the clamour of competition to redefine markets, inspire loyalty and set benchmarks for excellence. Far beyond their commercial identities, these brands embody ideas, aspirations and values that resonate across markets. In an age of cut-throat competition, only a select few brands earn distinction. Their success stories reveal how bold thinking, resilience and an instinct for reinvention can turn recognition into reputation, and reputation into everlasting legacy across generations and cultures alike

APOLLO HOSPITALS

THE HEARTBEAT OF MODERN HEALTHCARE

Apollo Hospitals has been a ray of hope for countless Indian families since 1983. Founded with the vision of bringing world-class medical care within reach of every Indian, it began with the country's first corporate hospital in Chennai and has since grown into one of Asia's most trusted healthcare networks



When Dr. Reddy established Apollo Hospitals, India's healthcare system faced

limited access to advanced treatment. Many families were forced to travel overseas for complex procedures. Dr. Reddy believed this needed to change and envisioned world-class healthcare being available within India itself. Building a private hospital of international standards in the 1980s was challenging, but Apollo's focus on quality, technology, and compassionate care gradually earned widespread trust of patients and doctors alike.

Over the decades, Apollo Hospitals grew into one of Asia's most respected healthcare providers. Gradually, the single hospital expanded into a vast network that serves millions of patients every year. Today, the Apollo ecosystem includes 74+ hospitals with over 10,400 beds, supported by 7,000 pharmacies, 300 primary care centres, 2,200 diagnostic facilities and 500 telemedicine centres.

ADVANCING HEALTHCARE

Apollo Hospitals has strengthened specialised treatment across cardiology, oncology, orthopedics, neurology and critical care. The organisation's quaternary care capabilities include complex heart surgeries, organ transplantation, robotic procedures and joint replacements. One of Apollo's landmark achievements is the establishment of South East Asia's first Proton Therapy Centre in





Chennai. The technology allows doctors to treat tumours more precisely while minimising damage to healthy tissues. This is an important milestone in India's progress in specialised cancer care. Apollo also introduced South Asia's first ZAP-X® Gyroscopic Radiosurgery platform for facilitating precise, non-invasive treatment for brain tumours and neurological conditions. Such innovations bring greater comfort and improved outcomes for patients who once faced limited treatment options.

Apollo Hospitals has embraced technology to make care faster,

smarter and more accessible. Its 5G-enabled smart ambulances transmit patient vitals to hospitals in real time. This allows doctors to prepare for treatment before the patient arrives, saving precious minutes during emergencies. Likewise, its digital health ecosystem connects online consultations, pharmacy services, diagnostic bookings and health records through a single platform.

DRIVEN BY RESEARCH

Apollo Hospitals promotes research & education through its academic institutions and research foundation, contributing to clinical

trials, epidemiological studies, and emerging fields to improve treatment methods and patient outcomes globally. Its medical education programmes train future healthcare professionals to uphold its commitment to compassionate care.

GARNERING GLORY

The Government of India has issued commemorative postage stamps to honour Apollo Hospitals' role in advancing healthcare across the country. Dr. Reddy was also conferred with the Padma Vibhushan, one of India's highest civilian awards.

ASAS GROUP OF COMPANIES

CONTEXTUALISED EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

The ASAS Group of Companies has emerged as a renowned East African business conglomerate, driven by innovation and practical growth. Representing a modern approach to enterprise-building in Africa, the group is driven by integration, discipline, and social responsibility

Guided by the principle of “Contextualised Excellence,” ASAS applies global standards while thoughtfully adapting them to local realities. It takes into account the logistical and demographic conditions of East Africa and aligns its operations accordingly. Rather than adopting international practices without modification, these are carefully tailored to suit on-ground requirements. The conglomerate is driven by its strategy of Deep Vertical Integration, where production, processing, logistics, and distribution are closely connected and work as one smooth chain. This reduces reliance on outside players and helps the business stay steady during market changes and currency fluctuations.

The Group’s operations span interconnected verticals that function as a unified system. In primary production and processing, ASAS Dairies Limited offers a wide range of products, including fresh milk,

UHT milk, yogurt, flavoured milk, and milk powder. Its dairy farm, with 1,500+ cows, ensures a consistent supply of raw milk. This ecosystem is supported by Afrifarm and the animal feed unit, which meet agricultural and nutritional needs for internal operations and partner farmers. Alongside this, ASAS Energies currently operates fuel stations with plans to scale up significantly in the coming years.



— Since 1936 —
OVER 80 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

ASAS
GROUP OF COMPANIES



ASAS DAIRIES FARM LTD
ASAS DAIRIES LTD
ASAS TRANSPORTERS CO. LTD
TRANSFUEL LOGISTICS LTD
ASAS ENERGIES LTD
ASAS REAL ESTATE LTD
AFRIFARM



The Group presence in real estate enhances stability and supports a balanced, diversified portfolio. Its logistics arm forms the backbone of operations, with ASAS Transporters Ltd. operating 1,000+ trucks and 500+ employees, ensuring smooth and efficient movement of goods across key East African markets.

ASAS differentiates itself through integrated operations, where its logistics arm supports dairy distribution, and energy business powers transport. This integrated structure improves efficiency by reducing costs and accelerating turnaround time

across operations. The dairy vertical, in particular, reflects the Group's broader impact beyond business. By partnering with 10,000+ local farmers, ASAS has built an inclusive supply chain that ensures fair farmer support and a reliable flow of raw materials.

DRIVEN BY TECHNOLOGY

Technology plays a key role in sustaining the integrated systems. ERP platforms, fleet management tools, and HR systems ensure transparency and efficiency. The Group responds to challenges through restructuring and digitisation over short-term cost-

cutting.

RACKING UP ACCOLADES

ASAS has been honoured with the "Customers' Friend" certification by ICERTIA for 2025–26 for its commitment to customer satisfaction and service excellence. It has been repeatedly recognised as a Superbrand, reflecting enduring consumer trust and brand equity. In 2024, ASAS Dairies won the Gold Award in Geneva at The Century International Quality Era Awards. It has also been named as the Winner in the Large Scale Milk Processor category in Tanzania for 5 consecutive years.

AGS MYANMAR

DRIVING EXCELLENCE IN SECURITY & FACILITY SOLUTIONS

AGS Myanmar, a leading security & risk management company in Myanmar, is known for serving international clients since 2013 with disciplined local expertise. With over 1300 staff, it delivers protective and operational services that support safe, efficient environments for businesses nationwide across multiple sectors



nder the stewardship of its Founder and Chairman, Mr. Adam Castillo,

AGS Myanmar has evolved into a people-centred enterprise, driven by discipline, local ownership, and operational precision. Its workforce strategy is based on the principle that “*every employee is a Myanmar national*,” thus reinforcing the belief that sustainable solutions must be built from within the country itself. This approach has helped build a workforce that brings together local insight with structured training.

AGS Myanmar’s operations span security services and integrated facility management, including access control, patrol coordination, cleaning supervision, maintenance oversight, and pest control delivery. Structured supervision, regular reporting, and field evaluations ensure consistency, while open communication between supervisors and field teams enables rapid response to

operational needs. Continuous improvement is embedded in the organisation’s operating model through regular performance reviews and corrective action cycles designed to strengthen service quality.

Beyond operations, AGS Myanmar invests in leadership development. It offers structured training and mentorship programmes that prepare employees for supervisory and





management roles. This focus on internal mobility supports long-term capability building and has instilled a culture of accountability, discipline, and professional growth.

SAFETY & SERVICE

AGS Myanmar delivers facility services with a strong emphasis on hygiene, safety, and operational continuity. The services are backed by regular inspections and transparent reporting systems. Governance is supported by transparent accountability systems that link field operations with supervisors and strategy teams.

Additionally, client relationships are maintained through transparency, responsiveness, and a commitment to consistent service delivery across diverse operating environments.

The organisation also contributes to broader national resilience by strengthening local capacity, improving workplace standards, and promoting responsible professional conduct across industries in Myanmar.

AGS Myanmar's long-term vision prioritises stability, building strong capabilities, and disciplined execution. It aims to establish AGS Myanmar as a

trusted partner for clients who need reliable, safe, and well-structured service delivery.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

AGS Myanmar has been honoured with several prestigious accolades. It has been recognised with the 'Excellent SSHE Performance Award (Platinum)' at the PTTEP Myanmar Asset SSHE Award Ceremony, for its strong commitment to workplace safety, security, health, and environmental standards, while its quality management systems continue to meet ISO 9001:2015 certification requirements.

ARUL GROUP OF COMPANIES

FORGING A LEGACY OF TRUST & EXCELLENCE

From manufacturing and industrial construction to interiors and electrical systems, Arul Group, a 45-plus-year-old house of engineering-led businesses, is building a diversified enterprise grounded in technical excellence, purposeful leadership and responsible growth. Under the stewardship of Managing Director Mr. Arul Vajravel, the Group looks beyond short-term gains, focusing instead on long-term value, durable solutions and sustainable businesses, while strengthening trust, empowering people and building institutional resilience



he foundation of Arul Group was laid with the establishment of Arul Rubbers,

known for its expertise in rubber lining and corrosion and abrasion protection. Its capabilities also include the fabrication of tanks, vessels, components and fittings for industrial applications. Arul Polymers added another key dimension with specialised rubber products and tailor-made compounds for the aerospace, automobile and other industries. CEMILAC and DGAQA approvals further demonstrate the company's adherence to stringent aerospace and defence standards.

