

# G **GLOBAL** COVER STORY

**THE JULY 50**  
PEOPLE SHAPING  
A BOLDER FUTURE

**LEARNING**  
BEYOND LIMITS  
SCIENCE, ART  
AND SERVICE

**GLOBAL EDUCATOR**  
TEACHING SCIENCE  
AS A LANGUAGE OF  
POSSIBILITY

**120+**  
INTERNATIONAL  
AWARDS

**COVER PERSONALITY**

**RANIA  
LAMPOU**

**GLOBAL STEM EDUCATOR**  
EDUCATION • INNOVATION

**GLOBAL IMPACT**  
STEM • PEACE • SERVICE

# Rania Lampou

## Teaching science as a language of possibility

The Greek educator brings neuroeducation, astronomy, art and service into the same classroom.



Rania Lampou's work begins with a clear idea: difficult science becomes meaningful when students can touch it, test it and reimagine it. The Greek global educator, STEM instructor and ICT teacher-trainer has built a practice around neuroeducation - using insights into how people learn to make astronomy and physics feel immediate rather than remote.

### A CLASSROOM WITHOUT HARD BORDERS

Her academic path crosses language, literature and education. That range appears in the classroom, where exact science meets painting, collage, theatre and everyday materials. The method is not decoration around a lesson; it is a way of giving abstract concepts a physical and emotional vocabulary.

Lampou has been associated with the Greek Ministry of Education's Directorate of Educational Technology and Innovation and the Greek Astronomy and Space Company. Across those roles, she has developed STE(A)M projects designed to make inquiry active, interdisciplinary and accessible.

Her work also travels beyond a single classroom. Published profiles describe her as a founder and coordinator of international projects connected to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and as an author of science books for children. Her book Planetary Interviews reflects the same instinct: wonder is not the opposite of rigour; it can be the route into it.

Recognition has followed, including selection as a 2019 Global Teacher Prize finalist and a Global Teacher Award in 2020. Yet the more enduring measure of her work is the learning culture she argues for - curious, humane and generous enough to let art, science and service strengthen one another.

01

Neuroeducation-led STE(A)M

02

International SDG projects

03

Science books for children

# Achievement is most interesting when we can see the work beneath it.

The July 50 brings together eleven reader-nominated and commissioned profiles with thirty-nine independently researched journeys, alongside a special international cover story. The people in these pages work in laboratories, studios, boardrooms, stadiums, classrooms and communities - often far from a national spotlight.

This is not a ranking. It is a deliberately varied portrait of ambition: young founders beside institution-builders, celebrated champions beside people whose impact grows far from a spotlight. Every feature has been edited for clarity and designed to breathe. We hope you pause with the photographs, read the work closely and leave with a larger sense of what achievement can serve.

## - THE EDITORIAL TEAM



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## FOUNDERS &amp; ENTERPRISE

# Ideas that became institutions

Builders working across property, finance, technology and consumer life - united by the discipline to turn a possibility into a repeatable system.

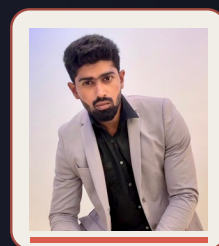
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People, ideas and long-range work

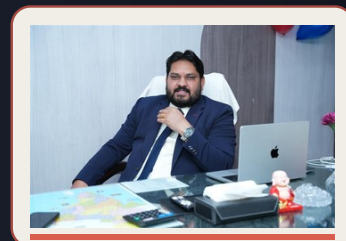
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Dr. Avinash Jagdale



Er. Sajin



Manoj Dewangan

## REAL ESTATE / INFRASTRUCTURE

# Dr. Avinash Jagdale

## Building value beyond the skyline

The founder of JPrime Group is linking real estate, strategic land and clean energy through one long-view enterprise.



## THE STORY

Dr. Avinash Jagdale has spent more than eighteen years reading the places where infrastructure and aspiration are about to meet. At JPrime, that instinct has become a development strategy: secure well-connected land, execute with discipline and build communities that can hold value over time.

The next phase will test how well JPrime can translate a large pipeline into neighbourhoods that feel considered at street level, not only impressive on a balance sheet.

The company reports more than 900 homes delivered, ten completed buildings and a land bank exceeding 200 acres. Jagdale is also taking the group beyond conventional development, with renewable-energy plans and an investment platform intended to connect physical assets with patient capital. The unifying idea is simple - growth earns trust only when governance, delivery and long-term usefulness advance together.

That is where Jagdale's emphasis on transparency and patient value creation will matter most: scale must remain visible in delivery quality, public confidence and everyday usefulness.

01

18+ years across real estate and investments

02

900+ homes delivered

03

Renewable energy and AIF ambitions

## CONSTRUCTION / YOUNG ENTERPRISE



## Er. Sajin

### A venture built in uncertain times

What began as renovation work during the pandemic has grown into a multi-crore construction enterprise.

#### THE STORY

Sajin started taking on renovation assignments in 2020, two years before completing his civil-engineering degree. The timing was difficult, but it taught him the two habits that now define SARA Construction & Enterprises: stay close to the site and earn the next project through the last one.

His advantage is proximity: clients deal with a founder who still understands the sequence of work on site, the pressure of timelines and the cost of a careless detail.

Guidance from his father and professional exposure at a leading real-estate company helped turn technical training into commercial judgement. Today the firm handles interiors, renovations and full-scale builds, with a client base strengthened by referrals. The submitted company profile places annual turnover between Rs 5 crore and Rs 10 crore - notable growth for a founder still in his twenties.

As the company grows, protecting that hands-on culture may be more important than rapid expansion, because referrals were the original engine of the business.

01

Started during the 2020 pandemic

02

Civil engineering graduate, 2022

03

Submitted turnover: Rs 5-10 crore

## FINTECH / FINANCIAL INCLUSION

# Manoj Dewangan

## Making payment access feel everyday

At Vidual Communications, the promise of 'Payment Everywhere' is translated into reach, reliability and service.



### THE STORY

Manoj Dewangan brings more than two decades of experience across fintech, telecom and e-commerce to Vidual Communications India. An MBA alumnus of IIM Lucknow, he has shaped the company around a practical question: how can financial services remain dependable for customers beyond the obvious metropolitan centres?

In fintech, access is meaningful only when the service remains dependable after the first transaction, especially for customers who have little tolerance for failed payments or unclear support.

That focus joins technology with distribution, partnership building and a close reading of customer experience. Dewangan also treats employee engagement as operating infrastructure rather than an HR slogan. The awards listed in the submitted profile - for customer satisfaction, employee engagement and the use of customer experience to drive growth - point to a leadership model that values both reach and the quality of every interaction.

Dewangan's challenge is therefore operational as much as technological: build reach, keep trust intact and make every new partnership strengthen the customer experience.

01

22+ years of cross-sector experience

02

Founder and CEO, Vidual Communications

03

Customer and employee experience focus

## 04

ELECTRIC MOBILITY / LOGISTICS

## Keshri Nandan

## A practical route to cleaner deliveries



Ridoji is lowering the entry barrier to electric fleets for businesses that live by the last mile.

## THE STORY

Keshri Nandan co-founded Ridoji around a gap he could see clearly: businesses wanted the economics of electric mobility without the friction of owning, maintaining and managing a fleet from day one. The answer is a rental and subscription model for electric two- and three-wheelers, supported by fleet operations and service.

The commercial case for electric fleets improves when vehicles spend more time earning and less time waiting for maintenance, charging or replacement parts.

Ridoji's ambition sits at the intersection of lower operating cost and cleaner urban movement. Its planned expansion includes Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities, charging and maintenance hubs, and data-led fleet optimisation. For Nandan, technology matters most when it reduces downtime, improves utilisation and makes sustainable transport the easier commercial choice rather than the more complicated one.

Ridoji's opportunity lies in owning that unglamorous layer of reliability, turning sustainability from a corporate promise into a measurable advantage for delivery partners.

01

EV rental and subscription model

02

Focus on last-mile delivery fleets

03

Planned AI-backed fleet analytics

## BUSINESS NETWORKS / INSTITUTION BUILDING

# Dr. Ivan Misner

## The long game of useful relationships

The founder of BNI turned a simple referral practice into a repeatable global system for trust-based business.



