

Outlook

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Manohar Lal



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Nitin Gadkari



Shikhar Aggarwal



Priyanka Nayyar



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Ashok Kheny



Anuparna Roy



Chetan Singh Hayer



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Prof (Dr) Sangeeta Tripathi



Prof S Sreenivasa Murthy



Ajay Pal Singh Banga



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Rajesh Jejurikar



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Pankaj Lidoo



Vinay Maloo



Vaibhav Maloo

Pillars of
VIKSIT BHARAT



Jaanu



V S N Raju



Pillars of Viksit Bharat 2025

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monumental vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' aims to transform the nation into a developed, prosperous, and self-reliant global powerhouse

Viksit Bharat 2047 is one of the most significant initiatives the government of India has taken to make the country a strong and developed nation by its 100th anniversary of Independence in 2047. While the four pillars – Yuva (Youth), Gareeb (Poor), Mahilayen (Women), and Annadata (Farmers) – form the foundation of the vision, the goal is to improve life for everyone in the country in key areas such as jobs, education, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, social progress, environmental sustainability, all-inclusive development, imbibing technological innovation, cultural shifts, behavioural changes, supportive regulations, and good governance.

"Aatmanirbhar Bharat," "Make in India," "Digital India," "Start-up India," and "Skill India" are some

government initiatives for business expansion and employment generation. With the support of digitalisation, homegrown manufacturing, and a thriving start-up community, Prime Minister Modi hopes to raise millions out of poverty and realise the nation's full economic potential.

Projects like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, PM Gati Shakti, 24X7 electricity and Smart Metering, Solar and Nuclear Power Generation, and the Smart Cities Mission highlight the government's commitment to building liveable, sustainable cities, enhancing connectivity, and offering affordable housing to everybody. To close infrastructure gaps, large-scale projects range from constructing world-class roads, trains, and ports to increasing digital connection and

upgrading urban infrastructure.

At the grassroots level, transformation of the education system is imperative. The restructuring of higher education and professional courses is integrating best practices, multidisciplinary learning, innovation, and skill set acquisition that would empower the youth, foster inclusive growth, and equip them for the future workplace.

In this ever-evolving landscape, the Outlook Group proudly recognises the unwavering commitment and tireless efforts of visionary leaders, trailblazers, innovators, educators, industrialists, entrepreneurs, and achievers from diverse fields who have made a meaningful impact on society, the community, the state, and the nation as a whole, driving India towards becoming a developed economy.

Elevating Nairobi's Skyline

Chetan Singh Hayer driving architectural marvels in Nairobi by committing to higher living standards while contributing to Kenya's growth story with vision and purpose



Chetan Singh Hayer
Managing Director, Hayer One Group

Since its inception in 2011, Hayer One Group has transformed Nairobi's skyline with its commitment to quality, sustainability, and forward-thinking development. At the helm is Chetan Singh Hayer, a visionary entrepreneur captivated by Kenya's natural charm and thriving real estate potential.

Landmarks of Luxury and Functionality

Under the leadership of Chetan Singh Hayer, Hayer One Group has redefined urban living, delivering premium residential and commercial spaces that set new benchmarks in design and functionality.

"Our model is a lot more conservative. We know what we're doing. We know the kind of scale that we have for each project," says Hayer. This measured approach has paid dividends, with Hayer One becoming synonymous with architectural innovation and construction excellence.

Two standout developments—a landmark Class A office complex and a luxury residential enclave of 272 units—have attracted multinational corporations, UN

affiliates, and embassy staff, elevating Hayer One's status as a developer of choice in the region.

With over 2.5 million square feet of real estate developed—including flagship projects like The Marquis, The Address, The Crescent, The Gateway, and Elixir—Hayer One continues to deliver properties that combine aesthetic appeal with practical luxury.

Building Sustainable Futures

At the heart of Hayer One's philosophy is a deep-rooted belief in building with purpose. The firm's all-Kenyan team exemplifies its commitment to fostering local talent while remaining closely aligned with the cultural fabric of the country.

Quality is non-negotiable for the group. The Marquis, for instance, showcases a global touch: paint sourced from Norway, tiles from Spain, and American bathroom fittings. The results speak volumes—the project commands one of the highest rates per square foot in Nairobi. "We recognise that Kenyans like quality. A quality product drives the demand, which drives its value—for the buyers and us as a developer," notes Hayer.

Sustainability is another

cornerstone of Hayer One's mission. The company is proactively incorporating green practices—improving water recycling, reducing energy usage, and pursuing eco-certifications. "We recognise the benefit of making a sustainable building is straightforward on profit," says Hayer. "If our structures contribute minimally to carbon footprints, we automatically secure a competitive edge."

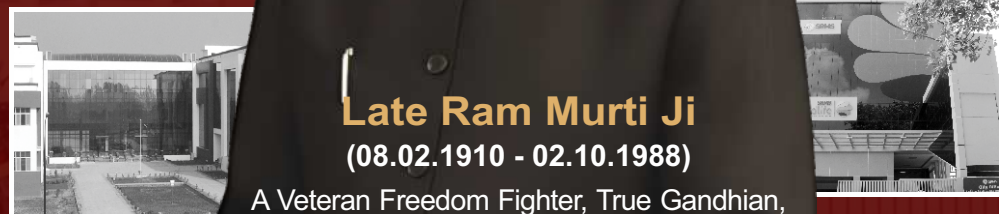
Crafting a Legacy

Hayer One is more than a real estate firm—it's a symbol of what thoughtful urban development can achieve. Looking ahead, Hayer One remains focused on high-rise residential and commercial developments, targeting high rental yields and long-term value appreciation. Their integrated approach, from land acquisition to property management, ensures control over every detail, resulting in projects with over 95% occupancy rates across 14 years. Hayer One continues to pursue the bold vision, sustainable ethos, and unwavering commitment to excellence, with a determination to shape Nairobi's future—one skyline at a time.



37th SMRITI DIWAS

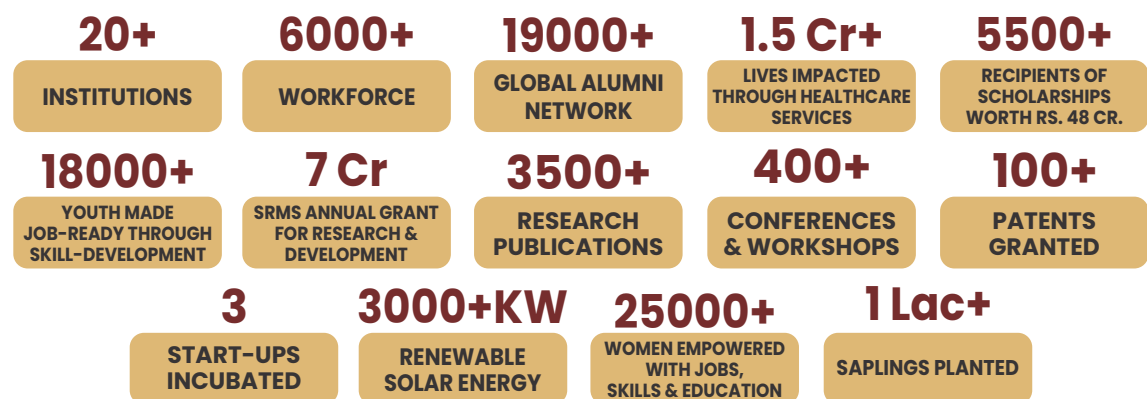
2nd October 2025



Late Ram Murti Ji
(08.02.1910 - 02.10.1988)

A Veteran Freedom Fighter, True Gandhian,
Ex-Parliamentarian, Ex-Minister, Uttar Pradesh

YOUR CHERISHED IDEOLOGY INSPIRES NATION-BUILDING THROUGH HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICE



Dev Murti
(Founder & Managing Trustee)
& Trust Family Members

Under the visionary leadership of **Shri Dev Murti**, Founder & Managing Trustee, Shri Ram Murti Smarak Trust has completed 35 glorious years of nation-building. With a strong focus on professional and technical education, world-class healthcare, social service, charitable initiatives, and promotion of sports, arts, and culture, SRMS has built a legacy of excellence. In line with **Viksit Bharat 2047**, the Trust continues to drive economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, inclusive development, technological innovation, cultural transformation, behavioral change, supportive policies, and good governance, shaping a stronger, self-reliant India.

Shri Ram Murti Smarak Trust

Bareilly • Lucknow • Unnao



*Source: Outlook & India Today magazine 2025

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Shri Manohar Lal, Union Minister of Power, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Govt of India

Powering the Nation

Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal stands at the forefront of India's developmental journey—spearheading major reforms in both the power sector and urban development

A visionary with over a decade of governance experience, his leadership reflects a deep commitment to improving the quality of life for the common man through inclusive, technology-driven, and sustainable solutions.

In the power sector, Shri Manohar Lal has played a transformative role in boosting accessibility, efficiency, and sustainability. Under his leadership, India witnessed a 90% increase in electricity capacity over the past decade, reaching 475 GW in 2025, with a target of 900 GW by 2032. The share of clean energy has grown from 32% in 2014 to 49% in 2025, with solar capacity alone expanding from 2.82 GW to 100 GW. Nuclear energy is also receiving a strong push, with the government targeting 100 GW by 2047, supported by the ₹20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission focused

on indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

Under his leadership, India has achieved a significant milestone, as the share of non-fossil fuel energy has now surpassed that of fossil fuels, signalling a major shift towards green energy. Notably, India has met its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) target of 50% non-fossil fuel-based power capacity five years ahead of the 2030 deadline, reflecting strong progress in its commitment to sustainable and clean energy development.

Beyond energy, Shri Manohar Lal's role in urban development has been equally impactful. As Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, he has championed the Smart Cities Mission, aiming to create cities that are livable, sustainable, and future-ready. Over 100 smart cities are being equipped with integrated

command-and-control centres, intelligent traffic systems, improved public transport, green spaces, and robust waste and water management infrastructure. His focus is on harnessing data and digital technologies to ensure efficient service delivery and improved urban governance.

Affordable housing under PMAY (Urban) has been a major priority, with millions of houses sanctioned and delivered to low-income urban families. He has pushed for transit-orientated development, urban mobility, and inclusive infrastructure, ensuring that cities grow in a way that accommodates every segment of society.

Travelling across the length and breadth of the country, the Union Minister has set an example of participative leadership to guide the States and UTIs towards a shared vision by being physically present for regular reviews and implementation plans, fostering a sense of trust and accountability to deliver their best.

Internationally, Shri Manohar Lal has represented India at forums like BRICS, promoting sustainable urban growth and cross-border energy cooperation. His SECURE power model—Sustainable, Economically viable, Cleaner, Uninterrupted, Reliable, and Energy for all—has become a guiding principle in India's energy and urban planning strategy.

In essence, Shri Manohar Lal's dual leadership in powering India and shaping its cities exemplifies holistic development. His integrated approach to energy and urban growth is not only transforming the present but also laying the foundation for a truly developed and inclusive India by 2047.

Nation Building Through the Lens of Design Thinking

A perspective on how design thinking, technology, and business principles can be combined to create scalable models for rural India, with the larger vision of nurturing an entrepreneurial ecosystem that can fuel the nation's growth

ARUN JAIN

I have always believed that the true purpose of leadership is not just to build successful enterprises but also to create models that strengthen society. At Intellect, I have seen how 'design thinking' can shape powerful digital platforms for banks and financial institutions across the world. The same question has guided my social journey: could design thinking be applied to one of India's most complex challenges, rural transformation?

That question took me to Yavatmal in Maharashtra in 2016. It was here, while listening to farmers and their families, that I realised the limitations of piecemeal interventions. What was required was not charity but a structured, holistic model that enabled communities to take ownership of their future. That experience became the foundation of Mission Samridhi.

Mission Samridhi is built on empathy translated into action. We created a Community Development Framework that places the Gram Panchayat at the centre of transformation. The framework

focuses on five dimensions: personal, social, economic, ecological and institutional development. It uses measurable indicators, a self-assessment process and a five-year cycle, making change both structured and replicable.

The philosophy is simple: celebrate what works, connect communities with resources and technologies, and catalyse change by building competence and confidence. Over time, this approach has shown remarkable results. Villagers have drafted their own Gram Panchayat development plans, converged government schemes, shifted from chemical to natural farming, revived water bodies and adopted waste management practices. Youth have taken up leadership roles, while adolescent girls have participated in programmes on health and self-confidence.

The cultural changes have been even more powerful. In Sonbhadra, Gram Sabhas have passed resolutions to stop child marriages and curb alcohol production. Families have broken long-standing barriers by conducting marriages within the community without costly

rituals. These shifts, owned by the people themselves, show that transformation becomes sustainable only when it is community-led.

Mission Samridhi today works across seven states, covering hundreds of clusters and thousands of villages. With the support of NGOs, experts and foundations, the model has scaled collaboratively. The Samridhi Yatra has become a catalyst for inspiration, proving that seeing transformation firsthand can spark belief and action in other communities.

For me, Mission Samridhi is proof that design thinking is not confined to products or enterprises. It can also be the basis for nation-building. By inspiring communities to design their own future, we are laying the foundation for a replicable model of prosperity that can help India move closer to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

About the Author:

Arun JAIN is a 'Design Thinking' advocate dedicated to building institutions, inspiring communities, and shaping India's journey toward inclusive growth



Arun Jain
Founder, Polaris Group and Chairman & MD, Intellect Design Arena Ltd

The Face of New-Age Leadership

Mahesh Patil, transforming a single entity into a diversified, resilient, and internationally minded conglomerate, shares his vision on career-making in today's global and interconnected workspace in conversation with Aditi Chakraborty

Q What inspired you to enter an international workplace, and how did you navigate the early challenges?

My inspiration was twofold: opportunity and obligation. The opportunity lay in accessing larger markets and global talent and reducing reliance on domestic cycles. The obligation was to benchmark against international standards and contribute meaningfully to the global economic dialogue. Over the past decade, leading in a Middle Eastern market, I have been an integral part of expansion into sectors like oil & gas, real estate, recruitment, technology, trading, and sustainable manufacturing. It also shaped my belief in the country's potential and a clear, values-driven philosophy.

The initial challenges were rooted in shifting mindsets and adapting to local contexts. To navigate this, I focused on three pillars: building strong local partnerships to gain on-the-ground insights; creating a culturally diverse leadership team at Horizon International Group to bring global perspectives; and maintaining agility—testing ideas on a small scale



Mahesh Patil
Managing Director, Horizon International Group

"In life, one does not attain everything easily; they must chase their dreams, goals, or success to achieve them"

before wider rollout. This approach helped us turn challenges into learning opportunities and build a resilient, forward-looking enterprise.

Q Can you share your core leadership mantra that drives Horizon International Group forward?

My core philosophy is simple:

"Identify Friction, Build Solutions." I'm driven by uncovering inefficiencies and unmet market needs, then creating scalable solutions. Horizon International Group's evolution reflects this mindset—whether it was launching a recruitment portal for the oil and gas sector, building a classifieds platform, or investing in eco-friendly

manufacturing. Each initiative addressed a specific friction point, not just as a business, but as a purposeful solution. This "Friction-Finder" approach keeps us relevant, innovative, and customer-focused, constantly looking ahead to anticipate the next challenge—and turn it into our next opportunity.

My initiatives in a diversified industry have been recognised by many accolades. To mention a few of them:

- Global Visionary Guidance & Exceptional Leadership in 2016
- Outstanding Performance & Leadership in 2018
- Best Entrepreneur in 2020
- Asia's Most Influential Young Leader in 2022
- Global Youth Icon of the Year 2023
- Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Inspiration Award 2024 "Most Inspiring Youth Business Leader of the Year 2024"

Q How have you implemented technology and innovation in achieving excellence?

To me, technology is the ultimate enabler of excellence. It's not about adopting every new tool but about strategically integrating technology to solve core business problems. A key example is our recruitment portal. We didn't just create another job board; we built a platform that uses data analytics to match candidate skills with future industry needs, adding predictive value for both employers and job seekers. Optimising human capital is about hiring for potential and cultural alignment. We foster a culture of continuous learning through dedicated leadership programmes and cross-functional training, empowering them to achieve excellence. Horizon Group is the thread that weaves through all our operations, creating a fabric of data-driven decision-making, operational efficiency, and enhanced customer value.

Q What are your future plans toward maintaining sustainable growth?

I view risk-taking and strategic planning as complementary. Strategic planning enables smart, calculated risks. Our diversification into oil & gas and IT was driven by deep market analysis. We use a "portfolio approach", balancing stable cash-generating businesses with high-growth ventures, ensuring resilience. Rigorous scenario planning helps us stay agile amid global shifts.

Looking ahead, our focus is on "scalable sustainability". We aim to integrate subsidiaries into a circular value chain—for example, leveraging data from our classifieds portal for product development. We're expanding into Southeast Asia, Africa, and Europe—regions aligned with India's growth path. Additionally, we're launching an internal venture capital arm to incubate disruptive ideas, ensuring continuous innovation and long-term relevance within the Horizon ecosystem.

Q As a business leader how are you contributing to India's surge towards becoming a global economy by 2047?

By 2047, I envision India to be leading the global economy as a hub of innovation, smart manufacturing, and sustainable solutions. As an NRI, I have tried to join this upsurge by making meaningful contribution in terms of overseas employment generation, helping generate foreign exchange and boosting household incomes.

I have not only provided direct employment to 5,000+ over the last ten years, but also enabled thousands more to secure jobs through recruitment projects, partnerships, and the expansion of online platforms. This vision has helped uplifting communities through employment, innovation, and unrelenting support for individuals

seeking better opportunities.

At a broader level, initiatives such as manufacturing eco-friendly products during the pandemic and digitalizing job matching, helped many people create more secure, stable lives.

Q What is your message for the aspiring youth of our country?

My story isn't just a corporate journey—it's a testament that your background doesn't define your ceiling. I come from a middle-class family where every opportunity had to be earned. At thirteen, while others played, I was at a typewriting institute in Humnabad, Bidar District, Karnataka, learning discipline key by key. That routine continued until my 10th standard. During higher secondary, my curiosity turned to computers, and I spent hours at NIIT learning the basics that became my foundation.

During graduation, I worked part-time at a DTP shop near the Tahsil Office and Court, earning ₹20 a day—₹10 for the bus and ₹10 for food. It was modest, but it was a start. My first formal salary was ₹1,700 per month at a PRE subdivision. But I kept thinking, "I can do more." That ambition took me to Mumbai and then to the UAE in 2007. Starting as a computer operator, every job became a classroom. I focused on learning, adding value, and thinking big. By thirty-one, I became Managing Director of Horizon International Group.

My message is this: "Embrace your struggle, for it is your unique advantage." The tenacity built in chasing your first rupee is more powerful than any shortcut. Humility grounds you, and hunger propels you. Don't be discouraged by where you start. Let it build your resilience. With belief and relentless effort, you can turn ₹20 and a dream into a story worth telling. The world is waiting for your contribution.



Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, GoI

The Architect of India's Infrastructure

Nitin Gadkari's contributions to India's infrastructure development and innovative approach have been a key enabler of its economic ascent

India's economic growth reflects the combined force of robust domestic consumption, expanding services and industrial sectors, strategic reforms, and large-scale infrastructure development. Among the key figures behind this transformation is Nitin Gadkari, known as the 'Highway Man of India,' whose contributions to infrastructure have played a pivotal role in supporting and sustaining India's economic momentum.

