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GS PATNAIK



PRANJAL JHA



PARTHAJET PATNAIK



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PROF V KAMAKOTI



MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR



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RUCHIR SHARMA



PANKAJ LIDDO



MANU BHAKER

Pillars of VIKSIT BHARAT

An Outlook Brand Solution Initiative



Pillars of Viksit Bharat 2024

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' represents a complete blueprint for the country's prosperity during its Amrit Kaal towards attaining resolutions made for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'

The pillars of Viksit Bharat are—making India a global manufacturing hub, reviving the glory of Indian knowledge systems, ensuring every dining table in the world has at least one Indian product, powering green energy, expanding tourism, and working for inclusive development of the world, especially of the global south. Healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, education, manufacturing, etc. serve as crucial drivers for the sectoral transformation.

A Viksit Bharat stands tall for its compassionate embrace of each citizen's dreams and aspirations, encompassing various aspects of economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, all-inclusive development, imbibing technological innovation, cultural shifts, behavioral changes, supportive

regulations, and good governance. 'Make in India', 'Digital India', and 'Start-up India' are some initiatives of the government for business expansion and employment generation. With the support of digitization, homegrown manufacturing, and a thriving start-up community, Prime Minister Modi hopes to raise millions out of poverty and realize the nation's full economic potential.

To close infrastructure gaps, large-scale projects range from constructing world-class roads, trains, and ports to increasing digital connection and upgraded urban infrastructure. Projects like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, and Smart Cities Mission highlight the government's commitment to building liveable, sustainable cities, enhancing connectivity, and offering

affordable housing to everybody.

Transformation of the education system at the grassroots level is imperative. The re-engineering of higher education and professional courses is integrating best practices, multidisciplinary learning, innovation, and skillset acquisition that would empower the youth, foster inclusive growth, and equip them for future challenges and opportunities.

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 community, the state, and the country at large. We celebrate their relentless efforts and dedication towards making India a developed economy.

Resolving Patent Disputes Globally

Rajeshwari Hariharan redefining the patent framework for an evolving digital and AI-enabled global economy



Rajeshwari Hariharan, Arguing Counsel, High Court of Delhi and Supreme Court

An empowered judicial system is a part of Viksit Bharat. In the contemporary digital environment, the impact of intellectual property rights on international commerce has grown significantly. Maintaining a robust IP legal framework is essential to the growth of any nation's economy. Rajeshwari Hariharan emerges as one of the most prominent intellectual property rights advocates. She is an experienced litigator who has argued cases involving patents and trade secrets before the Supreme Court of India and numerous High Courts in India. Her courtroom experience and advocacy skills have contributed to several landmark rulings in Indian patent law.

Professional Journey

Rajeshwari's background in biotechnology allowed her as a lawyer to bridge the gap between scientific innovation and the legal framework, making her the preferred partner for reputed companies in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors.

In 2009, Rajeshwari founded Rajeshwari & Associates, a firm specializing in patents, trademarks, copyrights,

geographical indicators, and regulatory affairs. The firm is known for providing strategic patent advisory, patent litigation, and handling patent oppositions for both Indian and international clients.

Rajeshwari has authored numerous IP-related articles and is a regular speaker at conferences both in India and internationally. Her thought leadership is widely respected, and she is frequently invited to share insights on emerging trends in IPR.

Key Achievements

- First-ever compulsory license in India: Rajeshwari played a pivotal role in securing the first compulsory license for Natco Pharma, enabling the production of an affordable generic version of a life-saving cancer drug. The case escalated to the Supreme Court, becoming a cornerstone in the interpretation of patent law in India.
- Glivec patent litigation: A defining patent dispute that led to a significant interpretation of Section 3(d) of the Indian Patent Act. This case further solidified her reputation as a formidable force in patent law.

- Bolar Provision Interpretation: She led the first-ever case involving the interpretation of the Bolar provision (Sec 107A) in India, setting a precedent in Indian patent law that allowed manufacturers to prepare generic drugs before the patent expiry without infringing the original patent.
- IPR Reform Initiatives: She has been actively involved in advising on IPR reform initiatives in India, lending her expertise to policy changes that continue to shape the country's intellectual property landscape.

Recognitions

- Trademark Star (2019) by Managing IP
 - Patent Star (2024) By Managing IP
 - Leading Patent Lawyer by Chambers & Partners and Intellectual Asset Management
- Rajeshwari believes in building a team of professionals who possess technical expertise and understanding of the dynamic nature of IPR in developing countries. This holistic approach has enabled her to remain at the forefront of intellectual property law and champion the protection of innovation.



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

Equitable Healthcare and Food Safety

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

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

India has the world's largest government-funded health

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

"THESE INITIATIVES REPRESENT TRANSFORMATIVE STEPS IN HEALTHCARE INNOVATION, PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS MEDICAL SOLUTIONS, CONTRIBUTING TO A HEALTHIER, MORE RESILIENT AND ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT."

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

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

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

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

Redefining the Skyline of Odisha

Parthajeet Patnaik is focused on systematic and sustainable businesses in the state of Odisha, contributing towards making India a developed nation



Parthajeet Patnaik
Director, Falcon Group

'Pursuit of excellence' and 'innovation' being the cornerstone of the enterprise, Falcon Group is built on quality, reliability, and integrity. Parthajeet Patnaik, a visionary leader, embarked on a transformative journey that redefined the landscape of Falcon Group, a conglomerate rooted in the legacy of his father, Tara Ranjan Patnaik. Founded in 1985 as a marine exports company, Falcon Group has ever since grown by leaps and bounds, diversifying into aquafeeds, retail, agro-processing, and real estate.

Next Generation Entrepreneur

An MBA from the University of Hertfordshire, London, Parthajeet Patnaik is the director of Falcon Real Estate, Falcon Marine Exports Ltd, and Falcon Agrifriz. With a constant urge to grow and redefine the skyline of Orissa, he embraces innovation, unparalleled ethics, and values and remains steadfast in his commitment to excellence.

A new-age professional, he combines his global exposure to local demands and creates a perfect balance for the company's all-round growth in terms of human resources, implementation of technology and sectorial skill sets. Parthajeet Patnaik leads the organisation with

passion, ambition, and unwavering commitment. The indomitable spirit ingrained in Falcon Group, manifested in accolades like the MPEDA award, reflects the commitment to hard work, honesty, and dedication.

Expanding the Portfolio

The group further expanded to Falcon Agrifriz with a whopping investment of Rs. 1050 crore. Today, Falcon Marine Export LTD is Asia's foremost seafood exporter, emphasising quality and sustainability. Falcon's next big step is into trading business with the name of Falcon Trading from Dubai.

Parthajeet entered the real estate sector with a clear vision to transform the lifestyle aspiration of new-age homeowners. Globally, there has been a shift in living and

FOUNDED IN 1985 AS A MARINE EXPORTS COMPANY, FALCON GROUP HAS EVER SINCE GROWN BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS, DIVERSIFYING INTO AQUAFEEDS, RETAIL, AGRO-PROCESSING, AND REAL ESTATE

lifestyle benchmarks, and Falcon Real Estate Pvt Ltd is a step ahead in deploying modern architecture and state-of-the-art technology in construction and sustainable practices. The company has gained its reputation as one of the top names in Odisha's real estate sector, emerging as a trendsetting developer in the industry.

The Growth Story

A strategic business leader, Parthajeet believes in optimising operational efficiency and leveraging skills to achieve sustainable growth. Contributing to the state's economic growth, Falcon Group has recorded consistent growth in exports. The group clocks an impressive turnover of approx. INR 2000 crore. Creating jobs for over 10000 people, Falcon Group has positively impacted the livelihoods of over 10,000 aquaculture farmers across coastal states of India.

Parthajeet Patnaik's journey with Falcon Group is one of passion, ambition, and unwavering commitment. Falcon Group stands today as a symbol of visionary leadership. It evolves into a multifaceted marvel that leaves an indelible mark on the business landscape of India.

A Leader Pioneering Transformative Change

MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao, a dynamic leader, shares with *Outlook*, his ideology and vision towards raising the bar of Chittoor in the process of building a prosperous economy

Q According to you, what are the major strides required to become a developed economy?

To attain a Viksit Bharat, a major focus should be on the upliftment of the rural and underprivileged masses. People of the nation should become self-reliant and not live on government welfare. Education stands as the cornerstone of a nation's progress. It should be inclusive, accessible, and affordable. Every child must be educated to pursue their dreams. Infrastructure development is the force behind Viksit Bharat. Transport and logistics must be upgraded in not only the cities but also in the villages and remote areas. Industry and manufacturing will help in large-scale employment and job creation. Agriculture is one of the most important pillars of a successful and sustainable economy. Healthcare, family welfare and medical support are crucial. Typically in Tier 2 and 3 cities where the hospitals are far. More supportive policies and practices should be implemented for the nation to plunge ahead.

Q What are the initiatives towards a holistic improvement of the Chittoor district that would benefit the local economy?

My focus is towards serving the underprivileged strata of society. It is an extension of my lifetime dedication to



Daggumalla Prasad Rao, Member of Parliament, Chittoor, Telugu Desam Party, former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer

improving the society. Chittoor has an immense potential to for businesses specialising in solar power, manufacturing of ancillary parts for the defence sector to grow. Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have the capability of creating thousands of jobs for the youth, and making huge profits contributing to the economic growth of the region. I see a range of possibilities for MSMEs to become a thriving hub, opening up other sectors like OEM, Technology and IT, management, upgraded banking and finance.

Agriculture is another area of growth. Technology-led agriculture with seasonal cultivation will help the farmers make more money. Horticulture, upgrading sugarcane production, setting up of mango board benefiting the farmers, and dairy development can grow manifold.

Central government-sponsored and funded schemes will be beneficial for the district's growth. Also, the sericulture sector can be developed into a cottage industry.

Chittoor has its own unique style of traditional weaving, which is much sought after, but the condition of the weavers is pitiable. The entire family is engaged in the craft, and they don't make enough to survive. To elevate the textile industry, we are setting up a textile park for the government to provide sufficient raw materials at lower prices, and by cutting out middlemen, the profitability of weavers will go up. Similarly, the granite industry is very large here with polishing, processing, etc. I want to introduce advanced mining technology and other processes for faster and higher scale of production. For the artisans engaged in granite carving to the export market so that they can get a fair pricing.

They can avail export incentives and a lesser rate of interest from Exim Bank. The artisans can do far better. Manufacturing is another industry that needs to go for more youth to be engaged in work. My experience in the revenue and finance departments, will benefit the integrated development of Chittoor district.

Q What is the idea behind your advocacy to boost Pakala's railway connectivity and infrastructure?

akala station serves as a critical junction linking the districts of Chittoor and Tirupati; there is a potential for modernisation, enhancing both infrastructure and services. I received approval from

THERE ARE MANY SUCCESS STORIES EMERGING FROM RURAL DISTRICTS EITHER IN THE MANUFACTURING, SOFTWARE, POLICE SERVICES OR OTHER SECTORS, WHEN EQUIPPED WITH SKILLS AND EDUCATION. IT IS MY ENDEAVOUR TO HELP THEM REACH THEIR GOALS NOT ONLY FOR THEMSELVES BUT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY.

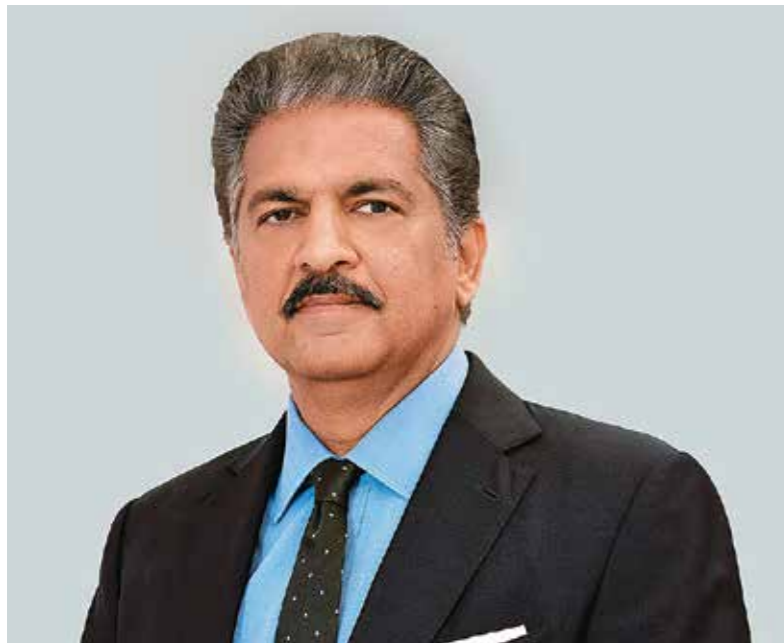
the Union Minister of Railways for establishing a new coach depot. With plans to construct the new depot and upgrade the station, it will not only enhance connectivity but will also create jobs for the railways and also ancillary and OEMs, manufacturing and service, becoming a key railway hub in the region.

Q With your range of expertise in diverse backgrounds, how can you leverage your experience to help the community at large?

Dr B R Ambedkar has been my greatest inspiration. I am also influenced by the efficient administrator, Mr Chandrababu Naidu. I completed my postgraduation with journalism. After being a journalist, I cleared competitive exams and was selected for the income tax department that I served for thirty years and retired as Joint Commissioner Income Tax. I joined my son at Radhey Constructions, which was already well established and running successfully, helping the company in accounting and finance. My son felt that I should use my skills for a larger cause. I too, felt it was time for me to concentrate on helping out the community with my experience and expertise

I have always been engaged in social causes and took a decision to join politics. I am in a position to understand and implement policies and procedures and their impact, given my professional background. After working in the government for so many decades, I am aware of using the platform effectively to serve society and my country as well.

Looking at my own trajectory, I understand that to bring in any change, one needs to be equipped with the right administrative skills. The objective must be realistic and sustainable, beneficial for a large number of individuals. When we take up any leadership role, to ensure quality work, education and knowledge play a vital role. I believe in the power of learning, constantly improving skills, extensive reading, and applying the knowledge to make informed decisions.



Anand Mahindra, Chairman of Mahindra Group

Boosting Economic Growth

Anand Mahindra believes that Indian companies need to enhance capital investment in order to take advantage of the growth opportunities available in India and abroad

Anand Mahindra embraces the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of transforming India into a global manufacturing hub, focusing on strengthening indigenous design capabilities, improving self-reliance and technological self-sufficiency in critical segments of industry such as chips and semiconductors, as well as the need to be recognized for commitment to quality with setting international benchmarks.

According to Mahindra, India has been heavily investing in infrastructure and logistics, and the country has become the cheapest manufacturing destination in the world. India's emerging role as one of the vital nodes in future-proofed supply chains across industries opens the

door for growth within the country and expansion beyond.

Accelerated Growth in Business

Starting from farm equipment to aerostructure conglomerate Mahindra Group will focus on delivering large scale, with its businesses contributing substantially to India's growth over the next decade. The 'growth gems' comprising ten businesses, which include three listed entities—Lifespace, Logistics, and Holidays—and seven unlisted entities, including last-mile mobility, farm machinery, aerostructures, Classic Legends, Susten—a solar business, and Accelo—a vehicle recycling business, are also set to grow.

A leaner and agile organization, Mahindra Group, is also focusing on

increasing the valuation of its newer businesses, what it calls 'growth gems', by five times in the next five years from the value of \$4.2 billion as of March 2024.

"Externally too, conditions are working in our favor. It's time to seize the day," he stated.

Elaborating on the Mahindra Group, he said, "On the back of this rising tide, we are stepping up our investments. We have already announced an investment of Rs 37,000 crore across our auto, farm, and services businesses (excluding Tech Mahindra) in FY25, FY26, and FY27."

These investments will, to a large extent, go towards building capacity, with a pipeline of 26 new models/facelifts in the next 5 years, he said.

Sustainability and Innovation

Mahindra Group's 'born-electric SUV program', built on an electric platform and incorporating cutting-edge technology, is a key component of the company's growth plan in the age of climate change and artificial intelligence. EV made a lot of sense because of the expertise that the company can deploy globally to grow the businesses. This provides an opportunity for partnerships, collaborative work, and value addition in terms of the specialization that they bring to the table. In other business verticals of the group, 'growth gems' in particular, they are open to acquiring global partners who can provide insights, strategy, and guidance to help grow the business faster.