## THE STORY

Ivan Misner founded BNI in 1985 around a conviction that sounds straightforward but is difficult to systematise: professional relationships create value when generosity comes before extraction. The organisation translated that belief into regular meetings, accountable referrals and a shared vocabulary for building credibility over time.

His phrase 'Givers Gain' works because it turns networking from a transaction into a habit. A useful introduction may not return immediately, but it strengthens the social capital on which resilient small businesses often depend.

BNI's expansion across countries did not depend on making every market identical. It depended on protecting a consistent method while allowing local chapters to carry their own commercial culture. Misner's role as founder and chief visionary officer has therefore been as much about institutional design as networking advice.

In an age of fast digital contact, his work keeps returning to a slower question: have people seen enough consistency to trust one another with reputation, opportunity and follow-through?

01

Founded BNI in 1985

02

PhD from the University of Southern California

03

Author and advocate of 'Givers Gain'

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY / SANITATION



# Ajinkya Dhariya

## Designing dignity into waste systems

PadCare Labs is treating sanitary-pad waste as a materials problem, a public-health problem and a workplace-design problem at once.

### THE STORY

Ajinkya Dhariya founded PadCare Labs after noticing how little engineering attention was given to used sanitary pads. The company's system collects and processes the waste, separating recoverable cellulose and plastic rather than leaving institutions to rely only on landfilling or incineration.

Dhariya's work brings hardware, logistics and behaviour change into one service. That integrated view is what turns a promising machine into infrastructure that offices, campuses and public facilities can actually operate.

The innovation matters because disposal is usually the invisible half of menstrual health. A product may be accessible, yet the worker who handles it and the organisation responsible for it can still be left with an unsafe, awkward process.

His strongest entrepreneurial lesson is to begin where discomfort has made a problem easy to ignore. Circular design becomes meaningful when it improves both material recovery and human dignity.

01

Founder and CEO, PadCare Labs

02

Circular sanitary-waste system

03

Marico Innovation Foundation Scale-Up cohort

## FOOD SYSTEMS / RURAL ENTERPRISE

# Nidhi Pant

## Making the harvest last longer

At S4S Technologies, solar-powered processing is designed to reduce food loss while widening income for women in rural communities.



### THE STORY

Nidhi Pant co-founded S4S Technologies around a stubborn gap in the food chain: produce can be abundant at the farm and still fail to reach a paying market. The company's solar-powered processing model helps convert perishable crops into ingredients with a longer commercial life.

Pant's engineering practice is therefore also an exercise in market design. Lower food loss matters most when the value retained in the system can travel back to the people closest to production.

Technology is only one part of that model. S4S works with women micro-entrepreneurs who operate within rural supply networks, connecting equipment, training, procurement and buyers rather than treating a dryer as a stand-alone intervention.

Her work shows why climate solutions often become stronger when they solve an immediate economic problem: resilience is easier to adopt when it also improves the reliability of household income.

01

Co-founder, S4S Technologies

02

Solar food-processing model

03

Earthshot Prize recognition

## 08

BIOMATERIALS / CLEAN AIR

## Arpit Dhupar

## Packaging grown from a pollution problem



Dharaksha Ecosolutions uses crop residue and mycelium to rethink what protective packaging can be made from - and what happens after use.

## THE STORY

Arpit Dhupar co-founded Dharaksha Ecosolutions after working on air-pollution technology and studying the recurring problem of crop-residue burning. The venture uses agricultural waste as a feedstock and mycelium as a natural binder to create protective packaging designed to biodegrade.

Dhupar's approach is notable for treating material performance as non-negotiable. An alternative earns adoption only when it can protect a product, fit an industrial workflow and arrive at a price a buyer can understand.

The idea links two waste streams that are usually discussed separately: stubble that farmers need to clear quickly, and petroleum-based packaging that can persist long after a shipment is opened.

Dharaksha's journey is a reminder that climate enterprise is built in the space between laboratory possibility and procurement reality. Both must work before a new material can travel at scale.

01

Co-founder, Dharaksha Ecosolutions

02

Crop-residue and mycelium packaging

03

Focus on alternatives to foam packaging

## PLAY / PUBLIC SPACE

# Pooja Rai

## Building room for childhood

Anthill Creations turns underused spaces and repurposed materials into playgrounds that invite children to move, imagine and belong.



## THE STORY

Architect Pooja Rai co-founded Anthill Creations after seeing how many children encountered school grounds without meaningful places to play. The organisation designs playgrounds from locally available and repurposed materials, adapting each site to its users rather than installing a generic catalogue.

Rai's design practice is strongest when it listens before it draws. Working with communities helps a space reflect local habits and makes maintenance a shared responsibility rather than an afterthought.

A playground can look modest beside a classroom, but it supports a wide range of development: movement, negotiation, confidence, curiosity and the freedom to test an idea with other children.

Her work expands the definition of educational infrastructure. Learning does not end at the classroom door, and good public design can make that truth visible with very little spectacle.

01

Co-founder and CEO, Anthill Creations

02

Playgrounds using local and reused materials

03

Architecture-led social enterprise

## SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING



# Rhea Mazumdar Singhal

## A better afterlife for the everyday plate

Ecoware built an Indian market for food-service packaging made from agricultural by-products instead of conventional plastic.

## THE STORY

Rhea Mazumdar Singhal founded Ecoware after returning to India and confronting the volume of disposable plastic embedded in everyday food service. The company turns agricultural by-products into compostable tableware and packaging designed for practical use at scale.

Singhal's leadership helped make material choice part of a wider business conversation. Packaging sits at the intersection of farming, manufacturing, regulation, consumer behaviour and waste management; improvement in one layer can influence the others.

Her early challenge was not only manufacturing. It was convincing buyers that sustainability could meet expectations around hygiene, strength, heat and supply reliability without becoming a niche gesture.

Recognition including the Nari Shakti Puraskar has amplified her voice, but Ecoware's deeper contribution is market-making: giving institutions a workable alternative they can order repeatedly.

01

Founder and CEO, Ecoware

02

Agricultural-waste-based packaging

03

Nari Shakti Puraskar recipient

## GREEN LIVELIHOODS / MATERIALS

# Manisha Sheth

## Small products, deep environmental practice

Through eCoexist, design, ecological education and livelihood creation meet in alternatives for festivals and daily life.



### THE STORY

Manisha Sheth is the founding director of eCoexist Foundation and an architect by training. Her work began with questions about materials and toxicity, then grew into campaigns and products connected to natural colours, clay recovery, waste management and green livelihoods.

Sheth has also worked with farmers, prisoners, waste workers and people with disabilities. That breadth gives sustainability a social definition: a product is not fully responsible if it improves the environment while excluding the people who make or handle it.

The organisation's approach is deliberately patient. It works with the cultural habits people already value, especially around festivals, and changes the material choices inside those habits rather than asking communities to abandon them.

Her practice shows the value of working 'small, slow and deep' - building trust, documenting what works and allowing ecological behaviour to grow through repeated participation.

01

Founding director, eCoexist Foundation

02

23+ years in sustainability

03

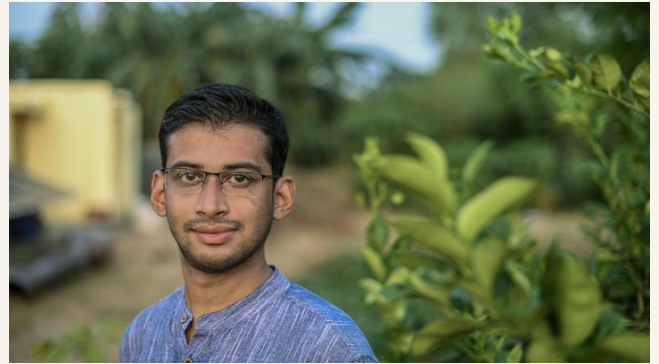
Green livelihoods and festival ecology

12

BIOMASS / RURAL CLIMATE TECH

## Vidyut Mohan

### Turning crop residue into rural value



Takachar takes biomass conversion closer to farms, where waste can become a product before it becomes smoke.

#### THE STORY

Vidyut Mohan co-founded Takachar to make small-scale biomass processing economically useful near the source of agricultural waste. Its portable technology converts residues into marketable carbon-based products, reducing the incentive to burn material in the open.

Mohan's route to the venture included sustainable-energy study and field work with rural communities. That experience kept the technology tied to the realities of seasonal labour, local income and equipment that must perform outside a controlled factory.

