

OUTLOOK BUSINESS

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THINK BEYOND. STAY AHEAD.



Vanitha Rengaraj



Ashok Jaipuria



Sardar Taranjit Singh

inspiring Indians

Inspiring Indians are the extraordinary individuals whose determination, innovation, and compassion are transforming the nation. From visionary entrepreneurs to social changemakers and creative pioneers, these stories celebrate the indomitable spirit of India—proving that courage, purpose, and perseverance can truly inspire generations and redefine the meaning of success.

This Feature is curated by the Brand Team of Outlook Publishing India Pvt. Ltd.



Dr. Vishal G. Warke



Aditya Singhania



Gautam Das



Jijy Mathew



Er. Venkat Chennakrishnan

Building Minds. Shaping Futures. Redefining Education with Purpose

How JIS is Reimagining the Purpose and Power of Education Across India

When Sardar Taranjit Singh speaks about education, he often invokes a lesson passed down from his late father, Sardar Jodh Singh: “Ignite young minds, and lives will change.” That simple dictum has become both mantra and mission fueling the rise of one of Eastern India’s most consequential educational enterprises, spreading out across the nation in the later years.

Seven decades ago, the JIS name stood for enterprise across India’s real economy dairy, transport, infrastructure, iron & steel, cargo, logistics, IT, agro, even film production. That industrial diversity gave the Group its resilience. But Singh’s genius was in rechanneling that entrepreneurial energy toward a higher calling education.

JIS blends innovation and inclusion to create future-ready learners for a rapidly changing world.

Today, as Managing Director of JIS Group Educational Initiatives and Chancellor of JIS University, Singh presides over a formidable education services platform: 39 institutions, 185 academic programmes, and 45,000+ students spanning disciplines as diverse as Engineering, Medical and Dental Sciences, Pharmacy, Veterinary, Hospitality, Law, Education, and Business Management. What began as a modest family venture has evolved into a regional education powerhouse one that mirrors India’s



Sardar Taranjit Singh
Managing Director, JIS Group Educational Initiatives

own transformation from scarcity to scale.

The Philosophy of Purpose

The real story behind JIS is not size but philosophy. Long before “employability” became a corporate buzzword, Singh had already embedded industry alignment and outcome-driven instruction into JIS’s DNA. Curricula were designed with both the shop floor and the startup in mind. Laboratories, clinics, moot courts, and hotel schools became not just training grounds but proving grounds bridging academic rigor with real-world relevance. This approach has made JIS an ecosystem of opportunity, producing graduates who are equally at home in Kolkata’s innovation corridors and India’s industrial heartlands. Singh calls education a “long-cycle investment” one that demands patience, quality control, and the compounding power of trust. And that discipline has paid off. Stakeholders students, parents, faculty, recruiters value the Group’s predictability, transparency, and performance. JIS’s trajectory is, in many ways, a case study in how reputation becomes demand, and demand becomes diversification.



Human-Centered, Tech-Enabled Learning

Over his tenure, Singh has watched the tectonic shifts reshaping education. The fusion of societal change and technological disruption has altered how learning is delivered and consumed. Artificial intelligence, immersive classrooms, and data-driven pedagogy have transformed access to knowledge but Singh is clear-eyed about their role.

“Technology,” he says, “must remain a tool, not a teacher. It can amplify curiosity, but it cannot replace it.”

That conviction shapes JIS’s approach to digital transformation. The Group integrates technology as an enhancer of human connection and critical thinking, not as a substitute for them.

Equally transformative has been the blurring boundary between academia and industry. Traditional silos are giving way to dynamic ecosystems that cultivate adaptability. Singh envisions graduates not merely as job-seekers but as problem-solvers agile, resourceful, and prepared to lead amid volatility. In a world where borders of economy and identity are increasingly porous, he also speaks of globalizing consciousness building classrooms that foster inclusivity, diversity, and cross-cultural collaboration. “Global citizenship,” he notes, “is not about navigating the world; it’s about harmonizing with it.”

Leadership by Design

Awards don’t sustain campuses systems do. Singh’s managerial design is both structured and supple: decentralized academic leadership, centralized standards, strategic industry partnerships, and a pipeline for nurturing talent spot, train, mentor, scale. He keeps the mission legible. Faculty are urged to be practitioners, students to be creators. The ethos is pragmatic: less ivory tower, more “workshop of the world” an apt model for an India that must add both jobs and ingenuity, fast.

Beyond the classroom, Singh’s impact extends into policy and enterprise. As Chairman, ASSOCHAM Eastern Region Council,



he has been a vocal advocate for leveraging the India-UK Free Trade Agreement to boost Eastern India’s exports in leather, gems, jewellery, and seafood ensuring that global trade translates into local opportunity. His approach is quintessentially pragmatic: connect policy to the grassroots so that growth becomes tangible new orders, new skills, new livelihoods.

