

# Outlook

Read • Think • Understand



Manish Gupta



Alok Rungta



Dr Joydeep Pal



Nitin Gadkari



Dr Narayan Das Agrawal



Ranjeet Oak



Ashish Puravankara



Pankaj Bansal



Sandeep Asolkar



U R Uday Kumar



Dr Sharvil Patel



Dr Sohini Sastri



Prof (Dr) Manik Saha



Manohar Lal



Dr Ajayya Kumar



Rajiv Mehta



Suparna Handa



Mini Monesh

## *Visionaries of* **\$5 TRILLION ECONOMY**



Deep Trivedi



Siddharth Shahani



Anurag Agarwal



Dr Satyam Roychowdhury



Ravishankar Bhooplapur



Madhukar Gangadi



Anil Rawal



Dr Durga Prakash (DP)



Amisha Vora



Anand V Bhat



Nandan Nilekani



Akhil Mehrotra



Ashwini Vaishnaw



Chintan Patel



KV Arangasamy



Satya Nadella



Naveen Jindal



Resul Pookutty



S Jaishankar



Ajaypal Singh Banga



Anjan Chatterjee



Harmanpreet Kaur



## Visionaries of \$5 Trillion Economy

Outlook celebrates the distinguished thought leaders, scholars, policymakers, and industry experts who converge and deliberate on the intricate facets of the USD 5 trillion economy vision and share their contributions towards making India a 'developed country'

India's goal is to become a USD 5 trillion economy, with revised projections from the IMF and other reports indicating the milestone will likely be reached between 2027-28 and 2028-29. Meanwhile, India has surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy, with a size of \$4.18 trillion, and is poised to overtake Germany to become the third-largest by 2030.

India's real GDP grew 8.2% in the second quarter of 2025-26, up from 7.8% in the first quarter and 7.4% in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal year. The growth momentum further surprised on the upside, with GDP expanding to a six-quarter high in Q2 of 2025-26, reflecting India's resilience amid persistent global

trade uncertainties. Inflation remains below the lower tolerance threshold, unemployment is declining, and export performance continues to improve. Furthermore, financial conditions have stayed benign, with strong credit flows to the commercial sector, while demand conditions remain firm, supported by a further strengthening of urban consumption. Domestic drivers, led by robust private consumption, played a central role in supporting this expansion.

In light of India's current growth trajectory, collaboration between the public and private sectors is crucial, particularly in high-impact new growth areas. The government has several ongoing initiatives across sectors focused on inclusive growth and robust social

development in achieving sustainable and equitable economic progress. India is among the world's fastest-growing major economies and is well-positioned to sustain this momentum, with the ambition of attaining high middle-income status by 2047 – the centenary year of its independence.

Within this dynamic landscape, the Outlook Group acknowledges the contributions of visionary leaders, pathfinders, innovators, educators, industrialists, entrepreneurs, and achievers from different walks of life who have made a difference to society, the state, and the country at large. We celebrate their relentless efforts and dedication towards making India a developed economy.

## Pioneering Technology and FinTech Innovation

KV Arangasamy spotlighted as a visionary leader driving transformation across technology, fintech, education, and culture

**K**V Arangasamy, a respected serial entrepreneur, educationist, and cultural advocate with over 25 years of leadership experience, is being profiled for his influential contributions across technology, industrial innovation, and digital financial transformation. His work continues to shape multiple sectors, showcasing a rare blend of technical depth, social commitment, and long-term nation-building vision.

### A Pioneer in Technology and FinTech Innovation

Arangasamy began his journey in digital finance early, long before India's payments landscape matured. In 2013, he founded one of the region's earliest digital payment ventures, preceded by his business family's pioneering experimentation in 2012-2013. These experiences gave him deep insight into payments infrastructure, customer adoption, and the evolution of India's fintech ecosystem.

He later established Universys Technologies, an Industrial IoT company that has played a key role in modernizing manufacturing and operational systems across sectors. His expansion into turnkey and fiber-based infrastructure further strengthened India's digital backbone, supporting enterprises and public connectivity initiatives at scale.

### Driving Digital Banking and Last-Mile Financial Transformation

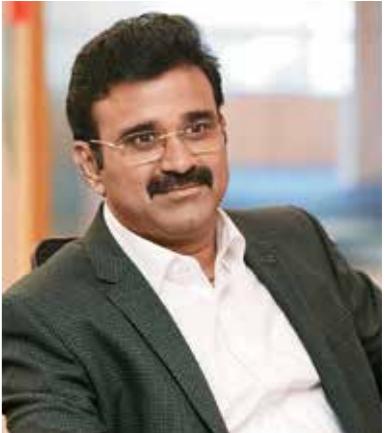
After several years of advising leading fintech on digital banking, compliance, and infrastructure

challenges, Arangasamy launched RUGR in 2022. RUGR focuses on smart digital banking, finance automation, and enabling true last-mile connectivity, ensuring modern financial services reach underserved communities across India. The company represents his belief that digital finance must be inclusive, reliable, and accessible to all.

### Strengthening the Ecosystem Through SIL Acquiring

Building further on his fintech expertise, engaged deeply in acquiring Saraswath Infotech Private Limited (SIL), a respected institution with over 21 years of operational legacy, offering CBS and digital payment software solutions. SIL has built a robust framework serving more than 150 financial institutions. Its long-standing presence in the acquiring ecosystem provided him with invaluable exposure to large-scale merchant operations, sophisticated acquiring technologies, and mission-critical, secure transaction infrastructures.

Working closely with an organization of this scale allowed him to observe firsthand how high-volume payment systems are built, governed, and optimized for reliability. This experience significantly sharpened his understanding of transaction routing, compliance layers, and risk management within acquiring networks, ultimately strengthening his strategic perspective on India's rapidly evolving digital financial architecture.



"Technology becomes meaningful only when it empowers people. My goal has always been to build systems that last, systems that reach every corner of society, not just the privileged few."

**KV Arangasamy**  
Founder and Managing Director, RUGR

### Championing Education, Culture, and Community Development

Beyond business, he has played a transformative role in education, supporting ERP modernization, digital learning systems, and skill development programs. His involvement with the SKP Group of Educational Institutions highlights his commitment to creating strong, future-ready learning ecosystems. Internationally, he supports literature and cultural preservation through a UK-based publishing platform, reinforcing the importance of knowledge and heritage in a digital era. He is also a philanthropist who actively supports the underprivileged in society.

As industries evolve and digital transformation accelerates globally, leaders like KV Arangasamy set an inspiring benchmark. We look forward to seeing more visionaries who combine innovation with purpose and progress with human impact, just as he continues to do.



**Nandan Nilekani**  
Co-founder and Chairman, Infosys Technologies Limited

## Digital Economy for Development

A navigator in the domain of technology and a leader of social causes, Nandan Nilekani continues to champion technology as a tool for equitable and connected growth

**N**andan Nilekani, Chairman of the Infosys board, addressed shareholders in the company's annual report for FY'25, highlighting that multiple converging global trends are compelling the company to revisit its business fundamentals, emphasizing stability and AI integration for clients.

Born in Bengaluru, Nilekani earned his bachelor's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay. Since 1978, he has been at the forefront of India's IT revolution, helping establish the country as a global technology powerhouse. He co-founded Infosys, an India-based multinational providing business

consulting, technology, engineering, and outsourcing services. Between 2009 and 2014, he served as the chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), responsible for issuing Aadhaar ID numbers to all Indian residents—a role equivalent in rank to a cabinet minister.

Nilekani's leadership of the Aadhaar initiative earned him The Economist Social & Economic Innovation Award in 2014. In 2017, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Ernst & Young, the CNBC-TV18 India Business Leader Award, and the 22nd Nikkei Asia Prize for Economic and Business Innovation. He was inducted as an International Honorary Member of

the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2019. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2006. In January 2023, he was appointed co-chair of the G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure for Economic Transformation, Financial Inclusion, and Development.

Beyond Infosys, Nilekani co-founded and chairs the EkStep Foundation, a not-for-profit platform focused on improving literacy and numeracy for millions of children. He is also an accomplished author, having written *Imagining India* and co-authored *Rebooting India: Realizing a Billion Aspirations with Viral Shah*, and *The Art of Bitfulness: Keeping Calm in the Digital World* with Tanuj Bhojwani, released in January 2022.

Nilekani has been a keynote speaker at global forums including the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025, the Semafor World Economy Summit 2025, and the Raisina Dialogue 2025, advocating adaptable systems over dependence on specific AI models. He predicts that India will host 1 million startups by 2035, driven by digital public infrastructure, AI, and fintech.

His advisory role in initiatives such as the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), DigiLocker, and the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) highlights his commitment to inclusive technological progress, enabling smaller merchants to harness technology for growth. As of October 2025, his net worth is estimated at \$3.2 billion. He also serves as the chief mentor for the India Energy Stack task force and was the chief guest at the Mayo College Prize Giving 2025 ceremony, reflecting his enduring influence on India's digital and economic transformation.

## Turning Data Into Everyday Impact

From reinventing food shopping to guiding global students, Dr Joydeep Pal blends AI, consumer psychology, and human-centric design to build ventures that elevate lives

In an era when consumer behaviour is evolving faster than ever, few leaders have managed to interpret the pulse of the digital generation as sharply as Dr Joydeep Pal. A strategist, innovator, and educator, Joydeep embodies the modern business leader—one who pairs technological depth with a human-centric mission to create ventures with real societal impact.

### AI-Led Sustainable Food Retailing

In 2017, Foodinjoy was ideated in The University of Manchester by founder, Dr Joydeep Pal, who loves to utilise tech for far-reaching benefits to society. He observed that consumers lead poorer lifestyles due to fundamental knowledge gaps. He realised he can make their life better by dissolving the knowledge barrier. Something that everyone can use easily. This integrated ecosystem has also earned Foodinjoy more than 20 major awards, including the Global 100 Consumer Services Business of the Year 2026 – UK, gold for Best Use of Technology at the 2024 UK Business Awards, and international recognition from "MUSE Awards New York" for best app strategy.

**Breaking Mold Building Future**  
Joydeep's ambitions extend far beyond business growth. With 18+ years of cross-sector experience in Tech, Consumer Services, Healthcare, and the Public sector, and deep expertise in AI/ML, he focuses on building ventures that

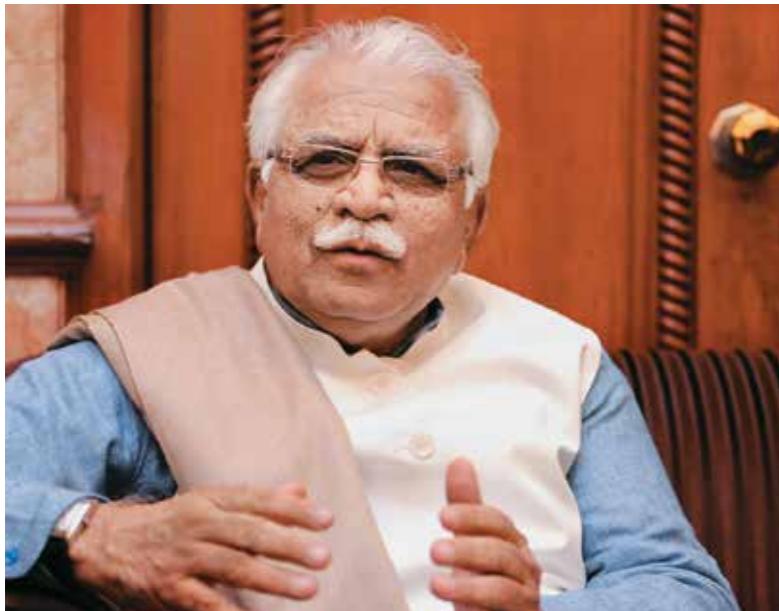
**The Taste of Success**  
Foodinjoy's model is revolutionary yet elegant. Over six years, Joydeep's team created a three-



**Dr Joydeep Pal**, Founder & CEO, FJ Consulting

maximize human potential. Through FJ Consulting, he offers market validation, case development in terms of idea to revenue blueprint, business growth blueprint, branding and marketing, for ideas to fructify to launch and a sustainable business model. For Joydeep, innovation is not about disruption for its own sake; it is about creating systems that elevate everyday lives. Heritage Institute of Technology Kolkata has been instrumental in seeding the ambitions for changemaking early during engineering undergraduate days.

As an Adjunct Faculty at the Alliance Manchester Business School, he mentors the next generation—believing that early guidance can change the trajectory of countless young Indians and global students stepping into a new world. Whether empowering students, enabling sustainable retail, or building AI-driven consumer intelligence, Dr Joydeep Pal stands today as a new-age leader—bold, empathetic, and relentlessly future-focused.



Manohar Lal, Union Minister of Power, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Gol

## Powering the Nation

Union Minister 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, 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, 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-oriented 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, 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, 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.

## From Self-Mastery to Nation-Building

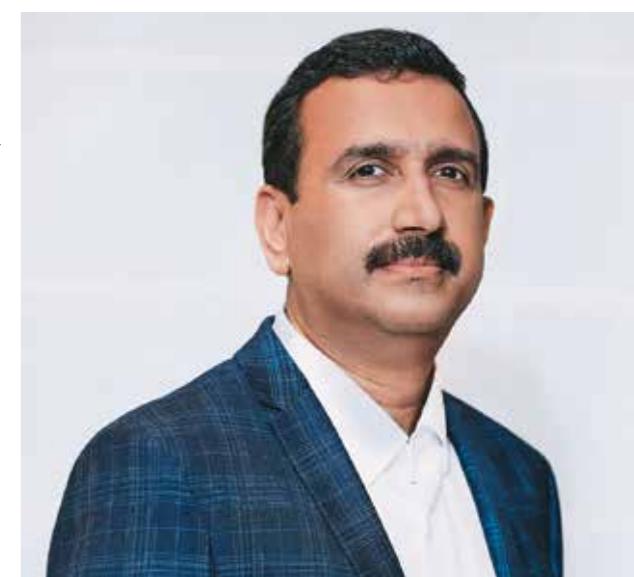
The leadership blueprint of Dr Ajayya Kumar advocates personal clarity and purpose as engines of modern economic progress

In a world overflowing with ambition yet starved for focus, few leaders blend self-mastery, organisational excellence, culture, and technology as seamlessly as Dr Ajayya Kumar. A management thinker, philanthropist, art curator, and author of seven books, Dr Ajayya represents a new generation of visionaries who believe national progress begins with personal transformation.

His latest book, *Zero to Success in 369 Days*, has rapidly evolved into a global performance framework embraced by professionals, entrepreneurs, and young leaders. The book was featured in *Forbes India* as an actionable blueprint of India's demand for human excellence and growth.

**Clarity: The Hidden Fuel of a Progressive Economy**  
As India strives toward a future-ready, \$5 trillion economy, it needs leaders who can think sharply, act decisively, and remain rooted in purpose despite external noise. This is precisely where Dr Ajayya's 369 Framework steps in. At the heart of the model lies a powerful philosophy: "Success without clarity is failure in disguise."

The 369 system—3 Questions, 6 Principles, 9 Pillars—guides individuals through a cycle of disciplined self-renewal. Its digital



Dr Ajayya Kumar, COO of Emircom, Author, Management Thinker & Art curator

platform, [zerotosuccess.org](http://zerotosuccess.org), drives this philosophy with AI-driven tools that help users set measurable goals, build disciplined habits, track performance, study behavioural patterns, and nurture long-term mindsets.

When individuals transform, teams evolve. When teams evolve, organisations thrive. And when organisations thrive, economies gain momentum.

### Beyond Boardrooms: A Visionary Shaping Culture and Society

As COO of Emircom, one of the GCC's leading ICT enterprises, he has helped steer transformation programmes, cultivate high-performance cultures, and embed clarity-driven leadership across the organisation.

Through the Ajayya Bharathi Foundation, he champions mindfulness-based parenting initiatives, often alongside Dr Kiran Bedi, empowering families to raise emotionally resilient, future-ready children. Strong families, he believes, are the backbone of strong societies.

His passion for art and culture, reflected through the

Sarvamangala Trust and Firefly Films, underscores his belief that creativity and storytelling are essential to holistic leadership.

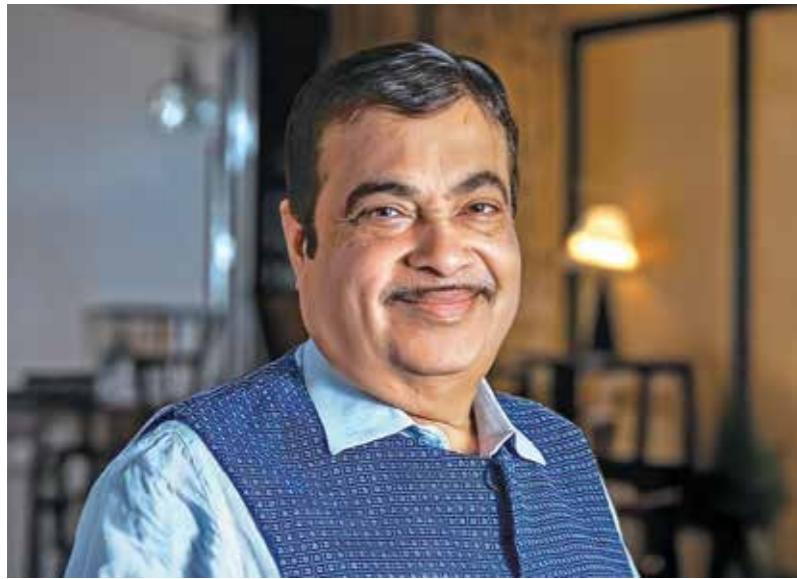
### A Leadership Movement for National Progress

What makes Zero to Success especially aligned with India's economic aspirations is its insistence that clarity, discipline, and purpose are not just personal virtues—they are national assets. Purposeful individuals build innovative organisations; innovative organisations fuel opportunity; and opportunities strengthen societies.

For Dr Ajayya Kumar, the message is clear and constant: "When individuals transform, economies transform."

Through his life's work, he continues to demonstrate that progress is multidimensional—rooted in clarity, layered, holistic, and deeply human.