The model is built around distance. Low-density biomass is expensive to transport, so moving conversion closer to farms can improve both the economics and the emissions profile of the supply chain.

Takachar's Earthshot Prize recognition brought global attention, but the enterprise remains grounded in a practical rural proposition: waste acquires value when the processing system fits the place where it is produced.

01

Co-founder and CEO, Takachar

02

Portable biomass conversion

03

Earthshot Prize winner, 2021

## FINANCIAL EDUCATION / CREATOR ECONOMY

# CA Sakchi Jain

## Making money language less intimidating

The young chartered accountant uses short-form content to translate tax, saving and investing for first-generation learners.



## THE STORY

Sakchi Jain qualified as a chartered accountant and briefly entered a conventional corporate path before choosing finance education as her primary work. From Ranchi, she built an audience by breaking dense topics into direct explanations shaped for younger viewers.

The larger opportunity is financial confidence. Many young earners meet tax, insurance and investing without a trusted guide, and accessible language can help them recognise what they still need to verify.

Her content sits in a crowded category where confidence can easily outrun accuracy. Jain's professional training gives her a useful discipline: explain the concept, distinguish education from advice and make the next question easier to ask.

Her inclusion in Forbes Asia's 30 Under 30 in 2025 reflected the reach of that work. Its value, however, is best measured one decision at a time - when a viewer moves from vague anxiety to informed action.

01

Chartered accountant and educator

02

Finance content for young audiences

03

Forbes Asia 30 Under 30, 2025

## FINANCE / KNOWLEDGE MEDIA



# Kushal Lodha

## A career conversation built in public

The finance professional, author and podcast host has made ambitious careers easier to examine through candid, structured conversations.

### THE STORY

Kushal Lodha built his public work on a combination of formal finance training and curiosity about how people construct unconventional careers. Through videos, writing and long-form conversations, he translates professional routes that can otherwise appear opaque from the outside.

That approach gives younger audiences something more useful than motivation alone: a map of trade-offs. A career story becomes credible when it includes the uncertainty, repetition and unglamorous work between milestones.

His appeal is not only in credentials. It is in the willingness to ask practical questions about study, work, failure, income and the decisions behind a polished outcome.

As knowledge media grows, Lodha's challenge is the same one faced by every trusted educator - preserve nuance while speaking clearly enough to keep attention. The balance is where his work becomes most valuable.

01

Chartered accountant and finance educator

02

Host, Konversation with Kushal

03

Author and digital creator

# Recognition is widening beyond the obvious startup story

National Startup Awards 5.0 places circular economy, inclusive design, health-tech, deep-tech and regional enterprise inside the same public frame.

01

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A signal for where new ventures are building depth

02

## HEALTH-TECH

A signal for where new ventures are building depth

03

## INCLUSIVE DESIGN

A signal for where new ventures are building depth

04

## DEEP-TECH

A signal for where new ventures are building depth

05

## REGIONAL ENTERPRISE

A signal for where new ventures are building depth

06

## BOOTSTRAPPED GROWTH

A signal for where new ventures are building depth

The useful shift is from celebrating a founder's visibility to examining a company's evidence: a working product, a clear user, measurable social value and the ability to repeat delivery. The official finalist list includes ventures such as PadCare Labs and Sunfox Technologies - both profiled in this issue - alongside companies working in mobility, agriculture, health, accessibility and manufacturing.

## SCIENCE & INNOVATION

# The patient architecture of progress

Researchers and mission leaders whose work reminds us that a breakthrough is usually the visible edge of years spent testing, measuring and learning.



Dr. Geetha Manjunath



Rajat Jain

### 08 PROFILES

People, ideas and long-range work

01 Dr. Geetha Manjunath

02 Rajat Jain

03 Dr. Akshay Singhal

04 Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll

05 Nandini Harinath

06 Prof. Hardik J. Pandya

07 Prof. Mausam

08 Dr. Aditi Pant



Dr. Akshay Singhal

AI / WOMEN'S HEALTH

# Dr. Geetha Manjunath

## A screening system designed for reach

NIRAMAI combines thermal imaging and artificial intelligence in a non-invasive approach to breast-health screening.



### THE STORY

Dr. Geetha Manjunath founded NIRAMAI Health Analytix after a long career in information-technology research. The company's thermal-analysis system is designed to support breast-health screening without radiation or physical contact, widening the range of settings in which screening can be offered.

Manjunath brings more than three decades of research experience, including leadership roles at Xerox and Hewlett-Packard laboratories. Her name appears on numerous patents, yet her current work is defined by translation - moving computation into a clinical workflow.

The work sits at a demanding boundary: an algorithm must perform technically, but a health system also needs clear protocols, trained users, validation and responsible communication about what a screening result can and cannot establish.

NIRAMAI's mission is strongest when understood as access infrastructure. Early detection depends not only on a breakthrough, but on whether the method can travel to women who are rarely reached by conventional screening programmes.

01

Founder, CEO and CTO, NIRAMAI

02

AI-assisted thermal screening

03

PhD and IISc gold medallist

16

MEDTECH / CARDIAC ACCESS

## Rajat Jain

### An ECG that fits beyond the hospital



Sunfox Technologies is bringing portable cardiac testing closer to homes, clinics and communities that cannot wait for specialist infrastructure.

#### THE STORY

Rajat Jain leads Sunfox Technologies, the Dehradun company behind Spandan, a compact ECG system designed to work with a phone. The product addresses a basic access problem: symptoms do not arrive only where a full diagnostic set-up is available.

Jain's work joins electronics, software and practitioner education. That combination matters because decentralised care is a system, not a gadget; reliability depends on how the device is used, maintained and connected to clinical judgement.

Portable hardware can widen the first point of assessment, but it also raises the bar for signal quality, instructions and safe escalation. A device must help a user recognise when professional medical care is needed, not encourage overconfidence in self-interpretation.

Sunfox represents a growing Indian medtech ambition: build locally for constraints that are easy to overlook from a tertiary hospital, then subject the solution to the discipline healthcare demands.

01

Founder and CEO, Sunfox Technologies

02

Portable ECG platform, Spandan

03

Focus on decentralised cardiac assessment

## BATTERY SCIENCE / DEEP TECH

# Dr. Akshay Singhal

## Taking materials from paper to production

At Log9 Materials, nanotechnology and battery engineering are being pushed toward products suited to India's demanding operating conditions.



### THE STORY

Dr. Akshay Singhal co-founded Log9 Materials after studying materials engineering and nanotechnology at IIT Roorkee. The company has worked across graphene applications and energy storage, with a growing focus on batteries and cells for electric mobility.

Singhal's contribution lies in moving between those layers. A deep-tech founder must protect research quality while building a team that can source, manufacture, test and service a product beyond the laboratory.

Battery technology is often reduced to headline numbers, but commercial performance depends on chemistry, thermal behaviour, safety, charging patterns, pack design and manufacturing repeatability.

Log9's journey captures the central challenge of indigenous technology: national ambition becomes credible only through the patient industrial work of making each unit behave like the last one.

01

Co-founder and CEO, Log9 Materials

02

PhD in nanotechnology, IIT Roorkee

03

Advanced batteries and materials

## CLIMATE SCIENCE / INDIAN OCEAN



## Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll

### Reading the ocean behind the weather

The climate scientist connects Indian Ocean warming with the changing risks experienced by coastal and monsoon-dependent communities.

#### THE STORY

Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll studies the Indian Ocean, monsoon dynamics and extreme weather at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. His research helps explain how ocean heat influences rainfall, cyclones, marine heatwaves and the wider climate risks facing South Asia.

Koll has contributed to international climate assessments and works across research, communication and policy engagement. He is especially effective at translating a complex system without pretending away its uncertainty.

That science has immediate public value. Forecasting and adaptation improve when decision-makers understand not only that an extreme event may occur, but how the background climate is changing its probability and intensity.

His message is practical rather than fatalistic: better observations, better models and locally designed preparedness can turn climate knowledge into earlier, fairer protection.

01

Scientist, IITM Pune

02

Indian Ocean and monsoon specialist

03

IPCC lead-author experience

## SPACE SYSTEMS / MISSION OPERATIONS

# Nandini Harinath

## The choreography behind a distant mission

The ISRO scientist's work shows how spacecraft operations are built from planning, simulation and calm decisions made long before a critical moment.