Arul Group is perceived as a reliable, engineering-first legacy operator rather than a flashy consumer brand. Its reputation has been strengthened by technical know-how, reliable execution and long-standing customer relationships, with credibility built through years of working behind the scenes on demanding industrial requirements.

Arul Group's strength lies in bringing multiple disciplines together to take projects from concept to completion. By

connecting manufacturing, civil EPC, MEP, electrical panels and interiors, the Group addresses diverse requirements under one roof, from industrial rubber components and electrical systems to factory buildings and residential interiors. Across each assignment, it maintains a focus on precision and practical problem-solving. Looking ahead, the Group aims to strengthen its position as a trusted industrial partner that understands its clients' operations and works closely with them to deliver practical, value-driven solutions.

With strong manufacturing experience as its base, Arul Group expanded into construction through Neo Heights Builders & Promoters. The company offers EPC contracting, design and build, civil and structural works, pre-engineered buildings, MEP services and turnkey industrial projects. An engineering-first culture drives this expansion, with the Group placing strong emphasis on practical problem-solving. Arul Group has reinforced its core strengths through investments in engineering talent, project





management, planning systems, safety processes and technical expertise. These investments have helped the Group build a strong clientele that includes Schaeffler India, Toyota, Volvo, VinFast, GE HealthCare, Tata Electronics and Saint-Gobain.

Vajra Panels and The Neo Studio further expanded the Group's capabilities, enabling it to manage more stages of the project lifecycle under one roof.

SUSTAINABILITY DRIVE

Arul Group emphasises resource efficiency and responsible practices across its operations. It manufactures durable rubber and polymer products that help extend equipment life and reduce the need for frequent replacement. Likewise, Neo Heights incorporates eco-friendly measures into its construction projects. At the LM Wind Power facility in Dabaspeta, for example, the project incorporated rainwater harvesting, solar-powered lighting, and the conversion of overhead space into functional parking.

As a largely B2B and project-based organisation, Arul Group's principal touchpoints are its offices, manufacturing facilities, project sites and design consultations. It has its head office at Vajra Towers in Hosur and a corporate office in HSR Layout, Bengaluru, with manufacturing facilities in Hosur and Bengaluru.

Today, Arul Group's forte lies in its manufacturing heritage, driven by experience, expertise, and established customer relationships. In recent years, the Group has also placed greater emphasis on its brand identity. For instance, The Neo Studio has developed a distinct visual identity, while Neo Heights and The Neo Studio draw strength from the Arul Group name and its 45-plus-year heritage. The Group has also announced a technology partnership for Vajra Panels, its dedicated LT panel manufacturing unit. Its turnover increased from ₹141.25 crore in 2023–24 to ₹190.53 crore in 2024–25.

MAJOR MILESTONES

Arul Group has achieved key milestones, including Neo Heights

securing a ₹150 crore end-to-end EPC contract from Schaeffler India for its new manufacturing plant at Shoolagiri, Tamil Nadu, highlighting its ability to execute complex industrial projects. The Neo Studio received the Top Domestic Sales Award in 2025 and the India SME 100 Award in 2023. Arul Polymers has retained its CEMILAC and DGAQA approvals, thus strengthening its position in the aerospace and defence supply chain. The Group's progress is also reflected in its consistent financial performance. For instance, Neo Heights has delivered strong financial results, increasing revenue from approximately ₹24 crore in FY'22 to ₹138 crore in FY'25 through operational efficiency and reliable project delivery. With a robust pipeline and enhanced competencies, it targets a turnover of ₹250–300 crore in FY26–27, reflecting growing stakeholder confidence and sustained growth.

AAKARSHAN GEMS & JEWELLERY

EXCELLENCE IN EVERY DETAIL

Aakarshan Gems & Jewellery is a celebration of India's timeless artistry and the captivating charm of natural coloured gemstones. It represents a refined approach to jewellery, where every piece reflects culture, emotion, and individuality, crafted to be worn, admired, and cherished with pride

Bringing together the richness of Indian heritage with fine craftsmanship, Aakarshan Gems & Jewellery creates masterpieces that speaks beyond ornamentation. Each design is thoughtfully handcrafted by skilled artisans who translate stories of tradition, nature, and culture into wearable art. From the brilliance of natural fancy colour diamonds to the elegance of rare gemstones, every creation carries a distinct personality.

CRAFTED WITH PRIDE

Founded in 2012 by Ms. Shweta Pathak, Aakarshan Gems & Jewels emerged from her passion to redefine jewellery with authenticity and creativity. With a keen eye for detail and a deep appreciation for aesthetics, Ms. Pathak has shaped the brand into a symbol of elegance and trust within a short span of time. Under her stellar leadership, the brand has achieved remarkable growth and recognition. With a

strong commitment to rarity and authenticity, Aakarshan Gems & Jewellery ensures that every jewellery piece reflects style, elegance and exclusivity. By reviving traditional techniques such as Jadau and thoughtfully pairing them with contemporary design sensibilities, the brand creates pieces that achieve a harmonious balance between heritage and modern appeal. Personalisation forms a





distinctive element of the brand's philosophy. Each ornament is designed to suit the wearer's individuality, transforming it from a simple accessory into a reflection of personal identity, taste, and emotion. Drawing inspiration from nature, folklore, and everyday beauty, the unique designs create a deeper sense of connection and meaning.

DRIVEN BY QUALITY

Aakarshan Gems & Jewellery places strong emphasis on quality while ensuring the use of natural diamonds, genuine gemstones, and precious metals of the

highest standards. Additionally, it nurtures artisan talent by encouraging fair practices and promoting excellence in craftsmanship. This commitment not only enhances the final product but also supports the artistic community behind it.

The brand's philosophy reflects pride in Indian roots while appealing to global sensibilities. Each creation carries a subtle essence of India, making it both culturally rich and universally appealing. The jewellery pieces are designed to enhance beauty, inspire confidence, and add a touch of sophistication to every

occasion.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

Over the years, Aakarshan Gems & Jewellery has earned several prestigious honours for its distinctive approach and dedication to excellence. The brand has been recognised as the Inspirational Brand of India by WCRC Leaders in London in 2020 and 2022. It also received the IJ Award for theme-based jewellery in 2021 and was featured among Femina Fabulous Jewellers in the same year, marking its growing presence and credibility.

BLC GLOBAL HOLDINGS

CREATING RIPPLES OF PROGRESS

Bhuramal Lunkarandas Conglomerate, widely known as BLC Global Holdings, reflects Nepal's rich business heritage. With a business history spanning over 150 years, the group has evolved from textile trading into a multi-business organisation, while maintaining strong values & disciplined practises



Over the years, BLC Global Holdings has expanded into 15+ verticals. Its multi-sector presence reflects a well-planned approach to growth, where each business is structured to deliver both performance and reliability in a highly competitive environment.

BLC Global Holdings is known for its calibrated approach to growth. Instead of rapid diversification, the group prioritises steady expansion backed by experience, expertise, and foresight. Under the stellar stewardship of Co-Chairperson Ms. Megha Chaudhary, the conglomerate has witnessed remarkable growth. By strengthening governance, driving innovation, and building a positive culture where employees and partners feel invested in the organisation's long-term direction, she has helped the group keep pace with changing times.

MULTI-SECTOR GROWTH

BLC Global Holdings has built a robust presence across key sectors that touch everyday life. Its FMCG operations, such as Pashupati Biscuit Industries and BLC Instant Foods (provides fortified blended nutrition for infants), cater to daily consumer needs.

Likewise, its agricultural ventures, such as Mahalaxmi

Maida Mills, CONS Seeds, and Hetauda Dairy, contribute to a stable supply of essential products. In healthcare, Norvic International Hospital and Norvic Pharmacia reflect the group's focus on delivering quality medical services.

BUILDING NEW-AGE CAPABILITIES

BLC Global Holdings has also built capabilities in lifestyle and branding through ventures such as Reeeaa Artisanal, Midas Day Spa Salon, CC Entertainment, and The Branding Company. Its packaging arm, CG Flexi Pack, along with its education initiatives, highlights a forward-looking approach towards building capabilities that support long-term growth.

DRIVEN BY VALUES

BLC Global Holdings is driven by a strong value system based on ethics, empathy, innovation, excellence, sustainability, collaboration, and community growth. It emphasises transparency and fairness, while also focusing on employee development and inclusive work culture. The group strives to surpass expectations through exceptional services and a strong commitment to precision.