Nitin Gadkari has served as a transformative force in India's road infrastructure landscape. Since assuming office in 2014, he has spearheaded a dramatic expansion of the national highway network. Under his leadership, the total length of national highways increased from approximately 91,287 kilometres in 2014 to over 146,000 kilometres by 2024—a

nearly 60% growth. This growth was not merely quantitative; it was qualitative as well. High-speed corridors expanded by more than 2,500%, and the length of four-lane and wider highways more than doubled, ensuring faster, safer, and more efficient travel for people and goods across the country.

Gadkari's major initiatives—such as the Bharatmala project, the Delhi–Mumbai Expressway, and the broader PM Gati Shakti master plan—have directly addressed India's chronic infrastructure bottlenecks. These projects aim to reduce travel time, lower logistics costs, and increase the competitiveness of Indian industries. For instance, the Delhi–Mumbai Expressway alone is expected to reduce travel time between the two key metros from 24 hours to about 12 hours,

creating significant savings in fuel and freight costs. By integrating road transport with ports, railways, and air cargo, these initiatives have strengthened India's multimodal logistics framework.

This strategic expansion of transportation infrastructure has had tangible effects on India's economic ecosystem. Improved road connectivity has led to better integration of rural areas with urban markets, enhanced supply chain efficiencies, and stimulated private investment in industrial and logistics hubs. Logistics costs—previously one of the highest among major economies—have begun to decline, enabling Indian products to compete more effectively in global markets. Enhanced mobility of goods and services has also contributed to smoother trade flows and higher productivity across manufacturing and agriculture sectors.

While macroeconomic factors such as a young population, digital advancements, and regulatory reforms like GST and insolvency codes have played their roles, Gadkari's infrastructure push has provided the physical foundation on which these reforms could be realized. His pioneering approach to Public–Private Partnerships (PPP) and project financing also made it possible to fast-track large-scale developments without overburdening public finances.

By transforming the nation's roads and highways into engines of connectivity and commerce, he has helped lay the groundwork for India's rise to the position of the world's fourth-largest economy. While many factors converge to shape an economy of this scale, robust infrastructure remains a silent, but powerful, driver—and in this domain, Gadkari's role has been both decisive and enduring.

Unlocking the World Powered by India

A trusted global tech-enabled services partner for governments and citizens, BLS International Services Ltd has made its mark across the globe. Shikhar Aggarwal shares insights with the *Outlook*

With large global footprints, what strategic priorities guide your next phase of global expansion?

At BLS International, our global expansion is guided by a clear, multi-faceted growth strategy. We are leveraging organic growth from existing contracts, many still in deployment, creating immediate opportunities for scaling. Simultaneously, the global visa outsourcing landscape offers a significant runway, with \$1.5–2 billion in visa tenders expected worldwide. Nearly 50% of client governments have yet to outsource visa services, representing substantial untapped potential.

The visa market is expanding at 14% annually, driven by increasing travel, digitization, and government interest in outsourcing. Governments are also broadening the scope of outsourcing to include student visas, national visas, and other consular services. We aim to capitalize on this evolution by delivering integrated, tech-enabled solutions that enhance operational efficiency and provide a premium customer experience.

Our strategic priorities include offering superior services, strengthening platforms through technology enablement, and unlocking synergies from recent acquisitions via backend integration and shared infrastructure. This approach enhances scalability, ensures service consistency across markets, and positions BLS International to consolidate its

leadership in global visa and citizen services while continuing to innovate and set new benchmarks in service excellence worldwide.

What has been your overarching vision for the company?

Our vision is deeply rooted in customer-centricity and service excellence. We aim to consistently exceed expectations—whether for client governments or visa applicants. Our approach is built on personalized service, responsiveness, and continuous feedback-driven improvements.

We aspire to be the first Indian-origin company to lead at scale in global visa and citizen services, redefining what excellence means in this space. Our long-term goal is to foster enduring partnerships based on trust, satisfaction, and shared success, supported by clearly defined processes that optimize service delivery across all touchpoints.

What are your plans for integrating digital platforms to enhance accessibility and efficiency?

Digital transformation is central to BLS International's evolution. We have invested heavily in AI-powered ecosystems that enhance security, streamline operations, and deliver a seamless experience for users. Our platforms leverage AI-driven decision support, intelligent document processing, facial biometric authentication, and



Shikhar Aggarwal
Joint Managing Director
BLS International Services Ltd

advanced fraud detection. Multilingual AI Voicebots and Chatbots provide 24/7 support across our global footprint, improving accessibility in underserved or high-volume regions. These innovations reduce turnaround times, enhance accuracy, and free human teams for complex tasks. Our goal is to integrate these platforms across visa processing, e-governance, and fintech, offering a unified, frictionless digital journey worldwide.

What's your vision for BLS International?

Over the next five years, our vision is to strengthen BLS International's leadership in global visa and citizen services through AI-driven innovation and value-accretive growth. Having celebrated our 20-year milestone in FY26, we remain committed to simplifying, scaling, and securing citizen services worldwide—deepening our capabilities, expanding our global presence, and setting new benchmarks in trust, service excellence, and technological transformation.



Safeena Husain
Founder & Board Member, Educate Girls

Empowering Girls, Enabling Nation

As India envisions a developed future, Safeena Husain's work embodies the core of Viksit Bharat; equity, opportunity, and dignity for all

Educated girls become empowered women, leading to better healthcare, lower infant mortality, and higher family incomes, vital for national development. Educating the girl child is central to the Viksit Bharat vision, with government initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, started in 2015; Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, launched in 2018; and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 promoting gender equity and improving access to education.

Visionary educators and social workers like Safeena Husain have been dedicated to the cause of the girl child and are contributing to the government's larger vision for a developed India by 2047.

An alumna of the London School of Economics, Safeena returned to India after working with

underserved communities globally, with a vision to tackle gender disparity in education. In 2007, she launched Educate Girls, a Mumbai-based non-profit that began as a small initiative in 50 villages in Pali, Rajasthan. Today, the organisation operates across 30,000 villages of India, having brought nearly 2 million girls back to school and improved learning outcomes for over 2.2 million children. By mobilising communities and partnering with the government, Safeena has transformed grassroots engagement into a scalable, data-driven movement.

Under her leadership, Educate Girls executed the world's first Development Impact Bond (DIB) in education, surpassing both its goals—achieving 116% of its enrolment target and 160% of its

learning outcome target. The success of this model highlighted the power of results-based funding and evidence-led interventions, which are now deeply embedded in the organisation's approach.

Safeena's innovative efforts were globally recognised when she became the first Indian woman to be awarded the WISE Prize in 2023—often regarded as the Nobel for education.

The organisation's two flagship programmes—Vidya and Pragati—offer holistic, community-led solutions. Vidya focuses on bringing out-of-school girls (aged 6–14) back into classrooms and building foundational skills in children, while Pragati offers adolescent girls and young women (aged 15–29) a second chance to complete their education and gain life skills for employability.

She advocates for tech-enabled, flexible learning pathways that meet girls where they are—whether through mobile classrooms, online modules, or open schooling options.

Safeena Husain's mission goes beyond education. It is about reshaping mindsets, building agency among girls, and shifting societal norms to value daughters equally. In her words, "I envision a nation where sons and daughters are seen as equals, where girls are valued, invested in, and celebrated."

Educate Girls' success lies in empowering local communities. Thousands of volunteers and gender champions drive change from within, ensuring interventions are empathetic and culturally relevant. Safeena believes true transformation must be locally led and sustained by community ownership.

Through her unwavering commitment to girls' education and women's empowerment, Safeena Husain is helping build the foundation of a Viksit Bharat.

A Pioneering Legacy of Healthcare Excellence & Compassion

Chairperson of Dr KNS Memorial Hospital, Lucknow, Mrs Madhulika Singh, shares about the inspirational journey of the hospital founded by her husband, the visionary, philanthropist and excellent doctor Dr Kailash Narayan Singh. Driven solely by humanitarian objective makes the world-class, multi-specialty hospital unique.



Dr Madhulika Singh
Chairperson, KNS Memorial Group of Hospitals & Institutions

Q Could you briefly share about Dr KN Singh's inspiring journey in creating a medical hub in Lucknow?

With roots in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh, my husband Dr KN Singh was raised with a silver spoon. Brought up and educated in Canada, the US and India, he eventually quit a flourishing career in the US and returned to India to serve the people who were suffering due to poor medical facilities. In 1999, he established the first private multi-specialty medical centre- Mayo Hospital in Lucknow, which is guided by the core philosophy of offering affordable services of world-class standards.

Q What gives an edge to your hospital in the healthcare landscape of Uttar Pradesh?

Medical and technology advancements keep evolving and we have them all that makes us comparable to top brand corporate hospitals. The difference being that we are driven by a social spirit of rendering affordable service, including diagnostics, at heavily discounted rates for making it

accessible even to the poorest of the poor. We run a free 1500 bedded hospital in Barabanki where we also conduct health camps and distribute free medicines. We also do extensive work in obstetrics and gynaecology in underserved Ambedkar Nagar, which I personally supervise. At our NABH accredited Medical College, the first private institution of Uttar Pradesh, we committedly pursue an unbiased and ethical process of admission, teaching and examination where deserving poor students are given free education. Our team of committed doctors and legendary names like Dr Kalyani Das, gynaecologist and obstetrician, Dr Hrishikesh Pai, an IVF expert and Dr Devika Nag, Neurologist are associated with us.

Q What is the vision forward that you for the hospital?

Sadly, we lost Dr K.N. Singh to Covid-19 while working selflessly during the pandemic following which to keep his legacy alive, we renamed all our institutions from Mayo to his name. An interesting development is that we are coming up with a state-of-the-art

medical centre dedicated entirely to cancer, liver, kidney, and heart transplant on a vast land parcel acquired here for the purpose. In the near future, we would be transforming our medical college into a super speciality centre.

I envision my son and two daughters, all of whom are highly qualified doctors educated and trained in India and abroad from prestigious medical centres, to take forward the good work and legacy of their illustrious father.

Q What is the message that you would like to convey to the public?

It takes years of hard toil for medical professionals to build expertise dedicated for service of mankind. So, if there is any grievance take the recourse of law but do not take the law in your hands by resorting to violence. Unfortunately, we do have some unscrupulous people bringing a bad name to the profession that has created mistrust against all doctors, which is not fair. We are human beings, not God, so treat us with respect and repose your trust in our good intentions.



Transforming Talent for Tomorrow's India

The Institute of Public Enterprise driving six decades of transformative education through innovative academic programmes, strategic partnerships, and inclusive initiatives and contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047

As India embarks on its ambitious journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047, which aims to position India as the third-largest economy by 2047, the Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE) plays a crucial role in the economy by bolstering India's public sector enterprises through its dedicated focus on training, research, and consultancy. Established in 1964, IPE is focusing on transforming students for leadership roles. Recognised as a 'Centre of Excellence' by the Indian Council for Social Science Research under the Ministry of Education, Govt., IPE has taken significant strides in advancing academic and professional development. IPE's comprehensive approach—spanning

academic excellence, industry-relevant programmes, faculty and student development, and inclusive initiatives—establishes it as a vital contributor to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Industry-Integrated Pedagogy

What distinguishes IPE is not just its academic programmes but also its impactful research, consultancy, and executive training initiatives. Industry interaction is deeply woven into the fabric of IPE's academic approach. Before each academic session, IPE organises Board of Studies and Academic Advisory Council meetings to review and refine the curriculum, incorporating insights from faculty, alumni, industry experts, recruiters, and students. This strong industry



"We are committed to leveraging India's demographic dividend, robust educational infrastructure, and national initiatives like Make in India to nurture responsible leaders and innovators for a resilient, self-reliant Viksit Bharat"

Prof S Sreenivasa Murthy
Director & Professor of Finance,
Institute of Public Enterprise

engagement supports IPE's impressive placement record, consistently achieving a 95% placement rate. The few remaining students often pursue family businesses, study abroad, or explore other individual pursuits. IPE conducts MDPs regularly on various management domains. Last year alone, IPE trained over 500 executives through various Management Development Programs (MDPs) across public and private sectors. A

noteworthy achievement is the ₹1 crore grant received from ICSSR to study the impact of government initiatives on girls' education, underscoring IPE's deep connections with industry and research.

Driving Education Excellence

Aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, IPE regularly organises conferences to highlight the policy's benefits, including flexible courses, multidisciplinary approaches, and skill-orientated learning. IPE has a highly qualified faculty with PhDs and IIT and IIM degrees, dedicated to teaching, training, research, and consultancy. Its updated curriculum integrates skill-based and specialised courses designed to enhance employability. The Institute also offers courses in personal development and business communications and business aptitude delivered by industry professionals. As the nation aspires to become the world's third-largest economy by 2047, IPE's continued focus on nurturing talent, driving innovation, and fostering an inclusive academic environment will be essential to this transformative national mission.

Honing Future Entrepreneurs

IPE's efforts complement the

government's 'Make in India' scheme and the burgeoning startup ecosystem, which aim to boost production and innovation to meet national economic targets. The institute places a strong emphasis on fostering entrepreneurship by providing students with real-world exposure and ample opportunities to interact with successful entrepreneurs. Alumni entrepreneurs are regularly invited to Board of Studies meetings, seminars and student club activities where they share insights and guidance. IPE's Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) organises lectures where entrepreneurs share both their successes and challenges. The successful organisation of the 11th edition of Startopedia, an event designed to encourage students from top management schools, including IIMs and IITs, to present their business plans, is a key example of IPE's commitment to entrepreneurial engagement. A mandatory entrepreneurship development course is part of the curriculum, reinforcing the importance of entrepreneurship. Students interested in specializing further can choose entrepreneurship as an elective, in addition to other fields such as Marketing, HR, Finance, Operations and Business Analytics.

Nurturing Human Capital

IPE's academic programmes are designed to groom students into responsible citizens capable of contributing to the corporate sector and society at large. This aligns with the vision of India emerging as the global economic powerhouse by capitalising on its youthful population and educational infrastructure. With over 50% of India's population being young and many of the youth holding graduate degrees, the country enjoys a demographic dividend that IPE taps into by producing industry-ready management graduates.

Extensive collaboration and partnerships with over 50 universities, government colleges, and higher education institutions through MoUs enable IPE to conduct free Faculty Development Programs (FDPs) and Student Development Programs (SDPs) in critical areas such as artificial intelligence, research methodology, and leadership, addressing faculty deficiencies and enhancing their exposure. To date, IPE has trained over 10,000 faculty members through both online and offline FDPs, significantly strengthening the academic ecosystem. SDPs are conducted freely in different colleges to make students industry-ready by imparting required skills.

Inclusive Growth and Resilience

Inclusivity is at the heart of IPE's mission, reflecting the ethos of an inclusive society. IPE ensures holistic development of students by offering free access to electronic databases worth Rs 50 lakhs, certifications from Bloomberg Financial Terminal and SAP, industrial tours, and visits to organisations like the Akshaya Patra Foundation and orphanages. These initiatives emphasise experiential learning and corporate social responsibility, instilling values that prepare students to contribute meaningfully to society.





Nandan Nilekani, Co-founder and Non-Executive Chairman of the Board, Infosys

The Aadhaar of Commitment

A technocrat with a deep commitment to serving humanity, Nandan Nilekani's journey from creating the IT landscape to powering social and economic inclusion stands witness to the power of innovation and compassion.

Co-founder of India's pioneering IT services giant. Architect and champion of social initiatives that have brought about widespread transformation. Author. Philanthropist. Avid golfer. Nandan Nilekani is all this and more. If today India is the world's IT hub, some of the credit for this definitely belongs to Nilekani, the co-founder of Infosys. One of the driving forces behind India's IT boom, which began in 1978, Nilekani's interest in entrepreneurship began after witnessing his father's numerous job migrations.

Born in Bengaluru, Nilekani obtained his Bachelor's degree

from IIT, Bombay. Fortune Magazine named him 'Asia's Businessman of the Year 2003'. The prestigious Joseph Schumpeter Award for creative services in economics, economic sciences, and politics came his way in 2005. He was conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2006. Forbes Asia also titled him Businessman of the Year. In 2006 and 2009, Time magazine named him one of the world's 100 most important people. In 2010, Foreign Policy magazine named him one of the Top 100 Global Thinkers.

All this was before Nilekani engineered India's Aadhar card transformation, used to register 1.3 billion people. In 2017, he

earned the E&Y Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2019, he was elected as an International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. "The Life Time Achievement Award" was presented at the Business Standard Annual Awards 2022.

His commitment to initiating and nurturing social transformation and his belief in the power of education is reflected in EkStep, a free-to-use literacy and numeracy platform that is free to use. Launched by the Nilekanis with an initial investment of about Rs 65 crore, plans to tackle the 'learning problem' by creating a techdriven platform to aid children in improving their 'learning outcomes'.

Nandan Nilekani has authored three books. The first is Imagining India, and the second, Rebooting India: Realising a Billion Aspirations is co-authored with Viral Shah, while his third, The Art of Bitfulness: Keeping Calm in the Digital World is coauthored by Tanuj Bhojwani.

Nilekani nurtures a range of interests beyond technology and business. He is a voracious reader and an avid reader, finding calm equally in books or on the greens. Nilekani is a legend and an inspiration to the educated Indian middle class, especially with his combination of technological acumen, business heft and unrelenting commitment to a more inclusive and equitable future. His unstoppable drive to use technology for the greater good make him a role model for all. He has always loved by his own words, "Slowly, ideas lead to ideology, lead to policies that lead to actions", and in so doing, has established himself as among the tallest of technocrats, the most committed of changemakers.

Quietly Leading, Boldy Re-inventing

Promeet Ghosh: "At Crompton, Sustainability Isn't an Agenda — It's the Edge Driving India's Growth, Progress, and the Vision of *Viksit Bharat*"

Q In your opinion, how is Crompton contributing to India's journey to become a developed economy?

At Crompton, we see ourselves as partners in India's growth story. Guided by our purpose — **Enriching life for generations with smart and responsible solutions** — we design products that are reliable, energy-efficient, and sustainable, embedding social responsibility and governance in every decision. Through our "Make in India" commitment, we have strengthened domestic supply chains. In fans, our indigenous platforms like NUCLEUS and XTECH set new benchmarks, while in pumps, lighting, and appliances, we offer trusted, high-performance solutions built for Indian homes.

Our sustainability initiatives are central to this mission. For instance, our solar pumps provide renewable, energy-efficient irrigation solutions that benefit farmers and communities while reducing emissions.

Looking ahead, Crompton has committed to bold 2035 goals — This includes:

- **A 50% reduction in Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions**
- **60% Emission Intensity Reduction per unit sales, focused on its highest-selling category — ceiling fan**

These targets, coupled with expanding ecolabel certification across all major product lines by 2030, reinforce our role in shaping a low-carbon, climate-resilient consumer durables industry.

Q How do you embed climate risk into the product lifecycle, from design and manufacturing to consumer use and end-of-life?

At the design stage, we apply **Design for Sustainability (DfS)** principles, using low-carbon materials, optimizing resource use, and enabling recyclability. We also conduct **Product Carbon Footprint (PCF)** assessments on key products to guide climate-resilient design.

In manufacturing, our facilities are built for sustainability, with a focus on energy efficiency, water conservation, and waste reduction. For example, at our Chennai plant, we are utilizing solar power for 64% of our electricity needs, significantly cutting Scope 1 & 2 emissions.

During use, our products like 5-star BLDC and induction fans and solar pumps are designed for high efficiency and low-carbon performance.

At end-of-life, we strictly comply with **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** regulations for e-waste and plastic.

To ensure accountability, we use a centralized ESG dashboard for real-time tracking of emissions, water, and waste, supported by a fully verified audit. We've also introduced a **Sustainable Supply Chain Code of Conduct** to bring our vendors into a structured emissions tracking and improvement framework.