### THE STORY

Nandini Harinath has spent her career at the Indian Space Research Organisation working on mission design and operations. She was part of the team behind the Mars Orbiter Mission, where navigation, timing and contingency planning had to function far beyond immediate human intervention.

Harinath has also become an important public voice for women in engineering. Her visibility matters because it replaces a generic image of 'the scientist' with a person whose expertise has been earned inside real missions.

Space missions make their most visible appearance at launch or landing, yet the larger body of work is quieter: model the trajectory, test assumptions, rehearse anomalies and keep many specialist teams aligned around one sequence.

The lesson in her career is precision without drama. When the margin for correction is narrow, preparation becomes a form of imagination - the ability to picture what might happen before it does.

01

ISRO mission-systems leader

02

Mars Orbiter Mission team

03

Advocate for women in space science

20

BIOMEDICAL DEVICES / SENSORS

## Prof. Hardik J. Pandya

Engineering tools that meet the body carefully



At IISc, his laboratories develop minimally invasive and non-invasive technologies for difficult questions in diagnosis and treatment.

### THE STORY

Professor Hardik J. Pandya leads biomedical-device research at the Indian Institute of Science, working across sensors, microengineering and technologies related to cancer, cardiovascular disease and neurological conditions.

Pandya's training spans IIT Delhi, the University of Maryland and Brigham and Women's Hospital-Harvard Medical School. That path gives his research an explicitly translational character: questions begin in engineering but are judged by clinical usefulness.

The field demands a rare combination of disciplines. A promising sensor must survive the physical world of tissue, motion, fluids, sterilisation and clinical interpretation before it can become a trustworthy medical tool.

By mentoring a large interdisciplinary team and moving selected work toward market application, he is helping build the connective tissue between an Indian laboratory, a device company and a future care pathway.

01

Associate professor, IISc

02

Heads biomedical-device laboratories

03

DST Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation Fellow

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE / LANGUAGE

# Prof. Mausam

## Building AI that can reason with language

At IIT Delhi, the computer scientist works across natural-language processing, machine learning and the institutions needed for long-term AI research.



## THE STORY

Professor Mausam is a computer scientist at IIT Delhi and the founding head of its Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence. His research spans natural-language processing, machine learning and systems that must act under uncertainty.

Mausam's role combines scholarship with ecosystem building: train researchers, create collaborations and ask which problems deserve attention rather than following every wave of enthusiasm.

The work is technically ambitious, but its Indian relevance is also linguistic and institutional. Useful AI must operate beyond a narrow set of languages and benchmarks, and strong research needs laboratories capable of sustaining doctoral work over many years.

That steadiness matters in a field moving at extraordinary speed. A durable AI culture is built not only by bigger models, but by clear evaluation, open inquiry and people trained to recognise what a system still does not know.

01

Professor of Computer Science, IIT Delhi

02

Founding head, Yardi School of AI

03

Research in NLP and decision-making

## OCEANOGRAPHY / POLAR RESEARCH

## Dr. Aditi Pant

### A first journey that widened the map



The oceanographer's Antarctic fieldwork became a landmark for Indian science and for women entering research environments once considered out of reach.

#### THE STORY

Dr. Aditi Pant trained in marine science and returned to India to work at the National Institute of Oceanography. In 1983, she and geologist Sudipta Sengupta became the first Indian women to join the country's scientific work in Antarctica.

Pant later worked at the National Chemical Laboratory and in university research, extending a career across oceanography, marine biology and the study of salt-tolerant organisms.

The achievement was more than a symbolic first. Polar research demands physical endurance, careful sampling and the ability to make reliable observations in an environment where logistics shape every scientific choice.

Her story retains its force because access changes a discipline. Once a barrier has been crossed visibly, the next generation can spend less energy defending its presence and more energy asking better scientific questions.

01

First Indian woman in Antarctica, 1983

02

Oceanographer, National Institute of Oceanography

03

Research across marine and polar science

# IndiaAI is being built as an ecosystem, not a single model

The national mission's seven pillars connect compute, datasets, skills, applications, startup finance, research and responsible deployment.

- |    |                 |                                                |
|----|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | COMPUTE         | Shared capacity for researchers and builders   |
| 02 | INNOVATION      | Research directed toward public-value problems |
| 03 | DATASETS        | Better access to usable, governed data         |
| 04 | APPLICATIONS    | AI deployed in priority sectors                |
| 05 | FUTURESKILLS    | Training for students and professionals        |
| 06 | STARTUP FINANCE | Capital for indigenous AI ventures             |
| 07 | SAFE & TRUSTED  | Evaluation, safeguards and accountability      |

The editorial question is what happens between infrastructure and impact. Capacity alone does not guarantee inclusion; a credible mission must make room for Indian languages, independent evaluation, access for smaller institutions and clear responsibility when automated systems affect people's lives.

SOURCE: INDIAAI MISSION, MEITY / INDIAAI.GOV.IN

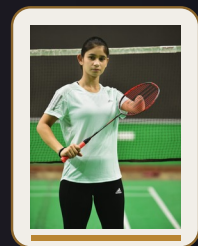
## SPORT &amp; PERFORMANCE

# Where preparation meets the moment

Champions, coaches and martial artists who make pressure look precise - and whose finest performances begin long before the crowd arrives.



Jyothi Yarraji



Palak Kohli

## 11 PROFILES

People, ideas and long-range work

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Jyothi Yarraji | 07 Tanvi Sharma     |
| 02 Palak Kohli    | 08 Anahat Singh     |
| 03 Mona Agarwal   | 09 Sarabjot Singh   |
| 04 Simran Sharma  | 10 Bhishma Madhani  |
| 05 Dharambir Nain | 11 Md Mabidul Islam |
| 06 Tulika Maan    |                     |



Mona Agarwal

## ATHLETICS / HURDLES

# Jyothi Yarraji

## Speed measured between barriers

India's leading 100-metre hurdler has built a career on rhythm, technical repetition and the nerve to attack every obstacle at pace.



### THE STORY

Jyothi Yarraji changed the reference point for Indian women's hurdling by becoming the first Indian woman to run the 100 metres hurdles in under thirteen seconds. Her progress came through technical refinement rather than speed alone: stride pattern, take-off distance and recovery must hold together at full intensity.

Yarraji's return to competition in 2026 carried that work back onto the track. The clock matters, but so does the restored willingness to clear a barrier without hesitation.

She won Asian titles and an Asian Games silver, then faced the less visible contest of returning from an ACL injury. Rehabilitation asks an athlete to trust small gains long before a crowd can see them.

Her event offers an exact metaphor without needing one invented: momentum is not the absence of obstacles; it is the skill of meeting each one without surrendering the race.

01

Indian national record holder

02

Asian champion in 100m hurdles

03

First Indian woman in the Olympic 100m hurdles

24

PARA BADMINTON

## Palak Kohli

### A return built point by point



The para shuttler has repeatedly rebuilt her game through injury, rehabilitation and the tactical demands of multiple badminton formats.

#### THE STORY

Palak Kohli became the youngest para badminton player in the Indian contingent at the Tokyo Paralympics, competing across singles and doubles. Her early international exposure arrived with unusual intensity, demanding tactical changes between events as well as the emotional control of a first Games.

Kohli competes with an upper-limb impairment and speaks about ability without sentimentality. The focus remains on court craft: reading the shuttle early, creating angles and recovering quickly enough to shape the next exchange.

A serious bone condition later interrupted that momentum and required surgery and rehabilitation. Her return to competition made visible the months of upper-body work, movement adaptation and patience behind a short rally.

Her journey is compelling because it is unfinished. Each comeback expands not only her own possibilities but the visibility of para badminton as a demanding professional sport.

01

Tokyo and Paris Paralympian

02

India para-badminton representative

03

Multi-event international competitor

## PARA SHOOTING

# Mona Agarwal

## Stillness learned after many beginnings

The Paris bronze medallist arrived at elite shooting after exploring several sports, bringing resilience and a late starter's clarity to the firing line.



## THE STORY

Mona Agarwal took up para shooting in 2021 after trying other sports, then moved quickly through international competition. In 2024 she won a World Cup gold and secured a quota place for the Paris Paralympic Games.