The Human Dividend

For Singh, every success metric eventually loops back to people. First-generation learners entering laboratories they once only passed by. Young women from small towns pursuing pharmacy or dental sciences. Hospitality graduates managing properties across Asia. Engineers transitioning into entrepreneurship. Each story illustrates a quiet revolution education as an escalator of mobility, a transformer of lives. In a country

where learning remains the surest path from aspiration to achievement, JIS’s impact is not just institutional; it is generational.

Continuity and the Next Horizon

The JIS journey mirrors India’s broader story from survival to scale, from imitation to innovation. Singh’s stewardship honors his father’s founding spirit while reinterpreting it for a century where knowledge is capital and education the new infrastructure.

His next chapter is already unfolding:

- Deeper bets on research translation and digital-first learning.
- Cross-border academic alliances and industry chairs.
- Expanded incubation pathways that connect classrooms to factories and founders.

But the central principle remains immutable education as both a private good and a public trust. Singh insists that profits must circle back into capability, credibility, and community. In doing so, he has transformed “igniting minds” from an inspiring motto into a measurable, sustainable operating principle. And in that synthesis of purpose and performance lies the blueprint for India’s learning future resilient, human-centered, and endlessly regenerative.

Education becomes empowerment as JIS turns knowledge into opportunity and purpose into progress.

A Vision Beyond Snacks: How Maxvita Foods is Redefining India's Snacking Story

From humble beginnings to a household name, Maxvita Foods under Mr. Jijy Mathew's leadership is reshaping India's snack culture with taste, technology, and trust.

In Conversation with Jijy Mathew, Founder & Managing Director, Maxvita Foods

When Jijy Mathew founded Maxvita Foods in 2011, he envisioned much more than a snack brand—he imagined a connection built on trust, innovation, and taste. From day one, his mission was to deliver premium-quality snacks that celebrate India's flavors while creating employment and contributing to the nation's growth. Over the years, Maxvita has evolved from a modest setup into a leading FMCG company recognized for its innovation-driven approach and deep consumer trust.

Maxvita's success lies in its ability to penetrate competitive Tier-II and Tier-III markets across South India and beyond—a testament to its consistency, emotional resonance, and product excellence.

Q: What was your core vision behind founding Maxvita Foods, and how has the journey evolved since 2011?

When I founded Maxvita Foods in 2011, my vision was to build a brand that delivers high-quality snacks to consumers, while creating employment and giving back to the nation that supported my education and growth. Over the years, our journey has evolved from a modest manufacturing setup into a diversified FMCG company with strong distribution networks and a growing product portfolio. We've continuously invested in innovation, quality systems, and sustainable practices, allowing us to expand into new categories and markets. What began as a small venture has now



become a trusted name recognized for consistency, integrity, and customer focus.

Q: Maxvita has become synonymous with innovation in snacking. What makes your approach unique?

Innovation sits at the heart of everything we do. We deeply study regional taste preferences and craft flavors that connect emotionally with consumers while appealing to modern sensibilities. Every product passes through rigorous quality checks for taste, texture, and freshness. Our R&D team constantly experiments with spice blends and natural ingredients to create snacks that are both familiar and exciting. Always maintaining the highest standards of safety and consistency.

Q: How has technology strengthened Maxvita's operational excellence?

Technology has been a powerful enabler. By integrating SAP systems, we've achieved real-time visibility across procurement, production, and distribution. Our advanced automated lines ensure precision and hygiene, while data analytics help us make faster, smarter decisions. This digital transformation has made Maxvita more efficient, agile, and quality-focused—key attributes in today's competitive FMCG landscape.

Q: Sustainability is a recurring theme at Maxvita. How do you integrate it into your operations?

Sustainability is not an afterthought; it's a guiding principle. Our main factory runs fully on solar power during the day time, we recycle wastewater, and we've implemented Extended Producer

Responsibility (EPR) to recycle post-consumer laminates. By investing in energy-efficient machinery and responsible sourcing, we're ensuring that growth at Maxvita is both scalable and sustainable.

Q: The brand has received multiple recognitions. What do these accolades mean to you and your team?

Each recognition reflects the hard work, dedication, and belief of our team. Awards are more than milestones—they're reminders that doing the right things consistently pays off. They inspire us to keep innovating, stay grounded, and keep pushing boundaries in the snacking industry.

Q: What's your vision for Maxvita's next phase of growth?

Our goal is to make Maxvita one of India's most trusted and innovative snacking brands globally. We're developing baked and roasted snack lines that offer better nutrition without compromising on flavor. With a stronger digital presence and expanding markets, we want Maxvita to become a global ambassador of Indian taste, trust, and technology.

Conclusion:

Under Jijy Mathew's visionary leadership, Maxvita Foods has evolved into more than a snack brand—it's a symbol of innovation, responsibility, and Indian pride. With every new flavor and every new milestone, the brand reinforces one simple truth: when vision meets values, excellence follows.