Q Which business cases did the board champion that transformed a sustainability initiative into a



Promeet Ghosh
MD & CEO
Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd

core driver of business growth and market share?

A prime example is solar pumps, a category squarely driven by sustainability, that we entered about 2 years and has been growing multi-fold. The Board has also championed our foray into solar rooftops.

Our focus on sustainability is recognized through CII GreenPro Type-I Ecolabels for the Ceiling Fan "HS Highspeed 48" and our B2B lighting range, as well as Crompton's ranking of **1st in India and 4th globally in the Household Durables Sector** by S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment 2024.

Our solar pumps, anti-scale water heaters, and 5-star induction-ready appliances are among our fastest-growing products, meeting rising consumer demand, with nearly **80%** of buyers willing to pay more for sustainable solutions as per World Bank.

Under Crompton 2.0, **ESG is not just an initiative — it's a core business driver**, seamlessly aligning financial growth, product innovation, and sustainability. At the end of the day, sustainability at Crompton is our edge, powering long-term innovation, market leadership, and India's transition to a climate-resilient economy.



Anuparna Roy
Indian Filmmaker & Screenwriter

Empowered Women Empower Nations

Anuparna Roy's journey in the world of movies is a story of personal triumph and a call for awakening for the next generation of Indian women ready to rise

Anuparna Roy's meteoric rise from the quiet village of Narayanpur in Purulia, West Bengal, to the global stage of the Venice International Film Festival marks more than just personal success — it signals a larger movement of empowerment, expression, and transformation of contemporary Indian women.

Setting the Global Stage

At the 82nd Venice Film Festival in 2025, Anuparna became the first Indian to win the prestigious Orizzonti Award for Best Director for her debut feature, *Songs of Forgotten Trees*, a 77-minute film immersed in memories of times past and friends lost, and in august company. The film, praised for its lyrical storytelling and evocative visuals, touches upon themes of

memory, identity, and resilience — mirroring the director's own journey of breaking barriers.

While on stage, Anuparna Roy also took a moment to speak about Palestine, brining attention to the suffering of children there. "Every child deserves peace, freedom, and liberation, and Palestine is no exception," she said. Anuparna Roy's international victory reinforces that the global stage is ready to embrace stories rooted in

Her success is not just cinematic; it is symbolic. It shows what happens when women are allowed to speak, create, and lead

Indian soil, told through the lens of empowered women.

Her Story Matters

Empowerment today is no longer just about rights — it is about recognition, representation, and respect. Anuparna's path to international acclaim was not without challenges. Like many young women from small-town India, she faced concerns from her family, societal expectations, and limited resources. Yet, she chose to listen to her own voice, a voice that represents the dreams of countless Indian women who are redefining their roles in society. Her success is not just cinematic; it is symbolic. It shows what happens when women are allowed to speak, create, and lead.

Her film is a reflection of freedom of expression, one of the core pillars of any truly developed nation. In Roy's own words during her acceptance speech, "Our stories matter. Our voices are not forgotten." This resonates not just with artists but with every woman fighting to be heard in boardrooms, villages, schools, and homes across the country.

New Gen Women Power

The new generation of women like Anuparna are at the forefront of an India evolving 'from a developing to a developed' nation. They are not only contributing to the economy but are also reshaping cultural narratives. Whether it's through art, politics, entrepreneurship, or education, the voice of Indian women is louder and more assertive than ever.

As India aspires to become Viksit Bharat by 2047, the participation of women like Anuparna Roy will be instrumental. They are not just breaking glass ceilings — they are redesigning the entire structure.

Harnessing Combined Intelligence

Operating across the UK, Europe, UAE, Africa, India, ASEAN, and Australia, Dailoqa is an AI-native, engineering-powered company that demystifies AI to transform Financial Services



Priyanka Nayyar
Partner & Co-founder, Dailoqa



Arun Singal
Partner & Co-founder, Dailoqa

Aligned to India's commitment to become a global AI powerhouse, leveraging cutting-edge technology for economic growth, governance, and societal progress, Dailoqa is creating a "human organization for artificial intelligence" to contribute to a self-reliant Viksit Bharat.

At Dailoqa's core is "combined intelligence"—a strategic blend of human and machine collaboration. Dailoqa helps clients understand where AI adds value and where human judgment remains critical, guiding the transformation to agentic AI journey while enabling humans to remain central in areas requiring judgment, compliance, and meaningful engagement.

Broccoli AI Platform

Broccoli™ is Dailoqa's proprietary agentic AI Platform called 'agentic farm', designed to help enterprises unlock new growth, streamline operations, and drive measurable outcomes. It meets strict security, regulatory and compliance requirements of financial services, ranging from onboarding, origination, customer service to risk etc.

"Broccoli is engineered for scalability, compliance, and rapid business impact. Its cloud agnostic architecture lets clients seamlessly harness advanced AI capabilities—empowering organizations to solve

real business problems and drive transformation at every step", says Priyanka.

Broccoli™ is a business transformation enabler. By combining secure data handling, intelligent collaboration, and robust orchestration, it empowers enterprises to adapt quickly, seize opportunities, and scale responsibly. With Broccoli™, AI becomes a trusted partner for clients, delivering hyper personalization, non-linear workflow driven by goals without codification, efficiency, and ROI.

RAG & Human-in-the-Loop AI

Scaling Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) in enterprise settings brings critical challenges. "First, data quality is critical—poorly governed inputs degrade retrieval and increase hallucinations. Second, real-time use demands low latency and optimized infrastructure. Third, human-in-the-loop feedback ensures continuous learning, preventing repeated errors and maintaining trust in RAG multimodal model", elaborated Arun.

Dailoqa simplifies unstructured data use cases for enterprise deployment by embedding robust data governance, real-time performance tuning, and continuous human oversight into its architecture, ensuring accuracy, speed, and scalable value.

Legacy-Heavy Organizations & AI

Introducing AI into legacy-heavy, risk-averse organizations demands a

partnership-first mindset. Dailoqa leads with deep functional expertise in financial services, focusing on collaborative transformation—not just technology deployment.

"Success starts with understanding client challenges and collaborating to solve them. Our transparent AI solutions ensures every decision is explainable—what data was used, how it was processed, and why it mattered—delivering measurable outcomes and empowering clients to lead AI transformation", explained Priyanka.

"Broccoli provides a standardized, governed foundation, where AI agents operate with business-aligned logic via the Broccoli Brain, not uncontrolled LLM outputs", added Arun. "Finally, we emphasize business-tech collaboration, embedding domain knowledge into AI solutions to ensure impact and trust."

Ethical AI Practices

At Dailoqa, we believe ethical AI is fundamental to trust and sustainable adoption. Every decision is auditable and explainable, with human oversight to detect anomalies. Data privacy is strictly enforced; PII and sensitive data are never exposed to external LLMs. Dailoqa helps clients establish strong AI governance frameworks, ensuring traceability, accountability, and compliance with standards like GDPR, RBI, or BoE.



Two Decades and Beyond

Celebrating 20 years of innovation and impact, Enso Group stands as a beacon of India's progress, driving growth, shaping industries, and powering the *Viksit Bharat* vision

Real progress takes vision, patience, and purpose. For 20 years, Enso Group has championed meaningful change in sectors vital to India's future. Beyond headlines and short-term gains, Enso Group builds with intent, driving sustainable growth that uplifts communities, empowers industries, and shapes a better tomorrow for generations to come.

A Legacy of Visionary Enterprise

The story of Enso Group began with a bold idea ahead of its time. In 1987, Vinay Maloo co-founded Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd. (HFCL), India's first private telecom company. At a time when private participation in the sector was virtually unimaginable, this pioneering move not only challenged the status quo but also laid the foundation for India's telecom revolution. HFCL's early success was a testament to foresight, conviction, and the belief that enterprise can be

a force for transformation.

Building on this legacy, Vinay Maloo established Enso Group in 2005 with a singular purpose: to invest in sectors like energy, infrastructure, healthcare, and digital innovation that are vital to national progress. Enso was created to deliver enduring solutions, strengthen foundational systems, and contribute meaningfully to society.

Today, Enso Group stands as a reflection of that vision — an enterprise driven by purpose, grounded in values, and committed to shaping a better future through thoughtful, sustainable progress.

From Vision to Impact

For over two decades, Enso Group has pursued a singular mission: to

invest in sectors that shape lives today and define India's strategic future. Every venture begins with one guiding question—*will this create lasting value?*

Energy and Natural Resources:

Recognising energy as a cornerstone of national development, Enso has invested in upstream oil, gas, and mineral projects. These ventures contribute to India's energy security—an area often shaped by complex regulatory, technical, and geopolitical landscapes. Enso's ability to navigate these challenges reflects its long-term, patient approach to value creation.

Healthcare Infrastructure:

Through collaborations with governments and global tech leaders, Enso has expanded



Vinay Maloo
Chairman, Enso Group

"Over two decades, Enso Group has demonstrated that the most powerful progress doesn't chase the spotlight; it builds the foundation. We will continue to drive sustainable growth, aligning with India's vision for a developed, self-reliant future"



"As we look to the future, while integrating tech-led new age initiatives, Enso Group will continue to shape a better world through thoughtful growth, purposeful innovation, and unwavering values"

Vaibhav Maloo
Managing Director, Enso Group

diagnostic and healthcare networks in underserved regions. By focusing on access and quality, the group has played a role in strengthening India's public health infrastructure where it is needed most.

Urban Mobility and Industrial Growth:

Enso has also contributed to India's transport and industrial ecosystems—developing lubricant solutions and infrastructure that support efficient logistics and scalable urban development. Notably, the group was among the original conceptualisers of India's first metro rail network, contributing to the modernisation of public transit.

Digital Innovation:

Through Enso Webworks, the group is pushing boundaries in the digital space. By prioritising trust, data ethics, and user-centric design, it is creating platforms that address the needs of an increasingly connected society. Noteworthy initiatives include the development of India's largest Indian-origin social media platform, an AI-powered search engine, and industry-leading VoIP technology enabling secure, high-quality group video communication.

Agriculture and Mining:

In sectors like potash mining, Enso's strategic investments have strengthened food security and rural supply chains. These efforts support

not only agricultural productivity but also the economic stability of India's farming communities.

Across every sector, Enso Group remains anchored in the belief that true impact is built over time, on strong foundations, with clarity of purpose.

Value-based Leadership

At the heart of Enso's success is a leadership style grounded in values. Founder Vinay Maloo leads with a unique blend of ambition and mindfulness, encouraging decision-making rooted in ethics, empathy, and long-term thinking. He empowers his teams to lead with transparency, ensuring that leadership is not about control but about enabling others to succeed.

This legacy of values-driven leadership continues with Vaibhav Maloo, Managing Director of Enso Group. With experience across industries and geographies, Vaibhav brings strategic vision and emotional intelligence to his role. Under his leadership, the group continues to champion responsible growth, meritocracy, and sustainability.

Driving Growth, Globally and Locally

Enso Group is shaping a bold global narrative firmly rooted in India's development vision. Through

strategic partnerships in energy and technology, including Indo-Russia cooperation, Enso has advanced mutual development goals, driving innovation and reinforcing India's role in global energy security and technological leadership.

A trailblazer in trade and tech-driven services, Enso Group is the leading importer of rough diamonds into India and a key exporter from the UAE, strengthening vital global trade corridors. In the digital space, it has launched India's largest social media platform of Indian origin, developed one of the country's first AI-powered search engines, and built the most advanced VOIP-based chat software, supporting 8-way video conferencing — underscoring its mission to empower communication and knowledge exchange at scale.

Globally recognised as a top-tier brand, Enso stands as a vanguard of Indian enterprise on the world stage. It is among the first private oil & gas exploration companies in India and the first Indian company to operate globally in the sector, opening new frontiers in strategic industries. Enso also conceptualised India's first metro rail network, contributing significantly to the nation's transport infrastructure and sustainable urban growth.

Looking Ahead With Purpose

As Enso Group marks 20 years of its journey, this milestone signifies more than just growth; it reflects a deep, enduring commitment to a vision rooted in purpose, integrity, and long-term impact. In an era often defined by speed and scale, Enso has chosen a different path: one that values substance over noise and strategy over shortcuts. Guided by the principles of structure before scale and purpose before presence, it leads by example, proving that true leadership is not about being first but about building something that lasts.



Dr Prabhakar B Kore
Chancellor, KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (KAHER), Belagavi and KLE Technological University, Hubballi

Accomplishment in Every Endeavor

A visionary leader Dr Prabhakar B Kore stands as a monumental figure in India's journey toward inclusive development, particularly in the realms of education, healthcare, rural upliftment, and cultural preservation

Dr Kore's unwavering commitment to societal welfare has transformed the lives of millions, particularly in Karnataka and its surrounding regions. In his professional life spanning over four decades, he has led countless successful projects, creating a legacy for future generations.

As the long-serving Chairman of the KLE Society since 1984, Dr Kore has redefined institutional leadership. When he took charge, the KLE Society was a modest educational trust with just 38 institutions. Today, under his stewardship, the Society has grown into one of India's largest educational conglomerates, managing over 300 institutions and serving more than 1.38 lakh students with the support

of 18,000 faculty members. It includes the establishment of premier institutions like the KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (KAHER) in Belagavi and KLE Technological University in Hubballi. These institutions are not only centres of academic excellence but also hubs of innovation and interdisciplinary research.

The 'Dr Prabhakar Kore Basic Science Research Centre' is another initiative in the domain of science and research, facilitating cutting-edge studies in molecular biology, biotechnology, and bioinformatics. By fostering an environment of inquiry and innovation, he has nurtured a generation of scholars and scientists equipped to address real-world challenges.

Beyond classrooms and laboratories, Dr Kore's contribution to healthcare is exemplary. Under his guidance, the KLE Society built a 2,400-bed multi-speciality hospital in Belagavi, including a 1,200-bed charitable section that serves underprivileged and marginalised communities. With over 70,000 inpatients and close to 900,000 outpatients annually, this hospital has emerged as a critical lifeline for the region. In addition, satellite healthcare centres in rural locations like Gokak, Bailhongal, and Ankola, along with free medical camps and speciality services in cancer and Ayurveda, underscore his commitment to accessible healthcare for all.

Dr Kore's focus on rural and agricultural development led to the establishment of sugar factories and cooperative banks, championing economic empowerment of farmers. The 'ICAR-KLE Krishi Vigyan Kendra' in Belagavi, founded under his leadership, trains farmers in modern and sustainable agricultural practices. His recent initiative to open a private agricultural college for children of farming families further reflects his deep-rooted concern for rural education and prosperity.

A patron of Kannada language and culture, Dr Kore actively supports literary events and community radio initiatives, helping preserve regional identity. His multiple terms as a Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament allowed him to influence national policy, especially in education, health, and rural development. A 'people's person', he seamlessly blended politics with purpose, always keeping the needs of the common man at the heart of his work.

Dr Prabhakar B. Kore's legacy is institutional as well as inspirational. His life's work continues to light the path for future educators, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and social reformers committed to building a more equitable and empowered India.

Astrology and India's Growth

Astrology influences India's development, guiding decisions, culture, and collective progress while blending tradition with modernity.

India, often celebrated as a land of spiritual wisdom, has always held astrology close to its cultural roots. As the nation strides toward development with modern technology, industrial growth, and global recognition, astrology continues to influence various aspects of life, shaping decisions and guiding ambitions. The concept of a "developing India" goes beyond economic parameters; it includes the holistic progress of its people, culture, and destiny—areas where astrology plays a subtle yet powerful role.

Astrology views a nation like an individual, with its own birth chart, planetary positions, and cosmic cycles. India's independence chart, dated 15th August 1947, places Taurus as its ascendant sign, indicating perseverance, stability, and material progress. Over the decades, planetary transits like Jupiter's expansion and Saturn's discipline have often coincided with major milestones—be it the Green Revolution, liberalisation in the 1990s, or India's rise in space technology and digital innovation in recent years.

Rapid economic growth helps India develop. The government promotes entrepreneurship, manufacturing, and technology with Make in India, Digital India, and Startup India. IT services, digital startups, and e-commerce have made India a job and GDP hub. Modern changes like GST and cashless transactions have strengthened the financial sector.

For individuals, too, astrology inspires confidence. Students often

seek auspicious periods ruled by Mercury and Jupiter—planets of wisdom and intellect—for educational success, while entrepreneurs consider planetary alignments for launching ventures. Politically, the influence of Saturn and Rahu has been linked to challenges, reforms, and transformative policies shaping modern India.

The spiritual dimension of astrology ensures balance amidst progress. Festivals like Makar Sankranti, Diwali, or Navratri mark

This article explores India's growth journey, blending astrology's timeless wisdom with modern progress, highlighting how cosmic influences shape economic reforms, technology, culture, and the nation's collective destiny.



Dr. Sohini Sastri
2 times President Award-winning world-renowned Astrologer, Life Coach, and Philanthropist.

seasonal and cosmic shifts, reminding people of harmony with nature even as industrialisation accelerates. Rural India, where agriculture depends heavily on monsoon patterns, still looks up to planetary positions and lunar cycles for guidance—a practice blending science with tradition.

As India aspires to become a global leader, astrology complements this journey by offering psychological reassurance and cultural continuity. It encourages people to align actions with cosmic rhythms, fostering patience during struggles and confidence during opportunities. The belief that favourable planetary periods bring growth motivates individuals and communities alike to work harder, blending faith with practical efforts.

Thus, India's development story is not just about economic reforms or technological leaps; it is equally about the timeless astrological wisdom that shapes its collective consciousness, guiding the nation toward a balanced and prosperous future.



Ajaypal Singh Banga, World Bank President

Leading India's Resilience Amid Global Slowdowns

Ajaypal Singh Banga is known to dream big and it doesn't get much bigger than heading the World Bank

In an era marred by economic uncertainties globally, Ajaypal Singh Banga, the newly appointed President of the World Bank, is amplifying India's role as a beacon of resilience and economic fortitude. Banga, the first person of Indian origin to helm the prestigious institution, has expressed confidence in India's ability to thrive amidst global challenges during his recent interactions.

During his visit to a skill center in Dwarka, Banga commended India's proactive measures, citing the nation's strength in withstanding the adversities posed by the pandemic. "India is doing a lot of things which are helping it to stay ahead during times of a global slowdown," he remarked, emphasizing the significance of the country's high percentage of GDP generated domestically.

Recognized for his extensive experience across diverse sectors spanning over four decades, Banga's nomination by President Joe Biden and subsequent confirmation by The World Bank's Board of Governors in May 2023 signified a pivotal moment for both India and the global financial landscape.

Banga's strategic vision

encompasses leveraging India's potential for growth in high-income jobs, particularly in technology and manufacturing sectors. He emphasized the urgency for India to capitalize on the "China plus strategy," citing a finite window of opportunity spanning three to five years as supply chains seek alternative locations.

Furthermore, the World Bank President stressed the importance of fostering cooperation between the World Bank and India, discussing pertinent issues related to the G20 and highlighting the significance of domestic consumption in bolstering the Indian economy amidst the ongoing global slowdown.

Banga outlined his immediate priorities upon assuming his role at the World Bank. His ambitious

Banga's foresight into India's economic landscape underscores the critical role that domestic consumption plays in shielding the nation from external economic downturns

agenda includes eradicating poverty while ensuring a sustainable planet, followed by the implementation of a robust capital adequacy framework to maximize the institution's balance sheet efficacy. Additionally, he aspires to transform the World Bank into a more efficient entity, aiming to expedite processes and operations.

Banga's foresight into India's economic landscape underscores the critical role that domestic consumption plays in shielding the nation from external economic downturns. His expertise and focus on financial inclusion, digital transformation, and sustainable development position him uniquely to navigate the World Bank towards fostering growth, alleviating poverty, and addressing climate change concerns.