Agarwal's path also includes the responsibilities of motherhood and the practical challenges of training with disability. Those realities do not sit outside the sporting story; they shape the resourcefulness with which it is built.

At Paris, she earned bronze in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event. The result came from a discipline that turns concentration into a physical routine: breathing, balance, trigger control and recovery after every shot.

Her rapid rise is a reminder that potential does not always announce itself early. Sometimes the decisive step is finding the event that matches a person's patience, temperament and appetite for exactness.

01

Paris 2024 bronze medallist

02

World Cup gold and Paralympic quota

03

Women's 10m air rifle SH1



## PARA ATHLETICS / SPRINT

# Simran Sharma

## Running by trust as well as speed

The visually impaired sprinter and her guide translate training into shared rhythm across the fastest moments of a race.

### THE STORY

Simran Sharma competes in the T12 sprint category for athletes with visual impairment. Her races depend on individual speed and a carefully rehearsed partnership with a guide, where cadence, communication and trust must survive championship pressure.

Sharma has spoken about the need for more para-athletics meets in India. The point is structural: athletes improve when they can test form repeatedly, not only when a single selection trial carries an entire season.

She won bronze in the women's 200 metres T12 at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games after a personal-best run. The medal followed international success and the persistence required to train through limited competitive opportunities at home.

Her sprint is therefore both performance and argument. Talent deserves a calendar, a track and enough chances to become consistent before the world asks it to be exceptional.

01

Paris 2024 bronze medallist

02

Women's 200m T12

03

Advocate for more domestic para meets

## PARA ATHLETICS / CLUB THROW

# Dharambir Nain

## One clean throw after four fouls

The club thrower's Paris gold captured the discipline to reset completely when a final seems to be slipping away.



### THE STORY

Dharambir Nain entered the Paris 2024 Paralympic club-throw final with experience from earlier Games, yet his first four attempts were fouls. On the fifth, he produced an Asian-record throw of 34.92 metres and won India's first Paralympic gold in the F51 event.

Nain came to para sport after a spinal injury and trained under fellow athlete Amit Kumar Saroha. That mentorship gave him both a pathway into competition and a model of how knowledge travels within a sporting community.

Club throw is a seated discipline for athletes with significant movement impairment. The motion is compact but technically unforgiving, transferring force through positioning, timing and a release that leaves little room for correction.

His final in Paris is memorable for more than the distance. It demonstrates a champion's hardest reset: let four failed attempts end, and make the next movement as if the scoreboard were empty.

01

Paris 2024 Paralympic champion

02

Asian record in F51 club throw

03

Multiple-Paralympic competitor

28

JUDO

## Tulika Maan

Strength organised into timing



The heavyweight judoka combines power with the balance, grip fighting and split-second commitment that make judo a study in control.

### THE STORY

Tulika Maan competes in the women's heavyweight division, where a bout can change with a single shift of balance. Her silver medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games brought wider attention to an athlete who had already learned to build opportunity in a sport with a limited domestic spotlight.

Maan has represented India across major international events, carrying the demands of weight management, travel and repeated high-intensity contests that can be decided in seconds.

Judo's public image often begins with force, but performance depends on finer decisions: where to place a grip, when to disrupt posture and whether an opponent's movement can be redirected rather than resisted.

Her career helps widen the Indian sporting frame beyond its most visible disciplines. Every credible international campaign strengthens the pathway for the next judoka who needs competition, coaching and belief before recognition arrives.

01

Commonwealth Games silver, 2022

02

India heavyweight judoka

03

International +78kg competitor

## BADMINTON / EMERGING TALENT

# Tanvi Sharma

## Playing upward before the rankings catch up

The young shuttler's 2025 run to a World Tour final announced a game willing to challenge older, higher-ranked opponents.



### THE STORY

Tanvi Sharma was sixteen when she reached the women's singles final of the 2025 US Open, becoming the youngest Indian to make a BWF World Tour final. The run mattered because it came through opponents with more ranking experience and without the protection of low expectations.

Sharma's rise reflects the value of a deeper development system. Junior competition, national camps and access to high-level sparring convert early talent into habits that can survive the senior tour.

Her game is built around movement and an increasingly assertive attack, but the next stage will be shaped by consistency: managing travel, study, recovery and the tactical adjustments opponents make once surprise is no longer an advantage.

A promising career should not be narrated as inevitable. Its interest lies in the work ahead - learning how to win when form is imperfect and how to keep curiosity alive as expectation grows.

01

US Open 2025 runner-up

02

Youngest Indian in a BWF World Tour final

03

India junior badminton standout



## SQUASH

# Anahat Singh

## A young game with uncommon composure

The Delhi squash player has moved rapidly from junior titles to senior competition without losing the appetite to take the ball early.

## THE STORY

Anahat Singh entered the 2022 Commonwealth Games as the youngest member of India's contingent and has since continued her rise through junior and professional squash. Her game is marked by quick movement and the confidence to take time away from an opponent.

Singh's transition to the senior tour is the more important story than any single junior distinction. Physical strength, tournament scheduling and tactical patience all have to grow around the instinct that made her visible early.

Squash rewards anticipation as much as speed. The player must read angles, recover to the centre and make a small court feel larger for herself than for the person across it.

Her progress gives Indian squash a compelling next chapter. It also shows how young athletes benefit when promise is met with competition rather than burdened by premature certainty.

01

India's youngest athlete at CWG 2022

02

Senior national champion

03

Rising PSA Tour competitor

## SHOOTING / AIR PISTOL

# Sarabjot Singh

## Calm calibrated to a fraction

The air-pistol shooter pairs a quiet firing-line routine with the competitive resilience required to recover from a poor series.



### THE STORY

Sarabjot Singh won an Olympic bronze medal with Manu Bhaker in the 10m air pistol mixed-team event at Paris 2024. The result placed him in a wider public frame, but it was built on years of domestic and international shooting where tiny technical changes decide large outcomes.

Singh began shooting after encountering the sport at a summer camp and developed under coach Abhishek Rana. His path from district competition to the Olympic podium shows the importance of patient technical coaching.

Pistol shooting asks the athlete to manage the body as an instrument: stance, breath, sight alignment, trigger pressure and the decision to lower the arm when a shot does not feel right.

The mixed-team format adds another layer of composure. An athlete must protect his own routine while remaining emotionally available to a partner and the changing momentum of the match.

01

Paris 2024 mixed-team bronze

02

10m air pistol specialist

03

Asian Games medallist

32

STRENGTH &amp; CONDITIONING

## Bhishma Madhani

### Performance science with a public purpose



International coaching experience meets a commitment to make practical fitness accessible across India.

#### THE STORY

Bhishma Madhani trained in Sports and Exercise Science at Middlesex University London and built hands-on experience at Lord's Cricket Ground and with Watford FC's under-19 programme. Back in India, his Body Architect - BM practice turns that learning into realistic strength, conditioning and nutrition plans.

Good conditioning is rarely spectacular on its own; it appears as an athlete who remains powerful late in a match, recovers well and avoids preventable interruption.

His work extends beyond private coaching. As a Fit India Movement ambassador, he has offered complimentary programmes to thousands of Army personnel and police officers and delivered health-literacy sessions in schools, colleges and hospitals. Recognition such as the Pride of Gujarat 2025 reflects the breadth of that service. Madhani's long-term ambition is equally clear: help Indian high-performance sport connect scientific preparation with compassionate leadership.

Madhani's public-service programmes extend the same principle to demanding professions, translating performance science into routines that can survive real schedules and limited resources.

01

International S&amp;C experience

02

Body Architect - BM founder

03

Fitness programmes for uniformed personnel

## MARTIAL ARTS / COMMUNITY SERVICE

# Md Mabidul Islam

## Fighting forward from an unforgiving start

The Assam martial artist turned early hardship into a life spanning competition, cinema, teaching and service.



## THE STORY

Md Mabidul Islam lost his father while still in primary school and grew up carrying responsibility early. Martial arts became both discipline and livelihood. He earned black belts in Shaolin Kung Fu in the 1990s, pursued international exposure and continued to compete across systems.

His path crosses sport, cinema and civic work because martial arts became more than competition - it offered a method for organising effort under difficult circumstances.

In November 2024, he represented India and won gold in Jeet Kune Do at a World Cup championship in Tashkent, according to the submitted profile. His work has also moved into Assamese cinema as an action director and into public life through youth and NGO service. Islam's story is not polished into ease; its power lies in the repeated choice to keep learning, working and helping others despite the absence of a clear path.

