

AUGUST EDITION • 2026



GLOBAL COVER STORY

ENTREPRENEUR
EDITION

DR DEEPAK SHARMA

THE SELF-TAUGHT
ENTREPRENEUR

BUILDING IDEAS FOR INDIA,
SOLUTIONS FOR THE WORLD

FOUNDER OF
MAKE WAY INDIA
GROUP

AUTHOR OF
'MIND IS KING'

THE NEXT
CHAPTER:
ORIGINAL IP,
WATERLOGY &
GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

TOP BUSINESS LEADERS 2026

VISION • INNOVATION • IMPACT

FROM THE EDITOR

Stories That Inspire.
Leaders Who Create Impact.

Welcome to the **August 2026** edition of *Global Cover Story*.

This edition brings together entrepreneurs, business leaders, professionals and changemakers whose journeys reflect vision, resilience, innovation and meaningful impact.

At *Global Cover Story*, we believe every remarkable journey begins with an idea, a challenge or a decision to take a different path. Through our stories, we aim to document the people behind growing businesses, emerging ideas and inspiring professional journeys.

This edition celebrates individuals who continue to build, innovate and contribute across industries while creating their own definition of success.

We hope these stories offer perspective, inspiration and a closer look at the people shaping businesses and communities around them.

Thank you for being part of the *Global Cover Story* journey.

Editorial Desk

Global Cover Story Editorial Desk

Celebrating Stories. Inspiring Journeys.

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Independent Business & Technology Journal
Mumbai • Bengaluru • Global Desk



“
*Behind every
successful journey
is a story worth
telling.*”



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“Vision • Innovation • Impact”

GLOBAL COVER STORY

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“**T**he Self-Taught
Visionary Turning
Ideas into a
Multisector Empire.”

From earning a salary of ₹500 per month in the auto market of Hisar to building **Makeway India** into a multisector enterprise, Deepak Sharma's journey is a story of curiosity, resilience, relentless learning, and the courage to challenge conventional thinking.

FOCUS

**RESILIENCE
INNOVATION
GROWTH**



**DR. DEEPAK
SHARMA**





DR. DEEPAK SHARMA

“From early struggle to building a business shaped by learning, reinvention and bold thinking”

From a ₹500 Monthly Salary to a Multisector Enterprise

Deepak Sharma began his professional journey with a modest salary of just ₹500 per month. Those early years became the foundation of a career shaped by continuous learning, adaptability, and entrepreneurship

The 2013 recession and changing real-estate environment became an important turning point. Rather than viewing difficult market conditions purely as obstacles, Sharma looked for new opportunities and began exploring different sectors.

This ability to adapt gradually transformed Makeway India from a single-sector enterprise into a broader business ecosystem.

The company expanded its interests into manufacturing, real estate, hospitality, innovative products, and lifestyle-oriented projects, reflecting Sharma’s belief that entrepreneurship should not be restricted by conventional boundaries.

One Vision, Many Industries

The idea behind the multisector expansion was not simply to build a larger business.

For Sharma, it was about creating an ecosystem where ideas could move from concept to execution. His approach combines curiosity with practical problem-solving.

Instead of asking only, “What can we sell?”, his philosophy focuses on a larger question:

“What problem can we solve, and how can we create something meaningful from the solution?”

That thinking has led the company toward projects that combine manufacturing, technology, traditional knowledge, real estate, hospitality, and innovative living concepts.

Some entrepreneurial journeys begin with inherited wealth, elite education, or a well-established business network. Deepak Sharma’s story began differently.

His journey started with work at the age of 12, experiences that taught him the value of discipline, persistence, and self-reliance. Years later, earning a salary of ₹500 per month in Hisar’s auto market became one of the defining experiences that strengthened his determination to build something of his own.

That determination eventually gave birth to Makeway India.

Today, Sharma describes his journey as one that went “from a bicycle to a Jaguar.” But for him, the real transformation is not measured by material success. It is measured by knowledge, experimentation, failures, and the ability to keep learning.

A Self-Taught Entrepreneur

Deepak Sharma’s entrepreneurial philosophy is rooted in a simple belief: learning should never stop.

Without relying solely on formal education, he learned through observation, experimentation, business challenges, and the realities of everyday life. His early experiences shaped his belief that education is not limited to classrooms, it can be found in every success, failure, conversation, and challenge.

For Sharma, entrepreneurship is essentially a continuous learning process.

This philosophy became particularly important as Makeway India evolved over the years.

Where Innovation Meets Precision

One of the distinctive aspects of Sharma's approach is his focus on the complete journey of an idea. From ideation and research to design, development, manufacturing, and precision production, he believes an invention should be developed with attention to both purpose and execution.

Among the innovations associated with this philosophy is the ₹15,000 INJK water device, which reflects his interest in developing accessible solutions around water and everyday life.



MAKEWAY INDIA

For Sharma, invention is not simply about creating something technologically impressive. It is about making innovation useful, practical, and relevant to ordinary people.

Reimagining Water Through Technology

Another area that represents Sharma's unconventional thinking is Waterlogy—a concept that brings together water, technology, traditional ideas, and goal-oriented applications.

His work around an AI-powered earthen pot attempts to explore how traditional earthenware concepts can be combined with modern technology and applications.

The concept of “water memory” is particularly provocative, and Sharma sees it as an area where traditional perspectives and modern technological exploration can meet.

For a businessman who describes himself as self-taught, such projects demonstrate his willingness to enter unfamiliar territories, ask questions, and experiment with possibilities.

When Challenges Become Opportunities

Every ambitious entrepreneurial journey has difficult chapters.

For Sharma, challenging projects have often provided the greatest opportunities for learning. Instead of seeing an obstacle as a reason to stop, he approaches it as a problem that needs another perspective.

This is where his description of himself as having a “multitalented mind” becomes significant.

His ability to move between industries allows him to look at a problem from different angles. A challenge in one sector can sometimes inspire an idea in another.

This approach is also reflected in projects such as Khatu Shyamji real estate, where Sharma says the focus goes beyond immediate profitability toward creating long-term value.

Leadership Learned From Life

Sharma's leadership philosophy did not emerge from a conventional corporate handbook.

He often describes life through the metaphor of an ECG—filled with highs and lows.

Those highs and lows became his teachers.

Success taught him confidence. Failure taught him correction. Difficult people taught him patience.

Difficult markets taught him adaptability.

This philosophy has influenced how he works with teams. Rather than presenting entrepreneurship as an overnight success story, Sharma wants young people to understand that setbacks are an essential part of building something meaningful.

From a Haryana MSME to a Global Vision

Building an enterprise from Haryana comes with its own set of challenges.

For Sharma, scaling required more than capital. It required a change in mindset—from thinking locally to thinking globally, from simply manufacturing products to creating intellectual property, and from following existing markets to creating new possibilities.

He believes India has an enormous opportunity to develop original IP, inventions, and home-grown technologies that can compete internationally. The opportunity, in his view, is not merely to manufacture for the world but to invent for the world.

The Power of the Mind

Sharma's philosophy extends beyond business. His book, *Mind is King*, reflects his belief that the human mind can become one of the most powerful forces behind transformation.

Personal experiences, including his daughter's recovery, further strengthened his conviction in the relationship between mindset, resilience, and determination.

For Sharma, the mind is not simply a place where thoughts happen. It is where possibilities begin. That belief also explains why his entrepreneurial journey combines business with ideas around wellness, lifestyle, technology, and human potential.

Looking Toward 2027

The next chapter of Makeway India is expected to be even more ambitious, with Sharma preparing the organisation for a potential 2027 IPO.

But the bigger objective extends beyond a stock-market milestone.

His vision is to build businesses around innovations that can contribute to India's progress while creating products and intellectual property capable of reaching global markets.



The Bigger Opportunity for India

Deepak Sharma's story ultimately represents a larger entrepreneurial idea.

India has moved beyond being viewed only as a manufacturing destination. The next opportunity is to become a global source of original ideas, inventions, technologies, and intellectual property. Sharma wants Makeway India to be part of that transition.

His journey—from working at 12, earning a salary of ₹500 per month, experiencing business downturns, entering new industries, and developing unconventional innovations—illustrates one central principle:

Success is not always the result of having the perfect beginning. Sometimes it is the result of refusing to stop learning.

And perhaps that is the most defining chapter of Deepak Sharma's story—not the bicycle, the Jaguar, the businesses, or the awards, but the mindset that kept moving forward.

Because for a self-taught entrepreneur, the greatest invention may not be a product at all. It may be the ability to continuously reinvent yourself.

His best selling book *Mind is King* is liked by millions across the world

01

Author of "mind is king"

02

Developing original intellectual property from India

“Shaping minds
through knowledge
and values”

Dr. Preeti Padmanabhan is an accomplished academician, researcher and administrator whose career in higher education spans more than two decades. Her work reflects a strong commitment to medical education, value-based learning and bioethics in healthcare.

Currently serving as Professor and Head of the Department of Biochemistry at SSPM Medical College and Lifetime Hospital, Sindhudurg, she continues to contribute to institutional growth while pursuing work with wider national and global relevance.

FOCUS

EDUCATION

RESEARCH

MENTORSHIP

**DR. PREETI
PADMANABHAN**



DR. PREETI PADMANABHAN

“Advancing medical education through knowledge, discipline and purposeful leadership”

A defining chapter in Dr. Padmanabhan's development was her association with Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Deemed University, Loni, Ahmednagar. It was here that her interest in teaching, research and administration was strengthened and refined. Over the years, she has trained doctors, dentists, nurses, physiotherapists, biotechnologists and paramedics. Her connection with students has also extended well beyond formal instruction, with mentoring becoming an important part of her academic life.

Her academic foundation is equally extensive. She holds a doctorate in Medical Biochemistry from Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences and completed postgraduate training in Medical Biochemistry at B.J. Medical College and Sassoon Hospitals, Pune. She has also pursued advanced learning in clinical nutrition, bioethics, health law, medical education, public speaking, laboratory management, accreditation, administration and human resource management. Her qualifications include an international postgraduate diploma in Bioethics and Health Law and certification relating to quality management systems in healthcare organisations.

For Dr. Preeti Padmanabhan, education has never been limited to the classroom. Across a career spanning more than two decades, she has contributed to higher education with particular emphasis on medicine, while also working across dentistry, physiotherapy, nursing, biotechnology and paramedical education. Her professional journey has brought her into close collaboration with academicians, researchers and administrators, giving her a broad understanding of how institutions and individuals grow together.



01

20+ years of contribution to higher education

02

National Teachers Award & Iconic Personality Recognition 2026

“Together, we can succeed and make the world a better place to live.”

Premasis Bhattacharjee is an entrepreneur, business leader and social activist whose journey from humble beginnings to building a diversified business group reflects perseverance, vision, determination and a deep sense of social responsibility

Born in Kolkata and rooted in Krishnanagar, Nadia, West Bengal, he has dedicated decades to building businesses while creating opportunities for individuals, professionals and families. As Founder and Chairman of SAP Group, his work reflects both enterprise and social responsibility.

FOCUS

**ENTERPRISE
LEADERSHIP
SERVICE**

**PREMASIS
BHATTACHARJEE**





MR. PREMASIS BHATTACHARJEE

*Building Businesses. Empowering People.
Serving Society.*

His vision extends beyond building successful organisations. He seeks to create sustainable opportunities, develop people, encourage professional growth and contribute to stronger communities. For him, leadership should create a positive ripple effect through the lives it influences.

Today, SAP Group brings together a diverse portfolio including SAP International College, Workforce Advisory Pvt. Ltd., SAP Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd., Workforce Business Management Pvt. Ltd., SAP Interiors & Design Pvt. Ltd. and Sweet Happy Journey Tour & Travels Pvt Ltd.