The appointment of Ajaypal Singh Banga signifies a paradigm shift in global leadership, propelling India's representation on the international stage and reinforcing the country's resilience in the face of economic challenges. As he takes the reins of the World Bank, Banga's tenure holds the promise of steering both India and the global economy toward stability and sustainable growth.

Transforming Indian Academic Landscape

Under Raunak Jain's dynamic leadership, Tula's International School and Tula's Institute are redefining what it means to educate the next generation in a rapidly changing world



Raunak Jain
Vice-Chairman, Tula's International School & Tula's Institute, Dehradun

In an era where education must evolve beyond traditional classrooms, Raunak Jain stands out as a transformative force in India's education system. A visionary leader and a postgraduate in International Management and Business from Royal Holloway, University of London, Raunak brings a unique blend of global perspective and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by Indian students. His approach to education is rooted in the belief that learning should be holistic, future-ready, and inclusive, preparing students not just for jobs but for life.

New Age Learning Environment

The state-of-the-art campus includes business incubators, green innovation, arts and culture spaces, and sports academies alongside their academic infrastructure. Students participate in robotics projects, debate forums, coding bootcamps, and innovation challenges designed to foster skills like leadership, entrepreneurship, creativity, and critical thinking.

"We are not producing workers," Raunak says, "we are shaping thinkers, leaders, and problem-solvers." He emphasises the importance of creating an environment where curiosity is

nurtured alongside confidence and capability—elements essential to all-round development.

Building Brighter Futures

The impact of this progressive model is visible not only in the accolades Tula's has received but, more importantly, in the transformation of its students. Recognition from educational bodies, industry forums, and state-level events has followed, yet Raunak remains grounded. For him, success is when students graduate with skills, a strong sense of purpose, and the ability to contribute meaningfully to society.

Tula's has launched outreach programmes and scholarship initiatives that extend learning opportunities to students from rural and deprived backgrounds. Collaborations with industry professionals and academic experts further ensure that classroom learning remains relevant and practical, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application.

Tula's is investing in AI-driven learning platforms for personalised education, research in renewable energy and clean technologies, and entrepreneurship hubs that support student-led ventures. "Every classroom", Raunak remarks, "is a workshop for nation-building. What we teach today decides what India becomes tomorrow."

A Forward-Looking Legacy

Looking ahead, Raunak plans to establish advanced research centres, expand global academic exchange programmes, and strengthen partnerships in fields such as biotechnology, data science, and sustainable enterprise. His ultimate goal is to create a new generation of Indian graduates who are not just employable but globally respected leaders and innovators.

Through his work, Raunak Jain is not just transforming institutions—he is helping shape the future of India. His legacy is one of purpose-driven education that empowers individuals and uplifts the nation.



Siddhartha Lal
Managing Director, Royal Enfield

Driving The Royal Enfield Phenomenon

Think of motorcycles in India and you will think of Siddhartha Lal. Lal stands out as a trendsetter who has without exaggeration redefined the industry landscape. As the driving force behind Royal Enfield's global resurgence. From reviving a legacy motorcycle brand to making a lasting impact through philanthropy, his journey epitomises the perfect blend of business acumen and compassion

Born into a family renowned for its entrepreneurial legacy, Siddhartha inherited his passion for motorcycling from his father, Vikram Lal, the founder and former CEO of Eicher Motors Ltd., the Eicher Group's principal Indian affiliate. Currently the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Eicher Motors Ltd., Lal officiates as the chairman and MD of VE Commercial Vehicles as well.

Lal is credited with bringing Royal Enfield back to life. After being appointed as the CEO of Eicher Motors, which owns Royal Enfield, Lal pulled off Royal Enfield's extraordinary resurgence from a fading brand to a global sensation. Lal's unwavering enthusiasm and vision propelled Royal Enfield to new heights. He sparked a worldwide 'Royal Enfield revival' by merging contemporary engineering with classic styling. His strategic focus on innovation, quality, and brand positioning propelled Royal Enfield to the forefront of motorcycle fans in a variety of markets. He had a strong belief in Enfield's die-hard followers and opted not to follow the crowd, instead focusing on

creating outstanding products. He modified the Royal Enfield bikes to better meet the demands of today's youth, resulting in a significant increase in demand. He has transformed the iconic brand into a symbol of timeless elegance and adventure.

Lal's outstanding leadership has earned him countless laurels. Royal Enfield has garnered multiple important honours during his leadership for its product design, performance, and innovation. Leading industry organizations have recognized his imaginative approach, confirming his position as a dynamic corporate leader.

The significance of Lal's contributions goes beyond the Royal Enfield story. Highly committed to social service and environmental sustainability in addition to corporate success, Lal has overseen significant projects in education, healthcare, and community development as Chairman of the Eicher Group Foundation. His efforts include environmental protection, displaying a responsible business attitude to sustainability. Lal's philanthropic ventures prioritise empowering local communities

through skill development, vocational training, and livelihood enhancement. The Foundation's initiatives have uplifted countless lives, fostered positive change and created lasting impacts on society.

La's chosen approach and path exemplifies the spirit of a visionary entrepreneur who navigates the corporate world while adhering to his ideals of compassion and social responsibility. He illustrates the potential of business as a catalyst for social change via his amazing contributions to the world of motorcycles and his dedication to strengthening communities. Lal's approach to business is straightforward since he feels that less is more. As expected, he likes riding his bike and travelling to the mountains. With a move back to London in 2015, he is still looking out for the opportunity to finish his bike trip to Leh and Ladakh.

Lal's persistent pursuit of excellence in business and philanthropy has left an indelible effect on the motorcycle industry as well as society as a whole. His unrelenting devotion to social responsibility is inspirational, and bodes well for an inclusive and sustainable future.

Paving the Future Path

Visionary leader Ashok Kheny pioneering progressive transformation by building award-winning roads, corporate hubs, and sustainable townships for a prosperous and futuristic Bangalore



Ashok Kheny
MD, Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) Road
Former Member of the Legislative Assembly, Bidar South

In urban India's growth, infrastructure is key. Ashok Kheny, a visionary leader, consistently plays a pivotal role in transforming Bangalore through progressive projects that boost connectivity, drive economic growth, and enhance citizens' quality of life.

Roads to Excellence

Ashok Kheny's infrastructure philosophy is built on three pillars: innovation, foresight, and sustainability. As Bangalore expands, Kheny recognised the urgent need for future-ready infrastructure. His visionary NICE Road project transformed urban mobility—easing traffic, slashing travel time, and linking key zones seamlessly. An electrical engineer with a strategist's mindset, Kheny designs solutions that anticipate tomorrow's challenges. His meticulous, systems-level approach ensures resilient and scalable infrastructure that supports economic growth. By combining technical expertise with bold vision.

Building Integrated Urban Ecosystems

For Ashok Kheny, infrastructure is about designing sustainable spaces. Around the interchanges of the NICE Road, he envisioned dynamic hubs that drive growth and opportunity. His plan included corporate centres to attract

investment and ease pressure on Bangalore's core, residential townships offering world-class amenities for a better work-life balance, International Exhibition Center and a bold sports city to foster athletic excellence and global events. By blending connectivity with community-centric development, he aimed to transform Bangalore into a model metropolis ready for future population and economic growth.

Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

For Kheny, infrastructure development is about harmonising growth with the environment and community needs. He actively integrates eco-friendly practices such as incorporating green belts and landscaped zones along highways, implementing rainwater harvesting to conserve resources, promoting the use of recycled construction materials and ensuring that projects maintain a balance between urban development and ecological preservation.

He emphasises people's participation by engaging with local residents so that the benefits of infrastructure are felt directly by the communities it serves.

Political Insights and Policy

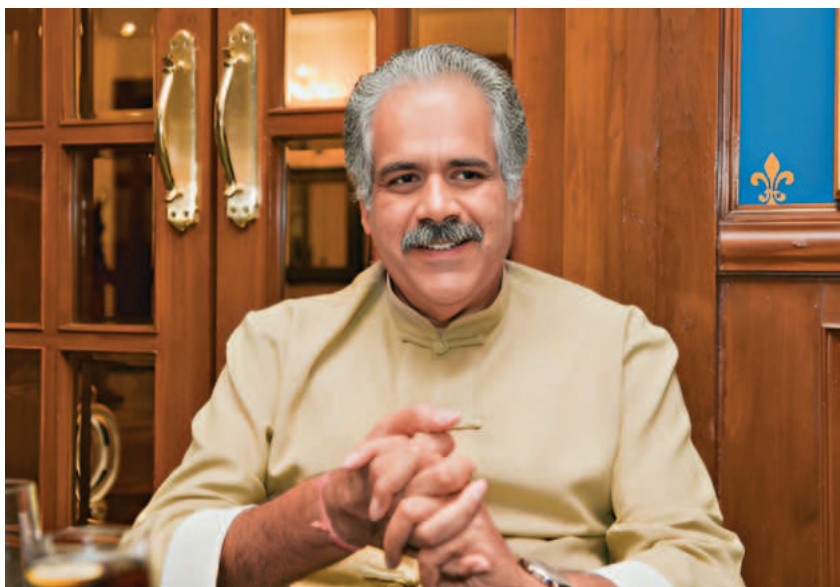
As MLA of Bidar South, Kheny made a lasting impact on the underserved Hyderabad–Karnataka region. To

bridge deep-rooted developmental gaps, he improved road, transport connectivity, access to drinking water and electricity, championed education and vocational training. He highlighted the region's special status under Article 371(J), securing vital policy attention.

Blending political insight with business acumen, he aligned private infrastructure initiatives with public policy goals. His vision and ideology, proposed 30 years ago, were not properly executed due to bureaucratic and political interference. However, the Government of India is now considering his ideas, and the same version is being implemented in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Awards and Accolades

The NICE Road development initiatives have won honours such as the KBC Birla Super Endowment Award (2013), the CIDC Vishwakarma Awards (2014, 2025), the Construction Times Award (2024), Best Concrete Road In India by Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC), established by Planning commission, Government of India and the construction industry and the South Indian Business Award. Internationally, he received the US Presidential Award in 1987 from President Ronald Reagan and the Fellow Award from the World Academy of Productive Sciences, Canada.



Rahul Bhatia
Co-founder & MD, Interglobe Aviation Ltd.

Driving India's Aviation Landscape to New Heights

The tactical wisdom boosted the Company to dominate India's aviation market marking a pivotal role in India's economic growth and connectivity goals

The trajectory of India's aviation industry has been revolutionized by the relentless drive and strategic acumen of Rahul Bhatia, Co-founder and Managing Director of InterGlobe Aviation. Alongside his father, Kapil Bhatia, Rahul has propelled IndiGo, India's largest airline under InterGlobe, to spearhead the country's aviation landscape, contributing significantly to India's path toward a \$5 trillion economy.

Established in 2006 with billionaire Rakesh Gangwal, IndiGo swiftly ascended to dominate 63% of the domestic market share, becoming the epitome of reliability, efficiency, and profitability in the aviation sector. Bolstered by a fleet exceeding 300 aircraft and connecting 104 destinations

worldwide, including 26 overseas locations, IndiGo's success story is underscored by its CEO Pieter Elbers, the former CEO of KLM, ensuring operational excellence.

However, Rahul Bhatia's visionary leadership extends beyond aviation. In a strategic move, InterGlobe partnered with logistics giant UPS to launch Movin, a groundbreaking joint venture catering to India's burgeoning logistics demands. This diversification showcases Bhatia's foresight in identifying opportunities beyond the aviation sphere.

Not confining their endeavours to aviation and logistics, the Bhatias expanded into the hospitality sector, collaborating with France's Accor to operate 21 hotels across India and managing 13 hotels internationally, including the prestigious Sheraton

Amsterdam Airport Hotel. This multifaceted approach exhibits their commitment to fostering growth across varied sectors.

The fiscal success of InterGlobe Aviation mirrors its expansive influence. With a staggering revenue of 536 billion rupees (\$6.7 billion) in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023, it undeniably underlines Rahul Bhatia's adept stewardship in steering the company towards economic prosperity.

Rahul Bhatia's journey to this zenith of success commenced with an electrical engineering degree from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. His entrepreneurial spirit was evident from his early endeavors in telecom, albeit stymied by regulatory obstacles. Nonetheless, his pivot to establish InterGlobe Enterprises in 1989, focusing on Air Transport Management, laid the foundation for his eventual meteoric rise.

Recognition as the 'Entrepreneur of the Year' by Ernst & Young in 2011 underscored Bhatia's visionary leadership and strategic prowess, cementing his status as a trailblazer in Indian business circles.

IndiGo's philosophy of offering affordable rates, punctual flights, and a seamless travel experience epitomizes its rapid expansion and resonates with India's burgeoning middle class. This ethos aligns with the nation's ambition of achieving a \$5 trillion economy, with aviation emerging as a critical sector bolstering economic growth and connectivity.

Rahul Bhatia's transformative influence on the Indian aviation industry transcends mere numbers and statistics. His indelible mark, characterized by innovation, resilience, and unwavering dedication, continues to be the cornerstone propelling India's aviation sector toward greater heights, contributing significantly to the nation's economic aspirations.

Leading the Global Market Rally

The Outlook magazine explores the dynamic role of NSE in driving the success of India's capital markets

What are the key factors driving the rapid growth of India's capital markets on the global stage?

Over the past three decades, India's capital markets have ascended to the fourth largest in the world, mirroring the nation's rise as the fourth-largest economy. The National Stock Exchange (NSE), India's largest and most trusted platform, revolutionised trading by introducing the country's first electronic trading system, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and nationwide access. NSE has democratised investing, expanding participation across India and growing market capitalisation over 125-fold to over Rs 450 lakh crore today.

Income tax rationalisation of the Union Budget FY25-26, along with RBI's policy rate cuts and the recent GST tax rejig, are expected to broaden market participation. Equity markets, particularly the Nifty50, have outperformed major global indices, offering long-term higher compounded annual returns. Young population, rising disposable incomes, strong leadership and progressive policies support this growth, underscoring the market's role in household wealth creation and financial empowerment across India.

How is NSE ensuring cybersecurity in an increasingly digital and interconnected ecosystem?

In today's digital age, NSE, designated as a National Critical Information Infrastructure, is a prime target for cyber threats. To counter this, we have implemented a multi-layered cyber defence strategy across 'People,

Process, and Technology', aligned with global standards like NIST, ISO, OWASP, and SEBI regulations. Our approach emphasises proactive risk identification, prevention, and prompt detection and response.

Our advanced cyber technology stack, featuring best-in-class tools, defends against threats ranging from malware and phishing to sophisticated DDoS and intrusion attempts. We ensure 24x7 monitoring of IT systems and continuously enhance our capabilities using threat intelligence from domestic and global sources.

We have evolved from point-in-time checks to near-continuous audits, attack surface assessments, and regular simulation exercises to test resilience at both infrastructure and human levels. Beyond technology, our strong cyber governance framework—guided by a comprehensive Cybersecurity and Resilience Policy and overseen by the Governing Board—ensures ongoing accountability and preparedness.

What is NSE doing to sustain growing retail investor participation and to educate new investors?

Retail participation is central to India's capital market journey, growing from 1 million investors in the '90s to 12 crore today, with NSE-registered investors in



Ashishkumar Chauhan
MD & CEO, National Stock Exchange

99.85% of India's pin codes. NSE conducted 14,679 Investor Awareness Programs in FY 2024-25, reaching over 8 lakh participants through webinars and on-ground sessions, educating investors on market risks, opportunities, and informed investing.

NSE signed MoUs with several state governments and partners like Zomato, Swiggy, and the Divyaj Foundation to extend financial education to gig workers, civic staff, and under-represented groups such as working women. Outreach also included truck drivers, in collaboration with Sriram Finance and TV9 Network.

NSE's Student Skilling Project (SSP) addresses the skill gap in BFSI sector by providing structured, in-person training. Through SSP, NSE partnered with state governments of Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Odisha, Telangana and the district administration of Varanasi promoted financial literacy and BFSI skilling among youth and has successfully trained over 9,000 participants.

To combat fraud, NSE and SEBI launched the SEBI vs SCAM campaign via TV, print, and social media to warn investors against scams and unregulated entities—reinforcing trust and safeguarding investor interests in capital markets.



Manish Malhotra, Indian Fashion Designer

Pioneering the Fusion of Tradition and Luxury in India's Fashion Renaissance

Redefining Indian fashion by intertwining Bollywood glamour with indigenous crafts, inspiring a legacy of cultural preservation and entrepreneurial vision

In the intricate web of Indian fashion, one name stands as a vanguard, scripting an indelible narrative of revival, luxury, and socio-economic empowerment - Manish Malhotra. Over three decades, Malhotra has etched his signature in the fashion cosmos, orchestrating a fusion of Bollywood glamour and indigenous crafts, contributing significantly to India's fashion landscape and economic vision.

Malhotra's journey symbolizes a synergy between Bollywood and local crafts, notably his endeavour in popularizing chikankari, a traditional craft, and giving it a contemporary flair. His vision was to mainstream

this art form, turning it into a conversation starter on ramps, red carpets, and beyond. Speaking of this, he emphasizes, "The film industry helped in building chikankari's reputation and penetrating it to places one couldn't have imagined."

The convergence of fashion and philanthropy materialized through Malhotra's association with the Mijwan Welfare Foundation, founded by Shabana Azmi in a small village in Uttar Pradesh. This noble initiative aimed at empowering women and reviving local crafts like chikankari. Malhotra's involvement led to the adoption of the village, nurturing it from 40 to over 400 women artisans,

providing them with steady work and income, thus revitalizing the craft.

Undeniably, his journey into fashion was no happenstance. From early days immersed in movies, colours, and costumes, his innate inclination led him to create iconic looks for Bollywood. It wasn't until he launched his label that his prowess extended beyond cinema to embrace a broader clientele seeking ready-to-wear ensembles and couture pieces, primarily driven by the demand fueled by movies and weddings.

Beyond apparel, Malhotra's expansion into makeup, jewellery, home decor, and film production showcases his entrepreneurial acumen. Collaborations with brands like MyGlamm and Raniwala 1881 underscore his brand's evolution into a complete luxury lifestyle label, capturing various facets of opulence.

The fusion of traditional artistry with contemporary trends has attracted significant investments, mirroring the changing dynamics of India's fashion market. Ventures like the Reliance Brands partnership have propelled Malhotra's vision to greater heights, offering resources to expand offerings and solidify his brand's presence in the global luxury segment.

The Indian ethnic wear market, poised to reach \$18.68 billion by 2023, and the burgeoning luxury market, estimated to grow to \$200 billion by 2030, paint a promising trajectory for designers like Malhotra, who continue to blend heritage with modernity.

In a paradigm shift towards digital retail, Malhotra recently launched his virtual store, ushering customers into an immersive experience that seamlessly merges the online and in-store journey. This innovation, operational 24/7, reflects his foresight in adapting to evolving consumer preferences while preserving the essence of personalized shopping.

Shaping Futures in the North East

A Visionary educator, Prof (Dr) Sangeeta Tripathi, contributing significantly to the development of education in the North-East of India

In the heart of North East India's academic landscape, Prof (Dr) Sangeeta Tripathi stands tall as a beacon of inspiration, leadership, and transformative impact. She is celebrated not only for her professional accomplishments but also for her unwavering commitment to education as a tool for empowerment and social change.

Driving Education Excellence

With over two decades of experience in teaching, research, training, and consultancy, Prof Tripathi has become a role model for students and educators alike. Her dynamic leadership style combines intellectual rigor with empathy, earning her admiration across the academic and professional spectrum. She is widely known for her clarity of vision, her bold decision-making, and her ability to lead with compassion and conviction.