By teaching and serving others, Islam turns that personal discipline outward, making resilience something a community can inherit rather than merely admire.

01

Shaolin Kung Fu black belt

02

Jeet Kune Do gold in Tashkent, 2024

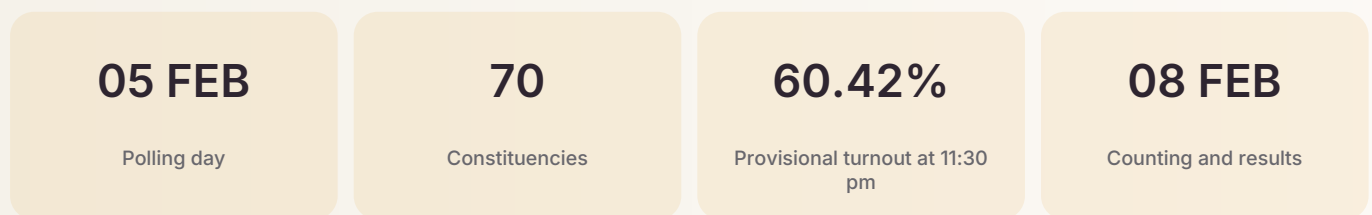
03

Action director in Assamese cinema

# Delhi voted. The numbers changed the government.

A neutral snapshot of the 2025 Assembly election - what was decided, and what the turnout figure does and does not tell us.

## SEATS IN THE 70-MEMBER ASSEMBLY



The Election Commission's late-night turnout update was explicitly provisional and excluded postal ballots; it should not be repeated as the final certified turnout. The result was decisive at seat level: BJP won 48 constituencies and AAP won 22. Congress won none. The most useful civic reading goes beyond victory graphics - turnout, access, electoral rolls and constituency-level margins all shape how accurately a legislature reflects its voters.

### EDITORIAL PRINCIPLE

Election coverage here is factual and non-partisan: dates, participation and certified outcomes, without campaign endorsement.

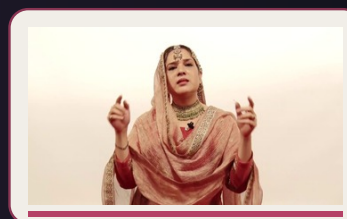
## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

# New expression, enduring roots

Musicians, dancers, filmmakers, writers and image-makers who keep tradition alive by giving it a distinctive present tense.



Sushma Soma



Manjari Chaturvedi

## 09 PROFILES

People, ideas and long-range work

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 Sushma Soma        | 06 Sanjukta Sinha         |
| 02 Manjari Chaturvedi | 07 Rukmini Vijayakumar    |
| 03 Shilo Shiv Suleman | 08 Marmi Nilaybhai Shukla |
| 04 Manasi Prasad      | 09 Basavaraj Naratti      |
| 05 Abhishek Raghuram  |                           |



Shilo Shiv Suleman

## CARNATIC MUSIC / CLIMATE ART



# Sushma Soma

## A classical voice listening to the planet

The vocalist uses Carnatic form to explore ecological grief, interdependence and the possibility of attention becoming action.

### THE STORY

Sushma Soma is a Carnatic vocalist whose recent work has moved deliberately toward questions of climate and human relationship with the natural world. Her project Home treats the concert not only as a display of technique, but as a space for ecological reflection.

Soma's practice also examines the ethics surrounding performance, including the choices artists make about production, travel and the stories they place at the centre of a programme.

That direction does not abandon tradition. It relies on the depth of raga, text and improvisation to carry subjects that feel urgently contemporary, proving that classical form can remain rooted without becoming sealed from the present.

Her music asks audiences to listen across scales: to the fine movement of a phrase and to the larger systems in which daily life is held. Attention becomes both aesthetic pleasure and environmental responsibility.

01

Carnatic vocalist

02

National Arts Council Young Artist Award

03

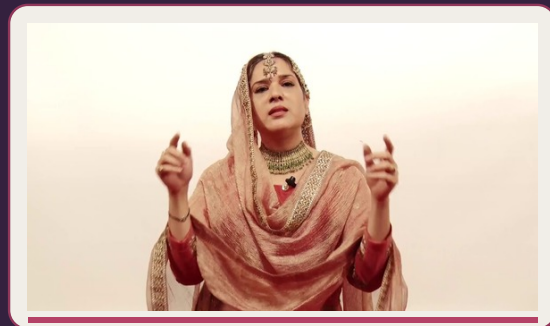
Creator of climate-focused musical work

SUFİ KATHAK / CULTURAL RESEARCH

# Manjari Chaturvedi

## Restoring histories through movement

Her Sufi Kathak practice and Courtesan Project place rigorous performance beside the recovery of artistic lineages pushed to the margins.



### THE STORY

Manjari Chaturvedi trained in Kathak and created a performance language she calls Sufi Kathak, bringing classical movement into dialogue with mystical poetry and live music. Her productions are supported by research across traditions rather than by fusion for its own sake.

Chaturvedi's practice is therefore both artistic and archival. The body becomes a way to test what survives in a gesture, a composition and the memory of an older performer.

Through the Courtesan Project, she has also worked to restore dignity to women performers whose contributions were often simplified or erased in popular history.

Her work argues that preservation is not passive. A tradition remains alive when artists can question its exclusions, credit its makers and create a contemporary encounter without flattening its complexity.

01

Creator of Sufi Kathak

02

Founder, Sufi Kathak Foundation

03

Director of the Courtesan Project

36

PUBLIC ART / SOCIAL JUSTICE

## Shilo Shiv Suleman

Painting fear into a shared language



The artist's murals and installations bring magical realism, public space and community testimony into the same visual field.

### THE STORY

Shilo Shiv Suleman's work moves across painting, interactive installation, wearable sculpture and large public murals. Her imagery is abundant and dreamlike, yet the social questions beneath it are direct: who feels safe, who is seen and who gets to shape a public wall.

That process matters as much as the finished image. Listening sessions, local stories and collective making prevent a mural from becoming an aesthetic object imposed on the neighbourhood it claims to represent.

She founded the Fearless Collective as a participatory movement in which artists and communities create monuments to voices often pushed out of civic space.

Suleman's practice demonstrates that beauty and protest need not compete. Visual pleasure can invite people closer, while the work's authorship and location ask them to remain with a difficult truth.

01

Founder, Fearless Collective

02

Public art in multiple countries

03

Works across art, technology and justice

## CARNATIC MUSIC / ARTS MANAGEMENT

# Manasi Prasad

## A musician building the room around music

The vocalist's career connects performance, curation and institution-building, expanding how classical music can meet a contemporary audience.

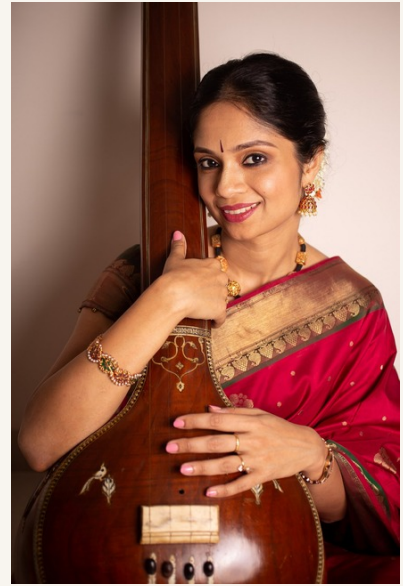
## THE STORY

Manasi Prasad is a Carnatic vocalist, speaker and arts manager whose work crosses the stage and the structures that make performance possible. She has trained with R. K. Padmanabha and Sriram Parasuram and developed projects that place classical technique inside new thematic frames.

Prasad treats explanation as an invitation rather than a simplification. Context can help a listener hear more closely without prescribing a single correct response to the music.

Her concert life spans established sabhas and international venues, while her curatorial work asks how audiences enter a tradition that may feel technically distant.

This dual practice - artist and organiser - is valuable because culture depends on both. A strong performance needs an ecosystem of programming, access, documentation and care for the next generation of listeners.