The portfolio also includes Sri Sai SAP Event Management Pvt. Ltd., Avirajvi Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., SAP Financial & Advisory Solutions Pvt. Ltd., SAP Infrastructure and SAP Webmark. For Mr. Bhattacharjee, business has always represented more than financial growth.

He believes a successful enterprise should create employment, empower people, support families and contribute meaningfully to society. His leadership philosophy emphasises preparedness, adaptability, responsible leadership and long-term thinking.

Beyond entrepreneurship, Mr. Bhattacharjee has remained closely connected with community welfare and social development. In 2010, he founded the Krishnanagar Natun Kalipur Cultural & Welfare Society (KNKCWS) and continues to serve as its President.

Through **KNKCWS**, he has supported community development, cultural activities, welfare and social responsibility. His commitment became particularly visible during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he extended support to individuals and communities facing challenging circumstances.

He also served as President of the **Rotary Club** of Sonarpur during 2021–2022. His recognitions include **Rashtriya Atal Puraskar 2023**, **International Atal Award 2023**, **Bengal Business Samman 2024**, **International Business Icon Award 2024**, **Rashtriya Padma Bhushan Sammaan 2024** and **International Peace Ambassador Award 2024**.

“**M**aking education
more inclusive
through technology”

Prof. Dr. Marin Jose has spent more than two decades working at the intersection of teacher education, technology and inclusive learning. Her academic work has consistently focused on making classrooms more accessible, engaging and responsive to different kinds of learners.

FOCUS

**INCLUSIVE LEARNING
EDUCATIONAL
TECHNOLOGY
TEACHER EDUCATION**

**DR MARIN
JOSE**





PROF. DR. MARIN JOSE

“Connecting teacher education, technology and inclusive learning with practical purpose”

One of the strongest examples of her commitment to inclusive learning came through a state-level research project funded by the Centre for Disability Studies, Government of Kerala. The study examined the effectiveness of e-learning for students with reading and writing disorders in English.

Rather than treating technology as a general classroom tool, the project explored how carefully structured digital learning could respond to the needs of children who often struggle within conventional teaching systems.

Dr. Jose's work also stands out because of the technical skills she has developed alongside her academic expertise. Her knowledge includes PHP, JavaScript, Python and SQL, together with platforms such as Moodle and Joomla and analytical tools including SPSS and R. She has used this combination of education and technology to develop virtual learning environments and online learning programmes, including work connected with international teaching practices associated with the University of Hull, UK.

For Prof. Dr. Marin Jose, technology in education has never been valuable simply because it is new. Its real value lies in what it allows teachers and learners to do differently. Across a career spanning more than two decades, this idea has shaped her work in educational technology, special education and English education.

Dr. Jose currently serves as Associate Professor at St. Joseph College of Teacher Education for Women in Ernakulam, affiliated with Mahatma Gandhi University. Her role places her directly within teacher education, where the influence of one educator often extends into hundreds of future classrooms.

Her academic foundation began with a Master's degree in English from Mahatma Gandhi University, followed by an M.Ed. completed with distinction. In 2000, she was selected as a UGC Junior Research Fellow at the Regional Institute of Education, Mysore. That period of doctoral research strengthened the areas that would later define much of her professional work: e-learning, special education and English language teaching.

Her contribution extends equally to writing, research and professional development. She is the author of English Education: Theory and Practice, a textbook developed for B.Ed. English language teacher education, and has published research in national and international academic journals.

01

20+ years across education, research and teacher development

02

Research focused on e-learning and inclusive education

“Strengthening finance through integrity and oversight”

Dr. Sreeraj G. Pai has built a career around financial integrity, regulatory compliance and operational discipline. With more than six years of experience across branch inspections, risk management and financial operations, his work reflects a consistent focus on transparency, accuracy and dependable systems.

Currently working as a Senior Inspection Officer with the Indian Cooperative Credit Society Limited (ICCSL), Dr. Pai is involved in branch inspections, identifying operational gaps, assessing financial risks and ensuring that internal processes remain aligned with regulatory requirements.

FOCUS

COMPLIANCE
RISK MANAGEMENT
OPERATIONS

**DR. SREERAJ
G. PAI**





DR. SREERAJ G. PAI

“Building stronger financial systems through compliance, analysis and operational discipline”

With more than six years of professional experience, his work has covered financial compliance, branch operations, audits, internal controls and risk assessment. Currently serving as a Senior Inspection Officer with the Indian Cooperative Credit Society Limited (ICCSL), Dr. Pai is involved in examining branch-level operations, reviewing financial processes and identifying areas where stronger controls or corrective action may be required.

The role demands attention to detail as much as judgement. A branch may appear operationally sound on the surface, but accurate inspection requires looking deeper into processes, records, controls and regulatory adherence. That combination of analysis and practical understanding has become an important part of his professional approach.

What stands out in Dr. Sreeraj G. Pai’s work is his emphasis on consistency. Compliance is most effective when it becomes part of everyday operations rather than something addressed only during an inspection.

Before moving deeper into inspection and compliance work, Dr. Pai gained experience across branch operations, customer relationship management, business development, accounting and insurance underwriting.

That exposure gave him a broader understanding of financial organisations from different angles and strengthened his ability to connect customer-facing activity with internal controls, financial accuracy and regulatory responsibility.

Alongside his professional responsibilities, Dr. Pai remains engaged with developments in capital markets and financial research. His participation in forums such as AIMA-KMA and seminars focused on market trends helps him stay connected with changing financial practices and wider industry discussion.

His technical strengths include financial analysis, risk assessment, internal audits, process improvement and experience with financial software such as TallyPro, QuickBooks and SAP.

01

6+ years across compliance and financial operations

02

Branch inspections, audits and risk assessment

“The Bounce Back That Built Nutrillion”

Dr. Rishabh Verma’s story is not a polished tale of uninterrupted growth. It is a story of starting again. His early professional life was rooted in business and finance, but a growing interest in fitness, nutrition and human health gradually pulled him towards a different path. What began as personal curiosity turned into years of study across clinical nutrition, sports nutrition, lifestyle management, nutrigenomics, gut health and precision nutrition. The deeper he went, the clearer one belief became: health cannot be treated with a one-size-fits-all formula.

FOCUS

PERSONALISED NUTRITION
PREVENTIVE HEALTH
NUTRIGENOMICS

DR. RISHABH VERMA





DR. RISHABH VERMA

“What looked like a breakdown became a reset and the foundation for Nutrillion’s next chapter”

Nutrillion began in 2021 as the brand under which Dr. Verma worked in private practice as a nutrition professional. It was not yet a company. The next few years were spent testing ideas, working with clients and refining the model. In March 2024, he incorporated Nutrivision Wellness and Genetics Private Limited, giving the brand a formal business structure. The company is Startup India registered, MSME registered, ISO certified, and incubated at Amity Innovation Incubator, part of Amity University Noida

Then came the harder chapter. Dr. Verma has spoken openly about financial setbacks, uncertainty and even a period when what he had built seemed to collapse. Instead of hiding that phase, he made it part of the story. His LinkedIn writing repeatedly returns to one idea: bounce back. He credits faith in Lord Krishna and the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, especially the discipline of focusing on action rather than being consumed by outcomes, with helping him rebuild when the financial and emotional pressure was at its highest.

That rebuilding has now taken visible form. Nutrillion has entered a new phase with the Nutrillion App and Nutrillion Academy. The brand works through two connected verticals. One focuses on personalised nutrition programmes built around genetics, lifestyle, gut health and individual health needs. The other, Nutrillion Academy, is focused on research-oriented and science-led certification programmes for the next generation of nutrition and healthcare professionals.

Nutrillion now communicates the same direction publicly: moving healthcare away from generic diet charts and reactive treatment towards personalised, preventive and evidence-led care. The company’s website highlights nutrigenomics, gut microbiome analysis and personalised health roadmaps, while its current communication places emphasis on preventive healthcare and deeper scientific education.

Dr. Verma’s work has already reached more than 4,000 individuals across ten countries, and his professional profile spans DNA-based nutrition strategy, sports nutrition and nutrigenomics. His entrepreneurial journey has also earned recognition, including Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year at Icons of Asia, Entrepreneur of the Year from Business Outreach Magazine and Best Entrepreneur in Healthcare at the Business Leadership Summit.

But the next chapter is less about awards and more about scale. Dr. Verma wants Nutrillion to contribute to a disease-free society by helping people understand their health before disease becomes the starting point of the conversation. Through the app, the academy, the ambition is to make personalised nutrition more practical, accessible and scientifically grounded. Nutrillion’s current public positioning also centres on preventing lifestyle-related disease through individualised, science-led care.

The financial setbacks did not disappear from his story; they changed its direction. What looked like a breakdown became a reset. What began as private practice became a company. What began as nutrition consulting is now being shaped into a wider health and education ecosystem. For Dr. Rishabh Verma, the bounce back is no longer only personal. It is becoming the foundation of what Nutrillion is being built to become.

01

Nutrillion began in private practice — 2021

02

4,000+ individuals across 10 countries

“Driving Innovation Through Automation & Digital Transformation”

Jai Rajveer Singh, Founder and one of the Directors of AIT World Automation Pvt. Ltd., is an entrepreneur, technology professional, and business leader focused on creating innovative solutions for the rapidly evolving technology landscape. With more than a decade of experience in sales, marketing, business development, strategic planning, and technology, his journey reflects a strong commitment to innovation, customer-centric thinking

FOCUS

AUTOMATION
INNOVATION
DIGITAL TRUST

JAI RAJVEER SINGH





MR. JAI RAJVEER SINGH

"Building smarter spaces, stronger partnerships and technology-driven solutions for a connected future"

At the heart of his entrepreneurial vision is AIT World Automation Pvt. Ltd., a technology company focused on smart home automation, smart building solutions. Under his leadership and strategic direction, the company is working to make intelligent technology more accessible. Its solutions are designed to enhance convenience, security, comfort, energy efficiency, helping customers move toward smarter and more connected spaces.

Jai Rajveer Singh believes technology should not simply introduce something new; it should solve real-world problems. This philosophy has shaped his approach to business.

One of his key technology initiatives is ReportNow, a web portal launched under the AIT World Automation ecosystem. ReportNow is positioned as a risk intelligence and verification platform designed to help individuals and organizations make more informed decisions in areas such as rental, employment, and business relationships. The platform focuses on structured information and incident reporting while emphasizing transparency, accountability, privacy. Through ReportNow, Jai Rajveer Singh is working toward creating an informed decision-making ecosystem.

AIT World Automation is also expanding its presence through its franchise network. A significant milestone has been the opening of an AIT World Automation Experience Center in Kota, Rajasthan, led by franchise owner Mr. Ayush Malav. The center provides customers with an opportunity to experience smart automation solutions.

The company's expansion plans include upcoming franchise locations in Nashik, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Kochi, Vadodara. This growing network reflects Jai Rajveer Singh's vision of taking advanced automation solutions closer to customers.

His growing public presence has strengthened his profile as a technology entrepreneur. In August 2026, Jai Rajveer Singh shared the screen with renowned Indian actor Sudesh Berry for an AIT World Automation podcast, discussing entrepreneurship, technology, and business.

Another significant milestone came at the International Glory Awards 2026, where Jai Rajveer Singh shared the stage with celebrated actor Ajay Devgn. During the event, AIT World Automation was honoured with the "Best Home Automation Company in India" award, which Jai Rajveer Singh received from Ajay Devgn. The recognition marked an important milestone in the company's journey.