Learning Beyond Boundaries

At NERIM, Prof Tripathi has cultivated an environment where discipline meets support, and academic excellence is interwoven with social responsibility. Her belief



Prof (Dr) Sangeeta Tripathi
Director, NERIM Group of Institutions, Guwahati

that education must go beyond textbooks has led to a holistic framework of learning focused on knowledge, skill development, and values. She has conducted numerous training programs on leadership, communication, business etiquette, and team building—empowering not just students, but working professionals across sectors. Her leadership has steered NERIM through numerous challenges, always placing institutional goals above personal ambition.

Awards and Accolades

Under her stewardship, NERIM has earned prestigious accolades, including the CSR Top University of India Award with a five-star rating. From 2010 to 2025, she was consecutively recognized by Competition Success Review as one of India's "Eminent Directors of Leading Institutes."

The recognition hasn't stopped there. In 2019, she received the Women in Education Leadership Award by ABP News. In 2022, she was featured on the cover of The Week as "A Woman with Holistic Vision", and in 2023, FEMINA included her in their "Inspiring

Women of the North East" feature. Her achievements were further acknowledged with the Education Eminence Award (News18, 2022), Bharat Vidya Gaurav Puraskar, and a slew of honors in 2025—including the Outstanding Visionary Academic Leader (Times Business Awards), Shreemoyee Award, Mirchi Excellence Award, and Times Now Gems of the North East Award.

Yet, for Prof Tripathi, these accolades are but milestones. Her true fulfillment lies in mentoring students, watching them transform into confident professionals and compassionate citizens.

A Woman of Substance

Beyond academics, she actively leads social welfare initiatives for the elderly and underprivileged—reinforcing her belief in education as a force for good.

As she continues to shape minds and institutions, Prof Tripathi remains steadfast in her mission: to make quality education accessible and to position NERIM as a nationally respected institution. Her legacy is one of vision, service, and relentless pursuit of excellence.



Rajesh Jejurikar, Executive Director & CEO,
Auto and Farm Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd

Accelerating Automobile Sector Growth

Rajesh Jejurikar is the driving force behind the popular Indian home-grown brand of automobiles, Mahindra

As the domestic four-wheel automobiles sector in India continues to grow, Jejurikar leads Mahindra as India's third-largest car manufacturer that is keen to drive forward with its footprint in the domestically developed and manufactured electric vehicles. Mahindra's technological superiority as showcased by its INGLO platform, firmly places its dedication to the initiatives India is engaging with in its bid towards a 5 trillion dollar economy. The confident 60 year old Jejurikar has even thrown the gauntlet to the younger and iconic Elon Musk and BYD to match Mahindra's EV product pricing, in consideration that the

Mahindra EV product is able to match world-renowned EVs in terms of technology and luxury features. A noteworthy achievement, Mahindra's EVs took just three years from concept to launch under his competitive and confident leadership. He has welcomed reputed international EV brands such as Tesla to enter the Indian market as he is confident that their presence will not deter Mahindra's success in this niche segment. Instead he views these international brands help boost the growth of the domestic EV sector.

Jejurikar believes that India's automobile sector is now level-pegging with the world's established car manufacturing countries and is

pushing forward with best-in-class homegrown technology as well as focusing on lifestyle bells and whistles features that are considered fancy. A marketing guru with a finger on the consumers' pulse, he realises that Mahindra's focus on delivering world-class luxury styled vehicles resonates with the growing penchant for lifestyle automobiles in India. Mahindra Electric Automobiles Ltd., a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., is being steered forward to greater performances as a promising vertical in the organisation's portfolio. The next big news he hopes to announce would be Mahindra's first battery electric vehicle.

Jejurikar is convinced that the domestic talent pool has enabled India to develop a robust skill set in engineering and automobile-related research and development. Teamed with policies and initiatives by the Indian government, this formula propels India towards an enviable position in the automotive value chain worldwide. The sheer volumes that the domestic market demand generates will aid Indian automobile manufacturers to leverage the scale for export opportunities.

According to Jejurikar, the end of the last festive season in 2024 has been a successful one and an indicator that India's automobile consumption is a healthy one indeed. Company reports have shown a positive growth, particularly in the SUV segment, powered by the recently introduced XUV3XO and Thar ROXX. Under his management, the automobile manufacturer has maintained healthy margins with strategic discount schemes and tight inventory.

Rajesh Jejurikar is among a network of industry professionals and leaders who are spearheading the new dynamism in Indian manufacturing that is gaining global traction and reputation, and aligning India's ambitions to the top economies worldwide.



Krupesh Bhat, Founder & CEO, and **Ashok Kadsur**- Co-Founder, Melento (formerly SignDesk)

Digitally Transforming Documentation Workflows

Krupesh Bhat shares how a personal experience sparked a startup revolutionizing contract signing, stamping, and documentation using AI and India's digital infrastructure

How Did You Envision The Digital Documentation Business That Transformed How Businesses Sign, Stamp, and Manage Contracts?

My journey started in the US, where I spent most of my early career. When I moved back to India in 2012, I had an eye-opening experience while trying to renew my driver's license. The way paperwork was handled, misplaced documents, and poor organization made me realize there was a deep, systemic problem that needed solving.

In 2014, we began with a simple use case, enabling consumers to draft rental agreements and affidavits from home. My co-founder Ashok Kadasur had joined me around this period and together we began building the company. Our platform was one of the first of its kind, and it quickly inspired others. India's digital public infrastructure, like Aadhaar and UPI, was evolving. We were fortunate to be part of this ecosystem, collaborating

with visionaries like Nandan Nilekani and Sharad Sharma. With Aadhaar-based authentication, we became one of the first private companies to launch electronic signatures that didn't require physical dongles. Today, SignDesk processes over 60 million documents annually, transforming complex, paper-based workflows into efficient, digital ones.

What Were The Challenges and Solutions in Integrating Advanced Tech With Regulatory Frameworks?

Building a startup is one thing—scaling it across diverse legal and bureaucratic landscapes is another. For instance, digitizing stamp duty was a major challenge. Every Indian state has its own regulations and systems. Initially, we sent our own staff to banks or government offices to handle stamping manually. Over time, we developed partnerships with state governments, cooperatives, and stamp vendors to digitize this process

across multiple states. We had to solve for KYC complexities as well, like issues of name mismatches and address discrepancies. Our platform now uses facial recognition, document extraction, and live video interactions to authenticate users, blending offline and online processes seamlessly.

We use AI in two broad areas: computer vision for document analysis and LLMs for workflow automation. Our new platform, Melento CLM, uses AI to read, summarize, and analyze contracts. It identifies key clauses, risks, and obligations, comparing them with past contracts to assist legal teams in negotiation. A 60-page contract can now be reviewed in minutes instead of hours. We apply AI to customer onboarding. For example, a loan application that previously required multiple manual steps is now processed almost instantly. From OCR to e-KYC and fraud detection, we enable institutions to focus on service rather than paperwork.

What are your Future Plans?

We're deepening our presence in the BFSI sector, offering low code Agentic workflow solutions beyond documentation—covering everything from compliance to customer engagement. We're also expanding globally, with active operations now in the Middle East and the US.

Our goal is to solve the "workflow problem"—helping large enterprises unify fragmented systems so that documentation is just one part of a broader, intelligent solution. The future lies in building holistic, compliant, and AI-powered ecosystems, and that's where we're headed. We are rebranding to Melento. The new identity marks a deliberate shift: moving beyond document workflows to orchestrating collaborative intelligence across enterprises — where AI and human judgment combine to accelerate decisions, remove friction and create measurable business outcomes.

Innovation & Technology: The Binding Pillars of Viksit Bharat

As India marches towards its centenary of independence, innovation and technology emerge as the binding force that will strengthen the four pillars of Viksit Bharat.

Dr. Davish Jain



Dr. Davish Jain
Chairman of the Prestige Education Foundation & Chancellor of Prestige University, Indore

Lessons from 1947 to 2047

India has always been a land of dreamers and doers. From the spinning wheel of 1947 to the digital revolution of today, our journey has been one of resilience and renewal. As we look ahead to 2047, the centenary of independence, innovation and technology must become the heartbeat of our progress—the rhythm that unites youth, women, farmers, and the poor into a single powerful force called Viksit Bharat.

Imagine waking up in 2047 to an India where a child in a Himalayan hamlet studies mathematics on a tablet in her own language... where farmers fly drones to predict rains and protect crops... and where every city shines with clean energy, free of coal smoke. This is not science fiction. This

is the promise of Viksit Bharat—our roadmap to becoming a developed nation as we celebrate 100 years of independence.

From freedom to future

In 1947, India won its political freedom. But our leaders dreamed of more—a self-reliant nation built on dignity and opportunity. Since then, our GDP has grown from \$30 billion to over \$4 trillion. Yet to reach \$30 trillion by 2047, we must grow faster, create jobs for 200 million youth, and lift every family out of poverty.

Innovation, therefore, is not a luxury. It is our lifeline

I recall visiting a village school in Madhya Pradesh where girls once dropped out after Class 8 because families couldn't afford

books or travel. Today, the same village learns through DIKSHA and other digital platforms, where free lessons reach millions on mobile phones. That is innovation—simple, scalable, and transformative.

Four pillars, One binding force

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat@2047 rests on four strong pillars—Yuva (youth), Garib (the poor), Mahilayen (women), and Annadata (farmers).

These are not policy terms. They are living faces of India—the coder in Bengaluru, the woman running a solar-powered shop in Rajasthan, the farmer in Vidarbha who grows food against all odds. One force binds them together: innovation and technology. It connects village and city, tradition and modernity, dream and destiny.

Beams of innovation

Education and skills: By 2047, every young Indian must have access to world-class learning and skills for future jobs. Coding is already entering schools. Millions are being trained under the Skill India Mission. But we must go further—global apprenticeships, lifelong learning, and vocational training tailored to green energy, AI, and space research.

Picture a farmer's daughter in Odisha learning to fly drones in a virtual class, then using that skill to nurture her family's fields. That is how innovation empowers both Yuva and Annadata.

Economic transformation

India's IT sector employs five million people and contributes \$250 billion in exports. But our next leap must be as product creators—semiconductors, biotechnology, space technology.

For the poor, technology ensures dignity. UPI already delivers benefits directly into their hands. For women, e-commerce has opened new worlds. I once met a weaver in Maheshwar who went door-to-door to sell saris. Today, she exports globally through online platforms. Multiply her story a million times and you see the future of inclusive growth.

Sustainability and green growth

Climate change threatens our rivers, coasts, and crops. Innovation is our weapon.

India's solar capacity has grown from 3 GW in 2014 to 85 GW today. By 2047, we can lead in green hydrogen, vertical farming, electric mobility, and

AI-driven energy grids. Imagine not only meeting our needs but exporting clean power to the world. For today's students, this means careers in renewable technology, electric vehicles, and precision farming—solving global problems from Indian soil.

Confronting the hurdles

The challenges are real. Rural India still lacks reliable internet. Nearly 40% of youth are unemployable due to outdated training. Inequality is sharp—the top 1% hold 40% of wealth while millions remain below the poverty line. Our R&D spending is just 0.7% of GDP, compared to the global average of 2.5%.

At the heart of this vision stand four strong pillars: Yuva (youth), Garib (the poor), Mahilayen (women), and Annadata (farmers)

To avoid the middle-income trap, bold action is needed. We must double R&D spending to 2% of GDP by 2030. We must invest in AI, biotechnology, and quantum research. Public-private partnerships should create innovation hubs that bridge rural and urban divides. Affordable 5G, digital literacy, and solar microgrids must reach every village.

For farmers and the poor, UPI and direct transfers must evolve into AI-powered job-matching and crop insurance systems. For women, safe workplaces and childcare support are essential to unlock their full economic power.

Human face of innovation

- At its heart, innovation is not about machines. It is about people.
- It is about a rural teacher whose lesson reaches a million children through an app.
- It is about a farmer who doubles his harvest with drone technology.
- It is about a young coder who creates an app that connects a street vendor to a global market.
- When I see students in our universities building robots with their own hands, I see the spirit of Viksit Bharat alive—curious, courageous, and creative.

From dream to destiny

The dream of 1947 was freedom. The dream of 2047 is prosperity with dignity.

Viksit Bharat will not happen by chance. It will be built—brick by brick, byte by byte—if we place innovation and technology at the centre of our journey. Then the four pillars—youth, poor, women, and farmers—will stand tall and unshakable.

When India turns 100, our children will not remember GDP charts. They will remember the stories of farmers who prospered, women who led, youth who created, and innovators who refused to give up.

That is the true promise of Viksit Bharat.

Let us roll up our sleeves—young and old, rich and humble—and build it together.

(Dr. Davish Jain is Chairman of the Prestige Education Foundation and Chancellor of Prestige University, Indore.)



Naveen Jindal, Member of Parliament, Chairman, Jindal Steel and Power Limited
Chancellor, OP Jindal Global University.

Building and creating world-class competences to make India self-reliant

For me, the Tiranga is much more than a flag. It's a symbol I see everywhere every day - from a flag bearer to the lapel pin I wear to work daily. My devotion to this sacred symbol led me to fight for its liberation, and it continues to inspire me to remain dedicated to its cause, says Naveen Jindal

Naveen Jindal moved a private member Bill for a comprehensive Food and Nutrition Security Scheme which became the basis for the Food Security Act. Also, it was after Jindal's continuous efforts and prolonged commitment to the issue that got Indian citizens the right to fly the national flag on all days. As President of Flag Foundation of India (FFI) Naveen Jindal welcomed the latest Amendment to the Flag Code of India 2002 after which a common citizen can hoist and unfurl the national flag 24 hours a day at their homes and office locations.

The Naveen Jindal Group is finalising a Rs 15,000 crore investment plan for the development of renewable energy

(RE) projects, aimed at generating captive clean fuel for its ramped-up steelmaking operations. As per the blueprint, the group is focusing on building new capacity additions with four GW of RE sources in-house within the next couple of years. This would help the Group reduce carbon emissions and produce green steel.

The new steel capacity are being planned under Jindal Renewable Power for developing solar and wind power projects for which sites have been identified, and land acquisition is underway. Majority of the projects will be in Rajasthan and Karnataka. Further, the objective is to be

more environmental, social and governance (ESG) compliant.

Jindal Steel and Power has emphasised the focus area for investment as steel and ancillary businesses such as mines, ports and power, and focus on green technologies to decarbonise its steel business. steelmaking capacity to about 15 million tonnes per annum by 2025-26.

Naveen Jindal Group's foray into green energy is poised to make a substantial impact on India's energy landscape, contributing to the nation's ambitious renewable energy targets. By leveraging cutting-edge technology and innovative solutions, the conglomerate aims to enhance efficiency, scalability, and sustainability across its renewable energy ventures. Moreover, the initiative is expected to generate employment opportunities, stimulate economic growth, and foster socio-economic development in the regions where these projects are implemented. Naveen Jindal Group is not only aligning with international sustainability goals but also positioning itself as a leader in the green energy revolution.

Jindal founded the O.P. Jindal Global University (OPJGU or JGU) in 2009, in memory of his father, Mr. O.P. Jindal. Jindal is also the Founder and Patron of the OP Jindal University, Chhattisgarh. It started as an engineering college and in a span of 4 years, OPJU became India's first and only private university to offer courses in steelmaking, metallurgy and management. The University was awarded the 'Best Private University in Chhattisgarh' at The Progress Global Awards 2020.

Scaling New Heights

A remarkable journey of an illustrious personality from policy corridors to corporate strategy

Bhartendu Shandilya has crafted a rare and remarkable path that bridges both public service and corporate strategy with equal expertise. A former bureaucrat turned corporate strategist, a bestselling author, a mentor to young entrepreneurs, and a man of diverse passions—his life is a compelling narrative of purpose, transition, and evolution.

A Visionary Leader

Bhartendu Shandilya spent nearly two and a half decades in government service, most prominently as the Resident Commissioner of the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Known for his clarity of purpose and grassroots-orientated approach, he was instrumental in enabling public delivery mechanisms, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic when coordination across states, departments, and emergency systems demanded calm leadership and swift action.

Aligning policy with enterprise goals and the focus on enhancing the 'ease of doing business,' he bridges the gap between governance and growth—driving sustainable, future-ready solutions with clarity, purpose, and impactful execution. Shandilya wasn't just a bureaucrat; he was a policy innovator—someone who could see beyond red tape to craft real-world solutions.

Ace Penmanship

In April 2025, Shandilya authored *Beyond Policy*, a book that has climbed bestseller charts. It offers rich reflections on governance, leadership, and the human side of decision-making. The book resonated with policymakers, corporate leaders, and young readers alike, finding a place in the Parliament Library of India.

"Policy is not just about paperwork; it's about people," he writes—a line that captures the essence of his philosophy. The book talks of governance not as a static system, but as a dynamic force driven by integrity, empathy, and courage.

Expert Strategist

Shandilya has made a seamless transition to the corporate world. Today, he serves as Advisor, Corporate Affairs at RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, one of India's largest conglomerates. His in-depth understanding of policy frameworks, regulatory environments, and stakeholder engagement has become an asset to the business world.

In a corporate era where policy uncertainty can affect business strategy overnight, his ability to navigate governance frameworks with nuance brings clarity and foresight to boardrooms.

Mentor and Moderniser

Educated from institutions like



Bhartendu Shandilya
Advisor- Corporate Affairs, RP-Sanjiv Goenka
Former Resident Commissioner,
UT of Chandigarh
Author of the bestseller, *Beyond Policy*

Harvard University, MIT, and ISB Hyderabad, Shandilya is committed to lifelong learning. His ability to blend Indian realities with global best practices, allows him to drive innovative solutions that resonate across diverse markets. By fostering a culture of adaptability and resilience, he empowers organisations to thrive in an ever-evolving landscape. He actively mentors startups—particularly in fintech and policy-tech—bringing together his policy acumen and entrepreneurial spirit.

An avid sportsman, singer, and farmer, he exemplifies holistic living. He plays cricket and tennis with the same enthusiasm with which he debates regulatory reforms. His love for languages—he is fluent in Maithili, Magahi, Bhojpuri, Punjabi, and Hindi—reflects his deep cultural rootedness. His time away from work is often spent tending to farmland, caring for animals, or engaging with local communities.



Dr Veezhinathan Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras

Shakti-man of India

Brain behind India's first microprocessor SHAKTI, Dr Veezhinathan Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, is keen to build semiconductor capabilities in the country to stop import dependence

The genius behind India's first microprocessor SHAKTI is Dr Veezhinathan Kamakoti, Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, who has been striving hard for a decade to build semiconductor capabilities in the country to help stop dependence on cheap imports from China.

Dr Kamakoti, whose research interests include Software for VLSI, Reconfigurable Systems Design, and Computer Architecture, has stated that a need for building hardware that supports building AI models within the country led him to take the charge with the SHAKTI microprocessor.

Dr Kamakoti, who did his Ph.D and M.S. in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT Madras, started building the SHAKTI microprocessor in 2014. Funded

by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the microprocessor is an open processor built on top of the open RISC-V architecture. India's Shakti and Vega microprocessors, built by IIT Madras in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), are on par with global counterparts in performance, according to Dr Kamakoti.

"Regarding the benchmarking, we're operating at what you could call 'generation minus one' compared to the latest contemporary microprocessors," Kamakoti said, in a recent conversation with Digitimes Asia. "This means we've achieved what those processors did two to three years ago."