Looking ahead, BLC Global Holdings seeks to become a globally renowned enterprise

that drives innovation, empowers communities and sets benchmarks for sustainable growth. The group seeks to inspire positive change and contribute to a thriving and fair society by promoting transparency, fairness and collaboration, while contributing to national progress through ethical business practices.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

BLC Global Holdings also plays a substantial role in social development through the Basant Chaudhary Foundation, which has over 40 years of experience in philanthropic work across areas such as healthcare, education, emergency relief, women's empowerment, and the preservation of art, culture, and heritage. Through such thoughtful initiatives, the group has been making a significant difference in people's lives, especially in underserved communities. This commitment to social responsibility reflects the group's belief that business success should go hand in hand with community welfare. By supporting meaningful causes and promoting inclusive development, BLC Global Holdings aims to contribute to a more equitable, balanced and sustainable future for society.



DANUBE HOME

EXCELLENCE AT EVERY STEP

Danube Home, founded in 1993, has grown into one of the UAE's most respected home solutions brands. Operating under the Danube Group, the company has steadily expanded across the GCC, while offering customers an organised, accessible, and reliable destination for modern home needs



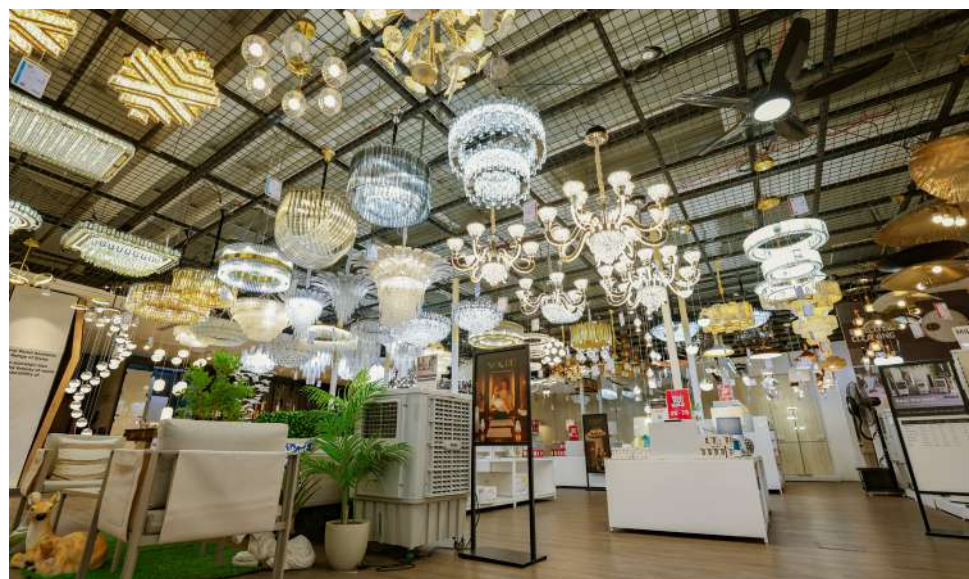
Headquartered in Dubai, Danube Home is recognised as a trusted name in

home furnishings and interior solutions. What sets the brand apart is its wide product portfolio that addresses almost every aspect of home creation and renovation. From flooring and kitchens to décor accents and outdoor requirements, customers can access everything under one roof.

GUIDED BY A VISIONARY

The overall growth of Danube Home has been shaped by Mr. Sayed Habib, CEO, Danube Home. His forward-thinking leadership has strengthened partnerships, streamlined operations, and supported sustainable growth across markets. With full-fledged operations in the UAE, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain, Danube Home, under his leadership, has strengthened its regional presence while maintaining consistent service standards. Each market

benefits from curated collections aligned with local preferences and lifestyle requirements. Over the years, Danube Home has grown beyond traditional furniture retail to offer an integrated platform that supports customers through every stage of home creation. Its portfolio spans furniture for living rooms, bedrooms, and dining areas, along with custom wardrobe systems, bathroom





fittings, mattresses, and smart home products. Its complete kitchen systems and modular storage options are particularly popular among families seeking efficiency and durability. Its curated collections feature the latest global trends while keeping regional lifestyles in mind.

Danube Home focuses on simplifying the home-making process, keeping in mind that modern households need to serve multiple purposes—work, study, and relaxation areas. Therefore, it designs its products with multifunctional use in mind.

The brand serves a wide

customer base, including first-time homeowners managing tight budgets, families looking for robust solutions, and style-focused buyers who prefer unique, contemporary designs without excessive pricing.

TECH-DRIVEN SUPPORT

Technology plays a supportive role in the brand's strategy. The introduction of Yara, a digital assistant, marks a significant step in enhancing customer engagement. Yara provides information across major product categories and assists buyers during decision-making, thus creating a smoother and more informed shopping

experience.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

In February 2026, Danube Home received the Khaleej Times Best Place to Work award for its commitment to employee wellbeing. Earlier, in 2025, the brand was honoured with Oman's Most Trusted Brand 2024 Award in the Furniture and Homeware category. These accolades highlight Danube Home's dedication to quality, workplace culture, and customer trust, while reinforcing its standing as a reliable home solutions provider in the GCC.

DLM CAPITAL GROUP

POWERING NIGERIA'S DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

DLM Capital Group Limited is the world's first and leading Development Investment Bank and a diversified Nigerian financial services firm. Founded in 2009, the Group provides funding and advisory services across important sectors of the economy. Its work supports businesses, institutions and communities while contributing to economic development across Nigeria and Africa



nder the stellar leadership of Founder and Group CEO, Mr. Sonnie Babatunde Ayere,

DLM offers financial solutions across agriculture, business finance, consumer credit, housing, transportation, infrastructure and education, while helping businesses and institutions access capital for expansion, investment and long-term projects. Its development-focused approach meets the financing needs of both businesses and individuals across different sectors of Nigeria's economy.

DLM operates through nine subsidiaries covering financial services, payments and environmental solutions. Its financial services businesses include Sofri Trust, CitiHomes Finance, DLM FX Trading and DLM Global Markets. DLM Global Markets houses DLM Advisory, DLM Trust, DLM Asset Management and DLM Securities. These entities offer multiple services, including digital banking, corporate lending, foreign exchange trading, corporate finance advisory, trust services, asset management and securities trading. It also offers services beyond conventional financial services. Recyclan provides PET plastic recycling solutions that transform waste into valuable resources while supporting sustainability, resource efficiency and environmental

conservation across Africa. Likewise, Velox Payments focuses on cross-border payments and remittances. The business provides services designed to make international transfers easier for African diaspora communities, with offerings that include transfers, wallets and digital financial services.

DLM's subsidiaries operate under the regulatory oversight of Nigeria's CBN (Central Bank of Nigeria) and the SEC (Securities & Exchange Commission). It serves diverse clients, including pension funds and governments, while supporting investment in key sectors that drive Nigeria's long-term development.

MARKET TRACK RECORD

DLM has built a strong record in Nigeria's capital markets through bond programmes, commercial paper issuances and advisory assignments for infrastructure and corporate clients. One of its notable transactions was the issuance of the ₦9 billion Series 1 Sovereign Bond-Backed Composite Notes under a ₦30 billion





medium-term note programme listed on FMDQ Exchange. The instrument received an AAA rating and approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission. The transaction drew strong institutional investor participation and demonstrated DLM's expertise in structuring sophisticated debt instruments for Nigeria.

GLOBAL PRESENCE

DLM has offices across Nigeria, New York, London, Mauritius and Belize, which enables it to serve clients across diverse markets

while maintaining its focus on development finance in Africa. Its international footprint strengthens its ability to support clients and development-focused projects across Nigeria and other African markets.

RACKING UP ACCOLADES

DLM's achievements have received prestigious recognition from industry and business organisations. In 2025, Champions Newspapers Ltd. named DLM the Most Outstanding Development Investment Bank of the Year. In 2024, DLM's subsidiary,

DLM Asset Management, was recognised as the Best Asset Management Company of the Year at the African Industrial & Development Conference & Awards. DLM's Sofri Trust Microfinance Bank was also recognised as the Consumer Lender of the Year 2023. More recently, DLM's Founder & Group CEO, Mr. Sonnie Babatunde Ayere, was honoured by Corporate INTL as Corporate Financial Advisory Expert of the Year in Nigeria for his dynamic leadership and outstanding contributions to the financial sector.

GURU NANAK GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

INSPIRING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SINCE 1975

Guru Nanak Group of Institutions (GNGI) is one of the most prominent educational and service-oriented institution networks in Bidar, Karnataka. Guided by the ideals of the Sri Nanak Jhira Saheb Foundation, the group promotes social responsibility, and value-based education to mould well-rounded individuals



ver the years, GNGI has expanded from school education to higher studies and professional training while encouraging innovation, community welfare, and ethical development among students. Among its flagship institutions, Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College has earned recognition as a leading technical institution with NAAC A+ accreditation & NBA recognition for major departments. The AICTE-approved & VTU-affiliated college offers UG engineering programmes along with MBA, MCA, & research opportunities for doctoral studies. Currently, the institution has been functioning with autonomous status, allowing greater flexibility in curriculum development, practical exposure, and improved global preparedness for students.