Maxvita Foods blends innovation, quality, and sustainability proving that snacking can be delicious, responsible, and proudly Indian.

The Mother Who Built Homes Out of Hope

In the peaceful town of Pollachi in Tamilnadu, surrounded by coconut trees and green hills, stands a home filled with love and care **Sharanalayam**.



↑ Mrs Vanitha Rengaraj
Chairman and Managing Trustee, Sharanalayam.

For those who enter, it's more than a haven. It's a place that feels alive a safe home where the lost are found, the hurt are healed, and the forgotten are loved again.

Behind this home is Vanitha Rengaraj, lovingly known as Thaiyamma the mother to hundreds who once had no one to call their own.

A Dream Born from Kindness

While working as a college professor and serving as President of the Inner Wheel Club Pollachi, she often visited slum communities for social projects. During these visits, she met children living in poverty, without food, shelter, or care. Their silent suffering touched her deeply, stirring a resolve within her to make a difference. From that moment, the dream of Sharanalayam was born a place where children could find love, care, and hope.

In the year 2000, Vanitha Rengaraj decided to turn that dream into reality. She shared her dream with her parents and family, her father wholeheartedly supported her in getting the process started. Without money or big support, she started Sharanalayam in a small rented house with just seven children some were abandoned, some were children of sex workers, and some had mental illness.

She faced immense challenges due to limited financial resources and lack of manpower to support and run. After her college hours, she became a full-time caregiver - bathing, feeding, and comforting her children. Each day she personally went to the market to collect left over groceries and vegetables from kind-hearted vendors and community members for Sharanalayam along with volunteers.

Within a year, the number increased to 80. Due to increasing strength she decided to build a permanent building for Sharanalayam. Vanitha sold her jewels to buy a land in Kinathukadavu to build Sharanalayam's first permanent home.

Recognizing her unwavering commitment, the government provided land near Pollachi, where she built a dedicated shelter for children and adults living with HIV. Over the years, she has nurtured thousands of HIV-affected lives, offering far more than medical care, giving them not just treatment, but family, dignity, and love.

Many Homes, One Heart

Today, Sharanalayam spreads its branches to serves in diverse purpose: Dhaya gives shelter to abandoned and destitute street children. Jothi a home for mentally ill and destitute women. Sweechar is an adoption center placing children in loving families.



Saathvik offers therapies for children with autism. Priyam provides care for abandoned elderly people. Vriksha supports poor students in higher education.

Each of these homes is a branch of one big tree rooted in compassion and grown through love.

Over 25 years of unwavering service and care Vanitha Rengaraj's journey continuous with the same spirit today. Currently, over 200 residents live under the loving wings of Sharanalayam, and throughout the years, thousands of lives have been healed and empowered and the number only continues to grow. In recognition of her selfless service, her commitment has even reached the nation's highest hearts. She has had the honor of meeting two distinguished Prime Ministers of India Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shri Narendra Modi.

The Light That Never Fades

For her loved one's she is a mother, guide and their beloved Thaiyamma.

She has brought light into thousands of lives that once lived in darkness. When asked about her journey, Vanitha Amma smiles and says:

"I didn't do anything great. I just gave love where it was missing."

Her story shows that real change doesn't come from money or power it begins with kindness.

"Through her unconditional love, Vanitha Rengaraj has shown that one person can transform the lives of the forgotten, heal wounded hearts, and ignite hope that lasts for generations."

Dr. Vishal G. Warke – Building a New Era of Indian Innovation

By merging scientific excellence with entrepreneurial vision, Dr. Vishal G. Warke is redefining India's biosciences landscape with purpose and objective

Inspiring Indian: Dr. Vishal G. Warke – Paving way for a better India.

When innovation meets intent, transformation begins. For Dr. Vishal G. Warke, Director of Cell Biology Higrionics and PTC at HiMedia Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., innovation isn't about invention for its own sake it's about solving real-world problems that matter to people, communities, and the planet. His story reflects the spirit of a new India curious, compassionate, and committed to making science meaningful.

Armed with an MBBS from the University of Mumbai and a PhD in Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics from the University of Maryland, USA, Dr. Warke brings both research depth and entrepreneurial agility to India's life sciences industry. At HiMedia Laboratories one of India's largest and most trusted bioscience companies with a presence in over 150 countries he has transformed the company's R&D focus into a global benchmark for innovation and sustainability.

When the COVID-19 pandemic tested every system, Dr. Warke led one of India's most decisive bioscience

responses. Under his direction, HiMedia rapidly scaled the production of Viral Transport Media (VTM) test kits from half a million per year to one million per day, ensuring uninterrupted testing supply across the nation. It was a remarkable example of how scientific agility and leadership could directly save lives.