Anand Mahindra has encouraged students from technical institutes and the online community to ideate and come up with solutions for motorizing hand carts with inexpensive battery-operated motors. He emphasized that while India excels in advanced technology, solutions for everyday challenges are crucial.



Chandni Nath Israni, MD and Co-Founder, CK Israni Group

Revolutionizing Culinary Horizons

Chandni Nath Israni speaks to *Outlook* about the impact of the luxury food chain Ladurée, in the dynamic landscape as India emerges at the global level

How do you see the entrance of luxury food chains affecting the food retail industry, given the growing globalization of Indian consumers?

First-of-its-kind luxury food chain operator, we have brought Ladurée to India and are witnessing unprecedented growth in gourmet food culture. India's globalization has evolved the way in which the consumer is now appreciating and spending money on luxury and lifestyle. The Indian gourmet food market is valued at \$1.3 billion and expected to grow at 20% every year.

The Indian consumer has developed an appetite for premium gourmet food and is becoming aware of international brands. With increasing spending power, people are willing to pay for a premium experience.

What unique attributes of your brand help you distinguish yourself in the retailing of luxury foods?

Ladurée, as its name suggests, stands for a legacy brand of over 160 years. Started in 1862, it is premium worldwide for its high quality. We have brought the iconic

Parisian pride to India, renowned for its exceptional offerings such as double-decker macarons, French toast, and French patisserie.

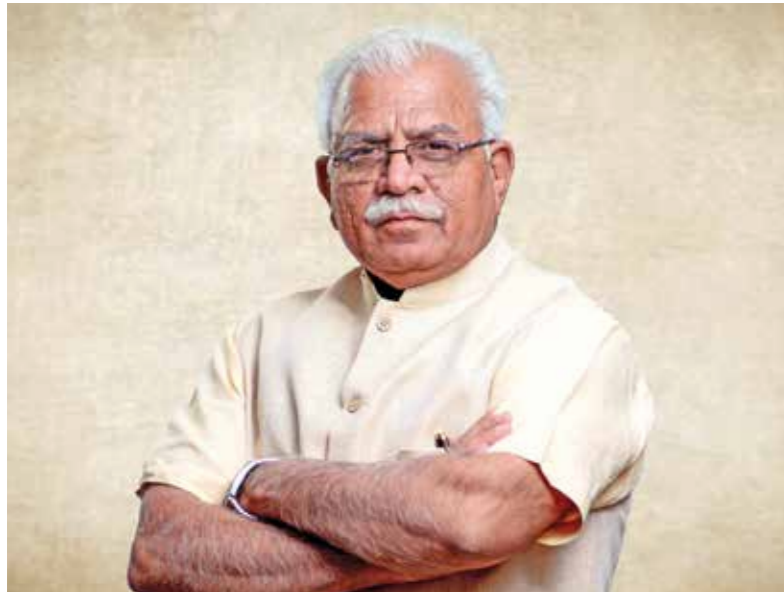
We have added a twist by introducing specific products to suit the Indian palette, like a rose flavor in cakes and macaroons and the chicken tikka sandwich, to distinguish ourselves in the Indian market.

How have you incorporated innovation for creating a unique experience?

It is an iconic brand. The legacy that it carries retains its unique experience. The DNA always remains the same; the innovation happens at the outlets where we adapt to the local markets, different cities, culture, and preferences. That's how we create the X factor. For example, in Delhi, our outlet at Khan Market is an iconic building, whereas JioWorld Plaza is modern. In Pune, we are present at Ritz Carlton, so we have imbibed the Ritz culture. We are in the process of launching at Quest Mall in Kolkata and will be adapting to the city's vibe.

As a woman entrepreneur, what is your message to the aspiring youth who want to explore?

I believe that women can be the best leaders and the best managers, as they can inherently multitask. I am a homemaker, a mother, and a professional running an FNB business solely with my team. For every woman entrepreneur, I would say just follow your vision and do what you love. Working throughout the real estate sector, I didn't know that my creativity lies in the luxury culinary landscape. I am learning every day, and if you aspire for something, go ahead and do it.



Manohar Lal Khattar, Union Minister of Power & Housing and Urban Affairs, Former Chief Minister of Haryana

Giant Strides of Momentum

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar enabling infrastructure for power efficiency and housing solutions for the development of the nation and its people

In the capacity of the Union Power Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar has emphasized the critical significance of the power sector and urged state governments to enhance their power infrastructure to achieve self-sufficiency. Minister Khattar highlighted the crucial role of state governments in the implementation of power sector improvements. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power for modification of the scheme of budgetary support for the cost of enabling infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) with a total outlay of

Rs 12461 crore. The scheme would be implemented from FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32.

The government plans to introduce the 'Golden City Club' to recognize cities excelling in development indicators. This is an initiative that aims to foster competition and development, with cities at risk of being downgraded if they fail to maintain their status. Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar encourages cities to secure top positions in assessments and join this special category.

Infrastructure being an important pillar for the nation's growth, the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Khattar, is focused on

the need to address urban flooding, deliver 1 crore new houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban, and complete Metro projects on time. He is also taking forward the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) and the ambitious Central Vista redevelopment plan. Under his leadership, out of 2,300 identified garbage dumping sites across India, 427 have been fully cleaned, freeing up 4,500 acres of land. He asserted that the remaining locations would be cleaned in the next two years. Some of the projects on these lands are focused on waste-to-energy solutions. He also emphasized the importance of door-to-door waste collection in reducing the need for dump sites, pointing out that 97% of urban wards now have such systems in place.

Khattar has been the Chief Minister of Haryana for two consecutive terms, leading transformative change in the state's administrative systems during his tenure. With numerous radical reforms, the administration became more accountable, responsive, and accessible to the people it served. No department remained untouched by e-governance reforms, making the government more approachable and efficient.

During Khattar's tenure, the state's upswing in economic prosperity is proof of the growth in businesses at the local and international levels. Under his leadership, the state's economic landscape transformed, with abundant agricultural production benefiting farmers, thriving industries creating jobs, and world-class infrastructure attracting economic growth and investments. Social welfare initiatives uplifted marginalized populations, instilling hope and self-reliance in the state's youth, thereby contributing to overall progress.



Ankur Periwal
Managing Director, KPT

Gifted with keen business acumen and inspiring leadership skills, Ankur Periwal, believes that "The Journey Doesn't Shape You, You Shape The Journey." Following his instinctive pursuit of product quality through innovation and adopting sustainable and green technologies with focus on customer centricity, he propelled KPT Piping System Private Limited, as the fastest growing manufacturers, exporters, and suppliers of optimum quality of Pneumato PP-GF Pipes & Fittings, PPR Pipes & Fittings, Fire Retardants, and plumbing pipes systems in the industry. The wide range of KPT's product portfolio caters to plumbing needs of residential and commercial buildings, HVAC systems, industrial applications and pneumatic systems.

Ankur Periwal shares, "Customer satisfaction is paramount to us. Each product undergoes rigorous quality checks, meeting international standards. Our dedicated team provides personalized solutions and unparalleled customer service.

With our focus on innovation and sustainability, KPT Piping leads the industry as a trusted PPR solution provider." KPT stands out as a

Leading the Plumbing Industry with Innovation, Customer care and Ethics

A man of action with responsibility, Ankur Periwal, the visionary Managing Director, KPT Piping System Private Limited, Dehradun, launched the company in 2008. The pioneering entrepreneur is renowned for shaping the leading new-age plumbing brand in the industry

game-changer in the industry for being the sole manufacturer of PPR pipes with a diameter of 400 mm, and its innovation in fire fighting applications, which revolutionised traditional MS piping.

With top certifications such as ISI, ISO, GeM, NSF, WRAS, the company is the first choice of contractors, architects, plumbers, and individuals and is servicing leading clients such as TATA Steel, HP, Bank of Baroda, TVS, Adani, Shapoorji Pallonji, Cipla, TVS, ESSILOR, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited to mention a few.

The KPT PPR Pipes have an edge over other conventional piping systems in the market as they are made of random polypropylene copolymer, are resistance to corrosion, scaling, and can withstand high temperatures and fluctuations. Also, the products are lightweight, easy to install, customisable and suitable for a wide range of applications in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. Mr Periwal assures, "At KPT Pipes, we prioritize quality, durability, and innovation. Our PPR pipes and fittings are engineered to deliver reliable performance and withstand

the demands of various applications and are cost effective too."

Pariwal's perseverance for excellence won him the prestigious "India's Greatest Brands, 2023." Speaking on the occasion he posted in the social media, "It's a proud moment for all of us! KPT Pipes has been chosen for the esteemed "India's Greatest Brands 2023" accolade! From pioneering industry standards to championing customer trust, KPT Pipes' journey is paved with unparalleled achievements. This award doesn't just recognize the brand's legacy, but also its relentless commitment to excellence. Cheers to KPT Pipes and to the many more achievements on the horizon!"

KPT has transformed India's piping industry with pioneering feats in pipe applications by promoting a culture that is deeply embedded in ethical values and sustainable practices, backed by a strong R&D environment.

Giving credit to the employees for KPT Piping System's successful growth, Mr Periwal, is a familiar face at seminars, exhibitions, and collaborative events with industry influencers sending across a strong message that KPT's 'piped dreams' have left an indelible mark on the domestic and aims to impact the global market.





Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways

The Road to Unparalleled Growth

Visionary and reformer, leader and task master, Nitin Gadkari envisions India's road infrastructure to be like that of America to make India prosperous

India has the second largest road network in the world. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is planning to develop around 60,000 km of roads in the next five years at a rate of about 40 km/day. And with Nitin Gadkari at the helm, there is no questioning that this will be achieved. Gadkari's target is to achieve a pace of 100 km per day of highway construction. The Eastern and Western peripheral highways around Delhi were built in a record time of three years. After Nitin Gadkari took over the ministry, files moved at breakneck speed, and both highways are now complete.

National highways totaling over 65,000 kilometers in length are being built under the Bharat Mala, scheme—a vast network of new and existing national highways that crisscross the country. The Bharatmala project is the second largest highway construction project in India and aims to improve connectivity, especially along economic corridors, border areas, and far-flung regions. Under his watch, the North Eastern states received special attention for infrastructure development, and several projects begun by previous administrations but not completed were expedited. No wonder that he

was felicitated with the 18th Late Madhavrao Limaye award in the category of Karyakram Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) for the year 2020-21.

Gadkari's vision for India's economic growth through sustainable development has already started showing demonstrable results. A man of distinction with his approach towards cost-cutting without accepting any compromise on quality, he believes that our industrial growth, infrastructure in the making, as well as transportation, is geared to meet the needs of the future. Gadkari has pinned a focus on developing electric highways that facilitate charging of trucks and buses while running. He has also discussed the importance of electric.

Nitin Gadkari's innovative approach integrates studying various innovative concepts used around the world and implementing these with the best applicable practices across the nation. His personal involvement and in-depth study of projects have resulted in the exponential increase in project completion speed due to his efforts to resolve project-related issues and make the bureaucracy work efficiently. Born into a Maharashtrian family, Gadkari's strongest influence has been his mother, especially her kind-heartedness and philanthropic nature. He remains closely connected to the social causes of the RSS. One of the important measures of the man is the respect he enjoys from his colleagues and peers. When it comes to Gadkari's projects, one sees the work starting within a few days of the function. Gadkari is a great example of how a people's representative can work for the development of the country.



Atul Temurnikar
Chairman and Co-founder
Global Schools Group (GSG)

As the nation strides towards becoming a developed economy under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, education stands at the heart of its transformation for India to achieve this vision of 'Vikshit Bharat 2047'.

"As India positions itself as a global leader, it is these values that will differentiate future leaders in the workforce—those who lead not just with knowledge but with integrity and heart," said Temurnikar.

Global Network of Schools

Under the leadership of Atul Temurnikar, the GSG network of 64 international school campuses, of which 26 are present across India, is nurturing students to be future-ready individuals equipped with skills that will help transform society in the 21st century.

The international campuses of GSG in India comprise Global Indian International School, OneWorld International School, Vikaasa Group of Schools, Witty Group of Schools, and Glendale International Schools. These schools are designed as smart campuses with modern infrastructure and offer a blend of global best practices in education.

Education for Global Citizenship

Global Schools Group nurturing a future generation of well-rounded innovative thinkers and changemakers who will lead the transformation in India and the world

In the last two decades, GSG schools have won more than 600 awards for implementing best practices in education.

Temurnikar says, "Our schools are tailored to the unique needs of the times. They are a far cry from the chalk-and-board system, focussing on tools that will offer learning that is modern, deep, and limitless."

Empowering Global Citizens

Temurnikar embarked on his journey of establishing schools to empower students to become global citizens who understand the world around them, have ideas for a better tomorrow, but at the same time retain their inherent identity. He believes education is a powerful catalyst for social and economic change, and the right pedagogy will

"THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS, FIELD TRIPS, AND HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, WE ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO MAKE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS AND TO DEVELOP SKILLS SUCH AS COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP, AND INNOVATION."

deliver the right outcomes. At the core of GSG's philosophy lies a values-driven approach to education, deeply rooted in universal values such as respect, integrity, and compassion, which makes GSG schools a perfect balance of the traditional and the contemporary.

A Future-Ready Generation

Over the last 22 years, GSG schools have emphasised skill development through a holistic learning approach, enabling students to learn beyond the confines of academics. This resonates with PM Modi's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasises a shift from rote memorisation and focusses on creativity and skills.

From a wide array of co-curricular activities in sports, arts, and technology to community service initiatives, students have ample opportunities to discover and develop their talents. GSG schools have introduced forward-thinking programmes that focus on STEM education, digital literacy, entrepreneurship, leadership, and career guidance programmes. These schools integrate cutting-edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and coding, into the curriculum to ensure students are well-versed in the tools of the future.



Dina Nath Thakur, National President, Sahakar Bharati

Promoting the Spirit of Cooperation

D N Thakur shares his idea of fostering and adopting a people-centric cooperative approach to constructively engage all its citizens towards building an all-encompassing developed nation

The road to developed Bharat has to essentially pass through its villages and touch the lives and activities of all its citizens in a fair and equitable manner. The goal and vision have to be internalised by everyone in this country. People of Bharat have to be at the forefront, driving and owning up to this agenda. Every citizen has to treat themselves as an asset and equal stakeholder in this transformative journey of Bharat.

The foundation block and root of Bharat lie in its villages. Though formally not registered as a cooperative society, every

village and its hamlets are an epitome of the principles, spirit, and values of cooperation. Here, people live, dream, and rejoice together; share and solve their problems; and have a common and shared vision. Every village has the potential and requisite assets to ensure food, energy, and water security and a harmonious social environment for all its residents. But why is it not being done?

The answer is that we are not following the right and appropriate path! The right way is to entrust the villages with their own cooperatives, which are free from external influence.

All types of economic activities and community assets of the village should be managed by their own cooperative. We have to appreciate that cooperation and balance are fundamental to the existence of every living system on earth. Cooperation is an intrinsic value that cannot be imposed by any sort of administrative, financial, punitive, or coercive external power. Waning cooperative conscience is a major factor contributing to the crises that human beings are facing. Cooperation is an instrument for aligning the head, heart, and soul of the people for achieving common societal and economic goals. Cooperative conscience helps in the creation of a harmonious social environment vital for sustainable development processes and momentum. It is disastrous for any nation when its citizens feel helpless and resort to the streets for solving their problems. When people live in harmony and prosper together, the nation prospers.

Sahakar Bharati is the only pan-Indian ethical organisation that promotes and protects cooperative conscience. Present across the country, with a strong network of dedicated members, it is working relentlessly to spread knowledge and help people in the formation and running of value-based cooperative institutions. The Government of India has created a separate 'Ministry of Cooperation' and initiated several measures for strengthening cooperative movement in the country. Along with its own initiatives, Sahakar Bharati is also complimenting the efforts of the government for achieving prosperity through cooperatives.

Innovation in Digital Networking

Vaibhav Maloo speaks to *Outlook* on pioneering the digital networking landscape and tech innovations that are poised to transform the digital space as India emerges at the global level, in conversation with Aditi Chakraborty



Vaibhav Maloo
Managing Director
Enso Group

Q The Enso Group is a successful business conglomerate. What are the key attributes towards driving excellence?