Dr Ajayya Kumar stands out as a thinker who bridges personal mastery and national growth, technology and human behaviour, and leadership and culture with purpose and performance.



Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India

## 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.

## A Visionary Builder of Education

Dr Narayan Das Agrawal's vision took shape in Mathura and matured into one of Uttar Pradesh's most recognised private universities



Dr Narayan Das Agrawal  
Chancellor, GLA University

Dr Narayan Das Agrawal, distinguished educationist and the principal architect behind one of northern India's leading private universities, represents a quieter, more enduring model of leadership.

As Chancellor of GLA University, Mathura, he has steered its transition from a regional institution to a multi-disciplinary centre of academic excellence, serving tens of thousands of students to forge a better future.

**Vision, values and recognition**  
Dr Agrawal's journey into the field of higher education was shaped by his desire to carry forward the vision of his father, the late Shri Ganeshi Lal Agrawal.

He founded the Sri Jagannath Prasad Ganeshi Lal Bajaj Charitable Trust Samiti in 1998 in Mathura to enable access to better education in the region. What began as a philanthropic endeavour steadily acquired academic scale and statutory recognition, culminating in the establishment of GLA University in 2010 through an Act of the Uttar Pradesh legislature.

**Champion of holistic education**  
Under Dr Agrawal's leadership, GLA University has developed into a NAAC A+ accredited institution with UGC recognition and a strong presence across science, engineering, management, law, pharmacy and the humanities.

His approach has balanced academic rigour with practical learning, shaping graduates who combine subject expertise with leadership skills, entrepreneurial thinking and a clear sense of ethical responsibility.

In his message to the university community, Dr Agrawal underlines the need for an educational environment that develops the individual as much as the professional. His emphasis is on building confidence, curiosity and resilience alongside technical capability. This philosophy translates into a learning system that goes beyond the classroom, integrating co-curricular engagement to prepare students for the real world.

He said, "Our endeavour is to create an environment that not only imparts knowledge but also shapes character, confidence and a sense of responsibility in our students."

**Leadership, legacy and learning**  
Dr Agrawal's impact extends well beyond the campus. Recognised as both a philanthropist and social reformer, he has helped create significant employment opportunities and driven regional development. His leadership combines strategic vision with practical action, achieving measurable results while maintaining a modest, service-oriented approach. In his own words, "Education is not just about classrooms; it is a catalyst for social and economic transformation in the communities we serve."

Today, as Chancellor, Dr Agrawal guides a growing academic community that incorporates the ideals of innovation, research, entrepreneurship and global outreach.

His leadership helps students grow from learners into confident contributors.

Dr Agrawal's leadership demonstrates how dedication to mission and values can shape an institution—and the futures of thousands of young minds.

Through his vision, he continues to turn the promise of education into a lasting legacy.

**Ashwini Vaishnaw**

Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Information and Broadcasting, and Railways of India

## Make in India Make for the World

Ashwini Vaishnaw's vision for India's electronics sector is a strategic, phased approach to achieve technological self-reliance and become a globally competitive product nation

**A**shwini Vaishnaw has been an influential force in shaping the "Make in India" vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Vaishnaw has long promoted an unequivocal vision involving policies of incentives, developing an ecosystem, and advancement in frontier areas of technology to make "India a true product nation".

India's electronics production has risen nearly sixfold to ₹11.3 lakh crore (approx. \$135 billion USD) over the past decade, with exports growing eightfold. This has resulted in the creation of a whopping 25 lakh jobs, clearly establishing the fact of "real economic growth at the grassroots level" as reiterated by Vaishnaw many a time. The anchor for this growth is the *Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme* for large scale electronics

manufacturing, attracting significant investment of over ₹13,475 crore and boosting domestic production. India is now the world's second-largest mobile manufacturer.

Realising that sustaining competitiveness requires advanced technologies, Vaishnaw is trying to create an entire manufacturing ecosystem. This is achieved through the *Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)*,

which was unveiled in 2025 with a total outlay of ₹22,919 crore. It is designed to deepen the country's value chain of components, sub-modules, raw material, and machinery. It received 249 applications worth ₹1.15 lakh crore of investment and ₹10.34 lakh crore of production value. It is the biggest ever investment commitment in the

Indian electronics industry.

Semiconductors are another important cornerstone of Vaishnaw's list of priorities. The *India Semiconductor Mission*, with an outlay of ₹76,000 crore, has enabled the country to approve 10 semiconductor manufacturing facilities within four years of launching the mission. Four units of semiconductors are now in the pilot production phase.

The Indian design teams are now designing semiconductors with a 2-nanometre chip. This positions the country among the top innovation leaders of technology. The launch of the ARM semiconductor design office in Bengaluru is one such example. He emphasises the social significance of electronics manufacturing. Such factories as the iPhone-manufacturing plant by Foxconn in Bengaluru, where 78% of the total employment is female, show that this industry is greatly changing the face of blue-collar employment.

Looking into the future, Vaishnaw foresees an India that is the "use case capital of the world on AI." Allocated over ₹10,300 crore, it focuses on developing basic AI models and leading compute capabilities and harnessing the strengths of the Indian digital infrastructure, right from UPI to the 5G pan-India network. This marks the beginning of a new era, one where instead of just making products and components for the globe, India is designing and innovating.

Ashwini Vaishnaw emphasises owning intellectual property (IP), fostering a skilled talent pool through collaborations with educational institutions, and developing homegrown solutions like a national mobile operating system. The *India AI Mission*, launched in March 2024 and championed by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, aims to democratise AI by building a secure, indigenous ecosystem.

**Manish Gupta**, President & Managing Director, Dell Technologies India

## Powering the Next Decade of Intelligent Innovation

Dell Technologies trains a laser focus on strengthening India's AI momentum. Manish Gupta, President and Managing Director of the company, writes

India stands at a pivotal moment, poised to harness the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence to drive enterprise innovation and national progress. As AI moves from early exploration to widespread deployment, it presents a remarkable opportunity to create lasting value and strengthen our global competitiveness. Poised to become one of the fastest-growing leaders in AI, India's AI market is expected to reach US\$20–22 billion by 2027, posting a CAGR of 30 percent, as per Deloitte. At Dell Technologies, we believe in the power of technology to help India realize this future, turning ambitious goals into tangible progress for everyone.

### Building India's AI Foundation

A resilient digital infrastructure is the cornerstone of India's AI-powered future. The ₹10,371 crore IndiaAI Mission reflects this national priority, aiming to expand compute capacity, strengthen secure data

platforms, and deploy over 38,000 GPUs to accelerate innovation. Supporting this ambition requires infrastructure that is scalable, modular, secure, and optimized for high-density AI workloads capable of meeting the diverse needs of government, academia, and enterprises while enabling them to innovate locally with confidence.

Our Dell AI Factory with NVIDIA offers a fully integrated solution of high-performance compute and AI-optimized storage, enabling organizations to operationalize AI securely and at scale. Reflecting the need for powerful compute, we are proud to be a leader in server market in India, and this leadership fuels our drive to provide the technology backbone that turns data into intelligence.

### Driving Sovereign AI and Enterprise Growth

AI sovereignty is critical for nations to secure data, align ethics with local

norms, and drive innovation. Dell Technologies champions this mission with secure, scalable AI infrastructure, enabling control over data, models, and ecosystems while meeting regulatory requirements. Collaborating with Zoho Corporation, Dell's AI Factory with NVIDIA powers Zoho's proprietary and agentic AI solutions, including Zia LLM, supporting over 130 million global users across sales, finance, HR, and more. With Dell PowerEdge XE-Series servers, NVIDIA NeMo, and ProSupport for Infrastructure, Zoho delivers high-performance, privacy-first AI aligned with India's data sovereignty goals.

Together, Dell and Zoho are advancing a sovereign, agentic AI ecosystem, positioning India as a global AI leader. This partnership strengthens India's AI ambitions, enabling businesses to streamline workflows, uncover insights, and innovate securely.

### A Legacy of Trust, A Future of Progress

Dell Technologies has long been a trusted partner in India's digital transformation. We have powered mission-critical national systems such as Aadhaar, Passport Seva, and the GST platform, along with the core operations of leading banks and telecom providers. Today, we extend that deep-seated commitment to the AI era.

With the world's broadest end-to-end AI portfolio, we offer integrated solutions that meet the demands of modern AI workloads, from AI-ready PCs at the edge to high-performance servers and storage. Our flexible deployment options and validated integrations empower enterprises and government organizations to scale AI securely and accelerate their time-to-value. We are dedicated to providing the tools and expertise needed to help India build a more intelligent, connected, and prosperous future for all its citizens.



**Gunjan Soni**, Country Managing Director, YouTube

## Shaping India's Digital Storytelling on YouTube

Gunjan Soni leads YouTube India with a vision that blends creators, culture, learning and economic growth

**G**unjan Soni, recently appointed as the Country Managing Director of YouTube India, is all set to usher in a new phase of growth, innovation and creator empowerment for the platform. YouTube, owned by Alphabet Inc., is one of the world's largest and most influential video-sharing platforms and has become an indispensable part of India's digital landscape. Under Soni's leadership, it is poised to expand its reach, impact and opportunities for creators, users and businesses alike.

Soni brings with her a wealth of experience in technology, media and business leadership. She began her professional journey with McKinsey & Company, rising to the position of Partner in the Consumer and Marketing practice, where she helped craft strategies for leading global and Indian businesses. Her expertise blends strategic thinking with technological insight, allowing

her to navigate India's dynamic digital ecosystem with vision and precision.

As EVP at Star India, she worked at the intersection of storytelling and technology, understanding how content can engage audiences on a massive scale.

Her career also includes significant contributions to India's e-commerce and media sectors. At Mynta, Soni helped shape the fashion e-commerce boom, leading marketing and business operations when online shopping was still a new concept for millions of Indians.

Later, as Group CEO at ZALORA, she drove growth by expanding product categories, launching loyalty programmes and pioneering personalisation strategies long before they became industry standards.

Born and educated in India, Soni holds a Computer Science degree from Barkatullah Vishwavidyalaya and an MBA in Finance from XLRI Jamshedpur, giving her a strong foundation in

both technology and business.

Since taking the helm at YouTube India, Soni has emphasised creator empowerment, localised content, digital innovation and championing initiatives that provide creators with tools, training and monetisation opportunities, enabling them to build sustainable careers while producing high-quality, engaging content. By promoting content in regional languages and supporting local creators, Soni is helping YouTube connect with audiences far beyond the major metropolitan cities.

Under her watch, the creator economy is no longer viewed as a fringe digital trend but as a meaningful component of the country's growth story. Crucially, she emphasises that the benefits extend beyond individual creators, flowing into local production teams, studios, editors, technicians and neighbourhood businesses that form the ecosystem around every successful channel. She is also a strong advocate for responsible digital practices, strengthening policies around content moderation, misinformation and user safety.

This people-first understanding of growth — where technology enables aspiration and livelihoods — lies at the heart of Soni's leadership at YouTube India, shaping how the platform engages with creators, communities and the wider economy.

Colleagues and industry observers describe Gunjan Soni as a visionary leader with empathy, combining a deep understanding of technology, culture and human behaviour. She actively engages with creators, startups and thought leaders, inspiring a culture of creativity, learning and innovation across India. Her leadership reflects a commitment to growth, inclusivity and digital empowerment, ensuring that YouTube remains not only a platform but also a transformative space for storytelling, creativity and community building in India.

## Healing Beyond Boundaries

Rajiv Mehta's visionary leadership propels Lilavati Hospital toward global excellence, fusing advanced technologies with the spirit of care and the principles of service and equality



**Rajiv Mehta**

Permanent Trustee, Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre

**N**urturing the 'legacy of trust' instilled by the visionary founders and permanent trustees—the late Kishor Mehta and Charu K Mehta, leadership style combines professional excellence with humility and empathy, values that are the cornerstone of Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre.

Located in the heart of Mumbai, it is an institution synonymous with 'excellence in healthcare'.

Charuben Mehta, Chairperson of the board of trustees, stands as a beacon of inspiration and guiding force for all SEWA (Service Equality for the Welfare of All) initiatives, providing free healthcare services to the poor and underprivileged, including free check-ups, medical camps, and high-end procedures.

Rajiv Mehta's philosophy blends modern medical advancement with a deeply human approach to care, focusing on three core principles: quality, accessibility, and humanity. This philosophy permeates every department, inspiring doctors, nurses, and staff to treat patients as family rather than statistics.

### Cutting-Edge Innovations

From state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment to advanced surgical and critical care units, Rajiv Mehta ensures that the hospital remains at the forefront of innovation. He

has been instrumental in attracting top medical talent, fostering an environment of continuous learning and research. Collaborative programmes and training workshops have become integral to the hospital's culture, encouraging knowledge sharing and medical breakthroughs that benefit patients across India.

Spearheading Mumbai's first 300-bed cancer care hospital, along with the commencement of nursing training collaboration and a partnership with Mayo Clinic for advanced care, he reiterates Lilavati Hospital's continued investment in the latest medical technologies and global best practices.

### Human-Centred Initiatives

Lilavati remains at the forefront of medical progress, integrating tech-led innovations while staying true to the human 'spirit of care'. He has launched several initiatives to make healthcare more inclusive, ensuring that quality treatment reaches the underprivileged. Through charitable programmes and community health drives, Lilavati Hospital offers free OPD with the support of professionals and subsidised care to those who cannot afford it, reaffirming its foundational commitment to social responsibility.

Additionally, Mehta has championed mental health awareness and patient well-being programmes, recognising that true healing involves both body and mind. His initiatives emphasise patient comfort, transparent communication, and family involvement in the care process.

### Heal with Skill

Rajiv Mehta envisions Lilavati Hospital expanding its reach globally through partnerships in medical education, research, and telemedicine. The trustees share a singular goal: to make Lilavati a beacon of Indian healthcare excellence—one that sets global standards while staying rooted in compassion.

Embracing advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence for data-driven precision and machine learning for enhanced diagnostics, he strives to blend the science of innovation with the art of healing. At the core of this vision are the doctors—whom he recognises as the heart of Lilavati—who play a vital role in shaping Lilavati's shared vision for tomorrow.

As Lilavati Hospital continues to grow under his stewardship, Rajiv Mehta's enduring vision remains clear: "to heal with heart, to lead with integrity, and to serve humanity with unwavering dedication."



**Sanjay Nayar**  
President Assocham, Founder & Chairman, Sorin Investment

## Pioneering Growth and Transforming India's Business Landscape

Sanjay Nayar, visionary entrepreneur, drives strategic investments and promotes innovation across India's industries

**H**e is acknowledged as a leader in India's burgeoning business and investment landscape, and his journey exemplifies a rare combination of entrepreneurial insight and commitment to strengthening India's business ecosystem. With a career spanning decades across finance, investment, and industry leadership, he has earned his reputation for strategic thinking, visionary leadership, and facilitating innovation-driven growth. He is Sanjay Nayar, President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Founder and Chairman of Sorin Investment.

As the President of ASSOCHAM, Sanjay Nayar plays a pivotal role in shaping policy advocacy, promoting economic reforms, and representing the interests of Indian businesses both nationally and globally. Under his stewardship, ASSOCHAM has strengthened its voice as a premier chamber, catalysing dialogue between government, industry, and global partners. His leadership ensures that businesses across India are equipped to navigate evolving economic landscapes, while contributing to sustainable growth and development.

In parallel, as Founder and Chairman of Sorin Investment, Sanjay

Nayar has demonstrated remarkable entrepreneurial acumen. He has been instrumental in identifying and nurturing investment opportunities across sectors and enabling businesses to scale effectively, ensuring that investments generate meaningful returns even as they drive positive impact.

Nayar's professional journey is marked by versatility and a keen grasp of both Indian and global markets. Prior to establishing Sorin Investment, he held leadership roles with renowned financial institutions, where he honed core skills in investment strategy, portfolio management, and client engagement. This rich experience has allowed him to bridge the worlds of finance and industry seamlessly, creating value for investors and businesses alike.

Colleagues report how Nayar emphasises transparency, accountability, and collaboration, creating a culture where innovation and professional growth thrive. His ability to anticipate market trends and adapt to evolving business environments has enabled him to lead initiatives that deliver long-term benefits to companies, investors, and the broader economy.

Beyond business, Nayar is a serious and proactive contributor to India's socio-economic development. Through ASSOCHAM, he actively engages in initiatives

that support entrepreneurship, skill development, and sustainable business practices. He has advocated for policies that support inclusive growth, innovation in business, and investment in emerging sectors, helping shape a future-ready economic landscape.

Throughout his career, Sanjay Nayar has received recognition for his leadership, strategic insight, and contributions to industry and investment. His guidance has helped numerous companies navigate complex challenges, embrace fresh opportunities, and achieve excellence. He continues to inspire confidence among investors, entrepreneurs, and policymakers through his informed perspectives and visionary approach.

Looking ahead, Nayar envisions a business environment driven by purposeful innovation, transparency, and sustainable growth. By combining his expertise in finance with his deep understanding of industry and market dynamics, he aims to create opportunities that empower businesses, support investors, and enable communities to flourish together.

As ASSOCHAM President and Founder-Chairman of Sorin Investment, he remains a driving force in India's business and investment landscape, fostering not just growth, but also innovation and prosperity that leaves no one behind.

## Bespoke Luxury Bathware

Ranjeet Oak shares insights into the world of Kohler, making an impact on luxury living through fashion-forward design in bathware

**Q How do you perceive Kohler making an impact on the Indian luxury bathware industry?**

India is one of our strategic global markets, and our long-term vision is to shape the future of luxury bath spaces through strong design leadership, localized innovation, and immersive brand experiences. We aim to bring together international standards of design with solutions that are deeply relevant to Indian lifestyles. This is anchored in our continued investment in local manufacturing to drive scale, speed, and resilience, and in our Kohler Innovation Centre, where global design thinking is seamlessly combined with strong local insights. Equally important to us are experiences and through our Kohler Experience Centres in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore, and Studio Kohler in Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune and Chennai - consumers, architects and designers can engage in an immersive, hands-on environment, bringing our design philosophy to life. With KALLISTA, our ultra-luxury brand, we have set a higher benchmark for craftsmanship and ultra-luxury bath experiences for the most discerning consumers.