Guru Nanak First Grade College, affiliated with Bidar University, offers UG & PG programmes in science & commerce. Accredited with a NAAC B++ grade, the college

has also been recognised in India Today rankings and recently celebrated its Silver Jubilee year. Guru Nanak Independent Pre-University College, established in 1988, offers science & commerce education to students from both urban and rural backgrounds, along with integrated coaching for IIT, NEET, Olympiad, and NTSE. Additionally, Guru Nanak Dev ITI contributes to vocational education and skill development,





while Guru Nanak College of Education, focuses on preparing skilled teachers.

The healthcare institutions under the group include Guru Nanak Hospital, Guru Nanak Jhira Saheb College of B.Sc Nursing, Guru Nanak College of Pharmacy, and Guru Nanak Institute of Paramedical Sciences. Established in 1969, Guru Nanak Hospital is known for its multi-specialty healthcare services, free dialysis facility, modern operation theatre, and free langar service for patients and attendants. The Nursing College, started in 2021, offers clinical training with placement

support, while the Pharmacy College established in 2024 provides modern pharmaceutical education supported by advanced laboratories. The Paramedical Institute, founded in 2025, meets the growing demand for specialised healthcare training and professional skills.

GOLDEN JUBILEE 2025

The school celebrated its Golden Jubilee from 12 January to 7 December 2025. Renowned actor & philanthropist Mr. Sonu Sood attended the celebration as Chief Guest. The year-long festivities concluded with a live concert by

celebrated playback singer Mr. Javed Ali. During the celebrations, the institution also earned a Guinness World Record when 5,434 participants simultaneously solved Rubik's Cubes.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Sri Nanak Jhira Saheb Foundation Trust promotes Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings through seva, equality & social welfare. It runs a 2022-established old-age home providing shelter, food and healthcare for the elderly. It also manages schools in multiple regions while promoting inclusion and community service.

IMPEX CAPITAL GROUP

A LEGACY OF TRUST AND VALUE CREATION

Impex Capital Group, headquartered in Houston (TX), is a trusted name in real estate investment, built on the philosophy of creating value. With over two decades of experience, the firm has built a strong presence across key US markets through disciplined strategies and thoughtful acquisitions

A forward-thinking mindset defines Impex Capital Group's methodical and research-led approach to real estate investing. The firm carefully evaluates every opportunity with a focus on long-term fundamentals rather than short-term gains. It studies demographic patterns, supply-demand gaps, and local economic indicators to identify assets that offer strong potential for appreciation. This disciplined outlook ensures that investments are backed by data, insight, and prudent risk assessment.

STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS

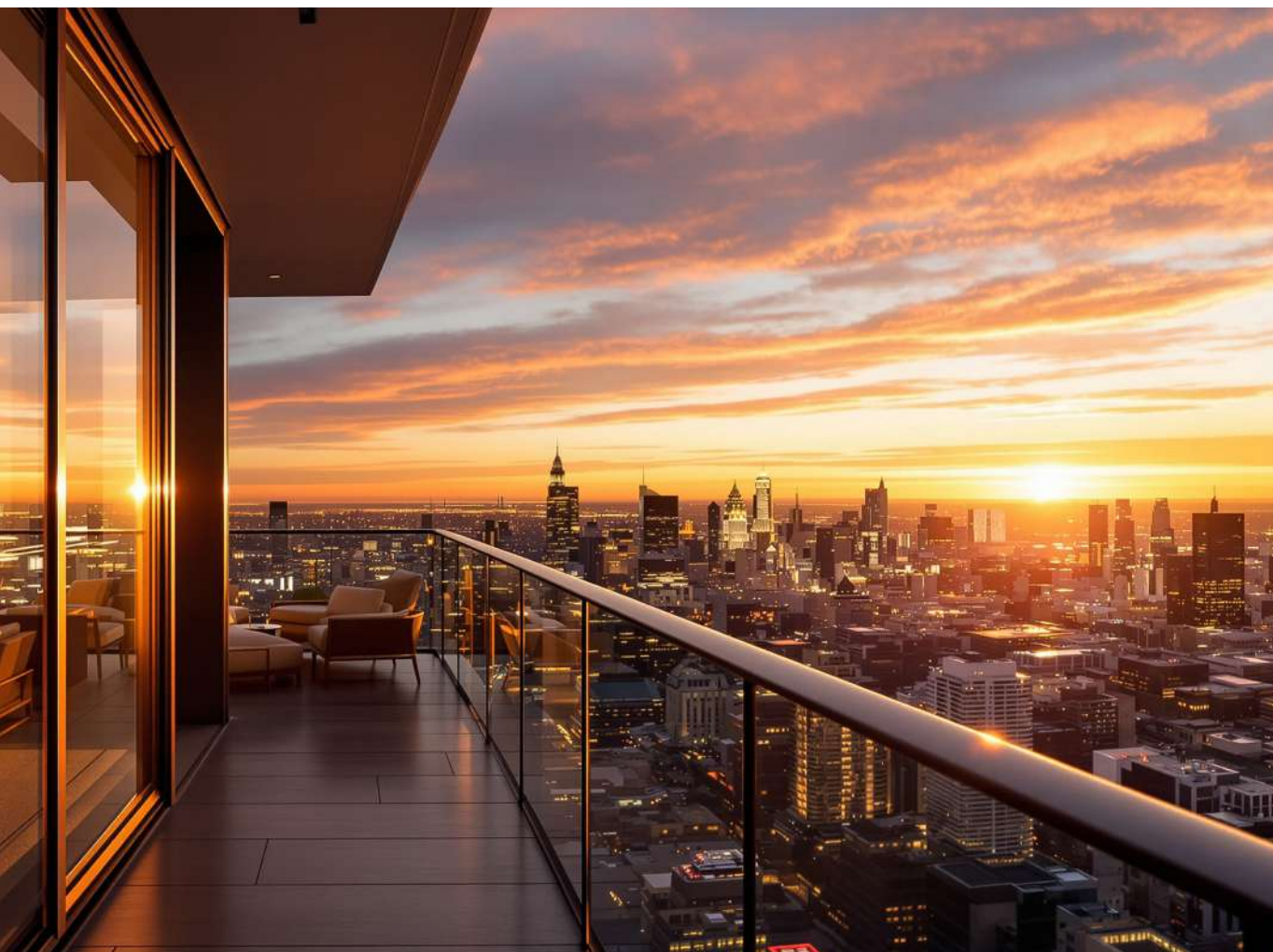
By identifying high-potential properties in growth corridors, Impex Capital Group has built a solid foundation for value creation. These assets are not merely acquired but are actively managed with the intent to enhance performance. Through hands-on asset management, operational improvements, and well-planned renovations, the firm boosts its net operating income and unlocks

hidden value within each property.

EXPERTISE IN DEVELOPMENT

Impex Capital Group also brings significant expertise in development, particularly in the creation of build-to-rent residential communities. With the increasing demand for quality housing in metropolitan areas, the firm has positioned itself to address this need with thoughtfully designed





developments. Its experience across multifamily, commercial, and mixed-use projects reflects a well-rounded understanding of the real estate landscape. Another key pillar of the organisation is its capital and execution strength.

Strong relationships with lenders, partners, operators, Institutional Equity Groups, HNIs and other Family Offices enable the firm to structure and close complex transactions with efficiency and maximum profitability. This network, built over years of industry engagement, supports seamless execution and ensures that projects are delivered

with financial discipline and operational clarity.

Impex Capital Group's portfolio spans multifamily housing, offices, industrial assets, assisted living facilities, hospitality, and land developments. With investments exceeding \$2.1 billion and over 75 properties under its umbrella, the group has built a well-balanced portfolio driven by stable income and a strong growth potential. Additionally, its solid presence across more than 15 states highlights a thoughtful and strategic approach to geographic diversification and sustained value creation.

COMMITMENT TO INVESTORS

Transparency, alignment of interests, and disciplined underwriting drive Impex Capital Group's investor relations philosophy.

By maintaining conservative leverage and a cautious approach to risk, the firm demonstrates resilience across varying market conditions.

Additionally, its leadership co-invests alongside investors while ensuring aligned interests and maintaining a shared focus on long-term ownership and value creation.

MDI MURSHIDABAD

CAMPUS LIFE THAT INSPIRES AND ENGAGES

MDI Murshidabad, established in 2014, has been making waves in management education by extending the legacy of MDI Gurgaon to Eastern India. The institute is committed to delivering a PGDM experience that strikes the right balance between contemporary specialisations, practical exposure, and industry interaction



ver the past two years, MDI Murshidabad has pulled out all the stops to strengthen its brand presence. The institute sharpened its digital campaigns across social media, search engines, and remarketing platforms, ensuring it reaches quality aspirants far and wide. The institution has witnessed steady improvement in the diversity and quality of incoming batches, while placements have expanded with more recruiters, new sectors, and higher compensation. Conferences like the 6th International Conference on Changing Business Paradigm (ICCBP 2026) and other international gatherings have given the institute a seat at the table in thought leadership discussions, with over 150 research papers presented.