As an organization, we operate on the foundations of virtuous Indian values. Since our modest beginnings in 2005, we have grown significantly by extending into over 10 countries and various critical sectors. Our goal is to emerge as leaders in setting new global standards for all industries that we operate in. The Enso Group commenced its commercial venture by acquiring oil blocks in Jordan for exploration and production. The unparalleled opportunities we have gotten can be attributed to our company strategy of establishing many drivers of growth. At Enso, every project is rooted in our key competencies: persistent opportunity evaluation, comprehensive analysis, adept execution, and sustainable growth.

Q What was the objective behind launching Enso Webworks?

The newest endeavor in the realm of technological innovation and advancement is Enso Webworks, the IT division of Enso Group. Enso Webworks has proven its abilities by presenting innovative solutions. Infoprofile, a flagship product that is the outcome of meticulous research and development, is one such outstanding offering. Enso Webworks is geared up to disrupt

the market with more innovative product lines and advanced features to challenge the existing industry standards in an ever-evolving tech space.

Q How is the launch of InfoProfile revolutionizing the way professionals connect and network?

InfoProfile is a 'cutting-edge visiting card exchange program' that offers users a digital alternative to traditional business cards. I wanted to create a significant shift in the digital networking landscape and go beyond the traditional networking approach of physical visiting and business cards. This product is a seamless blend of innovation, usability, and effectiveness. Enso Webworks developed InfoProfile to

“THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN BUSINESSES, IS A CULTURAL SHIFT THAT REQUIRES ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTINUALLY CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO, EXPERIMENT, AND REINVENT. I AM RELENTLESS FOR TECH INNOVATION TO UPSCALE AND CREATE NEW PRODUCTS.”

help professionals create dynamic digital profiles, including contact information, social media links, etc. These profiles can be easily shared and accessed, transforming networking into a seamless and environmentally friendly experience.

Q As a new-age entrepreneur and also helming the responsibility of an established traditional business group, how do you envision a global India?

India's growth trajectory is a blend of service and manufacturing sectors, agricultural reforms, and significant foreign direct investment inflows. Reforms like GST and IBC and significant steps towards digitization of the economy are transforming the business landscape. The startup ecosystem is booming and is currently home to numerous unicorns across diverse sectors. A growing venture capital presence, government incentives, and a large, skilled workforce support this surge. Commanding the world's largest workforce with more than 65% below the age of 35, India will be contributing in dimensions to the global economy.



Dr Ranjan Pai, President, Manipal Academy of Higher Education

Transforming young lives

An educationist, entrepreneur, institution builder and investor, Dr Pai has been redefining new paths in education and healthcare to transform lives

Dr Ranjan R Pai, President of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) Trust and Chairman of Manipal Education and Medical Group was honoured in January this year with the esteemed Paryaya Darbar Award. This accolade recognizes Dr Pai's outstanding contributions to education and healthcare.

An educationist, entrepreneur, institution builder and investor, Dr Pai is deeply passionate about education and its ability to transform lives. The founder and chairman of the Manipal Education and Medical Group (MEMG), Dr Pai is a medical graduate from Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, who has also

done a fellowship in hospital administration in the United States.

Under Dr Pai's stewardship, Manipal Hospital has soared to new heights as the country's second-largest hospital chain. Boasting over 9000 beds, the hospital network treats approximately 2 million patients every day, embodying the pinnacle of healthcare excellence.

Carrying forward the legacy of his illustrious parents Dr Ramdas M Pai and Mrs Vasanti R Pai, Dr Pai set up MEMG in the year 2000. The institution is the holding entity for businesses spread across health care, education, health insurance,

research, and private investments. In the last two decades, Dr Pai's work across education and health care has broken new ground and redefined these sectors.

Today, MAHE with presence in Manipal & Bengaluru, is ranked among the top 10 multi-disciplinary university. Dr Pai's visionary approach has not only garnered an 'excellence' status from the Union Ministry of Education but also expanded the institution's presence globally, with campuses in Jaipur, Jamshedpur, Sikkim, Malaysia, Dubai, and Antigua.

36 of MAHE's eminent researchers have been recognised among the top 2% of scientists worldwide, as per the latest citation rankings. This recognition is based on the "August 2024 data update for Updated Science-Wide Author Databases of Standardized Citation Indicators," released by on September 16, 2024.

Additionally, six distinguished MAHE researchers have been lauded for their remarkable career contributions to their respective fields. The university's growing representation in these rankings underscores its commitment to fostering cutting-edge research and contributing to the global scientific community.

A globally recognized social entrepreneur, Dr Pai has significantly impacted the educational landscape, benefitted millions of students and created numerous employment opportunities. He firmly believes that the Group's universities, spearheaded by MAHE, should continue to build quality, and focus on excellence, while being affordable, to attract the best of students and faculty.

Leading Corporate Trusteeship

Beacon Trusteeship Limited pioneers as India's first and only listed trustee in the emerging financial sector of a growing economy



Pratapsingh Nathani, Chairman and Managing Director Beacon Trusteeship Limited

In the last two decades, there has been a substantial growth in the corporate trusteeship industry in India, mostly due to the development of debt markets and the requirement for regulated supervision of financial instruments such as bonds and debentures.

Pratapsingh Nathani has over 25 years of experience in the banking and financial services sector and was associated with various multinationals. His deep understanding of the market and experience have helped him identify a gap in the market for a private trustee dedicated to meeting investors' needs and raising service standards. This led to the establishment of Beacon Trusteeship in 2016.

The company is focused on catering to the rising demand for expert trusteeship services and has become a market leader in the management of bonds, debentures, loans, securitisations, and AIFs. In a rapidly changing financial world, the firm's position is crucial in guaranteeing adherence to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulatory framework and protecting investor interests.

Commitment to Excellence
Beacon Trusteeship Limited is a prominent player in the corporate trusteeship sector in India. Nathani's commitment to excellence, dedication to service quality that meets global standards, and compliance in serving investors' needs have positioned Beacon Trusteeship Limited as India's first and only listed trustee! Today, the company is the most preferred trustee, offering responsible and productive fiduciary services and providing effective solutions tailored to their clients' needs.

The U.S., U.K., and Singapore are leaders in this space, driven by robust regulatory frameworks and financial innovation. In India, the rise of corporate trusteeship is largely due to SEBI's efforts to regulate and protect investors in a growing debt market. SEBI plays a pivotal role in regulating corporate trusteeship in the country, ensuring that trustees act in the best interests of bondholders and investors. Regulatory changes over the years have impacted the evolving landscape for trustee businesses. Nathani focusses on the emerging investment opportunities

in the Indian real estate market and appreciates the role of regulatory efforts by SEBI and RBI to ensure market stability and compliance.

Tech-based Solutions
Beacon Trusteeship's innovative use of technology to comply with SEBI regulations is what distinguishes it in the market that it operates in. The company implements cutting-edge digital technologies in the areas of securitisation, covenant monitoring, bond and debenture transactions, and AIF administration. By enabling real-time tracking of financial performance, compliance, and risk assessment, these platforms help issuers fulfil their commitments to investors. The company has invested significantly in its fintech platform, prioritising privacy and utilising advanced technology like Amazon Web Services. The company's digital solutions guarantee timely reporting to investors and regulators, streamline processes, and reduce the manual rate of errors. This boosts investor confidence in India's bond markets while enhancing operational efficiency.

New Face of Modern India

Dr G Ramakrishna Achar emerges as an innovator and technological wizard in the ever-changing landscape of India through sustainable development and economic growth

Dr Achar's journey from a humble beginning to becoming one of the most respected industrialists and social entrepreneurs of India is a source of inspiration for new-age entrepreneurs. His breakthrough came when he trained at the prestigious Central Food Technology and Research Institute (CFTRI) in Mysuru, which marked the beginning of a lifelong journey in engineering, innovation, and social change.

G Ramakrishna Achar's achievements are a testament to scope and perspectives in the Indian work landscape for those who want to start off as MSMEs. With Rs 25,000 as seed capital, Achar started a fabrication business catering to the agriculture, water management, and sewage treatment sectors. Today, his company boasts an annual turnover of Rs 365 crore and employs over 3,000 people, ranging from skilled professionals to semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

Global Innovation at Grassroots

A significant pioneering innovation in modern paddy processing units saves India an estimated 30 percent of harvested paddy each harvest season. The first paddy boiler plant was installed in 1991, using a cutting-edge machine with an inbuilt dryer that effectively controlled moisture levels and preserved the quality of rice over long periods. This breakthrough revolutionised the paddy industry by reducing wastage and bringing substantial economic gains. Achar's innovation in agriculture has since been adopted by numerous paddy-growing nations in the world, which won him the honorary doctorate from Mangaluru University.

Research being the cornerstone of development, Achar's forward-thinking approach towards research into moisture control and grain preservation improved the texture and aroma of rice, making it a preferred ingredient for modern-



day fast food recipes. The producers of the fast food industry vouch for the quality of rice processed on machinery designed by Dr Achar. He has revolutionised the rice-based food industry.

Clean Drinking Water for All

Recognising the dire need for clean drinking water in India, he shifted his focus towards developing affordable and efficient water purification systems. He launched a well-researched technology-led brand of water purifiers, Elixir. Aligning with PM Narendra Modi's vision for safe drinking water under the 'Sujala' programme, Dr Achar enhanced the design and affordability of his water purification plants.

The Elixir water dispensers, installed in schools, public offices, temples, and rural communities, offer safe drinking water at an incredibly low price—just Rs 1 per litre, dominating public water dispensing systems across the country. It is a lifesaving initiative transforming the lives of millions, particularly in rural areas. The wide-scale deployment of Elixir machines has not only improved public health but also reduced plastic waste by curbing the use of single-use plastic bottles.

Effluent Treatment Plants

The problem of untreated sewage

and effluent water has become increasingly pressing. Sewage discharge from towns and cities pollutes surface water resources, rendering underground water sources unusable in densely populated areas. Dr Achar innovated compact, efficient, and user-friendly sewage treatment plants, designed for households, housing complexes, and industrial estates. These next-generation plants require minimal space and are fully automated, and the modular design makes them scalable. The plants require little to no civil infrastructure work, making them easy to implement in both urban and rural settings.

The State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority had suggested a micro-inhouse effluent treatment plant for every housing colony and high-rise buildings and reusing the treated water for secondary uses. Dr Achar was the first to devise this micro-effluent treatment plant, fully fabricated in a stainless steel structure with minimal maintenance processes, available in the niche market not only in India but also globally. His "plug and play" technology has simplified the process of sewage treatment, making it accessible to a wider audience and contributing to a cleaner, greener future.

Empowering the Rural Workforce

The Elixir initiative has generated employment opportunities, particularly for young people in urban and rural areas who earn their livelihood by maintaining and operating the machines. This initiative simultaneously addresses three key government programs: Stand Up India, Skill India, and Clean Water for All. By combining technological innovation with social responsibility, Dr Achar has



made a tangible impact on improving the quality of life.

Recognising the untapped potential of rural youth, he established the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Bannadka near Moodbidri. The institute provides specialised training in fabrication, mechanical automation, and technology integration, preparing students for careers in industries both in India and abroad. Over the years, the institute has trained thousands of skilled professionals. The ITI has earned recognition from the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and plays a pivotal role in India's Skill India initiative, a testament to Dr Achar's commitment to creating a skilled and self-reliant workforce.

Vision for Sustainable Agriculture

Achar's passion for agriculture led him to establish Gau Dhama, a self-

sustaining farm located in Muniyal, Karkala. Spread across 35 acres, this initiative combines traditional cow-rearing practices with modern technology to create a model village that is both environmentally sustainable and economically viable. His envisions it to develop it into a small- and medium-enterprise (SME)-level dairy. Gau Dhama is also a therapeutic centre for trendy 'cow cuddling', culminating in a national movement.

Service and Social Responsibility

Dr Achar has played an instrumental role in the temple's development as a trustee of the Sri Kalikamba Temple in Moodbidri. He established Bala Samskara Kendra, a community-driven institution to revive traditional Indian knowledge and values, integrated with modern education systems for holistic education of young students.

Through the foundation, he has spearheaded numerous corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, including water conservation projects, water body revitalisation, human resource development, and medical camps. His commitment to social welfare is a reflection of his belief in giving back to the community and uplifting those around him.

DR G RAMAKRISHNA ACHAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS ARE A TESTAMENT TO SCOPE AND PERSPECTIVES IN THE INDIAN WORK LANDSCAPE FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO START OFF AS MSMEs. WITH RS 25,000 AS SEED CAPITAL





Dr Veezhinathan Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras

Shakti-man of India

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr Kamakoti heads the Microprocessor Development Program and the Information Security

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

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

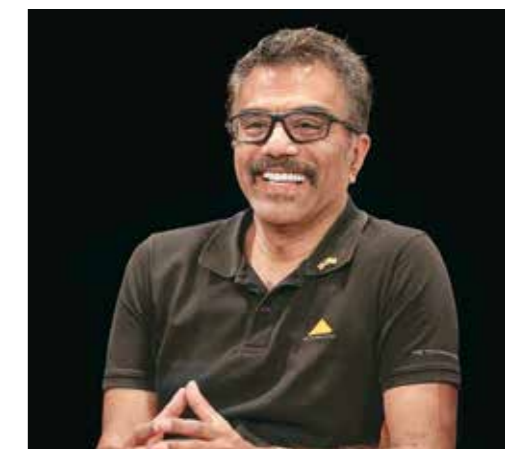
Several startups in India are now leveraging Shakti for various applications, from security to SoC development, highlighting the architecture's flexibility and adaptability to specific needs. These include Mindgrove Technologies and InCore Semiconductors. Kamakoti added that they are also trying to integrate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

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

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

Sowing seeds of Viksit Bharat

Chocko Valliappa urges skilling and training of teachers in rural India so that they become trailblazers of change in the primary education system.



Chocko Valliappa is founder and CEO, Vee Technologies and Vice Chairman, Sona Group of Education Institutions, Salem

On a recent cycling trip, a 12-year-old boy who was helping at his father's coffee and refreshment kiosk handed me a bottle of water and coffee. As we chatted, I learned that in the mornings, he attended 4th standard classes at a neighbourhood school and helped his father in the evenings. It was a simple exchange, but one that spoke of a child's quiet responsibility, balancing school and work at such a young age.

After handing him a Rs 100 note to pay for Rs 35, I casually asked him how much change he would give back. He paused for a few moments, visibly thinking, before softly saying that he would ask his Appa. His inability to subtract Rs 35 from Rs 100 left me uneasy. It stirred a deeper worry, especially since I've been reflecting on the 'Pillars of Viksit Bharat 2047' piece for this publication.

The stark gap between the appalling standards of primary education and real-world application, embodied in that innocent exchange, got me thinking: strengthening primary school education must be the singular pillar to steer India towards a truly Viksit Bharat. That moment with the young boy wasn't just a small oversight in arithmetic—it was a reflection of a much larger, more troubling reality.

Later, I spoke with a colleague Tr. Gandhimati from Thiagarajar Polytechnic Salem who had recently been honoured as one of the 16 National Teachers Award winners from Polytechnics and Engineering, receiving the award from Mrs. Droupadi Murmu, the President of India—someone who began her career as a school teacher herself. My colleague passionately described the innovative ways these award-winning teachers brought subjects like science, mathematics, environment, and nutrition to life. They used local materials, hand-drawn charts, folk art, and even puppets. Their stories, captured in videos, showcased iconic teachers from primary and middle schools in J&K and Meghalaya, from skilling centres in Ferozabad to ITIs in Quilon. I learned of teachers trekking on foot to remote villages, urging

THESE TEACHERS, WHEN EMPOWERED, WILL BE THE PILLARS THAT SUPPORT AND UPLIFT A VIKSIT BHARAT, GUIDING GENERATIONS TO REALISE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

families to send their children to school, and of others who carried books on their motorbikes, riding through narrow, winding lanes to ensure education reached every corner of India. These teachers, against all odds, are the real architects of a Viksit Bharat.

I am confident that for each of these trailblazing teachers, there are tens of thousands more who, with the right inspiration, motivation, and a spark of encouragement, can ignite a true revolution in the primary education system. These are the teachers who have the power to not only transform their own classrooms but also to inspire their peers, colleagues, and communities. They can light a fire of change in the very ecosystem they are a part of, creating a ripple effect that reaches far beyond the confines of a single school. With their passion and creativity, they can breathe new life into education, turning it into a force that truly shapes the future of our nation. These teachers, when empowered, will be the pillars that support and uplift a Viksit Bharat, guiding generations to realise their full potential.