Moreover, his pursuit of innovation extends far beyond emergencies. Dr. Warke has been a trailblazer in developing serum-free media for Biopharma and cultivated meat, an ethical & sustainable alternative that reduces dependence on animal sources while supporting global food security. His work on bioinks for 3D bioprinting, hydroponic systems, and cell culture technologies is positioning India at the forefront of regenerative medicine, sustainable agriculture, and clean biomanufacturing.

A firm believer in research-driven relevance, Dr. Warke reinvests 16% of HiMedia's profits into R&D, developing modern service systems with world-class infrastructure and advanced analytical technologies such as the Orbitrap Fusion Tribrid Mass Spectrometer for proteomics and metabolomics research. This forward-thinking approach ensures Indian biosciences remain competitive while contributing to the global goal of a low-carbon, animal-free future.

Equally significant is his commitment to nurturing India's innovation ecosystem. Dr. Warke mentors and supports a wide network of biotech and agritech startups by providing them access to HiMedia's infrastructure and scientific expertise. Under his leadership, HiMedia partnered with IIT Bombay to establish the WRCB-HiMedia Bionnovation Laboratory, a state-of-the-art facility designed to advance



Dr. Vishal G. Warke

Director of Cell Biology Higrionics and PTC

research in diagnostics, therapeutics, 3D cell culture, cancer biology, and synthetic biology, while also fostering innovation through patenting and deep-tech entrepreneurship initiatives. His initiatives bridge the crucial gap between academic research and commercial viability, fostering a culture of scientific entrepreneurship.

In recognition of his visionary contributions, Dr. Warke has been honoured with the "Mentor of the Year – LifeSciences & Biotechnology" Award by BioStartUps and the "Viksit Bharat Commitment Award 2025" by AsiaOne Magazine. These accolades stand as testimony to his leadership in shaping a self-reliant, innovation-driven India.

At his core, Dr. Warke believes science is a service a way to give back. Whether developing sustainable media for cultured meat, mentoring young researchers, or building world-class facilities, his purpose remains clear: to make India not just a participant but a leader in the global bioeconomy.

In an age where the world looks to science for both survival and sustainability, Dr. Vishal Warke stands as an inspiring Indian who turns discovery into direction and vision into value.



From cultivated meat to mentoring biotech start-ups, Dr. Warke transforms challenges into sustainable solutions for a healthier, self-reliant India.

Ashok Jaipuria: The Force Behind Sustainable Innovation

From revolutionising packaging with Cosmo First to transforming pet care with Zigly, Mr. Ashok Jaipuria embodies India's problem-solving entrepreneurial spirit: bold, compassionate, and future-ready.

Every great transformation begins with a problem that someone dares to solve. In 1981, when India's packaging industry was fragmented, conventional, and import-dependent, Mr. Ashok Jaipuria envisioned a future where Indian innovation would lead global sustainability standards. That vision gave birth to Cosmo Films, now Cosmo First Ltd., a company that didn't just redefine packaging it redefined the possibilities of Indian manufacturing.

At a time when advanced materials and technology were foreign luxuries, Mr. Jaipuria built India's first BOPP (Biaxially Oriented Polypropylene) film plant in Aurangabad. His belief was simple yet powerful: India could create world-class solutions for world-class challenges. The move sparked an industrial revolution in packaging, introducing products that were stronger, cleaner, safer, and infinitely more sustainable.

Over four decades later, his conviction has evolved into an empire built on innovation, trust, and purpose. From specialty films and chemicals to rigid packaging and Zigly (India's first organised D2C omnichannel pet care brand), Cosmo First stands as a symbol of

how visionary leadership transforms markets. Mr. Jaipuria's bold pivot from commodity films to high-value specialty films was not just a business decision, it was a declaration that Indian companies can lead the world in quality, technology, and sustainability.

Today, Cosmo First exports to over 100 countries and partners with global giants like Nestlé, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, and P&G. With products like TeploR a heat-resistant, recyclable BOPP film designed to replace non-recyclable materials Mr. Jaipuria has made sustainability not just an aspiration but a profitable reality. Nearly 50% of the company's energy now comes from renewable sources, and innovations such as Cosmo Synthetic Paper continue to reduce dependence on wood-based materials.

But Mr. Jaipuria's genius lies in his ability to look beyond industry and see humanity. His diversification into pet care with Zigly came from identifying a problem millions faced: the absence of reliable, compassionate pet services in a rapidly urbanising India. Zigly offers integrated veterinary care, diagnostics, grooming, and nutrition under one brand professionalising a sector long dominated by the

Driving innovation with empathy, Mr. Ashok Jaipuria transforms challenges into opportunities building sustainable industries and inspiring a generation of purposeful entrepreneurs.



Ashok Jaipuria

Chairman and Managing Director, Cosmo First Ltd.

unorganised market. With 35+ state-of-the-art pet care centres and a fast-growing online platform, Zigly is redefining how India cares for its pets one wagging tail at a time.