01

Carnatic vocalist

02

Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

03

Performer and arts manager

## CARNATIC VOCAL / IMPROVISATION



# Abhishek Raghuram

## Tradition approached with restless curiosity

The vocalist brings rhythmic intelligence and exploratory improvisation to a form he learned from inside a remarkable musical lineage.

### THE STORY

Abhishek Raghuram began with the mridangam before turning to vocal music, a route that still informs the rhythmic alertness of his concerts. He trained under P. S. Narayanaswamy and grew within a family deeply connected to Carnatic performance.

Raghuram has argued that audiences need not master technical vocabulary before they listen. Raga and tala are tools for the artist; emotional and intellectual engagement can begin before analysis.

His singing is known for taking improvisational risks while remaining accountable to raga and tala. The excitement lies in hearing an idea develop in real time without losing the architecture that gives it meaning.

That openness is useful to classical music. A tradition grows when rigour remains high at the centre while the threshold for a first encounter becomes generous.

01

Carnatic vocalist

02

Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

03

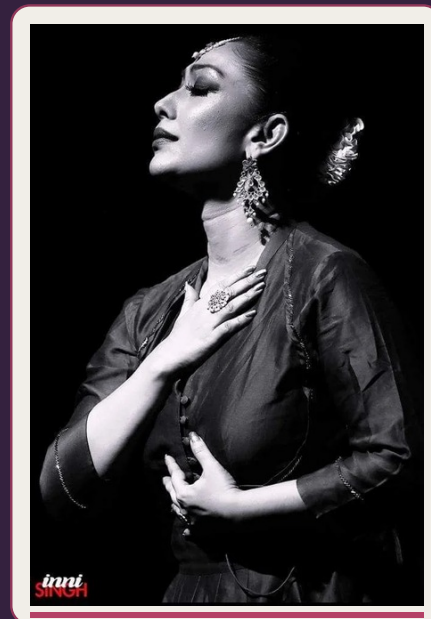
All India Radio A-grade artiste

KATHAK / CHOREOGRAPHY

# Sanjukta Sinha

## A classical line drawn into the present

The dancer's work preserves the precision of Kathak while using contemporary staging to create a more immediate encounter.



### THE STORY

Sanjukta Sinha trained under Pandit Arjun Mishra and Kumudini Lakhia, absorbing both the narrative richness of Lucknow Kathak and a modern choreographic sensibility. Her performances are marked by speed, clarity and an expressive physical presence.

The tension in such work is productive. Innovation must do more than decorate the form, while tradition must remain open enough to recognise a new stage, a new body and a new audience.

She founded her dance company in Ahmedabad as a platform for interdisciplinary work and for artists developing new questions inside classical training.

Sinha's career shows how a dancer can inhabit both responsibilities: protect the grammar learned from a guru and use it to make something unmistakably present.

01

Kathak dancer and choreographer

02

Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

03

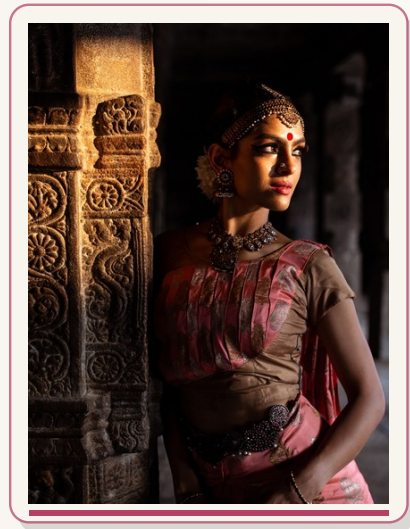
Founder of Sanjukta Sinha Dance Company

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BHARATANATYAM / CHOREOGRAPHY

## Rukmini Vijayakumar

Classical form, contemporary attention



The dancer and choreographer brings exacting Bharatanatyam technique into productions shaped by architecture, rhythm and modern stagecraft.

### THE STORY

Rukmini Vijayakumar trained in Bharatanatyam and ballet, experiences that sharpened her awareness of line, space and the different ways a body can organise attention. Through the Raadha Kalpa method and ensemble, she has built work grounded in classical technique and open to contemporary composition.

Vijayakumar is also an educator, and teaching exposes the architecture beneath apparent ease: posture, rhythm, muscular memory and the interpretive choices that turn movement into meaning.

Her performances resist the idea that tradition must choose between preservation and invention. The vocabulary remains disciplined, while lighting, spatial design and choreographic scale allow audiences to encounter it anew.

Her work demonstrates that renewal is most persuasive when the artist has gone deeply enough into a form to know which structures can bend and which carry its identity.

01

Founder, Raadha Kalpa

02

Bharatanatyam dancer and choreographer

03

Classical training with contemporary stagecraft

## MUSIC / DANCE / THEATRE

# Marmi Nilaybhai Shukla

## A voice trained across many stages

Her journey connects English studies with classical music, Bharatanatyam and an instinctive command of performance.



## THE STORY

Marmi Nilaybhai Shukla has built an artistic life without treating education and performance as competing paths. A postgraduate in English from Kachchh University, she began young in classical dance, vocal music and theatre, then steadily moved from district stages to state and national recognition.

The value of her multidisciplinary training is not simply versatility; each form sharpens another, with music strengthening rhythm, theatre deepening expression and literature expanding interpretation.

Her honours include repeated first ranks in mono act and classical vocal, the 2019 Multi-Talented Award and a National Voter's Day jingle prize presented by the Governor of Gujarat. Formal training has deepened that range: a first-class diploma in music in 2021 and Sangeet Visharad in vocal music in 2022. Her work carries discipline lightly - as confidence, clarity and joy on stage.

As her stage experience grows, that exchange can become a distinctive artistic voice rather than a list of separate accomplishments.

01

Sangeet Visharad in vocal music

02

Repeated district and zonal first ranks

03

Performer across music, dance and theatre

## PHOTOGRAPHY / EVENTS

# Basavaraj Naratti



A camera became a way to create work for others

The founder of Admire Photography and Events built his business through persistence, craft and practical mentorship.

## THE STORY

Basavaraj Naratti's journey in photography began with survival. After leaving home as a young man, he worked while completing school and learned the basics inside a local studio. When he could not afford a camera, a friend's financial help gave him the equipment that turned scattered village assignments into a livelihood.

His business expanded by adding services when clients needed them, but its social value grew through a second choice: teach the craft instead of guarding it.

He went on to build Sai Digitals and, in 2020, Admire Photography and Events in Bailhongal. The company expanded into LED walls, trussing and lighting for government festivals, colleges and events across Karnataka and neighbouring states. Naratti also trains students and women in photography and editing, then creates opportunities for them inside his own business. The frame, for him, is both art and employment.

That decision turns a local events company into a practical training ground where confidence, employable skill and real assignments can develop together.

01

Working in photography since the late 1990s

02

Founded Admire Photography and Events in 2020

03

Free training linked to paid work

# After scale, the next payment story is trust

UPI made instant account-to-account payment ordinary. The harder editorial questions now sit around resilience, fraud, consent and redress.

01

## RELIABILITY

Can a merchant complete the day even when one app or bank fails?

02

## SAFETY

Can a user recognise a collect request, a remote-access scam or a false support call?

03

## REDRESS

Is it clear who owns the complaint and how quickly money can be traced?

04

## INCLUSION

Do language, disability and low-connectivity users receive an equally usable service?

NPCI's monthly product statistics and the Reserve Bank of India's payment-system indicators provide the numerical record. For readers, the practical shift is simpler: convenience should never require blind urgency. Verify the payee, read the request type, protect the PIN and use official complaint channels when a transaction goes wrong.

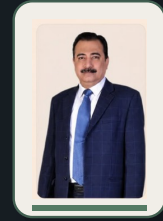
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**CONVENIENCE IS A FEATURE. TRUST IS INFRASTRUCTURE.**

## SOCIAL IMPACT & LEADERSHIP

# Service designed to last

Leaders building dignity, access and institutional strength - not as a campaign, but as infrastructure for people and communities.



Dr. Rajat Trehan



Piyush Tewari

### 08 PROFILES

People, ideas and long-range work

- 01 Dr. Rajat Trehan
- 02 Piyush Tewari
- 03 Shanti Raghavan
- 04 Osama Manzar
- 05 Chetna Gala Sinha
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- 07 Anshu Gupta
- 08 Dr. Ravineet R. Sami



Shanti Raghavan

## NUTRITION / HEALTH LITERACY

# Dr. Rajat Trehan

## Making later-life health easier to discuss

The Delhi-based nutrition professional writes and speaks about food, ageing and daily habits, bringing preventive-health conversations into public view.