The millions of youth will march on to build a true Viksit Bharat. And who know this Chai walla could well become our future Prime Minister.



Dr G Viswanathan, Chancellor of VIT University, Vellore

A Legacy of Educational Excellence

Dr G Viswanathan touching the lives of many by implementing Mahatma Gandhi's vision of value-based education and uplifting the underprivileged members of society

As India celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's 155th birthday, it is fitting to highlight the contributions of Dr. G. Viswanathan, a visionary leader and founder-chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) University in Tamil Nadu. Born on December 8, 1938, in a remote Tamil Nadu village, Dr. Viswanathan's journey embodies the essence of a Viksit Bharat, or developed India, through his relentless pursuit of educational excellence and societal upliftment.

Dr. Viswanathan's educational odyssey began in his native Tamil, reflecting a deep connection to his roots. He excelled academically, earning degrees in Economics and Law from prestigious institutions like Loyola College and Madras Law College. His commitment to lifelong

learning is exemplified by his participation in the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School in 2003, nearly four decades after his initial education.

In 1984, he founded Vellore Engineering College, with a vision to provide world-class education that would empower students to effect meaningful change in society. This institution has blossomed into VIT University, attracting over 25,000 students across 53 programs, including 1,000 international students. VIT's accolades—ranked as India's top private engineering institution and boasting international accreditations—underscore Dr. Viswanathan's commitment to educational excellence.

Dr. Viswanathan's influence

extends beyond academia. A former student leader and member of the Indian parliament, he was dedicated to championing public issues. His re-election success speaks to his deep connection with the community and his genuine commitment to their needs. He later served a decade in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, where he focused on provincial politics to improve the lives of his constituents.

His initiatives reflect a profound compassion for the underprivileged. By providing scholarships and establishing the Universal Higher Education Trust, he has opened doors for countless students from disadvantaged backgrounds. His efforts to uplift women and unemployed youth demonstrate a commitment to fostering self-reliance and empowerment in the community. Additionally, his vision for a greener Vellore—planting one million saplings—illustrates a holistic approach to societal well-being.

Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of education resonates deeply with Dr. Viswanathan's work. Gandhi envisioned education as a means to develop human personality, emphasizing discipline, manual skills, and the cultivation of peace. He believed that education should foster socio-economic progress and moral development—principles that Dr. Viswanathan has seamlessly integrated into his educational initiatives.

As we honor Gandhi's legacy today, it is clear that Dr. G. Viswanathan stands as a testament to the transformative power of education. His life's work not only advances the ideals of Viksit Bharat but also embodies the ethical and moral foundations that Gandhi championed. In nurturing the next generation, Dr. Viswanathan illuminates the path toward a brighter, more equitable future for all.

Building Innovation from Within

A visionary business leader, Mathew Job is championing a culture of innovation and creativity that empowers employees to take risks, collaborate, and thrive



Mathew Job
Executive Chairman, Watertec India

Mathew Job is the epitome of transformative leadership; his personality is a combination of ambition, empathy, creativity, and honesty. Since July 2023, he has been the Executive Chairman of Watertec India Private Limited, a portfolio company of Warburg Pincus LLC, an American PE that is focused on growth investment. Before this, Mathew was the Executive Director and CEO of Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Limited (CGCEL).

Watertec, a leading manufacturer of bath fittings made of engineering polymer, boasts cutting-edge production facilities fusing both utility and elegance that can produce 40 million units a year. Mathew is focused on garnering a larger market share for Watertec, which has a strong hold in South India and a significant presence in the East. Watertec plans to broaden its product line, improve scalability and have greater reach – first across India and then internationally.

The Mark of a Leader

During 7.5 years as the CEO of CGCEL, Mathew was instrumental in transforming a sleepy company

with an average performance into one of the top performers in the industry, with industry-leading profitability. Recognizing this stellar performance, the Economic Times awarded Mathew Job as one of Asia's most promising business leaders for 2020–21.

An alumnus of the Harvard Business School and the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata, Mathew started his career with Philips Electronics India Ltd where he spent 15 years in various roles, both in India and abroad. His first 2 country management roles were at Grohe India and Racold (Ariston) Thermo Pvt. Ltd, where he delivered industry-leading growth.

In 2015, Mathew joined CGCEL as the first CEO of the newly demerged company. His commitment to his team's welfare during COVID19 earned him accolades from the Great Place to Work Institute as 'One of India's Best Leaders in Times of Crisis'. In his first year at Watertec India, Mathew won the 'Most Promising Business Leader of Asia' award for 2023–2024 by Times Now.

Actively participating in design thinking sessions, challenging existing paradigms, and equipping employees with essential resources and development programs,

Mathew encourages collaboration through cross-functional teams.

A Sustainable Future

Watertec integrates intelligent design, latest material technology and its knowledge of water management to deliver innovative and sustainable solutions. It promotes environmental stewardship, including water conservation. Sustainable practices such as energy reduction, recycling programs, ethical sourcing and fair labour practices are fundamental to Watertec's supply chain management.

The Way Forward

Mathew Job aims to establish a legacy of developing resilient, empowered leaders who embrace risk-taking and view failures as opportunities for improvement. He wishes to leave an indelible mark on his team through mentorship and by facilitating their personal growth.

Resolutely committed to corporate social responsibility, the organization under the leadership of Mathew Job is promoting prudent use of valuable resources and building a better and sustainable future for all.



Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions

Shaping Future Leaders

In the heart of India's educational renaissance stands Pradip Agarwal, an educationist and visionary deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of achievers and leaders

As India strides towards its Viksit Bharat mission, with education as a cornerstone, Agarwal's work aligns seamlessly with the transformative National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, championing the cause of 'education for all.'

A Global Perspective on Education

Agarwal, an alumnus of the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School, brings a global outlook to his philanthropic and educational endeavors. His involvement in shaping educational policies extends beyond national

boundaries, aiming to elevate the quality of education across all societal strata. For Agarwal, education is not a privilege reserved for the affluent but a fundamental right that should be accessible to all.

This vision found resonance on the world stage during India's G20 Presidency in 2023. The Educational Ministerial meeting saw a convergence of minds, with ministers and delegates from G20 and guest countries underlining the transformative power of education in realizing the Presidency's theme: 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'

Fostering Innovation and Research

The global recognition of India's strides in education and research was evident in the WIPO's Global Innovation Index 2022. The Indian government's focus on driving qualitative research has strengthened the country's position in global innovation rankings. A testament to this commitment is the launch of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, with an impressive allocation of ₹50,000 crore, set to catalyze advancements in knowledge and technology.

At the forefront of this research revolution, the Heritage Group of Institutions has played a pivotal role in nurturing young minds. Under Agarwal's guidance, Heritage has created a vibrant research ecosystem that spans across its various institutions. From undergraduate research programs to advanced doctoral studies, Heritage has implemented a comprehensive approach to fostering innovation.

The institutions have established state-of-the-art laboratories, research centers, and incubation hubs that provide students with hands-on experience in cutting-edge technologies. Collaborations with industry partners and international research institutions have further enriched the research environment, exposing students to real-world challenges and global perspectives.

Heritage's commitment to research is evident in its annual research symposiums, where students present their findings to peers and experts alike. These events not only showcase the institution's research output but also serve as a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration and idea exchange. Through mentorship programs, research grants, and publication support, Heritage has

successfully cultivated a culture of inquiry and innovation among its students, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to India's growing research landscape.

Bridging Vision and Execution

At the heart of Heritage's success lies Pradip Agarwal's exceptional leadership acumen and holistic approach. His role transcends traditional boundaries, serving as a crucial bridge between the Chancellor's visionary guidance and the Vice Chancellor's executive implementation. This unique position allows Agarwal to harmonize advisory wisdom with practical execution, creating synergy that propels the institutions forward.

Agarwal adeptly navigates the complex landscape of higher education, balancing academic excellence with administrative efficiency. By fostering open communication channels between different levels of leadership, he ensures that strategic decisions are not only visionary but also grounded in operational realities.

This pivotal role has been instrumental in spearheading the

Reimagining Higher Education

Agarwal's vision for higher education in India is both ambitious and pragmatic. Recognizing the potential of Indian students pursuing doctoral degrees abroad, he advocates for policies and learning environments that will attract this talent back to India. His efforts have contributed to significant reforms, including:

- The transition from a 3-year to a 4-year undergraduate curriculum, aligning with international standards
- Implementation of a multidisciplinary approach with flexible entry and exit options
- Introduction of direct PhD pathways for students completing honors degrees with research components.
- These reforms are already taking root in prestigious institutions across the country, setting a new benchmark for higher education in India.

success of the Heritage Group of Institutions. Agarwal's ability to translate high-level strategic goals into actionable plans has enabled Heritage to adapt swiftly to the evolving educational landscape. His approach has created an environment where innovation thrives, and both faculty and students are empowered to excel.

Shaping the Future of Indian Education

Looking ahead, Agarwal envisions a bright future for Indian education.

With India poised to have the world's largest youth population in the next decade, the focus is on empowering this demographic through education, driving exponential economic growth.

Agarwal's involvement with apex bodies and international organizations positions him at the forefront of educational policy formulation. His work with institutions like CII, AIMA, the Indian Chamber of Commerce, and ASSOCHAM aims to create a more inclusive, technologically advanced, and globally competitive educational landscape.

"Our goal is to create a learning environment that nurtures talent across all social strata," Agarwal states. "We're harnessing the power of AI, quantum computing, and other cutting-edge technologies to prepare our youth for leadership in fields like nuclear medicine, space science, and defense."

As India marches towards its vision of a developed nation by 2047, Pradip Agarwal's tireless efforts in shaping educational policies and nurturing institutions stand as a beacon of progress, illuminating the path towards a brighter, more educated future for all.

The Heritage of Excellence: Schooling with a Difference

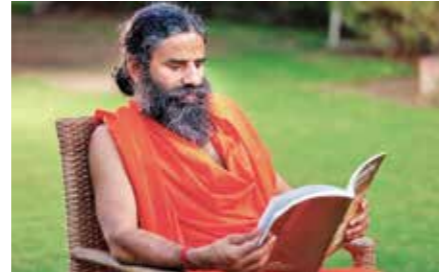
The Heritage Group of Institutions, founded in 2001, stands as a testament to Agarwal's educational philosophy. Born from the philanthropic vision of Kolkata-based industrialists, the Kalyan Bharati Trust has grown to encompass six educational institutions, serving 10,000 students under the guidance of 900 dedicated educators.

Under Agarwal's leadership, Heritage has become a pioneer in implementing NEP's vision, integrating cutting-edge learning methodologies such as:

- Morning yoga and meditation sessions
- Innovation and entrepreneurship programs
- Best-in-class school-level internships
- International education exchange initiatives



Acharya Balkrishna
Chairman of Patanjali Ayurved



Yogrishi Swami Ramdev
Founder Patanjali Ayurved Patanjali
Yogpeeth Bharat Swabhiman Trust

Reviving Ancient Wisdom for Modern Wellness

Holistic approach to balancing the body's energy and improving spiritual, mental, and physical health with the aid of Ayurveda and Yoga, advocating a holistic approach to health that resonates with Gandhi's principles of natural living

Commemorating the 155th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the movement towards bringing the ancient wisdom of yoga and Ayurveda to everyday life echoes the Mahatma's philosophy of 'all-round personality development' for an evolved future.

Acharya Balkrishna, a visionary leader and the Founder Secretary of Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust, has pioneered in holistic healing through Ayurveda, walking on Gandhi's principles of simplicity, self-sufficiency, and care for the community.

Educated in the traditional 'guru-shishya parampara' under the esteemed Acharya Baldevji, Acharya Balkrishna is a remarkable scholar of Ayurveda, Sanskrit, and Vedic philosophy. He has made Ayurveda not only accessible but also relevant in today's fast-paced world. He is known for his humility and commitment to the upliftment of society.

Under his leadership, Patanjali

has grown into a large enterprise impacting millions—over 1.5 million patients with chronic diseases have found relief through Ayurvedic treatments, while more than 7 million receive guidance from traditional doctors free of charge.

Acharya Balkrishna has published over 400 scholarly articles and authored more than 200 books on topics ranging from Ayurveda to agriculture. Working on biodiversity, particularly with rare herbs nearing extinction. His multi-volume World Herbal Encyclopaedia describes 60,000 medicinal plants, promoting indigenous knowledge.

Being listed among the 'Most Influential People' by prominent magazines, he received the UNSDG Award at the UN headquarters in Geneva, emphasizing his role as a global ambassador for health and wellness.

Baba Ramdev dedicated himself to yoga and asceticism, earning a postgraduate degree in Sanskrit and yoga at a Gurukul. Inspired by the

teachings of Maharishi Dayanand and the profound wisdom of Patanjali, he sought solitude in the Himalayas to meditate and clarify his mission: to promote yoga and Ayurveda while reforming India's social, political, and economic systems.

Baba Ramdev's efforts culminated in the establishment of Patanjali Ayurved Limited, which champions herbal remedies and Ayurveda. Under his guidance, the company emphasizes quality and sustainability.

Yoga, a cornerstone of Baba Ramdev's teachings, is a holistic approach to health, addressing physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. His efforts have led to a surge in yoga's popularity across India and beyond, with millions engaging in practices guided by trained instructors affiliated with Patanjali Yogpeeth.

Influenced by Gandhi, he launched 'Bharat Swabhiman Movement', for an addiction-free, vegetarian, and corruption-free India characterized by ethical values and strong character.

Changing Face of Digital India

Sanjib Sahoo transforming business growth in performance-driven industries with disruptive thinking and innovation

Sanjib Sahoo is hailed as one of the most influential business minds and recognized globally for his disruptive thinking and transformative approach to digital innovation. With a unique blend of technical expertise and business acumen, Sahoo is redefining long-standing, performance-driven industries—including the B2B technology distribution ecosystem touching nearly 90% of the human population—by enabling them to become aggressively digital and remain amazingly human.

A man of humble beginnings in India, Sahoo's journey is filled with heart and hard work—leading to his passion for using technology to better the world. He encourages businesses to adopt the spirit of digitization and develop a mindset for growth, recognizing the people are always more important than the technology.

Sahoo is celebrated for his inclusive and forward-thinking approach, signature style, and pursuit of continued innovation. His attitude, aptitude, and accomplishments have earned him numerous accolades, including being named a Global Technology Icon and the "DigiGOAT" by CIOnews. In 2023 and 2024, CRN ranked him among the top five "disrupters" on its annual Top 25

Disrupters list. He also received Bharat Samman Award in 2023.

As EVP of Global Technology and CDO for Ingram Micro, Sahoo leads the company's worldwide platform strategy. His leadership has been central to the origin, adoption and continuous evolution of Xvantage™, Ingram Micro's AI-driven digital twin. This "platform of all platforms" is reshaping the industry and changing how businesses and people use data and technology at scale to build a better experience and make more informed business decisions.

An alumnus of Harvard Business School and an inventor with patents in data and streaming technologies, Sahoo is leaving an indelible mark on our world. In

"WE MUST DO MORE THAN WE DISCUSS AND FOCUS ON THE BETTERMENT OF SOCIETY, AS WELL AS BUSINESS," SAYS SAHOO. "TODAY'S LEADERS MUST EMBRACE THEIR ROLES IN SHAPING TOMORROW'S WORLD AND FIND MORE WAYS TO POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE OF OUR YOUTH AND OUR COMMUNITIES, AS WELL AS THE COMPANIES WE WORK WITH AND FOR."



Sanjib Sahoo
Executive Vice President
& Chief Digital Officer @
Ingram Micro

2024, he received the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Award for innovation, and in 2023, he was featured in Fortune's "Unstoppables," alongside trailblazers including Elon Musk.

Sahoo's visionary leadership is defined by innovation, inclusivity, insight, and enablement. He builds confident and compassionate teams that are accountable, embrace the art of possible, and encourage one another to challenge their limits, not limit their challenges.

Sahoo believes in "performing while you're transforming" and wants to make the future of business and technology smarter, more connected, and, ultimately, more human. His thinking extends to our personal lives, too, encouraging people to aim for excellence within themselves and the communities in which they live, work, and play.