The social heartbeat of his empire, the Cosmo Foundation, amplifies his people-first ethos. Focused on education, environment, and empowerment, it has transformed 7.5 lakh lives, empowered 68,000 students, and created 169 acres of green cover across India. From English learning programs in rural schools to massive tree plantation drives, the Foundation ensures that Cosmo's growth is shared with society.

Mr. Jaipuria's leadership blends courage with conscience. His legacy is not just about creating global products, it's about creating purposeful progress. By marrying innovation with sustainability and profit with compassion, he has turned Cosmo First into a benchmark that defines what modern Indian entrepreneurship truly stands for: resilience, reinvention, and responsibility.

In an age where most chase growth, Ashok Jaipuria creates impact turning every challenge into an opportunity to make India proud.

The Vision That Powers a Nation

Navitas Solar and the Making of Bharat's Clean Energy Revolution



Revolutions aren't born overnight, they are the product of years of effort, engineered, nurtured, and illuminated by those who dare to believe in a brighter tomorrow. Among Bharat's new generation of innovators transforming the nation's renewable landscape stands Mr. Aditya Singhania, Director of Engineering and the leadership of Navitas Solar. A versatile team with a purpose-driven vision, they represent a rare blend of engineering precision and entrepreneurial foresight, qualities that have helped propel Navitas Solar into one of Bharat's foremost clean energy enterprises.

Founded in 2013 by a group of visionary entrepreneurs: Aditya Singhania, Ankit Singhania, Saurabh Aggarwal, Sunay Shah, and Vineet Mittal. Navitas Solar began its journey in Surat, Gujarat, with 1 dream: to make solar energy accessible, reliable, and proudly "Made in India." Over the past decade, the company has evolved from a budding startup into a global clean-tech brand, empowering industries, institutions, and communities to harness the power of the sun.

Engineering the Future of Energy

As Director of Engineering, Aditya Singhania has been the driving force behind Navitas Solar's world-class manufacturing ecosystem. With a meticulous eye for innovation and efficiency, he has led the company's transition from semi-automated lines to fully automated, AI-integrated manufacturing facility, featuring robotics, advanced imaging, and non-

destructive cutting technologies.

Under his leadership, Navitas Solar aims for 3 GW solar module and 3 GW solar cell capacity by 2026 & upwards to 10 GW ingot, wafer, cell & module capacity. The company's portfolio spans over multiple modules, with power outputs up to 720 W.

Each module that leaves the Navitas Solar facility is a testament to Bharat's manufacturing excellence, engineered with multi-busbar and high-density interconnection technologies for enhanced durability and performance. For Aditya, every technical decision is guided by one principle: "Innovation must lead to impact."

Scaling New Horizons

Navitas Solar's journey has been one of continuous scale and strategic growth. In 2022, the company raised external equity capital to expand its manufacturing capacity for vertical



Aditya Singhania

Director of Engineering, Navitas Solar

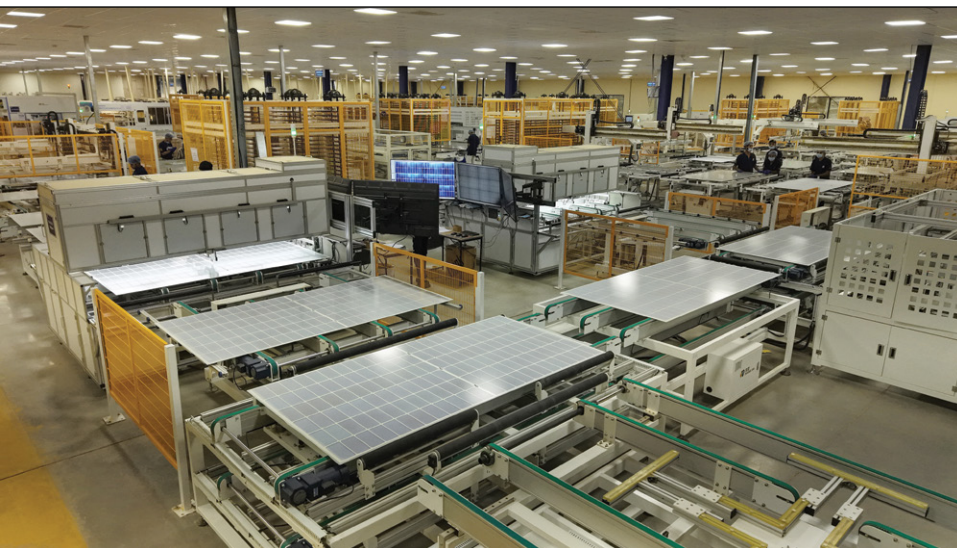
integration in multiple rounds from prominent industry stalwarts and family offices as well as listed entities.

It also invested in backward integration through its subsidiary, Navitas Alpha Renewables, which manufactures EVA encapsulants critical components in solar module production. This integration strengthened quality control and ensured end-to-end reliability, reinforcing Navitas Solar's commitment to the "Make in India" vision.