**Q Kohler is known for innovations. What are the innovations specifically for the Indian market?**

Innovation drives everything that we do at Kohler and our India Design Studio, a hub of creativity and innovation plays a pivotal role in this, creating products for India as well

as global markets. This year, we introduced new colour such as Teakberry, Honed Lush and Honed Black, all tailored to Indian sensibilities, while Peacock remains our most iconic, culturally resonant shade. On the innovation front, we launched the Radiance Shoulder Shower, designed specifically for women to deliver a shoulder-down immersive experience; water-saving solutions that conserve up to 12,000 litres per bathroom annually; and WaterMind™, which ensures consistent shower performance across varying water pressures. For India's savvy, tech-forward homes, we introduced the Leap Intelligent Toilet which integrates advanced hygiene, touchless flushing and bidet functionality with contemporary design making it ideal for modern Indian bathrooms.

**Q What are your challenges in India's competitive market?**

India's premium bathware market is rapidly growing and highly diverse. With consumer expectations constantly evolving, the real challenge is striking the right balance between global luxury standards and deep local relevance. This means engineering products for Indian water pressure and quality, building a robust ecosystem of trained installers and service professionals, and creating experiential retail formats where consumers can truly experience the Kohler product before purchase.



**Ranjeet Oak**  
President- South Asia, Kohler Co

Today's market is highly competitive, and consumers are increasingly design and value conscious. In this environment, innovation, design expertise, and bold thinking, - areas where Kohler continues to set benchmarks will be even more important than ever.

**Q What role does India play in Kohler's global expansion plans?**

India plays a pivotal role in Kohler's global growth—as both a high-potential consumer market and a hub for design, engineering, manufacturing, and shared services. Our India Design Studio has delivered globally recognised innovations, earning accolades such as Good Design, iF Design and Red Dot Awards across categories. Kohler has also strategically located its Global Shared Services hub in Pune, reinforcing India's role in driving operational excellence and end-to-end service solutions for its worldwide operations. On the manufacturing front, we operate two advanced plants in Jhagadia focused on faucets and vitreous. Today, through our increasing number of Experience Centres and Studios, India is driving innovation and growth for us across the globe.



Guiding the growth trajectory of the Northeast — Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi alongside the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura at the Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025

## Leadership Rewired: Tripura's Reform Renaissance

**"Khung-nai rong, bkwha-nai khumlung."**  
When the journey is right, the destination follows.

Journeys shaped by purpose have a rhythm of their own. In Tripura, that rhythm today is unmistakable, confident, reform-driven, and forward-looking. Once known more for its natural beauty than its economic muscle, the state is now scripting a new chapter of growth, governance, and global relevance. With investment intents crossing INR 33,000 crore in recent years, double-digit growth in State Gross Domestic Product over the last five years, and national recognition as a top reforming state, Tripura is emerging as a quiet but compelling force in India's journey towards a 5 trillion economy.

This transformation has gathered decisive momentum under the leadership of Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha, who assumed office in May 2022. A distinguished maxillofacial surgeon by profession, Dr. Saha brought to governance the precision of a clinician and the

foresight of a reformer. Under his stewardship, Tripura embarked on a structured journey of Reform, Perform and Transform, anchored in the vision of "Ek Tripura, Shreshtha Tripura."

### Building Institutions Before Building Economies

One of the most defining aspects of Tripura's reform story is its emphasis on strong institutional foundations. Recognising that enduring economic transformation requires more than isolated policy decisions, the government established key bodies such as the Good Governance Department, Tripura Institution for Transformation, and the Tripura Urban Planning and Development Authority. These institutions were entrusted with anchoring reform initiatives, ensuring policy continuity, and creating an enabling environment for long-term growth.

Under the guidance of Chief



**"The Government of Tripura has kick-started the process of Reform, Perform and Transform to realise the goal of 'Ek Tripura, Shreshtha Tripura' and Viksit Bharat 2047."**

Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha,  
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha, these institutions collaborated with premier knowledge partners including IIM Kolkata, Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata, AIIMS New Delhi, and National Law University, Agartala. This rigorous, research-driven approach enabled Tripura to craft policies that are progressive, pragmatic, and aligned with national and global best practices.

### Progressive Policies with a Clear Economic Intent

The outcome of this groundwork has been the adoption of a suite of forward-looking policies across sectors critical to Tripura's economic future. Policies on industrial incentivisation, startups, data centres, tourism, affordable housing, transit-oriented development, bamboo, agar, rubber, natural gas, and land leasing have been rolled out with a singular objective, to reduce compliance burden, provide policy certainty, and compensate for geographical constraints through targeted incentives.

These reforms were not merely

aspirational but executable. Time-bound approvals, simplified regulatory frameworks, and a clear emphasis on ease of doing business have fundamentally altered the investment landscape of the state.

### Driving Deregulation with Speed and Coordination

Tripura's reform momentum received national validation when the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of India identified deregulation and reduction of compliance as a national priority across 23 critical areas. A dedicated "Deregulation Cell" was established in the Chief Secretary's Office, while multi-sectoral working groups were formed to dismantle departmental silos and accelerate decision-making.

With strong political will from Chief Minister and proactive administrative leadership, executive and legislative approvals were fast-tracked. Domain experts were engaged to re-engineer processes and integrate national and global best practices. As states competed to implement reforms, Tripura emerged as a top performer, earning recognition at the national level for its reform-driven governance.

### Making Business Easier, Smarter, and Faster

At the operational level, Tripura's reforms have directly addressed long-standing pain points for entrepreneurs and investors.



MoU Signed with IHCL for the development of Taj Pushpabanta Palace at Agartala

**"India has entered a full-fledged 'Reform Express' phase, where changes are happening rapidly and with a clear intent."**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Industrial plots are now accessible through a GIS-enabled land bank, with online applications and assured land-use changes within 14 days. Building permissions, fire licences, and pollution clearances have been simplified through self-certification and third-party inspections, significantly reducing human interface and delays.

Labour reforms have further strengthened Tripura's business ecosystem. Restrictions on women working during late evening and night shifts have been removed, limits on working hours rationalised, and several penal provisions decriminalised, signalling a decisive shift from punitive regulation to facilitative governance.

### From Policy to Prosperity

The impact of these reforms is visible across the state. Since 2022, Tripura has attracted investment proposals worth over INR 33,000 crore, equivalent to its annual budget. Leading



Govt. of Tripura and Patanjali Sign MoU to drive sustainable development across key sectors



Large Investments are being secured in the IT sector

corporates such as Taj Hotels, Airtel, Godrej, and Patanjali have committed investments in the state. Notably, Indian Hotels Company Ltd is investing INR 250 crore in the Taj Pushpabanta Palace Hotel in Agartala, underscoring Tripura's growing prominence on the national investment map.

There has been a visible spurt in real estate activity in Agartala and district headquarters, while governance reforms have led to a more efficient, transparent, and responsive bureaucracy. Tripura's sustained double-digit GSDP growth over the past five years reflects the depth and durability of this transformation.

### Aligned with the National Vision

Tripura's reform journey mirrors the national narrative articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who described India's current phase as a "Reform Express" marked by speed, intent, and scale. Under Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha, Tripura has aligned its development agenda with the larger goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, ensuring that growth is inclusive, sustainable, and future-ready.

Tripura's story today is not just one of economic revival, but of belief. Clearly, belief in institutions, in reform, and in leadership. Under the steady and strategic leadership of Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha, the state is not merely reforming systems. It is redefining its destiny.



**Dr Satyam Roychowdhury**

Founder & Managing Director, Techno India Group  
Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University & Techno India University, Tripura

## Bridging the Knowledge Gap

Edupreneurship, for Dr Satyam Roychowdhury, is more than building institutions, it is about building futures

**A**s an edupreneur, I have lived by these words: "The empowerment of youth is the most potent force in bringing social and economic change." "Education, when planned well, is not only imparting knowledge but is, in fact, shaping and building nations." These ideals have remained constant in all that I have accomplished over these four decades as Founder as well as Managing Director of Techno India Group and as Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University and Techno India University, Tripura.

When I established the Techno India Group in the mid-1980s, my dream was to fill the widening gap that existed between conventional education and changing demands in industry and society. Today, with more than 100,000 students in our schools, colleges, and universities,

that dream is still transforming and changing. The objective was to prepare young minds with industry skills, critical thinking skills, and practical experiences for a global workplace.

At Sister Nivedita University, the gap between industry and academia is always being bridged. Our curriculum is innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-centric. Digitalization of the education sector, inclusive of virtual classrooms, online testing, adoption of AI, IoT, blockchain, ML, and immersive technology, is the need of the hour. These technologies act not as supplements to the learning process, but as facilitators to gear up the students to face the real world.

Research-oriented education is the third and final tenet of our vision. Through our research work, we aim to

generate efficient, ethical, and future-ready professionals by mapping our programmes according to global tendencies in the economy. Our non-academic activities, like our academic ones, are aligned such that our students are ready and prepared for their internships, jobs, and entrepreneurial ventures.

Closing the skill gap is the essence of my philosophy. Education and skill-building have to go alongside each other. Our institutions bring about skill-centric education integrated with practical training, internships, and problem-solving techniques. It increases employability but also encourages entrepreneurship, and young people have to become job makers rather than job seekers.

Innovation in education should also be value-based. As part of my activities and through Satyam Roychowdhury Foundation, I have strived to integrate social responsiveness with economic viability. Such activities, including awarding scholarships to meritorious yet impoverished students and the program Adwitiyam aimed at enhancing the quality of education in various districts of the state of West Bengal, illustrate this effort.

Writing and traveling have further enlarged my horizons, enabling me to think intensely about education, culture, and humanity. Whether through my writings or my work in education, my agenda has always remained the same: I want to build institutions which can empower the youth, innovation, and the purposeful skilled manpower in a more balanced world.

### About the Author

*Satyam Roychowdhury is a successful Indian edupreneur, a prolific writer, a philanthropist, and the first person from India to receive the title of Honorary Academician from the Albertina Academy of Fine Arts in Italy and Chanakya Award for visionary leadership skills. He is committed to spreading quality private education in Bengal.*



**Ravishankar Bhooplapur**

President, Xavier University School of Medicine Aruba

## Changing Paradigms in Medical Education

Ravishankar Bhooplapur addresses the global shortage of health care professionals while honing globally competent individuals who are versatile and perform well under different health settings into, and careers in health care

### RAVISHANKAR BHOOPLAPUR

**T**he global healthcare system is at a critical juncture. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the world will face a shortage of about 11 million healthcare professionals by the year 2030 because of a growing aged population, underfunding in the health sector, professional migration and burnout. To close the current gap, there is a need to invest in the training of at least 5.6 million new professionals.

However, the world is experiencing a paradigm change in medical education led by emerging technologies and changing healthcare delivery systems coupled with rising health complexities. This means that education is now centred on competency-based education, teamwork, digital health solutions and social determinants of health. It requires globally

competent individuals who are versatile and perform well under different health settings.

Worldwide, the need for doctors has increased. According to reports by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the United States alone is projected to be short by as many as 37,800 to 124,000 physicians by the year 2034. This is also occurring in Europe, Canada, Australia, and surprisingly, a similar scenario is seen in veterinary medicine.

Because of these challenges and requirements, aspiring students, especially from India, began looking at international options for their medical education at universities abroad like the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and developing education centres like China and the Philippines.

In India too, the medical landscape is undergoing a dramatic

transformation, using telemedicine, artificial intelligence, and digital health solutions. There are 644 medical recognised colleges with a limited number of seats in government colleges, making entry through highly competitive NEET. The shift towards competency-based medical education increases the competitiveness even further through innovative learning solutions.

Technology has emerged as a major enabler in medical education. Online platforms, simulation learning, virtual reality, customised learning paths, and a focus on communication and empathy skills are changing the face of medical education.

Recognising these realities and challenges, global partnerships and collaborations have become a powerful solution. Xavier University of Medicine, Aruba, and KLE University in Belgaum- India, through their joint and unique collaborative programme offer students a seamless and rewarding pathway to medical education. Students will start their medical studies at KLE University in Belgaum- India, before advancing to basic sciences at Xavier University School of Medicine in Aruba, and finish with clinical rotations at teaching hospitals affiliated with and located throughout the United States. Xavier University of Medicine, Aruba, in collaboration with the Government of Aruba and the United Nations International Organization for Migration, will open a community clinic providing free medical care to local residents.

Such international programs offer meaningful exposure to varied healthcare systems, cultures, and medical practices.

### About the Author

*Ravishankar Bhooplapur is based in New York, he is also known for philanthropy, including founding Gift of Life India, which has provided free heart surgeries to over 6,500 children. Under his leadership, XUSOM has graduated over 1,200 doctors and is recognized as a top Caribbean medical school.*



## Driving Innovation and Access in Indian Healthcare Leadership

Praveen Rao Akkinepally is steering India's healthcare transformation through strategic leadership and a strong focus on patient care

patient groups to improve outcomes for people with chronic and life-threatening illnesses.

One of Akkinepally's chief core priorities has been improving patient access to advanced therapies in a diversified and complex market like India. He has forged partnerships with government agencies, hospitals and academic institutions to strengthen early diagnosis, raise disease awareness and ensure affordability. These efforts align with AstraZeneca's global commitment to science-led innovation and equitable healthcare delivery.

During and after the COVID-19 pandemic, Akkinepally was instrumental in steering the company through unprecedented challenges. AstraZeneca India contributed to national efforts to drive vaccination awareness, build supply chain resilience and ensure continuity of care for non-COVID patients. His leadership during this period highlighted the importance of agility, collaboration and responsibility in the healthcare sector.

Laudably, Akkinepally has succeeded in crafting a strategic vision that looks beyond commercial growth, and championed sustainability and environmental stewardship. AstraZeneca has declared ambitious climate mitigation goals at a global level, and in India, Akkinepally has actively supported initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions, promoting responsible manufacturing and integrating sustainability into business practices and decision-making.

A passionate advocate of people-centric leadership, Akkinepally places deep emphasis on nurturing talent and has stood for diversity and inclusion. He believes that an empowered and inclusive workforce is critical for innovation and long-term success. Under his stewardship, AstraZeneca India has continued to invest in leadership development, employee well-being and sustaining a culture of integrity and transparency.

Akkinepally is also known for his engagement with industry forums and his participation in healthcare dialogues, where he has spoken on the future of biopharmaceutical innovation, digital health, and the evolving role of industry in supporting India's healthcare targets. He has underscored the need for science-based policy, faster clinical research, and stronger collaboration between industry and academia.

At a time when India's healthcare needs are shifting due to an ageing population and a rising burden of non-communicable diseases, Akkinepally's has created an approach to operations that strikes a balance between business excellence and societal responsibility, and establishes that pharmaceutical companies must not only deliver medicines, but also contribute meaningfully to the development of healthier communities. This, coupled with Akkinepally's ethical leadership and a patient-first mindset, continues to shape AstraZeneca India's role in advancing modern healthcare, and simultaneously responding to the country's evolving health challenges.

**A**s the global healthcare sector grapples with new challenges and undergoes rapid transformations, Praveen Rao Akkinepally is leading from the front as the Country President and Managing Director of AstraZeneca India, one of the world's leading biopharmaceutical companies. With a strong focus on innovation, enhanced patient access to healthcare, and sustainable growth, he has played a significant role in strengthening AstraZeneca's presence in the Indian market.

With over two decades of experience across pharmaceuticals and healthcare strategy, Akkinepally brings a nuanced understanding of both global and local healthcare ecosystems to his role. His career reflects a consistent commitment to building high-performing teams, promoting ethical business practices, and aligning commercial success with the demands of public health priorities.

As head of AstraZeneca India, he oversees the company's operations across therapy areas, such as oncology, cardiovascular, renal and metabolic diseases, respiratory care, and rare diseases. Under his leadership, AstraZeneca has continued to expand its portfolio of new-age medicines, and ramped up engagement with healthcare professionals, policymakers and

## The Pinnacle of Sustainable Elegance

Ashish Puravankara shares with the *Outlook*, the organisation's holistic approach to sustainable and superior quality living through balanced use of resources, technology and eco-friendly solutions

### Q How has the vision of Puravankara Group evolved over the past 50 years?

As Puravankara marks 50 years, our vision reflects the evolution of an organisation that has grown with India's changing urban landscape. When the company was founded in 1975, the aspiration was simple: to build quality homes with integrity, transparency and deep respect for the customer. These values laid the foundation for "a culture of trust" that continues to guide us today.

As cities expanded and expectations shifted, our vision matured from constructing buildings to creating communities that offer comfort, belonging and long-term value. The "You Philosophy," which places the customer at the centre of every decision, remains our anchor.

### Q In a rapidly changing real estate market, what strategies has the company adopted to stay competitive?

Competitiveness today requires agility, disciplined governance and a deep understanding of consumer behaviour. Our approach begins with prudent land acquisition and a clear focus on markets with long-term demand fundamentals. We have strengthened internal processes, upgraded project management frameworks and adopted digital platforms that improve transparency and speed.

Customer expectations are

evolving rapidly, and our ability to respond with relevant design, efficient layouts, meaningful amenities and predictable delivery timelines is central to staying ahead. Our commitment to quality, disciplined growth and consistent execution remains the foundation of our competitive strength.

### Q How are you integrating green building practices, innovation and technology in your projects to make them more sustainable?

Sustainability and technology now guide every stage of our development cycle. All new projects are designed to meet recognised green-building standards. Our new projects, Purva Meraki and Purva Zentech in Bengaluru, have received IGBC Gold pre-certification, while Purva Winworth 2 in Kochi has secured IFC EDGE Pre-Certification, reflecting strong gains in resource efficiency.

We are enhancing environmental performance through climate-responsive design, smart metering, BMS systems, solar-powered common areas and advanced water-recycling initiatives. Our BluNex Life platform elevates in-home sustainability with air-quality monitoring, water purification, home automation and smart security features. Our goal is to ensure that every sustainable feature and every technology layer delivers clear, measurable benefits for residents and for the environment.