Kumar Dilip, President, Sulabh International Social Service Organisation

Hygiene and Sanitation Solutions

Sulabh International Social Service Organisation pioneering an innovative solution to the global sanitation crisis and contributing to PM Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission

“We have built the foundation for achieving SDG 6 goals on sanitation and water. Drawing on our decades of field experience, we have launched several initiatives aligned with the national agendas of Viksit Bharat. Our team of passionate development experts ensures that our work increasingly promotes gender equality, public health, and socio-economic development.” Kumar Dilip

Founded in 1970, Sulabh International Social Service Organisation was pivotal in driving awareness about hygienic sanitation practices across India. Under the vision and leadership of its late founder, Padma Vibhushan Bindedwar Pathak, Sulabh metamorphosed into a nationwide sanitation movement.

The two-pit toilet system that Pathak developed decades before it caught international attention was a low-cost, sustainable solution that could be built in places where the sewer system did not exist. But Pathak did not stop there. Through his organisation, Sulabh, he nurtured a vision that was futuristic in its scope and impact. He used toilets as a symbol for promoting human rights, especially of women and men who cleaned dry latrines manually and were treated formerly as 'untouchables.'

In 2010, decades after Pathak started his movement, the UN General Assembly recognised access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right and called for international efforts to help countries provide safe, clean, accessible, and affordable drinking

water and sanitation.

Sabah's two-pit toilet model was instrumental in the Indian government's efforts to eradicate open defecation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission, which was announced in 2014. Two years later, Sulabh was awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize for contributing to SBM efforts. The government of India built around 110 million toilets based on Pathak's two-pit design, and Sulabh alone constructed over 1.6 million household toilets, over eleven thousand public pay-and-use toilets, and thousands of school toilets.

Today, Sulabh has expanded its focus beyond sanitation. It now actively promotes food security, menstrual hygiene management, and rural livelihood. Sulabh's menstrual health programs break taboos and prioritise hygiene by distributing sanitary napkins, echoing the government's focus on menstrual awareness.

In education, Sulabh provides quality schooling and vocational training to underprivileged children, reflecting the goals of NEP 2020. Empowering rural women in Maharashtra and Bihar through millet cultivation, Sulabh promotes sustainable agriculture and economic upliftment, aligning with priorities on food security and women's empowerment. Additionally, besides sanitation, Sulabh has been actively collaborating with government agencies to raise awareness on cleanliness.

Kumar adds, "We are deeply committed to achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat as our Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisioned. To that end, we have collaborated with the government on several projects, including the ongoing "Swachhata hi Seva" campaign for the second consecutive year. Through these efforts, Sulabh embodies a shared commitment to building a healthier and more developed India by 2047."



Anil Bhandari, Founder & Chief Mentor, ARCON

Reinforcing Pillars of Transformation

A thought leader in the information security space, Anil Bhandari believes in the "4Ds"— Democracy, Demography, Decarbonization, and Digitalization—as the four pillars paving the way for a Viksit Bharat

As we witness it today, India stands at the pinnacle of a mountain of achievement. We are a \$4 trillion economy today and soon to be the number three economy in the world in terms of annual GDP. But as we climb higher to reach new heights, extraordinary care will be needed to keep our foundations of the fourth pillar—digitalization—secure.

Everything is being digitalized today. When digitalization occurs rapidly, we start creating a huge, deep blue ocean of data for processing, storing, interpreting patterns, and so on. It is fair to say

that data is at the center of all we do with our systems, IoTs, and cloud resources, among other things.

So, how effectively we deal with our data will depend on how carefully we treat our data in terms of security. Indeed, rapid digitalization presents cybercriminals with an excellent opportunity to exploit vulnerabilities in storing, processing, and transmitting data.

Whether personal data, citizen data, government blueprints, defense organizations' sensitive data, corporate data, business data, et al., every bit of information stored in systems located anywhere—in

the cloud, on-premises, or in managed service providers' servers—will require strong protection from data thefts and targeted identity-based attacks.

And that is the raison d'être for ARCON. Our mission is to protect ideas, innovation, intellectual property, and extremely sensitive information from unauthorized access. Because compromised (digital) identity particularly the privileged identity is first in the line of attack chain when bad actors want to compromise or spy on critical data and confidential piece of information.

So, comprehending that identity would be at the forefront of all digital interactions, Anil envisioned about a decade ago, a complete stack of Identity and Access Management and Identity Governance solutions with strong focus on Privileged Identity Management. Today, ARCON is the leading name in the Information Security space. Its robust solutions are protecting and vaulting over 10 million enterprise identities worldwide to secure high-value systems and data. Some of the world's largest corporations, including government agencies, banks, defense organizations among others have scaled, ensured seamless digital transformation and regulatory compliance with ARCON solutions.

Recognized by global analysts' community such as Gartner, Forrester and KuppingerCole Analysts as an industry thought leader in the Privileged Access Management space, ARCON is marching ahead at the pace of knots. Clocking consistently market beat topline growth for the last five years, it is poised to roll out the next-generation AI and ML leveraged SaaS-delivered IAM solutions to enable India's digital transformation.



Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group

A Force for Good

Aditya Birla Group envisions a world where economic prosperity harmonises with social welfare and environmental stewardship

Marking a significant milestone in the group's journey, a US \$48.3 billion corporation, the Aditya Birla Group is in the League of Fortune 500. The group is built on a strong foundation of stakeholder value creation. It boasts an extraordinary force of over 120,000 employees belonging to 42 nationalities. With over seven decades of responsible business practices, the group's businesses have grown into global powerhouses in a wide range of sectors—metals, pulp and fibre, chemicals, textiles, carbon black, telecom, and cement. Today, over 50% of Group revenues flow from overseas operations that span 36 countries in North and South America, Africa, and Asia.

Aditya Birla Group's renewable energy arm, Aditya Birla Renewables Limited, has raised Rs 2500 crore through non-convertible debentures. The funds will be used to expand capacity, repay debt, and for general corporate purposes. The debentures were issued with a coupon of 8.6% per annum and a tenure of three years.

Textile constitutes an important part of the group's business, led by Grasim Industries and Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail. ABFRL emerged after the consolidation of the branded apparel businesses of Aditya Birla Group, comprising ABNL's Madura Fashion division and ABNL's subsidiaries, Pantaloons Fashion and Retail (PFRL) and Madura Fashion & Lifestyle (MFL), in

May 2015. Post the consolidation, PFRL was renamed Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd. As a fashion conglomerate, ABFRL has a strong network of 2,714 brand stores across 750 cities in the country. It is present across 18000+ multi-brand outlets and 5000+ points of sales in department stores across India. It has a repertoire of leading brands such as Louis Philippe, Van Heusen, Allen Solly, and Peter England established for over 25 years.

Hindalco Industries Limited is the metals flagship company of Aditya Birla Group. It is one of Asia's largest producers of primary aluminium (excluding China), and with its subsidiary Novelis, a global leader in flat-rolled products and the world's largest recycler of aluminium. Hindalco is India's largest copper producer, contributing significantly to India's domestic refined copper requirements. Its copper facility in India comprises a world-class copper smelter, downstream facilities, and a captive jetty. Hindalco's global footprint spans 52 manufacturing units across 10 countries—20 plants in India and 32 overseas units. Hindalco also operates 23 mines. With a cross-cultural workforce of more than 68,500 people, it remains committed to building an agile, responsive, and productive work environment in line with our strategic priorities of value-enhancing growth and strong ESG commitment.

At the core of this philosophy is the conviction that business can and should be a catalyst for positive change. In sync with the UN SDGs to lift the burden of poverty weighing down the underserved and foster inclusive growth, Aditya Birla Group is building a better, sustainable way of life for the weaker, marginalised sections of society and enriching lives.



Venkita Venkat
Chairman - VPVV
Reach out at
evolve@vpvvglobal.com

The Galloping Tiger; INDIA@2047

India's transformation from a 'Bengal Tiger' to a 'Galloping Tiger' is underway, driven by economic growth, strategic partnerships, and visionary leadership, propelling the nation to global prominence

about 1.15 lakh start ups in January 2024 as compared to about 350 in 2015. By 2025 the number of unicorns is expected to touch 250 up from 113 in 2023.

The Government has ensured the growth is spread across the sectors. We are now the largest producers of Milk, Jute and pulses, second largest producer of various other crops like Rice, wheat and sugarcane and 3rd largest automobile market accounting for 7.1% of GDP share. We are the second largest market globally in terms of Smartphone users, 2nd largest Insurtech market in Asia Pacific region and we rank 3rd in the world by Volume in Pharmaceutical sector.

Modi 3.0 government have started working on the philosophy of Pancha Prana or five pledges to make India developed by 2047. Major projects are being rolled out including the Vadhavan port project in Maharashtra which will be among the Top 10 in the world. Railways and road transport are working on Projects worth 33 lakh crore. Railways which has currently 67000 kilometre long network, The vision of the government is to increase it by 50% to about 90000 kms with an investment of 11 lakh

crore. Initiatives like Make in India, Industrial Corridor Development Programme, Production Linked Incentives (PLI), Semiconductor Mission, and National Logistics Policy will all help in building an efficient global supply chain. The emphasis on promoting 'Atmanirbharta' in defence production is particularly noteworthy.

PM Modi has been extremely comfortable in being part of both the Quad (with the United States and its allies) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (with China, Russia, and their allies).

The very factors like its size, diversity and apparent contradictions that once made India a hesitant crouching tiger has now become its biggest strength. Its advantageous demographic dividend with nearly 60.7% of India's population being the working class makes it a force to reckon with.

Amrit Kaal is the Prime Minister's vision 2047 for 'New India', a new dawn for the country.

Let's work together to make this vision a reality!



Ruchir Sharma, Chairman of Rockefeller International Founder & Chief Investment Officer of Breakout Capital

The Global Thinker of Wall Street

India is the last standing bull market, a story of resilience and domestic strength, says Ruchir Sharma

A fund manager and columnist for the Financial Times, Ruchir Sharma is also a prolific author of best-selling books, including *What Went Wrong with Capitalism*; *The 10 Rules of Successful Nations*; *Democracy on the Road*; *The Rise and Fall of Nations: Forces of Change in the Post-Crisis World*; and *Breakout Nations: In Pursuit of the Next Economic Miracles*.

He augments his research and writing on emerging markets with extensive travels to developing countries. He has been included in the World Economic Forum's 'Top Young Leaders' list and featured in Bloomberg's global '50 Most Influential People.'

On Emerging Markets

According to Ruchir, if you look at the world today, about 80 percent of the world's population is concentrated in emerging markets. These include Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brazil, Mexico,

OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, RUCHIR EMPHASISES THE RETURNS OF THE INDIAN MARKET IN DOLLAR TERMS HAVE EVEN SURPASSED THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES. "THERE REALLY HAS BEEN NO BULL MARKET IN THE WORLD THIS DECADE LIKE INDIA," HE SAID

China, Korea, and Taiwan. These countries have had a very poor period for the last five to ten years for a whole bunch of reasons, including a big hangover they had from the boom of the 2000s. Now they are in a much better position, having cleaned up a lot of the balance sheet with lower debt and better current and fiscal accounts. They are in a position to grow stronger compared to the United States. So, it's a role change.

Over the last five years, Ruchir emphasises the returns of the Indian market in dollar terms have even surpassed those of the United States. "There really has been no bull market in the world this decade like India," he said.

Strong GDP Growth

The strength of the Indian market he noted is also highlighted by its resilience. Despite concerns, such as the introduction of long-term capital gains tax and various political developments, the Indian market has continued to climb, he explained. "Everyone said... that's going to take down the markets, and guess what? It didn't," he added.

The Indian stock markets, according to Ruchir, have taken momentum with the domestic flow of money, functioning on their own dynamics. The good thing is that it is so far broadly supported by fundamentals.

Ruchir Sharma speaks with conviction that no country in the world has seen the kind of wealth creation India has seen in the past five years, but added that "it's been entirely domestic-money led. Foreign participation has been very little." He is very positive about India's long-term growth but believes that there is still a lot more work that needs to be done. India shouldn't take its strong growth for granted.

Redefining Development in Odisha

Aligning to the vision of Viksit Bharat, AcreRise plays a crucial role in shaping the state's future in real estate as Odisha continues its journey towards growth and development



Sheikh Mairajul Haque, Co-Founder - AcreRise
Sashikant Barik, Co-Founder - AcreRise

A creRise is focused on transforming the lives of the aspiring customers by catering to their needs for functional and more aesthetic living spaces. By creating quality housing and commercial spaces, AcreRise is not only addressing the state's demand for more functional, premium yet accessible homes but also stimulating economic growth.

Sashikant Barik and Sheikh Mairajul Haque, qualified engineers, chased their entrepreneur dreams and founded Myspace Realty Pvt Ltd, a real estate consultancy that quickly rose to prominence. After establishing themselves as the pioneers in consulting in the Odisha real estate market and multicity expansion of Bengaluru, Kolkata, and Hyderabad, they forayed into real estate development through the brand name AcreRise with an aim to become the leading real estate developer of Odisha.

Sustainable Development

AcreRise, under the leadership of Sheikh Mairajul Haque and Sashikant Barik, has made its mark in the real estate sector as a renowned and trusted real estate developer in Odisha.

Contributing to the state's economic growth, the projects

generate employment opportunities, attract investments, and contribute to the overall development of the regions they serve.

Mairaj's active involvement in industry organisations and his advocacy for progressive policies have helped shape the real estate sector. Sashikant's focus on customer-centricity and innovation has ensured that AcreRise remains at the forefront of industry trends. Their combined expertise and experience have resulted in creating impressive and awe-inspiring residential projects, solidifying their place as emerging leaders in the business.

Design and Innovation

AcreRise has gained prominence for creating unmatched design and craftsmanship, state-of-the-art amenities, and the highest standardisation in quality and service that enables customers to live their best life.

To fulfil the new age expectations, AcreRise has integrated the latest technology and innovation in its construction as well as project management process. AcreRise has 30 lakh square feet under construction and about 35 lakh square feet planned future development

"WE ARE KEEN TO OFFER OUR CUSTOMERS EXPONENTIAL RETURNS IN THE FUTURE, BASED ON PRIME LOCATION, FUNCTIONALITY, RIGHT PRICING, AND OFFERING MAXIMUM VALUE IN THE GIVEN TICKET SIZE."

SHEIKH MAIRAJUL HAQUE

"KEEPING YOU AHEAD, BEING OUR BRAND STATEMENT, STANDS FOR OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS. OUR PROJECTS ARE DESIGNED KEEPING IN MIND THE ASPIRATIONS, EMOTIONS, AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS OF OUR CLIENTS."

SASHIKANT BARIK

World-class Living

Offering state-of-the-art facilities, OneWorld and Codename Blue, are testaments to AcreRise's ability to create world-class residential spaces that blend modern aesthetics with functionality. OneWorld, a prestigious residential project on NH16, South Bhubaneswar, and Codename Blue, Twin City's first riverfront development located on Riverfront Road, Trisulia, set new benchmarks for luxury living in Odisha.



Nayanthara, Filmstar, Producer and Entrepreneur

Reaching the Pinnacle of Success

A brilliant actress, a successful businesswoman, and a role model for millions of people across the country

Nayanthara is an Indian film actress who predominantly appears in Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam films. Nayanthara made her acting debut with the Malayalam film *Manassinakkare* in 2003. However, she became a household name with the variety of roles she played in her Tamil films. Her first Tamil film was *Ayya*, followed by *Chandramukhi*, in which she starred in many super hit films, including *Vallavan* (2006), *Billa* (2007), and *Sri Rama Rajyam* (2011), among others. After almost a year off, she returned to the big screen with the 2013 film *Raja Rani*, which became a box office hit. Her movies became superhits, and she ruled the box office. By 2015, she was considered the highest-paid female actor in the South Indian film industry.

Nayanthara made headlines for her performance in powerful and commercially successful women-centric films. Through her 20-year journey in the film

industry, the actress has evolved from a Malayalam TV anchor to a superstar, a brand ambassador, an entrepreneur, and an investor. In addition to her playing career, Nayanthara is a producer. A confident achiever, she believes strongly that once a thought comes to the mind, it starts to manifest itself, and she has given shape to her dreams by venturing into business with her filmmaker husband, Vignesh Shivan. The duo's film production house, *Rowdy Pictures*, produced the critically acclaimed Tamil film *Koozhangal* (2021). Under the banner of *Rowdy Pictures*, she has made movies such as *Netrikann*, *Kaathu Vaakula Rendu Kaadhala*, and *Connect*.