From Bharat to the World

Beyond technology, Aditya Singhania also leads Navitas Solar's dynamic EPC Solutions, a testament to the company's commitment to deliver integrated, turnkey solar solutions. Under his direction,





Navitas Solar has successfully executed diverse EPC projects across India and globally, ranging from industrial rooftops and solar parks to government and institutional installations.

But the solar ambitions are not limited to Bharat. The company is now energizing Africa, Europe, and North America. Entering Africa with a 54 MW solar project, and making its footprint in South America through a 500 kW rooftop installation, underscoring its capability to deliver sustainable energy solutions across continents.

Power Meets Purpose

The leadership philosophy of Navitas Solar rests on sustainability, inclusivity, and purpose. The company became Carbon-Neutral in 2021, certified through UN-accredited hydro projects a milestone rarely achieved by MSMEs

in the renewable sector. The next goal is even bolder: Net Zero by 2030.

Their CSR initiatives reinforce this ethos. Through its collaboration with Ekal Vidyalaya, Navitas Solar supports education for tribal children in remote regions. Skill development programs with the Round Table Foundation and Anil Naik Technical Training Centre build employability among youth. Tree plantation drives with Forest Creators continue to strengthen Bharat's green cover.

Perhaps most inspiring is the "Jyoti Initiative", Navitas Solar's flagship knowledge-sharing platform that fosters environmental awareness among students. True to its Sanskrit essence "Prajwalito Gyanmayah Pradeepah," meaning to light the lamp of knowledge the initiative conducts awareness lectures, industrial visits, and academic

collaborations, having already reached over 2,500 students across Bharat.

Powering Progress, Partnering with Passion

Navitas Solar's impact extends beyond factories and installations. In 2024 and 2025, it became the Official Renewable Energy Partner of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) as well as bringing its power to the Pro-Kabaddi League by partnering with Team Puneri Paltan. These strategic collaborations blend sustainability with sportsmanship, amplifying the brand's voice, inspiring millions to consider clean energy as a lifestyle choice.

Towards a Brighter Tomorrow

Recognition has followed innovation.

Navitas Solar has been honored as the "Pride of Gujarat" by News18/PTI for its outstanding contribution to renewable energy, alongside multiple national accolades including the Best Emerging Company in MSME Renewable Energy Sector under Make in India, Leading MSME Indian Module Manufacturer of the Year, and MSME Sustainability Award in the manufacturing sector.

Looking ahead, Aditya Singhania envisions a world where every watt counts, not just for productivity but for the planet. "Sustainability," he believes, "isn't a business trend; it's a national responsibility." Under his guidance, Navitas Solar is not only contributing to Bharat's goal of 500 GW of renewable capacity by 2030 but also helping build the nation's energy independence through indigenous innovation and manufacturing.

From its humble beginnings in Surat to its global footprint today, Bharat ka Solar -Navitas Solar, stands as a symbol of what visionary leadership, technical mastery, and a deep sense of purpose can achieve. As Aditya Singhania and the rest of the leadership continues to engineer new possibilities, one thing remains clear the future of Bharat's solar revolution shines brightest through those who dare to power it.



From Floodwaters to Solar Frontiers: The Journey of Gautam Das, Founder of Oorjan Cleantech

Gautam Das's story begins in a flood-prone village where electricity was rare and education came through the doors of a modest Zilla Parishad school. His parents, daily wage earners, instilled in him the values of resilience, hard work, and quiet ambition — lessons shaped by scarcity and strengthened by hope.

These early experiences laid the foundation for a vision that would one day power thousands of homes and businesses across India. Gautam's academic journey took him to IIT Bombay for Chemical Engineering and later to the Indian School of Business (ISB), where he honed his leadership and strategic thinking. He rose swiftly in the corporate world, eventually becoming Director at a leading Indo-American bank, managing complex treasury and cross-currency portfolios.

Yet, after 16 years in banking, Gautam felt the pull of a deeper purpose. Alongside Manjesh Nayak, a Chartered Accountant and former colleague, he co-founded Oorjan Cleantech — a clean energy venture built not just on financial acumen, but on a mission to make solar power accessible across India.

A Vision Aligned with a Nation's Momentum

India's renewable energy sector is undergoing a transformation. With over 50% of its installed power capacity now coming from renewables, and solar energy production surpassing Japan's, the country is fast becoming a global leader in clean energy. Gautam's vision for Oorjan aligned perfectly with this national momentum — a belief that India's growth must be powered by sustainable solutions.

Oorjan Cleantech: Scaling Solar with Smart Tech and Finance

Launched with a bold ambition,

Oorjan Cleantech (www.oorjan.com) set out to solve one of India's most pressing challenges: democratizing access to clean, affordable solar energy. Today, Oorjan has reached over 6,000 customers across 22 states and union territories, enabling 250 MW of installed solar capacity and mobilizing green capital.