**Ashish Puravankara**  
Managing Director, Puravankara Group

### Q What are Puravankara's future plans? Which segments or markets are you focusing on?

Puravankara's next chapter is about scaling with purpose and strengthening our presence in India's most important urban centres. We see sustained opportunity in premium and aspirational housing across Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi, Mumbai and Pune. In Mumbai, additionally, we are deepening our presence through redevelopment, enabling us to reimagine established neighbourhoods and deliver modern communities.

Alongside residential, we are building a calibrated commercial and mixed-use portfolio to generate long-term annuity income and complement our core business. Our approach remains disciplined, design-led and capital-efficient, with a clear ambition to shape the next generation of urban living in India.



## Powering Karnataka's Urban Transformation and Inclusive Growth

From a bold infrastructure vision and water security reforms to startup-driven innovation, grassroots politics, and women-centric welfare, the Deputy Chief Minister blends assertive leadership with long-term institutional change

**DK Shivakumar**  
Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka  
Minister for Bengaluru Development  
and Water Resources

**S**pearheading the development of Bengaluru's infrastructure, encompassing extensive mobility and future-ready city development strategies, DK has announced an ambitious investment plan for ₹1 lakh crore. At the heart of this future vision is the country's first city tunnel mobility system, including the development of a 40 km twin tunnel for traffic decongestion. These proposals include significant extension projects for *Namma Metro*, a 41-km double-decker metro line, and a 110-km elevated corridor network. The government has announced the development of a 9,000-acre 'AI City' located at Bidadi in addition to tech cities to establish Bengaluru as a world-class innovation hub.

Road upgrades, pothole repairs, a second airport, an NRI Secretariat, and the "Walk with Bengaluru" citizen outreach initiative further reflect a holistic approach to urban governance.

The Union Minister intends to bring a modern approach to managing apartments by the Karnataka Apartment Bill, 2025, which clearly specifies the responsibilities of residents' welfare associations and

management and sets up a transparent dispute resolution mechanism. Aligning with this, the government has initiated comprehensive reforms relating to property taxes through the *Namibile Nakshe* initiative, which ensures easier approval of sanction plans, and a 100-day initiative to regularise *B-khata* properties, which helps residents to easily process building permits and secure bank loans.

The Startup Policy 2025-2030 targets the incubation of 25,000 startups, which will be largely executed through the domains of deep technology, artificial intelligence, and social entrepreneurship through the use of grants and prizes associated with the Elevate startups programme, among many other initiatives.

As Water Resources Minister, DK Shivakumar has prioritised large-scale irrigation and drinking-water projects to address Karnataka's long-term water needs. Key initiatives include the Yettinahole Drinking Water Project to supply water to drought-prone regions and the Cauvery Phase-V expansion to improve Bengaluru's water security. Alongside water management, he has driven the "Green and Clean Bengaluru" vision, which includes enforcing a plastic ban, fencing and rejuvenating lakes, introducing thousands of electric buses, and implementing a citywide cleanliness

campaign. The Clean Bengaluru drive emphasises scientific garbage disposal and the development of waste-to-energy units to promote sustainability and urban resilience.

Shivakumar believes women are capable of achieving more with support and direction, reaffirming the government's commitment to gender-inclusive policies. Under the *Gruha Lakshmi scheme*, women heads of households receive ₹2,000 a month to strengthen family security. Other women-centric guarantee schemes, like the *Shakti scheme*, provide free bus travel, expanding women's mobility, dignity, and access to work and education. A flagship initiative is introducing a one-day paid menstrual leave each month for women employees, underscoring inclusive workplaces. Shivakumar champions women's leadership, citing 50% reservation in local bodies and committing to implementing 33% Assembly reservation. He supports unified women employees' associations and *Streeshakthi* self-help groups to root current efforts in continuity and long-term impact.

As a master strategist and the Congress Party's organisational backbone, DK Sivakumar's holistic approach focuses on urban infrastructure, water management, technological advancement and women empowerment.

## Building a vision into a 21,000-Employee Global Enterprise

From two employees to a global workforce, from humble beginnings to international ambition, U R Uday Kumar and Amps stand as proof of how vision and persistence can garner success

**A**t just 22 years of age, armed with determination and little else, U R Uday Kumar founded Amps Facilities Management Services in 1999 with two employees and a modest office in Bengaluru. What began as a small corporate services venture has today grown into one of India's most comprehensive facility management companies, employing over 21,000 professionals across India and the UAE and serving more than 500+ clients, including global Fortune 500 leaders such as Microsoft, Google, Toyota, Wells Fargo, AMD, Mercedes-Benz and NVIDIA.

**A Story of Grit and Gumption**  
A first-generation entrepreneur, Uday Kumar did not inherit an empire—he built one from the ground up. Raised in a small village in Mudigere, Chikkamagaluru, where his father worked as an estate writer, opportunities were scarce. From staying in a government hostel to leading a multinational organisation, his journey reflects grit, resilience and an unshakeable belief in learning and discipline.

Today, Amps is often described as the silent backbone of corporate India—ensuring lights never flicker, systems never fail and workplaces run seamlessly. Operating 24x7, 365 days a year, the company delivers integrated facility management, engineering operations, maintenance and soft services,

backed by ISO 9001:2015, ISO 45001, EMS 14001 & US Green building certifications. Its reputation for reliability and zero downtime has made it a preferred partner for critical data centres, manufacturing plants, airports and global offices.

### Environmental Stewardship and Nation Building

Beyond operational excellence, Amps has emerged as a leader in energy conservation and sustainability. Through automation, IoT-based monitoring, CMMS platforms and energy-efficient retrofits, the company has helped clients achieve significant power savings while reducing environmental impact. The use of biodegradable cleaning products, green procurement and sustainable practices reflects a culture where responsibility is rooted in action, not words. The company continuously emphasizes decarbonization through tree plantation initiatives, preservation of local flora and fauna, and sustained environmental conservation efforts.

Uday Kumar's commitment to nation-building extends beyond business. Under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, Amps has played a key role in upgrading the Government ITI College in Chikkamagaluru, earning recognition from the Government of Karnataka and leading to his appointment as Chairman of the ITI College.



**U R Uday Kumar**, Founder & MD  
Amps Facilities Management Services  
Pvt Ltd, INDIA & UAE

Addressing the shortage of skilled manpower Amps actively conducts inclusive job fairs across India, empowering women, rural youth through targeted job opportunities in engineering, O&M, and soft services as part of Diversity, Equality & Inclusion. Our initiatives also include rural training programs and digital learning through the AMPS Learn Lab, bridging gaps and fostering equal access to growth opportunities for all.

### Achievements and Future-Forward Thinking

The company's consistent performance has earned numerous accolades from SAP Labs, Cisco, Microsoft, Britannia, and the prestigious Rashtriya Rattan Award for Uday Kumar's contribution to business and society. In 2025, he was honoured with the "Trusted and Preferred Indian Facility Management Company" Award at the ET Achievers Awards, presented at a grand ceremony in Bengaluru.

Over the years, Amps has diversified into eco-friendly five-star hospitality, coffee and spice plantations, sustainable agriculture and even socially driven cinema. Looking ahead, Uday Kumar envisions expanding Amps' footprint to Singapore and Europe, pursuing an IPO, investing deeper in renewable energy, and creating sustainable rural employment.



**Satya Nadella**, CEO of Microsoft

## Shaping AI For Humanity

Satya Nadella's cloud vision and empathetic leadership transformed Microsoft, making it a global leader in AI

**W**hen Satya Nadella took over as CEO of Microsoft in 2014, the iconic tech giant was struggling under the weight of its own history. Once the most powerful software company in the world, it had grown too large to adapt quickly, too tied to the fading Windows era and too internally competitive to innovate at the speed modern technology demanded. A decade later, the story could not be more different. Today the company stands at the forefront of cloud computing, artificial intelligence, gaming, cybersecurity and enterprise transformation — valued at more than USD 3 trillion. And a significant part of this remarkable turnaround bears the unmistakable imprint of Nadella's leadership.

Born in Hyderabad and trained as an engineer, Nadella's rise from

India to the top of one of the world's most influential companies is often hailed as a tale of intelligence, humility and relentless learning. But those who have worked closely with him point to something deeper: his rare ability to "listen intensely," cut through complexity and take decisive action without unnecessary noise. Nadella brought empathy — an unusual quality in the high-pressure tech world — into the center of corporate decision-making and turned it into a strategic advantage.

One of his boldest and most defining moves was pivoting the company decisively toward cloud computing. At a time when competitors were racing ahead, Nadella pushed Microsoft to rethink its identity, its products and its partnerships. Azure, once an underdog, grew into the fastest-

expanding cloud platform in the world. Under his leadership, the company shed its reputation for insularity, embraced open-source ecosystems and welcomed collaboration rather than rivalry. Nadella reinforced this shift with a now-famous line: "Our industry does not respect tradition — only innovation." Every major transformation under his tenure reflects that philosophy.

In the realm of artificial intelligence, Nadella has emerged as one of the most influential global voices. The company's sweeping partnership with OpenAI placed it at the epicentre of the AI revolution, shaping tools that are redefining productivity, creativity and enterprise systems across the world. Yet even as he pushes the boundaries of innovation, he consistently advocates for responsibility and ethics, reminding the industry that AI must be not only powerful, but beneficial to society.

Beyond strategy and technology, Nadella's leadership carries a deeply human dimension. His worldview has been shaped by personal experiences, including raising a child with disabilities, which infused his leadership with empathy and emotional intelligence. He often speaks of empathy not as a soft skill, but as a catalyst for innovation, inclusion and organisational resilience.

Under Nadella, the company has transformed from a traditional software giant into a culture-led, cloud-first, AI-powered global powerhouse. Quietly but decisively, he has reshaped its purpose and direction. If the 20th century belonged to Gates' Microsoft, Nadella has ensured that the 21st belongs to a reinvented, faster, humbler and unmistakably future-ready version of the company.

## Shaping a Sustainable Energy Ecosystem

IntelliSmart is empowering millions of consumers by laying the foundation of a resilient, intelligent, and inclusive energy future for modern India



**Anil Rawal**, MD & CEO, IntelliSmart Infra

India's vision to become the world's third-largest economy with a \$5 trillion GDP is underpinned by a critical prerequisite: a modern, robust and resilient energy infrastructure capable of powering rapid economic expansion while keeping the planet green. Towards India's journey to Viksit Bharat, IntelliSmart Infrastructure is a key enabler, leading the digital transformation of the energy sector and empowering the lives of millions of grassroots consumers. Through large-scale deployment of smart meters, the company is not merely modernizing electricity distribution; it is building the backbone of an intelligent energy system leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as AI/ML, Big Data, analytics and Blockchain that a multi-trillion-dollar economy demands.

India's energy future is built on three pillars: the 3Ds of Democratization, Digitalization and Decarbonization. IntelliSmart is enabling all three: democratizing energy by empowering consumers while strengthening grid resilience, digitalizing infrastructure through AI-driven grid intelligence and facilitating decarbonization by seamlessly integrating renewable energy into the grid.

Smart metering is the backbone of grid digitalisation, RE and DER

integration. As intermittent distributed energy resources grow, DISCOMs face unprecedented challenges that demand digitalization at both consumer and distribution network levels. Smart metering is the foundational step toward grid digitalization. DERs create voltage fluctuations and supply variability that threaten grid stability, requiring careful network planning at the distribution transformer level to enable bidirectional power flow. This involves rigorous assessment of transformer capacity, detailed load profile analysis and identification of high-DER penetration areas to ensure seamless energy exchange between DERs and the grid. IntelliSmart is leading this transformation with an order book of over 22 million smart meters and 5.6 million already deployed across states.

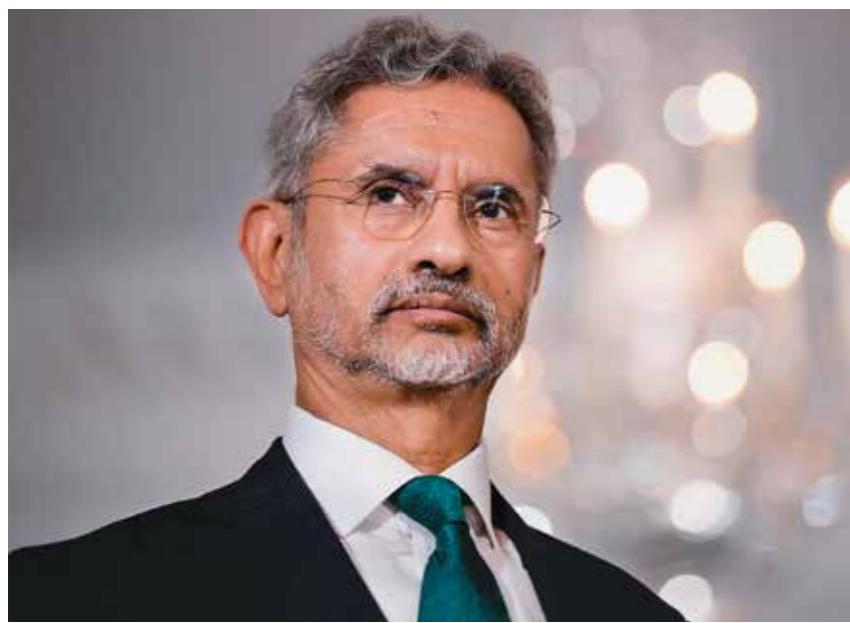
Consumers have a voice in the grid. The most defining shift of this digital transformation in the power sector is that, for the first time, consumers have a real voice in the grid. Smart meters empower consumers with transparency, control over consumption and the ability to participate actively in energy management through time-based tariffs and Demand Response programs.

Skilling India's energy workforce. Economic growth is not built on technology alone; it requires a skilled

workforce to operate it. IntelliSmart is providing highly advanced, job-ready training programs for the rapidly evolving energy sector, accessible to anyone, anywhere in India without any fee.

The company has established India's only Centre of Excellence for Smart Metering, offering highly specialized, mission-critical training in complex smart grid technologies. For the first time, training in modern energy systems requiring both technical mastery and rigorous safety protocols is available free nationwide. Through its Student Training in Electrician Program (STEP), IntelliSmart is training 10,000 ITI students over three years, creating a pipeline of high skilled job ready talent. Under SafeLine program, IntelliSmart trains DISCOM linemen in advanced safety protocols, ensuring that the frontline workers of the sector remain protected while performing their duties, reflecting the company's non-negotiable safety-first culture.

As India charts its course toward a \$5 trillion economy, IntelliSmart is building the essential digital infrastructure that will power this economic transformation. By fundamentally transforming how the nation distributes and consumes energy, IntelliSmart is architecting India's intelligent energy future and enabling the nation's economic ascent.



Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, GOI

## Simple Solutions to Complicated Problems

Dr S Jayashankar emphasises the impact of conflicts on developing nations and the need of a multipolar approach to international relations, moving beyond western dominance

**D**r S Jaishankar has been the Minister of External Affairs of India since May 30th, 2019. He is a Member of the Upper House (Rajya Sabha) of India's Parliament from the state of Gujarat. He has garnered attention for his witty replies and oratory skills. He advocates for more robust and collaborative diplomacy in the face of global conflicts.

Jaishankar's tenure in 2019 as India's EAM came amid massive uncertainties owing to global turbulence and conflicts. His tenure saw episodes like the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Israel-Hamas war, and the Covid pandemic, all of which left a strong impact on not just the Indian economy but also that of the whole

world. He highlighted the shift towards negotiation in the Russia-Ukraine war and India's role in facilitating communication.

However, despite pressure from the West, India has not refrained from purchasing Russian oil below the price cap. In the Israel-Hamas war, India strongly condemned the October 7

**AS EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, JAISHANKAR HAS CRAFTED THE ASSERTIVE AND AGGRESSIVE FOREIGN POLICY. HE CLOSELY MAINTAINED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA EVEN AFTER THE DOKLAM STANDOFF**

terror attack but has also continued with its weight behind the 'two-state solution' to the long-running Israel-Palestine conflict. India also sent humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza as part of its commitment.

As External Affairs Minister, Jaishankar has crafted the assertive and aggressive foreign policy. He closely maintained the relationship between India and China even after the Doklam Standoff.

He served as India's Foreign Secretary from January 2015 to January 2018, where he played a key role in negotiating the India-U.S. civilian nuclear agreement. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1977 and held key roles during his career, including stints as High Commissioner to Singapore and as Ambassador to China and the U.S. Jaishankar was India's longest-serving ambassador to China, with a four-and-a-half-year term. In Beijing, Jaishankar was involved in improving economic, trade, and cultural relations between China and India and in managing the Sino-Indian border dispute. He has also served in other diplomatic assignments in embassies in Moscow, Colombo, Budapest, and Tokyo, as well as in the Ministry of External Affairs and the President's Secretariat. His professional experience as a diplomat gives him a detailed perspective into geopolitics, and his leadership quality and acumen are a combined skill for his success.

Dr S Jaishankar is a graduate of St. Stephen's College at the University of Delhi. He has a Masters in Political Science and an MPhil and PhD in international relations from JNU, Delhi. He is a recipient of the Padma Shri award in 2019 and has written widely acclaimed best-selling books: *The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World*, which was published in 2020, and *Why Bharat Matters*, which was published in 2024.

## Life-Changing Therapies for Unmet Healthcare Needs

Sharvil Patel, spearheading one of the leading global healthcare providers and the 4th largest life sciences company in India

Dr Sharvil Patel  
Managing Director, Zydus Lifesciences Limited

**Q How do you balance a legacy enterprise with a futuristic approach in a highly competitive global pharma landscape?**

Education has always been central to our family values, especially the belief that one must be thoroughly trained in their chosen profession. My grandfather embodied this by becoming a pharmacist—first as an academician and then as an entrepreneur. My father followed a similar path, earning a Master's degree in pharmacy. They inspired me to follow the same discipline, as our organisation had been steadily moving toward a research-led future—a vision first articulated in the 1950s.

Our 1995 vision was equally forward-looking. We aspired to become a research-based pharmaceutical organisation by 2020—a bold and unconventional goal at the time. Leadership to me is an exercise in foresight, patience, and purpose, enabling us to balance the strengths of a legacy enterprise with the demands of a future-focused, competitive global landscape.