While Shivan analyzes the business opportunities, Nayanthara chips into build the brand and contributes towards the aesthetics and branding of the products. The couple is entrenched in every business decision and is quite hands-on. They actively participate and

nurture their brands. Diversifying into other businesses, the couple launched *The Lip Balm Company* in 2021 and invested in the Chennai-based start-up *Chai Wale*. In order to rapidly grow the business, the couple collaborated with professionals to launch a skincare brand called *9Skin*. She also founded a company, *Femi9*, that makes sanitary napkins and invested in the superfood brand, *The Divine Foods*.

The film industry has taught Nayanthara the art of multitasking, communication, presentation, and showcasing, among others. Availability and time management are important factors for sustenance in the movie industry, and maintaining work balance becomes the key to staying at the top of the game. Garnering multiple skillsets, which contribute positively to strategy planning, has helped her embrace her role as an empowered businesswoman. Nayanthara makes no bones about making money in the business, but it is important to her that the end-user and her customers are happy and the products make a positive difference in their lives.

Fresh off the release of her 75th film, Nayanthara is geared up to pursue many more ventures and not just limit her entrepreneurial skills to beauty and personal care. Nayanthara is also a fitness enthusiast who follows a strict workout and diet regimen to keep herself in top shape and look beautiful.

The year 2023 turned out to be a big milestone in Nayanthara's film journey. One of the highest-paid female actors in the South, she debuted in Bollywood opposite Shah Rukh Khan in one of the biggest Hindi blockbusters of the year—*Jawan*. The film continued its upward journey at the box office as the worldwide gross collections crossed ₹1152 crore. Her star continues to shine.

Futuristic Innovation in Hospitality

Pranjal Jha combining hospitality and real estate with aviation through launch of AeroVillages, adding a style quotient, a touch of luxury and cutting travel time



Pranjal Jha, Aero Village Panheli Owner

AeroVillage Panheli marked the launch of an innovative concept in the country and the world. The innovation is in linking hospitality and real estate with Aviation, something which has not been attempted before. We made a resort and Airstrip and connected the nearby cities like Mumbai and Pune by aircraft, thereby adding a style quotient, a touch of luxury and cutting travel time.

Pranjal Jha, the owner, is an Engineer by training, a Flyer - Entrepreneur by vocation, but a footballer at heart. Moreover, he has always been a dreamer, and would always joke about how he wanted access to the best food and hospitality for life, so that he would have to work no more.

Thanks to his parents, he has been travelling since he was a 4-month-old baby and has also lived in various parts of the country & the world which exposed him to various cultures and experiences. AeroVillage is an extension of the private life enjoyed by Pranjal Jha. He feels that everyone should experience the joy of private flying at least once! Jha grew up in a joint family kind of set up and is fond of

saying that "Hospitality runs in the blood of every Indian irrespective of the background."

The organisation believes in women empowerment and is proud to say that the entire housekeeping of the resort is taken care of by women. Many locals from the neighbouring villages who were actually laid off by the "big companies" during COVID-19, have been trained and employed in different roles at the property & today one can see the difference in their upgraded lifestyle and homes.

They endeavour to continue working towards improvement in the society, not with sympathy, but

"AEROVILLAGE IS SHORTLY COMING OUT WITH A REAL ESTATE PROPOSITION, WHEREIN ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WOULD ALSO BE CO-OWNERS OF AIRCRAFTS. THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE THE FIRST SUCH VENTURE IN THE WORLD, AN EXCLUSIVE AVIATION & GOLF BASED TOWNSHIP."

with empathy. Like it's been said in Chandogya upnishad "tat twam asi Swetketu", (you are that) and in the Vedas, "So Aham"; and like also said by the famous Sufi Al Hillaj Mansoor "Anal Haq", meaning I am what YOU are; and you are also what HE is. Their work is founded on these principles and these philosophical moorings are meant to keep them grounded, even as they take on challenges head on.

Having succeeded in Hospitality, AeroVillage is now coming up with Real Estate, making an upmarket township, and combining it with Aviation; all residents of the township would be co-owners of aircrafts, fulfilling a dream most don't even dare. They have also setup an Aviation Entertainment Zone, wherein they have various kinds of fun light aircrafts for local joyrides over the beautiful Sahyadris and the Arabian.

They are also in talks to get some small aircrafts manufactured in India, abiding with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of make in India.

Furthermore, they have received numerous proposals to set up townships like their, across the country aiding to their vision of setting up many AeroVillages in the next decade.



Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Indian fashion designer

Reawakening Indian Fashion

Sabyasachi Mukherjee owning the global stage for Indian high-end, classic, and vintage fashion with a contemporary twist

Sabyasachi Mukherjee is the first Indian fashion designer who walked down the iconic red carpet of the Met Gala 2024, owning the space often referred to as the 'Mecca of fashion.' As he made his grand entry at the star-studded event in New York City, Sabyasachi exuded elegance and sophistication while wearing a gorgeous ensemble that he designed himself. Bollywood star Alia Bhatt made a second appearance at the Met in a stunning mint-green Sabyasachi saree with a 23-foot-long train.

The Brides of Sabya

Known for his expansive and unique style, especially when it comes to his bridal wear, Sabyasachi has over the years dressed some of Bollywood's biggest stars on their special days, from Anushka Sharma

to Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone. His client list also includes some of the industry's most-loved icons, like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Rani Mukerji, and the late Sridevi, among others.

One label that most women vouch for when it comes to bridal trousseau, is 'Sabyasachi'. The Kolkata-based designer is one of India's most prominent designers, with an Instagram following of 4.4 million and countless fans across the globe. He has had the country falling for his work since the inception of his label.

Versatility in Style

Though one can easily distinguish Sabyasachi's work from that of any of his contemporaries, it is surprising that it is not restricted to a typical style. His collections range from 'Alice in Wonderland' to 'Sarojini Naidu'.

He delights his audience by

introducing a new sense of modesty to Indian fashion or taking necklines dangerously low! High necklines, a sudden burst of florals, vintage embroidery, and black highlights—Sabyasachi's signature take on old-world nostalgia. His clothes are what Indian women want to wear.

Sabyasachi Heritage Jewelry is a breathtaking collection introduced by the incredible designer to complement and enrich the occasion dress concept. These exquisite jewelry pieces go well with every ensemble, created by the legacy goldsmiths of Calcutta, also referred to as 'babus' known for the finest jewelry craft produced in India.

Heritage crafts are becoming increasingly rare and endangered; these are the heirlooms that will be the pride of museums in the future. He is providing a platform to these goldsmiths.

Stitching Dreams into Reality

A Graduating from the NIFT Kolkata, with three employees and a meagre storefront, he started his journey with a working capital of Rs 20,000 in 2002. His debut in India Fashion Week, followed by the international catwalk of Spring 2003, and winning the "Grand Winner Award" at the Mercedes-Benz New Asia Fashion Week in Singapore set the stage. From the iconic New York Fashion Week to the avant-garde London Fashion Week, Bridal Asia, Kuala Lumpur Fashion Week, Miami Fashion Week, and Bollywood, he has garnered acclaim as one of the Associate Designer Members of the Fashion Design Council of India. Along with a few foreign merchants in California, Atlanta, London, and Dubai, the Sabyasachi brand has flagship stores in Kolkata, New Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad. Indian retail giant Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited acquired a 51 percent stake in the Sabyasachi brand for Rs 398 crore.



Dushyant Periwal
Founder & CEO
WDNE

Q How is the boom in the hospitality sector impacting opportunities for weddings and events?

The wedding and events industry is thriving in the expanding hospitality sector. Companies now offer unique, luxurious, and tech-integrated experiences catering to the evolving preferences of consumers. India is a top destination for weddings and pre-wedding celebrations both for locals and international clients with the rise of luxury resorts, heritage properties, and scenic destinations. The growing middle and upper classes are willing to spend on high-end thematic décor to customize guest experiences. Event planning companies benefit from advancements in virtual and augmented reality, AI-driven guest services, and live streaming to offer hybrid events or immersive experiences. Eco-conscious clients are increasingly seeking sustainable options. The demand for corporate events, conferences, and retreats is rising, creating avenues for event planners to organize large-scale, high-profile events.

Q What were the roadblocks that you had to overcome to achieve a leadership position?

I had to overcome many challenges in

Delivering Dreams Creating Memories

Dushyant Periwal shares with the *Outlook* the various facets of growth and opportunities in the entertainment, wedding and event spaces

my journey to achieve a leadership position. I joined our family business in handicrafts and antiques and later managed The Royal Retreat Resort in Udaipur. I pursued my dream of event management while still a student in Switzerland by organizing our first music concert, which was a success. It gave me the confidence to officially establish WDNE when I returned to Udaipur. A big roadblock was convincing prospective clients that I could deliver high-quality events. Innovation, creativity, and unrelenting work ethics helped build trust and reputation. Another significant challenge was building and maintaining a high-performing team. I learned the importance of nurturing and motivating a team and fostering a culture of creativity and dedication.

Q What are your future plans?

The future holds many exciting possibilities. The event management industry is constantly evolving, and

EVERY EVENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE SOMETHING REMARKABLE, SO APPROACH EACH PROJECT WITH A MINDSET OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

we are focused on staying ahead of the curve by embracing new trends and technologies. We plan to expand WDNE's offerings into more innovative and immersive experiences, integrating technology such as virtual and hybrid events while maintaining our commitment to personalized, high-end weddings and events. Sustainability is also a key focus, and we aim to lead the way in creating eco-conscious and environmentally friendly events. Expanding our presence beyond Uttar Pradesh, both domestically and internationally, is on the horizon.

Q What is your word of advice to those who aspire for a career in event management?

Influenced by the work philosophy of one of my life's icons, Steve Jobs, my advice is that it's a dynamic and fast-paced field that demands creativity, attention to detail, and the ability to handle pressure. Loving what you do will not only keep you motivated but will also help you push through the challenges. My advice is to stay curious, be open to learning, and never settle for mediocrity. Every event is an opportunity to create something remarkable, so approach each project with a mindset of excellence and innovation. Keep striving to find your passion, and once you do, give it your all.



Kiran Rao, Indian Filmmaker & Producer

Inspiring Change Through Cinema

Filmmaker Kiran Rao impacting the audience with realistic storytelling to embrace the zeal for women empowerment in rural youth

As we commemorate the 155th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, it is fitting to celebrate individuals like Kiran Rao, who embody his ideals of empowerment and social progress. A graduate of Sophia College for Women and a Master's holder from Jamia Millia Islamia, Rao has carved a significant niche in Indian cinema, marrying her educational background with her passion for storytelling.

Rao began her cinematic journey as an assistant director in 2001 and has since emerged as a visionary filmmaker. Her latest work, *Laapataa Ladies*, has been nominated as India's official entry for the Oscars 2025—a testament to her unique narrative style and commitment to authentic storytelling. The film, a satirical

comedy-drama, tells the poignant tale of identity and empowerment through the lens of a bride swap in rural India, highlighting the often-overlooked complexities of women's lives. It is based on Biplab Goswami's acclaimed screenplay, *Two Brides*, and resonates deeply with contemporary issues of agency and voice.

In 2016, Rao co-founded Paani Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting drought in Maharashtra. The primary aim of Paani Foundation is to spread knowledge of watershed management and groundwater replenishment, aligning closely with Gandhi's belief in sustainable development and community empowerment.

The themes of *Laapataa Ladies* align seamlessly with Gandhi's

philosophy on women's empowerment. He believed in the active participation of women as catalysts for change, viewing them as equals in all facets of life. He envisioned a society where women transitioned from "abla" (helpless) to "sabla" (empowered), fostering a collective consciousness necessary for liberation. Rao's work embodies this spirit, showcasing women as not just subjects of their narratives but as protagonists steering their destinies.

In an age where cinema is a powerful tool for commentary, Rao reminds us of its capacity to inspire and provoke thought. She asserts, "Art and cinema have always been powerful tools for commentary and conversation," and indeed, *Laapataa Ladies* sparks dialogue on identity and empowerment in a rapidly changing world. By portraying authentic, culturally-rooted stories, Rao offers global audiences a glimpse into the shared hopes and challenges faced by women everywhere.

On this momentous occasion, Kiran Rao stands as a pillar of Viksit Bharat, representing the blend of cultural authenticity and global resonance. Her work is not just a celebration of Indian cinema but also a significant step towards the empowerment of women, echoing Gandhi's timeless message that true progress is only possible when all voices are heard and valued. As we reflect on Gandhi's legacy, let us also honor those who, like Rao, strive to uplift and empower through their art. In doing so, we acknowledge that the pursuit of equality and justice remains a collective journey, one that is illuminated by the courage of creative visionaries and the commitment to social causes that transform communities.

Savouring Sweet Success

Gandour India delighting the world with a wide range of delectable chocolates and confectioneries



Mohammed Rafathullah, Managing Director
Gandour India Food Processing Pvt Ltd

Under the visionary leadership of Mohammed Rafathullah, Managing Director of Gandour India, the company has transformed from a struggling unit into a key player in the global and Indian confectionery industry. With over 30 years of experience, Rafathullah's people-centric approach, strategic foresight, and focus on teamwork, innovation, and meticulous execution have driven the company's growth. His philosophy, rooted in "skill coupled with will," has set Gandour India on a strong growth trajectory.

Founded in 1857, the Gandour Group has a legacy of producing high-quality confectioneries like Safari, Tofluk, Yamama Cakes that have delighted consumers worldwide. Since its establishment in India in 2009, Gandour India has evolved into a modern production hub with a state-of-the-art facility in Hyderabad. Contributing significantly to India's economy, the company has created jobs, promoted exports, and invested in sustainable practices such as eco-friendly packaging and sourcing, aligning with today's market trends.

The Indian chocolate market, valued at USD 3.8 billion in 2023 and expected to reach

USD 9.2 billion by 2032, is witnessing several key trends that Gandour India is well-positioned to capitalize on. The prolific premiumisation trend is contributing to Gandour India's revenue growth. Its diverse product portfolio is well aligned to the consumer preferences areas. Gandour is initiating product innovations across flavours, price points across demography and social segments.

The company also leads the way in addressing the growing consumer demand for ethically sourced, environmentally friendly chocolates by adopting sustainable packaging and sourcing practices. Gandour India is a certified FSSAI 22000 Company and makes only vegan products. It is actively supported by the Gandour Saudi Arabia R & D Centre.

Gandour India is deeply committed to sustainability, not only in terms of product innovation but also by empowering women in casual labour roles and ensuring affordability for rural consumers. By balancing tradition with modern innovation, Gandour India remains a key player in the competitive chocolate market while contributing to India's broader economic and social goals.

Gandour India is also a trusted contract manufacturer for global confectionery leaders such as Mondelez International, Modern Foods, producing iconic brands like Cadbury Choco Bakes Perk, 5 Star, and ITC Fantastik 4D. These partnerships showcase Gandour's ability to meet rigorous international quality standards, reinforcing its role as a reliable player in the global supply chain.

Gandour India is boosting India's export footprint, particularly in Southeast Asia. Through its high-quality products and strategic partnerships, the company has strengthened its position as a global leader in the confectionery sector. This export growth enhances Gandour India's international presence and contributes to India's economy.

Gandour India is successfully driving premium quality, innovation, and consumer convenience. Rafathullah's vision to make Gandour "the Finest Chocolate Maker and Baker of India" reinforces the company's commitment to excellence, while its contributions to employment, manufacturing, exports, and sustainability support India's journey toward becoming a developed economy.



Bridging the Hospitality Gap

Dr Gurmeet Singh shares his opinion with *Outlook* on the growth of affordable luxury in the hospitality sector to bridge the gap between customer demand and various price points

Dr Gurmeet Singh
Founder & Chairman,
Bel-La Monde'
Group of Hotels

What is the scope of growth of the hospitality industry in India as we are moving towards a developed economy?