Its impact is tangible — equivalent to planting nearly 12 million trees and eliminating 350,000 tons of CO₂ emissions annually. From remote villages to urban rooftops, industrial clusters to educational institutions, Oorjan is bridging the energy access gap with precision and purpose.

Built to Scale, Designed for Impact

Oorjan's success lies in its asset-light, tech-enabled model. It partners with vetted last-mile solar installers, collaborates with top-tier equipment brands, and works with banks and NBFCs to offer innovative financing — including Capex models, Solar Loans, PPAs, and PAYG options.

Its proprietary IoT-based monitoring system gives users real-time performance insights and proactive maintenance tools, enhancing efficiency and trust.

Recognition and Resilience

In a sector where many startups fade, Oorjan has thrived. It has earned accolades like Best Solar Startup in India (World CSR), New Energy Leader in Asia (ADB), and REI Collaboration of the Year. Gautam himself was nominated for Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

The company's six consecutive years of profitability stand as proof that sustainability and scalability can go hand in hand.

People, purpose and performance

At the heart of Oorjan lies a deep belief in human potential and the power



of pushing boundaries. Gautam leads by example — an ultra-marathoner, triathlete, and open-water swimmer, he brings an endurance mindset to business, where perseverance and discipline shape success. The company promotes employee wellness with an emphasis on physical and mental well-being. Co-founder Manjesh shares this ethos, believing that entrepreneurship, like endurance sport, requires resilience, consistency, and a strong inner compass. The team has hockey-player, marathoners, trekkers, swimmers, cyclists, footballers and yoga practitioners.

Lighting the Way Forward:

As India advances toward its 2030 clean energy goals, Gautam continues to champion sustainability — not just through enterprise, but through conviction. His journey from a flood-affected village to the forefront of solar innovation stands as a testament to what vision, grit, and purpose can achieve. With Oorjan Cleantech, he's not merely building a company — he's helping shape a future where India's growth is powered by clean, sustainable energy. In his belief, renewable energy is not only environmentally essential but also commercially viable — the foundation for a brighter, self-reliant nation.

Er. Venkat Chennakrishnan: From Adversity to Entrepreneurial Excellence

A visionary from Tiruvannamalai, Er. Venkat Chennakrishnan transformed challenges into opportunities, founding Quality Groups to set new benchmarks in quality-driven enterprises.

In the heart of Tamil Nadu's spiritual town of Tiruvannamalai, Er. Venkat Chennakrishnan embarked on a journey that would redefine the contours of Indian entrepreneurship. Raised amidst financial constraints, his early life was a testament to resilience and determination. Academic excellence became his anchor, propelling him forward even in the face of adversity.

Recognizing the transformative power of education, Er. Chennakrishnan pursued his studies with unwavering dedication. His academic achievements not only reflected his intellectual prowess but also his commitment to personal growth and excellence.



Er. Venkat Chennakrishnan's journey from humble beginnings to establishing Quality Groups exemplifies resilience, innovation, and a commitment to excellence, inspiring aspiring entrepreneurs nationwide.

The entrepreneurial spark ignited early in his life. With a vision to create enterprises that prioritized quality and innovation, he founded Quality Groups. This conglomerate, under his leadership, has become synonymous with excellence, setting industry standards and benchmarks.

Navigating the complexities of the business world, Er. Chennakrishnan faced numerous challenges. Yet, his strategic foresight and adaptability allowed him to transform obstacles into stepping stones, ensuring the growth and success of his ventures.

Under his stewardship, Quality Groups expanded its footprint across various sectors, including marketing, digital services, and business consulting. Each venture reflected his commitment to quality and customer satisfaction, earning the trust and loyalty of clients and partners alike.

Beyond business success, Er. Chennakrishnan's leadership is characterized by a deep sense of responsibility and mentorship. He believes in empowering others, sharing his knowledge, and fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

His journey serves as an inspiration to aspiring entrepreneurs, illustrating that



Er. Venkat Chennakrishnan
Founder & CEO
Quality Group of Companies

with vision, perseverance, and a commitment to quality, one can overcome challenges and achieve lasting success. Er. Venkat Chennakrishnan's story is a beacon for those who dare to dream and are willing to work relentlessly to turn those dreams into reality.

OUTLOOK BUSINESS

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THINK BEYOND. STAY AHEAD.

 **inspiring**
Indian

**Kuruva
Venkataramana
Murthy**

Founder and
CEO of One in
the Universe



Kuruva Venkataramana Murthy

Turning Leadership and Lifestyle into Living Art

Some entrepreneurs build companies. Kuruva Venkata Ramana Murthy known to many as Venkat builds movements. As the Founder and CEO of One in the Universe (OIU), he has spent the last five years reimagining how people lead, dress, decorate, and heal. His idea is simple yet radical: everyday life itself can be a medium of transformation.