His leadership is centred on building strong teams, developing strategic partnerships, supporting franchise entrepreneurs, and creating a culture where technology and business work together to deliver value.

As Founder and Director, Jai Rajveer Singh continues to focus on strategic growth, franchise development, partnerships, brand building, and technological innovation. His vision is to establish AIT World Automation as a trusted technology brand and ReportNow.

From smart homes and intelligent spaces to digital risk intelligence and nationwide franchise expansion, Jai Rajveer Singh represents a modern entrepreneurial approach—combining technology, innovation, and business vision to build solutions for a smarter and more connected future.

01

10+ years across business development and growth

02

Award received from Ajay Devgn

“Taking financial planning closer to every household”

Dr. Subhankar Dasgupta has spent more than a decade working across banking, insurance, equity markets, entrepreneurship and financial education. Over time, his experience across these areas has shaped a larger mission: helping Indian families approach money through structured financial planning rather than isolated financial decisions.

His career began in banking, followed by roles in insurance and the investment industry, where he developed a practical understanding of financial products, risk, capital markets and investor behaviour. These experiences gradually led him towards entrepreneurship and professional financial planning

FOCUS

FINANCIAL PLANNING
FINANCIAL LITERACY
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DR. SUBHANKAR
DASGUPTA





DR. SUBHANKAR DASGUPTA

"From financial services to a larger mission of financial planning and awareness"

Financial education has become an important part of Dr. Dasgupta's professional identity. Over the past decade, he has delivered 300+ financial-planning and investment-awareness sessions, reaching students, professionals, investors and the wider public through online and offline programmes, seminars and guest lectures.

His academic foundation includes an MBA in Finance, professional programmes in CFA, CFP and FRM, and a PhD focused on Financial Planning and Business Administration, combining practical industry experience with academic and research-based understanding.

Dr. Dasgupta is also the author of the forthcoming *The Smart Money Blueprint*, created around the financial realities of Indian readers. The book covers budgeting, cash-flow management, insurance, investments, mutual funds, retirement planning, risk management and financial goals, extending his mission of bringing practical financial planning closer to Indian households.

Dr. Subhankar Dasgupta's professional journey spans banking, insurance, equity markets, entrepreneurship and financial education. Over more than a decade, these experiences shaped his belief that investment, insurance, taxation, risk, retirement and long-term goals should be viewed together within one structured financial plan.

His entrepreneurial journey included joining Welcon Financials Private Limited as a Founder Member. He later served as General Manager – Finance before establishing PDG Media & Entertainment and FinGrow India Distribution LLP, while increasingly focusing on structured, fee-based financial planning and long-term client interests.

His contribution has earned recognitions including the Economic Times – Best Financial Planner Award, GAFM, USA – Best Financial Planner recognition, London Publications – International Finance Award, Times of India – Business/Financial Analyst recognition, Bharat Dignity Award and Bengal Excellence Award.

Dr. Subhankar Dasgupta's journey reflects that evolution, from working within financial services to helping people better understand them, and from managing financial matters professionally to promoting financial planning as a broader household practice.

01

Founder Member — Welcon Financials

02

Author of "the smart money blueprint"

“Turning digital innovation into business momentum”

Dr. M. Hussain Kalsekar has spent more than 21 years working across branding, marketing, digital innovation and business development. His career has been shaped by a practical understanding of how technology can strengthen brands, improve visibility and create measurable business growth.

As Founder & CEO of 366 DigitX, he leads a business offering branding, SEO, website development, social media management, performance advertising and strategic consulting for organisations looking to strengthen their digital presence.

FOCUS

DIGITAL INNOVATION
BRANDING
BUSINESS GROWTH

DR. M. HUSSAIN KALSEKAR





DR. M. HUSSAIN KALSEKAR

"Building brands by connecting digital strategy, market insight and business growth"

His professional journey has given him experience across both strategic and execution-focused roles. Over the years, he has worked closely with businesses navigating changes in marketing, customer behaviour and digital competition. This background allows him to look beyond campaigns alone.

His approach considers how a brand is perceived, how customers discover it, how technology supports the experience and how marketing ultimately contributes to growth.

Mentoring has also become an important part of Dr. Kalsekar's work. Alongside his entrepreneurial responsibilities, he remains associated with organisations including Khidmaah Foundation and Giants Welfare Foundation. Through these engagements, he has continued to share experience, encourage professional development and remain connected with initiatives that extend beyond his immediate business interests.

For Dr. M. Hussain Kalsekar, digital transformation is useful only when it creates a clear business outcome. Across more than two decades in branding, marketing, business development and digital innovation, he has seen technologies change, platforms rise and disappear, and consumer behaviour continually evolve.

That experience has shaped the way he approaches business today. Rather than treating digitalisation as a collection of trends, he focuses on how different tools can work together to build stronger brands, reach the right audiences and support sustainable growth.

As Founder & CEO of 366 DigitX, Dr. Kalsekar leads a company working across branding, search engine optimisation, website development, social media management, performance advertising and business consulting. The breadth of these services reflects his belief that digital growth rarely comes from a single activity. A business needs clarity in its positioning, consistency in communication and a strategy that connects visibility with actual commercial objectives.

Looking ahead, his focus remains on helping businesses adapt intelligently rather than simply react to change. For Dr. Kalsekar, digital leadership is ultimately about understanding what is changing, knowing what genuinely matters and converting that understanding into business momentum.



IRFAN AHMAD

“From self-learning and overseas struggle to building a career around AI and automation”

Irfan Ahmad's entry into artificial intelligence did not begin with a formal technology background. It came through a period of uncertainty, experimentation and the need to continuously learn.

In 2021, he moved to Dubai, where he went through a demanding phase of his professional life and worked with different companies. Those experiences exposed him to different work environments, but they also strengthened his desire to eventually create something independently.

After returning to India, Irfan began spending significant time learning artificial intelligence, automation, digital marketing and online business skills. Much of that education was self-driven, with YouTube becoming one of the platforms through which he explored new tools, studied technology and learned by testing things himself.

What began as self-learning gradually became practical work. Instead of treating AI simply as an interesting new technology, he started exploring how it could be used to automate tasks, improve marketing, support businesses and create new digital services.

That process eventually led to AI Agent Mindset, the agency Irfan runs today. His work covers AI agents, automation solutions and other technology-driven services designed to help businesses operate more efficiently.

His experience also extends into digital marketing, content management, YouTube and the wider digital ecosystem, allowing him to work across both technology and communication rather than restricting himself to a single area.

Education has become another important part of his journey. Through **Irfanautomation.com**, Irfan provides learning around artificial intelligence, technology and digital skills.

His approach comes from his own experience of learning outside a conventional classroom. He understands what it means to begin without a clear roadmap and gradually build practical skills through research, experimentation and consistent practice.

Alongside his agency and education work, Irfan has built an Instagram audience of around 20,000 followers, where his content focuses on AI, automation, technology and digital marketing.

For him, the journey from Dubai to entrepreneurship in India represents more than a change in career. It reflects the value of learning independently, adapting when circumstances change and continuing to build even when the direction is not immediately clear.

01

Founder of AI Agent Mindset

02

AI, automation, digital marketing and education



DR. AMAR PANCHAL

"Career-focused learning should help students solve problems and build skills"

Dr. Amar Panchal is a dedicated educationalist, technical trainer and career mentor with over 17 years of experience in technical education. Starting at a Gujarati-medium school, he pursued a Diploma in Computer Engineering, advancing to a BE, Master's, ME, and ultimately earning his PhD.

His academic foundation includes completing his BE in Computer Engineering from the University of Mumbai and a Master's at Arlington. This progression reflects continuous learning and a strong commitment to transforming careers by shifting from learning technology to teaching it.

He firmly believes students should learn technology not only to pass exams but to actively solve problems, develop essential skills and create lasting career outcomes.

His highly impactful work in technical education has earned him honours, including the Maharashtra Ratna, Rashtriya Abhiman Puraskar, Top 100 Technical Educators, and the ICON Award 2020 - PHI. His efforts have been featured in leading media platforms like The Times of India, Hindustan Times and Dainik Bhaskar, highlighting a strong ongoing mission to empower students.

Throughout his career, he has maintained a strong focus on practical, career-oriented learning. He has successfully trained thousands of students and is actively associated with multiple colleges and 5 C-DAC centres to help build meaningful careers.

Through Beevolve and Career Credentials, Dr. Panchal currently focuses on AI education, career credentials and personalised one-to-one mentoring. His technical expertise spans Data Structures, Operating Systems, Shell Scripting, Prompt Engineering and Agentic AI. His core vision is to make technology learning practical and personalised, ensuring learners can grow faster, solve real-world problems and build strong career outcomes.

01

Over 17 years in technical education.

02

Trained thousands of students.



SONIA GUPTA

“From Jalandhar to Australia, a journey shaped by courage, resilience and self-belief”

From Jalandhar to Australia, Sonia’s journey reflects personal growth, resilience and the courage to embrace new beginnings. Her identity has grown through many roles—early childhood educator, mother, influencer, mentor and pageant titleholder. Yet behind each role is the same sense of purpose: to use her experiences in a way that supports, encourages and inspires the people who connect with her story.

That purpose is visible in the way Sonia shows up for her students, responds to women who see her as a mentor, and uses her online presence to speak openly about real life. She celebrates the victories, whether it is a child’s learning breakthrough or a proud moment on an international stage, while remaining equally open about the effort, responsibility and challenges that exist behind those moments.

The crowns came later—symbols not just of beauty, but of resilience, grace and purpose. Recognition through the Australia Galaxy People’s Choice Award 2022 and being crowned Ms. Australasia Pure International 2024 became important milestones in a much bigger mission.

Sonia Gupta’s journey was never only about crowns and cameras. It began in humble classrooms, where her love for shaping young lives first took root. As an early childhood educator, she witnessed the power of a nurturing word, a patient smile, and a gentle hand. In those quiet moments—helping a child pronounce first words or watching a shy student find a voice—Sonia discovered a purpose that would remain central to her journey.

Motherhood deepened that purpose. As a mother, Sonia understood both the beauty and the pressure of raising children in a fast-moving world. The family-career juggle, sleepless nights and moments of doubt became part of her own experience. Rather than separating those realities from her public journey, she allowed them to shape an honest and relatable voice that began connecting with women beyond her immediate community.

The crowns came later—symbols not just of beauty, but of resilience, grace and purpose.

DEEPANSHU

"From the cricket pitch to professional service, a journey built on discipline, consistency and passion"

Deepanshu's journey brings together professional service and more than 12 years of competitive cricket. Based in Panchkula, Haryana, he has spent the last five years serving in the Income Tax Department while maintaining an active connection with the sport. A former professional cricketer and an active corporate player, his journey reflects the focus, discipline and consistency developed through years on the cricket field.

His cricketing foundation includes training at Pujara School of Cricket, Rajkot, and Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi. Across more than 12 years in the sport, Deepanshu has competed through professional and corporate cricket, developing an approach that continues to influence both his performance on the pitch and his professional life. Cricket has remained an important part of his identity even as his career moved into a different professional environment.

Among the notable moments in his cricket journey was the Haryana vs Jammu & Kashmir Friendship Series, where he emerged as the tournament's highest run-scorer.



Hailing from Panchkula, Haryana, Deepanshu has built a life that connects two very different environments: competitive cricket and professional service. His five years with the Income Tax Department run alongside a cricket journey spanning more than 12 years. Rather than leaving the sport behind, he has continued playing and today remains an active part of the corporate cricket circuit.