LEAVING A MARK

MDI Murshidabad's campus buzzes with large-scale initiatives, from TEDx talks to management conferences and academic festivals, giving students exposure

and making the institute a name to reckon with among corporates and academic peers. Media interviews, authored articles, and ranking participation have further strengthened MDI Murshidabad's footprint in the B-school landscape. Under the direction of Prof. (Dr.) Ajay K Jain, Director and Professor, MDI Murshidabad, the institute has raised the bar in academic excellence, industry collaboration, and





thought leadership, ensuring that students benefit from insightful guidance and a curriculum that stays aligned with contemporary business realities.

A PURPOSE-DRIVEN B-SCHOOL

Sustainability forms an essential part of the culture at MDI Murshidabad. Students engage in live projects and fieldwork that make a real difference to local communities and MSMEs. The campus champions green practices, including waste management and energy efficiency. A unique feature, ‘Maa

Park’, allows every distinguished visitor to plant a tree in memory of their mother, while contributing to the institute’s growing green legacy. Leading global scholars and corporate figures are regularly invited to speak on sustainability and responsible leadership.

UNMATCHED EXCELLENCE

Students and recruiters alike see MDI Murshidabad as a cut above the rest. The connection to the MDI legacy assures academic rigor and strong governance, while the close-knit campus ensures students receive guidance that is second to none. For

aspirants aiming for national-level opportunities without leaving Eastern India, MDI Murshidabad is a clear winner. Additionally, the past two years have seen steady improvement in the diversity and quality of incoming batches, while placements have expanded with more recruiters, new sectors, and higher compensation. Conferences like the 6th International Conference on Changing Business Paradigm 2026 and other international gatherings have given the institute a seat at the table in thought leadership discussions, with over 150 research papers presented.

MK INFOSYSTEMS

ENGINEERING THE CONNECTED FUTURE

MK Infosystems (MKI) Pvt. Ltd., headquartered in New Delhi, is at the forefront of providing cutting-edge solutions in the dynamic digital landscape. Set up with a vision to transform businesses through technology, MKI has been consistently delivering excellence in software development, IT consulting, and digital services



Founded in 2002 by Managing Director, Mr. Manoj Bisht, MKI is an innovative

technology solutions provider known for delivering cutting-edge solutions in software development, IT consulting, and digital services for transforming businesses through technology. Over the years, MKI has demonstrated a strong commitment to providing top-notch services and solutions to establish itself as a leading name in Networking and Security Surveillance solutions for a wide range of companies. The company integrates legacy infrastructure with modern IP-based systems to help organisations modernise security environments.

Establishing a company's presence through quality, timely delivery, and customer satisfaction are the golden principles of any successful business. MKI has mastered these principles to perfection while building a strong reputation through its commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction. The organisation primarily serves the IT, networking, security surveillance and integrated solutions sectors. It also offers managed, consulting and professional services to enable clients to utilise a single technology partner for design, deployment, optimisation, support and system

integration across diverse technology environments. MKI's commitment to excellence is demonstrated by its strong delivery record, with 95% of projects being completed on time.

MKI manages and monitors IT networks and infrastructure to help organisations focus on core business activities. With extensive expertise in designing, implementing, integrating and operating complex systems, it delivers secure and tailored technology solutions to offer customer-focussed systems and solutions based on their needs. It follows a structured project methodology that covers project planning, budgeting, vendor selection, installation, testing, documentation and reporting to provide consistent oversight throughout delivery.

As a Systems Integrator (SI), the company's core strength lies in its highly skilled and experienced technical team. MKI's certified technical team includes professionals accredited by Cisco, Milestone, Verint, Axis, Hanwha, Pelco (Motorola), Dell, CommScope,





RNM, Molex and Tejas Networks.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

MKI has delivered technology infrastructure across diverse government, enterprise and institutional environments in India and the GCC. Its Indian portfolio spans security & surveillance projects for Parliament House, Delhi's Safe City programme, the IAF, BEL, ECIL, BARC, key markets in Delhi, courts, Gurgaon Safe City, ONGC, SCOPE Complex and Hyderabad Metro. Its networking & data centre engagements include UIDAI, IOCL, NTPC, ICICI Bank, Bharti

Airtel, Wipro, HPCL, HFCL, Reliance, BSNL, BITS Pilani, IIIT Allahabad, and Annamalai University. Across the GCC, MKI has executed projects for DEWA, Dubai Smart Government, NBAD, Oman Broadband Company and Kuwait Oil Company. Notable achievements include a 48-hour data centre migration for Dubai Smart Government, fibre backbone and structured cabling projects in Oman, and integrated technology solutions for KOC in Kuwait.

DRIVEN BY EXCELLENCE

In 2024, IT Voice recognised MKI as Best Security Surveillance SI

Partner of the Year, while SME Channel awarded it Surveillance Specialist of the Year from 2020 to 2024. Additionally, CRN presented MKI with Channel Leader Awards in Security & Surveillance in 2021 & 2022, alongside Best Emerging Partner in 2020. The Economic Times also recognised it as Best System Integrator of the Year in 2020. Other accolades include Channel World 100 Premier recognition in 2022, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2013 and 2011, Security Master of the Year Award in 2018 and 2020, and Most Impactful Tech Leader (2018), among others.

PELWATTE DAIRY INDUSTRIES LIMITED

DRIVING THE WAY TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Pelwatte Dairy Industries Ltd. in Sri Lanka is a major dairy manufacturer engaged in milk processing, powder production, yoghurt, butter, ice cream and ghee, supported by modern facilities in Buttala. The organisation is committed to strengthening Sri Lanka's local dairy farming and reducing import dependence

Under the leadership of Founder & Chairman, Mr. Ariyaseela Wickremanayake,

Pelwatte Dairy has reached new heights of success. The company was established in 2006 with the goal of supporting rural dairy farmers and reducing foreign exchange outflow on milk imports. A modern factory complex at Buttala was developed with Danish technology, which enabled the large-scale production of milk powder and value-added dairy products.

Additionally, investments in processing capacity and collection networks have strengthened procurement from farmers across Uva and Southern regions. The organisation has also expanded its animal feed operations to improve cattle productivity and milk yield.

WIDE PRODUCT RANGE

Pelwatte Dairy operates a wide portfolio, including liquid milk, milk powder, yoghurt, butter, ice cream and ghee, distributed across Sri Lanka through an

established supply chain. The company has built strong collection points to ensure steady procurement of fresh milk from dairy farmers, thereby improving rural incomes and strengthening local agriculture. Additionally, technology investments have enabled efficient spray drying and processing systems that help maintain nutritional quality and product safety.

The company's quality





assurance systems align with international standards and ensure consistent compliance across production lines.

Pelwatte Dairy also emphasises safe manufacturing practices and structured monitoring to maintain hygiene at every stage of processing. Its expansion into export markets, such as Maldives has opened new opportunities for growth, while domestic presence remains strong with significant market penetration in dairy segments.

The organisation has directed its recent investments towards strengthening milk collection

systems, expanding storage infrastructure and improving processing efficiency across its operations. These upgrades ensure smoother procurement from farmers, better preservation of fresh milk and higher productivity in manufacturing units.

Pelwatte Dairy has strengthened its supply chain and expanded production capacity while supporting thousands of rural dairy farmers. Its additional facilities have significantly improved distribution reach. Furthermore, strict global food safety and workplace safety standards ensure responsible and

high-quality operations.

SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS

Pelwatte Dairy's environmental initiatives promote efficient resource use and waste reduction. These efforts align production processes with broader sustainability goals. The company actively engages with farming communities to enhance cattle quality and milk productivity through structured training and support systems. These proactive efforts ensure a steady supply of quality raw materials while supporting sustainable growth and rural development.