**Q What guiding philosophy drives your approach to research and innovation, and how do you prioritise?**

Our research is guided by one principle: making a meaningful contribution to patients in India

and globally. Innovation, for us, addresses unmet healthcare needs. We focus on complex, hard-to-develop areas such as biologics, vaccines, and novel therapies, where impact can be transformative. This philosophy led to first-in-class innovations like Saroglitazar for NASH and India's first indigenously developed DNA-based COVID-19 vaccine.

We are also developing therapies for ALS, Parkinson's disease, fibrosis, and Primary Biliary Cholangitis, and have launched treatments for rare and orphan diseases such as progeria and MoCD Type A. Prioritisation is guided by where our scientific capabilities, long-term commitment, and sense of purpose intersect, allowing our teams to innovate with intent, depth, and resilience.

**Q How are you bridging healthcare access gaps in underserved communities?**

Our CSR initiatives follow five pillars: Swasthya, Shiksha, Shodh, Saath, and Saksham. Swasthya focuses on transforming healthcare by providing quality medical services and promoting medical education. The Zydus Foundation runs the 1,034-bed Zydus Hospital and Medical College in Dahod, offering all services free of cost and treating

over 4 lakh outpatients annually.

Students from the medical college adopt local families, visiting homes to guide them on health and well-being. Sickle cell disease, a major challenge in the region, is addressed through nutritional support and education. This outreach has increased awareness, encouraged hospital visits, and reduced mortality.

**Q As President of IPA, what is your opinion on the role of Indian companies in shaping global healthcare solutions?**

India must focus on three priorities to maintain its global leadership: quality, access, and innovation. Continuous quality improvement ensures regulatory compliance in India and worldwide. Through a balanced approach to intellectual property to safeguard generics supply, Indian pharmaceutical companies improve global access to affordable, high-quality medicines, lowering healthcare costs.

Developing a robust discovery-led innovation ecosystem is critical, and the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance plays a central role in shaping this balance. By prioritising quality, access, and innovation, Indian companies can continue to lead in pharmaceuticals, benefiting the nation and patients worldwide.



**Resul Pookutty**, Indian sound designer

## Transforming Cinema Through Soundcraft

From a Kerala village to Hollywood's global stage, Resul Pookutty reshaped Indian cinematic sound

**R**esul Pookutty, one of India's most acclaimed sound designers and most recognisable figures in global sound engineering, has spent more than two decades expanding the creative and technical vocabulary of Indian cinema. Best known internationally for winning the Academy Award for Best Sound Mixing for *Slumdog Millionaire* (2009), Pookutty's journey from a remote village in Kerala to Hollywood's most prestigious stage has become emblematic of how talent, persistence and discipline can transcend structural constraints.

Born in Vilakkupara village in Kollam district, Pookutty's early years were shaped by economic hardship and limited access to education. Yet it was precisely this environment that honed his sensitivity to the textures of everyday sound — the murmur of forests, the rhythm of labour, the cadence of rural life. After graduating from the Film and

Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, he entered the industry at a time when sound design was still considered peripheral to cinematic craft. Over the years, he would become one of the foremost voices advocating for sound as an equal narrative pillar, not merely a technical appendage.

His work on *Slumdog Millionaire* placed Indian sound artistry on the world map, bringing global attention to the possibilities of location sound in Indian environments. But the Oscar was only one landmark in a long career defined by experimentation. Pookutty has collaborated with a wide range of filmmakers — from Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Rajkumar Hirani to Shankar and James Cameron — consistently pushing the boundaries of what Indian sound design can achieve. Films like *Black*, *Ghajini*, *Enthiran*, *Delhi-6* and *2.0* bear the imprint of his approach: immersive atmospheres, precision layering and emotional resonance.

A committed advocate for industry reform, Pookutty has often highlighted the structural challenges faced by sound professionals in India — fragmented workflows, inadequate budgets, limited institutional support and the persistent undervaluation of artistic labour. As a former Governing Council member of FTII and a vocal participant in cultural policy discussions, he has argued for better training, equitable work environments and recognition of sound as central to storytelling.

Despite his international visibility, Pookutty has remained rooted in regional and independent cinema. His work across Malayalam, Hindi, Tamil and international productions demonstrates his belief that sound must serve the integrity of the story rather than the scale of the film. Outside cinema, he has engaged with documentary, theatre and installation projects, widening the scope of sound as an artistic medium.

In recent years, Pookutty has spoken about the need for Indian cinema to embrace cutting-edge technologies while preserving indigenous sonic traditions. For him, the shift to immersive formats such as Dolby Atmos must coexist with the everyday music of Indian landscapes. The Oscar, he often notes, was not merely a personal milestone but a moment that signaled India's arrival as a serious contributor to the global sound ecosystem.

As Indian cinema continues to evolve—from OTT-led storytelling to large-scale global co-productions—Resul Pookutty's work stands as both inspiration and blueprint. His career has demonstrated that sound, when crafted with intention and artistry, can shape the emotional architecture of a film as profoundly as any image. In doing so, he has helped redefine how Indian cinema listens to itself — and how the world listens to India.

## Building the Future of Intelligent Security

A domain specialist, Anand V Bhat, CMD BNB Group speaks of his pivotal role in shaping India's intelligent security and automation landscape in conversation with Aditi Chakraborty.

**Q** How would you describe the journey of BNB Security & Automation Solutions?

Beginning of my career in 1988, the security and automation industry in India was largely fragmented and awareness was very limited. Despite a large shift in the 90's, state-of-the-art products were still beyond reach. Having spent initial 4 years in R&D and then about 18 years on the business front, I frequently came across customers expressing their challenges. My vision was to create an organisation that could deliver integrated solutions to address these difficulties. I always believed that safety, automation, and efficiency should work together seamlessly, and that belief became the foundation of BNB.

The company evolved into India's leading ELV system integrator, delivering end-to-end solutions across critical sectors such as IT & ITES, manufacturing, government, and commercial infrastructure. Today, with a combined strength of more than 900 trained workforce, we have completed over 200 projects. We have expanded our operations overseas to include Singapore, Malaysia and the UAE.

Growth has come with a clear focus on quality, consistency, and people. We invested early in building strong technical capabilities, robust processes, and long-term partnerships. At the same time, we stayed close to our customers' evolving needs and,

most importantly, became a trusted partner.

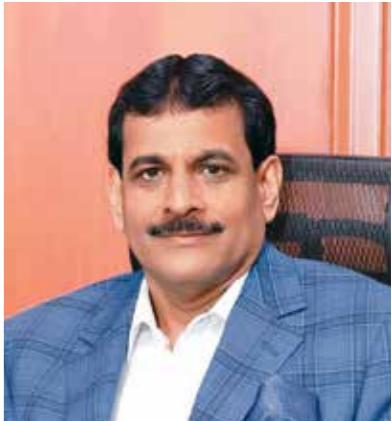
**Q** How has technology influenced BNB's evolution?

Technology has been a key enabler. We have embraced AI-enabled solutions, IoT-based automation, GSOCS, and predictive maintenance models to deliver smarter and more reliable solutions, positioning BNB at the forefront of next-generation infrastructure solutions. Our focus has always been on practical application to solve real operational challenges; that has earned BNB recognition and appreciation from global and Indian enterprises.

We emphasize quality, innovation, and operational discipline, which has enabled us to scale rapidly while maintaining high compliance standards, industry certifications, and long-term client relationships.

**Q** What led to the launch of BNB Workplace?

BNB Workplace was a natural extension of our journey. As organisations rethink how workplaces are designed and operated, there is a growing need for integrated solutions for office comfort. Specialising in curated office furniture, and collaborative spaces, BNB Workplace is an authorised dealer for Steelcase, a US-based office furniture brand. This allows us to contribute to creating customised future-ready



**Anand V Bhat**  
Founder, Chairman and Managing Director BNB group

work environments that are technology driven. This strategic diversification strengthens BNB Group's ability to deliver holistic infrastructure experiences that combine technology, safety, functionality, and sustainability.

**Q** How does BNB ensure environmental responsibility and sustainability?

BNB takes responsibility for environmental solutions through a strong Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) framework and a commitment to sustainable innovation. We have established clear EHS standards by aligning our policies with client requirements, embedding them into contracts, and delivering comprehensive on-site and off-site training. Safety performance is reinforced through continuous vigilance, motivation, and accountability. With experience in LEED-certified projects, BNB integrates ESG and sustainability principles into smart building solutions. By leveraging AI analytics, IoT efficiency, and carbon-neutral technologies, we deliver secure, intelligent, and future-ready infrastructure that benefits businesses, communities, and the environment.



**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

**N**aveen 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.



**Madhukar Gangadi**, Founder & CEO, MedPlus

## A Mission to Democratise Healthcare

Dr Madhukar Gangadi, MD and CEO of MedPlus, reflects on building India's trusted pharmacy chain and making quality medicines affordable for all. An *Outlook* Interview

contract manufacturing and sell them directly to customers. We evolved from selling only other companies' drugs to making our own drugs. Given that 95% of medicines sold in the country are products for which the patents have long expired, it was easy for us to create a full assortment. Selling directly without intermediaries allows us to sell at a discount of 50-80% compared to the market prices.

**Q As both a doctor and entrepreneur, how do you balance profitability with affordability and ethics?**  
It's never been about striking a balance. As long as you create value for customers, profitability follows naturally. Our scale allows us to purchase directly from manufacturers at unmatched prices and pass those savings to customers. We've never believed in doing business at the customer's expense.

**Q**

**How has your focus evolved since founding MedPlus?**

We started MedPlus with the primary goal of making genuine medicines available at the best possible prices. As we continued to scale and as our stores went beyond the first 500 stores, we realized that there was an opportunity to make drugs through

villages are becoming towns, and towns are becoming cities. People are earning more and their health aspirations have grown accordingly. Our expansion into smaller cities serves dual purposes: maximising our footprint and elevating our supply chain, while ensuring everyone has access to genuine medicines at fair prices. We operate stores in villages with populations as low as 5,000, and we're witnessing increased awareness around lifestyle diseases. People aren't just treating acute conditions anymore; they're managing diseases like diabetes, thyroid and hypertension proactively.

**Q What role does MedPlus play in India's journey toward a \$5 trillion economy?**

We want universal medicine access nationwide. We've entered diagnostics, offering up to 80% discounts in cities like Hyderabad. Through telemedicine, we are working towards bringing qualified doctors to small towns, providing proper prescriptions, medications, and creating overall healthcare awareness.



**Ajaypal Singh Banga**  
World Bank President

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

#### BANGA'S FORESIGHT INTO INDIA'S ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE UNDERSCORES THE CRITICAL ROLE THAT DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION PLAYS IN SHIELDING THE NATION FROM EXTERNAL ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS

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

## 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

## Balancing Tradition with Modern Science

Anurag Agarwal, driving the veterinary healthcare industry with passion, determination and a futuristic view

**Q How have you balanced traditional Ayurvedic knowledge with modern scientific validation to build global credibility in animal healthcare?**

At Natural Remedies, we have successfully balanced the rich heritage of Ayurvedic knowledge with modern scientific validation to establish global credibility in both animal and human healthcare.

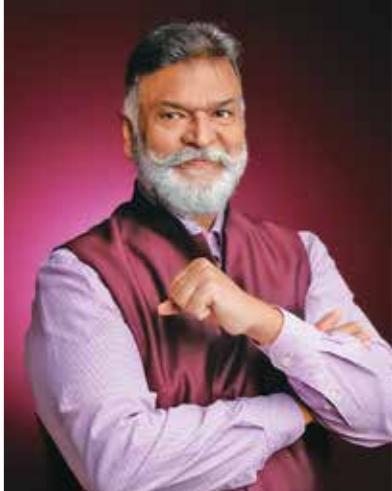
Ayurveda, India's ancient science, was developed using the best methods and insights available at the time. Today, rather than relying solely on tradition, we actively integrate modern scientific tools to validate this knowledge. Our formulations undergo rigorous scientific validation, including clinical trials at leading global universities. We employ internationally recognised methodologies such as HPLC analysis, active substance identification, mechanism-of-action studies, genomics, transcriptomics using microarray technology, metabolomics using LCMS technology, and other advanced analytical tools. By translating Ayurvedic wisdom into the language of modern science, rather than expecting global stakeholders to accept it solely based on its 5,000-year history, we have earned widespread trust. This approach positions Natural Remedies as a sincere institution bridging ancient knowledge with contemporary scientific standards, building credibility and acceptance across over 45 countries.

**Q How does this people-centric approach translate into long-term business success?**

Happiness and well-being are central to our organisation. We have learnt that workplace happiness grows when employees feel genuinely cared for, experience authenticity, and trust that commitments are honoured. We emphasise emotional intelligence, mental wellness, and positive interactions alongside professional excellence. Our unique framework, built around vision, values, and life skills and aligned with global benchmarks, has earned certifications such as Great Place

Scaling Natural Remedies from a niche herbal enterprise into a world-class, R&D-driven global phytogenic leader has come with unique challenges. Our leaders have grown by continuously experimenting, learning, and applying practices best suited to our industry. What remained uniquely Indian was our unwavering commitment to ethics and values, always seeking win-win outcomes. Our authenticity and consistency helped build strong trust, inviting meaningful guidance and support that accelerated our growth. We have developed patented Natural Remedies standardised botanical powders (NR-SBP), creating industry standards. We have not only set standards for ourselves but have helped in contributing scientific materials for major pharmacopoeias such as the British, US, and Indian Pharmacopoeia, reflecting nearly 70 years of scientific expertise.

**Q What were the challenges you faced while scaling Natural Remedies from a niche herbal enterprise into a world-class R&D driven global company?**



**Anurag Agarwal**  
MD, Natural Remedies

to Work and Happiest Place to Work. Through Individual Capability Development Plans and learning platforms like LinkedIn Learning, employees actively shape their growth, fostering innovation, productivity, and long-term business success.

**Q How do you see natural and herbal solutions shaping the future of animal nutrition, healthcare and the environment?**

Globally, awareness is growing about the long-term side effects of chemical-based products. While synthetic drugs remain critical for acute medical needs, people increasingly prefer natural solutions for maintaining health. We develop phytogenic solutions responsibly, combining traditional wisdom with modern science. Sustainability is central to us; we cultivate herbs across 1,500+ acres using chemical-free, natural farming methods, guide farmers from sowing to harvest, and follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Aligning with ESG principles, we are addressing environmental issues. Guided by insights from partners like PwC, over 50% of our energy is now generated from renewable sources.



**Tarun Garg**, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Limited

## Driving Hyundai India into a New Era of Leadership

Tarun Garg, India's first homegrown MD and CEO, Designate of Hyundai, combines vision, expertise, and innovation to transform the automotive landscape

**A**utomotive sector veteran Tarun Garg has made history. As the first Indian Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL), he has been at the helm of steering one of the country's most prominent automobile companies since October 2025. His appointment represents both a recognition of his personal achievements and Hyundai's confidence in homegrown leadership to guide its operations in a rapidly evolving market.

Garg has brought with him over three decades of rich and varied experience in the Indian automotive sector. A mechanical engineer from Delhi Technological University who went on to get his MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, he found himself in his element right at the start of his career in the early 1990s with

Maruti Suzuki India, as he bridged gaps between engineering innovation and business strategy. He stayed with the auto maker for over two decades, working across functions, including sales, marketing, operations, and dealer networks. Over the years, he wore many hats—Regional Sales Manager, National Sales Head, and Executive Director of Marketing. The skills and knowledge he picked up at these roles continue to inform his work today—a comprehensive understanding of customer preferences, supply chain management, and market dynamics.

Garg's move to Hyundai Motor India in 2019 was as Director of Sales, Marketing, and Service. Quickly distinguished as a visionary leader capable of translating strategy into results, a major promotion came through by 2023, when he became Chief Operating

Officer, overseeing the company's operations end-to-end, from manufacturing and logistics to retail networks and customer engagement. Under his guidance, Hyundai India achieved record sales and profits, strengthened its market share, and set new benchmarks in operational efficiency.

Greater triumphs were to come. When Hyundai India went public in 2024, Garg played a meaty part in ensuring that the Initial Public Offering (IPO) was one of the largest in India's corporate history. His leadership during this period was the final affirmation of his ability to navigate complex strategic projects of mammoth proportions, while maintaining operational stability and market confidence.

He has built a thoroughly well-deserved reputation for prioritising strategic thinking without compromising on operational stability and excellence, and for running a ship that brings global product standards to a market where demands are often localised. Expectations are already running high around his contributions to Hyundai's future growth areas—electric mobility, sustainable manufacturing, and digital transformation—and the implementation of a strategic vision with the twin thrusts of expanding Hyundai's footprint in India and positioning the company as a global leader in innovation, quality, and superlative customer experience.

Predictably, Garg's leadership style is people-centric, collaborative, and pivoted on empowering teams, nurturing talent, and encouraging creative problem-solving. His approach has strengthened employee engagement, improved customer satisfaction, and fostered a culture of accountability and excellence within Hyundai India. As he propels the company into new territories, stakeholders look ahead with confidence to the future.

## Redefining Urban Living with Global Vision

Pankaj Bansal shaping urban growth in India through M3M India and strategic investments

**P**ankaj Bansal represents a new generation of Indian business leaders who combine sharp commercial acumen with a deep understanding of evolving consumer aspirations. An MBA from NMIMS, Mumbai, holding an EMP from Harvard Business School, he features among the youngest and most forward-looking leaders in India's real estate sector. He has played a pivotal role in M3M India's rapid ascent and its contribution to transforming Gurugram into a globally relevant urban destination. His vision aligns closely with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's emphasis on infrastructure-led growth as a foundation for a modern, self-reliant, and globally competitive India.

Under his leadership, M3M India has developed an impressive portfolio of over 63 projects that have reshaped Gurugram's skyline. From landmark luxury residential developments such as M3M Golfestate to globally branded residences including Trump Towers and the upcoming Jacob & Co. Residences, Pankaj has consistently pushed the boundaries of design, scale, and execution. A defining milestone of this journey is Gurgaon International City (GIC), the largest integrated city in Gurugram, envisioned as a self-sustained, future-ready urban ecosystem rather than a standalone development.