The discipline developed through cricket continues to shape the way he approaches his professional responsibilities. Years of training, competition and match experience have kept focus and consistency central to his journey. From professional cricket to corporate competition, the sport has remained a constant alongside his work in the Income Tax Department.

Beyond cricket and work, Deepanshu's interests extend to fitness, travel, exploration, driving and long road trips. These interests reflect the active lifestyle already visible throughout his journey. Whether it is work, cricket or time on the road, his profile remains connected by the same three qualities highlighted across his story: focus, discipline and authenticity.

01

12+ years of cricket experience

02

5 years in the Income Tax Department

MANISH CHAUDHARY

"A journey shaped by adaptability, sales experience and the willingness to keep learning"

Growing up in a village in Gorakhpur, Manish learned early that progress rarely follows a perfect plan. During his higher-secondary years, he prepared for the IIT entrance examination. Although he did not clear it, the experience taught him to treat setbacks as redirections rather than endings.

He later completed his B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from KNIT Sultanpur in 2022. During college, however, his interests gradually moved beyond engineering towards marketing, sales and consumer behaviour.

His first professional role in Bengaluru was in B2C sales, where he developed practical experience in customer engagement, negotiation and understanding what drives buying decisions.



Wanting to challenge himself further, he moved into commercial real estate.

Today, as an Enterprise Sales Manager at 91springboard, he works with enterprise clients, manages key relationships and handles business opportunities in the competitive managed-office and commercial real-estate space.

Alongside sales and real estate, he has developed a strong interest in Artificial Intelligence and emerging technology.

He actively explores how AI can improve productivity, decision-making and the way modern businesses operate.

His journey from Gorakhpur to Bengaluru is still at an early stage, but it already reflects a consistent pattern: learn, adapt and move forward.

For Manish, every new role has been another opportunity to understand people, business and himself a little better.

01

B.Tech Mechanical Engineering - KNIT
Sultanpur, 2022

02

Enterprise Sales Manager - 91springboard



AKHIL JONNAVITHULA

*"Building early. Exploring new frontiers.
Scaling what works"*

Akhil's foundation combines technology with marketing. He holds a Master's in Marketing, specialising in International Marketing, from the University of Exeter Business School, where he was recognised for Outstanding Contribution to the PG Experience as a Business & Management Student Representative. He also completed a B.Tech CSE (Hons.) with a Minor in Marketing Management from Lovely Professional University.

His interest in marketing and emerging ideas was visible early in his academic journey. He published a paper on mobile marketing and research exploring the future of mobile marketing and its impact on marketing strategy. That combination of technology, marketing and curiosity about what comes next has continued throughout his professional work across startups and the Web3 ecosystem.

Beyond building businesses, Akhil is also a speaker, author and writer. He shares insights on marketing, startups, AI, Web3 and emerging technology, while his writing covers business, technology and new ideas.

Akhil Jonnavithula, also known as OG Marketer, is a marketer, business builder and Web3 growth leader focused on turning emerging ideas into scalable businesses. With more than six years across marketing, growth and business development, he has worked at the intersection of startups, technology and Web3—helping build brands, communities, partnerships and revenue engines from the ground up.

His work spans growth, GTM, D2C, B2B, partnerships, sales and global expansion. Across his Web3 journey, Akhil has built more than 50 strategic ecosystem partnerships, onboarded global resellers and 70+ influencers, and helped build and scale communities from zero to more than 40,000 members. He has also worked across crypto, self-custody, DeFi, exchanges and other areas of emerging technology.

Among his career highlights are scaling multiple Web3 companies from scratch and generating 20,000+ waitlist signups in one month for a Web3 project. He also co-founded a marketing agency that served more than 50 clients and has been featured across leading business and startup publications.

01

6+ years across marketing, growth & business development

02

Built 50+ strategic ecosystem partnerships



RADHA AGARWAL

“Slow is the new fast in weight loss”

Radha Agarwal is a Certified Health Coach and Certified Nutrition Consultant focused on helping people build healthier lives through practical, sustainable habits that fit into real-world routines. With more than 12 years of corporate experience, she understands firsthand the challenges working professionals often face, from stress and irregular meals to low energy, sedentary lifestyles and routines that become difficult to maintain consistently.

Her transition into health coaching was driven by the belief that better health does not require extreme diets or quick fixes. Instead, her approach focuses on practical changes that can become part of everyday life. She brings together nutrition, physical activity, movement, sleep, stress management, mindset and emotional wellbeing to help individuals create habits that support long-term health rather than temporary transformation.

Her work includes personalized health coaching, sustainable weight management, metabolic health and cholesterol support, prediabetes and PCOS lifestyle support.

Years in the corporate world gave Radha a close understanding of the difficulties that can make healthy living challenging for working professionals. Stress, irregular eating patterns, limited movement, poor sleep and inconsistent schedules can gradually affect everyday wellbeing. That experience now influences the way she approaches health coaching, with an emphasis on solutions that remain realistic even within demanding personal and professional routines.

Rather than relying on extreme diets, Radha supports clients through realistic and personalized lifestyle changes. Her approach combines balanced nutrition with movement, sleep, stress management, mindset and habit building. She also believes that health coaching should complement medical care, helping individuals develop better habits, gain more energy and build a healthier relationship with food and their bodies.

Her coaching process follows a practical progression: assess, plan, implement and transform. It begins with understanding an individual’s lifestyle, followed by creating a personalized plan and building habits step by step.

 @healthcoachradha

01

12+ years of corporate experience

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02

Practical habits for lasting transformation

ABU AMIR

“Build businesses. Develop people. Create meaningful impact”



Abu Amir is a Bengaluru-based entrepreneur, business strategist, mentor and corporate trainer building at the intersection of entrepreneurship, leadership and business growth. His work spans three connected spaces, **Mitti Organics**, **TCC** and **ProStrategic-He**, each reflecting a different part of his broader vision. Across these ventures, his focus remains on building stronger businesses, developing capable people and creating meaningful impact.

Through Mitti Organics, Abu Amir works as Founder and Business Strategist behind an organic skincare brand focused on purity, quality and sustainable wellness. Through TCC, he works as a business coach and mentor, partnering with founders to strengthen strategy, accelerate growth, improve sales and refine business models. Together, these roles connect entrepreneurship with practical business development and long-term value creation.

His work through ProStrategic-H extends into corporate training and professional development across leadership, sales, team performance and organisational capability building.

Abu Amir’s entrepreneurial journey is built across three complementary areas: organic skincare, business mentoring and corporate capability development. Rather than treating these as separate pursuits, his work connects them through a common focus on growth, leadership and meaningful impact. Mitti Organics, TCC and ProStrategic-H each represent a different way of applying that wider business philosophy.

Across strategy and planning, sales and revenue strategy, business model development and team development, Abu’s work is centred on helping businesses become stronger while helping people become better. His wider vision is not limited to short-term growth; it is about supporting long-term value creation through learning, leadership, customer understanding and disciplined execution.

His approach begins with understanding business reality and identifying the opportunities available. From there, the focus moves towards strategy—creating greater clarity, defining direction and developing practical plans. This is followed by execution through stronger systems, capable teams and momentum, helping businesses move beyond ideas and translate strategy into measurable progress.

01

Founder & Business Strategist — Mitti Organics

02

Corporate Training — ProStrategic-H



SHUBHAM LAL

"Innovation becomes meaningful when it creates access, confidence and opportunity"

Shubham's journey reflects a transition from industry to impact. Experience across technology and product ecosystems gave him direct exposure to how emerging technologies are developed and applied. That foundation now informs his work across entrepreneurship and education, where the focus is on creating systems that connect industry knowledge with learning and make technology more useful for students, institutions and enterprises.

His work sits across a broad technology landscape that includes AI/ML, cloud, cybersecurity, automation, data engineering and emerging technologies. It also extends into LLM integrations, SaaS, analytics, Web3, enterprise automation and ERP. Rather than separating education from technology development, his approach brings the two together through practical learning, product development and industry-focused programs.

Shubham has also worked on collaborations with universities and organisations across India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Oman, expanding the ecosystem across different markets and institutions.

Shubham Lal is a strategic leader, AI innovator, educator and entrepreneur working at the intersection of education, artificial intelligence and software development. As the Founder of Leapify Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and builder of AI Linc, his work focuses on making industry-relevant learning and AI-driven solutions more accessible to students, institutions and enterprises while connecting technology with practical, real-world opportunities.

His journey includes early experience across major technology ecosystems, including Windows 10, Office 365, Bing, GitHub Copilot and Sitecore. From working around large product ecosystems to moving into entrepreneurship and education, Shubham has carried real-world industry experience into initiatives designed to create greater access to technology, mentorship, industry exposure and future-ready learning.

Through his wider education ecosystem, Shubham's initiatives have impacted 1M+ learners, engaged 1,000+ organisations and contributed to 425+ courses across 32 domains.

01
1M+ learners impacted

02
1,000+ organisations engaged



SAMAR SHARMA

"From adversity to empowerment, a journey shaped by practical learning, resilience and purpose"

Samar's entrepreneurial journey was shaped by experiences outside a conventional academic path. Financial pressure, leaving college and working across multiple jobs exposed him closely to the challenges people face when education does not translate easily into real-world opportunities. Those experiences gradually shaped a belief that skill-based, practical learning could create a more direct path toward career growth and financial independence.

Skill Maker Academy grew from that belief. Rather than focusing only on traditional education, SMA was designed around practical skill education, career empowerment, entrepreneur development and accessible learning for all. Its emphasis on affordable, outcome-driven and trending skills reflects Samar's aim to help learners explore possibilities, build useful capabilities and receive continued support as they move toward professional or entrepreneurial goals.

At the centre of Samar's work is a wider mission to make high-quality practical education accessible to more people.

Samar Sharma is the Founder & CEO of Skill Maker Academy (SMA), an EdTech platform focused on practical, career-oriented and future-ready skills. His journey began through financial hardship, with his family carrying debt of more than ₹17 lakh. Despite being a topper, Samar left college and worked multiple jobs and part-time opportunities, experiences that shaped his belief in the importance of practical skills and real-world learning.

After the lockdown, Samar recognised a gap between formal education, practical skills and internet-led opportunities. That understanding led him to build Skill Maker Academy, with a focus on affordable, career-oriented and trending skills. The platform combines accessible learning with lifetime access and continuous handholding support, helping learners gain not only knowledge but also greater confidence, direction and opportunities to build better careers.

Today, Skill Maker Academy has generated more than ₹15 crore in revenue and empowered over 70,000 learners through online and offline education.

01

70,000+ learners empowered

02

MSME Bharat Award 2025 — Education Sector



KRISHNA KUMARI

*“Learning is something to enjoy,
not something to fear”*

Krishna’s teaching journey has been shaped by more than 16 years of classroom experience and a continuous effort to make education more meaningful for young learners. As a primary social science educator, she has seen how curiosity grows when students are given opportunities to participate rather than simply receive information. This understanding has become central to her use of activity-based and experiential methods in everyday teaching.

Her work has received recognition through the Green Teacher Award 2019, National Teachers Award 2025, Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar Samman 2026 and Teacher Appreciation Award 2026. For Krishna, however, the most meaningful achievement remains seeing a child understand a concept, discover confidence and genuinely enjoy learning. That belief continues to define both her classroom practice and her contribution to the wider educator community.

Her classroom practice brings together art integration, maps, stories, activities, technology and AI-powered educational tools.

Krishna Kumari is a Primary Social Science Teacher, educator, facilitator and lifelong learner with more than 16 years of experience in education. Her approach is built around a simple belief: children learn best when they explore, experience and participate. Through activity-based learning, experiential teaching, art integration, maps, storytelling and classroom innovation, she works to make social science more engaging, interactive and meaningful for young learners.