RIGHT HEALTH

A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO HEALTHCARE

Right Health is the UAE's largest value-based healthcare chain focussed on serving the workforce & underserved communities. With 60+ facilities across the UAE, it impacts over 1.5 million (per day 4000 patients) lives annually and is steadily advancing towards its goal of reaching 2.5 million individuals each year

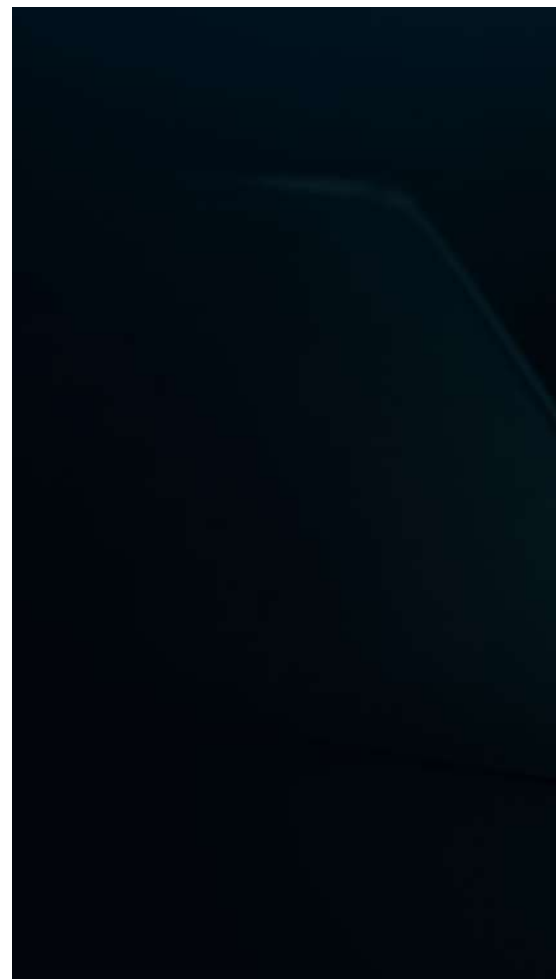


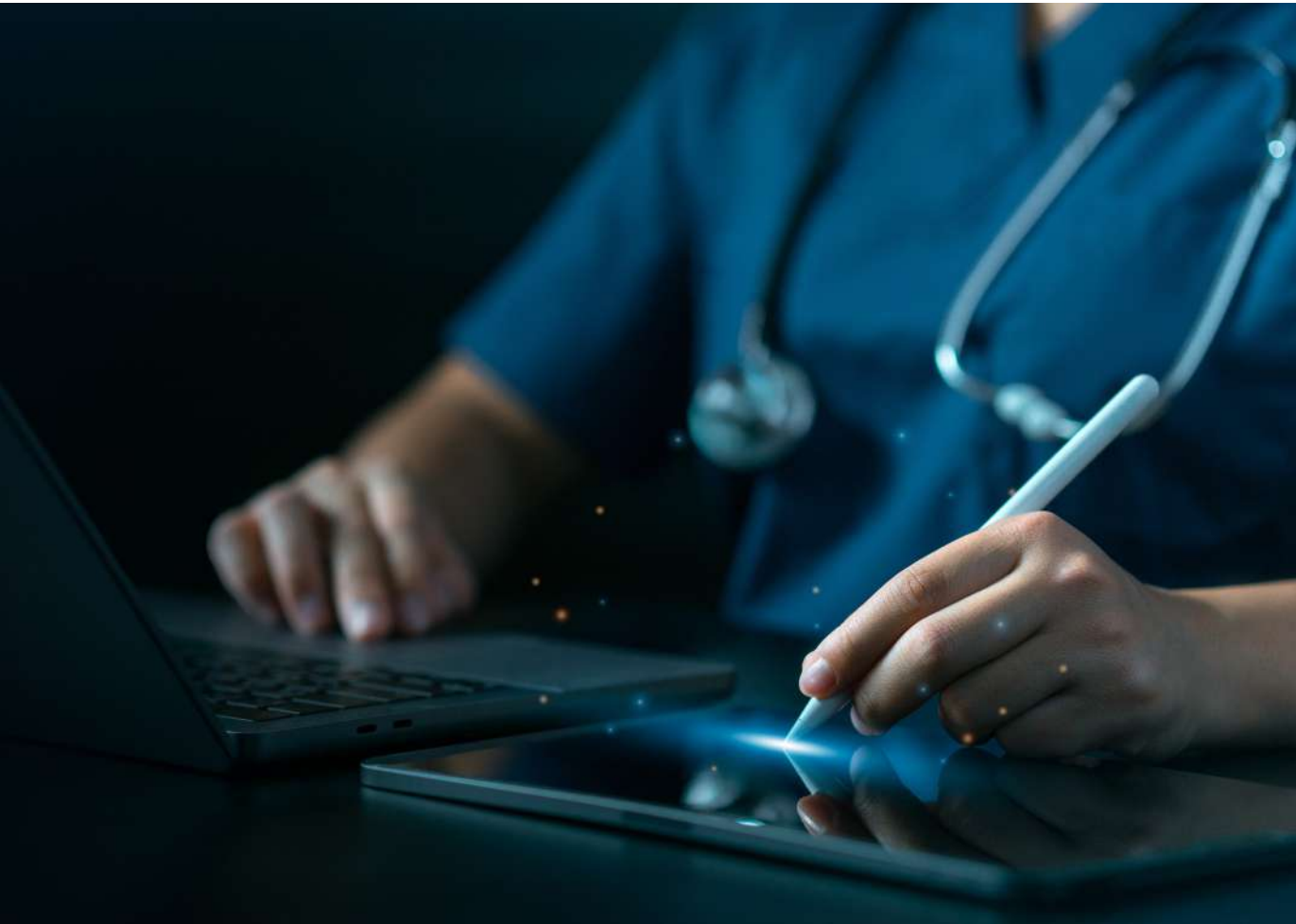
Over three decades, Right Health, backed by RHI Investments LLC, has grown with

patience and clarity of intent. The healthcare is not just a network of clinics; it reflects a thoughtful effort to make quality primary healthcare accessible to those who often stand at the margins. Its facilities are located near industrial areas and crowded communities, so that medical care stays easily accessible to those who need it. Its dedicated team of doctors, nurses and support staff handle each patient interaction with a sense of responsibility.

Right Health has already made a lasting difference in the UAE's healthcare sector. Today, its network includes over 60 healthcare facilities across the UAE, which include general medical clinics, specialty consultation units, pharmacies, and diagnostic centres equipped with laboratories and radiology facilities. Four clinics operate 24/7 so that patients can receive medical attention even outside conventional working hours.

Additionally, its general and specialty clinics address both routine ailments and specific health conditions. Pharmacies, whether attached to clinics or operating independently, ensure the timely availability of medicines. Diagnostic centres support accurate and timely medical decisions, while a centralised warehouse maintains a steady supply of essential drugs.





VALUE-BASED CARE

Right Health's goal is to provide effective and accessible medical treatment while keeping costs affordable for the working population. By doing so, it ensures that healthcare is accessible to those who need it the most. The organisation focuses on preventive care, early diagnosis, and efficient treatment. It also offers regular health screenings, accessible consultations, and diagnostic services to help identify concerns at an early stage. Alongside this, efficient use of resources and disciplined operations ensure that services remain economical

without compromising medical standards.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY

Through initiatives such as seasonal health campaigns, hydration drives during peak summer months, and ongoing healthcare awareness programmes, Right Health addresses everyday health challenges faced by the workforce. These efforts show that the organisation is willing to walk the extra mile for the well-being of the people it serves.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

At the Annual Health Awards

– Season 5, Right Health was conferred the Healthcare Leadership Award along with the Patient Awareness Drive/ Campaign of the Year Award. These prestigious recognitions highlight the organisation's impactful initiatives such as the "Save a Life" programme and summer health awareness campaigns, which have strengthened public understanding of preventive care. Additionally, the organisation received the Excellence in Healthcare Award at the UAE India Economic Forum for its contribution to accessible medical services.

SAINI EXPRESS INC. DBA MADISON INTERMODAL

REDEFINING INTERMODAL LOGISTICS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Saini Express Inc. dba Madison Intermodal has emerged as a reliable name in the intermodal logistics space in Pennsylvania. With a strong operational foundation and customer-centric approach, the company delivers efficient, timely, and cost-effective transportation solutions across diverse industries



riven by a forward-thinking vision, Saini Express Inc. dba Madison Intermodal

reflects the vision of a leader who understands that logistics is not merely about moving goods, but about ensuring continuity of business. Mr. Anil Saini, CEO, and Founder, has built the company on the belief that reliability and consistency drive long-term success. Based in Mantua, Ohio, the firm operates as an active carrier, ensuring the seamless, precise, and careful transport of general freight and intermodal cargo.

A PEOPLE-FIRST ORGANISATION

Saini Express Inc. dba Madison Intermodal stands out because of its strong emphasis on people. The organisation believes that a company is only as strong as its workforce. With a carefully selected team of experienced professionals, backed by decades of collective expertise,

the company ensures safe and efficient transportation of drayage and container vans of varying sizes and complexities. This people-first philosophy reflects in every aspect of its operations, from planning to execution.

The company's values of Integrity, Service Excellence, and Responsibility are not just guiding principles but are deeply





embedded in its day-to-day functioning. Each assignment, whether large or small, is handled with equal dedication and a commitment to building lasting relationships with clients. The organisation believes that trust is fundamental in logistics, and continually works towards exceeding expectations through structured execution and open communication.

Saini Express Inc. dba Madison Intermodal offers a comprehensive range of services to support modern supply chain requirements. Its ramp drayage services cover all major rail ramps in Pennsylvania, ensuring smooth

pickup and delivery operations. With a focus on timely scheduling and operational efficiency, the company plays a crucial role in maintaining the continuity of supply chains for its clients. Likewise, its dry container drayage services are tailored to balance cost-effectiveness with speed, ensuring that deliveries are completed within stipulated timelines. The company is equipped to handle both empty and loaded containers across rail, port, and door locations within Pennsylvania, providing flexibility to businesses with diverse logistical needs. The reefer drayage services further

highlight the company's commitment to innovation and care. By integrating advanced refrigeration technologies and EDI technologies, the firm transports temperature-sensitive goods safely besides providing clients with real-time updates.