Pankaj views developments as



**Pankaj Bansal**, Promoter, M3M India; Trustee, M3M Foundation

Pankaj has guided M3M's growth with a strong customer-first and future-focused mindset. This philosophy led to the launch of SmartWorld Developers, a next-generation real estate venture created to redefine industry benchmarks through contemporary design, advanced technology, faster delivery timelines, and an enhanced customer experience. Under his stewardship, the group has expanded beyond Delhi-NCR into emerging markets while maintaining a reputation for disciplined execution, quality, and transparency.

Actively involved from concept to completion, Pankaj plays a key role in corporate strategy, go-to-market planning, and project execution. His innovative approach to branding, marketing, and communication has helped M3M India gain strong recognition across national and international platforms. His leadership has been acknowledged through several prestigious honours, including Times 40 Under 40, CXO of the Year at the Realty+ Conclave & Excellence Awards, Most Promising Business Leaders of Asia by The Economic Times, and the "Breakthrough Growth Champion of the Year" Award by Hurun India in 2025.

Pankaj views developments as

living ecosystems where people live, work, and connect. This philosophy has driven M3M's evolution into a lifestyle-led, globally benchmarked organisation aligned with India's long-term priorities of infrastructure creation, employment generation, and sustainable urban growth. To date, M3M has delivered over 20 million square feet across luxury residential, commercial, retail, and integrated developments, with more than 40 projects completed and several marquee projects underway.

His global outlook is shaped by extensive international exposure and strategic engagement. He has travelled widely to study global best practices and has been part of official delegations with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Japan & Russia and with the Hon'ble Former President Shri Pranab Mukherjee to China, Finland, and Norway. Beyond business, he serves as a trustee of the M3M Foundation, supporting initiatives in healthcare, education, and socio-economic development. As India advances toward its \$5 trillion economic ambition, Pankaj Bansal continues to contribute to the globally aligned and future-ready vision for India's next phase of development.



**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

**B**orn 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.

## Celebrating Human-Centric Leadership

Akhil Mehrotra, leading India's energy transition with purpose and precision for a sustainable tomorrow

**A**s India accelerates toward becoming one of the world's fastest-growing economies, the need for resilient, future-ready energy infrastructure is imperative. Akhil Mehrotra, a seasoned leader in India's energy sector, combines operational excellence with a deeply human-centric leadership philosophy.

### Steward of a National Energy Lifeline

Akhil Mehrotra leads India's critical East-to-West natural gas transportation pipeline—an asset of national importance that carries nearly 30% of the country's domestic natural gas production. With over two decades of experience in the energy sector, he has consistently championed natural gas as a cleaner, transitional fuel essential to India's energy mix. Beyond operations into policy, he has contributed to regulatory frameworks in collaboration with the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). Thereby, shaping an ecosystem that balances growth, affordability, and sustainability.

### Transforming PIL Through People-Centric Leadership

Since assuming leadership of Pipeline Infrastructure Limited (PIL) in 2019, Mehrotra has overseen a significant transformation of the organisation. At the heart of this journey lies a firm belief: sustainable business success begins with

employee well-being. Under his stewardship, PIL has built a culture rooted in care, inclusion, and mutual respect—extending to both on-roll and off-roll employees. This philosophy has fostered high engagement, trust, and ownership across the organisation, reinforcing the idea that when people feel valued, they create stronger, more resilient businesses.

### Performance, Safety, and Operational Excellence

The outcomes of this leadership approach are evident. Over six years, PIL has recorded exceptional growth, with gas transportation volumes rising at a compound annual growth rate of nearly 30%. Pipeline utilisation has tripled, and the company has successfully secured tariff revisions from the regulator—strengthening its financial position. In an industry where safety is non-negotiable, Mehrotra has maintained an uncompromising focus on operational integrity, ensuring zero major safety incidents across PIL's 1,500-kilometre pipeline network spanning the country.

### Embracing Digital and Sustainable Futures

A defining feature of Mehrotra's tenure has been PIL's shift toward a digitally enabled operating model. The company now runs advanced control rooms equipped with modern SCADA systems, real-time analytics, and integrated digital applications. Field teams use



**Akhil Mehrotra**  
Managing Director, Pipeline Infrastructure Limited

handheld digital devices, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and decision-making. PIL is progressing toward building a digital twin of its operations, enabling predictive maintenance and proactive asset management.

Sustainability remains equally central. PIL enforces stringent methane leakage controls, integrates solar power where feasible, and undertakes water conservation initiatives. Through focused CSR programmes, the company supports education and healthcare infrastructure in rural communities, strengthening its social licence to operate.

### Leadership Recognised, Vision Renewed

Akhil Mehrotra's contributions have been recognised nationally, including the prestigious "India's Impactful Infra Leader" award by ET Edge and Times Now. Looking ahead, he remains focused on scaling PIL's efficiency, profitability, and impact over the next three to four years—while staying true to its core values of safety, employee well-being, and sustainable value creation. His leadership exemplifies a modern ethos: infrastructure is not just about assets and numbers but about people, purpose, and progress.



**Poonam Gupta**, Dy Governor, RBI

## Driving Innovation and Stability in India's Banking Sector

With extensive expertise in finance, Poonam Gupta plays a pivotal role shaping the country's banking policies

**P**oonam Gupta is a distinguished economist who currently serves as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), one of the most influential governmental financial institutions in the country. Known for her expertise in banking, finance and economic policy, Gupta, who is also the in-charge of the Monetary Policy Committee and the first woman to hold the position in over a decade, brings extensive experience in public administration and policy-making to her role, contributing significantly to India's financial stability and growth.

Before her appointment to the RBI, Gupta served as the director general of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), India's largest economic policy think tank. She has served as the Lead Economist for Global Macro and Market Research at the International Finance Corporation, as professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

and the Delhi School of Economics and as a researcher at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Currently, Gupta is a member of the Advisory Council of the 16th Finance Commission.

Over the years, she has gained recognition for her analytical skills, strategic thinking and ability to implement reforms that strengthen financial systems. Her work has spanned financial regulation, banking supervision, economic development and institutional governance.

In her role at the RBI, Gupta is responsible for overseeing multiple critical departments, including banking regulation, financial markets and macroprudential supervision. Her work ensures that the country's banking system remains resilient and that financial policies align with the broader goals of economic growth and consumer protection. She plays a key role in shaping regulations for commercial banks, cooperative banks and non-banking financial

companies, helping maintain public confidence in the financial sector.

Gupta has also been actively involved in initiatives to promote digital banking and financial inclusion. She supports programmes that aim to extend banking services to rural and underserved areas, enabling more citizens to access loans, savings accounts and insurance products. Her efforts in this area are aligned with the government's broader agenda of improving financial literacy and inclusion across India.

A strong advocate of data-driven policy-making, Gupta emphasises the importance of research and evidence in formulating financial regulations. Her approach balances innovation with prudence, encouraging the adoption of modern technologies in banking while protecting consumers from systemic risks.

During her tenure, Gupta has championed improvements in corporate governance, risk management and operational efficiency across banks.

Her stint at the RBI is also marked by efforts to strengthen risk management frameworks, improve corporate governance in banks and streamline operational efficiency. She advocates for collaboration between regulators, financial institutions and stakeholders to create a robust, transparent, resilient and accountable financial ecosystem.

Outside her official responsibilities, Gupta is known for her mentorship and guidance to young professionals in the public and banking sectors. She encourages continuous learning, ethical practices and responsible leadership among the next generation of civil servants and financial experts.

Gupta's journey reflects her commitment to public service and her determination to enhance the efficiency, stability and inclusiveness of India's financial system.

## Rural Roots to Global Technology Vanguard

A visionary architect of India's digital future, Dr Durga Prakash Devarakonda, proving that when talent meets purpose, the impact can be truly global

**D**r Durga Prakash (DP) Devarakonda stands tall as a testament to a modern Indian success story: an inspiring journey from humble beginnings to global impact and personal excellence with national purpose. Born in rural Andhra Pradesh, his meteoric rise to advising Fortune 50 boards worldwide reflects his astute vision and steadfast belief in the transformative power of people and technology.

When India's digital ecosystem was still emerging, Dr DP made history as the youngest Indian to complete all Microsoft certifications at only twenty-one! The milestone earned him an award of appreciation from Bill Gates, placing him among a rare cohort of early global technology pioneers. It was a defining moment that foreshadowed a career built on first principles, speed, and scale.

Soon after, he moved to Europe to work on JD Edwards ERP development at Munich Re, the world's largest reinsurance company, and played a pivotal role in building end-to-end software platforms for complex reinsurance operations. His work in designing advanced risk-prediction algorithms capable of underwriting virtually any risk

became widely respected across the global reinsurance ecosystem, earning him a reputation for innovation and precision.

Over the next 25 years, Dr DP built and led digital platforms across consumer, retail, banking, healthcare, and financial services. What set him apart was not only deep technical mastery but also a rare ability to understand core business problems and translate them into scalable, technology-driven solutions.

Today, Dr DP is recognised as a global authority in building and scaling Global Capability Centres (GCCs). As an independent consultant and trusted advisor, he works closely with Fortune 50 boards, CEOs, and leading global consulting firms, guiding enterprises through generative AI-driven transformation. As an agent of change, he is helping the GCC economy triple in scale, directly contributing to India's ambition of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy.

Dr DP has been instrumental in advancing analytics, machine learning, data science, and applied AI capabilities in India, thereby promoting and nurturing talent. He has helped Fortune 100 companies establish world-class Global Capability and Innovation Centres that drive cutting-edge



"I have a passion for people and technology and a burning desire to promote Indian talent on global grounds"

**Dr Durga Prakash (DP)**  
World renowned GCC Leader

R&D. Balancing thoughtful strategy with rapid execution, he champions a growth mindset, organisational flexibility, strategic partnerships, and continuous innovation.

Dr DP is a quantum computing and AI scholar whose research advances global healthcare problem-solving. With postdoctoral expertise, he advises nations on quantum policy and research initiatives and mentors multiple startups, driving innovation and strategic growth in the quantum computing ecosystem.

Having achieved global success, Dr Durga Prakash Devarakonda is now focused on giving back—mentoring leaders, sharing knowledge, and building ecosystems that elevate Indian talent worldwide.



Shiv Khera, Indian Author

## A Voice of Motivation and Ethical Success

A self-made author and trainer who transformed personal struggles into lessons for lasting success

**S**hiv Khera is one of India's most well-known motivational speakers and self-help authors, widely recognised for encouraging people to believe in themselves and strive for success with integrity. Over the past several decades, he has influenced millions across India and abroad through his books, seminars and public talks.

Born in India, Khera's early life was far from easy. He worked in several professions before finding his true calling. His early jobs included selling car accessories, working as a washing machine salesman and even running a small business that did not succeed. These early failures, however, shaped his thinking and helped him understand the struggles people commonly face. Instead of giving up,

Khera used these experiences to develop a philosophy focused on positive thinking, discipline and perseverance.

Khera rose to national and international fame with his bestselling book *You Can Win*, first published in 1998. The book became a household name in India and was translated into several languages. Written in simple language, *You Can Win* focuses on building self-confidence, setting goals, maintaining a positive attitude and developing strong character. Its practical advice and relatable examples struck a chord with students, professionals and entrepreneurs alike.

Apart from his maiden book, Khera has authored several other popular books, including *Living with Honour, Freedom Is Not Free, You Can Sell and Winning Is Everything*.

Across his writings, he consistently emphasises values such as honesty, responsibility, self-respect and ethical leadership. He believes that true success is not only about wealth or fame, but about living a life of purpose and integrity.

As a motivational speaker, Khera has conducted thousands of seminars and workshops across more than 25 countries. His audience includes corporate leaders, government officials, teachers, students and young professionals. His speaking style is direct, energetic and often filled with real-life anecdotes, humour and clear takeaways. He encourages people to take ownership of their lives rather than blaming circumstances or others for their failures.

Khera is also known for his strong views on governance, ethics and national character. He has been vocal about the need for integrity in public life and has often spoken against corruption. At one point, he even entered public life briefly to raise awareness about ethical leadership and citizen responsibility, though his primary focus has remained on education and motivation.

Another important aspect of Khera's work is his emphasis on mental discipline and attitude. He often says that success begins in the mind and that habits, thoughts and beliefs play a crucial role in shaping one's destiny. Through his talks, he urges people to replace negative thinking with constructive action and continuous learning.

Despite his fame, Khera presents himself as a learner who evolved through experience rather than privilege. Today, he continues to write, speak and mentor people across generations. For many Indians, he remains a symbol of self-belief and personal responsibility — a voice reminding people that while success is not easy, it is possible with effort, ethics and perseverance.



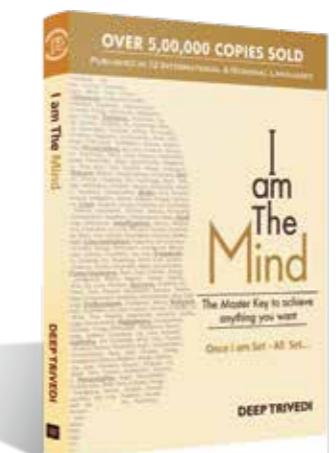
Deep Trivedi  
Founder & Chairman, Aatman Innovations Pvt Ltd

## From Mind to Mastery

Unlocking human potential through psychology, spirituality, and timeless wisdom, Deep Trivedi guides millions to balance inner bliss with outer achievement

**A**s a steadfast advocate of humanity, he has devoted himself to teaching and spreading spirituality and psychology to people across generations around the globe, resulting in a vast repertoire of bestsellers such as *I am the Mind, I am Krishna, I am Gita, Everything is Psychology, 3 Easy Steps to Win At Life, 101 All Time Great Stories, The Black Book of Soul, 200+ Shocking Truths About Krishna, Money and Its Smart Psychology, Psychology of War, Psychology of Confusion* and many more.

He believes today's life demands three-pronged success—peace, joy and wealth. But the irony is, sustaining peace and joy without money is not easy in the modern world; and wealth without peace is meaningless. To balance peace and prosperity, one needs spiritual psychology. However, for spiritual psychology to be effective in the scientific age, it must be conveyed



"Life reaches its true zenith when success soars while the heart dwells in sheer peace,"

SAYS RENOWNED AUTHOR, SPEAKER AND PIONEER IN SPIRITUAL PSYCHOLOGY DEEP TRIVEDI, WHO IS ALSO A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR, BUSINESSMAN AND AN ACE INVESTOR IN STOCK MARKET AND REALTY.

of Nature and their more nuanced dimensions such as Intelligence, Fear, Love, Anger, Creativity, Concentration, Time, Destiny, Marriage, God, Religion, Mental Health, Finance and more. Moreover, his in-depth talks on spiritual masterpieces such as the *Bhagavad Gita, Ashtavakra Gita* and *Tao Te Ching*—spanning over 290 hours—have received both national and international acclaim.

Driven by an enduring transformation and insatiable hunger to leave a legacy of pure, transformative knowledge, he continues to produce marathon content through his talks and writings and runs a distinguished and thriving publishing house to disseminate his teachings globally.

True to the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words,' his life exemplifies the harmonious balance of peace, joy and grand success that every human being can—and must—experience. He champions living life 360°, embracing both luxury and inner bliss, for he believes every human being deserves this at the very least.

To inspire people and bring their dreams to fruition, he urges everyone to acknowledge the hard work of millions and realise how abundantly we draw from Nature. If the luxury and comforts we enjoy today are the outcome of the midnight oil burnt by countless individuals, then we owe it to the world to leave behind a legacy of work that serves humanity at large.

And this, he believes, is our true duty and mission!



**Anjan Chatterjee**

Founder & Chairman-Managing Director at Speciality Restaurants Ltd

## A Recipe Book Called Life

How Anjan Chatterjee built an empire of eating by keeping it fun

In the early 1980s, a charming young man with a reputation for being the life of the party set foot in Mumbai and gazed into the future. Where other titans have imagined fast cars, sea-facing luxury apartments, and sky-high corner offices, Anjan Chatterjee had a peculiar dream, born of a peculiar problem.

### Sundays and slow starts

Sundays were torturous reminders of what home, back in Kolkata, offered but his little box of an apartment in Mumbai didn't — a warm meal of rice and mutton. Chatterjee wanted to have his own establishment someday, where he would serve hearty Bengali meals to friends. For now, he would have

to build his foundation, first in hospitality, then in marketing, and then with Situations Advertising, his own agency.

Not a lesson forgotten, not an experience wasted — everything he learned, from branding to sales, to filming, to design — would come back to embellish the Speciality Restaurants story.

### Bengali cuisine enters Fine Dining

Fast forward to the 1990s — Anjan Chatterjee starts Only Fish, a quaint, thematically designed outlet bringing the flavours of Bengali cuisine alive in Mumbai. For a cuisine long stereotyped as fish and rice, Bengali food came into its own in the national and international mindset, with Chatterjee emerging

as the genesis of Bengali fine dining through authentic Bengali restaurants that now dot the world.

### From dreaming to domination

Successful business entrepreneurs have similar trajectories. Life gives them ideas, ideas beget ambition, ambition begets success, and success begets the next big idea. And so they write their names into the Honours Board of greats. Anjan Chatterjee was soon wondering why the most interesting Chinese cuisine was only in five-star hotels, while run-of-the-mill outlets routinely served monotonous fare?

His solution? Offering people five-star cuisine without a five-star pocket pinch. A surging middle class, buoyant with the opportunities presented in a newly liberalised India, wanted more and wanted better. Chatterjee gave them that — an experience of eating Chinese from provinces across China. The decor, offerings, service were all at a new level of excellence.

### Oh! Calcutta and beyond

From here on, the juggernaut was unstoppable. Oh! Calcutta was a celebration of everything Chatterjee gorged on as a child, and then some. From city to city, the franchises grew in numbers and ideas: Sigree, Flame and Grill, Cafe Mezzuna, Bizarre Asia, Hoppipolla, Riyasat, Chourangi in London, and more. Each was an exploration of a culture, an experience like no other.