For Krishna, education is not confined to four walls or a textbook. A lesson can come alive through maps, heritage, stories, songs, hands-on activities and conversations that spark curiosity. Over the years, she has consciously moved from conventional teaching methods toward activity-based and experiential learning, creating classroom experiences where students can participate more actively and connect concepts with the world around them.

She also embraces AI and digital tools in education, using them as creative assistants for lesson planning, activities and more personalised learning while keeping the teacher’s role central.

01
16+ years in education

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02
Green Teacher Award 2019 • National Teachers
Award 2025



JASMIT SINGH ARORA

“From a discarded mango seed to a people-powered environmental movement”

At the centre of Jasmit’s work is the belief that environmental action does not always require large resources. The Gutli Mission began by looking differently at something society normally discards—a mango seed. Instead of allowing those seeds to become waste, he encouraged citizens to collect and contribute them, creating a simple model through which individuals could directly participate in environmental action.

The initiative gradually expanded from seed collection into a broader movement connecting citizens, schools, NCC cadets, corporates, military personnel, farmers and international well-wishers. Its focus goes beyond planting alone. By connecting communities with farmers and sustainable agriculture, the mission aims to restore orchards, strengthen farmer livelihoods and build greater awareness around climate responsibility and the relationship between people and the environment.

The impact today includes 21+ lakh mango seeds received, 8+ lakh fruit saplings distributed and more than 5,000 farmers reached. The initiative’s work is also described as aligned with all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Jasmit Singh Arora, Founder of Gutli Mission and popularly known as the “Gutli Man of India,” is an entrepreneur turned environmental changemaker working across climate action, farmer empowerment and community participation. His journey reflects a simple but powerful idea: something as ordinary as a discarded mango seed can become the starting point for a larger environmental movement when people are encouraged to participate.

What began around 2016 with the idea of saving mango seeds instead of throwing them away has grown into a citizen-led movement. Jasmit began asking people to save, clean and send discarded mango seeds to him. Today, more than 21 lakh mango seeds have been received from citizens across India and beyond, helping transform everyday waste into an organised effort toward plantation, environmental awareness and community-driven climate action.

Through Tree Ka Langar, the movement has helped distribute more than 8 lakh fruit saplings to over 5,000 farmers.

01
5,000+ farmers reached

02
21+ lakh mango seeds received



BAANI BATHLA

“From finance to entrepreneurship and podcasting, a journey of reinvention, purpose and building with intention”

Baani’s professional journey began in financial services, where she spent more than three years before choosing a different direction. Her experience at American Express formed part of that early professional chapter, but entrepreneurship eventually gave her the opportunity to work more directly across brand building, communications and partnerships. That transition from finance to entrepreneurship became an important point of reinvention in her career.

Her journey also extends beyond business into conversations that carry a distinct point of view. Through HumTum Unplugged, Baani explores relationships, emotional wellbeing, mental health, entrepreneurship and modern life. Together, her agency and podcast reflect the broader idea behind her work: there is no single definition of a woman’s professional journey, and success can be built across different roles, industries and forms of expression.

Through Sushi & Sangria PR & Marketing, her work now spans brand strategy, influencer marketing, experiential campaigns and strategic partnerships across a diverse mix of industries.

Baani Bathla is an entrepreneur and podcaster building brands, strategic partnerships and conversation-led platforms across different industries. After spending more than three years in financial services, including her role as a Financial Advisor at American Express, she stepped away from corporate life and moved into entrepreneurship, beginning a journey shaped by reinvention, brand building and the desire to create meaningful impact.

As the Founder of Sushi & Sangria PR & Marketing, Baani works across brand strategy, influencer marketing, experiential campaigns and strategic partnerships. The agency has worked across luxury, hospitality, travel, fashion, beauty, technology and real estate, combining strategy, storytelling and measurable brand impact. Her work reflects an approach focused not simply on visibility, but on building brands with a clear point of view and long-term relevance.

Beyond her work in marketing and communications, Baani created HumTum Unplugged, a podcast platform built around real and meaningful conversations.

01
3+ years in financial services

02
Founder — Sushi & Sangria PR & Marketing



BHISHMA MADHANI

"Don't just train athletes to perform. Build them to last, empower them to believe, and prepare them to excel when it matters most"

Bhishma's journey spans Bhavnagar, London and Dubai, combining world-class education, international experience and a deep belief in holistic athlete development. From professional sporting environments to his current work in performance and athlete development, his path has consistently remained connected to the science behind strength, human potential and the systems that help athletes progress over time.

Guided by his mentor, Yuvraj Jaiveerraj Singhji Gohil, and driven by purpose, Bhishma aims to bring global sports science and high-performance thinking into India's sporting ecosystem. His vision is not simply to build a successful career, but to help unlock Indian sporting talent, develop stronger systems and contribute to a future in which the next generation has the environment and opportunities needed to excel.

His experience at Watford FC's U-19 programme and Lord's Cricket Ground exposed him to high-performance environments where athlete preparation extends beyond individual training sessions.

Bhishma Madhani is a Sports Scientist, Strength & Conditioning Specialist and Fit India Movement Ambassador working at the intersection of sports science, high-performance systems and athlete development. His journey began in Bhavnagar, developed through London and continues today in Dubai, bringing together international exposure, scientific training and a long-term vision focused on elevating Indian sport and helping athletes realise their full potential.

With a BSc (Hons) in Sports & Exercise Science from Middlesex University, London, Bhishma has built experience across elite sporting environments. He has served as Head of Strength & Conditioning for Watford FC's U-19 programme and also gained experience at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground. These roles strengthened his understanding of performance programming, conditioning and the systems required to develop athletes beyond short-term results.

Now pursuing an MSc in Sports Directorship, Bhishma is looking beyond traditional coaching.

01

BSc (Hons) Sports & Exercise Science —
Middlesex University

02

Fit India Movement Ambassador



ABINASH RATH

“Operational excellence is strongest when performance, safety, and innovation move together”

Abinash Rath is an Assistant Vice President & Unit Head at UltraTech Cement, serving as a plant operations leader with over 18 years of global experience. He focuses on driving manufacturing excellence, strategic transformation, cost optimization, and profitability across industrial environments.

Abinash Rath has built a distinguished career around strengthening plant operations and manufacturing performance across 18+ years of global experience. In his current leadership position at UltraTech Cement, he drives operational excellence and project execution.

His core expertise spans plant operations, profitability improvement, cost optimization, digital transformation, and safety management.

With academic credentials including Dual MBAs in Production & Safety Management and a Senior Management Program from IIM Calcutta, he has earned recognition for safety leadership, sustainability, and innovation while actively advancing safer, smarter manufacturing environments through effective stakeholder engagement.

His approach combines operational leadership, digital transformation, and safety-first execution to deliver multi-crore savings and improved production efficiency across multiple plants while remaining passionate about stakeholder engagement.

His notable work includes commissioning world-class projects, such as the world's largest Loesche VRM in Bangladesh, as well as leading ISO 45001 implementation and fatality prevention frameworks. Recognized as Green Manufacturing Leader and Industrial Transformation Leader of the Year, his vision centers on driving safer, smarter, and more efficient manufacturing.

01

18+ years of global manufacturing leadership

02

Green Manufacturing Leader of the Year



SONALI BASU ROY

“Reinvention has no age limit. You can lead a boardroom and own any stage”

Sonali Basu Roy is a Cybersecurity Marketing Leader, speaker, image consultant, and founder of Power, Purpose & Presence. With 15+ years in technology and cybersecurity marketing, she has built a career defined by strategic thinking, leadership, and brand impact across the Middle East.

Her expertise spans marketing strategy, brand building, leadership, and public speaking.

Recognized with awards for Marketing Excellence and Women in Leadership Excellence in 2026, she regularly shares her insights while speaking on respected industry panels.

In 2026, she stepped into pageantry, becoming a finalist in two leading pageants and winning the She Style Icon title. This experience inspired her to create Power, Purpose & Presence, a platform helping women elevate confidence, executive presence, personal style, and personal branding. Through mentoring and leadership, she empowers women to lead with impact.

Bringing over 15 years of experience in corporate cybersecurity marketing, Sonali Basu Roy transitioned into personal transformation and image consulting. Her career reflects a distinct blend of corporate leadership, pageantry, strategic marketing, and women empowerment advocacy.

Her work focuses on executive presence, first impressions, wardrobe selection, confidence building, and personal branding strategy.

Driven by the belief that true power lies in confidence, discipline, authenticity, and clear communication, her vision is centered on empowering women to be visible, confident, and impactful across every area of their lives. Through her platform, she guides individuals to show up as their authentic selves in both boardrooms and on public stages.

01

15+ years experience

02

Pageant finalist



SHUBHAM MADHYAN

"Real success comes from thinking differently and taking action"

Hailing from Pakur, Jharkhand, his entrepreneurial journey reflects a clear vision of using technology to bridge the education gap. He empowers every student from small towns and rural areas with the same quality education as metro cities.

He provides technology-driven education. His belief is to create change, think differently and take action.

By introducing advanced test series alongside AI and Robotics education, he actively prepares future-ready learners. His unique framework spans from identifying educational gaps to innovating tech-enabled solutions. Ultimately, his overarching goal is inspiring and creating future leaders and lifelong learners across India.

Shubham Madhyan is the Founder of **Generation-Z Classes** and a visionary educator from Pakur, Jharkhand. With his expertise in **EdTech, AI, Robotics and student growth**, he is on a mission to transform education in small cities through innovation.

Founded on 1 May 2023, Generation-Z Classes addresses the gap of expensive coaching institutes. He built an ecosystem where learning is actively powered by smart classrooms, AI tools and expert educators.

Today, the company is recognised as Jharkhand's No.1 Edtech Company, impacting lakhs of students. The platform has 50+ centers across 6 states and 20+ Lakh online learners, offering Class 1 to 12 coaching with fees starting from ₹500 monthly. With upcoming app updates and a special 2025 project for Jharkhand students, his journey is just getting started.



ABINAB DAS

"Simple education creates real opportunities"

From practical career content to a multi-platform learning ecosystem, Abinab Das has spent years helping learners gain the right knowledge, tools, and opportunities to grow.

His guiding philosophy emphasizes that making learning clear, easy to use, and practical helps users act rather than just watch.

His impact is reflected through strong communities, including 324K on Techno Vichar and 127K+ on Career Tadka. Alongside content creation, he works with brands, institutions, and learning communities on education campaigns and awareness initiatives, driven by the mission to make learning practical, accessible, and easy to act on.

Abinab Das is an influencer, founder, content creator and entrepreneur building a learning ecosystem for modern India. Since 2017, he has worked in the digital education space with a clear goal to make complex subjects easier to understand for students, first-time earners and working professionals.

Instead of building just one platform, he created a focused ecosystem through Chalo Seekho, Techno Vichar, and Career Tadka. These platforms simplify financial literacy, banking, everyday technology, AI tools, jobs, skills, and career transitions.

Together, these platforms reach more than 1 million learners across YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook. Recognized as Best Financial Influencer of the Year 2025, his vision is about creating deeper learning paths, stronger guidance, and useful tools that help people make better decisions in work, money, technology, and life.

01

Founder of OdiWave Media

02

8+ Years of Impact



ADITI DUA

"Tarot creates space for reflection, clarity and self-awareness"

Aditi Dua's intuition was present from an early age, drawing her to the unseen and leading her to begin reading tarot at 16. By age 20, she decided to take tarot professionally, committing herself to helping others navigate life's uncertainties.