DRIVEN BY EXCELLENCE

Driven by operational excellence and a commitment to customer satisfaction, Saini Express Inc. dba Madison Intermodal has strengthened its position as a trusted logistics partner while enabling businesses to thrive through reliable and uninterrupted supply chain solutions.

SARASWATHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

A COMMITMENT TO HEALING AND EDUCATION

Saraswathi Institute of Medical Sciences (SIMS), Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, is an institution founded on the principle that "Service to Mankind is Service to God." Established in 2008 under the Saraswathi Ammal Educational and Charitable Trust, SIMS provides high-quality medical education & accessible healthcare



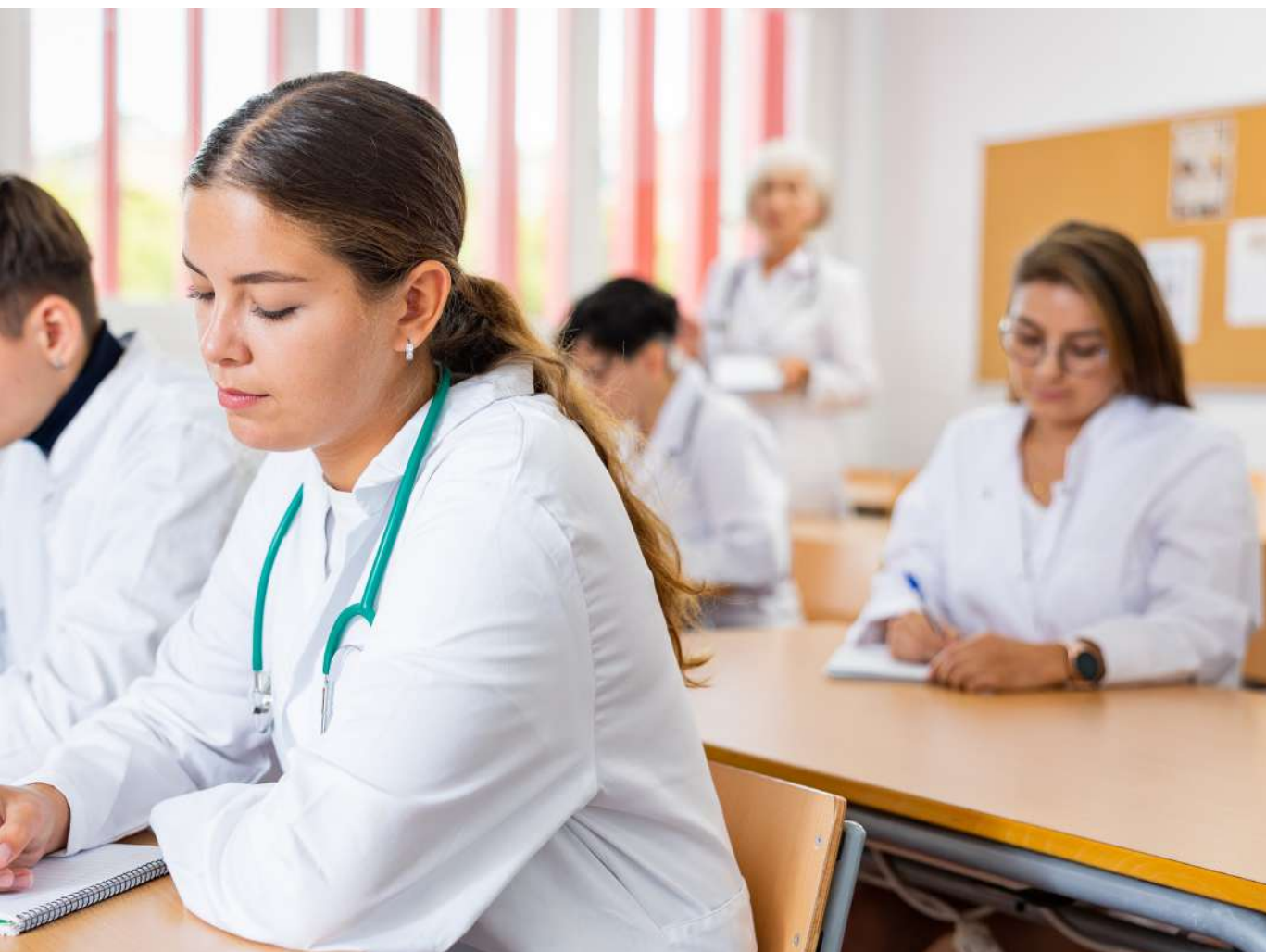
ver the years, SIMS has evolved into a distinguished centre for academic excellence,

clinical training, and social responsibility, meeting the needs of students and patients alike. The institution occupies a spacious 26-acre campus along National Highway-09 at Anwarpur Village, Pilkhuwa, approximately 60 kms from New Delhi. With 250 postgraduate seats, 19 departments, and over 1,250 teaching beds, SIMS has emerged as the region's leading medical education and clinical service provider.

The institution's attached teaching hospital handles over 1,800 daily outpatients, giving students early, hands-on exposure to diverse clinical cases from the first year of their medical training. The MBBS programme at SIMS, approved by the National Medical Commission and affiliated to ABVMU Lucknow, spans 4.5 years plus internship, with merit-based NEET admissions and strong academic results.

SIMS began postgraduate medical education in 2013-14, offering 104 seats across 19 NMC-approved departments. Its three-year MD/MS programmes prepare students to become competent, confident specialists in various medical fields. PG residents benefit from intensive clinical exposure and research opportunities, contributing to academic excellence and the broader medical community.





SIMS also has a modern and well-equipped hospital infrastructure. Saraswathi Hospital, the teaching facility, features advanced operation theatres, labs, ICUs, and specialty wards supporting UG and PG training. It offers diverse clinical exposure, while experienced faculty from across India provide strong mentorship, many serving over 15 years. SIMS also focuses on allied health education through its well-equipped Nursing College, offering ANM, GNM, and B.Sc. Nursing programmes. These complement medical training and support healthcare

delivery, especially in rural areas. The institution plans to add super-specialty units in Neurology, Neurosurgery, Urology, Nephrology, and Endocrinology, while introducing new paramedical courses and strengthening its central research lab to enhance education, research, and patient care in the coming years.

GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY
Community service is a key pillar of SIMS. Through the Ashathi Annadana Thittam, a daily food programme since April 2024, over 3,50,000 meals have been

served across three locations. Health camps and drives extend outreach, with students actively participating and building social responsibility alongside medical skills.

GARNERING GLORY

SIMS holds ISO certification, NABH & NABL accreditation, and is approved by the National Medical Commission. The institution has been awarded the 'Best Medical College in Delhi-NCR' by Brands Academy in 2012 and has received accolades for faculty excellence and community initiatives.

SUT HOSPITAL

DELIVERING CARE WITH COMMITMENT

SUT Hospital, formally known as Sree Uthradam Thirunal Hospital, is a trusted name in healthcare, known for serving the people of Kerala with dedication and compassion for over 35 years. It offers advanced medical care backed by strong clinical expertise and a patient-centric approach



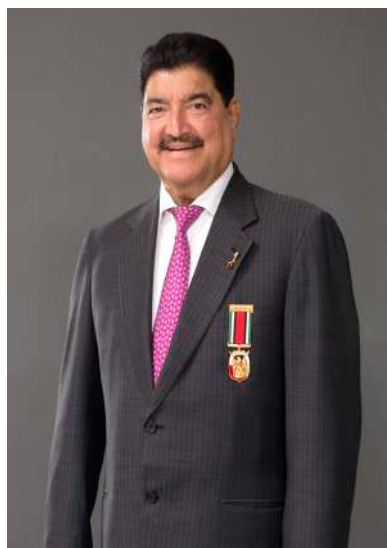
established in 1987 by Dr. C Bharath Chandran, SUT Hospital was established to

bring modern treatment facilities to Thiruvananthapuram. In its early years, the hospital achieved landmark milestones, including performing Kerala's first beating heart surgery and a complex mitral valvuloplasty within a short period. These early successes reflect the institution's commitment to adopting advanced procedures and delivering reliable outcomes. Under the guidance of Chairman Emeritus B.R. Shetty, the hospital strengthened its systems, expanded its range of services and built a solid reputation for clinical excellence and holistic care. Over the years, the hospital has remained committed to providing comprehensive care while keeping the needs, comfort and well-being of patients at the heart of everything it does.

PULSE BEFORE PURSE

SUT Hospital focusses on affordability without compromising

on quality. MD & CEO Col. Rajeev Mannali reiterates the hospital's belief in "Pulse before Purse", ensuring that patient care takes priority over financial considerations. Even with rising operational costs and frequent technological upgrades, the hospital has maintained stable treatment expenses in recent years. This approach has improved access to quality healthcare to a wide section of society while reinforcing trust



among patients and their families.