Speciality Restaurants is a success story predicated on fearless steps, wisdom in learning, and a culture of caring. Chatterjee keeps tight control of the ship, yet trusts his teams to be the best versions of themselves. He loves to laugh and enjoy, but is dead serious about quality control.

The Anjan Chatterjee story is one where even he, the author, isn't certain what the next chapter holds, but he can guarantee that it's going to be fun.

## Precision in Every Weave

A dynamic leader, Chintan Patel, building a vertically integrated textile powerhouse while focusing on empowering the nation through initiatives like Make in India and Skill India

Founded in 1996, the Deesan Group has evolved into one of India's most comprehensive and integrated textile enterprises. Under the guidance of Amrish Patel and the leadership of Chintan Patel, the Group has expanded its manufacturing capabilities while transforming Shirpur, Maharashtra, into a recognised textile manufacturing hub.

### The Growth Story

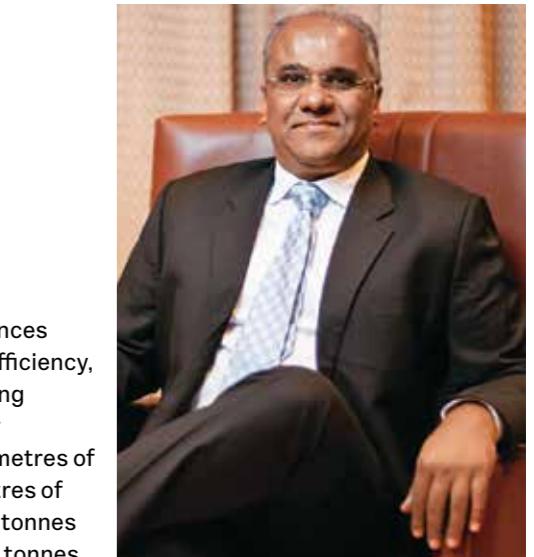
Over nearly three decades, Deesan has grown into a vast textile ecosystem spanning close to 700 acres and employing more than 25,000 people. The Group's deep capabilities across the textile value chain is strengthening India's role as a global textile manufacturing hub.

Deesan's diversified product portfolio includes shirting and bed linen fabrics, knitted garments, towels, bathrobes, and ready-made apparel, serving leading domestic and international brands. The Group works extensively with premium cotton varieties such as Egyptian and Supima cotton, delivering consistent quality, comfort, and durability. Globally recognised certifications, including BCI and OEKO-TEX® Made in Green, underscore Deesan's commitment to ethical sourcing, traceability, and environmentally responsible manufacturing.

**Leadership in Higher Education**  
Chintan Patel serves as Vice President of SVKM NMIMS, playing a key role in advancing its vision for higher education. Founded under SVKM, a charitable trust established in 1934, NMIMS was set up in 1981 and became a Deemed-to-be University in 2003. Today, NMIMS is a leading pan-India institution with multiple campuses, 17 specialised schools, and over 85,000 students, recognised for academic excellence, research, industry integration, and value-based education.

### End-to-End Integration

A defining strength of the Deesan Group is its fully vertically integrated model. From ginning and spinning to weaving, knitting, dyeing, finishing, and garmenting, every stage of production is executed in-house. This



"Our focus has always been on building lasting value, not just scale. Through innovation, sustainability, and strong partnerships, we are shaping a manufacturing ecosystem that is future-ready"

**Chintan Patel**  
Managing Director, Deesan Group  
Vice President, ShriVile Parle  
Kelavani Mandal

**A Sustainable Ecosystem**  
Sustainability and social responsibility are central to Deesan's strategy. The Group has built over 500 check dams to boost groundwater and agricultural resilience and supplies nearly six million litres of clean drinking water weekly to local communities. It is also developing a 1,000-bed super-speciality hospital in Shirpur to serve tribal and underserved populations. With a predominantly female workforce in its garment units, supported by safe workplaces and transport, Deesan champions women's empowerment, demonstrating how scale, integration, and social impact can create lasting value.



**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

**A**s 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 repute, and aligning India's ambitions to the top economies worldwide.

## Enabling Technology-led Environmental Systems

Sandeep Asolkar powering India's growth story through technology-led circular water and integrated waste solutions

India's aspiration to become a \$5 trillion economy and to sustain growth rests not only on macroeconomic momentum but also on the robustness of its foundational systems. While infrastructure, manufacturing, and energy remain central to this journey, water and waste management are increasingly emerging as critical enablers of sustainable and resilient development.

With over three decades of experience in environmental engineering and more than two decades spent building SFC Environmental Technologies, Sandeep Asolkar's perspective is shaped by a consistent insight that long-term economic progress is closely linked to responsible resource management.

### Moving Towards Reuse and Circularity

Water is one of India's most constrained resources. Rapid urbanisation, population growth, and industrial demand have heightened the need for effective wastewater treatment and reuse solutions. SFC believes that broader adoption of circular water management practices can help address this challenge. The company's work in wastewater treatment began with C-Tech, an advanced and proven technology for treating sewage and effluents. As of March 31, 2025, SFC has commissioned 639 installations in the wastewater treatment segment, primarily in sewage treatment plants across the country.

In recent years, the organisation

has expanded its technology portfolio with Membrane Bioreactor (MBR), Submerged Ultrafiltration (SUF), and Closed-Circuit Reverse Osmosis (CCRO). These technologies are designed to support a wide range of water treatment and reuse applications, enabling treated wastewater to be deployed for non-potable and industrial uses.

The potential benefits are multi-dimensional. Industries may gain access to consistent-quality treated water for select operations; freshwater resources can be conserved for higher-priority uses such as drinking water and agriculture; and municipalities may unlock new revenue streams through the supply of treated wastewater. The focus remains on solutions that are cost-effective, operator-friendly, and scalable—because infrastructure delivers value only when it performs reliably on the ground.

### Addressing Solid Waste

Solid waste management represents another growing challenge as urban populations and consumption patterns evolve. In the absence of structured treatment systems, waste places increasing pressure on landfills, public health, and the environment.

Through its wholly owned subsidiary, Hindustan Waste Treatment Private Limited, the company designs, engineers, builds, and operates integrated municipal solid waste processing facilities tailored to India's mixed-waste realities. Resource recovery—particularly through Compressed



"As cities expand and industrial activity intensifies, the importance of reliable environmental infrastructure becomes increasingly pronounced"

**Sandeep Asolkar**  
Chairman & Managing Director, SFC Environmental Technologies Ltd

Biogas (CBG)—offers a pathway aligned with the Government of India's SATAT initiative, enabling municipalities to move from cost-centric models toward more circular and value-generating systems.

### Building Systems That Support Growth

Across both water and waste, the underlying principle is consistent: environmental infrastructure underpins economic resilience. When wastewater is reused and solid waste is managed scientifically, cities become more liveable, industries operate more sustainably, and municipalities gain new avenues for value creation.

As India continues its development journey, environmental management systems may play a quiet but essential role in supporting durable and responsible growth. SFC seeks to contribute to this journey through technology-led solutions that strengthen India's water and waste ecosystems.



Annapurna Devi, Union Minister, Women & Child Development

## Driving Social Change Across the Nation

Annapurna Devi is dedicated to empowering women and securing a brighter future for children

In serving the nation's women and children, Annapurna Devi believes collaborations and partnerships are crucial to implementing effective policies and maximizing social impact. The Union Cabinet Minister of Women and Child Development is focused on creating opportunities and safeguards for women and children, especially those from marginalised and underserved communities.

Ever since being elected to the 18th Lok Sabha in June 2024 from Jharkhand's Kodarma constituency, Annapurna Devi has shown a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by women and children in India. Under her leadership, initiatives offering skills training and employment opportunities to women — securing their financial independence — have

taken precedence.

Her approach combines policy advocacy with on-ground implementation, ensuring that government schemes reach the most vulnerable segments of society. Hence, programmes such as self-help groups, entrepreneurship training and financial literacy workshops have seen a notable expansion during her tenure. For children's welfare, she has stressed the importance of providing quality education and safety, alongside nutritional support and health services.

A postgraduate from Ranchi University, Annapurna Devi is a strong believer in legal and social reforms to protect women and children from violence, exploitation and discrimination. She has spearheaded awareness campaigns and training

programmes that encourage community participation to bring about a change in societal attitudes toward gender and child rights.

Working closely with various government departments, NGOs and international organisations has been one of the key pillars of her leadership, which has strengthened existing programmes while introducing new initiatives to fill critical gaps in women and child development services. Merging strategic policy planning with practical solutions, therefore, has been a focal point of her work.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member has previously served as the Union Minister of State for Education. She has played an active role as a Member of the Consultative Committees for the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, reflecting her involvement in shaping policy across multiple sectors.

As a Union Cabinet Minister, Annapurna Devi also draws on her long experience of public service in the women and child welfare sector at the state level. Before serving as Member, Committee on Empowerment of Women, from 2019 and 2021, she was a cabinet minister in the Ministry of Irrigation, Women & Child Welfare, Registration of the Jharkhand government from 2012 to 2014. From 2005 to 2009, she was the chairperson of the Committee on Women & Child Welfare, Jharkhand Legislative Assembly.

Annapurna Devi's leadership highlights inclusivity, transparency and accountability to ensure that programmes are both effective and sustainable. Her emphasis on the importance of focused governance with compassionate leadership inspires hope for a change towards a better future for all.

## Securing Financial Futures

Amisha Vora shares her approach towards delivering sustainable wealth for clients by leveraging deep expertise with trust, transparency, and integrity

**Q** What is the most challenging decision you've made, and how did you navigate it?

A defining decision in my journey was acquiring a 96% stake in PL Capital (Prabhudas Lilladher Group) during the COVID period and transitioning to a more centralised leadership structure amid market volatility. The focus was on sustaining business momentum with cost discipline while ensuring continuity of operations, engaging teams and preserving client trust. We institutionalised the organisation, strengthened governance, and executed a strategic shift from a traditional broking-led model to an integrated financial services platform.

This transformation included building a robust quantitative investment infrastructure and launching PL Capital's pioneering quant-based PMS strategies—AQUA and the Multi Dynamic Asset Portfolio (MAPD). The challenge lay in committing capital, attracting and retaining specialised talent, and staying data-driven when conventional approaches felt safer. Anchored in research, disciplined risk frameworks, and back-testing, this conviction was validated when AQUA delivered over 76% returns in its debut year, outperforming its benchmark by 2x and the NIFTY 50 by 3x.

Our investment banking and corporate advisory business expanded, executing nine transactions and securing 18 marquee mandates—positioning the Group as a more resilient,

diversified, and future-ready institution.

**Q** How do you approach innovation, and what strategies have helped you drive meaningful impact?

Identifying white spaces, areas where client needs are evolving but competitive intensity remains low, is critical. We look beyond crowded product categories to uncover gaps and apply our core strengths in research, risk management, and execution with greater clarity of purpose, aligning to client outcomes. I view technology as an enabler. From early adoption of e-KYC to building one of India's pioneering quant investment strategies like AQUA and Multi Asset Dynamic Portfolio (MAPD), our focus has been adding value to our clients and creating sustainable wealth solutions.

**Q** What initiatives have been critical in scaling your business and maintaining a competitive edge in the market?

Scaling PL Capital is driven by a commitment to long-term value creation. We have supported individuals and institutions through an integrated platform spanning broking and distribution, institutional equities, investment banking and corporate advisory, wealth and asset management, and private credit—each guided by rigorous research and a client-first philosophy.

Our competitive edge is reinforced by a globally benchmarked quantitative



**Amisha Vora**  
Chairperson and Managing Director  
PL Capital Group

investment infrastructure powered by an AI-embedded ecosystem. Advanced analytics, personalisation, and decision intelligence are seamlessly integrated across onboarding, distribution, and investment processes. By building strong teams, institutional capabilities, and a diversified business model, we navigate market cycles with resilience and deliver consistent outcomes at scale.

What differentiates PL Capital is our 360° distribution capability across PMS, AIFs, mutual funds, insurance, advisory, debt, commodities, and global investments, serving family offices, institutions, UHNI, HNI, and retail clients across India through a fully integrated financial ecosystem.

**Q** What advice would you give to aspiring women professionals looking to break barriers and succeed?

Confidence, preparation, and consistency are powerful equalisers—especially in industries where women remain under-represented. Focus on building deep expertise and domain mastery; it creates credibility that endures. Seek mentors who challenge your thinking, build strong networks across genders, and lead with integrity. Resilience and principled decision-making are what ultimately define long-term success.



**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.

## Weaving Legacy and Luxury

Suparna Handa celebrates the beauty of Indian textiles and workmanship by creating unique, authentic, heirloom-worthy products and services reimagined for the modern home



In a world of fast-evolving lifestyle trends, Sarita Handa stands at the intersection of heritage, innovation and modern luxury, and is recognised globally as one of the few Indian brands to have achieved this balance with such clarity.

### A Legacy of Leadership

As Sarita Handa enters into a new era in contemporary Indian luxury, Suparna Handa stands at the helm of transformation in the lifestyle segment. With over 25 years of experience, she has redefined what Indian luxury looks like—and how it is built. Under her leadership, Sarita Handa has moved from soft furnishings for homes to being a cultural force. She has championed heritage craftsmanship of Indian artisans on the global map. "Our legacy is not the catalogue we create, but the culture we protect." She emphasises.

Suparna's journey interweaves personal evolution with professional milestones: returning from New York to join her mother, Sarita, in building the brand; creating a professional partnership with her husband, Rahul Puri, to drive the next chapter; and earning recognition such as the "40 Over 40" honour for women leaders.

### Local Effort, Global Impact

Promoting indigenous craftsmanship, Suparna spearheaded the evolution of Sarita Handa NOW, that marks the brand's leap into experiential design. Its textile vocabulary has become part of contemporary Indian design culture. Sarita Handa NOW is not just a store; it is the point of origin for design, mood, and material. Here, wabi-sabi meets biophilia, and Japandi minimalism blends seamlessly with Indian craftsmanship—a signature Suparna touch.

Suparna has been instrumental in turning the brand into a design institution with global resonance. Industry reports project significant growth in coming years as Sarita Handa strengthens its position across both export and luxury retail markets.

### Handcrafted Stories in Every Stitch

Every piece created has its own story representing the ethos, culture and emotions of artisans passed down through generations. "A happy customer begins with a respected artisan—our chain of value starts with dignity." Suparna reiterates her belief in human capital, which is reflected in the organisation's culture and identity.

"We build fulfilment across the ecosystem, from the craftsperson's home to the client's home"

**Suparna Handa**  
Managing Director, Sarita Handa

"Luxury feels complete only when the people who create it feel valued." She adds.

The company works with a community of master artisans, such as embroidery experts, quilters, and weavers, whose skills hold generational memory. Suparna has made it her mission to preserve their skills in an age of automation. Techniques like kantha, phulkari, zardozi and hand-quilting that would have faded now find global relevance through the brand.

### The Fabric of Sustainability

Suparna believes that the next chapter of luxury will be written by sustainable practices and inclusion. It appears in the choice of materials, the solar-powered facilities, and in the brand's quiet yet constant social impact—particularly in empowering women artisans across the country. Every choice at Sarita Handa—from fibre to finish—is intentional, transparent, and accountable.



Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google

## From Chennai Roots to Global Tech Power

Sundar Pichai's journey exemplifies quiet brilliance, ethical leadership and technology's transformative power at global scale

**S**undar Pichai's rise reflects a rare blend of technical brilliance, steady leadership and commitment to inclusive technological progress.

Pichai Sundararajan — globally known as Sundar Pichai — stands today as one of the most influential technology leaders of the 21st century. As the CEO of Alphabet Inc. and Google, he occupies a rare space in global corporate leadership: a visionary who has shaped the everyday technological lives of billions while retaining a reputation for humility, restraint and thoughtful decision-making. His rise from modest beginnings to the helm of one of the world's most powerful tech conglomerates remains among modern India's

most celebrated success stories. Born in 1972 to a middle-class family in Tamil Nadu, Pichai grew up in an environment that placed a premium on discipline, perseverance and academic excellence. His father, an electrical engineer at GEC, introduced him early to the world of technology. Family accounts highlight his unusual ability to remember long strings of numbers — an early glimpse of the analytical acuity that would later define his engineering career.

After completing his schooling and graduating with a degree in metallurgical engineering from IIT Kharagpur, Pichai's academic achievements earned him a scholarship to Stanford University. A subsequent

management degree from the Wharton School — where he was recognised as a Siebel Scholar and a Palmer Scholar — equipped him with a rare blend of technical depth and business insight.

Pichai joined Google in 2004, at a time when the company was expanding from a search engine into a global suite of digital products. His early work on the Google Toolbar quickly drew the attention of senior executives. But it was his leadership of Google Chrome, launched in 2008, that reshaped both his career trajectory and the company's future. Chrome rapidly became the world's most widely used browser, paving the way for Google's dominance in cloud-based computing.

From there, Pichai's responsibilities grew swiftly. He oversaw major products such as Gmail, Google Maps, Google Drive, Android and ChromeOS, playing a crucial role in streamlining Google's sprawling ecosystem. His ability to break down complex engineering challenges into simple, user-focused solutions earned him deep respect across the organisation.

In 2015, during Google's restructuring under the newly formed Alphabet, Pichai was appointed CEO of Google. Four years later, he succeeded Larry Page as CEO of Alphabet, placing him in charge of ventures spanning Search, YouTube, Android, DeepMind, Waymo and multiple AI-driven research initiatives.

Known for his consensus-building approach, quiet confidence and long-term focus, Pichai has led Google through major advances in artificial intelligence, sustainability efforts and global internet access initiatives. Despite his global stature, he frequently emphasises his Indian roots, the power of education and the importance of technology that serves society.

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## Reimagining Life Insurance

Alok Rungta steering Generali Central Life Insurance towards a personalised, technology-driven future built on trust and empathy

**Q How do you view the future of India's life insurance industry, and what role does Generali Central Life Insurance aim to play in shaping it?**

As India accelerates towards its \$5 trillion economy ambition, the life insurance sector stands at a pivotal juncture—shifting from traditional protection models to personalised, technology-driven experiences. Drawing on 25 years of experience across global markets, I believe India's life insurance industry is at a critical inflection point where progressive regulatory reforms, growing financial literacy, and a strong push for ease of doing business are laying the foundation for sustainable growth.