Dr Kamakoti heads the Microprocessor Development Program and the Information Security

Education and Awareness Program at IIT Madras. He is a member of the National Security Advisory Board. Earlier, he was also the Chairman of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force constituted by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry. At IIT Madras he has served as the Chairman, JEE, and as Associate Dean, Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research.

The microprocessors represent a significant advancement in the country's tech ambitions. Dr Kamakoti has stated: "The benchmarks depend on various factors, including the specific silicon and Process Development Kit (PDK) used... We're very close to, and in some cases better than, contemporary microprocessors according to benchmarks like CoreMark, which is widely used for embedded systems. I'm highly confident in our competitiveness."

Several startups in India are now leveraging Shakti for various applications, from security to SoC development, highlighting the architecture's flexibility and adaptability to specific needs. These include Mindgrove Technologies and InCore Semiconductors. Kamakoti added that they are also trying to integrate the processor into existing IoT and other solutions.

Dr Kamakoti has over 150 publications in international journals and conferences and guided many research scholars for their PhD and Master of Science program. He has also coordinated and successfully delivered close to 50 projects from industry and government R&D establishments.

Dr. Kamakoti is the recipient of DRDO Academic Excellence Award, Indian Electronics and Semiconductor Association Techno Visionary Award, 'Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation National Fellowship', ACCS Life-time Achievement Award, IBM Faculty Award and VASVIK Industrial Research award.

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Leadership Rooted in Legacy

Syed Muhammad Ali Al-Hussaini shares how Khaja Bandanawaz University blends tradition, innovation, and social impact to shape future-ready leaders



Syed Muhammad Ali Al-Hussaini
Chancellor – Khaja Bandanawaz University, Kalaburagi

Q How do you ensure that KBNU fosters innovation, critical thinking and lifelong learning?

At the Khaja Bandanawaz University (KBNU), education is a 'journey of discovery'. We are constantly striving to equip our students with knowledge, information and tools by fostering a culture of research and exposure. Knowledge alone is never enough; it must be accompanied by an ethos of learning and remain culturally relevant. Our role is to create an environment where young minds are encouraged to be lifelong learners, since true success lies not in what you know today, but in how you continue to grow as a socially engaged and aware citizen of India.

Q What special initiatives has the institution taken to uplift marginalised and underprivileged communities?

A university is measured not only by its academic standards but also by the social change it can bring about by creating aware, responsible and socially engaged

people. The history of the Khaja Education Society since 1958 has been to uplift women, a vision that grew to encompass all marginalised and less privileged sections of the society without any bar of caste, creed or religion. This legacy is now inherited by the KBNU, where it has found greater thrust and focus, especially as far as higher and professional education are concerned. As an institution, we have always believed that education must open its doors wide to those who need it the most. We have been offering free scholarships and financial assistance to ensure that no deserving student is left behind because of economic constraints. Our outreach efforts—healthcare services, literacy programmes, rural development initiatives—are not charity, but our duty. These efforts strengthen our community while shaping our students into more empathetic, responsible citizens. For us, uplifting the marginalised is not an initiative—it is part of who we are.

Q KBNU has earned its reputation as a legacy institution. Carrying forward the initiatives of your predecessors, what is your future vision towards excellence?

KBNU is a legacy of vision, values, and service. My grandfather, Padmashree Syed Shah Muhammad al-Hussaini, planted the seed of social development through educational attainment, and my late father and the founder Chancellor of KBN University, Dr Syed Shah Khusro Hussaini, has nurtured it with devotion. This seed has grown to be a university now. I have the honour of carrying this mission forward. Their example inspires me every day to dream bigger for this institution.

My vision for KBNU is clear: to blend heritage with innovation and to be rooted in values while reaching for global excellence. We are investing in research, technology, and world-class infrastructure, but above all, we are shaping character. I want every student of KBNU to walk out not only as a skilled professional but also as a person of integrity, compassion, and leadership. That, I believe, will be our true mark of excellence.



Ashwini Vaishnaw
Minister of Railways, Electronics & Information Technology and Communications, GOI

In the colossal journey towards propelling India into a \$5 trillion economy, the railways stand as a pivotal force, redefining connectivity, logistics, and economic progress. At the helm of this transformative overhaul is Ashwini Vaishnaw, India's Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, orchestrating a paradigm shift in the nation's railway landscape.

Venturing into politics following his tenure at the Prime Minister's Office during the Vajpayee administration, Vaishnaw's ascent to the Railway Ministry in July 2021 marked a turning point. His strategic vision and relentless drive have ignited an era of unprecedented growth and innovation within the Indian Railways.

Under Vaishnaw's stewardship, the railways have witnessed a staggering metamorphosis. Addressing the 'Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar' ceremony, he lauded the exemplary services of railway employees, highlighting the critical role they play in India's growth trajectory. He emphasized the monumental achievements in railway electrification, surpassing milestones that had languished unmet for decades. "In 2015, Prime

Revolutionizing Indian Railways

A former Bureaucrat and an IIT Kanpur Alumnus who initiated "14-minute miracle cleaning" is aligned with the Hon'ble PM's mission and vision of "Swachhata Hi Seva"

Minister Modi's merger of the Rail Budget with the General Budget eradicated financial impediments that had long plagued the railways," Vaishnaw articulated. "This historic move unlocked unprecedented avenues for investment, obliterating the dearth of funds that had shackled railway development."

Vaishnaw's unwavering dedication is palpable in his visionary roadmap for the railways. He foresees a monumental saving of 16,000 crore liters of fuel and Rs. 1,28,000 crore through increased railway freight, underscoring the colossal economic impact of efficient logistics.

In sync with the government's economic aspirations, Vaishnaw affirmed, "India is poised to become the third-largest global economy by 2027. The railways will be instrumental in propelling this growth. Our efforts will dismantle the colonial mindset and accelerate India's ascent."

Collaborating with Jaya Varma Sinha, Chairperson of the Railway Board, Vaishnaw's initiatives encompass the introduction of 34 new Vande Bharat trains, stations redevelopment under Amrit Bharat, and revolutionary advancements in rail safety through cutting-edge technology implementation like 'kavach.'

Moreover, the Minister's foresight extends to unveiling plans for 5,000 km of track construction annually, revolutionizing railway infrastructure and rolling stock. The impending

launch of Vande Bharat services in Srinagar and the introduction of sleeper versions of these trains on long-distance routes further underscores the transformation in passenger experience and connectivity.

Beyond modernization, Vaishnaw's '14 Minute Miracle Cleaning' campaign, engaging 'Swachh Vande Veers' at railway stations, epitomizes a commitment to cleanliness and sustainable practices. Initiatives like clearing tons of plastic and scrap from railway premises and dedicated efforts to clean track areas underscore his holistic approach to railway development. The advent of the 'Amrit Bharat' train, equipped with state-of-the-art technology, symbolizes Vaishnaw's emphasis on innovation and passenger comfort. Its revolutionary design, minimizing water usage in train toilets and ensuring enhanced accessibility, signifies a paradigm shift in rail travel experience.

In essence, Ashwini Vaishnaw's visionary leadership in the Railway Ministry stands as a testament to the transformative power of strategic planning, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to bolstering India's economy. His indomitable spirit in harnessing the potential of the Indian Railways paves the way for a resplendent future where the railways emerge as a cornerstone in India's journey towards economic supremacy.

Building Competitive and Sustainable Industrial Ecosystems

As India moves towards becoming a global economic powerhouse, Arete Group is committed to supporting this journey by enabling infrastructure that aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat—a developed, self-reliant, innovative, and sustainable India

India today stands at the cusp of an unprecedented growth era. Robust consumption, progressive reforms, and a clear vision for industrial growth are attracting large-scale investments across the country. Much of this momentum is driven by the supportive policies of both the central and state governments, infrastructure initiatives under Viksit Bharat, the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission promoting self-reliance, and ground-breaking reforms like GST, which have simplified tax structures and boosted consumption-led growth.

Arete Group's focus has always been on creating industrial ecosystems that enable industries to remain competitive, compliant, and sustainable in the long term. By developing world-class infrastructure, common utilities, and shared services, the organisation aims to remove operational bottlenecks for member industries so they can focus on innovation, efficiency, and growth.

Game-Changer Transforming Businesses

Siraj Saiyed portrays the face of new-age Indian business leadership—dynamic, purpose-driven, and forward-thinking. Under his leadership, Arete Group's

flagship project, Payal Industrial Park (PIP) in Dahej PCPIR, Gujarat, is a step in this direction. Spread over 3,500 acres, it is one of India's largest privately developed chemical industrial parks, designed to meet the sector's unique requirements—environmental compliance, common utilities, waste treatment facilities, and integrated infrastructure—all aligned with international standards. The parks are built on principles of low-carbon operations, responsible resource management, and long-term ecological balance.

Under the mentorship of his father, Jikar Allarakha Saiyed, the Group's Chairman and Managing Director, Siraj has embraced a bold vision to expand and modernise Arete's footprint across multiple sectors, including hospitality, housing, retail, leasing, packaging, and industrial infrastructure.

Building on Human Capital

Arete Group recognises that building on human capital is as important as creating physical infrastructure. "Our teams of skilled professionals, engineers, and managers form the backbone of every project we deliver." Siraj Saiyed emphasised.

By fostering a culture of ownership, innovation, and continuous learning, the group ensures that the workforce is



Siraj Saiyed
Promoter & Director, Arete Group of Companies

equipped to handle the challenges of tomorrow while staying true to their core values of excellence, empathy, empowerment, and resilience.

Reinforcing Government Vision

Acknowledging the proactive support of the Government of India and the Government of Gujarat—from policy clarity to infrastructure readiness and expedited approvals—the Arete Group is benefiting from the enhanced ease of doing business, reflecting a collaborative approach between the government and industry.

Siraj elaborated, "Looking ahead, all our future projects will be aligned with national priorities and government initiatives—with a clear purpose of creating ecosystems for emerging sectors where India must build independence, such as advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and high-tech industries. At the same time, these projects will be designed to facilitate innovation, helping Indian industries stay competitive in global markets while strengthening self-reliance at home."



Akash Bhansali, Ace Investor

Angel Investor Fuels India's Growth

A knack for spotting transformative ventures and a strategic investment approach makes Akash Bhansali a pivotal force in India's financial ecosystem

Angel investor Akash Bhansali's strategic investments are reshaping India's financial landscape. His work propels startups and fosters economic growth. Bhansali's keen eye for transformative ventures has garnered substantial attention from the investment community. His insightful approach has not only generated significant returns but has also played a pivotal role in creating a vibrant ecosystem for new businesses.

A Closer Look at Bhansali's Portfolio

Based in Mumbai, Akash Bhansali has made significant waves in India's financial markets. With a net worth of INR 953 Crores, he is among India's top 10 investors. His investment strategies target

dynamic sectors like Fin-Tech, Clothing and Apparel, and Business Support Services. These sectors are chosen for their high growth potential and their ability to leverage technology and changing consumer trends. These investments have significantly influenced promising startups such as Herkey, Monsoon Credittech, and Purple Style Labs (PSL). Bhansali's early and consistent support has been a crucial factor in their success and expansion.

Bhansali's journey began with a strategic early investment in Zodiac Clothing. This move showcased his talent for spotting potential in the textile sector. He credits his father, Enam Group founder Mr. Vallabh Bhansali, as his inspiration. He was taught to

take calculated risks on unique companies with futuristic market trends in mind. This philosophy led him to invest in companies like Greenlam Laminates, which were ahead of their time. This foundational experience instilled in him the confidence to back unconventional businesses.

Strategic Growth and Impact

Bhansali's investment approach is concentrated, focusing on a select number of high-potential companies. His portfolio includes stalwarts like Laurus Labs Ltd., IDFC Ltd., and Amber Enterprises India Ltd. He holds stakes in 16 companies. Over the past year, his total portfolio value has surged by 15.2%. This impressive growth is mainly due to Welspun Corp's remarkable 116% surge in share price. Welspun Corp's strong performance in the market highlights the success of Bhansali's long-term investment strategy.

His influence extends far beyond mere investment figures. Bhansali notably led funding rounds for startups like Purple Style Labs. This round drew support from actor Madhuri Dixit Nene and Navroz Udwadia of Alpha Wave Global. PSL plans to expand its Pernia's Pop-Up Shop brand to New York and Dubai, demonstrating a clear vision for global growth.

Bhansali's strategic investments do more than just fuel company growth. They contribute directly to job creation, foster innovation, and promote broader economic development. His trailblazing strategies continue to inspire new investors and propel India's market toward a successful future. With his calculated risk-taking and astute market insights, Akash Bhansali remains a pivotal figure shaping India's economic narrative.

Bridging Innovation and Impact in Global Agriculture

HarvestPlus Solutions supporting India's present through sustainable innovation and sowing the seeds of a healthier, more resilient, and truly *Viksit Bharat*

As India strides toward its vision of *Viksit Bharat*—a developed, inclusive, and sustainable nation—addressing the intertwined challenges of malnutrition, climate change, and rural livelihoods, insecurity is paramount. At the intersection of these critical issues stands HarvestPlus Solutions (HPS), a pioneering force in sustainable agribusiness that is actively shaping the future of Indian agriculture through innovation, inclusivity, and impact.

Nutrition Meets Necessity

HPS addresses the challenges of micronutrient deficiencies by promoting biofortified staple crops, such as iron-rich pearl millet and zinc-rich wheat, tailored for Indian agro-climatic conditions. These nutrient-dense crops are improving health outcomes of vulnerable populations and enhancing productivity and income of smallholder farmers.

Working closely with national institutions like ICAR and ICRISAT, HPS supports the breeding, testing, and scaling of climate-resilient seeds. By integrating biofortified grains into school feeding programs, public health schemes, and government procurement channels, the organization ensures that the nutritional benefits reach those most in need aligning directly with the goals of Poshan Abhiyan and broader *Viksit Bharat* priorities.

The company leverages AI-driven analytics, satellite-based crop monitoring, and precision farming tools to empower farmers with

timely, actionable insights. From optimizing irrigation and pest control to predicting climate risks, these innovations help Indian farmers boost yield while reducing environmental impact. HPS has introduced X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) Spectrometry for rapid seed, grain and flour testing. XRF is cost-effective, quick and requires no chemical processing. Its non-invasive nature preserves samples while enabling early screening of high-nutrient varieties during crop breeding. For researchers, food processors, and farmers alike, XRF is revolutionizing how nutritional quality is tracked and trusted.

A Seal of Trust

HPS is pioneering biofortification with the launch of the Neutral Mark—a first-of-its-kind symbol certifying the authenticity and nutritional integrity of biofortified seeds and foods. For consumers, it signals assurance that products are genuinely nutrient-rich; for seed and food businesses, it certifies authentic biofortified sourcing. By mainstreaming biofortified foods through this symbol of quality, HPS is positioning nutrition as a non-negotiable standard in India's food systems.

Commitment to Inclusive Growth

Inclusivity is at the heart of HPS's approach. Through a landmark collaboration with the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), HPS is placing women farmers at the forefront of agricultural and economic transformation. This partnership enhances both livelihoods and nutritional well-being



Ravinder Grover
Chief Operating Officer
HarvestPlus Solutions

"IT'S ABOUT TAKING POWERFUL INNOVATIONS AND ENSURING THEY REACH THOSE WHO NEED THEM MOST. A GOOD IDEA, LIKE A GOOD SEED, MUST BE NURTURED IN THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT TO THRIVE. AT HARVESTPLUS SOLUTIONS, WE BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN POTENTIAL AND PROGRESS. OUR WORK LIES AT THE INTERSECTION OF SCIENCE AND COMMERCE—SCALING WHAT WORKS, WHERE IT MATTERS MOST"

by ensuring women have access to improved seeds, agronomic training, and market linkages. By restoring nutrition in staple crops and strengthening women's agency, the initiative creates a ripple effect across households and communities.

Investing in Our World

HPS contributes globally by developing and distributing nutrient-rich biofortified crops to combat malnutrition and improve public health, particularly among vulnerable farmers and communities. Their efforts have reached over 360 million people and involve building local supply chains, empowering women, and partnering with governments and NGOs to integrate these crops into food systems in countries across Africa and Asia.



Priya Nair
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Hindustan Unilever Limited

The New Vanguard

Priya Nair, Hindustan Unilever Limited's first woman CEO, embodies a blend of strategic acumen and social purpose, poised to drive the FMCG giant and contribute significantly to India's \$5 trillion economy dream

In the evolving narrative of India Inc., the quiet strength of intellectual acumen often outshines overt aggression. Priya Nair, thus, emerges as a quintessential leader for the future. Her ascendancy to the helm of Hindustan Unilever (HUL) as its first woman CEO and Managing Director, effective August 1, 2025, marks not just a historic milestone for the ninety-two-year-old Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) behemoth, but also a significant stride for India's ambitious \$5 trillion economy dream.

Born to Malayalee parents in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, Priya Nair was educated in Mumbai. Her academic foundation was with a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) in Accounts & Statistics from Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics (1987–1992). An MBA in Marketing from Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune (1992–1994) followed. Her commitment to continuous learning led her to pursue

the prestigious executive programme in Business Administration and Management at Harvard Business School.

Nair's journey within HUL spans nearly three decades. It testifies to her deep understanding of the Indian consumer psyche and her strategic prowess. From her year of joining in 1995, she navigated diverse roles across Home Care, Beauty & Wellbeing, and Personal Care businesses, building a reputation for brand-centricity and a consumer-first approach. Her leadership style, described by industry peers as a blend of empathy and sharp business acumen, reflects a nuanced understanding that leadership isn't merely about directives but about fostering an environment of innovation. Harsh Goenka, Chairman of RPG Group, praises her as a "transformative leader" with "strategic clarity," noting that she "works through her mind and her heart...."

This empathetic, yet results-driven, approach is precisely what HUL, and the

Indian economy, needs. As India strives towards its \$5 trillion economy goal, the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector plays a pivotal role, touching the lives of nearly every Indian household. HUL, with its vast reach and portfolio, is a key driver of this consumption-led growth. Nair's extensive experience in understanding and catering to diverse Indian consumers – from launching the innovative rural radio service Kan Khajura Tesan (Earworm Radio Station) a mobile-based advertising platform for media-dark villages that reached over 11 million subscribers and earned global acclaim with three Cannes Gold Lions to turning around underperforming categories – positions her perfectly to unlock new avenues of growth. Her global exposure as President of Beauty & Wellbeing at Unilever further equips her with insights into premiumisation and digital transformation, critical for HUL's future.

Beyond commercial success, Nair's tenure has been marked by a strong sense of social responsibility. As part of her leadership roles, she has championed public health initiatives, such as the widely impactful WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) programme, which has reportedly reached 152 million people in India. This commitment to societal well-being, ingrained in HUL's ethos, is a testament to her purpose-driven leadership, where business objectives converge with broader social good.

Her appointment signals a broader cultural shift in corporate India, championing diversity at the highest echelons. For an economy that needs every segment of its population to contribute, having a woman at the helm of such an influential company sends a powerful message of empowerment and inclusion. Priya Nair, therefore, is not just a CEO; she is a changemaker, poised to steer HUL towards unprecedented growth while simultaneously contributing significantly to India's economic aspirations.

Powering Potential and Possibilities

Cosmic Birla Group driving inclusive growth and sustainable transformation across industries, from grassroots employment to green mobility and strategic manufacturing

ADITYA VIKRAM BIRLA



Aditya Vikram Birla
Managing Director, Cosmic Birla Group

The year 2047 awaits the fulfilment of an ambitious target for the country towards a Viksit Bharat. I am convinced that for real transformation, we must begin from the ground level.

My journey as an entrepreneur, backed by over five decades of family legacy in the industrial and manufacturing sectors, has taught me that while we make the top end aspirational, we must also make the bottom end resilient.