For Aditi, tarot is not simply about predicting the future—it is a reflective tool that helps people find clarity.

Her work connects deeply with self-awareness, mindfulness, intuition and manifestation, believing that manifestation is grounded in intention, awareness and action. Ultimately, her vision focuses on helping people slow down, reconnect with their intuition, and move forward with greater self-awareness.

Aditi Dua is a tarot reader and modern spirituality guide whose journey began in her teens and evolved into a professional practice rooted in intuition, reflection and modern spirituality.

Her path is rooted in learning, introspection and a genuine desire to help others through clarity, guidance and self-discovery. Her approach brings together tarot reading, intuition, manifestation and modern spirituality in a grounded way.

Her story reflects a growing shift in how spirituality is viewed today—less as something distant or purely ritualistic, and more as a personal journey of mindfulness, emotional clarity and conscious living. Through her work, she reminds us that the cards may offer perspective, but the choices and the journey still belong to us.

01

Began reading tarot at 16

02

Modern spirituality guide

AAKASH DAVE

"Our mission is simple: Make every career decision clear, personal and achievable"

Aakash Dave is the Founder and CEO of **AarikaAI**, formerly known as SenseforgeAI. He is dedicated to building India's first AI-powered Career Operating System designed to help learners, job seekers, and professionals make better career decisions.

AarikaAI is unifying career discovery, skill building, exam preparation, resume optimization, job matching, and interview readiness into one intelligent platform. The system helps users make smarter career decisions and take consistent action toward their goals.

From AI-powered guidance and skill-gap analysis to personalized roadmaps and placement preparation, AarikaAI turns career confusion into career clarity. Key features include multi-lingual AI guidance, an exam simulator, and an AI resume builder with ATS matching. Through this innovative ecosystem, Aakash Dave aims to make career journeys more clear, personal, and achievable.



His entrepreneurial journey is built around the core philosophy that a career is not just a choice, but a journey where every single step matters.

He believes technology should simplify decisions and multiply opportunities.

The platform's structured framework guides users to discover who they are, prepare the right skills, connect with appropriate employers, and grow continuously in their professional lives. His ultimate vision for AarikaAI is to become India's most trusted Career Operating System by empowering every student, job seeker, and professional to achieve the career they deserve.

01

Founder & CEO, AarikaAI

02

From Zero to Hero



DR. CHARU DUTT ARORA

"Compassion is the future of care"

From clinical medicine to redefining how India cares for its ageing population, Dr. Charu Dutt Arora is building a healthcare journey rooted in compassion, innovation, and purpose.

As Head of AmeriHealth Home Healthcare at the Asian Institute of Medical Sciences, he champions dignified, technology-enabled care that brings healing closer to patients and families.

His core mission is to make ageing more dignified, healthcare more accessible, and healing more compassionate.

Dr. Charu Dutt Arora is a physician, TEDx Speaker, healthcare leader, and Geriatrics & Palliative Care Specialist working to make healthcare more compassionate, accessible, and patient-centric. A Gold Medalist in MBBS from Topiwala National Medical College & BYL Nair Hospital, Mumbai, Dr. Arora has pursued advanced clinical and research exposure across leading global institutions including Harvard Medical School, Boston Children's Hospital, Keck School of Medicine at USC, and the University of New South Wales, Australia.

With 60+ research publications and scientific presentations, his areas of work include geriatrics, palliative care, home healthcare, preventive medicine, nutrition, infectious diseases, and digital health. Recognised with honours such as Healthcare Influencer of the Year 2026, Versatile Physician of India, Punjabi Rattan Award 2025, COVID Warrior recognition, and BW 40 Under 40, Dr. Arora continues to advocate for a future where healing goes beyond hospital walls.

01

Gold Medalist, Medical Doctor

02

60+ Research Publications



ABHISHA GULATI

"No dream is too big — and no dreamer should feel alone"

Abhisha Gulati is a social entrepreneur, study abroad mentor, and evidence-informed poet who is redefining what it means to dream big, build boldly, and create access for others.

Her journey is especially powerful because she chose an unconventional path earning offers from Oxford University and the London School of Economics for Masters, becoming a Harvard HPAIR and JN Tata Scholar, and then stepping away from traditional routes and a high-paying corporate role at Starbucks to build in India.

Today, her work sits at the intersection of education, mentorship, storytelling, and community-building, helping hundreds of women, queer individuals, and allies navigate global opportunities across universities such as Oxford, Harvard, Stanford, Yale, LSE, UCL, Erasmus Mundus, NTU Singapore, and more.

Her ambitious mission is to help 1+ million women, queer individuals, and allies in the coming years by making world-class opportunities feel more accessible and achievable.

Abhisha began mentoring others when she herself earned offers from Oxford and LSE. She has helped 449+ women, queer, and allies reach elite global institutions and secure competitive scholarships.

For Abhisha, the message is simple: no dream is too big when clarity, courage, and consistent action come together. Her work sits at the intersection of education, courage, and access.

Whether she is mentoring aspiring students, speaking in intimate learning spaces, or building thoughtful communities—such as hosting tea parties for nerds under Misssgulatea—she brings warmth and conviction to every room she enters.

01
Oxford & LSE admit

02
Harvard HPAIR Scholar



ATHARVA JAIN

"Dream. Hustle. Build. Repeat"

At 16, Atharva Jain took his first step into business with a dream and determination. Now at 21, he is the proud CEO of Jynexa.

Jynexa is a digital-first e-commerce brand focused on smart, stylish shopping. The mission is to make fashion and lifestyle finds feel accessible, aspirational, and customer-friendly.

His journey reflects ambition, learning, and the courage to build early. Jynexa is still at the beginning of its story and the best chapters are yet to come.

Atharva Jain is a young entrepreneur and the Founder & CEO of Jynexa, a growing digital-first e-commerce brand focused on fashion, lifestyle, smart shopping, and customer experience. He started his business journey at just 16 with a dream, determination, and the willingness to build early. Today, at 21, he is leading Jynexa with a clear focus on growth, scalability, online presence, consistency, and long-term brand building.

Jynexa is being developed as a fashion and lifestyle e-commerce brand built around accessible products, stylish choices, customer-first thinking, and a strong digital shopping experience. Atharva's journey reflects the mindset of a new generation of Indian entrepreneurs—starting young, learning fast, experimenting, building teams, and staying consistent even when the journey is still taking shape.



NAMRATA BATRA

"For Namrata, Wushu is not just a sport, it is a way of life"

Namrata Batra is a professional Wushu Sanda athlete from Indore, Madhya Pradesh, competing in the 52 kg category.

Her major honors include being an Eklavya Awardee by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and a Senior National Gold Medalist.

Her international highlights feature a Silver Medal at The World Games 2025 (Chengdu), Bronze at the 2nd Asia Wushu Cup 2025 (Jilin), Gold at the Moscow Wushu Star International Tournament 2025, Silver at the 10th Asian Wushu Championship 2024 (Macao), and Silver at the International Wushu Invitational Tournament 2024 (Jiangyin, China).

Namrata Batra is a professional Wushu Sanda athlete from Indore, Madhya Pradesh, representing India in the 52 kg category. Her journey is a powerful story of discipline, resilience, perseverance, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. From national victories to international podiums, Namrata continues to make her mark on the global Wushu stage.

She has built her career through discipline, perseverance, and years of hard work. Wushu has shaped her confidence, resilience, and determination. Her journey reflects sacrifice, consistency, and the courage to keep moving forward.

For Namrata, Wushu is more than a sport — it is a way of life. Her story is a reminder that success is built through consistency, patience, and the courage to rise after every setback.

ADNAN SARWAR

"Building a stronger future for Richmond's students and families"

Adnan Sarwar is a **professor, investment banker, entrepreneur, and Richmond City Council Candidate** under **WE ARE RICHMOND 2026**. Raised across Dhaka, Kolkata, and London, his life has been shaped by movement across cultures and values of discipline, service, and entrepreneurship

Before entering education, he built a finance career working with Merrill Lynch in London and Scotiabank in Canada. After arriving in Canada in 2003, he transitioned into education in 2009, teaching business, marketing, and hospitality in the Vancouver area, including at the University of British Columbia and University Canada West. Over 17 years, he has inspired thousands of students and guided founders and C-suite leaders in EdTech, FinTech, and MedTech.

As a Richmond resident since 2009 and an active community volunteer, he is now running for Richmond City Council, with priorities including stronger education, career and technology opportunities, and AI literacy. His guiding principles are modesty, self-control, perseverance, indomitable spirit, and self-realization.



Adnan's mission is to bring more freedom, security, and peace to Canadian families and communities.

Education changes lives, and strong schools create stronger families, stronger communities, and a stronger future.

His community involvement includes serving as a Sunday School teacher at a local Buddhist temple, strata council member, active member in GVBCA and MSBCA, and mentor to startups.



RADHA HARDAS

"If you're capable of dreaming in many directions, don't shrink yourself to fit into one, build a big enough for them all"

Radha Hardas has spent most of her life inside India's sporting ecosystem, beginning young, becoming a national athlete across multiple sports, and learning discipline, ambition, and resilience through competition.

Alongside sport, she built an exceptional academic and professional path by studying Economics at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, and then joining strategy consulting to advise global leaders across markets.

After roles at Red Bull India and Accenture Strategy, she founded Jigar X Sports Technologies to improve information flow, access, and opportunities for athletes in India, while also founding and leading Murambi Farms, a successful agro-tourism venture impacting 10,000+ people.

Radha Hardas is a featured athlete-founder, athlete, founder, and business leader recognized as a national athlete, sports-tech founder, and hospitality leader.

Her key achievements include being honoured by CEO India Weekly as one of the 100 Most Powerful Women in India for the Jigar X business model, and serving as a national-level Silver Medallist in Basketball and elite Sabre Fencer.

She was also the former youngest professional in her Accenture Strategy team, started her career at Red Bull India leading strategic marketing initiatives, and serves as a philanthropist and founding member of the Women's Diplomatic Circle Mumbai and Women's Society for Environment Culture and Education (WSECE).

POONAM KAUR BINDRA

"If it's good enough for my family, it's good enough for my customers"

Poonam Kaur Bindra, Founder & CEO of **SAACOR**, was born in **Nashik**, Maharashtra, and later married in Aurangabad. From a small-town girl with big dreams, she grew into a celebrated **chef, entrepreneur, TEDx speaker, author, educator, and content creator.**

With little initial exposure to the culinary world, her early years were shaped by curiosity and determination. What began as a simple question?, How can food be healthier without compromising on taste? became the seed of a purpose-driven brand

Her journey has also been strengthened by the constant **support of her family.** Poonam credits her **husband as her biggest backbone**, someone who has consistently encouraged her, supported her ambitions, and stood beside her through every stage of her entrepreneurial journey. She believes this support has played an important role in helping her grow into the entrepreneur she is today.

Today, SAACOR reflects her belief that food should nourish the body, respect ingredients, and be made with honesty and care. Every product is crafted with clean ingredients, authentic flavors, and a deep commitment to better living.



Poonam holds a B.Com degree in commerce. Before marriage, cooking was never central to her life, but marriage and family responsibilities brought her into the kitchen and opened a new chapter.

Determined to refine her skills, she pursued culinary learning through professional courses and continuous self-development, broadening her knowledge of food, wellness, and nutrition.

Through food content, recipes, photography, and practical online sharing, she built a growing community of learners and food lovers, eventually founding Art of Cooking in 2019.



GAUTAM RANGA

"Creating impact, building communities and staying true to my roots"

Gautam is a rising Indian digital creator, lifestyle influencer, and cricketer from Pinjore, Panchkula. He has a regional cricket background that shaped his discipline, mindset, and public image.