## THE STORY

Dr. Rajat Trehan presents his work at the intersection of clinical nutrition, plant-based food and health education. His published material addresses subjects including ageing, obesity, mental wellbeing, vitamins and everyday dietary choices.

Trehan's recent writing on mental strength after fifty connects nutrition with the broader experience of ageing. Such subjects require care because diet can support health but should not be presented as a substitute for diagnosis or evidence-based treatment.

The value of this public-facing work is accessibility: people often meet nutrition through extreme claims, while useful change usually begins with a clearer understanding of food, sleep, movement and when professional care is required.

Read responsibly, his work invites a more attentive relationship with daily habits. This profile describes his stated practice and publications; it is not medical advice, and readers should consult qualified clinicians for personal decisions.

01

PhD in clinical nutrition

02

Author on nutrition and wellbeing

03

Public focus on healthy ageing

## 44

ROAD SAFETY / SYSTEMS CHANGE

## Piyush Tewari

### Designing roads for survival



SaveLIFE Foundation combines policy, engineering and emergency response to reduce the human cost of road crashes.

#### THE STORY

Piyush Tewari founded SaveLIFE Foundation after losing a young family member in a road crash. The organisation works on a problem that can look accidental one case at a time but becomes systemic when patterns of road design, enforcement and emergency care are examined together.

The approach is deliberately multi-layered. A safer corridor may require changes to engineering, speed management, police practice, trauma response and the data used to identify where people are dying.

Tewari helped advance legal protection for Good Samaritans who assist crash victims and developed the Zero Fatality Corridor model for high-risk roads.

His work shows what advocacy can become when it moves beyond awareness. The goal is not simply to persuade people that road safety matters, but to redesign the decisions that determine whether a routine journey ends at home.

01

Founder and CEO, SaveLIFE Foundation

02

Good Samaritan protection advocacy

03

Zero Fatality Corridor model

## DISABILITY INCLUSION / LIVELIHOODS

# Shanti Raghavan

## Employment redesigned around ability

EnAble India works with people and employers to make economic independence a practical outcome rather than an inclusion slogan.



## THE STORY

Shanti Raghavan co-founded EnAble India in 1999 after helping her brother navigate sight loss and employment. What began as a personal search grew into a national organisation working on skills, workplace design and the economic independence of people with disabilities.

Raghavan brings a background in computer science and the software industry to this work. That systems mindset is visible in EnAble India's platforms, fellowships and partnerships with government and business.

The model addresses both sides of the employment relationship. Candidates need training and confidence; employers need help identifying roles, adapting processes and replacing assumptions with evidence.

Her leadership makes inclusion concrete. Dignity grows when a person is not merely welcomed into a room, but has the tools, expectations and opportunity to contribute fully once inside it.

01

Founder and chief enabler, EnAble India

02

Nearly five lakh persons impacted, per organisation

03

National Award recipient

## DIGITAL INCLUSION



# Osama Manzar

## Connectivity that reaches the last mile

The Digital Empowerment Foundation treats access, literacy and local capacity as inseparable parts of meaningful digital participation.

## THE STORY

Osama Manzar co-founded the Digital Empowerment Foundation in 2002 to address information poverty across India and the wider Global South. The organisation's work spans connectivity, digital literacy, community information centres and support for people navigating online systems.

Manzar's background crosses journalism, technology and public policy, helping him connect infrastructure with the social experience of using it.

A signal alone does not close a digital divide. Devices, language, trust, relevant content and the confidence to complete a transaction all determine whether connectivity becomes capability.

His work remains especially important as public services move online. Digital transformation is only inclusive when the people with the least margin for error can understand the process, recover from a mistake and retain agency over their information.

01

Co-founder, Digital Empowerment Foundation

02

Digital access and literacy programmes

03

Policy voice on information poverty

## RURAL FINANCE / WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE

# Chetna Gala Sinha

## A bank built from women's financial knowledge

Mann Deshi began by listening to rural women whose businesses were visible in the market but invisible to formal finance.



### THE STORY

Chetna Gala Sinha founded Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank in Maharashtra after rural women asked for a financial institution designed around their lives and enterprises. The bank and foundation grew from an insight the formal system had missed: low income does not mean low financial intelligence.

Sinha's institution pairs finance with business education and networks. That combination helps a borrower move beyond a single loan toward stronger pricing, planning and bargaining power.

Women vendors, farmers and home-based entrepreneurs needed savings, credit and training that respected irregular cash flow, local markets and the scale at which they actually worked.

Mann Deshi's significance is not that it made rural women bankable. It is that it built a bank capable of recognising the economic knowledge those women already possessed.

01

Founder, Mann Deshi Bank

02

President, Mann Deshi Foundation

03

Rural women's finance and enterprise

48

EDUCATION / SOCIAL JUSTICE

## Robin Chaurasiya

### A classroom that refuses inherited limits



Through Kranti, marginalised girls from Mumbai's red-light areas build academic confidence, public voice and the power to shape their own futures.

#### THE STORY

Robin Chaurasiya founded Kranti in Mumbai to work with survivors of trafficking and daughters of sex workers. The programme's name means revolution, and its education model begins by treating the girls not as passive beneficiaries but as future organisers, teachers and leaders.

That approach changes what achievement looks like. A strong result may be admission to a university, but it can also be the ability to name an injustice, ask an institution for change or tell a personal story without being reduced to it.

The curriculum combines conventional learning with theatre, travel, social-justice education, public speaking and community projects connected to the students' own lives.

Chaurasiya's work is most powerful where it transfers authority. The goal is not to speak for the Krantikaris forever; it is to make sure they can enter public life in their own voices.

01

Founder and educator, Kranti

02

Global Teacher Prize finalist

03

Education rooted in social justice

## MATERIAL CIRCULARITY / DIGNITY

# Anshu Gupta

## When discarded material becomes civic infrastructure

Goonj reframed urban surplus as a resource that communities can use with agency, work and local decision-making at the centre.

## THE STORY

Anshu Gupta founded Goonj after recognising the enormous mismatch between material discarded in cities and basic needs left unmet elsewhere. The organisation collects clothing and household material, but its central innovation is the system around distribution.

Gupta's approach protects dignity by recognising that a blanket, garment or school kit has social meaning as well as utility. How an item is offered can reinforce inequality or help build a more reciprocal relationship.



Through community-led programmes, material is connected to locally chosen work rather than treated as charity handed down without context.

Goonj also made clothing visible within disaster relief, where it is often less discussed than food and shelter. The wider lesson is precise: overlooked resources become useful when logistics are designed around respect.

01

Founder, Goonj

02

Material-led community development

03

Ramon Magsaysay Award recipient



FINANCE / HIGHER EDUCATION

## Dr. Ravineet R. Sami

### Leadership that keeps institutions future-ready

At The University of Fiji, financial stewardship becomes a platform for academic growth, governance and public service.

#### THE STORY

Dr. Ravineet R. Sami joined The University of Fiji in 2004 and progressed from finance officer to Executive Director of Finance, Planning and Development. His remit reaches well beyond accounting: budgets, policy, audit, procurement, capital planning and the long-range alignment of institutional resources with academic purpose.

Universities reveal their values through budgets: which facilities are maintained, which programmes receive patience and how transparently difficult trade-offs are explained.

Professional study has remained a constant across that rise, reflecting his belief that leadership must keep learning. He has also served community and educational organisations in Fiji as a treasurer, trustee and adviser. Sami's career shows what strategic finance can look like at its best - not the narrow control of expenditure, but the creation of capacity, confidence and transparent systems that allow an institution to serve well over time.

Sami's role places him at that intersection, where financial discipline must protect both present operations and the institution's capacity to educate in the future.

01

At The University of Fiji since 2004

02

Executive Director: Finance, Planning and Development

03

Two decades of institutional leadership

THE JULY 50

# Fifty journeys. One generation in motion.

# 50

Ideas become institutions. Curiosity becomes discovery.  
Preparation becomes performance. Culture finds a new voice.  
Service becomes structure.

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**IDEAS / COURAGE / IMPACT**

A COLLECTOR'S EDITION ABOUT THE WORK BEHIND ACHIEVEMENT