As the Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that large-scale destination weddings abroad should be rerouted to India, I see great potential for the hospitality industry. Though high-class weddings continue to take place in exotic foreign locations, customers have started looking for alternatives in India. With the advent of international hotel chains in India, the scope of foreign investment is increasing. In my opinion, the government should facilitate future benefits of the hospitality industry with more friendly policies for the businesses to thrive. Our existing autonomous bodies and associations need to be monitored better and the policies should evolve taking into account customer needs, primary research, feedback, and long-term growth. The future is bright, and we need more policies that are aligned to sectoral growth.

What is your vision for the Bel-La Monde' Group of Hotels, and how have you positioned your brand?

Bel-La Monde is focused on providing 'affordable luxury' to our customers. I realised a need gap in the market in the middle class segment, which comprises a large chunk of society. While they couldn't afford luxury of high class or celebrity standards, they were not satisfied with basic run-of-the-mill décor and execution. Our hotels fit in beautifully in that space. We concentrated on the availability of luxury and sophistication at an affordable price.

Our brand is built on the philosophy of 'bridging the gap'. We

WHILE THEY COULDN'T AFFORD LUXURY OF HIGH CLASS OR CELEBRITY STANDARDS, THEY WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH BASIC RUN-OF-THE-MILL DÉCOR AND EXECUTION. OUR HOTELS FIT IN BEAUTIFULLY IN THAT SPACE. WE CONCENTRATED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF LUXURY AND SOPHISTICATION AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE

offer customised solutions based on their aspirations and demand. Our objective is to leave them with an 'experience of a lifetime while they create memories.' We have been successfully delivering our services and have made a distinct position for ourselves in the industry. We hope to take it forward and continue to amaze our clients.

What is your message to the next generation of entrepreneurs who are enamoured by the glamour of the hospitality industry?

The youth should not be fooled by the glamour quotient. Like any other service industry, hospitality has very tough standards. It is an experience that you are catering to your customers; therefore, you need to make sure that every experience is special. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. For example, if you were to look at how Rajasthan welcomes tourists on the principles of age-old hospitality, '*padharo hamare desh.*' As I have seen from my own experience, our traditions and culture work extremely well in Indian hospitality sector. The youth should not forget the basics of our Asian hospitality. Implementation of new ideas and modernization should take place without changing the cultural ethos of '*Atithi Devo Bhava*'- to treat tourists as God.



Pankaj Lidoo
Director

Upholding/ Strengthening India's 'Viksit Bharat' Dreams

Landmark Crafts Pvt. Ltd., Ghaziabad, Delhi-NCR, is a flourishing enterprise where necessity, keen identification of a gap and the right timing of launching HP Self-Drilling Screws in 1995, backed by grit, is a perfect recipe of a success story that pioneered an industry. Mr Pankaj Lidoo and Mr Vipin Lidoo, Directors of the company, hailing from Kashmir, have set their target to achieve India's dream of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 with visionary zeal

Going beyond as market leaders in the niche segment of Self-Drilling Screws and its variants apart from venturing into industrial tools, Landmark Crafts Pvt Ltd., is guided by the enterprising Lidoo brothers/ siblings, who have set their eyes on exploring new markets and building their product portfolio. The enterprising duo are establishing new growth trajectory for their company to stay ahead of the curve driven by unflinching purpose and passion.

With liberalisation, India was poised on the brink of a great push in development on all fronts including infrastructure, and the Lidoo's sensed the great potential awaiting to be tapped. They shared, "We started by importing screws from Taiwan and within a span of 3-4 years learnt the intricacies of the trade and technology that gave us the confidence to invest in R&D and innovation to start manufacturing self-drilling screws in India, thereby, lessen the burden of exporting products at a steep price. We cracked the perfect know-how to become self-reliant and the first Indian manufacturers

in this industry to do so. The journey from importing the first screw manufacturing machine from Taiwan to establishing the Landmark Craft Pvt. Ltd's factory in Ghaziabad, besides launching Landmark Crafts on an up-ward trajectory eventually made us the pioneer in this niche segment. Today, we enjoy a credible reputation as exclusive manufacturers of a range of world-class HP Self-Drilling Screws, Aluminium Blind Rivets and SM Dry Wall Screws."

Talking about their strategic move of venturing into the business of manufacturing tools, the Lidoo's said, "We had the advantage of having world-class infrastructure, the knowledge, a ready market, and a futuristic vision that encompassed widening our horizon as an enterprise. By adopting new technologies and up-grading existing ones at our Panchkula

facility, production increased manifold enabling us to cater to increasing customer demand, besides effectively enhance the entire value chain to serve our clients. In private sector, we have a large share in the retail market and large public sector enterprises such as BHEL, the Indian Railways are long-standing clients. Today, Landmark Crafts Pvt Ltd. are major suppliers of not only DMRC, but also to the metro projects all over the country."

Up-skilling, training, workshops etc., for employees are on-going in the company. The entity also has wide presence across the country with 13-14 marketing offices supported by a highly motivated sales and management team, who promptly attend to customer need. This customer-centric attitude is the key to Landmark Craft's success, other than quality products and their range.

"Landmark Crafts Pvt Ltd., is truly a 'Made in India' start-up which aims to serve as a dependable company that offers its spirit of enterprise entirely for transforming the nation into Viksit Bharat by 2047, its centenary year," say the Lidoo's as a parting promise.





Dr Upasana Arora, CEO and Managing Director of Yashoda Super Speciality Hospital, Kaushambi

Standing Tall as a Pillar in Healthcare Sector

As technology is advancing and there is an upsurge in medical sciences, Yashoda Hospital is keeping up to its promise of providing top tier healthcare services using specialised and advanced medical technologies and equipment .

Yashoda Super Speciality Hospital, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad is a name synonymous with cutting-edge technology and world class quality patient care in Delhi NCR at an affordable price. With a humble beginning in 1990 at Ghaziabad, the institution has now grown to become a major quaternary care healthcare provider for all walks of life in the region. In 1999, Yashoda Foundations was established, with the mission to extend charity work for public, both

within India and across the world, with an unwavering commitment to quality in healthcare encompassing patient safety. Yashoda Super Speciality Hospital, Kaushambi has been pursuing it's aim to deliver world-class patient care services in a comprehensive manner to every individual with an emphasis on quality, service excellence, empathy and patient respect ever since its beginning. It has a varied range of Super speciality services i.e. Cardiology & CTVS, Endocrinology,

Gastroenterology, Joint Replacement, Nephrology, Neurology, Oncology, Pulmonology, Urology, Neurosurgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery besides Renal transplant.

Yashoda Super Speciality Hospital, Kaushambi has been conferred with different awards during it's long journey for being the "Best Multi-Speciality Hospital" and many awards for "Patient Safety & Quality of Care" on both National & International Platforms notably among them are BW Healthcare Excellence Awards 2024, Voice of Healthcare Diagnostic Innovations & Excellence Awards 2024, North India Best Employer Awards 2023, IHW Patient First Awards 2023 in the category of "Patient – Centric Regional Hospital of the Year", 2nd Runner-up in the Excellence in Digital Innovation category at 9th International Patient Safety Conference, AHPI Healthcare Excellence Award in the category of "Best Hospital to Work For" in April 2022, IHW Award 2020 – Silver Award in Healthcare Delivery Brand by IHW

Council , AHPI Healthcare Excellence Award 2020 in the category of Green Hospitals, AHPI Nursing Excellence Award 2019 besides many others.

Yashoda Medicity, an initiative of Yashoda Group is the new addition to the renowned healthcare institution Yashoda Super Speciality Hospital, and is being launched early next year. It would be a 1200 bedded quaternary care, state-of-the-art hospital getting commissioned early next year on a massive 8 acres of land with aesthetic landscape and greenery. It would be a gamechanger in North India with it's state-of-the-art 250-bedded modular ICU, one of the largest modular Intensive Care Unit (ICU) setup in South Asia in collaboration with Draeger, a renowned global medical and safety technology solutions provider. The hospital would be a Green building satisfying all norms of Green accreditation along with Electric car charging facility.. It would be NABL and NABH accredited from it's first phase, which would be having 600+ beds, aiming to serve communities across the nation and beyond.

The hospital would be installing state of the art infrastructure, and the Emergency would have a dedicated Radiology department including a CT, MRI and Ultrasound machine besides a state of art X-ray machine. It would also house an operation theatre for carrying out emergency operations for trauma and roadside accident cases along with a 15 bedded ICU to provide specialized healthcare to Trauma patients within the golden hour. The Emergency would also be having a 4 bedded stroke ICU exclusively for Stroke patients to provide effective expert care to Stroke patients.

Recognizing the critical importance of timely medical intervention, Yashoda Medicity features a dedicated helipad, besides air ambulance facilitating swift access for emergency air transport.

The Radiology and Cardiology department is also being equipped with state-of-the-art equipments from



Wipro-GE and Philips. We are also commissioning one of the most advanced MRI in world along with an advanced CATHLAB, for all coronary interventions along with complex neurological diagnostic procedures. Our Diagnostic department is being equipped with PET CT, which would be one of the most advanced PET-CT in world.

Central Sterile Services Department equipments in Yashoda Medicity are being installed from Belimed, a renowned Swiss company with over 50 yrs of expertise to ensure efficient sterilization and decontamination of medical equipment, instruments, and supplies, upholding the highest standards of infection control at par with international standards.

Yashoda Medicity will be the only hospital in India, which will have a very strong Oncology department with 3 LINUX machines, Nuclear Medicine along with state-of-the-art Cyberknife systems, with which we aim to pioneer new frontiers in cancer treatment, offering hope and healing to increasing number of cancer patients from across the globe. The Radiation Oncology department is equipped with Varian EDGE with Hyper Arc MR LINAC Unity by Elekta for precise and targeted radiation therapy along with 30 channel Bravos Brachytherapy system for internal radiation therapy and ETHOS with Hyperlight & Identify revolutionizing Radiation therapy planning with unprecedented

precision. We are the only hospital in Southeast Asia equipped with combination of the above three machines for treating patients requiring radiation therapy.

At Yashoda Medicity, we would not only focus on secondary, tertiary and quaternary care but also serve as a platform where traditional forms of medicine like Yoga, Ayurveda would join hands with latest medical technologies of Allopathic medicines and provide a holistic treatment facility for prevention and rejuvenation of diseases including lifestyle diseases.

The Yashoda MediCentre's comprehensive Super Speciality services include Medical Genetics, IVF treatments, Fetal Medicine, Nephrology, Medical Oncology reflecting Yashoda's dedication to holistic and patient-centred care. Yashoda Super Speciality MediCentre, Karkardooma, is proud to announce its extensive range of medical services to provide the best patient care and treatment with regular OPDs dedicated to various specialties. The MediCentre ensures comprehensive care for all patients including Physiotherapy. The facility offers Super Speciality OPD services, advanced diagnostic capabilities including Lab tests, X-rays, and Ultrasound, as well as specialized treatments such as IVF, Dialysis, and Chemotherapy.



Manu Bhaker, Indian professional shooter

Chasing Dreams Relentlessly

For the young and aspiring youth, Manu Bhaker is a fine example of how hard work and perseverance can help achieve set targets

Manu Bhaker, 22, is not resting on her laurels having won 2 bronze medals for 10m pistol (mixed team and individual) events at Paris 2024 Olympics. With this she has joined an elite group of Indian Olympians by winning multiple medals at Olympics. Though happy, Bhaker is still pursuing her dream of winning Olympics gold medal even as continues her journey as India's most successful female shooter.

Sharing her success story, Bhaker posted on social media 'X' recently: "I was 14 when I started my journey in shooting. Never had I imagined I would

reach this far. Once you start something, make sure you do everything possible to chase your dreams relentlessly, no matter how tough it gets. Stay focused, stay driven, and let your passion fuel your journey. Every small step forward brings you closer to greatness. Keep going, you're capable of much more than you imagine! And, yes, my dream of winning Olympic gold medals continues."

Winner of Arjuna Award (shooting) in 2020, Bhaker has faced several challenges in her pursuit for excellence in shooting. Her success at Paris Olympics was poignant as it came four years after her heartbreaking experience at the

Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where a pistol malfunction denied her a place at the podium.

Born on February 18, 2002, in Jhajjar, Haryana, Bhaker has been a sports lover from her school days as explored various disciplines like boxing, tennis, and skating before provisionally taking up shooting, which proved to be her true calling. Bhaker made her international debut in 2017. At 16, Bhaker made her mark at 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, by winning gold in the 10m pistol shooting event. The win also made her the first Indian shooter to accomplish this feat. She went on to win many other laurels including gold medals at the World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

Apart from her shooting practices, Bhaker, a Political Science graduate from Lady Sri Ram College, is currently pursuing a degree in Public Administration at Punjab University.

Recently trolled on social media for wearing her Olympics medal at public events, this gutsy sports woman in a rejoinder stated: "The two bronze medals I won at the Paris 2024 Olympics belong to India. Whenever I am invited for any event and asked to show these medals, I do it with pride. This is my way of sharing my beautiful journey."

Manu is an inspiring person with her unwavering commitment, remarkable talent, and impressive maturity in not letting failures from holding her back. There are great expectations that she will attain even greater heights with her talent, dedication and courage to seek higher goals.

A Vision for Developed India

The concept of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) embodies the aspiration for a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable India. The framework for achieving this ambitious but achievable goal, in my opinion, can be articulated through some key pillars that serve as the foundation for national progress

Education and Skill Development

I have been an educator and education administrator for the last more than 2 decades. And with my experience I can say, with a certain degree of certainty, that Education is one of the cornerstones of any socially and economically developed society. To achieve Viksit Bharat, India needs to prioritize quality education that is accessible to all, regardless of socio-economic background. In fact, for a country like ours skill development should be the focus. If we could somehow attain the ability to map the topic-wise objective to the outcome in the 'actual sense', it would solve some of the major issues of the current academia. The second significant issue in order would be aligning educational curricula with industry requirements. Programs that emphasize STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, vocational training, and digital literacy will empower the youth, preparing them for the future job markets. And third in the order would be promoting critical thinking and creativity in education as only consistent

nourishment and promotion to potential ideas can foster a generation of innovators.

In the last decade the number of institutes of National Importance has gone up drastically which is a clear reflection of the current government's focus on quality education. These institutes might be in budding phase now, but they are certainly going to help achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat in long way.

Economic Growth:

At the heart of Viksit Bharat lies robust economic growth. India's economy must evolve into a global powerhouse by fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Encouraging startups, facilitating access to capital, and investing in research and development are crucial steps. The government's "Make in India" initiative is a testament to this vision, aiming to transform India into a manufacturing hub. Moreover, policies that promote ease of doing business and support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are vital for job creation and economic stability.

Sustainable Development

Sustainability is an integral part

of the Viksit Bharat vision. As India aspires for economic growth, it must do so in an environmentally responsible manner. This involves transitioning to renewable energy sources, promoting sustainable agriculture, and implementing waste management practices.

Inclusive Growth

Viksit Bharat cannot be realized without inclusivity. Economic progress must benefit all segments of society, including marginalized communities and women. Policies aimed at reducing income inequality, promoting gender equality, and ensuring social justice are essential.

The pillars of Viksit Bharat represent a holistic approach to nation-building, intertwining economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability. As India moves toward its centenary of independence, the collective effort of government, private sector, and civil society will be crucial in achieving this vision. Embracing these pillars will not only pave the way for a developed India but also inspire future generations to strive for progress, inclusivity, and a better quality of life for all.



Prof Anup Kumar Gupta, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, GLA University, Mathura



Pioneering Social Transformation

Achyuta Samanta dedicated to bringing about social change through education and social services for people at the grassroots level

Prof Achyuta Samanta
Founder & Mentor- KIIT & KISS
KISS Foundation India, UK & USA
Former MP, Lok Sabha
(Kandhamal, Odisha)

World's First University for Tribal Students

Dr Achyuta Samanta came up with the path-breaking initiative Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) in 1992-93 to empower tribal communities through education and eradicate poverty. It has now grown in scale and scope and caters to 80,000 indigenous children. Of these, 30,000 students study at the main campus in Bhubaneswar, 40,000 are alumni, and 10,000 study at 10 satellite centers of KISS across Odisha. The students come from 62 different tribal groups within the region, of which 13 are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

Over 5000 sportspersons, groomed by KISS, participated and won at prestigious international and national events. Since 2015, KISS has been accorded Special Consultative Status by UNECOSOC. It is associated with UNDPI and works in collaboration with many agencies of the UN. KISS has been conferred with UNESCO International Literacy Prize 2022—the highest prize in the field of literacy.