At Cosmic Birla Group, our growth has not just been about scale but also about impact. From a 17-member team, we have grown into a 160-member skilled workforce, built through our core principle of skilling the unskilled and training the untrained. In places like Singur, West Bengal, we've taken unskilled workers and turned them into a skilled force overseeing operations that now generate over ₹300 crore in turnover – a testament to the power of grassroots empowerment.

We encourage generational employment within our organisation, bringing in the next generation of workers from families who've been with us for decades. This strengthens not just our operational base but our cultural fabric – one rooted in loyalty,

ownership, and family values.

While we honour our legacy businesses, we are also forging aggressively into new-age sectors. Our expansion into EV-based gig mobility moving towards carbon neutrality, is a reflection of our forward-thinking approach. This is accelerating innovation and sustainability in the automotive industry and creating jobs.

Aggregators like Zomato, Swiggy, and Amazon don't invest in hard assets – we do! With over 5,500 EVs deployed across Bengal and Maharashtra, we've become the largest EV channel partner in this space, not just creating assets but livelihoods. These gig riders earn ₹15,000–₹20,000 monthly, and by 2030, we aim to scale to 1.5 lakh vehicles, generating over ₹400 crores in revenue and direct employment for 150,000 people.

To organise this ecosystem, we are launching a tech-driven gig mobility platform—a three-way marketplace for riders, vehicle owners, and aggregators. This subscription-based model simplifies job access, vehicle leasing, and talent sourcing – turning fragmented opportunities into a structured digital marketplace, available to anyone with a PAN, Aadhaar, and an EMD as low as ₹5,000.

Beyond mobility, we're deepening our presence in railways, infrastructure,

and defence—three of India's four strategic growth pillars. From wagon manufacturing and backward integration of locomotive components to infrastructure products like galvanised barriers, sheet piles, and poles, our industrial backbone is getting stronger. Our acquisition bid for Amtek Auto marks a bold step to further this vertical integration, aligning with the government's 'Make-in-India' initiative. At Cosmic Birla Group, we don't just chase profitability; we build sustainability—in business models, energy, employment, and community impact.

I am committed to leveraging policy, innovation, and scale to make sure our country's goals are not just met but exceeded. Viksit Bharat is not a dream for tomorrow. It's a mission that starts with action today.

About the Author:

A new-age business leader, Aditya Vikram Birla holds an MBA from Cardiff University and a BBA from Jadavpur University. Under his leadership, the Cosmic Birla Group has diversified into several sectors, such as engineering, manufacturing, real estate, FMCG, and renewable energy.



Ekta Kapoor
Indian film producer & television director

A Recipe for Success

Pioneering a significant shift in the landscape of digital entertainment, Ekta Kapoor heralding a new era of content consumption and production

Ekta Kapoor's contribution spans across diverse genres, establishing her as the undisputed queen of TV soap operas for almost two decades. She single-handedly almost transformed the Indian Television Industry into a \$1 billion venture.

However, Kapoor's ambitions extended far beyond conventional television. Her visionary approach led to the creation of India's inaugural OTT platform, ALTBalaji. The launch of ALTBalaji wasn't just a milestone; it was a strategic move towards owning intellectual property rights—a vital component in Kapoor's aspiration to propel her business to greater heights. With a strategic infusion of capital from Reliance Industries Ltd. and a robust roadmap, ALTBalaji aimed to secure

two million paid subscribers within its first year and reach an impressive four to five million subscribers within 36 to 48 months.

Kapoor's resilience in the face of challenges deserves admiration. Her journey encountered setbacks, including the dissolution of a partnership with Star Plus, which led to a period of introspection and diversification. This phase marked Kapoor's foray into filmmaking, underlining her agility and adaptability in exploring new avenues for growth.

ALT Entertainment, launched as a youth-centric brand, epitomized Kapoor's venture into films with projects like Dibakar Banerjee's critically acclaimed "Love, Sex aur Dhokha." Furthermore, her endeavours expanded beyond films,

encompassing television shows like Channel V's "Gumrah" and venturing into retail with the launch of the television fashion brand, EK.

Crucially, Kapoor's success narrative is deeply intertwined with her partnership and synergy with her mother, Shobha Kapoor, the Managing Director of Balaji Telefilms. Their collaboration epitomizes a harmonious blend of creativity and astute business acumen, essential for sustaining and nurturing a thriving media empire. Kapoor's influence extends beyond her creative endeavours; she actively mentors and nurtures emerging talent, fostering an ecosystem that champions innovation and creativity. Her commitment to empowering the next generation of creators and entrepreneurs reflects her dedication to the industry's sustainable growth.

In a male-dominated industry, Kapoor's is a testament to her unwavering determination and belief in her capabilities. Her perspective on gender parity in the entertainment domain exemplifies a resolute stance—turning challenges into opportunities and championing inclusivity.

As she continues to pave the way for aspiring creators and entrepreneurs, Ekta Kapoor's journey exemplifies a narrative of resilience, reinvention, and unwavering commitment. Her contributions to Indian entertainment not only revolutionized storytelling but also played an instrumental role in propelling India towards the \$5 trillion economy ambition.

Ekta Kapoor's indomitable spirit and transformative impact continue to be a guiding light, igniting innovation and shaping the future of the Indian media and entertainment industry. Her journey stands as a testament to the adage that success is not merely achieving milestones but the profound impact made along the way.

Transforming Digital Learning in India

VSN Raju's contributions to Indian education comprise the development of digital tools improving quality, transparency, and efficiency in learning at scale for a fast-evolving economy



V S N Raju
Founder, Director & CEO, COEMPT Edu Teck

VSN Raju, a visionary leader, sets a benchmark in reshaping how educational institutions across India approach evaluation and examination processes. As the Indian education system is undergoing a significant technology-led shift, COEMPT Edu Teck is dedicated to enabling seamless, error-free, and technology-enabled examination solutions.

An electronics and communication engineer from the University of Madras, VSN Raju has brought decades of expertise in education, training, and technology to COEMPT Edu Teck, steering the company toward developing innovative platforms that address real-world challenges faced by educational institutions.

Educational Innovations

An ace achievement is the development of AI-powered tools and digital platforms that streamline the entire examination lifecycle—from question paper generation to result processing. Thereby significantly reducing human error and administrative load, allowing institutions to focus more on learning outcomes than logistical challenges.

VSN Raju has been instrumental in aligning COEMPT's solutions with national educational reforms such as

the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Outcome-Based Education (OBE). His emphasis on scalability ensures that COEMPT's tech-driven platforms are accessible to institutions of all sizes across India.

The company's flagship solutions, including Onmark (an on-screen marking system), OneX (an end-to-end exam management platform), and TekEdge (a multimedia-rich teaching aid), reflect contextual innovation. EduLib, designed for engineering colleges, helps institutions modernize content delivery while addressing faculty shortages.

Diverse Solutions for All

COEMPT's journey from floppy/CD-based solutions to modern mobile platforms highlights its adaptability and long-term vision. The company offers myriad delivery options, from LAN-based to SaaS-based, to cater to the needs of institutions with varying budgets. The company meticulously calibrates its solutions to the Indian context, incorporating valuable insights from industry leaders, academicians, and tech experts. To date, the company has empowered over 50 universities, supported more than 2 million students, and trained countless educators.

VSN Raju actively contributes to the education ecosystem as a

Trustee of the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Tamil Nadu (CED-TN), and through collaborations with NASSCOM and educational policy panels.

Building Future-Ready Ecosystems

VSN Raju's vision is deeply rooted in building frameworks for educational institutions and certificate-awarding bodies. COEMPT is a preferred company by educational institutions to provide e-learning in the teaching-learning space and end-to-end examination solutions. His contributions include fostering trust and long-term partnerships with some of India's most progressive educational institutions. His advocacy for digital equity, inclusive content, and tech-integrated assessments underscores his belief in education as a tool for national development. VSN Raju is shaping a future where technology empowers educators, enhances learning outcomes, and ensures that India's education system is equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

VSN Raju has received numerous awards and accolades, including the title of 'Emerging Leader' at the GCC summit and the 'EdTech Excellence Award of the Year' from Outlook Group.



Jagat Prakash Nadda, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers

Equitable Healthcare and Food Safety

Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda continuing to contribute and collaborate towards nation-building to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047

Jagat Prakash Nadda is an Indian politician and a lawyer serving as the BJP National President since 2020. In November 2014, Shri Nadda became the Union Minister of Health in the PM Shri Narendra Modi government. He made his mark by significantly contributing in the launch of the 'Ayushman Bharat Scheme'. The scheme provides free health insurance of up to five lakh rupees annually to about fifty-five crore people. He upgraded the healthcare system by ensuring the availability of medicines, opening Jan Aushadhi Kendras, and digitising hospitals.

India has the world's largest government-funded health

assurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat PMJAY. It represents the commitment of this government to provide equitable healthcare access for all citizens, especially the most vulnerable. Over the last

"These initiatives represent transformative steps in healthcare innovation, pandemic preparedness, and the development of indigenous medical solutions, contributing to a healthier, more resilient and Atmanirbhar Bharat."

six years, this ambitious scheme has touched millions of lives, offering hope, healing, and, in many cases, life-saving treatment. Minister Nadda continues to strive for a healthier India for everyone to thrive. The journey of AB-PMJAY has been a testament to what can be achieved when a nation comes together with the shared goal of improving the health and well-being of its people.

Aligned with the vision of enhancing global food safety, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, and FSSAI, JP Nadda plays a pivotal role in developing standards that address evolving production processes, shifting consumption patterns, and international trade.

During the Global Food Regulators Summit 2024, JP Nadda launched the Food Import Rejection Alert (FIRA) portal and the new website for the Food Import Clearance System 2.0 (FICS 2.0), an advanced version of the food import clearance system for faster processing and greater transparency and commitment to global food safety. Under his leadership, the enhanced platform deepens our understanding of global regulatory frameworks and promotes the exchange of vital information on food safety standards worldwide.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda announced the successful implementation of the Union Health Ministry's 100 Days Program. Key achievements include Med-Tech Mitra, the National One Health Mission for Pandemic Preparedness, and initiatives for indigenous drug development. These steps aim to enhance healthcare innovation, pandemic readiness, and affordable treatments in India. This initiative of 'Make in India' has catapulted innovation and research, enhanced production capabilities, and created jobs.

Preserving Freshness Extending Shelf Life

By championing product safety and shelf life through active packaging innovations, Manish Jain is redefining India's role in global healthcare and food systems

A crucial area in India's journey to becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047 requires the boost of innovation, new-age solutions, and a robust supply chain infrastructure to maintain product integrity across sectors. Aligning with the vision, under Manish Jain's visionary leadership, Cilicant has emerged as a frontrunner in active packaging and desiccant solutions in pharmaceuticals, food, agriculture, electronics, and beyond.

By championing cutting-edge technology and sustainability, Cilicant not only contributes to industrial excellence but also supports India's journey toward a self-reliant, future-ready economy.

Fueled by Self-Reliance

Founded in 2011, Cilicant was born out of a clear gap in the Indian packaging market. At the time, most active packaging solutions—particularly in healthcare and food—were imported, and active packaging was largely misunderstood as just silica gel sachets. Manish saw the opportunity to create homegrown, high-quality solutions that would reduce dependency on imports and align with India's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' goals. In the process, Cilicant is developing India's human capital by generating local employment and upskilling

talent in the packaging and manufacturing sector.

Manish's commitment to self-reliance, innovation, and sustainability has turned Cilicant into an engine of local impact and global competitiveness. The company manufactures domestically, supports MSMEs, promotes skill development and technical training, and promotes inclusion by training women, who make up about 50% of the workforce. It's not just about manufacturing but also nation-building.

Smart Sustainable Solutions

In healthcare, Cilicant's solutions ensure the potency and safety of life-saving drugs through long supply chains, reinforcing India's reputation as a trusted global pharmacy. In food, oxygen absorbers now keep traditional sweets and snacks fresh for much longer without using chemical preservatives, enabling Indian brands to export worldwide. In agriculture, ethylene absorbers help fruit exporters slow ripening naturally, keeping produce fresh without preservatives, while in textiles, leather, and electronics, they prevent costly moisture damage.

The benefits of extended shelf life are clear: reduced spoilage, minimized food and material wastage, and stronger opportunities for Indian brands to export safely and reliably.

By educating businesses and end-users alike, Manish helped transform a little-known concept into an entirely

"We don't just create packaging — we protect what's inside, keeping it fresh, safe, and effective, preserving what matters so nothing is lost before time."

Manish Jain
Founder & Managing Director, Cilicant

new market space in India—one rooted in quality, trust, and innovation.

Cilicant is investing in its R&D to develop innovative solutions that not only enhance shelf life but also embrace sustainability, using eco-friendly materials and processes aligned with global climate goals.

Enhancing Global Competitiveness.

Boosting exports and expanding Cilicant's footprint across markets in the United States, Europe, and the UAE showcases India's manufacturing excellence and innovation on the global stage and helps economic growth.

Recognized with the India Pharma Award 2024 for Excellence in Ancillary Pharma Services – Packaging, Cilicant is scaling new heights.

Looking ahead, Manish envisions active packaging playing a pivotal role in creating healthier food systems, reducing waste, and elevating Indian manufacturing. His journey reflects the essence of Viksit Bharat: a self-reliant, skilled, sustainable, and globally respected India by 2047.





Padma Bhushan Dr Ramdas Madhava Pai
Incumbent Chancellor, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, &
Chairman, Manipal Education and Medical Group

The Architect of Modern Manipal

Dr Ramdas M Pai, a legendary figure, has transformed the landscape of higher education and healthcare in India, significantly contributing to the foundational pillars of the country's growth

Agility of mind defies age. Dr Ramdas M Pai has not only created milestones in his work life but also continues to inspire today's youth at the age of 90. He stands tall as living proof of the belief that education and healthcare can transform not just individual lives but the society at large.

Taking over the reins from his visionary father, Dr TMA Pai, the founder of the Manipal Group, Dr Ramdas Pai further expanded the foundation laid before him. Under his leadership, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) became one of India's first institutions to receive the status of a Deemed University in 1993, marking a significant milestone in private

higher education in India.

Dr Pai initiated education beyond borders long before the wave of globalisation had swept over the education sector. Nearly three decades ago, he led MAHE in establishing campuses in Dubai, Malaysia, Nepal, and Antigua with the vision of creating a knowledge and cultural exchange platform for inculcating a worldwide view in students, preparing them for a global world.

"In a world of shrinking distances and countries with open borders, Manipal will be recognised as one of the largest global varsities in India"

Under his leadership, learning evolved into a multidisciplinary academic environment that emphasised quality, innovation, and research across disciplines such as medicine, engineering, management, and liberal arts. He played a crucial role in integrating technology into education, establishing state-of-the-art infrastructure, promoting faculty development, and encouraging research culture. His efforts led to international collaborations with prestigious universities and enhanced student exchange and joint research opportunities. The prestigious global institution, Manipal, is process-orientated, policy-driven, and value-based, yet open, flexible, and communicative.

Beyond academia, Dr Pai is dedicated to healthcare access and community service. Through the Manipal Foundation, he has supported numerous health and education initiatives aimed at underprivileged communities, blending education with social responsibility.

Recognised with the Padma Bhushan in 2011 for his distinguished service in education and healthcare, Dr Ramdas Pai's legacy continues to inspire future generations of educators and students. His life's work stands as a testament to the power of vision, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence in building world-class institutions in India.

Dr Pai's singular focus has been a transformative mission, built on a bedrock of integrity, driven by a social conscience, and led by individuals who possess the courage to make hard decisions and the heart to empower others. A true visionary leader, his legacy is a powerful testament to the idea that 'when values lead the way, borders merely become new horizons to illuminate.'

Shaping Global Careers

GLA University is a leading institution for higher education and is emerging as a hub for research, innovation and holistic development of its students

Adding to its remarkable journey, GLA University recently launched a state-of-the-art Industry-Integrated Campus in Greater Noida, strategically placed in NCR to bridge the gap between academia and industry. This new campus provides students with hands-on learning experiences, corporate mentorship, and industry-synced training- ensuring graduates are workforce-ready from day one.

Accredited with NAAC A+ and recognized under UGC's 12B status, GLA University also holds approvals from PCI, NCTE, and BCI. Notably, the Institute of Pharmaceutical Research is ranked 48th nationally in the NIRF Rankings 2025. GLAU's global presence is further validated with an Asia Rank in the 351-400 Band, All India Rank 18, and the second position in Uttar Pradesh in the Times Higher Education Asia Rankings 2025.

GLA University offers a rich tapestry of multidisciplinary programs in Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Education, Law, Biotechnology, Applied Sciences, Commerce, Agriculture, and more. With over 26,000 students, 800+ faculty members, and a thriving alumni base of 46,000+ professionals worldwide, GLAU continues to nurture talent with passion and purpose.

Academic Excellence & Faculty Pedigree

The university offers a wide array of diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs, combining academic rigor with practical exposure.

Its 800-strong faculty includes professors and researchers with experience from IITs, IIMs, NITs, and top US & UK universities bringing global perspectives into Indian classrooms.

Placement Powerhouse

GLA University is a name synonymous with strong placement outcomes. With over 2500 job offers made in the ongoing session from 500+ recruiters, including Amazon, Infosys, Njuma (USA) and Microsoft, students have landed packages as high as ₹60 LPA. This speaks volumes of the university's unwavering focus on skill development, industry exposure, and outcome-driven education.

Research-Driven Innovation

Research is deeply embedded in GLA's DNA. With 14 research centers, a Capgemini Code Xperience Centre, and over 11,000 publications in SCI/SCOPUS-indexed journals, the university continues to push the boundaries of knowledge. Since our

"There are institutions that promise high salaries, but often with an enormous price tag. At GLA, we believe in high returns without high costs. With our reasonable fee structure and outstanding placement outcomes, we offer one of the best ROIs in the country."

Dr Vivek Aggarwal
CFO, GLA University



Dr Vivek Aggarwal
CFO, GLA University Mathura

inception as a university, more than 850 patents have been published and 80+ granted, with 25.5 crore in grants from various government departments and industry partners.

Campus Life & Student Development

The sprawling, eco-friendly campus is equipped with 157 labs, 224 smart classrooms, and a central library with over 1.9 lakh books. Alongside academics, the university promotes overall personality development through 80+ clubs and societies, sports, cultural events, and leadership activities.

Scholarships & Accessibility

GLA University ensures that quality education remains affordable. Scholarships of up to 90% are offered to JEE achievers, and merit-based and government scholarships are available to SC, ST, and economically weaker students.

Online Education: Reaching Learners Everywhere

Through its Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), GLA University extends learning beyond classrooms with UGC-entitled online programs in BBA, MBA, BCA, MCA, and B.Com. Tailored for working professionals and remote learners, these programs maintain academic excellence while offering flexibility and accessibility.



Prof Dr Rakesh Mohan Joshi
Vice Chancellor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

Expanding Horizons Connecting Worlds

Prof Dr Rakesh Mohan Joshi contributing in India's journey to become a global powerhouse in international trade

A distinguished academician and a renowned international trade and management expert, Prof Rakesh Mohan Joshi is committed to transforming IIFT into a world-class B-school focused on international trade and management through cutting-edge research, training, and in-depth learning. Prof Joshi has been part of the core faculty and was the former Dean of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi, the premier B-school under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, since 2000, with expertise in international trade, international business, and international marketing.

Prof Joshi was the former Chairman of the 'UGC Committee for Framing the Regulations for

Foreign Educational Institutes' and Chairman of the Expert Group for 'Development of Educational Framework for Global Citizenship in Higher Education Institutions' in 2021. He was on deputation to the Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru, as Director.