At Generali Central Life Insurance (GCLI), we are uniquely positioned to lead this evolution by combining global expertise with deep local trust. We are transforming life insurance from a mere protection tool into a personalised, lifelong partnership that evolves with our customers' needs. I am convinced that insurers who successfully combine regulatory agility with customer education and trusted partnerships will define the next phase of growth in our industry. That belief shapes our mission—and it is the path we are committed to pursuing.

**Q How does technology act as a catalyst for transformation at GCLI?**

Technology will be the key driver of customer experience and operational efficiency in the years to come. At Generali Central Life Insurance, we

are leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to deliver hyper-personalised solutions across onboarding, servicing, and claims. This approach moves the Company from reactive responses to proactive engagement, ensuring real-time interactions that customers increasingly expect. Intelligent automation is also reshaping operations—streamlining underwriting, risk assessment, and policy servicing to improve speed, accuracy, and decision-making quality. These advancements free frontline teams from routine processing, enabling them to focus on advisory roles and value-added activities that truly elevate customer experience.

**Q How has GCLI's people management philosophy evolved?**

Transformation begins with people. Our philosophy of empathy-driven leadership and trust-based empowerment underpins GCLI's talent strategy. We've shifted from managing employees to unleashing human potential. This means creating a people-first workplace where flexibility, cross-functional opportunities, and ownership drive performance. By aligning career development with the company's Lifetime Partner vision, GCLI ensures that its workforce is future-ready and deeply engaged.

**Q How is GCLI driving innovation in products and distribution to build long-term, trust-based customer relationships?**

At GCLI, our innovation agenda is



Alok Rungta  
MD & CEO, Generali Central Life Insurance

anchored in a single guiding principle: building long-term, trust-based relationships with our customers. We have moved beyond traditional, siloed offerings to develop integrated solutions such as ULIP-plus-protection product called Generali Central Sampoorna Samadhaan Plan that seamlessly combine wealth creation with life cover. As India's demographics evolve, we are also stepping into the retirement segment with sustainable income solutions designed to support longevity and financial security.

On the distribution side, we have expanded our reach through strategic partnerships, including our collaboration with the Central Bank of India, enabling us to serve customers across both urban and semi-urban markets. At the same time, our digital and hybrid distribution models are equipping intermediaries with advanced tools and actionable insights, empowering them to engage in more meaningful, relevant conversations with customers.



Harmanpreet Kaur, Captain, Indian Women's National Cricket Team

## Rise of a Champion

By conquering the world stage, all-rounder Harmanpreet Kaur has united a nation in rooting for sportsmanship beyond gender barriers

The night of November 2, 2025, will go down in the annals of sporting history for reasons beyond sportsmanship. Under the floodlights of the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, captain Harmanpreet Kaur lifted the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup trophy, delivering India its first-ever win.

India's 52-run victory over South Africa was not merely a culmination of a tournament; it was the culmination of a dream that Harmanpreet had chased for more than a decade and a half, standing on the shoulders of many Indian women cricketers before her. It was also a watershed moment

when the nation united to look beyond gender and celebrate a team of sportspersons winning them a world title.

For Harmanpreet, who debuted in the 2009 World Cup as a young, fiery all-rounder, the journey to this pinnacle has been marked by triumph and heartbreak in equal parts. In 2012, the right-handed batter from Punjab's Moga won India the Asia Cup title in the T20 format. Within four years, she became the national team's all-format captain.

Under her captaincy, Indian snatched its first-ever Test from Australia in 2023, won a Commonwealth Games silver

medal in 2022 and Asian Games gold medal in 2023, and clinched its first T20I series win over England in 2025.

As India's first woman to win an ICC trophy at the senior level, Harmanpreet has not only redefined success on the field but also shifted the landscape off it. She believes the team's success will soon be reflected in stronger central contracts and greater recognition from the Board of Control for Cricket in India. In her eyes, the World Cup victory is not just a title – it is an economic and social turning point, and rightly so.

"Post-November 2, the market value of women's cricket has gone up because of the trophy," she said. "If we had not won that trophy, we would still be stuck there." Her words resonated across a nation now fully awake to the commercial and cultural force of women's sport.

The emotional magnitude of the achievement was etched, quite literally, into her skin as well. Days after the triumph, Harmanpreet unveiled a special tattoo, commemorating the night that changed everything for her and women's cricket in India. It became a symbol of perseverance, pride and the dreams of millions who saw in her victory a reflection of their aspirations.

On the heels of the World Cup high, Harmanpreet stunned onlookers on the runway of Mumbai's Sierra Brand Day. Walking as the showstopper for the HUEMN showcase by designer Pranav Kirti Mishra, she fused athletic poise with effortless glamour.

Harmanpreet's story is more than a sporting saga. It is a story that has ignited the fire in countless young girls in towns small and big across India, who are looking up to her and dreaming of charting their own sporting path.



Mini Monesh  
CEO, Bioweal Products Private Limited

## Holistic Menstrual Wellness

Mini Monesh discusses the inspiration behind TIME Pads, the brand's sustainability ethos, market strategy, and the future vision powering a new era of menstrual care

**Q** What inspired you to create Bioweal's TIME Sanitary Pads known for their innovative, user-centric design that not only serves a need but also tells a story through its TIME concept?

Our inspiration came from a clear and persistent gap in the market: the lack of a truly rash-free, period-responsive solution. For far too long, women were expected to accept discomfort as an unavoidable part of their cycle. At Bioweal, we challenged that norm. TIME Sanitary Pads were born from a belief that menstrual care should evolve with a woman's needs rather than force her to adapt.

The TIME concept transforms a basic hygiene product into a thoughtful, intuitive experience. Each pad is designed to reflect the different phases of the menstrual cycle, with unique features that support comfort, breathability, and skin health. By integrating phase-

specific engineering and skin-first materials, we created not just a pad but a product that respects the story of a woman's period—her rhythm, her discomforts, and her changing needs.

**Q** How do TIME Sanitary Pads reflect Bioweal's commitment to both environmental responsibility and women's well-being?

At Bioweal, sustainability and women's comfort are inseparable priorities. Our approach is rooted in a dual commitment: delivering uncompromising comfort while ensuring demonstrable environmental responsibility.

TIME Pads use skin-intelligent, breathable materials engineered for long-wear safety and are free from common irritants, significantly reducing the risk of rashes. This focus on well-being is complemented by our sustainability measures, which include minimal, biodegradable

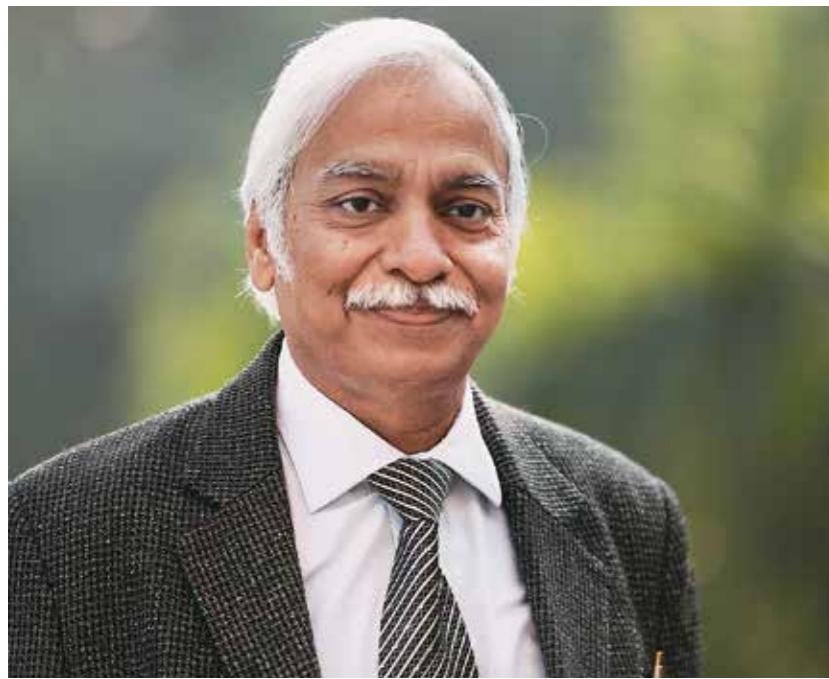
packaging and optimised, low-waste manufacturing practices. But for us, this is only the starting point. We are continuously investing in R&D to experiment with cleaner materials and greener processes because we believe true innovation is measured by both performance and environmental integrity.

**Q** Under your leadership, what strategies have helped you penetrate the market as a trusted hygiene brand competing with larger multinationals?

One of our strongest strategies has been turning our size into an advantage. Unlike multinational brands that often operate at scale, we compete on empathy, agility, and authenticity. Our market entry relied heavily on grassroots engagement—direct sampling programmes, community-based conversations, and rapid product improvements based on real-time feedback. When women shared their concerns, we listened and adapted. This ongoing dialogue allowed us to build trust not through advertising but through transparency, responsiveness, and genuine connection.

**Q** What are your future expansion plans for the TIME Product line, and how do you hope they will impact women's health awareness?

TIME Sanitary Pads are only the beginning of a broader menstrual wellness ecosystem we're building. We are expanding into flow-specific and life-stage variants and introducing symptom-management solutions such as a period cramp relief cream, hormonal migraine balm, and PMS mood mist. Additionally, we will launch TIME Menstrual Cups to offer a sustainable, body-safe alternative. Our long-term vision is to shift menstrual health conversations from stigma to empowerment—offering not just products but education, choice, and holistic support to women everywhere.



**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.

## Reimagining Future-Ready Education for India

**Siddharth Shahani** pioneers new age learning at ATLAS SkillTech University

India's higher-education landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, and few leaders have shaped this shift as decisively as Siddharth Shahani. As the Executive President and Co-Founder of ATLAS SkillTech University, Mumbai's first new-age multidisciplinary urban university, he has pioneered a model that unites academic excellence, technological fluency, and industry-integrated learning under one ambitious vision.

He represents a first generation of education entrepreneurs, one who has built a university ecosystem where innovation, design, entrepreneurship, and technology converge seamlessly to develop future-ready leaders for nation-building.

### A Global Academic Foundation

Siddharth's educational journey spans some of the world's most respected institutions. He completed his undergraduate studies at University College London (UCL), followed by a Master's at the London School of Economics (LSE), and later pursued Corporate Finance at the London Business School (LBS).

These experiences built in him a multidisciplinary worldview that blends analytical rigour with creativity, design thinking, and global workforce insight. But even before this, growing up as the son of a teacher, he witnessed firsthand the transformative role education plays in shaping lives.

His early career at McKinsey London honed his strategic and operational skills, shaping his vision for a modern future-ready university.

### Building India's First Urban Innovation University

Under Siddharth's leadership, the

University has developed forward-looking programs in Design & Innovation, Management & Entrepreneurship, Technology, Media, and Law, emphasising experiential learning, industry immersion, and a global-quality education.

He has been instrumental in building signature global academic alliances that bring world-class education within reach of Indian students. ATLAS's 13-year continued partnership with Parsons School of Design, one of the world's top three design schools has pioneered a model that brings global-standard design education to thousands of young Indian designers.

Siddharth has also initiated a transformative partnership with Northeastern University, creating a global business pathway that allows students to start their studies in Mumbai and complete their program at Northeastern University London. This model not only makes a top-tier business degree more financially accessible, it also provides exposure to two of the world's leading financial hubs.

Aligned with NEP 2020, Siddharth envisions universities as interdisciplinary, industry-aligned, and technology-driven - an approach that made ATLAS India's youngest NAAC 'A'-graded university.

### Championing Access, Diversity & Student Success

Siddharth advocates inclusive education, creating scholarship pathways for deserving students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. He believes education should inspire bold thinking, responsible action, and fearless innovation - a philosophy reflected



**Siddharth Shahani**  
Executive President & Co-Founder  
ATLAS SkillTech University

across the ATLAS ecosystem. His focus on student success is evident in ATLAS's strong mentorship culture, industry networks, and entrepreneurial support that helps learners turn ideas into real ventures.

Under his guidance, ATLAS launched 'Kaushalya AI', aligned with Maharashtra's STEP initiative inaugurated by PM Modi. The program supports the technological training and upskilling of students across Government ITIs and Technical High Schools.

### A Vision for India's Next Generation of Leaders

As India moves toward becoming a global innovation hub, Siddharth believes universities must act as catalysts. Through ATLAS, he aims to nurture creative thinkers, entrepreneurial leaders, and globally competent professionals equipped for a world shaped by AI, sustainability, design, and emerging technologies.

Rooted in the vision of "By India, For the Rest of the World," he envisions Indian institutions not just contributing to global progress but setting the benchmarks for it. With his global experience and commitment to educational excellence, Siddharth is shaping more than a university, he's helping define the future of higher education in India.



Deepika Padukone, Bollywood Actress

## Queen of Hearts

Deepika Padukone emerges as an enduring symbol of influence and inspiration in the Indian entertainment industry, captivating millions worldwide

Deepika Padukone is an Indian actress who works predominantly in Hindi films. She has received 57 accolades and honors throughout her career, which include three Filmfare Awards, seven IIFAs, five Producers Guild Film Awards, ten Screen Awards, three Stardust Awards, and seven Zee Cine Awards.

Deepika, the daughter of the famous badminton player Prakash Padukone, was born in Copenhagen and raised in Bangalore. As a teenager, she pursued her passion in badminton and rose up to the national level championships but later changed her course and became a fashion model.

She received offers for film roles and made her acting debut in 2006 as the title character of the Kannada film,

*Aishwarya*. Deepika then played a dual role opposite Shah Rukh Khan in her first Bollywood release, *Om Shanti Om*, in 2007, which became a blockbuster hit and won her the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut. She received praise for her starring role in the romance *Love Aaj Kal* in

**PADUKONE IS THE FOUNDER OF THE LIVE LOVE LAUGH FOUNDATION, WHICH CREATES AWARENESS ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN INDIA, FOR WHICH SHE RECEIVED THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM'S CRYSTAL AWARD IN 2018**

2009, but this was followed by a brief setback, and she bounced back with the romantic comedy *Cocktail* in 2012.

A string of romantic comedies *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* and *Chennai Express* in 2013, the heist comedy *Happy New Year* in 2014, led to her larger-than-life role in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's period dramas *Bajirao Mastani* in 2015 and *Padmaavat* in 2018. A bigger milestone was working in the Hollywood action film *XXX: Return of Xander Cage* in 2017. She also received critical acclaim for playing a character based on Juliet in Bhansali's *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela* in 2013 and a headstrong daughter in *Piku* in 2015, winning two Filmfare Awards for Best Actress. Following a short hiatus and two commercially unsuccessful films under her own company, Ka Productions, Padukone took on roles in top-grossing action films, including *Pathaan* in 2023 and *Kalki 2898 AD* (2024).

Padukone is the founder of The Live Love Laugh Foundation, which creates awareness on mental health issues in India, for which she received the World Economic Forum's Crystal Award in 2018. She also participates in stage shows, has designed her own line of clothing for women, and is a prominent celebrity endorser for brands and products. Her other ventures include startup investments and a self-care brand.

Deepika is married to her frequent co-star Ranveer Singh, cementing their relationship as yet another power couple of the Bollywood industry. The celebrity couple is now the proud parents of their little girl, Dua. Deepika's success story as an actress, fashion entrepreneur, and social worker, coupled with her stunning beauty and glamorous personality, won her a huge fan base. As an influencer and brand ambassador for a large number of Indian and international brands, she is contributing to the consumer sector along with the entertainment industry.



Dr Sohini Sastri, 2-times President Award winner and world-renowned KP astrologer,

## The Celestial Blueprint of India's \$5 Trillion Economy

Astrology reveals how cosmic energies shape India's ambitious journey toward achieving a \$5 trillion economy

India's aspiration to become a \$5 trillion economy is not just an economic ambition; it is a destiny shaped by the collective vision, leadership, and planetary energies guiding the nation. From an astrologer's perspective, India's rise reflects a powerful alignment of cosmic forces that nurture innovation, resilience, and strategic foresight among its leaders. The country's horoscope, rooted in its independence chart of 1947, strongly highlights the influence of Mercury, Jupiter, and the Sun—the planets of intellect, expansion, and leadership. These

planetary strengths are mirrored in the visionaries steering India's journey toward economic transformation. Mercury, the planet of communication, trade, technology, and youth, blesses India with a generation of entrepreneurs, innovators, and digital creators. Under Mercury's influence, India has emerged as the global epicentre of start-ups, IT services, fintech, AI research, and digital empowerment. Visionaries transforming India's technology and business landscape resonate deeply with this mercurial energy. Their sharp intellect and

adaptability reflect the planet's blessings, driving India toward a knowledge-based economy.

At the heart of India's \$5 trillion dream lies the expansive grace of Jupiter, the planet of growth, prosperity, wisdom, and governance. Jupiter's influence on India's national chart supports large-scale reforms, educational advancements, global partnerships, and the strengthening of financial institutions.

Astrologically, Jupiter blesses leaders with foresight—those who invest in infrastructure, manufacturing, clean energy, and rural development. The rise of India's unicorns, world-class institutions, and global collaborations reflects Jupiter's expansive power guiding the nation's builders and policymakers.

The Sun, representing authority, leadership, and national identity, bolsters India's confidence internationally. Visionary leaders in governance, administration, and diplomacy exemplify this solar power. Their resolve and clarity of intent illuminate India's trajectory towards economic self-sufficiency, security, and global recognition. The Sun's effect fosters resilience, particularly amid global shocks, allowing India to emerge stronger from each adversity.

Astrologically, India's success is a result of the efforts of its entrepreneurs, scientists, policymakers, teachers, industrialists, and new ideas. These people have a clear picture of India's \$5 trillion economic future. They each have planetary traits that shape what they bring to the country.

From an astrologer's lens, India is entering a period of powerful economic momentum. With supportive transits from Jupiter and Saturn in the coming years, the cosmic blueprint aligns strongly with the nation's ambition. Guided by visionary leadership and planetary blessings, India's journey toward a \$5 trillion economy is not only achievable—it is written in the stars.