The institution also upholds ethical practices and believes in maintaining transparency across its operations. The SUT journey of excellence was further recognised when Dr. P. Lekshmi Ammal, Sr. Consultant, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, received the AHPI Award for Excellence in Medical Education.

CLINICAL SERVICES

Today, SUT Hospital offers more than 30 specialties, including cardiology, neurology, gastro surgery, nephrology, urology, plastic surgery and obstetrics.



It began as a modest healthcare initiative and has grown into a 200-bedded hospital with modern operation theatres and well-equipped intensive care units. The hospital also provides 24/7 emergency and trauma care, thereby ensuring patients receive timely attention during critical situations. Its neuroscience department is particularly recognised for stroke care, with Dr. Thomas Iype and Dr. Sushanth receiving national-level awards for excellence in the field.

The wards at SUT Hospital reflect its philosophy of care, comfort, hygiene and attentive

nursing support. Patients receive care in a calm, well-organised environment, where staff ensure dignity and compassionate care.

RACKING UP ACCOLADES

Over the years, SUT hospital has received several prestigious honours for its contribution to healthcare in Kerala and beyond. It has been recognised as a leading multi-specialty hospital in Kerala and as a notable healthcare brand at the national level. The hospital is also an approved training centre of the American Heart Association and offers courses that equip people with essential life-saving skills.

Additionally, its NABH accreditation and recognition under various national health programmes reflect the hospital's focus on quality and patient safety. SUT Hospital also has an ethics committee approved by national research bodies, supporting the hospital's commitment to conducting clinical research responsibly and ethically.

For SUT Hospital, the journey has always been about making good healthcare available to those who need it. That sense of purpose remains strong as the hospital looks towards the next phase of its journey.

VIJAY JESWANI BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS

HOMES BUILT WITH HEART

For most Indian families, a home is not just an investment; it represents emotion, security and years of sacrifice. It also carries memories of hard work, disciplined savings and dreams for the future. At Vijay Jeswani Builders & Developers, this sentiment is highly valued and forms the soul of every project it undertakes



Based in Navi Mumbai, Vijay Jeswani Builders & Developers has grown steadily over the last 15 years while building a credible presence across Maharashtra. With over 3 lakhs sq. ft. developed and hundreds of families served, its journey has never been about numbers alone but about responsibility and ensuring every homeowner feels truly secure and cared for.

COMFORT FOR ALL

Vijay Jeswani homes are special for their family-first approach. They design homes with smart layouts, good ventilation, and practical amenities. They offer safe play areas for children, comfort and accessibility for elders, and convenience for working professionals. Also, thoughtful additions like green pockets, community areas, and well-planned common spaces enhance both living experience and long-term value.

The powerful core values that

guide this brand are integrity, transparency and disciplined execution. Under the vision of its Founder and CEO, Mr. Vijay Jeswani, the organisation has soared to new heights of success. For Mr. Jeswani, a house becomes a home only through care and intention, where true value lies in delivering more than just promises. By consistently offering more than the committed





amenities, be it a serene temple space, extra landscaping, or a community gym, he and his team create “small joys” for families, while transforming cold brick and mortar into a warm, soulful home.

STRUCTURED DELIVERY

Vijay Jeswani Builders & Developers operates with structured project management systems, stage-wise quality checks and disciplined timelines. Transparent documentation, clear cost structures and regular project updates ensure that buyers feel informed and secure throughout their journey. Yet the relationship

does not end at possession. For the brand, handing over the keys is only the beginning of a long association. It emphasises post-handover support, clear documentation, realistic timelines, prompt communication, and active community engagement. This approach fosters strong customer trust while turning buyers into long-term advocates who refer the brand to friends and family. The real estate player also emphasises future-ready planning and sustainability. Its projects feature practical amenities alongside eco-friendly elements like rainwater harvesting, energy-efficient

systems, and green zones wherever possible. Smart construction techniques and advanced technology further enhance the long-term sustainability of every development.

GARNERING ACCOLADES

The organisation’s commitment to quality and trust recently earned it national recognition with the Times Iconic Visionary Leader for Real Estate honour by The Times of India. For the team, however, the greatest reward is the satisfaction of families who feel their investment has been worthwhile.

LEARNING TO BE HUMAN

**FROM HERCULES TO THE
NEW HEROES OF NON-
VIOLENCE**

BY PAOLA MARTANI



1. Slaying the Nemean lion
2. Slaying the nine-headed Lernaen Hydra
3. Capturing the Ceryneian Hind
4. Capturing the Erymanthian Boar
5. Cleaning the Augean stables in a single day
6. Slaying the Stymphalian birds
7. Capturing the Cretan Bull
8. Stealing the Mares of Diomedes
9. Obtaining the girdle of Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazon
10. Obtaining the cattle of the three-bodied giant, Geryon
11. Stealing three of the golden apples of the Hesperides
12. Capturing and bringing back Cerberus

“WHEN IT COMES TO DIVIDING THE WORLD INTO US AND THEM, HUMANS ARE MORE BIZARRE THAN MONKEYS WHO ASSOCIATE PRIMATES OTHER THAN THEMSELVES WITH SPIDERS”
-MARIA MONTESSORI



he famous 12 labours of Hercules, the greatest of the Greek heroes, were said to have been undertaken as a means of purification from his crimes. Upon completing these labours, Hercules was believed to have not only been purified but also attained immortality. While the allegorical meaning behind the labours, namely man's need for growth and his ability to overcome the boundaries between human and divine, can be partially gleaned, their deeper significance is not easily attained. The same notion of heroism coloured the childhood of my generation and remains a common idea today. We see it time and again in comics, action films, and with the heroes

we see in video games and on television. These are fearless men who never ask permission. They embody strength, especially physical strength, and have a valid excuse for their aggression and violence.

The conventional idea of heroism can encourage an “us versus them” mindset, creating fear and distrust of those perceived as different. Over time, this can reinforce stereotypes, discrimination, inequality, and social hierarchies that become deeply ingrained and difficult to recognise.

Invisible divisions can create barriers between people, suppress the voices of the vulnerable and reinforce rigid social roles that may normalise violence. Yet ideas of right and wrong can change over time, while some values remain rooted in human nature, particularly our instinct to help those who suffer and our desire to overcome fear

through knowledge and understanding. This raises an important question—“What would the world be like if children were raised on stories that celebrated understanding and non-violence rather than stories in which violence is the accepted solution to conflict?”

Imagine fairy tales in which the hero does not shoot the villain but instead says, “Don’t shoot, lower your gun.” Such stories could introduce children to a form of courage that respects another person’s life and confront injustice without hatred. The Dalai Lama’s teachings highlight a similar form of courage based not on violence but on understanding and transformation. True heroism can mean helping people overcome suffering through understanding and peaceful resistance, as shown by Tunisia’s Jasmine Revolution, where people peacefully protested against dictatorship and demanded political and social change. Their example demonstrates that courage does not always require weapons, physical force, or revenge. Another powerful example is Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who became known as Mahatma, or “Great Soul.” Born on October 2, 1869, Gandhi came from a Vaishya family and later studied law in London. He became one of the principal leaders of India’s independence movement against

British rule. Gandhi rejected the idea that political freedom had to be achieved through bloody conflict. Instead, he developed and promoted satyagraha, a philosophy and practice of non-violent resistance and civil disobedience.

Gandhi believed that violence could not ultimately eliminate violence: “Humankind can free itself from violence only by resorting to non-violence. Hate can only be defeated with love. Responding to hatred with hatred only increases the magnitude and depth of the hatred itself.” Millions of Indians participated in campaigns of non-cooperation and civil disobedience, helping to challenge British authority. India eventually achieved independence in 1947. A similar story unfolded in South Africa. Under apartheid, South Africa’s Black majority faced severe racial discrimination and political exclusion. Nelson Mandela became a leading symbol of resistance and later advocated reconciliation and democratic transformation. South Africa’s transition showed that deep divisions could be overcome through dialogue, inclusion, and reconciliation, inspiring Desmond Tutu’s vision of a “rainbow nation.”

True heroism is not always about defeating others but about transforming society. Gandhi’s idea that change begins with improving ourselves highlights the

connection between personal and social transformation. By recognising our own role in violence and injustice, we can contribute to meaningful change.

Changing the stories children hear can shape healthier cultural values. Teaching them to respect differences, recognise the humanity of others, and reject superiority can help them grow into adults better equipped to overcome personal and collective suffering. Education must promote universal values of equality, equity, respect, and inclusion. As discrimination and intolerance take new forms, these principles must remain fundamental for both education and society.

The alternative fairy tales of the future would not need to rationalise violence. Instead, they would demonstrate that courage can mean listening, understanding, resisting injustice peacefully, forgiving, cooperating, and protecting the dignity of others.

In these new stories, Neverland would no longer represent an impossible utopia, because the creation of a more humane world would become a shared responsibility. Hercules would no longer need 12 violent labours to achieve immortality. He would have different models of greatness to follow: people who transformed history by choosing compassion, equality, courage, and non-violence.



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Managing Director, HOSMAT Hospital

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