KISS aims to educate over 2 million children to fulfill the SDG 2030.

KIIT - Hub of Diversity and Academic Distinction

The Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Bhubaneswar, India, imparts comprehensive technical and professional education in a multicultural environment. Students from 65 nationalities, KIIT boasts the largest foreign student population in the country.

In 1992, the visionary leader, Dr Samanta, started with a modest ITI, 12 students, two teachers, and an initial investment of just Rs 5000. His unwavering determination helped KIIT grow over 40,000 students, 400 programs, and more than 3000 faculty and researchers today. KIIT has established academic and bilateral ties with 350 international universities and is a member of global bodies.

Highlighting its scholarly impact, several KIIT researchers and faculty members, including some Padma Awardees, are recognized among the 'World's Top 2 Percent Scientists' by Stanford University.

KIIT boasts 100% placement in 6200 jobs from over 750 companies in the last recruitment cycle. KIIT has been placed 15th-best university in the country according to the Education Ministry's NIRF India Rankings 2024,

it is ranked 168th globally and 10th in the Times Higher Education Young University Ranking 2024.

Compassion and Humanitarianism

KIIT and KISS, with world-class and extensive sports infrastructure, have produced over 5,000 regional, national, and international athletes, including 23 Olympians, winning countless awards and accolades. Due to the efforts of Dr Samanta, KIIT and KISS have greatly contributed to the development of school-level and rural sports in the state.

Over 100,000 young men and women have been trained through Skill Education and Industrial Development Program. Dr Samanta has nurtured over 100 entrepreneurs, while more than 100 industries have emerged from KIIT-TBI. Awareness has also been raised among 600,000 children. KISS, associated with all UN agencies, has met most of the Sustainable Development Goals. Women empowerment programs like Kanya Kiran, Kalinga Fellowship, and KIIT Nanhipari address violence against girls and promote women's rights.

KIIT has contributed across various sectors, including education, arts, literature, culture, architecture, cinema, media, spirituality, rural development, sports, healthcare, and tribal upliftment through empowerment.



G S Patnaik
Founder & CMD, St. Xavier Chain of Schools
Vice President AFI & Indian Athletic Association

Revolutionising New Age Learning

A visionary leader and an educationist par excellence, G S Patnaik shares with the *Outlook Group* his approach towards driving Value-based and holistic learning initiatives

How do you think education should be aligned to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat?

I believe that for becoming a developed nation, there should be a 100% gross enrolment ratio and literacy rate, made available through accessible learning options like formal schooling, digital learning, and special programs for underprivileged communities. Inclusivity, skill and vocational training for all age groups, restructuring of the curriculum to foster creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, competency-based assessments, effective teachers' training, and availability of adequate resources are some important areas

that would collectively help in realising the dream of a Viksit Bharat.

Driven by a philosophy of 'Education for All,' what are your initiatives to spread quality education?

Education is the weapon that can change society in a proper way, has been my mantra as an educationist. St. Xavier Chain of Schools aims to equip students with 21st-century skills, ensuring they are prepared for the challenges of the modern world. We have also established KrishnamurthyWorld School on Jaripada Bhubaneswar Road, which integrates Indian values, ethics, and

spirituality—such as teachings from the Bhagavad Gita and Ramayana—with modern education.

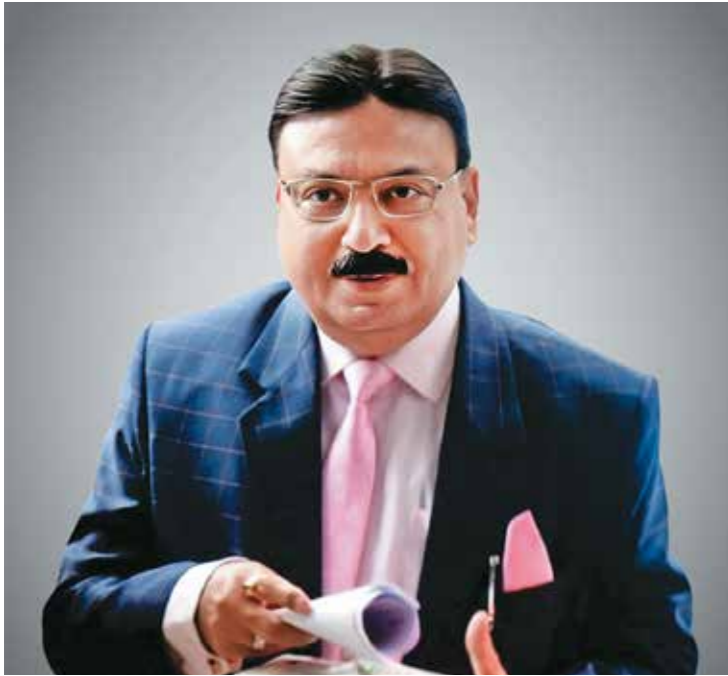
While our schools focus on skill-based education, fostering 360-degree student development, and encouraging outdoor activities that teach practical life skills, there is also a strong emphasis on the importance of family values, relationships, cultural heritage, social consciousness, and concern for the environment. Being a fitness enthusiast, at our schools, physical fitness and psychological and spiritual well-being are important indicators of complete learning.

What are your contributions as a social reformer for providing quality education?

I strongly believe in 'Jansanchay, not Dhansanchay', to invest and grow human wealth over monetary gains. In 1993, I founded the St. Xavier Chain of Schools, beginning with schools in Kantabanji, Odisha, and Bhubaneswar.

We have expanded our network to 86 schools across Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and other regions, with many located in Naxal-affected and backward areas, providing educational opportunities in underserved areas. My inspiration in both professional and personal life comes from my father, who is a great educator and Rambabu Santhalaya. They have imbibed in me the philosophy of 'access to education over commercialisation.'

To support economically disadvantaged children and orphans, we opened boarding schools in Jaypur, Odisha, and Bilaspur, where students receive free education, food, uniforms, and clothing. It is time to eliminate disparities in educational opportunities based on gender and socio-economic background.



Viksit Bharat 2047: Empowering India through Education & Self-Reliance

DR DAVISH JAIN

As India approaches 2047, the centenary of its independence, the dream of a “Viksit Bharat” – a fully developed, self-sufficient, and inclusive nation – is steadily turning into reality. This ambitious vision is not just about economic growth; it is about building a society that is technologically advanced, socially inclusive, and globally influential. In my roles as Chairman of the Prestige Education Foundation and Chancellor of Prestige University, Indore, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of education and self-reliance in shaping this vision. It is these twin pillars—education and self-reliance—

that will be critical in achieving our goal of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Indispensable Role of Education

Education remains the most powerful tool for nurturing creativity, fostering innovation, and ensuring sustainable growth. India's literacy rate stands at 77.7%, and while this is a commendable improvement, achieving universal literacy is crucial if we are to harness the full potential of our youth. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a landmark initiative in this journey, focusing on holistic learning, skill development, and integrating technology into education. The policy encourages flexibility,

critical thinking, creativity, and a global outlook.

At Prestige University and the Prestige Group of Institutions, we fully embrace the vision of NEP 2020. Our curriculum is forward-looking, incorporating emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and data science while emphasizing ethical leadership and social responsibility. We aim to prepare students not just to be job seekers but job creators, instilling in them the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. By 2047, India needs millions of entrepreneurs who can drive growth in sectors like renewable energy, digital technology, and sustainable agriculture, to name a few.

Fostering an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

The Startup India initiative has catalyzed India's entrepreneurial spirit, propelling it to become the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. As of June 2024, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognized over 1,40,803 startups, generating more than 15.53 lakh direct jobs. Notably, many of these startups have emerged from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, signaling that entrepreneurship is no longer limited to metropolitan hubs. Our educational institutions must nurture this entrepreneurial mindset, encouraging students to think beyond conventional career paths and become innovators and problem-solvers. At Prestige University, our Entrepreneurship Development Cell is dedicated to fostering innovation. We are committed to providing an ecosystem that supports aspiring entrepreneurs through mentorship programs, incubation centers, and industry collaborations.

Atmanirbhar Bharat:

The Path to Self-Reliance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative is central to India's journey toward self-reliance. The scheme emphasizes boosting domestic production, reducing dependence on imports, and promoting local industries. Today, India's manufacturing sector accounts for about 17% of the GDP, and the government aims to increase this share to 25% by 2025 through Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes. These initiatives are creating tremendous opportunities for skilled youth, but to capitalize on them, we must focus on skill development and vocational training. The Prestige Education Foundation has taken proactive steps to bridge this gap, offering skill development programs that are aligned with industry requirements. Through our collaborations with leading companies, we provide students with hands-on experience, making them industry-ready from day one.

Digital India:

Bridging the Divide

India's digital revolution has been transformative, with over 900 million internet users as of 2024, making it the world's second-largest online market. The Digital India initiative has expanded access to education, healthcare, and financial services, empowering millions of citizens. As we move towards 2047, our focus should be on leveraging digital technologies to close the rural-urban divide, create employment opportunities, and enhance productivity. I envision a future where technology serves as a force multiplier, ensuring that every citizen, regardless of their background, has access to quality education and growth opportunities.

Agriculture:

Strengthening India's Backbone

Agriculture employs over 44% of India's population and accounts for about 17.7% of its GDP. As President of the Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA), I have witnessed the transformative potential of sustainable agricultural practices. India has already achieved remarkable milestones as the world's largest producer of milk, pulses, and jute, and the second-largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, and groundnuts.

To realize the full potential of our agricultural sector, we must invest in advanced technologies like precision farming, biotechnology, and modern supply chain management. Reducing post-harvest losses, improving storage infrastructure, and ensuring fair income for farmers should be at the forefront of our agricultural policies. A developed India will be one where farmers are not just producers but empowered entrepreneurs contributing to the nation's prosperity.

Women Empowerment:

The Key to Inclusive Growth

No nation can truly progress without empowering its women. Today, women constitute 32.68% of India's workforce, a figure that, though improving, remains far below the global average. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Stand-Up India campaigns have contributed significantly to women's empowerment, but there is still a long way to go.

At Prestige University, we have taken deliberate steps to promote gender equality by offering scholarships, leadership training, and entrepreneurial support programs for women. Our efforts have enabled many women to break barriers and assume leadership roles across various fields.

According to the McKinsey Global Institute, increasing women's participation in the workforce could add a staggering \$770 billion to India's GDP by 2025. This potential must be harnessed if we are to realize our vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Moving Forward:

Vision 2047

As we chart our course towards 2047, I am filled with optimism about India's potential to emerge as a global superpower. However, this journey demands collective effort, strategic planning, and unwavering commitment. We must strive to achieve 100% literacy, ensure access to quality education for every child, and foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem that encourages innovation and risk-taking. Cultivate self-reliance across all sectors, from manufacturing to agriculture. Empower women to participate equally in all facets of society. Leverage technology to bridge disparities and enhance our global competitiveness.

The Prestige Education Foundation is dedicated to playing a pivotal role in this transformative journey. We are committed to nurturing future leaders, innovators, and change-makers who will contribute to India's progress. In closing, let us remember the words of Swami Vivekananda: “Arise, awake, and stop not until the goal is reached.” The road to Viksit Bharat 2047 will be challenging, but together, as a nation driven by education, self-reliance, and unity, we can realize the dream of a prosperous, inclusive, and developed India.

(The Author is the Chancellor of Prestige University and Chairman of the Prestige Education Foundation, Indore.)



Dr Vashisth Das
Cardiologist

A Master Weaver of Heart Health

In the intricate tapestry of interventional cardiology, Dr Vashisth Das stands out as a master weaver, deftly navigating the delicate threads of life and technology to mend hearts and restore hope

move underscores his willingness to embrace challenges and contribute to the growth of healthcare institutions.

Currently based in Indiranagar, Bangalore, Dr Das practices at Chinmaya Hrudayalaya. Patients appreciate his expertise, evident in positive reviews on platforms like Practo. His approach to patient care and the success of his interventions contribute to his standing as a trusted medical professional.

Dr Das' brilliance extends beyond technical proficiency. Patients speak of his warm friendliness, his ability to explain complex procedures with gentle clarity and his commitment to their well-being. Each interaction is infused with empathy and compassion, putting hearts and minds at ease.

His expertise encompasses a vast array of life-saving procedures. From delicate coronary angioplasties to intricate valve repairs, his deft hands and analytical mind guide him through the labyrinthine anatomy of the heart, restoring proper blood flow and rekindling the spark of life.

Dr Vashisth's thirst for knowledge extends beyond the clinical setting. He actively participates in research, contributing to the advancement of the field and seeking innovative solutions for complex cardiac challenges. Whether it's through published articles, presentations at prestigious conferences, or collaborations with fellow

researchers, he is constantly raising the bar in in-service learning.

Dr Das has engaged in patient education through live sessions, such as the one on "New Trends in Interventional Cardiology" conducted at Narayana Health. His commitment to advancing knowledge in his field is further demonstrated through talks and publications on matters pertinent to Interventional Cardiology.

Dr Das is an esteemed member of several prestigious medical societies, including the Cardiology Society of India, European Society of Cardiology, and American College of Cardiology. These affiliations reflect his commitment to staying at the forefront of advancements in his field. His engagement extends beyond the clinical setting, where he actively participates in activities such as basketball, quizzes, Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs, and free medical camps, showcasing his holistic approach to healthcare.

His recent transition to Chinmaya Hrudayalaya signals a new chapter in his career, where he continues to contribute to the evolving landscape of cardiology in Bangalore.

His dedication to patient care inspires not only his colleagues but also the countless individuals who entrust him with their most precious asset, their hearts. As he continues to weave his magic in the operating room, one mended heart at a time.

Innovation in Healthcare Products

Vatsal Desai pioneering the path to healthier living in a growing India



Vatsal Desai, Founder & CEO, Uniclan Healthcare Pvt. Ltd

As India is poised to become a developed nation, one name resonates with innovation and transformative impact—Vatsal Desai. At the forefront of this transformation is Wowper Baby Diapers, a flagship brand that reflects his commitment to healthier living for all. By merging innovation with social consciousness, Desai and Wowper are revolutionizing India's healthcare and hygiene sectors; contributing to the nation's journey for a Viksit Bharat.

The 'Make in India' Mission

The 'Make in India' initiative of the government seeks to establish the country as a global manufacturing powerhouse by nurturing innovation, enhancing skills, and developing world-class infrastructure. Through Uniclan Healthcare, Desai has set up one of the largest manufacturing units for baby diapers and sanitary pads in Northern India. Situated in Jaipur, Rajasthan, this cutting-edge facility spanning over 200,000 square feet is a testament to India's manufacturing excellence. The facility generates more than 500

skilled and unskilled employment opportunities, offering better work culture, safety, extensive staff training and development. This initiative underscores Desai's commitment to building a robust ecosystem where employees are equipped with the skills and environment necessary to thrive.

Wowper: A Game-Changer

Wowper Baby Diapers has become a household name across India. Features such as advanced absorbent technology, a wetness indicator, and a 360-degree super soft stretch waistband have made Wowper the go-to choice for parents. Quality, comfort, and affordability distinguishes the brand in a competitive market. By providing a premium product at an affordable price, Wowper is transforming the lives of Indian

"EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO IMPROVING BASIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE CARE AND REDUCING INFANT MORTALITY RATES IN SOCIETY. HYGIENE IS NOT A LUXURY; IT IS A NECESSITY."

families, ensuring that every child receives the best possible care.

The Visionary Behind the Vikas

Desai's vision is rooted in uplifting communities and improving lives. His leadership style, which treats staff as family, has cultivated a work culture of dedication and excellence. Since its inception in 2019, Uniclan Healthcare has grown from humble beginnings to achieving a remarkable turnover of over 500 crores, supported by a network of over 950 distributors and 150 super stockists, reflecting the cohesive environment Desai has nurtured.

Desai has ambitious plans to position Wowper among the top three brands in India by 2030, aligning with the Viksit Bharat mission. A new manufacturing plant is set to be established in South India. The expansion will create over 1,500 new jobs.

Through his unwavering commitment to the 'Make in India' initiative and product innovation, Desai is building a successful enterprise. Uniclan Healthcare, with its brand Wowper, stands as a shining example of how Indian enterprises can lead the way in creating a brighter, healthier future for all.