Currently, he is the Chairman of the Business Services Sectional Committee, Bureau of Indian Standards, Government of India. He is also on the council of management for the All India Management Association (AIMA). His inclination to research the internationalization of Indian culture culminated in a major research project on 'Implications of Bhagwat Geeta in Contemporary Management' by the Indian Council of Social

Science Research (ICSSR). Prof Joshi has been associated with several multilateral organizations, such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, UNCTAD, the International Dairy Federation, the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), etc.

An eminent scholar, Prof Joshi has authored highly popular books on international marketing and international business, published by Oxford University Press. He had been the editor of the prestigious quarterly journal of IIFT, Foreign Trade Review (FTR), published since 1966, and editor of Focus WTO.

A popular mentor, Prof Joshi has conducted training programs for corporate executives, government officials, and diplomats, including customized programs for IAS (Indian Administrative Service), IFS (Indian Foreign Service), IRS (Indian Revenue Service), ITS (Indian Trade Service), IES (Indian Economic Service), ISS (Indian Statistical Service) officers, and foreign diplomats in India and several foreign countries. Prof Joshi had been the visitor's (the President of India) nominee on the University Court, University of Delhi, and at IIT Kanpur and several other universities for various selection committees.

Prof Joshi was conferred with the prestigious Atal Bihari Vajpayee Award in December 2022 for lifetime contribution to economic research and policy by the Indian Economic Association. He has been the recipient of international awards by London Business School, London, for the case studies written that were internationally published by European Case Clearing House (ECCH), London Business School, and Oxford.

My Dream for an Inclusive India

From personal empowerment to national transformation, the journey of ICECD validates that grassroots entrepreneurship can shape a Viksit Bharat by 2047

A self-reliant India is not a new ideology. From the Five-Year Plans to policies supporting agriculture and industries, the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' has always been present. As a young entrepreneur in the 1980s, I lived this vision—navigating societal resistance and environmental hurdles, determined to prove that a woman could succeed in business.

Under the license raj, India's protected economy gave small entrepreneurs like me room to grow. I saw countless women in villages and slums still trapped in poverty. That realisation deepened my purpose: if entrepreneurship changed my life, why not theirs?

An Inclusive Ecosystem

My struggles became my strength, shaping my belief that self-reliance is not just a national vision but a personal mission. This conviction led to the founding of ICECD in 1986—when women in business were rare and mostly confined to petty trade. Over the past 38 years, ICECD has built a scalable, replicable model for inclusive development, especially for youth.

Our mission is to reach the poor, underprivileged, and vulnerable in rural and urban slums. We offer a need-based curriculum that blends knowledge, skills, and behavioural competencies, followed by mentoring and handholding.

Our success is measured by lives transformed: over 2 million youth and women entrepreneurs trained, with ₹43 billion invested in their businesses. ICECD turns job seekers into job creators and marginalised communities into thriving, self-reliant economies.

Empowering the Soul of India

We cannot pursue national growth while ignoring stark disparities. With 68.8% of Indians living in rural areas – a demographic reality until at least 2050 (as per the UN) – the heart of India beats in its villages.

ICECD bridges the urban-rural divide not by resisting urbanisation, but by fostering reverse migration. This requires building a thriving rural economy that inspires and enables youth and women to return through local entrepreneurship, creating jobs for interested job seekers, value-

added agriculture, and market linkages. Also, partnering with government, corporates, and donors to replicate proven models nationwide.

The Tricolour of True Success

Mahatma Gandhi said the soul of India lives in its villages. To become Atmanirbhar and Viksit by 2047, inclusive entrepreneurship must be at the heart of our policies and programmes.

For me, Viksit Bharat 2047 is not just a policy—it's a people's movement. It envisions an India where a village woman is as economically valued as a metropolitan CEO, and rural regions thrive with urban-like vitality.

I've seen this future: in a rural woman confidently signing a trade contract and a slum girl repairing mobiles with pride. Real change begins with one person, one family, and one village at a time. If we put rural communities, especially women, at the centre of development, the tricolour in 2047 will represent not just growth, but an inclusive, compassionate, and unstoppable India.

That is Viksit Bharat. A dream we build together!



Dr Hina Shah
Founder-CEO, International Centre for Entrepreneurship & Career Development (ICECD)



Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Indian Fashion Designer

Designing Impact

Cultural ambassador and economic powerhouse, eminent designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee is an unusual visionary of India's \$5 trillion economy ambition

Sabyasachi Mukherjee has scripted a story that is a testament to the power of artistic vision fused with strategic business acumen. But this is more than an individual success story – the global success of his brand demonstrates the commercial viability of India's rich artisanal heritage, while creating a sustainable ecosystem of employment and cultural preservation

A Kolkata boy from a typical middle-class background who has designed a career and life trajectory that today has earned him not just the tag of a cultural ambassador but the status of an economic powerhouse – a true visionary aligned with India's dream of a \$5 trillion economy. That is Sabyasachi Mukherjee's story.

The Sabyasachi brand is far more than haute couture; it is a global testament to the commercial viability of India's rich artisanal heritage. By meticulously reviving and reinterpreting traditional Indian crafts, he has built a brand that is synonymous with luxury, culture, and economic empowerment. This

success is reflected in the brand's impressive financial performance. While specific, granular data on turnovers can be proprietary, industry analysts and reports consistently place the Sabyasachi brand's annual turnover in the hundreds of crores (tens of millions of USD), with a strong and consistent profit margin. This financial growth is a direct result of his ability to scale a luxury brand based on traditional craftsmanship.

A defining element of Mukherjee's impact is his pivotal role in the handloom sector. He has championed handwoven fabrics like Khadi, Banarasi, and Jamdani, providing a modern context for these ancient traditions. This isn't just about design; it's a direct economic lifeline. The Sabyasachi brand employs thousands of artisans and craftspeople across India, creating a sustainable ecosystem that preserves cultural knowledge while generating employment. This model of "slow fashion" directly counters the exploitative practices of fast fashion, providing steady wages and dignity to a vast workforce. The economic ripple

effect is significant, as a thriving handloom sector contributes to the livelihoods of countless families, injecting capital directly into rural and semi-urban economies. The brand's employment figures are a critical component of its social and economic impact, with estimates suggesting a direct and indirect employment footprint that runs into the tens of thousands.

Mukherjee's international firsts and collaborations have been instrumental in this journey. He is the only Indian designer to have presented at all three major fashion weeks—New York, Milan, and London. Collaborations with global brands like Christian Louboutin, Pottery Barn, and the high-street giant H&M have catapulted Indian design onto the world stage. While the H&M collaboration drew criticism for its fast-fashion alignment, it also introduced millions of consumers to the Sabyasachi aesthetic and, by extension, to Indian textile traditions. These collaborations are not just about raising the brand's profile; they are about creating a global demand for "Made in India" products, demonstrating its potential to be a global luxury standard. The growth figures for the Sabyasachi brand, particularly in international markets, show a steep upward trajectory, indicating that his vision has successfully translated into a scalable and profitable global business.

Sabyasachi's vision, therefore, is a microcosm of India's larger economic aspirations. He has shown that India's cultural capital—its crafts, textiles, and artistic traditions—can be a powerful driver of economic growth. Through his business model, he has created a template for how the creative industry can be a significant contributor to the nation's GDP, fostering a blend of tradition and modernity that is both commercially successful and culturally enriching. His brand's consistent growth in terms of turnover, profitability, and employment figures serves as a tangible example of how cultural preservation can go hand-in-hand with economic prosperity, making him a true visionary for a new, economically vibrant India.

Her Voice Her Story

Jaanu's voice echoes across the nation reminding us that when we create space for every identity to flourish, we build a stronger society and a truly developed India

The power to dream, the power to desire and the power to deliver – that's the story of Jaanu, India's first transgender ventriloquist. It is not just a tale of personal triumph but a powerful testament to the inclusive future our nation must build, where everyone, regardless of gender identity or social and class barriers, has equal opportunities to thrive.

Aligning Body and Spirit

Born as Abdul Quddus in a conservative Muslim family in Raichur, Karnataka, Jaanu found joy in makeup, sarees, art, and self-expression. The feminine side of her personality was often met with ridicule and rejection, especially from her family. Breaking all societal norms, at just sixteen, with only ₹4,000 from her elder sister and a heart full of dreams, she left home for Bangalore to live life on her own terms.

The first hurdle was of livelihood, and Jaanu took up the challenge by working as a professional mehndi artist, holding small art classes, and dancing at festivals, saving money to achieve her first goal of gender-affirming surgery. She spent over ₹9 lakh of her own

Jaanu
Transgender Ventriloquist

money for feminising surgery to own a body that matched her orientation. She was reborn with the new identity as "Jaanu", a name she says symbolises love and equality beyond all barriers of gender, religion, and caste.

From Obstacles to Opportunities

After her transition, Jaanu had to overcome the next hurdle of societal acceptance. She was mocked, called names, and at times even had to ask for money to survive. Yet, she refused to give up. She channelled her pain into passion and discovered ventriloquism, a rare and challenging art that she had seen in a television show. With unwavering determination, she enrolled in an online course from Magic World in Kolkata, mastering the skill of throwing her voice without moving her lips and creating her own puppet with a

distinct voice and mannerisms, while also learning Kannada, Hindi, and English to better connect with her audience.

A Unique Voice

Facing her challenges with courage, Jaanu is now nationally recognised as a performer, using her puppet shows not just to entertain but to educate and inspire. In 2025, she was honoured by the Influencer Book of World Records in Jaipur for her groundbreaking achievement.

Jaan's world is woven around her puppet, an inanimate object that has become a 'living' concept: a companion for her lonely soul and a dynamic persona for her audience. As a ventriloquist, she uses her puppet to express ideas and explore complex themes that are difficult and controversial through an interplay of comedy, storytelling, and illusive performance.



Rajeev Jain, Founder & Director Rashi Entertainment Private Limited

Shaping India's Future with Events

Rajeev Jain's events firm is driving India's economic and global influence

As India strides towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2047, the event and entertainment industry, led by veterans like Rashi Entertainment, plays a pivotal role in this ambitious journey. Founded in 1999 by Rajeev Jain, Rashi Entertainment has established itself as a leader in creating unforgettable experiences, particularly in luxury weddings, corporate events, and government functions.

Rajeev Jain, a seasoned entrepreneur recognized the need for an organized player in the largely unorganized event management sector. His vision and entrepreneurial spirit led to the creation of Rashi Entertainment, which has since expanded its footprint across the world. The

company operates through three avenues: Wedding Vertical, Corporate Vertical, and Government Events Vertical, each contributing to the overall growth and diversification of the Indian economy.

One of the key elements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a \$5 trillion economy is fostering collaboration and innovation across industries. Rashi Entertainment embodies this vision through its mantra, "Experience The Extraordinary," and its commitment to collaboration. Jain believes that the power of collaboration can lead to a 'win-win' situation for all stakeholders, including small and medium-sized agencies. By working together, agencies can enhance their value offerings and deliver more holistic solutions to clients, rather than engaging in detrimental price competition.

Rashi Entertainment's approach aligns with Modi's emphasis on enhancing India's global competitiveness. By elevating the standards of event management, the company not only attracts high-profile domestic clients but also caters to international markets. This international reach contributes to India's service exports, a vital component in achieving the \$5 trillion economy goal.

Furthermore, Rashi Entertainment's focus on storytelling and personalized experiences resonates with the growing demand for unique and meaningful events. This focus drives innovation in design, management, and execution, showcasing India's capabilities on a global stage. The company's team, composed of talented artists, managers, and technicians, brings unparalleled creativity and attention to detail to every project, ensuring flawless execution.

In addition to economic contributions, Rashi Entertainment supports the broader societal vision outlined by PM Modi. By organizing government events and corporate functions, the company helps disseminate important messages and initiatives, thereby fostering a more informed and engaged citizenry. Their expertise in managing large-scale events ensures that such gatherings are impactful and memorable, aligning with national priorities.

Prime Minister Modi's vision for a \$5 trillion economy is not just about economic metrics but also about creating an ecosystem where industries can thrive through innovation, collaboration, and excellence. Rashi Entertainment, under Rajeev Jain's leadership, exemplifies this vision, demonstrating how the event management industry can be a significant contributor to India's economic and social development.

Powering Infrastructure with High-Performance Fastening Solutions

From self-drilling screws to sustainable innovation, Landmark Crafts Ltd leads the charge in transforming construction efficiency and quality in sync with India's infrastructure boom

In a fast-evolving infrastructure landscape, accelerated by government initiatives like Gati Shakti, Smart Cities Mission, and the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), Landmark Crafts Ltd is at the forefront of introducing 'High-Performance (HP) Self-Drilling Screws' that match the speed and strength of India's infrastructure ambitions. Landmark Crafts manufactures HP Self-Drilling screws, HP Aluminium Blind Rivets and we have another brand Screw master which include Dry Wall Screws.

HP Self-Drilling Screws are revolutionising how structures are built, particularly in steel and metal frameworks. Unlike traditional screws that require pre-drilling, HP Self-Drilling Screws streamline the fastening process by 'a single step' of drilling and fastening, thereby reducing installation time, minimising labour costs and enhancing structural integrity.

Tech-Driven Innovations

Landmark Crafts has invested in constant upgrading of technology, R&D and precision engineering to develop HP Self-Drilling Screws tailored for Indian climatic conditions and industrial demands. These screws are manufactured with premium-grade steel and advanced surface coatings to ensure corrosion resistance, high torque performance, and durability even in the most challenging environments—be it coastal

zones, high-humidity areas, or industrial sites.

A key differentiator is their bi-metal construction, combining hardened carbon steel drill points with stainless steel bodies, ensuring improved performance and longevity. The screws are compliant with global quality standards, including ISO and ASTM, making them suitable for high-spec projects such as metro rail systems, airport terminals, and green buildings.

Together We Build

Landmark Crafts works closely with architects, project consultants, and engineers to customise solutions, provide technical training, and ensure on-site support for optimal screw performance. "Our commitment goes beyond supplying a product—we are partners in building safer, faster, and more sustainable structures." Remarked Pankaj Lidoo.

Identifying a gap in the infrastructure sector for products such as screws, which are basic yet crucial to building and holding infrastructure together, Landmark Crafts Ltd was founded in 2007. Initially the company imported screws

"OUR COMMITMENT GOES BEYOND SUPPLYING A PRODUCT—WE ARE PARTNERS IN BUILDING SAFER, FASTER, AND MORE SUSTAINABLE STRUCTURES"



Pankaj Lidoo
Managing Director
Landmark Crafts Ltd

from Taiwan and eventually imported the technology and machinery for manufacturing screws in India at a large scale at their Ghaziabad Industrial Area premises, only to soon capture the market. The company grew to become India's first and largest enterprise in HP Self-Drilling Screws supporting the government's 'Make in India' initiative.

Mark of Achievement

The company, rated as SME-1 by CRISIL and accredited by D&B, recently launched its tools division, used in building infrastructure to cater to an ever-expanding market demand. By adopting a smart and constructive strategy, the entity is focused on conceptualising and innovating to build an attractive portfolio, to win new customers and capture new domestic markets. With the Indian Railways among one of its biggest clients, the demand for Landmark Craft's product portfolio is extremely high.

Contributing to the sustainability factor, Landmark Crafts Ltd has taken the lead in the industry. Today, the company bears the stamp of ISO 9001:2015 accreditation, with three manufacturing units in Panchkula and its corporate office located in Anand Industrial Estate, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Human Capital as the Pillar of India's AI Journey

Prof TG Sitharam emphasises the need to empower its workforce through skilling, education, and development to create a skilled talent pool and ensure AI serves humanity's diverse needs



India is set to host the 2nd Global AI Impact Summit in February 2026 at Bharat Mandappam, New Delhi. How significant is this event?

Hugely significant. The first edition was held in Paris, and it set the tone for global collaboration in Artificial Intelligence. For India to host the second summit, inaugurated by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, is both a recognition of our capabilities and a call to action. It signals that India is ready to step forward not only as a participant but as a thought leader in the global AI ecosystem.

You are chairing the Human Capital Chakra of the Summit.

Could you explain why it is considered the central pillar among the seven chakras?

Absolutely. The seven chakras of the Summit; trust, inclusion, resilience, science, democratization, economic growth, and human capital; are all interlinked. But human capital is

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the anchor. AI is not just about machines, algorithms, or policies. It is about people; the students, the teachers, the researchers, the workforce, the policymakers. Without empowering people to understand, adopt, and innovate with AI, the other chakras remain incomplete. In that sense, human capital is the root system that nourishes the entire tree of AI nation-building.

What does this mean in practical terms for India's education and skilling ecosystem?

It means we must move beyond token skilling programs and make AI core to education at

every level. The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) gives us flexibility, but many institutions are still treating AI as optional enrichment. That must change. Boards of Studies and Academic Councils have to reimagine curricula across disciplines; engineering, law, medicine, humanities; through the AI lens. A literature student should know how AI is shaping narratives, just as an agriculture student must grasp AI-driven precision farming. AICTE has made creation of R&D cell mandatory at all Engg colleges and more than 3000 institutions have created R&D cell. Institutions shall build a robust research ecosystem, where every institution commits 5% of earnings to applied research and 10% to fundamental research. This dual track ensures both short-term innovations and long-term scientific breakthroughs.

You've spoken of regional summits in the run-up to February 2026. How will these be structured?

Yes, this is critical. Last year in line with the AI vision of our honorable PM, we had planned the Mahakumbh of AI In November this year where it will be a melting pot of ideas, suggestions and actionables that shall also flow into the final report.

We are also launching a nationwide dissemination program: Some Human Capital Chakra Summits across India will be held between November 15th and January 31st through online and offline. These will be hosted by institutions of eminence; from IITs and IIMs to leading state universities; spanning the North,

South, East, West, and Central regions.

Each host institution will bring together academia, industry, government, and youth to deliberate on AI in their context. The discussions, case studies, and recommendations will feed into the final report ahead of the global summit. IIT Guwahati will coordinate centrally to ensure coherence.

What role do you see for industry and corporates in this process?

A huge role. Corporates must align their CSR investments with AI skilling, education, and research. They can fund AI labs, sponsor curriculum development, and support faculty training. Industry also brings real-world case studies that make learning practical. The Summit is not meant to be abstract; it will showcase AI solutions across agriculture, manufacturing, governance, and healthcare.

Moreover, this is about market creation. As institutions and industries adopt AI at scale, demand for AI strategy consulting, skill certifications, and digital transformation services will surge. Those who engage early will enjoy a first-mover advantage.

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There is also the question of India's global positioning. How do you see the Human Capital Chakra contributing?

By projecting India not just as a consumer but as an exporter of AI talent and solutions. We already lead in software services. With the right investments in human capital, we can become the AI talent factory of the Global South. At the Summit, we will benchmark against global best practices but adapt them to India's unique context; our informal workforce, multilingual diversity, and resource constraints.

And by doing this inclusively, India can set a new global standard for democratizing AI literacy; from rural schools to advanced research labs.

Finally, what do you hope will be the legacy of the Human Capital Chakra after the Summit?

A clear and decisive direction. We want India's policymakers, educators, and industries to walk away with concrete recommendations; new accreditation models for AI-driven curricula, national skilling strategies, and mandatory institutional research contributions.

But more than documents, the legacy must be cultural. We want to seed a mindset where AI becomes part of India's DNA of growth and governance. If we can achieve that, human capital will indeed be the central pillar of our journey to Viksit Bharat@2047.

It is a collective effort, and I look forward to the participation of every stakeholder in this historic transformation.