A marketing professional turned author and TEDx speaker, Venkat blends management insight with India's oldest wisdom traditions. His leadership philosophy rejects pressure-driven success in favor of something far more powerful presence. Through frameworks such as FLAME, AAA (Adapt · Amplify · Accelerate), and Panchashila, he trains leaders to navigate the AI era without losing their humanity. "AI can automate," he says. "Only Dharma can awaken."

Founded in 2020, One in the Universe began as a small experiment in healing through fashion. What started with a few symbolic sarees

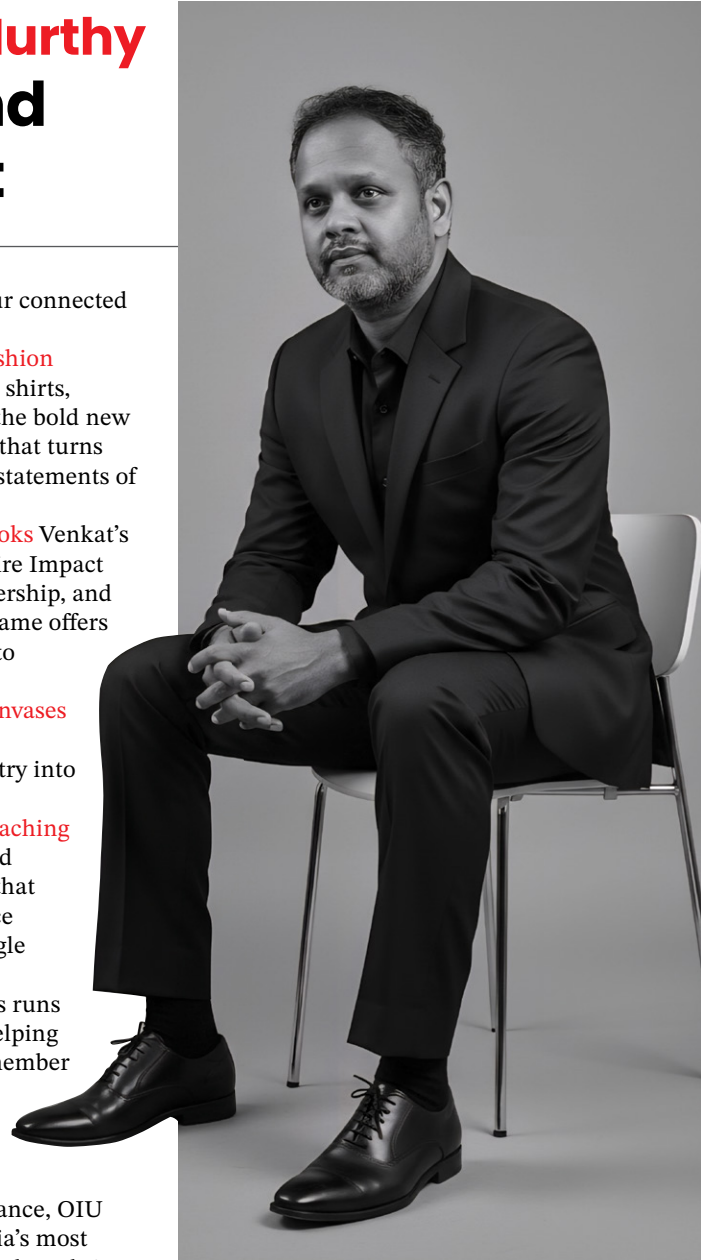
soon expanded into four connected worlds:

- 1. Healing Through Fashion** Limited-edition sarees, shirts, kurtis, bedsheets, and the bold new SpiritWear T-shirt line that turns clothing into personal statements of strength.
- 2. Healing Through Books** Venkat's leadership trilogy Inspire Impact Ignite, AI Driven Leadership, and the upcoming Silent Flame offers readers practical tools to rediscover purpose.
- 3. Healing Through Canvases** Wall art and décor that translate sacred geometry into contemporary design.
- 4. Healing Through Coaching** Personal, corporate, and educational programs that bring behavioral science and dharma onto a single platform.

Across these verticals runs one unifying thread: helping one million people remember that they are already leaders through how they live, not just what they do.

Under Venkat's guidance, OIU has become one of India's most distinctive home-grown brands in conscious leadership and design. His work has been featured in Forbes India, Outlook Business, and Business Today, while his corporate workshops with organizations such as K Serve and Green Pack have been praised for creating measurable cultural shifts. His first book, Inspire Impact Ignite, sold over 700 copies in its first 90 days, and his coaching ecosystem now supports many readers and learners nationwide.

For Venkat, business is not merely about profit it is about proof that



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Founder and CEO of One in the Universe

purpose works. He envisions One in the Universe as a global Indian brand uniting fashion, literature, and leadership education under a single banner of conscious growth. Every product, workshop, and page carries a silent promise: When you choose awareness over automation, you don't just change your career you change your frequency.



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