He creates lifestyle, travel, cricket, and youth-focused content that resonates with a growing audience.

For him, being a creator is not only about followers, reach, or collaborations; it is about building trust, creating value, inspiring positivity, and using his platform to make a meaningful impact.

Gautam Ranga is a digital creator, lifestyle influencer, and cricketer based in Pinjore, Panchkula. Over time, his journey has grown into a community of over 155K+ followers on Instagram, along with collaborations with 50+ brands across different categories.

His content focuses on lifestyle, travel, cricket, youth-oriented stories, personal experiences, and content that connects with people in a simple and relatable way. Every milestone has come with learning, consistency, and the support of an amazing audience, with the goal of growing without losing authenticity.

In August 2026, he was nominated for Best Lifestyle & Digital Influencer at the Global Icon Awards 2026. Beyond content creation, he serves as the Co-Founder & Director of Ekta Bharat Foundation, contributing to initiatives focused on education access, youth empowerment, and community welfare.

01

Followers on Instagram (155K+)

02

Best Lifestyle & Digital Influencer nominee, Aug 2026



AURORA PATRIAN

"Leadership begins long before the boardroom, it begins with the person in the mirror."

Before the title. Before the room. There is a mirror, and in it, the first leader you must ever face: **YourSelf**

This is what Aurora Patrian has spent more than 15 years turning into practice, a journey that began in the classrooms of the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education and now reaches boardrooms across CAC40 companies, shaping leaders and corporate teams worldwide.

Aurora Patrian brings together several complementary dimensions of expertise as a transformational coach, author, poet and TEDx speaker, alongside her work in intuitive intelligence and human behaviour. For her, these disciplines are not separate; they are different expressions of a single conviction: that authentic leadership begins with personal power, self-awareness and purposeful communication.

What connects these different chapters is not a single methodology, but a way of seeing: that the deepest and most lasting changes in how we lead, work and contribute begin with the relationship we have with our Self.

Through her work in human behaviour, emotional intelligence, integral psychology and NLP, she helps individuals and leaders move beyond performative confidence and build something more enduring: the clarity, self-awareness and quiet strength to remain grounded and effective, whether the conversation takes place in a boardroom, on stage or across the table on her podcast.

Alongside her formal training, Aurora is a **Reiki Grandmaster** and holds a **Yoga Shiromani diploma**, experiences that have deepened her understanding of the body, energy and the forces that influence human behaviour. Her work as an astrologer, **Tarot reader and numerologist** adds another dimension to her practice, bringing an intuitive perspective to the exploration of human patterns, decision-making and personal development. Together, these analytical and intuitive approaches form a holistic perspective on what it means to lead, grow and navigate life with greater awareness.

She founded EmpoweringPersona to help individuals and organisations build personal power, and Do Good Be Good, a humanitarian initiative focused on community impact. She is also a member of IAOTH and ICRT, further reflecting the breadth of her professional journey and her continued engagement across her fields of practice.

Aurora is also a published author and poet. Her poetry collections, *Loving a Sky Warrior* and *Looking Through the Kaleidoscope of Life*, explore life, personal experience and the many dimensions of the human journey. Her literary work was also recognised with the Emily Dickinson Award.

01

15+ years of transformational work

02

Emily Dickinson Award recipient



DR. RASHMI E

"Music became a way to connect, support, and help people"

Dr. Rashmi E is a music therapist, psychotherapist, counsellor, educator and music therapy advocate whose journey brings together music, psychology, healing and learning.

Her academic journey began in Computer Science, but her interest gradually moved toward music therapy. Inspired by her mother's work as a speech therapist, she observed the needs of children and individuals facing neurological, speech, hearing and developmental challenges. Over time, she realised that music could become a meaningful therapeutic medium.

Music had been part of her life from a very young age. Her mother was a vocalist and veena player, while her grandmother was a singer and violinist. She learned shlokas, stotras, bhajans, devotional compositions and traditional songs, and trained in Carnatic classical vocal music.

Her qualifications include an M.S. in Psychotherapy & Counselling, postgraduate diplomas in Music Therapy, Special Education Needs, and Teaching, along with additional training in Dietetics & Nutrition, Yoga Therapy, Reiki and Water Therapy.

As a music therapist, educator, facilitator and resource person, Dr. Rashmi has conducted awareness programmes, workshops and training sessions. She has worked with children with special needs, autistic children, seniors, pregnant women, individuals requiring emotional and psychological support, rehabilitation settings, and people affected by cancer or tumour-related challenges.

Her journey has also been shaped by her mother, her guru Dr. Meenakshi Ravi, and the support of her life partner. Her vision is to create greater awareness about music therapy, encourage responsible practice, and make compassionate healing through music accessible to more people.



SAJI VARGHESE

"Turning agricultural waste into plastic-free everyday utility"

The enterprise manufactures these drinking straws through a strictly chemical-free process. This method ensures that the agricultural waste used as raw material transforms into safe and practical utility items without harmful additives.

The approach reduces plastic waste while simultaneously creating value from agricultural residue to support local livelihoods.

The initiative maintains a strong focus on generating grassroots impact. It successfully creates vital livelihood opportunities for local communities through the collection, processing, and production of materials. The work gained attention at the Grassroots Recognition Ceremony 2026 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Saji Varghese is the Founder of SUNBIRD STRAWS, an initiative turning agricultural waste into a plastic-free everyday utility. He successfully helped turn naturally dried coconut leaves into a highly scalable alternative to single-use plastic.

Sunbird Straws manufactures drinking straws from dried coconut leaves and other agricultural residue. This utilizes waste that might otherwise be discarded or burned, turning it into useful products.

The organization's core mission is to replace single-use plastic with practical solutions rooted in local communities. To expand its sustainable product portfolio, Sunbird Straws is currently exploring the use of pineapple and pandanus leaves. These manufactured items provide an everyday solution that is useful for beverages and hospitality.



AVI PATEL

*"Quiet confidence. Clear intention.
Meaningful impact"*

A young founder from Gujarat, his routine involves daily journaling and planning. He incorporates a morning gym session for health and focus, followed by evening reading to sharpen his thinking and leadership mindset.

He leads by example, believing people follow actions over words. He solves the right problems and leaves the ego out.

By taking ownership, he removes politics and blame to build trust and a strong culture. He plans deeply and executes more, knowing strategy creates direction while execution creates results. Enliven avoids fast fashion noise, focusing instead on clean silhouettes, purpose, patience, and long-term performance.

Avi Patel is the Founder and CEO of Enliven Lifestyle, a digital-first apparel brand based in Valsad, Gujarat. He started with limited resources, transforming a small idea from a bedroom office into a fast-growing, premium business focused on elevated everyday wear.

Educated as a civil engineer with a master's in construction management, he learned the apparel business from scratch. He made 50 to 100 calls a day to fully understand product sourcing and daily operations.

Scaling with clarity and discipline, the brand crossed eight-figure monthly revenue after taking around four months to reach 10 orders a day. Moving past a bedroom office and a living room warehouse, Enliven now dispatches around 300 to 400 orders daily. This intentional brand operates successfully today alongside a team of 22 people.



AKSHITA CHHATWAL

"Design should carry emotion, tell a story and remain memorable"

Designing without conventional boundaries, her work actively moves across commercial interiors, kiosks, stage setups, campaign environments and production spaces. She develops story-driven worlds through space, material and atmosphere.

She believes design is never just about creating spaces, but about creating experiences that tell stories, inspire emotions and leave a lasting impact.

Representing a new generation of creative leadership, Akshita successfully translates creative identities into highly memorable visual communication. Her dedication to functional spaces shaped through concept, detail and human experience earned her featured recognition in The Entrepreneurs Bytes' "30 Under 30 - 2026" list.

Akshita Chhatwal is the Founder of Akshitacreates and a multidisciplinary creative professional. She represents young leaders using design to create meaningful experiences, working across architecture, interior design, set design, production design and art direction.

Through Akshitacreates, she works exactly at the intersection of architecture, storytelling and immersive spatial experiences. Her distinct design philosophy carefully connects interiors, installations, sets and studios.

Her published profile highlights 150+ projects and collaborations across India and international platforms. This growing body of creative work includes major brands like Philips, Fabindia, Walmart, Hyundai, Crocs, Apollo Pharmacy, Tata Power, Reliance Digital, Hindware, Himalaya, Magicpin and iQOO. Each project carries emotion and a memorable creative identity.



LEENA JAIN

"Turning personal remembrance into service, and silence into crucial awareness."

Her critical advocacy work emphasizes that early cervical cancer may be completely silent and often causes no noticeable symptoms. She educates the public that proactive medical screening can effectively find dangerous precancer before it ever becomes a life-threatening cancer.

Her proactive methodology promotes that true prevention is entirely possible. The key tools for early care include HPV vaccination, screening and timely treatment.

She teaches women to never ignore crucial warning signs like unusual watery or bloody discharge, pelvic pain, or pain during sex. She also highlights bleeding after sex, between periods or after menopause. While these symptoms do not always mean cancer, they deserve immediate medical attention. She urges women to ask a qualified clinician which screening test and schedule are right for them.

Leena Jain is the Founder of the Sanjeevan Foundation, successfully turning her personal loss into a highly vital public purpose. Raised in a traditional family where girls' education was not actively encouraged, she determinedly continued her formal studies and completed an M.A. in Hindi.

After spending 18 years largely centred on her family, a 2014 school visit profoundly reignited her long-standing interest in social work. Following the tragic loss of her younger brother, Late Sanjeev Jain, she founded the Sanjeevan Foundation on 4 June 2020.

The meaningful name "Sanjeevan" directly translates to giving life. Honouring this powerful meaning, her central mission is to ensure that absolutely no woman should lose her life to cervical cancer. She actively drives a public health campaign urging every woman to know, screen, and act. By transforming her private grief into dedicated community service, she continuously works to replace dangerous silence with life-saving awareness.

01

M.A. in Hindi

02

Cervical Cancer Focus



RIDDHIMA SARRAF

“Art is the warmth that sprouts and blossoms the seed of life.”

Art is the warmth that sprouts and blossoms the seed of life.” Riddhima Sarraf is a research-based contemporary artist from New Delhi, India, whose multidisciplinary practice spans painting, installation, sculpture and mixed media.

Her work creates a dialogue between Indian aesthetic traditions, philosophical inquiry and contemporary visual language.

With a sustained engagement in art over two decades, her practice explores memory, identity, emotion, consciousness, cultural inheritance and spirituality. Drawing inspiration from Indian philosophy, traditional artistic practices and material culture, she reinterprets cultural knowledge through a contemporary perspective.

Research forms an essential part of her creative process. Through long-term projects, Riddhima investigates the connections between art, culture, emotion and human experience, transforming philosophical and cultural ideas into visual and spatial experiences.

Her works invite viewers into spaces of contemplation, dialogue and personal interpretation. A significant aspect of her practice is the exploration of how traditional Indian aesthetics can find new relevance within contemporary art. Among her important ongoing projects is A Monumental Navarasa, a large-scale research-based work that engages with the nine classical emotions of Indian aesthetics through contemporary visual expression and traditional artistic references.

Riddhima Sarraf’s practice represents an ongoing journey between cultural memory and contemporary inquiry. By moving across different mediums and research-based processes, she seeks to create art that connects inner experience with collective consciousness—opening new possibilities for reflection, dialogue and cultural connection.



HITEN DHARPURE

"At 17, he built the world's smallest fully functional robot arm measuring just 39.25 mm."

Developing the robotic device meant facing miniaturisation challenges and constant trade-offs. During the build process, thin printed parts often snapped under motor torque. Additionally, cramped wiring repeatedly disrupted the crucial servo synchronisation within the tiny structure.

Throughout the complex build, each failed prototype systematically revealed the next fraction of a millimetre to fix using highly accessible technology.

Recognised as a 2026 Future Maker in India, this teenager is actively shrinking the future directly from his own workshop. By pushing technical boundaries at just 17 years old, his independent work firmly proves that significant scientific milestones can be achieved using accessible technology rather than relying entirely on massive, heavily funded laboratory environments.

Hiten Dharpure is a 17-year-old Class 12 student innovator from Nagpur. As a two-time Guinness World Records title holder, he successfully built the world's smallest robot arm. Measuring exactly 39.25 mm, this fully functional micro-engineering project is slightly larger than a paperclip.

Over a period of two months, he designed the mechanical skeleton in CAD, 3D-printed the housing and baseplates, and wrote C/C++ control logic for Arduino microcontrollers. Micro-servos and PWM signals gave the arm precise three-axis movement.

The creation beat the previous Guinness World Records mark of 44.49 mm by 5.24 mm. While the arm is still a prototype, Hiten sees future potential in precision surgery, semiconductor handling and space engineering. This represents his second record title, achieved after creating a palm-sized weather station that measures temperature, humidity and pressure. He has shown that world-class micro-engineering does not always need a world-class laboratory.

01

39.25 mm Robot Arm

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02

Built in Workshop



ARUMITA MITRA

"A woman does not need permission to rise. She needs the courage to believe that she was never meant to stay small."

Arumita Mitra is a social impact leader, author, and the Founder of Sudhamta Foundation Pan South Asian Youth Activism Platform. She is a dedicated women empowerment advocate working to create meaningful change through education, girls' empowerment, and community development.

She believes true freedom begins when women and children have the opportunity to learn, grow, choose, and lead. Through her foundation, she actively champions dignity, confidence, and long-term opportunity.

Her dedicated leadership has earned national recognition and inspired impact at scale. Sudhamta Foundation India was recognised as the Most Promising NGO of the Year at the International Excellence Awards 2026. Additionally, she is a TEDx Speaker, a Business Mint 30 Under 30 honouree, and a Bharat Gaurav Ratna Shri Samman awardee from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

As a purpose-driven countrywide famous social entrepreneur and United Nations SDG advocate from India, she focuses on education-led initiatives and women-focused advocacy. She is also extending her message through her upcoming book, *Rise Alone*, which shares a message of resilience, leadership, and building together.

Her mission follows three clear words: Educate, Empower, Elevate. This method effectively turns her purpose into action.

She creates opportunity through learning, strengthens women and girls to lead, and builds stronger, inclusive communities. Her ultimate vision is to build a future where every woman and every child has the freedom to rise, lead, and thrive. She ensures her community upliftment initiatives leave a lasting social impact.



SIDDHANT DIGVIJAY JAITHA

"Legacy gave him the foundation. Curiosity gave him the direction."

Siddhant Digvijay Jaitha is a fourth-generation entrepreneur, author, TEDx Speaker, lifestyle influencer, style creator and celebrity podcaster. Coming from a distinguished aviation business family, he represents a new generation of Indian entrepreneurs.

He serves as Director of Atherton Engineering Co. Pvt. Ltd., one of the largest importers of aircraft spares in India. His entrepreneurial universe spans premium food, hospitality, fashion, wellness, and storytelling.

He is the owner of Crunch & Munch, transforming a personal health journey into a premium healthy snack brand. His creative ventures include The Home Story for luxury home accessories, Buena Comida for Mexican and Lebanese cuisine, and House of SDJ for luxury streetwear. He believes living well should never mean compromising on taste, style, or experience.

Through the SDJ Podcast and his philosophy "Unmute The World," he brings forward conversations with personalities from business, wellness, lifestyle, and entertainment. He constantly creates his own path across brands, conscious living, and lifestyle.

His journey effectively builds his evolving identity precisely at the intersection of legacy, luxury, wellness, and modern storytelling.

As a dedicated author, his published books reflect his deep interest in resilience, self-belief, health, and personal growth. These titles include Life is a Rollercoaster Ride, Believe - The Power Within, and Live Life the Healthy Way. His unique story is a reminder that a modern legacy can be self-written.



PRAFUL THAKUR

A career shaped by reinvention, global experience and the refusal to stop learning

Praful Thakur's professional journey has never followed a single straight line. His early academic years included an IIT education, followed by a career in the media industry. That first phase introduced him to the discipline of professional life, but his ambitions eventually took him much further from home.

He later moved to the United States, where the transition was anything but easy. Like many professionals beginning again in a new country, he had to adjust, rebuild and find opportunities in unfamiliar surroundings. The early years demanded patience and adaptability, and over time he worked across multiple sectors before finding a long-term direction in real estate.

From around 2000 to 2015, real estate became one of the most important chapters of his career. His work took him through major markets across the northeastern United States, including New Jersey, New York and Boston, where he gained substantial experience working with property and clients.

One of the companies associated with this phase of his journey was LAER Realty Partners, where Praful worked in the US real-estate ecosystem.

His experience in property was built not only on transactions, but on understanding people, markets and long-term relationships. Over the years, this exposure gave him a practical view of how real estate changes with location, economic cycles and customer expectations.

What makes Praful's story particularly distinctive is what happened after the conventional retirement age. At 70, he has not stepped away from learning. Instead, he has moved deeper into artificial intelligence, participating in AI-focused learning and continuing to experiment with emerging tools, digital business models and new ways of working.

He also operates an agency in the United States while working with clients connected to India, making his current professional life as international as the earlier stages of his career.

01

Decades of experience across India and the United States

02

Real estate, entrepreneurship and AI at age 70



SHRITI PANDEY

"Building a cleaner construction model from agricultural waste and practical design."

Shriti Pandey's journey into entrepreneurship began with a decision to walk away from a comfortable path. After completing a master's degree in construction management at New York University, she worked with a project-management consultancy in New York. But instead of continuing along the same route, she returned to India and joined the SBI Youth for India rural development programme

That decision changed the direction of her career.

While working in a village in Madhya Pradesh, Shriti witnessed crop residue being burned after harvest. The problem was familiar in headlines, but experiencing it directly made the issue much harder to ignore. Her earlier exposure to sustainable materials gave her a possible direction: what if agricultural waste could become a construction resource rather than something that had to be burnt?

That question eventually led to Strawcture Eco, founded to develop building materials from agricultural residue. The company works with compressed agri-fibre technology, turning materials such as paddy straw, wheat straw and bagasse into panels that can be used in construction.

The idea behind Strawcture is not simply to create another green product. It addresses two problems at once: agricultural waste that is often burned, and a construction industry that depends heavily on carbon-intensive materials.

Its AgriBioPanels are designed for applications including walls, ceilings and other interior or structural uses, offering an alternative to more conventional materials.

Shriti's approach has always been closely tied to field experience. Her time in rural India gave her a clearer understanding of affordability, local materials and the practical realities of construction outside major cities.

That perspective helped shape a business model built around sustainability without losing sight of cost, usability and scale.

01

Founder of Strawcture Eco

02

Building materials made from agricultural residue

After the deluge, Nepal begins the long recovery

As rescue efforts continue, flood-hit communities face a difficult path of rebuilding roads, restoring power and helping displaced families return to safer ground.



A nation counting the cost

The flood's impact has stretched far beyond the immediate rescue zone. Across affected municipalities, families have been forced into temporary shelters while roads, homes and public infrastructure remain heavily damaged. Relief teams continue to prioritise food, medicine and emergency support, but the larger challenge now is restoring a sense of safety and stability for thousands of people whose daily lives have been upended.

"recovery begins with restoring hope"

NEPAL REBUILDS

01

84,270 people affected

02

431.1 MW power disrupted

03

11,000+ people rescued

Damage to power and infrastructure

Authorities have reported major disruption to transport links, local utilities and energy systems. Debris-filled river channels, weakened bridges and landslide-prone routes have slowed movement across several districts. Hydropower generation has also been affected, underlining how closely mountain communities depend on resilient infrastructure during monsoon emergencies.

Relief, resilience and the road ahead

Even as emergency operations continue, the disaster has renewed attention on climate resilience, early-warning systems and safer planning in vulnerable terrain. Recovery will depend not only on immediate aid but also on long-term rebuilding that protects communities, livelihoods and essential services from future shocks. For many families, the next chapter is no longer just survival, but rebuilding with dignity.

BRAND JOURNEY

Foxtella: The All-Women Lucknow Label Selling Heritage at ₹1,000

Founded in Lucknow in 2020, Foxtella built a fashion jewellery label run entirely by women, with accessible pricing and a strong Make in India identity.

Foxtella was founded in 2020 by Monika Singh in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, with a clear belief — that jewellery can be fashionable, accessible and empowering. Built as an all-women organisation with the philosophy “For Women, By Women”, the brand brings together contemporary design and India’s rich craft legacy under a strong Make in India identity.

Foxtella offers a wide range of fashion and occasion jewellery, with a catalogue of 223 products across 12 categories. Prices range from ₹380 to ₹9,125, with a median price of ₹1,070, making most of the collection accessible for everyday and special occasions. Orders are dispatched within 24–48 hours and delivered in 5–7 business days, with free shipping across India. Customers can also choose cash on delivery, available with a nominal ₹50 charge. The brand reaches consumers through its website foxtella.in, leading marketplaces, retail stockists and its own outlets, continuing to grow as a home-grown label that celebrates women, craftsmanship and modern style.

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A fashion jewellery brand built by women, for women, with most of its catalogue priced for accessible occasion wear.



AT A GLANCE

-  Founded in 2020 by Monika Singh
-  Based in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
-  223 products across 12 categories
-  Price band: ₹380 to ₹9,125 (median price ₹1,070)
-  Dispatch within 24–48 hours; delivery in 5–7 business days; free shipping; COD available with ₹50 charge
-  Sales via foxtella.in, marketplaces, retail stockists and own outlets



NIDHI PANT

Using technology to reduce food waste and create stronger rural livelihoods

Nidhi Pant's entrepreneurial journey grew from a problem she understood at a personal level. With roots in Uttarakhand and an academic background in chemical engineering, she became increasingly interested in the challenges faced by farmers, particularly the losses that occur after harvest when produce cannot be stored or sold quickly enough.

That concern eventually became part of S4S Technologies, short for Science for Society. Founded by Nidhi and her co-founders while they were still young engineers, the company began by developing solar-powered drying technology for agricultural produce.

The early idea was straightforward: if fruits and vegetables could be preserved close to the farm, farmers would have more time to sell them and would not be forced to accept low prices simply because produce was about to spoil.

Over time, however, the team realised that technology alone was not enough. Farmers also needed processing support, market access and a reliable business model. S4S gradually evolved from selling drying equipment into a more complete food-processing ecosystem.

At the centre of the model are smallholder women farmers.

S4S trains women to work as rural food processors, giving them access to technology, training and markets.

Produce that may otherwise have gone to waste can be dried, processed and converted into ingredients with a longer shelf life.

This creates a second source of income while also reducing dependence on unpredictable harvest cycles. The World Bank describes the model as one that combines agriculture, gender, clean energy and financial inclusion.

The scale of the work has grown substantially.

Acumen reports that S4S has supported around 100,000 smallholder farmers, while approximately 2,000 women entrepreneurs working within the model have seen their incomes double or even triple.

01

Co-founder of S4S Technologies

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100,000 smallholder farmers supported

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